

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**ESTABLISHING COUNTY COUNCIL
BUDGET GOALS AND GUIDELINES**

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has caused significant hardship to our local community, which in turn has led to substantial unemployment; and

WHEREAS, the County Council would like to mitigate the severity of the economic, health, and social impacts to our community; and

WHEREAS, Section 1.51 of the Whatcom County Charter states it is the County Council shall engage in long-term planning to establish organizational structure, priorities, and performance measurements; and

WHEREAS, Section 2.20 of the Whatcom County Charter gives the County Council the power to levy taxes, appropriate revenue, and adopt the county biennial budget, supplemental budgets, and emergency budgets; and

WHEREAS, the County Council believes establishing clear goals and guidelines will help the Council to better work together, streamline decision making, improve communication, and increase the positive impacts of our decisions; and

WHEREAS, the County Council would like to support the Administration and County staff by providing additional clarity and guidance related to our decision; and

WHEREAS, the County Council sees an opportunity to improve our collaboration with outside organizations, municipalities, vendors, and community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Whatcom County Council establishes the following as goals for the purposes of budget, policy, and planning decisions:

1. Prepare a biennial budget for 2021-22 which includes a supplemental reflecting a decrease in revenue of 20%.
2. Achieve a balanced and affordable housing market, with Monthly Sales Inventory (MSI) between five and seven months and vacancy rate between five to seven percent by end of 2025.
3. Achieve county-wide unemployment rate of five percent or less by the end of 2025.
4. Increase the number of students ready to enter kindergarten by 50% by the end of 2022.
5. Invest in upstream prevention and interventions, in areas such as incarceration and racial disparity, in lieu of costly remediation strategies.
6. Strive to maintain service and staffing levels while recognizing the constraints of the current fiscal crisis.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Whatcom County Council establishes the following guidelines to help us identify priorities and make decisions related to the County's budget, planning, and policies:

1. Children and families first.
2. Spend money efficiently and effectively.

- 1 3. Prioritize deferred maintenance projects based on the level of importance.
- 2 4. Prioritize projects which leverage third party grant funding.
- 3 5. Invest in digital infrastructure.
- 4 6. Retain expertise within staffing.
- 5 7. Ensure transparency in decisions, information, and data.
- 6 8. Prioritize environmentally sustainable solutions.
- 7 9. Prioritize funding to address up stream issues that ultimately reduce costs to the
- 8 community.
- 9 10. Be open to new ideas and consider creative approaches and solutions.
- 10 11. Prioritize cost sharing and collaboration with other jurisdictions.
- 11 12. Work within our authority.
- 12 13. Prioritize projects or initiatives working with Whatcom County businesses and
- 13 agriculture.
- 14 14. Reduce unnecessary redundancies within county.

15 APPROVED this ____ day of _____, 2020.

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20 ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

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24 _____
25 Dana Brown-Davis, Clerk of the Council

Barry Buchanan, Council Chair

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27 APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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31 Civil Deputy Prosecutor
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