




County Council and County Executive Expectations for Advisory Group Members

Thank you for serving as an appointee and member of one of Whatcom County's advisory groups. You play a vital role by bringing citizens' perspectives to assist us as policy makers by studying critical issues and forming well-developed, thoughtful recommendations to aid us in decision-making. We value the perspectives and services contributed by the many volunteers who contribute to our leadership.

In County government, we operate in a complex legal context and follow a series of principles to promote public trust as expectations for your services:

- All advisory group meetings are to be conducted in public session and notice of meetings shall be given in accordance with State law and as advised by County legal counsel.
- A quorum of members will not deliberate about advisory group work and issues via e-mail or in unnoticed "side meetings" or "gatherings" as these actions may be in violation of open meeting laws.
- Individual advisory group members and the collective group will be fair, impartial, professional, and respectful of the public, staff, and each other.
- Members may not use their position to secure special privileges or exemptions for themselves or others.
- Members may not give or receive any compensation, gifts, or gratuities from entities or individuals who are or have been engaged in items of business under consideration before the board or commission to which they are appointed.
- Members may not formally represent an advisory group unless given express direction to do so by a majority vote of the advisory group.
- Members may not, at any time, formally act as a representative of Whatcom County government unless expressly commissioned to do so in writing by the County Executive or by formal action of the County Council.
- Appointed members are expected to regularly attend meetings, and are not allowed to designate proxies to serve in their place unless allowed by the enabling statute.

Dated this January 10, 2024


Satpal Sidhu, County Executive


Barry Buchanan, Chair, County Council