

PIERCE COUNTY  
WASHINGTON, USA

**edb** | **ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT  
BOARD** TACOMA  
PIERCE COUNTY

**ONWARD**

PIERCE COUNTY MEANS BUSINESS

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## 2024: A message from Betty Capestany, WEDA Board Chair and Pierce County Economic Development Director

The 2024 Washington state legislative session kicked off in Olympia Jan. 8, and I am honored to have a front-row seat as chair of the board of the Washington Economic Development Association (WEDA). As the state's only trade association laser-focused on economic development, our members – including Pierce County, City of Tacoma, Port of Tacoma and the EDB – are committed to retaining, recruiting and expanding jobs and reinvestment across all of Washington.

From funding for critical economic development services and small businesses to investment in innovation, partnerships, and diversity, equity and inclusion, WEDA works tirelessly to promote, advocate and influence legislation and policy that are essential for economic growth. We look forward to working with legislators during and after the session to help move economic development priorities forward for the South Sound and beyond.

## EDB, Chamber issue statement on Manny Ellis verdict

Following the verdict in the trial of the police officers accused of murdering Manuel Ellis, the EDB and Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber of Commerce issued a joint statement expressing their continued commitment to create a just and equitable community where all businesses and people can thrive.

[Read more](#)



### WEDA sets 2024 legislative priorities

The 2024 legislative session



### South Sound Tech Conference explores world of AI and ML

convened Jan. 8, and the Washington Economic Development Association is on the ground working to empower communities across Washington state.

[Read more](#)

The 23rd annual South Sound Technology Conference will spotlight two of the hottest technology trends that are transforming industries.

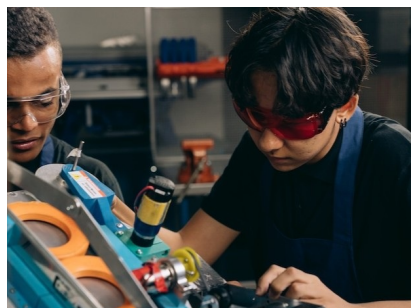
[Read more](#)



### **2024 EDB Annual Meeting is all about workforce**

Join hundreds of business leaders at the Greater Tacoma Convention Center for economic development updates and awards, networking, great food and prizes.

[Read more](#)



### **Puyallup School District launches Employer Workforce Development Program**

The comprehensive program is designed to create a bridge from CTE classrooms to careers for graduating high school seniors.

[Read more](#)

## **NEWS BRIEFS**

### **Learn more about state contracting opportunities**

Each month, the Washington State Department of Enterprise Services offers a free virtual open house for small, diverse and veteran-owned businesses. The next session is Jan. 18.

[Read more](#)

### **Horizons Economic Forecast 2024: Jan. 31**

Get ready for the new year with the Horizons Economic Forecast presented by the Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber of Commerce. Hear about local, regional and national economies.

[Read more](#)

### **New grant program for eligible Pierce County small businesses**

The Small Business Strengthening and Security Grant Program was established to increase the viability and security of small businesses in unincorporated Pierce County and its small cities and or towns with a population less than 8,000.

[Read more](#)

### **New technical assistance programs for Tacoma small businesses**

City of Tacoma's Community and Economic Development Department has rolled out three new programs for small and micro-businesses focused on financial and digital literacy readiness.

[Read more](#)

### **Jackie Flowers named new Vice Chair for Large Public Power Council**

The Tacoma Public Utilities Director and CEO is a long-standing member of the LPPC, which is made up of the nation's largest public power systems.

[Read more](#)

### **White House announces supply chain resilience plan**

In November, the Biden administration unveiled nearly 30 new actions to strengthen supply chains critical to the nation's economic and national security.

[Read more](#)

# NEWS

[Kidder CEO Bill Frame winner of 2023 CEO USA Awards](#)

[National tire distributor snaps up new Tacoma warehouse space](#)

[Tacoma Council approves effort to boost green jobs, employment for people with disabilities](#)

[Construction begins on next big warehouse in Frederickson development](#)

[Edgewood warehouse project would bring 300-500 family-wage jobs to Pierce County](#)

[Umpqua Bank, Columbia Banking System announce \\$1M in grants for local nonprofits](#)

[Commerce selects alumni to lead industry sector posts](#)

[EDA grants to aid state's tourism recovery](#)

[Puyallup Tribe chairman pushes for economic diversity](#)

## Team With Us

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Onward is a service of the EDB, a non-profit corporation focused on recruitment and retention of primary businesses in Tacoma and Pierce County, Washington, USA.

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