

PROPOSED BY: Executive
INTRODUCTION DATE: October 25, 2025

ORDINANCE NO. _____

**AUTHORIZING THE LEVY OF 2026
PROPERTY TAXES FOR COUNTY ROAD PURPOSES**

WHEREAS, pursuant to Home Rule Charter Section 6.10 the County Executive is required to submit for Council consideration proposed tax and revenue ordinances necessary to raise sufficient revenues to balance the Budget; and

WHEREAS, the County Council has approved a budget for the 2025-2026 biennium, including all sources of revenues and anticipated expenditures on November 19, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the County Council, in the course of considering the mid-biennium review and modification has reviewed all sources of revenue and examined all anticipated expenses and obligations; and

WHEREAS, the County Council has determined it is necessary to increase the County Road District property tax levy 1% for 2026 to fund essential services; and

WHEREAS, the County Council held a public hearing regarding the county biennial budget and the mid-biennium review, which included property tax revenues, and other revenues.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Whatcom County Council that that an increase in the County Road District property tax levy is hereby authorized for the levy to be collected in the 2026 tax year. The dollar amount of the increase over the actual levy amount from the previous year shall be \$246,923, which is a percentage increase of 1% from the previous year. This increase is exclusive of additional revenue resulting from new construction, improvements to property, newly constructed wind turbines, solar, biomass, and geothermal facilities, and any increase in the value of state assessed property, any annexations that have occurred and refunds made; and

BE IT FINALLY ORDAINED, that the Whatcom County Council does hereby authorize diverting \$1,156,530 of the County Road District levy for the budget year 2026 to the General Fund. Diverted County Road Taxes are to be used for traffic law enforcement in the unincorporated areas of Whatcom County.

ADOPTED this ____ day of _____, 2025.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Cathy Halka, Clerk of the Council

Kaylee Galloway, Council Chair

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Civil Deputy Prosecutor

Satpal Singh Sidhu, County Executive

() APPROVED () NOT APPROVED

Date Signed: _____