

PIERCE COUNTY  
WASHINGTON, USA

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

ONWARD

PIERCE COUNTY MEANS BUSINESS

Nov 2025 | No. 306 | [ChooseTacomaPierce.org](https://ChooseTacomaPierce.org)

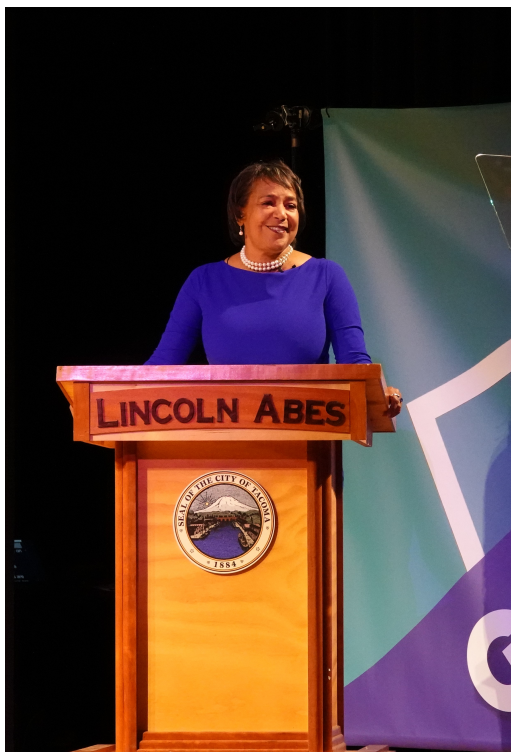


Photo Courtesy City of Tacoma

## Grit, Growth, and Gratitude

In early October, outgoing Tacoma Mayor Victoria Woodards gave her final State of the City Address after eight years in office. In addition to being the Tacoma Mayor, Woodards serves on the advisory board of the US Conference of Mayors and is vice-chair of the organization's Committee on Jobs, Education, and the Workforce. Woodards is a past-President and current Board member of the National League of Cities, a nonpartisan advocacy organization that advances the interest of all cities, villages and towns across America.

From her high school alma mater, Lincoln High School, Woodards gave her last State of the City Address from the same stage she gave her first State of the City Address. Her presentation focused on the challenges endured,

the successes built and the opportunities ahead that depicted her time in the office. Using the theme Grit, Growth & Gratitude, Woodards complimented the business owners for "betting on Tacoma time and time again." She added "We are a reliable people ... who overcome hard luck with hard work."

She described Tacoma as a place with small businesses selling to their neighbors, artists continuing to make art and volunteers who step up to provide basic services with gritty determination. It's a place where "children's energy and laughter have limitless potential. Where every challenge we meet today provides a firm foundation for our children to stand on."

According to Woodards, "Tacoma is a city on the rise. Neighborhoods are growing, the skyline is changing, and we are seeing steady economic progress." During the last 8 years 15,000 residents moved to Tacoma, increasing the population to nearly 230,000 people. "That growth isn't just about size; it reflects the determination of the community that refuses to be defined by their challenges."

The City of Tacoma continues to foster a strong and resilient business climate through strategic investments in its people, places, and future. The local economy is demonstrating steady growth across multiple sectors, reflecting the city's commitment to innovation, collaboration, and inclusive prosperity.

Tacoma's ongoing efforts to expand workforce pathways are preparing the next generation for emerging opportunities, while targeted revitalization initiatives are enhancing key commercial and civic areas.

The downtown and waterfront districts are experiencing renewed investment and activity, supported by a mix of business, cultural, and educational anchors. Through partnerships with international leaders like BLOXHUB, Tacoma is leaning on best practices to revitalize downtown and bring feet back to the streets.

Through strong partnerships with economic development organizations, Tacoma is cultivating an ecosystem where small businesses can establish, grow, and thrive. Collectively, these efforts underscore Tacoma's position as a city of opportunity, innovation, and long-term economic vitality.

Woodards announced that the City Council will soon consider the adoption of the Tideflats Subarea Plan which focuses on strengthening and securing the success of the port. "This 8-year effort was a collaboration with the Port of Tacoma, Puyallup Tribe of Indians, City of Fife, and Pierce County, balancing economic vitality, environmental restoration and community wellbeing in one of our most industrial areas," praised Woodards. The plan was unanimously approved and forwarded to the City's planning commission by all five partners of the steering committee, demonstrating a shared commitment to our economic future.

Woodards then expressed gratitude. "Thank you to the businesses from our largest employers to our family-owned storefronts for believing in the city and investing in its future and for helping drive the economic engine that drives our community forward."

To watch the entire speech visit [HERE](#)

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### **Strengthening South Sound Businesses Through Tax Readiness**

As fall settles in across Pierce County, the business community is gaining clarity and confidence. On October 16, the Economic Development Board for Tacoma-Pierce County (EDB) hosted the South Sound Business Tax Local Tax Changes, drawing more than 60 attendees from across the region.

[Read MORE](#)



### **Board Spotlight – Lisa Goodman**

Lisa Goodman is a past Chair of the EDB and a current member of the Executive Committee. For the last 19 years, Lisa has served on the Executive Team of The Benaroya Company where she leads strategic marketing, government relations and community engagement for both Benaroya and its Data Center company Centeris. Lisa has over 30 years of experience spanning Commercial Real Estate, Data Centers, Technology, Financial Services, Retail and Healthcare.



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### **Pierce County's Global Momentum: A Magnet for Foreign Investment**

Pierce County is gaining recognition as a smart, strategic location for international companies looking to expand in the U.S. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) continues to fuel local growth—bringing new jobs, advanced technologies, and global partnerships to our community.

[Read MORE](#)

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## **CALL TO ACTION**

### **Annual Trades & Hiring Fair - TOMORROW**

Join Korsmo Construction and Tacoma Public Schools for the annual Trades & Hiring Fair on November 7th from 9am-4pm at the Tacoma Dome. This free event is open to all students and community members throughout the South Puget Sound. Attendees will have the opportunity to talk with industry professionals about their line of work while participating in hands-on activities and live demonstrations. There will be approximately 100 booths from local trades-related companies, educational institutions, and apprenticeship programs, offering career exploration and job opportunities for youth and adults alike.



SAVE THE DATE  
**EDB ANNUAL MEETING**

**03.24.26**

GREATER TACOMA CONVENTION CENTER  
1500 BROADWAY TACOMA, WA 98402  
11:30 AM - 1:30 PM  
MORE DETAILS COMING SOON

## NEWS

[Terramed Completes \\$12.6M Acquisition of Summit Veterinary Referral Center in Tacoma](#)

[Pierce County Airport — Thun Field Now Offering Comcast High-Speed Internet](#)

[Local Business Climate at the Forefront of Latest CEO Roundtable](#)

[White River Bridge to Reopen Earlier Than Expected](#)

[Tacoma City Council OKs Emerging Leader Ordinance](#)

### 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.

