Site-Selector Decision Matrix: Scoring Washington vs. TX, FL, AL & CO Without Advocacy

Pillar: Structural Factors | **Basis:** Non-Advocacy Comparative Synthesis | **Primary Source:** WA / TX / FL / AL / CO Sourced Records | **As Of:** As of Nov 16, 2026

This non-advocacy decision matrix places Washington's documented instruments ($350K SRF example, no space-specific tax credit, EO 26-04 Council, >68% preliminary satellite ecosystem) side-by-side against Texas, Florida, Alabama, and Colorado so founders, staffers, and site selectors can weight the tradeoffs themselves.

Documented Policy & Site-Selection Record

• No Declared Winner: Consistent with BC ESG's reader-first standard, this matrix presents verified instruments, ceilings, and company decisions without advocating for or against any state or tax proposal.

• When Washington Wins: High-density satellite engineering, flight software, RF/antennas, in-space servicing, and orbital compute R&D (K2 Space, Agile Space, Cowboy Space, Portal, Starcloud).

• When Coastal States Win Launch: Orbital pad infrastructure and range-coupled vehicle integration (Florida SIP, Texas ranges), because Washington has zero orbital launch pads.

• When Inland/Southern States Win Factories: Large-capex engine or second-plant manufacturing where >$50M–$300M state/local incentive ceilings offset greenfield setup (Alabama BE-4, Texas SEARF, Colorado JGITC).

Five-State Site-Selection Comparison (Verified Record Only)

State	Documented Space Instrument	Orbital Range?	Recent WA-Relevant Signal
Washington	SRF ($350K Portal); EO 26-04 Council; no space tax credit	No (Moses Lake test only)	67 core firms; Cowboy/K2/Agile in; Lapsa Sept 2026 warning
Texas	TX Space Comm / SEARF ($150M + $300M ceilings)	Yes (Boca Chica / private)	Proactive outreach to Stoke Space (Sept 2026)
Florida	Space Florida / FDOT SIP (Relativity up to $134M ceiling)	Yes (Cape Canaveral / KSC)	Hosts WA firms' launch ops (Blue Origin, Stoke)
Alabama	Performance abatements (Blue Origin >$50M Huntsville)	No (Marshall Test Stand)	Anchored Blue Origin BE-4 plant (2017–2020)
Colorado	OEDIT JGITC (8-yr), Opportunity Now, AIA ($150K–$250K)	No (Inland)	Inland workforce-credit benchmark cited in policy debate

Founder, Staffer & Site-Selector Takeaways

• Founder Action: Score your next facility across four weights—(1) senior engineering hiring speed, (2) orbital range coupling, (3) gross-receipts vs. income tax exposure, and (4) cash value of milestone-gated incentives.

• Staffer Action: Use this matrix alongside the 25 companion briefs to separate enacted statutory tools from advisory bodies and headline ceilings.

Cross-Cluster Links & Primary Sources

• **WA Space Cluster Hub (#1382):** https://bcesg.org/washington-space-cluster-census/

• **The 90-vs-67 Gap Analysis (#1385):** https://bcesg.org/washington-space-cluster-90-vs-67-gap/

• **Stoke Space WA Profile:** https://bcesg.org/stoke-space-washington-space-cluster-profile/

• **Cowboy Space WA Profile:** https://bcesg.org/cowboy-space-washington-space-cluster-profile/

• **Portal Space Systems WA Profile:** https://bcesg.org/portal-space-systems-washington-space-cluster-profile/

• **Green River Valley Floodplain Overview:** https://bcesg.org/wa-space-valley-green-river-floodplain-overview/

• **WA Governor Executive Orders (EO 26-04):** https://governor.wa.gov/office-governor/office/official-actions/executive-orders

• **Texas Space Commission (Office of the Governor):** https://gov.texas.gov/organization/texas-space-commission

• **Space Florida (Spaceport Improvement Program):** https://www.spaceflorida.gov/

• **Colorado OEDIT Job Growth Incentive Tax Credit:** https://oedit.colorado.gov/job-growth-incentive-tax-credit

• **Alabama Department of Commerce (Made in Alabama):** https://www.madeinalabama.com/

Provenance Note: Corpus standard: BC ESG does not declare a 'winner' of the state fight; it documents instruments, decisions, and structural facts.