

Whatcom County Council Special Committee of the Whole

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



Meeting Agenda

**Tuesday, April 7, 2026
9 AM**

Hybrid Meeting - Council Chambers

**HYBRID MEETING - RECESS FOR LUNCH FROM 12:00 P.M. TO 1:00 P.M. -
ADJOURNS BY 4:30 P.M. (PARTICIPATE IN-PERSON, SEE REMOTE JOIN
INSTRUCTIONS AT www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil OR CALL
360.778.5010)**

COUNCILMEMBERS

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

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Cathy Halka, AICP, CMC

Call To Order

Roll Call

Announcements

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. This committee meeting is also noticed as a meeting of the Whatcom County Council, with the agenda limited to committee business.

Public Comment

Public comment is scheduled for 30 minutes with in-person and remote participation available. Each speaker will have two minutes to address the Council, and participants are asked to limit comments to items on the agenda. To participate remotely, please visit www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil and register for a Zoom link by 8:00 a.m. the day of the meeting. On-site participants will speak first followed by those registered to speak remotely. Please state your name for the record before addressing the Council. (Members of the public may send written comments to council@co.whatcom.wa.us)

1. [AB2026-271](#) Public comments on the draft Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan Chapter 10 (Environment), Chapter 12 (Climate), Appendices, and Foothills Subarea Plan Amendments

Committee Discussion

The Whatcom County Council will discuss and provide preliminary direction on amendments to each chapter of the Comprehensive Plan before holding a public hearing and taking action on a complete document of all chapters and appendices at a future meeting. Visit whatcom.legistar.com for information on upcoming meetings. Visit www.whatcomcounty.us/4373 for more information on the comprehensive plan update.

1. [AB2026-217](#) Discussion and preliminary Council direction on Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan Chapter 5, Utilities

CONTINUED FROM 3.24.2026

2. [AB2026-231](#) Discussion and preliminary Council direction on Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan Chapter 7, Economic Development

CONTINUED FROM 3.24.2026

3. [AB2026-250](#) Discussion and preliminary Council direction on Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan Chapter 8, Resource Lands

CONTINUED FROM 3.31.2026

4. [AB2026-251](#) Discussion and preliminary Council direction on Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan Chapter 9, Parks and Recreation

CONTINUED FROM 3.31.2026

5. [AB2026-261](#) Discussion and preliminary Council direction on Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan Chapter 10, Environment

6. [AB2026-262](#) Discussion and preliminary Council direction on Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan Chapter 12, Climate
7. [AB2026-263](#) Discussion and preliminary Council direction on Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan Appendices (Appendix A: Glossary, Appendix B: Acronyms, Appendix D: Bibliography, Appendix E: 20-Year Capital Facilities Plan, Appendix G: Airport Overlay Zones, Appendix H: Airport Imaginary Surfaces, Appendix I: Housing Needs Analysis, Appendix J: Subsidized Housing Needs and Funding) and Foothills Subarea Plan Amendments
8. [AB2026-249](#) Discussion regarding schedule for Council review of the comprehensive plan update
9. [AB2026-276](#) Discussion of an ordinance submitting to the qualified voters of Whatcom County a proposition authorizing a sales and use tax of one-tenth of one percent (0.1%) for criminal justice purposes, as authorized by RCW 82.14.345

DISCUSSION ONLY, AB2026-259 PUBLIC HEARING APRIL 14, 2026

Items Added by Revision

Other Business

Adjournment