

# Title 58

## BOUNDARIES AND PLATS

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### Chapter 58.04 RCW BOUNDARIES

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**58.04.001 Purpose—Remedies.** The purpose of this chapter is to provide alternative procedures for fixing boundary points or lines when they cannot be determined from the existing public record and landmarks or are otherwise in dispute. This chapter does not impair, modify, or supplant any other remedy available at law or equity. [1996 c 160 § 1.]

**58.04.003 Definition of surveyor.** As used in this chapter, "surveyor" means every person authorized to practice the profession of land surveying under the provisions of chapter 18.43 RCW. [1996 c 160 § 2.]

**58.04.007 Affected landowners may resolve dispute over location of a point or line—Procedures.** Whenever a point or line determining the boundary between two or more parcels of real property cannot be identified from the existing

public record, monuments, and landmarks, or is in dispute, the landowners affected by the determination of the point or line may resolve any dispute and fix the boundary point or line by one of the following procedures:

(1) If all of the affected landowners agree to a description and marking of a point or line determining a boundary, they shall document the agreement in a written instrument, using appropriate legal descriptions and including a survey map, filed in accordance with chapter 58.09 RCW. The written instrument shall be signed and acknowledged by each party in the manner required for a conveyance of real property. The agreement is binding upon the parties, their successors, assigns, heirs and devisees and runs with the land. The agreement shall be recorded with the real estate records in the county or counties in which the affected parcels of real estate or any portion of them is located;

(2) If all of the affected landowners cannot agree to a point or line determining the boundary between two or more parcels of real estate, any one of them may bring suit for determination as provided in RCW 58.04.020. [1996 c 160 § 3.]

**58.04.011 Authorization to enter upon any land or waters for purpose of resolving dispute.** Any surveyor authorized by the court and the surveyor's employees may, without liability for trespass, enter upon any land or waters and remain there while performing the duties as required in RCW 58.04.001 through 58.04.007 and this section. The persons named in this section may, without liability for trespass, investigate, construct, or place a monument or reference monuments for the position of any land boundary mark or general land office corner or mark and subdivisional corners thereof. Persons entering lands under the authority of RCW 58.04.001 through 58.04.007 and this section must exercise due care not to damage property while on land or waters performing their duties, and are liable for property damage, if any, caused by their negligence or willful misconduct. Where practical, the persons named in this section must announce and identify themselves and their intention before entering upon private property in the performance of their duties. [1996 c 160 § 4.]

**58.04.015 Disturbing a survey monument—Penalty—Cost.** A person who intentionally disturbs a survey monument placed by a surveyor in the performance of the surveyor's duties is guilty of a gross misdemeanor and is liable for the cost of the reestablishment. [1996 c 160 § 5.]

**58.04.020 Suit to establish lost or uncertain boundaries—Mediation may be required.** (1) Whenever the boundaries of lands between two or more adjoining proprietors have been lost, or by time, accident or any other cause, have become obscure, or uncertain, and the adjoining proprietors cannot agree to establish the same, one or more of the adjoining proprietors may bring a civil action in equity, in the superior court, for the county in which such lands, or part of them are situated, and that superior court, as a court of equity, may upon the complaint, order such lost or uncertain boundaries to be erected and established and properly marked.

(2) The superior court may order the parties to utilize mediation before the civil action is allowed to proceed. [1996 c 160 § 8; 1886 p 104 § 1; RRS § 947.]

**58.04.030 Commissioners—Survey and report.** Said court may, in its discretion, appoint commissioners, not exceeding three competent and disinterested persons, one or more of whom shall be practical surveyors, residents of the state, which commissioners shall be, before entering upon their duties, duly sworn to perform their said duties faithfully, and the said commissioners shall thereupon, survey, erect, establish and properly mark said boundaries, and return to the court a plat of said survey, and the field notes thereof, together with their report. Said report shall be advisory and either party may except thereto, in the same manner as to a report of referees. [1886 p 105 § 2; RRS § 948.]

**58.04.040 Proceedings, conduct of—Costs.** The proceedings shall be conducted as other civil actions, and the court, on final decree, shall apportion the costs of the proceedings equitably, and the cost so apportioned, shall be a lien upon the said lands, severally, as against any transfer or incumbrance made of, or attaching to said lands, from the time of the filing of the complaint: PROVIDED, A notice of lis pendens, is filed in the auditor's office of the proper county, in accordance with law. [1886 p 105 § 3; RRS § 949.]

## Chapter 58.08 RCW PLATS—RECORDING

### Sections

58.08.010	Town plat to be recorded—Requisites.
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58.08.020	Additions.
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*Cities and towns—Recording of ordinance and plat on effective date of reduction: RCW 35.16.050.*

*Record of platted tidelands and shorelands: RCW 79.125.040.*

**58.08.010 Town plat to be recorded—Requisites.** Any person or persons, who may hereafter lay off any town within this state, shall, previous to the sale of any lots within such town, cause to be recorded in the recorder's office of the county wherein the same may lie, a plat of said town, with the public grounds, (if any there be,) streets, lanes and alleys, with their respective widths properly marked, and the lots regularly numbered, and the size stated on said plat. [Code 1881 § 2328; 1862 p 431 § 1; 1857 p 25 § 1; RRS § 9288.]

**58.08.015 Effect of donation marked on plat.** Every donation or grant to the public, or to any individual or individuals, religious society or societies, or to any corporation or body politic, marked or noted as such on the plat of the town, or wherein such donation or grant may have been made, shall be considered, to all intents and purposes, as a quitclaim deed to the said donee or donees, grantee or grantees, for his, her or their use, for the purposes intended by the donor or donors, grantor or grantors, as aforesaid. [Code 1881 § 2329; 1862 p

431 § 2; 1857 p 26 § 2; RRS § 9310. Formerly RCW 58.08.060.]

**58.08.020 Additions.** Every person hereinafter laying off any lots in addition to any town, shall, previous to the sale of such lots, have the same recorded under the like regulations as are provided for recording the original plat of said town, and thereafter the same shall be considered an addition thereto. [Code 1881 § 2330; 1862 p 431 § 3; 1857 p 26 § 3; RRS § 9289.]

**58.08.030 Plats to be acknowledged—Certificate that taxes and assessments are paid.** Every person whose duty it may be to comply with the foregoing regulations shall at or before the time of offering such plat for record, acknowledge the same before the auditor of the proper county, or any other officer who is authorized by law to take acknowledgment of deeds, a certificate of which acknowledgment shall be indorsed on or annexed to such plat and recorded therewith. In all cases where any person or persons, corporation or corporations shall desire to file a plat, map, subdivision or replat of any property or shall desire to vacate the whole or any portion of any existing plat, map, subdivision or replat, such person or persons, corporation or corporations must, at the time of filing the same for record or of filing a petition for vacation thereof, file therewith a certificate from the proper officer or officers who may be in charge of the collection of taxes for which the property affected may be liable at that date, that all taxes which have been levied and become chargeable against such property at such date have been duly paid, satisfied and discharged and must file therewith a certificate from the proper officer or officers, who may be in charge of the collections, that all delinquent assessments for which the property affected may be liable at that date and that all special assessments assessed against said property, which, under the plat filed, become streets, alleys and other public places, have been paid. [1927 c 188 § 1; 1893 c 129 § 1; Code 1881 § 2331; 1862 p 431 § 4; 1857 p 26 § 4; RRS § 9290.]

*Acknowledgments: Chapter 64.08 RCW.*

*Taxes collected by treasurer—Dates of delinquency: RCW 84.56.020.*

**58.08.035 Platted streets, public highways—Lack of compliance, penalty.** All streets, lanes, and alleys, laid off and recorded in accordance with \*the foregoing provisions, shall be considered, to all intents and purposes, public highways, and any person who may lay off any town or any addition to any town in this state, and neglect or refuse to comply with the requisitions aforesaid, shall forfeit and pay for the use of said town, for every month he or she may delay a compliance with the provisions of this chapter, a sum not exceeding one hundred dollars, nor less than five dollars, to be recovered by civil action, in the name of the treasurer of the county. [2010 c 8 § 18001; Code 1881 § 2332; 1862 p 431 § 5; 1857 p 26 § 5; no RRS.]

**\*Reviser's note:** "the foregoing provisions" refer to earlier sections of chapter 178, Code of 1881 codified (as amended) in RCW 58.08.010 through 58.08.030.

*Platted streets as public highways: RCW 58.08.050.*

*Regulation of surveys and plats: RCW 58.10.040.*

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**58.08.050 Official plat—Platted streets as public highways.** Whenever any city or town has been surveyed and platted and a plat thereof showing the roads, streets and alleys has been filed in the office of the auditor of the county in which such city or town is located, such plat shall be deemed the official plat of such city, or town, and all roads, streets and alleys in such city or town as shown by such plat, be and the same are declared public highways: PROVIDING, That nothing herein shall apply to any part of a city or town that has been vacated according to law. [Code 1881 § 3049; 1877 p 314 § 1; RRS § 9292.]

*Platted streets, public highways—Lack of compliance, penalty: RCW 58.08.035.*

*Streets and alleys over first-class tidelands—Control of: RCW 35.21.250.*

*Streets over tidelands declared public highways: RCW 35.21.230.*

## Chapter 58.09 RCW SURVEYS—RECORDING

### Sections

58.09.010	Purpose—Short title.
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58.09.040	Records of survey—Contents—Filing—Replacing corner, filing record.
58.09.050	Records of survey—Processing—Requirements.
58.09.060	Records of survey, contents—Record of corner, information.
58.09.070	Coordinates—Map showing control scheme required.
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58.09.100	Filing fee.
58.09.110	Duties of county auditor.
58.09.120	Monuments—Requirements.
58.09.130	Monuments disturbed by construction activities—Procedure—Requirements.
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**58.09.010 Purpose—Short title.** The purpose of this chapter is to provide a method for preserving evidence of land surveys by establishing standards and procedures for monumenting and for recording a public record of the surveys. Its provisions shall be deemed supplementary to existing laws relating to surveys, subdivisions, platting, and boundaries.

This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the "Survey Recording Act". [1973 c 50 § 1.]

**58.09.020 Definitions.** As used in this chapter:

(1) "Land surveyor" shall mean every person authorized to practice the profession of land surveying under the provisions of chapter 18.43 RCW, as now or hereafter amended.

(2) "\*Washington coordinate system" shall mean that system of plane coordinates as established and designated by chapter 58.20 RCW.

(3) "Survey" shall mean the locating and monumenting in accordance with sound principles of land surveying by or under the supervision of a licensed land surveyor, of points or lines which define the exterior boundary or boundaries common to two or more ownerships or which reestablish or restore general land office corners. [1973 c 50 § 2.]

**\*Reviser's note:** The "Washington coordinate system" was renamed the "Washington plane coordinate system" by 2020 c 50.

**58.09.030 Compliance with chapter required.** Any land surveyor engaged in the practice of land surveying may prepare maps, plats, reports, descriptions, or other documentary evidence in connection therewith.

Every map, plat, report, description, or other document issued by a licensed land surveyor shall comply with the provisions of this chapter whenever such map, plat, report, description, or other document is filed as a public record.

It shall be unlawful for any person to sign, stamp, or seal any map, report, plat, description, or other document for filing under this chapter unless he or she be a land surveyor. [2010 c 8 § 18002; 1973 c 50 § 3.]

**58.09.040 Records of survey—Contents—Filing—Replacing corner, filing record.** After making a survey in conformity with sound principles of land surveying, a land surveyor may file a record of survey with the county auditor in the county or counties wherein the lands surveyed are situated.

(1) It shall be mandatory, within ninety days after the establishment, reestablishment, or restoration of a corner on the boundary of two or more ownerships or general land office corner by survey that a land surveyor shall file with the county auditor in the county or counties wherein the lands surveyed are situated a record of such survey, in such form as to meet the requirements of this chapter, which through accepted survey procedures, shall disclose:

(a) The establishment of a corner which materially varies from the description of record;

(b) The establishment of one or more property corners not previously existing;

(c) Evidence that reasonable analysis might result in alternate positions of lines or points as a result of an ambiguity in the description;

(d) The reestablishment of lost government land office corners.

(2) When a licensed land surveyor, while conducting work of a preliminary nature or other activity that does not constitute a survey required by law to be recorded, replaces, or restores an existing or obliterated general land office corner, it is mandatory that, within ninety days thereafter, he or she shall file with the county auditor in the county in which said corner is located a record of the monuments and accessories found or placed at the corner location, in such form as to meet the requirements of this chapter. [2010 c 8 § 18003; 1973 c 50 § 4.]

**58.09.050 Records of survey—Processing—Requirements.** The records of survey to be filed under authority of this chapter shall be processed as follows:

(1)(a) The record of survey filed under RCW 58.09.040(1) shall be an original map, eighteen by twenty-four inches, that is legibly drawn in black ink on mylar and is suitable for producing legible prints through scanning, microfilming, or other standard copying procedures.

(b) The following are allowable formats for the original that may be used in lieu of the format set forth under (a) of this subsection:

(i) Photo mylar with original signatures;

(ii) Any standard material as long as the format is compatible with the auditor's recording process and records stor-

age system. This format is only allowed in those counties that are excepted from permanently storing the original document as required in RCW 58.09.110(5);

(iii) An electronic version of the original if the county has the capability to accept electronic signatures which meet the standards provided by the rules adopted by the Washington state board of registration for professional engineers and land surveyors, and can import electronic files into an imaging system. The electronic version shall be a standard raster file format acceptable to the county.

A two inch margin on the left edge and a one-half inch margin on other edges of the map shall be provided. The auditor shall reject for recording any maps not suitable for producing legible prints through scanning, microfilming, or other standard copying procedures.

(2) Information required by RCW 58.09.040(2) shall be filed on a standard form eight and one-half inches by fourteen inches as designed and prescribed by the department of natural resources. The auditor shall reject for recording any records of corner information not suitable for producing legible prints through scanning, microfilming, or other standard copying procedures. An electronic version of the standard form may be filed if the county has the capability to accept electronic signatures which meet the standards provided by the rules adopted by the Washington state board of registration for professional engineers and land surveyors, and can import electronic files into an imaging system. The electronic version shall be a standard raster file format acceptable to the county.

(3) Two legible prints of each record of survey as required under the provisions of this chapter shall be furnished to the county auditor in the county in which the survey is to be recorded. The auditor, in those counties using imaging systems, may require only the original, and fewer prints, as needed, to meet the requirements of their duties. If any of the prints submitted are not suitable for scanning or microfilming the auditor shall not record the original.

(4) Legibility requirements are set forth in the recorder's checklist under RCW 58.09.110. [2020 c 57 § 85; 2019 c 132 § 6; 1999 c 39 § 1; 1973 c 50 § 5.]

**58.09.060 Records of survey, contents—Record of corner, information.** (1) The record of survey as required by RCW 58.09.040(1) shall show:

(a) All monuments found, set, reset, replaced, or removed, describing their kind, size, and location and giving other data relating thereto;

(b) Bearing trees, corner accessories or witness monuments, basis of bearings, bearing and length of lines, scale of map, and north arrow;

(c) Name and legal description of tract in which the survey is located and ties to adjoining surveys of record;

(d) Certificates required by RCW 58.09.080;

(e) Any other data necessary for the intelligent interpretation of the various items and locations of the points, lines and areas shown.

(2) The record of corner information as required by RCW 58.09.040(2) shall be on a standard form showing:

(a) An accurate description and location, in reference to the corner position, of all monuments and accessories found at the corner;

(b) An accurate description and location, in reference to the corner position, of all monuments and accessories placed or replaced at the corner;

(c) Basis of bearings used to describe or locate such monuments or accessories;

(d) Corollary information that may be helpful to relocate or identify the corner position;

(e) Certificate required by RCW 58.09.080. [1973 c 50 § 6.]

**58.09.070 Coordinates—Map showing control scheme required.** When coordinates in the \*Washington coordinate system are shown for points on a record of survey map, the map may not be recorded unless it also shows, or is accompanied by a map showing, the control scheme through which the coordinates were determined from points of known coordinates. [1973 c 50 § 7.]

\*Reviser's note: The "Washington coordinate system" was renamed the "Washington plane coordinate system" by 2020 c 50.

**58.09.080 Certificates—Required—Forms.** Certificates shall appear on the record of survey map as follows:

SURVEYOR'S CERTIFICATE

This map correctly represents a survey made by me or under my direction in conformance with the requirements of the Survey Recording Act at the request of . . . . . in . . . . ., (year) . . . .

Name of Person  
(Signed and Sealed) . . . . .  
Certificate No. . . . .

AUDITOR'S CERTIFICATE

Filed for record this . . . . day of . . . . ., (year) . . . . at . . . .M. in book . . . . of . . . . at page . . . . at the request of . . . . .

(Signed) . . . . .  
County Auditor

[2016 c 202 § 34; 1973 c 50 § 8.]

**58.09.090 When record of survey not required.** (1) A record of survey is not required of any survey:

(a) When it has been made by a public officer in his or her official capacity and a reproducible copy thereof has been filed with the county engineer of the county in which the land is located. A map so filed shall be indexed and kept available for public inspection. A record of survey shall not be required of a survey made by the United States bureau of land management. A state agency conducting surveys to carry out the program of the agency shall not be required to use a land surveyor as defined by this chapter;

(b) When it is of a preliminary nature;

(c) When a map is in preparation for recording or shall have been recorded in the county under any local subdivision or platting law or ordinance;

(d) When it is a retracement or resurvey of boundaries of platted lots, tracts, or parcels shown on a filed or recorded and surveyed subdivision plat or filed or recorded and surveyed short subdivision plat in which monuments have been

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set to mark all corners of the block or street centerline intersections, provided that no discrepancy is found as compared to said recorded information or information revealed on other subsequent public survey map records, such as a record of survey or city or county engineer's map. If a discrepancy is found, that discrepancy must be clearly shown on the face of the required new record of survey. For purposes of this exemption, the term discrepancy shall include:

(i) A nonexistent or displaced original or replacement monument from which the parcel is defined and which non-existence or displacement has not been previously revealed in the public record;

(ii) A departure from proportionate measure solutions which has not been revealed in the public record;

(iii) The presence of any physical evidence of encroachment or overlap by occupation or improvement; or

(iv) Differences in linear and/or angular measurement between all controlling monuments that would indicate differences in spatial relationship between said controlling monuments in excess of 0.50 feet when compared with all locations of public record: That is, if these measurements agree with any previously existing public record plat or map within the stated tolerance, a discrepancy will not be deemed to exist under this subsection.

(2) Surveys exempted by foregoing subsections of this section shall require filing of a record of corner information pursuant to RCW 58.09.040(2). [2010 c 8 § 18004; 1992 c 106 § 1; 1973 c 50 § 9.]

**58.09.100 Filing fee.** The charge for filing any record of survey and/or record of corner information shall be fixed by the board of county commissioners. [1973 c 50 § 10.]

**58.09.110 Duties of county auditor.** The auditor shall accept for recording those records of survey and records of corner information that are in compliance with the recorder's checklist as jointly developed by a committee consisting of the survey advisory board and two representatives from the Washington state association of county auditors. This checklist shall be adopted in rules by the department of natural resources.

(1) The auditor shall keep proper indexes of such record of survey by the name of owner and by quarter-quarter section, township, and range, with reference to other legal subdivisions.

(2) The auditor shall keep proper indexes of the record of corner information by section, township, and range.

(3) After entering the recording data on the record of survey and all prints received from the surveyor, the auditor shall send one of the surveyor's prints to the department of natural resources in Olympia, Washington, for incorporation into the statewide survey records repository. However, the county and the department of natural resources may mutually agree to process the original or an electronic version of the original in lieu of the surveyor's print.

(4) After entering the recording data on the record of corner information the auditor shall send a legible copy, suitable for scanning, to the department of natural resources in Olympia, Washington. However, the county and the department of natural resources may mutually agree to process the original or an electronic version of the original in lieu of the copy.

(5) The auditor shall permanently keep the original document filed using storage and handling processes that do not cause excessive deterioration of the document. A county may be excepted from the requirement to permanently store the original document if it has a document scanning, filming, or other process that creates a permanent, archival record that meets or surpasses the standards as adopted in rule by the division of archives and records management in chapter 434-663 or 434-677 WAC. The auditor must be able to provide full-size copies upon request. The auditor shall maintain a copy or image of the original for public reference.

(6) If the county has the capability to accept electronic signatures which meet the standards provided by the rules adopted by the Washington state board of registration for professional engineers and land surveyors, and can import electronic files into an imaging system, the auditor may accept for recording electronic versions of the documents required by this chapter. The electronic version shall be a standard raster file format acceptable to the county.

(7) This section does not supersede other existing recording statutes. [2020 c 57 § 86; 2019 c 132 § 7; 1999 c 39 § 2; 1973 c 50 § 11.]

**58.09.120 Monuments—Requirements.** Any monument set by a land surveyor to mark or reference a point on a property or land line shall be permanently marked or tagged with the certificate number of the land surveyor setting it. If the monument is set by a public officer it shall be marked by an appropriate official designation.

Monuments set by a land surveyor shall be sufficient in number and durability and shall be efficiently placed so as not to be readily disturbed in order to assure, together with monuments already existing, the perpetuation or reestablishment of any point or line of a survey. [1973 c 50 § 12.]

**58.09.130 Monuments disturbed by construction activities—Procedure—Requirements.** When adequate records exist as to the location of subdivision, tract, street, or highway monuments, such monuments shall be located and referenced by or under the direction of a land surveyor at the time when streets or highways are reconstructed or relocated, or when other construction or activity affects their perpetuation. Whenever practical a suitable monument shall be reset in the surface of the new construction. In all other cases permanent witness monuments shall be set to perpetuate the location of preexisting monuments. Additionally, sufficient controlling monuments shall be retained or replaced in their original positions to enable land lines, property corners, elevations and tract boundaries to be reestablished without requiring surveys originating from monuments other than the ones disturbed by the current construction or activity.

It shall be the responsibility of the governmental agency or others performing construction work or other activity to provide for the monumentation required by this section. It shall be the duty of every land surveyor to cooperate with such governmental agency or other person in matters of maps, field notes, and other pertinent records. Monuments set to mark the limiting lines of highways, roads, or streets shall not be deemed adequate for this purpose unless specifically noted on the records of the improvement works with direct

ties in bearing or azimuth and distance between those and other monuments of record. [1973 c 50 § 13.]

**58.09.140 Noncompliance grounds for revocation of land surveyor's license.** Noncompliance with any provision of this chapter, as it now exists or may hereafter be amended, shall constitute grounds for revocation of a land surveyor's authorization to practice the profession of land surveying and as further set forth under RCW 18.43.105 and 18.43.110. [1973 c 50 § 14.]

## Chapter 58.10 RCW DEFECTIVE PLATS LEGALIZED

### Sections

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58.10.030	Resurvey and corrected plat—Corrected plat as evidence.
58.10.040	Regulation of surveys and plats.

**58.10.010 Defective plats legalized—1881 Code.** All city or town plats or any addition or additions thereto, heretofore made and recorded in the county auditor's office of any county in Washington state, showing lots, blocks, streets, alleys or public grounds, shall be conclusive evidence of the location and size of the lots, blocks and public grounds and the location and width of each and every street or alley marked, laid down or appearing on such plat, and that all the right, title, interest or estate which the person or persons making or recording such plat, or causing the same to be made, or recorded, had at the time of making or recording such plat in or to such streets, alleys or public grounds was thereby dedicated to public use, whether the same was made, executed or acknowledged in accordance with the provisions of the laws of this state in force at the time of making the same or not. [Code 1881 § 2338; RRS § 9306. Formerly RCW 58.08.080.]

**58.10.020 Certified copy of plat as evidence.** A copy of any city or town plat or addition thereto recorded in the manner provided for in RCW 58.10.010, certified by the county auditor of the county in which the same is recorded to be a true copy of such record and the whole thereof, shall be received in evidence in all the courts of this state, with like effect as the original. [Code 1881 § 2339; RRS § 9307. Formerly RCW 58.08.070.]

**Rules of court:** ER 803(a)(14).

#### *Certified copies*

*of instruments, or transcripts of county commissioners' proceedings:* RCW 5.44.070.

*of recorded instruments as evidence:* RCW 5.44.060.

*Copies of business and public records as evidence:* RCW 5.46.010.

*Instruments to be recorded or filed:* RCW 65.04.030.

*Photostatic or photographic copies of public or business records admissible in evidence:* RCW 40.20.030.

**58.10.030 Resurvey and corrected plat—Corrected plat as evidence.** Whenever the recorded plat of any city or addition thereto does not definitely show the location or size of lots or blocks, or the location or width of any street or alley in such city or addition, the city council of the city in which the land so platted is located, is hereby authorized and empowered by ordinance and the action of its proper officers,

to cause a new and correct survey and plat of such city or addition to be made, and recorded in the office of the county auditor of the county in which such city or addition is located, which corrected plat shall follow the plan of the original survey and plat, so far as the same can be ascertained and followed, and a certificate of the officer or surveyor making the same shall be endorsed thereon, referring to the original plat corrected thereby, and the deficit existing therein, and corrected by such new survey and plat; and the ordinance authorizing the making of such plat shall be recorded in the office of the county auditor of said county and said certificate shall show where said ordinance is recorded, and such plat when so made and recorded, or a copy thereof certified as provided in RCW 58.10.020 shall be admissible in evidence in all the courts in this state. [Code 1881 § 2340; RRS § 9308. Formerly RCW 58.12.130.]

**58.10.040 Regulation of surveys and plats.** All incorporated cities in the state of Washington are hereby authorized and empowered to regulate and prescribe the manner and form of making any future survey or plat of lands within their respective limits and enforce such regulations by a fine of not exceeding one hundred dollars, to be recovered by and in the name of such city, or imprisonment not exceeding twenty days for each violation of any ordinance regulating such survey and platting: PROVIDED, That nothing in this chapter shall be construed so as to apply to additions to towns in which no lots have been sold. [Code 1881 § 2341; RRS § 9309. Formerly RCW 58.12.140.]

*Platted streets, public highways—Lack of compliance, penalty: RCW 58.08.035.*

### Chapter 58.17 RCW

## PLATS—SUBDIVISIONS—DEDICATIONS

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*Fees for filing subdivision plats and short plats: RCW 58.24.070.*

**58.17.010 Purpose.** The legislature finds that the process by which land is divided is a matter of state concern and should be administered in a uniform manner by cities, towns, and counties throughout the state. The purpose of this chapter is to regulate the subdivision of land and to promote the public health, safety and general welfare in accordance with standards established by the state to prevent the overcrowding of land; to lessen congestion in the streets and highways; to promote effective use of land; to promote safe and convenient travel by the public on streets and highways; to provide for adequate light and air; to facilitate adequate provision for water, sewerage, parks and recreation areas, sites for schools and schoolgrounds and other public requirements; to provide for proper ingress and egress; to provide for the expeditious review and approval of proposed subdivisions which conform to zoning standards and local plans and policies; to adequately provide for the housing and commercial needs of the citizens of the state; and to require uniform monumenting of land subdivisions and conveyancing by accurate legal description. [1981 c 293 § 1; 1969 ex.s. c 271 § 1.]

**Reviser's note:** Throughout this chapter, the phrase "this act" has been changed to "this chapter." "This act" [1969 ex.s. c 271] also consists of amendments to RCW 58.08.040 and 58.24.040 and the repeal of RCW 58.16.010 through 58.16.110.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**58.17.020 Definitions.** As used in this chapter, unless the context or subject matter clearly requires otherwise, the words or phrases defined in this section shall have the indicated meanings.

(1) "Subdivision" is the division or redivision of land into five or more lots, tracts, parcels, sites, or divisions for the purpose of sale, lease, or transfer of ownership, except as provided in subsection (6) of this section.

(2) "Plat" is a map or representation of a subdivision, showing thereon the division of a tract or parcel of land into lots, blocks, streets and alleys, or other divisions and dedications.

(3) "Dedication" is the deliberate appropriation of land by an owner for any general and public uses, reserving to himself or herself no other rights than such as are compatible with the full exercise and enjoyment of the public uses to which the property has been devoted. The intention to dedicate shall be evidenced by the owner by the presentment for filing of a final plat or short plat showing the dedication thereon; and, the acceptance by the public shall be evidenced by the approval of such plat for filing by the appropriate governmental unit.

A dedication of an area of less than two acres for use as a public park may include a designation of a name for the park, in honor of a deceased individual of good character.

(4) "Preliminary plat" is a neat and approximate drawing of a proposed subdivision showing the general layout of streets and alleys, lots, blocks, and other elements of a subdivision consistent with the requirements of this chapter. The preliminary plat shall be the basis for the approval or disapproval of the general layout of a subdivision.

(5) "Final plat" is the final drawing of the subdivision and dedication prepared for filing for record with the county auditor and containing all elements and requirements set forth in this chapter and in local regulations adopted under this chapter.

(6) "Short subdivision" is the division or redivision of land into four or fewer lots, tracts, parcels, sites, or divisions for the purpose of sale, lease, or transfer of ownership. However, the legislative authority of any city or town may by local ordinance increase the number of lots, tracts, or parcels to be regulated as short subdivisions to a maximum of nine. The legislative authority of any county planning under RCW 36.70A.040 that has adopted a comprehensive plan and development regulations in compliance with chapter 36.70A RCW may by ordinance increase the number of lots, tracts, or parcels to be regulated as short subdivisions to a maximum of nine in any urban growth area.

(7) "Binding site plan" means a drawing to a scale specified by local ordinance which: (a) Identifies and shows the areas and locations of all streets, roads, improvements, utilities, open spaces, and any other matters specified by local regulations; (b) contains inscriptions or attachments setting forth such appropriate limitations and conditions for the use of the land as are established by the local government body having authority to approve the site plan; and (c) contains provisions making any development be in conformity with the site plan.

(8) "Short plat" is the map or representation of a short subdivision.

(9) "Lot" is a fractional part of divided lands having fixed boundaries, being of sufficient area and dimension to meet minimum zoning requirements for width and area. The term shall include tracts or parcels.

(10) "Block" is a group of lots, tracts, or parcels within well defined and fixed boundaries.

(11) "County treasurer" shall be as defined in chapter 36.29 RCW or the office or person assigned such duties under a county charter.

(12) "County auditor" shall be as defined in chapter 36.22 RCW or the office or person assigned such duties under a county charter.

(13) "County road engineer" shall be as defined in chapter 36.40 RCW or the office or person assigned such duties under a county charter.

(14) "Planning commission" means that body as defined in chapter 36.70, 35.63, or 35A.63 RCW as designated by the legislative body to perform a planning function or that body assigned such duties and responsibilities under a city or county charter.

(15) "County commissioner" shall be as defined in chapter 36.32 RCW or the body assigned such duties under a county charter. [2002 c 262 § 1; 1995 c 32 § 2; 1983 c 121 § 1. Prior: 1981 c 293 § 2; 1981 c 292 § 1; 1969 ex.s. c 271 § 2.]

*Camping resort contracts—Nonapplicability of certain laws to—Resort not subdivision except under city, county powers: RCW 19.105.510.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**58.17.030 Subdivisions to comply with chapter, local regulations.** Every subdivision shall comply with the provisions of this chapter. Every short subdivision as defined in this chapter shall comply with the provisions of any local regulation adopted pursuant to RCW 58.17.060. [1974 ex.s. c 134 § 1; 1969 ex.s. c 271 § 3.]

**58.17.033 Proposed division of land—Consideration of application for preliminary plat or short plat approval—Requirements defined by local ordinance.** (1) A proposed division of land, as defined in RCW 58.17.020, shall be considered under the subdivision or short subdivision ordinance, and zoning or other land use control ordinances, in effect on the land at the time a fully completed application for preliminary plat approval of the subdivision, or short plat approval of the short subdivision, has been submitted to the appropriate county, city, or town official.

(2) The requirements for a fully completed application shall be defined by local ordinance.

(3) The limitations imposed by this section shall not restrict conditions imposed under chapter 43.21C RCW. [1987 c 104 § 2.]

**58.17.035 Alternative method of land division—Binding site plans.** A city, town, or county may adopt by ordinance procedures for the divisions of land by use of a binding site plan as an alternative to the procedures required by this chapter. The ordinance shall be limited and only apply to one or more of the following: (1) The use of a binding site plan to divisions for sale or lease of commercially or industrially zoned property as provided in RCW 58.17.040(4); (2) divisions of property for lease as provided for in RCW 58.17.040(5); and (3) divisions of property as provided for in



RCW 58.17.040(7). Such ordinance may apply the same or different requirements and procedures to each of the three types of divisions and shall provide for the alteration or vacation of the binding site plan, and may provide for the administrative approval of the binding site plan.

The ordinance shall provide that after approval of the general binding site plan for industrial or commercial divisions subject to a binding site plan, the approval for improvements and finalization of specific individual commercial or industrial lots shall be done by administrative approval.

The binding site plan, after approval, and/or when specific lots are administratively approved, shall be filed with the county auditor with a record of survey. Lots, parcels, or tracts created through the binding site plan procedure shall be legal lots of record. The number of lots, tracts, parcels, sites, or divisions shall not exceed the number of lots allowed by the local zoning ordinances.

All provisions, conditions, and requirements of the binding site plan shall be legally enforceable on the purchaser or any other person acquiring a lease or other ownership interest of any lot, parcel, or tract created pursuant to the binding site plan.

Any sale, transfer, or lease of any lot, tract, or parcel created pursuant to the binding site plan, that does not conform to the requirements of the binding site plan or without binding site plan approval, shall be considered a violation of chapter 58.17 RCW and shall be restrained by injunctive action and be illegal as provided in chapter 58.17 RCW. [1987 c 354 § 2.]

**58.17.040 Chapter inapplicable, when.** The provisions of this chapter shall not apply to:

(1) Cemeteries and other burial plots while used for that purpose;

(2) Divisions of land into lots or tracts each of which is one-one hundred twenty-eighth of a section of land or larger, or five acres or larger if the land is not capable of description as a fraction of a section of land, unless the governing authority of the city, town, or county in which the land is situated shall have adopted a subdivision ordinance requiring plat approval of such divisions: PROVIDED, That for purposes of computing the size of any lot under this item which borders on a street or road, the lot size shall be expanded to include that area which would be bounded by the center line of the road or street and the side lot lines of the lot running perpendicular to such center line;

(3) Divisions made by testamentary provisions, or the laws of descent;

(4) Divisions of land into lots or tracts classified for industrial or commercial use when the city, town, or county has approved a binding site plan for the use of the land in accordance with local regulations;

(5) A division for the purpose of lease when no residential structure other than mobile homes, tiny houses or tiny houses with wheels as defined in RCW 35.21.686, or travel trailers are permitted to be placed upon the land when the city, town, or county has approved a binding site plan for the use of the land in accordance with local regulations;

(6) A division made for the purpose of alteration by adjusting boundary lines, between platted or unplatted lots or both, which does not create any additional lot, tract, parcel,

site, or division nor create any lot, tract, parcel, site, or division which contains insufficient area and dimension to meet minimum requirements for width and area for a building site;

(7) Divisions of land into lots or tracts if: (a) Such division is the result of subjecting a portion of a parcel or tract of land to either chapter 64.32 or 64.34 RCW subsequent to the recording of a binding site plan for all such land; (b) the improvements constructed or to be constructed thereon are required by the provisions of the binding site plan to be included in one or more condominiums or owned by an association or other legal entity in which the owners of units therein or their owners' associations have a membership or other legal or beneficial interest; (c) a city, town, or county has approved the binding site plan for all such land; (d) such approved binding site plan is recorded in the county or counties in which such land is located; and (e) the binding site plan contains thereon the following statement: "All development and use of the land described herein shall be in accordance with this binding site plan, as it may be amended with the approval of the city, town, or county having jurisdiction over the development of such land, and in accordance with such other governmental permits, approvals, regulations, requirements, and restrictions that may be imposed upon such land and the development and use thereof. Upon completion, the improvements on the land shall be included in one or more condominiums or owned by an association or other legal entity in which the owners of units therein or their owners' associations have a membership or other legal or beneficial interest. This binding site plan shall be binding upon all now or hereafter having any interest in the land described herein." The binding site plan may, but need not, depict or describe the boundaries of the lots or tracts resulting from subjecting a portion of the land to either chapter 64.32 or 64.34 RCW. A site plan shall be deemed to have been approved if the site plan was approved by a city, town, or county: (i) In connection with the final approval of a subdivision plat or planned unit development with respect to all of such land; or (ii) in connection with the issuance of building permits or final certificates of occupancy with respect to all of such land; or (iii) if not approved pursuant to (i) and (ii) of this subsection (7)(e), then pursuant to such other procedures as such city, town, or county may have established for the approval of a binding site plan;

(8) A division for the purpose of leasing land for facilities providing personal wireless services while used for that purpose. "Personal wireless services" means any federally licensed personal wireless service. "Facilities" means unstaffed facilities that are used for the transmission or reception, or both, of wireless communication services including, but not necessarily limited to, antenna arrays, transmission cables, equipment shelters, and support structures; and

(9) A division of land into lots or tracts of less than three acres that is recorded in accordance with chapter 58.09 RCW and is used or to be used for the purpose of establishing a site for construction and operation of consumer-owned or investor-owned electric utility facilities. For purposes of this subsection, "electric utility facilities" means unstaffed facilities, except for the presence of security personnel, that are used for or in connection with or to facilitate the transmission, distribution, sale, or furnishing of electricity including, but not limited to, electric power substations. This subsection does

not exempt a division of land from the zoning and permitting laws and regulations of cities, towns, counties, and municipal corporations. Furthermore, this subsection only applies to electric utility facilities that will be placed into service to meet the electrical needs of a utility's existing and new customers. New customers are defined as electric service locations not already in existence as of the date that electric utility facilities subject to the provisions of this subsection are planned and constructed. [2019 c 352 § 2; 2004 c 239 § 1; 2002 c 44 § 1; 1992 c 220 § 27; 1989 c 43 § 4-123. Prior: 1987 c 354 § 1; 1987 c 108 § 1; 1983 c 121 § 2; prior: 1981 c 293 § 3; 1981 c 292 § 2; 1974 ex.s. c 134 § 2; 1969 ex.s. c 271 § 4.]

**Finding—2019 c 352:** "Tiny houses have become a trend across the nation to address the shortage of affordable housing. As tiny houses become more acceptable, the legislature finds that it is important to create space in the code for the regulation of tiny house siting. Individual cities and counties may allow tiny houses with wheels to be collected together as tiny house villages using the binding site plan method articulated in chapter 58.17 RCW.

The legislature recognizes that the International Code Council in 2018 has issued tiny house building code standards in Appendix Q of the International Residential Code, which can provide a basis for the standards requested within this act." [2019 c 352 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**58.17.050 Assessors plat—Compliance.** An assessors plat made in accordance with RCW 58.18.010 need not comply with any of the requirements of this chapter except RCW 58.17.240 and 58.17.250. [1969 ex.s. c 271 § 5.]

**58.17.060 Short plats and short subdivisions—Summary approval—Regulations—Requirements.** (1) The legislative body of a city, town, or county shall adopt regulations and procedures, and appoint administrative personnel for the summary approval of short plats and short subdivisions or alteration or vacation thereof. When an alteration or vacation involves a public dedication, the alteration or vacation shall be processed as provided in RCW 58.17.212 or 58.17.215. Such regulations shall be adopted by ordinance and shall provide that a short plat and short subdivision may be approved only if written findings that are appropriate, as provided in RCW 58.17.110, are made by the administrative personnel, and may contain wholly different requirements than those governing the approval of preliminary and final plats of subdivisions and may require surveys and monuments and shall require filing of a short plat, or alteration or vacation thereof, for record in the office of the county auditor: PROVIDED, That such regulations must contain a requirement that land in short subdivisions may not be further divided in any manner within a period of five years without the filing of a final plat, except that when the short plat contains fewer than four parcels, nothing in this section shall prevent the owner who filed the short plat from filing an alteration within the five-year period to create up to a total of four lots within the original short plat boundaries: PROVIDED FURTHER, That such regulations are not required to contain a penalty clause as provided in RCW 36.32.120 and may provide for wholly injunctive relief.

An ordinance requiring a survey shall require that the survey be completed and filed with the application for approval of the short subdivision.

(2) Cities, towns, and counties shall include in their short plat regulations and procedures pursuant to subsection (1) of this section provisions for considering sidewalks and other planning features that assure safe walking conditions for students who walk to and from school. [1990 1st ex.s. c 17 § 51; 1989 c 330 § 2; 1987 c 354 § 5; 1987 c 92 § 1; 1974 ex.s. c 134 § 3; 1969 ex.s. c 271 § 6.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**58.17.065 Short plats and short subdivisions—Filing.** Each short plat and short subdivision granted pursuant to local regulations after July 1, 1974, shall be filed with the county auditor and shall not be deemed "approved" until so filed. [1974 ex.s. c 134 § 12.]

**58.17.070 Preliminary plat of subdivisions and dedications—Submission for approval—Procedure.** A preliminary plat of proposed subdivisions and dedications of land shall be submitted for approval to the legislative body of the city, town, or county within which the plat is situated.

Unless an applicant for preliminary plat approval requests otherwise, a preliminary plat shall be processed simultaneously with applications for rezones, variances, planned unit developments, site plan approvals, and similar quasi-judicial or administrative actions to the extent that procedural requirements applicable to these actions permit simultaneous processing. [1981 c 293 § 4; 1969 ex.s. c 271 § 7.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**58.17.080 Filing of preliminary plat—Notice.** Notice of the filing of a preliminary plat of a proposed subdivision adjacent to or within one mile of the municipal boundaries of a city or town, or which contemplates the use of any city or town utilities shall be given to the appropriate city or town authorities. Any notice required by this chapter shall include the hour and location of the hearing and a description of the property to be platted. Notice of the filing of a preliminary plat of a proposed subdivision located in a city or town and adjoining the municipal boundaries thereof shall be given to appropriate county officials. Notice of the filing of a preliminary plat of a proposed subdivision located adjacent to the right-of-way of a state highway or within two miles of the boundary of a state or municipal airport shall be given to the secretary of transportation. In the case of notification to the secretary of transportation, the secretary shall respond to the notifying authority within fifteen days of such notice as to the effect that the proposed subdivision will have on the state highway or the state or municipal airport. [1982 c 23 § 1; 1969 ex.s. c 271 § 8.]

**58.17.090 Notice of public hearing.** (1) Upon receipt of an application for preliminary plat approval the administrative officer charged by ordinance with responsibility for administration of regulations pertaining to platting and subdivisions shall provide public notice and set a date for a public hearing. Except as provided in RCW 36.70B.110, at a minimum, notice of the hearing shall be given in the following manner:

(a) Notice shall be published not less than ten days prior to the hearing in a newspaper of general circulation within the

county and a newspaper of general circulation in the area where the real property which is proposed to be subdivided is located; and

(b) Special notice of the hearing shall be given to adjacent landowners by any other reasonable method local authorities deem necessary. Adjacent landowners are the owners of real property, as shown by the records of the county assessor, located within three hundred feet of any portion of the boundary of the proposed subdivision. If the owner of the real property which is proposed to be subdivided owns another parcel or parcels of real property which lie adjacent to the real property proposed to be subdivided, notice under this subsection (1)(b) shall be given to owners of real property located within three hundred feet of any portion of the boundaries of such adjacently located parcels of real property owned by the owner of the real property proposed to be subdivided.

(2) All hearings shall be public. All hearing notices shall include a description of the location of the proposed subdivision. The description may be in the form of either a vicinity location sketch or a written description other than a legal description. [1995 c 347 § 426; 1981 c 293 § 5; 1974 ex.s. c 134 § 4; 1969 ex.s. c 271 § 9.]

**Finding—Severability—Part headings and table of contents not law—1995 c 347:** See notes following RCW 36.70A.470.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**58.17.092 Public notice—Identification of affected property.** Any notice made under chapter 58.17 or 36.70B RCW that identifies affected property may identify this affected property without using a legal description of the property including, but not limited to, identification by an address, written description, vicinity sketch, or other reasonable means. [1995 c 347 § 427; 1988 c 168 § 12.]

**Finding—Severability—Part headings and table of contents not law—1995 c 347:** See notes following RCW 36.70A.470.

**58.17.095 Ordinance may authorize administrative review of preliminary plat without public hearing.** A county, city, or town may adopt an ordinance providing for the administrative review of a preliminary plat without a public hearing by adopting an ordinance providing for such administrative review. The ordinance may specify a threshold number of lots in a subdivision above which a public hearing must be held, and may specify other factors which necessitate the holding of a public hearing. The administrative review process shall include the following minimum conditions:

(1) The notice requirements of RCW 58.17.090 shall be followed, except that the publication shall be made within ten days of the filing of the application. Additionally, at least ten days after the filing of the application notice both shall be: (a) Posted on or around the land proposed to be subdivided in at least five conspicuous places designed to attract public awareness of the proposal; and (b) mailed to the owner of each lot or parcel of property located within at least three hundred feet of the site. The applicant shall provide the county, city, or town with a list of such property owners and their addresses. The notice shall include notification that no public hearing will be held on the application, except as provided by this section. The notice shall set out the procedures

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and time limitations for persons to require a public hearing and make comments.

(2) Any person shall have a period of twenty days from the date of the notice to comment upon the proposed preliminary plat. All comments received shall be provided to the applicant. The applicant has seven days from receipt of the comments to respond thereto.

(3) A public hearing on the proposed subdivision shall be held if any person files a request for a hearing with the county, city, or town within twenty-one days of the publishing of such notice. If such a hearing is requested, notice requirements for the public hearing shall be in conformance with RCW 58.17.090, and the ninety-day period for approval or disapproval of the proposed subdivision provided for in RCW 58.17.140 shall commence with the date of the filing of the request for a public hearing. Any hearing ordered under this subsection shall be conducted by the planning commission or hearings officer as required by county or city ordinance.

(4) On its own initiative within twenty-one days of the filing of the request for approval of the subdivision, the governing body, or a designated employee or official, of the county, city, or town, shall be authorized to cause a public hearing to be held on the proposed subdivision within ninety days of the filing of the request for the subdivision.

(5) If the public hearing is waived as provided in this section, the planning commission or planning agency shall complete the review of the proposed preliminary plat and transmit its recommendation to the legislative body as provided in RCW 58.17.100. [1986 c 233 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**58.17.100 Review of preliminary plats by planning commission or agency—Recommendation—Change by legislative body—Procedure—Approval.** If a city, town or county has established a planning commission or planning agency in accordance with state law or local charter, such commission or agency shall review all preliminary plats and make recommendations thereon to the city, town or county legislative body to assure conformance of the proposed subdivision to the general purposes of the comprehensive plan and to planning standards and specifications as adopted by the city, town or county. Reports of the planning commission or agency shall be advisory only: PROVIDED, That the legislative body of the city, town or county may, by ordinance, assign to such commission or agency, or any department official or group of officials, such administrative functions, powers and duties as may be appropriate, including the holding of hearings, and recommendations for approval or disapproval of preliminary plats of proposed subdivisions.

Such recommendation shall be submitted to the legislative body not later than fourteen days following action by the hearing body. Upon receipt of the recommendation on any preliminary plat the legislative body shall at its next public meeting set the date for the public meeting where it shall consider the recommendations of the hearing body and may adopt or reject the recommendations of such hearing body based on the record established at the public hearing. If, after considering the matter at a public meeting, the legislative body deems a change in the planning commission's or planning agency's recommendation approving or disapproving

any preliminary plat is necessary, the legislative body shall adopt its own recommendations and approve or disapprove the preliminary plat.

Every decision or recommendation made under this section shall be in writing and shall include findings of fact and conclusions to support the decision or recommendation.

A record of all public meetings and public hearings shall be kept by the appropriate city, town or county authority and shall be open to public inspection.

Sole authority to adopt or amend platting ordinances shall reside in the legislative bodies. The legislative authorities of cities, towns, and counties may by ordinance delegate final plat approval to an established planning commission or agency, or to such other administrative personnel in accordance with state law or local charter. [2017 c 161 § 1; 1995 c 347 § 428; 1981 c 293 § 6; 1969 ex.s. c 271 § 10.]

**Finding—Severability—Part headings and table of contents not law—1995 c 347:** See notes following RCW 36.70A.470.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**58.17.110 Approval or disapproval of subdivision and dedication—Factors to be considered—Conditions for approval—Finding—Release from damages.** (1) The city, town, or county legislative body shall inquire into the public use and interest proposed to be served by the establishment of the subdivision and dedication. It shall determine: (a) If appropriate provisions are made for, but not limited to, the public health, safety, and general welfare, for open spaces, drainage ways, streets or roads, alleys, other public ways, transit stops, potable water supplies, sanitary wastes, parks and recreation, playgrounds, schools and schoolgrounds, and shall consider all other relevant facts, including sidewalks and other planning features that assure safe walking conditions for students who only walk to and from school; and (b) whether the public interest will be served by the subdivision and dedication.

(2) A proposed subdivision and dedication shall not be approved unless the city, town, or county legislative body makes written findings that: (a) Appropriate provisions are made for the public health, safety, and general welfare and for such open spaces, drainage ways, streets or roads, alleys, other public ways, transit stops, potable water supplies, sanitary wastes, parks and recreation, playgrounds, schools and schoolgrounds and all other relevant facts, including sidewalks and other planning features that assure safe walking conditions for students who only walk to and from school; and (b) the public use and interest will be served by the platting of such subdivision and dedication. If it finds that the proposed subdivision and dedication make such appropriate provisions and that the public use and interest will be served, then the legislative body shall approve the proposed subdivision and dedication. Dedication of land to any public body, provision of public improvements to serve the subdivision, and/or impact fees imposed under RCW 82.02.050 through 82.02.090 may be required as a condition of subdivision approval. Dedications shall be clearly shown on the final plat. No dedication, provision of public improvements, or impact fees imposed under RCW 82.02.050 through 82.02.090 shall be allowed that constitutes an unconstitutional taking of private property. The legislative body shall not as a condition to

the approval of any subdivision require a release from damages to be procured from other property owners.

(3) If the preliminary plat includes a dedication of a public park with an area of less than two acres and the donor has designated that the park be named in honor of a deceased individual of good character, the city, town, or county legislative body must adopt the designated name.

(4) If water supply is to be provided by a groundwater withdrawal exempt from permitting under RCW 90.44.050, the applicant's compliance with RCW 90.44.050 and with applicable rules adopted pursuant to chapters 90.22 and 90.54 RCW is sufficient in determining appropriate provisions for water supply for a subdivision, dedication, or short subdivision under this chapter. [2018 c 1 § 104; 1995 c 32 § 3; 1990 1st ex.s. c 17 § 52; 1989 c 330 § 3; 1974 ex.s. c 134 § 5; 1969 ex.s. c 271 § 11.]

**Intent—2018 c 1:** See note following RCW 90.94.010.

**Effective date—2018 c 1:** See RCW 90.94.900.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**58.17.120 Disapproval due to flood, inundation or swamp conditions—Improvements—Approval conditions.** The city, town, or county legislative body shall consider the physical characteristics of a proposed subdivision site and may disapprove a proposed plat because of flood, inundation, or swamp conditions. Construction of protective improvements may be required as a condition of approval, and such improvements shall be noted on the final plat.

No plat shall be approved by any city, town, or county legislative authority covering any land situated in a flood control zone as provided in chapter 86.16 RCW without the prior written approval of the department of ecology of the state of Washington. [1974 ex.s. c 134 § 6; 1969 ex.s. c 271 § 12.]

**58.17.130 Bond in lieu of actual construction of improvements prior to approval of final plat—Bond or security to assure successful operation of improvements.** Local regulations shall provide that in lieu of the completion of the actual construction of any required improvements prior to the approval of a final plat, the city, town, or county legislative body may accept a bond, in an amount and with surety and conditions satisfactory to it, or other secure method, providing for and securing to the municipality the actual construction and installation of such improvements within a period specified by the city, town, or county legislative body and expressed in the bonds. In addition, local regulations may provide for methods of security, including the posting of a bond securing to the municipality the successful operation of improvements for an appropriate period of time up to two years after final approval. The municipality is hereby granted the power to enforce bonds authorized under this section by all appropriate legal and equitable remedies. Such local regulations may provide that the improvements such as structures, sewers, and water systems shall be designed and certified by or under the supervision of a registered civil engineer prior to the acceptance of such improvements. [1974 ex.s. c 134 § 7; 1969 ex.s. c 271 § 13.]

**58.17.140 Time limitation for approval or disapproval of plats—Extensions.** (1) Preliminary plats of any proposed subdivision and dedication shall be approved, disapproved, or returned to the applicant for modification or correction within ninety days from date of filing thereof unless the applicant consents to an extension of such time period or the ninety day limitation is extended to include up to twenty-one days as specified under RCW 58.17.095(3): PROVIDED, That if an environmental impact statement is required as provided in RCW 43.21C.030, the ninety day period shall not include the time spent preparing and circulating the environmental impact statement by the local government agency.

(2) Final plats and short plats shall be approved, disapproved, or returned to the applicant within thirty days from the date of filing thereof, unless the applicant consents to an extension of such time period.

(3)(a) Except as provided by (b) of this subsection, a final plat meeting all requirements of this chapter shall be submitted to the legislative body of the city, town, or county for approval within seven years of the date of preliminary plat approval if the date of preliminary plat approval is on or before December 31, 2014, and within five years of the date of preliminary plat approval if the date of preliminary plat approval is on or after January 1, 2015.

(b) A final plat meeting all requirements of this chapter shall be submitted to the legislative body of the city, town, or county for approval within ten years of the date of preliminary plat approval if the project is not subject to requirements adopted under chapter 90.58 RCW and the date of preliminary plat approval is on or before December 31, 2007.

(4) Nothing contained in this section shall act to prevent any city, town, or county from adopting by ordinance procedures which would allow extensions of time that may or may not contain additional or altered conditions and requirements. [2013 c 16 § 1; 2012 c 92 § 1; 2010 c 79 § 1; 1995 c 68 § 1; 1986 c 233 § 2; 1983 c 121 § 3; 1981 c 293 § 7; 1974 ex.s. c 134 § 8; 1969 ex.s. c 271 § 14.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**58.17.150 Recommendations of certain agencies to accompany plats submitted for final approval.** Each preliminary plat submitted for final approval of the legislative body shall be accompanied by the following agencies' recommendations for approval or disapproval:

(1) Local health department or other agency furnishing sewage disposal and supplying water as to the adequacy of the proposed means of sewage disposal and water supply;

(2) Local planning agency or commission, charged with the responsibility of reviewing plats and subdivisions, as to compliance with all terms of the preliminary approval of the proposed plat subdivision or dedication;

(3) City, town or county engineer.

Except as provided in RCW 58.17.140, an agency or person issuing a recommendation for subsequent approval under subsections (1) and (3) of this section shall not modify the terms of its recommendations without the consent of the applicant. [1983 c 121 § 4; 1981 c 293 § 8; 1969 ex.s. c 271 § 15.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

(2020 Ed.)

**58.17.155 Short subdivision adjacent to state highway—Notice to department of transportation.** Whenever a city, town, or county receives an application for the approval of a short plat of a short subdivision that is located adjacent to the right-of-way of a state highway, the responsible administrator shall give written notice of the application, including a legal description of the short subdivision and a location map, to the department of transportation. The department shall, within fourteen days after receiving the notice, submit to the responsible administrator who furnished the notice a statement with any information that the department deems to be relevant about the effect of the proposed short subdivision upon the legal access to the state highway, the traffic carrying capacity of the state highway and the safety of the users of the state highway. [1984 c 47 § 1.]

**58.17.160 Requirements for each plat or replat filed for record.** Each and every plat, or replat, of any property filed for record shall:

(1) Contain a statement of approval from the city, town or county licensed road engineer or by a licensed engineer acting on behalf of the city, town or county as to the layout of streets, alleys and other rights-of-way, design of bridges, sewage and water systems, and other structures;

(2) Be accompanied by a complete survey of the section or sections in which the plat or replat is located made to surveying standards adopted by the division of engineering services of the department of natural resources pursuant to RCW 58.24.040.

(3) Be acknowledged by the person filing the plat before the auditor of the county in which the land is located, or any other officer who is authorized by law to take acknowledgment of deeds, and a certificate of said acknowledgment shall be enclosed or annexed to such plat and recorded therewith.

(4) Contain a certification from the proper officer or officers in charge of tax collections that all taxes and delinquent assessments for which the property may be liable as of the date of certification have been duly paid, satisfied or discharged.

No engineer who is connected in any way with the subdividing and platting of the land for which subdivision approval is sought, shall examine and approve such plats on behalf of any city, town or county. [1985 c 99 § 1; 1969 ex.s. c 271 § 16.]

**58.17.165 Certificate giving description and statement of owners must accompany final plat—Dedication, certificate requirements if plat contains—Waiver.** Every final plat or short plat of a subdivision or short subdivision filed for record must contain a certificate giving a full and correct description of the lands divided as they appear on the plat or short plat, including a statement that the subdivision or short subdivision has been made with the free consent and in accordance with the desires of the owner or owners.

If the plat or short plat is subject to a dedication, the certificate or a separate written instrument shall contain the dedication of all streets and other areas to the public, and individual or individuals, religious society or societies or to any corporation, public or private as shown on the plat or short plat and a waiver of all claims for damages against any governmental authority which may be occasioned to the adjacent

land by the established construction, drainage and maintenance of said road. Said certificate or instrument of dedication shall be signed and acknowledged before a notary public by all parties having any ownership interest in the lands subdivided and recorded as part of the final plat.

Every plat and short plat containing a dedication filed for record must be accompanied by a title report confirming that the title of the lands as described and shown on said plat is in the name of the owners signing the certificate or instrument of dedication.

An offer of dedication may include a waiver of right of direct access to any street from any property, and if the dedication is accepted, any such waiver is effective. Such waiver may be required by local authorities as a condition of approval. Roads not dedicated to the public must be clearly marked on the face of the plat. Any dedication, donation or grant as shown on the face of the plat shall be considered to all intents and purposes, as a quitclaim deed to the said donee or donees, grantee or grantees for his, her or their use for the purpose intended by the donors or grantors as aforesaid. [1981 c 293 § 9; 1969 ex.s. c 271 § 30.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**58.17.170 Written approval of subdivision—Original of final plat to be filed—Copies—Periods of validity, governance.** (1) When the legislative body of the city, town, or county, or such other agency as authorized by RCW 58.17.100, finds that the subdivision proposed for final plat approval conforms to all terms of the preliminary plat approval, and that said subdivision meets the requirements of this chapter, other applicable state laws, and any local ordinances adopted under this chapter which were in effect at the time of preliminary plat approval, it shall suitably inscribe and execute its written approval on the face of the plat. The original of said final plat shall be filed for record with the county auditor. One reproducible copy shall be furnished to the city, town, or county engineer. One paper copy shall be filed with the county assessor. Paper copies shall be provided to such other agencies as may be required by ordinance.

(2)(a) Except as provided by (b) of this subsection, any lots in a final plat filed for record shall be a valid land use notwithstanding any change in zoning laws for a period of seven years from the date of filing if the date of filing is on or before December 31, 2014, and for a period of five years from the date of filing if the date of filing is on or after January 1, 2015.

(b) Any lots in a final plat filed for record shall be a valid land use notwithstanding any change in zoning laws for a period of ten years from the date of filing if the project is not subject to requirements adopted under chapter 90.58 RCW and the date of filing is on or before December 31, 2007.

(3)(a) Except as provided by (b) of this subsection, a subdivision shall be governed by the terms of approval of the final plat, and the statutes, ordinances, and regulations in effect at the time of approval under RCW 58.17.150 (1) and (3) for a period of seven years after final plat approval if the date of final plat approval is on or before December 31, 2014, and for a period of five years after final plat approval if the date of final plat approval is on or after January 1, 2015, unless the legislative body finds that a change in conditions

creates a serious threat to the public health or safety in the subdivision.

(b) A subdivision shall be governed by the terms of approval of the final plat, and the statutes, ordinances, and regulations in effect at the time of approval under RCW 58.17.150 (1) and (3) for a period of ten years after final plat approval if the project is not subject to requirements adopted under chapter 90.58 RCW and the date of final plat approval is on or before December 31, 2007, unless the legislative body finds that a change in conditions creates a serious threat to the public health or safety in the subdivision. [2017 c 161 § 2; 2013 c 16 § 2; 2012 c 92 § 2; 2010 c 79 § 2; 1981 c 293 § 10; 1969 ex.s. c 271 § 17.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**58.17.180 Review of decision.** Any decision approving or disapproving any plat shall be reviewable under chapter 36.70C RCW. [1995 c 347 § 717; 1983 c 121 § 5; 1969 ex.s. c 271 § 18.]

**Finding—Severability—Part headings and table of contents not law—1995 c 347:** See notes following RCW 36.70A.470.

**58.17.190 Approval of plat required before filing—Procedure when unapproved plat filed.** The county auditor shall refuse to accept any plat for filing until approval of the plat has been given by the appropriate legislative body, or such other agency as authorized by RCW 58.17.100. Should a plat or dedication be filed without such approval, the prosecuting attorney of the county in which the plat is filed shall apply for a writ of mandate in the name of and on behalf of the legislative body required to approve same, directing the auditor and assessor to remove from their files or records the unapproved plat, or dedication of record. [2017 c 161 § 3; 1969 ex.s. c 271 § 19.]

**58.17.195 Approval of plat or short plat—Written finding of conformity with applicable land use controls.** No plat or short plat may be approved unless the city, town, or county makes a formal written finding of fact that the proposed subdivision or proposed short subdivision is in conformity with any applicable zoning ordinance or other land use controls which may exist. [1981 c 293 § 14.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**58.17.200 Injunctive action to restrain subdivision, sale, transfer of land where final plat not filed.** Whenever any parcel of land is divided into five or more lots, tracts, or parcels of land and any person, firm or corporation or any agent of any of them sells or transfers, or offers or advertises for sale or transfer, any such lot, tract, or parcel without having a final plat of such subdivision filed for record, the prosecuting attorney shall commence an action to restrain and enjoin further subdivisions or sales, or transfers, or offers of sale or transfer and compel compliance with all provisions of this chapter. The costs of such action shall be taxed against the person, firm, corporation or agent selling or transferring the property. [1969 ex.s. c 271 § 20.]

**58.17.205 Agreements to transfer land conditioned on final plat approval—Authorized.** If performance of an offer or agreement to sell, lease, or otherwise transfer a lot,

tract, or parcel of land following preliminary plat approval is expressly conditioned on the recording of the final plat containing the lot, tract, or parcel under this chapter, the offer or agreement is not subject to RCW 58.17.200 or 58.17.300 and does not violate any provision of this chapter. All payments on account of an offer or agreement conditioned as provided in this section shall be deposited in an escrow or other regulated trust account and no disbursement to sellers shall be permitted until the final plat is recorded. [1981 c 293 § 12.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**58.17.210 Building, septic tank or other development permits not to be issued for land divided in violation of chapter or regulations—Exceptions—Damages—Rescission by purchaser.** No building permit, septic tank permit, or other development permit, shall be issued for any lot, tract, or parcel of land divided in violation of this chapter or local regulations adopted pursuant thereto unless the authority authorized to issue such permit finds that the public interest will not be adversely affected thereby. The prohibition contained in this section shall not apply to an innocent purchaser for value without actual notice. All purchasers' or transferees' property shall comply with provisions of this chapter and each purchaser or transferee may recover his or her damages from any person, firm, corporation, or agent selling or transferring land in violation of this chapter or local regulations adopted pursuant thereto, including any amount reasonably spent as a result of inability to obtain any development permit and spent to conform to the requirements of this chapter as well as cost of investigation, suit, and reasonable attorneys' fees occasioned thereby. Such purchaser or transferee may as an alternative to conforming his or her property to these requirements, rescind the sale or transfer and recover costs of investigation, suit, and reasonable attorneys' fees occasioned thereby. [2010 c 8 § 18005; 1974 ex.s. c 134 § 10; 1969 ex.s. c 271 § 21.]

**58.17.212 Vacation of subdivision—Procedure.** Whenever any person is interested in the vacation of any subdivision or portion thereof, or any area designated or dedicated for public use, that person shall file an application for vacation with the legislative authority of the city, town, or county in which the subdivision is located. The application shall set forth the reasons for vacation and shall contain signatures of all parties having an ownership interest in that portion of the subdivision subject to vacation. If the subdivision is subject to restrictive covenants which were filed at the time of the approval of the subdivision, and the application for vacation would result in the violation of a covenant, the application shall contain an agreement signed by all parties subject to the covenants providing that the parties agree to terminate or alter the relevant covenants to accomplish the purpose of the vacation of the subdivision or portion thereof.

When the vacation application is specifically for a county road or city or town street, the procedures for road vacation or street vacation in chapter 36.87 or 35.79 RCW shall be utilized for the road or street vacation. When the application is for the vacation of the plat together with the roads and/or streets, the procedure for vacation in this section shall be used, but vacations of streets may not be made that are prohibited under \*RCW 35.79.030, and vacations of

roads may not be made that are prohibited under RCW 36.87.130.

The legislative authority of the city, town, or county shall give notice as provided in RCW 58.17.080 and 58.17.090 and shall conduct a public hearing on the application for a vacation and may approve or deny the application for vacation of the subdivision after determining the public use and interest to be served by the vacation of the subdivision. If any portion of the land contained in the subdivision was dedicated to the public for public use or benefit, such land, if not deeded to the city, town, or county, shall be deeded to the city, town, or county unless the legislative authority shall set forth findings that the public use would not be served in retaining title to those lands.

Title to the vacated property shall vest with the rightful owner as shown in the county records. If the vacated land is land that was dedicated to the public, for public use other than a road or street, and the legislative authority has found that retaining title to the land is not in the public interest, title thereto shall vest with the person or persons owning the property on each side thereof, as determined by the legislative authority. When the road or street that is to be vacated was contained wholly within the subdivision and is part of the boundary of the subdivision, title to the vacated road or street shall vest with the owner or owners of property contained within the vacated subdivision.

This section shall not be construed as applying to the vacation of any plat of state-granted tide or shore lands. [1987 c 354 § 3.]

*\*Reviser's note:* After amendment by 1987 c 228 § 1, RCW 35.79.030 no longer prohibited vacations of streets. Limitations on vacations of streets abutting bodies of water are now found in RCW 35.79.035.

**58.17.215 Alteration of subdivision—Procedure.** When any person is interested in the alteration of any subdivision or the altering of any portion thereof, except as provided in RCW 58.17.040(6), that person shall submit an application to request the alteration to the legislative authority of the city, town, or county where the subdivision is located. The application shall contain the signatures of the majority of those persons having an ownership interest of lots, tracts, parcels, sites, or divisions in the subject subdivision or portion to be altered. If the subdivision is subject to restrictive covenants which were filed at the time of the approval of the subdivision, and the application for alteration would result in the violation of a covenant, the application shall contain an agreement signed by all parties subject to the covenants providing that the parties agree to terminate or alter the relevant covenants to accomplish the purpose of the alteration of the subdivision or portion thereof.

Upon receipt of an application for alteration, the legislative body shall provide notice of the application to all owners of property within the subdivision, and as provided for in RCW 58.17.080 and 58.17.090. The notice shall either establish a date for a public hearing or provide that a hearing may be requested by a person receiving notice within fourteen days of receipt of the notice.

The legislative body shall determine the public use and interest in the proposed alteration and may deny or approve the application for alteration. If any land within the alteration is part of an assessment district, any outstanding assessments

shall be equitably divided and levied against the remaining lots, parcels, or tracts, or be levied equitably on the lots resulting from the alteration. If any land within the alteration contains a dedication to the general use of persons residing within the subdivision, such land may be altered and divided equitably between the adjacent properties.

After approval of the alteration, the legislative body shall order the applicant to produce a revised drawing of the approved alteration of the final plat or short plat, which after signature of the legislative authority, shall be filed with the county auditor to become the lawful plat of the property.

This section shall not be construed as applying to the alteration or replatting of any plat of state-granted tide or shore lands. [1987 c 354 § 4.]

**58.17.217 Alteration or vacation of subdivision—Conduct of hearing.** Any hearing required by RCW 58.17.212, 58.17.215, or 58.17.060 may be administered by a hearings examiner as provided in RCW 58.17.330. [1987 c 354 § 7.]

**58.17.218 Alteration of subdivision—Easements by dedication.** The alteration of a subdivision is subject to RCW 64.04.175. [1991 c 132 § 2.]

**58.17.220 Violation of court order or injunction—Penalty.** Any person who violates any court order or injunction issued pursuant to this chapter shall be subject to a fine of not more than five thousand dollars or imprisonment for not more than ninety days or both. [1969 ex.s. c 271 § 22.]

**58.17.225 Easement over public open space—May be exempt from RCW 58.17.215—Hearing—Notice.** The granting of an easement for ingress and egress or utilities over public property that is held as open space pursuant to a subdivision or plat, where the open space is already used as a utility right-of-way or corridor, where other access is not feasible, and where the granting of the easement will not impair public access or authorize construction of physical barriers of any type, may be authorized and exempted from the requirements of RCW 58.17.215 by the county, city, or town legislative authority following a public hearing with notice to the property owners in the affected plat. [1995 c 32 § 1.]

**58.17.230 Assurance of discontinuance of violations.** In the enforcement of this chapter, the prosecuting attorney may accept an assurance of discontinuance of any act or practice deemed in violation of this chapter from any person engaging in, or who has engaged in such act or practice. Any such assurance shall be in writing and be filed with and subject to the approval of the superior court of the county in which the alleged violation occurs. A violation of such assurance shall constitute prima facie proof of a violation of this chapter. [1969 ex.s. c 271 § 23.]

**58.17.240 Permanent control monuments.** Except for subdivisions excluded under the provisions of RCW 58.17.040, as now or hereafter amended, permanent control monuments shall be established at each and every controlling corner on the boundaries of the parcel of land being subdivided. The local authority shall determine the number and

location of permanent control monuments within the plat, if any. [1974 ex.s. c 134 § 11; 1969 ex.s. c 271 § 24.]

**58.17.250 Survey of subdivision and preparation of plat.** The survey of the proposed subdivision and preparation of the plat shall be made by or under the supervision of a registered land surveyor who shall certify on the plat that it is a true and correct representation of the lands actually surveyed. [1969 ex.s. c 271 § 26.]

**58.17.255 Survey discrepancy—Disclosure.** Whenever a survey of a proposed subdivision or short subdivision reveals a discrepancy, the discrepancy shall be noted on the face of the final plat or short plat. Any discrepancy shall be disclosed in a title report prepared by a title insurer and issued after the filing of the final plat or short plat. As used in this section, "discrepancy" means: (1) A boundary hiatus; (2) an overlapping boundary; or (3) a physical appurtenance, which indicates encroachment, lines of possession, or conflict of title. [1987 c 354 § 6.]

**58.17.260 Joint committee—Members—Recommendations for surveys, monumentation and plat drawings.** In order that there be a degree of uniformity of survey monumentation throughout the cities, towns and counties of the state of Washington, there is hereby created a joint committee composed of six members to be appointed as follows: The Washington state association of counties shall appoint two county road engineers; the association of Washington cities shall appoint two city engineers; the land surveyors association of Washington shall appoint one member; and the consulting engineers association of Washington shall appoint one member. The joint committee is directed to cooperate with the department of natural resources to establish recommendations pertaining to requirements of survey, monumentation and plat drawings for subdivisions and dedications throughout the state of Washington. The department of natural resources shall publish such recommendation. [1971 ex.s. c 85 § 9; 1969 ex.s. c 271 § 27.]

**58.17.275 Proposals to adopt, amend, or repeal local ordinances—Advance notice.** All cities, towns, and counties shall establish procedures to provide reasonable advance notice of proposals to adopt, amend, or repeal local ordinances adopted in accordance with this chapter. These procedures shall include but not be limited to advance notice to individuals or organizations which have submitted requests for notice. Reasonable fees may be charged to defray the costs of providing notice. [1981 c 293 § 13.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**58.17.280 Naming and numbering of short subdivisions, subdivisions, streets, lots and blocks.** Any city, town or county shall, by ordinance, regulate the procedure whereby short subdivisions, subdivisions, streets, lots and blocks are named and numbered. A lot numbering system and a house address system, however, shall be provided by the municipality for short subdivisions and subdivisions and must be clearly shown on the short plat or final plat at the time of approval. [1993 c 486 § 1; 1969 ex.s. c 271 § 29.]



**58.17.290 Copy of plat as evidence.** A copy of any plat recorded in the manner provided in this chapter and certified by the county auditor of the county in which the same is recorded to be a true copy of such record and the whole thereof, shall be received in evidence in all the courts of this state, with like effect as the original. [1969 ex.s. c 271 § 31.]

**58.17.300 Violations—Penalties.** Any person, firm, corporation, or association or any agent of any person, firm, corporation, or association who violates any provision of this chapter or any local regulations adopted pursuant thereto relating to the sale, offer for sale, lease, or transfer of any lot, tract or parcel of land, shall be guilty of a gross misdemeanor and each sale, offer for sale, lease or transfer of each separate lot, tract, or parcel of land in violation of any provision of this chapter or any local regulation adopted pursuant thereto, shall be deemed a separate and distinct offense. [1969 ex.s. c 271 § 32.]

**58.17.310 Application for approval of plat within irrigation district—Approval without provision for irrigation prohibited.** (1) Whenever a city, town, or county receives an application for the approval of a plat of a subdivision that lies in whole or in part in an irrigation district organized pursuant to chapter 87.03 RCW, the responsible administrator shall give written notice of the application, including a legal description of the short subdivision and a location map, to the irrigation district. The irrigation district shall, after receiving the notice, submit to the responsible administrator who furnished the notice a statement with any information or conditions for approval that the irrigation district deems to be necessary regarding the proposed division's effect upon the structural integrity, including lateral support, of the irrigation district facilities, other risk exposures, and the safety of the public and irrigation district.

(2) In addition to any other requirements imposed by the provisions of this chapter, the legislative authority of any city, town, or county shall not approve a short plat or final plat, as defined in RCW 58.17.020, for any subdivision, short subdivision, lot, tract, parcel, or site which lies in whole or in part in an irrigation district organized pursuant to chapter 87.03 RCW unless there has been provided an irrigation water right-of-way for each parcel of land in such district. In addition, if the subdivision, short subdivision, lot, tract, parcel, or site lies within land within the district classified as irrigable, completed irrigation water distribution facilities for such land may be required by the irrigation district by resolution, bylaw, or rule of general applicability as a condition for approval of the short plat or final plat by the legislative authority of the city, town, or county. Rights-of-way shall be evidenced by the respective plats submitted for final approval to the appropriate legislative authority. In addition, if the subdivision, short subdivision, lot, tract, parcel, or site to be platted is wholly or partially within an irrigation district of two hundred thousand acres or more and has been previously platted by the United States bureau of reclamation as a farm unit in the district, the legislative authority shall not approve for such land a short plat or final plat as defined in RCW 58.17.020 without the approval of the irrigation district and the administrator or manager of the project of the bureau of reclamation, or its successor agency, within which that dis-

trict lies. Compliance with the requirements of this section together with all other applicable provisions of this chapter shall be a prerequisite, within the expressed purpose of this chapter, to any sale, lease, or development of land in this state. [2009 c 145 § 1; 1990 c 194 § 1; 1986 c 39 § 1; 1985 c 160 § 1; 1973 c 150 § 2.]

**58.17.320 Compliance with chapter and local regulations—Enforcement.** Whenever land within a subdivision granted final approval is used in a manner or for a purpose which violates any provision of this chapter, any provision of the local subdivision regulations, or any term or condition of plat approval prescribed for the plat by the local government, then the prosecuting attorney, or the attorney general if the prosecuting attorney shall fail to act, may commence an action to restrain and enjoin such use and compel compliance with the provisions of this chapter or the local regulations, or with such terms or conditions. The costs of such action may be taxed against the violator. [1974 ex.s. c 134 § 13.]

**58.17.330 Hearing examiner system—Adoption authorized—Procedures—Decisions.** (1) As an alternative to those provisions of this chapter requiring a planning commission to hear and issue recommendations for plat approval, the county or city legislative body may adopt a hearing examiner system and shall specify by ordinance the legal effect of the decisions made by the examiner. The legal effect of such decisions shall include one of the following:

- (a) The decision may be given the effect of a recommendation to the legislative body;
- (b) The decision may be given the effect of an administrative decision appealable within a specified time limit to the legislative body; or
- (c) The decision may be given the effect of a final decision of the legislative body.

The legislative authority shall prescribe procedures to be followed by a hearing examiner.

(2) Each final decision of a hearing examiner shall be in writing and shall include findings and conclusions, based on the record, to support the decision. Each final decision of a hearing examiner, unless a longer period is mutually agreed to by the applicant and the hearing examiner, shall be rendered within ten working days following conclusion of all testimony and hearings. [1995 c 347 § 429; 1994 c 257 § 6; 1977 ex.s. c 213 § 4.]

**Finding—Severability—Part headings and table of contents not law—1995 c 347:** See notes following RCW 36.70A.470.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**58.17.900 Validation of existing ordinances and resolutions.** All ordinances and resolutions enacted at a time prior to the passage of this chapter by the legislative bodies of cities, towns, and counties and which are in substantial compliance with the provisions of this chapter, shall be construed as valid and may be further amended to include new provisions and standards as are authorized in general law. [1969 ex.s. c 271 § 33.]

**58.17.920 Effective date and application of 1974 ex.s. c 134.** (1) The provisions of \*this 1974 amendatory act shall become effective July 1, 1974.

(2) The provisions of \*this 1974 amendatory act shall not apply to any plat which has been granted preliminary approval prior to July 1, 1974, but shall apply to any proposed plat granted preliminary approval on or after July 1, 1974. [1974 ex.s. c 134 § 14.]

\*Reviser's note: For codification of "this 1974 amendatory act" [1974 ex.s. c 134], see Codification Tables.

### Chapter 58.18 RCW ASSESSOR'S PLATS

#### Sections

58.18.010 Assessor's plat—Requisites, filing, index, etc.—When official plat.

**58.18.010 Assessor's plat—Requisites, filing, index, etc.—When official plat.** In any county where an assessor has and maintains an adequate set of maps drawn from surveys at a scale of not less than two hundred feet to the inch, the assessor may with the permission of the county commissioners, file an assessor's plat of the area, which when filed shall become the official plat for all legal purposes, provided:

(1) The plat is filed in the offices of the county auditor and the county assessor, together with a list of the existing legal descriptions and a list of the new legal descriptions as assigned by the county assessor;

(2) The recorded plat is drawn in such a manner that a ready reference can be made to the legal description in existence prior to the time of the filing of the assessor's plat and in conformance with existing statutes;

(3) The first year the tax roll and tax statement shall contain the prior legal description and the new legal description as assigned and shown on the assessor's plat with a notation that this legal description shall be used for all purposes;

(4) The county assessor shall maintain an index for reference to the prior and the existing legal descriptions of the parcels contained in the assessor's plats;

(5) Each dedicated plat after June 7, 1961, shall be submitted to the county assessor of the county wherein the plat is located, for the sole purpose of assignment of parcel, tract, block and or lot numbers and the county auditor shall not accept any such plat for filing unless the said plat carries a signed affidavit from the assessor to this effect, and a statement to the effect that the name of the plat shall be number . . . . in the county of . . . . . [1961 c 262 § 1.]

### Chapter 58.19 RCW LAND DEVELOPMENT ACT

#### Sections

58.19.010 Purpose.  
58.19.020 Definitions.  
58.19.030 Exemptions from chapter.  
58.19.045 Public offering statement—Developer's duties—Purchaser's rights.  
58.19.055 Public offering statement—Contents.  
58.19.120 Report of changes required—Amendments.  
58.19.130 Public offering statement form—Type and style restriction.  
58.19.140 Public offering statement—Promotional use, distribution restriction—Holding out that state or employees, etc., approve development prohibited.  
58.19.180 Unlawful to sell lots or parcels subject to blanket encumbrance which does not provide purchaser can obtain clear title—Alternatives.

58.19.185 Requiring purchaser to pay additional sum to construct, complete or maintain development.  
58.19.190 Advertising—Materially false, misleading, or deceptive statements prohibited.  
58.19.265 Violations—Remedies—Attorneys' fees.  
58.19.270 Violations deemed unfair practice subject to chapter 19.86 RCW.  
58.19.280 Jurisdiction of superior courts.  
58.19.300 Hazardous conditions—Notice.  
58.19.920 Liberal construction.  
58.19.940 Short title.

*Camping resort contracts—Nonapplicability of certain laws to: RCW 19.105.510.*

*Exemption of timeshares from chapter: RCW 64.36.290.*

**58.19.010 Purpose.** The legislature finds and declares that the sale and offering for sale of land or of interests in associations which provide for the use or occupancy of land touches and affects a great number of the citizens of this state and that full and complete disclosure to prospective purchasers of pertinent information concerning land developments, including any encumbrances or liens attached to the land and the physical characteristics of the development is essential. The legislature further finds and declares that delivery to prospective purchasers of a complete and accurate public offering statement is necessary in order to adequately protect both the economic and physical welfare of the citizens of this state. It is the purpose of this chapter to provide for the reasonable regulation of the sale and offering for sale of any interest in significant land developments within or without the state of Washington, so that the prospective purchasers of such interests might be provided with full, complete, and accurate information of all pertinent circumstances affecting their purchase. [1992 c 191 § 1; 1973 1st ex.s. c 12 § 1.]

**58.19.020 Definitions.** When used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) "Affiliate of a developer" means any person who controls, is controlled by, or is under common control with a developer.

(a) A person controls a developer if the person: (i) Is a general partner, officer, director, or employer of the developer; (ii) directly or indirectly or acting in concert with one or more other persons, or through one or more subsidiaries, owns, controls, holds with power to vote, or holds proxies representing, more than twenty percent of the voting interest in the developer; (iii) controls in any manner the election of a majority of the directors of the developer; or (iv) has contributed more than twenty percent of the capital of the developer.

(b) A person is controlled by a developer if the developer: (i) Is a general partner, officer, director, or employer of the person; (ii) directly or indirectly or acting in concert with one of [or] more other persons, or through one or more subsidiaries, owns, controls, holds with the power to vote, or holds proxies representing, more than twenty percent of the voting interest in the person; (iii) controls in any manner the election of a majority of the directors of the person; or (iv) has contributed more than twenty percent of the capital of the person. Control does not exist if the powers described in this subsection are held solely as security for an obligation and are not exercised.

(2) "Blanket encumbrance" shall mean a trust deed, mortgage, mechanic's lien, or any other lien or encumbrance, securing or evidencing the payment of money and affecting

the land to be developed or affecting more than one lot or parcel of developed land, or an agreement affecting more than one such lot or parcel by which the developer holds said development under option, contract, sale, or trust agreement. The term shall not include taxes and assessments levied by a public authority.

(3) "Common promotional plan" means an offering of related developed lands in a common promotional plan of disposition. Elements relevant to whether the related developed lands are being offered as part of a common promotional plan include but are not limited to: Whether purchasers of interests in the offered land will share in the use of common amenities, or other rights or privileges; whether the offered lands are known, designated, or advertised as a common unit or by a common name; whether a common broker or sales personnel, common sales office or facilities, or common promotional methods are utilized; and whether cross-referrals of prospective purchasers between sales operations is utilized.

(4) "Developer" means any owner of a development who offers it for disposition, or the principal agent of an inactive owner.

(5) "Development" or "developed lands" means land which is divided or is proposed to be divided for the purpose of disposition into twenty-six or more lots, parcels, or units (excluding interests in camping resorts regulated under chapter 19.105 RCW and interests in condominiums regulated under chapter 64.34 RCW) or any other land whether contiguous or not, if twenty-six or more lots, parcels, units, or interests are offered as a part of a common promotional plan of advertising and sale.

(6) "Disposition" includes any sale, lease, assignment, or exchange of any interest in any real property which is a part of or included within a development, and also includes the offering of property as a prize or gift when a monetary charge or consideration for whatever purpose is required in conjunction therewith, and any other transaction concerning a development if undertaken for gain or profit.

(7) "Foreclosure" means a forfeiture or judicial or nonjudicial foreclosure of a mortgage, deed of trust, or real estate contract, or a deed in lieu thereof.

(8) "Improvements" include all existing, advertised, and governmentally required facilities such as streets, water, electricity, natural gas, telephone lines, drainage control systems, and sewage disposal systems.

(9) "Offer" includes every inducement, solicitation, or media advertisement which has as a principal aim to encourage a person to acquire an interest in land.

(10) "Owners association" means any profit or nonprofit corporation, unincorporated association, or other organization or legal entity, a membership or other interest in which is appurtenant to or based upon owing an interest in a development.

(11) "Person" means an individual, corporation, government or governmental subdivision or agency, business trust, estate, trust, partnership, unincorporated association, two or more of any of the foregoing having a joint or common interest, or any other legal or commercial entity.

(12) "Physical hazard" means a physical condition which poses, or may very likely pose, a material risk of either: Material damage to the development and improvements

thereon; or material endangerment to the safety and health of persons using the development and improvements thereon.

(13) "Purchaser" means a person who acquires or attempts to acquire or succeeds to any interest in land.

(14) "Related developed lands" means two or more developments which are owned by the same developer or an affiliate or affiliates of that developer and which are physically located within the same five-mile radius area.

(15) "Residential buildings" shall mean premises that are actually intended or used primarily for residential or recreational purposes by the purchasers. [1992 c 191 § 2; 1979 c 158 § 208; 1973 1st ex.s. c 12 § 2.]

**58.19.030 Exemptions from chapter.** (1) Unless the method of disposition is adopted for the purpose of evasion of this chapter, the provisions of this chapter shall not apply to land and offers or dispositions:

(a) By a purchaser of developed lands for his or her own account in a single or isolated transaction;

(b) If fewer than ten separate lots, parcels, units, or interests in developed lands are offered by a person in a period of twelve months;

(c) If each lot offered in the development is five acres or more;

(d) On which there is a residential, commercial, or industrial building, or as to which there is a legal obligation on the part of the seller to construct such a building within two years from date of disposition;

(e) To any person who acquires such lot, parcel, unit or interest therein for the purpose of engaging in the business of constructing residential, commercial, or industrial buildings or for the purpose of resale or lease or other disposition of such lots to persons engaged in such business or businesses;

(f) Any lot, parcel, unit or interest if the development is located within an area incorporated prior to January 1, 1974;

(g) Pursuant to court order; or

(h) As cemetery lots or interests.

(2) Unless the method of disposition is adopted for the purpose of evasion of this chapter, the provisions of this chapter shall not apply to:

(a) Offers or dispositions of evidence of indebtedness secured by a mortgage or deed of trust of real estate;

(b) Offers or dispositions of securities or units of interest issued by a real estate investment trust regulated under any state or federal statute;

(c) A development as to which the director has waived the provisions of this chapter;

(d) Offers or dispositions of securities currently registered with the department of financial institutions;

(e) Offers or dispositions of any interest in oil, gas, or other minerals or any royalty interest therein if the offers or dispositions of such interests are regulated as securities by the United States or by the department of financial institutions. [1994 c 92 § 504; 1979 c 158 § 209; 1973 1st ex.s. c 12 § 3.]

**58.19.045 Public offering statement—Developer's duties—Purchaser's rights.** (1) A developer shall prepare a public offering statement conforming to the requirements of RCW 58.19.055 unless the development or the transaction is exempt under RCW 58.19.030.

(2) Any agent, attorney, or other person assisting the developer in preparing the public offering statement may rely upon information provided by the developer without independent investigation. The agent, attorney, or other person shall not be liable for any material misrepresentation in or omissions of material facts from the public offering statement unless the person had actual knowledge of the misrepresentation or omission at the time the public offering statement was prepared. The developer shall be liable for any misrepresentation contained in the public offering statement or for any omission of material fact therefrom if the developer had actual knowledge of the misrepresentation or omission or, in the exercise of reasonable care, should have known of the misrepresentation or omission.

(3) Unless the development or the transaction is exempt under RCW 58.19.030, a developer shall provide a purchaser of a lot, parcel, unit, or interest with a copy of the public offering statement and all material amendments thereto before conveyance of that lot, parcel, unit, or interest. Unless a purchaser is given the public offering statement more than two days before execution of a contract for the purchase of a lot, parcel, unit, or interest, the purchaser, before conveyance, shall have the right to cancel the contract within two days after first receiving the public offering statement and, if necessary to have two days to review the public offering statement and cancel the contract, to extend the closing date for conveyance to a date not more than two days after first receiving the public offering statement. The purchaser shall have no right to cancel the contract upon receipt of an amendment unless the purchaser would have that right under generally applicable legal principles. The two-day period shall not include Saturdays, Sundays, or legal holidays.

(4) If a purchaser elects to cancel a contract pursuant to subsection (3) of this section, the purchaser may do so by hand-delivering notice thereof to the developer or by mailing notice thereof by prepaid United States mail to the developer for service of process. If cancellation is by mailing notice, the date of the postmark on the mail shall be the official date of cancellation. Cancellation is without penalty, and all payments made by the purchaser before cancellation shall be refunded within thirty days from the date of cancellation.

(5) If a person required to deliver a public offering statement pursuant to subsection (1) of this section fails to provide a purchaser to whom a lot, parcel, unit, or interest is conveyed with that public offering statement and all material amendments thereto as required by subsection (3) of this section, the purchaser is entitled to receive from that person an amount equal to the actual damages suffered by the purchaser as a result of the public offering statement not being delivered. There shall be no liability for failure to deliver any amendment unless such failure would have entitled the purchaser under generally applicable legal principles to cancel the contract for the purchase of the lot, parcel, unit, or interest had the undisclosed information been evident to the purchaser before the closing of the purchase.

(6) A purchaser may not rely on any representation or express warranty unless it is contained in the public offering statement or made in writing signed by the developer or developer's agent identified in the public offering statement. [1992 c 191 § 4.]

#### **58.19.055 Public offering statement—Contents. (1)**

A public offering statement shall contain the following information:

- (a) The name, and the address or approximate location, of the development;
- (b) The name and address of the developer;
- (c) The name and address of the management company, if any, for the development;
- (d) The relationship of the management company to the developer, if any;
- (e) The nature of the interest being offered for sale;
- (f) A brief description of the permitted uses and use restrictions pertaining to the development and the purchaser's interest therein;
- (g) The number of existing lots, parcels, units, or interests in the development and either the maximum number that may be added to the development or the fact that such maximum number has not yet been determined;
- (h) A list of the principal common amenities in the development which materially affect the value of the development and those that will or may be added to the development;
- (i) The identification of any real property not in the development, the owner of which has access to any of the development, and a description of the terms of such access;
- (j) The identification of any real property not in the development to which owners in the development have access and a description of the terms of such access;
- (k) The status of construction of improvements in the development, including either the estimated dates of completion if not completed or the fact that such estimated completion dates have not yet been determined; and the estimated costs, if any, to be paid by the purchaser;
- (l) The estimated current owners' association expense, if any, for which a purchaser would be liable;
- (m) An estimate of any payment with respect to any owners' association expense for which the purchaser would be liable at closing;
- (n) The estimated current amount and purpose of any fees not included in any owners' association assessments and charged by the developer or any owners' association for the use of any of the development or improvements thereto;
- (o) Any assessments which have been agreed to or are known to the developer and which, if not paid, may constitute a lien against any portion of the development in favor of any governmental agency;
- (p) The identification of any parts of the development which any purchaser will have the responsibility for maintaining;
- (q) A brief description of any blanket encumbrance which is subject to the provisions of RCW 58.19.180;
- (r) A list of any physical hazards known to the developer which particularly affect the development or the immediate vicinity in which the development is located and which are not readily ascertainable by the purchaser;
- (s) A brief description of any construction warranties to be provided to the purchaser;
- (t) Any building code violation citations received by the developer in connection with the development which have not been corrected;

(u) A statement of any unsatisfied judgments or pending suits against any owners' association involved in the development and a statement of the status of any pending suits material to the development of which the developer has actual knowledge;

(v) A notice which describes a purchaser's right to cancel the purchase agreement or extend the closing under RCW 58.19.045(3), including applicable time frames and procedures;

(w) A list of the documents which the prospective purchaser is entitled to receive from the developer before the rescission period commences;

(x) A notice which states:

"A purchaser may not rely on any representation or express warranty unless it is contained in the public offering statement or made in writing signed by the developer or by any person identified in the public offering statement as the declarant's agent";

(y) A notice which states:

"This public offering statement is only a summary of some of the significant aspects of purchasing an interest in this development and any documents which may govern or affect the development may be complex, may contain other important information, and create binding legal obligations. You should consider seeking assistance of legal counsel"; and

(z) Any other information and cross-references which the developer believes will be helpful in describing the development to the recipients of the public offering statement, all of which may be included or not included at the option of the developer.

(2) The public offering statement shall include copies of each of the following documents: Any declaration of covenants, conditions, restrictions, and reservations affecting the development; any survey, plat, or subdivision map; the articles of incorporation of any owners' association; the bylaws of any owners' association; the rules and regulations, if any, of any owners' association; current or proposed budget for any owners' association; and the balance sheet of any owners' association current within ninety days if assessments have been collected for ninety days or more.

If any of the foregoing documents listed in this subsection are not available because they have not yet been executed, adopted, or recorded, drafts of such documents shall be provided with the public offering statement, and, before closing the sale of an interest in the development, the purchaser shall be given copies of any material changes between the draft of the proposed documents and the final documents.

(3) The disclosures required by subsection (1)(v), (x), and (y) of this section shall be located at the top of the first page of the public offering statement and be typed or printed in ten-point bold face type size. [1992 c 191 § 5.]

**58.19.120 Report of changes required—Amendments.** The developer shall immediately amend the public offering statement to include any material changes affecting the development. No change in the substance of the promotional plan or plan of disposition or completion of the development may be made without first making an appropriate

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amendment of the public offering statement. A public offering statement is not current unless it incorporates all amendments. [1992 c 191 § 6; 1973 1st ex.s. c 12 § 12.]

**58.19.130 Public offering statement form—Type and style restriction.** No portion of the public offering statement form may be underscored, italicized, or printed in larger or heavier or different color type than the remainder of the statement unless the director so requires. [1973 1st ex.s. c 12 § 13.]

**58.19.140 Public offering statement—Promotional use, distribution restriction—Holding out that state or employees, etc., approve development prohibited.** The public offering statement shall not be used for any promotional purposes. It may not be distributed to prospective purchasers before registration of the development and may be distributed afterwards only when it is used in its entirety. No person may advertise or represent that the state of Washington or the director, the department, or any employee thereof approves or recommends the development or disposition thereof. [1973 1st ex.s. c 12 § 14.]

**58.19.180 Unlawful to sell lots or parcels subject to blanket encumbrance which does not provide purchaser can obtain clear title—Alternatives.** It shall be unlawful for the developer to make a sale of lots or parcels within a development which is subject to a blanket encumbrance which does not contain, within its terms or by supplementary agreement, a provision which shall unconditionally provide that the purchaser of a lot or parcel encumbered thereby can obtain the legal title, or other interest contracted for, free and clear of the lien of such blanket encumbrance upon compliance with the terms and conditions of the purchase agreement, unless the developer shall elect and comply with one of the following alternative conditions:

(1) The developer shall deposit earnest moneys and all subsequent payments on the obligation in a neutral escrow depository, or real estate trust account regulated under \*RCW 18.85.310, until such time as all payments on the obligation have been made and clear title is delivered, or any of the following occurs:

(a) A proper release is obtained from such blanket encumbrance;

(b) Either the developer or the purchaser defaults under the sales contract and there is a forfeiture of the interest of the purchaser or there is a determination as to the disposition of such moneys, as the case may be; or

(c) The developer orders a return of such moneys to such purchaser.

(2) The title to the development is held in trust under an agreement of trust until the proper release of such blanket encumbrance is obtained.

(3) The purchaser shall receive title insurance from a licensed title insurance company against such blanket encumbrance. [1992 c 191 § 7; 1973 1st ex.s. c 12 § 18.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 18.85.310 was recodified as RCW 18.85.285 pursuant to 2008 c 23 § 49, effective July 1, 2010.

**58.19.185 Requiring purchaser to pay additional sum to construct, complete or maintain development.** It shall be unlawful for the developer to sell a lot or parcel within a development if the terms of the sale require that the purchaser pay any sum in addition to the purchase price for constructing, completing, or maintaining improvements to the development unless the sums are to be paid directly to:

- (1) A governmental agency;
- (2) A person who is not affiliated with the developer, in trust, and on terms acceptable to the director; or
- (3) An association comprised solely of persons who have purchased lots in the development, or their assignees.

The terms which require the payment of any additional sum shall be set forth in the public offering statement. [1977 ex.s. c 252 § 1.]

**58.19.190 Advertising—Materially false, misleading, or deceptive statements prohibited.** No person shall publish in this state any advertisement concerning a development subject to the requirements of this chapter which contains any statements that are materially false, misleading, or deceptive. [1992 c 191 § 8; 1973 1st ex.s. c 12 § 19.]

**58.19.265 Violations—Remedies—Attorneys' fees.** If a developer, or any other person subject to this chapter, fails to comply with any provision of this chapter, any person or class of persons adversely affected by the failure to comply may seek appropriate relief through an action for damages or an injunctive court order. The court, in an appropriate case, may award attorneys' fees. [1992 c 191 § 9.]

**58.19.270 Violations deemed unfair practice subject to chapter 19.86 RCW.** (1) The commission by any person of an act or practice prohibited by this chapter is hereby declared to be a matter affecting the public interest for the purpose of applying chapter 19.86 RCW and is not reasonable in relation to the development and preservation of business. A violation of this chapter constitutes an unfair or deceptive act or practice or unfair method of competition in the conduct of trade or commerce for the purpose of the attorney general bringing an action in the name of the state under the consumer protection act, pursuant to RCW 19.86.080.

(2) Evidence concerning violations of this chapter may be referred to the attorney general, who may, in his or her discretion, with or without such a reference, in addition to any other action the attorney general might commence, bring an action in the name of the state against any person to restrain and prevent the doing of any act or practice prohibited by this chapter. This chapter shall be considered in conjunction with chapters 9.04 and 19.86 RCW, and the powers and duties of the attorney general as such powers and duties appear in chapters 9.04 and 19.86 RCW shall apply against all persons subject to this chapter.

(3) Only the attorney general can bring an action under the consumer protection act, chapter 19.86 RCW, pursuant to this section. [1992 c 191 § 10; 1973 1st ex.s. c 12 § 27.]

**58.19.280 Jurisdiction of superior courts.** Dispositions of an interest in a development are subject to this chapter, and the superior courts of this state have jurisdiction in claims or causes of action arising under this chapter, if:

- (1) The interest in a development offered for disposition is located in this state;
- (2) The developer maintains an office in this state; or
- (3) Any offer or disposition of an interest in a development is made in this state, whether or not the offeror or offeree is then present in this state, if the offer originates within this state or is directed by the offeror to a person or place in this state and received by the person or at the place to which it is directed. [1973 1st ex.s. c 12 § 28.]

**58.19.300 Hazardous conditions—Notice.** If, before disposition of all or any portion of a development which is covered by this chapter, a condition constituting a physical hazard is discovered on or around the immediate vicinity of the development, the developer or government agency discovering such condition shall notify the purchasers of the affected lands either by transmitting notice through the appropriate county assessor's office or such other steps as might reasonably give actual notice to the purchasers. [1992 c 191 § 11; 1973 1st ex.s. c 12 § 30.]

**58.19.920 Liberal construction.** The provisions of this chapter shall be construed liberally so as to give effect to the purposes stated in RCW 58.19.010. [1973 1st ex.s. c 12 § 33.]

**58.19.940 Short title.** This chapter may be cited as the land development act. [1992 c 191 § 12; 1973 1st ex.s. c 12 § 35.]

## Chapter 58.20 RCW

### WASHINGTON PLANE COORDINATE SYSTEM

#### Sections

58.20.111	Definitions.
58.20.121	Washington plane coordinate system.
58.20.140	Designation of system—Zones.
58.20.145	Plane coordinates.
58.20.160	Tracts in more than one zone.
58.20.165	Geodetic datums.
58.20.180	Recording coordinates.
58.20.185	Standard value—One foot.
58.20.200	Term—Limited use.
58.20.205	Datum conflicts.
58.20.210	United States survey prevails—Conflict.
58.20.220	Real estate transactions—Exemption.
58.20.901	Severability—1989 c 54.

**58.20.111 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Metadata" means data that describes other data. For the purposes of this chapter, metadata means geodetic reference system utilized, applicable epoch, statement of relative accuracy, and date of observation at a minimum. Additional metadata is encouraged if it adds value.

(2) "NGS" means the national ocean service's national geodetic survey of the national oceanic and atmospheric administration, United States department of commerce, or its successor.

(3) "NSRS" means the national spatial reference system or its successor.

(4) "WPCS" means the Washington plane coordinate system, the system of plane coordinates under this chapter

that is identical to the state plane coordinate system as defined for the state of Washington by NGS. [2020 c 50 § 1.]

**58.20.121 Washington plane coordinate system.** The most recent version of the state plane coordinate system for the state of Washington, which has been established by NGS, based on the NSRS, for defining and stating the positions or locations of points on the surface of the earth within the state of Washington must be known as the "Washington plane coordinate system." [2020 c 50 § 2.]

**58.20.140 Designation of system—Zones.** The Washington plane coordinate system shall be named, and in any land description in which it is used it shall be designated, the "Washington plane coordinate system," and the zone used must be specified. [2020 c 50 § 3; 1989 c 54 § 12.]

**58.20.145 Plane coordinates.** (1) The plane coordinates of a point on the earth's surface, to be used in expressing the position or location of the point in the appropriate zone of the WPCS, consist of two distances, expressed in feet and decimals of a foot or meters and decimals of a meter, along with the metadata of the observations used to determine the coordinates. One of these distances, to be known as the "east x-coordinate," must give the distance east of the Y axis; the other, to be known as the "north y-coordinate," must give the distance north of the X axis. The Y axis of any zone must be parallel with the central meridian of that zone. The X axis of any zone must be at right angles to the central meridian of that zone.

(2) Height is the coordinate value of the vertical elements of the NSRS expressed as feet or meters and identified as ellipsoid height or orthometric height. [2020 c 50 § 4.]

**58.20.160 Tracts in more than one zone.** When any tract of land to be defined by a single description extends from one coordinate zone into other zones, the positions of all points on its boundaries must be referred to only one of the zones, the zone which is used being specifically named in the description along with the metadata of the observations. [2020 c 50 § 5; 1989 c 54 § 14.]

**58.20.165 Geodetic datums.** The official geodetic datums to which geodetic coordinates including, but not limited to, latitude, longitude, ellipsoid height, orthometric height, or dynamic height are referenced within the state of Washington must be as defined for the NSRS. [2020 c 50 § 6.]

**58.20.180 Recording coordinates.** Coordinates based on the Washington plane coordinate system, purporting to define the position of a point on a land boundary, may be presented to be recorded in any public land records or deed records. The method and source for establishing coordinates shall be described in the land or deed record. In all instances where reference has been made to such coordinates in land surveys or deeds, the combined factors shall be stated for the survey lines used in computing ground distances and areas, along with the metadata of the observations. [2020 c 50 § 7; 1989 c 54 § 16.]

(2020 Ed.)

**58.20.185 Standard value—One foot.** When the values are expressed in feet, one foot equals 0.3048 meters, must be used as the standard foot for WPCS. [2020 c 50 § 8.]

**58.20.200 Term—Limited use.** The use of the term "Washington plane coordinate system" on any map, report of survey, or other document, shall be limited to coordinates based on the Washington plane coordinate system as defined in this chapter. [2020 c 50 § 9; 1989 c 54 § 18.]

**58.20.205 Datum conflicts.** The provisions of this chapter may not be construed to prohibit the appropriate use of other datums, other geodetic reference networks or systems, or other plane coordinate systems. Any other such datums, networks, or systems used must comply fully with the information requirements for the Washington plane coordinate system. This includes, but is not limited to: The source of the datum, network, or system; metadata of the observations; factor used to convert from meters to feet; and combined factors applied to land boundary lines used in land surveys or deeds to compute ground distances or areas. [2020 c 50 § 12.]

**58.20.210 United States survey prevails—Conflict.** Whenever coordinates based on the Washington plane coordinate system are used to describe any tract of land which in the same document is also described by reference to any subdivision, line or corner of the United States public land surveys, the description by coordinates shall be construed as supplemental to the basic description of such subdivision, line, or corner contained in the official plats and field notes filed of record, and in the event of any conflict the description by reference to the subdivision, line, or corner of the United States public land surveys shall prevail over the description by coordinates. [2020 c 50 § 10; 1989 c 54 § 19.]

**58.20.220 Real estate transactions—Exemption.** Nothing contained in this chapter shall require any purchaser or mortgagee to rely on a description, any part of which depends exclusively upon the Washington plane coordinate system. [2020 c 50 § 11; 1989 c 54 § 20.]

**58.20.901 Severability—1989 c 54.** If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected. [1989 c 54 § 21.]

## Chapter 58.22 RCW

### STATE BASE MAPPING SYSTEM

#### Sections

58.22.010	Legislative intent.
58.22.020	Establishment and maintenance—Standards.
58.22.030	United States geological survey quadrangle map separates—Acquisition by state agencies.
58.22.040	United States geological survey quadrangle map separates—State depository.
58.22.050	Availability of map separates—Powers and duties of department.

*Surveys and maps account established for purposes of chapter 58.22 RCW: RCW 58.24.060.*

**58.22.010 Legislative intent.** It is the intent of the legislature to establish a coordinated system of state base maps to assist all levels of government to more effectively provide the information to meet their responsibilities for resource planning and management.

It is further the legislature's intent to eliminate duplication, to insure compatibility, and to create coordination through a uniform base which all agencies will use.

It is in the interest of all citizens in the state of Washington that a state base mapping system be established to make essential base maps available at cost to all users, both public and private. [1973 1st ex.s. c 159 § 1.]

**58.22.020 Establishment and maintenance—Standards.** The department of natural resources shall establish and maintain a state base mapping system. The standards for the state base mapping system shall be:

(1) A series of fifteen minute United States geological survey quadrangle map separates at a scale of one to 48,000 (one inch equals 4,000 feet) covering the entire state;

(2) A series of seven and one-half minute United States geological survey quadrangle map separates at a scale of one to 24,000 (one inch equals 2,000 feet) for urban areas; including but not limited to those identified as urban by the state department of transportation for the United States department of transportation.

All features and symbols added to the quadrangle separates shall meet as nearly as is practical national map accuracy standards and specifications as defined by the United States geological survey for their fifteen minute and seven and one-half minute quadrangle map separates.

Each quadrangle shall be revised by the department of natural resources as necessary to reflect current conditions. [1984 c 7 § 367; 1973 1st ex.s. c 159 § 2.]

**58.22.030 United States geological survey quadrangle map separates—Acquisition by state agencies.** Any state agency purchasing or acquiring United States geological survey quadrangle map separates shall do so through the department of natural resources. [1973 1st ex.s. c 159 § 3.]

**58.22.040 United States geological survey quadrangle map separates—State depository.** The department of natural resources shall be the primary depository of all United States geological survey quadrangle map separates for state agencies: PROVIDED, That any state agency may maintain duplicate copies. [1973 1st ex.s. c 159 § 4.]

**58.22.050 Availability of map separates—Powers and duties of department.** (1) All United States geological survey quadrangle map separates shall be available at cost to all state agencies, local agencies, the federal government, and any private individual or company through duplication and purchase.

The department shall coordinate all requests for the use of United States geological survey quadrangle map separates and shall provide advice on how to best use the system.

(2) The department shall maintain a catalogue showing all United States geological survey quadrangle map separates available. The department shall also catalogue information describing additional separates or products created by users.

Copies of maps made for any state or local agency shall be available to any other state or local agency. [1973 1st ex.s. c 159 § 5.]

## Chapter 58.24 RCW

### STATE AGENCY FOR SURVEYS AND MAPS—FEES

#### Sections

58.24.010	Declaration of necessity.
58.24.020	Official agency designated—Advisory board.
58.24.030	Official agency designated—Powers—Cooperate and advise—Purposes.
58.24.040	Official agency designated—Powers—Standards, maps, records, report, temporary removal of boundary marks or monuments.
58.24.050	Employees—Licensed engineers or surveyors.
58.24.060	Surveys and maps account—Purposes.
58.24.070	Fees for filing and recording surveys, plats, or maps—Deposit and use of fees.

*Cemetery property—Surveys and maps, plats, etc.: Chapter 68.24 RCW.*

*Counties—Land surveys, record of surveys: RCW 36.32.370, 36.32.380.*

*Geological survey: Chapter 43.27A RCW.*

*Irrigation districts—Map of district: RCW 87.03.775.*

*Public lands—Maps and plats—Record and index—Public inspection: RCW 79.02.210.*

*Reclamation districts—Surveys, etc.: Chapter 89.30 RCW.*

*Regulation of public groundwaters—Designating or modifying boundaries of areas—Notice of hearing—Findings—Order: RCW 90.44.130.*

*Restoration of United States survey markers: RCW 47.36.010.*

*State highways and toll bridges*

*copy of map, plans, etc.—Fee: RCW 47.28.060.*

*maps, plans, etc.—Filing: RCW 47.28.040.*

**58.24.010 Declaration of necessity.** It is the responsibility of the state to provide a means for the identification and preservation of survey points for the description of common land boundaries in the interest of the people of the state. There is a necessity for the adoption and maintenance of a system of permanent reference as to boundary monuments. The department of natural resources shall be the recognized agency for the establishment of this system. [1987 c 466 § 4; 1982 c 165 § 1; 1951 c 224 § 2.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**58.24.020 Official agency designated—Advisory board.** The department of natural resources is designated as the official agency for surveys and maps. The commissioner of public lands shall appoint an advisory board of five members, the majority of whom shall be registered professional engineers or land surveyors, who shall serve at the pleasure of the commissioner. Members of the board shall serve without salary but are to receive travel expenses in accordance with RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060 as now existing or hereafter amended while actively engaged in the discharge of their duties. [1987 c 466 § 5; 1982 c 165 § 2; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 34 § 152; 1951 c 224 § 3.]

*Department of natural resources to exercise powers and duties of commissioner of public lands: RCW 43.30.411.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**58.24.030 Official agency designated—Powers—Cooperate and advise—Purposes.** The commissioner of public lands, the department of natural resources, and the advisory board are authorized to cooperate and advise with



various departments and subdivisions of the state, counties, municipalities, and registered engineers or land surveyors of the state for the following purposes:

(1) The recovery of section corners or other land boundary marks;

(2) The monumentation of accepted section corners, and other boundary and reference marks; said monumentation shall be adequately connected to adjusted United States coast and geodetic survey triangulation stations and the coordinates of the monuments computed to conform with the \*Washington coordinate system in accordance with the provisions of chapter 58.20 RCW, as derived from chapter 168, Laws of 1945;

(3) For facilitation and encouragement of the use of the \*Washington state coordinate system; and

(4) For promotion of the use of the level net as established by the United States coast and geodetic survey. [1987 c 466 § 6; 1982 c 165 § 3; 1951 c 224 § 4.]

**\*Reviser's note:** The "Washington coordinate system" was renamed the "Washington plane coordinate system" by 2020 c 50.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**58.24.040 Official agency designated—Powers—Standards, maps, records, report, temporary removal of boundary marks or monuments.** The agency designated by RCW 58.24.020 is further authorized to:

(1) Set up standards of accuracy and methods of procedure;

(2) Compile and publish maps and records from surveys performed under the provisions of this chapter, and to maintain suitable indexes of surveys to prevent duplication of effort and to cooperate with all agencies of local, state, and federal government to this end;

(3) Compile and maintain records of all surveys performed under the provisions of this chapter, and assemble and maintain records of all reliable survey monuments and bench marks within the state;

(4) Collect and preserve information obtained from surveys locating and establishing land monuments and land boundaries;

(5) Supervise the sale and distribution of cadastral and geodetic survey data, and such related survey maps and publications as may come into the possession of the department of natural resources. Revenue derived from the sale thereof shall be deposited in the surveys and maps account in the general fund;

(6) Supervise the sale and distribution of maps, map data, photographs, and such publications as may come into the possession of the department of natural resources.

(7) Submit, as part of the biennial report of the commissioner of public lands, a report of the accomplishments of the agency;

(8) Permit the temporary removal or destruction of any section corner or any other land boundary mark or monument by any person, corporation, association, department, or subdivision of the state, county, or municipality as may be necessary or desirable to accommodate construction, mining, and other development of any land: PROVIDED, That such section corner or other land boundary mark or monument shall be referenced to the \*Washington coordinate system by a registered professional engineer or land surveyor prior to

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such removal or destruction, and shall be replaced or a suitable reference monument established by a registered professional engineer or land surveyor within a reasonable time after completion of such construction, mining, or other development: AND PROVIDED FURTHER, That the department of natural resources shall adopt and promulgate reasonable rules and regulations under which the agency shall authorize such temporary removal or destruction and require the replacement of such section corner or other land boundary marks or monuments. [1987 c 466 § 7; 1982 c 165 § 4; 1969 ex.s. c 271 § 25; 1951 c 224 § 6.]

**\*Reviser's note:** The "Washington coordinate system" was renamed the "Washington plane coordinate system" by 2020 c 50.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**58.24.050 Employees—Licensed engineers or surveyors.** All employees who are in responsible charge of work under the provisions of this chapter shall be licensed professional engineers or land surveyors. [1982 c 165 § 5; 1951 c 224 § 5.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**58.24.060 Surveys and maps account—Purposes.** There is created in the state treasury the surveys and maps account which shall be a separate account consisting of funds received or collected under chapters 43.92, 58.22, and 58.24 RCW, moneys appropriated to it by law. This account shall be used exclusively by the department of natural resources for carrying out the purposes and provisions of chapters 43.92, 58.22, and 58.24 RCW. Appropriations from the account shall be expended for no other purposes. [2015 c 12 § 2; 1991 sp.s. c 13 § 14; 1987 c 466 § 8; 1985 c 57 § 65; 1983 c 272 § 1; 1982 c 165 § 6.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**58.24.070 Fees for filing and recording surveys, plats, or maps—Deposit and use of fees.** A fee set by the board of natural resources shall be charged by each county auditor, in addition to any other fees required by law, as a condition precedent to the filing and recording of any surveys, subdivision plats, short plats, and condominium surveys, plats, or maps. Such funds shall be forwarded monthly to the state treasurer to be deposited in the surveys and maps account in the general fund. The fees shall be verified in the same manner as other fees collected by the county auditor. Fees collected under this section shall be expended by the department only for the activities prescribed in this chapter. [1987 c 466 § 9; 1983 c 272 § 2; 1982 c 165 § 7.]

*Condominium surveys and maps: RCW 64.32.100.*

*Plats and subdivisions: Chapter 58.17 RCW.*

## Chapter 58.28 RCW TOWNSITES ON UNITED STATES LAND— ACQUISITION OF LAND

### Sections

#### INCORPORATED TOWNS ON UNITED STATES LAND

58.28.010	Councils' duties when townsites on United States land.
58.28.020	Councils' duties when townsites on United States land—Survey and plat.

- 58.28.030 Councils' duties when townsites on United States land—Plats—Filing.
- 58.28.040 Councils' duties when townsites on United States land—Survey, notice of—Bids for—Franchises continued.
- 58.28.050 Contents of plat.
- 58.28.060 Monuments—Location, placement requisites.
- 58.28.070 Monuments—Markings—Surveyor's certificate on plat.
- 58.28.080 Plats filed—Auditor's fee.
- 58.28.090 Assessments.
- 58.28.100 Notice of possession filed—Assessment and fee—Certificate—Council record.
- 58.28.110 Deficiency assessment—When payable.
- 58.28.120 Deed to claimants—Actions contesting title, limitations on.
- 58.28.130 Entries on mineral lands—Rights of claimants.
- 58.28.140 Conflicting claims—Procedure.
- 58.28.150 Notice of filing patent—Abandonment of claim.
- 58.28.160 Sale of unoccupied lots—Notice—Minimum price.
- 58.28.170 Lands for school and municipal purposes—Funds.
- 58.28.180 Effect of informalities—Certificate or deed as prima facie evidence.
- 58.28.190 Corporate authorities to act promptly.
- 58.28.200 Proof requisite to delivery of deed.
- 58.28.201 Title to vacated lots by occupancy and improvements.
- 58.28.202 Controversies, by whom settled—Review.
- 58.28.203 Platted lands declared dedicated to public use.
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- 58.28.210 Unincorporated towns on United States land—Superior court judge to file claim.
- 58.28.220 Petition to superior court judge—Contents—Procedure.
- 58.28.230 Survey and plat—Boundaries—Monuments.
- 58.28.240 Plats—Filing.
- 58.28.250 Survey, notice of—Bids for—Franchises continued.
- 58.28.260 Contents of plat.
- 58.28.270 Monuments—Location, placement requisites.
- 58.28.280 Monuments—Markings—Surveyor's certificate on plat.
- 58.28.290 Plats filed—Auditor's fee.
- 58.28.300 Assessments—Disposition—Employment of attorney authorized.
- 58.28.310 Notice of possession filed—Assessment and fee—Certificate—Judge's record.
- 58.28.320 Deficiency assessment—When payable.
- 58.28.330 Deed to claimants—Actions contesting title, limitations on.
- 58.28.340 Entries on mineral lands—Rights of claimants.
- 58.28.350 Conflicting claims—Procedure.
- 58.28.360 Proof of right—Costs upon failure of both conflicting parties.
- 58.28.370 Notice of filing patent.
- 58.28.380 Abandonment of claim.
- 58.28.390 Sale of unoccupied lots—Notice—Minimum price.
- 58.28.400 Lands for school and public purposes—Expenses as charge against fund.
- 58.28.410 Disposition of excess money—Special fund.
- 58.28.420 Effect of informalities—Certificate or deed as prima facie evidence.
- 58.28.430 Proof requisite to delivery of deed.
- 58.28.440 Platted lands declared dedicated to public use.
- 58.28.450 Clerk's duties when judge trustee.
- 58.28.460 Accounting and depositing money—Promptness.
- 58.28.470 Records filed with county clerk.
- 58.28.480 Judge, a trustee for purposes herein.
- 58.28.490 Appellate review—Procedure.
- 58.28.500 Succession of trust.
- 58.28.510 Title to vacated lots by occupancy and improvements.
- 58.28.520 Controversies, by whom settled—Review.

## INCORPORATED TOWNS ON UNITED STATES LAND

**58.28.010 Councils' duties when townsites on United States land.** It is the duty of the city or town council of any city or town in this state situate upon public lands of the United States or lands, the legal and equitable title to which is in the United States of America, to enter at the proper land office of the United States such quantity of land as the inhabitants of any incorporated city or town may be entitled to claim, in the aggregate, according to their population, in the manner required by the laws of the United States and the regulations prescribed by the secretary of the interior of the United States, and by order entered upon their minutes and

proceedings, at a regular meeting, to authorize and direct the mayor and clerk of such council, attested by the corporate seal, to make and sign all necessary declaratory statements, certificates, and affidavits, or other instruments requisite to carry into effect the intentions of this chapter and the intentions of the act of congress of the United States entitled "An act for the relief of the inhabitants of cities and towns upon the public lands," approved March 2, 1867, and all acts of congress amendatory thereof and supplemental thereto, including section sixteen of an act of congress entitled "An act to repeal timber culture laws and for other purposes," approved March 3, 1891, and to make proof, when required, of the facts necessary to establish the claim of such inhabitants to the lands so granted by said acts of congress, and file in the proper United States land office a proper application in writing describing the tracts of land on which such city or town is situate, and make proof and payment for such tracts of land in the manner required by law. [1909 c 231 § 1; RRS § 11485. Prior: 1888 c 124 pp 216-220.]

**58.28.020 Councils' duties when townsites on United States land—Survey and plat.** Said council must cause a survey to be made by some competent person, of the lands which the inhabitants of said city or town may be entitled to claim under the said act of congress, located according to the legal subdivisions of the sections and by the section lines of the United States, and the same must be distinctly marked by suitable monuments; such survey must further particularly designate all streets, roads, lanes and alleys, public squares, churches, school lots, cemeteries, commons and levees as the same exist and have been heretofore dedicated in any manner to public use, and by measurement the precise boundaries and area of each, and every lot or parcel of land and premises claimed by any person, corporations or associations within said city or townsite must, as far as known by the surveyor, be designated on the plat, showing the name or names of the possessor or occupants and claimants, and in case of any disputed claim as to lots, lands, premises or boundaries the said surveyor, if the same be demanded by any person, shall designate the lines in different color from the body of the plat of such part of any premises so disputed or claimed adversely. [1909 c 231 § 2; RRS § 11486. Prior: 1888 c 124 pp 216-220.]

**58.28.030 Councils' duties when townsites on United States land—Plats—Filing.** A plat thereof must be made in triplicate, on a scale of not less than eighty feet to one inch, which must be duly certified under oath by the surveyor, one of which must be filed with the county auditor of the county wherein the city or town is situated, one must be deposited in the proper United States land office, and one with the city or town clerk. These plats shall be considered public records, and each must be accompanied with a copy of the field notes, and the county auditor must make a record of such plat in a book to be kept by him or her for that purpose, and such county auditor must file a copy of said field notes in his or her office. The said surveyor must number the blocks as divided by the roads, highways, and streets opened and generally used, and for which a public necessity exists at the time of making such survey, and must number the several lots consecutively in each block, and all other parcels of land within

said town or city surveyed as herein provided, which said numbers must be a sufficient description of any parcel of land in said plats. Said survey and plat thereof shall conform as near as may be to the existing rights, interests, and claims of the occupants thereof, but no lot in the central or business portion of such city or town shall exceed in area four thousand, two hundred square feet, and no suburban lot in such city or town shall exceed two acres in area. [2010 c 8 § 18006; 1909 c 231 § 3; RRS § 11487. Prior: 1888 c 124 pp 216-220.]

**58.28.040 Councils' duties when townsites on United States land—Survey, notice of—Bids for—Franchises continued.** Before proceeding to make such survey, at least ten days' notice thereof must be given, by posting within the limits of such city or townsite, not less than five written or printed notices of the time when such survey shall commence, or by publication thereof in a newspaper published in the city or town, if one there be. The survey of said city or town lands must be made to the best advantage and at the least expense to the holders, claimants and occupants thereof; and the council is hereby authorized and directed to receive bids for such surveying, and to let the same by contract to the lowest competent bidder: PROVIDED, That the possessors, owners and claimants of waterworks, electric light, telegraph, telephone, pipe or power lines, sewers and like or similar property located in such roads, streets, alleys and other public places in such cities and towns shall be maintained and protected in the same, as the same shall exist at the time of the entry in the United States land office of the land embracing such city or town, and the right to continue to use such property for the purposes for which said property was intended, is hereby acknowledged and confirmed. [1909 c 231 § 4; RRS § 11488. Prior: 1888 c 124 pp 216-220.]

**58.28.050 Contents of plat.** Such plat must show as follows:

- (1) All streets, alleys, avenues, roads and highways, and the width thereof.
- (2) All parks, squares and all other grounds reserved for public uses, with the boundaries and dimensions thereof.
- (3) All lots and blocks, with their boundaries, designating such lots and blocks by numbers, and giving the dimensions of every lot.
- (4) The angles of intersection of all boundary lines of the lots and block, whenever the angle of intersection is not a right angle.
- (5) The location of all stone or iron monuments set to establish street lines.
- (6) The exterior boundaries of the piece of land so platted, giving such boundaries by true courses and distances.
- (7) The location of all section corners, quarter section or meander corners of sections within the limits of said plat.
- (8) In case no such section or quarter section or meander corners are within the limits of the plat, it must show a connection line to some corner or initial point of the government surveys, or a government mineral monument, if there be any within one mile of such townsite. All distances marked on the plat must be in feet and decimals of a foot. [1909 c 231 § 5; RRS § 11489. Prior: 1888 c 124 pp 216-220.]

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**58.28.060 Monuments—Location, placement requisites.** Such surveyor must mark all corners of blocks or lots shown on the plat by substantial stakes or monuments, and must set stone or iron monuments at the points of intersection of the center lines of all the streets, where practicable, or as near as possible to such points, and their location must be shown by marking on the plat the distances to the block corners adjacent thereto. The top of such monument must be placed one foot below the surface of the ground, and in size must be at least six inches by six inches by six inches, and be placed in the ground to the depth of one foot. [1909 c 231 § 6; RRS § 11490. Prior: 1888 c 124 pp 216-220.]

**58.28.070 Monuments—Markings—Surveyor's certificate on plat.** If a stone is used as a monument, it must have a cross cut in the top at the point of intersection of the center lines of streets, or a hole may be drilled in the stone to mark such point. If an iron monument is used it must be at least two inches in diameter by two and one-half feet in length, and may be either solid iron or pipe. The dimensions of the monuments must be marked on the plat, and reference thereto made in the field notes, and establish permanently the lines of all the streets. The surveyor must make and subscribe on the plat a certificate that such survey was made in accordance with the provisions of this chapter, stating the date of survey, and verify the same by his or her oath. [2010 c 8 § 18007; 1909 c 231 § 7; RRS § 11491. Prior: 1888 c 124 pp 216-220.]

**58.28.080 Plats filed—Auditor's fee.** All such plats must be made on mounted drawing paper, and filed and recorded in the office of the county auditor, and he or she must keep the original plat for public inspection. The fee of such county auditor for filing and recording each of such plats and the field notes accompanying the same shall be the sum of ten dollars. [2010 c 8 § 18008; 1909 c 231 § 8; RRS § 11492. Prior: 1888 c 124 pp 216-220.]

**58.28.090 Assessments.** Each lot or parcel of said lands having thereon valuable improvements or buildings ordinarily used as dwellings or for business purposes, not exceeding one-tenth of one acre in area, shall be rated and assessed by the said corporate authorities at the sum of one dollar; each lot or parcel of such lands exceeding one-tenth and not exceeding one-eighth of one acre in area, shall be rated and assessed at the sum of one dollar and fifty cents; each lot or parcel of such lands exceeding in area one-eighth of one acre and not exceeding one-quarter of an acre in area, shall be rated and assessed at the sum of two dollars; and each lot or parcel of such lands exceeding one-quarter of an acre and not exceeding one-half of one acre in area, shall be rated and assessed at the sum of two dollars and fifty cents; and each lot or parcel of land so improved exceeding one-half acre in area shall be assessed at the rate of two dollars and fifty cents for each half an acre or fractional part over half an acre; and every lot or parcel of land enclosed, which may not otherwise be improved, claimed by any person, corporation, or association, shall be rated and assessed at the rate of two dollars per acre or fractional part over an acre; and where upon one parcel of land there shall be two or more separate buildings occupied or used ordinarily as dwellings or for business pur-

poses each such building, for the purposes of this section, shall be considered as standing on a separate lot of land; but the whole of such premises may be conveyed in one deed; which moneys so assessed must be received by the clerk and be paid by him or her into the city or town treasury. [2010 c 8 § 18009; 1909 c 231 § 9; RRS § 11493. Prior: 1888 c 124 pp 216-220.]

**58.28.100 Notice of possession filed—Assessment and fee—Certificate—Council record.** Every person, company, corporation or association claimant of any city or town lot or parcel of land within the limits of such city or townsite, must present to the council, by filing the same with the clerk thereof, within three months after the patent (or certified copy thereof) from the United States has been filed in the office of the county auditor, his, her, its or their affidavit, (or by guardian or next friend where the claimant is under disability), verified in person or by duly authorized agent, attorney, guardian or next friend, in which must be concisely stated the facts constituting the possession or right of possession of the claimant, and that the claimant is entitled to the possession thereof and to a deed therefor as against all other persons, to the best of his knowledge and belief, and stating who was an occupant of such lot or parcel of land at the time of the entry of such townsite at the United States land office, to which must be attached a copy of so much of the plat of said city or townsite as will fully exhibit the particular lot or parcel of land so claimed, and every such claimant, at the time of filing such affidavit, must pay to such clerk such sum of money as said clerk shall certify to be due for the assessment mentioned in RCW 58.28.090, together with the further sum of four dollars, to be appropriated to the payment of expenses incurred in carrying out the provisions of this chapter, and the said clerk must thereupon give to such claimant a certificate, attested by the corporate seal, containing a description of the lot or parcel of land claimed, and setting forth the amounts paid thereon by such claimant. The council of every such city or town must procure a bound book, wherein the clerk must make proper entries of the substantial matters contained in every such certificate issued by him, numbering the same in consecutive order, setting forth the name of the claimant or claimants in full, date of issue, and description of lot or lands claimed. [1909 c 231 § 10; RRS § 11494. Prior: 1888 c 124 pp 216-220.]

**58.28.110 Deficiency assessment—When payable.** If it is found that the amounts hereinbefore specified as assessments and fees for costs and expenses prove to be insufficient to cover and defray all the necessary expenses, the council must estimate the deficiency and assess such deficiency pro rata upon all the lots and parcels of land in such city or town, and declare the same upon the basis set down in RCW 58.28.090, which additional amount, if any, may be paid by the claimant at the time when the certificate hereinafter [hereinbefore] mentioned, or at the time when the deed of conveyance hereinbefore [hereinafter] provided for, is issued. [1909 c 231 § 11; RRS § 11495. Prior: 1888 c 124 pp 216-220.]

**58.28.120 Deed to claimants—Actions contesting title, limitations on.** At the expiration of six months after the time of filing of such patent, or a certified copy thereof in the

office of the county auditor, if there has been no adverse claim filed in the meantime, the council must execute and deliver to such claimant, his or her, its or their heirs, executors, administrators, grantees, successors or assigns a good and sufficient deed of the premises described in the application of the claimant originally filed, if proper proof shall have been made, which said deed must be signed and acknowledged by the mayor or other presiding officer of the council, and attested by the corporate seal of such city or town. No conveyance of any such lands made as in this chapter provided, concludes the rights of third persons; but such third persons may have their action in the premises, to determine their alleged interest in such lands and their right to the legal title thereto against such grantee, his, her, its or their heirs, successors or assigns, to which they may deem themselves entitled either in law or equity; but no action for the recovery or possession of such premises, or any portion thereof, or to establish the right to the legal title thereto, must be maintained in any court against the grantee named therein, or against his, her, its or their legal representatives or assigns, unless such action shall be commenced within six months after such deed shall have been filed for record in the office of the county auditor of the county where such lands are situate; nothing herein shall be construed to extend the time of limitation prescribed by law for the commencement of actions upon the possessory claim or title to real estate, when such action is barred by law at the time of the passage of this chapter. [1909 c 231 § 12; RRS § 11496. Prior: 1888 c 124 pp 216-220.]

**58.28.130 Entries on mineral lands—Rights of claimants.** Townsite entries may be made by incorporated towns or cities on the mineral lands of the United States, but no title shall be acquired by such towns or cities to any vein of gold, silver, cinnabar, copper or lead, or to any valid mining claim or possession held under existing law. When mineral veins are possessed within the limits of an incorporated town or city, and such possession is recognized by local authority or by the laws of the United States, the title to town lots shall be subject to such recognized possession and the necessary use thereof and when entry has been made or patent issued for such townsites to such incorporated town or city, the possessor of such mineral vein may enter and receive patent for such mineral vein, and the surface ground appertaining thereto: PROVIDED, That no entry shall be made by such mineral vein claimant for surface ground where the owner or occupier of the surface ground shall have had possession of the same before the inception of the title of the mineral vein applicant. [1909 c 231 § 13; RRS § 11497. Prior: 1888 c 124 pp 216-220.]

**58.28.140 Conflicting claims—Procedure.** In all cases of adverse claims or disputes arising out of conflicting claims to lands or concerning boundary lines, the adverse claimants may submit the decision thereof to the council of such city or town by an agreement in writing specifying particularly the subject matter in dispute, and may agree that their decision shall be final. The council must hear the proofs, and shall order a deed to be executed or denied in accordance with the facts; but in all other cases of adverse claims, the party out of possession shall commence his or her action in a court of

competent jurisdiction within six months after the time of filing of the patent from the United States (or a certified copy thereof), in the office of the county auditor. In case such action be commenced, the plaintiff must serve a notice of lis pendens upon the mayor, who must thereupon stay all proceedings in the matter of granting any deed to the land in dispute until the final decision in such suit; and upon presentation of a certified copy of the final judgment of such court in such action, the council must cause to be executed and delivered a deed of such premises, in accordance with the judgment, adjudging the claimant to have been an occupant of any particular lot or lots at the time of the entry of such townsite in the United States land office, or to be the successor in interest of such occupant. If in any action brought under this chapter, or under said acts of congress, the right to the ground in controversy shall not be established by either party, the court or jury shall so find and judgment shall be entered accordingly. In such case costs shall not be allowed to either party, and neither party shall be entitled to a deed to the ground in controversy, and in such action it shall be incumbent upon each claimant to establish that he, she, or it was an occupant of the ground in controversy within the meaning of the said acts of congress at the time of the entry of said townsite in the United States land office, or is the successor in interest of such occupant. [2010 c 8 § 18010; 1909 c 231 § 14; RRS § 11498. Prior: 1888 c 124 pp 216-220.]

*Proof of right—Costs upon failure of both conflicting parties: RCW 58.28.360.*

**58.28.150 Notice of filing patent—Abandonment of claim.** The said council must give public notice by advertising for four weeks in a newspaper published in said city or town, or, if there be no newspaper published in said city or town, then by publication in some newspaper having general circulation in such city or town, and not less than five written or printed notices must be posted in public places within the limits of such city or townsite; such notice must state that patent for said townsite (or certified copy thereof) has been filed in the county auditor's office. If any person, company, association or any other claimant of lands in such city or town fails, neglects or refuses to make application to the council for a deed of conveyance to the lands so claimed, and to pay the sums of money specified in this chapter, within three months after filing of such patent, or a certified copy thereof, in the office of the county auditor, shall be deemed to have abandoned the same and to have forfeited all right, title and interest therein or thereto both in law and in equity as against the trustee of said townsite, and such abandoned or forfeited lot or lots shall be sold as unoccupied lands, and the proceeds thereof placed in the special fund in this chapter mentioned. [1909 c 231 § 15; RRS § 11499. Prior: 1888 c 124 pp 216-220.]

**58.28.160 Sale of unoccupied lots—Notice—Minimum price.** All lots in such city or townsite which were unoccupied at the time of the entry of said townsite in the United States land office shall be sold by the corporate authorities of such city or town, or under their direction, at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, each lot to be sold separately, and notice of such sale or sales shall be given by posting five written or printed notices in public places

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within said townsite, giving the time and particular place of sale, which notices must be posted for at least thirty days prior to the date of said sale, and by publishing a like notice for four consecutive weeks prior to such sale in a newspaper published in such city or town, or, if no such newspaper be published in such city or town, then in some newspaper having general circulation in such city or town, and deeds shall be given therefor to the several purchasers: PROVIDED, That no such unoccupied lot shall be sold for less than five dollars in addition to an assessment equivalent to assessment provided in RCW 58.28.090, and all moneys arising from such sale, after deducting the costs and expenses of such sale or sales, shall be placed in the treasury of such city or town. [1909 c 231 § 16; RRS § 11500. Prior: 1888 c 124 pp 216-220.]

**58.28.170 Lands for school and municipal purposes—Funds.** All school lots or parcels of land, reserved or occupied for school purposes, must be conveyed to the school district in which such city or town is situated, without cost or charge of any kind whatever. All lots or parcels of land reserved or occupied for municipal purposes must be conveyed to such city or town without cost or charge of any kind whatever. All expenses necessarily incurred or contracted by the carrying into effect of the provisions of this chapter are a charge against the city or town on behalf of which the work was done, and such expenses necessarily incurred, either before or after the incorporation thereof, shall be paid out of the treasury of such city or town upon the order of the council thereof; and all moneys paid for lands or to defray the expenses of carrying into effect the provisions of this chapter shall be paid into the city or town treasury by the officer or officers receiving the same, and shall constitute a special fund, from which shall be paid all expenses, and the surplus, if any there be, shall be expended under the direction of the city or town council for public improvements in such city or town. [1909 c 231 § 17; RRS § 11501. Prior: 1888 c 124 pp 216-220.]

**58.28.180 Effect of informalities—Certificate or deed as prima facie evidence.** No mere informality, failure or omission on the part of any of the persons or officers named in this chapter invalidates the acts of such person or officer; but every certificate or deed granted to any person pursuant to the provisions of this chapter is prima facie evidence that all preliminary proceedings in relation thereto have been correctly taken and performed, and that the recitals therein are true and correct. [1909 c 231 § 18; RRS § 11502. Prior: 1888 c 124 pp 216-220.]

**58.28.190 Corporate authorities to act promptly.** Such corporate authorities shall promptly execute and perform all duties imposed upon them by the provisions of this chapter. [1909 c 231 § 19; RRS § 11503. Prior: 1888 c 124 pp 216-220.]

**58.28.200 Proof requisite to delivery of deed.** No deed to any lot or parcel of land in such townsite entry shall be made or delivered to any alleged occupant thereof before proof shall have been made under oath showing such claimant to have been an occupant of such lot or parcel of land

within the meaning of said laws of congress at the time of the entry of such townsite at the proper United States land office, but the grantees, heirs, successors in interest or assigns of such occupant of any lot, as such, may receive such deed. [1909 c 231 § 20; RRS § 11504. Prior: 1888 c 124 pp 216-220.]

**58.28.201 Title to vacated lots by occupancy and improvements.** See RCW 58.28.510.

**58.28.202 Controversies, by whom settled—Review.** See RCW 58.28.520.

**58.28.203 Platted lands declared dedicated to public use.** See RCW 58.28.440.

**58.28.204 Appeals—Procedure.** See RCW 58.28.490.

#### UNINCORPORATED TOWNS ON UNITED STATES LAND

**58.28.210 Unincorporated towns on United States land—Superior court judge to file claim.** It is the duty of the judge of the superior court of any county in this state to enter at the proper land office of the United States such quantity of land as the inhabitants of any unincorporated town, situate upon lands the legal and equitable title to which is in the United States of America, or situate upon public lands of the United States within the county wherein such superior court is held, may be entitled to claim in the aggregate, according to their population, in the manner required by the laws of the United States, and valid regulations prescribed by the secretary of the interior of the United States, and to make and sign all necessary declaratory statements, certificates and affidavits, or other instruments requisite to carry into effect the intentions of this chapter, and the intention of the act of congress of the United States entitled "An act for the relief of the inhabitants of cities and towns upon the public lands," approved March 2, 1867, and all acts of congress amendatory thereof and supplemental thereto, and to file in the proper United States land office a proper application in writing, describing the tracts of land on which such unincorporated town is situated, and all lands entitled to be embraced in such government townsite entry, and make proof and payment for such tracts of land in the manner required by law. [1909 c 231 § 21; RRS § 11505. Prior: 1888 c 124 pp 216-220.]

**58.28.220 Petition to superior court judge—Contents—Procedure.** The judge of the superior court of any county in this state, whenever he or she is so requested by a petition signed by not less than five residents, householders in any such unincorporated town, whose names appear upon the assessment roll for the year preceding such application in the county wherein such unincorporated town is situated—which petition shall set forth the existence, name, and locality of such town, whether such town is situated on surveyed or unsurveyed lands, and if on surveyed lands an accurate description according to the government survey of the legal subdivisions sought to be entered as a government townsite must be stated; the estimated number of its inhabitants; the

approximate number of separate lots or parcels of land within such townsite, and the amount of land to which they are entitled under such acts of congress—must estimate the cost of entering such land, and of the survey, platting, and recording of the same, and must endorse such estimate upon such petition, and upon receiving from any of the parties interested the amount of money mentioned in such estimate, the said judge may cause an enumeration of the inhabitants of such town to be made by some competent person, exhibiting therein the names of all persons residing in said proposed townsite and the names of occupants of lots, lands, or premises within such townsite, alphabetically arranged, verified by his or her oath, and cause such enumeration to be presented to such judge. [2010 c 8 § 18011; 1909 c 231 § 22; RRS § 11506. Prior: 1888 c 124 pp 216-220.]

**58.28.230 Survey and plat—Boundaries—Monuments.** Such judge must thereupon cause a survey to be made by some competent person, of the lands which the inhabitants of said town may be entitled to claim under said acts of congress, located according to the legal subdivisions of the sections according to the government survey thereof, and the same must be distinctly marked by suitable monuments; such survey must further particularly designate all streets, roads, lanes, and alleys, public squares, churches, school lots, cemeteries, commons, and levees, as the same exist and have been heretofore dedicated, in any manner to public use, and by measurement the precise boundaries and area of each and every lot or parcel of land and premises claimed by any person, corporation, or association within said townsite must, as far as known by the surveyor, be designated on the plat, showing the name or names of the possessor, occupant or claimant; and in case of any disputed claim as to lots, lands, premises or boundaries, the said surveyor, if the same be demanded by any person, shall designate the lines in different color from the body of the plat of such part of any premises so disputed or claimed adversely; said surveyor shall survey, lay out and plat all of said lands, whether occupied or not, into lots, blocks, streets and alleys. [1909 c 231 § 23; RRS § 11507. Prior: 1888 c 124 pp 216-220.]

**58.28.240 Plats—Filing.** The plat thereof must be made in triplicate on a scale of not less than eighty feet to an inch, which must be duly certified under oath by the surveyor, one of which must be filed with the county auditor of the county wherein such unincorporated town is situated, one must be deposited in the proper United States land office, and one with such judge. These plats shall constitute public records, and must each be accompanied by a copy of the field notes, and the county auditor must make a record of such plat in a book to be kept by him or her for that purpose, and such county auditor must file such copy of said field notes in his or her office. The said surveyor must number and survey the blocks as divided by the roads, and streets opened and generally used and for which a public necessity exists, at the time of making such survey, and must number the several lots consecutively in each block, and all other parcels of land within said unincorporated town as herein provided, which said numbers must be a sufficient description of any parcel of land represented on said plats. Said survey and plat thereof shall conform as nearly as may be to the existing rights, interest,

and claims of the occupants thereof, but no lot in the center or business portion of said unincorporated town shall exceed in area four thousand two hundred feet, and no suburban lot in such unincorporated town shall exceed two acres in area. [2010 c 8 § 18012; 1909 c 231 § 24; RRS § 11508. Prior: 1888 c 124 pp 216-220.]

**58.28.250 Survey, notice of—Bids for—Franchises continued.** Before proceeding to make such survey, at least ten days' notice thereof must be given, by posting within the limits of such townsite, not less than five written or printed notices of the time when such survey shall commence, or by publication thereof in a newspaper published in said town, if one there be. The survey of said townsite must be made to the best advantage and at the least expense to the holders, claimants, possessors and occupants thereof. The said judge is hereby authorized and directed to receive bids for such surveying, platting and furnishing copies of the field notes, and to let the same by contract to the lowest competent bidder: PROVIDED, That the possessors, owners, or claimants of waterworks, electric light, telegraph, telephone, pipe or power lines, sewers, irrigating ditches, drainage ditches, and like or similar property located in such townsites or in the roads, streets, alleys or highways therein or in other public places in such townsite, shall be maintained and protected in the same as the same shall exist at the time of the entry in the United States land office of the land embraced in such government townsite, and the right to continue to use such property, for the purposes for which said property was intended, is hereby acknowledged and confirmed. [1909 c 231 § 25; RRS § 11509. Prior: 1888 c 124 pp 216-220.]

**58.28.260 Contents of plat.** Such plat must show as follows:

(1) All streets, alleys, avenues, roads and highways, and the width thereof.

(2) All parks, squares and all other ground reserved for public uses, with the boundaries and dimensions thereof.

(3) All lots and blocks, with their boundaries, designating such lots and blocks by numbers, and giving the dimensions of every lot.

(4) The angles of intersection of all boundary lines of the lots and block, whenever the angle of intersection is not a right angle.

(5) The location of all stone or iron monuments set to establish street lines.

(6) The exterior boundaries of the piece of land so platted, giving such boundaries by true courses and distances.

(7) The location of all section corners, or legal subdivision corners of sections within the limits of said plat.

(8) In case no such section or subdivision corners are within the limits of the plat, it must show a connection line to some corner or initial point of the government surveys, or a government mineral monument, if there be any within one mile of such townsite. All distances marked on the plat must be in feet and decimals of a foot. [1909 c 231 § 26; RRS § 11510. Prior: 1888 c 124 pp 216-220.]

**58.28.270 Monuments—Location, placement requirements.** Such surveyor must mark all corners of blocks or lots shown on the plat by substantial stakes or monuments, and

must set stone or iron monuments at the points of intersection of the center lines of all the streets, where practicable, or as near as possible to such points, and their location must be shown by marking on the plat the distances to the block corners adjacent thereto. The top of such monument must be placed one foot below the surface of the ground, and in size must be at least six inches by six inches by six inches, and be placed in the ground to the depth of one foot. [1909 c 231 § 27; RRS § 11511. Prior: 1888 c 124 pp 216-220.]

**58.28.280 Monuments—Markings—Surveyor's certificate on plat.** If a stone is used as a monument it must have a cross cut in the top at the point of intersection of center lines of streets, or a hole may be drilled in the stone to mark such point. If an iron monument is used it must be at least two inches in diameter by two and one-half feet in length, and may be either solid iron or pipe. The dimensions of the monuments must be marked on the plat, and reference thereto made in the field notes, and establish permanently the lines of all the streets. The surveyor must make and subscribe on the plat a certificate that such survey was made in accordance with the provisions of this chapter, stating the date of survey, and verify the same by his or her oath. [2010 c 8 § 18013; 1909 c 231 § 28; RRS § 11512. Prior: 1888 c 124 pp 216-220.]

**58.28.290 Plats filed—Auditor's fee.** All such plats must be made on mounted drawing paper, and filed and recorded in the office of the county auditor, and he or she must keep the original plat for public inspection. The fee of such county auditor for filing and recording each of such plats, and the field notes accompanying the same shall be the sum of ten dollars. [2010 c 8 § 18014; 1909 c 231 § 29; RRS § 11513. Prior: 1888 c 124 pp 216-220.]

**58.28.300 Assessments—Disposition—Employment of attorney authorized.** Each lot or parcel of said lands having thereon valuable improvements or buildings ordinarily used as dwellings or for business purposes, not exceeding one-tenth of one acre in area, shall be rated and assessed by the said judge at the sum of one dollar; each lot or parcel of such lands exceeding one-tenth, and not exceeding one-eighth of one acre in area, shall be rated and assessed at the sum of one dollar and fifty cents; each lot or parcel of such lands exceeding in area one-eighth of one acre and not exceeding one-quarter of an acre in area, shall be rated and assessed at the sum of two dollars; and each lot or parcel of such lands exceeding one-quarter of an acre and not exceeding one-half of one acre in area, shall be rated and assessed at the sum of two dollars and fifty cents; and each lot or parcel of land so improved, exceeding one-half acre in area, shall be assessed at the rate of two dollars and fifty cents for each half an acre or fractional part over half an acre; and every lot or parcel of land enclosed, which may not otherwise be improved, claimed by any person, corporation, or association, shall be rated and assessed at the rate of two dollars per acre or fractional part over an acre; and where upon one parcel of land there shall be two or more separate buildings occupied or used ordinarily as dwellings or for business purposes, each such building, for the purposes of this section, shall be considered as standing on a separate lot of land; but

the whole of such premises may be conveyed in one deed; which moneys so assessed must constitute a fund from which must be reimbursed or paid the moneys necessary to pay the government of the United States for said townsite lands, and interest thereon, if such moneys have been loaned or advanced for the purpose and expenses of their location, entry and purchase, and cost and expenses attendant upon the making of such survey, plats, publishing and recording, including a reasonable attorney's fee for legal services necessarily performed, and the persons or occupants in such townsite procuring said townsite entry to be made, may employ an attorney to assist them in so doing and to assist such judge in the execution of his or her trust, and he or she shall be allowed by such judge out of said fund a reasonable compensation for his or her services. [2010 c 8 § 18015; 1909 c 231 § 30; RRS § 11514. Prior: 1888 c 124 pp 216-200.]

**58.28.310 Notice of possession filed—Assessment and fee—Certificate—Judge's record.** Every person, company, corporation, or association, claimant of any town lot or parcel of land, within the limits of such townsite, must present to such judge within three months after the patent (or a certified copy thereof), from the United States has been filed in the office of the county auditor, his, her, or its affidavit, (or by guardian or next friend where the claimant is under disability), verified in person, or by duly authorized agent or attorney, guardian or next friend, in which must be concisely stated the facts constituting the possession or right of possession of the claimant and that the claimant is entitled to the possession thereof and to a deed therefor as against all other persons or claimants, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, and in which must be stated who was an occupant of such lot or parcel of land at the time of the entry of such townsite at the United States land office, to which must be attached a copy of so much of the plat of said townsite as will fully exhibit the particular lots or parcels of land so claimed; and every such claimant, at the time of presenting and filing such affidavit with said judge, must pay to such judge such sum of money as said judge shall certify to be due for the assessment mentioned in RCW 58.28.300, together with the further sum of four dollars, to be appropriated to the payment of cost and expenses incurred in carrying out the provisions of this chapter, and the said judge must thereupon give to such claimant a certificate, signed by him or her and attested by the seal of the superior court, containing a description of the lot or parcel of land claimed, and setting forth the amounts paid thereon by such claimant. Such judge must procure a bound book for each unincorporated government townsite in his or her county wherein he or she must make proper entries of the substantial matters contained in such certificate issued by him or her, numbering the same in consecutive order, setting forth the name of the claimant or claimants in full, date of issue, and description of the lot or lands claimed. [2010 c 8 § 18016; 1909 c 231 § 31; RRS § 11515. Prior: 1888 c 124 pp 216-220.]

**58.28.320 Deficiency assessment—When payable.** If it is found that the amounts hereinbefore specified as assessments and fees for costs and expenses, prove to be insufficient to cover and defray all the necessary expenses, the said judge must estimate the deficiency and assess such defi-

ciency pro rata upon all the lots and parcels of land in such government townsite, and declare the same upon the basis set down in RCW 58.28.300; which additional amount, if any, may be paid by the claimant at the time when the certificate hereinbefore mentioned, or at the time when the deed of conveyance hereinafter provided for, is issued. [1909 c 231 § 32; RRS § 11516. Prior: 1888 c 124 pp 216-220.]

**58.28.330 Deed to claimants—Actions contesting title, limitations on.** At the expiration of six months after the time of filing such patent, or certified copy thereof, in the office of the county auditor, if there has been no adverse claim filed in the meantime, said judge must execute and deliver to such claimant or to his, her, its or their heirs, executor, administrator, grantee, successor or assigns a good and sufficient deed of the premises described in the application of the claimant originally filed, if proper proof shall have been made, which said deed must be signed and acknowledged by such judge as trustee, and attested by the seal of the superior court. No conveyance of any such lands made as in this chapter provided, concludes the rights of third persons; but such third persons may have their action in the premises, to determine their alleged interest in such lands, and their right to the legal title thereto, against such grantee, his, her, its or their heirs, executors, administrators, successors or assigns, to which they may deem themselves entitled, either in law or in equity; but no action for the recovery or possession of such premises, or any portion thereof, or to establish the right to the legal title thereto, must be maintained in any court against the grantee named therein, or against his, her, its or their heirs, executors, administrators, successors or assigns, unless such action shall be commenced within six months after such deed shall have been filed for record in the office of the county auditor of the county where such lands are situated; nothing herein shall be construed to extend the time of limitation prescribed by law for the commencement of actions upon a possessory claim or title to real estate, when such action is barred by law at the time of the taking effect of this chapter. [1909 c 231 § 33; RRS § 11517. Prior: 1888 c 124 pp 216-220.]

**58.28.340 Entries on mineral lands—Rights of claimants.** Townsite entries may be made by such judge on mineral lands of the United States, but no title shall be acquired by such judge to any vein of gold, silver, cinnabar, copper or lead, or to any valid mining claim or possession held under existing laws. When mineral veins are possessed within the limits of an unincorporated town, and such possession is recognized by local authority, or by the laws of the United States, the title to town lots shall be subject to such recognized possession and the necessary use thereof, and when entry has been made or patent issued for such townsite to such judge, the possessor of such mineral vein may enter and receive patent for such mineral vein, and the surface ground appertaining thereto: PROVIDED, That no entry shall be made by such mineral vein claimant for surface ground where the owner or occupier of the surface ground shall have had possession of the same before the inception of the title of the mineral vein applicant. [1909 c 231 § 34; RRS § 11518. Prior: 1888 c 124 pp 216-220.]



**58.28.350 Conflicting claims—Procedure.** In all cases of adverse claims or disputes arising out of conflicting claims to land or concerning boundary lines, the adverse claimants may submit the decision thereof to said judge by an agreement in writing specifying particularly the subject matter in dispute and may agree that his or her decision shall be final. The said judge must hear the proofs, and shall execute a deed or deny the execution of a deed in accordance with the facts; but in all other cases of adverse claims the party out of possession shall commence his or her action in a court of competent jurisdiction within six months after the filing of the patent (or a certified copy thereof) from the United States, in the office of the county auditor. In case such action be commenced within the time herein limited, the plaintiff must serve notice of lis pendens upon such judge, who must thereupon stay all proceedings in the matter of granting or executing any deed to the land in dispute until the final decision in such suit; upon presentation of a certified copy of the final judgment in such action, such judge must execute and deliver a deed of the premises, in accordance with the judgment, adjudging the claimant to have been an occupant of any particular lot or lots at the time of the entry of such townsite in the United States land office, or to be the successor in interest of such occupant. [2010 c 8 § 18017; 1909 c 231 § 35; RRS § 11519. Prior: 1888 c 124 pp 216-220.]

**58.28.360 Proof of right—Costs upon failure of both conflicting parties.** If in any action brought under this chapter, or under said acts of congress, the right to the ground in controversy shall not be established by either party, the court or jury shall so find and judgment shall be entered accordingly. In such case costs shall not be allowed to either party, and neither party shall be entitled to a deed to the ground in controversy, and in such action it shall be incumbent upon each claimant or claimants to establish that he, she, it or they, was or were, an occupant of the ground in controversy within the meaning of said acts of congress at the time of the entry of said townsite in the United States land office, or is or are the successor, or successors in interest of such occupant. [1909 c 231 § 36; RRS § 11520. Prior: 1888 c 124 pp 216-220.]

*Conflicting claims—Procedure: RCW 58.28.140.*

**58.28.370 Notice of filing patent.** Said judge must promptly give public notice by advertising for four weeks in any newspaper published in such town, or if there be no newspaper published in such town, then by publication in some newspaper having general circulation in such town, and not less than five written or printed notices must be posted in public places within the limits of such townsite; such notice must state that the patent for said townsite (or a certified copy thereof) has been filed in the county auditor's office. [1909 c 231 § 37; RRS § 11521. Prior: 1888 c 124 pp 216-220.]

**58.28.380 Abandonment of claim.** If any person, company, association, or any other claimant of lands in such townsite fails, neglects or refuses to make application to said judge for a deed of conveyance to said land so claimed, and pay the sums of money specified in this chapter, within three months after the filing of such patent, or a certified copy thereof, in the office of the county auditor, shall be deemed to

have abandoned the claim to such land and to have forfeited all right, title, claim and interest therein or thereto both in law and in equity as against the trustee of said townsite, and such abandoned or forfeited lot or lots may be sold by such trustee as unoccupied lands, and the proceeds thereof placed in the fund heretofore mentioned in this chapter. [1909 c 231 § 38; RRS § 11522. Prior: 1888 c 124 pp 216-220.]

**58.28.390 Sale of unoccupied lots—Notice—Minimum price.** All lots in such townsite which were unoccupied within the meaning of the said acts of congress at the time of the entry of said townsite in the United States land office shall be sold by such judge or under his or her direction, at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, each lot to be sold separately, and notice of such sale, or sales, shall be given by posting five written or printed notices in public places within said townsite, giving the time and particular place of sale, which notices must be posted at least thirty days prior to the date of any such sale, and by publishing a like notice for four consecutive weeks prior to any such sale in a newspaper published in such town, or if no newspaper be published in such town, then in some newspaper having general circulation in such town. And deed shall be given therefor to the several purchasers: PROVIDED, That no such unoccupied lot shall be sold for less than five dollars in addition to an assessment equivalent to assessment provided for in RCW 58.28.300, and all moneys arising from such sale or sales after deducting the cost and expenses of such sale or sales shall be placed in the fund hereinbefore mentioned. [2010 c 8 § 18018; 1909 c 231 § 39; RRS § 11523. Prior: 1888 c 124 pp 216-220.]

**58.28.400 Lands for school and public purposes—Expenses as charge against fund.** All school lots or parcels of land reserved or occupied for school purposes, must be conveyed to the school district in which such town is situated without cost or charge of any kind whatever. All lots or parcels of land reserved or occupied for public purposes must be set apart and dedicated to such public purposes without cost or charge of any kind whatever. All expenses necessarily incurred or contracted by the carrying into effect of the provisions of this chapter or said acts of congress are a charge against the fund herein provided for. [1909 c 231 § 40; RRS § 11524. Prior: 1888 c 124 pp 216-220.]

**58.28.410 Disposition of excess money—Special fund.** Any sum of money remaining in said fund after defraying all necessary expenses of location, entry, surveying, platting, advertising, filing and recording, reimbursement of moneys loaned or advanced and paying the cost and expenses herein authorized and provided for must be deposited in the county treasury by such judge to the credit of a special fund of each particular town, and kept separate by the county treasurer to be paid out by him or her only upon the written order of such judge in payment for making public improvements, or for public purposes, in such town. [2010 c 8 § 18019; 1909 c 231 § 41; RRS § 11525. Prior: 1888 c 124 pp 216-220.]

**58.28.420 Effect of informalities—Certificate or deed as prima facie evidence.** No mere informality, failure, or

omission on the part of any persons or officers named in this chapter invalidates the acts of such person or officers; but every certificate or deed granted to any person pursuant to the provisions of this chapter is prima facie evidence that all preliminary proceedings in relation thereto have been taken and performed and that the recitals therein are true and correct. [1909 c 231 § 42; RRS § 11526. Prior: 1888 c 124 pp 216-220.]

**58.28.430 Proof requisite to delivery of deed.** No deed to any lot in such unincorporated town or unincorporated government townsite entry shall be made or delivered to any alleged occupant thereof before proof shall have been made under oath, showing such claimant to have been an occupant of such lot or parcel of land within the meaning of said laws of congress at the time of the entry of such townsite at the proper United States land office, but the grantees, heirs, executors, administrators, successors in interest or assigns of such occupant of any lot, as such, may receive such deed. [1909 c 231 § 43; RRS § 11527. Prior: 1888 c 124 pp 216-220.]

**58.28.440 Platted lands declared dedicated to public use.** All streets, roads, lanes and alleys, public squares, cemeteries, parks, levees, school lots, and commons, surveyed, marked and platted, on the map of any townsite, as prescribed and directed by the provisions of this chapter, are hereby declared to be dedicated to public use, by the filing of such town plat in the office of the county auditor, and are inalienable, unless by special order of the board of commissioners of the county, so long as such town shall remain unincorporated; and if such town at any time thereafter becomes incorporated, the same becomes the property of such town or city, and must be under the care and subject to the control of the council or other municipal authority of such town or city. [1909 c 231 § 44; RRS § 11528. Prior: 1888 c 124 pp 216-220.]

**58.28.450 Clerk's duties when judge trustee.** All clerical work under this chapter where a judge of the superior court is trustee must be performed by the clerk of the superior court. [1909 c 231 § 45; RRS § 11529. Prior: 1888 c 124 pp 216-220.]

**58.28.460 Accounting and depositing money—Promptness.** Such judge when fulfilling the duties imposed upon him or her by said acts of congress, and by this chapter, must keep a correct account of all moneys received and paid out by him or her. He or she must deposit all surplus money with the treasurer of the proper county, and he or she must promptly settle up all the affairs relating to his or her trust pertaining to such town. [2010 c 8 § 18020; 1909 c 231 § 46; RRS § 11530. Prior: 1888 c 124 pp 216-220.]

**58.28.470 Records filed with county clerk.** Whenever the affairs pertaining to such trust shall be finally settled and disposed of by such judge, he or she shall deposit all books and papers relating thereto in the office of the county clerk of the proper county to be thereafter kept in the custody of such county clerk as public records, and the county clerk's fee, for the use of his or her county therefor, shall be the sum of ten

dollars. [2010 c 8 § 18021; 1909 c 231 § 47; RRS § 11531. Prior: 1888 c 124 pp 216-220.]

**58.28.480 Judge, a trustee for purposes herein.** Every such judge when fulfilling the duties imposed upon him or her by said acts of congress, and by this chapter, shall be deemed and held to be acting as a trustee for the purposes of fulfilling the purposes of said acts and not as a superior court, and such judge shall be deemed to be disqualified to sit as judge of such superior court in any action or proceeding wherein is involved the execution of such trust or rights involved therein. [2010 c 8 § 18022; 1909 c 231 § 48; RRS § 11532. Prior: 1888 c 124 pp 216-220.]

**58.28.490 Appellate review—Procedure.** Appellate review of the judgment or orders of the superior court in all cases arising under this chapter or said acts of congress may be sought as in other civil cases. [1988 c 202 § 54; 1971 c 81 § 127; 1909 c 231 § 49; RRS § 11533. Prior: 1888 c 124 pp 216-220.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**58.28.500 Succession of trust.** The successors in office of such superior court judge shall be his or her successors as trustee of such trust. [2010 c 8 § 18023; 1909 c 231 § 51; RRS § 11534. Prior: 1888 c 124 pp 216-220.]

**58.28.510 Title to vacated lots by occupancy and improvements.** The judge of the superior court of any county is hereby declared to be the successor as trustee of any territorial probate judge in such county who was trustee under any such acts of congress, and may as such succeeding trustee perform any unperformed duties of his or her predecessor in office as such trustee, agreeably to the provisions of this chapter as nearly as may be. And when entry was made by any such probate judge under any of said acts of congress and subsequent to such entry, the city or town situated upon such townsite entry has been incorporated according to law, and the corporate authorities thereof have or have attempted to vacate any common, plaza, public square, public park, or the like, in such government townsite, and where thereafter, any person, or corporation, has placed permanent improvements on such land so vacated or attempted to be vacated, exceeding in value the sum of five thousand dollars, with the knowledge, consent, or acquiescence of the corporate authorities of such city or town and with the general consent and approval of the inhabitants of said city or town and such improvements have been made for more than five years and such person or corporation making such improvements has been in the open, notorious, and peaceable possession of such lands and premises for a period of more than five years, such superior court judge, as trustee, of such government townsite, and successor as trustee to such judge of probate, trustee of such government townsite, shall have the power and authority to make and deliver to such person or corporation, or to his, her, or its heirs, executors, administrators, successors, or assigns, a deed for such lands and premises, conveying a fee simple title to such lands and premises upon such terms and for such price as he or she shall deem just and reasonable under all the facts and surrounding circumstances of the case, and the consideration paid for such deed, one dollar or more,

shall be placed in the city or town treasury of such city or town, in the general fund. [2010 c 8 § 18024; 1909 c 231 § 52; RRS § 11535. Prior: 1888 c 124 pp 216-220.]

**58.28.520 Controversies, by whom settled—Review.**

Except as hereinbefore specially provided, the city or town council in incorporated cities and towns, and the judge of the superior court, as trustee, in cases of unincorporated government townsites, are hereby expressly given power and jurisdiction to hear and determine all questions arising under this chapter and under said acts of congress and the right to ascertain who were the occupants of lots in such government townsites at the time of the entry thereof in the United States land office, and to determine from sworn testimony who are and who are not entitled to deeds of conveyance to specific lots in such government townsite, subject to review by courts of competent jurisdiction. [1909 c 231 § 53; RRS § 11536. Prior: 1888 c 124 pp 216-220.]

