



Whatcom County

COUNTY COURTHOUSE
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Agenda Bill Master Report

File Number: AB2025-779

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Assigned to:	Council Committee of the Whole			Final Action:	12/09/2025
Agenda Date:	12/09/2025	Enactment #:	ORD 2025-065		
Related Files:					

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TITLE FOR AGENDA ITEM:

Ordinance amending Whatcom County Code 2.02, County Council, to change the membership and quorum requirements of all standing council committees

SUMMARY STATEMENT OR LEGAL NOTICE LANGUAGE:

none

HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE FILE

Date:	Acting Body:	Action:	Sent To:
11/18/2025	Council	INTRODUCED	Council Committee of the Whole
		Aye: 7 Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler	
		Nay: 0	
12/09/2025	Council Committee of the Whole	RECOMMENDED FOR ADOPTION WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENT(S)	
		Aye: 4 Buchanan, Donovan, Galloway, and Scanlon	
		Nay: 3 Byrd, Elenbaas, and Stremler	
12/09/2025	Council	ADOPTED	
		Aye: 4 Buchanan, Donovan, Galloway, and Scanlon	
		Nay: 2 Elenbaas, and Stremler	
		Temp Absent: 1 Byrd	

Attachments: Proposed Ordinance, Proposed Ordinance Amended in Committee 12.9.2025, Notice of Action
Proposed on 11.18.2025

PROPOSED BY: GALLOWAY
INTRODUCED: NOVEMBER 18, 2025

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-065

**AMENDING WHATCOM COUNTY CODE 2.02, COUNTY COUNCIL, TO CHANGE THE
MEMBERSHIP AND QUORUM REQUIREMENTS OF ALL STANDING COUNCIL
COMMITTEES**

WHEREAS, Whatcom County Code (WCC) 2.02.080, Standing Committees—Membership, states that there shall be three members of all standing council committees; and

WHEREAS, WCC 2.02.040, Meetings—General Rules, states that a majority of a council committee (two members) shall be necessary for the transaction of a committee's business; and

WHEREAS, all councilmembers typically attend every council committee meeting and participate in committee discussion; and

WHEREAS, expanding council committees to include all councilmembers can increase representation, enhance engagement, offer broader knowledge and expertise, and provide for greater flexibility and collaboration.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Whatcom County Council that Whatcom County Code Chapter 2.02 is hereby amended as indicated in Exhibit A of this ordinance to change the membership on all standing council committees from three to seven and to change the quorum requirement for all standing council committees from two to four councilmembers.

ADOPTED this 9th day of December, 2025

ATTEST:


Cathy Halka, Clerk of the Council

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Kimberly Thulin (by email 11/09/2025-ig)
Civil Deputy Prosecutor

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON


Kaylee Galloway, Council Chair

WHATCOM COUNTY EXECUTIVE
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON


Satpal Sidhu, County Executive

☒ Approved () Denied

Date Signed: 12.15.25

EXHIBIT A

2.02.015 Council vacancies – Announcement.

A. The council shall publicly announce any vacancy and shall provide a reasonable period for interested candidates to contact councilmembers and request that their name be considered for the vacant position.

B. Such announcement shall be made at least 10 days before the vacancy is filled. (Ord. 2017-081 Exh. A; Ord. 2010-044 Exh. A; Ord. 2008-004 Exh. A).

2.02.020 Council vacancies – Qualifications.

A. A vacancy on the county council shall be filled by a qualified registered voter and resident of the district they represent, meeting all of the qualifications of Section 4.20 of the Whatcom County Charter.

B. Any information provided by a nominee may be checked to verify qualifications, and submission of a personal resume may be requested. (Ord. 2017-081 Exh. A; Ord. 2010-044 Exh. A; Ord. 2008-004 Exh. A).

2.02.025 Council vacancies – Nominations.

A. Nominations to fill a vacancy on the county council shall be made by any councilmember by nominating an individual by name in a regular open meeting. No councilmember may nominate themselves.

B. All names submitted may be referred to a committee of the whole for consideration.

C. Nominees may be personally interviewed by a committee of the council, or any councilmember(s) chosen by the council to conduct such interviews. (Ord. 2017-081 Exh. A; Ord. 2010-044 Exh. A; Ord. 2008-004 Exh. A).

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2.02.040 Meetings – General rules.

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F. A majority (four members) of the council shall be in attendance to constitute a quorum and shall be necessary for the transaction of the council's business. A majority of a council committee (four members) shall be necessary for the transaction of a committee's business. If a quorum is not present, the chair may call the meeting to order to establish that a meeting was held, but no official action may be taken. Agenda items that do not require official action may be dealt with, such as a minor discussion or report. At the conclusion of the meeting those in attendance will be named and they shall adjourn to a later time.

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2.02.060 Meetings – Decorum of debate.

A. Any councilmember desiring to speak shall first be recognized by the chair, and shall confine their remarks to the specific subject under consideration or to be considered. The councilmember who has proposed a motion or the committee member who has presented a report shall be allowed the first opportunity to explain the motion or report, and usually is allowed to speak last on it. No member or small group of members shall be permitted to monopolize the discussion on a question. If a member has already spoken and other members wish to speak, they should be recognized in preference to the member who has already spoken on a question.

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2.02.065 Meetings – Powers of the chair.

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F. The presiding officer may move and debate from the chair, subject only to such limitations of debate as are by these rules imposed on all members, and shall not be deprived of any of the rights and privileges of a councilmember by reason of their acting as the presiding officer. (Ord. 2017-081 Exh. A; Ord. 2010-044 Exh. A; Ord. 2008-004 Exh. A).

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2.02.080 Standing Committees – Membership.

A. All seven councilmembers shall serve on all council standing committees. The committee members shall be responsible for election of a chairperson, up to two vice chairs, and its internal organization.