

Whatcom County Council

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



Meeting Agenda

**Tuesday, July 28, 2026
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 REVISION 7.27.2026**

COUNCILMEMBERS

Elizabeth Boyle
Barry Buchanan
Ben Elenbaas
Kaylee Galloway
Jessica Rienstra
Jon Scanlon
Mark Stremmer

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Cathy Halka, AICP, CMC

COUNTY COUNCIL

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

FLAG SALUTE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Council meetings are held in a hybrid format with in-person and remote participation available. For instructions on remote participation, visit www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil.

If you require special assistance to participate, please contact the Council Office at 360-778-5010 at least 96 hours in advance. Assistive listening devices are available in Council Chambers, and live captions are available through Zoom for those participating remotely.

Per RCW 42.17A.555, the use of public facilities to support or oppose candidates or ballot issues is prohibited.

The County is accepting applications to fill vacancies on advisory groups for a range of local issues. For more information, visit www.whatcomcounty.us/1585 or contact the Council Office at 360-778-5010.

COUNTY EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Council offers in-person and remote participation in Public Hearings. If you are attending the meeting in person, Public Hearing sign-up sheets will be available in Council Chambers. To participate remotely, please visit www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil and register for a Zoom link by 4 p.m. the day of the meeting. Speakers are given three minutes to address the Council and are asked to state their name for the record. Those participating on-site in Council Chambers will speak first, followed by those who registered to speak remotely. Per RCW 42.17A.555, the use of public facilities to support or oppose candidates or ballot issues is prohibited.

1. [AB2026-461](#) Ordinance granting Forged Fiber 37, LLC a non-exclusive franchise for the purposes of offering and providing telecommunications services

PUBLIC HEARINGS (FERRY DISTRICT)

The following public hearing items regarding the Whatcom County Ferry District will be combined into one public hearing. Members of the public will have 3 minutes to speak once on all items on the combined public hearing on the Ferry District (Items 1-6).

1. [AB2026-520](#) Resolution establishing a new Whatcom County Ferry District Fund (Council acting as the Whatcom County Ferry District Board of Supervisors)
2. [AB2026-552](#) Resolution establishing an initial budget level for the Whatcom County Ferry District in the amount of \$5.7 million (Council acting as the Whatcom County Ferry District Board of Supervisors)

3. [AB2026-521](#) Resolution establishing an initial budget for the Whatcom County Ferry District in the amount of \$5.2 million (Council acting as the Whatcom County Ferry District Board of Supervisors)
4. [AB2026-522](#) Resolution establishing an initial budget level for the Whatcom County Ferry District in the amount of \$4.2 million (Council acting as the Whatcom County Ferry District Board of Supervisors)
5. [AB2026-524](#) Ordinance adding the Ferry District Funds and Board of Supervisors to Whatcom County Code 10.34, Ferry Rates
6. [AB2026-525](#) Ordinance adding the Ferry District Funds and Board of Supervisors to Whatcom County Code 10.36.060, Ferry Multi-Ride Cards and Quarterly Passes, Replacement Appeal Procedure

PUBLIC HEARINGS (COMPREHENSIVE PLAN PERIODIC UPDATE)

The following public hearing items regarding the comprehensive plan periodic update required by the Growth Management Act (Chapter 36.70A RCW) will be combined into one public hearing. Members of the public will have 3 minutes to speak once on all items on the combined public hearing on the comprehensive plan periodic update (Items 1-3).

1. [AB2026-553](#) Ordinance adopting amendments to the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan and Foothills Subarea Plan for the Growth Management Act Periodic Review and Update (for concurrent review with other Comprehensive Plan amendment proposals)
2. [AB2026-489](#) Ordinance adopting amendments to Whatcom County Code Title 20, Zoning, under the 2025-2026 periodic update of the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan and Development Regulations, pursuant to the Growth Management Act (for concurrent review with other Comprehensive Plan amendment proposals)
3. [AB2026-490](#) Ordinance amending the official Whatcom County Zoning Map under the 2025-2026 Periodic Update of the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan under the Growth Management Act (for concurrent review with other Comprehensive Plan amendment proposals)

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN PERIODIC UPDATE - CONCURRENT REVIEW

Council will act concurrently on items 1-3 regarding the comprehensive plan periodic update required by the Growth Management Act (Chapter 36.70A RCW).

1. [AB2026-553](#) Ordinance adopting amendments to the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan and Foothills Subarea Plan for the Growth Management Act Periodic Review and Update (for concurrent review with other Comprehensive Plan amendment proposals)

2. [AB2026-489](#) Ordinance adopting amendments to Whatcom County Code Title 20, Zoning, under the 2025-2026 periodic update of the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan and Development Regulations, pursuant to the Growth Management Act (for concurrent review with other Comprehensive Plan amendment proposals)
3. [AB2026-490](#) Ordinance amending the official Whatcom County Zoning Map under the 2025-2026 Periodic Update of the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan under the Growth Management Act (for concurrent review with other Comprehensive Plan amendment proposals)

OPEN SESSION

Council offers in-person and remote participation in Open Session. If you are attending the meeting in person, Open Session sign-up sheets will be available in Council Chambers. To participate remotely, please visit www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil and register for a Zoom link by 4 p.m. the day of the meeting. Open Session is an opportunity to address Council on issues not scheduled for a public hearing. Speakers are given three minutes to speak and are asked to state their name for the record. Those participating on-site in Council Chambers will speak first, followed by those who registered to speak remotely. Per RCW 42.17A.555, the use of public facilities to support or oppose candidates or ballot issues is prohibited.

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, and MPP2024-00002 ALA Energy, Ferndale Terminal Existing and Planned Improvements.

CONSENT AGENDA

Consent agenda items may be considered in a single motion. Councilmembers have received background material on all items, and committee review has taken place 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. [AB2026-555](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to relinquish a foot trail easement held by the Whatcom Land Trust, located within South Fork Park
2. [AB2026-563](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and the Attorney General's Office of Washington State to purchase an evidence refrigerator, in the amount of \$8,920
3. [AB2026-564](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement amendment between Whatcom County and Ferndale School District to fund mental health services for an additional year in the amount of \$300,530 for a total amended agreement amount of \$572,347

4. [AB2026-565](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Chinook Enterprises to provide support services to eligible individuals with developmental disabilities, in the estimated amount of \$74,878
5. [AB2026-566](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and Island County for preventing the use of cannabis and commercial tobacco products by youth in the amount of \$37,000
6. [AB2026-567](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and North Sound Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization for behavioral health services in the amount of \$725,761
7. [AB2026-568](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and PeaceHealth to provide two years of funding for a Perinatal Patient Navigator, providing mental health services for marginalized, disadvantaged, and medically complex pregnant patients in the amount of \$180,000
8. [AB2026-569](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and SCS Engineers to prepare an updated Comprehensive Solid and Hazardous Waste Management Plan, in the amount of \$138,894
9. [AB2026-570](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and United General District 304 to reduce the use of cannabis and tobacco by youth in the amount of \$79,000
10. [AB2026-574](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract amendment with the Washington State Department of Commerce to increase the total grant amount for the state fiscal year 2026 Domestic Violence Victim/Witness Grant in the amount of \$50,000 for a total amended contract amount of \$74,218
11. [AB2026-575](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement to pass-through funds from the Washington State Military Department to the City of Bellingham for the operations of What-Comm in the amount of \$93,500 for fiscal year 2027
12. [AB2026-576](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement with the City of Bellingham for the pass-through of grant funds from the Washington State Military Department for fiscal year 2027 for What-Comm operations in the amount of \$93,500

ITEM TITLE REVISED 7.27.2026

OTHER ITEMS

(From Council Climate Action and Natural Resources Committee)

1. [AB2026-526](#) Ordinance amending Whatcom County Code 16.20, Whatcom County Shellfish Protection Districts
2. [AB2026-556](#) Joint resolution of the Bellingham City Council and the Whatcom County Council adopting the Lake Whatcom Forest Management Plan

(From Council Finance and Administrative Services Committee)

3. [AB2026-508](#) Resolution amending the 2026 Flood Control Zone District and Subzones Budget, request no. 4, in the amount of \$34,830 (Council acting as the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)
4. [AB2026-530](#) Ordinance closing the Central Plaza Tenant Improvement Fund
5. [AB2026-534](#) Ordinance amending the 2026 Whatcom County Budget, request no. 10, in the amount of \$252,250
6. [AB2026-550](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and the U.S. Department of Transportation for the Lummi Island Ferry Replacement and System Modernization Project, in the amount of \$25,000,000
7. [AB2026-582](#) Resolution designating an authorized representative and alternate authorized representative of Whatcom County to obtain federal and/or state emergency or disaster assistance funds on behalf of Whatcom County

(From Council Public Works and Health Committee)

8. [AB2026-504](#) Ordinance amending Whatcom County Code 24.03, Food Service Rules and Regulations (Council acting as the Health Board)

SEE AB2026-559 ON INTRODUCTION (REVISES TITLE TO REMOVE "COUNCIL ACTING AS HEALTH BOARD")

(No Committee Assignment)

9. [AB2026-501](#) Resolution establishing regular Whatcom County Council meeting dates for 2027

CONFIRMATION OF EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENTS TO ADVISORY GROUPS

Per Whatcom County Code 2.03.070(B), the council must confirm or reject executive appointments within 30 days of submission to the council. County code deems the appointee confirmed if council does not take action within this time.

1. [AB2026-551](#) Request confirmation of the County Executive's appointment of Alex Durney to the Conservation Easement Program Advisory Committee

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. [AB2026-499](#) Review final project performance on the 2025-2026 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Public Services grant and proposed activities for the 2026-2027 CDBG Public Services grant
2. [AB2026-557](#) Resolution to sell tax title property by public auction, Mounces First Addition
3. [AB2026-559](#) Ordinance amending Whatcom County Code 24.03, Food Service Rules and Regulations
4. [AB2026-580](#) Ordinance establishing the Criminal Justice Sales Tax Fund - RCW 82.14.345 and establishing an initial budget for the Criminal Justice Sales Tax Fund - RCW 82.14.345

ITEM TITLE REVISED 7.27.2026

5. [AB2026-581](#) Ordinance amending the 2026 Whatcom County Budget, request no. 11, in the amount of \$3,658,280

COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER ITEMS, AND COUNCILMEMBER UPDATES**ADJOURN**