

Whatcom County Council

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



Action Summary

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); AGENDA REVISED 11.4.2025**

COUNCILMEMBERS

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

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Cathy Halka, AICP, CMC

COUNTY COUNCIL

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

Present: 7 - Barry Buchanan, Tyler Byrd, Todd Donovan, Ben Elenbaas, Kaylee Galloway, Jon Scanlon, and Mark Stremler

FLAG SALUTE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COUNTY EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

MINUTES CONSENT

1. [MIN2025-070](#) Committee of the Whole for October 21, 2025

APPROVED BY CONSENT

Aye: 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

2. [MIN2025-071](#) Regular County Council for October 21, 2025

APPROVED BY CONSENT

Aye: 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

INTRODUCTION ITEMS

1. [AB2025-749](#) Ordinance repealing Whatcom County Code 2.170, Forest Resilience Task Force

INTRODUCED

Aye: 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

2. [AB2025-756](#) Ordinance establishing the Opioid Settlement Fund and establishing a budget for the Opioid Settlement Fund

INTRODUCED

Aye: 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

3. [AB2025-783](#) Ordinance authorizing the levy of taxes for County Road purposes for 2026

INTRODUCED FOR PUBLIC HEARING

Aye: 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

Motion approved to Introduce for Public Hearing on December 2nd and schedule for Committee of the Whole discussion on November 18.

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)

INTRODUCED FOR PUBLIC HEARING

Aye: 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

Motion approved to Introduce for Public Hearing on December 2nd and schedule for Committee of the Whole discussion on November 18.

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

INTRODUCED FOR PUBLIC HEARING

Aye: 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

Motion approved to Introduce for Public Hearing on December 2nd and schedule for Committee of the Whole discussion on November 18.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

COMBINED PUBLIC HEARING ON COUNTY BUDGET ITEMS

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

Public testimony was received on the five files above.

SEPARATE CONSIDERATION OF PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS

1. [AB2025-707](#) Ordinance amending the 2026 Whatcom County Budget, request no. 1, in the amount of \$20,970,606

HEARD PUBLIC TESTIMONY AND REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

Aye: 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

Motion approved 7-0 to hold AB2025-707 and keep the public hearing open, to be continued on December 2nd, and to place this item in Committee of the Whole on November 18th for discussion.

2. [AB2025-719](#) Ordinance authorizing the levy of taxes for Conservation Futures purposes for 2026

HEARD PUBLIC TESTIMONY AND REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

Aye: 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

Motion approved 7-0 to hold AB2025-719 and keep the public hearing open, to be continued on December 2nd, and to place this item in Committee of the Whole on November 18th for discussion.

3. [AB2025-721](#) Ordinance authorizing the levy of taxes for County Road purposes for 2026

HEARD PUBLIC TESTIMONY AND REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

Aye: 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

Motion approved 7-0 to hold AB2025-721 and keep the public hearing open, to be continued on December 2nd, and to place this item in Committee of the Whole on November 18th for discussion.

4. [AB2025-723](#) Ordinance authorizing the levy of taxes for countywide emergency medical purposes for 2026

HEARD PUBLIC TESTIMONY AND REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

Aye: 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

Motion approved 7-0 to hold AB2025-723 and keep the public hearing open, to be continued on December 2nd, and to place this item in Committee of the Whole on November 18th for discussion.

5. [AB2025-725](#) Ordinance authorizing the levy of taxes for County and State purposes in Whatcom County, Washington, for the year of 2026

HEARD PUBLIC TESTIMONY AND REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

Aye: 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

Motion approved 7-0 to hold AB2025-725 and keep the public hearing open, to be continued on December 2nd, and to place this item in Committee of the Whole on November 18th for discussion.

COMBINED PUBLIC HEARING ON FCZDBS BUDGET ITEMS

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)

Public testimony was received on the two files above.

SEPARATE CONSIDERATION OF PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS

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)

HEARD PUBLIC TESTIMONY AND REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

Aye: 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

Motion approved 7-0 to hold AB2025-711 and keep the public hearing open, to be continued on December 2nd, and to place this item in Committee of the Whole on November 18th for discussion.

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)

HEARD PUBLIC TESTIMONY AND REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

Aye: 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

Motion approved 7-0 to hold AB2025-709 and keep the public hearing open, to be continued on December 2nd, and to place this item in Committee of the Whole on November 18th for discussion.

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)

APPROVED

Aye: 5 - Buchanan, Byrd, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 2 - Donovan, and Elenbaas

Enactment No: RES 2025-036

OPEN SESSION**CONSENT AGENDA****(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

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

Aye: 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

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

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

Aye: 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

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

THIS ITEM WAS CONSIDERED SEPARATELY BELOW.

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

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

Aye: 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

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

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

Aye: 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

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)

THIS ITEM WAS CONSIDERED SEPARATELY BELOW.

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

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

Aye: 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

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

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

Aye: 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

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)

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

Aye: 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

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

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

Aye: 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

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

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

Aye: 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

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

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

Aye: 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

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

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

Aye: 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

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)

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

Aye: 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

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

THIS ITEM WAS CONSIDERED SEPARATELY BELOW.

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

THIS ITEM WAS CONSIDERED SEPARATELY BELOW.

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

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

Aye: 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

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

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

Aye: 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

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

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

Aye: 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

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

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

Aye: 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

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 \$441,159.37

SUBSTITUTE AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

Aye: 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

CONSENT AGENDA CONSIDERED SEPARATELY

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

AUTHORIZED

Aye: 5 - Buchanan, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, and Scanlon

Nay: 2 - Byrd, and Stremler

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)

AUTHORIZED

Aye: 6 - Buchanan, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 1 - Byrd

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

AUTHORIZED

Aye: 5 - Buchanan, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, and Scanlon

Nay: 2 - Byrd, and Stremler

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

AUTHORIZED

Aye: 4 - Buchanan, Donovan, Galloway, and Scanlon

Nay: 3 - Byrd, Elenbaas, and Stremler

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

SUBSTITUTE AUTHORIZED

Aye: 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

2. [AB2025-770](#) Resolution approving the 2026 recommended convention center allocations for tourism-related facilities and activities as defined through RCW 67.28.1816

APPROVED

Aye: 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

Enactment No: RES 2025-037

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

AUTHORIZED

Aye: 6 - Buchanan, Byrd, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

Abstain: 1 - Donovan

(From Council Planning and Development Committee)

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

SUBSTITUTE APPROVED

Aye: 5 - Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

Temp Absent: 2 - Byrd, and Donovan

Enactment No: RES 2025-038

Motion approved to amend the motion (to approve) and that they approve the substitute resolution as presented.

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

APPOINTED

Aye: 5 - Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremmer

Nay: 0

Temp Absent: 2 - Byrd, and Donovan

2. [AB2025-748](#) Appointment to a vacancy on the Public Health Advisory Board, applicant(s): Alan Lifson

APPOINTED

Aye: 5 - Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremmer

Nay: 0

Temp Absent: 2 - Byrd, and Donovan

CONFIRMATION OF EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENTS TO ADVISORY GROUPS

1. [AB2025-772](#) Request confirmation of the County Executive's appointment of Laura Hanna to the Whatcom County Marine Resources Committee

CONFIRMED

Aye: 5 - Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremmer

Nay: 0

Temp Absent: 2 - Byrd, and Donovan

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

CONFIRMED

Aye: 5 - Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremmer

Nay: 0

Temp Absent: 2 - Byrd, and Donovan

ITEMS ADDED BY REVISION

COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER ITEMS, AND COUNCILMEMBER UPDATES**MOTION 1**

Motion approved 5-0 with Byrd and Donovan out of the meeting to request that the Executive prepare a 2025 budget amendment, to include in the next supplemental budget ordinance scheduled for introduction on November 18th, that will allow a contract amendment to provide flexibility to the food banks to spend 2026 funding in 2025.

MOTION 2

Motion approved 5-0 with Byrd and Donovan out of the meeting to appoint Councilmembers Scanlon to serve as a representative on the Risk Management Working Group through the end of the year (after which the role will revert to the Finance Committee chair).

ADJOURN