

PIERCE COUNTY  
WASHINGTON, USA

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

ONWARD

PIERCE COUNTY MEANS BUSINESS

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



## Building a Foundation

As the end of 2025 draws near, I find myself reflecting on what the EDB Tacoma Pierce County Board achieved in the 12 months that I've served as your chairperson. There were of course the task-oriented achievements including the launch of a fruitful funding campaign and the implementation of a successful annual meeting. But the board also took on the process of reviewing and updating procedures and processes to ensure the highest standards in our industry were being used and followed.

This year was about laying the foundation for the future of the EDB

Tacoma Pierce County. We all know you can have a beautiful bridge or house, but without a solid foundation, it won't stand the test of time. Whenever there is a change of leadership like our organization experienced in 2024, it signals that it's time to take a look under the hood. This diagnostic review set us up for the journey.

With a new CEO and important initiatives ahead, the Executive Committee determined it was crucial to maintain continuity. I was honored to be asked to serve another year in 2026 as your Chair to build on the solid foundation we established in 2025. While this year was laying the foundation, in 2026 we will build and deliver.

Throughout this past year, I was proud of how the Board faced many tough issues. I strongly believe that's what leaders are called to do. It's not how you handle life when it's easy; it's how you respond in those moments. I believe we are making changes to set the EDB up for ultimate success, and that success will benefit all of Tacoma-Pierce County.

I am passionate about helping Tacoma-Pierce County thrive. My goal is for our organization to focus on attracting new businesses while genuinely supporting the growth of our existing ones. Too often, existing businesses are overlooked in favor of new ones. I am dedicated to helping companies reduce and remove barriers to their success.

I firmly believe the EDB Tacoma Pierce County is truly the best organization for bringing together public and private entities to better Tacoma-Pierce County.

---



## **Meet the New Mayor of Tacoma Mayor Elect Anders Ibsen**

The City of Tacoma will be swearing in a new Mayor, Anders Ibsen, in January 2026. Ibsen is the Former Deputy Mayor and a Councilmember for the City of Tacoma, where he served for 8 years. The Tacoma native and father of a 3-year-old is a managing broker with Windermere Real Estate, as well as a Certified Residential Appraiser. A graduate of the Tacoma School of the Arts and Evergreen State College, Ibsen is embedded in our community through his charitable work including the Pierce County Conservation District where he gained valuable insight into the community he lived in. This insight planted the seed to give back and then to run for office in 2011 at what many considered a young age.

When asked by the EDB why he ran for Mayor, Ibsen said “Tacoma is my hometown. Simply put I *believe* in it. I've seen the amazing accomplishments we can achieve when we put our minds to it - such as our waterfront - and I've heard from many residents about the frustrations in need of better responsiveness and strategy.” He believes that “by working together, the city of Tacoma can ensure greater opportunity, resiliency in the face of today's unprecedented challenges, and a City of Destiny that works for everyone.”

To learn more about Mayor Elect, Anders Ibsen, including his formidable karaoke presence, read this link.

[Read MORE](#)



## **Spread cheer by supporting small businesses this holiday season!**

Consider giving back by donating to a local charity or volunteering your time to help those in need. You can also join in the festive spirit by attending community events or markets—it's a wonderful way to celebrate and connect while making a difference.

Visit the EDB website to find links for activities, where to shop locally, and some wonderful organizations to support.

[Read MORE](#)



## Steilacoom a Town of Firsts

The Town of Steilacoom is a historic residential community located on the Puget Sound with panoramic views of the Olympic Mountains and Anderson, Ketron and McNeil islands. Incorporated in 1854, it holds the distinction of being the first incorporated town in Washington Territory and is often called Washington's "Town of Firsts". With a population of around 6,800, Steilacoom is home to several locally owned restaurants and eateries including Topside Bar and Grill where you can take in the most incredible views of the Puget Sound from their large outdoor patio deck and the Steilacoom Pub and Grill, the perfect place to unwind with family and friends.

[Read MORE](#)

---

## CALL TO ACTION

### Be a Sponsor of the EDB Annual Meeting!

Join us on March 24, 2026, from 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM for the Economic Development Board Annual Meeting, a premier event celebrating economic growth and innovation in our community. Attendees will enjoy a dynamic panel discussion, network with industry peers, celebrate the Excellent 10 Awards, and witness the unveiling of the Golden Shovel winner!

Showcase your brand to an engaged audience of economic development leaders and business influencers by becoming a sponsor. Your support ensures that Pierce County's business community sees your brand before, during and after the event, demonstrating your commitment to fostering economic growth in our region.

To purchase a sponsorship package, click [HERE](#)

Table and individual tickets will go on sale in early 2026.

### 2026 Excellent 10 & Golden Shovel Nominations

Please nominate great economic development projects in Pierce County that were worked on or completed during 2025. EDB welcomes your nominations of projects that have made a difference in the South Sound economy. Tell us what made that project noteworthy!

Please submit your nominations by Monday, January 5, 2026 by visiting [2026 Economic Development Board Tacoma-Pierce County Excellent 10 and Golden Shovel Nominations | Cognito Forms](#)



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

[America's Automotive Trust Names New CEO](#)

[Economic Development Office Appoints New Assistant Director](#)

[BECU Announces Plans to Combine with California Credit Union](#)

[Lightcurve Completes HQ Relocation in Downtown Tacoma, Opens New Retail Space](#)

### Team With Us

253.383.4726

[info@edbtacomapierce.org](mailto:info@edbtacomapierce.org)

[ChooseTacomaPierce.org](http://ChooseTacomaPierce.org)



This email was sent to {{ contact.EMAIL }} You received this email because you are registered with Economic Development Board for Tacoma-Pierce County

NOT A SUBSCRIBER? [Sign up](#) for Onward to learn more about building a business in Pierce County

[Unsubscribe here](#)

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.

950 Pacific Avenue, Suite 410 | Tacoma, Washington 98402 | 253.383.4726

© 2025 Economic Development Board for Tacoma-Pierce County

