

Whatcom County Council

**COUNTY COURTHOUSE
311 Grand Avenue, Ste #105
Bellingham, WA 98225-4038
(360) 778-5010**



Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, November 5, 2025

6 PM

Hybrid Meeting - Council Chambers

**HYBRID MEETING (PARTICIPATE IN-PERSON, SEE REMOTE JOIN
INSTRUCTIONS AT www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil, OR CALL
360.778.5010)**

COUNCILMEMBERS

Barry Buchanan
Tyler Byrd
Todd Donovan
Ben Elenbaas
Kaylee Galloway
Jon Scanlon
Mark Stremler

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Cathy Halka, AICP, CMC

COUNTY COUNCIL

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

FLAG SALUTE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Council is currently holding meetings in hybrid format with options for in-person or remote viewing and participation. For instructions on remote participation, visit www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil and register by 4 p.m. the day of the meeting to speak remotely. Individuals who require special assistance to participate in the Council's meetings are asked to contact the Council Office at 360.778-5010 at least 96 hours in advance.

Per RCW 42.17A.555 the use of public facilities to support or oppose candidates or ballot issues is prohibited. Members of the public and the legislative body are not allowed to speak in support of, or in opposition to, a ballot measure or individual candidacy during an open public meeting. Please refrain from raising campaign issues when addressing the Council.

The County is accepting applications from county residents to fill vacancies on several boards, commissions, and committees spanning a wide range of important local issues. For more information, visit the Boards and Commissions vacancy webpage on the County website or call the Council Office or County Executive's Office.

COUNTY EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

MINUTES CONSENT

1. [MIN2025-070](#) Committee of the Whole for October 21, 2025
2. [MIN2025-071](#) Regular County Council for October 21, 2025

INTRODUCTION ITEMS

Council action will not be taken. The council may accept these items for introduction (no action) in a single motion. Changes, in terms of committee assignment for example, may be made at this time.

1. [AB2025-749](#) Ordinance repealing Whatcom County Code 2.170, Forest Resilience Task Force
2. [AB2025-756](#) Ordinance establishing the Opioid Settlement Fund and establishing a budget for the Opioid Settlement Fund
3. [AB2025-783](#) Ordinance authorizing the levy of taxes for County Road purposes for 2026
4. [AB2025-784](#) Resolution authorizing the levy of taxes for the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District for 2026 (Council acting as the Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)

5. [AB2025-788](#) Ordinance authorizing the levy of taxes for County and State purposes in Whatcom County, Washington, for the year of 2026

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Participants requesting to speak during public hearings may attend in person. To speak remotely, please visit www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil and register by 4 p.m. the day of the meeting to receive a join link.

All speakers are asked to state their name for the record and optionally include city of residence. When a large group of individuals supports the same position on an issue, we encourage the selection of one or two representatives to speak on behalf of the entire group. Speakers will be given three minutes to address the Council and will be notified when their three minutes are up. Speakers participating on-site in the Council Chambers will speak first, followed by those who have registered to speak remotely.

Per RCW 42.17A.555 the use of public facilities to support or oppose candidates or ballot issues is prohibited. Members of the public and the legislative body are not allowed to speak in support of, or in opposition to, a ballot measure or individual candidacy during an open public meeting. Please refrain from raising campaign issues when addressing the Council.

COMBINED PUBLIC HEARING ON COUNTY BUDGET ITEMS

The following items will be combined into one public hearing. Members of the public will have 3 minutes to speak once on all items on the Combined Public Hearing on County Budget Items (items 1-5).

1. [AB2025-707](#) Ordinance amending the 2026 Whatcom County Budget, request no. 1, in the amount of \$20,970,606
2. [AB2025-719](#) Ordinance authorizing the levy of taxes for Conservation Futures purposes for 2026
3. [AB2025-721](#) Ordinance authorizing the levy of taxes for County Road purposes for 2026
4. [AB2025-723](#) Ordinance authorizing the levy of taxes for countywide emergency medical purposes for 2026
5. [AB2025-725](#) Ordinance authorizing the levy of taxes for County and State purposes in Whatcom County, Washington, for the year of 2026

COMBINED PUBLIC HEARING ON FCZDBS BUDGET ITEMS

The following items will be combined into one public hearing. Members of the public will have 3 minutes to speak once on all items on the Combined Public Hearing on FCZDBS Budget Items (items 6-7).

6. [AB2025-711](#) Resolution adopting 2026 budget for the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District and Subzones (Council acting as the Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)
7. [AB2025-709](#) Resolution authorizing the levy of taxes for the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District for 2026 (Council acting as the Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)

OTHER PUBLIC HEARINGS

8. [AB2025-676](#) Resolution adopting the 2026-2031 Six-Year Water Resources Improvement Program (WRIP) (Council acting as the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)

OPEN SESSION

Participants requesting to speak during open session may attend in person. To speak remotely, please visit www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil and register by 4 p.m. the day of the meeting to receive a join link.

During open session, audience members may speak to the council on issues not scheduled for public hearing. All speakers are asked to state their name for the record and optionally include city of residence. When a large group of individuals supports the same position on an issue, we encourage the selection of one or two representatives to speak on behalf of the entire group. Speakers will be given three minutes to address the Council and will be notified when their three minutes are up. Speakers participating on-site in the Council Chambers will speak first, followed by those who have registered to speak remotely.

Per RCW 42.17A.555 the use of public facilities to support or oppose candidates or ballot issues is prohibited. Members of the public and the legislative body are not allowed to speak in support of, or in opposition to, a ballot measure or individual candidacy during an open public meeting. Please refrain from raising campaign issues when addressing the Council.

Per RCW 42.36.060 Councilmembers are prohibited from engaging in ex parte communications in matters where the Council determines the legal rights, duties, or privileges of specific parties in a hearing or other contested case proceeding. Council serves in a quasi-judicial role as a decision-maker on major project permits, which cannot be discussed by members of the public at Council meetings. Examples of major project permits that cannot be discussed at Council meetings include LSS2024-00001 R and R Acres Long Subdivision and Development Agreement, LSS2022-00001 Red Mountain Long Subdivision and Development Agreement, and MPP2024-00002 ALA Energy, Ferndale Terminal Existing and Planned Improvements.

CONSENT AGENDA

Items under this section of the agenda may be considered in a single motion. Councilmembers have received and studied background material on all items. Committee review has taken place on these items, as indicated. Any member of the public, administrative staff, or council may ask that an item be considered separately.

(From Council Finance and Administrative Services Committee)

1. [AB2025-740](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Parametrix, Inc. to develop a comprehensive Subwatershed Master Plan as an addendum to the 2008 Lake Whatcom Comprehensive Stormwater Plan, in the amount of \$298,741

2. [AB2025-741](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and City of Bellingham to provide partial funding for Whatcom County's 2025-2026 Severe Weather Shelter, in the amount of \$100,000
3. [AB2025-742](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and Whatcom Fire Protection District 7 for the provision of the Paramedic Training Program, in the amount of \$345,537
4. [AB2025-743](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and Marysville Fire District for the provision of the paramedic training program, in the amount of \$136,200
5. [AB2025-744](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and Camano Fire and Rescue for the provision of the paramedic training program, in the amount of \$55,600
6. [AB2025-747](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Geneva Consulting Services to support coordination of the Whatcom Local Integrating Organization (LIO), in the amount of \$291,068 (Council acting as the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)
7. [AB2025-751](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Compass Health to lease space within the crisis stabilization center for the provision of mental health treatment services, in the amount of \$24,000
8. [AB2025-752](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and San Juan County to provide Veteran Service Officer services to San Juan County resident veterans, in the amount of \$10,000
9. [AB2025-753](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a grant agreement between Whatcom County and the Washington State Department of Ecology to fund administrative support and action projects for the Whatcom County Marine Resources Committee (MRC), in the amount of \$252,000 (Council acting as the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)
10. [AB2025-758](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Pioneer Human Services to lease space within the crisis stabilization center for the provision of withdrawal management services, in the amount of \$24,000
11. [AB2025-759](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and the Washington State Department of Commerce to receive CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) funds in support of public services, in the amount of \$130,000

12. [AB2025-760](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Pioneer Human Services to lease space within the crisis stabilization center for the provision of food services, in the amount of \$24,000
13. [AB2025-762](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract amendment between Whatcom County and Catholic Community Services to provide permanent supportive housing services at Francis Place, in the amount of \$555,446, for a total amended contract amount of \$833,169
14. [AB2025-763](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal cost-share agreement between Whatcom County and the Laurel Watershed Improvement District (LWID) for the Neevel Levee Cougar Creek Fish Passage Project, in the amount of \$10,000 (Council acting as the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)
15. [AB2025-764](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and the City of Bellingham for the provision of the paramedic training program, in the amount of \$1,008,442
16. [AB2025-765](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a grant agreement between Whatcom County and Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office Washington Wildlife and Recreation Forestland Preservation grant program for the acquisition of a forestry conservation easement on the Canyon Creek Forest property through the Conservation Easement Program (CEP) in the amount of \$500,000.
17. [AB2025-766](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an agreement between Whatcom County and Opportunity Council to pass through CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) funds for the delivery of public services to low and moderate income residents in the amount of \$126,500
18. [AB2025-767](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an amendment to the Regional Economic Partnership Interlocal Cooperation Agreement between Whatcom County, the Port of Bellingham, and the City of Bellingham to restructure financial commitments for fiscal years 2026-2027, with no change to Whatcom County's financial contribution
19. [AB2025-775](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and the Washington State Department of Commerce for a grant to Whatcom County through The Local Community Projects Program for Nooksack Water Adjudication Facility Needs, in the amount of \$1,212,500

20. [AB2025-777](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a three-year agreement, using the National Association of State Procurement Officials (NASPO) ValuePoint Master Agreement #AR2474 and State of Washington Participating Addendum #05116, between Whatcom County and Century Link Communications, LLC dba Lumen Technologies Group (CenturyLink) for telecommunication access lines and services, in the amount of \$144,849
21. [AB2025-787](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Euna Solutions, Inc. to purchase budget and reporting software for the financial system in the amount of \$441,459

OTHER ITEMS

(From Council Finance and Administrative Services Committee)

1. [AB2025-730](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a three-year contract between Whatcom County and Correctional Healthcare Partners Inc. for the provision of jail healthcare and juvenile detention nursing services, in the three-year total amount of \$22,896,000
2. [AB2025-770](#) Resolution approving the 2026 recommended convention center allocations for tourism-related facilities and activities as defined through RCW 67.28.1816
3. [AB2025-782](#) Request authorization for the Whatcom County Executive's Office to enter into a lease agreement between Whatcom County and Ryanna LLC for the lease of office and storage space for the Sheriff's Office at 4600 Ryzex Way, Bellingham

(From Council Planning and Development Committee)

4. [AB2025-769](#) Resolution approving recommendation on an application for open space current use assessment

COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS TO ADVISORY GROUPS

1. [AB2025-732](#) Appointment to a vacancy on the Justice Project Oversight and Planning Committee, EMS Paramedic Position, Applicant(s): Jonathan Oliveira
2. [AB2025-748](#) Appointment to a vacancy on the Public Health Advisory Board, applicant(s): Alan Lifson

CONFIRMATION OF EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENTS TO ADVISORY GROUPS

Per Whatcom County Code 2.03.070(B), the council must confirm or reject executive appointments within 30 days of submission to the council. County code deems the appointee confirmed if council does not take action within this time.

1. [AB2025-772](#) Request confirmation of the County Executive's appointment of Laura Hanna to the Whatcom County Marine Resources Committee
2. [AB2025-774](#) Request confirmation of the County Executive's appointment of Tannis Peura to the Whatcom County Behavioral Health Advisory Committee

ITEMS ADDED BY REVISION**COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER ITEMS, AND COUNCILMEMBER UPDATES****ADJOURN**