

Whatcom County Council

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



Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, November 18, 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. [MIN2025-072](#) Special Committee of the Whole for October 28, 2025
2. [MIN2025-073](#) Health Board and Public Health Advisory Board for October 28, 2025

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.

1. [AB2025-713](#) Resolution declaring the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District's intention to lease property on River Road (Council acting as the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)
2. [AB2025-715](#) Resolution declaring the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District's intention to lease property on East Main Street (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. [AB2025-737](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and General Code, LLC for legal code publishing services, in the amount of \$16,000

2. [AB2025-791](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract amendment between Whatcom County and Washington State University to continue the jointly shared costs for faculty positions and program support for WSU Whatcom County Extension in the amount of \$282,257 for a total amended contract amount of \$3,825,050.90
3. [AB2025-800](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract amendment between Whatcom County and K2 Towers III, LLC in the amount of \$140,133 for a total amended contract amount of \$266,579
4. [AB2025-802](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Gitts Autobody to provide autobody repair services to county vehicles, in the amount of \$80,000
5. [AB2025-804](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and Washington State Health Care Authority to provide Criminal Justice Treatment Account (CJTA) funding for substance use disorder treatment and recovery support services for individuals involved in the criminal legal system, in the amount of \$651,108
6. [AB2025-817](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a grant agreement between Whatcom County and the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office - Washington Wildlife and Recreation Forestland Preservation grant program for the acquisition of a forestry conservation easement on the Maple Falls Forest property in the amount of \$454,000
7. [AB2025-819](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Opportunity Council to increase the number of childcare slots for low-income families through the funding of the interior build out of a child care facility located in Unit 2 of the Bellis Fair Family Housing Condominium, in the amount of \$944,084

OTHER ITEMS

(From Council Finance and Administrative Services Committee)

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

(From Council Committee of the Whole)

2. [AB2025-807](#) Presentation on the Homeless Housing Program and request for motion to approve the final 5-Year Homelessness and Housing Plan
3. [AB2025-820](#) Request for motion to approve Whatcom County's 2026 state legislative session priorities

4. [AB2025-821](#) Presentation from Health and Community Services on the Children and Families Program and request for motion to approve the next Healthy Children's Fund Implementation Plan

(No Committee Assignment)

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

COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS TO ADVISORY GROUPS

1. [AB2025-823](#) Appointment to a vacancy on the Sumas/Everson/Nooksack Flood Control Sub-Zone Advisory Committee, Applicant(s): Jeff Kelly (Council Acting as the Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)

ITEMS ADDED BY REVISION

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. [AB2025-779](#) Ordinance amending Whatcom County Code 2.02, County Council, to change the membership and quorum requirements of all standing council committees
2. [AB2025-794](#) Ordinance amending the 2026 Whatcom County Budget, request no. 2, in the amount of \$12,120,000
3. [AB2025-796](#) Ordinance establishing the Whatcom County Sheriff's Office Leasehold Improvements Project Fund and establishing an initial budget for the Whatcom County Sheriff's Office Leasehold Improvements Project Fund
4. [AB2025-798](#) Ordinance establishing the Birch Bay Beach Park Project Fund and establishing an initial budget for the Birch Bay Beach Park Project Fund
5. [AB2025-810](#) Ordinance adopting amendments to Whatcom County Code Title 20, Zoning and Title 22, Land Use and Development
6. [AB2025-812](#) Ordinance adopting amendments to Whatcom County Code Title 20 (Zoning) to comply with preemptive state regulations for accessory dwelling units and co-living standards
7. [AB2025-816](#) Ordinance amending the 2025 Whatcom County Budget, request no. 12, in the amount of \$3,565,060
8. [AB2025-825](#) Receipt of application to a vacancy on the Justice Project Oversight and Planning Committee, Youth position, Applicant(s): Parneet Kaur (Deadline for additional applications is 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, December 2, 2025)

COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER ITEMS, AND COUNCILMEMBER UPDATES

ADJOURN