

Whatcom County Council

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



Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, April 14, 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)

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

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

MINUTES CONSENT

1. [MIN2026-027](#) Committee of the Whole Executive Session for March 17, 2026
2. [MIN2026-028](#) Council (Special) for March 17, 2026
3. [MIN2026-029](#) Special Committee of the Whole for March 17, 2026
4. [MIN2026-030](#) Committee of the Whole Executive Session for March 24, 2026
5. [MIN2026-031](#) Committee of the Whole for March 24, 2026
6. [MIN2026-032](#) Regular County Council for March 24, 2026
7. [MIN2026-033](#) Special Council for March 31, 2026
8. [MIN2026-034](#) Special Committee of the Whole for March 31, 2026
9. [MIN2026-035](#) Health Board for March 31, 2026

COMBINED PUBLIC HEARINGS ON TAX ORDINANCES

The following items 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 Tax Ordinances (items 1-3).

1. [AB2026-213](#) Ordinance authorizing a sales and use tax of one-tenth of one percent for criminal justice purposes as authorized by RCW 82.14.345 and adding a new Chapter 3.27 Sales and Use Tax for Criminal Justice Purposes to the Whatcom County Code
2. [AB2026-255](#) Ordinance authorizing a sales and use tax of one-tenth of one percent for criminal justice purposes as authorized by RCW 82.14.345 and adding a new Chapter 3.27 Sales and Use Tax for Criminal Justice Purposes to the Whatcom County Code
3. [AB2026-259](#) 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

SEPARATE CONSIDERATION OF PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS

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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, LSS2022-00001 Red Mountain 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. [AB2026-253](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and BEA Environmental, LLC to develop and implement a Source Control Business Inspection Program, in the amount of \$89,950
2. [AB2026-256](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract amendment between Whatcom County and Bellingham Food Bank to purchase and distribute diapers, wipes, infant formula, and food to low-income families with children in the amount of \$636,305, for a total amended contract amount of \$1,503,993
3. [AB2026-260](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and Washington State Department of Ecology to administer and enforce the well sealing, tagging, and decommissioning portions of the water well construction regulations, in the estimated amount of \$13,500 annually
4. [AB2026-269](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Opportunity Council to administer rental assistance to eligible individuals who are involved in the criminal legal system and in recovery from a substance use disorder, in the amount of \$79,090
5. [AB2026-270](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and the Housing Authority of the City of Bellingham to fund capital expenses for the development of the Samish Commons Early Learning Center, in the amount of \$851,350
6. [AB2026-277](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal grant agreement between Whatcom County and the Department of Ecology to provide funding to advance the planning work necessary to evaluate and implement flood mitigation alternatives for the Lower Nooksack River and the Everson-Sumas overflow corridor, in the amount of \$2,738,000 (Council acting as the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)
7. [AB2026-294](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and the Washington State Department of Transportation to execute a Federal Aid Project Prospectus to obligate federal Ferry Boat Program funds for the Lummi Island Ferry operating costs, in the amount of \$1,920,916

8. [AB2026-299](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and City of Bellingham for U.S. Department of Justice Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant FY25, in the amount of \$11,812

OTHER ITEMS

(From Council Committee of the Whole)

1. [AB2026-302](#) Request confirmation of the County Executive's appointment of Deborah Arthur as Deputy Executive/Administrative Services Director effective April 13, 2026

(No Committee Assignment)

2. [AB2026-257](#) Resolution setting priorities for a sales and use tax of one-tenth of one percent for criminal justice purposes as authorized by RCW 82.14.345
3. [AB2026-309](#) Request for motion to select up to two councilmembers to participate in the Executive's medical examiner hiring process

COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS TO ADVISORY GROUPS

1. [AB2026-178](#) Appointment to a vacancy on the Justice Project Oversight and Planning (JPOP) Committee, Behavioral Health Provider position, Applicant(s): Keren Gott, Margery Dunkle, Jennifer Zander, Ajreea Johnson
2. [AB2026-221](#) Appointment to a vacancy on the Justice Project Oversight and Planning (JPOP) Committee, criminal legal system user, applicant(s): Cesar Luna
3. [AB2026-232](#) Appointment to a vacancy on the Planning Commission, District 4 or 5, Applicants: Lindsey Elenbaas, Gurdeep Bains, Jeremy Thompson
4. [AB2026-235](#) Appointment to a vacancy on the Flood Control Zone District Advisory Committee, alternate member, Applicant(s): Brett Vande Hoef (Council acting as the Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)
5. [AB2026-258](#) Appointment to a vacancy on the Lynden/Everson Flood Control Subzone Advisory Committee, Applicant(s): Brett Vande Hoef (Council acting as the Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)
6. [AB2026-274](#) Appointment to a vacancy on Consolidated Drainage Improvement District 31 Board of Supervisors, Applicant(s): Glen Oostema

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. [AB2026-209](#) Ordinance amending the 2026 Whatcom County Budget, request no. 7, in the amount of \$23,290,457
2. [AB2026-275](#) Receipt of applications to vacancies on the Whatcom County Ferry Advisory Committee, various positions, Applicant(s) Markis Dee Stidham, Corey Williams, Virgil Thompson, and Jonathan King (Deadline for applications is 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, April 21, 2026)
3. [AB2026-281](#) Ordinance to require the use of best management practices for stormwater pollution prevention within the Whatcom County Washington Phase II Municipal Stormwater Permit area
4. [AB2026-282](#) Resolution declaring Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District personal property, a single-family house, as surplus and approve sale (Council acting as the Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)
5. [AB2026-284](#) Resolution declaring Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District personal property as surplus and approve sale (Council acting as Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)
6. [AB2026-286](#) Resolution declaring Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District personal property as surplus and to approve sale (Council acting as the Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)
7. [AB2026-288](#) Ordinance submitting to the qualified voters of Whatcom County a nonbinding advisory proposition concerning a sales and use tax of one-tenth of one percent for criminal justice purposes
8. [AB2026-291](#) Ordinance amending Whatcom County Code Section 5.04.080 Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Oversight Board and section 5.04.085 EMS Technical Advisory Board to change the membership of the EMS Oversight Board and the EMS Technical Advisory Board
9. [AB2026-292](#) Resolution amending the 2026 Flood Control Zone District and Subzones Budget, request no. 1, in the amount of \$23,406 (Council acting as the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)
10. [AB2026-295](#) Resolution authorizing the submission of three independent grant applications to the Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board to restore fish passage at the Black Slough and Homesteader culverts and to complete the final design and permitting of the Tinling Creek culvert project (Council acting as the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)

11. [AB2026-297](#) Receipt of application to a vacancy on the Public Health Advisory Board, Applicant(s): Michelle Gillig (Deadline for applications to this position is 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, April 21, 2026)

12. [AB2026-300](#) Receipt of application to a vacancy on the Business and Commerce Advisory Committee, Marine Trades position, Applicant(s): Rex Rhoades (Deadline for applications to this position is 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, April 21, 2026)

COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER ITEMS, AND COUNCILMEMBER UPDATES

ADJOURN