



Whatcom County

COUNTY COURTHOUSE
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Agenda Bill Master Report

File Number: AB2025-721

File ID:	AB2025-721	Version:	1	Status:	Adopted
File Created:	10/08/2025	Entered by:	MMiterko@co.whatcom.wa.us		
Department:	Finance Division	File Type:	Ordinance Requiring a Public Hearing		
Assigned to:	Council (Special)	Final Action:	12/02/2025		
Agenda Date:	12/02/2025	Enactment #:	ORD 2025-057		
Related Files:					

Primary Contact Email: rrydel@co.whatcom.wa.us

TITLE FOR AGENDA ITEM:

Ordinance authorizing the levy of taxes for County Road purposes for 2026

SUMMARY STATEMENT OR LEGAL NOTICE LANGUAGE:

Pursuant to Home Rule Charter Section 6.10, this ordinance requests authorization to levy taxes for County Road purposed in 2026.

HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE FILE

Date:	Acting Body:	Action:	Sent To:
10/21/2025	Council	INTRODUCED FOR PUBLIC HEARING Aye: 6 Buchanan, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler Nay: 1 Byrd	Council
11/05/2025	Council	HEARD PUBLIC TESTIMONY AND REFERRED TO COMMITTEE Aye: 7 Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler Nay: 0	Council Committee of the Whole
11/18/2025	Council Committee of the Whole	DISCUSSED	
12/02/2025	Council (Special)	PUBLIC TESTIMONY RECEIVED (file not final)	
12/02/2025	Council (Special)	ADOPTED	

Aye: 6 Buchanan, Byrd, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremier
Nay: 1 Donovan

Attachments: Note regarding attachments to be provided, Proposed Ordinance, Notice of Hearing after 10.21.2025, Notice of Hearing on 12.2.2025

PROPOSED BY: Executive
INTRODUCTION DATE: October 25, 2025

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-057

**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 2nd day of December, 2025.


ATTEST:


Cathy Halka, Clerk of the Council

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

approved by Chris Quinn 10.30.2025/LB
Civil Deputy Prosecutor

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON


Kaylee Galloway, Council Chair


Satpal Singh Sidhu, County Executive

☒ APPROVED () NOT APPROVED

Date Signed: 12-5-25