

Pete von Reichbauer  
King County Councilmember

## District 7 Winter 2026 Update



**Dear Friends:**

**The year 2025 presented significant challenges at national, state, and local levels. From budget discussions and leadership transitions to the renewal of vital levies relied upon by our residents, we faced extraordinary issues that impacted our communities and daily lives, including unprecedented flooding in our region. Despite these difficulties, there were also significant highlights throughout the year.**

**Hell has finally frozen over and we now have light rail in South King County, serving Federal Way Downtown, Star Lake, and Kent Des Moines. We successfully approved the King County 2026-27 Biennial Budget, which includes vital investments in public safety, criminal justice, health, housing, transit, accountability, parks, recreation, and more. Additionally, our government agencies collaborated throughout December to respond to the extensive flooding in our region, ensuring that our residents remained safe, informed, and equipped for recovery.**

**With the appointment of a new King County Executive and the establishment of a female majority on the King County Council, we have also reached a significant milestone in our governance.**

**Government works when WE work at it! As we embark on this new year, I am grateful for the trust our district has placed in me to continue serving our region.**

**Please take a moment to explore some of the highlights from the last quarter of 2025.**

**With best wishes,**



**Pete von Reichbauer**  
**King County Councilmember**

## “Good Eggs” Breakfast Meeting with Seahawk’s Mike Flood

At the October “Good Eggs” Breakfast meeting, community and civic leaders from South King County were privileged to hear from Mike Flood, the Vice President of Outreach & External Affairs for the Seattle Seahawks.

While many recognize the Seahawks for bringing people together through sports, the team also engages in significant outreach within our local communities. And Mike, with his unwavering dedication to service, is the heartbeat of that work.



*With Edgewood Mayor Dave Olson, Pacific Mayor Vic Kave, Federal Way Mayor Jim Ferrell, Algona Councilmember Gordon Cook, Seattle Seahawks Vice President of Outreach & External Affairs Mike Flood, Algona Mayor Troy Linnell, Des Moines Mayor Traci Buxton, Covington Mayor Jeff Wagner, Auburn Mayor Nancy Backus, Algona Councilmember Timothy Fairley, and Federal Way Councilmember Lydia Assefa-Dawson*

## City of Algona's 70th Anniversary

It was an honor to present, alongside with my colleagues, a recognition honoring the 70th Anniversary of the City of Algona. This recognition, unanimously adopted by the King County Council, celebrates generations of leadership and community spirit that have made Algona a lasting part of King County's history and identity. Mayor Troy Linnell and Police Chief James Schrimpsher were present in the Council chambers to accept the recognition on behalf of the city and its residents.



*With the King County Councilmembers—Jorge Barón, Claudia Balducci, Teresa Mosqueda, De'Sean Quinn, Girmay Zahilay, Sarah Perry, and Rod Dembowski—as well as Algona Mayor Troy Linnell and Police Chief James Schrimpsher*

## Errol the Courthouse Dog Day

On October 21, King County officially designated this day as Errol the Courthouse Dog Day, expressing gratitude to Errol, Paige Ulrey, and the King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office for their dedicated efforts in fostering a more compassionate and humane justice system.



Photo credit: [The Seattle Times](#) (Kent Lambert)

## Pro Bono Week

October 20-26 was proclaimed as Pro Bono Week, recognizing civil legal aid as a resource that can address critical survival needs, such as employment and income, housing, healthcare, education, and family safety.



## Domestic Violence Awareness Month & National Disability Employment Awareness Month

October was proclaimed as Domestic Violence Awareness Month & National Disability Employment Awareness Month in King County. The Council commended the efforts of those who work to end domestic violence in our communities, as well as the brave people who are survivors and had the courage to get help. The Council also called upon the community to join us in celebrating the many contributions of people with disabilities and in recognizing how they strengthen our workforce, our communities, and our county.



## South King Fire Receives Grant from the Gary Sinise Foundation and Amazon

Forrest Gump's Lt. Dan Taylor: The Gary Sinise Foundation and Amazon teamed up for a \$50,000 grant for critical safety equipment for South King Fire.

I had the honor of joining others in presenting this grant and serving lunch to local firefighters and police officers, as well as sharing a meal with them while talking about baseball. Thank you, Lt. Dan Taylor, for giving back to the community!



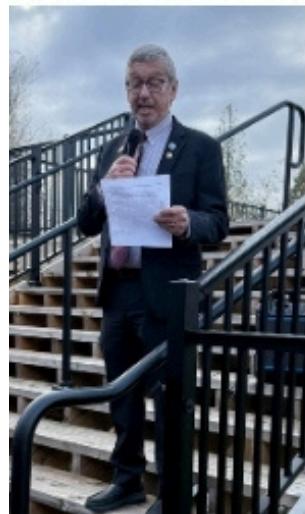
## The Federal Way Kiwanis Club

Since 1955, the Federal Way Kiwanis has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars to support local charities, and they were kind enough to name their Kiwanian of the Year Award after this former president with a long, unpronounceable name. The winner for 2025 is Marlene Hutchison, a dedicated nurse who supports programs in South King County and volunteers at Fred Hutch. Thank you, President Mike Brugato, for your kind words of introduction.



## David E. Hill Memorial Wetland Preserve

Former Algona Mayor David Hill had a dream of a wetland preserve for Blue Herons and everyday people alike, and we recently had the honor of dedicating this space in his memory. Algona, originally known as Algoma, an Indigenous term which means “Valley of the Flowers,” is now home to one of the most remarkable accessible wetland preserves in the nation. Congratulations Mayor Troy Linnell for finishing the dream and bringing this vision to fruition!



*With Algona Mayor Troy Linnell, Federal Way Mayor Jim Ferrell, Auburn Mayor Nancy Backus, 30th Legislative District Senator Claire Wilson, and Auburn Chamber of Commerce President & CEO Kacie Bray*

## King County Welcomes New Executive, Councilmember

On November 25th, the King County Council officially swore in Girmay Zahilay as the new King County Executive and Steffanie Fain as the Councilmember for District 5. Additionally, we took a moment to recognize the contributions of outgoing King County Executive Shannon Braddock and Councilmember De'Sean Quinn, both of whom demonstrated exemplary leadership during this transitional period.



## “Good Eggs” Breakfast Meeting with King County Flood Control District Executive Director Michelle Clark

At the December “Good Eggs” Breakfast meeting, King County Flood Control District (KCFCD) Director Michelle Clark, shared an update on the recent flood events affecting King County. It’s been great working with committed South King County elected officials who have worked diligently to ensure that our shared constituents remain safe and well-informed.



## Hell Freezes Over on December 6

When I said hell would freeze over before we would get light rail to South King County, I was appointed to the Sound Transit Board to make it happen. December 6 was one of my most satisfying (and coldest) days in government!

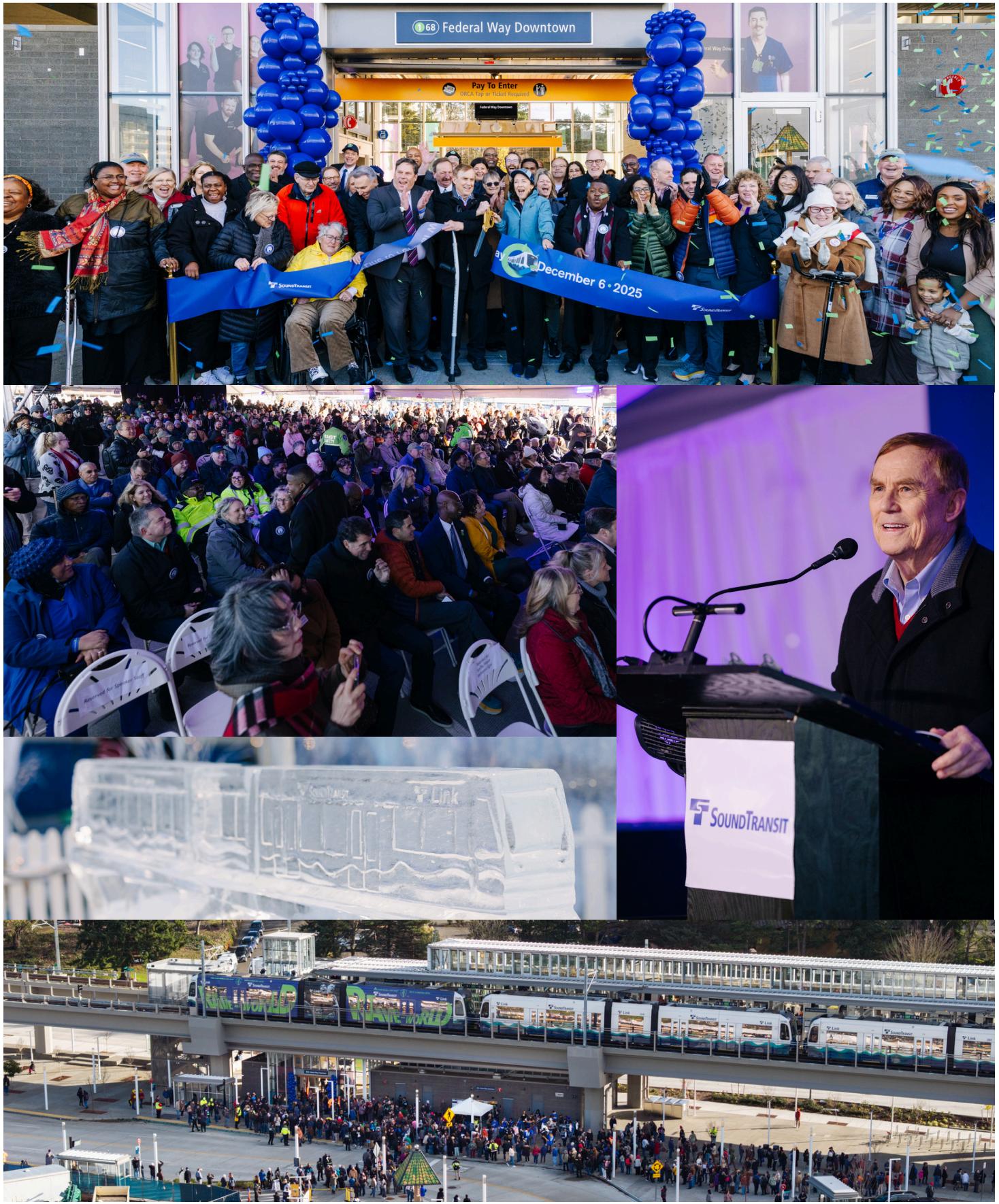
These three new Link Light Rail Stations, located at Kent Des Moines, Star Lake, and Federal Way Downtown, provide an opportunity to connect riders from Lynnwood to Federal Way. The 1 Line travels seven days a week, with trains running every 8-15 minutes, depending on the time of the day. Service is available from 5 a.m. to midnight Monday through Saturday and from 6 a.m. to midnight on Sundays and holidays.



*At the Federal Way Link Extension Preview on December 3rd, featuring the route from Kent Des Moines Station to Federal Way Downtown Station*

[Discover South King Link](#)  
[How to ride](#)  
[Fares and how to pay](#)  
[Ways to Save](#)





*At the Federal Way Downtown Link Light Rail Station's Opening Day on December 6th*

# OATH OF OFFICE



*I had the honor of being sworn into office by  
former King County Superior Court Presiding Judge Patrick  
Oishi on December 9.*

## King County Council Recognizes Ken Jennings

Thomas Wolfe once wrote a book back in the 1940s, *You Can't Go Home Again*. Well, Ken Jennings didn't read that book. He came home again. The King County Council recognized Ken not for the records that he set as a member and host of the show *Jeopardy!*. We recognized him as someone who looked back, came back, and gave back. He is someone who returned home, and when it comes to local involvement, local charities – Ken Jennings is all in.



[Watch the KREM 2 News feature here](#)

[Read more in The Seattle Times article here](#)



## Seattle Mariners 2026 Spring Training Schedule



## Seattle Seahawks

## **Councilmember Pete von Reichbauer**

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