

# **Whatcom County Council**

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



## **Action Summary**

**Tuesday, January 13, 2026**

**6 PM**

**Hybrid Meeting - Council Chambers**

**HYBRID MEETING (PARTICIPATE IN-PERSON, SEE REMOTE JOIN INSTRUCTIONS AT [www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil](http://www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil), OR CALL 360.778.5010); AGENDA REVISED 1.12.2026; SECOND AGENDA REVISION 1.12.2026**

### **COUNCILMEMBERS**

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

### **CLERK OF THE COUNCIL**

Cathy Halka, AICP, CMC

## COUNTY COUNCIL

### CALL TO ORDER

### ROLL CALL

**Present:** 7 - Elizabeth Boyle, Barry Buchanan, Ben Elenbaas, Kaylee Galloway, Jessica Rienstra, Jon Scanlon, and Mark Stremler

### FLAG SALUTE

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

### COUNTY EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

### MINUTES CONSENT

1. [MIN2026-001](#) Special Council for December 1, 2025

**APPROVED BY CONSENT**

**Aye:** 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremler

**Nay:** 0

2. [MIN2026-002](#) Special Council for December 2, 2025

**APPROVED BY CONSENT**

**Aye:** 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremler

**Nay:** 0

3. [MIN2026-003](#) Committee of the Whole for December 9, 2025

**APPROVED BY CONSENT**

**Aye:** 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremler

**Nay:** 0

4. [MIN2026-004](#) Regular County Council for December 9, 2025

**APPROVED BY CONSENT**

**Aye:** 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremler

**Nay:** 0

5. [MIN2026-005](#) Special Committee of the Whole for December 2, 2025

**APPROVED BY CONSENT**

**Aye:** 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremler

**Nay:** 0

6. [MIN2026-006](#) Health Board and Public Health Advisory Board for December 2, 2025

**APPROVED BY CONSENT**

**Aye:** 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremler

**Nay:** 0

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

1. [AB2025-810](#) Ordinance adopting amendments to Whatcom County Code Title 20, Zoning and Title 22, Land Use and Development

**SUBSTITUTE ADOPTED**

**Aye:** 5 - Boyle, Buchanan, Galloway, Rienstra, and Scanlon

**Nay:** 2 - Elenbaas, and Stremler

Enactment No: ORD 2026-001

2. [AB2025-814](#) Resolution authorizing the sale of personal property, pursuant to Whatcom County Code 1.10, Procedures for Management and Disposition of County-owned Personal and Real Property

**APPROVED**

**Aye:** 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremler

**Nay:** 0

Enactment No: RES 2026-001

**OPEN SESSION**

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**(From Council Finance and Administrative Services Committee)**

1. [AB2026-001](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and Washington State Health Care Authority to provide Medicaid-related outreach and linkage activities to Whatcom County residents as a fee for service agreement, without a not-to-exceed amount

**AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT**

**Aye:** 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremler

**Nay:** 0

2. [AB2026-009](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract amendment between Whatcom County and Cascadia Law Group PLLC to provide legal advice and services regarding SEPA procedures in relation to permit applications submitted by Petrogas in the amount of \$50,000 for a total amended contract amount of

\$150,000

**AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT**

**Aye:** 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremler

**Nay:** 0

3. [AB2026-012](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a Collective Bargaining Agreement between Whatcom County and General Teamsters Union Local No. 231 for the period of January 1, 2026 - December 31, 2028

**AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT**

**Aye:** 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremler

**Nay:** 0

4. [AB2026-020](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a Collective Bargaining Agreement between Whatcom County and the Deputy Sheriff's Guild for the period January 1, 2026 - December 31, 2028

**AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT**

**Aye:** 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremler

**Nay:** 0

5. [AB2026-018](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract amendment between Whatcom County and Axon Enterprises to add 36 months to Axon's proprietary cloud-based storage, software, and professional services, and to replace 90 cameras and 12 docking stations, in the amount of \$236,734

**AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT**

**Aye:** 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremler

**Nay:** 0

6. [AB2026-024](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission to reimburse salary and related benefit costs for an instructor at the Arlington Regional Law Enforcement Academy, in the estimated amount of \$200,000 for 2026

**AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT**

**Aye:** 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremler

**Nay:** 0

7. [AB2026-013](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Ferndale Youth Sports for Northwest Fields Renovations Project capital improvements funded by the Lodging Tax, in the amount of \$109,140

**AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT**

**Aye:** 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremler

**Nay:** 0

8. [AB2026-019](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and the Washington State Military Department for What-COMM Equipment (Prime contract in pass-through mechanism to City of Bellingham), in the amount of \$94,107

**AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT**

**Aye:** 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremler

**Nay:** 0

9. [AB2026-022](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract amendment between Whatcom County and Stryker Corporation to increase EMS equipment assigned to the EMS Captain at Whatcom County Fire District 7 in the amount of \$23,414 per year for the last five years of the 10-year contract, for a total amended contract amount of \$668,595

**AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT**

**Aye:** 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremler

**Nay:** 0

**OTHER ITEMS**

**(From Council Finance and Administrative Services Committee)**

1. [AB2025-854](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract amendment between Whatcom County and the City of Bellingham to eliminate funding for three lateral paramedic positions, decreasing the contracted amount by \$224,823 for a total amended contract amount of \$783,619

**SUBSTITUTE AUTHORIZED**

**Aye:** 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremler

**Nay:** 0

**(From Council Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee)**

2. [AB2026-015](#) Request for motion to establish full term lengths for Justice Project Oversight and Planning (JPOP) Committee members

**DISCUSSED AND MOTION(S) APPROVED**

Motion approved 7-0 to have the JPOP be on staggered four-year terms.

**COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS TO ADVISORY GROUPS**

1. [AB2026-026](#) Appointments to vacancies on the Acme/VanZandt Flood Control Subzone Advisory Committee, applicant(s): William Dominic Mocerri (Council acting as the Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)

**APPOINTED**

**Aye:** 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremmer

**Nay:** 0

2. [AB2026-027](#) Appointments to vacancies on the Flood Control Zone District Advisory Committee, various positions, applicant(s): Michael Bozzo, Bruce Bosch, Jeff DeJong, Loren Hoekema, John Perry, Ron Bronsema (Council acting as the Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)

**APPOINTED**

**Aye:** 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremmer

**Nay:** 0

Appointed all the applicants.

3. [AB2026-028](#) Appointments to vacancies on the Board of Equalization, applicant(s): W. Thomas Follis

**APPOINTED**

**Aye:** 5 - Buchanan, Elenbaas, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremmer

**Nay:** 0

**Abstain:** 2 - Boyle, and Galloway

4. [AB2026-029](#) Appointments to vacancies on the Climate Impact Advisory Committee, applicant(s): Charles Brown, Derek Gremban, Stevan Harell, Randall Hays, Jonathan King, Theodor Scott, Joshua Williams

**APPOINTED**

Appointed Charles Brown (7 votes), Derek Gremban (7 votes), Stevan Harell (7 votes), Jonathan King (7 votes), Theodor Scott (6 votes), and Joshua Williams (6 votes).

Appointed King 7-0 to the partial term ending 1/31/2027.

5. [AB2026-030](#) Appointments to vacancies on the Whatcom County Ferry Advisory Committee, various positions, applicant(s): Steven Thomas, Virgil Thompson, Janice Catrell, Terence Diffley, Corey Williams

**APPOINTED**

Appointed Janice Catrell 7-0 for the position that lives in Whatcom County and does not live or own property on Lummi Island.

Appointed Terence Diffley (7 votes) and Steven Thomas (6 votes) for the positions that live or own property on Lummi Island.

Appointed Diffley 7-0 to the partial term ending 1/31/2027.

6. [AB2026-031](#) Appointments to vacancies on the Forest Advisory Committee, various positions, applicant(s): David New, Mallore Weinheimer

**APPOINTED**

**Aye:** 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremmer

**Nay:** 0

Appointed David New for the position of community member with forestry, forest ecology, or forest management expertise.

Appointed Mallore Weinheimer to the harvester or silviculturist position .

7. [AB2026-032](#) Appointments to vacancies on the Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force, various positions, applicant(s): Heather Flaherty, Alexis Hahs, Robert Sullivan

**APPOINTED**

**Aye:** 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremmer

**Nay:** 0

8. [AB2026-033](#) Appointments to vacancies on the Justice Project Oversight and Planning Committee, various positions, applicant(s): Tawsha Thompson, Pamela Kahn, Cori Reece

**APPOINTED**

**Aye:** 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremmer

**Nay:** 0

9. [AB2026-034](#) Appointments to vacancies on the Public Health Advisory Board, applicant(s): Mike Cohen, Christine Espina, Alison Fontaine, Carl Isom-McDaniel, Rachel McGarrity, Nathaline Nivens, Robyn Phillips-Madson, Deb Shawver, Markis Dee Stidham, Ashley Thomasson, Ben Twigg, Amelia Vader, Shu-Ling Zhao (Council acting as the Health Board)

**HELD IN COUNCIL**

**Aye:** 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremmer

**Nay:** 0

10. [AB2026-035](#) Appointments to vacancies on the Planning Commission, applicant(s): Alvin Scott Van Dalen

**APPOINTED**

**Aye:** 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremler

**Nay:** 0

11. [AB2026-036](#) Appointments to vacancies on the Solid Waste Advisory Committee, various positions, applicant(s): Ted Carlson, Pinky Vargas

**APPOINTED**

**Aye:** 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremler

**Nay:** 0

**ITEMS ADDED BY REVISION**

1. [AB2026-049](#) Resolution affirming the dignity and civil and human rights of all Whatcom County residents, regardless of immigration or citizenship status

**APPROVED AS AMENDED**

**Aye:** 5 - Boyle, Buchanan, Galloway, Rienstra, and Scanlon

**Nay:** 2 - Elenbaas, and Stremler

Enactment No: RES 2026-002

**MOTION 1:**

Motion approved 7-0 to amend the second to last Whereas statement on page one of the substitute resolution to strike “are foreign” and add “were born outside of the United States” so that it reads:

WHEREAS, according to a 2023 American Community Survey, approximately 22,000 of Whatcom County’s more than 230,000 residents were born outside of the United States; and

**MOTION 2:**

Motion approved 7-0 to amend the 6th whereas clause on page two of the substitute resolution to add the word "all" so that it reads:

WHEREAS, the KWW Act prevents all local law enforcement from:

**MOTION 3:**

Motion approved 7-0 to amend to add the whereas clause as presented (on page 2 of the substitute resolution in yellow highlight), and with scriber error corrections, so that it reads:

WHEREAS, Washington State passed the Courts Open to All (COTA) Act in 2020, which protects individuals’ access to justice by:

Prohibiting warrantless civil immigration arrests at courts,

Prohibiting court staff and prosecutors from using state and local justice resources to report people for federal immigration enforcement, unless required by law, necessary for an active criminal investigation, or done pursuant to valid court order or warrant, and

Requiring courts to collect data on the surveillance by immigration agents of courthouses in Washington; and

**MOTION 4:**

Motion approved 5-1, with Elenbaas abstaining and Strelmer opposed, to amend the second to last BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED statement on page 3 of the substitute resolution to change the word “bilingual” to “multilingual” so that it reads:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Whatcom County Council urges the Executive branch to prominently post multilingual Immigrant Rights and legal resources posters and make multilingual Know Your Rights and legal resource pamphlets readily available at County public facilities; and

**MOTION 5:**

Motion approved 5-2, with Strelmer and Elenbaas opposed, to amend the final BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED statement on page 3 of the substitute resolution so that it reads (clerk’s note: this was further amended in motion 7):

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Whatcom County Council that Whatcom County remains committed to ongoing compliance with the Keep Washington Working Act and the Courts Open to All Act and reminds the County Sheriff, Prosecutor, and their staff to refrain from coordinating or assisting Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, or other relevant federal agencies on immigration or adjacent related law enforcement activities; and

**MOTION 6:**

Motion approved 5-2, Strelmer and Elenbaas opposed, to amend the final BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED on page 4 of the substitute resolution so that it reads:

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED by the Whatcom County Council that Whatcom County strives to cultivate a community where all individuals are free, have equal protection and are provided due process under the law, and are safe to live their lives and pursue their personal, familial, educational, and economic goals without fear of surveillance harassment, intimidation, injury, abduction, or death.

**MOTION 7:**

Motion approved 6-1, with Elenbaas opposed, to amend the earlier-amended final BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED statement on page 3 of the substitute resolution to strike the word “reminds” and retain the original word, “encourages” so that it reads:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Whatcom County Council that Whatcom County remains committed to ongoing compliance with the Keep Washington Working Act and the Courts Open to All Act and encourages the County Sheriff, Prosecutor, and their staff to refrain from coordinating or assisting Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, or other relevant federal agencies on immigration or adjacent related law enforcement activities; and

**INTRODUCTION ITEMS (considered in opposite order and separately)**

2. [AB2026-016](#) Ordinance amending Whatcom County Code Chapter 20.34 Rural Residential Island (RRI) to allow food preparation for off-site consumption when accessory to and located within an approved community center

**INTRODUCED FOR PUBLIC HEARING**

**Aye:** 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremler

**Nay:** 0

1. [AB2026-040](#) Ordinance establishing Whatcom County Code Section 2.02.195 Performance Audits

**REFERRED TO COMMITTEE**

**Aye:** 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremler

**Nay:** 0

Motion approved 7-0 to request that the chair work with the clerk and vice chair to schedule a work session for this item (time unspecified).

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

Motion approved 6-1, with Elenbaas opposed, to adjourn (and not do committee reports).

**ADJOURN**