

Whatcom County Council

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



Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, January 13, 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); 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

FLAG SALUTE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Council is currently holding meetings in hybrid format with options for in-person or remote viewing and participation. For instructions on remote participation, visit www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil and register by 4 p.m. the day of the meeting to speak remotely. Individuals who require special assistance to participate in the Council's meetings are asked to contact the Council Office at 360.778-5010 at least 96 hours in advance.

Per RCW 42.17A.555 the use of public facilities to support or oppose candidates or ballot issues is prohibited. Members of the public and the legislative body are not allowed to speak in support of, or in opposition to, a ballot measure or individual candidacy during an open public meeting. Please refrain from raising campaign issues when addressing the Council.

The County is accepting applications from county residents to fill vacancies on several boards, commissions, and committees spanning a wide range of important local issues. For more information, visit the Boards and Commissions vacancy webpage on the County website or call the Council Office or County Executive's Office.

COUNTY EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

MINUTES CONSENT

1. [MIN2026-001](#) Special Council for December 1, 2025
2. [MIN2026-002](#) Special Council for December 2, 2025
3. [MIN2026-003](#) Committee of the Whole for December 9, 2025
4. [MIN2026-004](#) Regular County Council for December 9, 2025
5. [MIN2026-005](#) Special Committee of the Whole for December 2, 2025
6. [MIN2026-006](#) Health Board and Public Health Advisory Board for December 2, 2025

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Participants requesting to speak during public hearings may attend in person. To speak remotely, please visit www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil and register by 4 p.m. the day of the meeting to receive a join link.

All speakers are asked to state their name for the record and optionally include city of residence. When a large group of individuals supports the same position on an issue, we encourage the selection of one or two representatives to speak on behalf of the entire group. Speakers will be given three minutes to address the Council and will be notified when their three minutes are up. Speakers participating on-site in the Council Chambers will speak first, followed by those who have registered to speak remotely.

Per RCW 42.17A.555 the use of public facilities to support or oppose candidates or ballot issues is prohibited. Members of the public and the legislative body are not allowed to speak in support of, or in opposition to, a ballot measure or individual candidacy during an open public meeting. Please refrain from raising campaign issues when addressing the Council.

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

OPEN SESSION

Participants requesting to speak during open session may attend in person. To speak remotely, please visit www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil and register by 4 p.m. the day of the meeting to receive a join link.

During open session, audience members may speak to the council on issues not scheduled for public hearing. All speakers are asked to state their name for the record and optionally include city of residence. When a large group of individuals supports the same position on an issue, we encourage the selection of one or two representatives to speak on behalf of the entire group. Speakers will be given three minutes to address the Council and will be notified when their three minutes are up. Speakers participating on-site in the Council Chambers will speak first, followed by those who have registered to speak remotely.

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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

Items under this section of the agenda may be considered in a single motion. Councilmembers have received and studied background material on all items. Committee review has taken place on these items, 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. [AB2026-001](#) 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
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
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
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
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
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
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
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

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

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

(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

COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS TO ADVISORY GROUPS

1. [AB2026-026](#) Appointments to vacancies on the Acme/VanZandt Flood Control Subzone Advisory Committee, applicant(s): William Dominic Mocerì (Council acting as the Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)
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)
3. [AB2026-028](#) Appointments to vacancies on the Board of Equalization, applicant(s): W. Thomas Follis
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
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
6. [AB2026-031](#) Appointments to vacancies on the Forest Advisory Committee, various positions, applicant(s): David New, Mallore Weinheimer
7. [AB2026-032](#) Appointments to vacancies on the Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force, various positions, applicant(s): Heather Flaherty, Alexis Hahs, Robert Sullivan

8. [AB2026-033](#) Appointments to vacancies on the Justice Project Oversight and Planning Committee, various positions, applicant(s): Tawsha Thompson, Pamela Kahn, Cori Reece
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)
- ITEM TITLE REVISED 1.12.2026**
10. [AB2026-035](#) Appointments to vacancies on the Planning Commission, applicant(s): Alvin Scott Van Dalen
11. [AB2026-036](#) Appointments to vacancies on the Solid Waste Advisory Committee, various positions, applicant(s): Ted Carlson, Pinky Vargas

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

ITEM ADDED 1.12.2026

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER ITEMS, AND COUNCILMEMBER UPDATES

ADJOURN