

Satpal Singh Sidhu Whatcom County Executive



MEMO TO: County Council Members

FROM: Satpal Sidhu, County Executive

Aly Pennucci, Deputy Executive/A.S. Director Kayla Schott-Bresler, Deputy Executive

DATE: December 1, 2025

SUBJECT: 2026-2027 Unrepresented Resolution

For your consideration, I present a two-year 2026 - 2027 Unrepresented Resolution to provide a salary schedule and policies for unrepresented employees.

Summary of Significant Changes:

Wages

- 2026 2.75%
- 2027 2.5%

County Monthly Medical Contribution

Full contribution necessary to provide the WA Teamsters Welfare Trust plan

Elimination of Long-Term Disability (LTD) Insurance

The value of this traditional insurance has decreased significantly. LTD claims are very rare. Most employees never reach the threshold for an LTD claim because there are other overlapping layers of protection available such as WA Paid Family Medical Leave, Federal Family and Medical Leave, generous PTO leave provisions, and the County's Leave Sharing program. LTD insurance comes with a long waiting period before benefits are payable. Most employees resolve their situation or are accommodated long before LTD eligibility begins. Because utilization rates are so low, the cost to the County (approximately \$35,000 per year) outweighs the tangible benefit for the average employee.

Emergency Response Stipend

Increase from \$225 to \$250 to respond to extraordinary emergencies between 9:00 p.m. –
 6:00 a.m.

Paid Administrative Leve

Allow for annual cash out upon County Executive approval

Attorney After-Hours Weekly Rotation

 Increase from \$400 per week or \$57 per day to \$72 per day (consistent with amount bargained with AFSCME Public Defenders)

Juvenile Detention After-Hours Weekly Rotation

Designated managers assigned to respond to events in Juvenile Detention, including frequent, rapid, and in-person responses to meet minimum staffing requirements, shall receive a \$72 per day stipend.