

# Title 36

## COUNTIES

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*Uniform system of accounting: Chapter 43.09 RCW.*

*Validation of bonds and financing proceedings: Chapter 39.90 RCW.*

*Vehicle wreckers' licensing, county to comply with: RCW 46.80.160.*

**Veterans**

*in business, peddling, county licensing limitations: RCW 73.04.050 through 73.04.060.*

*indigent and deceased, burial as county responsibility: RCW 73.08.070.*

*public officials duty as considered leave of absence: RCW 73.16.041.*

*scoring criteria status in county employment reemployment: RCW 41.04.010, Chapter 73.16 RCW.*

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*meeting hall, county may furnish free of charge: RCW 73.04.070.*

*meeting place, rent from county funds: RCW 73.04.080.*

*relief as county responsibility: Chapter 73.08 RCW.*

*Vital statistics: Chapter 70.58A RCW.*

**Wages**

*deductions and rebates, application to counties: Chapter 49.52 RCW.*

*payment and collection of, county employee exclusion: RCW 49.48.080.*

*rebates of on public works, penalty: RCW 49.52.090.*

*Warrants, interest rate on: RCW 39.56.020, 39.56.030.*

*Water pollution control, county application: Chapter 90.48 RCW.*

**Water rights**

*appropriation of by counties; procedure: Chapter 90.03 RCW.*

*United States, county application: Chapter 90.40 RCW.*

*Wharves, counties may authorize and prescribe rates: RCW 88.24.020.*

*Workers' compensation, county coverage: RCW 51.12.050.*

*World fair or exposition, county participation: Chapter 35.60 RCW.*

**36.01.010 Corporate powers.** The several counties in this state shall have capacity as bodies corporate, to sue and be sued in the manner prescribed by law; to purchase and hold lands; to make such contracts, and to purchase and hold such personal property, as may be necessary to their corporate or administrative powers, and to do all other necessary acts in relation to all the property of the county. [1986 c 278 § 1; 1963 c 4 § 36.01.010. Prior: Code 1881 § 2653; 1863 p 538 § 1; 1854 p 329 § 1; RRS § 3982.]

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

**36.01.020 Corporate name.** The name of a county, designated by law, is its corporate name, and it must be known and designated thereby in all actions and proceedings touching its corporate rights, property, and duties. [1963 c 4 § 36.01.020. Prior: Code 1881 § 2654; RRS § 3983.]

**36.01.030 Powers—How exercised.** Its powers can only be exercised by the county commissioners, or by agents or officers acting under their authority or authority of law. [1963 c 4 § 36.01.030. Prior: Code 1881 § 2655; RRS § 3984.]

**36.01.040 Conveyances for use of county.** Every conveyance of lands, or transfer of other property, made in any manner for the use of any county, shall have the same force and effect as if made to the county in its proper and corporate name. [1963 c 4 § 36.01.040. Prior: Code 1881 § 2656; 1863 p 538 § 2; 1854 p 329 § 2; RRS § 3985.]

**36.01.050 Venue of actions by or against counties.** (1) All actions against any county may be commenced in the superior court of such county, or in the superior court of either of the two nearest judicial districts. All actions by any county shall be commenced in the superior court of the county in which the defendant resides, or in either of the two judicial districts nearest to the county bringing the action.

(2) The determination of the nearest judicial districts is measured by the travel time between county seats using major surface routes, as determined by the administrative office of the courts.

(3) Any provision in a public works contract with any county that requires actions arising under the contract to be commenced in the superior court of the county is against public policy and the provision is void and unenforceable. This

subsection shall not be construed to void any contract provision requiring a dispute arising under the contract to be submitted to arbitration. [2015 c 138 § 1; 2005 c 282 § 42; 2000 c 244 § 1; 1997 c 401 § 1; 1963 c 4 § 36.01.050. Prior: 1854 p 329 § 6; No RRS.]

**36.01.060 County liable for certain court costs.** Each county shall be liable to pay the per diem and mileage, or other compensation in lieu thereof, to jurors of the county attending the superior court; the fees of the sheriff for maintaining prisoners charged with crimes, and the sheriff's costs in conveying them to and from the court, as well as their board while there; the per diem and mileage, or such other compensation as is allowed in lieu thereof, of the sheriff of the county, when in criminal cases the sheriff is required to attend or travel to the superior court out of the limits of the sheriff's county; the costs in criminal cases taken from the courts of limited jurisdiction to the superior court; but no such claims shall be paid by the treasurer unless the particular items are approved by the judge and certified by the clerk under the seal of the court. For the time or travel which may be paid by the parties or United States, no payment from the county shall be allowed, and no officer, juror, or witness shall receive from the county double pay as a per diem for the same time, or as traveling expenses or mileage for the same travel, in however many different capacities or in however many different causes they may be summoned, notified, or called upon to testify or attend in. [1987 c 202 § 200; 1963 c 4 § 36.01.060. Prior: Code 1881 § 2110; 1869 p 420 § 9; 1863 p 425 § 10; 1857 p 22 § 10; RRS § 508.]

**Intent—1987 c 202:** See note following RCW 2.04.190.

**36.01.070 Probation and parole services.** Notwithstanding the provisions of chapter 72.01 RCW or any other provision of law, counties may engage in probation and parole services and employ personnel therefor under such terms and conditions as any such county shall so determine. If a county elects to assume responsibility for the supervision of superior court misdemeanor offenders placed on probation under RCW 9.92.060 or 9.95.210, the county may contract with other counties to receive or provide such probation services. A county may also enter into partnership agreements with the department of corrections under RCW 72.09.300. [1996 c 298 § 7; 1967 c 200 § 9.]

*Indeterminate sentences: Chapter 9.95 RCW.*

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

**36.01.080 Parking facilities—Construction, operation and rental charges.** Counties may construct, maintain, operate and collect rentals for parking facilities as a part of a courthouse or combined county-city building facility. [1969 ex.s. c 8 § 1.]

*Revenue bonds for parking facilities: RCW 36.67.520.*

**36.01.085 Economic development programs.** It shall be in the public purpose for all counties to engage in economic development programs. In addition, counties may contract with nonprofit corporations in furtherance of this and other acts relating to economic development. [1985 c 92 § 2.]

**36.01.090 Tourist promotion.** See RCW 36.32.450.

**36.01.095 Emergency medical services—Authorized—Fees.** Any county may establish a system of emergency medical service as defined by RCW 18.73.030(11). The county legislative authority may adopt by resolution procedures to collect reasonable fees in order to reimburse the county in whole or in part for its costs of providing such service: PROVIDED, That any county which provides emergency medical services supported by an excess levy may waive such charges for service: PROVIDED FURTHER, That whenever the county legislative authority determines that the county or a substantial portion of the county is not adequately served by existing private ambulance service, and existing private ambulance service cannot be encouraged to expand service on a contract basis, the emergency medical service that is established by the county shall not be deemed to compete with any existing private ambulance service as provided for in RCW 36.01.100. [1975 1st ex.s. c 147 § 1.]

**36.01.100 Ambulance service authorized—Restriction.** The legislative authority of any county may by appropriate legislation provide for the establishment of a system of ambulance service for the entire county or for portions thereof, and award contracts for ambulance service: PROVIDED, That such legislation may not provide for the establishment of any system which would compete with any existing private system. [1972 ex.s. c 89 § 1.]

**36.01.104 Levy for emergency medical care and services.** See RCW 84.52.069.

**36.01.105 Fire protection, ambulance or other emergency services provided by municipal corporation within county—Financial and other assistance authorized.** See RCW 36.32.470.

**36.01.110 Federal grants and programs—Powers and authority of counties to participate in—Public corporations, commissions or authorities.** See RCW 35.21.730 through 35.21.755.

**36.01.115 Nonpolluting power generation by individual—Exemption from regulation—Authorization to contract with utility.** See chapter 80.58 RCW.

**36.01.120 Foreign trade zones—Legislative finding, intent.** It is the finding of the legislature that foreign trade zones serve an important public purpose by the creation of employment opportunities within the state and that the establishment of zones designed to accomplish this purpose is to be encouraged. It is the further intent of the legislature that the \*department of community, trade, and economic development provide assistance to entities planning to apply to the United States for permission to establish such zones. [1995 c 399 § 40; 1985 c 466 § 44; 1977 ex.s. c 196 § 5.]

**\*Reviser's note:** The "department of community, trade, and economic development" was renamed the "department of commerce" by 2009 c 565.

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

**36.01.125 Foreign trade zones—Authority to apply for permission to establish, operate and maintain.** A county, as zone sponsor, may apply to the United States for

permission to establish, operate, and maintain foreign trade zones: PROVIDED, That nothing herein shall be construed to prevent these zones from being operated and financed by a private corporation(s) on behalf of such county acting as zone sponsor. [1977 ex.s. c 196 § 6.]

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

**36.01.130 Controls on rent for residential structures—Prohibited—Exceptions.** The imposition of controls on rent is of statewide significance and is preempted by the state. No county may enact, maintain or enforce ordinances or other provisions which regulate the amount of rent to be charged for single-family or multiple-unit residential rental structures or sites other than properties in public ownership, under public management, or properties providing low-income rental housing under joint public-private agreements for the financing or provision of such low-income rental housing. This section shall not be construed as prohibiting any county from entering into agreements with private persons which regulate or control the amount of rent to be charged for rental properties. [1991 c 363 § 43; 1981 c 75 § 2.]

**Purpose—Captions not law—1991 c 363:** See notes following RCW 2.32.180.

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

**36.01.150 Facilitating recovery from Mt. St. Helens eruption—Scope of local government action.** All entities of local government and agencies thereof are authorized to take action as follows to facilitate recovery from the devastation of the eruption of Mt. St. Helens:

(1) Cooperate with the state, state agencies, and the United States Army Corps of Engineers and other agencies of the federal government in planning dredge site selection and dredge spoils removal;

(2) Counties and cities may re-zone areas and sites as necessary to facilitate recovery operations;

(3) Counties may manage and maintain lands involved and the deposited dredge spoils; and

(4) Local governments may assist the Army Corps of Engineers in the dredging and dredge spoils deposit operations. [1982 c 7 § 3.]

*Facilitating recovery from Mt. St. Helens eruption—Legislative findings—Purpose: RCW 43.01.200.*

*Scope of state agency action: RCW 43.01.210.*

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

**36.01.160 Penalty for act constituting a crime under state law—Limitation.** Except as limited by the maximum penalty authorized by law, no county may establish a penalty for an act that constitutes a crime under state law that is different from the penalty prescribed for that crime by state statute. [1993 c 83 § 2.]

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

**36.01.170 Administration of trusts benefiting school districts.** Any county authorized by territorial law to administer moneys held in trust for the benefit of school districts within the county, which moneys were bequeathed for such purposes by testamentary provision, may dissolve any trust, the corpus of which does not exceed fifty thousand dollars,

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and distribute any moneys remaining in the trust to school districts within the county. Before dissolving the trust, the county must adopt a resolution finding that conditions have changed and it is no longer feasible for the county to administer the trust. [1998 c 65 § 1.]

**36.01.180 Zoo and aquarium advisory authority—Constitution—Terms.** (1) For any county in which a proposition authorized by RCW 82.14.400 has been passed, there shall be created a zoo and aquarium advisory authority.

(2) The initial board of the authority shall be constituted as follows:

(a) Three members appointed by the county legislative authority to represent unincorporated areas;

(b) Two members appointed by the legislative authority of the city with the largest population within the county; and

(c) Two members jointly appointed by the legislative authorities of the remaining cities within the county representing at least sixty percent of the combined populations of those cities.

(3) Board members shall hold office for whatever terms are determined by their appointing authorities, except that no term may be less than one year nor more than three years, in duration. However, a vacancy may be filled by an appointment for a term less than twelve months in duration. [1999 c 104 § 4.]

**36.01.190 Initial meeting of zoo and aquarium advisory authority—Expenditure of funds—Powers.** (1) Upon certification by the county auditor or, in the case of a home rule county, upon certification by the chief elections officer, that a proposition authorized under the terms of RCW 82.14.400 has received a majority of votes cast on the proposition, the county legislative authority shall convene an initial meeting of the zoo and aquarium advisory authority.

(2) Consistent with any agreement between the local governments specified in RCW 82.14.400(1) in requesting an election, the zoo and aquarium advisory authority has authority to expend such funds as it may receive on those purposes set out in RCW 82.14.400(4). In addition, and consistent with any limitation placed on the powers of the authority in such an agreement, the zoo and aquarium advisory authority may exercise the following powers:

(a) Acquire by purchase, gift, or grant and lease, construct, add to, improve, replace, repair, maintain, operate, and regulate the use of any zoo, aquarium, and wildlife preservation and display facilities and properties, together with all lands, rights-of-way, property, equipment, and accessories necessary for those facilities;

(b) Contract with the United States or any agency thereof, any state or agency thereof, any metropolitan municipal corporation, any other county, city, special district, or governmental agency, and any private person, firm, or corporation for the purpose of receiving gifts or grants or securing loans or advances for preliminary planning and feasibility studies, or for the design, construction, operation, or maintenance of zoo, aquarium, and wildlife preservation and display facilities;

(c) Contract with any governmental agency or with a private person, firm, or corporation for the use by either contracting party of all or any part of the facilities, structures,

lands, interests in lands, air rights over lands, and rights-of-way of all kinds which are owned, leased, or held by the other party, and for the purpose of planning, constructing, or operating any facility or performing any service related to zoos, aquariums, and wildlife preservation and display facilities;

(d) Fix rates and charges for the use of those facilities;

(e) Sue and be sued in its corporate capacity in all courts and in all proceedings. [1999 c 104 § 3.]

**36.01.200 Federal funds designated for state schools—Use limited to reduction of outstanding debt obligations of school districts.** The county legislative authority of any county that receives payment in lieu of taxes and payment equal to tax funds from the United States department of energy under section 168 of the federal atomic energy act of 1954 and nuclear waste policy act of 1982 and that has an agreed settlement or a joint stipulation dated before January 1, 1998, which agreed settlement or joint stipulation includes funds designated for state schools, may direct the county treasurer to distribute those designated funds to reduce the outstanding debt of the school districts within the county. Any such funds shall be divided among the school districts based upon the same percentages that each district's current assessed valuation is of the total assessed value for all eligible school districts if the district has outstanding debt that equals or exceeds the amount of its distribution. If the district does not have outstanding debt that equals or exceeds the amount of its distribution, any amount above the outstanding debt shall be reallocated to the remaining eligible districts. Any funds received before January 1, 1999, shall be distributed using the percentages calculated for 1998. The county treasurer shall apply the funds to any outstanding debt obligation selected by the respective school districts. [1999 c 19 § 1.]

**36.01.210 Rail fixed guideway public transportation system—Safety program plan and security and emergency preparedness plan.** (1) Each county functioning under chapter 36.56 RCW that owns or operates a rail fixed guideway public transportation system as defined in RCW 81.104.015 shall submit a system safety program plan and a system security and emergency preparedness plan for that guideway to the state department of transportation by September 1, 1999, or at least one hundred eighty calendar days before beginning operations or instituting significant revisions to its plans. These plans must describe the county's procedures for (a) reporting and investigating any reportable incident, accident, or security breach and identifying and resolving hazards or security vulnerabilities discovered during planning, design, construction, testing, or operations, (b) developing and submitting corrective action plans and annual safety and security audit reports, (c) facilitating on-site safety and security reviews by the state department of transportation and the federal transit administration, and (d) addressing passenger and employee safety and security. The plans must, at a minimum, conform to the standards adopted by the state department of transportation as set forth in the most current version of the Washington state rail safety oversight program standard manual as it exists on March 25, 2016, or such subsequent date as may be provided by the department by rule, consistent with the purposes of this sec-

tion. If required by the department, the county shall revise its plans to incorporate the department's review comments within sixty days after their receipt, and resubmit its revised plans for review.

(2) Each county functioning under chapter 36.56 RCW shall implement and comply with its system safety program plan and system security and emergency preparedness plan. The county shall perform internal safety and security audits to evaluate its compliance with the plans, and submit its audit schedule to the department of transportation pursuant to the requirements in the most current version of the Washington state rail safety oversight program standard manual as it exists on March 25, 2016, or such subsequent date as may be provided by the department by rule, consistent with the purposes of this section. The county shall prepare an annual report for its internal safety and security audits undertaken in the prior year and submit it to the department no later than February 15th. The department shall establish the requirements for the annual report. The contents of the annual report must include, at a minimum, the dates the audits were conducted, the scope of the audit activity, the audit findings and recommendations, the status of any corrective actions taken as a result of the audit activity, and the results of each audit in terms of the adequacy and effectiveness of the plans.

(3) Each county shall notify the department of transportation, pursuant to the most current version of the Washington state rail safety oversight program standard manual as it exists on March 25, 2016, or such subsequent date as may be provided by the department by rule, consistent with the purposes of this section, any reportable incident, accident, security breach, hazard, or security vulnerability. The department may adopt rules further defining any reportable incident, accident, security breach, hazard, or security vulnerability. The county shall investigate any reportable incident, accident, security breach, hazard, or security vulnerability and provide a written investigation report to the department as described in the most current version of the Washington state rail safety oversight program standard manual as it exists on March 25, 2016, or such subsequent date as may be provided by the department by rule, consistent with the purposes of this section.

(4) The system security and emergency preparedness plan required in subsection (1) of this section is exempt from public disclosure under chapter 42.56 RCW. However, the system safety program plan as described in this section is not subject to this exemption. [2016 c 33 § 4; 2007 c 422 § 3; 2005 c 274 § 268; 1999 c 202 § 3.]

**Effective date—2016 c 33:** See note following RCW 81.104.115.

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

**36.01.220 Mobile home, manufactured home, or park model moving or installing—Copies of permits—Definitions.** (1) A county shall transmit a copy of any permit issued to a tenant or the tenant's agent for a mobile home, manufactured home, or park model installation in a mobile home park to the landlord.

(2) A county shall transmit a copy of any permit issued to a person engaged in the business of moving or installing a mobile home, manufactured home, or park model in a mobile home park to the tenant and the landlord.

(3) As used in this section:



(a) "Landlord" has the same meaning as in RCW 59.20.030;

(b) "Mobile home park" has the same meaning as in RCW 59.20.030;

(c) "Mobile or manufactured home installation" has the same meaning as in \*RCW 43.63B.010; and

(d) "Tenant" has the same meaning as in RCW 59.20.030. [1999 c 359 § 20.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 43.63B.010 was recodified as RCW 43.22A.010 pursuant to 2007 c 432 § 13.

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

**36.01.225 Authority to regulate placement or use of homes—Regulation of manufactured homes—Restrictions on location of manufactured/mobile homes and entry or removal of recreational vehicles used as primary residences.** (1) A county may not adopt an ordinance that has the effect, directly or indirectly, of discriminating against consumers' choices in the placement or use of a home in such a manner that is not equally applicable to all homes. Homes built to 42 U.S.C. Sec. 5401-5403 standards (as amended in 2000) must be regulated for the purposes of siting in the same manner as site built homes, factory built homes, or homes built to any other state construction or local design standard. However, except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, any county may require that:

(a) A manufactured home be a new manufactured home;

(b) The manufactured home be set upon a permanent foundation, as specified by the manufacturer, and that the space from the bottom of the home to the ground be enclosed by concrete or an approved concrete product which can be either load bearing or decorative;

(c) The manufactured home comply with all local design standards applicable to all other homes within the neighborhood in which the manufactured home is to be located;

(d) The home is thermally equivalent to the state energy code; and

(e) The manufactured home otherwise meets all other requirements for a designated manufactured home as defined in RCW 35.63.160.

(2)(a) A county may not adopt an ordinance that has the effect, directly or indirectly, of restricting the location of manufactured/mobile homes in manufactured/mobile home communities, as defined in RCW 59.20.030, which were legally in existence before June 12, 2008, based exclusively on the age or dimensions of the manufactured/mobile home.

(b) A county may not prohibit the siting of a manufactured/mobile home on an existing lot based solely on lack of compliance with existing separation and setback requirements that regulate the distance between homes.

(c) A county is not precluded by (a) or (b) of this subsection from restricting the location of a manufactured/mobile home in manufactured/mobile home communities for any other reason including, but not limited to, failure to comply with fire, safety, or other local ordinances or state laws related to manufactured/mobile homes.

(3) A county may not adopt an ordinance that has the effect, directly or indirectly, of preventing the entry or requiring the removal of a recreational vehicle used as a primary residence in manufactured/mobile home communities, as defined in RCW 59.20.030, unless the recreational vehicle

fails to comply with the fire, safety, or other local ordinances or state laws related to recreational vehicles.

(4) This section does not override any legally recorded covenants or deed restrictions of record.

(5) This section does not affect the authority granted under chapter 43.22 RCW. [2019 c 390 § 16; 2009 c 79 § 3; 2008 c 117 § 3; 2004 c 256 § 4.]

**Finding—Intent—2019 c 390:** See note following RCW 59.21.005.

**Tax preference performance statement and expiration—2019 c 390:** See note following RCW 84.36.560.

**Findings—Intent—Effective date—2004 c 256:** See notes following RCW 35.21.684.

**36.01.227 County may not limit number of unrelated persons occupying a household or dwelling unit—Exceptions.** Except for occupant limits on group living arrangements regulated under state law or on short-term rentals as defined in RCW 64.37.010 and any lawful limits on occupant load per square foot or generally applicable health and safety provisions as established by applicable building code or county ordinance, a county may not regulate or limit the number of unrelated persons that may occupy a household or dwelling unit. [2021 c 306 § 7.]

**36.01.230 Cooperative watershed management.** A county may, acting through the county legislative authority, participate in and expend revenue on cooperative watershed management actions, including watershed management partnerships under RCW 39.34.210 and other intergovernmental agreements, for purposes of water supply, water quality, and water resource and habitat protection and management. [2003 c 327 § 8.]

**Finding—Intent—2003 c 327:** See note following RCW 39.34.190.

**36.01.240 Regulation of financial transactions—Limitations.** A county or governmental entity subject to this title may not regulate the terms, conditions, or disclosures of any lawful financial transaction between a consumer and (1) a business or professional under the jurisdiction of the department of financial institutions, or (2) any financial institution as defined under \*RCW 30.22.041. [2005 c 338 § 4.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 30.22.041 was recodified as RCW 30A.22.041 pursuant to 2014 c 37 § 4, effective January 5, 2015.

**Finding—Intent—2005 c 338:** See note following RCW 35.21.698.

**36.01.250 Environmental mitigation activities.** (1) Any county authorized to acquire and operate utilities or conduct other proprietary or user or ratepayer funded activities may develop and make publicly available a plan for the county to reduce its greenhouse gases emissions or achieve no-net emissions from all sources of greenhouse gases that such county utility or proprietary or user or ratepayer funded activity owns, operates, leases, uses, contracts for, or otherwise controls.

(2) Any county authorized to acquire and operate utilities or conduct other proprietary or user or ratepayer funded activities may, as part of such utility or activity, reduce or mitigate the environmental impacts, such as greenhouse gases emissions, of such utility and other proprietary or user or ratepayer funded activity. The mitigation may include, but is not limited to, all greenhouse gases mitigation mechanisms

recognized by independent, qualified organizations with proven experience in emissions mitigation activities. Mitigation mechanisms may include the purchase, trade, and banking of carbon offsets or credits. Ratepayer funds, fees, or other revenue dedicated to a county utility or other proprietary or user or ratepayer funded activity may be spent to reduce or mitigate the environmental impacts of greenhouse gases emitted as a result of that function. If a state greenhouse gases registry is established, the county that has purchased, traded, or banked greenhouse gases mitigation mechanisms under this section shall receive credit in the registry. [2007 c 349 § 6.]

**Findings—Intent—2007 c 349 § 6:** "The legislature finds and declares that greenhouse gases offset contracts, credits, and other greenhouse gases mitigation efforts are a recognized utility purpose that confers a direct benefit on the utility's ratepayers. The legislature also finds and declares that greenhouse gases offset contracts, credits, and other greenhouse gases mitigation efforts are a recognized purpose of other county proprietary activities that are funded by users and ratepayers, and that such mitigation efforts confer a direct benefit on such payers. The legislature declares that section 6 of this act is intended to reverse the result of *Okeson v. City of Seattle* (January 18, 2007), by expressly granting counties the statutory authority to engage in mitigation activities to offset the impact on the environment of their utilities and certain other proprietary and user and ratepayer funded activities." [2007 c 349 § 5.]

**36.01.260 Urban forestry ordinances.** (1) Any county may adopt urban forestry ordinances, as that term is defined in RCW 76.15.010, which the county must apply to new building or land development in the unincorporated portions of the county's urban growth areas, as that term is defined in RCW 36.70A.030, and may apply to other areas of the county as deemed appropriate by the county.

(2) As an alternative to subsection (1) of this section, a city or town may request that the county in which it is located apply to any new building or land development permit in the unincorporated portions of the urban growth areas, as defined in RCW 36.70A.030, the urban forestry ordinances standards adopted under RCW 76.15.090 by the city or town in the county located closest to the proposed building or development. [2021 c 209 § 20; 2008 c 299 § 15.]

**Findings—Intent—2021 c 209:** See note following RCW 76.15.005.

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

**36.01.270 Contractors—Authority of county to verify registration and report violations.** A county that issues a business license to a person required to be registered under chapter 18.27 RCW may verify that the person is registered under chapter 18.27 RCW and report violations to the department of labor and industries. [2009 c 432 § 4.]

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

**36.01.280 Community athletics programs—Sex discrimination prohibited.** The antidiscrimination provisions of RCW 49.60.500 apply to community athletics programs and facilities operated, conducted, or administered by a county. [2009 c 467 § 7.]

**Findings—Declarations—2009 c 467:** See note following RCW 49.60.500.

**36.01.290 Hosting the homeless by religious organizations—When authorized—Requirements—Prohibitions on local actions.** (1) A religious organization may host

the homeless on property owned or controlled by the religious organization whether within buildings located on the property or elsewhere on the property outside of buildings.

(2) Except as provided in subsection (7) of this section, a county may not enact an ordinance or regulation or take any other action that:

(a) Imposes conditions other than those necessary to protect public health and safety and that do not substantially burden the decisions or actions of a religious organization regarding the location of housing or shelter, such as an outdoor encampment, indoor overnight shelter, temporary small house on-site, or vehicle resident safe parking, for homeless persons on property owned or controlled by the religious organization;

(b) Requires a religious organization to obtain insurance pertaining to the liability of a municipality with respect to homeless persons housed on property owned by a religious organization or otherwise requires the religious organization to indemnify the municipality against such liability;

(c) Imposes permit fees in excess of the actual costs associated with the review and approval of permit applications. A county has discretion to reduce or waive permit fees for a religious organization that is hosting the homeless;

(d) Specifically limits a religious organization's availability to host an outdoor encampment on its property or property controlled by the religious organization to fewer than six months during any calendar year. However, a county may enact an ordinance or regulation that requires a separation of time of no more than three months between subsequent or established outdoor encampments at a particular site;

(e) Specifically limits a religious organization's outdoor encampment hosting term to fewer than four consecutive months;

(f) Limits the number of simultaneous religious organization outdoor encampment hostings within the same municipality during any given period of time. Simultaneous and adjacent hostings of outdoor encampments by religious organizations may be limited if located within one thousand feet of another outdoor encampment concurrently hosted by a religious organization;

(g) Limits a religious organization's availability to host safe parking efforts at its on-site parking lot, including limitations on any other congregationally sponsored uses and the parking available to support such uses during the hosting, except for limitations that are in accord with the following criteria that would govern if enacted by local ordinance or memorandum of understanding between the host religious organization and the jurisdiction:

(i) No less than one space may be devoted to safe parking per ten on-site parking spaces;

(ii) Restroom access must be provided either within the buildings on the property or through use of portable facilities, with the provision for proper disposal of waste if recreational vehicles are hosted; and

(iii) Religious organizations providing spaces for safe parking must continue to abide by any existing on-site parking minimum requirement so that the provision of safe parking spaces does not reduce the total number of available parking spaces below the minimum number of spaces required by the county, but a county may enter into a memorandum of

understanding with a religious organization that reduces the minimum number of on-site parking spaces required;

(h) Limits a religious organization's availability to host an indoor overnight shelter in spaces with at least two accessible exits due to lack of sprinklers or other fire-related concerns, except that:

(i) If a county fire official finds that fire-related concerns associated with an indoor overnight shelter pose an imminent danger to persons within the shelter, the county may take action to limit the religious organization's availability to host the indoor overnight shelter; and

(ii) A county may require a host religious organization to enter into a memorandum of understanding for fire safety that includes local fire district inspections, an outline for appropriate emergency procedures, a determination of the most viable means to evacuate occupants from inside the host site with appropriate illuminated exit signage, panic bar exit doors, and a completed fire watch agreement indicating:

(A) Posted safe means of egress;

(B) Operable smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors as necessary, and fire extinguishers;

(C) A plan for monitors who spend the night awake and are familiar with emergency protocols, who have suitable communication devices, and who know how to contact the local fire department; or

(i) Limits a religious organization's ability to host temporary small houses on land owned or controlled by the religious organization, except for recommendations that are in accord with the following criteria:

(i) A renewable one-year duration agreed to by the host religious organization and local jurisdiction via a memorandum of understanding;

(ii) Maintaining a maximum unit square footage of one hundred twenty square feet, with units set at least six feet apart;

(iii) Electricity and heat, if provided, must be inspected by the local jurisdiction;

(iv) Space heaters, if provided, must be approved by the local fire authority;

(v) Doors and windows must be included and be lockable, with a recommendation that the managing agency and host religious organization also possess keys;

(vi) Each unit must have a fire extinguisher;

(vii) Adequate restrooms must be provided, including restrooms solely for families if present, along with handwashing and potable running water to be available if not provided within the individual units, including accommodating black water;

(viii) A recommendation for the host religious organization to partner with regional homeless service providers to develop pathways to permanent housing.

(3)(a) A county may enact an ordinance or regulation or take any other action that requires a host religious organization and a distinct managing agency using the religious organization's property, owned or controlled by the religious organization, for hostings to include outdoor encampments, temporary small houses on-site, indoor overnight shelters, or vehicle resident safe parking to enter into a memorandum of understanding to protect the public health and safety of both the residents of the particular hosting and the residents of the county.

(b) At a minimum, the agreement must include information regarding: The right of a resident in an outdoor encampment, vehicle resident safe parking, temporary small house on-site, or indoor overnight shelter to seek public health and safety assistance, the resident's ability to access social services on-site, and the resident's ability to directly interact with the host religious organization, including the ability to express any concerns regarding the managing agency to the religious organization; a written code of conduct agreed to by the managing agency, if any, host religious organization, and all volunteers working with residents of the outdoor encampment, temporary small house on-site, indoor overnight shelter, or vehicle resident safe parking; and when a publicly funded managing agency exists, the ability for the host religious organization to interact with residents of the outdoor encampment, indoor overnight shelter, temporary small house on-site, or vehicle resident safe parking using a release of information.

(4) If required to do so by the county, any host religious organization performing any hosting of an outdoor encampment, vehicle resident safe parking, or indoor overnight shelter, or the host religious organization's managing agency, must ensure that the county or local law enforcement agency has completed sex offender checks of all adult residents and guests. The host religious organization retains the authority to allow such offenders to remain on the property. A host religious organization or host religious organization's managing agency performing any hosting of vehicle resident safe parking must inform vehicle residents how to comply with laws regarding the legal status of vehicles and drivers, and provide a written code of conduct consistent with area standards.

(5) Any host religious organization performing any hosting of an outdoor encampment, vehicle resident safe parking, temporary small house on-site, or indoor overnight shelter, with a publicly funded managing agency, must work with the county to utilize Washington's homeless client management information system, as provided for in RCW 43.185C.180. When the religious organization does not partner with a managing agency, the religious organization is encouraged to partner with a local homeless services provider using the Washington homeless client managing information system. Any managing agency receiving any funding from local continuum of care programs must utilize the homeless client management information system. Temporary, overnight, extreme weather shelter provided in religious organization buildings does not need to meet this requirement.

(6) For the purposes of this section:

(a) "Managing agency" means an organization such as a religious organization or other organized entity that has the capacity to organize and manage a homeless outdoor encampment, temporary small houses on-site, indoor overnight shelter, and a vehicle resident safe parking program.

(b) "Outdoor encampment" means any temporary tent or structure encampment, or both.

(c) "Religious organization" means the federally protected practice of a recognized religious assembly, school, or institution that owns or controls real property.

(d) "Temporary" means not affixed to land permanently and not using underground utilities.

(7)(a) Subsection (2) of this section does not affect a county policy, ordinance, memorandum of understanding, or

applicable consent decree that regulates religious organizations' hosting of the homeless if such policies, ordinances, memoranda of understanding, or consent decrees:

- (i) Exist prior to June 11, 2020;
- (ii) Do not categorically prohibit the hosting of the homeless by religious organizations; and
- (iii) Have not been previously ruled by a court to violate the religious land use and institutionalized persons act, 42 U.S.C. Sec. 2000cc.

(b) If such policies, ordinances, memoranda of understanding, and consent decrees are amended after June 11, 2020, those amendments are not affected by subsection (2) of this section if those amendments satisfy (a)(ii) and (iii) of this subsection.

(8) An appointed or elected public official, public employee, or public agency as defined in RCW 4.24.470 is immune from civil liability for (a) damages arising from the permitting decisions for a temporary encampment for the homeless as provided in this section and (b) any conduct or unlawful activity that may occur as a result of the temporary encampment for the homeless as provided in this section.

(9) A religious organization hosting outdoor encampments, vehicle resident safe parking, or indoor overnight shelters for the homeless that receives funds from any government agency may not refuse to host any resident or prospective resident because of age, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, race, creed, color, national origin, honorably discharged veteran or military status, or the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability, as these terms are defined in RCW 49.60.040.

(10)(a) Prior to the opening of an outdoor encampment, indoor overnight shelter, temporary small house on-site, or vehicle resident safe parking, a religious organization hosting the homeless on property owned or controlled by the religious organization must host a meeting open to the public for the purpose of providing a forum for discussion of related neighborhood concerns, unless the use is in response to a declared emergency. The religious organization must provide written notice of the meeting to the county legislative authority at least one week if possible but no later than ninety-six hours prior to the meeting. The notice must specify the time, place, and purpose of the meeting.

(b) A county must provide community notice of the meeting described in (a) of this subsection by taking at least two of the following actions at any time prior to the time of the meeting:

(i) Delivering to each local newspaper of general circulation and local radio or television station that has on file with the governing body a written request to be notified of special meetings;

(ii) Posting on the county's website. A county is not required to post a special meeting notice on its website if it: (A) Does not have a website; (B) employs fewer than ten full-time equivalent employees; or (C) does not employ personnel whose duty, as defined by a job description or existing contract, is to maintain or update the website;

(iii) Prominently displaying, on signage at least two feet in height and two feet in width, one or more meeting notices that can be placed on or adjacent to the main arterials in proximity to the location of the meeting; or

(iv) Prominently displaying the notice at the meeting site. [2020 c 223 § 2; 2010 c 175 § 2.]

**Findings—Intent—2020 c 223:** "(1) The legislature makes the following findings:

(a) Residents in temporary settings hosted by religious organizations are a particularly vulnerable population that do not have access to the same services as citizens with more stable housing.

(b) Residents in these settings, including outdoor uses such as outdoor encampments, indoor overnight shelters, temporary small houses on-site, and homeless-occupied vehicle resident safe parking, can be at increased risk of exploitation, theft, unsanitary living conditions, and physical harm.

(c) Furthermore, the legislature finds and declares that hosted outdoor encampments, indoor overnight shelters, temporary small houses on-site, and homeless-occupied vehicle resident safe parking serve as pathways for individuals experiencing homelessness to receive services and achieve financial stability, health, and permanent housing.

(2) The legislature intends that local municipalities have the discretion to protect the health and safety of both residents in temporary settings that are hosted by religious organizations and the surrounding community. The legislature encourages local jurisdictions and religious organizations to work together collaboratively to protect the health and safety of residents and the surrounding community while allowing religious organizations to fulfill their mission to serve the homeless. The legislature further intends to monitor the implementation of this act and continue to refine it to achieve these goals." [2020 c 223 § 1.]

**Findings—2010 c 175:** "The legislature finds that there are many homeless persons in our state that are in need of shelter and other services that are not being provided by the state and local governments. The legislature also finds that in many communities, religious organizations play an important role in providing needed services to the homeless, including the provision of shelter upon property owned by the religious organization. By providing such shelter, the religious institutions in our communities perform a valuable public service that, for many, offers a temporary, stopgap solution to the larger social problem of increasing numbers of homeless persons.

This act provides guidance to cities and counties in regulating homeless encampments within the community, but still leaves those entities with broad discretion to protect the health and safety of its citizens. It is the hope of this legislature that local governments and religious organizations can work together and utilize dispute resolution processes without the need for litigation." [2010 c 175 § 1.]

**Intent—Construction—2010 c 175:** "Nothing in this act is intended to change applicable law or be interpreted to prohibit a county, city, town, or code city from applying zoning and land use regulations allowable under established law to real property owned by a religious organization, regardless of whether the property owned by the religious organization is used to provide shelter or housing to homeless persons." [2010 c 175 § 5.]

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

**36.01.300 State and federal background checks of license applicants and licensees of occupations under local licensing authority.** (1) For the purpose of receiving criminal history record information by county officials, counties may:

(a) By ordinance, require a state and federal background investigation of license applicants or licensees in occupations specified by ordinance;

(b) By ordinance, require a federal background investigation of county employees, applicants for employment, volunteers, vendors, and independent contractors, who, in the course of their work or volunteer activity with the county, may have unsupervised access to children, persons with developmental disabilities, or vulnerable adults;

(c) Require a state background investigation of county employees, applicants for employment, volunteers, vendors, and independent contractors, who, in the course of their work or volunteer activity with the county, may have unsupervised access to children, persons with developmental disabilities, or vulnerable adults; and

(d) Require a criminal background investigation conducted through a private organization of county employees, applicants for employment, volunteers, vendors, and independent contractors, who, in the course of their work or volunteer activity with the county, may have unsupervised access to children, persons with developmental disabilities, or vulnerable adults.

(2) The investigation conducted under subsection (1)(a) through (c) of this section shall consist of a background check as allowed through the Washington state criminal records privacy act under RCW 10.97.050, the Washington state patrol criminal identification system under RCW 43.43.832 through 43.43.834, and the federal bureau of investigation.

(3) The background checks conducted under subsection (1)(a) through (c) of this section must be done through the Washington state patrol identification and criminal history section and may include a national check from the federal bureau of investigation, which shall be through the submission of fingerprints. The Washington state patrol shall serve as the sole source for receipt of fingerprint submissions and the responses to the submissions from the federal bureau of investigation, which must be disseminated to the county.

(4) For a criminal background check conducted under subsection (1)(a) through (c) of this section, the county shall transmit appropriate fees for a state and national criminal history check to the Washington state patrol, unless alternately arranged. The cost of investigations conducted under this section shall be borne by the county.

(5) The authority for background checks outlined in this section is in addition to any other authority for such checks provided by law. [2017 c 332 § 3; 2010 c 47 § 1.]

**36.01.310 Accessible community advisory committees.** (1) A county has the option to expand the scope of an advisory committee established and maintained under \*RCW 29A.46.260 to that of an accessible community advisory committee, or to create an accessible community advisory committee.

(2) A county that has an active accessible community advisory committee may be reimbursed within available funds from the accessible communities account created in RCW 50.40.071 for travel, per diem, and reasonable accommodation expenses for the participation of that committee's members in committee meetings and sponsored activities.

(3) A county establishes that it has an active accessible community advisory committee by submitting biennial assurances to the governor's committee on disability issues and employment that:

(a) The decision to establish an accessible community advisory committee was made by the county legislative authority, or by agents or officers acting under that authority.

(b) If an accessible community advisory committee is established by expanding the advisory committee established and maintained under \*RCW 29A.46.260, the county auditor supports that expansion.

(c) Committee members include persons with a diverse range of disabilities who are knowledgeable in identifying and eliminating attitudinal, programmatic, communication, and physical barriers encountered by persons with disabilities.

(2022 Ed.)

(d) The committee is actively involved in the following activities: Advising on addressing the needs of persons with disabilities in emergency plans; advising the county and other local governments within the county on access to programs services and activities, new construction or renovation projects, sidewalks, other pedestrian routes of travel, and disability parking enforcement; and developing local initiatives and activities to promote greater awareness of disability issues, and acceptance, involvement, and access for persons with disabilities within the community.

(4) Counties may form joint accessible community advisory committees, as long as no more than one of the participating counties has a population greater than seventy thousand. [2010 c 215 § 4.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 29A.46.260 was recodified as RCW 29A.04.223 pursuant to 2011 c 10 § 87.

Findings—2010 c 215: See note following RCW 50.40.071.

**36.01.320 Application for a permit to site an energy plant or alternative energy resource—Written notice to United States department of defense.**

(1) Upon receipt of an application for a permit to site an energy plant or alternative energy resource that is connected to electrical transmission facilities of a nominal voltage of at least one hundred fifteen thousand volts, the county shall notify in writing the United States department of defense. The notification shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

(a) A description of the proposed energy plant or alternative energy resource;

(b) The location of the site;

(c) The number and placement of the energy plant or alternative energy resource on the site;

(d) The date and time by which comments must be received by the county; and

(e) Contact information of the county permitting authority and the applicant.

(2) The purpose of the written notification is to provide an opportunity for the United States department of defense to comment upon the application, and to identify potential issues relating to the placement and operations of the energy plant or alternative energy resource, before a permit application is approved. The time period set forth by the county for receipt of such comments shall not extend the time period for the county's processing of the application.

(3) For the purpose of this section, "alternative energy resource," "energy plant," and "electrical transmission facility" shall each have the meaning set forth in RCW 80.50.020. [2011 c 261 § 2.]

**36.01.330 Failing septic systems—Connection to public sewer systems—Appeals process.**

(1) A county with an ordinance or resolution requiring, upon the failure of an on-site septic system, connection to a public sewer system must, in accordance with this section, provide an administrative appeals process to consider denials of permit applications to repair or replace the septic system. The administrative appeals process required by this section applies only to requests to repair or replace existing, failing on-site septic systems that:

(a) Were made for a single-family residence by its owner or owners;

(b) Were denied solely because of a law, regulation, or ordinance requiring connection to a public sewer system; and

(c) Absent the applicable law, regulation, or ordinance requiring connection to a public sewer system upon which the denial was based, would be approved.

(2) If the county has an administrative appeals process, the county may, subject to the requirements of this section, use that process. The administrative appeals process required by this section, however, must be presided over by the legislative body of the county or by an administrative hearings officer.

(3) The administrative appeals process required by this section must, at a minimum, consider whether:

(a) It is cost-prohibitive to require the property owner to connect to the public sewer system. In complying with this subsection (3)(a), the county must consider the estimated cost to repair or replace the on-site septic system compared to the estimated cost to connect to the public sewer system;

(b) There are public health or environmental considerations related to allowing the property owner to repair or replace the on-site septic system. In complying with this subsection (3)(b), the county must consider whether the repaired or replaced on-site septic system contributes to the pollution of surface waters or groundwater;

(c) There are public sewer system performance or financing considerations related to allowing the property owner to repair or replace the on-site septic system; and

(d) There are financial assistance programs or latecomer agreements offered by the county or state that may impact a decision of the property owner to repair or replace the on-site septic system.

(4) If the county, following the appeals process required by this section, determines that the property owner must connect the residence to the public sewer system, the property owner may, in complying with the determination and subject to approval of appropriate permits, select and hire contractors at his or her own expense to perform the work necessary to connect the residence to the public sewer system.

(5) Unless otherwise required by law, a county determination requiring the owner of a single-family residence with a failing on-site septic system to connect a residence to a public sewer system is not subject to appeal. [2015 c 297 § 3.]

**36.01.340 Final determination on state highway permit projects.** A county must comply with the requirements of RCW 47.01.485 in making a final determination on a permit as part of a project on a state highway as defined in RCW 46.04.560. [2015 3rd sp.s. c 15 § 5.]

**Effective date—Findings—Intent—2015 3rd sp.s. c 15:** See notes following RCW 47.01.485.

**36.01.350 Removal of restrictive covenants—Hearing, notice.** Any county must hold a public hearing upon a proposal to remove, vacate, or extinguish a restrictive covenant from property owned by the county before the action is finalized. The public hearing must allow individuals to provide testimony regarding the proposed action. The county must provide notice of the public hearing at least ten days before the hearing at its usual place of business and issue a press release to local media providing the date, time, location, and reason for the public hearing. The notice must be posted

on the county's website if it is updated for any reason before the hearing. The notice must also identify the property and provide a brief explanation of the restrictive covenant to be removed, vacated, or extinguished. Any member of the public, in person or by counsel, may submit testimony regarding the proposed action at the public hearing. [2017 c 119 § 5.]

**Short title—Finding—2017 c 119:** See notes following RCW 35.21.960.

**36.01.360 Telecommunications services and facilities authorized—Requirements.** (1) A county may construct, purchase, acquire, develop, finance, lease, license, provide, contract for, interconnect, alter, improve, repair, operate, and maintain telecommunications services or telecommunications facilities for the purpose of furnishing the county and its inhabitants with telecommunications services. The county has full authority to regulate and control the use, distribution, and price of the services.

(2)(a) Before providing telecommunications services pursuant to subsection (1) of this section, a county must examine and report to its governing body and to the state broadband office the following about the area to be served by the county:

(i) An assessment of the current availability of broadband infrastructure and its adequacy to provide high-speed internet access and other advanced telecommunications services to end users;

(ii) The location of where retail telecommunications services will be provided;

(iii) Evidence relating to the unserved nature of the community in which retail telecommunications services will be provided;

(iv) Expected costs of providing retail telecommunications services to customers to be served by the county;

(v) Evidence that proposed telecommunications infrastructure will be capable of scaling to greater download and upload speeds to meet state broadband goals under RCW 43.330.536;

(vi) Sources of funding for the project that will supplement any grant or loan awards; and

(vii) A strategic plan to maintain long-term operation of the infrastructure, and the expected installation charges and monthly costs for end users.

(b) The state broadband office must post a review of the proposed project on its website.

(3) For purposes of this section:

(a) "Telecommunications" has the same meaning as defined in RCW 80.04.010.

(b) "Unserved" means an area of Washington in which households and businesses lack access to broadband service at a minimum 100 megabits per second download speed and at a minimum 20 megabits per second upload speed. [2021 c 294 § 7.]

**Short title—2021 c 294:** See note following RCW 54.16.330.

**36.01.370 Comprehensive cancer care collaborative arrangements—Prohibition on regulation as state agency.** No county may enact, enforce, or maintain an ordinance, regulation, or rule that regulates or otherwise treats a comprehensive cancer center participating in a collaborative arrangement as defined in RCW 28B.10.930 that is operated

in conformance with RCW 28B.10.930 as a state agency. Such a comprehensive cancer center is still subject to ordinances, regulations, and rules that are generally applicable in nature. [2022 c 71 § 3.]

**Findings—Intent—2022 c 71:** See note following RCW 28B.10.930.

### Chapter 36.04 RCW COUNTY BOUNDARIES

#### Sections

36.04.010	Adams county.
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36.04.370	Whatcom county.
36.04.380	Whitman county.
36.04.390	Yakima county.
36.04.400	Survey of county boundaries.

**Reviser's note:** For the reasons set out in the second paragraph of the explanatory note appended to chapter 4, Laws of 1963, the session laws comprising chapter 36.04 RCW were neither repealed nor reenacted in the 1963 reenactment of Title 36 RCW. Pending reenactment of this chapter, it is herein republished as revised by the 1941 code committee; for rules of construction concerning such revision, see RCW 1.04.020 and 1.04.021.

**36.04.010 Adams county.** Adams county shall consist of the territory bounded as follows, to wit: Beginning at the northwest corner of township fourteen north, range twenty-eight east of the Willamette Meridian; running thence north to the fourth standard parallel; thence east to the Columbia River Guide Meridian; thence north to the fifth standard parallel; thence east on said parallel to the line between the ranges thirty-eight and thirty-nine; thence south on said line to where it intersects the Palouse river in township sixteen; thence down said river to where the line between townships fourteen and fifteen crosses said river; thence west on said line to place of beginning. [1883 p 93 § 1; RRS § 3924.]

**36.04.020 Asotin county.** Asotin county shall consist of the territory bounded as follows, to wit: Commencing at a

point in the channel of Snake river on the township line between ranges forty-four and forty-five east, Willamette Meridian; thence running south to the northwest corner of section thirty, township eleven north, range forty-five east, Willamette Meridian; thence west six miles; south one mile; west two miles; south one mile; west one mile to the northwest corner of section three in township ten north, of range forty-three east, Willamette Meridian; thence south eighteen miles; thence west three miles; thence south to the Oregon line; thence east on said line to the midchannel of Snake river; thence down the midchannel of Snake river to the place of beginning. [1883 p 96 § 1; RRS § 3925.]

**36.04.030 Benton county.** Benton county shall consist of the territory bounded as follows, to wit: Beginning at the point of intersection of the middle of the main channel of the Columbia river with the township line between township thirteen north, range twenty-three east, and township thirteen north, range twenty-four east, Willamette Meridian; thence running south along the township line, being the line between range twenty-three east and range twenty-four east to the line between Yakima county and Klickitat county; thence south along the township lines, being the lines between ranges twenty-three east and twenty-four east, to the point of intersection with the middle of the main channel of the Columbia river, or to its intersection with the line between the states of Washington and Oregon; thence northeasterly, northerly and northwesterly and westerly along the middle of the main channel of the Columbia river and up said stream to the place of beginning. [1905 c 89 § 1; RRS § 3926.]

**36.04.040 Chelan county.** Chelan county shall consist of the territory bounded as follows, to wit: Beginning at the point of intersection of the middle of the main channel of the Columbia river with the fifth standard parallel north, thence running west along said fifth standard parallel north to the point where said fifth standard parallel north intersects the summit of the main divide between the waters flowing northerly and easterly into the Wenatchee and Columbia rivers, and the waters flowing southerly and westerly into the Yakima river, thence in a general northwesterly direction along the summit of said main divide between the waters flowing northerly and easterly into the Wenatchee and Columbia rivers and the waters flowing southerly and westerly into the Yakima river, following the course of the center of the summit of the watershed dividing the said respective waters, to the center of the summit of the Cascade mountains, at the eastern boundary line of King county; thence north along the east boundary lines of King, Snohomish and Skagit counties to the point upon the said east boundary of Skagit county, where said boundary is intersected by the watershed between the waters flowing northerly and easterly into the Methow river and the waters flowing southerly and westerly into Lake Chelan, thence in a general southeasterly direction along the summit of the main divide between the waters flowing northerly and easterly into the Methow river and the waters flowing westerly and southerly into Lake Chelan and its tributaries; following the course of the center of the summit of the watershed dividing said respective waters, to the point where the seventh standard parallel north intersects said center of the summit of said watershed; thence east along the

said seventh standard parallel north to the point of intersection of the middle of the main channel of the Columbia river with said seventh standard parallel north; thence down the middle of the main channel of the Columbia river to the point of beginning. [1899 c 95 § 1; RRS § 3928.]

**36.04.050 Clallam county.** Clallam county shall consist of the territory bounded as follows, to wit: Commencing at the northwest corner of Jefferson county at a point opposite the middle of the channel between Protection Island and Diamond Point on the west of Port Discovery Bay; thence following up the middle of said channel to a point directly east of the mouth of Eagle creek; thence west to the mouth of Eagle creek; thence one mile west from the mouth of said creek; thence south to the north boundary line of township twenty-seven north, range two west; thence west to the west boundary of the state in the Pacific Ocean; thence northerly along said boundary to a point marking the north terminus of the west boundary of the state in the Pacific Ocean opposite the Strait of Juan de Fuca; thence easterly along said Strait of Juan de Fuca, where it forms the boundary between the state and British possessions, to the place of beginning. [(i) 1869 p 292 § 1; 1867 p 45 § 1; 1854 p 472 § 1; RRS § 3929. (ii) 1925 ex.s. c 40 § 1; RRS § 3963-1.]

**36.04.060 Clark county.** Clark county shall consist of the territory bounded as follows, to wit: Commencing at the Columbia river opposite the mouth of Lewis river; thence up Lewis river to the forks of said river; thence up the north fork of Lewis river to where said north fork of Lewis river intersects the range line between ranges four and five east; thence due south to the Columbia river; thence with the main channel of said river to the place of beginning. [(i) 1873 p 561 § 1; 1871 p 153 § 1; 1869 p 295 § 1; RRS § 3930. (ii) 1925 ex.s. c 51 § 1; RRS § 3930-1.]

**36.04.070 Columbia county.** Columbia county shall consist of the territory bounded as follows, to wit: Commencing at a point in the middle of the channel of Snake river, where the range line between ranges thirty-six and thirty-seven east of the Willamette Meridian intersects said point; thence south on said range line to the northwest corner of township nine north, range thirty-seven east; thence east on the north boundary line of township nine north, range thirty-seven east, to the northeast corner of said township; thence south on the line between ranges thirty-seven and thirty-eight east of the Willamette Meridian, to the northwest corner of township eight north, range thirty-eight east; thence along the north boundary line of township eight north, range thirty-eight east, to the northeast corner of said township; thence due south to the line dividing the state of Washington from the state of Oregon; thence due east on said dividing line to the range line between ranges forty-one and forty-two east; thence north on said range line to the corner of sections thirteen, eighteen, nineteen and twenty-four, township ten north, ranges forty-one and forty-two east; thence west three miles; thence north three miles; thence west one mile; thence north one mile; thence west one mile; thence north three miles; thence west one mile; thence north to the southwest corner of township twelve north, range forty-one east; thence west on township line six miles; thence north on range line between

ranges thirty-nine and forty to a point in the midchannel of Snake river; thence down the midchannel of said river to the place of beginning. [(i) 1 H.C. §6; 1875 p 133 § 1; RRS § 3931. (ii) 1879 p 226 § 1; RRS § 3960-1. (iii) 1881 p 175 § 1; RRS § 3936.]

**36.04.080 Cowlitz county.** Cowlitz county shall consist of the territory bounded as follows, to wit: Commencing at the Columbia river opposite the mouth of Lewis river; thence up Lewis river to the forks of said river; thence up the north fork of Lewis river to where said north fork of Lewis river intersects the range line between ranges four and five east; thence north to the line between townships ten and eleven north; thence west to the first section line east of the range line between ranges four and five west; thence south on said line to the Columbia river, and up the Columbia river to the place of beginning. [1873 p 561 § 1; 1871 p 153 § 1; 1869 p 295 § 1; 1867 p 48 § 1; 1855 p 39; 1854 p 471 § 1; RRS § 3932.]

**36.04.090 Douglas county.** Douglas county shall consist of the territory bounded as follows, to wit: Beginning at the point where the Columbia Guide Meridian intersects the Columbia river on the northern boundary of Lincoln county; thence running south on said Columbia Guide Meridian to the township line between townships sixteen and seventeen north; thence running west on said township line to the range line between ranges twenty-seven and twenty-eight east; thence south on said range line to the section line between sections twenty-four and twenty-five in township fourteen north, range twenty-seven east; thence west on said section line to the midchannel of the Columbia river; thence up said channel of said river to the place of beginning, excepting therefrom the territory hereinafter constituted as Grant county. [1883 p 95 § 1; RRS § 3933. (Grant county, 1909 c 17 § 1; RRS § 3937.)]

**36.04.100 Ferry county.** Ferry county shall consist of the territory bounded as follows, to wit: Commencing at the point where the east boundary line of Okanogan county intersects the Columbia river; thence up the midchannel of the Columbia river to the mouth of Kettle river; thence up the midchannel of Kettle river to the boundary line between the United States and British Columbia; thence westerly along the said boundary line to the intersection thereof with the said east boundary line of Okanogan county; thence southerly along the said boundary line to the place of beginning. [1899 c 18 § 1; RRS § 3934.]

**36.04.110 Franklin county.** Franklin county shall consist of the territory bounded as follows, to wit: Beginning at a point where the midchannel of the Snake river intersects that of the Columbia river, and running thence up the Columbia river to a point where the section line between sections twenty-one and twenty-eight, township fourteen north, range twenty-seven east, Willamette Meridian, strikes the main body of the Columbia river, on the east side of the island; thence east on said section line to range line between ranges twenty-seven and twenty-eight east; thence north on said range line to the north boundary of township fourteen; thence east on said north boundary of township fourteen to the



Palouse river; thence down said river to midchannel of Snake river; thence down Snake river to place of beginning. [1883 p 87 § 1; RRS § 3935.]

**36.04.120 Garfield county.** Garfield county shall consist of the territory bounded as follows, to wit: Commencing at a point in the midchannel of Snake river on range line between ranges thirty-nine and forty east, W.M.; thence on said line south to the southwest corner of township twelve north, range forty; thence east on township line six miles; thence south to the southwest corner of section seven, township eleven north, range forty-one east; thence east one mile; thence south three miles; thence east one mile; thence south one mile; thence east one mile; thence south three miles; thence east three miles; thence south on township line to the Oregon line; thence due east on said line six miles to the southwest corner of Asotin county; thence northerly following the westerly boundary of Asotin county to a point where the same intersects the midchannel of Snake river; thence down the said midchannel of Snake river to the point of beginning. [1883 p 96 § 1; 1881 p 175 § 1; RRS § 3936.]

**36.04.130 Grant county.** Grant county shall consist of the territory bounded as follows, to wit: Beginning at the southeast corner of township seventeen north, range thirty east of the Willamette Meridian, thence running west on the township line between townships sixteen and seventeen to the range line between ranges twenty-seven and twenty-eight; thence south on said range line to the section line between sections twenty-four and twenty-five in township fourteen north, range twenty-seven east; thence west on said section line to the midchannel of the Columbia river; thence up the channel of the river to a point, thence at right angles to the course of said channel to the meander corner of section thirteen, township twenty north, range twenty-two east Willamette Meridian, and section eighteen, township twenty north, range twenty-three east Willamette Meridian; thence north along the range line between ranges twenty-two and twenty-three to the northwest corner of section eighteen, township twenty-one north, range twenty-three east Willamette Meridian; thence east one mile to the southeast corner section seven, township twenty-one, range twenty-three east; north one mile to the northwest corner section eight, township twenty-one, range twenty-three east; east one mile to the southeast corner of section five, township twenty-one, range twenty-three east; north one mile to the northeast corner section five, township twenty-one, range twenty-three east; east one mile to the northeast corner of section four, township twenty-one, range twenty-three east; north one mile to the southeast corner section twenty-eight, township twenty-two, range twenty-three east; east one mile to the southeast corner section twenty-seven, township twenty-two, range twenty-three east; north two miles to the northeast corner of section twenty-two, township twenty-two, range twenty-three east; east one mile to the southeast corner of section fourteen, township twenty-two, range twenty-three east; north one mile to the southeast corner section eleven, township twenty-two, range twenty-three east; east one mile to the southeast corner of section twelve, township twenty-two, range twenty-three east; north two miles to the northwest corner of section six, township twenty-two north, range twenty-four east; east six-

teen miles to the northeast corner of section three, township twenty-two north, range twenty-six east; north six miles to the northeast corner of section three, township twenty-three north, range twenty-six east; east one mile to the northeast corner of section two, township twenty-three north, range twenty-six east; north one mile to the northeast corner of section thirty-five, township twenty-four north, range twenty-six east; east one mile to the southeast corner of section twenty-five, township twenty-four north, range twenty-six east; north one mile to the southeast corner of section twenty-four, township twenty-four north, range twenty-six east; east one mile to the southeast corner of section nineteen, township twenty-four north, range twenty-seven east; north one mile to the southeast corner of section eighteen, township twenty-four north, range twenty-seven east; east one mile to the southeast corner of section seventeen, township twenty-four north, range twenty-seven east; north one mile to the southeast corner of section eight, township twenty-four north, range twenty-seven east; east one mile to the southeast corner of section nine, township twenty-four north, range twenty-seven east; north one mile to the southeast corner of section four, township twenty-four north, range twenty-seven east; east one mile to the southeast corner of section three, township twenty-four, range twenty-seven east; north one mile to the northeast corner of section three, township twenty-four, range twenty-seven east; east three miles to the southeast corner of section thirty-one, township twenty-five north, range twenty-eight east; north one mile to the southeast corner of section thirty, township twenty-five north, range twenty-eight east; east one mile to the southeast corner of section twenty-nine, township twenty-five north, range twenty-eight east; north three miles to the southeast corner of section eight, township twenty-five north, range twenty-eight east; east one mile to the southeast corner of section nine, township twenty-five north, range twenty-eight east; north four miles to the southeast corner of section twenty-one, township twenty-six north, range twenty-eight east; east one mile to the southeast corner of section twenty-two, township twenty-six north, range twenty-eight east; north one mile to the southeast corner of section fifteen, township twenty-six north, range twenty-eight east; east one mile to the southeast corner of section fourteen, township twenty-six north, range twenty-eight east; north two miles to the southeast corner of section two, township twenty-six north, range twenty-eight east; east one mile to the southeast corner of section one, township twenty-six north, range twenty-eight east; north two miles to the southeast corner of section twenty-five, township twenty-seven north, range twenty-eight east; east one mile to the southeast corner of section thirty, township twenty-seven north, range twenty-nine east; north six miles to the southeast corner of section thirty, township twenty-eight north, range twenty-nine east; east one mile to the southeast corner of section twenty-nine, township twenty-eight north, range twenty-nine east; north one mile to the southeast corner of section twenty, township twenty-eight north, range twenty-nine east; east two miles to the southeast corner of section twenty-two, township twenty-eight north, range twenty-nine east; north one mile to the southeast corner of section fifteen, township twenty-eight north, range twenty-nine east; east one mile to the southeast corner of section fourteen, township twenty-eight north, range twenty-nine east; north two miles to the

southeast corner of section two, township twenty-eight north, range twenty-nine east; east one mile to the southeast corner of section one, township twenty-eight north, range twenty-nine east; north one mile to the northeast corner of section one, township twenty-eight north, range twenty-nine east; thence east along township line between townships twenty-eight and twenty-nine to the midchannel of the Columbia river; thence up said channel of said river to the point where the Columbia Guide Meridian intersects said channel; thence running south on said Columbia Guide Meridian to the place of beginning. [1909 c 17 § 1; RRS § 3937.]

**36.04.140 Grays Harbor county.** Grays Harbor county shall consist of the territory bounded as follows, to wit: Commencing at the northeast corner of Pacific county; thence west to the west boundary of the state in the Pacific Ocean; thence northerly along said boundary, including Gray's Harbor, to a point opposite the mouth of Queets river; thence east to the west boundary line of Mason county; thence south to the northeast corner of township eighteen north, range seven west; thence east fourteen miles to the southeast corner of section thirty-two, township nineteen north, range four west; thence south six miles to the southeast corner of section thirty-two in township eighteen north, range four west; thence east two miles to the southeast corner of section thirty-four in the same township; thence south to a point due east of the northeast corner of Pacific county; thence west to the place of beginning. [(i) 1 H.C. §3; 1873 p 482 § 1; 1869 p 296 § 1; RRS § 3927. (ii) 1915 c 77 § 1; RRS § 3938. (iii) 1925 ex.s. c 40 § 1; RRS § 3963-1.]

**36.04.150 Island county.** Island county shall consist of all of the islands known as Whidbey, Camano, Smith, Deception, Strawberry, Baby, Minor, Kalamut, and Ben Ure and shall extend into the adjacent channels to connect with the boundaries of adjoining counties as defined by statute. [2006 c 146 § 1; 1891 c 119 p 217 § 1; 1877 p 425 §§ 1, 2; 1869 p 292 § 1; 1868 p 68 § 1; 1867 p 46 § 1; RRS § 3939.]

**36.04.160 Jefferson county.** Jefferson county shall consist of the territory bounded as follows, to wit: Commencing at the middle of the channel of Admiralty Inlet due north of Point Wilson; thence westerly along the Strait of Juan de Fuca to the north of Protection Island, to a point opposite the middle of the channel between Protection Island and Diamond Point on the west of Port Discovery Bay; thence following up the middle of said channel to a point direct east of the mouth of Eagle creek; thence west to the mouth of Eagle creek; thence one mile west from the mouth of said creek; thence south to the summit of the Olympic range of mountains, it being the southeast corner of Clallam county, on the north boundary line of township twenty-seven north, range two west; thence west to the west boundary of the state in the Pacific Ocean; thence southerly along said west boundary to a point opposite the mouth of the Queets river; thence east to the range line dividing ranges six and seven west; thence north on said range line to the sixth standard parallel; thence east to the middle of the channel of Hood Canal; thence northerly along said channel to the middle of the channel of Admiralty Inlet; thence northerly following the channel of said inlet to a point due north of Point Wilson and place of

beginning. [(i) 1 H.C. §12; 1877 p 406 § 1; 1869 p 292 § 1; RRS § 3940. (ii) 1925 ex.s. c 40 § 1; RRS § 3963-1.]

**36.04.170 King county.** King county shall consist of the territory bounded as follows, to wit: Beginning at the point of intersection of the center of East Passage (also known as Admiralty Inlet) on Puget Sound and the northerly line of the Puyallup Indian Reservation (projected northwesterly); thence southeasterly in a straight line along said northerly line of Puyallup Indian Reservation and same extended to a point on the east line of section thirty-one, township twenty-one, north, range four east, Willamette Meridian; thence south along said east line of section thirty-one, township twenty-one, range four east, Willamette Meridian, to the township line between township twenty north and township twenty-one north (being the fifth standard parallel north); thence east along said township line between township twenty north and township twenty-one north to the middle of the main channel of White river, near the northeast corner of section three, township twenty north, range five east, Willamette Meridian; thence upstream along the middle of the main channel of White river to the forks of White river and Greenwater river; thence upstream along the middle of the main channel of the Greenwater river to the forks of the Greenwater river and Meadow creek; thence upstream along the middle of the main channel of Meadow creek to the summit of the Cascade mountains, at a point known as Naches Pass, said point lying in the southwest quarter of section thirty-five, township nineteen north, range eleven east, Willamette Meridian; thence northerly along the summit of the Cascade mountains to a point on the township line between township twenty-six north and township twenty-seven north, said point lying near the north quarter-corner of section three, township twenty-six north, range thirteen east, Willamette Meridian; thence west along said township line between township twenty-six north and township twenty-seven north to the middle of the channel known as Admiralty Inlet on Puget Sound; thence southerly along said middle of channel known as Admiralty Inlet through Colvo's Passage (West Passage) on the west side of Vashon Island to a point due north of Point Defiance; thence southeasterly along middle of channel between Vashon Island and Point Defiance (Dalcos Passage) to a point due south of Quartermaster Harbor; thence northeasterly along middle of channel known as Admiralty Inlet to point of beginning. King county is renamed in honor of the Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King, Jr. [2005 c 90 § 1; 1 H.C. § 13; 1869 p 293 § 1; 1867 p 46 § 1; 1854 p 470 § 1; RRS § 3941.]

**Reviser's note:** Change in boundary by virtue of election in 1901 under chapter 36.08 RCW incorporated herein.

**36.04.180 Kitsap county.** Kitsap county shall consist of the territory bounded as follows, to wit: Commencing in the middle of Colvo's Passage at a point due east of the meander post between sections nine and sixteen, on west side of Colvo's Passage, in township twenty-two north, range two east; thence west on the north boundary line of sections sixteen, seventeen and eighteen, to the head of Case's Inlet; thence north along the east boundary of Mason county through the center of townships twenty-two and twenty-three, range one west, to the north line of said township

twenty-three; thence due west to the middle of the channel of Hood Canal; thence along said channel to the middle of the main channel of Admiralty Inlet; thence following the main channels of said inlet and Puget Sound up to the middle of Colvo's Passage; thence following the channel of said passage to the place of beginning. [1877 p 406 § 1; 1869 p 293 § 1; 1867 p 46 § 1; 1858 p 51 § 1; RRS § 3942.]

**36.04.190 Kittitas county.** Kittitas county shall consist of the territory bounded as follows, to wit: Commencing at a point where the main channel of the Columbia river crosses the township line between township fourteen and fifteen north, range twenty-three east of the Willamette Meridian, and running thence west on said township line to the range line between ranges eighteen and nineteen east; thence north on said range line six miles, or to the township line between the townships fifteen and sixteen north; thence west on said township line to the range line between ranges seventeen and eighteen east; thence north to the township line between townships sixteen and seventeen north; thence west along said township line and a line prolonged due west to the Naches river; and thence northerly along the main channel of the Naches river to the summit of the Cascade mountains, or to the eastern boundary of King county; thence north along the eastern boundary of King county to the point where such boundary intersects the summit of the main divide between the waters flowing northerly and easterly into the Wenatchee and Columbia rivers and the water flowing southerly and westerly into the Yakima river; thence in a general southeasterly direction along the summit of such main divide between the waters flowing northerly and easterly into the Wenatchee and Columbia rivers and the waters flowing southerly and westerly into the Yakima river, following the course of the center of the summit of the watershed dividing such respective waters, to the fifth standard parallel north; thence east along the fifth standard parallel north to the middle of the main channel of the Columbia river; thence down the main channel of the Columbia to the place of beginning. [1899 c 95 § 1; 1886 p 168 § 1; 1883 p 90 § 1; RRS § 3943.]

**36.04.200 Klickitat county.** Klickitat county shall consist of the territory bounded as follows, to wit: Commencing at a point in the midchannel of the Columbia river opposite the mouth of the White Salmon river; thence up the channel of the White Salmon river as far north as the southern boundary of township four north, range ten east of Willamette Meridian; thence due west on the township line to range nine east of Willamette Meridian; thence north following said range line to where it intersects the south boundary of Yakima county projected; thence east along the north boundary of township six north until that line intersects the range line between range twenty-three east and range twenty-four east; thence south along such range line to the Columbia river; thence down the Columbia river, midchannel, to the place of beginning. [1905 c 89 § 1; 1 H.C. §17; 1881 p 187 § 1; 1873 p 571 § 1; 1869 p 296 § 1; 1868 p 60 § 1; 1867 p 49 § 1; 1861 p 59 § 1; 1859 p 420 § 1; RRS § 3944.]

**36.04.210 Lewis county.** Lewis county shall consist of the territory bounded as follows, to wit: Beginning at the northwest corner of section eighteen, township fifteen north,

range five west; thence south along the west boundary of range five west to the southwest corner of township eleven north, range five west; thence east along the south boundary of township eleven north to the summit of the Cascade mountains; thence northerly along said summit to a point due east of the head of Nisqually river; thence west to the head of the Nisqually river; thence westerly down the channel of the river to a point two miles north of the line between townships fourteen and fifteen north; thence west to the northwest corner of section twenty-six, township fifteen north, range four west; thence north two miles to the northwest corner of section fourteen, township fifteen north, range four west; thence west to place of beginning. [1 H.C. §§18, 19; 1888 p 73 § 1; 1879 p 213 § 1; 1869 p 295 § 1; 1867 p 48 § 1; 1861 p 33 § 1; RRS § 3945.]

**36.04.220 Lincoln county.** Lincoln county shall consist of the territory bounded as follows, to wit: Beginning at the point in township twenty-seven north, where the Colville Guide Meridian between ranges thirty-nine and forty east, Willamette Meridian, intersects the Spokane river, and running thence south along said meridian line to the township line between townships twenty and twenty-one north; thence west along said township line to its intersection with the Columbia Guide Meridian between ranges thirty and thirty-one east, Willamette Meridian; thence north along said meridian line to a point where it intersects the midchannel of the Columbia river; thence up said river in the middle of the channel thereof to the mouth of the Spokane river; thence up the Spokane river, in the middle of the channel thereof, to the place of beginning. [1883 p 89 § 1; 1883 p 95 § 1; RRS § 3946.]

**36.04.230 Mason county.** Mason county shall consist of the territory bounded as follows, to wit: Commencing in middle of the main channel of Puget Sound where it is intersected in the midchannel of Case's Inlet; thence westerly along the midchannel of Puget Sound, via Dana's Passage, into Totten's Inlet, and up said inlet to its intersection by section line between sections twenty-eight and twenty-nine, township nineteen north, range three west of the Willamette Meridian; thence south to the southwest corner of section thirty-three in township nineteen north, range three west; thence west along the township line dividing townships eighteen and nineteen, twenty miles, to the township line dividing ranges six and seven west, of the Willamette Meridian, which constitutes a part of the east boundary line of Grays Harbor county; thence north along said township line to the sixth standard parallel; thence east along said parallel line to the middle of the channel of Hood Canal; thence southerly along said midchannel to a point due west of the intersection of the shore line of said Hood Canal by the township line between townships twenty-three and twenty-four; thence east along said township line to the line dividing sections three and four in said township twenty-three north, range one west of the Willamette Meridian; thence south along said section line to the head of Case's Inlet; thence south by the midchannel of said inlet to the place of beginning. [1877 p 406 § 1; 1869 p 293 § 1; 1867 p 45 § 1; 1864 p 71 § 1; 1863 p 7 (local laws portion) § 1; 1861 p 56 § 1; 1861 p 30 § 1; 1860 p 458 § 1; 1854 p 474 § 1; 1854 p 470 § 1; RRS § 3947.]

**36.04.240 Okanogan county.** Okanogan county shall consist of the territory bounded as follows, to wit: Beginning at the intersection of the forty-ninth parallel with the range line between ranges thirty-one and thirty-two east, and from thence running in a southerly direction on said range line to the intersection of the said range line with the Columbia river, and thence down the river to the seventh standard parallel north; thence west along the seventh standard parallel north to the watershed between the waters flowing northerly and easterly into the Methow river and the waters flowing southerly and westerly into Lake Chelan; thence in a general northwesterly direction along the summit of the main divide between the waters flowing northerly and easterly into the Methow river and the waters flowing westerly and southerly into Lake Chelan and its tributaries; following the course of the center of the summit of the watershed dividing said respective waters to the point where the same intersects the east boundary of Skagit county and the summit of the Cascade mountains; thence northerly with said summit to the forty-ninth parallel, and thence on the said parallel to the place of beginning. [1899 c 95 § 1; 1888 p 70 § 1; RRS § 3948.]

**36.04.250 Pacific county.** Pacific county shall consist of the territory bounded as follows, to wit: Commencing at the midchannel of the Columbia river at the point of intersection of the line between ranges eight and nine west; thence north along said line to the north boundary of township ten north; thence east along said boundary to the line between ranges five and six west; thence north along the west boundary of range five west to the northwest corner of section eighteen in township fifteen north, range five west; thence west to the west boundary of the state in the Pacific Ocean; thence southerly along said boundary, including Shoalwater Bay, to a point opposite Cape Disappointment; thence up midchannel of the Columbia river to the place of beginning. [(i) 1879 p 213 § 1; 1873 p 538 § 1; 1867 p 49 § 1; 1860 p 429 § 1; 1854 p 471 § 1; RRS § 3949. (ii) 1925 ex.s. c 40 § 1; RRS § 3963-1.]

**36.04.260 Pend Oreille county.** Pend Oreille county shall consist of the territory bounded and described as follows, to wit: Beginning at the southeast corner of section thirty-six in township thirty north, range forty-two east of the Willamette Meridian; thence running north, along the east line of said township thirty north, range forty-two east of the Willamette Meridian, to the northeast corner of section one, in said township thirty; thence west to the southwest corner of section thirty-four in township thirty-one north, range forty-two east of Willamette Meridian; thence north, along the west line of sections thirty-four, twenty-seven and twenty-two of said township thirty-one north, range forty-two east of Willamette Meridian; thence north on a line from the northwest corner of section twenty-two in township thirty-one to a point on the north line of township thirty-one, midway between the northeast corner and the northwest corner of said township thirty-one, which line will be the west line of sections fifteen, ten and three of said township thirty-one, when the same are surveyed; thence to the center point on the south line of township thirty-two north, range forty-two east of Willamette Meridian; thence north on the north and south center line of

said township thirty-two, which line will be the west line of sections thirty-four, twenty-seven, twenty-two, fifteen, ten, and three of township thirty-two when the same is surveyed, to the north line of said township thirty-two; thence to the center point on the south line of township thirty-three north, range forty-two east of Willamette Meridian; thence north, on the north and south center line of township thirty-three north of range forty-two east of Willamette Meridian, which line will be the west line of sections thirty-four, twenty-seven, twenty-two, fifteen, ten and three of said township thirty-three, when the same is surveyed, to the north line of said township thirty-three; thence to the center point on the south line of township thirty-four north, range forty-two east of Willamette Meridian; thence north on the north and south center line of said township thirty-four, which line will be the west line of sections thirty-four, twenty-seven, twenty-two, fifteen, ten and three of said township thirty-four when the same are surveyed, to the north line of said township; thence to the center point on the south line of township thirty-five north, range forty-two east of Willamette Meridian; thence north, on the north and south center line of township thirty-five north, range forty-two east of Willamette Meridian, which line will be the west line of sections thirty-four, twenty-seven, twenty-two, fifteen, ten and three of said township thirty-five when the same are surveyed to the north line of said township thirty-five; thence to the southwest corner of section thirty-four in township thirty-six north, range forty-two east of Willamette Meridian; thence north, along the west line of sections thirty-four, twenty-seven, twenty-two, fifteen, ten and three to the northwest corner of section three of said township thirty-six; thence west along the south line of township thirty-seven north, range forty-two, and township thirty-seven north, range forty-one east of the Willamette Meridian, to the center point on the south line of said township thirty-seven north, range forty-one east of the Willamette Meridian, which point will be the southwest corner of section thirty-four in said township thirty-seven north, range forty-one east of the Willamette Meridian, when the same are surveyed; thence north along the north and south center line of said township thirty-seven north, range forty-one east of the Willamette Meridian, which line will be the west line of sections thirty-four, twenty-seven, twenty-two, fifteen, ten and three of said township when the same are surveyed, to the north line of said township thirty-seven; thence east, along the south line of township thirty-eight north, range forty-one east of Willamette Meridian to the southeast corner of said township thirty-eight north, range forty-one east of the Willamette Meridian; thence to the southwest corner of section thirty-one in township thirty-eight north, range forty-two east of Willamette Meridian; thence north, along the west line of said township thirty-eight, to the northwest corner of said township thirty-eight; thence east along the north line of township thirty-eight, to the center point on the south line of township thirty-nine north, range forty-two east of Willamette Meridian, which point will be the southwest corner of section thirty-four of said township thirty-nine when the same are surveyed; thence north along the north and south center line of said township thirty-nine, which line will be the west line of sections thirty-four, twenty-seven, twenty-two, fifteen, ten and three of said township thirty-nine, when the same are surveyed, to the north line of said township thirty-

nine; thence east along the south line of township forty north, range forty-two east, of Willamette Meridian to the southeast corner of said township forty; thence north, along the east line of said township forty, to the international boundary line; thence east along the international boundary line, to the intersection of the state line between the states of Washington and Idaho with said international boundary line; thence south along said state line, to the southeast corner of section thirty-one, township thirty north, range forty-six east of Willamette Meridian; thence due west to the southeast corner of section thirty-six, township thirty north, range forty-two east of Willamette Meridian, to the place of beginning. [1911 c 28 § 1; RRS § 3950.]

**36.04.270 Pierce county.** Pierce county shall consist of the territory bounded as follows, to wit: Commencing at the mouth, midchannel, of the Nisqually river; thence following the main channel of said river to its head; thence due east to the summit of the Cascade mountains; thence northerly along the summit to the head of the Green Water; thence westerly down said river to its confluence with White river; thence down the main channel of White river to the intersection of the fifth standard parallel; thence west along said line to the southeast corner of section thirty-one, township twenty-one north, range four east of Willamette Meridian; thence north along the east line of said section thirty-one to its intersection with the northerly line of the Puyallup Indian reservation; thence northwesterly on said line of the Puyallup Indian reservation, projected northwesterly in a straight line, to its intersection with the center line of Puget Sound; thence southwesterly and westerly following the channel of Dalco Passage to the south entrance of Colvo's Passage; thence down the channel of said passage to the northeast corner of section sixteen, in township twenty-two north, range two east; thence west to the northeast corner of section sixteen, in township twenty-two north, range one west; thence southerly along the channels of Case's Inlet and Puget Sound, to the middle of the mouth of the Nisqually river and place of beginning. [1869 p 294 § 1; 1867 p 47 § 1; 1859 p 59 § 1; 1855 p 43 § 1; RRS § 3951.]

**36.04.280 San Juan county.** San Juan county shall consist of the territory bounded as follows, to wit: Commencing in the Gulf of Georgia at the place where the boundary line between the United States and the British possessions deflects from the forty-ninth parallel of north latitude; thence following said boundary line through the Gulf of Georgia and Haro Strait to the middle of the Strait of Fuca; thence easterly through Fuca Straits along the center of the main channel between Blunt's Island and San Juan and Lopez Islands to a point easterly from the west entrance of Deception Pass, until opposite the middle of the entrance to the Rosario Straits; thence northerly through the middle of Rosario Straits and through the Gulf of Georgia to the place of beginning. [1877 p 425 § 1; 1873 p 461 § 1; RRS § 3952.]

**36.04.290 Skagit county.** Skagit county shall consist of the territory bounded as follows, to wit: Commencing at mid-channel of Rosario Strait where the dividing line between townships thirty-six and thirty-seven intersects the same; thence east on said township line to the summit of the Cas-

cade mountains; thence south along the summit of said mountain range to the eighth standard parallel; thence west along the parallel to the center of the channel or deepest channel of the nearest arm of Puget Sound and extending along said channel to the east entrance of Deception Pass; thence through said pass to the center of the channel of Rosario Strait; thence northerly along said channel to the place of beginning. [1883 p 97 § 1; RRS § 3953.]

**36.04.300 Skamania county.** Skamania county shall consist of the territory bounded as follows, to wit: Commencing on the Columbia river at a point where range line four east strikes said river; thence north to the north boundary of township ten north; thence east to a point due north of the mouth of White Salmon; thence south to the township line dividing townships six and seven; thence west to the northwest corner of Klickitat county; thence south along the west boundary of said county to the Columbia river; thence along the midchannel of said river to the place of beginning. [1881 p 187 § 1; 1879 p 213 § 1; 1867 p 49 § 1; 1854 p 472 § 1; RRS § 3954.]

**36.04.310 Snohomish county.** Snohomish county shall consist of the territory bounded as follows, to wit: Commencing at the southwest corner of Skagit county; thence east along the eighth standard parallel to the summit of the Cascade mountains; thence southerly along the summit of the Cascade mountains to the northeast corner of King county, it being a point due east of the northeast corner of township twenty-six north, range four east; thence due west along the north boundary of King county to Puget Sound; thence northerly along the channel of Puget Sound and Possession Sound to the entrance of Port Susan, including Gedney Island; thence up the main channel of Port Susan to the mouth of the Stillaguamish river; thence northwesterly through the channel of the slough at the head of Camano Island, known as Davis Slough; thence northerly to the place of beginning. [1877 p 426 § 3; 1869 p 291 § 1; 1867 p 44 § 1; 1862 p 107 § 1; 1861 p 19 § 1; RRS § 3955.]

**36.04.320 Spokane county.** Spokane county shall consist of the territory bounded as follows, to wit: Commencing at the northeast corner of Lincoln county; thence up the mid-channel of the Spokane river to the Little Spokane river; thence north to the township line between townships twenty-nine and thirty; thence east to the boundary line between Washington and Idaho; thence south on said boundary line to the fifth standard parallel; thence west on said parallel to the Colville Guide Meridian; thence north on said meridian to the place of beginning. [1879 p 203; 1864 p 70; 1860 p 436; 1858 p 51; RRS § 3956.]

**36.04.330 Stevens county.** Stevens county shall consist of the territory bounded as follows, to wit: Commencing at the southeast corner of township thirty north, range forty-two east of the Willamette Meridian; thence north to the northeast corner of said township; thence west to the southwest corner of section thirty-four, township thirty-one north, range forty-two east; thence north along the center line of townships thirty-one, thirty-two, thirty-three, thirty-four, thirty-five and thirty-six in said range forty-two east to the northwest corner of section three in township thirty-six north; thence west to

the northwest corner of section three, township thirty-six north, range forty-one east; thence north along the center line of township thirty-seven to the northwest corner of section three in said township; thence east to the northeast corner of said township; thence north to the northwest corner of township thirty-eight, range forty-two east; thence east to the northwest corner of section three of said township; thence north along the center line of township thirty-nine to the northwest corner of section three in said township; thence east to the northeast corner of said township; thence north to the northern boundary line of the state; thence west to where said boundary line intersects the middle of the channel of the Kettle river; thence south along said channel to its confluence with the Columbia river; thence continuing south along the middle of the channel of the Columbia river to its confluence with the Spokane river; thence easterly along the channel of the Spokane to the Little Spokane river; thence north to the township line separating townships twenty-nine and thirty; thence east to the place of beginning. [(i) 1 H.C. §30; 1888 p 70; 1879 p 203; 1869 p 297; 1867 p 50; 1864 p 70; 1863 p 6; RRS § 3957. (ii) 1899 c 18 § 1; RRS § 3934.]

**36.04.340 Thurston county.** Thurston county shall consist of the territory bounded as follows, to wit: Commencing at the southeast corner of section thirty-two in township nineteen north, range four west; thence east on the township line to the southeast corner of section thirty-two in township nineteen north, range three west; thence north to the middle of the channel of Totten's Inlet; thence along said channel to the waters of Puget Sound, intersecting the line in the channel of Puget Sound west of the southern portion of Squaxen Reservation; thence following said channel to the mouth of the Nisqually river; thence up midchannel of said river to a point where it strikes the north boundary of Lewis county; thence due west to the northwest corner of section twenty-six, township fifteen north, range four west; thence north to the southeast corner of section thirty-four in township eighteen north, range four west; thence west on the township line to the southeast corner of section thirty-two; thence north on the section line to the place of beginning. [1 H.C. §31; 1873 p 482; 1869 p 294; 1867 p 47; 1863 p 7; 1860 p 458; RRS § 3958.]

**36.04.350 Wahkiakum county.** Wahkiakum county shall consist of the territory bounded as follows, to wit: Commencing at the southeast corner of Pacific county, on the Columbia river; thence up midchannel of said river to the southwest corner of Cowlitz county; thence north to the northwest corner of Cowlitz county; thence west on the northern boundary of township ten north to the line between ranges eight and nine west; thence south to the place of beginning. [1879 p 213; 1869 p 295; 1867 p 48; 1854 p 474; RRS § 3959.]

**36.04.360 Walla Walla county.** Walla Walla county shall consist of the territory bounded as follows, to wit: Commencing at a point where the boundary line between Washington and Oregon intersects the Columbia river; thence up the main channel of the Columbia to the mouth of the Snake river; thence up the main channel of said river to where the range line between ranges thirty-six and thirty-seven inter-

sects said point; thence south on said range line to the northwest corner of township nine north, range thirty-seven east; thence east on the north boundary line of township nine north, range thirty-seven east, to the northeast corner of said township; thence south on the line between ranges thirty-seven and thirty-eight east, of the Willamette Meridian, to the northwest corner of township eight north, range thirty-eight east; thence along the north boundary line of township eight north, range thirty-eight east, to the northeast corner of said township; thence due south to the line dividing the state of Washington from the state of Oregon; thence due west on said dividing line to the place of beginning. [(i) 1 H.C. §33; 1879 p 226; 1875 p 133; 1869 p 397; 1868 p 60; 1867 p 50; 1858 p 51; 1854 p 472; RRS § 3960. (ii) 1879 p 226; RRS § 3960-1.]

**36.04.370 Whatcom county.** Whatcom county shall consist of the territory bounded as follows, to wit: Commencing on the forty-ninth parallel at the point dividing the American and British possessions in the Gulf of Georgia; thence along said boundary line to where it deflects at the north entrance to the Haro Strait; thence along the northeasterly boundary of San Juan county to the ninth standard parallel, or the northwest corner of Skagit county; thence due east along said parallel to the summit of the Cascade mountains; thence northerly along the summit of said mountains to the forty-ninth parallel of north latitude; thence west along said parallel to the place of beginning. [1 H.C. §34; 1877 p 426; 1869 p 291; 1867 p 44; 1859 p 60; 1854 p 475; RRS § 3961.]

**36.04.380 Whitman county.** Whitman county shall consist of the territory bounded as follows, to wit: Commencing at a point where the range line between ranges thirty-eight and thirty-nine east intersects the fifth standard parallel, being the northeast corner of Adams county; thence east on said parallel to the boundary line between Idaho and Washington; thence south on said boundary line to the midchannel of the Snake river; thence down the midchannel of the Snake river to its intersection with the midchannel of the Palouse river; thence north along the midchannel of the Palouse river to the point where the same intersects the range line between ranges thirty-eight and thirty-nine east; thence north along said range line to the place of beginning. [(i) 1 H.C. §35; 1875 p 189; 1871 p 134; RRS § 3962. (ii) 1883 p 87; RRS § 3935. (iii) 1883 p 93; RRS § 3924.]

**36.04.390 Yakima county.** Yakima county shall consist of the territory bounded as follows, to wit: Commencing at the northwest corner of township six north of range twelve east; thence east along the north boundary of township six north until said line intersects the range line between range twenty-three east and range twenty-four east; thence north along said range line to the Columbia river; thence north up the midchannel of said river to the southeast corner of Kittitas county; thence along the southern boundary of Kittitas county to the summit of the Cascade mountains; thence southerly to the southeast corner of Lewis county; thence west along the line of said county to the northeast corner of Skamania county; thence along the east line of Skamania county to the line between townships six and seven north; thence east along said line to the place of beginning. [1905 c

89 § 1; 1886 p 168; 1873 p 571; 1869 p 296; 1868 p 60; 1867 p 50; RRS § 3963.]

**36.04.400 Survey of county boundaries.** All common boundaries and common corners of counties not adequately marked by natural objects or lines, or by surveys lawfully made, must be definitely established by surveys jointly made by all the counties affected thereby, and approved by the board of county commissioners of such counties. The cost of making such surveys shall be apportioned equally among the counties interested, and the board of county commissioners shall audit the same, and the amounts shall be paid out of the county current expense fund. [Code 1881 § 2661; RRS § 3990.]

**Chapter 36.05 RCW**

**ACTIONS TO ESTABLISH BOUNDARIES**

Sections

- 36.05.010 Suit in equity authorized—Grounds.
- 36.05.020 Noninterested judge to sit.
- 36.05.030 Residents of area may intervene.
- 36.05.040 Questions of fact to be determined.
- 36.05.050 Court may establish boundary line.
- 36.05.060 Practice in civil actions to prevail.
- 36.05.070 Copies of decree to be filed and recorded.
- 36.05.080 "Territory" defined.

*Lines not to be changed by special act: State Constitution Art. 2 § 28(18).*

**36.05.010 Suit in equity authorized—Grounds.** Whenever the boundary line between two or more adjoining counties in this state are in dispute, or have been lost by time, accident or any other cause, or have become obscure or uncertain, one or more of the counties, in its corporate name, may bring and maintain suit against such other adjoining county or counties, in equity, in the superior court, to establish the location of the boundary line or lines. [1963 c 4 § 36.05.010. Prior: 1897 c 76 § 1; RRS § 3964.]

**36.05.020 Noninterested judge to sit.** A suit to establish county boundary lines shall be tried before a judge of the superior court who is not a resident of a county which is a party to such suit, or of a judicial district embracing any such county. [1963 c 4 § 36.05.020. Prior: 1897 c 76 § 2; RRS § 3965.]

**36.05.030 Residents of area may intervene.** A majority of the voters living in the territory embracing such disputed, lost, obscure, or uncertain boundary line may, by petition, duly verified by one or more of them, intervene in the suit, and thereupon the court shall have jurisdiction and power, in locating and establishing the boundary line or lines, to strike or transfer from one county to another a strip or portion of such territory not exceeding two miles in width. [1963 c 4 § 36.05.030. Prior: 1897 c 76 § 3; RRS § 3966.]

**36.05.040 Questions of fact to be determined.** The boundaries of such territory, the number of voters living therein, and the sufficiency of such petition are questions of fact to be determined by the court. [1963 c 4 § 36.05.040. Prior: 1897 c 76 § 5; RRS § 3968.]

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**36.05.050 Court may establish boundary line.** The court shall have power to move or establish such boundary line on any government section line or subdivisional line thereof, of the section in or through which said disputed, lost, obscure or uncertain boundary line may be located, or if such boundary line is in unsurveyed territory, then the court shall have power to move or establish such boundary line so it will conform to extensions of government section lines already surveyed in that vicinity. [1963 c 4 § 36.05.050. Prior: 1897 c 76 § 6; RRS § 3969.]

**36.05.060 Practice in civil actions to prevail.** The practice, procedure, rules of evidence, and appeals to the supreme court or the court of appeals applicable to civil actions, are preserved under this chapter. [1971 c 81 § 96; 1963 c 4 § 36.05.060. Prior: 1897 c 76 § 7; RRS § 3970.]

**36.05.070 Copies of decree to be filed and recorded.** The clerk of the court in whose office a decree is entered under the provisions of this chapter, shall forthwith furnish certified copies thereof to the secretary of state, and to the auditors of the counties, which are parties to said suit. The secretary of state, and the county auditors, shall file and record said copies of the decree in their respective offices. [1963 c 4 § 36.05.070. Prior: 1897 c 76 § 8; RRS § 3971.]

**36.05.080 "Territory" defined.** The term "territory," as used in this chapter, means that portion of counties lying along the boundary line and within one mile on either side thereof. [1963 c 4 § 36.05.080. Prior: 1897 c 76 § 4; RRS § 3967.]

**Chapter 36.08 RCW**

**TRANSFER OF TERRITORY WHERE CITY'S HARBOR LIES IN TWO COUNTIES**

Sections

- 36.08.010 Petition and notice of election.
- 36.08.020 Conduct of election—Proclamation of change.
- 36.08.030 Official proceedings not disturbed by transfer.
- 36.08.040 Local officers to serve out terms.
- 36.08.050 Transferee county liable for existing debts—Exception.
- 36.08.060 Adjustment of indebtedness.
- 36.08.070 Arbitration of differences.
- 36.08.080 Expense of proceedings.
- 36.08.090 Transcript of records by county auditor.
- 36.08.100 Construction—Limitations.

**36.08.010 Petition and notice of election.** If a harbor, inlet, bay, or mouth of river is embraced within two adjoining counties, and an incorporated city is located upon the shore of such harbor, bay, inlet, or mouth of river and it is desired to embrace within the limits of one county, the full extent of the shore line of the harbor, port, or bay, and the waters thereof, together with a strip of the adjacent and contiguous upland territory not exceeding three miles in width, to be measured back from highwater mark, and six miles in length, and not being at a greater distance in any part of said strip from the courthouse in the county seat of the county to which the territory is proposed to be annexed, as such county seat and courthouse are now situated, than ten miles, a majority of the qualified electors living in such territory may petition to have the territory stricken from the county of which it shall then be a

part, and added to and made a part of the county contiguous thereto.

The petition shall describe with certainty the bounds and area of the territory, with the reasons for making the change and shall be presented to the board of county commissioners of the county in which the territory is located, which shall proceed to ascertain if the petition contains the requisite number of petitioners, who must be bona fide residents of the territory sought to be stricken off and transferred to the contiguous county.

If satisfied that the petition is signed by a majority of the bona fide electors of the territory, and that there will remain in the county from which it is taken more than four thousand inhabitants, the board shall make an order that a special election be held within the limits of the territory described in the petition, on a date to be named in the order.

Notices of the election shall contain a description of the territory proposed to be transferred and the names of the counties from and to which the transfer is intended to be made, and shall be posted and published as required for general elections. [1963 c 4 § 36.08.010. Prior: 1891 c 144 § 1; RRS § 3972.]

**36.08.020 Conduct of election—Proclamation of change.** The election shall be conducted in all respects as general elections are conducted under the laws governing general elections, in so far as they may be applicable, except that there shall be triplicate returns made, one to each of the respective county auditors and another to the office of the secretary of state. The ballots used at such election shall contain the words "for transferring territory," or "against transferring territory." The votes shall be canvassed, as by law required, within twenty days, and if three-fifths of the votes cast in the territory at such election are "for transferring territory," the territory described in the petition shall become a part of and be added to and made a part of the county contiguous thereto, and within thirty days after the canvass of the returns of the election, the governor shall issue his or her proclamation of the change of county lines. [2009 c 549 § 4001; 1963 c 4 § 36.08.020. Prior: 1891 c 144 § 2; RRS § 3973.]

**36.08.030 Official proceedings not disturbed by transfer.** All assessments and collection of taxes, and all judicial or other official proceedings commenced prior to the governor's proclamation transferring territory to a contiguous county, shall be continued, prosecuted, and completed in the same manner as if no such transfer had been made. [1963 c 4 § 36.08.030. Prior: 1891 c 144 § 3; RRS § 3974.]

**36.08.040 Local officers to serve out terms.** All township, precinct, school, and road district officers within the transferred territory shall continue to hold their respective offices within the county to which they may be transferred until their respective terms of office expire, and until their successors are elected and qualified. [1963 c 4 § 36.08.040. Prior: 1891 c 144 § 4; RRS § 3975.]

**36.08.050 Transferee county liable for existing debts—Exception.** Every county which is thus enlarged by territory taken from another county shall be liable for a just

proportion of the existing debts of the county from which such territory is stricken, which proportion shall be paid by the county to which such territory is transferred at such time and in such manner as may be agreed upon by the boards of county commissioners of both counties: PROVIDED, That the county to which the territory is transferred shall not be liable for any portion of the debt of the county from which the territory is taken, incurred in the purchase of any county property, or the construction of any county building then in use or under construction, which shall fall within and be retained by the county from which the territory is taken. [1963 c 4 § 36.08.050. Prior: 1891 c 144 § 5; RRS § 3976.]

**36.08.060 Adjustment of indebtedness.** The county auditors of the respective counties interested in the transfer of territory, as in this chapter provided, are constituted a board of appraisers and adjusters, to appraise the property, both real and personal, owned by the county from which the territory is taken, and to adjust the indebtedness of such county with the county to which such territory is transferred, in proportion to the amount of taxable property within the territory taken from the one county and transferred to the other. [1963 c 4 § 36.08.060. Prior: 1891 c 144 § 6; RRS § 3977.]

**36.08.070 Arbitration of differences.** If the board of appraisers and adjusters do not agree on any subject, value, or settlement, they shall choose a third person from an adjoining county to settle their differences, and the decision thus arrived at shall be final. [2009 c 549 § 4002; 1963 c 4 § 36.08.070. Prior: 1891 c 144 § 7; RRS § 3978.]

**36.08.080 Expense of proceedings.** The expense of the proceedings and election provided for in this chapter shall be paid by the county to which the territory is attached. [1963 c 4 § 36.08.080. Prior: 1891 c 144 § 8; RRS § 3979.]

**36.08.090 Transcript of records by county auditor.** The county auditor of the county to which any territory may be transferred may take transcripts of all records, books, papers, etc., on file in the office of the county auditor of the county from which the territory has been transferred, which may be necessary to perfect the records of his or her county, and for this purpose he or she shall have access to the records of the county from which such territory is stricken, free of cost. [2009 c 549 § 4003; 1963 c 4 § 36.08.090. Prior: 1891 c 144 § 9; RRS § 3980.]

**36.08.100 Construction—Limitations.** Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to authorize the annexing of territory of one county to a neighboring county, where the territory proposed to be annexed, or any part thereof, is at a greater distance than ten miles from the courthouse in the county seat of the county to which said territory is proposed to be annexed, as said courthouse is now located, nor to authorize the annexation of any territory at a greater distance than three miles from high water mark of tide water, but such annexation shall be strictly confined within said limits. [1963 c 4 § 36.08.100. Prior: 1891 c 144 § 10; RRS § 3981.]



## Chapter 36.09 RCW

## NEW COUNTY—LIABILITY FOR DEBTS

## Sections

- 36.09.010 Debts and property to be apportioned.  
 36.09.020 Procedure to settle amount charged new county—Basis of apportionment.  
 36.09.035 Procedure to settle amount charged new county—Disagreement between auditors—Determination by third person.  
 36.09.040 Payment of indebtedness—Transfer of property.  
 36.09.050 Collection of taxes levied—Apportionment.

*Combined city and county municipal corporations: State Constitution Art. 11 § 16 (Amendment 58).*

*New county*

*formation by special act allowed: State Constitution Art. 2 § 28(18).  
 restrictions on formation: State Constitution Art. 11 § 3.*

**36.09.010 Debts and property to be apportioned.**

Whenever a new county shall be or shall have been organized out of the territory which was included within the limits of any other county or counties, the new county shall be liable for a reasonable proportion of the debts of the county from which it was taken, and entitled to its proportion of the property of the county. [1963 c 4 § 36.09.010. Prior: Code 1881 § 2657; 1863 p 538 § 3; 1854 p 330 § 1; RRS § 3986.]

**36.09.020 Procedure to settle amount charged new county—Basis of apportionment.** The auditor of the old county shall give the auditor of the new county reasonable notice to meet him or her on a certain day at the county seat of the old county, or at some other convenient place, to settle upon and fix the amount which the new county shall pay. In doing so, they shall not charge either county with any share of debts arising from the erection of public buildings, or out of the construction of roads or bridges which shall be and remain, after the division, within the limits of the other county, and of the other debts they shall apportion to each county such a share of the indebtedness as may be just and equitable, taking into consideration the population of such portion of territory so forming a part of the said counties while so united, and also the relative advantages, derived from the old county organization. [2009 c 549 § 4004; 1963 c 4 § 36.09.020. Prior: (i) Code 1881 § 2658; 1863 p 538 § 4; 1854 p 330 § 2; RRS § 3987. FORMER PART OF SECTION: 1909 c 79 § 1, part; Code 1881 § 2662, part; RRS § 3991, part. Now codified in RCW 36.09.050.]

**36.09.035 Procedure to settle amount charged new county—Disagreement between auditors—Determination by third person.** In case the two auditors cannot agree, they shall call a third person, not a citizen of either county, or in any other manner interested, whose decision shall be binding. In case they cannot agree upon such third person, they shall each name one and decide by lot which it shall be. [1963 c 4 § 36.09.035. Prior: Code 1881 § 2659; 1863 p 539 § 5; 1854 p 330 § 3; RRS § 3988.]

**36.09.040 Payment of indebtedness—Transfer of property.** The auditor of the county indebted upon such decision shall give to the auditor of the other county his or her order upon the treasurer for the amount to be paid out of the proper fund, as in other cases, and also make out a transfer of such property as shall be assigned to either county. [2009 c

(2022 Ed.)

549 § 4005; 1963 c 4 § 36.09.040. Prior: Code 1881 § 2660; 1863 p 539 § 6; 1854 p 330 § 4; RRS § 3989.]

**36.09.050 Collection of taxes levied—Apportionment.** When a county is divided or the boundary is altered, all taxes levied before the division was made or boundaries changed, must be collected by the officers of the county in which the territory was situated before the division or change. And the auditor or auditors of the county or counties so divided or having boundaries changed, shall apportion the amount of the real property taxes so collected after division or change of boundary to the old county or counties and the new county or counties, in the ratio of the assessed value of such property situated in the territory of each county or counties respectively, and the old county that may have been divided or whose boundaries may have been changed, shall retain all of the personal property taxes on the said tax rolls, as compensation for cost of collection of the entire taxes: PROVIDED, That in such accounting neither county shall be charged with any debt or liability then existing incurred in the purchase of any county property, or in the purchase or construction of any county buildings then in use or under construction, which shall fall within and be retained by the county: PROVIDED FURTHER, That this shall not be construed to affect the rights of creditors: AND PROVIDED FURTHER, That any such county property or buildings shall be the property of and owned by the county wherein the same is situated. In case the auditors of the interested counties are not able to agree upon the proportion to be awarded to each county, the same shall be determined by the judge of the superior court of the district in which all of the interested counties are situated, if they be in one district, and have one common judge, and if not, by the judges sitting en banc of the superior courts of the counties involved. Said auditors shall make said apportionment within sixty days after the creation of any new county or the changing of boundaries of any old county, and if they do not, within said time, agree upon said apportionment, thereafter either or any county affected may petition the judge or judges of any court given jurisdiction by this section, and upon ten days' notice to any other county affected, the same may be brought on for hearing and summarily disposed of by said judge or judges, after allowing each side an opportunity to be heard. [1963 c 4 § 36.09.050. Prior: 1909 c 79 § 1; Code 1881 § 2662; RRS § 3991. Formerly RCW 36.09.020, part, 36.09.030 and 36.09.050.]

## Chapter 36.12 RCW

## REMOVAL OF COUNTY SEATS

## Sections

- 36.12.010 Petition for removal—Financial impact statement.  
 36.12.020 Requisites of petition—Submission to electors.  
 36.12.030 Notice of election—Election, how held.  
 36.12.040 Manner of voting.  
 36.12.050 Vote required—Notice of result.  
 36.12.060 Time of removal.  
 36.12.070 Notice to county clerk and secretary of state.  
 36.12.080 Failure of election—Limitation on subsequent removal election.  
 36.12.090 Limitation on successive removal elections.

*County seats*

*location and removal: State Constitution Art. 11 § 2.  
 not to be changed by special act: State Constitution Art. 2 § 28(18).*

**36.12.010 Petition for removal—Financial impact statement.** Whenever the inhabitants of any county desire to remove the county seat of the county from the place where it is fixed by law or otherwise, they shall present a petition to the board of county commissioners of their county praying such removal, and that an election be held to determine to what place such removal must be made. The petition shall set forth the names of the towns or cities to which the county seat is proposed to be removed and shall be filed at least six months before the election. The county shall issue a statement analyzing the financial impact of the proposed removal at least sixty days before the election. The financial impact statement shall include, but not be limited to, an analysis of the: (1) Probable costs to the county government involved in relocating the county seat; (2) probable costs to county employees as a result of relocating the county seat; and (3) probable impact on the city or town from which the county seat is proposed to be removed, and on the city or town where the county seat is proposed to be relocated. [1985 c 145 § 1; 1963 c 4 § 36.12.010. Prior: 1890 p 318 § 1; RRS § 3998.]

**36.12.020 Requisites of petition—Submission to electors.** If the petition is signed by qualified voters of the county equal in number to at least one-third of all the votes cast in the county at the last preceding general election the board must, at the next general election of county officers, submit the question of removal to the electors of the county. [1963 c 4 § 36.12.020. Prior: 1890 p 318 § 2; RRS § 3999.]

**36.12.030 Notice of election—Election, how held.** Notice of the election, clearly stating the object, shall be given, and the election must be held and conducted, and the returns made, in all respects in the manner prescribed by law in regard to elections for county officers. [1963 c 4 § 36.12.030. Prior: 1890 p 318 § 3; RRS § 4000.]

**36.12.040 Manner of voting.** In voting on the question, each voter must vote for or against the place named in the petition. [1963 c 4 § 36.12.040. Prior: 1890 p 318 § 4; RRS § 4001.]

**36.12.050 Vote required—Notice of result.** When the returns have been received and compared, and the results ascertained by the board, if three-fifths of the legal votes cast by those voting on the proposition are in favor of any particular place the proposition has been adopted. The board of county commissioners must give notice of the result by posting notices thereof in all the election precincts in the county. [1963 c 4 § 36.12.050. Prior: 1890 p 318 § 5; RRS § 4002.]

**36.12.060 Time of removal.** In the notice provided for in RCW 36.12.050, the place selected to be the county seat of the county must be so declared upon a day not more than ninety days after the election. After the day named the place chosen is the seat of the county; and the several county officers, whose offices are required by law to be kept at the county seat, shall remove their respective offices, files, records, office fixtures, furniture, and all public property pertaining to their respective offices to the new county seat. [1963 c 4 § 36.12.060. Prior: 1890 p 318 § 6; RRS § 4003.]

**36.12.070 Notice to county clerk and secretary of state.** Whenever any election has been held for change of county seat, the notice given by the board of county commissioners showing the result thereof must be deposited in the office of the county clerk, and a certified copy thereof transmitted to the secretary of state. [1963 c 4 § 36.12.070. Prior: 1890 p 319 § 7; RRS § 4004.]

**36.12.080 Failure of election—Limitation on subsequent removal election.** When an election has been held and no one place receives three-fifths of all the votes cast, the former county seat shall remain the county seat, and no second election may be held within eight years thereafter. [1985 c 145 § 2; 1963 c 4 § 36.12.080. Prior: 1890 p 319 § 8; RRS § 4005.]

**36.12.090 Limitation on successive removal elections.** When the county seat of a county has been removed by a popular vote of the people of the county, it may be again removed, from time to time, in the manner provided by this chapter, but no two elections to effect such removal may be held within eight years. [1985 c 145 § 3; 1963 c 4 § 36.12.090. Prior: 1890 p 319 § 9; RRS § 4006.]

## Chapter 36.13 RCW CLASSIFICATION OF COUNTIES

### Sections

36.13.020	County census authorized.
36.13.030	County census authorized—Personnel—How conducted.
36.13.040	County census authorized—Information to be given enumerators.
36.13.050	County census authorized—Classification to be based on census.
36.13.070	County census authorized—Penalty.
36.13.100	Determination of population.

*Combined city and county municipal corporations: State Constitution Art. 11 § 16 (Amendment 58).*

**36.13.020 County census authorized.** The legislative authority of any county may order a county census to be taken of all the inhabitants of the county. The expense of such census enumeration shall be paid from the county current expense fund. [1991 c 363 § 44; 1977 ex.s. c 110 § 6; 1963 c 4 § 36.13.020. Prior: (i) 1923 c 177 § 1; RRS § 4200-6. (ii) 1923 c 177 § 5; RRS § 4200-10.]

**Purpose—Captions not law—1991 c 363:** See notes following RCW 2.32.180.

**36.13.030 County census authorized—Personnel—How conducted.** For the purpose of making a county census, the legislative authority of any county may employ one or more suitable persons. The census shall be conducted in accordance with standard census definitions and procedures as specified by the office of financial management. [1979 c 151 § 37; 1977 ex.s. c 110 § 1; 1963 c 4 § 36.13.030. Prior: 1923 c 177 § 2; RRS § 4200-7.]

*Population determinations, office of financial management: Chapter 43.62 RCW.*

**36.13.040 County census authorized—Information to be given enumerators.** All persons resident in the county, having knowledge of the facts, shall give the information

required herein to any duly authorized census enumerator when requested by him or her. [2009 c 549 § 4006; 1963 c 4 § 36.13.040. Prior: 1923 c 177 § 4; RRS § 4200-9.]

**36.13.050 County census authorized—Classification to be based on census.** The board of county commissioners shall determine the population of the county based upon such special county census. Based upon such census, it shall enter an order declaring and fixing the population of the county in accordance with such determination, and from and after the entry of the order the county shall be considered and classified for all purposes according to the population thus determined. [1963 c 4 § 36.13.050. Prior: 1923 c 177 § 3; RRS § 4200-8.]

**36.13.070 County census authorized—Penalty.** Any person violating any of the provisions of RCW 36.13.020, 36.13.030, 36.13.040, and 36.13.050, or any officer or enumerator making, assisting, or permitting any duplication of names or making, permitting, or assisting in the enumeration of any fictitious names or persons in taking the census, shall be guilty of a gross misdemeanor. [1963 c 4 § 36.13.070. Prior: 1923 c 177 § 6; RRS § 4200-11.]

**36.13.100 Determination of population.** Whenever any provision of law refers to the population of a county for purposes of distributing funds or for any other purpose, the population of the respective counties shall be determined by the most recent census, population estimate by the office of financial management, or special county census as certified by the office of financial management. [1991 c 363 § 45; 1963 c 4 § 36.13.100. Prior: 1949 c 92 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 4200-6a.]

**Purpose—Captions not law—1991 c 363:** See notes following RCW 2.32.180.

*Population determinations, office of financial management: Chapter 43.62 RCW.*

**Chapter 36.16 RCW**

**COUNTY OFFICERS—GENERAL**

Sections

- 36.16.010 Time of election.
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*Accounts, reports of to state auditor: RCW 43.09.230, 43.09.240.*

*Agricultural*

*agents, assistants, as college employees for retirement benefit purposes: RCW 28B.10.400.*

*expert, pest extermination by: RCW 17.12.060.*

*Air pollution control officer: RCW 70A.15.2300.*

*Assistant superintendents of schools: RCW 28A.310.020, 28A.310.230.*

*Board of adjustment for airport zoning: Chapter 14.12 RCW.*

*Board of managers, county and city tuberculosis hospital: Chapter 70.30 RCW.*

*Civil service for sheriff's office, county officers to aid in carrying out: RCW 41.14.200.*

*Clerks, election*

*duties relating to polling place regulations after closing: Chapter 29A.60 RCW.*

*violations by, penalties: Chapter 29A.84 RCW.*

*Code of ethics for municipal officers—Contract interests: Chapter 42.23 RCW.*

*Compensation, constitutional provision: State Constitution Art. 11 § 5 (Amendment 57).*

*Continuity of government act, effect as to: RCW 42.14.040, 42.14.070.*

*County administrator (public assistance): RCW 74.04.070 through 74.04.080.*

*County superintendent of schools*

*community center board of supervisors, superintendent as member: RCW 28A.335.270.*

*penalties applicable to: Chapter 28A.635 RCW.*

*powers and duties prescribed: Chapter 28A.310 RCW.*

*Dental hygienists, licensed, county may employ: RCW 18.29.050.*

*Department of revenue, to advise: Chapter 84.08 RCW.*

*Detention home personnel: Chapter 13.04 RCW.*

*Director of public health, generally: Chapter 70.08 RCW.*

*District health officer*

*generally: Chapter 70.46 RCW.*

*vital statistics, officer as registrar: Chapter 70.58A RCW.*

*Electrical construction violations, county officers liable—Penalty: RCW 19.29.060.*

*Eligibility to hold office: RCW 42.04.020.*

*Employee safety award programs: RCW 36.32.460.*

*Flood control activities, immunity of from liability: RCW 86.12.037.*

*Free transportation for public officers prohibited: State Constitution Art. 12 § 20.*

*Health officer*

*assisted living facilities, officer to aid in administration of licensing laws: Chapter 18.20 RCW.*

*children with disabilities, education of: RCW 28A.155.030.*

*convention of: RCW 43.70.140.*

*duties relating to*

*certified copies of birth or death certificates: Chapter 70.58A RCW.*

*child welfare agencies: Chapter 74.15 RCW.*

*embalmers, licensing of: Chapter 18.39 RCW.*

*sexually transmitted disease: Chapter 70.24 RCW.*

*hearing tests for pupils, officer may give: RCW 28A.210.020.*

*vital statistics: Chapter 70.58A RCW.*

*water recreational facilities: Chapter 70.90 RCW.*

*Hospitalization and medical aid insurance for: RCW 41.04.180, 41.04.190.*

*Interchange of personnel with federal agency, rights preserved: RCW 41.04.140 through 41.04.170.*

*Juvenile probation officer, psychopathic delinquents, officer's duties: Chapter 71.06 RCW.*

*Local authorities, county officer as for motor vehicle purposes: RCW 46.04.280.*

*Lost or uncertain boundary lines, commissioners appointed to ascertain: RCW 58.04.030.*

*Military**leave for public employees: RCW 38.40.060.**personnel, apprehension and restraint: Chapter 38.38 RCW.**Misconduct of public officers: Chapter 42.20 RCW.**Moneys, use by, of official, a felony: State Constitution Art. 11 § 14.**Moneys to be deposited with treasurer: State Constitution Art. 11 § 15.**Oaths, who may administer: RCW 5.28.010.**Officers, elections, duties, terms, compensation: State Constitution Art. 11 § 5 (Amendment 57).**Payroll deductions for: RCW 41.04.020 through 41.04.036.**Probation counselors: Chapter 13.04 RCW.**Probation officer, family court, officer's duties: RCW 26.12.070.**Property tax advisor: RCW 84.48.140.**Public bodies, meetings: Chapter 42.30 RCW.**Public hospital district superintendent: Chapter 70.44 RCW.**Public officers, terms when vacancies filled: RCW 42.12.030.**P.U.D. taxes certified to and collected by county officials: RCW 54.16.080.**Recall of: State Constitution Art. 1 §§ 33, 34 (Amendment 8).**Registration of public officer, how effectuated: RCW 42.12.020.**Retirement systems, retention of rights: Chapter 41.04 RCW.**Review board, county officers to assist: RCW 35.13.173.**Salaried officers not to receive witness fees: RCW 42.16.020, 42.16.030.**Sanitary officers: Chapter 70.05 RCW.**Social security, federal, coverage includes county employees: Chapter 41.48 RCW.**Special commissioner (flood control by counties jointly): RCW 86.13.060.**State board of health measures, officers to enforce: RCW 43.20.050.**Supervisor of elections, duties relating to**hospital district elections: Chapter 70.44 RCW.**P.U.D. elections: RCW 54.04.060.**Support of dependent children, officials to charge no fees in connection with: RCW 74.20.300.**Surveyor to determine town boundaries: RCW 35.27.040.**Unclaimed money and property in hands of public authority, disposition: RCW 63.29.130.**Vacancies in county offices, how filled: State Constitution Art. 11 § 6 (Amendment 52).*

**36.16.010 Time of election.** The election of county and precinct officers shall be held on the Tuesday next following the first Monday in November, 1922; and every four years thereafter on the Tuesday next following the first Monday in November, and all such elective county and precinct officers shall after midnight, June 11, 1919, be elected at the time herein specified: PROVIDED, That if a vacancy occur during the first biennium after any such election, an election to fill such vacancy for the unexpired term shall be held at the next succeeding general election. [1963 c 4 § 36.16.010. Prior: 1919 c 175 § 2; RRS § 4030.]

**36.16.020 Term of county and precinct officers.** The term of office of all county and precinct officers shall be four years and until their successors are elected and qualified and assume office in accordance with RCW 29A.60.280: PROVIDED, That this section and RCW 36.16.010 shall not apply to county commissioners. [2015 c 53 § 60; 1979 ex.s. c 126 § 26; 1963 c 4 § 36.16.020. Prior: 1959 c 216 § 2; 1919 c 175 § 1; 1886 p 101 § 2; Code 1881 § 3153; 1877 p 330 § 2; 1871 p 35 § 3; 1867 p 7 § 4; RRS § 4029.]

**Purpose—1979 ex.s. c 126:** See RCW 29A.60.280(1).

**36.16.030 Elective county officers enumerated.** *(Effective until January 1, 2025.)* Except as provided elsewhere in this section, in every county there shall be elected from among the qualified voters of the county a county assessor, a county auditor, a county clerk, a county coroner, three county commissioners, a county prosecuting attorney, a county sheriff, and a county treasurer, except that in each county with a population of less than forty thousand no coroner shall be elected and the prosecuting attorney shall be ex officio coroner. Whenever the population of a county increases to forty thousand or more, the prosecuting attorney shall continue as ex officio coroner until a coroner is elected, at the next general election at which the office of prosecuting attorney normally would be elected, and assumes office as provided in RCW 29A.60.280. In any county where the population has once attained forty thousand people and a current coroner is in office and a subsequent census indicates less than forty thousand people, the county legislative authority may maintain the office of coroner by resolution or ordinance. If the county legislative authority has not passed a resolution or enacted an ordinance to maintain the office of coroner, the elected coroner shall remain in office for the remainder of the term for which he or she was elected, but no coroner shall be elected at the next election at which that office would otherwise be filled and the prosecuting attorney shall be the ex officio coroner. In a county with a population of two hundred fifty thousand or more, the county legislative authority may replace the office of coroner with a medical examiner system and appoint a medical examiner as specified in RCW 36.24.190. Any county may enter into an interlocal agreement under chapter 39.34 RCW with an adjoining county for the provision of coroner or medical examiner services. A noncharter county may have five county commissioners as provided in RCW 36.32.010 and 36.32.055 through 36.32.0558. [2021 c 127 § 5; 2015 c 53 § 61; 1996 c 108 § 1; 1991 c 363 §§ 46, 47; 1990 c 252 § 8; 1963 c 4 § 36.16.030. Prior: 1955 c 157 § 5; prior: (i) Code 1881 § 2707; 1869 p 310 §§ 1-3; 1863 p 549 §§ 1-3; 1854 p 424 §§ 1-3; RRS § 4083. (ii) Code 1881 § 2738; 1863 p 552 § 1; 1854 p 426 § 1; RRS § 4106. (iii) 1891 c 5 § 1; RRS § 4127. (iv) 1890 p 478 § 1; 1886 p 164 § 1; 1883 p 39 § 1; Code 1881 § 2752; 1869 p 402 § 1; 1854 p 428 § 1; RRS § 4140. (v) 1943 c 139 § 1; Code 1881 § 2766; 1863 p 557 § 1; 1854 p 434 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 4155. (vi) Code 1881 § 2775, part; 1863 p 559 § 1, part; 1854 p 436 § 1, part; RRS § 4176, part. (vii) 1933 c 136 § 2; 1925 ex.s. c 148 § 2; RRS § 4200-2a. (viii) 1937 c 197 § 1; 1933 c 136 § 3; 1925 ex.s. c 148 § 3; RRS § 4200-3a. (ix) 1937 c 197 § 2; 1933 c 136 § 4; 1925 ex.s. c 148 § 4; RRS § 4200-4a. (x) 1927 c 37 § 1; 1890 p 304 § 2; RRS § 4205-1.]

**Expiration date—2021 c 127 § 5:** "Section 5 of this act expires January 1, 2025." [2021 c 127 § 10.]

**Purpose—Captions not law—1991 c 363:** See notes following RCW 2.32.180.

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

**36.16.030 Elective county officers enumerated.** *(Effective January 1, 2025.)* Except as provided elsewhere in this section, in every county there shall be elected from among the qualified voters of the county a county assessor, a county auditor, a county clerk, a county coroner, three county

commissioners, a county prosecuting attorney, a county sheriff, and a county treasurer, except that in each county with a population of less than forty thousand the county legislative authority may determine that no coroner shall be elected and instead appoint a coroner. In a county with a population of two hundred fifty thousand or more, the county legislative authority may replace the office of coroner with a medical examiner system and appoint a medical examiner as specified in RCW 36.24.190. Any county may enter into an interlocal agreement under chapter 39.34 RCW with an adjoining county for the provision of coroner or medical examiner services. A noncharter county may have five county commissioners as provided in RCW 36.32.010 and 36.32.055 through 36.32.0558. [2021 c 127 § 4; 2015 c 53 § 61; 1996 c 108 § 1; 1991 c 363 §§ 46, 47; 1990 c 252 § 8; 1963 c 4 § 36.16.030. Prior: 1955 c 157 § 5; prior: (i) Code 1881 § 2707; 1869 p 310 §§ 1-3; 1863 p 549 §§ 1-3; 1854 p 424 §§ 1-3; RRS § 4083. (ii) Code 1881 § 2738; 1863 p 552 § 1; 1854 p 426 § 1; RRS § 4106. (iii) 1891 c 5 § 1; RRS § 4127. (iv) 1890 p 478 § 1; 1886 p 164 § 1; 1883 p 39 § 1; Code 1881 § 2752; 1869 p 402 § 1; 1854 p 428 § 1; RRS § 4140. (v) 1943 c 139 § 1; Code 1881 § 2766; 1863 p 557 § 1; 1854 p 434 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 4155. (vi) Code 1881 § 2775, part; 1863 p 559 § 1, part; 1854 p 436 § 1, part; RRS § 4176, part. (vii) 1933 c 136 § 2; 1925 ex.s. c 148 § 2; RRS § 4200-2a. (viii) 1937 c 197 § 1; 1933 c 136 § 3; 1925 ex.s. c 148 § 3; RRS § 4200-3a. (ix) 1937 c 197 § 2; 1933 c 136 § 4; 1925 ex.s. c 148 § 4; RRS § 4200-4a. (x) 1927 c 37 § 1; 1890 p 304 § 2; RRS § 4205-1.]

**Effective date—2021 c 127 §§ 4 and 6:** "Sections 4 and 6 of this act take effect January 1, 2025." [2021 c 127 § 9.]

**Purpose—Captions not law—1991 c 363:** See notes following RCW 2.32.180.

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

**36.16.032 Offices of auditor and clerk may be combined in counties with populations of less than five thousand—Salary.** The office of county auditor may be combined with the office of county clerk in each county with a population of less than five thousand by unanimous resolution of the county legislative authority passed thirty days or more prior to the first day of filing for the primary election for county offices. The salary of such office of county clerk combined with the office of county auditor, and the salary of the office of county auditor that is not combined with the office of county clerk, shall be not less than ten thousand three hundred dollars. The county legislative authority of such county is authorized to increase or decrease the salary of such office: PROVIDED, That the legislative authority of the county shall not reduce the salary of any official below the amount which such official was receiving on January 1, 1973. [1991 c 363 § 48; 1973 1st ex.s. c 88 § 1; 1972 ex.s. c 97 § 1; 1967 ex.s. c 77 § 1; 1963 c 164 § 2; 1963 c 4 § 36.16.032. Prior: 1957 c 219 § 4.]

**Purpose—Captions not law—1991 c 363:** See notes following RCW 2.32.180.

**36.16.040 Oath of office.** Every person elected to county office shall before he or she enters upon the duties of his or her office take and subscribe an oath or affirmation that he or she will faithfully and impartially discharge the duties

of his or her office to the best of his or her ability. This oath, or affirmation, shall be administered and certified by an officer authorized to administer oaths, without charge therefor. [2009 c 549 § 4007; 1963 c 4 § 36.16.040. Prior: 1955 c 157 § 6; prior: (i) Code 1881 § 2666; 1869 p 303 § 4; 1863 p 541 § 4; 1854 p 420 § 4; RRS § 4045. (ii) Code 1881 § 2708, part; 1869 p 310 § 4, part; 1863 p 549 § 4, part; 1854 p 424 § 4, part; RRS § 4084, part. (iii) 1943 c 249 § 1; Code 1881 § 2739; 1863 p 553 § 2, part; 1854 p 426 § 2; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 4107. (iv) 1886 p 61 § 4, part; 1883 p 73 § 9, part; Code 1881 § 2163, part; 1877 p 246 § 5, part; 1863 p 408 § 3, part; 1860 p 334 § 3, part; 1858 p 12 § 3, part; 1854 p 417 § 3, part; RRS § 4129, part. (v) 1897 c 71 § 44; 1893 c 124 § 46; Code 1881 § 2753; 1854 p 428 § 2; RRS § 4141. (vi) Code 1881 § 2774; 1863 p 558 § 9; 1854 p 435 § 9; RRS § 4156. (vii) Code 1881 § 2775, part; 1863 p 559 § 1, part; 1854 p 436 § 1, part; RRS § 4176, part. (viii) Code 1881 § 2096; 1869 p 374 § 18; RRS § 4231. (ix) 1909 c 97 p 280 § 1, part; 1903 c 104 § 13, part; 1899 c 142 § 5, part; 1897 c 118 § 30, part; 1890 p 355 § 10, part; Code 1881 § 3170, part; RRS § 4767, part. (x) 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 55; 1891 c 140 § 46; 1890 p 548 § 50; RRS § 11138.]

**36.16.050 Official bonds.** Every county official before he or she enters upon the duties of his or her office shall furnish a bond conditioned that he or she will faithfully perform the duties of his or her office and account for and pay over all money which may come into his or her hands by virtue of his or her office, and that he or she, or his or her executors or administrators, will deliver to his or her successor safe and undefaced all books, records, papers, seals, equipment, and furniture belonging to his or her office. Bonds of elective county officers shall be as follows:

(1) Assessor: Amount to be fixed and sureties to be approved by proper county legislative authority;

(2) Auditor: Amount to be fixed at not less than ten thousand dollars and sureties to be approved by the proper county legislative authority;

(3) Clerk: Amount to be fixed in a penal sum not less than double the amount of money liable to come into his or her hands and sureties to be approved by the judge or a majority of the judges presiding over the court of which he or she is clerk: PROVIDED, That the maximum bond fixed for the clerk shall not exceed in amount that required for the treasurer in the same county;

(4) Coroner: Amount to be fixed at not less than five thousand dollars with sureties to be approved by the proper county legislative authority;

(5) Members of the proper county legislative authority: Sureties to be approved by the county clerk and the amounts to be:

(a) In each county with a population of one hundred twenty-five thousand or more, twenty-five thousand dollars;

(b) In each county with a population of from seventy thousand to less than one hundred twenty-five thousand, twenty-two thousand five hundred dollars;

(c) In each county with a population of from forty thousand to less than seventy thousand, twenty thousand dollars;

(d) In each county with a population of from eighteen thousand to less than forty thousand, fifteen thousand dollars;

(e) In each county with a population of from twelve thousand to less than eighteen thousand, ten thousand dollars;

(f) In each county with a population of from eight thousand to less than twelve thousand, seven thousand five hundred dollars;

(g) In all other counties, five thousand dollars;

(6) Prosecuting attorney: In the amount of five thousand dollars with sureties to be approved by the proper county legislative authority;

(7) Sheriff: Amount to be fixed and bond approved by the proper county legislative authority at not less than five thousand nor more than fifty thousand dollars; surety to be a surety company authorized to do business in this state;

(8) Treasurer: Sureties to be approved by the proper county legislative authority and the amounts to be fixed by the proper county legislative authority at double the amount liable to come into the treasurer's hands during his or her term, the maximum amount of the bond, however, not to exceed:

(a) In each county with a population of two hundred ten thousand or more, two hundred fifty thousand dollars;

(b) In each county with a population of from one hundred twenty-five thousand to less than two hundred ten thousand, two hundred thousand dollars;

(c) In each county with a population of from eighteen thousand to less than one hundred twenty-five thousand, one hundred fifty thousand dollars;

(d) In all other counties, one hundred thousand dollars.

The treasurer's bond shall be conditioned that all moneys received by him or her for the use of the county shall be paid as the proper county legislative authority shall from time to time direct, except where special provision is made by law for the payment of such moneys, by order of any court, or otherwise, and for the faithful discharge of his or her duties.

Bonds for other than elective officials, if deemed necessary by the proper county legislative authority, shall be in such amount and form as such legislative authority shall determine.

In the approval of official bonds, the chair may act for the county legislative authority if it is not in session. [2010 1st sp.s. c 26 § 5; 1991 c 363 § 49; 1971 c 71 § 1; 1969 ex.s. c 176 § 91; 1963 c 4 § 36.16.050. Prior: 1955 c 157 § 7; prior: (i) 1895 c 53 § 1; RRS § 70. (ii) 1895 c 53 § 2, part; RRS § 71, part. (iii) 1921 c 132 § 1, part; 1893 c 75 § 7, part; RRS § 4046, part. (iv) Code 1881 § 2708, part; 1869 p 310 § 4, part; 1863 p 549 § 4, part; 1854 p 424 § 4, part; RRS § 4084, part. (v) 1943 c 249 § 1, part; Code 1881 § 2739, part; 1863 p 553 § 2, part; 1854 p 426 § 2, part; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 4107, part. (vi) 1886 p 61 § 4, part; 1883 p 73 § 9, part; Code 1881 § 2163, part; 1877 p 246 § 5, part; 1863 p 408 § 3, part; 1860 p 334 § 3, part; 1858 p 12 § 3, part; 1854 p 417 § 3, part; RRS 4129, part. (vii) 1897 c 71 § 44, part; 1893 p 124 § 46, part; Code 1881 § 2753, part; 1854 p 428 § 2, part; RRS § 4141, part. (viii) 1943 c 139 § 1, part; Code 1881 § 2766, part; 1863 p 557 § 1, part; 1854 p 434 § 1, part; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 4155, part. (ix) Code 1881 § 2775, part; 1863 p 559 § 1, part; 1854 p 436 § 1, part; RRS § 4176, part. (x) 1909 c 97 p 280 § 1, part; 1903 c 104 § 13, part; 1899 c 142 § 5, part; 1897 c 118 § 30, part; 1890 p 355 § 10, part; Code 1881 § 3170, part; RRS § 4767, part. (xi) 1890 p 35 § 5, part; RRS § 9934, part.

(xii) 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 55, part; 1891 c 140 § 46, part; 1890 p 548 § 50, part; RRS § 11138, part.]

**Purpose—Captions not law—1991 c 363:** See notes following RCW 2.32.180.

*Public officers, official bonds*

*Code of 1881, county application: RCW 42.08.010 through 42.08.050.*

*1890 act, county application: RCW 42.08.060 through 42.08.170.*

**36.16.060 Place of filing oaths and bonds.** Every county officer, before entering upon the duties of his or her office, shall file his or her oath of office in the office of the county auditor and his or her official bond in the office of the county clerk: PROVIDED, That the official bond of the county clerk, after first being recorded by the county auditor, shall be filed in the office of the county treasurer.

Oaths and bonds of deputies shall be filed in the offices in which the oaths and bonds of their principals are required to be filed. [2009 c 549 § 4008; 1963 c 4 § 36.16.060. Prior: 1955 c 157 § 8; prior: (i) 1895 c 53 § 2, part; RRS § 71, part. (ii) 1890 p 35 § 5, part; RRS § 9934, part.]

**36.16.070 Deputies and employees.** In all cases where the duties of any county office are greater than can be performed by the person elected to fill it, the officer may employ deputies and other necessary employees with the consent of the board of county commissioners. The board shall fix their compensation and shall require what deputies shall give bond and the amount of bond required from each. The sureties on deputies' bonds must be approved by the board and the premium therefor is a county expense.

A deputy may perform any act which his or her principal is authorized to perform. The officer appointing a deputy or other employee shall be responsible for the acts of his or her appointees upon his or her official bond and may revoke each appointment at pleasure. [2009 c 549 § 4009; 1969 ex.s. c 176 § 92; 1963 c 4 § 36.16.070. Prior: 1959 c 216 § 3; 1957 c 219 § 2; prior: (i) Code 1881 § 2716; 1869 p 312 § 10; 1863 p 550 § 7; 1854 p 425 § 7; RRS § 4093. (ii) Code 1881 § 2741; 1863 p 553 § 4; 1854 p 427 § 4; RRS § 4108. (iii) Code 1881 § 2767, part; 1871 p 110 § 1, part; 1863 p 557 § 2, part; 1854 p 434 § 2, part; RRS § 4160, part. (iv) 1905 c 60 § 1; RRS § 4177. (v) 1905 c 60 § 2; RRS § 4178. (vi) 1905 c 60 § 3; RRS § 4179. (vii) 1949 c 200 § 1, part; 1945 c 87 § 1, part; 1937 c 197 § 3, part; 1925 ex.s. c 148 § 6, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 4200-5a, part. (viii) 1943 c 260 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 4200-5b.]

*County clerk, deputies of: Chapter 2.32 RCW.*

**36.16.087 Deputies and employees—County treasurer—Prior deeds validated.** In all cases in which the county treasurer of any county in the state of Washington shall have executed a tax deed or deeds prior to February 21, 1903, either to his or her county or to any private person or persons or corporation whomsoever, said deed or deeds shall not be deemed invalid by reason of the county treasurer who executed the same not having affixed a seal of office to the same, or having affixed a seal not an official seal; nor shall said deed or deeds be deemed invalid by reason of the fact that at the date of the execution of said deed or deeds there was in the state of Washington no statute providing for an official seal for the office of county treasurer. [2009 c 549 §

4010; 1963 c 4 § 36.16.087. Prior: 1903 c 15 § 2; RRS § 4126. Formerly RCW 36.16.080.]

**36.16.090 Office space.** The boards of county commissioners of the several counties of the state shall provide a suitable furnished office for each of the county officers in their respective courthouses and may provide additional offices elsewhere for the officers at the board's discretion. [2009 c 105 § 1; 1963 c 4 § 36.16.090. Prior: 1893 c 82 § 1; Code 1881 § 2677; 1869 p 306 § 15; 1854 p 422 § 15; RRS § 4032. SLC-RO-14.]

**36.16.100 Offices to be open certain days and hours.** All county and precinct offices shall be kept open for the transaction of business during such days and hours as the board of county commissioners shall by resolution prescribe. [1963 c 4 § 36.16.100. Prior: 1955 ex.s. c 9 § 2; prior: 1951 c 100 § 1; 1941 c 113 § 1, part; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 9963-1, part.]

**36.16.110 Vacancies in office.** (1) The county legislative authority in each county shall, at its next regular or special meeting after being appraised of any vacancy in any county, township, precinct, or road district office of the county, fill the vacancy by the appointment of some person qualified to hold such office, and the officers thus appointed shall hold office until the next general election, and until their successors are elected and qualified.

(2) If a vacancy occurs in a partisan county office after the general election in a year that the position appears on the ballot and before the start of the next term, the term of the successor who is of the same party as the incumbent may commence once he or she has qualified as defined in RCW 29A.04.133 and shall continue through the term for which he or she was elected.

(3) If a vacancy occurs in a nonpartisan county board of commissioners elective office or nonpartisan county council elective office, the person appointed to fill the vacancy must be from the same legislative district, county, or county commissioner or council district as the county elective officer whose office was vacated, and must be one of three persons who must be nominated by the nonpartisan executive or nonpartisan chair of the board of commissioners for the county. In case a majority of the members of the county legislative authority do not agree upon the appointment within sixty days after the vacancy occurs, the governor shall within thirty days thereafter, and from the list of nominees provided for in this section, appoint someone to fill the vacancy.

(4) If a vacancy occurs in a nonpartisan county board of commissioners elective office or nonpartisan county council elective office after the general election in a year that the position appears on the ballot and before the start of the next term, the term of the successor may commence once he or she has qualified as defined in RCW 29A.04.133 and shall continue through the term for which he or she was elected. [2010 c 207 § 2; 2003 c 238 § 1; 1963 c 4 § 36.16.110. Prior: 1927 c 163 § 1; RRS § 4059; prior: Code 1881 § 2689; 1867 p 57 § 28.]

**Findings—Intent—2010 c 207:** "The legislature finds that a number of counties have moved to designate certain countywide elective offices as nonpartisan. Because the creation of these nonpartisan offices is a relatively new (2022 Ed.)

occurrence, there is not a mechanism in the state Constitution or statutory laws to fill vacancies in these offices. The legislature also finds that many local governments have not created a mechanism for expeditiously filling the vacancies. The legislature further finds the following: Political representation is an important and fundamental aspect of elective government; vacancies in elective office effectively disenfranchise portions of the state's citizenry; vacancies in elective office can hamper or completely stall the efficient administration of all aspects of governance, including the appointment of inferior officeholders responsible for the administration of health, public safety, and a myriad of social services; and that all of these governing functions represent public policy considerations of broad concern. Therefore, it is the responsibility and intent of the legislature to provide a mechanism for filling vacancies in these offices that is in keeping with the state Constitution and current statute." [2010 c 207 § 1.]

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

**36.16.115 Vacancy in partisan elective office—Appointment of acting official.** Where a vacancy occurs in any partisan county elective office, other than a member of the county legislative authority, the county legislative authority may appoint an employee that was serving as a deputy or assistant in such office at the time the vacancy occurred as an acting official to perform all necessary duties to continue normal office operations. The acting official will serve until a successor is either elected or appointed as required by law. This section does not apply to any vacancy occurring in a charter county which has charter provisions inconsistent with this section. [1981 c 180 § 3.]

*Election of successor: RCW 42.12.040.*

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

**36.16.120 Officers must complete business.** All county officers shall complete the business of their offices, to the time of the expiration of their respective terms, and in case any officer, at the close of his or her term, leaves to his or her successor official labor to be performed, which it was his or her duty to perform, he or she shall be liable to his or her successor for the full value of such services. [2009 c 549 § 4011; 1963 c 4 § 36.16.120. Prior: 1890 p 315 § 43; RRS § 4031.]

**36.16.125 Elected officials—Abandonment of responsibilities—Declaratory judgment—Compensation denied during abandonment.** The county legislative authority of a county may cause an action to be filed in the superior court of that county for a declaratory judgment finding that a county elected official has abandoned his or her responsibilities by being absent from the county and failing to perform his or her official duties for a period of at least thirty consecutive days, but not including: (1) Absences approved by the county legislative authority; or (2) absences arising from leave taken for legitimate medical or disability purposes. If such a declaratory judgment is issued, the county official is no longer eligible to receive compensation from the date the declaratory judgment is issued until the court issues a subsequent declaratory judgment finding that the county official has commenced performing his or her responsibilities. [1999 c 71 § 1.]

**36.16.130 Group false arrest insurance for law enforcement personnel.** Any county may contract with an insurance company authorized to do business in this state to provide group false arrest insurance for its law enforcement

personnel and pursuant thereto may use such portion of its revenues to pay the premiums therefor as the county may determine. [1963 c 127 § 2.]

**36.16.136 Liability insurance for officers and employees.** The board of county commissioners of each county may purchase liability insurance with such limits as they may deem reasonable for the purpose of protecting their officials and employees against liability for personal or bodily injuries and property damage arising from their acts or omissions while performing or in good faith purporting to perform their official duties. [1969 ex.s. c 59 § 1.]

**36.16.138 Liability insurance for officers and employees of municipal corporations and political subdivisions authorized.** Any board of commissioners, council, or board of directors or other governing board of any county, city, town, school district, port district, public utility district, water-sewer district, irrigation district, or other municipal corporation or political subdivision is authorized to purchase insurance to protect and hold personally harmless any of its commissioners, councilmembers, directors, or other governing board members, and any of its other officers, employees, and agents from any action, claim, or proceeding instituted against the foregoing individuals arising out of the performance, purported performance, or failure of performance, in good faith of duties for, or employment with, such institutions and to hold these individuals harmless from any expenses connected with the defense, settlement, or monetary judgments from such actions, claims, or proceedings. The purchase of such insurance for any of the foregoing individuals and the policy limits shall be discretionary with the municipal corporation or political subdivision, and such insurance shall not be considered to be compensation for these individuals.

The provisions of this section are cumulative and in addition to any other provision of law authorizing any municipal corporation or political subdivision to purchase liability insurance. [1999 c 153 § 43; 1975 c 16 § 1.]

*Liability insurance for officers and employees authorized: RCW 28A.400.360, 28B.10.660, 35.21.205, 52.12.071, 53.08.205, 54.16.095, 57.08.105, and 87.03.162.*

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

**36.16.139 Insurance and workers' compensation for offenders performing community restitution.** The legislative authority of a county may purchase liability insurance in an amount it deems reasonable to protect the county, its officers, and employees against liability for the wrongful acts of offenders or injury or damage incurred by offenders in the course of community restitution imposed by court order or pursuant to RCW 13.40.080. The legislative authority of a county may elect to treat offenders as employees and/or workers under Title 51 RCW. [2002 c 175 § 32; 1984 c 24 § 3.]

*Workers' compensation coverage of offenders performing community restitution: RCW 51.12.045.*

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

**36.16.140 Public auction sales, where held.** Public auction sales of property conducted by or for the county must

be held at such places as the county legislative authority may direct. A county may conduct a public auction sale by electronic media pursuant to RCW 36.16.145. [2015 c 95 § 2. Prior: 1991 c 363 § 50; 1991 c 245 § 3; 1965 ex.s. c 23 § 6.]

**Intent—2015 c 95:** See note following RCW 36.16.145.

**Purpose—Captions not law—1991 c 363:** See notes following RCW 2.32.180.

*Building permit—County must require payroll estimate under industrial insurance act: RCW 51.12.070.*

*Public lands—Advertisement—Hours: RCW 79.11.165.*

*Sales of county property, where held: RCW 36.34.080.*

*Tax sales, where held: RCW 84.64.080, 36.35.120.*

**36.16.145 Public auction sales—Conducted by electronic media.** (1) A county treasurer may conduct a public auction sale by electronic media.

(2) In a public auction sale by electronic media, the county treasurer may:

- (a) Require persons to provide a deposit to participate;
- (b) Accept bids for as long as the treasurer deems necessary; and
- (c) Require electronic funds transfers to pay any deposits and a winning bid.

(3) At least fourteen days prior to the beginning of a public auction sale by electronic media, the county treasurer must:

- (a) Publish notice of the sale once a week during two successive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the county; and
- (b) Post notice of the sale in a conspicuous place in the county courthouse and on the county's internet website.

(4) A deposit paid by a winning bidder in a public auction sale by electronic media must be applied to the balance due. If a winning bidder does not comply with the terms of the sale, the winning bidder's deposit will be forfeited and credited to the county treasurer's operations and maintenance fund. Deposits paid by nonwinning bidders must be refunded within ten business days of the close of the sale.

(5) All property sold at a public auction sale by electronic media is offered and sold as is.

(6) In a public auction sale by electronic media, a county treasurer is not liable for:

- (a) Known or unknown conditions of the property, including but not limited to errors in the assessor's records; or
- (b) Failure of an electronic device not owned, operated, or managed by the county that prevents a person from participating in the sale.

(7) For purposes of this section:

- (a) "Electronic funds transfer" has the same meaning as provided in RCW 82.32.085.
- (b) "Internet" has the same meaning as provided in RCW 19.270.010.

(c) "Public auction sale by electronic media" means a transaction conducted via the internet that includes invitations for bids to purchase property submitted by an auctioneer and bids to purchase property submitted by sale participants, culminating in an auctioneer's acceptance of the highest or most favorable bid. Invitations and bids are submitted through an electronic device, including but not limited to a computer. [2015 c 95 § 3.]



**Intent—2015 c 95:** "The legislature intends to grant counties in Washington clear authority to conduct public auctions via the internet, potentially reducing sale costs and enabling more bidders to participate." [2015 c 95 § 1.]

### Chapter 36.17 RCW SALARIES OF COUNTY OFFICERS

#### Sections

36.17.010	Salary full compensation—Compensation denied, when.
36.17.020	Schedule of salaries.
36.17.024	County commissioner and councilmember salary commissions.
36.17.031	Reimbursement for travel allowances and allowances in lieu of actual expenses.
36.17.040	Payment of salaries of officers and employees.
36.17.042	Weekly or biweekly pay periods.
36.17.045	Deductions for contributions, payments, and dues authorized.
36.17.050	Salary withheld, when authorized.
36.17.055	Salary adjustment for county legislative authority office—Ratification and validation of preelection action.
36.17.900	Construction—Chapter applicable to state registered domestic partnerships—2009 c 521.

*Cemetery and morgue employees, salary of:* RCW 68.52.020.

*Compensation of county officials: State Constitution Art. 11 § 5 (Amendment 57).*

*County commissioners, compensation and/or expenses determining towns boundaries:* RCW 35.27.060.

*flood control by counties jointly, duties:* RCW 86.13.060.

*metropolitan councilmember:* RCW 35.58.160.

*pest exterminator:* RCW 17.12.060.

*Department of personnel to study salaries of elective county officials:* RCW 43.03.028.

**36.17.010 Salary full compensation—Compensation denied, when.** The county officers of the counties of this state shall receive a salary for the services required of them by law, or by virtue of their office, which salary shall be full compensation for all services of every kind and description rendered by them. However, if the superior court issues a declaratory judgment under RCW 36.16.125 finding that a county officer has abandoned his or her duties, the county officer may not be paid compensation. [1999 c 71 § 2; 1991 c 363 § 51; 1963 c 4 § 36.17.010. Prior: 1890 p 312 § 32; RRS § 4210.]

**Purpose—Captions not law—1991 c 363:** See notes following RCW 2.32.180.

**36.17.020 Schedule of salaries. (Effective until January 1, 2025.)** The county legislative authority of each county or a county commissioner or councilmember salary commission which conforms with RCW 36.17.024 is authorized to establish the salaries of the elected officials of the county. The state and county shall contribute to the costs of the salary of the elected prosecuting attorney as set forth in subsection (11) of this section. The annual salary of a county elected official shall not be less than the following:

(1) In each county with a population of one million or more: Auditor, clerk, treasurer, sheriff, members of the county legislative authority, and coroner, eighteen thousand dollars; and assessor, nineteen thousand dollars;

(2) In each county with a population of from two hundred ten thousand to less than one million: Auditor, seventeen thousand six hundred dollars; clerk, seventeen thousand six hundred dollars; treasurer, seventeen thousand six hundred dollars; sheriff, nineteen thousand five hundred dollars;

assessor, seventeen thousand six hundred dollars; members of the county legislative authority, nineteen thousand five hundred dollars; and coroner, seventeen thousand six hundred dollars;

(3) In each county with a population of from one hundred twenty-five thousand to less than two hundred ten thousand: Auditor, sixteen thousand dollars; clerk, sixteen thousand dollars; treasurer, sixteen thousand dollars; sheriff, seventeen thousand six hundred dollars; assessor, sixteen thousand dollars; members of the county legislative authority, seventeen thousand six hundred dollars; and coroner, sixteen thousand dollars;

(4) In each county with a population of from seventy thousand to less than one hundred twenty-five thousand: Auditor, fourteen thousand nine hundred dollars; clerk, fourteen thousand nine hundred dollars; treasurer, fourteen thousand nine hundred dollars; assessor, fourteen thousand nine hundred dollars; sheriff, fourteen thousand nine hundred dollars; members of the county legislative authority, fourteen thousand nine hundred dollars; and coroner, fourteen thousand nine hundred dollars;

(5) In each county with a population of from forty thousand to less than seventy thousand: Auditor, thirteen thousand eight hundred dollars; clerk, thirteen thousand eight hundred dollars; treasurer, thirteen thousand eight hundred dollars; assessor, thirteen thousand eight hundred dollars; sheriff, thirteen thousand eight hundred dollars; members of the county legislative authority, thirteen thousand eight hundred dollars; and coroner, thirteen thousand eight hundred dollars;

(6) In each county with a population of from eighteen thousand to less than forty thousand: Auditor, twelve thousand one hundred dollars; clerk, twelve thousand one hundred dollars; treasurer, twelve thousand one hundred dollars; sheriff, twelve thousand one hundred dollars; assessor, twelve thousand one hundred dollars; and members of the county legislative authority, eleven thousand dollars;

(7) In each county with a population of from twelve thousand to less than eighteen thousand: Auditor, ten thousand one hundred dollars; clerk, ten thousand one hundred dollars; treasurer, ten thousand one hundred dollars; assessor, ten thousand one hundred dollars; sheriff, eleven thousand two hundred dollars; and members of the county legislative authority, nine thousand four hundred dollars;

(8) In each county with a population of from eight thousand to less than twelve thousand: Auditor, ten thousand one hundred dollars; clerk, ten thousand one hundred dollars; treasurer, ten thousand one hundred dollars; assessor, ten thousand one hundred dollars; sheriff, eleven thousand two hundred dollars; and members of the county legislative authority, seven thousand dollars;

(9) In each county with a population of from five thousand to less than eight thousand: Auditor, nine thousand one hundred dollars; clerk, nine thousand one hundred dollars; treasurer, nine thousand one hundred dollars; assessor, nine thousand one hundred dollars; sheriff, ten thousand five hundred dollars; and members of the county legislative authority, six thousand five hundred dollars;

(10) In each other county: Auditor, nine thousand one hundred dollars; clerk, nine thousand one hundred dollars; treasurer, nine thousand one hundred dollars; sheriff, ten

thousand five hundred dollars; assessor, nine thousand one hundred dollars; and members of the county legislative authority, six thousand five hundred dollars;

(11) The state of Washington shall contribute an amount equal to one-half the salary of a superior court judge towards the salary of the elected prosecuting attorney. Upon receipt of the state contribution, a county shall continue to contribute towards the salary of the elected prosecuting attorney in an amount that equals or exceeds that contributed by the county in 2008. [2008 c 309 § 2; 2001 c 73 § 3; 1994 sp.s. c 4 § 1; 1991 c 363 § 52; 1973 1st ex.s. c 88 § 2; 1971 ex.s. c 237 § 1; 1969 ex.s. c 226 § 1; 1967 ex.s. c 77 § 2; 1967 c 218 § 3; 1963 c 164 § 1; 1963 c 4 § 36.17.020. Prior: 1957 c 219 § 3; prior: (i) 1953 c 264 § 1; 1949 c 200 § 1, part; 1945 c 87 § 1, part; 1937 c 197 § 3, part; 1933 c 136 § 6, part; 1925 ex.s. c 148 § 6, part; 1919 c 168 § 2, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 4200-5a, part. (ii) 1921 c 184 § 2; RRS § 4203.]

**Findings—2008 c 309:** "The legislature finds that an elected county prosecuting attorney functions as both a state officer in pursuing criminal cases on behalf of the state of Washington, and as a county officer who acts as civil counsel for the county, and provides services to school districts and lesser taxing districts by statute.

The elected prosecuting attorney's dual role as a state officer and a county officer is reflected in various provisions of the state Constitution and within state statute.

The legislature finds that the responsibilities and decisions required of the elected prosecuting attorney are essentially the same in every county within Washington state, from a decision to seek the death penalty in an aggravated murder case, to the decision not to prosecute but refer an offender to drug court; from a decision to pursue child rape charges based solely upon the testimony of the child, to a decision to divert juvenile offenders out of the justice system. Therefore, the legislature finds that elected prosecuting attorneys need to exercise the same level of skill and expertise in the least populous county as in the most populous county.

The legislature finds that the salary of the elected county prosecuting attorney should be tied to that of a superior court judge. This furthers the state's interests and responsibilities under the state Constitution, and is consistent with the current practice of several counties in Washington state, the practices of several other states, and the national district attorneys' association national standards." [2008 c 309 § 1.]

**Findings—Intent—Severability—2001 c 73:** See notes following RCW 35.21.015.

**Purpose—Captions not law—1991 c 363:** See notes following RCW 2.32.180.

*Counties with populations of less than five thousand, combined office of auditor and clerk, salary:* RCW 36.16.032.

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

**36.17.020 Schedule of salaries. (Effective January 1, 2025.)** The county legislative authority of each county or a county commissioner or councilmember salary commission which conforms with RCW 36.17.024 is authorized to establish the salaries of the elected officials of the county. The state and county shall contribute to the costs of the salary of the elected prosecuting attorney as set forth in subsection (11) of this section. The annual salary of a county elected official shall not be less than the following:

(1) In each county with a population of one million or more: Auditor, clerk, treasurer, sheriff, members of the county legislative authority, and coroner, eighteen thousand dollars; and assessor, nineteen thousand dollars;

(2) In each county with a population of from two hundred ten thousand to less than one million: Auditor, seventeen thousand six hundred dollars; clerk, seventeen thousand six hundred dollars; treasurer, seventeen thousand six hundred

dollars; sheriff, nineteen thousand five hundred dollars; assessor, seventeen thousand six hundred dollars; members of the county legislative authority, nineteen thousand five hundred dollars; and coroner, seventeen thousand six hundred dollars;

(3) In each county with a population of from one hundred twenty-five thousand to less than two hundred ten thousand: Auditor, sixteen thousand dollars; clerk, sixteen thousand dollars; treasurer, sixteen thousand dollars; sheriff, seventeen thousand six hundred dollars; assessor, sixteen thousand dollars; members of the county legislative authority, seventeen thousand six hundred dollars; and coroner, sixteen thousand dollars;

(4) In each county with a population of from seventy thousand to less than one hundred twenty-five thousand: Auditor, fourteen thousand nine hundred dollars; clerk, fourteen thousand nine hundred dollars; treasurer, fourteen thousand nine hundred dollars; assessor, fourteen thousand nine hundred dollars; sheriff, fourteen thousand nine hundred dollars; members of the county legislative authority, fourteen thousand nine hundred dollars; and coroner, fourteen thousand nine hundred dollars;

(5) In each county with a population of from forty thousand to less than seventy thousand: Auditor, thirteen thousand eight hundred dollars; clerk, thirteen thousand eight hundred dollars; treasurer, thirteen thousand eight hundred dollars; assessor, thirteen thousand eight hundred dollars; sheriff, thirteen thousand eight hundred dollars; members of the county legislative authority, thirteen thousand eight hundred dollars; and coroner, thirteen thousand eight hundred dollars;

(6) In each county with a population of from eighteen thousand to less than forty thousand: Auditor, twelve thousand one hundred dollars; clerk, twelve thousand one hundred dollars; treasurer, twelve thousand one hundred dollars; sheriff, twelve thousand one hundred dollars; assessor, twelve thousand one hundred dollars; members of the county legislative authority, eleven thousand dollars; and coroner, \$11,000 or on a per case basis as determined by the county legislative authority;

(7) In each county with a population of from twelve thousand to less than eighteen thousand: Auditor, ten thousand one hundred dollars; clerk, ten thousand one hundred dollars; treasurer, ten thousand one hundred dollars; assessor, ten thousand one hundred dollars; sheriff, eleven thousand two hundred dollars; members of the county legislative authority, nine thousand four hundred dollars; and coroner, \$9,400 or on a per case basis as determined by the county legislative authority;

(8) In each county with a population of from eight thousand to less than twelve thousand: Auditor, ten thousand one hundred dollars; clerk, ten thousand one hundred dollars; treasurer, ten thousand one hundred dollars; assessor, ten thousand one hundred dollars; sheriff, eleven thousand two hundred dollars; members of the county legislative authority, seven thousand dollars; and coroner, \$7,000 or on a per case basis as determined by the county legislative authority;

(9) In each county with a population of from five thousand to less than eight thousand: Auditor, nine thousand one hundred dollars; clerk, nine thousand one hundred dollars; treasurer, nine thousand one hundred dollars; assessor, nine

thousand one hundred dollars; sheriff, ten thousand five hundred dollars; members of the county legislative authority, six thousand five hundred dollars; and coroner, \$6,500 or on a per case basis as determined by the county legislative authority;

(10) In each other county: Auditor, nine thousand one hundred dollars; clerk, nine thousand one hundred dollars; treasurer, nine thousand one hundred dollars; sheriff, ten thousand five hundred dollars; assessor, nine thousand one hundred dollars; members of the county legislative authority, six thousand five hundred dollars; and coroner, \$6,500 or on a per case basis as determined by the county legislative authority;

(11) The state of Washington shall contribute an amount equal to one-half the salary of a superior court judge towards the salary of the elected prosecuting attorney. Upon receipt of the state contribution, a county shall continue to contribute towards the salary of the elected prosecuting attorney in an amount that equals or exceeds that contributed by the county in 2008. [2021 c 127 § 6; 2008 c 309 § 2; 2001 c 73 § 3; 1994 sp.s. c 4 § 1; 1991 c 363 § 52; 1973 1st ex.s. c 88 § 2; 1971 ex.s. c 237 § 1; 1969 ex.s. c 226 § 1; 1967 ex.s. c 77 § 2; 1967 c 218 § 3; 1963 c 164 § 1; 1963 c 4 § 36.17.020. Prior: 1957 c 219 § 3; prior: (i) 1953 c 264 § 1; 1949 c 200 § 1, part; 1945 c 87 § 1, part; 1937 c 197 § 3, part; 1933 c 136 § 6, part; 1925 ex.s. c 148 § 6, part; 1919 c 168 § 2, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 4200-5a, part. (ii) 1921 c 184 § 2; RRS § 4203.]

**Effective date—2021 c 127 §§ 4 and 6:** See note following RCW 36.16.030.

**Findings—2008 c 309:** "The legislature finds that an elected county prosecuting attorney functions as both a state officer in pursuing criminal cases on behalf of the state of Washington, and as a county officer who acts as civil counsel for the county, and provides services to school districts and lesser taxing districts by statute.

The elected prosecuting attorney's dual role as a state officer and a county officer is reflected in various provisions of the state Constitution and within state statute.

The legislature finds that the responsibilities and decisions required of the elected prosecuting attorney are essentially the same in every county within Washington state, from a decision to seek the death penalty in an aggravated murder case, to the decision not to prosecute but refer an offender to drug court; from a decision to pursue child rape charges based solely upon the testimony of the child, to a decision to divert juvenile offenders out of the justice system. Therefore, the legislature finds that elected prosecuting attorneys need to exercise the same level of skill and expertise in the least populous county as in the most populous county.

The legislature finds that the salary of the elected county prosecuting attorney should be tied to that of a superior court judge. This furthers the state's interests and responsibilities under the state Constitution, and is consistent with the current practice of several counties in Washington state, the practices of several other states, and the national district attorneys' association national standards." [2008 c 309 § 1.]

**Findings—Intent—Severability—2001 c 73:** See notes following RCW 35.21.015.

**Purpose—Captions not law—1991 c 363:** See notes following RCW 2.32.180.

*Counties with populations of less than five thousand, combined office of auditor and clerk, salary:* RCW 36.16.032.

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

**36.17.024 County commissioner and councilmember salary commissions.** (1) Salaries for county commissioners and councilmembers may be set by county commissioner and councilmember salary commissions established by ordinance or resolution of the county legislative authority and in conformity with this section.

(2) Commissions established under subsection (1) of this section shall be known as the (Insert name of county) county citizens' commission on salaries for elected officials. Each commission shall consist of ten members appointed by the county commissioner or executive with the approval of the county legislative authority, or by a majority vote of the county legislative authority if there is no single county commissioner or executive, as provided in this section.

(a) Six of the ten commission members shall be selected by lot by the county auditor from among those registered voters eligible to vote at the time persons are selected for appointment to full terms on the commission under (c) of this subsection. In noncharter counties, the county auditor shall select two commission members living in each commissioner's district. The county auditor shall establish policies and procedures for conducting the selection by lot. The policies and procedures shall include, but not be limited to, those for notifying persons selected and for providing a new selection from a commissioner's district if a person selected from the district declines appointment to the commission or if, following the person's appointment, the person's position on the commission becomes vacant before the end of the person's term of office.

(b) The remaining four of the ten commission members must be residents of the county and shall be appointed by the county commissioner or executive with approval of the county legislative authority, or by a majority vote of the county legislative authority if there is no single county commissioner or executive. The persons selected under this subsection shall have had experience in the field of personnel management. Of these four members, one shall be selected from each of the following four sectors in the county: Business, professional personnel management, legal profession, and organized labor.

(c) If there is a single county commissioner or executive, the county auditor shall forward the names of persons selected under (a) of this subsection to the county commissioner or executive who shall appoint these persons to the commission.

(d) No person may be appointed to more than two terms. No member of the commission may be removed by the county commissioner or executive, or county legislative authority if there is no single county commissioner or executive, during his or her term of office unless for cause of incapacity, incompetence, neglect of duty, or malfeasance in office, or for a disqualifying change of residence.

(e) The members of the commission may not include any officer, official, or employee of the county or any of their immediate family members. "Immediate family member" as used in this subsection means the parents, spouse, siblings, children, or dependent relatives of the officer, official, or employee, whether or not living in the household of the officer, official, or employee.

(f) Upon a vacancy in any position on the commission, a successor shall be selected and appointed to fill the unexpired term. The selection and appointment shall be concluded within thirty days of the date the position becomes vacant and shall be conducted in the same manner as for the original appointment.

(3) Any change in salary shall be filed by the commission with the county auditor and shall become effective and

incorporated into the county budget without further action of the county legislative authority or salary commission.

(4) Salary increases established by the commission shall be effective as to county commissioners and all members of the county legislative authority, regardless of their terms of office.

(5) Salary decreases established by the commission shall become effective as to incumbent county commissioners and councilmembers at the commencement of their next subsequent terms of office.

(6) Salary increases and decreases shall be subject to referendum petition by the people of the county in the same manner as a county ordinance upon filing of such petition with the county auditor within thirty days after filing of the salary schedule. In the event of the filing of a valid referendum petition, the salary increase or decrease shall not go into effect until approved by vote of the people.

(7) Referendum measures under this section shall be submitted to the voters of the county at the next following general or municipal election occurring thirty days or more after the petition is filed, and shall be otherwise governed by the provisions of the state Constitution and laws generally applicable to referendum measures.

(8) The action fixing the salary of a county commissioner or councilmember by a commission established in conformity with this section shall supersede any other provision of state statute or county ordinance related to municipal budgets or to the fixing of salaries of county commissioners and councilmembers.

(9) Salaries for county commissioners and councilmembers established under an ordinance or resolution of the county legislative authority in existence on July 22, 2001, that substantially complies with this section shall remain in effect unless and until changed in accordance with such charter provision or ordinance. [2001 c 73 § 5.]

**Findings—Intent—Severability—2001 c 73:** See notes following RCW 35.21.015.

**36.17.031 Reimbursement for travel allowances and allowances in lieu of actual expenses.** See RCW 42.24.090.

**36.17.040 Payment of salaries of officers and employees.** The salaries of county officers and employees of counties other than counties with a population of less than five thousand may be paid twice monthly out of the county treasury, and the county auditor, for services rendered from the first to the fifteenth day, inclusive, may, not later than the last day of the month, draw a warrant upon the county treasurer in favor of each of such officers and employees for the amount of salary due him or her, and such auditor, for services rendered from the sixteenth to the last day, inclusive, may similarly draw a warrant, not later than the fifteenth day of the following month, and the county legislative authority, with the concurrence of the county auditor, may enter an order on the record journal empowering him or her so to do: PROVIDED, That if the county legislative authority does not adopt the semimonthly pay plan, it, by resolution, shall designate the first pay period as a draw day. Not more than fifty percent of said earned monthly salary of each such county officer or employee shall be paid to him or her on the draw day. If offi-

cers and employees are paid once a month, the draw day shall not be later than the last day of each month. The balance of the earned monthly salary of each such officer or employee shall be paid not later than the fifteenth day of the following month.

In counties with a population of less than five thousand salaries shall be paid monthly unless the county legislative authority by resolution adopts the foregoing draw day procedure. [2016 c 126 § 1; 1991 c 363 § 53; 1988 c 281 § 9; 1963 c 4 § 36.17.040. Prior: 1959 c 300 § 1; 1953 c 37 § 1; 1890 p 314 § 37; RRS § 4220.]

**Purpose—Captions not law—1991 c 363:** See notes following RCW 2.32.180.

**36.17.042 Weekly or biweekly pay periods.** In addition to the pay periods permitted under RCW 36.17.040, counties may pay county officers and employees using the following methods:

(1) The legislative authority of any county may establish a weekly or biweekly pay period where county officers and employees receive their compensation not later than seven days following the end of each pay period for services rendered during that pay period, except as authorized under subsection (3) of this section.

(2) In a county that has assumed the rights, powers, functions, and obligations of a metropolitan municipal corporation under chapter 36.56 RCW, the county legislative authority may establish a weekly or biweekly pay period where the county officers and employees receive their compensation not later than thirteen days following the end of each pay period for services rendered during that pay period.

(3) The legislative authority of any county that currently uses a semimonthly pay period under RCW 36.17.040 may adopt a biweekly pay period. In such counties, county officers and employees shall receive their compensation not later than thirteen days following the end of each pay period for services rendered during that pay period. [2009 c 239 § 1; 1995 c 38 § 3; 1994 c 301 § 5; 1977 c 42 § 1.]

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

**36.17.045 Deductions for contributions, payments, and dues authorized.** Employees of the counties shall have the right to voluntarily authorize the monthly deduction of their pledges to the United Good Neighbor or its successor, monthly payment to a credit union as defined in RCW 31.12.005, and monthly dues to a labor union, from their salaries or wages. When such written authorization is received by the county auditor, he or she shall make such monthly deduction. [2009 c 337 § 1; 1963 c 164 § 3.]

**36.17.050 Salary withheld, when authorized.** If the superior court issues a declaratory judgment under RCW 36.16.125 finding that a county officer has abandoned his or her duties, the county officer may not be paid a salary. [2009 c 337 § 2; 1999 c 71 § 3; 1963 c 4 § 36.17.050. Prior: 1890 p 314 § 38; RRS § 4221.]

**36.17.055 Salary adjustment for county legislative authority office—Ratification and validation of preelection action.** See RCW 36.40.205.

**36.17.900 Construction—Chapter applicable to state registered domestic partnerships—2009 c 521.** For the purposes of this chapter, the terms spouse, marriage, marital, husband, wife, widow, widower, next of kin, and family shall be interpreted as applying equally to state registered domestic partnerships or individuals in state registered domestic partnerships as well as to marital relationships and married persons, and references to dissolution of marriage shall apply equally to state registered domestic partnerships that have been terminated, dissolved, or invalidated, to the extent that such interpretation does not conflict with federal law. Where necessary to implement chapter 521, Laws of 2009, gender-specific terms such as husband and wife used in any statute, rule, or other law shall be construed to be gender neutral, and applicable to individuals in state registered domestic partnerships. [2009 c 521 § 81.]

### Chapter 36.18 RCW

#### FEES OF COUNTY OFFICERS

##### Sections

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36.18.190	Collection of unpaid financial obligations—Collection contracts—Interest to collection agencies authorized.

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

(1) "Recording officer" means the county auditor, or in charter counties the county official charged with the responsibility for recording instruments in the county records.

(2) "File," "filed," or "filing" means the act of delivering an instrument to the auditor or recording officer for recording into the official public records.

(3) "Record," "recorded," or "recording" means the process, such as electronic, mechanical, optical, magnetic, or microfilm storage used by the auditor or recording officer after filing to incorporate the instrument into the public records.

(4) "Multiple transactions" means a document that contains two or more titles and/or two or more transactions requiring multiple indexing. [1999 c 233 § 2; 1991 c 26 § 1.]

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

**36.18.010 Auditor's fees.** Except as otherwise ordered by the court pursuant to RCW 4.24.130, county auditors or

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recording officers shall collect the following fees for their official services:

(1) For recording instruments, for the first page eight and one-half by fourteen inches or less, five dollars; for each additional page eight and one-half by fourteen inches or less, one dollar. The fee for recording multiple transactions contained in one instrument will be calculated for each transaction requiring separate indexing as required under RCW 65.04.050 as follows: The fee for each title or transaction is the same fee as the first page of any additional recorded document; the fee for additional pages is the same fee as for any additional pages for any recorded document; the fee for the additional pages may be collected only once and may not be collected for each title or transaction;

(2) For preparing and certifying copies, for the first page eight and one-half by fourteen inches or less, three dollars; for each additional page eight and one-half by fourteen inches or less, one dollar;

(3) For preparing noncertified copies, for each page eight and one-half by fourteen inches or less, one dollar;

(4) For administering an oath or taking an affidavit, with or without seal, two dollars;

(5) For issuing a marriage license, eight dollars, (this fee includes taking necessary affidavits, filing returns, indexing, and transmittal of a record of the marriage to the state registrar of vital statistics) plus an additional five dollar fee for use and support of the prevention of child abuse and neglect activities to be transmitted monthly to the state treasurer and deposited in the state general fund plus an additional ten dollar fee to be transmitted monthly to the state treasurer and deposited in the state general fund. The legislature intends to appropriate an amount at least equal to the revenue generated by this fee for the purposes of the displaced homemaker act, \*chapter 28B.04 RCW;

(6) For searching records per hour, eight dollars;

(7) For recording plats, fifty cents for each lot except cemetery plats for which the charge shall be twenty-five cents per lot; also one dollar for each acknowledgment, dedication, and description: PROVIDED, That there shall be a minimum fee of twenty-five dollars per plat;

(8) For recording of miscellaneous records not listed above, for the first page eight and one-half by fourteen inches or less, five dollars; for each additional page eight and one-half by fourteen inches or less, one dollar;

(9) For modernization and improvement of the recording and indexing system, a surcharge as provided in RCW 36.22.170;

(10) For recording an emergency nonstandard document as provided in RCW 65.04.047, fifty dollars, in addition to all other applicable recording fees;

(11) For recording instruments, a three dollar surcharge to be deposited into the Washington state library operations account created in RCW 43.07.129;

(12) For recording instruments, a two dollar surcharge to be deposited into the Washington state library-archives building account created in RCW 43.07.410 until the financing contract entered into by the secretary of state for the Washington state library-archives building is paid in full;

(13) For recording instruments, a surcharge as provided in RCW 36.22.178; and

(14) For recording instruments, except for documents recording a birth, marriage, divorce, or death or any documents otherwise exempted from a recording fee under state law, a surcharge as provided in RCW 36.22.179. [2022 c 141 § 2; 2019 c 448 § 3; 2015 3rd sp.s. c 28 § 1; 2007 c 523 § 2. Prior: 2005 c 484 § 19; 2005 c 374 § 1; 2002 c 294 § 3; 1999 c 233 § 3; 1996 c 143 § 1; 1995 c 246 § 37; 1991 c 26 § 2; prior: 1989 c 304 § 1; 1989 c 204 § 6; 1987 c 230 § 1; 1985 c 44 § 2; 1984 c 261 § 4; 1982 1st ex.s. c 15 § 7; 1982 c 4 § 12; 1977 ex.s. c 56 § 1; 1967 c 26 § 8; 1963 c 4 § 36.18.010; prior: 1959 c 263 § 6; 1953 c 214 § 2; 1951 c 51 § 4; 1907 c 56 § 1, part, p 92; 1903 c 151 § 1, part, p 295; 1893 c 130 § 1, part, p 423; Code 1881 § 2086, part, p 358; 1869 p 369 § 3; 1865 p 94 § 1; part; 1863 p 391 § 1, part, p 394; 1861 p 34 § 1, part, p 37; 1854 p 368 § 1, part, p 371; RRS §§ 497, part, 4105.]

\***Reviser's note:** Chapter 28B.04 RCW expired August 1, 2015, pursuant to 2015 c 55 § 101.

**Effective date—2022 c 141:** See note following RCW 4.24.130.

**Findings—Intent—2019 c 448:** See note following RCW 43.07.405.

**Findings—Conflict with federal requirements—Effective date—2005 c 484:** See RCW 43.185C.005, 43.185C.901, and 43.185C.902.

**Findings—2002 c 294:** See note following RCW 36.22.178.

**Findings—1989 c 204:** See note following RCW 36.22.160.

*Family court funding, marriage license fee increase authorized: RCW 26.12.220.*

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

**36.18.012 Various fees collected—Division with state.** (1) Revenue collected under this section is subject to division with the state.

(2) The party filing a transcript or abstract of judgment or verdict from a United States court held in this state, or from the superior court of another county or from a district court in the county of issuance, shall pay at the time of filing a fee of twenty dollars.

(3) The clerk shall collect a fee of twenty dollars for: Filing a document not related to or a part of a proceeding, civil or criminal, or a probate matter, required or permitted to be filed in the clerk's office for which no other charge is provided by law.

(4) If the defendant serves or files an answer to an unlawful detainer complaint under chapter 59.18 or 59.20 RCW, the plaintiff shall pay before proceeding with the unlawful detainer action one hundred twelve dollars.

(5) Any party filing a counterclaim, cross-claim, or third-party claim in an unlawful detainer action under chapter 59.18 or 59.20 RCW shall pay the equivalent to the total filing fee of an unlawful detainer action pursuant to RCW 36.18.020, including the fee for an unlawful detainer answer pursuant to subsection (4) of this section.

(6) For a restrictive covenant for filing a petition to strike discriminatory provisions in real estate under RCW 49.60.227 a fee of twenty dollars must be charged.

(7) A fee of twenty dollars must be charged for filing a will only, when no probate of the will is contemplated.

(8) A fee of twenty dollars must be charged for filing a petition, written agreement, or written memorandum in a nonjudicial probate dispute under RCW 11.96A.220, if it is filed within an existing case in the same court.

(9) A fee of thirty-five dollars must be charged for filing a petition regarding a common law lien under RCW 60.70.060.

(10) For the filing of a tax warrant for unpaid taxes or overpayment of benefits by any agency of the state of Washington, a fee of five dollars on or after July 22, 2001, and for the filing of such a tax warrant or overpayment of benefits on or after July 1, 2003, a fee of twenty dollars, of which forty-six percent of the first five dollars is directed to the state general fund. [2009 c 479 § 20; 2009 c 417 § 1; 2006 c 192 § 1; 2005 c 457 § 17; 2001 c 146 § 1; 1999 c 42 § 634; 1996 c 211 § 1; 1995 c 292 § 12.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 2009 c 417 § 1 and by 2009 c 479 § 20, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section under RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

**Intent—2005 c 457:** See note following RCW 43.08.250.

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

**36.18.014 Fees—Division with county law library—Petition for emancipation for minors.** (1) Revenue collected under this section is subject to division with the county law library under RCW 27.24.070.

(2) For filing a petition for emancipation for minors as required under RCW 13.64.020 a fee up to fifty dollars must be collected. [1995 c 292 § 13.]

**36.18.016 Various fees collected—Not subject to division.** (1) Revenue collected under this section is not subject to division under RCW 36.18.025 or 27.24.070.

(2)(a) For the filing of a petition for modification of a decree of dissolution or paternity, within the same case as the original action, and any party filing a counterclaim, cross-claim, or third-party claim in any such action, a fee of \$36 must be paid.

(b) The party filing the first or initial petition for dissolution, legal separation, or declaration concerning the validity of marriage shall pay, at the time and in addition to the filing fee required under RCW 36.18.020, a fee of \$54. The clerk of the superior court shall transmit monthly \$48 of the \$54 fee collected under this subsection to the state treasury for deposit in the domestic violence prevention account. The remaining six dollars shall be retained by the county for the purpose of supporting community-based domestic violence services within the county, except for five percent of the six dollars, which may be retained by the court for administrative purposes. On or before December 15th of each year, the county shall report to the department of social and health services revenues associated with this section and community-based domestic violence services expenditures. The department of social and health services shall develop a reporting form to be utilized by counties for uniform reporting purposes.

(3)(a) The party making a demand for a jury of six in a civil action shall pay, at the time, a fee of \$125; if the demand is for a jury of 12, a fee of \$250. If, after the party demands a jury of six and pays the required fee, any other party to the action requests a jury of 12, an additional \$125 fee will be required of the party demanding the increased number of jurors.

(b) Upon conviction in criminal cases a jury demand charge of \$125 for a jury of six, or \$250 for a jury of 12 may be imposed as costs under RCW 10.46.190.

(4) For preparing a certified copy of an instrument on file or of record in the clerk's office, for the first page or portion of the first page, a fee of five dollars, and for each additional page or portion of a page, a fee of one dollar must be charged. For authenticating or exemplifying an instrument, a fee of two dollars for each additional seal affixed must be charged. For preparing a copy of an instrument on file or of record in the clerk's office without a seal, a fee of 50 cents per page must be charged. When copying a document without a seal or file that is in an electronic format, a fee of 25 cents per page must be charged. For copies made on a compact disc, an additional fee of \$20 for each compact disc must be charged.

(5) For executing a certificate, with or without a seal, a fee of two dollars must be charged.

(6) For a garnishee defendant named in an affidavit for garnishment and for a writ of attachment, a fee of \$20 must be charged.

(7) For filing a supplemental proceeding, a fee of \$20 must be charged.

(8) For approving a bond, including justification on the bond, in other than civil actions and probate proceedings, a fee of two dollars must be charged.

(9) For the issuance of a certificate of qualification and a certified copy of letters of administration, letters testamentary, or letters of guardianship, there must be a fee of five dollars.

(10) For the preparation of a passport application, the clerk may collect an execution fee as authorized by the federal government.

(11) For clerk's services such as performing historical searches, compiling statistical reports, and conducting exceptional record searches, the clerk may collect a fee not to exceed \$30 per hour.

(12) For processing ex parte orders, the clerk may collect a fee of \$30.

(13) For duplicated recordings of court's proceedings there must be a fee of \$10 for each audiotape and \$25 for each video or other electronic storage medium.

(14) For registration of land titles, Torrens Act, under \*RCW 65.12.780, a fee of \$20 must be charged.

(15) For the issuance of extension of judgment under RCW 6.17.020 and chapter 9.94A RCW, a fee of \$200 must be charged. When the extension of judgment is at the request of the clerk, the \$200 charge may be imposed as court costs under RCW 10.46.190.

(16) A facilitator surcharge of up to \$20 must be charged as authorized under RCW 26.12.240.

(17) For filing an adjudication claim under RCW 90.03.180, a fee of \$25 must be charged.

(18) For filing a claim of frivolous lien under RCW 60.04.081 or 60.90.130 or filing an action to release a lien under RCW 60.90.090 and 60.90.140, a fee of \$35 must be charged.

(19) For preparation of a change of venue, a fee of \$20 must be charged by the originating court in addition to the per page charges in subsection (4) of this section.

(20) A service fee of five dollars for the first page and one dollar for each additional page must be charged for

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receiving faxed documents, pursuant to Washington state rules of court, general rule 17.

(21) For preparation of clerk's papers under RAP 9.7, a fee of 50 cents per page must be charged.

(22) For copies and reports produced at the local level as permitted by RCW 2.68.020 and supreme court policy, a variable fee must be charged.

(23) Investment service charge and earnings under RCW 36.48.090 must be charged.

(24) Costs for nonstatutory services rendered by clerk by authority of local ordinance or policy must be charged.

(25) For filing a request for civil arbitration, a filing fee may be assessed against the party filing a statement of arbitrability not to exceed \$250 as established by authority of local ordinance. \$220 of this charge shall be used to offset the cost of the civil arbitration program. \$30 of each fee collected under this subsection must be used for indigent defense services.

(26) For filing a request for trial de novo of a civil arbitration award, a fee not to exceed \$400 as established by authority of local ordinance must be charged.

(27) A public agency may not charge a fee to a law enforcement agency, for preparation, copying, or mailing of certified copies of the judgment and sentence, information, affidavit of probable cause, and/or the notice of requirement to register, of a sex offender convicted in a Washington court, when such records are necessary for risk assessment, preparation of a case for failure to register, or maintenance of a sex offender's registration file.

(28) For the filing of a will or codicil under the provisions of chapter 11.12 RCW, a fee of \$20 must be charged.

(29) A surcharge of up to \$20 may be charged in dissolution and legal separation actions as authorized by RCW 26.12.260.

The revenue to counties from the fees established in this section shall be deemed to be complete reimbursement from the state for the state's share of benefits paid to the superior court judges of the state prior to July 24, 2005, and no claim shall lie against the state for such benefits. [2022 c 29 § 12; 2021 c 102 § 17; 2018 c 36 § 7; 2016 c 74 § 4. Prior: 2015 c 275 § 11; 2015 c 265 § 27; 2009 c 417 § 2; 2007 c 496 § 204; 2006 c 192 § 2; prior: 2005 c 457 § 18; 2005 c 374 § 2; 2005 c 202 § 1; 2002 c 338 § 2; 2001 c 146 § 2; 2000 c 170 § 1; 1999 c 397 § 8; 1996 c 56 § 5; 1995 c 292 § 14.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 65.12.780 was repealed by 2022 c 66 § 1.

**Housing voucher program outcome evaluation and benefit-cost analysis—Transfer of residual funds to the general fund—2022 c 29:** See notes following RCW 9.94A.729.

**Short title—Effective date—2021 c 102:** See RCW 60.90.900 and 60.90.902.

**Applicability—Effective date—2018 c 36:** See notes following RCW 7.06.043.

**Finding—Intent—2015 c 265:** See note following RCW 13.50.010.

**Intent—2005 c 457:** See note following RCW 43.08.250.

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

**36.18.018 Fees to state court, administrative office of the courts—Appellate review fee and surcharge—Variable fee for copies and reports.** (1) State revenue collected by county clerks under subsection (2) of this section must be transmitted to the appropriate state court. The administrative

office of the courts shall retain fees collected under subsection (3) of this section.

(2) For appellate review under RAP 5.1(b), two hundred fifty dollars must be charged, except that no fee may be charged under this section for a case transferred from the superior court to the court of appeals pursuant to RCW 34.05.518 or 36.70C.150.

(3) For all copies and reports produced by the administrative office of the courts as permitted under RCW 2.68.020 and supreme court policy, a variable fee must be charged.

(4) In addition to the fee established under subsection (2) of this section, a surcharge of forty dollars is established for appellate review. The county clerk shall transmit seventy-five percent of this surcharge to the state treasurer for deposit in the judicial stabilization trust account and twenty-five percent must be retained by the county. [2021 c 305 § 4; 2021 c 303 § 2; 2017 3rd sp.s. c 2 § 2; 2013 2nd sp.s. c 7 § 2; 2012 c 199 § 2; 2011 1st sp.s. c 44 § 3; 2009 c 572 § 3; 2005 c 282 § 43; 1995 c 292 § 15.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 2021 c 303 § 2 and by 2021 c 305 § 4, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section under RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

**Effective date—2021 c 305:** See note following RCW 36.70C.150.

**Effective date—2021 c 303:** See note following RCW 3.62.060.

**Effective date—2017 3rd sp.s. c 2:** See note following RCW 3.62.060.

**Effective date—2013 2nd sp.s. c 7:** See note following RCW 3.62.060.

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

**36.18.020 Clerk's fees, surcharges. (Effective until January 1, 2023.)** (1) Revenue collected under this section is subject to division with the state under RCW 36.18.025 and with the county or regional law library fund under RCW 27.24.070, except as provided in subsection (5) of this section.

(2) Clerks of superior courts shall collect the following fees for their official services:

(a) In addition to any other fee required by law, the party filing the first or initial document in any civil action, including, but not limited to an action for restitution, adoption, or change of name, and any party filing a counterclaim, cross-claim, or third-party claim in any such civil action, shall pay, at the time the document is filed, a fee of two hundred dollars except, in an unlawful detainer action under chapter 59.18 or 59.20 RCW for which the plaintiff shall pay a case initiating filing fee of forty-five dollars, or in proceedings filed under RCW 28A.225.030 alleging a violation of the compulsory attendance laws where the petitioner shall not pay a filing fee. The forty-five dollar filing fee under this subsection for an unlawful detainer action shall not include an order to show cause or any other order or judgment except a default order or default judgment in an unlawful detainer action.

(b) Any party, except a defendant in a criminal case, filing the first or initial document on an appeal from a court of limited jurisdiction or any party on any civil appeal, shall pay, when the document is filed, a fee of two hundred dollars.

(c) For filing of a petition for judicial review as required under RCW 34.05.514 a filing fee of two hundred dollars.

(d) For filing of a petition for an antiharassment protection order under RCW 7.105.100 a filing fee of fifty-three dollars.

(e) For filing the notice of debt due for the compensation of a crime victim under RCW 7.68.120(2)(a) a fee of two hundred dollars.

(f) In probate proceedings, the party instituting such proceedings, shall pay at the time of filing the first document therein, a fee of two hundred dollars.

(g) For filing any petition to contest a will admitted to probate or a petition to admit a will which has been rejected, or a petition objecting to a written agreement or memorandum as provided in RCW 11.96A.220, there shall be paid a fee of two hundred dollars.

(h) Upon conviction or plea of guilty, upon failure to prosecute an appeal from a court of limited jurisdiction as provided by law, or upon affirmance of a conviction by a court of limited jurisdiction, an adult defendant in a criminal case shall be liable for a fee of two hundred dollars, except this fee shall not be imposed on a defendant who is indigent as defined in RCW 10.101.010(3) (a) through (c).

(i) With the exception of demands for jury hereafter made and garnishments hereafter issued, civil actions and probate proceedings filed prior to midnight, July 1, 1972, shall be completed and governed by the fee schedule in effect as of January 1, 1972. However, no fee shall be assessed if an order of dismissal on the clerk's record be filed as provided by rule of the supreme court.

(3) No fee shall be collected when a petition for relinquishment of parental rights is filed pursuant to RCW 26.33.080 or for forms and instructional brochures provided under RCW 7.105.115.

(4) No fee shall be collected when an abstract of judgment is filed by the county clerk of another county for the purposes of collection of legal financial obligations.

(5)(a) In addition to the fees required to be collected under this section, clerks of the superior courts must collect surcharges as provided in this subsection (5) of which seventy-five percent must be remitted to the state treasurer for deposit in the judicial stabilization trust account and twenty-five percent must be retained by the county.

(b) On filing fees required to be collected under subsection (2)(b) of this section, a surcharge of thirty dollars must be collected.

(c) On all filing fees required to be collected under this section, except for fees required under subsection (2)(b), (d), and (h) of this section, a surcharge of forty dollars must be collected. [2021 c 303 § 3; 2021 c 215 § 146; 2018 c 269 § 17; 2017 3rd sp.s. c 2 § 3; 2015 c 265 § 28; 2013 2nd sp.s. c 7 § 3; 2012 c 199 § 3; 2011 1st sp.s. c 44 § 5. Prior: 2009 c 572 § 4; 2009 c 479 § 21; 2009 c 417 § 3; prior: 2005 c 457 § 19; 2005 c 374 § 5; 2000 c 9 § 1; 1999 c 42 § 635; 1996 c 211 § 2; prior: 1995 c 312 § 70; 1995 c 292 § 10; 1993 c 435 § 1; 1992 c 54 § 1; 1989 c 342 § 1; prior: 1987 c 382 § 3; 1987 c 202 § 201; 1987 c 56 § 3; prior: 1985 c 24 § 1; 1985 c 7 § 104; 1984 c 263 § 29; 1981 c 330 § 5; 1980 c 70 § 1; 1977 ex.s. c 107 § 1; 1975 c 30 § 1; 1973 c 16 § 1; 1973 c 38 § 1; prior: 1972 ex.s. c 57 § 5; 1972 ex.s. c 20 § 1; 1970 ex.s. c 32 § 1; 1967 c 26 § 9; 1963 c 4 § 36.18.020; prior: 1961 c 304 § 1; 1961 c 41 § 1; 1951 c 51 § 5; 1907 c 56 § 1, part, p 89; 1903 c 151 § 1, part, p 294; 1893 c 130 § 1, part, p 421; Code 1881 § 2086, part, p 355; 1869 p 364 § 1, part; 1863 p 391 § 1, part; 1861 p 34 § 1, part; 1854 p 368 § 1, part; RRS § 497, part.]

**Rules of court:** *Cf. RAP 14.3, 18.22.*



**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 2021 c 215 § 146 and by 2021 c 303 § 3, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section under RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

**Effective date—2021 c 303:** See note following RCW 3.62.060.

**Effective date—2022 c 268; 2021 c 215:** See note following RCW 7.105.900.

**Construction—2018 c 269:** See note following RCW 10.82.090.

**Effective date—2017 3rd sp.s. c 2:** See note following RCW 3.62.060.

**Finding—Intent—2015 c 265:** See note following RCW 13.50.010.

**Effective date—2013 2nd sp.s. c 7:** See note following RCW 3.62.060.

**Intent—2005 c 457:** See note following RCW 43.08.250.

**Intent—1987 c 202:** See note following RCW 2.04.190.

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

**36.18.020 Clerk's fees, surcharges. (Effective January 1, 2023.)** (1) Revenue collected under this section is subject to division with the state under RCW 36.18.025 and with the county or regional law library fund under RCW 27.24.070, except as provided in subsection (5) of this section.

(2) Clerks of superior courts shall collect the following fees for their official services:

(a) In addition to any other fee required by law, the party filing the first or initial document in any civil action, including, but not limited to an action for restitution, adoption, or change of name, and any party filing a counterclaim, cross-claim, or third-party claim in any such civil action, shall pay, at the time the document is filed, a fee of \$200 except, in an unlawful detainer action under chapter 59.18 or 59.20 RCW for which the plaintiff shall pay a case initiating filing fee of \$45, or in proceedings filed under RCW 28A.225.030 alleging a violation of the compulsory attendance laws where the petitioner shall not pay a filing fee. The \$45 filing fee under this subsection for an unlawful detainer action shall not include an order to show cause or any other order or judgment except a default order or default judgment in an unlawful detainer action.

(b) Any party, except a defendant in a criminal case, filing the first or initial document on an appeal from a court of limited jurisdiction or any party on any civil appeal, shall pay, when the document is filed, a fee of \$200.

(c) For filing of a petition for judicial review as required under RCW 34.05.514 a filing fee of \$200.

(d) For filing of a petition for an antiharassment protection order under RCW 7.105.100 a filing fee of \$53.

(e) For filing the notice of debt due for the compensation of a crime victim under RCW 7.68.120(2)(a) a fee of \$200.

(f) In probate proceedings, the party instituting such proceedings, shall pay at the time of filing the first document therein, a fee of \$200.

(g) For filing any petition to contest a will admitted to probate or a petition to admit a will which has been rejected, or a petition objecting to a written agreement or memorandum as provided in RCW 11.96A.220, there shall be paid a fee of \$200.

(h) Upon conviction or plea of guilty, upon failure to prosecute an appeal from a court of limited jurisdiction as provided by law, or upon affirmance of a conviction by a court of limited jurisdiction, an adult defendant in a criminal case shall be liable for a fee of two hundred dollars, except this fee shall not be imposed on a defendant who is indigent

as defined in RCW 10.01.160(3). Upon motion by the defendant, the court may waive or reduce any fee previously imposed under this subsection if the court finds that the defendant is indigent as defined in RCW 10.01.160(3).

(i) With the exception of demands for jury hereafter made and garnishments hereafter issued, civil actions and probate proceedings filed prior to midnight, July 1, 1972, shall be completed and governed by the fee schedule in effect as of January 1, 1972. However, no fee shall be assessed if an order of dismissal on the clerk's record be filed as provided by rule of the supreme court.

(3) No fee shall be collected when a petition for relinquishment of parental rights is filed pursuant to RCW 26.33.080 or for forms and instructional brochures provided under RCW 7.105.115.

(4) No fee shall be collected when an abstract of judgment is filed by the county clerk of another county for the purposes of collection of legal financial obligations.

(5)(a) In addition to the fees required to be collected under this section, clerks of the superior courts must collect surcharges as provided in this subsection (5) of which 75 percent must be remitted to the state treasurer for deposit in the judicial stabilization trust account and 25 percent must be retained by the county.

(b) On filing fees required to be collected under subsection (2)(b) of this section, a surcharge of \$30 must be collected.

(c) On all filing fees required to be collected under this section, except for fees required under subsection (2)(b), (d), and (h) of this section, a surcharge of \$40 must be collected. [2022 c 260 § 17. Prior: 2021 c 303 § 3; 2021 c 215 § 146; 2018 c 269 § 17; 2017 3rd sp.s. c 2 § 3; 2015 c 265 § 28; 2013 2nd sp.s. c 7 § 3; 2012 c 199 § 3; 2011 1st sp.s. c 44 § 5; prior: 2009 c 572 § 4; 2009 c 479 § 21; 2009 c 417 § 3; prior: 2005 c 457 § 19; 2005 c 374 § 5; 2000 c 9 § 1; 1999 c 42 § 635; 1996 c 211 § 2; prior: 1995 c 312 § 70; 1995 c 292 § 10; 1993 c 435 § 1; 1992 c 54 § 1; 1989 c 342 § 1; prior: 1987 c 382 § 3; 1987 c 202 § 201; 1987 c 56 § 3; prior: 1985 c 24 § 1; 1985 c 7 § 104; 1984 c 263 § 29; 1981 c 330 § 5; 1980 c 70 § 1; 1977 ex.s. c 107 § 1; 1975 c 30 § 1; 1973 c 16 § 1; 1973 c 38 § 1; prior: 1972 ex.s. c 57 § 5; 1972 ex.s. c 20 § 1; 1970 ex.s. c 32 § 1; 1967 c 26 § 9; 1963 c 4 § 36.18.020; prior: 1961 c 304 § 1; 1961 c 41 § 1; 1951 c 51 § 5; 1907 c 56 § 1, part, p 89; 1903 c 151 § 1, part, p 294; 1893 c 130 § 1, part, p 421; Code 1881 § 2086, part, p 355; 1869 p 364 § 1, part; 1863 p 391 § 1, part; 1861 p 34 § 1, part; 1854 p 368 § 1, part; RRS § 497, part.]

**Rules of court:** *Cf. RAP 14.3, 18.22.*

**Construction—Effective date—2022 c 260:** See notes following RCW 3.66.120.

**Effective date—2021 c 303:** See note following RCW 3.62.060.

**Effective date—2022 c 268; 2021 c 215:** See note following RCW 7.105.900.

**Construction—2018 c 269:** See note following RCW 10.82.090.

**Effective date—2017 3rd sp.s. c 2:** See note following RCW 3.62.060.

**Finding—Intent—2015 c 265:** See note following RCW 13.50.010.

**Effective date—2013 2nd sp.s. c 7:** See note following RCW 3.62.060.

**Intent—2005 c 457:** See note following RCW 43.08.250.

**Intent—1987 c 202:** See note following RCW 2.04.190.

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

**36.18.022 Filing fees may be waived—When.** The court may waive the filing fees provided for under RCW 36.18.016(2)(b) and 36.18.020(2) (a) and (b) upon affidavit by a party that the party is unable to pay the fee due to financial hardship. [2005 c 374 § 6; 1995 c 292 § 16; 1992 c 54 § 5.]

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

**36.18.025 Portion of filing fees to be remitted to state treasurer.** Forty-six percent of the money received from filing fees paid pursuant to RCW 36.18.020, except those collected for the filing of warrants for unpaid taxes or overpayments by state agencies as outlined in RCW 36.18.012(10), shall be transmitted by the county treasurer each month to the state treasurer for deposit in the state general fund. [2009 c 479 § 22; 2001 c 146 § 3; 1992 c 54 § 2; 1985 c 389 § 9; 1984 c 258 § 322; 1972 ex.s. c 20 § 2.]

**Intent—1984 c 258:** See note following RCW 3.34.130.

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

**36.18.030 Coroner's fees.** Coroners shall collect for their official services, the following fees:

For each inquest held, besides mileage, twenty dollars.

For issuing a venire, two dollars.

For drawing all necessary writings, two dollars for first page and one dollar for each page thereafter.

For mileage each way, per mile, ten cents.

For performing the duties of a sheriff, he or she shall receive the same fees as a sheriff would receive for the same service. [2009 c 549 § 4014; 1963 c 4 § 36.18.030. Prior: 1959 c 263 § 7; 1907 c 56 § 1, part, p 93; 1903 c 151 § 1, part, p 296; 1893 c 130 § 1, part, p 424; Code 1881 § 2086, part, p 360; 1869 p 372 § 7, part; 1863 p 391 § 1, part, p 396; 1861 p 34 § 1, part, p 39; 1854 p 368 § 1, part, p 373; RRS §§ 497, part, 4185.]

**36.18.040 Sheriff's fees.** (1) Sheriffs shall collect the following fees for their official services:

(a) For service of each summons and complaint, notice and complaint, summons and petition, and notice of small claim on one defendant at any location, ten dollars, and on two or more defendants at the same residence, twelve dollars, besides mileage;

(b) For making a return, besides mileage actually traveled, seven dollars;

(c) For levying each writ of attachment or writ of execution upon real or personal property, besides mileage, thirty dollars per hour;

(d) For filing copy of writ of attachment or writ of execution with auditor, ten dollars plus auditor's filing fee;

(e) For serving writ of possession or restitution without aid of the county, besides mileage, twenty-five dollars;

(f) For serving writ of possession or restitution with aid of the county, besides mileage, forty dollars plus thirty dollars for each hour after one hour;

(g) For serving an arrest warrant in any action or proceeding, besides mileage, thirty dollars;

(h) For executing any other writ or process in a civil action or proceeding, besides mileage, thirty dollars per hour;

(i) For each mile actually and necessarily traveled in going to or returning from any place of service, or attempted service, thirty-five cents;

(j) For making a deed to lands sold upon execution or order of sale or other decree of court, to be paid by the purchaser, thirty dollars;

(k) For making copies of papers when sufficient copies are not furnished, one dollar for first page and fifty cents per each additional page;

(l) For the service of any other document and supporting papers for which no other fee is provided for herein, twelve dollars;

(m) For posting a notice of sale, or postponement, ten dollars besides mileage;

(n) For certificate or bill of sale of property, or certificate of redemption, thirty dollars;

(o) For conducting a sale of property, thirty dollars per hour spent at a sheriff's sale;

(p) For notarizing documents, five dollars for each document;

(q) For fingerprinting for noncriminal purposes, ten dollars for each person for up to two sets, three dollars for each additional set;

(r) For mailing required by statute, whether regular, certified, or registered, the actual cost of postage;

(s) For an internal criminal history records check, ten dollars;

(t) For the reproduction of audio, visual, or photographic material, to include magnetic microfilming, the actual cost including personnel time.

(2) Fees allowable under this section may be recovered by the prevailing party incurring the same as court costs. Nothing contained in this section permits the expenditure of public funds to defray costs of private litigation. Such costs shall be borne by the party seeking action by the sheriff, and may be recovered from the proceeds of any subsequent judicial sale, or may be added to any judgment upon proper application to the court entering the judgment.

(3) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, a county legislative authority may set the amounts of fees that shall be collected by the sheriff under subsection (1) of this section to cover the costs of administration and operation.

(4) The fines imposed by this section do not apply to juvenile offenders. [2015 c 265 § 29; 1992 c 164 § 1; 1981 c 194 § 1; 1975 1st ex.s. c 94 § 1; 1963 c 4 § 36.18.040. Prior: 1959 c 263 § 8; 1951 c 51 § 6; 1907 c 56 § 1, part, p 91; 1903 c 151 § 1, part, p 294; 1893 c 130 § 1, p 422; Code 1881 § 2086, part, p 356; 1869 p 364 § 1, part, p 365; 1865 p 94 § 1, part, p 97; 1863 p 391 § 1, part, p 392; 1861 p 34 § 1, part, p 35; 1854 p 368 § 1, part, p 369; RRS § 497, part.]

**Finding—Intent—2015 c 265:** See note following RCW 13.50.010.

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

**36.18.045 Treasurer's fees.** County treasurers shall collect the following fees for their official services:

For preparing and certifying copies, with or without seal for the first legal size page, two dollars, for each additional legal size page, one dollar. [1963 c 4 § 36.18.045. Prior: 1959 c 263 § 10.]

**36.18.050 Fees in special cases.** Every officer who shall be called on or required to perform service for which no fees or compensation are provided for in this chapter shall be allowed fees similar and equal to those allowed him or her for services of the same kind for which allowance is made herein. [2009 c 549 § 4015; 1963 c 4 § 36.18.050. Prior: Code 1881 § 2098; 1869 p 374 § 20; 1863 p 398 § 5; 1861 p 41 § 5; 1854 p 375 § 4; RRS § 4234.]

**36.18.060 Fees payable in advance—Exception.** The officers mentioned in this chapter except the county sheriff shall not, in any case, except for the state or county, perform any official services unless the fees prescribed therefor are paid in advance, and on such payment the officer must perform the services required. The county sheriff may allow payment to be made after official services have been performed as the sheriff deems appropriate. For every failure or refusal to perform official duty when the fees are tendered, the officer is liable on his or her official bond. [2009 c 549 § 4016; 1981 c 194 § 2; 1963 c 4 § 36.18.060. Prior: 1890 p 315 § 39; RRS § 506.]

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

**36.18.070 Single mileage chargeable when.** When any sheriff, constable or coroner serves more than one process in the same cause or on the same person not requiring more than one journey from his or her office, he or she shall receive mileage only for the most distant service. [2009 c 549 § 4017; 1963 c 4 § 36.18.070. Prior: Code 1881 § 2094; 1869 p 373 § 16; RRS § 501.]

**36.18.080 Fee schedule to be kept posted.** Every county officer entitled to collect fees from the public shall keep posted in his or her office a plain and legible statement of the fees allowed by law and failure so to do shall subject the officer to a fine of one hundred dollars and costs, to be recovered in any court of competent jurisdiction. [2009 c 549 § 4018; 1963 c 4 § 36.18.080. Prior: 1890 p 315 § 41; RRS § 4223. Cf. Code 1881 § 2091; 1869 p 373 § 13.]

**36.18.090 Itemized receipt to be given.** Every officer, when requested so to do, shall make out a bill of his or her fees in every case, and for any services, specifying each particular item thereof, and receipt the same when it is paid, which bill of fees shall always be subject to examination and correction by the courts. Any officer who fails to comply with the requirements of this section shall be liable to the person paying the fees in treble the amount so paid. [2009 c 549 § 4019; 1963 c 4 § 36.18.090. Prior: (i) 1890 p 315 § 40; RRS § 4222. (ii) Code 1881 § 2102; 1869 p 374 § 24; 1863 p 398 § 3; 1861 p 41 § 3; 1854 p 376 § 6; RRS § 4235.]

**36.18.160 Penalty for taking illegal fees.** If any officer takes more or greater fees than are allowed by law he or she shall be subject to prosecution, and on conviction, shall be removed from office and fined in a sum not exceeding one thousand dollars. [2009 c 549 § 4021; 1963 c 4 § 36.18.160. Prior: Code 1881 § 2090; 1869 p 373 § 12; RRS § 4225. Cf. RCW 9.33.040.]

**36.18.170 Penalty for failure to pay over fees.** Any salaried county or precinct officer, who fails to pay to the county treasury all sums that have come into the officer's hands for fees and charges for the county, or by virtue of the officer's office, whether under the laws of this state or of the United States, is guilty of a class C felony, and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by imprisonment in a state correctional facility not less than one year nor more than three years: PROVIDED, That upon conviction, his or her office shall be declared to be vacant by the court pronouncing sentence. [2003 c 53 § 201; 1992 c 7 § 33; 1963 c 4 § 36.18.170. Prior: 1893 c 81 § 2; RRS § 4226. Cf. RCW 42.20.070.]

**Intent—Effective date—2003 c 53:** See notes following RCW 2.48.180.

**36.18.180 Office to be declared vacant on conviction.** The board of county commissioners of any county in this state, upon receiving a certified copy of the record of conviction of any officer for receiving illegal fees, or where the officer collects fees and fails to account for the same, upon proof thereof must declare his or her office vacant and appoint his or her successor. [2009 c 549 § 4022; 1963 c 4 § 36.18.180. Prior: 1890 p 315 § 42; RRS § 4224.]

**36.18.190 Collection of unpaid financial obligations—Collection contracts—Interest to collection agencies authorized.** Superior court clerks may contract with collection agencies under chapter 19.16 RCW or may use county collection services for the collection of unpaid court-ordered legal financial obligations as enumerated in RCW 9.94A.030 that are ordered pursuant to a felony or misdemeanor conviction and of unpaid financial obligations imposed under Title 13 RCW. The costs for the agencies or county services shall be paid by the debtor. The superior court may, at sentencing or at any time within ten years, assess as court costs the moneys paid for remuneration for services or charges paid to collection agencies or for collection services. By agreement, clerks may authorize collection agencies to retain all or any portion of the interest collected on these accounts. Collection may not be initiated with respect to a criminal offender who is under the supervision of the department of corrections without the prior agreement of the department. Superior court clerks are encouraged to initiate collection action with respect to a criminal offender who is under the supervision of the department of corrections, with the department's approval.

Any contract with a collection agency shall be awarded only after competitive bidding. Factors that a court clerk shall consider in awarding a collection contract include but are not limited to: (1) A collection agency's history and reputation in the community; and (2) the agency's access to a local database that may increase the efficiency of its collections. Contracts may specify the scope of work, remuneration for services, and other charges deemed appropriate.

The servicing of an unpaid court obligation does not constitute assignment of a debt, and no contract with a collection agency may remove the court's control over unpaid obligations owed to the court.

The county clerk may collect civil judgments where the county is the creditor. [1997 c 24 § 1. Prior: 1995 c 291 § 8; 1995 c 262 § 1; 1994 c 185 § 9.]

## Chapter 36.21 RCW COUNTY ASSESSOR

### Sections

- 36.21.011 Appointment of deputies and assistants—Engaging expert appraisers—Employment and classification plans for appraisers.
- 36.21.015 Qualifications for persons assessing real property—Examination—Examination waiver—Continuing education requirement.
- 36.21.070 New construction building permits—Appraisal of building.
- 36.21.080 New construction building permits—When property placed on assessment rolls.
- 36.21.090 Initial placement of mobile home on assessment roll.
- 36.21.100 Annual report to department of revenue on property tax levies and related matters.
- 36.21.110 Property tax exemption and deferral programs—Notice.

*Assessor's plats: Chapter 58.18 RCW.*

### Duties relating to

- cemetery district organization: Chapter 68.52 RCW.*
- drainage district revenue act: Chapter 85.32 RCW.*
- drainage districts: Chapter 85.06 RCW.*
- fire protection district, resolution creating: RCW 52.02.150.*
- flood control districts: Chapter 86.09 RCW.*
- forest insect and disease control: Chapter 76.06 RCW.*
- forest rehabilitation: Chapter 76.14 RCW.*
- irrigation districts*
  - dissolution of districts with bonds: Chapter 87.53 RCW.*
  - dissolution of insolvent districts: Chapter 87.56 RCW.*
  - generally: Chapter 87.03 RCW.*
  - joint control of: RCW 87.80.090.*
- metropolitan municipal corporation: Chapter 35.58 RCW.*
- mosquito control districts: Chapter 17.28 RCW.*
- pest districts: Chapter 17.12 RCW.*
- reforestation: RCW 79.22.010.*
- school district organization: Chapter 28A.315 RCW.*
- school districts, appeals from boundary changes, decisions: RCW 28A.645.040.*
- section and corner lines, establishment of: Chapter 58.04 RCW.*
- taxes, property*
  - certification of on operating property of private car companies: RCW 84.16.130.*
  - certification of on operating property of public utilities: RCW 84.12.370.*
  - collection of: Chapter 84.56 RCW.*
  - equalization of assessments: Chapter 84.48 RCW.*
  - exemptions: Chapter 84.36 RCW.*
  - levy of: Chapter 84.52 RCW.*
  - lien on: Chapter 84.60 RCW.*
  - listing of: Chapter 84.40 RCW.*
  - nonoperating property of private car companies: RCW 84.16.140.*
  - nonoperating property of public utilities: RCW 84.12.380.*
  - revaluation: Chapter 84.41 RCW.*
  - taxable situs: Chapter 84.44 RCW.*
  - weed district assessments: Chapter 17.04 RCW.*
- Lands lying in both a fire protection district and forest protection assessment area, assessment by: RCW 52.16.170.*
- Mobile home or park model trailer movement permits: RCW 46.44.173.*
- Property tax advisor: RCW 84.48.140.*
- Public lands, harbor areas, re-lease of, rental based on assessor's valuation: RCW 79.115.120.*
- Revenue, department of, to test work of, advise: RCW 84.08.020, 84.08.030, 84.08.190.*
- Taxes, property, penalty for nonperformance of duty: RCW 84.09.040.*
- Taxes for city and town purposes: State Constitution Art. 11 § 12.*
- Transfer of ownership of manufactured home, county assessor notified: RCW 46.12.700(5).*
- Washington Clean Air Act, assessors' duties under: RCW 70A.15.1620.*

**36.21.011 Appointment of deputies and assistants—Engaging expert appraisers—Employment and classification plans for appraisers.** Any assessor who deems it

necessary in order to complete the listing and the valuation of the property of the county within the time prescribed by law, (1) may appoint one or more well qualified persons to act as assistants or deputies who shall not engage in the private practice of appraising within the county in which he or she is employed without the written permission of the assessor filed with the auditor; and each such assistant or deputy so appointed shall, under the direction of the assessor, after taking the required oath, perform all the duties enjoined upon, vested in or imposed upon assessors, and (2) may contract with any persons, firms or corporations, who are expert appraisers, to assist in the valuation of property.

To assist each assessor in obtaining adequate and well qualified assistants or deputies, the office of financial management, after consultation with the Washington state association of county assessors, the Washington state association of counties, and the department of revenue, shall establish by July 1, 1967, and shall thereafter maintain, a classification and salary plan for those employees of an assessor who act as appraisers. The plan shall recommend the salary range and employment qualifications for each position encompassed by it, and shall, to the fullest extent practicable, conform to the classification plan, salary schedules and employment qualifications for state employees performing similar appraisal functions.

An assessor who intends to put such plan into effect shall inform the department of revenue and the county legislative authority of this intent in writing. The department of revenue and the county legislative authority may thereupon each designate a representative, and such representative or representatives as may be designated by the department of revenue or the county legislative authority, or both, shall form with the assessor a committee. The committee so formed may, by unanimous vote only, determine the required number of certified appraiser positions and their salaries necessary to enable the assessor to carry out the requirements relating to revaluation of property in chapter 84.41 RCW. The determination of the committee shall be certified to the county legislative authority. The committee may be formed only once in a period of four calendar years.

After such determination, the assessor may provide, in each of the four next succeeding annual budget estimates, for as many positions as are established in such determination. Each county legislative authority to which such a budget estimate is submitted shall allow sufficient funds for such positions. An employee may be appointed to a position covered by the plan only if the employee meets the employment qualifications established by the plan. [2011 1st sp.s. c 43 § 470; 1995 c 134 § 12. Prior: 1994 c 301 § 6; 1994 c 124 § 1; 1973 1st ex.s. c 11 § 1; 1971 ex.s. c 85 § 2; 1967 ex.s. c 146 § 7; 1963 c 4 § 36.21.011; prior: 1955 c 251 § 10.]

**Effective date—Purpose—2011 1st sp.s. c 43:** See notes following RCW 43.19.003.

**36.21.015 Qualifications for persons assessing real property—Examination—Examination waiver—Continuing education requirement.** (1) Any person having the responsibility of valuing real property for purposes of taxation including persons acting as assistants or deputies to a county assessor under RCW 36.21.011 shall have first:

(a) Had at least one year of experience in transactions involving real property, in appraisal of real property, or in assessment of real property, or at least one year of experience in a combination of the three;

(b) Become knowledgeable in repair and remodeling of buildings and improvement of land, and in the significance of locality and area to the value of real property;

(c) Become knowledgeable in the standards for appraising property set forth by the department of revenue; and

(d) Met other minimum requirements specified by department of revenue rule.

(2) The department of revenue shall prepare and administer an examination on subjects related to the valuation of real property. No person shall assess real property for purposes of taxation without having passed said examination or having received an examination waiver from the department of revenue upon showing education or experience determined by the department to be equivalent to passing the examination. A person passing said examination or receiving an examination waiver shall be accredited accordingly by the department of revenue.

(3) The department of revenue may by rule establish continuing education requirements for persons assessing real property for purposes of taxation. The department shall provide accreditation of completion of requirements imposed under this section. No person shall assess real property for purposes of taxation without complying with requirements imposed under this subsection.

(4) To the extent practical, the department of revenue shall coordinate accreditation requirements under this section with the requirements for certified real estate appraisers under chapter 18.140 RCW.

(5) The examination requirements of subsection (2) of this section shall not apply to any person who shall have either:

(a) Been certified as a real property appraiser by the department of personnel prior to July 1, 1992; or

(b) Attended and satisfactorily completed the assessor's school operated jointly by the department of revenue and the Washington state assessors association prior to August 9, 1971. [1991 c 218 § 3; 1977 c 75 § 30; 1971 ex.s. c 288 § 17; 1971 ex.s. c 27 § 1.]

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

**36.21.070 New construction building permits—Appraisal of building.** Upon receipt of a copy of a building permit, the county assessor shall, within twelve months of the date of issue of such permit, proceed to make a physical appraisal of the building or buildings covered by the permit. [1989 c 246 § 3; 1987 c 134 § 1; 1963 c 4 § 36.21.070. Prior: 1955 c 129 § 4.]

**36.21.080 New construction building permits—When property placed on assessment rolls.** The county assessor is authorized to place any property that is increased in value due to construction or alteration for which a building permit was issued, or should have been issued, under chapter 19.27, 19.27A, or 19.28 RCW or other laws providing for building permits on the assessment rolls for the purposes of tax levy up to August 31st of each year. The assessed valuation of the property shall be considered as of July 31st of that

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year. [1989 c 246 § 4; 1987 c 319 § 5; 1985 c 220 § 1; 1982 1st ex.s. c 46 § 4; 1981 c 274 § 3; 1975 1st ex.s. c 120 § 1; 1974 ex.s. c 196 § 7; 1963 c 4 § 36.21.080. Prior: 1955 c 129 § 5.]

*Destroyed property, reduction in value, abatement or refund of taxes: Chapter 84.70 RCW.*

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

**36.21.090 Initial placement of mobile home on assessment roll.** When any mobile home first becomes subject to assessment for property taxes in this state, the county assessor is authorized to place the mobile home on the assessment rolls for purposes of tax levy up to August 31st of each year. The assessed valuation of the mobile home shall be considered as of the July 31st immediately preceding the date that the mobile home is placed on the assessment roll. [1987 c 134 § 2; 1977 ex.s. c 22 § 7.]

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

**36.21.100 Annual report to department of revenue on property tax levies and related matters.** Every county assessor shall report to the department of revenue on the property tax levies and related matters within the county annually at a date and in a form prescribed by the department of revenue. The report shall include, but need not be limited to, the results of sales-assessment ratio studies performed by the assessor. The ratio studies shall be based on use classes of real property and shall be performed under a plan approved by the department of revenue. [1991 c 218 § 4; 1987 c 138 § 8.]

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

**36.21.110 Property tax exemption and deferral programs—Notice.** (1) The county assessor must post a notice describing the:

(a) Property tax exemption program pursuant to RCW 84.36.379 through 84.36.389; and

(b) Property tax deferral program pursuant to chapter 84.38 RCW.

(2) The notice required under subsection (1) of this section must be posted in a location visible to the public. [2019 c 332 § 7.]

**Effective date—2019 c 332:** See note following RCW 84.56.029.

## Chapter 36.22 RCW COUNTY AUDITOR

### Sections

36.22.010	Duties of auditor.
36.22.020	Publisher of legislative authority proceedings—Custodian of commissioners' seal.
36.22.030	May administer oaths.
36.22.040	Duty to audit claims against county.
36.22.050	Issuance of warrants—Multiple warrants.
36.22.060	Record of warrants.
36.22.070	Original claims to be retained.
36.22.080	Claims of auditor.
36.22.090	Warrants of political subdivisions.
36.22.100	Cancellation of unclaimed warrants.
36.22.110	Auditor cannot act as attorney or lobbyist.
36.22.120	Temporary clerk may be appointed.
36.22.140	Auditor or charter county financial officer—Ex officio deputy state auditor.
36.22.150	Duty of retiring auditor or his or her representative in case of death.

- 36.22.160 Copying, preserving, and indexing documents.
- 36.22.170 Surcharge for preservation of historical documents—Distribution of revenue to county and state treasurer—Creation of account.
- 36.22.175 Surcharge for local government archives and records management—Records management training—Eastern Washington regional facility.
- 36.22.176 Recorded document surcharge—Use.
- 36.22.178 Affordable housing for all surcharge—Permissible uses.
- 36.22.179 Surcharge for local homeless housing and assistance—Use.
- 36.22.1791 Additional surcharge for local homeless housing and assistance—Use.
- 36.22.181 Surcharge for prosecution of mortgage lending fraud—Transmittal to state treasurer.
- 36.22.190 Distribution of funds.
- 36.22.200 Action for change of name—Filing and recording.
- 36.22.210 Process servers—Registration—Fees.
- 36.22.215 Process servers—Social security numbers.
- 36.22.220 Election assistants, deputies—Appointment, qualifications.
- 36.22.230 Election assistants, deputies—Additional qualifications.
- 36.22.240 Surcharge for growth management planning and review—Increasing residential building capacity.

*Acknowledgments, auditor may take: RCW 64.08.010.*

*Appointment as agent for registration of vehicles: RCW 46.01.130, 46.01.140, 46.01.270.*

*Canvassing board, auditor as member: RCW 39.40.030.*

*Cities and towns, certificates of election, auditor to issue: RCW 35.02.130.*

*Civil actions, judgment by confession acknowledged before: RCW 4.60.040.*

*County accounts, expense for examination of, auditor to issue warrant for: RCW 43.09.280.*

*County canvassing board, auditor as member: RCW 29A.60.160.*

*Custodian of records, auditor as: RCW 65.04.140.*

*Department of revenue to advise: RCW 84.08.020.*

*Diking district, auditor as agent of county commissioners in signing petition for: RCW 85.05.083.*

*Dissolution of inactive port districts: Chapter 53.47 RCW.*

*District court districting committee, auditor as member of: RCW 3.38.010.*

*Duties relating to*

*air pollution control districts: Chapter 70A.15 RCW.*

*aircraft excise taxes: Chapter 82.48 RCW.*

*appeals from tax levies: Chapter 84.08 RCW.*

*assessor's plats: RCW 58.18.010.*

*basic juvenile court act: Chapter 13.04 RCW.*

*boundary line proceedings: RCW 58.04.040.*

*cemetery districts: Chapter 68.52 RCW.*

*cemetery plat, filing of: RCW 68.24.030.*

*certification of offices, notice of election: Chapter 29A.36 RCW.*

*chattel liens: Chapter 60.08 RCW.*

*chattel mortgages: Chapter 60.08 RCW, Article 62A.9A RCW.*

*assignment and satisfaction of: Chapter 61.16 RCW.*

*cities and towns*

*advancement of classification: Chapter 35.06 RCW.*

*agreements for sewer connections outside of: RCW 35.67.310.*

*cities support of county in which generating plant located: RCW 35.21.450.*

*corrective plats of: RCW 58.10.030.*

*determining town's uncertain boundaries: RCW 35.27.040, 35.27.050.*

*disincorporation of: Chapter 35.07 RCW.*

*general indebtedness bonds, county tax levy to pay: RCW 35.37.120.*

*incorporation proceedings: Chapter 35.02 RCW.*

*ordinance reducing city limits: RCW 35.16.050.*

*unfit buildings, structures, or premises, abatement: RCW 35.80.030.*

*claim of spouse or domestic partner in community realty: RCW 26.16.100.*

*collection agency surety bonds: RCW 19.16.190.*

*conditional sales contracts: Article 62A.9A RCW.*

*corporations, nonprofit, generally: Title 24 RCW.*

*educational, religious, benevolent, fraternal or charitable: Chapter 24.03A RCW.*

*mutual benefit: Chapter 24.03A RCW.*

*nonstock: Chapter 24.03A RCW.*

*county airport districts: Chapter 14.08 RCW.*

*county and city tuberculosis hospital: Chapter 70.30 RCW.*

*credit unions: Chapter 31.12 RCW.*

*crop liens: Chapter 60.11 RCW.*

*dances, licensing of: Chapter 67.12 RCW.*

*diking, drainage and sewerage improvement districts generally: Chapter 85.08 RCW.*

*maintenance costs and levies: Chapter 85.16 RCW.*

*diking, drainage district benefits to roads, how paid: RCW 85.07.040, 85.07.050.*

*diking districts: Chapter 85.05 RCW.*

*levy for continuous benefits: Chapter 85.18 RCW.*

*reorganization of (1917 act): Chapter 85.20 RCW.*

*reorganization of (1933 act): Chapter 85.22 RCW.*

*disinfection of horticultural premises: Chapter 15.08 RCW.*

*dissolution of inactive special purpose districts: Chapter 36.96 RCW.*

*doctors, nurses and hospital services, lien for: Chapter 60.44 RCW.*

*drainage district revenue act: Chapter 85.32 RCW.*

*drainage districts: Chapter 85.06 RCW.*

*reorganization of (1917 act): Chapter 85.20 RCW.*

*reorganization of (1933 act): Chapter 85.22 RCW.*

*elections*

*ballots: Chapter 29A.36 RCW.*

*canvassing returns: Chapter 29A.60 RCW.*

*ceremonial certificate of, auditor to issue: RCW 29A.52.360.*

*change of precinct boundaries: RCW 29A.16.070.*

*conduct of: RCW 29A.60.010.*

*congressional elections: Chapter 29A.28 RCW.*

*declarations of candidacy: Chapter 29A.52 RCW.*

*initiative and referendum: Chapter 29A.72 RCW.*

*nonpartisan primaries, elections: Chapter 29A.52 RCW.*

*presidential electors: Chapter 29A.56 RCW.*

*recall: Chapter 29A.56 RCW.*

*registration of voters for: Chapter 29A.08 RCW.*

*status, transfers, and cancellations: Chapter 29A.08 RCW.*

*voting by mail: Chapter 29A.40 RCW.*

*voting centers*

*accessibility to individuals with disabilities: Chapter 29A.16 RCW.*

*regulations, after closing: Chapter 29A.60 RCW.*

*voting systems: Chapter 29A.12 RCW.*

*electric franchises and rights-of-way: RCW 80.32.010.*

*eminent domain*

*by cities: Chapter 8.12 RCW.*

*by counties: Chapter 8.08 RCW.*

*employee contributions to benefit plans lien claim: RCW 60.76.020.*

*employee payroll deductions: RCW 41.04.020 through 41.04.036.*

*execution of judgment: Chapter 6.17 RCW.*

*fire protection districts: Chapters 52.04, 52.16 RCW.*

*merger of: Chapter 52.06 RCW.*

*flood control by counties jointly: Chapter 86.13 RCW.*

*flood control districts (1937 act): Chapter 86.09 RCW.*

*flood control zone districts: Chapter 86.15 RCW.*

*food fish and shellfish*

*fishways for: RCW 77.57.030.*

*guards: RCW 77.57.010.*

*forest fire protection assessments: RCW 76.04.610.*

*forest protection, claims for damages, services: Chapter 76.04 RCW.*

*franchises on state highways: Chapter 47.44 RCW.*

*funding indebtedness of counties: Chapter 39.52 RCW.*

*health districts: Chapter 70.46 RCW.*

*homesteads: Chapter 6.13 RCW.*

*horizontal property regimes (condominiums), declarations and survey*

*maps of: RCW 64.32.100, 64.32.140.*

*hospital districts: Chapter 70.44 RCW.*

*housing authority act: Chapter 35.82 RCW.*

*insurance, mergers and insolvencies: Chapter 48.31 RCW.*

*intercounty rural library district: Chapter 27.12 RCW.*

*intercounty weed districts: Chapter 17.06 RCW.*

*irregular instruments, recording of: RCW 65.08.030.*

*irrigation districts*

*director divisions: RCW 87.04.070.*

*dissolution of districts with bonds: Chapter 87.53 RCW.*

*dissolution of insolvent districts: Chapter 87.56 RCW.*

*generally: Chapter 87.03 RCW.*

*joint control of: Chapter 87.80 RCW.*

*under contract with United States: Chapter 87.68 RCW.*

*juries, drawing of: Chapter 2.36 RCW.*

*labor, materials and taxes on public works, liens for: Chapter 60.28 RCW.*

*labor and services on timber and lumber, lien for: Chapter 60.24 RCW.*

*labor lien on restaurant, tavern, hotel, etc.: Chapter 60.34 RCW.*

labor liens on franchises, earnings and property of certain companies: Chapter 60.32 RCW.

land office receipts, recording of: RCW 65.08.050.

lease of personal property with conditional right to purchase: Article 62A.9A RCW.

letters patent, recording of: RCW 65.08.090.

licenses to practice dentistry: Chapter 18.32 RCW.

lien of employees for contributions to benefit plans: Chapter 60.76 RCW.

liquor

- billiard tables, bowling alleys, licensing of, use, sale of: Chapter 67.14 RCW.
- retail license: RCW 67.14.040.
- sales, local option on: Chapter 66.40 RCW.
- wholesale license: RCW 67.14.050.

marriages: Chapter 26.04 RCW.

mechanics' and materialmen's liens: Chapter 60.04 RCW.

metropolitan municipal corporations: Chapter 35.58 RCW.

mining claims

- location of: Chapter 78.08 RCW.
- survey reports: Chapter 78.06 RCW.

mosquito control districts: Chapter 17.28 RCW.

motor vehicle registration: RCW 46.01.130, 46.01.140, 46.01.270.

municipal court elections: Chapter 35.20 RCW.

municipal water and sewer facilities act: Chapter 35.91 RCW.

new or limited access highway routes: RCW 47.28.025.

notice of lis pendens: RCW 4.28.160, 4.28.320.

orchard labor liens: Chapter 60.16 RCW.

order discharging attachment: RCW 6.25.160.

park and recreation district commissioner elections: RCW 36.69.090.

partnership ditches, lien claim for labor done: RCW 90.03.450.

partnerships, uniform limited partnerships act: Chapters 25.10, 25.12 RCW.

pendency of action in United States court: RCW 4.28.325.

pest districts: Chapter 17.12 RCW.

planning commission: Chapter 35.63 RCW.

plats, subdivisions and dedications: Chapter 58.17 RCW.

port district L.I.D.'s: RCW 53.20.050.

port districts

- annexation of land to: Chapter 53.04 RCW.
- budget of: Chapter 53.35 RCW.
- commissioner elections: Chapter 53.12 RCW.
- consolidation of: Chapter 53.46 RCW.
- formation of: Chapter 53.04 RCW.

precinct committee officer: Chapter 29A.80 RCW.

public assistance lien claim: RCW 74.04.300.

public lands

- lease of: Chapter 79.13 RCW.
- leasing on share crop basis: RCW 79.13.320 through 79.13.360.
- materials on, sale of: Chapter 79.15 RCW.
- tidelands and shorelands plats: RCW 79.125.040.

public records and evidence: Chapter 5.44 RCW.

public utility districts: Chapters 54.08, 54.12, 54.24, 54.40 RCW.

public waterway districts: Chapter 91.08 RCW.

- eminent domain by: RCW 91.08.150.

real property conveyances, recording of: RCW 65.08.070.

reclamation and irrigation districts in United States reclamation areas: Chapter 89.12 RCW.

reclamation districts of one million acres: Chapter 89.30 RCW.

recording, generally: Chapters 65.04, 65.08 RCW.

- liability of auditor for damages: RCW 65.04.110.

recording of town plats: Chapter 58.08 RCW.

river and harbor improvement districts: Chapter 88.32 RCW.

river and harbor improvements by counties jointly: RCW 88.32.180 through 88.32.220.

sales under execution and redemption: Chapter 6.21 RCW.

school district directors, superintendents, signatures of: RCW 28A.400.020.

school district organization: Chapter 28A.315 RCW.

sires, services of, lien for: Chapter 60.52 RCW.

street railways: Chapter 81.64 RCW.

superior court, expenses of visiting judge: RCW 2.08.170.

superior court, judges salary: RCW 2.08.100 through 2.08.110.

taxes

- excise on real estate sales: RCW 82.45.090.
- internal revenue, liens for: Chapter 60.68 RCW.

property

- collection of: Chapter 84.56 RCW.
- equalization of assessments: Chapter 84.48 RCW.
- recovery: Chapter 84.68 RCW.
- vehicle use tax: RCW 82.12.045.

townsites on United States lands, acquisition of lands by inhabitants: Chapter 58.28 RCW.

unemployment compensation contributions, lien for: RCW 50.24.050.

vehicle registration: RCW 46.01.130, 46.01.140, 46.01.270.

veterans' meeting place, rent by county: RCW 73.04.080.

veterans' relief: Chapter 73.08 RCW.

voting by mail: Chapter 29A.40 RCW.

water-sewer districts

- annexation of property to: Chapter 57.24 RCW.
- consolidation of: Chapter 57.32 RCW.
- funds of: Chapter 57.20 RCW.
- generally: Title 57 RCW.
- merger of: Chapter 57.36 RCW.
- transfer of part: RCW 57.32.160.
- withdrawal of territory from: Chapter 57.28 RCW.

water rights certificates: RCW 90.03.330.

water rights, United States: Chapter 90.40 RCW.

weed districts: Chapter 17.04 RCW.

workers' compensation contributions, liens for: RCW 51.16.170.

Eminent domain by

- cities of county land, auditor served: RCW 8.12.080.
- state, decree of appropriation filed with auditor: RCW 8.04.120.
- state of county land, notice of served on auditor: RCW 8.04.020.

Motor vehicle registration: RCW 46.01.130, 46.01.140, 46.01.270.

Plats, validation of defective city or town plats in office of: Chapter 58.10 RCW.

Public lands, sales and lease of, duties of auditor in certain counties transferred to treasurer: RCW 79.02.090.

Public lands and materials on, sale of, auditor as auctioneer: RCW 79.11.150.

Reclamation district commission, auditor as clerk of: RCW 89.30.058.

Summons for claim against county served on auditor: RCW 4.28.080.

Support of dependent children, auditor to charge no fees in connection with: RCW 74.20.300.

Taxes, property, penalty for nonperformance of duty: RCW 84.09.040.

Television reception improvement districts, auditor's duties: Chapter 36.95 RCW.

Temporary gate across highways, auditor to grant permit for, when: RCW 16.60.085.

Veterans, auditor to furnish documents for free: RCW 73.04.120.

Veterans' discharge, auditor to record without fee: RCW 73.04.030 through 73.04.042.

Veterans' pension papers, auditor to charge no fee: RCW 73.04.010.

### **36.22.010 Duties of auditor.** The county auditor:

- (1) Shall be recorder of deeds and other instruments in writing which by law are to be filed and recorded in and for the county for which he or she is elected;
- (2) Shall keep an account current with the county treasurer, charge all money received as shown by receipts issued and credit all disbursements paid out according to the record of settlement of the treasurer with the legislative authority;
- (3) Shall make out and transmit to the state auditor a statement of the state fund account with the county in accordance with standards developed by the state auditor. The statement must be available to the public;
- (4) Shall make available a complete exhibit of the prior-year finances of the county including, but not limited to, a statement of financial condition and financial operation in accordance with standards developed by the state auditor. This exhibit shall be made available after the financial records are closed for the prior year;

(5) Shall make out a register of all warrants legally authorized and directed to be issued by the legislative body at any regular or special meeting. The auditor shall make the data available to the county treasurer. The auditor shall retain the original of the register of warrants for future reference;

(6) As clerk of the board of county commissioners, shall: Record all of the proceedings of the legislative authority;

Make full entries of all of their resolutions and decisions on all questions concerning the raising of money for and the allowance of accounts against the county;

Record the vote of each member on any question upon which there is a division or at the request of any member present;

Sign all orders made and warrants issued by order of the legislative authority for the payment of money;

Record the reports of the county treasurer of the receipts and disbursements of the county;

Preserve and file all accounts acted upon by the legislative authority;

Preserve and file all petitions and applications for franchises and record the action of the legislative authority thereon;

Record all orders levying taxes;

Perform all other duties required by any rule or order of the legislative authority. [2009 c 337 § 3; 1995 c 194 § 1; 1984 c 128 § 2; 1963 c 4 § 36.22.010. Prior: 1955 c 157 § 9; prior: (i) Code 1881 § 2707; 1869 p 310 §§ 1, 2, 3; 1863 p 549 §§ 1, 2, 3; 1854 p 424 §§ 1, 2, 3; RRS § 4083. (ii) Code 1881 § 2709; RRS § 4085. (iii) Code 1881 § 2711; RRS § 4088. (iv) 1893 c 119 § 2; Code 1881 § 2712; 1869 p 311 § 6; 1863 p 550 § 6; 1854 p 425 § 6; RRS § 4089. (v) 1893 c 119 § 3; Code 1881 § 2571; RRS § 4090. (vi) 1893 c 119 § 4; Code 1881 § 2713; 1869 p 311 § 7; 1867 p 130 § 1; RRS § 4091. (vii) 1893 c 119 § 5; Code 1881 § 2714; 1869 p 311 § 8; 1867 p 131 § 2; RRS § 4092. (viii) 1893 c 119 § 7; Code 1881 § 2718; 1869 p 312 § 13; RRS § 4095. (ix) Code 1881 § 2719; RRS § 4098. (x) 1893 c 119 § 8; Code 1881 § 2720; RRS § 4099.]

**36.22.020 Publisher of legislative authority proceedings—Custodian of commissioners' seal.** It shall be the duty of the county auditor of each county, within fifteen days after the adjournment of each regular session, to publish a summary of the proceedings of the legislative authority at such term, in any newspaper published in the county or having a general circulation therein, or the auditor may post copies of such proceedings in three of the most public places in the county. The seal of the county commissioners for each county, used by the county auditor as clerk to attest the proceedings of the legislative authority, shall be and remain in the custody of the county auditor, and the auditor is hereby authorized to use such seal in attestation of all official acts, whether as clerk of the legislative authority, as auditor or recorder of deeds; and all certificates, exemplifications of records, or other acts performed as county auditor, certified under the seal of the county commissioners, pursuant to this section, in this state, shall be as valid and legally binding as though attested by a seal of office of the county auditor. [1995 c 194 § 2; 1963 c 4 § 36.22.020. Prior: Code 1881 § 2724; 1869 p 313 § 17; RRS §§ 4102, 4103. Formerly RCW 36.16.080, 36.22.020, and 36.22.130.]

**36.22.030 May administer oaths.** Auditors and their deputies may administer oaths necessary in the performance of their duties and in all other cases where oaths are required by law to be administered and take acknowledgments of deeds and other instruments in writing: PROVIDED, That any deputy county auditor, in administering such oath or taking such acknowledgment, shall certify to the same in his or her own name as deputy, and not in the name of his or her principal, and shall attach thereto the seal of the office: PROVIDED, That all oaths administered or acknowledgments taken by any deputy of any county auditor certifying to the same in the name of his or her principal by himself or herself as such deputy, prior to the taking effect of chapter 119, Laws of 1893 be and the same are hereby legalized and made valid and binding. [2009 c 549 § 4023; 1963 c 4 § 36.22.030. Prior: 1893 c 119 § 6; Code 1881 § 2717; 1869 p 312 § 11; 1863 p 550 § 8; 1854 p 425 § 8; RRS § 4094.]

**36.22.040 Duty to audit claims against county.** The county auditor shall audit all claims, demands, and accounts against the county which by law are chargeable to the county, except such cost or fee bills as are by law to be examined or approved by some other judicial tribunal or officer. Such claims as it is his or her duty to audit shall be presented to the board of county commissioners for their examination and allowance. [2009 c 549 § 4024; 1963 c 4 § 36.22.040. Prior: 1893 c 119 § 1, part; Code 1881 § 2710, part; 1869 p 310 § 5, part; 1863 p 549 § 5, part; 1854 p 425 § 5, part; RRS § 4086, part.]

**36.22.050 Issuance of warrants—Multiple warrants.** For claims allowed by the county commissioners, and also for cost bills and other lawful claims duly approved by the competent tribunal designated by law for their allowance, he or she shall draw a warrant on the county treasurer, made payable to the claimant or his or her order, bearing date from the time of and regularly numbered in the order of their issue. If there is not sufficient cash in the county treasury to cover such claims or cost bills, or if a claimant requests, the auditor may issue a number of smaller warrants, the total principal amounts of which shall equal the amount of said claim or cost bill. [2009 c 549 § 4025; 1975 c 31 § 1; 1969 ex.s. c 87 § 1; 1963 c 4 § 36.22.050. Prior: (i) 1893 c 119 § 1, part; Code 1881 § 2710, part; 1869 p 310 § 5, part; 1863 p 549 § 5, part; 1854 p 425 § 5, part; RRS § 4086, part. (ii) 1893 c 48 § 2; RRS § 4087.]

**36.22.060 Record of warrants.** The auditor shall maintain a record of when a warrant is issued. The record shall include the warrant number, date, name of payee, amount, nature of claims, or services provided. [1995 c 194 § 3; 1963 c 4 § 36.22.060. Prior: 1893 c 119 § 1, part; Code 1881 § 2710, part; 1869 p 310 § 5, part; 1863 p 549 § 5, part; 1854 p 425 § 5, part; RRS § 4086, part.]

**36.22.070 Original claims to be retained.** (1) The auditor shall also retain all original bills and indorse thereon claimant's name, nature of claim, the action had, and if a warrant was issued, date and number the voucher or claim the same as the warrant.



(2) The auditor may retain all claims, bills, and associated records referenced in subsection (1) of this section in an electronic format sufficient for the conduct of official business.

(3) For the purposes of this section, "claims" shall exclude claims filed against the county in accordance with the provisions of chapter 4.96 RCW. [2003 c 72 § 1; 1963 c 4 § 36.22.070. Prior: 1893 c 119 § 1, part; Code 1881 § 2710, part; 1869 p 310 § 5, part; 1863 p 549 § 5, part; 1854 p 425 § 5, part; RRS § 4086, part.]

**36.22.080 Claims of auditor.** All claims of the county auditor against the county for services shall be audited and allowed by the board of county commissioners as other claims are audited and allowed. Such warrants shall in all respects be audited, approved, issued, numbered, registered, and paid the same as any other county warrant. [1963 c 4 § 36.22.080. Prior: 1893 c 119 § 1, part; Code 1881 § 2710, part; 1869 p 310 § 5, part; 1863 p 549 § 5, part; 1854 p 425 § 5, part; RRS § 4086, part.]

**36.22.090 Warrants of political subdivisions.** All warrants for the payment of claims against diking, ditch, drainage and irrigation districts and school districts of the second class, who do not issue their own warrants, as well as political subdivisions within the county for which no other provision is made by law, shall be drawn and issued by the county auditor of the county wherein such subdivision is located, upon proper approval by the governing body thereof. [2009 c 337 § 4; 1975 c 43 § 31; 1973 c 111 § 4; 1963 c 4 § 36.22.090. Prior: 1915 c 74 § 1; RRS § 4096.]

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

**36.22.100 Cancellation of unclaimed warrants.** Registered or interest bearing county warrants not presented within one year of the date of their call, and all other county warrants not presented within one year of the date of their issue shall be canceled by the legislative authority of the county and the auditor and treasurer of the county shall cancel all record of such warrants, so as to leave the funds as if such warrants had never been drawn. [1971 ex.s. c 120 § 1; 1963 c 4 § 36.22.100. Prior: 1909 c 170 § 1; 1886 p 161 § 1; RRS § 4097.]

**36.22.110 Auditor cannot act as attorney or lobbyist.** The person holding the office of county auditor, or deputy, or performing its duties, shall not practice as an attorney or represent any person who is making any claim against the county, or who is seeking to procure any legislative or other action by the board of county commissioners. [2002 c 141 § 1; 1963 c 4 § 36.22.110. Prior: Code 1881 § 2722; 1869 p 312 § 12; 1863 p 550 § 9; 1854 p 425 § 9; RRS § 4100.]

**36.22.120 Temporary clerk may be appointed.** In case the auditor is unable to attend to the duties of his or her office during any session of the board of county commissioners, and has no deputy by him or her appointed in attendance, the board may temporarily appoint a suitable person not by law disqualified from acting as such to perform the auditor's duties. [2009 c 549 § 4026; 1963 c 4 § 36.22.120. Prior:

Code 1881 § 2723; 1869 p 313 § 15; 1863 p 550 § 12; 1854 p 425 § 11; RRS § 4101.]

**36.22.140 Auditor or charter county financial officer—Ex officio deputy state auditor.** Each county auditor or financial officer designated in a charter county shall be ex officio deputy of the state auditor for the purpose of accounting and reporting on municipal corporations and in such capacity shall be under the direction of the state auditor, but he or she shall receive no additional salary or compensation by virtue thereof and shall perform no duties as such, except in connection with county business. [2006 c 280 § 1; 1995 c 301 § 61; 1963 c 4 § 36.22.140. Prior: 1909 c 76 § 12; RRS § 9962.]

**36.22.150 Duty of retiring auditor or his or her representative in case of death.** Each auditor, on retiring from office, shall deliver to his or her successor the seal of office and all the books, records, and instruments of writing belonging to the office, and take his or her receipt therefor. In case of the death of the auditor, his or her legal representatives shall deliver over the seal, books, records and papers. [2009 c 549 § 4027; 1963 c 4 § 36.22.150. Prior: Code 1881 § 2725; 1869 p 314 § 22; RRS § 4104.]

**36.22.160 Copying, preserving, and indexing documents.** Each county auditor is hereby authorized to provide for the installation and thereafter for the maintenance of an improved system for copying, preserving, and indexing documents recorded in the county. Such a system may utilize the latest technology including, but not limited to, photomicrographic and computerized electronic digital storage methodology. The initial installation of the improved system shall include the following:

(1) The acquisition, installation, operation, and maintenance of the equipment provided for in the definition above; and

(2) The establishment of procedures for the continued preservation, indexing, and filing of all instruments and records that will, after the effective installation date, constitute a part of the improved system. [1989 c 204 § 2.]

**Findings—1989 c 204:** "The legislature, finding in this centennial year that many old documents recorded or filed with county officials are deteriorating due to age and environmental degradation and that such documents require preservation in the public interest before they are irreparably damaged, enacts the centennial document preservation act of 1989." [1989 c 204 § 1.]

**36.22.170 Surcharge for preservation of historical documents—Distribution of revenue to county and state treasurer—Creation of account.** (1)(a) Except as provided in (b) of this subsection, a surcharge of five dollars per instrument shall be charged by the county auditor for each document recorded, which will be in addition to any other charge authorized by law. One dollar of the surcharge shall be used at the discretion of the county commissioners to promote historical preservation or historical programs, which may include preservation of historic documents.

(b) A surcharge of two dollars per instrument shall be charged by the county auditor for each document presented for recording by the employment security department, which will be in addition to any other charge authorized by law.

(2) Of the remaining revenue generated through the surcharges under subsection (1) of this section:

(a) Fifty percent shall be transmitted monthly to the state treasurer who shall distribute such funds to each county treasurer within the state in July of each year in accordance with the formula described in RCW 36.22.190. The county treasurer shall place the funds received in a special account titled the auditor's centennial document preservation and modernization account to be used solely for ongoing preservation of historical documents of all county offices and departments and shall not be added to the county current expense fund; and

(b) Fifty percent shall be retained by the county and deposited in the auditor's operation and maintenance fund for ongoing preservation of historical documents of all county offices and departments.

(3) The centennial document preservation and modernization account is hereby created in the custody of the state treasurer and shall be classified as a treasury trust account. State distributions from the centennial document preservation and modernization account shall be made without appropriation. [2009 c 337 § 5; 2005 c 442 § 1; 1993 c 37 § 1; 1989 c 204 § 3.]

**Findings—1989 c 204:** See note following RCW 36.22.160.

**36.22.175 Surcharge for local government archives and records management—Records management training—Eastern Washington regional facility.** (1)(a) In addition to any other charge authorized by law, the county auditor shall charge a surcharge of one dollar per instrument for each document recorded. Revenue generated through this surcharge shall be transmitted monthly to the state treasurer for deposit in the local government archives account under RCW 40.14.024. These funds shall be used solely for providing records scheduling, security microfilm inspection and storage, archival preservation, cataloging, and indexing for local government records and digital data and access to those records and data through the regional branch archives of the division of archives and records management.

(b) The division of archives and records management within the office of the secretary of state shall provide records management training for local governments and shall establish a competitive grant program to solicit and prioritize project proposals from local governments for potential funding to be paid for by funds from the auditor surcharge and tax warrant surcharge revenues. Application for specific projects may be made by local government agencies only. The state archivist in consultation with the advisory committee established under RCW 40.14.027 shall adopt rules governing project eligibility, evaluation, awarding of grants, and other criteria including requirements for records management training for grant recipients.

(2) The advisory committee established under RCW 40.14.027 shall review grant proposals and establish a prioritized list of projects to be considered for funding by January 1st of each even-numbered year, beginning in 2002. The evaluation of proposals and development of the prioritized list must be developed through open public meetings. Funding for projects shall be granted according to the ranking of each application on the prioritized list and projects will be funded only to the extent that funds are available. A grant

award may have an effective date other than the date the project is placed on the prioritized list.

(3) In addition to any other surcharge authorized by law, the county auditor shall charge a surcharge of one dollar per instrument for every document recorded after January 1, 2002. Revenue generated through this surcharge shall be transmitted to the state treasurer monthly for deposit in the following accounts, fifty percent of the surcharge authorized by this subsection shall be reverted to the local government archives account as prescribed in RCW 40.14.024 for maintenance and operation of the specialized regional archive facility located in eastern Washington and fifty percent of the surcharge authorized by this section shall be reverted to the account created in RCW 43.07.410 for payment of the financing contract entered into by the secretary of state for the Washington state library-archives building.

(4) In addition to any other surcharge authorized by law, the county auditor shall charge a surcharge of one dollar per instrument for every document recorded. Revenue generated through this surcharge shall be transmitted to the state treasurer monthly for deposit in the local government archives account under RCW 40.14.024 to be used exclusively for the competitive grant program in RCW 40.14.026, and for the attorney general's consultation program and state archivist's training services authorized in RCW 42.56.570. [2019 c 448 § 5; (2019 c 448 § 4 expired June 30, 2020); 2019 c 372 § 3; (2017 c 303 § 7 expired June 30, 2020); 2011 1st sp.s. c 50 § 931; 2008 c 328 § 6006; 2003 c 163 § 5; 2001 2nd sp.s. c 13 § 1; 1996 c 245 § 1.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 2019 c 372 § 3 and by 2019 c 448 § 5, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section under RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

**Effective date—2019 c 448 § 5:** "Section 5 of this act takes effect June 30, 2020." [2019 c 448 § 12.]

**Expiration date—2019 c 448 § 4:** "Section 4 of this act expires June 30, 2020." [2019 c 448 § 11.]

**Findings—Intent—2019 c 448:** See note following RCW 43.07.405.

**Effective date—2019 c 372 § 3:** "Section 3 of this act takes effect June 30, 2020." [2019 c 372 § 4.]

**Expiration date—2017 c 303 § 7:** "Section 7 of this act expires June 30, 2020." [2017 c 303 § 10.]

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

**36.22.176 Recorded document surcharge—Use.** (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, a surcharge of \$100 must be charged by the county auditor for each document recorded, which is in addition to any other charge or surcharge allowed by law. The auditor must remit the funds to the state treasurer to be deposited and used as follows:

(a) Twenty percent of funds must be deposited in the affordable housing for all account for operations, maintenance, and service costs for permanent supportive housing as defined in RCW 36.70A.030;

(b) From July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2023, four percent of the funds must be deposited into the landlord mitigation program account created in RCW 43.31.615 for the purposes of RCW 43.31.605(1). Thereafter, two percent of funds must be deposited into the landlord mitigation program account created in RCW 43.31.615 for purposes of RCW 43.31.605(1);

(c)(i) The remainder of funds must be distributed to the home security fund account, with no less than 60 percent of funds to be used for project-based vouchers for nonprofit housing providers or public housing authorities, housing services, rapid rehousing, emergency housing, acquisition, or operations, maintenance, and service costs for permanent supportive housing as defined in RCW 36.70A.030 for persons with disabilities. Permanent supportive housing programs administered by the office of apple health and homes created in RCW 43.330.181 are also eligible to use these funds. Priority for use must be given to purposes intended to house persons who are chronically homeless or maintain housing for individuals with disabilities and prior experiences of homelessness, including families with children. In addition, funds may be used for eviction prevention rental assistance pursuant to RCW 43.185C.185, foreclosure prevention services, dispute resolution center eviction prevention services, rental assistance for people experiencing homelessness, and tenant education and legal assistance.

(ii) The department shall provide counties with the right of first refusal to receive grant funds distributed under this subsection (c). If a county refuses the funds or does not respond within a time frame established by the department, the department shall identify an alternative grantee. The alternative grantee shall distribute the funds in a manner that is in compliance with this chapter.

(2) The surcharge imposed in this section does not apply to: (a) Assignments or substitutions of previously recorded deeds of trust; (b) documents recording a birth, marriage, divorce, or death; (c) any recorded documents otherwise exempted from a recording fee or additional surcharges under state law; (d) marriage licenses issued by the county auditor; or (e) documents recording a federal, state, county, city, or water-sewer district, or wage lien or satisfaction of lien. [2022 c 216 § 7; 2021 c 214 § 1.]

**Findings—Intent—Short title—2022 c 216:** See notes following RCW 74.09.885.

**Findings—Intent—Department of commerce and William D. Ruckelshaus center examination of homelessness—Reports—2021 c 214:** "(1)(a) The legislature finds that affordable housing, housing instability, and homelessness are persistent and increasing problems throughout the state. Despite significant increases in financial resources by the federal, state, and local governments to address these problems, homelessness and the risk of becoming homeless has worsened in Washington since the legislature authorized the first homeless housing document recording surcharge in 2005. The number of unsheltered homeless encampments in greenbelts, under bridges, and on our streets is a visible reminder that the current system is not working.

(b) The legislature finds that the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated and shed new light on the state's homelessness problems and forced communities and providers to reexamine the types and delivery of housing and services to individuals and families who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. As a result of the changing conditions COVID-19 created, the federal government has provided an infusion of funding for housing and services for homelessness populations in its COVID-19 relief bills to pursue different strategies to improve outcomes. Moreover, there are various proposals to increase state funding to address housing insecurity and homelessness, including this act to impose an additional document recording fee to fund an eviction prevention rental assistance program and other services to persons at risk or experiencing homelessness.

(c) The legislature also finds that there are many causes of homelessness and housing instability, including: (i) A shortage of affordable housing; (ii) local land use planning and property management policies that discourage the development of private sector housing stock to serve low and extremely low-income households; (iii) unemployment and lack of education and job skills to acquire an adequate wage job; (iv) mental health, developmental, and physical disabilities; (v) chemical and alcohol dependency; and (vi) family instability and conflict. The legislature intends to provide for an examina-

tion of the economic, social, and health causes of current and expected patterns of housing instability and homelessness, and to secure a common understanding of the contribution each has to the current crisis. The legislature intends for this examination to result in a widely accepted strategy for identifying how best to address homelessness in ways that: (A) Address the root causes of the problem; (B) clearly assign responsibilities of state and local government to address those causes; (C) support local control and provision of services at the local level to address specific community needs, recognizing each community must play a part in the solution; (D) respect property owner rights and encourage private sector involvement in solutions and service; and (E) develop pathways to permanent housing solutions and associated services to break the cycle of housing insecurity and homelessness.

(2)(a) The department of commerce must contract with the William D. Ruckelshaus center to conduct an examination of trends affecting, and policies guiding, the housing and services provided to individuals and families who are or at risk of homelessness in Washington. The center must also facilitate meetings and discussions to develop and implement a long-term strategy to improve services and outcomes for persons at risk or experiencing homelessness and develop pathways to permanent housing solutions.

(b) In fulfilling the requirements of this section, the center must work and consult with (i) willing participants representing tribal and local governments, local providers of housing and services for homeless populations, advocates and stakeholders representing the interests of homeless populations, mental health and substance abuse professionals, representatives of the business community and other organizations, and other representatives the center determines is a necessary participant to examine these issues; (ii) a group of legislators consisting of one member from each of the two largest caucuses in the senate and in the house of representatives appointed by the president of the senate and the speaker of the house of representatives, respectively; and (iii) three representatives of the executive branch appointed by the governor.

(c)(i) The center must conduct fact-finding and stakeholder discussions with participants identified in (b) of this subsection. These discussions must identify stakeholder concerns, barriers, opportunities, and desired principles for a long-term strategy to improve the outcomes and services for persons at risk or experiencing homelessness and develop pathways to permanent housing solutions.

(ii) The center must conduct fact-finding and stakeholder discussions with participants identified in (b) of this subsection to identify root causes of housing instability and homelessness within Washington state. This fact-finding should address root causes demographically within subpopulations of persons at risk or experiencing homelessness such as veterans and persons suffering from mental health or substance abuse issues. The fact-finding should also address root causes that may differ geographically or regionally. The fact-finding must identify existing statutory and regulatory issues that impede efforts to address root causes of housing instability and homelessness within Washington state.

(iii) The center must issue two reports of its fact-finding efforts and stakeholder discussions to the governor and the appropriate committees of the house of representatives and the senate. One report on the subjects covered in (c)(i) of this subsection is due December 1, 2021, and one on the subjects covered in (c)(ii) of this subsection is due December 1, 2022.

(d) The center must facilitate discussions between the stakeholders identified in this subsection (2) for the purposes of identifying options and recommendations to develop and implement a long-term strategy to improve the outcomes and service for persons at risk or experiencing homelessness and develop pathways to permanent housing solutions, including the manner and amount in which the state funds homelessness housing and services and performance measures that must be achieved to receive state funding. A report on this effort is due to the governor and the appropriate committees of the house of representatives and the senate by December 1, 2023." [2021 c 214 § 6.]

**36.22.178 Affordable housing for all surcharge—Permissible uses.** The surcharge provided for in this section shall be named the affordable housing for all surcharge.

(1) Except as provided in subsection (3) of this section, a surcharge of thirteen dollars per instrument shall be charged by the county auditor for each document recorded, which will be in addition to any other charge authorized by law. The county may retain up to five percent of these funds collected solely for the collection, administration, and local distribution of these funds. Of the remaining funds, forty percent of

the revenue generated through this surcharge will be transmitted monthly to the state treasurer who will deposit: (a) The portion of the funds attributable to ten dollars of the surcharge into the affordable housing for all account created in RCW 43.185C.190. The department of commerce must use these funds to provide housing and shelter for extremely low-income households, including but not limited to housing for victims of human trafficking and their families and grants for building operation and maintenance costs of housing projects or units within housing projects that are affordable to extremely low-income households with incomes at or below thirty percent of the area median income, and that require a supplement to rent income to cover ongoing operating expenses; and (b) the portion of the funds attributable to three dollars of the surcharge into the landlord mitigation program account created in RCW 43.31.615.

(2) All of the remaining funds generated by this surcharge will be retained by the county and be deposited into a fund that must be used by the county and its cities and towns for eligible housing activities as described in this subsection that serve very low-income households with incomes at or below fifty percent of the area median income. The portion of the surcharge retained by a county shall be allocated to eligible housing activities that serve extremely low and very low-income households in the county and the cities within a county according to an interlocal agreement between the county and the cities within the county consistent with countywide and local housing needs and policies. A priority must be given to eligible housing activities that serve extremely low-income households with incomes at or below thirty percent of the area median income. Eligible housing activities to be funded by these county funds are limited to:

(a) Acquisition, construction, or rehabilitation of housing projects or units within housing projects that are affordable to very low-income households with incomes at or below fifty percent of the area median income, including units for homeownership, rental units, seasonal and permanent farmworker housing units, units reserved for victims of human trafficking and their families, and single room occupancy units;

(b) Supporting building operation and maintenance costs of housing projects or units within housing projects eligible to receive housing trust funds, that are affordable to very low-income households with incomes at or below fifty percent of the area median income, and that require a supplement to rent income to cover ongoing operating expenses;

(c) Rental assistance vouchers for housing units that are affordable to very low-income households with incomes at or below fifty percent of the area median income, including rental housing vouchers for victims of human trafficking and their families, to be administered by a local public housing authority or other local organization that has an existing rental assistance voucher program, consistent with or similar to the United States department of housing and urban development's section 8 rental assistance voucher program standards; and

(d) Operating costs for emergency shelters and licensed overnight youth shelters.

(3) The surcharge imposed in this section does not apply to assignments or substitutions of previously recorded deeds of trust or to documents recording a federal lien, or water-

sewer district lien, wage lien, or satisfaction of lien. [2021 c 214 § 7; 2019 c 136 § 1; 2018 c 66 § 5; 2011 c 110 § 1; 2007 c 427 § 1; 2005 c 484 § 18; 2002 c 294 § 2.]

**Findings—Intent—Department of commerce and William D. Ruckelshaus center examination of homelessness—Reports—2021 c 214:** See note following RCW 36.22.176.

**Findings—Conflict with federal requirements—Effective date—2005 c 484:** See RCW 43.185C.005, 43.185C.901, and 43.185C.902.

**Findings—2002 c 294:** "The legislature recognizes housing affordability has become a significant problem for a large portion of society in many parts of Washington state in recent years. The state has traditionally focused its resources on housing for low-income populations. Additional funding resources are needed for building operation and maintenance activities for housing projects affordable to extremely low-income people, for example farmworkers or people with developmental disabilities. Affordable rents for extremely low-income people are not sufficient to cover the cost of building operations and maintenance. In addition resources are needed at the local level to assist in development and preservation of affordable low-income housing to address critical local housing needs." [2002 c 294 § 1.]

**36.22.179 Surcharge for local homeless housing and assistance—Use.** (1) In addition to the surcharge authorized in RCW 36.22.178, and except as provided in subsection (3) of this section, an additional surcharge of sixty-two dollars shall be charged by the county auditor for each document recorded, which will be in addition to any other charge allowed by law. Except as provided in subsection (4) of this section, the funds collected pursuant to this section are to be distributed and used as follows:

(a) The auditor shall retain two percent for collection of the fee, and of the remainder shall remit sixty percent to the county to be deposited into a fund that must be used by the county and its cities and towns to accomplish the purposes of chapter 484, Laws of 2005, six percent of which may be used by the county for the collection and local distribution of these funds and administrative costs related to its homeless housing plan, and the remainder for programs which directly accomplish the goals of the county's local homeless housing plan, except that for each city in the county which elects as authorized in RCW 43.185C.080 to operate its own local homeless housing program, a percentage of the surcharge assessed under this section equal to the percentage of the city's local portion of the real estate excise tax collected by the county shall be transmitted at least quarterly to the city treasurer, without any deduction for county administrative costs, for use by the city for program costs which directly contribute to the goals of the city's local homeless housing plan; of the funds received by the city, it may use six percent for administrative costs for its homeless housing program.

(b) The auditor shall remit the remaining funds to the state treasurer for deposit in the home security fund account to be used as follows:

(i) The department may use twelve and one-half percent of this amount for administration of the program established in RCW 43.185C.020, including the costs of creating the statewide homeless housing strategic plan, measuring performance, providing technical assistance to local governments, and managing the homeless housing grant program.

(ii) The remaining eighty-seven and one-half percent of this amount must be used as follows:

(A) At least forty-five percent must be set aside for the use of private rental housing payments; and

(B) All remaining funds are to be used by the department to:

(I) Provide housing and shelter for homeless people including, but not limited to: Grants to operate, repair, and staff shelters; grants to operate transitional housing; partial payments for rental assistance; consolidated emergency assistance; overnight youth shelters; grants and vouchers designated for victims of human trafficking and their families; and emergency shelter assistance; and

(II) Fund the homeless housing grant program.

(2) A county issuing general obligation bonds pursuant to RCW 36.67.010, to carry out the purposes of subsection (1)(a) of this section, may provide that such bonds be made payable from any surcharge provided for in subsection (1)(a) of this section and may pledge such surcharges to the repayment of the bonds.

(3) The surcharge imposed in this section does not apply to (a) assignments or substitutions of previously recorded deeds of trust, (b) documents recording a birth, marriage, divorce, or death, (c) any recorded documents otherwise exempted from a recording fee or additional surcharges under state law, (d) marriage licenses issued by the county auditor, or (e) documents recording a federal, state, county, city, or water-sewer district, or wage lien or satisfaction of lien.

(4) Ten dollars of the surcharge imposed under subsection (1) of this section must be distributed to the counties to carry out the purposes of subsection (1)(a) of this section.

(5) For purposes of this section, "private rental housing" means housing owned by a private landlord and includes housing owned by a nonprofit housing entity. [2021 c 214 § 8; 2019 c 136 § 2; 2018 c 85 § 2; 2017 3rd sp.s. c 16 § 5; 2014 c 200 § 1; 2012 c 90 § 1; 2011 c 110 § 2; 2009 c 462 § 1; 2007 c 427 § 4; 2005 c 484 § 9.]

**Findings—Intent—Department of commerce and William D. Ruckelshaus center examination of homelessness—Reports—2021 c 214:** See note following RCW 36.22.176.

**Intent—Short title—2018 c 85:** See notes following RCW 43.185C.045.

**Findings—Conflict with federal requirements—Effective date—2005 c 484:** See RCW 43.185C.005, 43.185C.901, and 43.185C.902.

**36.22.1791 Additional surcharge for local homeless housing and assistance—Use.** (1) In addition to the surcharges authorized in RCW 36.22.178 and 36.22.179, and except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, the county auditor shall charge an additional surcharge of eight dollars for each document recorded, which is in addition to any other charge allowed by law. The funds collected under this section are to be distributed and used as follows:

(a) The auditor shall remit ninety percent to the county to be deposited into a fund six percent of which may be used by the county for administrative costs related to its homeless housing plan, and the remainder for programs that directly accomplish the goals of the county's local homeless housing plan, except that for each city in the county that elects, as authorized in RCW 43.185C.080, to operate its own local homeless housing program, a percentage of the surcharge assessed under this section equal to the percentage of the city's local portion of the real estate excise tax collected by the county must be transmitted at least quarterly to the city treasurer for use by the city for program costs that directly

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contribute to the goals of the city's local homeless housing plan.

(b) The auditor shall remit the remaining funds to the state treasurer for deposit in the home security fund account. The department may use the funds for administering the program established in RCW 43.185C.020, including the costs of creating and updating the statewide homeless housing strategic plan, measuring performance, providing technical assistance to local governments, and managing the homeless housing grant program. Remaining funds may also be used to:

(i) Provide housing and shelter for homeless people including, but not limited to: Grants to operate, repair, and staff shelters; grants to operate transitional housing; partial payments for rental assistance; consolidated emergency assistance; overnight youth shelters; grants and vouchers designated for victims of human trafficking and their families; and emergency shelter assistance; and

(ii) Fund the homeless housing grant program.

(2) The surcharge imposed in this section does not apply to assignments or substitutions of previously recorded deeds of trust or to documents recording a federal or water-sewer district or wage lien or satisfaction of lien. [2021 c 214 § 9; 2019 c 136 § 3; 2011 c 110 § 3; 2007 c 427 § 5.]

**Findings—Intent—Department of commerce and William D. Ruckelshaus center examination of homelessness—Reports—2021 c 214:** See note following RCW 36.22.176.

**36.22.181 Surcharge for prosecution of mortgage lending fraud—Transmittal to state treasurer. (Expires June 30, 2027.)** (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, a surcharge of one dollar shall be charged by the county auditor at the time of recording of each deed of trust, which will be in addition to any other charge authorized by law. The auditor may retain up to five percent of the funds collected to administer collection. The remaining funds shall be transmitted monthly to the state treasurer who will deposit the funds into the mortgage lending fraud prosecution account created in RCW 43.320.140. The department of financial institutions is responsible for the distribution of the funds in the account and shall, in consultation with the attorney general and local prosecutors, develop rules for the use of these funds to pursue criminal prosecution of fraudulent activities within the mortgage lending process.

(2) The surcharge imposed in this section does not apply to assignments or substitutions of previously recorded deeds of trust.

(3) This section expires June 30, 2027. [2021 c 31 § 1; 2016 c 7 § 2; 2011 c 129 § 2; 2006 c 21 § 1; 2003 c 289 § 1.]

**Effective date—2021 c 31:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect immediately [April 14, 2021]." [2021 c 31 § 3.]

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

**36.22.190 Distribution of funds.** After deduction of those costs of the state treasurer that are described under \*RCW 36.22.180, the balance of the funds will be distributed to the counties according to the following formula: One-half of the funds available shall be equally distributed among the thirty-nine counties; and the balance will be distributed among the counties in direct proportion to their population as

it relates to the total state's population based on the most recent population statistics. [1989 c 204 § 5.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 36.22.180 was repealed by 1991 sp.s. c 13 § 122, effective July 1, 1991.

Findings—1989 c 204: See note following RCW 36.22.160.

**36.22.200 Action for change of name—Filing and recording.** Upon receipt of the fee and the name change order from the district court as provided in RCW 4.24.130, the county auditor shall file and record the name change order. [1992 c 30 § 2.]

**36.22.210 Process servers—Registration—Fees.** (1) Each county auditor shall develop a registration process to register process servers required to register under RCW 18.180.010.

(2) The county auditor may collect an annual registration fee from the process server not to exceed ten dollars.

(3) The county auditor shall use a form in the registration process for the purpose of identifying and locating the registrant, including the process server's name, birthdate, and social security number, and the process server's business name, business address, and business telephone number.

(4) The county auditor shall maintain a register of process servers and assign a number to each registrant. Upon renewal of the registration as required in RCW 18.180.020, the auditor shall continue to assign the same registration number. A successor entity composed of one or more registrants shall be permitted to transfer one or more registration numbers to the new entity. [1997 c 41 § 8; 1992 c 125 § 2.]

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

**36.22.215 Process servers—Social security numbers.**

(1) The legislature finds that the dissemination of social security numbers of process servers is not in the public interest.

(2) A county auditor collecting social security numbers from process servers required to register under RCW 18.180.010 shall not display or release a process server's social security number on any document or website issued or maintained by the auditor. Social security numbers of process servers required to register under RCW 18.180.010 are confidential, are exempt from public inspection and copying, and shall not be disclosed except as otherwise explicitly required to be disclosed under federal law. [2015 c 56 § 1.]

**36.22.220 Election assistants, deputies—Appointment, qualifications.** The county auditor of each county, as ex officio supervisor of all primaries and elections, general or special, within the county under Title 29A RCW, may appoint one or more well-qualified persons to act as assistants or deputies; however, not less than two persons of the auditor's office who conduct primaries and elections in the county shall be certified under chapter 29A.04 RCW as elections administrators. [2015 c 53 § 62; 1992 c 163 § 12.]

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

**36.22.230 Election assistants, deputies—Additional qualifications.** Each deputy or assistant appointed under RCW 36.22.220 shall have been graduated from an accredited high school or shall have passed a high school equivalent

examination. Each shall be knowledgeable in the rules and laws of conducting elections. [1992 c 163 § 13.]

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

**36.22.240 Surcharge for growth management planning and review—Increasing residential building capacity.** (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, a surcharge of two dollars and fifty cents shall be charged by the county auditor for each document recorded, which will be in addition to any other charge or surcharge allowed by law. The auditor shall remit the funds to the state treasurer to be deposited and used as follows:

(a) Through June 30, 2024, funds must be deposited into the growth management planning and environmental review fund created in RCW 36.70A.490 to be used first for grants for costs associated with RCW 36.70A.600 and for costs associated with RCW 36.70A.610, and thereafter for any allowable use of the fund.

(b) Beginning July 1, 2024, sufficient funds must be deposited into the growth management planning and environmental review fund created in RCW 36.70A.490 for costs associated with RCW 36.70A.610, and the remainder deposited into the home security fund account created in RCW 43.185C.060 to be used for maintenance and operation costs of: (i) Permanent supportive housing and (ii) affordable housing for very low-income and extremely low-income households. Funds may only be expended in cities that have taken action under RCW 36.70A.600.

(2) The surcharge imposed in this section does not apply to: (a) Assignments or substitutions of previously recorded deeds of trust; (b) documents recording a birth, marriage, divorce, or death; (c) any recorded documents otherwise exempted from a recording fee or additional surcharges under state law; (d) marriage licenses issued by the county auditor; or (e) documents recording a federal, state, county, city, or water-sewer district, or wage lien or satisfaction of lien.

(3) For purposes of this section, the terms "permanent supportive housing," "affordable housing," "very low-income households," and "extremely low-income households" have the same meaning as provided in RCW 36.70A.030. [2021 c 214 § 10; 2019 c 348 § 11.]

Findings—Intent—Department of commerce and William D. Ruckelshaus center examination of homelessness—Reports—2021 c 214: See note following RCW 36.22.176.

Effective date—2019 c 348 § 11: "Section 11 of this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect July 1, 2019." [2019 c 348 § 12.]

## Chapter 36.23 RCW COUNTY CLERK

### Sections

36.23.020	New bond may be required.
36.23.030	Records to be kept.
36.23.040	Custody and delivery of records.
36.23.065	Destruction and reproduction of court records—Destruction of receipts for expenses under probate proceedings.
36.23.067	Reproduced court records have same force and effect as original.
36.23.070	Destruction of court exhibits—Preservation for historical purposes.
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- 36.23.100 Electronic payment of court fees and other financial obligations—Authorized.
- 36.23.110 Legal financial obligations—Report on collections.

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*County clerk*

*as clerk of superior court: State Constitution Art. 4 § 26.  
not to practice law: RCW 2.32.090.  
powers and duties: RCW 2.32.050.*

*Dissolution of inactive port districts: Chapter 53.47 RCW.*

*Electronic copies as evidence, clerk to certify: RCW 5.52.050.*

*Execution docket, clerk to keep: RCW 4.64.060.*

*Judgment journal, clerk to keep: RCW 4.64.030.*

*Lien foreclosure, clerk's duties: Chapter 84.64 RCW.*

*Oaths, clerk may administer: RCW 5.28.010.*

*Official bonds filed with: RCW 42.08.100.*

*Support of dependent children, clerk to charge no fees in connection with:  
RCW 74.20.300.*

*Tax warrants, clerk's duties: Chapter 82.32 RCW.*

*Veterans, clerk to furnish documents for free: RCW 73.04.120.*

*Witness fees and expenses, civil proceedings, clerk's duties: Chapter 2.40  
RCW, RCW 5.56.010.*

**36.23.020 New bond may be required.** When the judge or judges of any court, or a majority of them, believe that the clerk of the court does not have a good and sufficient bond on file, or that the bond is not large enough in amount, such judge or judges shall enter an order requiring him or her, within such time as may be specified in the order, to execute and present to them a good and sufficient bond, in such sum as may be fixed by the order. In case of his or her failure to file the bond within ten days from the expiration of the date fixed the judge or judges shall declare the office vacant. [2009 c 549 § 4028; 1963 c 4 § 36.23.020. Prior: 1895 c 53 § 3; RRS § 72.]

**36.23.030 Records to be kept.** The clerk of the superior court at the expense of the county shall keep the following records:

(1) A record in which he or she shall enter all appearances and the time of filing all pleadings in any cause;

(2) A docket in which before every session, he or she shall enter the titles of all causes pending before the court at that session in the order in which they were commenced, beginning with criminal cases, noting in separate columns the names of the attorneys, the character of the action, the pleadings on which it stands at the commencement of the session. One copy of this docket shall be furnished for the use of the court and another for the use of the members of the bar;

(3) A record for each session in which he or she shall enter the names of witnesses and jurors, with time of attendance, distance of travel, and whatever else is necessary to enable him or her to make out a complete cost bill;

(4) A record in which he or she shall record the daily proceedings of the court, and enter all verdicts, orders, judgments, and decisions thereof, which may, as provided by local court rule, be signed by the judge; but the court shall have full control of all entries in the record at any time during the session in which they were made;

(5) An execution docket and also one for a final record in which he or she shall make a full and perfect record of all criminal cases in which a final judgment is rendered, and all civil cases in which by any order or final judgment the title to

real estate, or any interest therein, is in any way affected, and such other final judgments, orders, or decisions as the court may require;

(6) A record in which shall be entered all orders, decrees, and judgments made by the court and the minutes of the court in probate proceedings;

(7) A record of wills and bonds shall be maintained. Originals shall be placed in the original file and shall be preserved or duplicated pursuant to RCW 36.23.065;

(8) A record of letters testamentary, administration, and guardianship in which all letters testamentary, administration, and guardianship shall be recorded;

(9) A record of claims shall be entered in the appearance docket under the title of each estate or case, stating the name of each claimant, the amount of his or her claim and the date of filing of such;

(10) A memorandum of the files, in which at least one page shall be given to each estate or case, wherein shall be noted each paper filed in the case, and the date of filing each paper;

(11) A record of the number of petitions filed for restoration of the right to possess a firearm under chapter 9.41 RCW and the outcome of the petitions;

(12) Such other records as are prescribed by law and required in the discharge of the duties of his or her office. [2011 c 193 § 3; 2002 c 30 § 1; 1987 c 363 § 3; 1967 ex.s. c 34 § 2; 1963 c 4 § 36.23.030. Prior: (i) 1923 c 130 § 1; Code 1881 § 2179; 1863 p 417 § 6; 1854 p 366 § 6; RRS § 75. (ii) 1917 c 156 § 2; RRS § 1372. (iii) 1917 c 156 § 57; Code 1881 § 1384; 1863 p 219 § 118; 1860 p 181 § 85; RRS § 1427. (iv) 1917 c 156 § 72; Code 1881 § 1411; 1863 p 221 § 130; 1860 p 183 § 97; RRS § 1442.]

**36.23.040 Custody and delivery of records.** The clerk shall be responsible for the safe custody and delivery to his or her successor of all books and papers belonging to his or her office. [2009 c 549 § 4029; 1963 c 4 § 36.23.040. Prior: Code 1881 § 2181; 1863 p 418 § 8; 1854 p 367 § 8; RRS § 76.]

**36.23.065 Destruction and reproduction of court records—Destruction of receipts for expenses under probate proceedings.** Notwithstanding any other law relating to the destruction of court records, the county clerk may cause to be destroyed all documents, records, instruments, books, papers, depositions, and transcripts, in any action or proceeding in the superior court, or otherwise filed in his or her office pursuant to law, if all of the following conditions exist:

(1) The county clerk maintains for the use of the public a photographic film, microphotographic, photostatic, electronic, or similar reproduction of each document, record, instrument, book, paper, deposition, or transcript so destroyed: PROVIDED, That all receipts and canceled checks filed by a personal representative pursuant to RCW 11.76.100 may be removed from the file by order of the court and destroyed the same as an exhibit pursuant to RCW 36.23.070.

(2) At the time of the taking of the photographic film, microphotographic, photostatic, electronic, or similar reproduction, the county clerk or other person under whose direction and control the same was taken, attached thereto, or to the sealed container in which the same was placed and has

been kept, or incorporated in the photographic film, microphotographic, photostatic, electronic, or similar reproduction, a certification that the copy is a correct copy of the original, or of a specified part thereof, as the case may be, the date on which taken, and the fact it was taken under the clerk's direction and control. The certificate must be under the official seal of the certifying officer, if there be any, or if the certifying officer is the clerk of a court having a seal, under the seal of such court.

(3) The county clerk promptly seals and stores at least one original or negative of each such photographic film, microphotographic, photostatic, electronic, or similar reproduction in such manner and place as reasonably to assure its preservation indefinitely against loss, theft, defacement, or destruction. Electronic reproductions are acceptable media for this purpose if one of the following conditions exists:

(a) The electronic reproductions are continuously updated and, if necessary, transferred to another medium to ensure that they are accessible through contemporary and supported electronic or computerized systems; or

(b) The electronic reproductions are scheduled to be reproduced on photographic film, microphotographic, photostatic, or similar media for indefinite preservation.

(4) When copies of public records of the county clerk are transferred to the state archives for security storage, the state archives may only provide certified copies of those records with the written permission of the county clerk who is custodian of those records. When so transferred and authorized, the copies of the public records concerned shall be made by the state archives, which certification shall have the same force and effect as though made by the county clerk who is custodian of the record. If there is a statutory fee for the reproduction of the document, contracts can be made between the county clerk and the state archives for reproduction and certification of the copies, however no certification authority may be transferred except as provided in this subsection and for records of abolished or discontinued offices or agencies under chapter 40.14 RCW. [1998 c 226 § 1; 1981 c 277 § 10; 1973 c 14 § 1; 1971 c 29 § 1; 1963 c 4 § 36.23.065. Prior: 1957 c 201 § 1.]

**36.23.067 Reproduced court records have same force and effect as original.** Any print, whether enlarged or not, from any photographic film, including any photographic plate, microphotographic film, or photostatic negative or similar reproduction, or from any electronic record, of any original record, document, instrument, book, paper, deposition, or transcript which has been processed in accordance with the provisions of RCW 36.23.065, and has been certified by the county clerk under his or her official seal as a true copy, may be used in all instances, including introduction in evidence in any judicial or administrative proceeding, that the original record, document, instrument, book, paper, deposition, or transcript might have been used, and shall have the full force and effect of the original for all purposes. [1998 c 226 § 2; 1963 c 4 § 36.23.067. Prior: 1957 c 201 § 2.]

**36.23.070 Destruction of court exhibits—Preservation for historical purposes.** A county clerk may at any time more than six years after the entry of final judgment in any action apply to the superior court for an authorizing order

and, upon such order being signed and entered, turn such exhibits of possible value over to the sheriff for disposal in accordance with the provisions of chapter 63.40 RCW, and destroy any other exhibits, unopened depositions, and reporters' notes which have theretofore been filed in such cause: PROVIDED, That reporters' notes in criminal cases must be preserved for at least fifteen years: PROVIDED FURTHER, That any exhibits which are deemed to possess historical value may be directed to be delivered by the clerk to libraries or historical societies. [1981 c 154 § 1; 1973 c 14 § 2; 1967 ex.s. c 34 § 3; 1963 c 4 § 36.23.070. Prior: 1957 c 201 § 3; 1947 c 277 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 81-1.]

**36.23.080 Office at county seat.** The clerk of the superior court shall keep an office at the county seat of the county of which he or she is clerk. [2009 c 105 § 2; 1963 c 4 § 36.23.080. Prior: 1891 c 57 § 1; RRS § 73, part. Cf. Code 1881 § 2125.]

**36.23.090 Search for birth parents—County clerk's duty.** The county clerk shall provide the name and telephone number of at least one resource to assist adopted persons who are searching for birth parents, or birth parents who are searching for children they have relinquished, if these resources have contacted the clerk's office and requested that their name be made available to persons making inquiry. [1990 c 146 § 10.]

**36.23.100 Electronic payment of court fees and other financial obligations—Authorized.** County clerks are authorized to accept credit cards, charge cards, debit cards, smart cards, stored value cards, federal wire, and automatic clearinghouse system transactions, or other electronic communication, for payment of all fees and moneys due the court under RCW 36.18.012 through 36.18.020, and for the payment of court-ordered legal financial obligations of criminal defendants which include, but are not limited to, fines, fees, assessments, restitution, and crime victims' compensation, consistent with RCW 36.48.010, 36.48.080, and 36.48.090. A payer desiring to pay by credit card, charge card, debit card, smart card, stored value card, federal wire, and automatic clearinghouse system transactions, or other electronic communication shall bear the cost of processing the transaction. [2000 c 202 § 1.]

**36.23.110 Legal financial obligations—Report on collections.** The Washington association of county officials, in consultation with county clerks, shall determine a funding formula for allocation of moneys to counties for purposes of collecting legal financial obligations, and report this formula to the legislature and the administrative office of the courts by September 1, 2003. The Washington association of county officials shall report on the amounts of legal financial obligations collected by the county clerks to the appropriate committees of the legislature no later than December 1, 2004, and annually thereafter. [2003 c 379 § 20.]

**Intent—Purpose—2003 c 379 §§ 13-27:** See note following RCW 9.94A.760.

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



## Chapter 36.24 RCW COUNTY CORONER

### Sections

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#### *Dead bodies*

*coroner's jurisdiction over, when: RCW 68.50.010.*

*coroner's right to dissect, when: RCW 68.50.100.*

#### *Duties relating to*

*execution of judgment: Chapter 6.17 RCW.*

*human remains, generally: Chapter 68.50 RCW.*

*public cemetery and morgue, management: RCW 68.52.020.*

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*State hospitals for individuals with mental illness, report of death of patient in, given coroner: RCW 72.23.190.*

*Vehicle of as emergency vehicle: RCW 46.04.040.*

### **36.24.010 To act as sheriff under certain conditions.**

The coroner shall perform the duties of the sheriff in all cases where the sheriff is interested or otherwise incapacitated from serving; and whenever the coroner acts as sheriff he or she shall possess the powers and perform all the duties of sheriff, and shall be liable on his or her official bond in like manner as the sheriff would be, and shall be entitled to the same fees as are allowed by law to the sheriff for similar services: PROVIDED, That nothing herein contained shall prevent the court from appointing a suitable person to discharge such duties, as provided by RCW 36.28.090. [2009 c 549 § 4031; 1963 c 4 § 36.24.010. Prior: 1897 c 21 § 1; Code 1881 § 2776; 1863 p 559 § 2; 1854 p 436 § 2; RRS § 4180.]

**36.24.020 Inquests—Jury—Venue—Payment of costs.** Any coroner, in his or her discretion, may hold an inquest if the coroner suspects that the death of a person was unnatural, or violent, or resulted from unlawful means, or from suspicious circumstances, or was of such a nature as to indicate the possibility of death by the hand of the deceased or through the instrumentality of some other person: PRO-

VIDED, That, except under suspicious circumstances, no inquest shall be held following a traffic death.

The coroner in the county where an inquest is to be convened pursuant to this chapter shall notify the superior court to provide persons to serve as a jury of inquest to hear all the evidence concerning the death and to inquire into and render a true verdict on the cause of death. Jurors shall be selected and summoned in the same manner and shall have the same qualifications as specified in chapter 2.36 RCW.

At the coroner's request, the superior court shall schedule a courtroom in which the inquest may be convened, a bailiff, reporter, and any security deemed reasonably necessary by the coroner. The coroner and the superior court shall set an inquest date by mutual agreement. The inquest shall take place within eighteen months of the coroner's request to the court. If the superior court cannot accommodate the inquest for good cause shown, the court may designate a comparable public venue for the inquest in the county.

If the superior court is unable to provide a courtroom or comparable public venue, it shall certify courtroom unavailability in writing within sixty days of the coroner's request and the inquest shall be scheduled and transferred to another county within one hundred miles of the requesting county.

The prosecuting attorney having jurisdiction shall be notified in advance of any such inquest to be held, and at his or her discretion may be present at and assist the coroner in the conduct of the same. The coroner may adjourn the inquest from time to time as he or she may deem necessary.

The costs of inquests, including any costs incurred by the superior court, shall be borne by the county in which the inquest is requested. When an inquest is transferred to another county due to unavailability of a courtroom, the county from which such inquest is transferred shall pay the county in which the inquest is held all costs accrued for per diem and mileage for jurors and witnesses and all other costs properly charged to the transferring county. [2016 c 13 § 1; 2009 c 549 § 4032; 1988 c 188 § 18; 1963 c 4 § 36.24.020. Prior: 1953 c 188 § 3; Code 1881 § 2777; 1863 p 560 § 3; 1854 p 436 § 3; RRS § 4181.]

**Legislative findings—Severability—Effective date—1988 c 188:** See notes following RCW 2.36.010.

**36.24.030 Penalty for nonattendance of juror.** Every person summoned as a juror who fails to appear without having a reasonable excuse shall forfeit a sum not exceeding twenty dollars, to be recovered by the coroner, in the name of the state, before any district judge of the county. The penalty when collected shall be paid over to the county treasurer for the use of the county. [1987 c 202 § 202; 1963 c 4 § 36.24.030. Prior: Code 1881 § 2778; 1863 p 560 § 4; 1854 p 436 § 4; RRS § 4182.]

**Intent—1987 c 202:** See note following RCW 2.04.190.

**36.24.040 Duty of coroner's jury—Oath.** When four or more of the jurors attend, they shall be sworn by the coroner to inquire who the person was, and when, where, and by what means he or she came to his or her death, and into the circumstances attending his or her death, and to render a true verdict therein, according to the evidence afforded them, or arising from the inspection of the body. [2009 c 549 § 4033;

1963 c 4 § 36.24.040. Prior: Code 1881 § 2779; 1863 p 560 § 5; 1854 p 436 § 5; RRS § 4183.]

### **36.24.050 Power to summon witnesses—Subpoenas.**

The coroner may issue subpoenas for witnesses returnable forthwith or at such time and place as the coroner may appoint, which may be served by any competent person. The coroner must summon and examine as witnesses, on oath administered by the coroner, every person, who, in his or her opinion or that of any of the jury, has any knowledge of the facts. A witness served with a subpoena may be compelled to attend and testify, or be punished by the coroner for disobedience, in like manner as upon a subpoena issued by a district judge. [1987 c 202 § 203; 1963 c 4 § 36.24.050. Prior: (i) 1901 c 131 § 1, part; Code 1881 § 2780, part; 1863 p 560 § 6, part; 1854 p 436 § 6, part; RRS § 4184, part. (ii) Code 1881 § 2781; 1863 p 560 § 7; 1854 p 437 § 7; RRS § 4186.]

**Intent—1987 c 202:** See note following RCW 2.04.190.

### **36.24.060 Power to employ physician or surgeon—**

**Compensation.** The coroner may summon a surgeon or physician to inspect the body and give under oath a professional opinion as to the cause of death. The fees for the coroner's physician or surgeon shall not be less than ten dollars. [1963 c 4 § 36.24.060. Prior: (i) 1901 c 131 § 1, part; Code 1881 § 2780, part; 1863 p 560 § 6, part; 1854 p 436 § 6, part; RRS § 4184, part.]

**36.24.070 Verdict of jury.** After hearing the testimony, the jury shall render its verdict and certify the same in writing signed by the jurors, and setting forth who the person killed is, if known, and when, where and by what means he or she came to his or her death; or if he or she was killed, or his or her death was occasioned by the act of another by criminal means, who is guilty thereof, if known. [2009 c 549 § 4034; 1963 c 4 § 36.24.070. Prior: 1953 c 188 § 4; Code 1881 § 2782; 1863 p 560 § 8; 1854 p 437 § 8; RRS § 4187.]

**36.24.080 Testimony reduced to writing in certain cases and witnesses recognized.** In all cases where murder or manslaughter is supposed to have been committed, the testimony of witnesses taken before the coroner's jury shall be reduced to writing by the coroner, or under his or her direction, and he or she shall also recognize such witnesses to appear and testify in the superior court of the county, and shall forthwith file the written testimony, inquisition, and recognizance with the clerk of such court. [2009 c 549 § 4035; 1963 c 4 § 36.24.080. Prior: Code 1881 § 2783; 1863 p 561 § 9; 1854 p 437 § 9; RRS § 4188.]

### **36.24.090 Procedure where accused is under arrest.**

If the person charged with the commission of the offense has been arrested before the inquisition has been filed, the coroner shall deliver the recognizance and the inquisition, with the testimony taken, to the magistrate before whom such person may be brought, who shall return the same, with the depositions and statements taken before him or her to the clerk of the superior court of the county. [2009 c 549 § 4036; 1963 c 4 § 36.24.090. Prior: Code 1881 § 2784; 1863 p 561 § 10; 1854 p 437 § 10; RRS § 4189.]

**36.24.100 Procedure where accused is at large—Delivery of findings to the prosecuting attorney.** If the jury finds that the person was killed and the party committing the homicide is ascertained by the inquisition, but is not in custody, the coroner must deliver the findings of the jury and all documents, testimony, records generated, possessed, or used during the inquest to the prosecuting attorney of the county where the inquest was held. [2016 c 186 § 1; 1963 c 4 § 36.24.100. Prior: Code 1881 § 2785; 1863 p 561 § 11; 1854 p 437 § 11; RRS § 4190.]

### **36.24.110 Form of warrant.**

**Reviser's note:** RCW 36.24.110 was amended by 2016 c 202 § 29 without reference to its repeal by 2016 c 186 § 2. It has been decodified for publication purposes under RCW 1.12.025.

**36.24.130 Property of deceased.** The coroner or medical examiner must, within thirty days after the investigation of the death, deliver to the county treasurer any money which may be found upon the body, unless claimed in the meantime by the legal representatives of the deceased. If there is personal property, other than money, found upon the body, unless claimed in the meantime by a legal representative of the deceased, the coroner or medical examiner shall, within one hundred eighty days of the investigation, be authorized to dispose of any property of no resale value and forward any other property to the applicable county agency to be sold at the next county surplus sale. Any proceeds from the sale shall be forwarded to the county treasurer. If the coroner or medical examiner fails to do so, the treasurer may proceed against the coroner or medical examiner to recover the same by a civil action in the name of the county. [2004 c 79 § 1; 1963 c 4 § 36.24.130. Prior: Code 1881 § 2789; 1863 p 562 § 15; 1854 p 438 § 15; RRS § 4194.]

**36.24.140 Duty of treasurer.** Upon the delivery of money to the treasurer, the treasurer shall place it to the credit of the county. [2004 c 79 § 2; 1963 c 4 § 36.24.140. Prior: Code 1881 § 2790; 1863 p 562 § 16; 1854 p 438 § 16; RRS § 4195.]

**36.24.150 Delivery to representatives.** If the money in the treasury is demanded within six years by the legal representatives of the deceased, the treasurer shall pay it to them after deducting the fees and expenses of the coroner and of the county in relation to the matter, or the same may be so paid at any time thereafter, upon the order of the board of county commissioners of the county. [1963 c 4 § 36.24.150. Prior: Code 1881 § 2791; 1863 p 562 § 17; 1854 p 438 § 17; RRS § 4196.]

**36.24.155 Undisposed of remains—Entrusting to funeral homes or mortuaries—Indigenous persons remains.** (1) Whenever anyone shall die within a county without making prior plans for the disposition of his or her body and there is no other person willing to provide for the disposition of the body, the county coroner shall cause such body to be entrusted to a funeral home in the county where the body is found. Except in counties where the county coroner or medical examiner has established a preferred funeral home using a qualified bidding process, disposition shall be on a rotation basis, which shall treat equally all funeral homes

or mortuaries desiring to participate, such rotation to be established by the coroner after consultation with representatives of the funeral homes or mortuaries in the county or counties involved.

(2)(a) The county coroner, upon knowledge that a body is of an indigenous person, shall make reasonable efforts to identify and contact family members prior to entrusting the body to a funeral home, including an attempt to facilitate contact through the regional liaison for missing and murdered indigenous persons pursuant to RCW 43.43.874 within 10 days of the county coroner having jurisdiction over the remains.

(b) Upon the written request of a family member responsible for the disposition of the body of an indigenous person, the county coroner shall provide a written estimate of the time frame for entrusting the body to the family member or the family member's chosen funeral home, unless doing so would jeopardize an ongoing criminal investigation. [2022 c 251 § 2; 2011 c 16 § 1; 2009 c 549 § 4038; 1969 ex.s. c 259 § 2.]

*Human remains that have not been disposed: RCW 68.50.230.*

**36.24.160 District judge may act as coroner.** If the office of coroner is vacant, or the coroner is absent or unable to attend, the duties of the coroner's office may be performed by any district judge in the county with the like authority and subject to the same obligations and penalties as the coroner. For such service a district judge shall be entitled to the same fees, payable in the same manner. [1987 c 202 § 204; 1963 c 4 § 36.24.160. Prior: (i) Code 1881 § 2793; 1863 p 562 § 19; 1854 p 438 § 19; RRS § 4198. (ii) Code 1881 § 2795; 1863 p 562 § 21; 1854 p 438 § 21; RRS § 4199.]

**Intent—1987 c 202:** See note following RCW 2.04.190.

**36.24.170 Coroner not to practice law.** The coroner shall not appear or practice as attorney in any court, except in defense of himself or herself or his or her deputies. [2009 c 549 § 4039; 1963 c 4 § 36.24.170. Prior: 1891 c 45 § 4, part; Code 1881 § 2770, part; 1863 p 558 § 5, part; 1854 p 434 § 5, part; RRS § 4171, part.]

**36.24.175 Coroner not to be owner or employee of funeral home or mortuary—Counties with populations of forty thousand or more.** In each county with a population of forty thousand or more, no person shall be qualified for the office of county coroner as provided for in RCW 36.16.030 who is an owner or employee of any funeral home or mortuary. [1991 c 363 § 54; 1969 ex.s. c 259 § 3.]

**Purpose—Captions not law—1991 c 363:** See notes following RCW 2.32.180.

**36.24.180 Audit of coroner's account.** Before auditing and allowing the account of the coroner the board of county commissioners shall require from him or her a verified statement in writing, accounting for all money or other property found upon persons on whom inquests have been held by him or her, and that the money or property mentioned in it has been delivered to the legal representatives of the deceased, or to the county treasurer. [2009 c 549 § 4040; 1963 c 4 § 36.24.180. Prior: Code 1881 § 2792; 1863 p 562 § 18; 1854 p 438 § 18; RRS § 4197.]

(2022 Ed.)

**36.24.190 Medical examiner—When authorized—Election—Qualifications for appointment.** In a county with a population of two hundred fifty thousand or more, the county legislative authority may, upon majority vote at an election called by the county legislative authority, adopt a system under which a medical examiner may be appointed to replace the office of the coroner. The county legislative authority must adopt a resolution or ordinance that creates the office of medical examiner at least thirty days prior to the first day of filing for the primary election for county offices. If a county adopts such a resolution or ordinance, the resolution or ordinance shall be referred to the voters for confirmation or rejection at the next date for a special election according to RCW 29A.04.321. If the resolution or ordinance is approved by majority vote, no election shall be held for the position of coroner and the coroner's position is abolished following the expiration of the coroner's term of office or upon vacating of the office of the coroner for any reason. The county legislative authority shall appoint a medical examiner to assume the statutory duties performed by the county coroner and the appointment shall become effective following the expiration of the coroner's term of office or upon the vacating of the office of the coroner. To be appointed as a medical examiner pursuant to this section, a person must either be: (1) Certified as a forensic pathologist by the American board of pathology; or (2) a qualified physician eligible to take the American board of pathology exam in forensic pathology within one year of being appointed. A physician specializing in pathology who is appointed to the position of medical examiner and who is not certified as a forensic pathologist must pass the pathology exam within three years of the appointment. [2006 c 344 § 27; 1996 c 108 § 2.]

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

**36.24.200 Subpoena for production—Authority.** In addition to any of its existing authorities, the coroner may, in the course of an active or ongoing death investigation, request that the superior court issue subpoenas for production of documents or other records and command each person to whom the subpoena is directed to produce and permit inspection and copying of documentary evidence or tangible things in the possession, custody, or control of that person at a specified time and place. A subpoena for production must substantively comply with the requirements of CR 45. A subpoena for production may be joined with a subpoena for production, or it may be issued separately. [2019 c 237 § 1.]

**36.24.205 Medicolegal forensic investigation training required.** Within 12 months of being elected or appointed to the office, a coroner or medical examiner must have a certificate of completion of medicolegal forensic investigation training that complies with the standards adopted for the medicolegal training academy adopted by the criminal justice training commission in conjunction with the Washington association of coroners and medical examiners and a practicing physician selected by the commission pursuant to RCW 43.101.480. This requirement does not apply to an elected prosecutor acting as the ex officio coroner in a county. All medicolegal investigative personnel employed by any coroner's or medical examiner's office must complete medicolegal forensic investigation training as required under RCW

43.101.480. A county in which the coroner or county medical examiner has not obtained such certification within 12 months of assuming office may have its reimbursement from the death investigations account reduced as provided under RCW 68.50.104. [2021 c 127 § 1.]

**36.24.210 Accreditation required.** Except those run by a county prosecutor, all county coroner's offices and medical examiner's offices must be accredited by either the international association of coroners and medical examiners or the national association of medical examiners no later than July 1, 2025, and maintain continued accreditation thereafter. A county that contracts for its coroner or medical examiner services with an accredited coroner or medical examiner's office in another county does not need to maintain accreditation. [2021 c 127 § 2.]

## Chapter 36.26 RCW PUBLIC DEFENDER

### Sections

36.26.010	Definitions.
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36.26.030	Selection committee.
36.26.040	Public defender—Qualifications—Term.
36.26.050	Reports—Records—Costs and expenses.
36.26.060	Compensation—Office—Assistants, clerks, investigators, etc.
36.26.070	Duty to represent indigent defendants.
36.26.080	Duty to counsel, defend, and prosecute appeals.
36.26.090	Appointment of attorney other than public defender.
36.26.900	Chapter cumulative and nonexclusive.

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

(1) "County commissioners" or "board of county commissioners" means and includes:

(a) Any single board of county commissioners, county council, or other governing body of any county which has neither a board of county commissioners nor a county council denominated as such; and

(b) The governing bodies, including any combination or mixture of more than one board of county commissioners, county council, or otherwise denominated governing body of a county, of any two or more contiguous counties electing to participate jointly in the support of any intercounty public defender.

(2) "District" or "public defender district" means any one or more entire counties electing to employ a public defender; and no county shall be divided in the creation of any public defender district. [1969 c 94 § 1.]

**36.26.020 Public defender district—Creation—Office of public defender.** The board of county commissioners of any single county or of any two or more territorially contiguous counties or acting in cooperation with the governing authority of any city located within the county or counties may, by resolution or by ordinance, or by concurrent resolutions or concurrent ordinances, constitute such county or counties or counties and cities as a public defender district, and may establish an office of public defender for such district. [1969 c 94 § 2.]

**36.26.030 Selection committee.** The board of county commissioners of every county electing to become or to join in a public defender district shall appoint a selection committee for the purpose of selecting a full or part time public defender for the public defender district. Such selection committee shall consist of one member of each board of county commissioners, one member of the superior court from each county, and one practicing attorney from each county within the district. [1969 c 94 § 3.]

**36.26.040 Public defender—Qualifications—Term.** Every public defender and every assistant public defender must be a qualified attorney licensed to practice law in this state; and the term of the public defender shall coincide with the elected term of the prosecuting attorney. [1969 c 94 § 4.]

**36.26.050 Reports—Records—Costs and expenses.** The public defender shall make an annual report to each board of county commissioners within his or her district. If any public defender district embraces more than one county or a cooperating city, the public defender shall maintain records of expenses allocable to each county or city within the district, and shall charge such expenses only against the county or city for which the services were rendered or the costs incurred. The boards of county commissioners of counties and the governing authority of any city participating jointly in a public defender district are authorized to provide for the sharing of the costs of the district by mutual agreement, for any costs which cannot be specifically apportioned to any particular county or city within the district.

Expenditures by the public defender shall be subject to the provisions of chapter 36.40 RCW and other statutes relating to expenditures by counties or cities. [2009 c 549 § 4041; 1969 c 94 § 5.]

**36.26.060 Compensation—Office—Assistants, clerks, investigators, etc.** (1) The board of county commissioners shall:

(a) Fix the compensation of the public defender and of any staff appointed to assist him or her in the discharge of his or her duties: PROVIDED, That the compensation of the public defender shall not exceed that of the county prosecutor in those districts which comprise only one county;

(b) Provide office space, furniture, equipment and supplies for the use of the public defender suitable for the conduct of his or her office in the discharge of his or her duties, or provide an allowance in lieu of facilities and supplies.

(2) The public defender may appoint as many assistant attorney public defenders, clerks, investigators, stenographers and other employees as the board of county commissioners considers necessary in the discharge of his or her duties as a public defender. [2009 c 549 § 4042; 1969 c 94 § 6.]

**36.26.070 Duty to represent indigent defendants.** The public defender must represent, without charge to any accused, every indigent person who is or has been arrested or charged with a crime for which court appointed counsel for indigent defendants is required either under the Constitution of the United States or under the Constitution and laws of the state of Washington:

(1) If such arrested person or accused, having been apprised of his or her constitutional and statutory rights to counsel, requests the appointment of counsel to represent him or her; and

(2) If a court, on its own motion or otherwise, does not appoint counsel to represent the accused; and

(3) Unless the arrested person or accused, having been apprised of his or her right to counsel in open court, affirmatively rejects or intelligently repudiates his or her constitutional and statutory rights to be represented by counsel. [2009 c 549 § 4043; 1984 c 76 § 18; 1969 c 94 § 7.]

**36.26.080 Duty to counsel, defend, and prosecute appeals.** Whenever the public defender represents any indigent person held in custody without commitment or charged with any criminal offense, he or she must (1) counsel and defend such person, and (2) prosecute any appeals and other remedies, whether before or after conviction, which he or she considers to be in the interests of justice. [2009 c 549 § 4044; 1969 c 94 § 8.]

**36.26.090 Appointment of attorney other than public defender.** For good cause shown, or in any case involving a crime of widespread notoriety, the court may, upon its own motion or upon application of either the public defender or of the indigent accused, appoint an attorney other than the public defender to represent the accused at any stage of the proceedings or on appeal: PROVIDED, That the public defender may represent an accused, not an indigent, in any case of public notoriety where the court may find that adequate retained counsel is not available. The court shall award, and the county in which the offense is alleged to have been committed shall pay, such attorney reasonable compensation and reimbursement for any expenses reasonably and necessarily incurred in the presentation of the accused's defense or appeal, in accordance with RCW 4.88.330. [1984 c 76 § 19; 1983 c 3 § 76; 1969 c 94 § 9.]

**36.26.900 Chapter cumulative and nonexclusive.** The provisions of this chapter shall be cumulative and nonexclusive and shall not affect any other remedy, particularly in counties electing not to create the office of public defender: PROVIDED, That nothing herein shall be construed to prevent the appointment of a full time or part time assigned-counsel administrator for the purpose of maintaining a centrally administered system for the assignment of counsel to represent indigent persons. [1969 c 94 § 10.]

**Chapter 36.27 RCW  
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY**

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*Washington state agricultural enabling act of 1961: RCW 15.65.550.*  
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*wharves, eminent domain of county to provide: RCW 88.24.070.*

*Gambling activities, as affecting: Chapter 9.46 RCW.*

*Governor may request action by: RCW 43.06.010(6).*

*Juvenile justice act, duties of prosecuting attorney: Chapter 13.40 RCW.*

*Pawnbroker's and secondhand dealers' records open to inspection: RCW 19.60.020.*

*Support of dependent children, records available for use in proceedings relating to: RCW 74.20.280.*

*Uniform interstate family support act, prosecuting attorney may enter into agreement where attorney general will carry out duties under: RCW 74.20.210.*

*Vehicle of is emergency vehicle: RCW 46.04.040.*

*Washington habitual traffic offenders act, prosecuting attorney's duties: Chapter 46.65 RCW.*

**36.27.005 Defined.** Prosecuting attorneys are attorneys authorized by law to appear for and represent the state and the counties thereof in actions and proceedings before the courts and judicial officers. [1963 c 4 § 36.27.005. Prior: 1891 c 55 § 3; RRS § 113.]

**36.27.010 Eligibility to office.** No person shall be eligible to the office of prosecuting attorney in any county of this state, unless he or she is a qualified elector therein, and has been admitted as an attorney and counselor of the courts of this state. [2009 c 549 § 4045; 1963 c 4 § 36.27.010. Prior: 1891 c 55 § 4; RRS § 4128. Cf. 1883 p 72 § 7.]

**36.27.020 Duties.** The prosecuting attorney shall:

(1) Be legal adviser of the legislative authority, giving it his or her written opinion when required by the legislative authority or the chairperson thereof touching any subject which the legislative authority may be called or required to act upon relating to the management of county affairs;

(2) Be legal adviser to all county and precinct officers and school directors in all matters relating to their official business, and when required draw up all instruments of an official nature for the use of said officers;

(3) Appear for and represent the state, county, and all school districts subject to the supervisory control and direction of the attorney general in all criminal and civil proceedings in which the state or the county or any school district in the county may be a party;

(4) Prosecute all criminal and civil actions in which the state or the county may be a party, defend all suits brought against the state or the county, and prosecute actions upon forfeited recognizances and bonds and actions for the recovery of debts, fines, penalties, and forfeitures accruing to the state or the county;

(5) Attend and appear before and give advice to the grand jury when cases are presented to it for consideration and draw all indictments when required by the grand jury;

(6) Institute and prosecute proceedings before magistrates for the arrest of persons charged with or reasonably suspected of felonies when the prosecuting attorney has information that any such offense has been committed and the prosecuting attorney shall for that purpose attend when required by them if the prosecuting attorney is not then in attendance upon the superior court;

(7) Carefully tax all cost bills in criminal cases and take care that no useless witness fees are taxed as part of the costs and that the officers authorized to execute process tax no other or greater fees than the fees allowed by law;

(8) Receive all cost bills in criminal cases before district judges at the trial of which the prosecuting attorney was not present, before they are lodged with the legislative authority for payment, whereupon the prosecuting attorney may retax the same and the prosecuting attorney must do so if the legislative authority deems any bill exorbitant or improperly taxed;

(9) Present all violations of the election laws which may come to the prosecuting attorney's knowledge to the special consideration of the proper jury;

(10) Examine once in each year the official bonds of all county and precinct officers and report to the legislative authority any defect in the bonds of any such officer;

(11) Seek to reform and improve the administration of criminal justice and stimulate efforts to remedy inadequacies or injustice in substantive or procedural law;

(12) Participate in the statewide sexual assault kit tracking system established in RCW 43.43.545 for the purpose of tracking the status of all sexual assault kits connected to criminal investigations and prosecutions within the county. Prosecuting attorneys shall begin full participation in the system according to the implementation schedule established by the Washington state patrol. [2016 c 173 § 7; 2012 1st sp.s. c 5 § 2; 1995 c 194 § 4; 1987 c 202 § 205; 1975 1st ex.s. c 19 § 1; 1963 c 4 § 36.27.020. Prior: (i) 1911 c 75 § 1; 1891 c 55 § 7; RRS § 116. (ii) 1886 p 65 § 5; 1883 p 73 § 10; Code 1881 § 2171; 1879 p 93 § 6; 1877 p 246 § 6; 1863 p 408 § 4; 1860 p 335 § 3; 1858 p 12 § 4; 1854 p 416 § 4; RRS § 4130. (iii) 1886 p 61 § 7; 1883 p 73 § 12; Code 1881 § 2168; 1879 p 94 § 8; 1877 p 247 § 8; RRS § 4131. (iv) 1886 p 61 § 8; 1883 p 74 § 13; Code 1881 § 2169; 1879 p 94 § 8; 1877 p 247 § 9; RRS § 4132. (v) 1886 p 61 § 9; 1883 p 74 § 14; Code 1881 § 2170; 1879 p 94 § 9; 1877 p 247 § 10; RRS § 4133. (vi) 1886 p 62 § 13; 1883 p 74 § 18; Code 1881 § 2165; 1879 p 95 § 13; 1877 p 248 § 14; 1863 p 409 § 5; 1860 p 334 § 4; 1858 p 12 § 5; 1854 p 417 § 5; RRS § 4134. (vii) Referendum No. 24; 1941 c 191 § 1; 1886 p 63 § 18; 1883 p 76 § 24; Code 1881 § 2146; 1879 p 96 § 18; RRS § 4136. (viii) Code 1881 § 3150; 1866 p 52 § 10; RRS § 4137. (ix) 1933 ex.s. c 62 § 81, part; RRS § 7306-81, part.]

**Finding—Intent—2016 c 173:** See note following RCW 43.43.545.

**Intent—1987 c 202:** See note following RCW 2.04.190.

*Annual report to include number of child abuse reports and cases: RCW 26.44.075.*

**36.27.030 Disability of prosecuting attorney.** When from illness or other cause the prosecuting attorney is temporarily unable to perform his or her duties, the court or judge may appoint some qualified person to discharge the duties of such officer in court until the disability is removed.

When any prosecuting attorney fails, from sickness or other cause, to attend a session of the superior court of his or her county, or is unable to perform his or her duties at such session, the court or judge may appoint some qualified person to discharge the duties of such session, and the appointee shall receive a compensation to be fixed by the court, to be deducted from the stated salary of the prosecuting attorney, not exceeding, however, one-fourth of the quarterly salary of the prosecuting attorney: PROVIDED, That in counties wherein there is no person qualified for the position of prosecuting attorney, or wherein no qualified person will consent to perform the duties of that office, the judge of the superior court shall appoint some suitable person, a duly admitted and practicing attorney-at-law and resident of the state to perform the duties of prosecuting attorney for such county, and he or she shall receive such reasonable compensation for his or her services as shall be fixed and ordered by the court, to be paid by the county for which the services are performed. [2009 c 549 § 4046; 1963 c 4 § 36.27.030. Prior: (i) 1891 c 55 § 5; RRS § 114. (ii) 1893 c 52 § 1; 1886 p 62 § 14; 1883 p 74 § 19; Code 1881 § 2166; 1879 p 95 § 14; 1877 p 248 § 15; 1863 p 409 § 6; 1860 p 335 § 5; 1858 p 13 § 6; 1854 p 417 § 6; RRS § 4135.]

**36.27.040 Appointment of deputies—Special and temporary deputies.** The prosecuting attorney may appoint one or more deputies who shall have the same power in all respects as their principal. Each appointment shall be in writing, signed by the prosecuting attorney, and filed in the county auditor's office. Each deputy thus appointed shall have the same qualifications required of the prosecuting attorney, except that such deputy need not be a resident of the county in which he or she serves. The prosecuting attorney may appoint one or more special deputy prosecuting attorneys upon a contract or fee basis whose authority shall be limited to the purposes stated in the writing signed by the prosecuting attorney and filed in the county auditor's office. Such special deputy prosecuting attorney shall be admitted to practice as an attorney before the courts of this state but need not be a resident of the county in which he or she serves and shall not be under the legal disabilities attendant upon prosecuting attorneys or their deputies except to avoid any conflict of interest with the purpose for which he or she has been engaged by the prosecuting attorney. The prosecuting attorney shall be responsible for the acts of his or her deputies and may revoke appointments at will.

Two or more prosecuting attorneys may agree that one or more deputies for any one of them may serve temporarily as deputy for any other of them on terms respecting compensation which are acceptable to said prosecuting attorneys. Any such deputy thus serving shall have the same power in all respects as if he or she were serving permanently.

The provisions of chapter 39.34 RCW shall not apply to such agreements.

The provisions of \*RCW 41.56.030(2) shall not be interpreted to permit a prosecuting attorney to alter the at-will relationship established between the prosecuting attorney and his or her appointed deputies by this section for a period of time exceeding his or her term of office. Neither shall the provisions of \*RCW 41.56.030(2) require a prosecuting attorney to alter the at-will relationship established by this section.

[2009 c 549 § 4047; 2000 c 23 § 2; 1975 1st ex.s. c 19 § 2; 1963 c 4 § 36.27.040. Prior: 1959 c 30 § 1; 1943 c 35 § 1; 1903 c 7 § 1; 1891 c 55 § 6; 1886 p 63 § 17; 1883 p 76 § 23; Code 1881 § 2142; 1879 p 95 § 16; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 115.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 41.56.030 was alphabetized pursuant to RCW 1.08.015(2)(k), changing subsection (2) to subsection (12). RCW 41.56.030 was subsequently amended by 2011 1st sp.s. c 21 § 11, changing subsection (12) to subsection (11). RCW 41.56.030 was subsequently amended by 2020 c 298 § 1, changing subsection (11) to subsection (12).

**36.27.045 Employment of legal interns.** Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, nothing in this chapter shall be deemed to prevent a prosecuting attorney from employing legal interns as otherwise authorized by statute or court rule. [1974 ex.s. c 6 § 1.]

**36.27.050 Special emoluments prohibited.** No prosecuting attorney shall receive any fee or reward from any person, on behalf of any prosecution, or for any of his or her official services, except as provided in this title, nor shall he or she be engaged as attorney or counsel for any party in any action depending upon the same facts involved in any criminal proceeding. [2009 c 549 § 4048; 1963 c 4 § 36.27.050. Prior: 1888 p 189 § 1; 1886 p 62 § 12; 1883 p 74 § 17; Code 1881 § 2164; 1879 p 94 § 12; 1877 p 248 § 13; 1863 p 409 § 8; 1860 p 335 § 7; 1858 p 13 § 8; 1854 p 417 § 7; RRS § 4138.]

**36.27.060 Private practice prohibited in certain counties—Deputy prosecutors.** (1) The prosecuting attorney, and deputy prosecuting attorneys, of each county with a population of eighteen thousand or more shall serve full time and except as otherwise provided for in this section shall not engage in the private practice of law.

(2) Deputy prosecuting attorneys in a county with a population of from eighteen thousand to less than one hundred twenty-five thousand may serve part time and engage in the private practice of law if the county legislative authority so provides.

(3) Except as provided in subsection (4) of this section, nothing in this section prohibits a prosecuting attorney or deputy prosecuting attorney in any county from:

(a) Performing legal services for himself or herself or his or her immediate family; or

(b) Performing legal services of a charitable nature.

(4) The legal services identified in subsection (3) of this section may not be performed if they would interfere with the duties of a prosecuting attorney, or deputy prosecuting attorney and no services that are performed shall be deemed within the scope of employment of a prosecutor or deputy prosecutor. [1991 c 363 § 55; 1989 c 39 § 1; 1973 1st ex.s. c 86 § 1; 1971 ex.s. c 237 § 2; 1969 ex.s. c 226 § 2; 1963 c 4 § 36.27.060. Prior: 1941 c 46 § 2; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 4139-1.]

**Purpose—Captions not law—1991 c 363:** See notes following RCW 2.32.180.

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

**36.27.070 Office at county seat.** The prosecuting attorney of each county in the state of Washington must keep an office at the county seat of the county of which he or she is prosecuting attorney. [2009 c 549 § 4049; 1963 c 4 § 36.27.070. Prior: 1909 c 122 § 1; RRS § 4139.]

**36.27.100 Statewide drug prosecution assistance program—Created.** The legislature recognizes that, due to the magnitude or volume of offenses in a given area of the state, there is a recurring need for supplemental assistance in the prosecuting of drug and drug-related offenses that can be directed to the area of the state with the greatest need for short-term assistance. A statewide drug prosecution assistance program is created within the criminal justice training commission to assist county prosecuting attorneys in the prosecution of drug and drug-related offenses. [2010 c 271 § 501; 1995 c 399 § 41; 1989 c 271 § 236.]

**Purpose—Effective date—2010 c 271:** See notes following RCW 43.330.005.

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

**36.27.110 Statewide drug prosecution assistance program—Advisory committee—Selection of project director.** There is established a statewide advisory committee comprised of the attorney general, the chief of the Washington state patrol, both United States attorneys whose offices are located in Washington state, and three county prosecuting attorneys appointed by the Washington association of prosecuting attorneys, who will also act as supervising attorneys. The statewide advisory committee shall select one of the supervising attorneys to act as project director of the drug prosecution assistance program. [1989 c 271 § 237.]

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

**36.27.120 Statewide drug prosecution assistance program—Personnel—Review of assignments—Supervision of special deputies.** The project director of the drug prosecution assistance program shall employ up to five attorneys to act as special deputy prosecuting attorneys. A county or counties may request the assistance of one or more of the special deputy prosecuting attorneys. The project director after consultation with the advisory committee shall determine the assignment of the special deputy prosecutors. Within funds appropriated for this purpose, the project director may also employ necessary support staff and purchase necessary supplies and equipment.

The advisory committee shall regularly review the assignment of the special deputy prosecuting attorneys to ensure that the program's impact on the drug abuse problem is maximized.

During the time a special deputy prosecuting attorney is assigned to a county, the special deputy is under the direct supervision of the county prosecuting attorney for that county. The advisory committee may reassign a special deputy at any time: PROVIDED, That adequate notice must be given to the county prosecuting attorney if the special deputy is involved in a case scheduled for trial. [1989 c 271 § 238.]

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

**36.27.130 Felony resentencing.** (1) The prosecutor of a county in which an offender was sentenced for a felony offense may petition the sentencing court or the sentencing court's successor to resentence the offender if the original sentence no longer advances the interests of justice.

(2) The court may grant or deny a petition under this section. If the court grants a petition, the court shall resentence the defendant in the same manner as if the offender had not

previously been sentenced, provided the new sentence, if any, is no greater than the initial sentence.

(3) The court may consider postconviction factors including, but not limited to, the inmate's disciplinary record and record of rehabilitation while incarcerated; evidence that reflects whether age, time served, and diminished physical condition, if any, have reduced the inmate's risk for future violence; and evidence that reflects changed circumstances since the inmate's original sentencing such that the inmate's continued incarceration no longer serves the interests of justice. Credit shall be given for time served.

(4) The prosecuting attorney shall make reasonable efforts to notify victims and survivors of victims of the petition for resentencing and the date of the resentencing hearing. The prosecuting attorney shall provide victims and survivors of victims access to available victim advocates and other related services. The court shall provide an opportunity for victims and survivors of victims of any crimes for which the offender has been convicted to present a statement personally or by representation. The prosecuting attorney and the court shall comply with the requirements set forth in chapter 7.69 RCW.

(5) A resentencing under this section shall not reopen the defendant's conviction to challenges that would otherwise be barred. [2020 c 203 § 2.]

**Intent—2020 c 203:** "It is the intent of the legislature to give prosecutors the discretion to petition the court to resentence an individual if the person's sentence no longer advances the interests of justice. The purpose of sentencing is to advance public safety through punishment, rehabilitation, and restorative justice. When a sentence includes incarceration, this purpose is best served by terms that are proportionate to the seriousness of the offense and provide uniformity with the sentences of offenders committing the same offense under similar circumstances. By providing a means to reevaluate a sentence after some time has passed, the legislature intends to provide the prosecutor and the court with another tool to ensure that these purposes are achieved." [2020 c 203 § 1.]

## Chapter 36.28 RCW COUNTY SHERIFF

### Sections

36.28.010	General duties.
36.28.011	Duty to make complaint.
36.28.020	Powers of deputies, regular and special.
36.28.025	Qualifications.
36.28.030	New or additional bond of sheriff.
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36.28.060	Duplicate receipts—Penalties.
36.28.090	Service of process when sheriff disqualified.
36.28.100	Employment of prisoners.
36.28.110	Sheriff not to practice law.
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36.28.130	Actions by successors and by officials after expiration of term of office validated.
36.28.150	Liability for fault or misconduct.
36.28.160	Office at county seat.
36.28.170	Standard uniform for sheriffs and deputies.
36.28.180	Allowance for clothing and other incidentals.
36.28.190	City contracts to obtain sheriff's office law enforcement services.
36.28.200	Statewide sexual assault kit tracking system—Participation by sheriff and deputies.

*Action against, limitation on:* RCW 4.16.080, 4.16.110.

*Attachment of witnesses directed to:* RCW 5.56.080.

*Civil service for sheriff's office:* Chapter 41.14 RCW.

*Counties may engage in probation and parole services:* RCW 36.01.070.



Court rooms, court may order sheriff to provide: RCW 2.28.140.  
 Defined for attachment proceedings purposes: RCW 6.25.010.  
 Dissolution of inactive port districts, sheriff's sale: RCW 53.47.040.  
 Disturbances at state penal facilities: Chapter 72.72 RCW.  
 Dog handler using dog in line of duty—Immunity: RCW 4.24.410.  
 Duties relating to  
   abandoned animals: Chapter 16.54 RCW.  
   adverse claims to property levied upon: Chapter 6.19 RCW.  
   agister and trainer liens: Chapter 60.56 RCW.  
   apple advertising regulations: RCW 15.24.180.  
   attachment, sheriff's duties: Chapter 6.25 RCW.  
   chattel mortgages, foreclosure of: Chapter 61.12 RCW.  
   cities and towns  
     involuntary dissolution: RCW 35.07.260.  
     protection from water pollution: Chapter 35.88 RCW.  
   civil actions  
     impanelling jury: RCW 4.44.120.  
     sheriff to obtain money or property ordered deposited into court upon default: RCW 4.44.490.  
     sheriff to provide jurors food and lodging: RCW 4.44.310.  
   crop liens: Chapter 60.11 RCW.  
   dairy products commission law: RCW 15.44.160.  
   dead bodies, public agency to surrender for disposition: RCW 68.50.070.  
   default in rent of forty dollars or less: RCW 59.08.060, 59.08.090, 59.08.100.  
   department of revenue summons: RCW 84.08.050.  
   diking, drainage district, dissolution of: Chapter 85.07 RCW.  
   dogs: Chapter 16.08 RCW.  
   eminent domain by state: Chapter 8.04 RCW.  
   execution of judgment: Chapter 6.17 RCW.  
   fires, sheriff to report: RCW 43.44.050.  
   forcible entry or forcible or unlawful detainer actions: Chapter 59.12 RCW.  
   game official, duties as: Chapter 77.12 RCW, RCW 77.32.250.  
   highway advertising control act, violations: Chapter 47.42 RCW.  
   horses, mules, asses at large, sheriff to impound: Chapter 16.24 RCW.  
   individuals with mental illness, state hospitals for, escape by patient from: Chapter 72.23 RCW.  
   irrigation and rehabilitation district rules and regulations: RCW 87.84.100.  
   juries, drawing of: Chapter 2.36 RCW.  
   labor disputes, arbitration of: RCW 49.08.030.  
   lien for labor and services on timber and lumber, actions on: Chapter 60.24 RCW.  
   limited access facility within city or town: RCW 47.52.200.  
   liquor violations, sheriff as enforcement officer: RCW 66.44.010.  
   lost and found property: Chapter 63.21 RCW.  
   mental illness: Chapter 71.05 RCW.  
   mines, abandoned mining shafts and excavations: Chapter 78.12 RCW.  
   missing children: RCW 13.60.020.  
   motor vehicle  
     accidents: Chapter 46.52 RCW.  
     offenses generally: Title 46 RCW.  
   obstructions on public highways: Chapter 47.32 RCW.  
   port districts  
     dissolution of: Chapter 53.48 RCW.  
     motor vehicle regulation enforcement: RCW 53.08.230.  
   prevention of cruelty to animals: Chapter 16.52 RCW.  
   proceedings supplemental to execution: Chapter 6.32 RCW.  
   real estate mortgages, foreclosure of: Chapter 61.12 RCW.  
   regional jail camps: RCW 72.64.100.  
   sales under execution and redemption: Chapter 6.21 RCW.  
   search and seizure, cigarette excise tax: RCW 82.24.190.  
   soft tree fruits commission law: RCW 15.28.290.  
   state board of health measures: RCW 43.20.050.  
   support of dependent children: Chapter 74.20 RCW.  
   suretyship: Chapter 19.72 RCW.  
   tax warrants generally: Chapter 82.32 RCW.  
   taxes, property  
     private car companies on, process serving: RCW 84.16.032.  
     public utilities on, process serving: RCW 84.12.240.  
   traffic control devices, forbidden devices, abatement of: RCW 47.36.180.  
   traffic schools: Chapter 46.83 RCW.  
   unclaimed property in hands of sheriff: Chapter 63.40 RCW.

unemployment compensation: RCW 50.12.170, 50.24.110.  
 uniform code of military justice: RCW 38.38.080 through 38.38.092, 38.38.492.  
 Gambling activities, as affecting: Chapter 9.46 RCW.  
 Law enforcement chaplains authorized: Chapter 41.22 RCW.  
 Money in hands of sheriff under attachment may be garnished: RCW 6.27.050.  
 Motor vehicle accidents, reports made to sheriff: Chapter 46.52 RCW.  
 Names of amateur radio vehicle licensees to be furnished to: RCW 46.18.205(6).  
 Registry of persons allowed property access during forest fires and wildfires, creation of: RCW 47.48.060.  
 Reports of motor vehicle repairs made to: RCW 46.52.090.  
 Sheriff's deed: RCW 6.21.120.  
 Support of dependent children, sheriff to charge no fees in connection with: RCW 74.20.300.  
 Surety, sheriff ineligible as: RCW 19.72.020.  
 Vehicle of as emergency vehicle: RCW 46.04.040.  
 Vehicle wreckers (licensed) records, sheriff may inspect: RCW 46.80.080.

**36.28.010 General duties.** The sheriff is the chief executive officer and conservator of the peace of the county. In the execution of his or her office, he or she and his or her deputies:

- (1) Shall arrest and commit to prison all persons who break the peace, or attempt to break it, and all persons guilty of public offenses;
- (2) Shall defend the county against those who, by riot or otherwise, endanger the public peace or safety;
- (3) Shall execute the process and orders of the courts of justice or judicial officers, when delivered for that purpose, according to law;
- (4) Shall execute all warrants delivered for that purpose by other public officers, according to the provisions of particular statutes;
- (5) Shall attend the sessions of the courts of record held within the county, and obey their lawful orders or directions;
- (6) Shall keep and preserve the peace in their respective counties, and quiet and suppress all affrays, riots, unlawful assemblies and insurrections, for which purpose, and for the service of process in civil or criminal cases, and in apprehending or securing any person for felony or breach of the peace, they may call to their aid such persons, or power of their county as they may deem necessary. [2009 c 549 § 4050; 1965 c 92 § 1; 1963 c 4 § 36.28.010. Prior: (i) 1891 c 45 § 1; RRS § 4157. (ii) Code 1881 § 2769; 1863 p 557 § 4; 1854 p 434 § 4; RRS § 4168.]

**36.28.011 Duty to make complaint.** In addition to the duties contained in RCW 36.28.010, it shall be the duty of all sheriffs to make complaint of all violations of the criminal law, which shall come to their knowledge, within their respective jurisdictions. [1963 c 4 § 36.28.011. Prior: 1955 c 10 § 1. Cf. Code 1881 § 2801, part; 1869 p 264 § 311, part; RRS § 4173, part.]

**36.28.020 Powers of deputies, regular and special.** Every deputy sheriff shall possess all the power, and may perform any of the duties, prescribed by law to be performed by the sheriff, and shall serve or execute, according to law, all

process, writs, precepts, and orders, issued by lawful authority.

Persons may also be deputed by the sheriff in writing to do particular acts; including the service of process in civil or criminal cases, and the sheriff shall be responsible on his or her official bond for their default or misconduct. [2009 c 549 § 4051; 1963 c 4 § 36.28.020. Prior: 1961 c 35 § 2; prior: (i) Code 1881 § 2767, part; 1871 p 110 § 1, part; 1863 p 557 § 2, part; 1854 p 434 § 2, part; RRS § 4160, part. (ii) 1886 p 174 § 1; Code 1881 § 2768; 1863 p 557 § 3; 1854 p 434 § 3; RRS § 4167.]

**36.28.025 Qualifications.** A person who files a declaration of candidacy for the office of sheriff after September 1, 1979, shall have, within twelve months of assuming office, a certificate of completion of a basic law enforcement training program which complies with standards adopted by the criminal justice training commission pursuant to RCW 43.101.080 and \*43.101.160.

This requirement does not apply to persons holding the office of sheriff in any county on September 1, 1979. [1979 ex.s. c 153 § 6.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 43.101.160 was repealed by 1983 c 197 § 55, effective June 30, 1987.

**36.28.030 New or additional bond of sheriff.** Whenever the company acting as surety on the official bond of a sheriff is disqualified, insolvent, or the penalty of the bond becomes insufficient on account of recovery had thereon, or otherwise, the sheriff shall submit a new or additional bond for approval to the board of county commissioners, if in session, or, if not in session, for the approval of the chair of such board, and file the same, when approved, in the office of the county clerk of his or her county, and such new or additional bond shall be in a penal sum sufficient in amount to equal the sum specified in the original bond when added to the penalty of any existing bond, so that under one or more bonds there shall always be an enforceable obligation of the surety on the official bond or bonds of the sheriff in a penal sum of not less than the amount of the bond as originally approved. [2009 c 549 § 4052; 1963 c 4 § 36.28.030. Prior: 1943 c 139 § 2; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 4155-1.]

**36.28.040 May demand fees in advance.** No sheriff, deputy sheriff, or coroner shall be liable for any damages for neglecting or refusing to serve any civil process unless his or her legal fees are first tendered him or her. [2009 c 549 § 4053; 1963 c 4 § 36.28.040. Prior: 1941 c 237 § 1, part; 1935 c 33 § 1, part; Code 1881 § 2772, part; 1863 p 558 § 7, part; 1854 p 434 § 7, part; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 4172, part.]

**36.28.050 May demand indemnifying bond.** If any property levied upon by virtue of any writ of attachment or execution or other order issued to the sheriff out of any court in this state is claimed by any person other than the defendant, and such person or his or her agent or attorney makes affidavit of his or her title thereto or his or her right to possession thereof, stating the value thereof and the basis of such right or title, the sheriff may release such levy, unless the plaintiff on demand indemnifies the sheriff against such claim by an undertaking executed by a sufficient surety.

No claim to such property by any person other than the defendant shall be valid against the sheriff, unless the supporting affidavit is made. Notwithstanding receipt of a proper claim the sheriff shall retain such property under levy a reasonable time to demand such indemnity.

Any sheriff, or other levying officer, may require an indemnifying bond of the plaintiff in all cases where he or she has to take possession of personal property. [2009 c 549 § 4054; 1963 c 4 § 36.28.050. Prior: 1941 c 237 § 1, part; 1935 c 33 § 1, part; Code 1881 § 2772, part; 1863 p 558 § 7, part; 1854 p 434 § 7, part; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 4172, part.]

**36.28.060 Duplicate receipts—Penalties.** (1) The sheriff shall make duplicate receipts for all payments for his or her services specifying the particular items thereof, at the time of payment, whether paid by virtue of the laws of this state or of the United States. Such duplicate receipts shall be numbered consecutively for each month commencing with number one. One of such receipts shall have written or printed upon it the word "original"; and the other shall have written or printed upon it the word "duplicate."

(2) At the time of payment of any fees, the sheriff shall deliver to the person making payment, either personally or by mail, the copy of the receipt designated "duplicate."

(3) The receipts designated "original" for each month shall be attached to the verified statement of fees for the corresponding month and the sheriff shall file with the county treasurer of his or her county all original receipts for each month with such verified statement.

(4) A sheriff shall not receive his or her salary for the preceding month until the provisions of this section have been complied with.

(5) Any sheriff violating this section, or failing to perform any of the duties required thereby, is guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be fined in any sum not less than ten dollars nor more than fifty dollars for each offense. [2003 c 53 § 202; 1963 c 4 § 36.28.060. Prior: (i) 1909 c 105 § 1; RRS § 4161. (ii) 1909 c 105 § 2; RRS § 4162.]

**Intent—Effective date—2003 c 53:** See notes following RCW 2.48.180.

**36.28.090 Service of process when sheriff disqualified.** When there is no sheriff of a county, or he or she is disqualified from any cause from discharging any particular duty, it shall be lawful for the officer or person commanding or desiring the discharge of that duty to appoint some suitable person, a citizen of the county, to execute the same: PROVIDED, That final process shall in no case be executed by any person other than the legally authorized officer; or in case he or she is disqualified, some suitable person appointed by the court, or judge thereof, out of which the process issues, who shall make such appointment in writing; and before such appointment shall take effect, the person appointed shall give security to the party interested for the faithful performance of his or her duties, which bond of suretyship shall be in writing, approved by the court or judge appointing him or her, and be placed on file with the papers in the case. [2009 c 549 § 4055; 1963 c 4 § 36.28.090. Prior: Code 1881 § 745; 1869 p 172 § 687; RRS § 4170.]

**36.28.100 Employment of prisoners.** The sheriff or director of public safety shall employ all able bodied persons sentenced to imprisonment in the county jail in such manner and at such places within the county as may be directed by the legislative authority of the county. [1973 1st ex.s. c 154 § 54; 1963 c 4 § 36.28.100. Prior: 1909 c 249 § 27; RRS § 2279.]

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

**36.28.110 Sheriff not to practice law.** No sheriff shall appear or practice as attorney in any court, except in their own defense. [1992 c 225 § 2; 1963 c 4 § 36.28.110. Prior: 1891 c 45 § 4, part; Code 1881 § 2770, part; 1863 p 558 § 5, part; 1854 p 434 § 5, part; RRS § 4171, part.]

**36.28.120 Duty of retiring sheriffs, constables, and coroners—Successors' duties.** All sheriffs, constables and coroners, upon the completion of their term of office and the qualification of their successors, shall deliver and turn over to their successors all writs and other processes in their possession not wholly executed, and all personal property in their possession or under their control held under such writs or processes, and take receipts therefor in duplicate, one of which shall be filed in the office from which such writ or process issued as a paper in the action, which receipt shall be good and sufficient discharge to such officer of and from further charge of the execution of such writs and processes; and they shall also deliver to their successors all official papers and property in their possession or under their control. The successors shall execute or complete the execution of all such writs and processes, and finish and complete all business turned over to them. [1963 c 4 § 36.28.120. Prior: 1895 c 17 § 1; RRS § 4174.]

**36.28.130 Actions by successors and by officials after expiration of term of office validated.** In all cases where any sheriff, constable or coroner has executed any writ or other process delivered to him or her by his or her predecessor, or has completed any business commenced by his or her predecessor under any writ or process, and has completed any other business commenced by his or her predecessor, and in all cases where any sheriff, constable or coroner has executed any writ or other process, or completed any business connected with his or her office after the expiration of his or her term of office, which writ or process he or she had commenced to execute, or which business he or she had commenced to perform, prior to the expiration of his or her term of office, such action shall be valid and effectual for all purposes. [2009 c 549 § 4056; 1963 c 4 § 36.28.130. Prior: 1895 c 17 § 2; RRS § 4175.]

**36.28.150 Liability for fault or misconduct.** Whenever any sheriff neglects to make due return of any writ or other process delivered to him or her to be executed, or is guilty of any default or misconduct in relation thereto, he or she shall be liable to fine or attachment, or both, at the discretion of the court, subject to appeal, such fine, however, not to exceed two hundred dollars; and also to an action for damages to the party aggrieved. [2009 c 549 § 4057; 1963 c 4 § 36.28.150. Prior: Code 1881 § 2771; 1863 p 558 § 6; 1854 p 434 § 6; RRS § 4169.]

(2022 Ed.)

**36.28.160 Office at county seat.** The sheriff must keep an office at the county seat of the county of which he or she is sheriff. [2009 c 105 § 3; 1963 c 4 § 36.28.160. Prior: 1891 c 45 § 2; RRS § 4158. SLC-RO-14.]

**36.28.170 Standard uniform for sheriffs and deputies.** The executive secretary of the Washington state association of elected county officials, upon written approval of a majority of the sheriffs in the state, shall file with the secretary of state a description of a standard uniform which may be withdrawn or modified by re-filing in the same manner as originally filed. A uniform of the description so filed shall thereafter be reserved exclusively for the use of sheriffs and their deputies: PROVIDED, That the filing of a standard uniform description shall not make mandatory the adoption of said uniform by any county sheriff or his or her deputies. [2009 c 549 § 4059; 1963 c 50 § 1.]

**36.28.180 Allowance for clothing and other incidentals.** A county may from available funds provide for an allowance for clothing and other incidentals necessary to the performance of official duties for the sheriff and his or her deputies. [2009 c 549 § 4060; 1979 c 132 § 1; 1963 c 50 § 2.]

**36.28.190 City contracts to obtain sheriff's office law enforcement services.** See RCW 41.14.250 through 41.14.280.

**36.28.200 Statewide sexual assault kit tracking system—Participation by sheriff and deputies.** A sheriff and his or her deputies shall participate in the statewide sexual assault kit tracking system established in RCW 43.43.545 for the purpose of tracking the status of all sexual assault kits in the custody of the department and other entities contracting with the department. A sheriff shall begin full participation in the system according to the implementation schedule established by the Washington state patrol. [2016 c 173 § 4.]

**Finding—Intent—2016 c 173:** See note following RCW 43.43.545.

**Chapter 36.28A RCW**

**ASSOCIATION OF SHERIFFS AND POLICE CHIEFS**

Sections

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- 36.28A.020 Local law and justice plan assistance.
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- 36.28A.430 Sexual assault kit initiative project—Definitions.
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- 36.28A.445 Duty to render first aid—Development of guidelines.
- 36.28A.450 Grant program—Therapeutic interventions for certain criminal justice system involved persons—Report—Civil liability.
- 36.28A.455 Information and records—Notification—Public disclosure exemption.

**36.28A.010 Declarations.** The Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs is hereby declared to be a combination of units of local government: PROVIDED, That such association shall not be considered an "employer" within the meaning of RCW \*41.26.030(2) or \*\*41.40.010(4): PROVIDED FURTHER, That no compensation received as an employee of the association shall be considered salary for purposes of the provisions of any retirement system created pursuant to the general laws of this state: PROVIDED FURTHER, That such association shall not qualify for inclusion under the unallocated two mills of the property tax of any political subdivision: PROVIDED FURTHER, That the association shall not have the authority to assess any excess levy or bond measure. [1975 1st ex.s. c 172 § 1.]

**Reviser's note:** \*(1) RCW 41.26.030 was alphabetized pursuant to RCW 1.08.015(2)(k), changing subsection (2) to subsection (14).

\*\* (2) RCW 41.40.010 was alphabetized pursuant to RCW 1.08.015(2)(k), changing subsection (4) to subsection (13).

**36.28A.020 Local law and justice plan assistance.** The Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs may, upon request of a county's legislative authority, assist the county in developing and implementing its local law and justice plan. In doing so, the association shall consult with the office of financial management and the department of corrections. [1991 c 363 § 56.]

**Purpose—Captions not law—1991 c 363:** See notes following RCW 2.32.180.

**36.28A.030 Hate crime offenses—Information reporting and dissemination.** (1) The Washington associa-

tion of sheriffs and police chiefs shall establish and maintain a central repository for the collection and classification of information regarding violations of RCW 9A.36.080. Upon establishing such a repository, the association shall develop a procedure to monitor, record, and classify information relating to violations of RCW 9A.36.080 and any other crimes of bigotry or bias apparently directed against other persons because the people committing the crimes perceived that their victims were of a particular race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, had a particular gender expression or identity, or had a mental, physical, or sensory disability.

(2) All local law enforcement agencies shall report monthly to the association concerning all violations of RCW 9A.36.080 and any other crimes of bigotry or bias in such form and in such manner as prescribed by rules adopted by the association. Agency participation in the association's reporting programs, with regard to the specific data requirements associated with violations of RCW 9A.36.080 and any other crimes of bigotry or bias, shall be deemed to meet agency reporting requirements. The association must summarize the information received and file an annual report with the governor and the senate law and justice committee and the house of representatives judiciary committee.

(3) The association shall disseminate the information according to the provisions of chapters 10.97 and 10.98 RCW, and all other confidentiality requirements imposed by federal or Washington law. [2019 c 271 § 9; 1993 c 127 § 4.]

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

**36.28A.040 Statewide city and county jail booking and reporting system—Standards committee—Statewide automated victim information and notification system—Statewide unified sex offender notification and registration program—Liability immunity.** (1) No later than July 1, 2002, the Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs shall implement and operate an electronic statewide city and county jail booking and reporting system. The system shall serve as a central repository and instant information source for offender information and jail statistical data. The system may be placed on the Washington state justice information network and be capable of communicating electronically with every Washington state city and county jail and with all other Washington state criminal justice agencies as defined in RCW 10.97.030.

(2) After the Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs has implemented an electronic jail booking system as described in subsection (1) of this section, if a city or county jail or law enforcement agency receives state or federal funding to cover the entire cost of implementing or reconfiguring an electronic jail booking system, the city or county jail or law enforcement agency shall implement or reconfigure an electronic jail booking system that is in compliance with the jail booking system standards developed pursuant to subsection (4) of this section.

(3) After the Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs has implemented an electronic jail booking system as described in subsection (1) of this section, city or county jails, or law enforcement agencies that operate electronic jail booking systems, but choose not to accept state or federal money to implement or reconfigure electronic jail

booking systems, shall electronically forward jail booking information to the Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs. At a minimum the information forwarded shall include the name of the offender, vital statistics, the date the offender was arrested, the offenses arrested for, the date and time an offender is released or transferred from a city or county jail, and if available, the mug shot. The electronic format in which the information is sent shall be at the discretion of the city or county jail, or law enforcement agency forwarding the information. City and county jails or law enforcement agencies that forward jail booking information under this subsection are not required to comply with the standards developed under subsection (4)(b) of this section.

(4) The Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs shall appoint, convene, and manage a statewide jail booking and reporting system standards committee. The committee shall include representatives from the Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs correction committee, the information service board's justice information committee, the judicial information system, at least two individuals who serve as jailers in a city or county jail, and other individuals that the Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs places on the committee. The committee shall have the authority to:

(a) Develop and amend as needed standards for the statewide jail booking and reporting system and for the information that must be contained within the system. At a minimum, the system shall contain:

- (i) The offenses the individual has been charged with;
- (ii) Descriptive and personal information about each offender booked into a city or county jail. At a minimum, this information shall contain the offender's name, vital statistics, address, and mugshot;
- (iii) Information about the offender while in jail, which could be used to protect criminal justice officials that have future contact with the offender, such as medical conditions, acts of violence, and other behavior problems;
- (iv) Statistical data indicating the current capacity of each jail and the quantity and category of offenses charged;
- (v) The ability to communicate directly and immediately with the city and county jails and other criminal justice entities; and
- (vi) The date and time that an offender was released or transferred from a local jail;

(b) Develop and amend as needed operational standards for city and county jail booking systems, which at a minimum shall include the type of information collected and transmitted, and the technical requirements needed for the city and county jail booking system to communicate with the statewide jail booking and reporting system;

(c) Develop and amend as needed standards for allocating grants to city and county jails or law enforcement agencies that will be implementing or reconfiguring electronic jail booking systems.

(5)(a) A statewide automated victim information and notification system shall be added to the city and county jail booking and reporting system. The system shall:

(i) Automatically notify a registered victim via the victim's choice of telephone, letter, or email when any of the following events affect an offender housed in any Washington state city or county jail or department of corrections facility:

- (A) Is transferred or assigned to another facility;
  - (B) Is transferred to the custody of another agency outside the state;
  - (C) Is given a different security classification;
  - (D) Is released on temporary leave or otherwise;
  - (E) Is discharged;
  - (F) Has escaped; or
  - (G) Has been served with a protective order that was requested by the victim;
- (ii) Automatically notify a registered victim via the victim's choice of telephone, letter, or email when an offender has:

(A) An upcoming court event where the victim is entitled to be present, if the court information is made available to the statewide automated victim information and notification system administrator at the Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs;

(B) An upcoming parole, pardon, or community supervision hearing; or

(C) A change in the offender's parole, probation, or community supervision status including:

- (I) A change in the offender's supervision status; or
- (II) A change in the offender's address;

(iii) Automatically notify a registered victim via the victim's choice of telephone, letter, or email when a sex offender has:

(A) Updated his or her profile information with the state sex offender registry; or

(B) Become noncompliant with the state sex offender registry;

(iv) Permit a registered victim to receive the most recent status report for an offender in any Washington state city and county jail, department of corrections, or sex offender registry by calling the statewide automated victim information and notification system on a toll-free telephone number or by accessing the statewide automated victim information and notification system via a public website. All registered victims calling the statewide automated victim information and notification system will be given the option to have live operator assistance to help use the program on a twenty-four hour, three hundred sixty-five day per year basis;

(v) Permit a crime victim to register, or registered victim to update, the victim's registration information for the statewide automated victim information and notification system by calling a toll-free telephone number or by accessing a public website; and

(vi) Ensure that the offender information contained within the statewide automated victim information and notification system is updated frequently to timely notify a crime victim that an offender has been released or discharged or has escaped. However, the failure of the statewide automated victim information and notification system to provide notice to the victim does not establish a separate cause of action by the victim against state officials, local officials, law enforcement officers, or any related correctional authorities.

(b) Participation in the statewide automated victim information and notification program satisfies any obligation to notify the crime victim of an offender's custody status and the status of the offender's upcoming court events so long as:

(i) Information making offender and case data available is provided on a timely basis to the statewide automated victim information and notification program; and

(ii) Information a victim submits to register and participate in the victim notification system is only used for the sole purpose of victim notification.

(c) Automated victim information and notification systems in existence and operational as of July 22, 2007, shall not be required to participate in the statewide system.

(6) When funded, the Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs shall implement and operate an electronic statewide unified sex offender notification and registration program. Information submitted to the program by a person for the purpose of receiving notification regarding a registered sex offender, including the person's name, residential address, and email address, are exempt from public inspection and copying under chapter 42.56 RCW.

(7) An appointed or elected official, public employee, or public agency as defined in RCW 4.24.470, or combination of units of government and its employees, as provided in RCW 36.28A.010, are immune from civil liability for damages for any release of information or the failure to release information related to the statewide automated victim information and notification system, the electronic statewide unified sex offender notification and registration program, and the jail booking and reporting system as described in this section, so long as the release was without gross negligence. The immunity provided under this subsection applies to the release of relevant and necessary information to other public officials, public employees, or public agencies, and to the general public. [2010 c 266 § 1; 2009 c 31 § 1; 2007 c 204 § 1; 2001 c 169 § 3; 2000 c 3 § 1.]

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

**36.28A.0401 Statewide automated victim information and notification system—Vendor services.** In Washington any vendor contracted to provide a statewide automated victim notification service must deliver the service with a minimum of 99.95-percent availability and with less than an average of one-percent notification errors as a result of the vendor's technology. [2007 c 204 § 2.]

**36.28A.0402 Statewide automated victim information and notification system—Department of corrections data.** The department of corrections is not required to provide any data to the Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs for the statewide automated victim information and notification system as stated in RCW 36.28A.040, until January 1, 2010. [2007 c 204 § 3.]

**36.28A.050 Statewide city and county jail booking and reporting system—Grant fund.** (1) The Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs shall establish and manage a local jail booking system grant fund. All federal or state money collected to offset the costs associated with RCW 36.28A.040(2) shall be processed through the grant fund established by this section. The statewide jail booking and reporting system standards committee established under RCW 36.28A.040(4) shall distribute the grants in accordance with any standards it develops.

(2) The Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs shall pursue federal funding to be placed into the local jail booking system grant fund. [2000 c 3 § 2.]

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

**36.28A.080 Immunity from liability.** Units of local government and their employees, as provided in RCW 36.28A.010, are immune from civil liability for damages arising out of the creation and use of the statewide first responder building mapping information system, unless it is shown that an employee acted with gross negligence or bad faith. [2003 c 102 § 4.]

**Intent—2003 c 102:** "The legislature recognizes the extreme dangers present when the safety of our citizens requires first responders such as police and firefighters to evacuate and secure a building. In an effort to prepare for responding to unintended disasters, criminal acts, and acts of terrorism, the legislature intends to create a statewide first responder building mapping information system that will provide all first responders with the information they need to be successful when disaster strikes. The first responder building mapping system in this act is to be developed for a limited and specific purpose and is in no way to be construed as imposing standards or system requirements on any other mapping systems developed and used for any other local government purposes." [2003 c 102 § 1.]

**36.28A.090 Firearms certificates for qualified retired law enforcement officers.** (1) The purpose of this section is to establish a process for issuing firearms certificates to residents of Washington who are otherwise qualified retired law enforcement officers under the federal law enforcement officers safety act of 2004 (118 Stat. 865; 18 U.S.C. Sec. 926B and 926C) for the purpose of satisfying the certification requirements contained in that act.

(2) A retired law enforcement officer satisfies the federal certification requirements if he or she possesses a valid firearms qualification certificate that:

(a) Uses the model certificate created under subsection (4) of this section;

(b) Provides that either a law enforcement agency or an individual or entity certified to provide firearms training acknowledges that the bearer has been found qualified or otherwise found to meet the standards established by the criminal justice training commission for firearms qualification for the basic law enforcement training academy in the state; and

(c) Complies with the time restrictions provided under subsection (3) of this section.

(3) The firearms certificate is valid for a period of one year from the date that the law enforcement agency or individual or entity certified to provide firearms training determines that the bearer has been found qualified or otherwise found to meet the standards established by the criminal justice training commission for firearms qualification for the basic law enforcement training academy in the state, and the certificate shall state the date the determination was made.

(4) The Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs shall develop a model certificate that shall serve as the required firearms qualification certificate once the certificate is valid pursuant to subsection (2) of this section. The association shall make the model certificate accessible on its website. The model certificate shall state that the retired law enforcement officer bearing the certificate has been qualified or otherwise found to meet the standards established by the criminal justice training commission for firearms qualification.

tion for the basic law enforcement training academy in the state.

(5) The retired law enforcement officer is responsible for paying the costs of the firearms qualification required under subsection (2) of this section.

(6) Nothing in this section shall be deemed to require a local law enforcement agency to complete the certificate. [2010 c 264 § 1; 2006 c 40 § 1.]

**36.28A.100 Committee to improve administration of missing person information—Protocol endorsement.** The Washington association of county officials, in consultation with the Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs, the Washington association of coroners and medical examiners, the forensic investigations council, the Washington state patrol, and other interested agencies and individuals, shall convene a committee to coordinate the use of the latest technology and available science to improve reporting of missing persons, to improve the communication within the state and with national databases, to enhance the dissemination of information to other agencies and the public, and to improve reporting for missing persons and the collection and preservation of evidence.

Protocols for the investigation of reported missing persons, identification of human remains, and recommended protocols for the reporting and identification of persons missing as the result of major events not limited to tsunami, earthquake, or acts of terrorism shall be endorsed by the groups named in this section who shall then seek the voluntary adoption of the same by all local law enforcement agencies, coroners, medical examiners, and others charged with locating missing persons or identifying human remains. [2006 c 102 § 2.]

**Finding—Intent—2006 c 102:** "The legislature finds that there were over forty-six thousand reports of persons missing nationwide and over five hundred missing persons in the state of Washington. Major catastrophic events in other parts of the United States this year have also emphasized that identifying victims in mass disasters is often impossible, due to the deficiency in planning by communities and governments. It is the intent of this act to build upon the research and findings of the Washington state missing persons task force, assembled by the state attorney general in 2003, the United States department of justice, and others to aid in recovery of missing persons and the identification of human remains." [2006 c 102 § 1.]

**36.28A.110 Missing persons information website creation.** The Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs shall create and maintain a statewide website, which shall be available to the public. The website shall post relevant information concerning persons reported missing in the state of Washington. For missing persons, the website shall contain, but is not limited to: The person's name, physical description, photograph, and other information that is deemed necessary according to the adopted protocols. This website shall allow citizens to more broadly disseminate information regarding missing persons for at least thirty days. [2007 c 10 § 3; 2006 c 102 § 4.]

**Intent—2007 c 10:** See note following RCW 43.103.110.

**Finding—Intent—2006 c 102:** See note following RCW 36.28A.100.

**36.28A.112 Missing persons information website—Transmittal of information to the national missing and unidentified persons system.** When funded, the Washing-

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ton association of sheriffs and police chiefs must regularly transmit information contained within the statewide missing persons website created pursuant to RCW 36.28A.110 to the national missing and unidentified persons system created by the United States department of justice's national institute of justice. [2020 c 45 § 4.]

**Findings—Intent—Short title—2020 c 45:** See notes following RCW 68.50.320.

**36.28A.120 State patrol involvement with missing persons systems—Local law enforcement procedures for missing persons information.** The Washington state patrol shall establish an interface with local law enforcement and the Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs missing persons website, the toll-free twenty-four hour hotline, and national and other statewide missing persons systems or clearinghouses.

Local law enforcement agencies shall file an official missing persons report and enter biographical information into the state missing persons computerized network without delay after notification of a missing person's report is received under this chapter. [2007 c 10 § 4; 2006 c 102 § 5.]

**Intent—2007 c 10:** See note following RCW 43.103.110.

**Finding—Intent—2006 c 102:** See note following RCW 36.28A.100.

**36.28A.130 Washington auto theft prevention authority—Created.** There is hereby created in the Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs the Washington auto theft prevention authority which shall be under the direction of the executive director of the Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs. [2007 c 199 § 19.]

**Findings—Intent—Short title—2007 c 199:** See notes following RCW 9A.56.065.

**36.28A.140 Development of model policy to address property access during forest fires and wildfires.** (1) The Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs shall convene a model policy work group to develop a model policy for sheriffs regarding residents, landowners, and others in lawful possession and control of land in the state during a forest fire or wildfire. The model policy must be designed in a way that, first and foremost, protects life and safety during a forest fire or wildfire. The model policy must include guidance on allowing access, when safe and appropriate, to residents, landowners, and others in lawful possession and control of land in the state during a wildfire or forest fire. The model policy must specifically address procedures to allow, when safe and appropriate, residents, landowners, and others in lawful possession and control of land in the state access to their residences and land to:

- (a) Conduct fire prevention or suppression activities;
- (b) Protect or retrieve any property located in their residences or on their land, including equipment, livestock, or any other belongings; or
- (c) Undertake activities under both (a) and (b) of this subsection.

(2) In developing the policy under subsection (1) of this section, the association shall consult with appropriate stakeholders and government agencies. [2007 c 252 § 1.]

**36.28A.200 Gang crime enforcement grant program.**

(1) When funded, the Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs shall establish a grant program to assist local law enforcement agencies in the support of special enforcement emphasis targeting gang crime. Grant applications shall be reviewed and awarded through peer review panels. Grant applicants are encouraged to utilize multijurisdictional efforts.

(2) Each grant applicant shall:

(a) Show a significant gang problem in the jurisdiction or jurisdictions receiving the grant;

(b) Verify that grant awards are sufficient to cover increased investigation, prosecution, and jail costs;

(c) Design an enforcement program that best suits the specific gang problem in the jurisdiction or jurisdictions receiving the grant;

(d) Demonstrate community coordination focusing on prevention, intervention, and suppression; and

(e) Collect data on performance pursuant to RCW 36.28A.220.

(3) The cost of administering the grants shall not exceed sixty thousand dollars, or four percent of appropriated funding, whichever is greater. [2008 c 276 § 101.]

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

**36.28A.210 Graffiti and tagging abatement grant program.** (1) When funded, the Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs shall establish a grant program to assist local law enforcement agencies in the support of graffiti and tagging abatement programs located in local communities. Grant applicants are encouraged to utilize multijurisdictional efforts.

(2) Each graffiti or tagging abatement grant applicant shall:

(a) Demonstrate that a significant gang problem exists in the jurisdiction or jurisdictions receiving the grant;

(b) Show how the funds will be used to dispose or eliminate any current or ongoing tagging or graffiti within a specified time period;

(c) Specify how the funds will be used to reduce gang-related graffiti or tagging within its community;

(d) Show how the local citizens and business owners of the community will benefit from the proposed graffiti or tagging abatement process being presented in the grant application; and

(e) Collect data on performance pursuant to RCW 36.28A.220.

(3) The cost of administering the grants shall not exceed twenty-five thousand dollars, or four percent of funding, whichever is greater. [2008 c 276 § 102.]

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

**36.28A.220 Grant programs—Effectiveness evaluations.** For the grant programs created in RCW 36.28A.200 and 36.28A.210 and within the funds provided for these programs, the Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs shall, upon consultation with the Washington state institute for public policy, identify performance measures, periodic reporting requirements, data needs, and a framework for evaluating the effectiveness of grant programs in graffiti

and tagging abatement and reducing gang crime. [2008 c 276 § 103.]

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

**36.28A.230 Registered sex offender and kidnapping offender address and residency verification grant program.** (1) When funded, the Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs shall administer a grant program to local governments for the purpose of verifying the address and residency of sex offenders and kidnapping offenders registered under RCW 9A.44.130 who reside within the county sheriff's jurisdiction. The Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs shall:

(a) Enter into performance-based agreements with local governments to ensure that registered offender address and residency are verified:

(i) For level I offenders, every twelve months;

(ii) For level II offenders, every six months; and

(iii) For level III offenders, every three months;

(b) Collect performance data from all participating jurisdictions sufficient to evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of the address and residency verification program; and

(c) Submit a report on the effectiveness of the address and residency verification program to the governor and the appropriate committees of the house of representatives and senate by December 31st each year.

(2) The Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs may retain up to three percent of the amounts provided pursuant to this section for the cost of administration. Any funds not disbursed for address and residency verification or retained for administration may be allocated to local prosecutors for the prosecution costs associated with failing to register offenses.

(3) For the purposes of this section, unclassified offenders and kidnapping offenders shall be considered at risk level I unless in the opinion of the local jurisdiction a higher classification is in the interest of public safety.

(4) County sheriffs and police chiefs or town marshals may enter into agreements for the purposes of delegating the authority and obligation to fulfill the requirements of this section. [2010 c 265 § 3.]

**36.28A.240 Metal theft enforcement strategy—Grant and training program.** (1) To the extent funds are appropriated, the Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs shall develop a comprehensive state law enforcement strategy targeting metal theft in consultation with the criminal justice training commission, including:

(a) Development of best practices for targeting illegal purchasers and sellers involved in metal theft, with specific enforcement focus on catalytic converter theft;

(b) Strategies for development and maintenance of relationships between local law enforcement agencies and licensed scrap metal recyclers, including recommendations for scheduled or regular interactions, with a focus on deterring unlawful purchases and identifying individuals suspected of involvement in unlawful metal theft and individuals who attempt to conduct a transaction while under the influence of controlled substances; and

(c) Establishment of a grant and training program to assist local law enforcement agencies in the support of spe-



cial enforcement targeting metal theft. Grant applications shall be reviewed by the Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs in consultation with other appropriate entities, such as those involved in enforcement against metal theft. Grant applicants with a demonstrated increase in metal theft over the previous 24 months are encouraged to focus solely on metal theft and unlawful purchasing and selling of unlawfully obtained metal in their jurisdiction, but may coordinate with other jurisdictions.

(2) Each grant applicant shall:

(a) Show a significant metal theft problem in the jurisdiction or jurisdictions receiving the grant;

(b) Propose an enforcement program that best suits the specific metal theft problem in the jurisdiction, including the number of enforcement stings to be conducted under the program;

(c) Demonstrate community coordination focusing on prevention, intervention, and suppression; and

(d) Collect data on performance, including the number of enforcement stings to be conducted.

(3) Grant awards may not be used to supplant preexisting funding sources for special enforcement targeting metal theft. [2022 c 221 § 8; 2013 c 322 § 24.]

**Findings—Intent—Effective date—2022 c 221:** See notes following RCW 19.290.020.

**36.28A.300 24/7 sobriety program.** There is created a 24/7 sobriety program to be administered by the criminal justice training commission in conjunction with the Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs. The program shall coordinate efforts among various local government entities for the purpose of implementing alternatives to incarceration for offenders convicted under RCW 46.61.502 or 46.61.504 with one or more prior convictions under RCW 46.61.502 or 46.61.504. [2014 c 221 § 912; 2013 2nd sp.s. c 35 § 23.]

**Effective date—2014 c 221:** See note following RCW 28A.710.260.

**36.28A.320 24/7 sobriety account.** There is hereby established in the custody of the state treasurer the 24/7 sobriety account. The account shall be maintained and administered by the criminal justice training commission to reimburse the state for costs associated with establishing and operating the 24/7 sobriety program and the Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs for ongoing 24/7 sobriety program administration costs. An appropriation is not required for expenditures and the account is not subject to allotment procedures under chapter 43.88 RCW. Funds in the account may not lapse and must carry forward from biennium to biennium. Interest earned by the account must be retained in the account. The criminal justice training commission may accept for deposit in the account money from donations, gifts, grants, participation fees, and user fees or payments. [2016 c 203 § 1; 2015 2nd sp.s. c 3 § 16; 2014 c 221 § 913; 2013 2nd sp.s. c 35 § 25.]

**Finding—Intent—2015 2nd sp.s. c 3:** See note following RCW 10.21.055.

**Effective date—2014 c 221:** See note following RCW 28A.710.260.

**36.28A.330 24/7 sobriety program definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout RCW 36.28A.300

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through 36.28A.390 unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "24/7 sobriety program" means a program in which a participant submits to testing of the participant's blood, breath, urine, or other bodily substance to determine the presence of alcohol or any drug as defined in RCW 46.61.540. Testing must take place at a location or locations designated by the participating agency, or, with the concurrence of the Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs, by an alternate method.

(2) "Participant" means a person who has been charged with or convicted of a violation of RCW 46.61.502, 46.61.504, or those crimes listed in RCW 46.61.5055(14), in which the use of alcohol or drugs as defined in RCW 46.61.540 was a contributing factor in the commission of the crime and who has been ordered by a court to participate in the 24/7 sobriety program.

(3) "Participating agency" means any entity located in the state of Washington that has a written agreement with the Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs to participate in the 24/7 sobriety program, and includes, but is not limited to, a sheriff, a police chief, any other local, regional, or state corrections or probation entity, and any other entity designated by a sheriff, police chief, or any other local, regional, or state corrections or probation entity to perform testing in the 24/7 sobriety program.

(4) "Participation agreement" means a written document executed by a participant agreeing to participate in the 24/7 sobriety program in a form approved by the Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs that contains the following information:

(a) The type, frequency, and time period of testing;

(b) The location of testing;

(c) The fees and payment procedures required for testing; and

(d) The responsibilities and obligations of the participant under the 24/7 sobriety program. [2015 2nd sp.s. c 3 § 17; 2013 2nd sp.s. c 35 § 26.]

**Finding—Intent—2015 2nd sp.s. c 3:** See note following RCW 10.21.055.

**36.28A.340 24/7 sobriety program—Counties or cities may participate.** Each county or city, through its sheriff or chief, may participate in the 24/7 sobriety program. If a sheriff or chief is unwilling or unable to participate in the 24/7 sobriety program, the sheriff or chief may designate an entity willing to provide the service. [2013 2nd sp.s. c 35 § 27.]

**Effective date—2013 2nd sp.s. c 35 §§ 27, 28, and 30-32:** "Sections 27, 28, and 30 through 32 of this act take effect January 1, 2014." [2013 2nd sp.s. c 35 § 44.]

**36.28A.350 24/7 sobriety program—Bond or pretrial release.** The court may condition any bond or pretrial release upon participation in the 24/7 sobriety program and payment of associated costs and expenses, if available. [2013 2nd sp.s. c 35 § 28.]

**Effective date—2013 2nd sp.s. c 35 §§ 27, 28, and 30-32:** See note following RCW 36.28A.340.

**36.28A.360 24/7 sobriety program—Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs may adopt policies and procedures.** The Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs may adopt policies and procedures for the administration of the 24/7 sobriety program to:

- (1) Provide for procedures and apparatus for testing;
- (2) Establish fees and costs for participation in the program to be paid by the participants;
- (3) Require the submission of reports and information by law enforcement agencies within this state. [2013 2nd sp.s. c 35 § 29.]

**36.28A.370 24/7 sobriety account—Distribution of funds.** (1) Any daily user fee, installation fee, deactivation fee, enrollment fee, or monitoring fee must be collected by the participating agency and used to defray the participating agency's costs of the 24/7 sobriety program.

(2) Any participation fee must be collected by the participating agency and deposited in the state 24/7 sobriety account to cover 24/7 sobriety program administration costs incurred by the Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs.

(3) All applicable fees shall be paid by the participant contemporaneously or in advance of the time when the fee becomes due; however, cities and counties may subsidize or pay any applicable fees.

(4) A city or county may accept for deposit, donations, gifts, grants, local account fund transfers, and other assistance into its local 24/7 sobriety account to defray the participating agency's costs of the 24/7 sobriety program. [2017 c 336 § 12; 2015 2nd sp.s. c 3 § 18; 2013 2nd sp.s. c 35 § 30.]

**Finding—2017 c 336:** See note following RCW 9.96.060.

**Finding—Intent—2015 2nd sp.s. c 3:** See note following RCW 10.21.055.

**Effective date—2013 2nd sp.s. c 35 §§ 27, 28, and 30-32:** See note following RCW 36.28A.340.

**36.28A.380 24/7 sobriety program—No waiver or reduction of fees.** The court shall not waive or reduce fees or associated costs charged for participation in the 24/7 sobriety program. [2013 2nd sp.s. c 35 § 31.]

**Effective date—2013 2nd sp.s. c 35 §§ 27, 28, and 30-32:** See note following RCW 36.28A.340.

**36.28A.390 24/7 sobriety program—Violation of terms—Penalties.** (1) A general authority Washington peace officer, as defined in RCW 10.93.020, who has probable cause to believe that a participant has violated the terms of participation in the 24/7 sobriety program may immediately take the participant into custody and cause him or her to be held until an appearance before a judge on the next judicial day.

(2) A participant who violates the terms of participation in the 24/7 sobriety program or does not pay the required fees or associated costs pretrial or posttrial shall, at a minimum:

- (a) Receive a written warning notice for a first violation;
- (b) Serve a minimum of one day imprisonment for a second violation;
- (c) Serve a minimum of three days[] imprisonment for a third violation;

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(d) Serve a minimum of five days[] imprisonment for a fourth violation; and

(e) Serve a minimum of seven days[] imprisonment for a fifth or subsequent violation.

(3) The court may remove a participant from the 24/7 sobriety program at any time for noncompliance with the terms of participation. If a participant is removed from the 24/7 sobriety program, the court shall send written notice to the department of licensing within five business days. [2016 c 203 § 19; 2015 2nd sp.s. c 3 § 19; 2013 2nd sp.s. c 35 § 32.]

**Finding—Intent—2015 2nd sp.s. c 3:** See note following RCW 10.21.055.

**Effective date—2013 2nd sp.s. c 35 §§ 27, 28, and 30-32:** See note following RCW 36.28A.340.

**36.28A.400 Denied firearm transaction reporting system—Purge of denial records upon subsequent approval—Public disclosure exemption—Destruction of information. (Contingent repeal.)** (1) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this specific purpose, the Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs must create and maintain an electronic portal for a dealer, as defined in RCW 9.41.010, to report the information as required pursuant to RCW 9.41.114 pertaining to persons who have applied for the purchase or transfer of a firearm and were denied as the result of a background check or completed and submitted firearm purchase or transfer application that indicates the applicant is ineligible to possess a firearm under state or federal law.

(2) Upon receipt of information from a dealer pursuant to RCW 9.41.114 that a person originally denied the purchase or transfer of a firearm as the result of a background check that indicates the applicant is ineligible to possess a firearm has subsequently been approved for the purchase or transfer, the Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs must purge any record of the person's denial in its possession and inform the Washington state patrol and any local law enforcement agency participating in the grant program created in RCW 36.28A.420 of the subsequent approval of the purchase or transfer.

(3) Information and records prepared, owned, used, or retained by the Washington state patrol or the Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs pursuant to chapter 261, Laws of 2017 are exempt from public inspection and copying under chapter 42.56 RCW.

(4) The Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs must destroy the information and data reported by a dealer pursuant to chapter 261, Laws of 2017 upon its satisfaction that the information and data is no longer necessary to carry out its duties pursuant to chapter 261, Laws of 2017. [2017 c 261 § 2.]

**Contingent repeal—2020 c 28:** "RCW 36.28A.400 (Denied firearm transaction reporting system—Purge of denial records upon subsequent approval—Public disclosure exemption—Destruction of information) and 2017 c 261 s 2 are each repealed." [2020 c 28 § 9.]

**Contingent effective date—2020 c 28 §§ 5-9:** See note following RCW 9.41.114.

**36.28A.405 Denied firearm transaction information—Annual report. (Contingent expiration date.)** Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this specific purpose, the Washington association of sheriffs and

police chiefs shall prepare an annual report on the number of denied firearms sales or transfers reported pursuant to chapter 261, Laws of 2017. The report shall indicate the number of cases in which a person was denied a firearms sale or transfer, the number of cases where the denied sale or transfer was investigated for potential criminal prosecution, and the number of cases where an arrest was made, the case was referred for prosecution, and a conviction was obtained. The Washington state patrol shall submit the report to the appropriate committees of the legislature on or before December 31st of each year. [2017 c 261 § 4.]

**36.28A.405 Denied firearm transaction information—Annual report. (Contingent effective date.)** Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this specific purpose, the Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs shall prepare an annual report on the number of denied firearms sales or transfers reported pursuant to chapter 261, Laws of 2017 and RCW 43.43.823. The report shall indicate the number of cases in which a person was denied a firearms sale or transfer, the number of cases where the denied sale or transfer was investigated for potential criminal prosecution, and the number of cases where an arrest was made, the case was referred for prosecution, and a conviction was obtained. The Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs shall submit the report to the appropriate committees of the legislature on or before December 31st of each year. [2020 c 28 § 7; 2017 c 261 § 4.]

**Contingent effective date—2020 c 28 §§ 5-9:** See note following RCW 9.41.114.

**36.28A.410 Statewide automated protected person notification system—Notification requirements—Immunity from civil liability—Public disclosure exemption.** (1)(a) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this specific purpose, the Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs shall create and operate a statewide automated protected person notification system to automatically notify a registered person via the registered person's choice of telephone or email when a respondent subject to a court order specified in (b) of this subsection has attempted to purchase or acquire a firearm and been denied based on a background check or completed and submitted firearm purchase or transfer application that indicates the respondent is ineligible to possess a firearm under state or federal law. The system must permit a person to register for notification, or a registered person to update the person's registration information, for the statewide automated protected person notification system by calling a toll-free telephone number or by accessing a public website.

(b) The notification requirements of this section apply to any court order issued under chapter 7.105 RCW or former chapter 7.92 RCW, RCW 9A.46.080, 10.99.040, 10.99.045, 26.09.050, 26.09.060, \*26.10.040, 26.26A.470, or 26.26B.020, any of the former RCW 7.90.090, 10.14.080, 26.10.115, 26.50.060, and 26.50.070, any foreign protection order filed with a Washington court pursuant to chapter 26.52 RCW, and any Canadian domestic violence protection order filed with a Washington court pursuant to chapter 26.55 RCW, where the order prohibits the respondent from possessing firearms or where by operation of law the respondent is

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ineligible to possess firearms during the term of the order. The notification requirements of this section apply even if the respondent has notified the Washington state patrol that he or she has appealed a background check denial under RCW 43.43.823.

(2) An appointed or elected official, public employee, or public agency as defined in RCW 4.24.470, or combination of units of government and its employees, as provided in RCW 36.28A.010, are immune from civil liability for damages for any release of information or the failure to release information related to the statewide automated protected person notification system in this section, so long as the release or failure to release was without gross negligence. The immunity provided under this subsection applies to the release of relevant and necessary information to other public officials, public employees, or public agencies, and to the general public.

(3) Information and records prepared, owned, used, or retained by the Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs pursuant to chapter 261, Laws of 2017, including information a person submits to register and participate in the statewide automated protected person notification system, are exempt from public inspection and copying under chapter 42.56 RCW. [2021 c 215 § 147. Prior: 2019 c 263 § 915; 2019 c 46 § 5041; 2017 c 261 § 5.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 26.10.040 was repealed by 2020 c 312 § 905.

**Effective date—2022 c 268; 2021 c 215:** See note following RCW 7.105.900.

**Effective date—2019 c 263 §§ 901-915, 1001, and 1002:** See RCW 26.55.903.

**36.28A.420 Illegal firearm transaction investigation grant program—Requirements—Public disclosure exemption. (Contingent expiration date.)** (1) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this specific purpose, the Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs shall establish a grant program for local law enforcement agencies to conduct criminal investigations regarding persons who illegally attempted to purchase or transfer a firearm within their jurisdiction.

(2) Each grant applicant must be required to submit reports to the Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs that indicate the number of cases in which a person was denied a firearms sale or transfer, the number of cases where the denied sale or transfer was investigated for potential criminal prosecution, and the number of cases where an arrest was made, the case was referred for prosecution, and a conviction was obtained.

(3) Information and records prepared, owned, used, or retained by the Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs pursuant to chapter 261, Laws of 2017 are exempt from public inspection and copying under chapter 42.56 RCW. [2017 c 261 § 6.]

**36.28A.420 Illegal firearm transaction investigation grant program—Requirements—Public disclosure exemption. (Contingent effective date.)** (1) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this specific purpose, the Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs shall establish a grant program for local law enforcement agencies to conduct criminal investigations regarding persons who

illegally attempted to purchase or transfer a firearm within their jurisdiction.

(2) Each grant applicant must be required to submit reports to the Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs that indicate the number of cases in which a person was denied a firearms sale or transfer, the number of cases where the denied sale or transfer was investigated for potential criminal prosecution, and the number of cases where an arrest was made, the case was referred for prosecution, and a conviction was obtained.

(3) Information and records prepared, owned, used, or retained by the Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs pursuant to chapter 261, Laws of 2017 and RCW 43.43.823 are exempt from public inspection and copying under chapter 42.56 RCW. [2020 c 28 § 8; 2017 c 261 § 6.]

**Contingent effective date—2020 c 28 §§ 5-9:** See note following RCW 9.41.114.

### **36.28A.430 Sexual assault kit initiative project—**

**Definitions.** (1) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this specific purpose, the Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs shall establish and administer the Washington sexual assault kit initiative project.

(2) The project is created for the purpose of providing funding through a competitive grant program to support multidisciplinary community response teams engaged in seeking a just resolution to sexual assault cases resulting from evidence found in previously unsubmitted sexual assault kits.

(3) In administering the project, the Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs has the following powers and duties:

(a) Design and implement the grant project with the elements included in this section;

(b) Screen and select eligible applicants to receive grants;

(c) Award grants and disburse funds to at least two eligible applicants, at least one located in western Washington and at least one located in eastern Washington;

(d) Adopt necessary policies and procedures to implement and administer the program;

(e) Monitor use of grant funds and compliance with the grant requirements;

(f) Create and implement reporting requirements for grant recipients;

(g) Facilitate the hosting of a sexual assault kit summit in the state of Washington through a grant recipient or directly through the Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs, subject to the availability of funds, which may include a combination of public and private dollars allocated for the particular purpose; and

(h) Report to the appropriate committees of the legislature, the joint legislative task force on sexual assault forensic examination best practices, and the governor by December 1, 2017, and each December 1st of each subsequent year the project is funded and operating, regarding the status of grant awards, the progress of the grant recipients toward the identified goals in this section, the data required by subsection (4) of this section, and any other relevant information or recommendations related to the project or sexual assault kit policies.

(4) Grant recipients must:

(a) Perform an inventory of all unsubmitted sexual assault kits in the jurisdiction's possession regardless of where they are stored and submit those sexual assault kits for forensic analysis through the Washington state patrol or another laboratory with the permission of the Washington state patrol;

(b) Establish a multidisciplinary cold case or sexual assault investigation team or teams for follow-up investigations and prosecutions resulting from evidence from the testing of previously unsubmitted sexual assault kits. Cold case or sexual assault investigative teams must: Include prosecutors, law enforcement, and victim advocates for the duration of the project; use victim-centered, trauma-informed protocols, including for victim notification; and use protocols and policies established by the Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs. The grant funds may support personnel costs, including hiring and overtime, to allow for adequate follow-up investigations and prosecutions. Grant awards must be prioritized for eligible applicants with a commitment to colocate assigned prosecutors, law enforcement, and victim advocates for the duration of the grant program;

(c) Require participants in the multidisciplinary cold case or sexual assault investigation team or teams to participate in and complete specialized training for victim-centered, trauma-informed investigation and prosecutions;

(d) Identify and address individual level, organizational level, and systemic factors that lead to unsubmitted sexual assault kits in the jurisdiction and development of a comprehensive strategy to address the issues, including effecting changes in practice, protocol, and organizational culture, and implementing evidence-based, victim-centered, trauma-informed practices and protocols;

(e) Appoint an informed representative to attend meetings of and provide information and assistance to the joint legislative task force on sexual assault forensic examination best practices;

(f) Identify and maintain consistent, experienced, and committed leadership of their sexual assault kit initiative; and

(g) Track and report the following data to the Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs, in addition to any data required by the Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs: The number of kits inventoried; the dates collected and submitted for testing; the number of kits tested; the number of kits with information eligible for entry into the combined DNA index system; the number of combined DNA index system hits; the number of identified suspects; including serial perpetrators; the number of investigations conducted and cases reviewed; the number of charges filed; and the number of convictions.

(5) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this specific purpose, the project may also allocate funds for grant recipients to:

(a) Create and employ training in relation to sexual assault evidence, victimization and trauma response, and other related topics to improve the quality and outcomes of sexual assault investigations and prosecutions;

(b) Enhance victim services and support for past and current victims of sexual assault; or

(c) Develop evidence collection, retention, victim notification, and other protocols needed to optimize data sharing, case investigation, prosecution, and victim support.

(6) For the purposes of this section:

(a) "Eligible applicants" include: Law enforcement agencies, units of local government, or combination of units of local government, prosecutor's offices, or a governmental nonlaw enforcement agency acting as fiscal agent for one of the previously listed types of eligible applicants. A combination of jurisdictions, including contiguous jurisdictions of multiple towns, cities, or counties, may create a task force or other entity for the purposes of applying for and receiving a grant, provided that the relevant prosecutors and law enforcement agencies are acting in partnership in complying with the grant requirements.

(b) "Project" means the Washington sexual assault kit initiative project created in this section.

(c) "Unsubmitted sexual assault kit" are sexual assault kits that have not been submitted to a forensic laboratory for testing with the combined DNA index system-eligible DNA methodologies as of the effective date of the mandatory testing law in \*RCW 70.125.090. Unsubmitted sexual assault kits includes partially tested sexual assault kits, which are sexual assault kits that have only been subjected to serological testing, or that have previously been tested only with non-combined DNA index system-eligible DNA methodologies. The project does not include untested sexual assault kits that have been submitted to forensic labs for testing with combined DNA index system-eligible DNA methodologies but are delayed for testing as a result of a backlog of work in the laboratory. [2017 c 290 § 1.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 70.125.090 was recodified as RCW 5.70.040 pursuant to 2020 c 26 § 18.

**36.28A.435 Sexual assault prevention and response account.** (1) The sexual assault prevention and response account is created in the state treasury. All legislative appropriations and transfers; gifts, grants, and other donations; and all other revenues directed to the account must be deposited into the sexual assault prevention and response account. Moneys in the account may only be spent after appropriation.

(2) The legislature must prioritize appropriations from the account for: The Washington sexual assault kit initiative project created in RCW 36.28A.430; the office of crime victims advocacy for the purpose of providing support and services, including educational and vocational training, to victims of sexual assault and trafficking; victim-centered, trauma-informed training for prosecutors, law enforcement, and victim advocates including, but not limited to, the training in RCW 43.101.272, 43.101.274, and 43.101.276; the Washington state patrol for the purpose of funding the statewide sexual assault kit tracking system and funding the forensic analysis of sexual assault kits. [2017 c 290 § 6.]

**36.28A.440 Mental health field response grant program.** (1) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this specific purpose, the Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs shall develop and implement a mental health field response grant program. The purpose of the program is to assist local law enforcement agencies to establish and expand mental health field response capabilities, utilizing mental health professionals to professionally, humanely, and safely respond to crises involving persons with behavioral health issues with treatment, diversion, and reduced

incarceration time as primary goals. A portion of the grant funds may also be used to develop data management capability to support the program.

(2) Grants must be awarded to local law enforcement agencies based on locally developed proposals to incorporate mental health professionals into the agencies' mental health field response planning and response. Two or more agencies may submit a joint grant proposal to develop their mental health field response proposals. Proposals must provide a plan for improving mental health field response and diversion from incarceration through modifying or expanding law enforcement practices in partnership with mental health professionals. A peer review panel appointed by the Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs in consultation with managed care organizations and behavioral health administrative services organizations must review the grant applications. Once the Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs certifies that the application satisfies the proposal criteria, the grant funds will be distributed. To the extent possible, at least one grant recipient agency should be from the east side of the state and one from the west side of the state with the crest of the Cascades being the dividing line. The Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs shall make every effort to fund at least eight grants per fiscal year with funding provided for this purpose from all allowable sources under this section. The Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs may prioritize grant applications that include local matching funds. Grant recipients must be selected and receiving funds no later than October 1, 2018.

(3) Grant recipients must include at least one mental health professional who will perform professional services under the plan. A mental health professional may assist patrolling officers in the field or in an on-call capacity, provide preventive, follow-up, training on mental health field response best practices, or other services at the direction of the local law enforcement agency. Nothing in this subsection (3) limits the mental health professional's participation to field patrol. Grant recipients are encouraged to coordinate with local public safety answering points to maximize the goals of the program.

(4) Within existing resources, the Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs shall:

(a) Consult with the department of social and health services research and data analysis unit to establish data collection and reporting guidelines for grant recipients. The data will be used to study and evaluate whether the use of mental health field response programs improves outcomes of interactions with persons experiencing behavioral health crises, including reducing rates of violence and harm, reduced arrests, and jail or emergency room usage;

(b) Consult with the health care authority, the department of health, and the managed care system to develop requirements for participating mental health professionals; and

(c) Coordinate with public safety answering points, behavioral health, and the department of social and health services to develop and incorporate telephone triage criteria or dispatch protocols to assist with mental health, law enforcement, and emergency medical responses involving mental health situations.

(5) The Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs shall submit an annual report to the governor and appropriate committees of the legislature on the program. The report must include information on grant recipients, use of funds, participation of mental health professionals, and feedback from the grant recipients by December 1st of each year the program is funded.

(6) Grant recipients shall develop and provide or arrange for training necessary for mental health professionals to operate successfully and competently in partnership with law enforcement agencies. The training must provide the professionals with a working knowledge of law enforcement procedures and tools sufficient to provide for the safety of the professionals, partnered law enforcement officers, and members of the public.

(7) Nothing in this section prohibits the Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs from soliciting or accepting private funds to support the program created in this section. [2019 c 325 § 5008; 2018 c 142 § 1.]

**Effective date—2019 c 325:** See note following RCW 71.24.011.

**36.28A.445 Duty to render first aid—Development of guidelines.** (1) It is the policy of the state of Washington that all law enforcement personnel must provide or facilitate first aid such that it is rendered at the earliest safe opportunity to injured persons at a scene controlled by law enforcement.

(2) Within one year after December 6, 2018, the Washington state criminal justice training commission, in consultation with the Washington state patrol, the Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs, organizations representing state and local law enforcement officers, health providers and/or health policy organizations, tribes, and community stakeholders, shall develop guidelines for implementing the duty to render first aid adopted in this section. The guidelines must: (a) Adopt first aid training requirements; (b) address best practices for securing a scene to facilitate the safe, swift, and effective provision of first aid to anyone injured in a scene controlled by law enforcement or as a result of law enforcement action; and (c) assist agencies and law enforcement officers in balancing the many essential duties of officers with the solemn duty to preserve the life of persons with whom officers come into direct contact. [2019 c 4 § 2. Prior: 2019 c 1 § 6 (Initiative Measure No. 940); (2018 c 11 § 6 (Initiative Measure No. 940) repealed by 2019 c 4 § 8); (2018 c 10 § 2 repealed by 2019 c 4 § 8).]

**Effective date—2019 c 4:** See note following RCW 43.101.455.

**Short title—Intent—Liberal construction—Subject—2019 c 1 (Initiative Measure No. 940):** See notes following RCW 43.101.450.

**Rule making—2019 c 4; 2019 c 1 (Initiative Measure No. 940):** See note following RCW 43.101.455.

**36.28A.450 Grant program—Therapeutic interventions for certain criminal justice system involved persons—Report—Civil liability.** (1) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this specific purpose, the Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs, in consultation with the law enforcement assisted diversion national support bureau, shall develop and implement a grant program aimed at supporting local initiatives to properly identify criminal justice system-involved persons with substance use disorders and other behavioral health needs and engage those

persons with therapeutic interventions and other services, the efficacy of which have been demonstrated by experience, peer-reviewed research, or which are credible promising practices, prior to or at the time of jail booking, or while in custody.

(2) Grants must be awarded to local jurisdictions based on locally developed proposals to establish or expand existing programs. The lead proposing agency may be a law enforcement agency, other local government entity, tribal government entity, tribal organization, urban Indian organization, or a nonprofit community-based organization. All proposals must include governing involvement from community-based organizations, local government, and law enforcement, and must also demonstrate engagement of law enforcement, prosecutors, civil rights advocates, public health experts, harm reduction practitioners, organizations led by and representing individuals with past justice system involvement, and public safety advocates. A peer review panel appointed by the Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs in consultation with the law enforcement assisted diversion national support bureau, integrated managed care organizations and behavioral health organizations must review the grant applications. The peer review panel must include experts in harm reduction and civil rights experts.

(3)(a) Programs preferred for the award of grant funding are those that have a prebooking diversion focus and demonstrate how they will impact one or more of the expected outcomes of the grant program. Preferred programs must contain one or both of the following components:

(i) Employment of tools and strategies to accurately identify individuals with substance use disorders and other behavioral health needs who are known to commit law violations, at or prior to the point of arrest, and immediately engage those individuals with appropriate community-based care and support services that have been proven to be effective for marginalized populations by experience or peer-reviewed research or that are credible promising practices; and

(ii) Capacity to receive ongoing referrals to the same community-based care approach for persons with substance use disorders and other behavioral health needs encountered in jail, with an emphasis on securing the release of those individuals whenever possible consistent with public safety and relevant court rules.

(b) Proposals targeting prebooking diversion may use funds to identify and refer persons who are encountered in jail to community-based services.

(4) Up to twenty-five percent of the total funds appropriated for the grant program may be allocated to proposals containing any of the following components:

(a) Utilization of case manager and peer support services for persons with substance use disorders and other behavioral health needs who are incarcerated in jails;

(b) Specialized training for jail staff relating to incarcerated individuals with substance use disorders and other behavioral health needs;

(c) Comprehensive jail reentry programming for incarcerated persons with substance use disorders and other behavioral health needs; and

(d) Other innovative interventions targeted specifically at persons with substance use disorders and other behavioral health needs who are brought to jail for booking or are incarcerated in jails.

(5) Proposals must provide a plan for tracking client engagement and describe how they will impact one or more of the expected outcomes of the grant program. Grant recipients must agree to comply with any data collection and reporting requirements that are established by the Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs in consultation with the law enforcement assisted diversion national support bureau. Grant recipients whose proposals include prebooking diversion programs must engage with the law enforcement assisted diversion national support bureau for technical assistance regarding best practices for prebooking diversion programs, and regarding establishment of an evaluation plan. Subject to appropriated funding, grant awards will be eligible for annual renewal conditioned upon the recipient's demonstration that the funded program is operating in alignment with the requirements for the grant program.

(6) The Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs must ensure that grants awarded under this program are separate and distinct from grants awarded pursuant to RCW 36.28A.440. Grant funds may not be used to fulfill minimum medical and treatment services that jails or community mental health agencies are legally required to provide.

(7) Once the Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs, after consultation with the law enforcement assisted diversion national support bureau, certifies that a selected applicant satisfies the proposal criteria, the grant funds will be distributed. To the extent possible, grant awards should be geographically distributed on both the east and west sides of the crest of the Cascade mountain range. Grant applications that include local matching funds may be prioritized. Grant recipients must be selected no later than March 1, 2020.

(8)(a) The grant program under this section must be managed to achieve expected outcomes which are measurable and may be used in the future to evaluate the performance of grant recipients and hold them accountable for the use of funding. The initial expected outcomes defined for the grant program include:

(i) To reduce arrests, time spent in custody, and/or recidivism for clients served by the program;

(ii) To increase access to and utilization of nonemergency community behavioral health services;

(iii) To reduce utilization of emergency services;

(iv) To increase resilience, stability, and well-being for clients served; and

(v) To reduce costs for the justice system compared to processing cases as usual through the justice system.

(b) Programs which apply for and are awarded grant funding may focus on a subset of these outcomes and may target a segment of an outcome, such as reducing time spent in custody but not arrests. The Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs, in consultation with the law enforcement assisted diversion national support bureau, must develop a plan, timetable, and budget by December 1, 2019, to transition the grant program into a performance-based contracting format and to establish an evidence-based evaluation

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framework. The plan may include making reasonable modifications to the initial expected outcomes for use in grant contracts. Delivery of the plan to the governor and appropriate committees of the legislature may be combined with the annual report provided in subsection (9) of this section. The research and data division of the department of social and health services and Washington institute for public policy must provide technical support and consultation to support plan development as requested.

(9) The Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs must submit an annual report regarding the grant program to the governor and appropriate committees of the legislature by December 1st of each year the program is funded. The report must be submitted in compliance with RCW 43.01.036. The report must include information on grant recipients, use of funds, and outcomes and other feedback from the grant recipients. In preparing the report, the Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs may consult with the law enforcement assisted diversion national support bureau.

(10) Nothing in this section prohibits the Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs from soliciting or accepting private funds to support the program created in this section.

(11) No civil liability may be imposed by any court on the state or its officers or employees, an appointed or elected official, public employee, public agency as defined in RCW 4.24.470, combination of units of government and its employees as provided in RCW 36.28A.010, nonprofit community-based organization, tribal government entity, tribal organization, or urban Indian organization based on the administration of this grant program or activities carried out within the purview of a grant received under this program except upon proof of bad faith or gross negligence. [2019 c 378 § 1.]

**36.28A.455 Information and records—Notification—Public disclosure exemption.** Information and records prepared, owned, used, or retained by the Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs revealing the existence of a notification, or of registration to be notified, regarding any specific individual, or the identity of or any information submitted by a person who registers to be notified of a person's custody or supervision status, upcoming hearing, case disposition, or service of a protection order pursuant to the statewide city and county jail booking and reporting system created in RCW 36.28A.040, the statewide automated victim information and notification system created in RCW 36.28A.040, or any other program used for the purposes of notifying individuals of a person's custody or supervision status, upcoming hearing, case disposition, or service of a protection order, are exempt from public inspection and copying under chapter 42.56 RCW. [2022 c 82 § 2.]

**Effective date—2022 c 82:** See note following RCW 72.09.712.

## Chapter 36.29 RCW COUNTY TREASURER

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*Public depositaries—Deposit and investment of public funds: Chapter 39.58 RCW.*

*Public utility districts, treasurer as ex officio treasurer of: RCW 54.24.010.*

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*treasurer may act as district secretary: RCW 89.30.625.*

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*School districts, treasurer as ex officio treasurer of: RCW 28A.510.270.*

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*Water-sewer districts, bonds, payment of interest: RCW 57.20.130.*

*Weed district, treasurer as ex officio treasurer of: RCW 17.04.250.*

### **36.29.010 General duties.** The county treasurer:

(1) Shall receive all money due the county and disburse it on warrants issued and attested by the county auditor and electronic funds transfer under RCW 39.58.750 as attested by the county auditor;

(2) Shall issue a receipt in duplicate for all money received other than taxes; the treasurer shall deliver immediately to the person making the payment the original receipt and the duplicate shall be retained by the treasurer;

(3) Shall affix on the face of all paid warrants the date of redemption or, in the case of proper contract between the treasurer and a qualified public depository, the treasurer may consider the date affixed by the financial institution as the date of redemption;

(4) Shall endorse, before the date of issue by the county or by any taxing district for whom the county treasurer acts as treasurer, on the face of all warrants for which there are not sufficient funds for payment, "interest bearing warrant." When there are funds to redeem outstanding warrants, the county treasurer shall give notice:

(a) By publication in a legal newspaper published or circulated in the county; or

(b) By posting at three public places in the county if there is no such newspaper; or

(c) By notification to the financial institution holding the warrant;

(5) Shall pay interest on all interest-bearing warrants from the date of issue to the date of notification;

(6) Shall maintain financial records reflecting receipts and disbursement by fund in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;

(7) Shall account for and pay all bonded indebtedness for the county and all special districts for which the county treasurer acts as treasurer;

(8) Shall invest all funds of the county or any special district in the treasurer's custody, not needed for immediate expenditure, in a manner consistent with appropriate statutes. If cash is needed to redeem warrants issued from any fund in the custody of the treasurer, the treasurer shall liquidate investments in an amount sufficient to cover such warrant redemptions;

(9) May provide certain collection services for county departments; and

(10) May contract with another county treasurer, the state treasurer, or both, for any duty or service performed by the contracting county treasurer, except that no contracted treasurer may perform a duty that is in conflict with his or her own duties as treasurer or that is in conflict with any other statutory or ethical requirements.

The treasurer, at the expiration of the term of office, shall make a complete settlement with the county legislative authority, and shall deliver to the successor all public money, books, and papers in the treasurer's possession.

Money received by all entities for whom the county treasurer serves as treasurer must be deposited within twenty-four hours in an account designated by the county treasurer unless a waiver is granted by the county treasurer in accordance with RCW 43.09.240. [2019 c 20 § 1; 2005 c 502 § 2; 2002 c 168 § 4; 2001 c 299 § 4; 1998 c 106 § 3; 1995 c 38 § 4; 1994 c 301 § 7; 1991 c 245 § 4; 1963 c 4 § 36.29.010. Prior: (i) 1893 c 104 § 1; Code 1881 § 2740; 1863 p 553 § 3; 1854 p 427 § 3; RRS § 4109. (ii) Code 1881 § 2742; 1863 p 553 § 5; 1854 p 427 § 5; RRS § 4110. (iii) Code 1881 § 2743; 1863 p 553 § 6; 1854 p 427 § 6; RRS § 4111. (iv) 1895 c 73 § 4; Code 1881 § 2744; 1863 p 553 § 7; 1854 p 427 § 7; RRS § 4113. (v) Code 1881 § 2745; 1863 p 553 § 8; RRS § 4114. (vi) 1893 c 104 § 3; Code 1881 § 2748; 1863 p 554 § 11; 1854 p 428 § 11; RRS § 4120. (vii) Code 1881 § 2750; 1863 p 554 § 13; 1854 p 428 § 13; RRS § 4121. (viii) 1895 c 73 § 3; RRS § 4122.]

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

### **36.29.020 Custodian of moneys—Investment of funds not required for immediate expenditures—Service fee.**

The county treasurer shall keep all moneys belonging to the state, or to any county, in his or her own possession until disbursed according to law. The county treasurer shall not place the same in the possession of any person to be used for any purpose; nor shall he or she loan or in any manner use or permit any person to use the same; but it shall be lawful for a county treasurer to deposit any such moneys in any regularly designated qualified public depository. Any municipal corporation may by action of its governing body authorize any of its funds which are not required for immediate expenditure, and which are in the custody of the county treasurer or other municipal corporation treasurer, to be invested by such treasurer. The county treasurer may invest in savings or time accounts in designated qualified public depositories or in certificates, notes, or bonds of the United States, or other obligations of the United States or its agencies, or of any corporation wholly owned by the government of the United States; in bankers' acceptances purchased on the secondary market, in federal home loan bank notes and bonds, federal land bank bonds and federal national mortgage association notes, debentures and guaranteed certificates of participation, or the

obligations of any other government sponsored corporation whose obligations are or may become eligible as collateral for advances to member banks as determined by the board of governors of the federal reserve system or deposit such funds or any portion thereof in investment deposits as defined in RCW 39.58.010 secured by collateral in accordance with the provisions of chapters 39.58 and 39.59 RCW: PROVIDED, Five percent of the earnings, with an annual maximum of fifty dollars, on each transaction authorized by the governing body shall be paid as an investment service fee to the office of the county treasurer or other municipal corporation treasurer when the earnings become available to the governing body: PROVIDED FURTHER, That if such investment service fee amounts to five dollars or less the county treasurer or other municipal corporation treasurer may waive such fee.

If in the judgment of the governing body of the municipal corporation or the county treasurer it is necessary to redeem or to sell any of the purchased securities before their ultimate maturity date, the governing body may, by resolution, direct the county treasurer pursuant to RCW 36.29.010(8) to cause such redemption to be had at the redemption value of the securities or to sell the securities at not less than market value and accrued interest.

Whenever the funds of any municipal corporation which are not required for immediate expenditure are in the custody or control of the county treasurer, and the governing body of such municipal corporation has not taken any action pertaining to the investment of any such funds, the county finance committee shall direct the county treasurer, under the investment policy of the county finance committee, to invest, to the maximum prudent extent, such funds or any portion thereof in savings or time accounts in designated qualified public depositories or in certificates, notes, or bonds of the United States, or other obligations of the United States or its agencies, or of any corporation wholly owned by the government of the United States, in bankers' acceptances purchased on the secondary market, in federal home loan bank notes and bonds, federal land bank bonds and federal national mortgage association notes, debentures and guaranteed certificates of participation, or the obligations of any other government sponsored corporation whose obligations are or may become eligible as collateral for advances to member banks as determined by the board of governors of the federal reserve system or deposit such funds or any portion thereof in investment deposits as defined in RCW 39.58.010 secured by collateral in accordance with the provisions of chapters 39.58 and 39.59 RCW: PROVIDED, That the county treasurer shall have the power to select the specific qualified financial institution in which the funds may be invested. The interest or other earnings from such investments or deposits shall be deposited in the current expense fund of the county and may be used for general county purposes. The investment or deposit and disposition of the interest or other earnings therefrom authorized by this paragraph shall not apply to such funds as may be prohibited by the state Constitution from being so invested or deposited. [1999 c 18 § 4; 1997 c 393 § 4; 1991 c 245 § 5; 1984 c 177 § 7; 1982 c 73 § 1; 1980 c 56 § 1; 1979 c 57 § 1; 1973 1st ex.s. c 140 § 1; 1969 ex.s. c 193 § 26; 1967 c 173 § 1; 1965 c 111 § 2; 1963 c 4 § 36.29.020. Prior: 1961 c 254 § 1; 1895 c 73 § 1; RRS § 4112.]

*Liability of treasurers and state treasurer for losses on public deposits: RCW 39.58.140.*

*Public depositories: Chapter 39.58 RCW.*

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

### **36.29.022 Combining of moneys for investment.**

Upon the request of one or several units of local government that invest their money with the county under the provisions of RCW 36.29.020, the treasurer of that county may combine those units' moneys for the purposes of investment. [1986 c 294 § 11.]

**36.29.024 Investment expenses.** The county treasurer may deduct the amounts necessary to reimburse the treasurer's office for the actual expenses the office incurs and to repay any county funds appropriated and expended for the initial administrative costs of establishing a county investment pool provided in RCW 36.29.022. These funds shall be used by the county treasurer as a revolving fund to defray the cost of administering the pool without regard to budget limitations. Any credits or payments to political subdivisions shall be calculated and made in a manner which equitably reflects the differing amounts of the political subdivision's respective deposits in the county investment pool and the differing periods of time for which the amounts were placed in the county investment pool. A county investment pool must be available for investment of funds of any local government that invests its money with the county under the provisions of RCW 36.29.020, and a county treasurer shall follow the request from the local government to invest its funds in the pool. As used in this section "actual expenses" include only the county treasurer's direct and out-of-pocket costs and do not include indirect or loss of opportunity costs. As used in this section, "direct costs" means those costs that can be identified specifically with the administration of the county investment pool. Direct costs include: (1) Compensation of employees for the time devoted and identified specifically to administering the pool; and (2) the cost of materials, services, or equipment acquired, consumed, or expended specifically for the purpose of administering the pool. [2009 c 553 § 1; 2004 c 79 § 3; 1988 c 281 § 5.]

**36.29.025 Official seal.** The county treasurer in each of the organized counties of the state of Washington, shall be by his or her county provided with a seal of office for the authentication of all tax deeds, papers, writing and documents required by law to be certified or authenticated by him or her. Such seal shall bear the device of crosskeys and the words: Official Seal Treasurer . . . . . County, Washington; and an imprint of such seal, together with the certificate of the county treasurer that such seal has been regularly adopted, shall be filed in the office of the county auditor of such county. [2009 c 549 § 4061; 1963 c 4 § 36.29.025. Prior: 1903 c 15 § 1; RRS § 4125.]

**36.29.040 Interest on unpaid warrants.** All county, school, city and town warrants, and taxing district warrants when not otherwise provided for by law, shall be paid according to their number, date and issue, and when not paid upon presentation shall draw interest from the date of their presentation to the proper treasurers or from the date the warrants

were originally issued, as determined by the proper treasurer. No compound interest shall be paid directly or indirectly on any such warrants. [1980 c 100 § 3; 1963 c 4 § 36.29.040. Prior: 1893 c 48 § 1, part; RRS § 4116, part.]

**36.29.050 Interest to be entered on warrant register.**

When the county treasurer redeems any warrant on which interest is due, the treasurer shall enter on the warrant register account the amount of interest paid, distinct from the principal. [2001 c 299 § 5; 1969 ex.s. c 48 § 1; 1963 c 4 § 36.29.050. Prior: Code 1881 § 2746; 1863 p 554 § 9; 1854 p 427 § 9; RRS § 4117.]

**36.29.060 Warrant calls—Penalty for failure to call.**

(1) Whenever the county treasurer has funds belonging to any fund upon which "interest-bearing" warrants are outstanding, the treasurer shall have the discretion to call warrants. The county treasurer shall give notice as provided for in RCW 36.29.010(4). The treasurer shall pay on demand, in the order of their issue, any warrants when there shall be in the treasury sufficient funds applicable to such payment.

(2) Any treasurer who knowingly fails to call for or pay any warrant in accordance with this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be fined not less than twenty-five dollars nor more than five hundred dollars, and such conviction shall be sufficient cause for removal from office. [2003 c 53 § 203; 1991 c 245 § 6; 1985 c 469 § 44; 1980 c 100 § 4; 1963 c 4 § 36.29.060. Prior: 1895 c 152 § 1, part; RRS § 4118, part.]

**Intent—Effective date—2003 c 53:** See notes following RCW 2.48.180.

**36.29.090 Suspension of treasurer.** Whenever an action based upon official misconduct is commenced against any county treasurer the county commissioners may suspend the treasurer from office until such suit is determined, and may appoint some person to fill the vacancy. [2001 c 299 § 6; 1963 c 4 § 36.29.090. Prior: 1895 c 73 § 2; Code 1881 § 2749; 1863 p 554 § 12; 1854 p 428 § 12; RRS § 4124.]

**36.29.100 Ex officio collector of first-class city taxes.**

The county treasurer of each county in which there is a city of the first class is ex officio collector of city taxes of such city, and before entering upon the duties of office the treasurer shall execute in favor of the city and file with the clerk thereof a good and sufficient bond, the penal sum to be fixed by the city council, such bond to be approved by the mayor of such city or other authority thereof by whom the bond of the city treasurer is required to be approved. All special assessments and special taxation for local improvements assessed on property benefited shall be collected by the city treasurer. [2001 c 299 § 7; 1963 c 4 § 36.29.100. Prior: 1895 c 160 § 1; 1893 c 71 § 4; RRS § 11321.]

**36.29.110 City taxes.** All city taxes and earnings on such taxes, as provided for in RCW 36.29.020, collected during the month shall be remitted to the city by the county treasurer on or before the tenth day of the following month. The county treasurer shall submit a statement of taxes collected with such remittance. To facilitate the investment of collected taxes, the treasurer may invest as provided for in RCW 36.29.020 without the necessity of the cities specifi-

cally requesting combining funds for the purposes of investment. [1991 c 245 § 7; 1963 c 4 § 36.29.110. Prior: 1905 c 157 § 1; 1895 c 160 § 2; 1893 c 71 § 5; RRS § 11322.]

**36.29.120 Ex officio collector of other city taxes.** For the purpose of collection of all taxes levied for cities and towns of other than the first class, the county treasurer of the county wherein such city or town is situated shall be ex officio tax collector. [1963 c 4 § 36.29.120. Prior: 1893 c 72 § 3; RRS § 11330.]

**36.29.130 Duty to collect taxes.** The county treasurer, upon receipt of the tax roll, shall proceed to collect and receipt for the municipal taxes extended thereon at the same time and in the same manner as he or she proceeds in the collection of other taxes on such roll. [2009 c 549 § 4062; 1963 c 4 § 36.29.130. Prior: 1893 c 72 § 7; RRS § 11334.]

**36.29.160 Segregation and collection of specified assessments and charges made by public utility districts, water-sewer districts, or the county—Fee.**

The county treasurer shall make segregation, collect, and receive from any owner or owners of any subdivision or portion of any lot, tract or parcel of land upon which assessments or charges have been made or may be made by public utility districts, water-sewer districts, or the county, under the terms of Title 54 RCW, Title 57 RCW, or chapter 36.88, 36.89, or 36.94 RCW, such portion of the assessments or charges levied or to be levied against such lot, tract or parcel of land in payment of such assessment or charges as the board of commissioners of the public utility district, the water-sewer district commissioners or the board of county commissioners, respectively, shall certify to be chargeable to such subdivision, which certificate shall state that such property as segregated is sufficient security for the assessment or charges. Upon making collection upon any such subdivision the county treasurer shall note such payment upon the records of the office of the treasurer and give receipt therefor. When a segregation is required, a certified copy of the resolution shall be delivered to the treasurer of the county in which the real property is located who shall proceed to make the segregation ordered upon being tendered a fee of three dollars for each tract of land for which a segregation is to be made. [2001 c 299 § 8; 1998 c 106 § 4; 1996 c 230 § 1607; 1963 c 4 § 36.29.160. Prior: 1959 c 142 § 2; 1953 c 210 § 1.]

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

**36.29.170 Office at county seat.** The county treasurer shall keep an office at the county seat, and shall keep the same open for transaction of business during business hours; and the treasurer and the treasurer's deputy are authorized to administer all oaths necessary in the discharge of the duties of the office. [2009 c 105 § 4; 2001 c 299 § 9; 1963 c 4 § 36.29.170. Prior: Code 1881 § 2742; 1863 p 553 § 5; 1854 p 427 § 5; RRS § 4110.]

**36.29.180 Fees for handling, collecting, disbursing, and accounting for special assessments, fees, rates, or charges.** The county treasurer, in all instances where required by law to handle, collect, disburse, and account for special assessments, fees, rates, or charges within the county,

may charge and collect a fee for services not to exceed four dollars per parcel for each year in which the funds are collected. Such charges for services shall be based upon costs incurred by the treasurer in handling, collecting, disbursing, and accounting for the funds.

Such fees shall be a charge against the district and shall be credited to the county current expense fund by the county treasurer. [1991 c 245 § 8; 1963 c 4 § 36.29.180. Prior: 1961 c 270 § 1.]

**36.29.190 Acceptance of electronic payments—Transaction processing costs.** (1) County treasurers are authorized to accept electronic payments for payment of any kind including, but not limited to, payment for taxes, fines, interest, penalties, special assessments, fees, rates, charges, or moneys due counties.

(a) The county treasurer must determine the amount of the transaction processing cost for electronic payments. The county treasurer's determination must be based upon costs incurred by the treasurer and may not, in any event, exceed the additional direct costs incurred by the county to accept the specific form of payment utilized by the payer.

(b) A payer using electronic payment must pay the transaction processing cost, except as otherwise provided in this section.

(2) For payments for taxes, interest associated with taxes, and penalties associated with taxes that are made by automatic clearinghouse system, federal wire, or other electronic communication, any fee associated with the transaction may be absorbed within the county treasurer's banking services budget.

(3) A county treasurer may elect to not charge transaction processing costs for all payments made for a specific category of nontax payments if the county legislative authority, or the legislative authority of a district where the county treasurer serves as ex officio treasurer, finds that not charging such transaction processing costs is in the best interests of the county or district. Interest and penalties associated with such transaction processing costs may be absorbed by the county department or taxing district assessing the payment transactions.

(4) For purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Electronic payment" means a payment made using the following: Credit cards, charge cards, debit cards, smart cards, stored value cards, federal wire, automatic clearinghouse system transactions, or other electronic communication;

(b) "Nontax payments" means payments received by the county treasurer that include payments for fines, interest not associated with taxes, penalties not associated with taxes, special assessments, fees, rates, charges, or moneys due counties; and

(c) "Transaction processing cost" means the cost of processing an electronic payment as determined by the county treasurer. This cost is based on costs incurred by the county treasurer and may not exceed the additional direct costs incurred by the county to accept a specific form of electronic payment utilized by the payer. [2016 sp.s. c 5 § 1; 2003 c 23 § 8; 1997 c 393 § 19; 1996 c 153 § 3.]

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

**36.29.200 Collection of sales and use taxes for zoo and aquarium advisory authority.** The county treasurer or, in the case of a home rule county, the county official designated by county charter and ordinance as the official with custody over the collection of countywide tax revenues, shall receive all money representing revenues from taxes authorized under RCW 82.14.400, and shall disburse such money to the authority established in RCW 36.01.190. [1999 c 104 § 2.]

**36.29.210 Property tax exemption and deferral programs—Notice.** (1) The county treasurer must post a notice describing the:

(a) Property tax exemption program pursuant to RCW 84.36.379 through 84.36.389; and

(b) Property tax deferral program pursuant to chapter 84.38 RCW.

(2) The notice required under subsection (1) of this section must be posted in a location visible to the public. [2019 c 332 § 6.]

**Effective date—2019 c 332:** See note following RCW 84.56.029.

## Chapter 36.32 RCW COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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   penalties relating to: Chapter 28A.635 RCW.  
   second class, expenditures: Chapter 28A.330 RCW.  
   validation of indebtedness: Chapter 28A.535 RCW.  
 school funds: Chapter 28A.545 RCW.  
 section and corner lines, establishment of: Chapter 58.04 RCW.  
 special districts in counties with a population of two hundred ten thousand or more, disincorporation of: Chapter 57.90 RCW.  
 state highways, acquisition of county lands for: RCW 47.12.040.  
 stock restricted areas: Chapter 16.24 RCW.  
 street railways: Chapter 81.64 RCW.  
 superior court special sessions: RCW 2.08.140, 2.08.150.  
 taxes, excise tax on real estate sales: Chapter 82.45 RCW.  
 property  
   collection of: Chapter 84.56 RCW.  
   levy of: Chapter 84.52 RCW.  
   lien foreclosure: Chapter 84.64 RCW.  
   listing of: Chapter 84.40 RCW.  
   revaluation: Chapter 84.41 RCW.  
 temporary gates across highways: RCW 16.60.080.  
 temporary quarters for court: RCW 2.28.141.  
 towns, uncertain boundaries: RCW 35.27.040 through 35.27.060.  
 traffic control devices: Chapter 47.36 RCW.  
 traffic schools: Chapter 46.83 RCW.  
 underground storage of natural gas, lease of county lands for: RCW 80.40.070.  
 United States reclamation areas, contracts to bring county lands into: RCW 89.12.110.  
 veterans, indigent, deceased, burial of: RCW 73.08.070.  
 veterans' meeting places, rent by county: RCW 73.04.080.  
 veterans' relief: Chapter 73.08 RCW.  
 vouchers on public funds: Chapter 42.24 RCW.  
 water-sewer districts  
   annexation of property to: Chapter 57.24 RCW.  
   board of commissioners, vacancies: RCW 57.12.020.  
   consolidation of: Chapter 57.32 RCW.  
   generally: Title 57 RCW.  
   transfer of part: RCW 57.32.160.  
   withdrawal of territory from: Chapter 57.28 RCW.  
 weed district tax on county lands: RCW 17.04.180.  
 weed districts: Chapter 17.04 RCW.  
 wharves, authorizing of and prescribing rates: RCW 88.24.020.
- Flood control**  
 district (1937 act) board, commissioner to act for absent member: RCW 86.09.292.  
 zone districts, commissioners as ex officio supervisors: RCW 86.15.050.
- Health districts:** Chapter 70.46 RCW.
- Metropolitan sewer advisory committee, commissioner as member:** RCW 35.58.210.
- Metropolitan water advisory committee, commissioner as member:** RCW 35.58.230.
- Property tax advisor:** RCW 84.48.140.
- Public assistance as county function:** RCW 74.04.040.
- Rangers, commissioners as ex officio:** RCW 76.04.045.
- Reclamation district commission, commissioner as member of:** RCW 89.30.055.
- Redistricting by local governments and municipal corporations—Census information for—Plan, prepared when, criteria for, hearing on, request for review of, certification, remand—Sanctions when review request frivolous:** RCW 29A.76.010.
- Revenue, department of, to advise commissioners:** RCW 84.08.020.
- Review board, commissioner as member of:** RCW 35.13.171.
- Solid waste collection districts:** Chapter 36.58A RCW.
- Traffic safety commission, member of association of county commissioners appointed to:** RCW 43.59.030.
- United States townsite law, dedication of streets, etc., under commissioners may alienate:** RCW 58.28.440.

**36.32.005 "County commissioners" defined.** The term "county commissioners" when used in this title or any other provision of law shall include the governmental authority empowered to so act under the provisions of a charter adopted by any county of the state. [1971 ex.s. c 117 § 1.]

**36.32.010 Board of commissioners established—Quorum.** There is established in each county in this state a board of county commissioners. Except as provided in RCW 36.32.055 and 36.32.0552, each board of county commissioners shall consist of three qualified electors, two of whom shall constitute a quorum to do business. [1990 c 252 § 1; 1963 c 4 § 36.32.010. Prior: Code 1881 § 2663; 1869 p 303 § 1; 1867 p 52 § 1; 1863 p 540 § 1; 1854 p 420 § 1; RRS § 4036.]

**36.32.020 Commissioner districts—Voluntary change to electoral system.** The board of county commissioners of each county shall divide their county into three commissioner districts so that each district shall comprise as nearly as possible one-third of the population of the county: PROVIDED, That the territory comprised in any voting precincts of such districts shall remain compact, and shall not be divided by the lines of said districts.

However, the commissioners of any county composed entirely of islands and with a population of less than thirty-five thousand may divide their county into three commissioner districts without regard to population, except that if any single island is included in more than one district, the districts on such island shall comprise, as nearly as possible, equal populations.

The commissioners of any county may authorize a change to their electoral system pursuant to RCW 29A.92.040. Except where necessary to comply with a court order issued pursuant to RCW 29A.92.110, and except in the case of an intervening census, the lines of the districts shall not be changed more often than once in four years and only when a full board of commissioners is present. The districts shall be designated as districts numbered one, two and three. [2018 c 113 § 204; 1982 c 226 § 4; 1970 ex.s. c 58 § 1; 1963 c 4 § 36.32.020. Prior: 1893 c 39 § 2; 1890 p 317 §§ 1, 2; RRS § 4037.]

**Findings—Intent—Short title—2018 c 113:** See RCW 29A.92.005 and 29A.92.900.

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

**36.32.030 Terms of commissioners.** (1) Except as provided otherwise in subsection (2) of this section, the terms of office of county commissioners shall be four years and shall extend until their successors are elected and qualified and assume office in accordance with RCW 29A.60.280. The terms of office of county commissioners shall be staggered so that either one or two commissioners are elected at a general election held in each even-numbered year.

(2) At the general election held in 2022, any noncharter county with a population of four hundred thousand or more must elect county commissioners in accordance with a districting plan adopted under RCW 36.32.054. Any county commissioner whose term is set to expire on or after January 1, 2023, is subject to the new election in accordance with the districting plan. The county commissioners shall begin their

terms of office on January 1, 2023, and such terms shall be staggered terms, as designated in the districting plan. [2018 c 301 § 6; 2015 c 53 § 63; 1979 ex.s. c 126 § 27; 1963 c 4 § 36.32.030. Prior: 1951 c 89 § 1. Formerly: (i) 1891 c 97 §§ 1, 2; RRS § 4038. (ii) 1891 c 67 § 3; RRS § 4039. (iii) 1891 c 89 § 4; RRS § 4040. (iv) 1891 c 67 § 5; RRS § 4041.]

**Findings—Short title—2018 c 301:** See notes following RCW 36.32.051.

**Purpose—1979 ex.s. c 126:** See RCW 29A.60.280(1).

**36.32.040 Nomination by districts—Voluntary change to electoral system.** (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, the qualified electors of each county commissioner district, and they only, shall nominate from among their own number, candidates for the office of county commissioner of such commissioner district to be voted for at the following general election. Such candidates shall be nominated in the same manner as candidates for other county and district offices are nominated in all other respects.

(2) Where the commissioners of a county composed entirely of islands with a population of less than thirty-five thousand have chosen to divide the county into unequal-sized commissioner districts pursuant to the exception provided in RCW 36.32.020, the qualified electors of the entire county shall nominate from among their own number who reside within a commissioner district, candidates for the office of county commissioner of such commissioner district to be voted for at the following general election. Such candidates shall be nominated in the same manner as candidates for other county offices are nominated in all other respects.

(3) The commissioners of any county may authorize a change to their electoral system pursuant to RCW 29A.92.040. [2018 c 113 § 205; 1982 c 226 § 5; 1963 c 4 § 36.32.040. Prior: 1909 c 232 § 1; RRS § 4043.]

**Findings—Intent—Short title—2018 c 113:** See RCW 29A.92.005 and 29A.92.900.

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

**36.32.050 Election.** (1) Except as provided otherwise in subsection (2) of this section or this chapter, county commissioners shall be elected by the qualified voters of the county and the person receiving the highest number of votes for the office of commissioner for the district in which he or she resides shall be declared duly elected from that district.

(2) Beginning in 2022, in any noncharter county with a population of four hundred thousand or more, county commissioners must be nominated and elected by the qualified electors of the commissioner district in which he or she resides. The person receiving the highest number of votes at a general election for the office of commissioner for the district in which he or she resides must be declared duly elected from that district. [2018 c 301 § 7; 2009 c 549 § 4063; 1963 c 4 § 36.32.050. Prior: 1895 c 110 § 1; 1893 c 39 § 1; 1891 c 67 § 6; 1890 p 317 § 3; RRS § 4042.]

**Findings—Short title—2018 c 301:** See notes following RCW 36.32.051.

**36.32.051 District-based elections—Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "District" means a geographic area within county boundaries and designated in a county redistricting plan, as provided in RCW 36.32.054.

(2) "District election" means a candidate from each district is elected in a general election by the voters of the district in which the candidate resides.

(3) "District nomination" means a candidate from each district is nominated in a primary election by the voters of the district in which the candidate resides. [2018 c 301 § 2.]

**Findings—2018 c 301:** "The legislature finds that the leaders of local jurisdictions should represent the interests of the communities they serve and should be accountable to all their constituents. The legislature further finds that district-based elections help to make elected officials more responsible to their constituents by bringing candidates closer to the communities from which they are elected. The legislature further finds that the districting process requires transparent and fair decision making in a bipartisan effort to ensure that districts constitute an accurate and balanced representation of the community." [2018 c 301 § 1.]

**Short title—2018 c 301:** "This act may be known and cited as the responsible representation act." [2018 c 301 § 11.]

**36.32.052 District-based elections—When required—Procedures.** (1) Beginning in 2022, any noncharter county with a population of four hundred thousand or more must have a board of commissioners with five members, and must use district nominations and district elections for its commissioner positions, in accordance with RCW 36.32.050.

(a) By April 30, 2021, the county must establish a redistricting committee, in accordance with RCW 36.32.053, to create, review, and adjust county commissioner districts in accordance with subsection (1) of this section. The commissioner districts established by the redistricting committee must be designated as districts numerically one through five. Any districting plan adopted by the redistricting committee must designate the initial terms of office for each of the county commissioner positions, as provided in RCW 36.32.030(2).

(b) Beginning in 2022, district elections for all county commissioners in a noncharter county with a population of four hundred thousand or more must be held in accordance with any districting plan adopted by a redistricting committee that is established in accordance with RCW 36.32.054.

(2) After 2022, by April 30th of each year ending in one, each qualifying county must establish a redistricting committee in accordance with RCW 36.32.053. The redistricting committee must review and adjust as necessary the boundaries of the county's commissioner districts. [2018 c 301 § 3.]

**Findings—Short title—2018 c 301:** See notes following RCW 36.32.051.

**36.32.053 District-based elections—Redistricting committee—Membership.** (1) A county redistricting committee established under this chapter must have five members appointed in each year ending in one, as follows:

(a) One member shall be appointed by the members of each of the two largest caucuses, respectively, of the house of representatives whose legislative districts are wholly or partially within the noncharter county with a population of four hundred thousand or more;

(b) One member shall be appointed by the members of each of the two largest caucuses, respectively, of the senate whose legislative districts are wholly or partially within the

noncharter county with a population of four hundred thousand or more; and

(c) The fifth member, who shall serve as the nonvoting chair of the committee, shall be appointed by a majority of the other four members.

(2) Committee members may not be appointed until after January 1, 2021.

(a) If any member is not appointed in accordance with the process in subsection (1)(a) or (b) of this section by March 1st then the respective legislative leader of each caucus whose qualifying members have not made an appointment must make the respective appointment by April 1st. If any caucus does not have at least one qualifying member, then the legislative leader of that caucus shall make the appointment by April 1st.

(b) If the fifth member is not appointed in accordance with subsection (1)(c) of this section by April 15th, then the county board of commissioners must appoint the fifth member by April 30th.

(3) A vacancy on a redistricting committee must be filled in the same manner as the initial appointment within fifteen days after the vacancy occurs.

(4) No person may serve on a redistricting committee who:

(a) Is not a registered voter of the state at the time of appointment;

(b) Is not a resident of the county;

(c) Is or within two years before appointment was a consultant for or had a contract with the county, or had been a registered lobbyist that lobbies the county commission; or

(d) Is or within two years before appointment was an elected official or elected legislative, county, or state party officer.

(5) Members of a redistricting committee may not:

(a) Campaign for elective office while a member of the committee;

(b) Actively participate in or contribute to any political campaign of any candidate for county elective office while a member of the committee; or

(c) Hold or campaign for a seat as a county commissioner for two years after the date the redistricting committee concludes its duties under this chapter.

(6) Before serving on a county redistricting committee, every person must take and subscribe an oath to faithfully perform the duties of that office.

(7) The legislative body of the county will provide adequate funding and resources to support the duties of the redistricting committee. [2018 c 301 § 4.]

**Findings—Short title—2018 c 301:** See notes following RCW 36.32.051.

**36.32.054 District-based elections—Redistricting committee—Districting plan—Requirements.** (1) Within one hundred twenty days after a redistricting committee is established under this chapter, the committee must prepare and publish a draft districting plan dividing the county into five commissioner districts. The committee must hold public meetings in preparing the draft, in compliance with chapter 42.30 RCW, and records of the committee must be available for public disclosure, pursuant to chapter 42.56 RCW.



(2) Within sixty days of publishing the draft districting plan, the committee must:

- (a) Solicit written public comment on the draft;
- (b) Hold at least one public hearing on the plan, including notice and public comment;
- (c) Amend the draft as necessary after the public comment and hearing; and
- (d) Either:
  - (i) Adopt the original or amended districting plan by a vote of at least three of the four voting committee members, and promptly file the adopted districting plan with the county auditor; or
  - (ii) Notify the state redistricting commission, established under chapter 44.05 RCW, with instructions to approve a districting plan for the county.

(3) If the committee instructs the state redistricting commission to approve a districting plan for the county, the state redistricting commission must convene or reconvene for purposes of approving a districting plan for the county, in addition to its duties under chapter 44.05 RCW. The committee may submit any proposed plans drafted by the committee or a committee member to assist the state redistricting commission. The state redistricting commission must approve a districting plan for the county within sixty days of receiving notice from the committee, and promptly file the plan with the county auditor.

(4) The districting plan is effective upon filing the plan with the county auditor either by the committee or by the state redistricting commission.

(5) County commissioner elections pursuant to the districting plan filed with the county auditor must begin in the next even-numbered year, and conducted in accordance with RCW 36.32.050.

(6) Each commissioner district established by a redistricting committee under this section must comprise as nearly as possible one-fifth of the population of the county. The boundaries of commissioner districts must:

- (a) Correspond as nearly as practicable to election precinct boundaries; and
- (b) Create districts with compact, contiguous territory containing geographic units, natural communities, and approximately equal populations.

(7) Upon filing of the adopted districting plan with the county auditor, or sixty days after providing notice to the state redistricting commission, the redistricting committee is dissolved until such time as a new redistricting committee is established as provided in RCW 36.32.051. [2018 c 301 § 5.]

**Findings—Short title—2018 c 301:** See notes following RCW 36.32.051.

**36.32.055 Five-member commission—When authorized—Ballot proposition—Petition—Procedures.** (1) The board of commissioners of any noncharter county with a population of three hundred thousand or more, and less than four hundred thousand, may cause a ballot proposition to be submitted at a general election to the voters of the county authorizing the board of commissioners to be increased to five members.

(2) As an alternative procedure, a ballot proposition shall be submitted to the voters of a noncharter county authorizing the board of commissioners to be increased to five members,

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upon petition of the county voters equal to at least ten percent of the voters voting at the last county general election. At least twenty percent of the signatures on the petition shall come from each of the existing commissioner districts.

Any petition requesting that such an election be held shall be submitted to the county auditor for verification of the signatures thereon. Within no more than thirty days after the submission of the petition, the auditor shall determine if the petition contains the requisite number of valid signatures. The auditor shall certify whether or not the petition has been signed by the requisite number of county voters and forward such petition to the board of county commissioners. If the petition has been signed by the requisite number of county voters, the board of county commissioners shall submit such a proposition to the voters for their approval or rejection at the next general election held at least sixty days after the proposition has been certified by the auditor. [2018 c 301 § 9; 1990 c 252 § 2.]

**Effective date—2018 c 301 § 9:** "Section 9 of this act takes effect January 1, 2021." [2018 c 301 § 13.]

**Findings—Short title—2018 c 301:** See notes following RCW 36.32.051.

**36.32.0552 Five-member commission—Newly created positions—How filled—County divided into five districts.** If the ballot proposition receives majority voter approval, the size of the board of county commissioners shall be increased to five members as provided in this section.

The two newly created positions shall be filled at elections to be held in the next year. The county shall, as provided in this section, be divided into five commissioner districts, so that each district shall comprise as nearly as possible one-fifth of the population of the county. No two members of the existing board of county commissioners may, at the time of the designation of such districts, permanently reside in one of the five districts. The division of the county into five districts shall be accomplished as follows:

(1) The board of county commissioners shall, by the second Monday of March of the year following the election, adopt a resolution creating the districts;

(2) If by the second Tuesday of March of the year following the election the board of county commissioners has failed to create the districts, the prosecuting attorney of the county shall petition the superior court of the county to appoint a referee to designate the five commissioner districts. The referee shall designate such districts by no later than June 1st of the year following the election. The two commissioner districts within which no existing member of the board of county commissioners permanently resides shall be designated as districts four and five. [1990 c 252 § 3.]

**36.32.0554 Five-member commission—Newly created positions—Terms of initially elected commissioners.** The terms of the persons who are initially elected to positions four and five under RCW 36.32.0552 shall be as follows:

(1) If the year in which the primary and general elections are held is an even-numbered year, the person elected to position four shall be elected for a two-year term, and the person elected to position five shall be elected for a four-year term; or

(2) If the year in which the primary and general elections are held is an odd-numbered year, the person elected to position four shall be elected for a one-year term, and the person elected to position five shall be elected for a three-year term. The length of the terms shall be calculated from the first day of January in the year following the election. Each person elected pursuant to subsection (1) or (2) of this section shall take office immediately upon the issuance of a certificate of his or her election.

Thereafter, persons elected to commissioner positions four and five shall be elected for four-year terms and shall take office at the same time the other members of the board of county commissioners take office. [1990 c 252 § 4.]

**36.32.0556 Five-member commissions—Four-year terms—Nominations by districts—Elected by entire county—Quorum.** The commissioners in a five-member board of county commissioners shall be elected to four-year staggered terms. Each commissioner shall reside in a separate commissioner district. Each commissioner shall be nominated from a separate commissioner district by the voters of that district. Each shall be elected by the voters of the entire county. Three members of a five-member board of commissioners shall constitute a quorum to do business. [1990 c 252 § 5.]

**36.32.0558 Five-member commissions—Vacancies.** Vacancies on a board of county commissioners consisting of five members shall be filled as provided in RCW 36.32.070, except that:

(1) Whenever there are three or more vacancies, the governor shall appoint one or more commissioners until there are a total of three commissioners;

(2) Whenever there are two vacancies, the three commissioners shall fill one of the vacancies;

(3) Whenever there is one vacancy, the four commissioners shall fill the single vacancy; and

(4) Whenever there is a vacancy after the general election in a year that the position appears on the ballot and before the start of the next term, the term of the successor who is of the same party as the incumbent may commence once he or she has qualified as defined in RCW 29A.04.133 and shall continue through the term for which he or she was elected. [2015 c 53 § 64; 2003 c 238 § 2; 1990 c 252 § 6.]

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

**36.32.060 Conditions of official bond.** The bond of each county commissioner shall be payable to the county, and it shall be conditioned that the commissioner shall well and faithfully discharge the duties of his or her office, and not approve, audit, or order paid any illegal, unwarranted, or unjust claim against the county for personal services. [2009 c 549 § 4064; 1963 c 4 § 36.32.060. Prior: 1955 c 157 § 10; prior: 1921 c 132 § 1, part; 1893 c 75 § 7, part; RRS § 4046, part.]

**36.32.070 Vacancies on board.** Whenever there is a vacancy in the board of county commissioners, except as provided in RCW 36.32.0558, it shall be filled as follows:

(1) If there are three vacancies, the governor of the state shall appoint two of the officers. The two commissioners thus

appointed shall then meet and select the third commissioner. If the two appointed commissioners fail to agree upon selection of the third after the expiration of five days from the day they were appointed, the governor shall appoint the remaining commissioner.

(2) Whenever there are two vacancies in the office of county commissioner, the governor shall appoint one commissioner, and the two commissioners then in office shall appoint the third commissioner. If they fail to agree upon a selection after the expiration of five days from the day of the governor's appointment, the governor shall appoint the third commissioner.

(3) Whenever there is one vacancy in the office of county commissioner, the two remaining commissioners shall fill the vacancy. If the two commissioners fail to agree upon a selection after the expiration of five days from the day the vacancy occurred, the governor shall appoint the third commissioner.

(4) Whenever there is a vacancy in the office of county commissioner after the general election in a year that the position appears on the ballot and before the start of the next term, the term of the successor who is of the same party as the incumbent may commence once he or she has qualified as defined in RCW 29A.04.133 and shall continue through the term for which he or she was elected. [2015 c 53 § 65; 2003 c 238 § 3; 1990 c 252 § 7; 1963 c 4 § 36.32.070. Prior: 1933 c 100 § 1; RRS § 4038-1.]

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

**36.32.080 Regular meetings—Joint regular meetings—Regular meetings held outside of the county seat.**

(1) The county legislative authority of each county shall hold regular meetings at the county seat or at a location designated in accordance with subsection (2) or (3) of this section to transact any business required or permitted by law.

(2)(a) Any two or more county legislative authorities may hold a joint regular meeting solely in the county seat of a participating county if the agenda item or items relate to actions or considerations of mutual interest or concern to the participating legislative authorities.

(b) A legislative authority participating in a joint regular meeting held in accordance with this subsection (2) must, for purposes of the meeting, comply with notice requirements for special meetings provided in RCW 42.30.080. This subsection (2)(b) does not apply to the legislative authority of the county in which the meeting will be held.

(3)(a) As an alternative option that may be exercised no more than once per calendar quarter, regular meetings may be held at a location outside of the county seat but within the county if the county legislative authority determines that holding a meeting at an alternate location would be in the interest of supporting greater citizen engagement in local government.

(b) The county legislative authority must give notice of any regular meeting held pursuant to this subsection (3) at least thirty days before the time of the meeting specified in the notice. At a minimum, notice must be:

(i) Posted on the county's website;

(ii) Published in a newspaper of general circulation in the county; and

(iii) Sent via electronic transmission to any resident of the county who has chosen to receive the notice required

under this section at an email address. [2016 c 189 § 1. Prior: 2015 c 179 § 1; 2015 c 74 § 1; 1989 c 16 § 1; 1963 c 4 § 36.32.080; prior: 1893 c 105 § 1; Code 1881 § 2667; 1869 p 303 § 5; 1867 p 53 § 5; 1863 p 541 § 5; 1854 p 420 § 5; RRS § 4047. Cf. 1893 c 75 § 1; RRS § 4048.]

**36.32.090 Special meetings—Joint special meetings.**

(1) The county legislative authority of each county may hold special meetings at the county seat or at a location designated in accordance with subsection (2) or (3) of this section to transact the business of the county. Notice of a special meeting shall be made as provided in RCW 42.30.080.

(2) A special meeting may be held outside of the county seat at any location within the county if the agenda item or items are of unique interest or concern to the citizens of the portion of the county in which the special meeting is to be held.

(3) Any two or more county legislative authorities may hold a joint special meeting at the county seat or other agreed upon location within the jurisdiction of a participating county if the agenda item or items relate to actions or considerations of mutual interest or concern to the participating legislative authorities. [2015 c 74 § 2; 1989 c 16 § 2; 1963 c 4 § 36.32.090. Prior: Code 1881 § 2669; 1869 p 304 § 7; 1867 p 53 § 7; 1863 p 541 § 7; 1854 p 420 § 7; RRS § 4049. Cf. 1893 c 75 § 2; RRS § 4050.]

**36.32.100 Chair of board—Election, powers.** The board of county commissioners at their first session after the general election shall elect one of its number to preside at its meetings. He or she shall sign all documents requiring the signature of the board, and his or her signature as chair of the board shall be as legal and binding as if all members had affixed their names. In case the chair is absent at any meeting of the board, all documents requiring the signature of the board shall be signed by both members present. [2009 c 549 § 4065; 1963 c 4 § 36.32.100. Prior: Code 1881 § 2676; 1869 p 305 § 14; 1867 p 55 § 14; 1863 p 542 § 14; 1854 p 421 § 14; RRS § 4051.]

**36.32.110 Clerk of board.** The county auditor shall be the clerk of the board of county commissioners unless the board of county commissioners designates one of its employees to serve as clerk who shall attend its meetings and keep a record of its proceedings. [1981 c 240 § 1; 1963 c 4 § 36.32.110. Prior: Code 1881 § 2668; 1869 p 304 § 6; 1867 p 53 § 6; 1863 p 541 § 6; 1854 p 420 § 6; RRS § 4052.]

**36.32.120 Powers of legislative authorities.** The legislative authorities of the several counties shall:

(1) Provide for the erection and repairing of courthouses, jails, and other necessary public buildings for the use of the county;

(2) Lay out, discontinue, or alter county roads and highways within their respective counties, and do all other necessary acts relating thereto according to law, except within cities and towns which have jurisdiction over the roads within their limits;

(3) License and fix the rates of ferriage; grant grocery and other licenses authorized by law to be by them granted at fees set by the legislative authorities which shall not exceed

the costs of administration and operation of such licensed activities;

(4) Fix the amount of county taxes to be assessed according to the provisions of law, and cause the same to be collected as prescribed by law;

(5) Allow all accounts legally chargeable against the county not otherwise provided for, and audit the accounts of all officers having the care, management, collection, or disbursement of any money belonging to the county or appropriated to its benefit;

(6) Have the care of the county property and the management of the county funds and business and in the name of the county prosecute and defend all actions for and against the county, and such other powers as are or may be conferred by law;

(7) Make and enforce, by appropriate resolutions or ordinances, all such police and sanitary regulations as are not in conflict with state law, and within the unincorporated area of the county may adopt by reference Washington state statutes and recognized codes and/or compilations printed in book form relating to the construction of buildings, the installation of plumbing, the installation of electric wiring, health, or other subjects, and may adopt such codes and/or compilations or portions thereof, together with amendments thereto, or additions thereto: PROVIDED, That except for Washington state statutes, there shall be filed in the county auditor's office one copy of such codes and compilations ten days prior to their adoption by reference, and additional copies may also be filed in library or city offices within the county as deemed necessary by the county legislative authority: PROVIDED FURTHER, That no such regulation, code, compilation, and/or statute shall be effective unless before its adoption, a public hearing has been held thereon by the county legislative authority of which at least ten days' notice has been given. Any violation of such regulations, ordinances, codes, compilations, and/or statutes or resolutions shall constitute a misdemeanor or a civil violation subject to a monetary penalty: PROVIDED FURTHER, That violation of a regulation, ordinance, code, compilation, and/or statute relating to traffic including parking, standing, stopping, and pedestrian offenses is a traffic infraction, except that violation of a regulation, ordinance, code, compilation, and/or statute equivalent to those provisions of Title 46 RCW set forth in RCW 46.63.020 remains a misdemeanor. However, the punishment for any criminal ordinance shall be the same as the punishment provided in state law for the same crime and no act that is a state crime may be made a civil violation. The notice must set out a copy of the proposed regulations or summarize the content of each proposed regulation; or if a code is adopted by reference the notice shall set forth the full official title and a statement describing the general purpose of such code. For purposes of this subsection, a summary shall mean a brief description which succinctly describes the main points of the proposed regulation. When the county publishes a summary, the publication shall include a statement that the full text of the proposed regulation will be mailed upon request. An inadvertent mistake or omission in publishing the text or a summary of the content of a proposed regulation shall not render the regulation invalid if it is adopted. The notice shall also include the day, hour, and place of hearing

and must be given by publication in the newspaper in which legal notices of the county are printed;

(8) Have power to compound and release in whole or in part any debt due to the county when in their opinion the interest of their county will not be prejudiced thereby, except in cases where they or any of them are personally interested;

(9) Have power to administer oaths or affirmations necessary in the discharge of their duties and commit for contempt any witness refusing to testify before them with the same power as district judges;

(10) Have power to declare by ordinance what shall be deemed a nuisance within the county, including but not limited to "litter" and "potentially dangerous litter" as defined in RCW 70A.200.030; to prevent, remove, and abate a nuisance at the expense of the parties creating, causing, or committing the nuisance; and to levy a special assessment on the land or premises on which the nuisance is situated to defray the cost, or to reimburse the county for the cost of abating it. This assessment shall constitute a lien against the property which shall be of equal rank with state, county, and municipal taxes. [2020 c 20 § 1019; 2003 c 337 § 6; 1994 c 301 § 8; 1993 c 83 § 9; 1989 c 378 § 39; 1988 c 168 § 8; 1987 c 202 § 206; 1986 c 278 § 2; 1985 c 91 § 1; 1982 c 226 § 3; 1979 ex.s. c 136 § 35; 1975 1st ex.s. c 216 § 1; 1967 ex.s. c 59 § 1; 1963 c 4 § 36.32.120. Prior: 1961 c 27 § 2; prior: (i) 1947 c 61 § 1; 1943 c 199 § 1; Code 1881 § 2673; 1869 p 305 § 11; 1867 p 54 § 11; 1863 p 542 § 11; 1854 p 421 § 11; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 4056. (ii) Code 1881 § 2681; 1869 p 307 § 20; 1867 p 56 § 20; 1863 p 543 § 20; 1854 p 422 § 20; RRS § 4061. (iii) Code 1881 § 2687; 1869 p 308 § 26; 1867 p 57 § 26; 1863 p 545 § 28; 1854 p 423 § 22; RRS § 4071.]

**Findings—2003 c 337:** See note following RCW 70A.200.060.

**Intent—1987 c 202:** See note following RCW 2.04.190.

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

**36.32.121 Community revitalization financing—Public improvements.** In addition to other authority that a county possesses, a county may provide any public improvement as defined under RCW 39.89.020, but this additional authority is limited to participating in the financing of the public improvements as provided under RCW 39.89.050.

This section does not limit the authority of a county to otherwise participate in the public improvements if that authority exists elsewhere. [2001 c 212 § 13.]

**36.32.122 Authority to regulate massage therapists—Limitations.** (1) A state licensed massage therapist seeking a county license to operate a massage business must provide verification of his or her state massage license as provided for in RCW 18.108.030.

(2) The county may charge a licensing or operating fee, but the fee charged a state licensed massage therapist shall not exceed the licensing or operating fee imposed on similar health care providers, such as physical therapists or occupational therapists, operating within the same county.

(3) A state licensed massage therapist is not subject to additional licensing requirements not currently imposed on similar health care providers, such as physical therapists or occupational therapists. [2016 c 41 § 25; 1991 c 182 § 3.]

**Effective date—2016 c 41:** See note following RCW 18.108.010.

**36.32.125 Adoption of certain regulations proscribed.** Nothing in this chapter shall permit the counties to adopt, by reference or by ordinance, regulations relating to the subject matter contained in chapters 19.28, 43.22, 70.79, or 70.87 RCW. [1971 ex.s. c 117 § 2.]

*Adoption of provisions relating to electricians and electrical installations by ordinance proscribed: RCW 19.28.101.*

**36.32.127 Driving while under the influence of liquor or drugs—Minimum penalties.** No county may establish a penalty for an act that constitutes the crime of driving while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or any drug, as provided for in RCW 46.61.502, or the crime of being in actual physical control of a motor vehicle while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or any drug, as provided in RCW 46.61.504, that is less than the penalties prescribed for those crimes in RCW 46.61.5055. [1995 c 332 § 9; 1994 c 275 § 37; 1983 c 165 § 41.]

**Legislative finding, intent—Effective dates—Severability—1983 c 165:** See notes following RCW 46.20.308.

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

**36.32.130 Postponement of action.** When only two members are present at a meeting of the board, and a division takes place on any question, the matter under consideration shall be postponed to the next subsequent meeting. [1963 c 4 § 36.32.130. Prior: Code 1881 § 2671; 1869 p 304 § 9; 1867 p 53 § 9; 1863 p 541 § 9; 1854 p 421 § 9; RRS § 4055.]

**36.32.135 Official seal.** The county commissioners of each county shall have and use a seal for the purpose of sealing their proceedings, and copies of the same when signed and sealed by the said county commissioners, and attested by their clerk, shall be admitted as evidence of such proceedings in the trial of any cause in any court in this state; and until such seal shall be provided, the private seal of the chair of such board of county commissioners shall be adopted as a seal. [2009 c 549 § 4066; 1963 c 4 § 36.32.135. Prior: Code 1881 § 2672; 1854 p 421 § 10; RRS § 4069. Formerly RCW 36.16.080.]

**36.32.140 Record of proceedings.** The board of county commissioners shall cause to be recorded, in a book kept for that purpose, all their proceedings and determinations touching all matters properly cognizable before it; and all books, accounts, vouchers, and papers, touching the business or property of the county shall be carefully kept by the clerk, and be open to public inspection. [1963 c 4 § 36.32.140. Prior: Code 1881 § 2675; 1869 p 305 § 13; 1867 p 54 § 13; 1863 p 542 § 13; 1854 p 421 § 13; RRS § 4072.]

**36.32.150 Transcribing mutilated records.** The county commissioners shall, when any of the county records become so mutilated that their handling becomes dangerous to the safety of such records, and when in the judgment of the county commissioners it may become necessary to, order the transcribing of said records at a sum not exceeding eight cents per folio of one hundred words, in books to be provided for that purpose by the county. [1963 c 4 § 36.32.150. Prior: 1893 c 14 § 1; RRS § 4065.]

**36.32.155 Transcribing mutilated records—Prior transcribing validated.** All records transcribed by order of any board of county commissioners in this state prior to the effective date of chapter 14, Laws of 1893, shall be and are hereby declared the legal records of said county the same as if transcribed under the provisions of RCW 36.32.150 through 36.32.170. [1963 c 4 § 36.32.155. Prior: 1893 c 14 § 4; RRS § 4068.]

**36.32.160 Transcribing mutilated records—Auditor to direct transcribing, certify.** The books containing the transcribed records shall be certified by the county auditor, under whose direction the transcribing was done, as being true copies of the original. [1963 c 4 § 36.32.160. Prior: 1893 c 14 § 2; RRS § 4066.]

**36.32.170 Transcribing mutilated records—Original records to be preserved.** All the original record books, after the transcribing thereof, shall be filed away in the auditor's office and only be used in case of contest on the correctness of the transcribed records. [1963 c 4 § 36.32.170. Prior: 1893 c 14 § 3; RRS § 4067.]

**36.32.200 Special attorneys, employment of.** It shall be unlawful for a county legislative authority to employ or contract with any attorney or counsel to perform any duty which any prosecuting attorney is authorized or required by law to perform, unless the contract of employment of such attorney or counsel has been first reduced to writing and approved by the presiding superior court judge of the county in writing endorsed thereon. This section shall not prohibit the appointment of deputy prosecuting attorneys in the manner provided by law.

Any contract written pursuant to this section shall be limited to two years in duration. [1983 c 129 § 1; 1963 c 4 § 36.32.200. Prior: 1905 c 25 § 1; RRS § 4075.]

**36.32.210 Inventory of county capitalized assets.** Each board of county commissioners of the several counties of the state of Washington shall file with the auditor of the county a full and complete inventory of all capitalized assets kept in accordance with standards established by the state auditor. [2017 c 37 § 1; 2003 c 53 § 204; 1997 c 245 § 3; 1995 c 194 § 5; 1969 ex.s. c 182 § 2; 1963 c 108 § 1; 1963 c 4 § 36.32.210. Prior: 1931 c 95 § 1; RRS § 4056-1. FORMER PARTS OF SECTION: (i) 1931 c 95 § 2; RRS § 4056-2, now codified as RCW 36.32.213. (ii) 1931 c 95 § 3; RRS § 4056-3, now codified as RCW 36.32.215.]

**Intent—Effective date—2003 c 53:** See notes following RCW 2.48.180.

*State building code: Chapter 19.27 RCW.*

**36.32.232 Contract goals for county electric ferry vessel procurement.** To increase small business participation in ferry vessel procurement, the Washington state department of transportation's office of equal opportunity shall establish contract goals for county electric ferry vessel procurement.

(1) The contract goal is defined as a percentage of the contract award amount that the prime contractor must meet by subcontracting with small business enterprises.

(2) Small business enterprises intending to benefit from the small business enterprise enforceable goals program established in this section must meet the definition of "small business" in RCW 39.26.010. [2021 c 224 § 2.]

**36.32.234 Competitive bids—Electric ferries.** Any county may use the following competitive bidding procedures for procurement and design of electric ferries:

(1)(a) After bids that are submitted in response to a competitive solicitation process are reviewed by the awarding county, the awarding county may:

(i) Reject all bids and rebid or cancel the competitive solicitation;

(ii) Request best and final offers from responsive and responsible bidders; or

(iii) Award the purchase or contract to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder.

(b) The county may award one or more contracts from a competitive solicitation.

(2) In determining whether the bidder is a responsible bidder, the county must consider the following elements:

(a) The ability, capacity, and skill of the bidder to perform the contract or provide the service required;

(b) The character, integrity, reputation, judgment, experience, and efficiency of the bidder;

(c) Whether the bidder can perform the contract within the time specified;

(d) The quality of performance of previous contracts or services;

(e) The previous and existing compliance by the bidder with laws relating to the contract or services;

(f) Whether, within the three-year period immediately preceding the date of the bid solicitation, the bidder has been determined by a final and binding citation and notice of assessment issued by the department of labor and industries or through a civil judgment entered by a court of limited or general jurisdiction to have willfully violated, as defined in RCW 49.48.082, any provision of chapter 49.46, 49.48, or 49.52 RCW; and

(g) Such other information as may be secured having a bearing on the decision to award the contract.

(3) Due to the unique aspects of electric ferry design and the importance of well-integrated ship and shore equipment, in determining the lowest responsive and responsible bidder for the design and procurement of an electric ferry, a county may consider best value criteria, including but not limited to:

(a) Whether the bid satisfies the needs of the county as specified in the solicitation documents;

(b) Whether the bid encourages diverse contractor participation;

(c) Whether the bid provides competitive pricing, economies, and efficiencies;

(d) Whether the bid considers human health and environmental impacts;

(e) Whether the bid appropriately weighs cost and non-cost considerations;

(f) Life-cycle cost;

(g) Project manager capabilities, including subcontractor management;

(h) Proposed approach to overall project plan, including integration, commissioning, and acceptance testing; and

(i) Demonstrated contractor and subcontractor technical knowledge or specific technical capabilities to meet technical elements of the design specified in the bid documents.

(4) The solicitation document must clearly set forth the requirements and criteria that the contract will apply in evaluating bid submissions. Before award of a contract, a bidder shall submit to the contracting county a signed statement in accordance with chapter 5.50 RCW verifying under penalty of perjury that the bidder is in compliance with the responsible bidder criteria requirement of subsection (2)(f) of this section. A contracting county may award a contract in reasonable reliance upon such a sworn statement.

(5) The awarding county may at its discretion reject the bid of any contractor who has failed to perform satisfactorily on a previous contract with the county.

(6) After reviewing all bid submissions, a county may enter into negotiations with the lowest responsive and responsible bidder in order to determine if the bid may be improved. A county may not use this negotiation opportunity to permit a bidder to change a nonresponsive bid into a responsive bid.

(7) Except as provided in (a) of this subsection, all proceedings, records, contracts, and other public records relating to electric ferry design and procurement under this chapter shall be open to the inspection of any interested person, firm, or corporation in accordance with chapter 42.56 RCW.

(a) Trade secrets, as defined in RCW 19.108.010, or other proprietary information submitted by a bidder, offeror, or contractor in connection with electric ferry design and procurement under this chapter shall be exempt from disclosure under chapter 42.56 RCW pursuant to RCW 42.56.270 (1) and (2) if the bidder, offeror, or contractor specifically states in writing at the time specific identified materials or information is submitted to the county the reasons why protection is necessary and identifies the data or materials to be protected, and the county concurs that disclosure would harm the competitive position of the entity submitting the material and that disclosure would not serve public interest in ensuring fair and open competition for procurement.

(b) All documents related to a procurement under chapter 224, Laws of 2021 are exempt from disclosure until the notification of the highest scoring finalist is made or the selection process is terminated.

(8) Where critical equipment selections can be made to mature a ferry design, reducing cost and performance risk in shipyard contracts, these selections may be made and the chosen vendors specified by name in bid specifications without allowing substitutions. Counties and their consultants may evaluate cost and noncost considerations when making these selections provided that the selection is made in good faith to identify the equipment best suited to the county's needs.

(9) For purposes of this section, a county may designate a public works department as an alternative to the purchasing department as the lead agency for the design and procurement of electric ferries. [2021 c 224 § 1.]

**36.32.235 Competitive bids—Purchasing department—Counties with a population of four hundred thousand or more—Public works procedures—Riverine and stormwater projects—Exceptions.** (1) In each county

which by resolution establishes a county purchasing department, the purchasing department shall enter into leases of personal property on a competitive basis and purchase all supplies, materials, and equipment on a competitive basis, for all departments of the county, as provided in this chapter and chapter 39.04 RCW, except that the county purchasing department is not required to make purchases that are paid from the county road fund or equipment rental and revolving fund.

(2) As used in this section:

(a) "Public works" has the same definition as in RCW 39.04.010.

(b) "Riverine project" means a project of construction, alteration, repair, replacement, or improvement other than ordinary maintenance, executed at the cost of the state or of any municipality, or which is by law a lien or charge on any property, carried out on a river or stream and its tributaries and associated floodplains, beds, banks, and waters for the purpose of improving aquatic habitat, improving water quality, restoring floodplain function, or providing flood protection.

(c) "Stormwater project" means a project of construction, alteration, repair, replacement, or improvement other than ordinary maintenance, executed at the cost of the state or of any municipality, or which is by law a lien or charge on any property, carried out on a municipal separate storm sewer system, and any connections to the system, that is regulated under a state-issued national pollutant discharge elimination system general municipal stormwater permit for the purpose of improving control of stormwater runoff quantity and quality from developed land, safely conveying stormwater runoff, or reducing erosion or other water quality impacts caused by municipal separate storm sewer system discharges.

(3) Except as otherwise specified in this chapter or in chapter 36.77 RCW, all counties subject to these provisions shall contract on a competitive basis for all public works after bids have been submitted to the county upon specifications therefor. Such specifications shall be in writing and shall be filed with the clerk of the county legislative authority for public inspection.

(4) An advertisement shall be published in the county official newspaper stating the time and place where bids will be opened, the time after which bids will not be received, the character of the work to be done, the materials and equipment to be furnished, and that specifications therefor may be seen at the office of the clerk of the county legislative authority. An advertisement shall also be published in a legal newspaper of general circulation in or as near as possible to that part of the county in which such work is to be done. If the county official newspaper is a newspaper of general circulation covering at least forty percent of the residences in that part of the county in which such public works are to be done, then the publication of an advertisement of the applicable specifications in the county official newspaper is sufficient. Such advertisements shall be published at least once at least thirteen days prior to the last date upon which bids will be received.

(5) The bids shall be in writing, may be in either hard copy or electronic form as specified by the county, shall be filed with the clerk, shall be opened and read in public at the time and place named therefor in the advertisements, and,

after being opened, shall be filed for public inspection. No bid may be considered for public work unless it is accompanied by a bid deposit in the form of a surety bond, postal money order, cash, cashier's check, or certified check in an amount equal to five percent of the amount of the bid proposed.

(6) The contract for the public work shall be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder. Any or all bids may be rejected for good cause. The county legislative authority shall require from the successful bidder for such public work a contractor's bond in the amount and with the conditions imposed by law.

(7) If the bidder to whom the contract is awarded fails to enter into the contract and furnish the contractor's bond as required within ten days after notice of the award, exclusive of the day of notice, the amount of the bid deposit shall be forfeited to the county and the contract awarded to the next lowest and best bidder. The bid deposit of all unsuccessful bidders shall be returned after the contract is awarded and the required contractor's bond given by the successful bidder is accepted by the county legislative authority. Immediately after the award is made, the bid quotations obtained shall be recorded and open to public inspection and shall be available by telephone inquiry.

(8) As limited by subsection (11) of this section, a county subject to these provisions may have public works performed by county employees in any annual or biennial budget period equal to a dollar value not exceeding ten percent of the public works construction budget, including any amount in a supplemental public works construction budget, over the budget period.

Whenever a county subject to these provisions has had public works performed in any budget period up to the maximum permitted amount for that budget period, all remaining public works except emergency work under subsection (13) of this section within that budget period shall be done by contract pursuant to public notice and call for competitive bids as specified in subsection (3) of this section. The state auditor shall report to the state treasurer any county subject to these provisions that exceeds this amount and the extent to which the county has or has not reduced the amount of public works it has performed by public employees in subsequent years.

(9) A county may procure public works with a unit priced contract under this section for the purpose of completing anticipated types of work based on hourly rates or unit pricing for one or more categories of work or trades.

(a) For the purposes of this section, "unit priced contract" means a competitively bid contract in which public works are anticipated on a recurring basis to meet the business or operational needs of the county, under which the contractor agrees to a fixed period indefinite quantity delivery of work, at a defined unit price for each category of work.

(b) Unit priced contracts must be executed for an initial contract term not to exceed one year, with the county having the option of extending or renewing the unit priced contract for one additional year.

(c) Invitations for unit price bids shall include, for purposes of the bid evaluation, estimated quantities of the anticipated types of work or trades, and specify how the county will issue or release work assignments, work orders, or task authorizations pursuant to a unit priced contract for projects, tasks, or other work based on the hourly rates or unit prices

bid by the contractor. The contract must be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder as defined under RCW 39.04.010. Whenever possible, the county must invite at least one bid from a certified minority or woman contractor who otherwise qualifies under this section.

(d) Unit price contractors shall pay prevailing wages for all work that would otherwise be subject to the requirements of chapter 39.12 RCW. Prevailing wages for all work performed pursuant to each work order must be the prevailing wage rates in effect at the beginning date for each contract year. Unit priced contracts must have prevailing wage rates updated annually. Intents and affidavits for prevailing wages paid must be submitted annually for all work completed within the previous twelve-month period of the unit priced contract.

(10) If a county subject to these provisions has public works performed by public employees in any budget period that are in excess of this ten percent limitation, the amount in excess of the permitted amount shall be reduced from the otherwise permitted amount of public works that may be performed by public employees for that county in its next budget period. Ten percent of the motor vehicle fuel tax distributions to that county shall be withheld if two years after the year in which the excess amount of work occurred, the county has failed to so reduce the amount of public works that it has performed by public employees. The amount withheld shall be distributed to the county when it has demonstrated in its reports to the state auditor that the amount of public works it has performed by public employees has been reduced as required.

(11) In addition to the percentage limitation provided in subsection (8) of this section, counties subject to these provisions containing a population of four hundred thousand or more shall not have public employees perform: A public works project in excess of ninety thousand dollars if more than a single craft or trade is involved with the public works project, a riverine project or stormwater project in excess of two hundred fifty thousand dollars if more than a single craft or trade is involved with the riverine project or stormwater project, a public works project in excess of forty-five thousand dollars if only a single craft or trade is involved with the public works project, or a riverine project or stormwater project in excess of one hundred twenty-five thousand dollars if only a single craft or trade is involved with the riverine project or stormwater project. A public works project, a riverine project, and a stormwater project means a complete project. The restrictions in this subsection do not permit the division of the project into units of work or classes of work to avoid the restriction on work that may be performed by public employees on a single project.

The cost of a separate public works project shall be the costs of materials, supplies, equipment, and labor on the construction of that project. The value of the public works budget shall be the value of all the separate public works projects within the budget.

(12) In addition to the accounting and recordkeeping requirements contained in chapter 39.04 RCW, any county which uses public employees to perform public works projects under RCW 36.32.240(1) shall prepare a year-end report to be submitted to the state auditor indicating the total dollar amount of the county's public works construction budget and

the total dollar amount for public works projects performed by public employees for that year.

The year-end report submitted pursuant to this subsection to the state auditor shall be in accordance with the standard form required by RCW 43.09.205.

(13) Notwithstanding any other provision in this section, counties may use public employees without any limitation for emergency work performed under an emergency declared pursuant to RCW 36.32.270, and any such emergency work shall not be subject to the limitations of this section. Publication of the description and estimate of costs relating to correcting the emergency may be made within seven days after the commencement of the work. Within two weeks of the finding that such an emergency existed, the county legislative authority shall adopt a resolution certifying the damage to public facilities and costs incurred or anticipated relating to correcting the emergency. Additionally this section shall not apply to architectural and engineering or other technical or professional services performed by public employees in connection with a public works project.

(14) In lieu of the procedures of subsections (3) through (12) of this section, a county may let contracts using the small works roster process provided in RCW 39.04.155.

Whenever possible, the county shall invite at least one proposal from a certified minority or woman contractor who shall otherwise qualify under this section.

(15) The allocation of public works projects to be performed by county employees shall not be subject to a collective bargaining agreement.

(16) This section does not apply to performance-based contracts, as defined in \*RCW 39.35A.020(4), that are negotiated under chapter 39.35A RCW.

(17) Nothing in this section prohibits any county from allowing for preferential purchase of products made from recycled materials or products that may be recycled or reused.

(18) This section does not apply to contracts between the public stadium authority and a team affiliate under RCW 36.102.060(4), or development agreements between the public stadium authority and a team affiliate under RCW 36.102.060(7) or leases entered into under RCW 36.102.060(8). [2019 c 434 § 8. Prior: 2016 c 95 § 8; 2016 c 19 § 8; 2009 c 229 § 6; 2000 c 138 § 206; 1997 c 220 § 401 (Referendum Bill No. 48, approved June 17, 1997); 1996 c 219 § 2.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 39.35A.020 was amended by 2022 c 128 § 2, changing subsection (4) to subsection (6).

**Finding—Intent—2019 c 434:** See note following RCW 35.23.352.

**Intent—2016 c 95:** See note following RCW 36.62.252.

**Intent—2016 c 19:** See note following RCW 36.87.120.

**Purpose—Part headings not law—2000 c 138:** See notes following RCW 39.04.155.

**Referendum—Other legislation limited—Legislators' personal intent not indicated—Reimbursements for election—Voters' pamphlet, election requirements—1997 c 220:** See RCW 36.102.800 through 36.102.803.

**36.32.240 Competitive bids—Purchasing department—Counties with a population of less than four hundred thousand.** (1) In any county the county legislative

authority may by resolution establish a county purchasing department.

(2) In each county with a population of less than four hundred thousand which exercises this option, the purchasing department shall contract on a competitive basis for all public works, enter into leases of personal property on a competitive basis, and purchase all supplies, materials, and equipment, on a competitive basis, for all departments of the county, as provided in this chapter and chapter 39.04 RCW, except that the county purchasing department is not required to make purchases for the county hospital, or make purchases that are paid from the county road fund or equipment rental and revolving fund. [2009 c 229 § 7; 1996 c 219 § 1; 1993 c 198 § 5; 1991 c 363 § 57; 1985 c 169 § 8; 1983 c 3 § 77; 1974 ex.s. c 52 § 1; 1967 ex.s. c 144 § 15; 1963 c 4 § 36.32.240. Prior: 1961 c 169 § 1; 1949 c 33 § 1; 1945 c 61 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 10322-15.]

**Purpose—Captions not law—1991 c 363:** See notes following RCW 2.32.180.

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

**36.32.245 Competitive bids—Requirements—Advertisements—Exceptions.** (1) No contract for the purchase of materials, equipment, or supplies may be entered into by the county legislative authority or by any elected or appointed officer of the county until after bids have been submitted to the county. Bid specifications shall be in writing and shall be filed with the clerk of the county legislative authority for public inspection. An advertisement shall be published in the official newspaper of the county stating the time and place where bids will be opened, the time after which bids will not be received, the materials, equipment, supplies, or services to be purchased, and that the specifications may be seen at the office of the clerk of the county legislative authority. The advertisement shall be published at least once at least thirteen days prior to the last date upon which bids will be received.

(2) The bids shall be in writing, may be in either hard copy or electronic form as specified by the county, and shall be filed with the clerk. The bids shall be opened and read in public at the time and place named in the advertisement. Contracts requiring competitive bidding under this section may be awarded only to the lowest responsible bidder. Immediately after the award is made, the bid quotations shall be recorded and open to public inspection and shall be available by telephone inquiry. Any or all bids may be rejected for good cause.

(3) For advertisement and formal sealed bidding to be dispensed with as to purchases between ten thousand and fifty thousand dollars, the county legislative authority must use the uniform process to award contracts as provided in RCW 39.04.190. Advertisement and formal sealed bidding may be dispensed with as to purchases of less than ten thousand dollars upon the order of the county legislative authority.

(4) This section does not apply to performance-based contracts, as defined in \*RCW 39.35A.020(4), that are negotiated under chapter 39.35A RCW; or contracts and purchases for the printing of election ballots, voting machine labels, and all other election material containing the names of candidates and ballot titles.



(5) Nothing in this section shall prohibit the legislative authority of any county from allowing for preferential purchase of products made from recycled materials or products that may be recycled or reused.

(6) This section does not apply to contracting for public defender services by a county. [2016 c 95 § 9; 2007 c 88 § 1. Prior: 1993 c 233 § 1; 1993 c 198 § 7; 1991 c 363 § 62.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 39.35A.020 was amended by 2022 c 128 § 2, changing subsection (4) to subsection (6).

**Intent—2016 c 95:** See note following RCW 36.62.252.

**Purpose—Captions not law—1991 c 363:** See notes following RCW 2.32.180.

**36.32.250 Competitive bids—Contract procedure—Contracts under forty thousand dollars—Small works roster process.** No contract for public works may be entered into by the county legislative authority or by any elected or appointed officer of the county until after bids have been submitted to the county upon specifications therefor. Such specifications shall be in writing and shall be filed with the clerk of the county legislative authority for public inspection. An advertisement shall be published in the county official newspaper stating the time and place where bids will be opened, the time after which bids will not be received, the character of the work to be done, the materials and equipment to be furnished, and that specifications therefor may be seen at the office of the clerk of the county legislative authority. An advertisement shall also be published in a legal newspaper of general circulation in or as near as possible to that part of the county in which such work is to be done. If the county official newspaper is a newspaper of general circulation covering at least forty percent of the residences in that part of the county in which such public works are to be done, then the publication of an advertisement of the applicable specifications in the county official newspaper shall be sufficient. Such advertisements shall be published at least once at least thirteen days prior to the last date upon which bids will be received. The bids shall be in writing, shall be filed with the clerk, shall be opened and read in public at the time and place named therefor in the advertisements, and after being opened, shall be filed for public inspection. No bid may be considered for public work unless it is accompanied by a bid deposit in the form of a surety bond, postal money order, cash, cashier's check, or certified check in an amount equal to five percent of the amount of the bid proposed. The contract for the public work shall be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder. Any or all bids may be rejected for good cause. The county legislative authority shall require from the successful bidder for such public work a contractor's bond in the amount and with the conditions imposed by law. If the bidder to whom the contract is awarded fails to enter into the contract and furnish the contractor's bond as required within ten days after notice of the award, exclusive of the day of notice, the amount of the bid deposit shall be forfeited to the county and the contract awarded to the next lowest and best bidder. A low bidder who claims error and fails to enter into a contract is prohibited from bidding on the same project if a second or subsequent call for bids is made for the project. The bid deposit of all unsuccessful bidders shall be returned after the contract is awarded and the required contractor's bond given by the successful bidder is accepted by the county legislative authority.

(2022 Ed.)

In the letting of any contract for public works involving less than forty thousand dollars, advertisement and competitive bidding may be dispensed with on order of the county legislative authority. Immediately after the award is made, the bid quotations obtained shall be recorded and open to public inspection and shall be available by telephone inquiry.

As an alternative to requirements under this section, a county may let contracts using the small works roster process under RCW 39.04.155.

This section does not apply to performance-based contracts, as defined in \*RCW 39.35A.020(4), that are negotiated under chapter 39.35A RCW. [2009 c 229 § 8; 2000 c 138 § 207; 1996 c 18 § 3; 1993 c 198 § 8; 1991 c 363 § 58. Prior: 1989 c 431 § 57; 1989 c 244 § 6; prior: 1985 c 369 § 1; 1985 c 169 § 9; 1977 ex.s. c 267 § 1; 1975 1st ex.s. c 230 § 1; 1967 ex.s. c 144 § 16; 1967 c 97 § 1; 1965 c 113 § 1; 1963 c 4 § 36.32.250; prior: 1945 c 61 § 2; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 10322-16.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 39.35A.020 was amended by 2022 c 128 § 2, changing subsection (4) to subsection (6).

**Purpose—Part headings not law—2000 c 138:** See notes following RCW 39.04.155.

**Purpose—Captions not law—1991 c 363:** See notes following RCW 2.32.180.

*Subcontractors to be identified by bidder, when: RCW 39.30.060.*

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

**36.32.253 Competitive bids—Leases of personal property.** No lease of personal property may be entered into by the county legislative authority or by any elected or appointed officer of the county except upon use of the procedures specified in this chapter and chapter 39.04 RCW for awarding contracts for purchases when it leases personal property from the lowest responsible bidder. [1993 c 198 § 6; 1991 c 363 § 63.]

**Purpose—Captions not law—1991 c 363:** See notes following RCW 2.32.180.

**36.32.256 Competitive bids—Multiple awards for road maintenance materials.** A county when calling for competitive bids for the procurement of road maintenance materials may award to multiple bidders for the same commodity when the bid specifications provide for the factors of haul distance to be included in the determination of which vendor is truly the lowest price to the county. The county may readvertise for additional bidders and vendors if it deems it necessary in the public interest. [1991 c 363 § 61.]

**Purpose—Captions not law—1991 c 363:** See notes following RCW 2.32.180.

**36.32.260 Competitive bids—Purchasing agent.** In any county having a purchasing department the board of county commissioners shall appoint a county purchasing agent, who shall be the head of such purchasing department. The county purchasing agent shall have had previous purchasing experience as purchasing agent of a commercial, industrial, institutional, or governmental plant or agency, and shall be placed under such bond as the board may require. The board may establish a central storeroom or storerooms in charge of the county purchasing agent in which supplies and equipment may be stored and issued upon proper requisition

by department heads. The purchasing agent shall be responsible for maintaining perpetual inventories of supplies and equipment and shall at least yearly, or oftener when so required by the board, report to the county commissioners a balancing of the inventory record with the actual amount of supplies or equipment on hand. [1963 c 4 § 36.32.260. Prior: 1961 c 169 § 2; 1945 c 61 § 3; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 10322-17.]

**36.32.265 Competitive bids—Inapplicability to certain agreements relating to water pollution control, solid waste handling facilities.** RCW 36.32.240, 36.32.250, and 36.32.260 do not apply to the selection of persons or entities to construct or develop water pollution control facilities or to provide water pollution control services under RCW 70A.140.040 or the selection of persons or entities to construct or develop solid waste handling facilities or to provide solid waste handling services under RCW 36.58.090. [2021 c 65 § 25; 1989 c 399 § 8; 1987 c 436 § 9.]

**Explanatory statement—2021 c 65:** See note following RCW 53.54.030.

**36.32.270 Competitive bids—Exemptions.** The county legislative authority may waive the competitive bidding requirements of this chapter pursuant to RCW 39.04.280 if an exemption contained within that section applies to the purchase or public work. [1998 c 278 § 4; 1963 c 4 § 36.32.270. Prior: 1961 c 169 § 3; 1945 c 61 § 4; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 10322-18.]

**36.32.280 Regulation of watercourses.** The state in the exercise of its sovereign and police power authorizes any county alone or acting jointly with any other county to regulate and control the flow of waters, both navigable and non-navigable, within such county or counties, for the purpose of preventing floods which may threaten or cause damage, public or private. [1963 c 4 § 36.32.280. Prior: 1921 c 30 § 1; RRS § 4057-1.]

**36.32.290 Regulation of watercourses—Removal of obstructions.** When the board of county commissioners of any county deems it essential to the public interest for flood prevention purposes it may remove drifts, jams, logs, debris, gravel, earth, stone or bars forming obstructions to the stream, or other material from the beds, channels, and banks of watercourses in any manner deemed expedient, including the deposit thereof on bars not forming obstructions to the stream, or on subsidiary or high water channels of such watercourses. [1963 c 4 § 36.32.290. Prior: 1921 c 30 § 2; RRS § 4057-2.]

**36.32.300 Regulation of watercourses—Trees may be removed from riverbanks.** When any forest trees are situated upon the bank of any watercourse or so close thereto as to be in danger of falling into it, the owner or occupant of any of the premises shall be notified to remove them forthwith. The notice shall be based upon a resolution or order of the county commissioners and may be given by mail to the last known address of the owner or occupant. If the trees are not removed within ten days after the date of the notice, the county may thereupon fell them. [1963 c 4 § 36.32.300. Prior: 1921 c 30 § 3; RRS § 4057-3.]

**36.32.302 Transfer of ownership of county-owned vessel—Review of vessel's physical condition.** (1) Prior to transferring ownership of a county-owned vessel, the county shall conduct a thorough review of the physical condition of the vessel, the vessel's operating capability, and any containers and other materials that are not fixed to the vessel.

(2) If the county determines that the vessel is in a state of advanced deterioration or poses a reasonably imminent threat to human health or safety, including a threat of environmental contamination, the county may: (a) Not transfer the vessel until the conditions identified under this subsection have been corrected; or (b) permanently dispose of the vessel by landfill, deconstruction, or other related method.

(3) Vessels taken into custody under chapter 79.100 RCW are not subject to this section or RCW 36.32.304. [2013 c 291 § 19.]

**36.32.304 Transfer of ownership of county-owned vessel—Further requirements.** (1) Following the inspection required under RCW 36.32.302 and prior to transferring ownership of a county-owned vessel, a county shall obtain the following from the transferee:

(a) The purposes for which the transferee intends to use the vessel; and

(b) Information demonstrating the prospective owner's intent to obtain legal moorage following the transfer, in the manner determined by the county.

(2)(a) The county shall remove any containers or other materials that are not fixed to the vessel and contain hazardous substances, as defined under RCW 70A.305.020.

(b) However, the county may transfer a vessel with:

(i) Those containers or materials described under (a) of this subsection where the transferee demonstrates to the county's satisfaction that the container's or material's presence is consistent with the anticipated use of the vessel; and

(ii) A reasonable amount of fuel as determined by the county, based on factors including the vessel's size, condition, and anticipated use of the vessel including initial destination following transfer.

(c) The county may consult with the department of ecology in carrying out the requirements of this subsection.

(3) Prior to sale, and unless the vessel has a title or valid marine document, the county is required to apply for a certificate of title for the vessel under RCW 88.02.510 and register the vessel under RCW 88.02.550. [2020 c 20 § 1020; 2013 c 291 § 20.]

**36.32.330 Appeals from board's action.** Any person may appeal to the superior court from any decision or order of the board of county commissioners. Such appeal shall be taken within twenty days after the decision or order, and the appellant shall within that time serve notice of appeal on the county commissioners. The notice shall be in writing and shall be delivered to at least one of the county commissioners personally, or left with the county auditor. The appellant shall, within ten days after service of the notice of appeal give a bond to the county with one or more sureties, to be approved by the county auditor, conditioned for the payment of all costs which shall be adjudged against him or her on such appeal in the superior court. The practice regulating appeals from and writs of certiorari to justice's courts shall,

insofar as applicable, govern in matters of appeal from a decision or order of the board of county commissioners.

Nothing herein contained shall be construed to prevent a party having a claim against any county in this state from enforcing the collection thereof by civil action in any court of competent jurisdiction after the same has been presented to and filed as provided by law and disallowed in whole or in part by the board of county commissioners of the proper county. Such action must, however, be commenced within the time limitation provided in \*RCW 36.45.030. [2009 c 549 § 4068; 1963 c 4 § 36.32.330. Prior: 1957 c 224 § 5; 1893 c 121 § 1; Code 1881 § 2695; 1869 p 308 § 29; 1867 p 57 § 29; 1863 p 545 § 30; 1854 p 423 § 24; RRS § 4076. Cf. 1879 p 143 §§ 1, 2.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 36.45.030 was repealed by 1993 c 449 § 13.

**36.32.335 Coordination of county administrative programs—Legislative declaration.** The public necessity for the coordination of county administrative programs, especially in the fields of highways and social security, be and is hereby recognized. [1963 c 4 § 36.32.335. Prior: 1939 c 188 § 1; RRS § 4077-2.]

**36.32.340 Coordination of county administrative programs—Duties incident to.** The county commissioners shall take such action as is necessary to effect coordination of their administrative programs and prepare reports annually on the operations of all departments under their jurisdiction. [1998 c 245 § 27; 1963 c 4 § 36.32.340. Prior: 1939 c 188 § 2; RRS § 4077-3.]

**36.32.350 Coordination of county administrative programs—Coordinating agency—Agency reimbursement.** County legislative authorities may designate the Washington state association of counties as a coordinating agency in the execution of duties imposed by RCW 36.32.335 through 36.32.360 and reimburse the association from county current expense funds in the county legislative authority's budget for the costs of any such services rendered. Such reimbursement shall be paid on vouchers submitted to the county auditor and approved by the county legislative authority in the manner provided for the disbursement of other current expense funds and the vouchers shall set forth the nature of the service rendered, supported by affidavit that the service has actually been performed. [1991 c 363 § 59; 1973 1st ex.s. c 195 § 30; 1971 ex.s. c 85 § 3; 1970 ex.s. c 47 § 1; 1963 c 4 § 36.32.350. Prior: 1947 c 49 § 1; 1939 c 188 § 3; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 4077-4.]

**Purpose—Captions not law—1991 c 363:** See notes following RCW 2.32.180.

*Associations of municipal corporations or municipal officers to furnish information to legislature and governor: RCW 44.04.170.*

*Merger of state association of counties with state association of county officials: RCW 36.47.070.*

*Winter recreation advisory committee, representative of association of counties as member: RCW 79A.05.255.*

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

**36.32.360 Coordination of county administrative programs—Attendance at conventions authorized.** County commissioners are hereby authorized to take such

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other and further action as may be deemed necessary to the compliance with the intent of RCW 36.32.335 through 36.32.360, including attendance at such state or district meetings as may be required to formulate the reports directed in RCW 36.32.340. [1963 c 4 § 36.32.360. Prior: 1939 c 188 § 4; RRS § 4077-5.]

**36.32.370 Land surveys.** Except as otherwise provided in this title, the board of county commissioners, through a surveyor employed by it shall execute all surveys of land that may be required by the county. The certificate of the surveyor so employed of any survey made of lands within the county shall be presumptive evidence of the facts therein contained. [1963 c 4 § 36.32.370. Prior: (i) 1895 c 77 § 3; RRS § 4144. (ii) 1895 c 77 § 4; RRS § 4145.]

**36.32.380 Land surveys—Record of surveys.** Except as otherwise provided in this title, the board of county commissioners shall cause to be recorded in a suitable book all surveys except such as are made for a temporary purpose. The record book shall be so constructed as to have one page for diagrams to be numbered progressively and the opposite page for notes and remarks; no diagram shall be so constructed as to scale less than one inch to twenty chains. [1963 c 4 § 36.32.380. Prior: 1895 c 77 § 5; RRS § 4150.]

**36.32.390 Nonmonthly employees, vacations and sick leaves.** Each employee of any county in this state who is employed on an hourly or per diem basis, who shall have worked fifteen hundred hours or more in any one year may in the discretion of the board of county commissioners be given the same vacations and sick leaves as are provided for the employees of the county employed on a monthly basis. [1963 c 4 § 36.32.390. Prior: 1951 c 187 § 1.]

**36.32.400 Health care and group insurance.** Subject to chapter 48.62 RCW, any county by a majority vote of its board of county commissioners may enter into contracts to provide health care services and/or group insurance for the benefit of its employees, and may pay all or any part of the cost thereof. Any two or more counties, by a majority vote of their respective boards of county commissioners may, if deemed expedient, join in the procuring of such health care services and/or group insurance, and the board of county commissioners of each participating county may, by appropriate resolution, authorize their respective counties to pay all or any portion of the cost thereof.

Nothing in this section shall impair the eligibility of any employee of a county, municipality, or other political subdivision under RCW 41.04.205. [1991 sp.s. c 30 § 21; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 106 § 7; 1963 c 4 § 36.32.400. Prior: 1957 c 106 § 1; 1955 c 51 § 1.]

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

**36.32.410 Participation in Economic Opportunity Act programs.** The board of county commissioners of any county is hereby authorized and empowered in its discretion by resolution or ordinance passed by a majority of the board, to take whatever action it deems necessary to enable the county to participate in the programs set forth in the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 (Public Law 88-452; 78 Stat.

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508), as amended. Such participation may be engaged in as a sole county operation or in conjunction or cooperation with the state, any other county, city, or municipal corporation, or any private corporation qualified under said Economic Opportunity Act. [1971 ex.s. c 177 § 1; 1965 c 14 § 1.]

**36.32.415 Low-income housing—Loans and grants.**

A county may assist in the development or preservation of publicly or privately owned housing for persons of low income by providing loans or grants of general county funds to the owners or developers of the housing. The loans or grants shall be authorized by the legislative authority of a county. They may be made to finance all or a portion of the cost of construction, reconstruction, acquisition, or rehabilitation of housing that will be occupied by a person or family of low income. As used in this section, "low income" means income that does not exceed eighty percent of the median income for the standard metropolitan statistical area in which the county is located. Housing constructed with loans or grants made under this section shall not be considered public works or improvements subject to competitive bidding or a purchase of services subject to the prohibition against advance payment for services: PROVIDED, That whenever feasible the borrower or grantee shall make every reasonable and practicable effort to utilize a competitive public bidding process. [1986 c 248 § 2.]

**36.32.420 Youth agencies—Establishment authorized.** See RCW 35.21.630.

**36.32.425 Juvenile curfews.** (1) The legislative authority of any county has the authority to enact an ordinance, for the purpose of preserving the public safety or reducing acts of violence by or against juveniles that are occurring at such rates as to be beyond the capacity of the police to assure public safety, establishing times and conditions under which juveniles may be present on the public streets, in the public parks, or in any other public place during specified hours.

(2) The ordinance shall not contain any criminal sanctions for a violation of the ordinance. [1994 sp.s. c 7 § 504.]

**Finding—Intent—Severability—1994 sp.s. c 7:** See notes following RCW 43.70.540.

**36.32.430 Parks, may designate name of.** The board of county commissioners is authorized to designate the name of any park established by the county. [1965 ex.s. c 76 § 3.]

*Acquisition of property for park, recreational, viewpoint, greenbelt, conservation, historic, scenic, or view purposes: RCW 36.34.340.*

**36.32.435 Historic preservation—Authorization to acquire property, borrow money, issue bonds, etc.** Any county may acquire title to or any interest in real and personal property for the purpose of historic preservation and may restore, improve, maintain, manage, and lease the property for public or private use and may enter into contracts, borrow money, and issue bonds and other obligations for such purposes. This authorization shall not expand the eminent domain powers of counties. [1984 c 203 § 4.]

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

**36.32.440 Staff to aid in purchasing, poverty programs, parks, emergency services, budget, etc., authorized.** The board of county commissioners of the several counties may employ such staff as deemed appropriate to serve the several boards directly in matters including but not limited to purchasing, poverty and relief programs, parks and recreation, emergency services, budgetary preparations set forth in RCW 36.40.010-36.40.050, code enforcement and general administrative coordination. Such authority shall in no way infringe upon or relieve the county auditor of responsibilities contained in RCW \*36.22.010(9) and 36.22.020. [1974 ex.s. c 171 § 3; 1969 ex.s. c 252 § 3.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 36.22.010 was amended by 1984 c 128 § 2, changing subsection (9) to subsection (8); and was subsequently amended by 1995 c 194 § 1, changing subsection (8) to subsection (6).

**36.32.450 Tourist promotion.** Any county in this state acting through its council or other legislative body shall have power to expend moneys and conduct promotion of resources and facilities in the county or general area by advertising, publicizing, or otherwise distributing information for the purpose of attracting visitors and encouraging tourist expansion. [1971 ex.s. c 61 § 1.]

**36.32.460 Employee safety award programs.** The board of county commissioners may establish an employee safety award program to reward and encourage the safe performance of assigned duties by county employees.

The board may establish standards and regulations necessary or appropriate for the proper administration and for otherwise accomplishing the purposes of such program.

The board may authorize every department head and other officer of county government who oversees or directs county employees to make the determination as to whether an employee safety award will be made.

Such awards shall be made annually from the county general fund by warrant on vouchers duly authorized by the board according to the following schedule based upon safe and accident-free performance:

5 years.....	\$ 2.50
10 years.....	5.00
15 years.....	7.50
20 years.....	10.00
25 years.....	12.50
30 years.....	20.00:

PROVIDED, That the board may give such department heads and other officers overseeing and directing county employees discretion to purchase a noncash award of equal value in lieu of the cash award. If a noncash award is given the warrants shall be made payable to the business enterprise from which the noncash award is purchased.

However, safety awards made to persons whose safe and accident-free performance has directly benefited the county road system shall be made from the county road fund by warrant on vouchers duly authorized by the board. [1971 c 79 § 1.]

**36.32.470 Fire protection, ambulance or other emergency services provided by municipal corporations within**

**county—Financial and other assistance authorized.** The legislative authority of any county shall have the power to furnish, upon such terms as the board may deem proper, with or without consideration, financial or other assistance to any municipal corporation, or political subdivision within such county for the purpose of implementing the fire protection, ambulance, medical or other emergency services provided by such municipal corporation, or political subdivision: PROVIDED, That no such municipal corporation or political subdivision shall be authorized to expend any funds or property received as part of such assistance for any purpose, or in any manner, for which it could not otherwise legally expend its own funds. [1974 ex.s. c 51 § 1.]

*Ambulance services may be provided by county: RCW 36.01.100.*

**36.32.475 Regulation of automatic number or location identification—Prohibited.** No county may enact or enforce an ordinance or regulation mandating automatic number identification or automatic location identification for a private telecommunications system or for a provider of private shared telecommunications services. [1995 c 243 § 8.]

**Findings—Severability—1995 c 243:** See notes following RCW 80.36.555.

**36.32.480 Emergency medical service districts—Creation authorized—Composition of governing body.** (1) A county legislative authority may adopt an ordinance creating an emergency medical service district in all or a portion of the unincorporated area of the county and, pursuant to subsection (2) of this section, within the corporate limits of any city or town. The ordinance may only be adopted after a public hearing has been held on the creation of such a district and the county legislative authority makes a finding that it is in the public interest to create the district.

An emergency medical service district shall be a quasi-municipal corporation and an independent taxing "authority" within the meaning of Article 7, Section 1, Washington State Constitution. Emergency medical service districts shall also be "taxing authorities" within the meaning of Article 7, Section 2, Washington State Constitution.

An emergency medical service district shall have the authority to provide emergency medical services.

(2) When any part of a proposed emergency medical service district includes an area within the corporate limits of a city or town, the governing body of the city or town shall approve the inclusion, and the county governing body shall maintain a certified copy of the resolution of approval before adopting an ordinance including the area.

(3) The members of the county legislative authority shall compose the governing body of any emergency medical service district which is created within the county: PROVIDED, That where an emergency medical service district includes an area within the corporate limits of a city or town, the emergency medical service district may be governed as provided in an interlocal agreement adopted pursuant to chapter 39.34 RCW. The voters of an emergency medical service district must be registered voters residing within the service area. [2000 c 31 § 1; 1979 ex.s. c 200 § 2.]

*Levy for emergency medical care and services: RCW 84.52.069.*

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

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**36.32.490 County freeholders—Method of filling vacancies.** Vacancies in the position of county freeholder shall be filled with a person qualified for the position who is appointed by majority action of the remaining county freeholders. [1984 c 163 § 1.]

**36.32.510 Right-of-way donations—Credit against required improvements.** Where the zoning and planning provisions of a county require landscaping, parking, or other improvements as a condition to granting permits for commercial or industrial developments, the county may credit donations of right-of-way in excess of that required for traffic improvement against such landscaping, parking, or other requirements. [1987 c 267 § 10.]

*Right-of-way donations: Chapter 47.14 RCW.*

**36.32.520 Child care facilities—Review of need and demand—Adoption of ordinances.** If a county operating under home rule charter zones pursuant to its inherent charter authority and not pursuant to chapter 35.63 RCW, nor chapter 36.70 RCW, and that county does not provide for the siting of family day care homes in zones or areas that are designated for single-family or other residential uses, and for the siting of mini-day care centers and day care centers in zones or areas that are designated for any residential or commercial uses, the county shall conduct a review of the need and demand for child care facilities, including the cost of any conditional or special use permit that may be required. The review shall be completed by August 30, 1990. A copy of the findings, conclusions, and recommendations resulting from the review shall be sent to the \*department of community development by September 30, 1990.

On or before June 30, 1991, each municipality that plans and zones under this chapter shall have adopted an ordinance or ordinances that are necessary to implement the findings of this review, if the findings indicate that such changes are necessary, or shall notify the \*department of community development as to why such implementing ordinances were not adopted. [1989 c 335 § 8.]

**\*Reviser's note:** Powers, duties, and functions of the department of community development and the department of trade and economic development were transferred to the department of community, trade, and economic development by 1993 c 280, effective July 1, 1994. The "department of community, trade, and economic development" was renamed the "department of commerce" by 2009 c 565.

**Findings—Purpose—Severability—1989 c 335:** See notes following RCW 35.63.170.

**Definitions for RCW 36.32.520:** See RCW 35.63.170.

**36.32.525 Conditional and special use permit applications by parties licensed or certified by the department of social and health services or the department of corrections—Mediation prior to appeal required.** A final decision by a hearing examiner involving a conditional or special use permit application under a home rule charter that is requested by a party that is licensed or certified by the department of social and health services or the department of corrections is subject to mediation under RCW 35.63.260 before an appeal may be filed. [1998 c 119 § 5.]

**36.32.540 Settlement of Indian claims.** (1) The settlement of Indian land and other claims against public and pri-

vate property owners is declared to be in the interest of public health and safety, orderly government, environmental protection, economic development, and the social well-being of the citizens of this state, and to specifically benefit the properties released from those claims.

It is the purpose of \*this act to encourage the settlement of such Indian land and other claims lawsuits by permitting the establishment and use of local improvement districts to finance all or a portion of the settlement costs of such lawsuits.

(2) A local improvement district may be established by a county legislative authority to finance all or part of the settlement costs in an Indian land and other claims settlement related to public and private property located within the incorporated or unincorporated areas of the county. The settlement of an Indian land and other claims lawsuit shall be deemed to be an improvement that may be financed in whole or in part through use of a local improvement district.

(3) Except as expressly provided in this section, all matters relating to the establishment and operation of such a local improvement district, the levying and collection of special assessments, the issuance of local improvement district bonds and other obligations, and all related matters, shall be subject to the provisions of chapter 36.94 RCW concerning the use of local improvement districts to finance sewer or water facilities. The requirements of chapter 36.94 RCW concerning the preparation of a general plan and formation of a review committee shall not apply to a local improvement district used to finance all or a portion of Indian land and other claims settlements. The resolution or petition that initiates the creation of a local improvement district used to finance all or a portion of an Indian land and other claims settlement shall describe the general nature of the Indian land and other claims and the proposed settlement. The value of a contribution by any person, municipal corporation, political subdivision, or the state of money, real property, or personal property to the settlement of Indian land and other claims shall be credited to any assessment for a local improvement district under this section. [1989 1st ex.s. c 4 § 3.]

**\*Reviser's note:** "This act" consists of the enactment of this section, RCW 35.43.280, and an uncodified section.

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

**36.32.550 Conformance with chapter 43.97 RCW required.** With respect to the National Scenic Area, as defined in the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Act, P.L. 99-663, the exercise of any power or authority by a county pursuant to this chapter shall be subject to and in conformity with the requirements of chapter 43.97 RCW, including the Interstate Compact adopted by RCW 43.97.015, and with the management plan regulations and ordinances adopted by the Columbia River Gorge commission pursuant to the Compact. [1987 c 499 § 8.]

**36.32.560 Home rule charter counties—Residential care facilities—Review of need and demand—Adoption of ordinances.** If a county operating under home rule charter zones pursuant to its inherent charter authority and not pursuant to chapter 35.63 RCW, nor chapter 36.70 RCW, and that county does not provide for the siting of residential care facilities in zones or areas that are designated for single-family or

other residential uses, the county shall conduct a review of the need and demand for the facilities, including the cost of any conditional or special use permit that may be required. The review shall be completed by August 30, 1990. A copy of the findings, conclusions, and recommendations resulting from the review shall be sent to the \*department of community development by September 30, 1990.

On or before June 30, 1991, each municipality that plans and zones under this chapter shall have adopted an ordinance or ordinances that are necessary to implement the findings of this review, if the findings indicate that such changes are necessary, or shall notify the \*department of community development as to why such implementing ordinances were not adopted. [1989 c 427 § 40.]

**\*Reviser's note:** Powers, duties, and functions of the department of community development and the department of trade and economic development were transferred to the department of community, trade, and economic development by 1993 c 280, effective July 1, 1994. The "department of community, trade, and economic development" was renamed the "department of commerce" by 2009 c 565.

**36.32.570 Conservation area acquisition and maintenance.** The legislative authority of each county may acquire a fee simple interest, or lesser interest, in conservation areas in the county and may maintain the conservation areas. The conservation areas may be acquired and maintained with moneys obtained from the excise tax under RCW 82.46.070, or any other moneys available for such purposes.

As used in this section, the term "conservation area" means land and water that has environmental, agricultural, aesthetic, cultural, scientific, historic, scenic, or low-intensity recreational value for existing and future generations, and includes, but is not limited to, open spaces, wetlands, marshes, aquifer recharge areas, shoreline areas, natural areas, and other lands and waters that are important to preserve flora and fauna. [1990 1st ex.s. c 5 § 2.]

**Purpose—1990 1st ex.s. c 5:** "The purpose of this act is to provide a mechanism for the acquisition and maintenance of conservation areas through an orderly process that is approved by the voters of a county. The authorities provided in this act are supplemental, and shall not be construed to limit otherwise existing authorities." [1990 1st ex.s. c 5 § 1.]

**36.32.580 Home rule charter counties subject to limitations on moratoria, interim zoning controls.** A charter county that plans under the authority of its charter is subject to the provisions of RCW 36.70.795. [1992 c 207 § 5.]

**36.32.590 Building construction projects—County prohibited from requiring state agencies or local governments to provide bond or other security as a condition for issuance of permit.** A county legislative authority may not require any state agency or unit of local government to secure the performance of a permit requirement with a surety bond or other financial security device, including cash or assigned account, as a condition of issuing a permit to that unit of local government for a building construction project.

As used in this section, "building construction project" includes, in addition to its usual meaning, associated landscaping, street alteration, pedestrian or vehicular access alteration, or other amenities or alterations necessarily associated with the project. [1993 c 439 § 3.]

**36.32.600 Amateur radio antennas—Local regulation to conform with federal law.** No county shall enact or enforce an ordinance or regulation that fails to conform to the limited preemption entitled "Amateur Radio Preemption, 101 FCC 2nd 952 (1985)" issued by the federal communications commission. An ordinance or regulation adopted by a county with respect to amateur radio antennas shall conform to the limited federal preemption, that states local regulations that involve placement, screening, or height of antennas based on health, safety, or aesthetic considerations must be crafted to reasonably accommodate amateur communications, and to represent the minimal practicable regulation to accomplish the local authority's legitimate purpose. [1994 c 50 § 3.]

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

**36.32.610 Library capital facility areas authorized.** A county legislative authority may establish a library capital facility area pursuant to chapter 27.15 RCW. [1995 c 368 § 8.]

**Findings—1995 c 368:** See RCW 27.15.005.

**36.32.620 Abandoned or derelict vessels.** A county has the authority, subject to the processes and limitation outlined in chapter 79.100 RCW, to store, strip, use, auction, sell, salvage, scrap, or dispose of an abandoned or derelict vessel found on or above publicly or privately owned aquatic lands within the jurisdiction of the county. [2002 c 286 § 17.]

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

**Chapter 36.33 RCW  
COUNTY FUNDS**

Sections

- 36.33.010 Current expense fund.
- 36.33.020 Cumulative reserve fund—Purposes—Election to allow other specified use.
- 36.33.030 Cumulative reserve fund—Accumulation of, current expense fund limits not to affect.
- 36.33.040 Cumulative reserve fund—Permissible uses of funds in.
- 36.33.060 Salary fund—Reimbursement.
- 36.33.065 Claims fund—Reimbursement.
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- 36.33.120 County lands assessment fund created—Levy for.
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- 36.33.160 County lands assessment fund created—List of lands to be furnished.
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- 36.33.190 County lands assessment fund created—Disposal of bonds.
- 36.33.200 Election reserve fund.
- 36.33.210 Election reserve fund—Accumulation of fund—Transfers.
- 36.33.220 County road property tax revenues, expenditure for services authorized.

*Abandoned mining shafts and excavation violations, fines for as:* RCW 78.12.050.

*Assessments and taxes, prepayment and deposit of:* RCW 36.32.120.

*Authorized for*

- air pollution control:* Chapter 70A.15 RCW.
- airport purposes:* Chapters 14.07, 14.08 RCW.
- validation of funds spent:* RCW 14.08.070.

- combined city-county health department:* RCW 70.08.080.
- prior expenditures validated:* RCW 70.08.110.
- flood control zone districts:* RCW 86.15.150, 86.15.160, 86.15.180.
- housing cooperation law:* Chapter 35.83 RCW.
- legal aid:* Chapter 2.50 RCW.
- mosquito control:* Chapter 70.22 RCW.
- public utility district election costs:* RCW 54.08.041.
- railroad crossing signals, warning devices:* RCW 81.53.271 through 81.53.281.
- river and harbor improvement district joint board expenses:* RCW 88.32.220.
- toll bridges, tunnels, and ferries:* Chapter 47.56 RCW.
- traffic schools:* RCW 46.83.030.
- transcripts of testimony forma pauperis:* RCW 2.32.240.
- Billiard tables, licensing of, receipts as:* RCW 67.14.120.
- Bonds, notes of port district toll facility as investment for:* RCW 53.34.150.
- Bonds of federal agencies as investment for:* Chapter 39.60 RCW.
- Bonds of housing authority as investment for:* RCW 35.82.220.
- Bonds to build schools as investment for:* Chapter 28A.525 RCW.
- Bowling alleys, licensing of, receipts as:* RCW 67.14.120.
- County law library fund:* RCW 27.24.070, 27.24.090.
- County road fund*
  - illegal use of, department of transportation to investigate; penalties:* RCW 47.08.100, 47.08.110.
  - moneys from may be paid on establishing, constructing, etc., of streets:* RCW 35.77.030.
  - surplus, unclaimed money in public waterway district funds to go into:* RCW 91.08.610, 91.08.620.
  - traffic control devices to be paid from:* RCW 47.36.040.
- County school funds:* Chapter 28A.545 RCW.
- apportionment of:* Chapter 28A.150 RCW.
- penalties collected paid into:* RCW 6.17.120.
- violations and penalties applicable to:* RCW 28A.635.050, 28A.635.070.
- County tax refund fund:* RCW 84.68.030.
- Disposition of off-road vehicle moneys:* RCW 46.68.045.
- Distribution of snowmobile registration fees:* RCW 46.68.350(2).
- Employee safety award program, funds affected:* RCW 36.32.460.
- Fiscal agent for counties:* Chapter 43.80 RCW.
- Flood control maintenance fund:* RCW 86.26.070.
- Forest reserve funds, distribution of:* RCW 28A.520.010 and 28A.520.020.
- Game and game fish law, fines from violations as:* RCW 77.12.170.
- Horticultural tax receipts as:* Chapter 15.08 RCW.
- Indigent soldiers' relief funds, veterans meeting place rent paid from:* RCW 73.04.080.
- Intercounty river improvement fund:* RCW 86.13.030.
- Liquor*
  - excise tax fund moneys as:* RCW 82.08.170.
  - law violation receipts as:* RCW 66.44.010.
  - licensing sale of, receipts as:* RCW 67.14.120.
  - revolving fund moneys as:* Chapter 66.08 RCW.
- Metropolitan municipal corporation fund:* RCW 35.58.430.
- Mineral and petroleum leases, moneys as:* RCW 78.16.050.
- Moneys paid into from*
  - general tax levy for road fund:* RCW 36.82.040.
  - television reception improvement districts:* Chapter 36.95 RCW.
- Motor vehicle funds allocated to counties*
  - distribution of:* RCW 46.68.120.
  - generally:* Chapter 46.68 RCW.
- Motor vehicle licensing fees for oversize or overweight movements paid to county, when:* RCW 46.44.096.
- Public assistance moneys, allocation to counties:* Chapter 74.04 RCW.
- Public health funds (county):* Chapter 70.12 RCW.
- Public health pooling fund:* RCW 70.12.030 through 70.12.070.
- Public utility district privilege taxes as:* Chapter 54.28 RCW.
- Reforestation lands proceeds as:* RCW 79.22.040, 79.22.050.

*Reserve fund for labor, material or tax liens on public works: Chapter 60.28 RCW.*

*River improvement fund  
flood control maintenance account: RCW 86.12.010, 86.12.020.  
generally: Chapter 86.12 RCW.*

*Sale of stock found in stock restricted area, proceeds as: RCW 16.24.070.*

*Taxes for city and town purposes: State Constitution Art. 11 § 12.*

*Teachers' institute fund: RCW 28A.410.060.*

*Tuberculosis funds, moneys to go into: RCW 70.30.045.*

*Witness fees of county officers as: RCW 42.16.030.*

**36.33.010 Current expense fund.** Every county shall maintain a current expense fund to which shall be credited all taxes levied for that purpose and all fees collected, fines assessed, and forfeitures adjudged in the county the proceeds of which have not been specifically allocated to any other purpose. [1963 c 4 § 36.33.010. Prior: 1945 c 85 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 5634-1.]

*Moneys paid from for  
disinfection of horticultural premises: Chapter 15.08 RCW.  
public health pooling fund: RCW 70.12.040.  
weed district taxes on county lands: RCW 17.04.180.*

*Moneys paid into from  
disinfection of horticultural premises tax: RCW 15.08.170.  
horticultural tax funds: RCW 15.08.260.  
unclaimed property in hands of sheriff, sale of: RCW 63.40.030.  
use tax on vehicles, auditor's collection fees: RCW 82.12.045.  
vehicle registration filing fees: RCW 46.68.400.  
vehicle use tax collection fees: RCW 82.12.045.  
violations bureau funds: RCW 3.30.090.*

**36.33.020 Cumulative reserve fund—Purposes—Election to allow other specified use.** Any board of county commissioners may establish by resolution a cumulative reserve fund in general terms for several different county purposes as well as for a very specific county purpose, including that of buying any specified supplies, material or equipment, or the construction, alteration or repair of any public building or work, or the making of any public improvement. The resolution shall designate the fund as "cumulative reserve fund for . . . . (naming the purpose or purposes for which the fund is to be accumulated and expended)." The moneys in said fund may be allowed to accumulate from year to year until the board of county commissioners of the county shall determine to expend the moneys in the fund for the purpose or purposes specified: PROVIDED, That any moneys in said fund shall never be expended for any other purpose or purposes than those specified, without an approving vote by a majority of the electors of the county at a general or special election to allow other specified uses to be made of said fund. [1963 c 4 § 36.33.020. Prior: 1961 c 172 § 1; 1945 c 51 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 5634-10.]

**36.33.030 Cumulative reserve fund—Accumulation of, current expense fund limits not to affect.** An item for said cumulative reserve fund may be included in the county's annual budget or estimate of amounts required to meet public expense for the ensuing year and a tax levy made within the limits and as authorized by law for said item; and said item and levy may be repeated from year to year until, in the judgment of the board of county commissioners of the county the amount required for the specified purpose or purposes has been raised or accumulated. The board of county commis-

sioners may accept gifts or bequests for the cumulative reserve fund and may make transfers from the current expense fund to the cumulative reserve fund. Any moneys in said fund at the end of the fiscal year shall not lapse nor shall the same be a surplus available or which may be used for any other purpose or purposes than those specified, except as herein provided, nor shall moneys in said fund be considered when computing the limitations on cash balances set out in section 4, chapter 164, Laws of 1923 as last amended by section 1, chapter 145, Laws of 1943 and RCW 36.40.090. [1963 c 4 § 36.33.030. Prior: 1961 c 172 § 2; 1945 c 51 § 2; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 5634-11.]

**36.33.040 Cumulative reserve fund—Permissible uses of funds in.** No money in any cumulative reserve fund shall be used for any purpose other than that for which the fund was created except:

(1) If the purpose of the creation of a cumulative reserve fund has been accomplished by the completion of the proposed building or improvement, the balance remaining in the fund may be transferred to any other cumulative reserve fund or to the county current expense fund by order of the board.

(2) If the purpose of the creation of a cumulative reserve fund ceases to exist or is abandoned, the fund or any part thereof, may be transferred to any other cumulative reserve fund or to the county current expense fund by order of the board after a public hearing thereon pursuant to a notice by publication: PROVIDED, That if the amount to be transferred exceeds fifty thousand dollars, no transfer may be made until authorized by a majority of the voters of the county voting upon the question at an election. [1963 c 4 § 36.33.040. Prior: 1945 c 51 § 3; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 5634-12.]

**36.33.060 Salary fund—Reimbursement.** The county legislative authority of each county with a population of one hundred twenty-five thousand or more shall establish a salary fund to be used for paying the salaries and wages of all officials and employees. The county legislative authority of any other county may establish such a salary fund. Said salary fund shall be reimbursed from any county funds or other funds under the jurisdiction or control of the county treasurer or county auditor budgeted for salaries and wages. The deposits shall be made in the exact amount of the payroll or vouchers paid from the salary fund. [1991 c 363 § 64; 1973 1st ex.s. c 38 § 1; 1971 ex.s. c 214 § 1; 1963 c 4 § 36.33.060. Prior: 1961 c 273 § 1; prior: (i) 1935 c 94 § 1; 1933 ex.s. c 14 § 1; RRS § 4201-1. (ii) 1933 ex.s. c 14 § 2; RRS § 4201-2. (iii) 1933 ex.s. c 14 § 3; RRS § 4201-3.]

**Purpose—Captions not law—1991 c 363:** See notes following RCW 2.32.180.

**36.33.065 Claims fund—Reimbursement.** The county legislative authority of any county may establish by resolution a fund to be known as the claims fund, which shall be used for paying claims against the county. Such claims fund shall be reimbursed from any county funds or other funds under the jurisdiction or control of the county treasurer or county auditor budgeted for such expenditures. The deposits shall be made in the exact amount of the vouchers paid from the claims fund. [1991 c 363 § 65; 1973 1st ex.s. c 38 § 2; 1971 ex.s. c 214 § 2.]



**Purpose—Captions not law—1991 c 363:** See notes following RCW 2.32.180.

**36.33.070 Investment in warrants on tax refund fund.** Whenever the county treasurer deems it expedient and for the best interests of the county he or she may invest any moneys in the county current expense fund in outstanding warrants on the county tax refund fund in the following manner: When he or she has determined the amount of moneys in the county current expense fund available for investment, he or she shall call, in the order of their issuance, a sufficient number of warrants drawn on the county tax refund fund as nearly as possible equaling in amount but not exceeding the moneys to be invested, and upon presentation and surrender thereof he or she shall pay to the holders of such warrants the face amount thereof and the accrued interest thereon out of moneys in the county current expense fund. [2009 c 549 § 4069; 1963 c 4 § 36.33.070. Prior: 1943 c 61 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 5545-10.]

**36.33.080 Investment in warrants on tax refund fund—Procedure upon purchase—Interest on.** Upon receipt of any such warrant on the tax refund fund the county treasurer shall enter the principal amount thereof, and accrued interest thereon, as a suspense credit upon his or her records, and shall hold the warrant until it with interest, if any, is paid in due course out of the county tax refund fund, and upon such payment, the amount thereof shall be restored to the county current expense fund. The refund warrants held by the county treasurer shall continue to draw interest until the payment thereof out of the county tax refund fund, which interest accruing subsequent to acquisition of the warrants by the county treasurer shall be paid into the county current expense fund. [2009 c 549 § 4070; 1963 c 4 § 36.33.080. Prior: 1943 c 61 § 2; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 5545-11.]

**36.33.090 Investment in warrants on tax refund fund—Breaking of warrants authorized.** Whenever it appears to the county treasurer that the face amount plus accrued interest of the tax refund warrant next eligible for investment exceeds by one hundred dollars the amount of moneys in the county current expense fund available for investment, the county treasurer may notify the warrant holder who shall thereupon apply to the county auditor for the breaking of the warrant and the county auditor upon such application shall take up the original warrant and reissue, as of the date which the original warrant bears, two new refund warrants one of which shall be in an amount approximately equaling, with accrued interest, the amount of moneys in the county current expense fund determined by the county treasurer to be available for investment. The new warrants when issued shall be callable and payable in the same order with respect to other outstanding tax refund warrants as the original warrant in lieu of which the new warrants were issued. [1963 c 4 § 36.33.090. Prior: 1943 c 61 § 3; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 5545-12.]

**36.33.100 Investment in warrants on tax refund fund—Purchased warrants as cash.** In making settlements of accounts between outgoing and incoming county treasurers, any county tax refund warrant in which money in the

county current expense fund has been invested shall be deemed in every way the equivalent of cash and shall be received for by the incoming county treasurer as such. [1963 c 4 § 36.33.100. Prior: 1943 c 61 § 4; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 5545-13.]

**36.33.120 County lands assessment fund created—Levy for.** The boards of county commissioners may annually levy a tax upon all taxable property in the county, for the purpose of creating a fund to be known as "county lands assessment fund." [1963 c 4 § 36.33.120. Prior: 1929 c 193 § 1; RRS § 4027-1.]

**36.33.130 County lands assessment fund created—Purpose of fund.** The county lands assessment fund may be expended by the county commissioners to pay in full or in part, any assessment or installment of assessments of drainage improvement districts, diking improvement districts, or districts formed for the foregoing purposes, or assessments for road improvements, falling due against lands in the year when such lands are acquired by the county or while they are owned by the county, including lands acquired by the county for general purposes; also lands which have been acquired by the county by foreclosure of general taxes. Payment may be made of such assessments, or installments thereof, against such lands or classes of lands, and in such districts or classes of districts as the county commissioners deem advisable. No payment shall be made of any assessments or installments of assessments falling due prior to the year in which the lands were acquired by the county, nor shall any assessments be paid in advance of the time when they fall due. Assessments for maintenance and operation of dikes, drains, or other improvements of districts falling due upon such lands while owned by the county, may be paid without the payment of assessments or installments thereof for construction of the improvements, if the county commissioners elect so to do. [1963 c 4 § 36.33.130. Prior: 1929 c 193 § 2; RRS § 4027-2.]

**36.33.140 County lands assessment fund created—Amount of levy.** The amount of the levy in any year for the county lands assessment fund shall not exceed the estimated amount needed over and above all moneys on hand in the fund, to pay the aggregate amount of such assessments falling due against the lands in the ensuing year; and in no event shall the levy exceed twelve and one-half cents per thousand dollars of assessed value upon all taxable property in the county. [1973 1st ex.s. c 195 § 31; 1963 c 4 § 36.33.140. Prior: 1929 c 193 § 3; RRS § 4027-3.]

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

**36.33.150 County lands assessment fund created—Surplus from tax sales to go into fund.** Into the county lands assessment fund shall also be paid any surplus moneys from the sale by the county, pursuant to foreclosure of real estate taxes, of any lands lying in any district formed for diking or drainage purposes or for assessment of road improvements, over and above the amount necessary to redeem the general taxes and other assessments against them, as required by law. Any surplus from any county levy for the fund, unexpended in any year, shall be carried forward in the fund to the

next year. [1963 c 4 § 36.33.150. Prior: 1929 c 193 § 4; RRS § 4027-4.]

**36.33.160 County lands assessment fund created—List of lands to be furnished.** Upon request the county treasurer shall furnish to the county legislative authority a list of all lands owned by the county, together with the amounts levied as assessments and the district in or by which such assessments are levied, against each description of the lands, as it appears on the assessment roll of the district. On or before the first day of August of each year, upon request, the treasurer shall furnish to the county legislative authority a similar list of all land owned by the county and subject to any such assessments, together with the amounts of any installment of assessments falling due against any of such lands in the ensuing year and an estimate of any maintenance or other assessments to be made against same to fall due in the ensuing year. [1991 c 245 § 9; 1963 c 4 § 36.33.160. Prior: 1929 c 193 § 5; RRS § 4027-5.]

**36.33.170 County lands assessment fund created—Rentals may be applied against assessments.** Moneys received as rentals of irrigated lands may be applied to the payment of current irrigation charges or assessments against the land. [1963 c 4 § 36.33.170. Prior: 1929 c 193 § 6; RRS § 4027-6.]

**36.33.190 County lands assessment fund created—Disposal of bonds.** The county treasurer shall cash any United States bonds owned by the county as they mature or, with the approval of the state finance committee and of the county finance committee, he or she may at any time sell them. In either event he or she must return the proceeds into the treasury. [2009 c 549 § 4071; 1963 c 4 § 36.33.190. Prior: 1937 c 209 § 2; RRS § 5646-12.]

**36.33.200 Election reserve fund.** The board of county commissioners may establish an election reserve fund for the payment of expenses of conducting regular and special state and county elections and compensation of election and registration officers and annually budget and levy a tax therefor. It may also make transfers into the election reserve fund from the current expense fund and receive funds for such purposes from cities, school districts and other subdivisions. [1963 c 4 § 36.33.200. Prior: 1955 c 48 § 1.]

**36.33.210 Election reserve fund—Accumulation of fund—Transfers.** The limits placed upon the amount to be accumulated in the current expense fund shall not affect the election reserve fund nor shall the existence of the election reserve fund affect the amount which may be accumulated in the current expense fund, nor shall any unexpended balance in the election reserve fund at the end of any budget year revert to the current expense fund but shall be carried forward in the election reserve fund to be used for the purposes for which the fund was created: PROVIDED, That at a regular session, the county commissioners may transfer any surplus in said fund to the current expense fund, if they deem it expedient to do so. [1963 c 4 § 36.33.210. Prior: 1955 c 48 § 2.]

**36.33.220 County road property tax revenues, expenditure for services authorized.** The legislative authority of any county may budget, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 36.40 RCW, and expend any portion of the county road property tax revenues for any service to be provided in the unincorporated area of the county notwithstanding any other provision of law, including chapter 36.82 RCW and RCW 84.52.050 and 84.52.043. County road property tax revenues that are diverted under chapter 39.89 RCW may be expended as provided under chapter 39.89 RCW. [2001 c 212 § 25; 1973 1st ex.s. c 195 § 142; 1973 1st ex.s. c 195 § 32; 1971 ex.s. c 25 § 1.]

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

## Chapter 36.33A RCW

### EQUIPMENT RENTAL AND REVOLVING FUND

#### Sections

- 36.33A.010 Equipment rental and revolving fund—Establishment—Purposes.
- 36.33A.020 Use of fund by other offices, departments or agencies.
- 36.33A.030 Administration of fund.
- 36.33A.040 Rates for equipment rental.
- 36.33A.050 Deposits in fund.
- 36.33A.060 Accumulated moneys.

**36.33A.010 Equipment rental and revolving fund—Establishment—Purposes.** Every county shall establish, by resolution, an "equipment rental and revolving fund", hereinafter referred to as "the fund", in the county treasury to be used as a revolving fund for the purchase, maintenance, and repair of county road department equipment; for the purchase of equipment, materials, supplies, and services required in the administration and operation of the fund; and for the purchase or manufacture of materials and supplies needed by the county road department. [1977 c 67 § 1.]

**36.33A.020 Use of fund by other offices, departments or agencies.** The legislative body of any county may authorize, by resolution, the use of the fund by any other office or department of the county government or any other governmental agency for similar purposes. [1977 c 67 § 2.]

**36.33A.030 Administration of fund.** With the approval of the county legislative body, the county engineer, or other appointee of the county legislative body, shall administer the fund and shall be responsible for establishing the terms and charges for the sale of any material or supplies which have been purchased, maintained, or manufactured with moneys from the fund. The terms and charges shall be set to cover all costs of purchasing, storing, and distributing the material or supplies, and may be amended as considered necessary. [1977 c 67 § 3.]

**36.33A.040 Rates for equipment rental.** Rates for the rental of equipment owned by the fund shall be set to cover all costs of maintenance and repair, material and supplies consumed in operating or maintaining the equipment, and the future replacement thereof. The rates shall be determined by the county engineer or other appointee of the county legislative body and shall be subject to annual review by the legislative body. This section does not restrict the ability of the county road administration board to directly inquire into the

process of setting rental rates while performing its statutory oversight responsibility. [2007 c 195 § 1; 1977 c 67 § 4.]

**36.33A.050 Deposits in fund.** The legislative authority of the county may, from time to time, place moneys in the fund from any source lawfully available to it and may transfer equipment, materials, and supplies of any office or department to the equipment rental and revolving fund with or without charge consistent with RCW 43.09.210. Charges for the rental of equipment and for providing materials, supplies, and services to any county office or department shall be paid monthly into the fund. Proceeds received from other governmental agencies for similar charges and from the sale of equipment or other personal property owned by the equipment rental and revolving fund, which is no longer of any value to or needed by the county, shall be placed in the fund as received. [1977 c 67 § 5.]

**36.33A.060 Accumulated moneys.** Moneys accumulated in the equipment rental and revolving fund shall be retained therein from year to year; shall be used only for the purposes stated in this chapter; and shall be subject to the budgetary regulations in chapter 36.40 RCW. [1977 c 67 § 6.]

## Chapter 36.34 RCW COUNTY PROPERTY

### Sections

36.34.005	Establishment of comprehensive procedures for management of county property authorized—Exemption from chapter.
36.34.010	Authority to sell—May sell timber, minerals separately—Mineral reservation.
36.34.020	Publication of notice of intention to sell.
36.34.030	Requirements of notice—Posting.
36.34.040	Public hearing.
36.34.050	Findings and determination—Minimum price.
36.34.060	Sales of personalty.
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36.34.100	Notice of sale—Requirements of.
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36.34.120	Used equipment sales.
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36.34.135	Leases of county property—Affordable housing.
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36.34.150	Application to lease—Deposit.
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36.34.200	Execution of lease agreement.
36.34.205	Lease of building space—Counties with a population of six hundred thousand or more.
36.34.210	Forestlands may be conveyed to United States.
36.34.220	Lease or conveyance to United States for flood control, navigation, and allied purposes.
36.34.230	Lease or conveyance to United States for flood control, navigation, and allied purposes—State consents to conveyance.
36.34.240	Lease or conveyance to United States for flood control, navigation, and allied purposes—Cession of jurisdiction.
36.34.250	Lease or conveyance to the state or to United States for military, housing, and other purposes.
36.34.260	Lease or conveyance to the state or to United States for military, housing, and other purposes—Procedure.
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36.34.280	Conveyance to municipality.
36.34.290	Dedication of county land for streets and alleys.
36.34.300	Dedication of county land for streets and alleys—Execution of dedication—Effective date.
36.34.310	Long term leases to United States.
36.34.320	Executory conditional sales contracts for purchase of property—Limit on indebtedness—Election, when.
36.34.330	Exchange for privately owned real property of equal value.
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36.34.355	Chapter not applicable to certain transfers of property.
36.34.360	Community garden.

*Acquisition and operation of public cemeteries and funeral facilities: Chapter 68.52 RCW.*

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*Federal areas on*

*generally: Chapters 37.08, 37.16 RCW.*

*Indians and Indian lands, jurisdiction: Chapter 37.12 RCW.*

*King county*

*Auburn general depot: RCW 37.08.260.*

*Lake Washington ship canal: RCW 37.08.240, 37.08.250.*

*military installations (permanent United States), county aid in acquisition of land for: Chapter 37.16 RCW.*

*Flood control by counties jointly, lease or sale of property: RCW 86.13.100.*

*Industrial development districts, transfer of county lands to: Chapter 53.25 RCW.*

*Local improvement assessments against county lands: RCW 35.44.140, 35.49.070.*

*Mineral and petroleum leases on county lands: Chapter 78.16 RCW.*

*Property subject to diking, drainage or sewerage improvement assessments, resale or lease by county: RCW 85.08.500.*

*Rights-of-way over by diking districts: RCW 85.05.080.*

*Tax liens, property, county acquisitions as subject to: RCW 84.60.050.*

*Television reception improvement district dissolution, disposition of property: RCW 36.95.200.*

*Underground storage of natural gas, lease of county lands for: RCW 80.40.070.*

**36.34.005 Establishment of comprehensive procedures for management of county property authorized—Exemption from chapter.** Pursuant to public notice and hearing, any county may establish comprehensive procedures for the management of county property consistent with the public interest and counties establishing such procedures shall be exempt from the provisions of chapter 36.34 RCW: PROVIDED, That all counties shall retain all powers now or hereafter granted by chapter 36.34 RCW. [1973 1st ex.s. c 196 § 1.]

**36.34.010 Authority to sell—May sell timber, minerals separately—Mineral reservation.** Whenever it appears to the board of county commissioners that it is for the best interests of the county and the taxing districts and the people thereof that any part or parcel, or portion of such part or parcel, of property, whether real, personal, or mixed, belonging to the county, including tax title land, should be sold, the board shall sell and convey such property, under the limitations and restrictions and in the manner hereinafter provided.

In making such sales the board of county commissioners may sell any timber, mineral, or other resources on any land owned by the county separate and apart from the land in the same manner and upon the same terms and conditions as provided in this chapter for the sale of real property.

The board of county commissioners may reserve mineral rights in such land and, if such reservation is made, any conveyance of the land shall contain the following reservation:

"The party of the first part hereby expressly saves, excepts, and reserves out of the grant hereby made, unto itself, its successors, and assigns, forever, all oils, gases, coals, ores, minerals, gravel, timber, and fossils of every name, kind, or description, and which may be in or upon said lands above described; or any part thereof, and the right to explore the same for such oils, gases, coals, ores, minerals, gravel, timber and fossils; and it also hereby expressly saves and reserves out of the grant hereby made, unto itself, its successors, and assigns, forever, the right to enter by itself, its agents, attorneys, and servants upon said lands, or any part or parts thereof, at any and all times, for the purpose of opening, developing, and working mines thereon, and taking out and removing therefrom all such oils, gases, coal, ores, minerals, gravel, timber, and fossils, and to that end it further expressly reserves out of the grant hereby made, unto itself, its successors, and assigns, forever, the right by it or its agents, servants, and attorneys at any and all times to erect, construct, maintain, and use all such buildings, machinery, roads and railroads, sink such shafts, remove such oil, and to remain on said lands or any part thereof, for the business of mining and to occupy as much of said lands as may be necessary or convenient for the successful prosecution of such mining business, hereby expressly reserving to itself, its successors, and assigns, as aforesaid, generally, all rights and powers in, to, and over said land, whether herein expressed or not, reasonably necessary or convenient to render beneficial and efficient the complete enjoyment of the property and the rights hereby expressly reserved."

No rights shall be exercised under the foregoing reservation until provision has been made to pay to the owner of the land upon which the rights reserved are sought to be exercised, full payment for all damages sustained by reason of entering upon the land: PROVIDED, That if the owner for any cause refuses or neglects to settle the damages, the county, its successors, or assigns, or any applicant for a lease or contract from the county for the purpose of prospecting for or mining valuable minerals, or operation contract, or lease, for mining coal, or lease for extracting petroleum or natural gas, shall have the right to institute such legal proceedings in the superior court of the county wherein the land is situated, as may be necessary to determine the damages which the owner of the land may suffer. Any of the reserved minerals or other resources not exceeding two hundred dollars in value may be sold, when the board deems it advisable, either with or without publication of notice of sale, and in such manner as the board may determine will be most beneficial to the county. [1963 c 4 § 36.34.010. Prior: 1945 c 172 § 3; 1943 c 19 § 1; 1891 c 76 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 4007.]

### 36.34.020 Publication of notice of intention to sell.

Whenever the county legislative authority desires to dispose of any county property except:

- (1) When selling to a governmental agency;
- (2) When personal property to be disposed of is to be traded in upon the purchase of a like article;
- (3) When the value of the property to be sold is less than two thousand five hundred dollars;
- (4) When the county legislative authority by a resolution setting forth the facts has declared an emergency to exist;

it shall publish notice of its intention so to do once each week during two successive weeks in a legal newspaper of general circulation in the county. [1991 c 363 § 66; 1985 c 469 § 45; 1967 ex.s. c 144 § 1; 1963 c 4 § 36.34.020. Prior: 1945 c 254 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 4014-1; prior: 1891 c 76 § 2, part; RRS § 4008, part.]

**Purpose—Captions not law—1991 c 363:** See notes following RCW 2.32.180.

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

**36.34.030 Requirements of notice—Posting.** The notice of hearing on the proposal to dispose of any county property must particularly describe the property or portion thereof proposed to be sold and designate the place where and the day and hour when a hearing will be held thereon and be posted in a conspicuous place in the courthouse. Both posting and the date of first publication must be at least ten days before the day set for the hearing. [1963 c 4 § 36.34.030. Prior: 1945 c 254 § 2; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 4014-2; prior: 1891 c 76 § 2, part; RRS § 4008, part.]

**36.34.040 Public hearing.** The board shall hold a public hearing upon a proposal to dispose of county property at the day and hour fixed in the notice at its usual place of business and admit evidence offered for and against the propriety and advisability of the proposed action. Any taxpayer in person or by counsel may submit evidence and submit an argument, but the board may limit the number to three on a side. [1963 c 4 § 36.34.040. Prior: 1945 c 254 § 3; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 4014-3; prior: 1891 c 76 § 2, part; RRS § 4008, part.]

**36.34.050 Findings and determination—Minimum price.** Within three days after the hearing upon a proposal to dispose of county property, the county legislative authority shall make its findings and determination thereon and cause them to be spread upon its minutes and made a matter of record. The county legislative authority may set a minimum sale price on property that is proposed for sale. [1991 c 363 § 67; 1963 c 4 § 36.34.050. Prior: 1945 c 254 § 4; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 4014-4; prior: 1891 c 76 § 3; RRS § 4009.]

**Purpose—Captions not law—1991 c 363:** See notes following RCW 2.32.180.

**36.34.060 Sales of personalty.** Sales of personal property must be for cash except when:

- (1) A public auction sale by electronic media is conducted pursuant to RCW 36.16.145;
- (2) Property is transferred to a governmental agency; or
- (3) The county property is to be traded in on the purchase of a like article, in which case the proposed cash allowance for the trade-in must be part of the proposition to be submitted by the seller in the transaction. [2015 c 95 § 4; 1963 c 4 § 36.34.060. Prior: 1945 c 254 § 5; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 4014-5; prior: 1915 c 8 § 1, part; 1891 c 76 § 5, part; RRS § 4011, part.]

**Intent—2015 c 95:** See note following RCW 36.16.145.

**36.34.070 Sales and purchases of equipment—Trade-ins.** The board may advertise and sell used highway or other equipment belonging to the county or to any taxing division thereof subject to its jurisdiction in the manner pre-

scribed for the sale of county property, or it may trade it in on the purchase of new equipment. If the board elects to trade in the used equipment it shall include in its call for bids on the new equipment a notice that the county has for sale or trade-in used equipment of a specified type and description which will be sold or traded in on the same day and hour that the bids on the new equipment are opened. Any bidder on the new equipment may include in his or her offer to sell, an offer to accept the used equipment as a part payment of the new equipment purchase price, setting forth the amount of such allowance.

In determining the lowest and best bid on the new equipment the board shall consider the net cost to the county of such new equipment after trade-in allowances have been deducted. The board may accept the new equipment bid of any bidder without trading in the used equipment but may not require any such bidder to purchase the used equipment without awarding the bidder the new equipment contract. Nothing in this section shall bar anyone from making an offer for the purchase of the used equipment independent of a bid on the new equipment and the board shall consider such offers in relation to the trade-in allowances offered to determine the net best sale and purchase combination for the county. [2009 c 549 § 4072; 1963 c 4 § 36.34.070. Prior: 1945 c 254 § 6; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 4014-6.]

**36.34.080 Sales to be at public auction.** (1) All sales of county property ordered after a public hearing upon the proposal to dispose of the property must be supervised by the county treasurer and may be sold:

(a) At a county or other government agency's public auction, including a public auction sale by electronic media conducted pursuant to RCW 36.16.145;

(b) At a privately operated consignment auction that is open to the public; or

(c) By sealed bid to the highest and best bidder.

(2) All sales of county property must meet or exceed the minimum sale price as directed by the county legislative authority. [2015 c 95 § 5; 1993 c 8 § 1. Prior: 1991 c 363 § 68; 1991 c 245 § 10; 1965 ex.s. c 23 § 1; 1963 c 4 § 36.34.080; prior: 1945 c 254 § 7; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 4014-7; prior: 1891 c 76 § 4, part; RRS § 4010, part.]

**Intent—2015 c 95:** See note following RCW 36.16.145.

**Purpose—Captions not law—1991 c 363:** See notes following RCW 2.32.180.

*Public auction sales, where held: RCW 36.16.140.*

**36.34.090 Notice of sale.** (1) Whenever county property is to be sold at public auction, consignment auction, or sealed bid, the county treasurer or the county treasurer's designee must:

(a) Publish notice of the sale once during each of two successive calendar weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the county;

(b) Post notice of the sale in a conspicuous place in the county courthouse; and

(c) If a public auction sale by electronic media will be conducted pursuant to RCW 36.16.145, post notice of the sale on the county's internet website.

(2) The posting and date of first publication must be at least ten days before the day fixed for the sale. [2015 c 95 §

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6; 1997 c 393 § 5; 1991 c 363 § 69; 1985 c 469 § 46; 1963 c 4 § 36.34.090. Prior: 1945 c 254 § 8; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 4014-8; prior: 1891 c 76 § 4, part; RRS § 4010, part.]

**Intent—2015 c 95:** See note following RCW 36.16.145.

**Purpose—Captions not law—1991 c 363:** See notes following RCW 2.32.180.

**36.34.100 Notice of sale—Requirements of.** The notice of sale of county property by auction sale must particularly describe the property to be sold and designate the day and hour and the location of the auction sale. The notice of sale of county property by sealed bid must describe the property to be sold, designate the date and time after which the bids are not received, the location to turn in the sealed bid, and the date, time, and location of the public meeting of the county legislative authority when the bids are opened and read in public. [1991 c 363 § 70; 1963 c 4 § 36.34.100. Prior: 1945 c 254 § 9; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 4014-9; prior: 1891 c 76 § 4, part; RRS § 4010, part.]

**Purpose—Captions not law—1991 c 363:** See notes following RCW 2.32.180.

**36.34.110 Disposition of proceeds.** The proceeds of sales of county property except in cases of trade-in allowances upon purchases of like property must be paid to the county treasurer who must receipt therefor and execute the proper documents transferring title attested to by the county auditor. In no case shall the title be transferred until the purchase price has been fully paid. [1963 c 4 § 36.34.110. Prior: 1945 c 254 § 10; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 4014-10; prior: (i) 1915 c 8 § 1, part; 1891 c 76 § 5, part; RRS § 4011, part. (ii) 1891 c 76 § 6, part; RRS § 4013, part.]

**36.34.120 Used equipment sales.** Proceeds from the sale of used equipment must be credited to the fund from which the original purchase price was paid. [1963 c 4 § 36.34.120. Prior: 1945 c 254 § 11; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 4014-11.]

**36.34.130 Intergovernmental sales.** The board of county commissioners may dispose of county property to another governmental agency and may acquire property for the county from another governmental agency by means of private negotiation upon such terms as may be agreed upon and for such consideration as may be deemed by the board of county commissioners to be adequate. [1963 c 4 § 36.34.130. Prior: 1945 c 254 § 12; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 4014-12.]

**36.34.135 Leases of county property—Affordable housing.** If a county owns property that is located anywhere within the county, including within the limits of a city or town, and that is suitable for affordable housing, the legislative authority of the county may, by negotiation, lease the property for affordable housing for a term not to exceed seventy-five years to any public housing authority or nonprofit organization that has demonstrated its ability to construct or operate housing for very low-income, low-income, or moderate-income households as defined in RCW 43.63A.510 and special needs populations. Leases for housing for very low-income, low-income, or moderate-income households and special needs populations shall not be subject to any require-

ment of periodic rental adjustments, as provided in RCW 36.34.180, but shall provide for such fixed annual rents as appear reasonable considering the public, social, and health benefits to be derived by providing an adequate supply of safe and sanitary housing for very low-income, low-income, or moderate-income households and special needs populations. [1993 c 461 § 6; 1990 c 253 § 7.]

**Finding—1993 c 461:** See note following RCW 43.63A.510.

**Legislative finding and purpose—1990 c 253:** See note following RCW 43.70.340.

**36.34.140 Leases of county property—Airports.** The board of county commissioners, if it appears that it is for the best interests of the county and the people thereof, that any county real property and its appurtenances should be leased for a year or a term of years, may lease such property under the limitations and restrictions and in the manner provided in this chapter, and, if it appears that it is for the best interests of the county and the people thereof, that any county real property and its appurtenances which is now being, or is to be devoted to airport or aeronautical purposes or purposes incidental thereto, should be leased for a year or a term of years, said board of county commissioners may lease such property under the limitations and restrictions and in the manner provided in this chapter, and said board of county commissioners shall have power to lease such county real property and its appurtenances whether such property was heretofore or hereafter acquired or whether heretofore or hereafter acquired by tax deed under tax foreclosure proceedings for nonpayment of taxes or whether held or acquired in any other manner. Any lease executed under the authority of the provisions hereof creates a vested interest and a contract binding upon the county and the lessee. [1963 c 4 § 36.34.140. Prior: 1951 2nd ex.s. c 14 § 1; prior: (i) 1901 c 87 § 1; RRS § 4019. (ii) 1901 c 87 § 6, part; RRS § 4024, part.]

**36.34.145 Leases of county property to nonprofit organizations for agricultural fairs.** The legislative authority of any county owning property in or outside the limits of any city or town, or anywhere within the county, which is suitable for agricultural fair purposes may by negotiation lease such property for such purposes for a term not to exceed seventy-five years to any nonprofit organization that has demonstrated its qualification to conduct agricultural fairs. Such agricultural fair leases shall not be subject to any requirement of periodic rental adjustments, as provided in RCW 36.34.180, but shall provide for such fixed annual rental as shall appear reasonable, considering the benefit to be derived by the county in the promotion of the fair and in the improvement of the property. The lessee may utilize or rent out such property at times other than during the fair season for nonfair purposes in order to obtain income for fair purposes, and during the fair season may sublease portions of the property for purposes and activities associated with such fair. No sublease shall be valid unless the same shall be approved in writing by the county legislative authority: PROVIDED, That failure of such lessee, except by act of God, war or other emergency beyond its control, to conduct an annual agricultural fair or exhibition, shall cause said lease to be subject to cancellation by the county legislative authority. A county legislative authority entering into an agreement

with a nonprofit association to lease property for agricultural fair purposes shall, when requested to do so, file a copy of the lease agreement with the department of agriculture or the state fair commission in order to assure compliance with the provisions of RCW 15.76.165. [1986 c 171 § 2; 1963 c 4 § 36.34.145. Prior: 1957 c 134 § 1.]

**36.34.150 Application to lease—Deposit.** Any person desiring to lease county lands shall make application in writing to the board of county commissioners. Each application shall be accompanied by a deposit of not less than ten dollars or such other sum as the county commissioners may require, not to exceed twenty-five dollars. The deposit shall be in the form of a certified check or certificate of deposit on some bank in the county, or may be paid in cash. In case the lands applied for are leased at the time they are offered, the deposit shall be returned to the applicant, but if the party making application fails or refuses to comply with the terms of his or her application and to execute the lease, the deposit shall be forfeited to the county, and the board of county commissioners shall pay the deposit over to the county treasurer, who shall place it to the credit of the current expense fund. [2009 c 549 § 4073; 1963 c 4 § 36.34.150. Prior: 1901 c 87 § 2; RRS § 4020.]

**36.34.160 Notice of intention to lease.** When, in the judgment of the board of county commissioners, it is found desirable to lease the land applied for, it shall first give notice of its intention to make such lease by publishing a notice in a legal newspaper at least once a week for the term of three weeks, and shall also post a notice of such intention in a conspicuous place in the courthouse for the same length of time. The notice so published and posted shall designate and describe the property which is proposed to be leased, together with the improvements thereon and appurtenances thereto, and shall contain a notice that the board of county commissioners will meet at the county courthouse on a day and at an hour designated in the notice, for the purpose of leasing the property which day and hour shall be at a time not more than a week after the expiration of the time required for the publication of the notice. [1963 c 4 § 36.34.160. Prior: 1901 c 87 § 3; RRS § 4021.]

**36.34.170 Objections to leasing.** Any person may appear at the meeting of the county commissioners or any adjourned meeting thereof, and make objection to the leasing of the property, which objection shall be stated in writing. In passing upon objections the board of county commissioners shall, in writing, briefly give its reasons for accepting or rejecting the same, and such objections, and the reasons for accepting or refusing the application, shall be published by the board in the next subsequent weekly issue of the newspaper in which the notice of hearing was published. [1963 c 4 § 36.34.170. Prior: 1901 c 87 § 5; RRS § 4023.]

**36.34.180 Lease terms.** At the day and hour designated in the notice or at any subsequent time to which the meeting may be adjourned by the board of county commissioners, but not more than thirty days after the day and hour designated for the meeting in the published notice, the board may lease the property in such notice described for a term of years and

upon such terms and conditions as to the board may seem just and right in the premises. No lease shall be for a longer term in any one instance than ten years, and no renewal of a lease once executed and delivered shall be had, except by a re-leasing and re-letting of the property according to the terms and conditions of this chapter: PROVIDED, That if a county owns property within or outside the corporate limits of any city or town or anywhere in the county suitable for municipal purposes, or for commercial buildings, or owns property suitable for manufacturing or industrial purposes or sites, or for military purposes, or for temporary or emergency housing, or for any requirement incidental to manufacturing, commercial, agricultural, housing, military, or governmental purposes, the board of county commissioners may lease it for such purposes for any period not to exceed thirty-five years: PROVIDED FURTHER, Where the property involved is or is to be devoted to airport purposes and construction work or the installation of new facilities is contemplated, the board may lease said property for such period as may equal the estimated useful life of such work or facilities but not to exceed seventy-five years.

If property is leased for municipal purposes or for commercial buildings or manufacturing or industrial purposes the lessee shall prior to the execution of the lease file with the board of county commissioners general plans and specifications of the building or buildings to be erected thereon for such purposes. All leases when executed shall provide that they shall be canceled by failure of the lessee to construct such building or buildings or other improvements for such purposes within three years from date of the lease, and in case of failure so to do the lease and all improvements thereon including the rentals paid, shall thereby be forfeited to the county unless otherwise stipulated. No change or modification of the plans shall be made unless first approved by the board of county commissioners. If at any time during the life of the lease the lessee fails to use the property for the purposes leased, without first obtaining permission in writing from the board of county commissioners so to do, the lease shall be forfeited.

Any lease made for a longer period than ten years shall contain provisions requiring the lessee to permit the rentals for every five year period thereafter, or part thereof, at the commencement of such period, to be readjusted and fixed by the board of county commissioners. In the event that the lessee and the board cannot agree upon the rentals for said five year period, the lessee shall submit to have the disputed rentals for the subsequent period adjusted by arbitration. The lessee shall pick one arbitrator and the board one, and the two so chosen shall select a third. No board of arbitrators shall reduce the rentals below the sum fixed or agreed upon for the last preceding period. All buildings, factories, or other improvements made upon property leased shall belong to and become property of such county, unless otherwise stipulated, at the expiration of the lease.

No lease shall be assigned without the assignment being first authorized by resolution of the board of county commissioners and the consent in writing of at least two members of the board endorsed on the lease. All leases when drawn shall contain this provision.

This section shall not be construed to limit the power of the board of county commissioners to sell, lease, or by gift

convey any property of the county to the United States or any of its governmental agencies to be used for federal government purposes. [1963 c 4 § 36.34.180. Prior: 1951 c 41 § 1; 1941 c 110 § 2; 1913 c 162 § 1; 1903 c 57 § 1; 1901 c 87 § 4; RRS § 4022.]

**36.34.190 Lease to highest responsible bidder.** No lease shall be made by the county except to the highest responsible bidder at the time of the hearing set forth in the notice of intention to lease. [1963 c 4 § 36.34.190. Prior: 1901 c 87 § 6, part; RRS § 4024, part.]

**36.34.192 Application of RCW 36.34.150 through 36.34.190 to certain service provider agreements under chapter 70A.140 RCW.** RCW 36.34.150 through 36.34.190 shall not apply to agreements entered into pursuant to chapter 70A.140 RCW provided there is compliance with the procurement procedure under RCW 70A.140.040. [2020 c 20 § 1021; 1986 c 244 § 12.]

**36.34.200 Execution of lease agreement.** Upon the decision of the board of county commissioners to lease the lands applied for, a lease shall be executed in duplicate to the lessee by the chair of the board and the county auditor, attested by his or her seal of office, which lease shall also be signed by the lessee. The lease shall refer to the order of the board directing the lease, with a description of the lands conveyed, the periods of payment, and the amounts to be paid for each period. [2009 c 549 § 4074; 1963 c 4 § 36.34.200. Prior: 1901 c 87 § 7; RRS § 4025.]

**36.34.205 Lease of building space—Counties with a population of six hundred thousand or more.** In accordance with RCW 35.42.010 through 35.42.220, a county with a population of six hundred thousand or more may lease space and provide for the leasing of such space through leases with an option to purchase and the acquisition of buildings erected upon land owned by the county upon the expiration of lease of such land. For the purposes of this section, "building," as defined in RCW 35.42.020 shall be construed to include any building or buildings used as part of, or in connection with, the operation of the county. The authority conferred by this section is in addition to and not in lieu of any other provision authorizing counties to lease property. [2009 c 153 § 1; 1998 c 278 § 10.]

**36.34.210 Forestlands may be conveyed to United States.** The board of county commissioners of any county which acquires any lands through foreclosure of tax liens or otherwise, which by reason of their location, topography, or geological formation are chiefly valuable for the purpose of developing and growing timber, and which are situated within the boundaries of any national forest, may, upon application by the proper forest service official of the United States government, convey such lands to the United States government for national forest purposes under the national forestland exchange regulations, for such compensation as may be deemed equitable. [1963 c 4 § 36.34.210. Prior: 1931 c 69 § 1; RRS § 4015-1.]

**36.34.220 Lease or conveyance to United States for flood control, navigation, and allied purposes.** If the board of county commissioners of any county adjudges that it is desirable and for the general welfare and benefit of the people of the county and for the interest of the county to lease or convey property, real or personal, belonging to the county, however acquired, whether by tax foreclosure or in any other manner, to the United States for the purpose of flood control, navigation, power development, or for use in connection with federal projects within the scope of the federal reclamation act of June 17, 1902, and the act of congress of August 30, 1935, entitled "An Act authorizing the construction, repair, and preservation of certain public works on rivers and harbors, and for other purposes," and federal acts amendatory thereof and supplemental thereto, for the reclamation and irrigation of arid lands, the board, by majority vote, may lease or convey such property to the United States for flood control, navigation, and power development purposes, or for use in connection with federal projects for the reclamation and irrigation of arid lands. This property may be conveyed or leased by deed or other instrument of conveyance or lease without notice and upon such consideration, if any, as shall be determined by the board and the deed or lease may be signed by the county treasurer when authorized to do so by resolution of the board. Any deed issued heretofore by any county to the United States under authority of section 1, chapter 46, Laws of 1937 and the amendments thereto, is ratified and approved and declared to be valid. [1963 c 4 § 36.34.220. Prior: 1945 c 94 § 1; 1941 c 142 § 1; 1937 c 46 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 4015-6.]

**36.34.230 Lease or conveyance to United States for flood control, navigation, and allied purposes—State consents to conveyance.** Pursuant to the Constitution and laws of the United States and the Constitution of this state, consent of the legislature is given to such conveyance by a county to the United States for such purposes. [1963 c 4 § 36.34.230. Prior: 1937 c 46 § 2; RRS § 4015-7.]

**36.34.240 Lease or conveyance to United States for flood control, navigation, and allied purposes—Cession of jurisdiction.** Pursuant to the Constitution and laws of the United States and the Constitution of this state, consent of the legislature is given to the exercise by the congress of the United States of exclusive legislation in all cases whatsoever on such tract or parcels of land so conveyed to it: PROVIDED, That all civil process issued from the courts of the state and such criminal process as may issue under the authority of the state against any person charged with crime in cases arising outside of said tract may be served and executed thereon in the same manner as if such property were retained by the county. [1963 c 4 § 36.34.240. Prior: 1937 c 46 § 3; RRS § 4015-8.]

**36.34.250 Lease or conveyance to the state or to United States for military, housing, and other purposes.** The board of county commissioners of any county by a majority vote are hereby authorized to directly lease, sell, or convey by gift, all or any portion of real estate, or any interest therein owned by the county, however acquired, by tax foreclosure or in any other manner, to the United States for the

use and benefit of any branch of the army, navy, marine corps or air forces of the United States, or for enlarging or improving any military base thereof, or for any governmental housing project, or for the purpose of constructing and operating any federal power project, or to the state of Washington, without requiring competitive bids or notice to the public and at such price and terms as the board may deem for the best interests of the county. The property may be conveyed to the United States or to the state of Washington by deed or other instrument of conveyance and shall not require any consideration, if donated, other than the benefit which may be derived by the county on account of the use thereof and development of such property by the United States government or the state. [1963 c 4 § 36.34.250. Prior: 1941 c 227 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 4026-1a.]

**36.34.260 Lease or conveyance to the state or to United States for military, housing, and other purposes—Procedure.** In any county where the federal government owns and maintains property under the jurisdiction of the navy department or war department, or any other federal department, the board of county commissioners by majority vote may sell, lease or transfer to the United States government any real or personal property owned by said county, however acquired, for the use and benefit of any branch of the army, navy, marine corps or air forces thereof or for enlarging or improving any military base thereof, or for any other governmental housing project, or to the state of Washington, without requiring competitive bids or notice to the public and at such price and terms as the board may deem for the best interests of the county. This property may be conveyed to the government of the United States by bill of sale or other instrument of conveyance and need not require consideration other than the benefit which may be derived by the county on account of the use thereof and development of such property by the United States government. The state of Washington may buy and/or sell such property, or the state of Washington may buy and/or sell such property for the purposes herein stated; or mutually interchange or trade such property or purchase one from the other. [1963 c 4 § 36.34.260. Prior: 1941 c 227 § 2; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 4026-1b.]

**36.34.270 Lease or conveyance to the state or to United States for military, housing, and other purposes—Execution of instrument of transfer.** The resolution of the board of county commissioners to grant an option to purchase, contract to sell, lease, sell and convey, or donate, as provided, shall be entered by said board upon its journal, and any option to purchase, contract to sell, lease, sale and conveyance, or donation executed pursuant thereto, shall be signed on behalf of the county by the board of county commissioners, or a majority thereof, and shall be acknowledged in the manner prescribed by law. [1963 c 4 § 36.34.270. Prior: 1941 c 227 § 3; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 4026-1c.]

**36.34.280 Conveyance to municipality.** Whenever any county holds title to lands, for county purposes, acquired by grant, patent, or other conveyance from the United States executed under and pursuant to an act of congress, and the board of county commissioners of such county by resolution finds and determines that any portion thereof is not required



for county purposes and that it would be for the best interest of the county to have such portion of the lands devoted to use by a municipality lying within the county, the board of county commissioners may, with the consent of the congress of the United States, by a proper instrument of conveyance executed by the board on behalf of the county, convey such lands to the municipality for municipal purposes, either with or without consideration, and shall not be required to advertise or offer such lands for sale or lease in the manner provided by law for the sale or lease of county property. [1963 c 4 § 36.34.280. Prior: 1917 c 69 § 1; RRS § 4015.]

**36.34.290 Dedication of county land for streets and alleys.** The boards of county commissioners of the several counties may dedicate any county land to public use for public streets and alleys in any city or town. [1963 c 4 § 36.34.290. Prior: 1903 c 89 § 1; RRS § 4026.]

**36.34.300 Dedication of county land for streets and alleys—Execution of dedication—Effective date.** Whenever the board of county commissioners of any county deems it for the best interests of the public that any county land lying in any city or town should be dedicated to the public use for streets or alleys, it shall make and enter an order upon its records, designating the land so dedicated, and shall cause a certified copy of the order to be recorded in the auditor's office of the county in which the land is situated, and from and after entry of such order of dedication and the recording thereof as herein provided, such lands shall be thereby dedicated to the public use. [1963 c 4 § 36.34.300. Prior: 1903 c 89 § 2; RRS § 4027.]

**36.34.310 Long term leases to United States.** Any county in the state may lease any property owned by it to the United States of America or to any agency thereof for a term not exceeding ninety-nine years upon such conditions as may be contained in a written agreement therefor executed on behalf of the county by its board of county commissioners, and by any person on behalf of the United States of America or any agency thereof who has been thereunto authorized: PROVIDED, That any lease made for a longer period than ten years hereunder shall contain provisions requiring the lessee to permit the rentals for every five-year period thereafter, or part thereof, at the commencement of such period, to be readjusted upward and fixed by the board of county commissioners. In the event that the lessee and the board of county commissioners cannot agree upon the rentals for the five-year period, the lessee shall submit to have the disputed rentals for such subsequent period adjusted by arbitration. The lessee shall pick one arbitrator and the board of county commissioners one, and the two so chosen shall select a third. No board of arbitrators shall reduce the rentals below the sum fixed or agreed upon for the last preceding period. All buildings, factories or other improvements made upon property leased under this proviso shall belong to and become property of the county, unless otherwise stipulated, at the expiration of the lease. [1963 c 4 § 36.34.310. Prior: 1949 c 85 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 4019-1.]

(2022 Ed.)

**36.34.320 Executory conditional sales contracts for purchase of property—Limit on indebtedness—Election, when.** See RCW 39.30.010.

**36.34.330 Exchange for privately owned real property of equal value.** The board of county commissioners of any county shall have authority to exchange county real property for privately owned real property of equal value whenever it is determined by a decree of the superior court in the county in which the real property is located, after publication of notice of hearing is given as fixed and directed by such court, that:

(1) The county real property proposed to be exchanged is not necessary to the future foreseeable needs of such county; and

(2) The real property to be acquired by such exchange is necessary for the future foreseeable needs of such county; and

(3) The value of the county real property to be exchanged is not more than the value of the real property to be acquired by such exchange. [1965 ex.s. c 21 § 1.]

**36.34.340 May acquire property for park, recreational, viewpoint, greenbelt, conservation, historic, scenic, or view purposes.** Any county or city may acquire by purchase, gift, devise, bequest, grant or exchange, title to or any interests or rights in real property to be provided or preserved for (a) park or recreational purposes, viewpoint or greenbelt purposes, (b) the conservation of land or other natural resources, or (c) historic, scenic, or view purposes. [1965 ex.s. c 76 § 4.]

*Acquisition of interests in land for conservation, protection, preservation, or open space purposes by counties: RCW 64.04.130.*

*Historic preservation—Authority of county to acquire property: RCW 36.32.435.*

*Parks, county commissioners may designate name of: RCW 36.32.430.*

**36.34.355 Chapter not applicable to certain transfers of property.** This chapter does not apply to transfers of property under \*sections 1 and 2 of this act. [2006 c 35 § 4.]

**\*Reviser's note:** The reference to "sections 1 and 2 of this act" appears to be erroneous. Reference to "sections 2 and 3 of this act" codified as RCW 43.99C.070 and 43.83D.120 was apparently intended. RCW 43.99C.070 and 43.83D.120 were recodified as RCW 43.83.400 and 43.83.410, respectively, by the code reviser September 2015.

**Findings—2006 c 35:** See note following RCW 43.83.400.

**36.34.360 Community garden.** A county may, by ordinance, authorize the use of vacant or blighted county land for the purpose of community gardening under the terms and conditions established for the use of the county land set forth by the ordinance. The ordinance may establish fees for the use of the county land, provide requirements for liability insurance, and provide requirements for a deposit to use the county land, which may be refunded. The ordinance must require that a portion of the community garden include habitat beneficial for the feeding, nesting, and reproduction of all pollinators, including honey bees. [2019 c 353 § 18.]

**Findings—Intent—2019 c 353:** See note following RCW 43.23.300.

**Chapter 36.35 RCW**  
**TAX TITLE LANDS**

## Sections

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**36.35.010 Purpose—Powers of county legislative authority as to tax title lands.** The purpose of this chapter is to increase the power of county legislative authorities over tax title lands. The legislative authority of each county shall have the power to devote tax title lands to public use under its own control or the control of other governmental or quasi-governmental agencies, to exchange such lands for lands worth at least ninety percent of the value of the land exchanged, and to manage such lands to produce maximum revenue therefrom in the manner which derives the most income from such lands. The further purpose of this chapter is to relieve the courts of the obligation of supervising the county legislative authorities in the management and disposition of tax title lands. [1972 ex.s. c 150 § 1.]

**36.35.020 "Tax title lands" defined—Held in trust for taxing districts.** The term "tax title lands" as used in this chapter shall mean any tract of land acquired by the county for lack of other bidders at a tax foreclosure sale. Tax title lands are held in trust for the taxing districts. [2007 c 295 § 2; 1972 ex.s. c 150 § 2.]

**36.35.070 Chapter as alternative.** The provisions of this chapter shall be deemed as alternatives to, and not be limited by, the provisions of RCW 39.33.010, 36.34.130, and 36.35.140, nor shall the authority granted in this chapter be held to be subjected to or qualified by the terms of such statutory provisions. [1998 c 106 § 22; 1972 ex.s. c 150 § 8.]

**36.35.080 Other lands not affected.** Nothing in this chapter shall affect any land deeded in trust to the department of natural resources or its successors pursuant to the provisions of Title 76 RCW. [1988 c 128 § 7; 1972 ex.s. c 150 § 9.]

**36.35.090 Chapter not affected by other acts.** Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, or provisions of law limiting the authority granted in this chapter, the legislative authority of any county shall have the authority to manage and exchange tax title lands heretofore or hereafter acquired in the manner and on the terms and conditions set forth in this chapter. [1972 ex.s. c 150 § 3.]

**36.35.100 Treatment of county held tax-title property.** All property deeded to the county under the provisions of this chapter shall be treated as follows during the period the property is so held:

- (1) The property shall be:
- (a) Stricken from the tax rolls as county property;
  - (b) Exempt from taxation;
  - (c) Exempt from special assessments except as provided in chapter 35.49 RCW and RCW 35.44.140 and 79.44.190; and
  - (d) Exempt from property owner association dues or fees.

(2) The sale, management, and leasing of tax title property shall be handled as under chapter 36.35 RCW. [2007 c 295 § 3; 1998 c 106 § 13; 1961 c 15 § 84.64.220. Prior: 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 131; RRS § 11292; prior: 1899 c 141 § 27. Formerly RCW 84.64.220.]

**36.35.110 Disposition of proceeds of sales.** (1) No claims are allowed against the county from any municipality, school district, road district or other taxing district for taxes levied on property acquired by the county by tax deed under the provisions of this chapter, but all taxes must at the time of deeding the property be thereby canceled. However, the proceeds of any sale of any property acquired by the county by tax deed must first be applied to reimburse the county for the costs of foreclosure and sale. The remainder of the proceeds, if any, must be applied to pay any amounts deferred under chapter 84.37 or 84.38 RCW on the property, including accrued interest, and outstanding at the time the county acquired the property by tax deed. The remainder of the proceeds, if any, must be justly apportioned to the various funds existing at the date of the sale, in the territory in which such property is located, according to the tax levies of the year last in process of collection.

(2) For purposes of this section, "costs of foreclosure and sale" means those costs of foreclosing on the property that, when collected, are subject to RCW 84.56.020(13), and the direct costs incurred by the county in selling the property. [2019 c 332 § 3; 2013 c 221 § 2; 1961 c 15 § 84.64.230. Prior: 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 132; RRS § 11293; prior: 1899 c 141 § 28. Formerly RCW 84.64.230.]

**Effective date—2019 c 332:** See note following RCW 84.56.029.

**36.35.120 Sales of tax-title property—Reservations—Notices—Installment contracts—Separate sale of reserved resources.** (1) Real property acquired by any

county of this state by foreclosure of delinquent taxes may be sold by order of the county legislative authority when in the judgment of the county legislative authority it is deemed in the county's best interests to sell the real property.

(2) When the county legislative authority desires to sell any such property it may, if deemed advantageous to the county, combine any or all of the several lots and tracts of the property in one or more units, and reserve from sale coal, oil, gas, gravel, minerals, ores, fossils, timber, or other resources on or in the lands, and the right to mine for and remove the same. It must then enter an order on its records fixing the unit or units in which the property will be sold, the minimum price for each of the units, and whether the sale will be for cash or whether a contract will be offered, and reserving from sale the resources as it may determine and from which units the reservations will apply, and directing the county treasurer to sell the property in the unit or units and at not less than the price or prices and subject to the reservations so fixed by the county legislative authority. The order is subject to the approval of the county treasurer if several lots or tracts of land are combined in one unit.

(3) Except in cases where the sale is to be by direct negotiation as provided in RCW 36.35.150, the county treasurer must, upon receipt of the order, publish once a week for three consecutive weeks a notice of the sale of the property in a newspaper of general circulation in the county where the land is situated. The notice must describe the property to be sold, the unit or units, the reservations, and the minimum price fixed in the order, together with the time and place and terms of sale, in the same manner as foreclosure sales as provided by RCW 84.64.080. If a public auction sale by electronic media is conducted pursuant to RCW 36.16.145, notice must conform to requirements for a public auction sale by electronic media.

(4) The person making the bid must state whether he or she will pay cash for the amount of his or her bid or accept a real estate contract of purchase in accordance with the provisions hereinafter contained. If a public auction sale by electronic media is conducted pursuant to RCW 36.16.145, the county may require payment by electronic funds transfer.

(5) The person making the highest bid will become the purchaser of the property. If the highest bidder is a contract bidder the purchaser must pay thirty percent of the total purchase price at the time of the sale and enter into a contract with the county as vendor and the purchaser as vendee. The contract must obligate and require the purchaser to pay the balance of the purchase price in ten equal annual installments commencing November 1st and each year following the date of the sale, and require the purchaser to pay twelve percent interest on all deferred payments, interest to be paid at the time the annual installment is due. The contract may contain a provision authorizing the purchaser to make payment in full at any time of any balance due on the total purchase price plus accrued interest on the balance. The contract must contain a provision requiring the purchaser to pay before delinquency all subsequent taxes and assessments that may be levied or assessed against the property subsequent to the date of the contract. The contract must contain a provision that time is of the essence of the contract, and that in the event of a failure of the vendee to make payments at the time and in the manner required and to keep and perform the covenants and condi-

tions therein required of him or her, the contract may be forfeited and terminated at the election of the vendor, and that in event of the election all sums theretofore paid by the vendee will be forfeited as liquidated damages for failure to comply with the provisions of the contract. The contract must also require the vendor to execute and deliver to the vendee a deed of conveyance covering the property upon the payment in full of the purchase price, plus accrued interest.

(6) The county legislative authority may, by order entered in its records, direct that the coal, oil, gas, gravel, minerals, ores, timber, or other resources be sold apart from the land, such sale to be conducted in the manner hereinabove prescribed for the sale of the land. Any such reserved minerals or resources not exceeding two hundred dollars in value may be sold, when the county legislative authority deems it advisable, either with or without such publication of the notice of sale, and in such manner as the county legislative authority may determine will be most beneficial to the county. [2015 c 95 § 7; 2001 c 299 § 10; 1993 c 310 § 1; 1991 c 245 § 30; 1981 c 322 § 7; 1965 ex.s. c 23 § 5; 1961 c 15 § 84.64.270. Prior: 1945 c 172 § 1; 1937 c 68 § 1; 1927 c 263 § 1; 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 133; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 11294; prior: 1903 c 59 § 1; 1899 c 141 § 29; 1890 p 579 § 124; Code 1881 § 2934. Formerly RCW 84.64.270, 84.64.280, 84.64.290, and 84.64.270.]

**Intent—2015 c 95:** See note following RCW 36.16.145.

*City may acquire property from county before resale: RCW 35.49.150.*

*Disposition of proceeds upon resale*

*generally: RCW 35.49.160.*

*of property subject to diking, drainage or sewerage improvement district assessments: RCW 85.08.500.*

*Exchange, lease, management of county tax title lands: Chapter 36.35 RCW.*

*Tax title land*

*conveyance of to port districts: RCW 53.25.050.*

*may be deeded to department of natural resources for reforestation purposes: RCW 79.22.010.*

*may be leased for mineral, gas and petroleum development: Chapter 78.16 RCW.*

**36.35.130 Form of deed and reservation.** The county treasurer shall upon payment to the county treasurer of the purchase price for the property and any interest due, make and execute under the county treasurer's hand and seal, and issue to the purchaser, a deed in the following form for any lots or parcels of real property sold under the provisions of RCW 36.35.120.

State of Washington }  
County of . . . . . } ss.

This indenture, made this . . . . day of . . . . , . . (year) . . , between . . . . , as treasurer of . . . . county, state of Washington, the party of the first part, and . . . . , party of the second part.

WITNESSETH, That whereas, at a public sale of real property, held on the . . . day of . . . (year) . . , pursuant to an order of the county legislative authority of the county of . . . , state of Washington, duly made and entered, and after having first given due notice of the time and place and terms of the sale, and, whereas, in pursuance of the order of the county legislative authority, and of the laws of the state of Washington, and for and in consideration of the sum of . . . dollars, lawful money of the United States of America, to me in hand paid, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, I have this day sold to . . . the following described real property, and which the real property is the property of . . . county, and which is particularly described as follows, to wit: . . . , the . . . being the highest and best bidder at the sale, and the sum being the highest and best sum bid at the sale;

NOW, THEREFORE, Know ye that I, . . . , county treasurer of the county of . . . , state of Washington, in consideration of the premises and by virtue of the statutes of the state of Washington, in such cases made and provided, do hereby grant and convey unto . . . , heirs and assigns, forever, the real property hereinbefore described, as fully and completely as the party of the first part can by virtue of the premises convey the same.

Given under my hand and seal of office this . . . day of . . . (year) . .

.....  
County Treasurer,  
By .....  
Deputy:

PROVIDED, That when by order of the county legislative authority any of the minerals or other resources enumerated in RCW 36.35.120 are reserved, the deed or contract of purchase shall contain the following reservation:

The party of the first part hereby expressly saves, excepts and reserves out of the grant hereby made, unto itself, its successors, and assigns, forever, all oils, gases, coals, ores, minerals, gravel, timber and fossils of every name, kind or description, and which may be in or upon the lands above described; or any part thereof, and the right to explore the same for such oils, gases, coal, ores, minerals, gravel, timber and fossils; and it also hereby expressly saves reserves out of the grant hereby made, unto itself, its successors and assigns, forever, the right to enter by itself, its agents, attorneys and servants upon the lands, or any part or parts thereof, at any and all times, for the purpose of opening, developing and working mines thereon, and taking out and removing therefrom all such oils, gases, coal, ores, minerals, gravel, timber and fossils, and to that end it further expressly reserves out of the grant hereby made, unto itself, its successors and assigns, forever, the right by it or its agents, servants and attorneys at any and all times to erect, construct, maintain and use all such buildings, machinery, roads and railroads, sink such shafts, remove such oil, and to remain on the lands or any part thereof, for the business of mining and to occupy as much of the lands as may be necessary or convenient for the successful prosecution of such mining business, hereby expressly reserving to itself, its successors and assigns, as aforesaid, generally, all rights and powers in, to and over, the land,

whether herein expressed or not, reasonably necessary or convenient to render beneficial and efficient the complete enjoyment of the property and the rights hereby expressly reserved. No rights shall be exercised under the foregoing reservation, by the county, its successors or assigns, until provision has been made by the county, its successors or assigns, to pay to the owner of the land upon which the rights herein reserved to the county, its successors or assigns, are sought to be exercised, full payment for all damages sustained by the owner, by reason of entering upon the land: PROVIDED, That if the owner from any cause whatever refuses or neglects to settle the damages, then the county, its successors or assigns, or any applicant for a lease or contract from the county for the purpose of prospecting for or mining valuable minerals, or operation contract, or lease, for mining coal, or lease for extracting petroleum or natural gas, shall have the right to institute such legal proceedings in the superior court of the county wherein the land is situated, as may be necessary to determine the damages which the owner of the land may suffer: PROVIDED, The county treasurer shall cross out of such reservation any of the minerals or other resources which were not reserved by order of the county legislative authority. [1998 c 106 § 14; 1961 c 15 § 84.64.300. Prior: 1945 c 172 § 2; 1927 c 263 § 2; 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 134; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 11295; prior: 1903 c 59 § 5; 1890 p 577 § 119; Code 1881 § 2938. Formerly RCW 84.64.300.]

**36.35.140 Rental of tax-title property on month to month tenancy authorized.** The board of county commissioners of any county may, pending sale of any county property acquired by foreclosure of delinquent taxes or amounts deferred under chapter 84.37 or 84.38 RCW, rent any portion thereof on a tenancy from month to month. From the proceeds of the rentals the board of county commissioners must first pay all expense in management of said property and in repairing, maintaining and insuring the improvements thereon. The balance of said proceeds must first be paid to reimburse the county for the costs of foreclosure and sale as defined in RCW 36.35.110. The remainder of the proceeds, if any, must be paid to the department of revenue in the amount of any taxes deferred under chapter 84.37 or 84.38 RCW on the property, including accrued interest, outstanding at the time the county acquired the property by tax deed, and then to the various taxing units interested in the taxes levied against said property in the same proportion as the current tax levies of the taxing units having levies against said property. [2013 c 221 § 3; 1961 c 15 § 84.64.310. Prior: 1945 c 170 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 11298-1. Formerly RCW 84.64.310.]

**36.35.150 Tax-title property may be disposed of without bids in certain cases—Disposal for affordable housing purposes.** (1) The county legislative authority may dispose of tax foreclosed property by private negotiation, without a call for bids, for not less than the principal amount of the unpaid taxes in any of the following cases: (a) When the sale is to any governmental agency and for public purposes; (b) when the county legislative authority determines that it is not practical to build on the property due to the physical characteristics of the property or legal restrictions on construction activities on the property; (c) when the property has an assessed value of less than five hundred dollars and the

property is sold to an adjoining landowner; or (d) when no acceptable bids were received at the attempted public auction of the property, if the sale is made within twelve months from the date of the attempted public auction.

(2) Except when a county legislative authority purchases the tax foreclosed property for public purposes, the county legislative authority must give notice to any city in which any tax foreclosed property is located within at least sixty days of acquiring such property, and the county may not dispose of the property at public auction or by private negotiation before giving such notice. The notice must offer the city the opportunity to purchase the property for the original minimum bid under RCW 84.64.080, together with any direct costs incurred by the county in the sale. If the city chooses to purchase the property, the following conditions apply:

(a) The city must accept the offer within thirty days of receiving notice, unless the county agrees to extend the offer;

(b) The city must provide that the property is suitable and will be used for an affordable housing development as defined in RCW 36.130.010; and

(c) The city must agree to transfer the property to a local housing authority or other nonprofit entity eligible to receive assistance from the affordable housing program under chapter 43.185A RCW. The city must be reimbursed by the housing authority or other nonprofit entity for the amount the city paid to purchase the property together with any direct costs incurred by the city in the transfer to the housing authority or other nonprofit entity. [2016 c 63 § 1; 2001 c 299 § 11; 1997 c 244 § 2; 1993 c 310 § 2; 1961 c 15 § 84.64.320. Prior: 1947 c 238 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 11295-1. Formerly RCW 84.64.320.]

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

**36.35.160 Quieting title to tax-title property.** In any and all instances in this state in which a treasurer's deed to real property has been or shall be issued to the county in proceedings to foreclose the lien of general taxes, and for any reason a defect in title exists or adverse claims against the same have not been legally determined, the county or its successors in interest or assigns shall have authority to institute an action in the superior court in the county to correct such defects, and to determine such adverse claims and the priority thereof as provided in RCW 36.35.160 through 36.35.270. [1998 c 106 § 15; 1961 c 15 § 84.64.330. Prior: 1931 c 83 § 1; 1925 ex.s. c 171 § 1; RRS § 11308-1. Formerly RCW 84.64.330.]

**36.35.170 Quieting title to tax-title property—Form of action—Pleadings.** The county or its successors in interest or assigns shall have authority to include in one action any and all tracts of land in which plaintiff or plaintiffs in such action, jointly or severally, has or claims to have an interest. Such action shall be one in rem as against every right and interest in and claim against any and every part of the real property involved, except so much thereof as may be at the time the summons and notice is filed with the clerk of the superior court in the actual, open and notorious possession of any person or corporation, and then except only as to the interest claimed by such person so in possession: PROVIDED, That the possession required under the provisions of RCW 36.35.160 through 36.35.270 shall be construed to be

that by personal occupancy only, and not merely by representation or in contemplation of law. No person, firm or corporation claiming an interest in or to such lands need be specifically named in the summons and notice, except as in RCW 36.35.160 through 36.35.270, and no pleadings other than the summons and notice and the written statements of those claiming a right, title and interest in and to the property involved shall be required. [1998 c 106 § 16; 1961 c 15 § 84.64.340. Prior: 1931 c 83 § 2; 1925 ex.s. c 171 § 2; RRS § 11308-2. Formerly RCW 84.64.340.]

**36.35.180 Quieting title to tax-title property—Summons and notice.** Upon filing a copy of the summons and notice in the office of the county clerk, service thereof as against every interest in and claim against any and every part of the property described in such summons and notice, and every person, firm, or corporation, except one who is in the actual, open and notorious possession of any of the properties, shall be had by publication in the official county newspaper for six consecutive weeks; and no affidavit for publication of such summons and notice shall be required. In case special assessments imposed by a city or town against any of the real property described in the summons and notice remain outstanding, a copy of the same shall be served on the treasurer of the city or town within which such real property is situated within five days after such summons and notice is filed.

The summons and notice in such action shall contain the title of the court; specify in general terms the years for which the taxes were levied and the amount of the taxes and the costs for which each tract of land was sold; give the legal description of each tract of land involved, and the tax record owner thereof during the years in which the taxes for which the property was sold were levied; state that the purpose of the action is to foreclose all adverse claims of every nature in and to the property described, and to have the title of existing liens and claims of every nature against the described real property, except that of the county, forever barred.

The summons and notice shall also summon all persons, firms and corporations claiming any right, title and interest in and to the described real property to appear within sixty days after the date of the first publication, specifying the day and year, and state in writing what right, title and interest they have or claim to have in and to the property described, and file the same with the clerk of the court above named; and shall notify them that in case of their failure so to do, judgment will be rendered determining that the title to the real property is in the county free from all existing adverse interests, rights or claims whatsoever: PROVIDED, That in case any of the lands involved is in the actual, open and notorious possession of anyone at the time the summons and notice is filed, as herein provided, a copy of the same modified as herein specified shall be served personally upon such person in the same manner as summons is served in civil actions generally. The summons shall be substantially in the form above outlined, except that in lieu of the statement relative to the date and day of publication it shall require the person served to appear within twenty days after the day of service, exclusive of the date of service, and that the day of service need not be specified therein, and except further that the recitals regarding the amount of the taxes and costs and the

years the same were levied, the legal description of the land and the tax record owner thereof may be omitted except as to the land occupied by the persons served.

Every summons and notice provided for in RCW 36.35.160 through 36.35.270 shall be subscribed by the prosecuting attorney of the county, or by any successor or assign of the county or his or her attorney, as the case may be, followed by the post office address of the successor or assign. [2009 c 549 § 4075; 1998 c 106 § 17; 1961 c 15 § 84.64.350. Prior: 1931 c 83 § 3; 1925 ex.s. c 171 § 3; RRS § 11308-3. Formerly RCW 84.64.350.]

**36.35.190 Quieting title to tax-title property—Redemption before judgment.** (1) Any person, firm or corporation who or which may have been entitled to redeem the property involved prior to the issuance of the treasurer's deed to the county, and his or her or its successor in interest, has the right, at any time after the commencement of, and prior to the judgment in the action authorized herein, to redeem such property by paying to the county treasurer:

(a) The amount of any taxes deferred under chapter 84.37 or 84.38 RCW on the property, including accrued interest, outstanding at the time the county acquired the property by tax deed;

(b) The amount of the taxes for which the property was sold to the county, and the amount of any other general taxes which may have accrued prior to the issuance of said treasurer's deed, together with interest on all such taxes from the date of delinquency thereof, respectively, at the rate of twelve percent per annum;

(c) For the benefit of the assessment district concerned the amount of principal, penalty and interest of all special assessments, if any, which have been levied against such property; and

(d) Such proportional part of the costs of the tax or tax deferral foreclosure proceedings and of the action herein authorized as the county treasurer determines.

(2) Upon redemption of any property before judgment as herein provided, the county treasurer must issue to the redemptioner a certificate specifying the amount of the taxes, including amounts deferred under chapters 84.37 and 84.38 RCW, special assessments, penalty, interest and costs charged describing the land and stating that the taxes, including any applicable deferred taxes, special assessments, penalty, interest and costs specified have been fully paid, and the liens thereof discharged. Such certificate must clear the land described therein from any claim of the county based on the treasurer's deed previously issued in the tax or tax deferral foreclosure proceedings. [2013 c 221 § 4; 2009 c 549 § 4076; 1961 c 15 § 84.64.360. Prior: 1925 ex.s. c 171 § 4; RRS § 11308-4. Formerly RCW 84.64.360.]

**36.35.200 Quieting title to tax-title property—Judgment.** At any time after the return day named in the summons and notice the plaintiff in the cause shall be entitled to apply for judgment. In case any person has appeared in such action and claimed any interest in the real property involved adverse to that of the county or its successors in interest, such person shall be given a three days' notice of the time when application for judgment shall be made. The court shall hear and determine the matter in a summary manner similar to that

provided in RCW 84.64.080, relating to judgment and order of sale in general tax foreclosure proceedings, and shall pronounce and enter judgment according to the rights of the parties and persons concerned in the action. No order of sale shall be made nor shall any sale on execution be necessary to determine the title of the county to the real property involved in such action. [1961 c 15 § 84.64.370. Prior: 1931 c 83 § 4; 1925 ex.s. c 171 § 5; RRS § 11308-5. Formerly RCW 84.64.370.]

**36.35.210 Quieting title to tax-title property—Proof—Presumptions.** The right of action of the county, its successors or assigns, under RCW 36.35.160 through 36.35.270 shall rest on the validity of the taxes involved, and the plaintiff shall be required to prove only the amount of the former judgment foreclosing the lien thereof, together with the costs of the foreclosure and sale of each tract of land for the taxes, and all the presumptions in favor of the tax foreclosure sale and issuance of treasurer's deed existing by law shall obtain in the action. [1998 c 106 § 18; 1961 c 15 § 84.64.380. Prior: 1931 c 83 § 5; 1925 ex.s. c 171 § 6; RRS § 11308-6. Formerly RCW 84.64.380.]

**36.35.220 Quieting title to tax-title property—Appearance fee—Tender of taxes.** Any person filing a statement in such action must pay the clerk of the court an appearance fee in the amount required by the county for appearances in civil actions, and is required to tender the amount of all taxes, including any amounts deferred under chapter 84.37 or 84.38 RCW, interest and costs charged against the real property to which he or she lays claim, and no further costs in such action may be required or recovered. [2013 c 221 § 5; 2009 c 549 § 4077; 1961 c 15 § 84.64.390. Prior: 1925 ex.s. c 171 § 7; RRS § 11308-7. Formerly RCW 84.64.390.]

**36.35.230 Quieting title to tax-title property—Appellate review.** Any person aggrieved by the judgment rendered in such action may seek appellate review of the part of said judgment objectionable to him or her in the manner and within the time prescribed for appeals in RCW 84.64.120. [2009 c 549 § 4078; 1988 c 202 § 71; 1971 c 81 § 155; 1961 c 15 § 84.64.400. Prior: 1925 ex.s. c 171 § 8; 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 121; RRS § 11308-8; prior: 1903 c 59 § 4; 1897 c 71 § 104; 1893 c 124 § 106. Formerly RCW 84.64.400.]

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

**36.35.240 Quieting title to tax-title property—Effect of judgment.** The judgment rendered in such action, unless appealed from within the time prescribed herein and upon final judgment on appeal, shall be conclusive, without the right of redemption upon and against every person who may or could claim any lien or any right, title or interest in or to any of the properties involved in said action, including minors, insane persons, those convicted of crime, as well as those free from disability, and against those who may have at any time attempted to pay any tax on any of the properties, and against those in actual open and notorious possession of any of said properties.

Such judgment shall be conclusive as to those who appeal therefrom, except as to the particular property to

which such appellant laid claim in the action and concerning which he or she appealed, and shall be conclusive as to those in possession of any property and who were not served except as to the property which such person is in the actual, open and notorious possession of, and in any case where it is asserted that the judgment was not conclusive because of such possession, the burden of showing such actual, open and notorious possession shall be on the one asserting such possession. [2009 c 549 § 4079; 1961 c 15 § 84.64.410. Prior: 1925 ex.s. c 171 § 9; RRS § 11308-9. Formerly RCW 84.64.410.]

**36.35.250 Quieting title to tax-title property—Special assessments payable out of surplus.** Nothing in RCW 36.35.160 through 36.35.270 contained may be construed to deprive any city, town, or other unit of local government that imposed special assessments on the property by including the property in a local improvement or special assessment district of its right to reimbursement for special assessments out of any surplus over and above the taxes, including amounts deferred under chapters 84.37 and 84.38 RCW, interest and costs involved. [2013 c 221 § 6; 1998 c 106 § 19; 1961 c 15 § 84.64.420. Prior: 1925 ex.s. c 171 § 10; RRS § 11308-10. Formerly RCW 84.64.420.]

**36.35.260 Quieting title to tax-title property—Form of deed on sale after title quieted.** That in all cases where any county of the state of Washington has perfected title to real estate owned by the county, under the provisions of RCW 36.35.160 through 36.35.270 and resells the same or part thereof, it shall give to the purchaser a warranty deed in substantially the following form:

STATE OF WASHINGTON }  
County of ..... } ss.

This indenture, made this .... day of ..... .. (year) . . , between ..... as treasurer of ..... county, state of Washington, the party of the first part, and ..... , party of the second part.

WITNESSETH, THAT WHEREAS, at a public sale of real property, held on the .... day of ..... (year) . . , pursuant to an order of the county legislative authority of the county of ..... , state of Washington, duly made and entered, and after having first given due notice of the time and place and terms of the sale, and, whereas, in pursuance of the order of the county legislative authority, and of the laws of the state of Washington, and for and in consideration of the sum of ..... dollars, lawful money of the United States of America, to me in hand paid, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, I have this day sold to ..... the following described real property, and which the real property is the property of ..... county, and which is particularly described as follows, to wit:

..... , the ..... being the highest and best bidder at the sale, and the sum being the highest and best sum bid at the sale:

NOW THEREFORE KNOW YE that I, ..... county treasurer of the county of ..... , state of Washington, in consideration of the premises and by virtue of the statutes of the state of Washington, in such cases made and provided, do hereby grant, convey and warrant on behalf of ..... county unto ..... , his or her heirs and assigns, forever, the real property hereinbefore described.

Given under my hand and seal of office this .... day of ..... ,... (year) ..

.....  
County Treasurer.

By .....  
Deputy.

[1998 c 106 § 20; 1961 c 15 § 84.64.430. Prior: 1929 c 197 § 1; RRS § 11308-11. Formerly RCW 84.64.430.]

**36.35.270 Quieting title to tax-title property—Limitation on recovery for breach of warranty.** No recovery for breach of warranty shall be had, against the county executing a deed under the provisions of RCW 36.35.260, in excess of the purchase price of the land described in such deed, with interest at the legal rate. [1998 c 106 § 21; 1961 c 15 § 84.64.440. Prior: 1929 c 197 § 2; RRS § 11308-12. Formerly RCW 84.64.440.]

**36.35.280 Tax deeds to cities and towns absolute despite reversionary provision.** All sales of tax-title lands heretofore consummated by any county, to a city or town, for municipal purposes, or public use, shall be absolute and final, and transfer title in fee, notwithstanding any reversionary provision in the tax deed to the contrary; and all tax-title deeds containing any such reversionary provision shall upon application of grantee in interest, be revised to conform with the provisions herein. [1961 c 15 § 84.64.450. Prior: 1947 c 269 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 11295-2. Formerly RCW 84.64.450.]

**36.35.290 Easements—Electric utility recorded interest.** (1) The general property tax assessed on any tract, lot, or parcel of real property includes all easements appurtenant thereto, provided said easements are a matter of public record in the auditor's office of the county in which said real property is situated.

(2)(a) Except as provided in (b) of this subsection, any foreclosure of delinquent taxes on any tract, lot, or parcel of real property subject to such easement or easements, and any tax deed issued pursuant thereto shall be subject to such easement or easements, provided such easement or easements were established of record prior to the year for which the tax was foreclosed.

(b) If an electric utility has a recorded interest in the easement or easements, any foreclosure of delinquent taxes and tax deed issued pursuant thereto are subject to such easement or easements regardless of when such easement or easements were established. [2016 c 98 § 1; 1961 c 15 § 84.64.460. Prior: 1959 c 129 § 1. Formerly RCW 84.64.460.]

## Chapter 36.36 RCW

## AQUIFER PROTECTION AREAS

## Sections

36.36.010	Purpose.
36.36.020	Creation of aquifer protection area—Public hearing—Ballot proposition.
36.36.030	Imposition of fees—Ballot proposition to authorize increased fees or additional purposes.
36.36.035	Reduced fees for low-income persons.
36.36.040	Use of fee revenues.
36.36.045	Lien for delinquent fees.
36.36.050	Dissolution of aquifer protection area—Petition—Ballot proposition.

*Assessments and charges against state lands: Chapter 79.44 RCW.*

**36.36.010 Purpose.** The protection of subterranean water from pollution or degradation is of great concern. The depletion of subterranean water is of great concern. The purpose of this chapter is to allow the creation of aquifer protection areas to finance the protection, preservation, and rehabilitation of subterranean water, and to reduce special assessments imposed upon households to finance facilities for such purposes. Pollution and degradation of subterranean drinking water supplies, and the depletion of subterranean drinking water supplies, pose immediate threats to the safety and welfare of the citizens of this state. [1991 c 151 § 1; 1985 c 425 § 1.]

**36.36.020 Creation of aquifer protection area—Public hearing—Ballot proposition.** The county legislative authority of a county may create one or more aquifer protection areas for the purpose of funding the protection, preservation, and rehabilitation of subterranean water.

When a county legislative authority proposes to create an aquifer protection area it shall conduct a public hearing on the proposal. Notice of the public hearing shall be published at least once, not less than ten days prior to the hearing, in a newspaper of general circulation within the proposed aquifer protection area. The public hearing may be continued to other times, dates, and places announced at the public hearing, without publication of the notice. At the public hearing, the county legislative authority shall hear objections and comments from anyone interested in the proposed aquifer protection area.

After the public hearing, the county legislative authority may adopt a resolution causing a ballot proposition to be submitted to the registered voters residing within the proposed aquifer protection area to authorize the creation of the aquifer protection area, if the county legislative authority finds that the creation of the aquifer protection area would be in the public interest. The resolution shall: (1) Describe the boundaries of the proposed aquifer protection area; (2) find that its creation is in the public interest; (3) state the maximum level of fees for the withdrawal of water, or on-site sewage disposal, occurring in the aquifer protection area, or both; and (4) describe the uses for the fees.

An aquifer protection area shall be created by ordinances of the county if the voters residing in the proposed aquifer protection area approve the ballot proposition by a simple majority vote. The ballot proposition shall be in substantially the following form:

"Shall the . . . (insert the name) aquifer protection area be created and authorized to impose monthly fees on . . . (insert "the withdrawal of water" or "on-site sewage disposal") of not to exceed . . . (insert a dollar amount) per household unit for up to . . . (insert a number of years) to finance . . . (insert the type of activities proposed to be financed)?

Yes . . . . .

No . . . . ."

If both types of monthly fees are proposed to be imposed, maximum rates for each shall be included in the ballot proposition.

An aquifer protection area may not include territory located within a city or town without the approval of the city or town governing body, nor may it include territory located in the unincorporated area of another county without the approval of the county legislative authority of that county. [1985 c 425 § 2.]

**36.36.030 Imposition of fees—Ballot proposition to authorize increased fees or additional purposes.** Aquifer protection areas are authorized to impose fees on the withdrawal of subterranean water and on on-site sewage disposal. The fees shall be expressed as a dollar amount per household unit. Fees imposed for the withdrawal of water, or on-site sewage disposal, other than by households shall be expressed and imposed in equivalents of household units. If both types of fees are imposed, the rate imposed on on-site sewage disposal shall not exceed the rate imposed for the withdrawal of water.

No fees shall be imposed in excess of the amount authorized by the voters of the aquifer protection area. Fees shall only be used for the activity or activities authorized by the voters of the aquifer protection area. Ballot propositions may be submitted to the voters of an aquifer protection area to authorize a higher maximum level of such fees or to authorize additional activities for which the fees may be used. Such a ballot proposition shall be substantially in the form of that portion of the proposition to authorize the creation of an aquifer protection district that relates to fees or activities, as provided in RCW 36.36.020. Approval of the ballot proposition by simple majority vote shall authorize the higher maximum level of fees or additional activities for which the fees may be used.

A county may contract with existing public utilities to collect the fees, or collect the fees itself. [1985 c 425 § 3.]

**36.36.035 Reduced fees for low-income persons.** A county may adopt an ordinance reducing the level of fees, for the withdrawal of subterranean water or for on-site sewage disposal, that are imposed upon the residential property of a class or classes of low-income persons. [1987 c 381 § 1.]

**36.36.040 Use of fee revenues.** Aquifer protection areas may impose fees to fund:

(1) The preparation of a comprehensive plan to protect, preserve, and rehabilitate subterranean water, including groundwater management programs adopted under chapter 90.44 RCW. This plan may be prepared as a portion of a



county sewerage and/or water general plan pursuant to RCW 36.94.030;

(2) The construction of facilities for: (a) The removal of waterborne pollution; (b) water quality improvement; (c) sanitary sewage collection, disposal, and treatment; (d) stormwater or surface water drainage collection, disposal, and treatment; and (e) the construction of public water systems;

(3) The proportionate reduction of special assessments imposed by a county, city, town, or special district in the aquifer protection area for any of the facilities described in subsection (2) of this section;

(4) The costs of monitoring and inspecting on-site sewage disposal systems or community sewage disposal systems for compliance with applicable standards and rules, and for enforcing compliance with these applicable standards and rules in aquifer protection areas created after June 9, 1988; and

(5) The costs of: (a) Monitoring the quality and quantity of subterranean water and analyzing data that is collected; (b) ongoing implementation of the comprehensive plan developed under subsection (1) of this section; (c) enforcing compliance with standards and rules relating to the quality and quantity of subterranean waters; and (d) public education relating to protecting, preserving, and enhancing subterranean waters. [1991 c 151 § 2; 1988 c 258 § 1; 1985 c 425 § 4.]

**36.36.045 Lien for delinquent fees.** The county shall have a lien for any delinquent fees imposed for the withdrawal of subterranean water or on-site sewage disposal, which shall attach to the property to which the fees were imposed, if the following conditions are met:

(1) At least eighteen months have passed since the first billing for a delinquent fee installment; and

(2) At least three billing notices and a letter have been mailed to the property owner, within the period specified in subsection (1) of this section, explaining that a lien may be imposed for any delinquent fee installment that has not been paid in that period.

The lien shall otherwise be subject to the provisions of chapter 36.94 RCW related to liens for delinquent charges. The county shall record liens for any delinquent fees in the office of the county auditor. Failure on the part of the county to record the lien does not affect the validity of the lien. [1997 c 393 § 6; 1987 c 381 § 2.]

**36.36.050 Dissolution of aquifer protection area—Petition—Ballot proposition.** A county legislative authority may dissolve an aquifer protection area upon a finding that such dissolution is in the public interest.

A ballot proposition to dissolve an aquifer protection district shall be placed on the ballot for the approval or rejection of the voters residing in an aquifer protection area, when a petition requesting such a ballot proposition is signed by at least twenty percent of the voters residing in the aquifer protection area and is filed with the county legislative authority of the county originally creating the aquifer protection area. The ballot proposition shall be placed on the ballot at the next general election occurring sixty or more days after the petition has been filed. Approval of the ballot proposition by a

simple majority vote shall cause the dissolution of the aquifer protection area. [1985 c 425 § 5.]

### Chapter 36.37 RCW

#### AGRICULTURAL FAIRS AND POULTRY SHOWS

##### Sections

36.37.010	Fairs authorized—Declared county purpose.
36.37.020	Property may be acquired for fairs.
36.37.040	Expenditure of funds—Revolving fund—Management of fairs.
36.37.050	District or multiple county fairs authorized.
36.37.090	Poultry shows—Petition—Appropriation.
36.37.100	Poultry shows—Open to public—Admission charge.
36.37.110	Poultry shows—Conduct of shows.
36.37.150	Lease of state-owned lands for county fairgrounds.
36.37.160	Lease of state-owned lands for county fairgrounds—Lands adjacent to Northern State Hospital.

**36.37.010 Fairs authorized—Declared county purpose.** The holding of county fairs and agricultural exhibitions of stock, cereals, and agricultural produce of all kinds, including dairy produce, as well as arts and manufactures, by any county in the state, and the participation by any county in a district fair or agricultural exhibition, is declared to be in the interest of public good and a strictly county purpose. [1963 c 4 § 36.37.010. Prior: 1947 c 184 § 1; 1917 c 32 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 2750.]

**36.37.020 Property may be acquired for fairs.** The board of county commissioners of any county in the state may acquire by gift, devise, purchase, condemnation and purchase, or otherwise, lands, property rights, leases, easements, and all kinds of personal property and own and hold the same and construct and maintain temporary or permanent improvements suitable and necessary for the purpose of holding and maintaining county or district fairs for the exhibition of county or district resources and products. [1963 c 4 § 36.37.020. Prior: 1947 c 184 § 2; 1917 c 32 § 2; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 2751.]

**36.37.040 Expenditure of funds—Revolving fund—Management of fairs.** The board of county commissioners of any county may appropriate and expend each year such sums of money as they deem advisable and necessary for (1) acquisition of necessary grounds for fairs and world fairs, (2) construction, improvement and maintenance of buildings thereon, (3) payment of fair premiums, and (4) the general maintenance of such fair. The board of county commissioners of any county may also authorize the county auditor to provide a revolving fund to be used by the fair officials for the conduct of the fair. The board of county commissioners may employ persons to assist in the management of fairs or by resolution designate a nonprofit corporation as the exclusive agency to operate and manage such fairs. [1963 c 4 § 36.37.040. Prior: 1957 c 124 § 1; 1955 c 297 § 1; prior: (i) 1947 c 184 § 3; 1943 c 101 § 1; 1923 c 83 § 2; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 2753 1/2. (ii) 1923 c 83 § 1; 1917 c 32 § 4; RRS § 2753.]

**36.37.050 District or multiple county fairs authorized.** Each county is authorized to hold one county fair in each year, or, as an alternative, to participate with any other

county or counties in the holding of a district fair. Where counties participate in the holding of a district fair, the boards of county commissioners of each of participating counties may enter into mutual agreements setting forth the manner and extent of the participation by each county in the management and support of the district fair, subject to the limitations imposed on each respective county by the provisions of this chapter. [1963 c 4 § 36.37.050. Prior: 1947 c 184 § 4; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 2753a.]

**36.37.090 Poultry shows—Petition—Appropriation.** Upon petition of twenty-five resident taxpayers of any county who are interested in the poultry industry, the board of county commissioners may set aside and include in its annual budget a sum equivalent to five percent of the assessed valuation of poultry in the county each year for the purpose of holding winter poultry shows, the said sum not to exceed five hundred dollars in any one year. [1963 c 4 § 36.37.090. Prior: 1929 c 109 § 1; RRS § 2755-1.]

**36.37.100 Poultry shows—Open to public—Admission charge.** All poultry shows shall be open to the public. Such admission charge may be made as is authorized by the board of county commissioners. [1963 c 4 § 36.37.100. Prior: 1929 c 109 § 2; RRS § 2755-2.]

**36.37.110 Poultry shows—Conduct of shows.** All such poultry shows shall be held under the rules of the American Poultry Association and only licensed poultry judges shall be employed thereat. [1963 c 4 § 36.37.110. Prior: 1929 c 109 § 3; RRS § 2755-3.]

**36.37.150 Lease of state-owned lands for county fairgrounds.** If requested by a county legislative authority, an agency of the state managing state-owned lands, other than state trust lands, shall consider leasing a requested portion of these lands that are not used for any significant purpose and if not otherwise prohibited, to the county to be used as county fairgrounds. If it is determined that such a lease shall be made, the agency in setting lease charges shall consider the fair market return for leasing the land, the public benefit for leasing the land to the county for county fair purposes at a level below the fair market return, and other appropriate factors. [1986 c 307 § 3.]

**Intent—1986 c 307:** "The legislature finds that county fairs provide unique educational opportunities to the people of this state and are a public purpose. By helping counties acquire lands for county fairs, the legislature intends to preserve and enhance the educational opportunities of the people of this state." [1986 c 307 § 1.]

**36.37.160 Lease of state-owned lands for county fairgrounds—Lands adjacent to Northern State Hospital.** If requested by a county legislative authority, the department of natural resources shall negotiate a lease for any requested portion of the state lands directly adjacent to buildings on the Northern State Hospital site that were transferred to the department under chapter 178, Laws of 1974 ex. sess., if not otherwise prohibited, to the county to use for the purpose of establishing county fairgrounds. However, the portion to be leased shall be contiguous and compact, of an area not to exceed two hundred fifty acres and shall be segregated in such a manner that the remaining portion of these state lands

can be efficiently managed by the department. The lease shall be for as long as the county is actually using the land as the site of the county fairgrounds. Notwithstanding chapter 178, Laws of 1974 ex. sess., the department shall charge the county the sum of one thousand dollars per year for the lease of such lands and this sum may be periodically adjusted to compensate the department for any increased costs in administration of the lease. The lease shall contain provisions directing payment of all assessments and authorizing the county to place any improvements on the leased lands if the improvements are consistent with the purposes of county fairs. [1986 c 307 § 2.]

**Intent—1986 c 307:** See note following RCW 36.37.150.

## Chapter 36.38 RCW ADMISSIONS TAX

### Sections

36.38.010	Taxes authorized—Exception as to schools.
36.38.020	Optional provisions in ordinance.
36.38.030	Form of ordinance.
36.38.040	Vehicle parking charges tax—Parking facility at stadium and exhibition center—Use of revenues before and after issuance of bonds.

*Taxes for city and town purposes: State Constitution Art. 11 § 12.*

**36.38.010 Taxes authorized—Exception as to schools.** (1) Any county may by ordinance enacted by its county legislative authority, levy and fix a tax of not more than one cent on twenty cents or fraction thereof to be paid for county purposes by persons who pay an admission charge to any place, including a tax on persons who are admitted free of charge or at reduced rates to any place for which other persons pay a charge or a regular higher charge for the same or similar privileges or accommodations; and require that one who receives any admission charge to any place must collect and remit the tax to the county treasurer of the county. However, no county may impose such tax on persons paying an admission to any activity of any elementary or secondary school or any public facility of a public facility district under chapter 35.57 or 36.100 RCW for which a tax is imposed under RCW 35.57.100 or 36.100.210.

(2) As used in this chapter, the term "admission charge" includes a charge made for season tickets or subscriptions, a cover charge, or a charge made for use of seats and tables, reserved or otherwise, and other similar accommodations; a charge made for food and refreshments in any place where any free entertainment, recreation, or amusement is provided; a charge made for rental or use of equipment or facilities for purpose of recreation or amusement, and where the rental of the equipment or facilities is necessary to the enjoyment of a privilege for which a general admission is charged, the combined charges must be considered as the admission charge. Admission charge also includes any automobile parking charge where the amount of such charge is determined according to the number of passengers in any automobile.

(3) Subject to subsections (4) and (5) of this section, the tax authorized in this section is not exclusive and does not prevent any city or town within the taxing county, when authorized by law, from imposing within its corporate limits a tax of the same or similar kind. However, whenever the same or similar kind of tax is imposed by any such city or

town, no such tax may be levied within the corporate limits of such city or town by the county.

(4) Notwithstanding subsection (3) of this section, the legislative authority of a county with a population of one million or more may exclusively levy taxes on events in baseball stadiums constructed on or after January 1, 1995, that are owned by a public facilities district under chapter 36.100 RCW and that have seating capacities over forty thousand at the rates of:

(a) Not more than one cent on twenty cents or fraction thereof, to be used for the purpose of paying the principal and interest payments on bonds issued by a county to construct a baseball stadium as defined in RCW 82.14.0485. If the revenue from the tax exceeds the amount needed for that purpose, the excess must be placed in a contingency fund which must be used exclusively by the public facilities district to fund repair, reequipping, and capital improvement of the baseball stadium; and

(b) Not more than one cent on twenty cents or fraction thereof, to be used for the purpose of paying the principal and interest payments on bonds issued by a county to construct a baseball stadium as defined in RCW 82.14.0485. The tax imposed under this subsection (4)(b) expires when the bonds issued for the construction of the baseball stadium are retired, but not later than twenty years after the tax is first collected.

(5)(a) Notwithstanding subsection (3) of this section, the legislative authority of a county that has created a public stadium authority to develop a stadium and exhibition center under RCW 36.102.050 may levy and fix a tax on charges for admission to events in a stadium and exhibition center, as defined in RCW 36.102.010, constructed in the county on or after January 1, 1998, that is owned by a public stadium authority under chapter 36.102 RCW.

(b) Except as provided otherwise in (c) of this subsection (5), the tax is exclusive and precludes the city or town within which the stadium and exhibition center is located from imposing a tax of the same or similar kind on charges for admission to events in the stadium and exhibition center, and precludes the imposition of a general county admissions tax on charges for admission to events in the stadium and exhibition center.

(c) A city within which the stadium and exhibition center is located has the exclusive right to impose an admissions tax under the authority of RCW 35.21.280 and the county is precluded from imposing an admissions tax, for a sporting event conducted during calendar year 2012 by a state college or university, if such sporting event occurs:

(i) Due to the temporary closure of any similar facility owned by that college or university; and

(ii) At a facility owned by a public stadium authority located within a city with a population that exceeds five hundred thousand people.

(d) For the purposes of this subsection (5), "charges for admission to events" means only the actual admission charge, exclusive of taxes and service charges and the value of any other benefit conferred by the admission.

(e) The tax authorized under this subsection (5) is at the rate of not more than one cent on ten cents or fraction thereof.

(f) Revenues collected under this subsection (5) must be deposited in the stadium and exhibition center account under RCW 43.99N.060 until the bonds issued under RCW

43.99N.020 for the construction of the stadium and exhibition center are retired. After the bonds issued for the construction of the stadium and exhibition center are retired, the tax authorized under this section is used exclusively to fund repair, reequipping, and capital improvement of the stadium and exhibition center.

(g) The tax under this subsection (5) may be levied upon the first use of any part of the stadium and exhibition center but may not be collected at any facility already in operation as of July 17, 1997. [2012 c 260 § 1; 2011 1st sp.s. c 38 § 2; 1999 c 165 § 20; 1997 c 220 § 301 (Referendum Bill No. 48, approved June 17, 1997); 1995 3rd sp.s. c 1 § 203; 1995 1st sp.s. c 14 § 9; 1963 c 4 § 36.38.010. Prior: 1957 c 126 § 2; 1951 c 34 § 1; 1943 c 269 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 11241-10.]

**Referendum—Other legislation limited—Legislators' personal intent not indicated—Reimbursements for election—Voters' pamphlet, election requirements—1997 c 220:** See RCW 36.102.800 through 36.102.803.

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

**36.38.020 Optional provisions in ordinance.** In addition to the provisions levying and fixing the amount of tax, the ordinance may contain any or all of the following provisions:

(1) A provision defining the words and terms used therein;

(2) A provision requiring the price (exclusive of the tax to be paid by the person paying for admission) at which every admission ticket or card is sold to be conspicuously and indelibly printed or written on the face or back of that part of the ticket which is to be taken up by the management of the place for which an admission charge is exacted, and making the violation of such provision a misdemeanor punishable by fine of not exceeding one hundred dollars;

(3) Provisions fixing reasonable exemptions from such tax;

(4) Provisions allowing as an offset against the tax, the amount of like taxes levied, fixed, and collected within their jurisdiction by incorporated cities and towns in the county;

(5) A provision requiring persons receiving payments for admissions taxed under said ordinance to collect the amount of the tax from the persons making such payments;

(6) A provision to the effect that the tax imposed by said ordinance shall be deemed to be held in trust by the person required to collect the same until paid to the county treasurer, and making it a misdemeanor for any person receiving payment of the tax and appropriating or converting the same to his or her own use or to any use other than the payment of the tax as provided in said ordinance to the extent that the amount of such tax is not available for payment on the due date for filing returns as provided in said ordinance;

(7) A provision that in case any person required by the ordinance to collect the tax imposed thereby fails to collect the same, or having collected the tax fails to pay the same to the county treasurer in the manner prescribed by the ordinance, whether such failure is the result of such person's own acts or the result of acts or conditions beyond such person's control, such person shall nevertheless be personally liable to the county for the amount of the tax;

(8) Provisions fixing the time when the taxes imposed by the ordinance shall be due and payable to the county trea-

surer; requiring persons receiving payments for admissions to make periodic returns to the county treasurer on such forms and setting forth such information as the county treasurer may specify; requiring such return to show the amount of tax upon admissions for which such person is liable for specified preceding periods, and requiring such person to sign and transmit the same to the county treasurer together with a remittance for the amount;

(9) A provision requiring taxpayers to file with the county treasurer verified annual returns setting forth such additional information as he or she may deem necessary to determine tax liability correctly;

(10) A provision to the effect that whenever a certificate of registration, if required by the ordinance, is obtained for operating or conducting temporary places of amusement by persons who are not the owners, lessees, or custodians of the building, lot or place where the amusement is to be conducted, or whenever the business is permitted to be conducted without the procurement of a certificate, the tax imposed shall be returned and paid as provided in the ordinance by such owner, lessee, or custodian, unless paid by the person conducting the place of amusement;

(11) A provision requiring the applicant for a temporary certificate of registration, if required by the ordinance, to furnish with the application therefor, the name and address of the owner, lessee, or custodian of the premises upon which the amusement is to be conducted, and requiring the county treasurer to notify such owner, lessee, or custodian of the issuance of any such temporary certificate, and of the joint liability for such tax;

(12) A provision empowering the county treasurer to declare the tax upon temporary or itinerant places of amusement to be immediately due and payable and to collect the same, when he or she believes there is a possibility that the tax imposed under the ordinance will not be otherwise paid;

(13) Any or all of the applicable general administrative provisions contained in RCW 82.32.010 through 82.32.340 and 82.32.380, and the amendments thereto, except that unless otherwise indicated by the context of said sections, in all provisions so incorporated in such ordinance (a) the term "county treasurer" (of the county enacting said ordinance) shall be substituted for each reference made in said sections to the "department," the "department of revenue," "any employee of the department," or "director of the department of revenue"; (b) the name of the county enacting such ordinance shall be substituted for each reference made in said sections to the "state" or to the "state of Washington"; (c) the term "this ordinance" shall be substituted for each reference made in said sections to "this chapter"; (d) the name of the county enacting said ordinance shall be substituted for each reference made in said sections to "Thurston county"; and (e) the term "board of county commissioners" shall be substituted for each reference made in said sections to the "director of financial management." [2009 c 549 § 4080; 1979 c 151 § 38; 1975 1st ex.s. c 278 § 21; 1963 c 4 § 36.38.020. Prior: 1943 c 269 § 3; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 11241-12.]

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

**36.38.030 Form of ordinance.** The ordinance levying and fixing the tax shall be headed by a title expressing the subject thereof, and the style of the ordinance shall be: "Be it

ordained by the Board of County Commissioners of . . . . . County, State of Washington." The ordinance shall be enacted by a majority vote of the board at a regular meeting thereof, and only after the form of such ordinance as ultimately enacted has been on file with the clerk of the board and open to public inspection for not less than ten days. The ordinance shall not become effective until thirty days following its enactment, and within five days following its enactment it shall be printed and published in a newspaper of general circulation in the county. The ordinance shall be signed by a majority of the board, attested by the clerk of the board, and shall be duly entered and recorded in the book wherein orders of the board are entered and recorded. The ordinance may be at any time amended or repealed by an ordinance enacted, published, and recorded in the same manner. [1963 c 4 § 36.38.030. Prior: 1943 c 269 § 2; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 11241-11.]

**36.38.040 Vehicle parking charges tax—Parking facility at stadium and exhibition center—Use of revenues before and after issuance of bonds.** The legislative authority of a county that has created a public stadium authority to develop a stadium and exhibition center under RCW 36.102.050 may levy and fix a tax on any vehicle parking charges imposed at any parking facility that is part of a stadium and exhibition center, as defined in RCW 36.102.010. The tax shall be exclusive and shall preclude the city or town within which the stadium and exhibition center is located from imposing within its corporate limits a tax of the same or similar kind on any vehicle parking charges imposed at any parking facility that is part of a stadium and exhibition center. For the purposes of this section, "vehicle parking charges" means only the actual parking charges exclusive of taxes and service charges and the value of any other benefit conferred. The tax authorized under this section shall be at the rate of not more than ten percent. Revenues collected under this section shall be deposited in the stadium and exhibition center account under RCW 43.99N.060 until the bonds issued under RCW 43.99N.020 for the construction of the stadium and exhibition center are retired. After the bonds issued for the construction of the stadium and exhibition center are retired, the tax authorized under this section shall be used exclusively to fund repair, reequipping, and capital improvement of the stadium and exhibition center. The tax under this section may be levied upon the first use of any part of the stadium and exhibition center but shall not be collected at any facility already in operation as of July 17, 1997. [1997 c 220 § 302 (Referendum Bill No. 48, approved June 17, 1997).]

**Referendum—Other legislation limited—Legislator's personal intent not indicated—Reimbursements for election—Voters' pamphlet, election requirements—1997 c 220:** See RCW 36.102.800 through 36.102.803.

## Chapter 36.39 RCW ASSISTANCE AND RELIEF

### Sections

36.39.010	Public assistance.
36.39.030	Disposal of remains of indigent persons.
36.39.040	Federal surplus commodities—County expenses—Handling commodities for certified persons—County program, cooperative program.

- 36.39.050 Federal surplus commodities—Certification of persons by department of social and health services.  
 36.39.060 Senior citizens programs—Long-term care ombuds programs—Authorization.

*Burial of indigent war veterans: Chapter 73.24 RCW.*

*Housing authorities law: Chapter 35.82 RCW.*

*Veterans' relief: Chapter 73.08 RCW.*

**36.39.010 Public assistance.** Public assistance generally, see Title 74 RCW.

**36.39.030 Disposal of remains of indigent persons.** The board of county commissioners of any county shall provide for the disposition of the remains of any indigent person including a recipient of public assistance who dies within the county and whose body is unclaimed by relatives or church organization. [1963 c 4 § 36.39.030. Prior: 1953 c 224 § 1; 1951 c 258 § 1.]

**36.39.040 Federal surplus commodities—County expenses—Handling commodities for certified persons—County program, cooperative program.** The county commissioners of any county may expend from the county general fund for the purpose of receiving, warehousing and distributing federal surplus commodities for the use of or assistance to recipients of public assistance or other needy families and individuals when such recipients, families or individuals are certified as eligible to obtain such commodities by the state department of social and health services. The county commissioners may expend county general fund moneys to carry out any such program as a sole county operation or in conjunction or cooperation with any similar program of distribution by private individuals or organizations, any department of the state, or any political subdivision of the state. [1979 c 141 § 43; 1963 c 4 § 36.39.040. Prior: 1957 c 187 § 5.]

**36.39.050 Federal surplus commodities—Certification of persons by department of social and health services.** See RCW 74.04.340 through 74.04.360.

**36.39.060 Senior citizens programs—Long-term care ombuds programs—Authorization.** (1) Counties, cities, and towns are granted the authority, and it is hereby declared to be a public purpose for counties, cities, and towns, to establish and administer senior citizens programs either directly or by creating public corporations or authorities to carry out the programs and to expend their own funds for such purposes, as well as to expend federal, state, or private funds that are made available for such purposes. Such federal funds shall include, but not be limited to, funds provided under the federal older Americans act, as amended (42 U.S.C. Sec. 3001 et seq.).

(2) Counties, cities, and towns may establish and administer long-term care ombuds programs for residents, patients, and clients if such a program is not prohibited by federal or state law. Such local ombuds programs shall be coordinated with the efforts of other long-term care ombuds programs, including the office of the state long-term care ombuds established in RCW 43.190.030, to avoid multiple investigation of complaints. [2013 c 23 § 67; 1983 c 290 § 13; 1979 c 109 § 1.]

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## Chapter 36.40 RCW BUDGET

### Sections

- 36.40.010 Estimates to be filed by county officials.  
 36.40.020 Commissioners to file road and bridge estimate and estimate of future bond expenditures.  
 36.40.030 Forms of estimates—Penalty for delay.  
 36.40.040 Preliminary budget.  
 36.40.050 Revision by county commissioners.  
 36.40.060 Notice of hearing on budget.  
 36.40.070 Budget hearing.  
 36.40.071 Budget hearing—Alternate date for budget hearing.  
 36.40.080 Final budget to be fixed.  
 36.40.090 Taxes to be levied.  
 36.40.100 Budget constitutes appropriations—Transfers—Supplemental appropriations.  
 36.40.120 Limitation on use of borrowed money.  
 36.40.130 Excess of expenditures, liability.  
 36.40.140 Emergencies subject to hearing.  
 36.40.150 Emergencies subject to hearing—Right of taxpayer to review order.  
 36.40.160 Emergencies subject to hearing—Petition for review suspends order.  
 36.40.170 Emergencies subject to hearing—Court's power on review.  
 36.40.180 Emergencies subject to hearing—Nondebatable emergencies.  
 36.40.190 Payment of emergency warrants.  
 36.40.195 Supplemental appropriations of unanticipated funds from local sources.  
 36.40.200 Lapse of budget appropriations.  
 36.40.205 Salary adjustment for county legislative authority office—Ratification and validation of preelection action.  
 36.40.210 Monthly report.  
 36.40.220 Rules, classifications, and forms.  
 36.40.230 No new funds created.  
 36.40.240 Penalty.  
 36.40.250 Biennial budgets—Supplemental and emergency budgets.

*County road property tax revenues, budgeting of for services: RCW 36.33.220.*

*Flood control zone district budget as affecting: RCW 86.15.140.*

*Juvenile detention facilities, budget allocation may be used for: RCW 13.16.080.*

*Metropolitan municipal corporation costs in: RCW 35.58.420.*

**36.40.010 Estimates to be filed by county officials.** On or before the second Monday in July of each year, the county auditor or chief financial officer designated in a charter county shall notify in writing each county official, elective or appointive, in charge of an office, department, service, or institution of the county, to file with him or her on or before the second Monday in August thereafter detailed and itemized estimates, both of the probable revenues from sources other than taxation, and of all expenditures required by such office, department, service, or institution for the ensuing fiscal year. [2009 c 337 § 6; 1963 c 4 § 36.40.010. Prior: 1923 c 164 § 1, part; RRS § 3997-1, part.]

**36.40.020 Commissioners to file road and bridge estimate and estimate of future bond expenditures.** The county commissioners shall submit to the auditor a detailed statement showing all new road and bridge construction to be financed from the county road fund, and from bond issues theretofore issued, if any, for the ensuing fiscal year, together with the cost thereof as computed by the county road engineer or for constructions in charge of a special engineer, then by such engineer, and such engineer shall prepare such estimates of cost for the county commissioners. They shall also submit a similar statement showing the road and bridge maintenance program, as near as can be estimated.

The county commissioners shall also submit to the auditor detailed estimates of all expenditures for construction or improvement purposes proposed to be made from the proceeds of bonds or warrants not yet authorized. [1963 c 4 § 36.40.020. Prior: 1923 c 164 § 1, part; RRS § 3997-1, part.]

**36.40.030 Forms of estimates—Penalty for delay.** The estimates required in RCW 36.40.010 and 36.40.020 shall be submitted on forms provided by the county auditor or chief financial officer designated in a charter county and classified according to the classification established by the state auditor. The county auditor or chief financial officer designated in a charter county shall provide such forms. He or she shall also prepare the estimates for interest and debt redemption requirements and any other estimates the preparation of which properly falls within the duties of his or her office.

Each such official shall file his or her estimates within the time and in the manner provided in the notice and form and the county auditor or chief financial officer designated in a charter county may deduct and withhold as a penalty from the salary of each official failing or refusing to file such estimates as herein provided, the sum of fifty dollars for each day of delay: PROVIDED, That the total penalty against any one official shall not exceed two hundred fifty dollars in any one year.

In the absence or disability of any official the duties required herein shall devolve upon the official or employee in charge of the office, department, service, or institution for the time being. The notice shall contain a copy of this penalty clause. [2009 c 337 § 7; 1995 c 301 § 62; 1963 c 4 § 36.40.030. Prior: 1923 c 164 § 1, part; RRS § 3997-1, part.]

**36.40.040 Preliminary budget.** Upon receipt of the estimates the county auditor or chief financial officer designated in a charter county shall prepare the county budget which shall set forth the complete financial program of the county for the ensuing fiscal year, showing the expenditure program and the sources of revenue by which it is to be financed.

The revenue section shall set forth the estimated receipts from sources other than taxation for each office, department, service, or institution for the ensuing fiscal year, the actual receipts for the first six months of the current fiscal year and the actual receipts for the last completed fiscal year, the estimated surplus at the close of the current fiscal year and the amount proposed to be raised by taxation.

The expenditure section shall set forth in comparative and tabular form by offices, departments, services, and institutions the estimated expenditures for the ensuing fiscal year, the appropriations for the current fiscal year, the actual expenditures for the first six months of the current fiscal year including all contracts or other obligations against current appropriations, and the actual expenditures for the last completed fiscal year.

All estimates of receipts and expenditures for the ensuing year shall be fully detailed in the annual budget and shall be classified and segregated according to a standard classification of accounts to be adopted and prescribed by the state auditor after consultation with the Washington state association of counties and the Washington state association of county officials.

The county auditor or chief financial officer designated in a charter county shall set forth separately in the annual budget to be submitted to the county legislative authority the total amount of emergency warrants issued during the preceding fiscal year, together with a statement showing the amount issued for each emergency, and the legislative authority shall include in the annual tax levy, a levy sufficient to raise an amount equal to the total of such warrants: PROVIDED, That the legislative authority may fund the warrants or any part thereof into bonds instead of including them in the budget levy. [2009 c 337 § 8. Prior: 1995 c 301 § 63; 1995 c 194 § 7; 1973 c 39 § 1; prior: 1971 ex.s. c 85 § 4; 1969 ex.s. c 252 § 1; 1963 c 4 § 36.40.040; prior: (i) 1923 c 164 § 2; RRS § 3997-2. (ii) 1925 ex.s. c 143 § 2, part; 1923 c 164 § 6, part; RRS § 3997-6, part.]

**36.40.050 Revision by county commissioners.** The budget shall be submitted by the auditor or chief financial officer designated in a charter county to the board of county commissioners on or before the first Tuesday in September of each year. The board shall thereupon consider the same in detail, making any revisions or additions it deems advisable. [2009 c 337 § 9; 1963 c 4 § 36.40.050. Prior: 1923 c 164 § 3, part; RRS § 3997-3, part.]

**36.40.060 Notice of hearing on budget.** The county legislative authority shall then publish a notice stating that it has completed and placed on file its preliminary budget for the county for the ensuing fiscal year, a copy of which will be furnished any citizen who will call at its office for it, and that it will meet on the first Monday in October thereafter for the purpose of fixing the final budget and making tax levies, designating the time and place of the meeting, and that any taxpayer may appear thereat and be heard for or against any part of the budget. The notice shall be published once each week for two consecutive weeks immediately following adoption of the preliminary budget in the official newspaper of the county. The county legislative authority shall provide a sufficient number of copies of the detailed and comparative preliminary budget to meet the reasonable demands of taxpayers therefor and the same shall be available for distribution not later than two weeks immediately preceding the first Monday in October. [1985 c 469 § 47; 1963 c 4 § 36.40.060. Prior: 1923 c 164 § 3, part; RRS § 3997-3, part.]

**36.40.070 Budget hearing.** On the first Monday in October in each year the board of county commissioners shall meet at the time and place designated in the notice, whereat any taxpayer may appear and be heard for or against any part of the budget. The hearing may be continued from day to day until concluded but not to exceed a total of five days. The officials in charge of the several offices, departments, services, and institutions shall, at the time the estimates for their respective offices, departments, services or institutions are under consideration be called in and appear before such hearing by the board at the request of any taxpayer and may be questioned concerning such estimates by the commissioners or any taxpayer present. [1963 c 4 § 36.40.070. Prior: 1943 c 145 § 1, part; 1941 c 99 § 1, part; 1923 c 164 § 4, part; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 3997-4, part.]

**36.40.071 Budget hearing—Alternate date for budget hearing.** Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the board of county commissioners may meet for the purpose of holding a budget hearing, provided for in RCW 36.40.070, on the first Monday in December. The board of county commissioners may also set other dates relating to the budget process, including but not limited to the dates set in RCW 36.40.010, 36.40.050, and 36.81.130 to conform to the alternate date for the budget hearing. [1971 ex.s. c 136 § 1.]

**36.40.080 Final budget to be fixed.** Upon the conclusion of the budget hearing the county legislative authority shall fix and determine each item of the budget separately and shall by resolution adopt the budget as so finally determined and enter the same in detail in the official minutes of the board, a copy of which budget shall be forwarded to the state auditor. [1995 c 301 § 64; 1963 c 4 § 36.40.080. Prior: 1943 c 145 § 1, part; 1941 c 99 § 1, part; 1923 c 164 § 4, part; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 3997-4, part.]

**36.40.090 Taxes to be levied.** The board of county commissioners shall then fix the amount of the levies necessary to raise the amount of the estimated expenditures as finally determined, less the total of the estimated revenues from sources other than taxation, including such portion of any available surplus as in the discretion of the board it shall be advisable to so use, and such expenditures as are to be met from bond or warrant issues: PROVIDED, That no county shall retain an unbudgeted cash balance in the current expense fund in excess of a sum equal to the proceeds of a one dollar and twenty-five cents per thousand dollars of assessed value levy against the assessed valuation of the county. All taxes shall be levied in specific sums and shall not exceed the amount specified in the preliminary budget. [1973 1st ex.s. c 195 § 33; 1963 c 4 § 36.40.090. Prior: 1943 c 145 § 1, part; 1941 c 99 § 1, part; 1923 c 164 § 4, part; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 3997-4, part.]

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

**36.40.100 Budget constitutes appropriations—Transfers—Supplemental appropriations.** The estimates of expenditures itemized and classified as required in RCW 36.40.040 and as finally fixed and adopted in detail by the board of county commissioners shall constitute the appropriations for the county for the ensuing fiscal year; and every county official shall be limited in the making of expenditures or the incurring of liabilities to the amount of the detailed appropriation items or classes respectively: PROVIDED, That upon a resolution formally adopted by the board at a regular or special meeting and entered upon the minutes, transfers or revisions within departments, or supplemental appropriations to the budget from unanticipated federal or state funds may be made: PROVIDED FURTHER, That the board shall publish notice of the time and date of the meeting at which the supplemental appropriations resolution will be adopted, and the amount of the appropriation, once each week, for two consecutive weeks prior to the meeting in the official newspaper of the county. [1985 c 469 § 48; 1973 c 97 § 1; 1969 ex.s. c 252 § 2; 1965 ex.s. c 19 § 1; 1963 c 4 § 36.40.100. Prior: 1945 c 201 § 1, part; 1943 c 66 § 1, part;

1927 c 301 § 1, part; 1923 c 164 § 5, part; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 3997-5, part.]

**36.40.120 Limitation on use of borrowed money.** Moneys received from borrowing shall be used for no other purpose than that for which borrowed except that if any surplus shall remain after the accomplishment of the purpose for which borrowed, it shall be used to redeem the county debt. Where the budget contains an expenditure program to be financed from a bond issue to be authorized thereafter no such expenditure shall be made or incurred until such bonds have been duly authorized. [1963 c 4 § 36.40.120. Prior: 1945 c 201 § 1, part; 1943 c 66 § 1, part; 1927 c 301 § 1, part; 1923 c 164 § 5, part; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 3997-5, part.]

**36.40.130 Excess of expenditures, liability.** Expenditures made, liabilities incurred, or warrants issued in excess of any of the detailed budget appropriations or as revised by transfer as in RCW 36.40.100 or 36.40.120 provided shall not be a liability of the county, but the official making or incurring such expenditure or issuing such warrant shall be liable therefor personally and upon his or her official bond. The county auditor shall issue no warrant and the county commissioners shall approve no claim for any expenditure in excess of the detailed budget appropriations or as revised under the provisions of RCW 36.40.100 through 36.40.130, except upon an order of a court of competent jurisdiction, or for emergencies as hereinafter provided. [2009 c 337 § 10; 1963 c 4 § 36.40.130. Prior: 1945 c 201 § 1, part; 1943 c 66 § 1, part; 1927 c 301 § 1, part; 1923 c 164 § 5, part; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 3997-5, part.]

**36.40.140 Emergencies subject to hearing.** When a public emergency, other than such as are specifically described in RCW 36.40.180, and which could not reasonably have been foreseen at the time of making the budget, requires the expenditure of money not provided for in the budget, the board of county commissioners by majority vote of the commissioners at any meeting the time and place of which all the commissioners have had reasonable notice, shall adopt and enter upon its minutes a resolution stating the facts constituting the emergency and the estimated amount of money required to meet it, and shall publish the same, together with a notice that a public hearing thereon will be held at the time and place designated therein, which shall not be less than one week after the date of publication, at which any taxpayer may appear and be heard for or against the expenditure of money for the alleged emergency. The resolution and notice shall be published once in the official county newspaper, or if there is none, in a legal newspaper in the county. Upon the conclusion of the hearing, if the board of county commissioners approves it, an order shall be made and entered upon its official minutes by a majority vote of all the members of the board setting forth the facts constituting the emergency, together with the amount of expenditure authorized, which order, so entered, shall be lawful authorization to expend said amount for such purpose unless a review is applied for within five days thereafter. [1969 ex.s. c 185 § 3; 1963 c 4 § 36.40.140. Prior: 1925 ex.s. c 143 § 2, part; 1923 c 164 § 6, part; RRS § 3997-6, part.]

**36.40.150 Emergencies subject to hearing—Right of taxpayer to review order.** No expenditure shall be made or liability incurred pursuant to the order until a period of five days, exclusive of the day of entry of the order, have elapsed, during which time any taxpayer or taxpayers of the county feeling aggrieved by the order may have the superior court of the county review it by filing with the clerk of such court a verified petition, a copy of which has been served upon the county auditor. The petition shall set forth in detail the objections of the petitioners to the order and the reasons why the alleged emergency does not exist. [1963 c 4 § 36.40.150. Prior: 1925 ex.s. c 143 § 2, part; 1923 c 164 § 6, part; RRS § 3997-6, part.]

**36.40.160 Emergencies subject to hearing—Petition for review suspends order.** The service and filing of the petition shall operate to suspend the emergency order and the authority to make any expenditure or incur any liability thereunder until final determination of the matter by the court. [1963 c 4 § 36.40.160. Prior: 1925 ex.s. c 143 § 2, part; 1923 c 164 § 6, part; RRS § 3997-6, part.]

**36.40.170 Emergencies subject to hearing—Court's power on review.** Upon the filing of a petition the court shall immediately fix a time for hearing it which shall be at the earliest convenient date. At such hearing the court shall hear the matter de novo and may take such testimony as it deems necessary. Its proceedings shall be summary and informal and its determination as to whether an emergency such as is contemplated within the meaning and purpose of this chapter exists or not and whether the expenditure authorized by said order is excessive or not shall be final. [1963 c 4 § 36.40.170. Prior: 1925 ex.s. c 143 § 2, part; 1923 c 164 § 6, part; RRS § 3997-6, part.]

**36.40.180 Emergencies subject to hearing—Nondetachable emergencies.** Upon the happening of any emergency caused by fire, flood, explosion, storm, earthquake, epidemic, riot, or insurrection, or for the immediate preservation of order or of public health or for the restoration to a condition of usefulness of any public property the usefulness of which has been destroyed by accident, or for the relief of a stricken community overtaken by a calamity, or in settlement of approved claims for personal injuries or property damages, exclusive of claims arising from the operation of any public utility owned by the county, or to meet mandatory expenditures required by any law, the board of county commissioners may, upon the adoption by the unanimous vote of the commissioners present at any meeting the time and place of which all of such commissioners have had reasonable notice, of a resolution stating the facts constituting the emergency and entering the same upon their minutes, make the expenditures necessary to meet such emergency without further notice or hearing. [1963 c 4 § 36.40.180. Prior: 1925 ex.s. c 143 § 2, part; 1923 c 164 § 6, part; RRS § 3997-6, part.]

**36.40.190 Payment of emergency warrants.** All emergency expenditures shall be paid for by the issuance of emergency warrants which shall be paid from any moneys on hand in the county treasury in the fund properly chargeable therewith and the county treasurer shall pay such warrants

out of any moneys in the treasury in such fund. If at any time there are insufficient moneys on hand in the treasury to pay any of such warrants, they shall be registered, bear interest and be called in the manner provided by law for other county warrants. [1963 c 4 § 36.40.190. Prior: 1925 ex.s. c 143 § 2, part; 1923 c 164 § 6, part; RRS § 3997-6, part.]

**36.40.195 Supplemental appropriations of unanticipated funds from local sources.** In addition to the supplemental appropriations provided in RCW 36.40.100 and 36.40.140, the county legislative authority may provide by resolution a policy for supplemental appropriations as a result of unanticipated funds from local revenue sources. [1997 c 204 § 4.]

**36.40.200 Lapse of budget appropriations.** All appropriations shall lapse at the end of the fiscal year: PROVIDED, That the appropriation accounts may remain open for a period of thirty days, and may, at the auditor's discretion, remain open for a period not to exceed sixty days thereafter for the payment of claims incurred against such appropriations prior to the close of the fiscal year.

After such period has expired all appropriations shall become null and void and any claim presented thereafter against any such appropriation shall be provided for in the next ensuing budget: PROVIDED, That this shall not prevent payments upon uncompleted improvements in progress at the close of the fiscal year. [1997 c 204 § 2; 1963 c 4 § 36.40.200. Prior: 1925 ex.s. c 143 § 2, part; 1923 c 164 § 6, part; RRS § 3997-6, part.]

**36.40.205 Salary adjustment for county legislative authority office—Ratification and validation of preelection action.** If prior to the election for any county legislative authority office, a salary adjustment for such position to become effective upon the commencement of the term next following such election is adopted by ordinance or resolution of the legislative authority of such county, and a salary adjustment coinciding with such preceding ordinance or resolution thereof is properly adopted as part of the county budget for the years following such election, such action shall be deemed a continuing part of and shall ratify and validate the preelection action as to such salary adjustment. [1975 1st ex.s. c 32 § 1.]

**36.40.210 Monthly report.** On or before the twenty-fifth day of each month the auditor shall submit or make available to the board of county commissioners a report showing the expenditures and liabilities against each separate budget appropriation incurred during the preceding calendar month and like information for the whole of the current fiscal year to the first day of said month, together with the unexpended and unencumbered balance of each appropriation. He or she shall also set forth the receipts from taxes and from sources other than taxation for the same periods. [2009 c 337 § 11; 1963 c 4 § 36.40.210. Prior: 1923 c 164 § 7; RRS § 3997-7.]

**36.40.220 Rules, classifications, and forms.** The state auditor may make such rules, classifications, and forms as may be necessary to carry out the provisions in respect to



county budgets, define what expenditures shall be chargeable to each budget account, and establish such accounting and cost systems as may be necessary to provide accurate budget information. [1995 c 301 § 65; 1963 c 4 § 36.40.220. Prior: 1923 c 164 § 8; RRS § 3997-8.]

**36.40.230 No new funds created.** This chapter shall not be construed to create any new fund. [1963 c 4 § 36.40.230. Prior: 1923 c 164 § 9; RRS § 3997-9.]

**36.40.240 Penalty.** Any person violating any of the provisions of this chapter shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be fined not less than twenty-five dollars nor more than five hundred dollars. [1963 c 4 § 36.40.240. Prior: 1923 c 164 § 10; RRS § 3997-10.]

**36.40.250 Biennial budgets—Supplemental and emergency budgets.** In lieu of adopting an annual budget, the county legislative authority of any county may adopt an ordinance or a resolution providing for biennial budgets with a mid-biennium review and modification for the second year of the biennium. The county legislative authority may repeal such an ordinance or resolution and revert to adopting annual budgets for a period commencing after the end of a biennial budget cycle. The county legislative authority of a county with a biennial budget cycle may adopt supplemental and emergency budgets in the same manner and subject to the same conditions as the county legislative authority in a county with an annual budget cycle.

The procedure and steps for adopting a biennial budget shall conform with the procedure and steps for adopting an annual budget and with requirements established by the state auditor. The state auditor shall establish requirements for preparing and adopting the mid-biennium review and modification for the second year of the biennium.

Expenditures included in the biennial budget, mid-term modification budget, supplemental budget, or emergency budget shall constitute the appropriations for the county during the applicable period of the budget and every county official shall be limited in making expenditures or incurring liabilities to the amount of the detailed appropriation item or classes in the budget.

In lieu of adopting an annual budget or a biennial budget with a mid-biennium review for all funds, the legislative authority of any county may adopt an ordinance or a resolution providing for a biennial budget or budgets for any one or more funds of the county, with a mid-biennium review and modification for the second year of the biennium, with the other funds remaining on an annual budget. The county legislative authority may repeal such an ordinance or resolution and revert to adopting annual budgets for a period commencing after the end of the biennial budget or biennial budgets for the specific agency fund or funds. The county legislative authority of a county with a biennial budget cycle may adopt supplemental and emergency budgets in the same manner and subject to the same conditions as the county legislative authority in a county with an annual budget cycle.

The county legislative authority shall hold a public hearing on the proposed county property taxes and proposed road

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district property taxes prior to imposing the property tax levies. [1997 c 204 § 3; 1995 c 193 § 1.]

### Chapter 36.42 RCW RETAIL SALES AND USE TAXES

*County and city sales and use taxes: Chapter 82.14 RCW.*

### Chapter 36.43 RCW BUILDING CODES AND FIRE REGULATIONS

#### Sections

36.43.010	Authority to adopt.
36.43.020	Area to which applicable.
36.43.030	Enforcement—Inspectors.
36.43.040	Penalty for violation of code or regulation.

*Electrical construction regulations applicable to counties: RCW 19.29.010.*

*Energy-related building standards: Chapter 19.27A RCW.*

*State building code: Chapter 19.27 RCW.*

**36.43.010 Authority to adopt.** (1) The boards of county commissioners may adopt standard building codes and standard fire regulations to be applied within their respective jurisdictions.

(2) The boards of county commissioners may eliminate the minimum gross floor area requirements for single-family detached dwellings or reduce the requirements below the minimum performance standards and objectives contained in the state building code. [2018 c 302 § 5; 1963 c 4 § 36.43.010. Prior: 1943 c 204 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 4077-10.]

**36.43.020 Area to which applicable.** The building codes or fire regulations when adopted by the board of county commissioners shall be applicable to all the area of the county situated outside the corporate limits of any city or town, or to such portion thereof as may be prescribed in such building code or fire regulation. [1963 c 4 § 36.43.020. Prior: 1943 c 204 § 2; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 4077-11.]

**36.43.030 Enforcement—Inspectors.** The boards of county commissioners may appoint fire inspectors or other inspectors to enforce any building code or fire regulation adopted by them. The boards must enforce any building code or fire regulation adopted by them. [1963 c 4 § 36.43.030. Prior: 1943 c 204 § 3; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 4077-12.]

**36.43.040 Penalty for violation of code or regulation.** Any person violating the provisions of any building code or any fire regulation lawfully adopted by any board of county commissioners shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. [1963 c 4 § 36.43.040. Prior: 1943 c 204 § 4; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 4077-13.]

### Chapter 36.45 RCW CLAIMS AGAINST COUNTIES

#### Sections

36.45.010	Manner of filing.
36.45.040	Labor and material claims.

*Assessor's expense when meeting with department of revenue as: RCW 84.08.190.*

*Autopsy costs as: RCW 68.50.104, 68.50.106.*  
*Claims, reports, etc., filing: RCW 1.12.070.*  
*Compromise of unlawful, when: RCW 43.09.260.*  
*Costs against county, civil actions: RCW 4.84.170.*  
*Courtrooms, expense of sheriff in providing as county charge: RCW 2.28.140.*  
*Diking, drainage, or sewerage improvement assessments as: RCW 85.08.500, 85.08.530.*  
*Elections, expense of registration of voters as: RCW 29A.08.150.*  
*Expense of keeping jury as: RCW 4.44.310.*  
*Flood control*  
*by counties jointly, county liability: RCW 86.13.080.*  
*districts (1937 act) assessments as: RCW 86.09.526, 86.09.529.*  
*Health officers' convention expense as: RCW 43.70.140.*  
*Incorporation into city or town of intercounty areas as: RCW 35.02.240.*  
*Liability of county on failure to require contractors bond: RCW 39.08.015.*  
*Lien for labor, material, taxes on public works: Chapter 60.28 RCW.*  
*Metropolitan municipal corporation costs as: Chapter 35.58 RCW.*  
*Municipal court expenses as: RCW 35.20.120.*  
*Port district election costs as: RCW 53.04.070.*  
*Railroad grade crossing costs as: Chapter 81.53 RCW.*  
*Reclamation district commission expenses as: RCW 89.30.070.*  
*Regional jail camps, cost of committing county prisoners to as: RCW 72.64.110.*  
*Superior court, expenses of visiting judge as: RCW 2.08.170.*  
*Tortious conduct of political subdivisions, municipal corporations and quasi municipal corporations, liability for damages: Chapter 4.96 RCW.*  
*Veterans' meeting place rental as: RCW 73.04.080.*

**36.45.010 Manner of filing.** All claims for damages against any county shall be filed in the manner set forth in chapter 4.96 RCW. [1993 c 449 § 10; 1967 c 164 § 14; 1963 c 4 § 36.45.010. Prior: 1957 c 224 § 7; prior: 1919 c 149 § 1, part; RRS § 4077, part.]

**Purpose—Severability—1993 c 449:** See notes following RCW 4.96.010.

**Severability—Purpose—1967 c 164:** See notes following RCW 4.96.010.

*Tortious conduct of political subdivisions and municipal corporations, liability for damages: Chapter 4.96 RCW.*

**36.45.040 Labor and material claims.** Whenever any county, by its board of county commissioners, has entered into a contract for the construction of any public improvement for the benefit of the county, whereby the contractor agreed to furnish all labor, material, and supplies necessary for the improvement, and the contractor has proceeded with such improvement and procured from other persons labor, material, or supplies and used the same in the construction of the improvement, but has failed to pay such persons therefor, and such persons have filed claims therefor against the county, and the claims have been audited in the manner provided by law and found to be just claims against the county, and valid obligations of the county except for the fact that they were not filed within the time provided by law; the board of county commissioners may provide funds sufficient therefor, and cause the payment, of such claims in the manner provided by law for the payment of valid claims against the county. [1963 c 4 § 36.45.040. Prior: 1927 c 220 § 1; RRS § 4077-1.]

## Chapter 36.46 RCW

### DISPUTES BETWEEN ELECTED COUNTY OFFICIALS

#### Sections

36.46.010 Notice, mediation required—Procedure.

#### **36.46.010 Notice, mediation required—Procedure.**

(1) Before a lawsuit may be commenced in disputes between elected officials, as the term "elected official" is defined in subsection (7) of this section, in their official capacity, the party bringing the claim must first notify in writing the other parties to the claim. The notice must:

- (a) Request mediation to occur;
- (b) Notify all interested parties that mediation must take place within ninety days of providing notice; and
- (c) Include a copy of this section.

(2) The making of a written, good faith notice requesting mediation prior to commencing a lawsuit by the party bringing the claim as provided in subsection (1) of this section tolls the statute of limitations until the ninetieth day from the date of notice, or the day following the date set in subsection (5) of this section, or mediation ends, whichever is later.

(3) After the notice of mediation has been provided to all interested parties, unless otherwise agreed to by the parties, all interested parties must mediate pursuant to the process set forth in this section within ninety days or by the date set in subsection (5) of this section. If any party refuses to mediate, fails to mediate in good faith, or if mediation does not resolve the claim, the party bringing the claim may commence a lawsuit on the claim upon the passage of the 90th [ninetieth] day from the date of notice or the day following the date set in subsection (5) of this section, whichever is later.

(4) The mediator shall be agreed upon by the parties. If the parties cannot agree upon a mediator, any party may petition for the appointment of a mediator. Once a party petitions for the appointment of a mediator, no other party may petition for the appointment of a mediator. The petition shall be filed in the superior court of the county in which one of the parties serves as an elected official. If one of the parties in the action is a superior court judge, then the petition may not be filed in the superior court in which that judge serves. If any party is a superior court judge and all the parties serve in the same county, the action shall be filed in an adjacent county.

(5) Upon designation of a mediator by the parties or the court, the mediator and the parties or the parties' representatives shall establish a date for the mediation. If a date cannot be agreed upon within ten days of the designation or appointment of the mediator, a party may petition the court, as set forth in subsection (4) of this section, to set a date for the mediation. The mediation shall occur within ninety days from the day the notice is provided under subsection (1) of this section, or on a later date if agreed to by all parties and the mediator or as scheduled by the court.

(6) Costs of the mediation, including reasonable compensation for the mediator's services, shall be paid equally by the parties unless the superior court determines otherwise in its order appointing the mediator. The details of those costs, and the compensation of the mediator, must be set forth in a mediation agreement between the mediator and all parties, or in the order appointing the mediator. Unless otherwise

agreed, and except for sharing the costs of the mediator, each party shall bear its own costs and expenses, including legal fees and witness expenses, in connection with the mediation proceeding. If the matter is not resolved by mediation and the parties cannot agree as to how costs are assessed among the parties, the court that resolves the matter shall determine how costs are assessed among the parties.

(7) For the purposes of this section, "elected official" means:

- (a) Any elected or appointed county officer as enumerated in RCW 36.16.030;
- (b) Equivalent positions whether elected or appointed in charter counties; and
- (c) Superior, district, and municipal court judges located within the county. [2019 c 463 § 1.]

**Chapter 36.47 RCW**

**COORDINATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE PROGRAMS**

Sections

36.47.010	Declaration of necessity.
36.47.020	Joint action by officers of each county.
36.47.030	State association of county officials may be coordinating agency.
36.47.040	Reimbursement for costs and expenses to state association of county officials.
36.47.050	County officials—Further action authorized—Meetings.
36.47.060	Association financial records subject to audit by state auditor.
36.47.070	Merger of state association of county officials with state association of counties.

**36.47.010 Declaration of necessity.** The necessity and the desirability of coordinating the administrative programs of all of the counties in this state is recognized by this chapter. [1963 c 4 § 36.47.010. Prior: 1959 c 130 § 1.]

**36.47.020 Joint action by officers of each county.** It shall be the duty of the assessor, auditor, clerk, coroner, sheriff, superintendent of schools, treasurer, and prosecuting attorney of each county in the state, including appointive officials in charter counties heading like departments, to take such action as they jointly deem necessary to effect the coordination of the administrative programs of each county. [1998 c 245 § 28; 1969 ex.s. c 5 § 1; 1963 c 4 § 36.47.020. Prior: 1959 c 130 § 2.]

**36.47.030 State association of county officials may be coordinating agency.** The county officials enumerated in RCW 36.47.020 are empowered to designate the Washington state association of county officials as a coordinating agency through which the duties imposed by RCW 36.47.020 may be performed, harmonized, or correlated. [1969 ex.s. c 5 § 2; 1963 c 4 § 36.47.030. Prior: 1959 c 130 § 3.]

**36.47.040 Reimbursement for costs and expenses to state association of county officials.** Each county which designates the Washington state association of county officials as the agency through which the duties imposed by RCW 36.47.020 may be executed is authorized to reimburse the association from the county current expense fund for the cost of any such services rendered: PROVIDED, That no reimbursement shall be made to the association for any

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expenses incurred under RCW 36.47.050 for travel, meals, or lodging of such county officials, or their representatives at such meetings, but such expenses may be paid by such official's respective county as other expenses are paid for county business. Such reimbursement shall be paid only on vouchers submitted to the county auditor and approved by the legislative authority of each county in the manner provided for the disbursement of other current expense funds. Each such voucher shall set forth the nature of the services rendered by the association, supported by affidavit that the services were actually performed. [1991 c 363 § 71; 1977 ex.s. c 221 § 1; 1973 1st ex.s. c 195 § 35; 1970 ex.s. c 47 § 2; 1969 ex.s. c 5 § 3; 1963 c 4 § 36.47.040. Prior: 1959 c 130 § 4.]

**Purpose—Captions not law—1991 c 363:** See notes following RCW 2.32.180.

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

**36.47.050 County officials—Further action authorized—Meetings.** The county officials enumerated in RCW 36.47.020 are authorized to take such further action as they deem necessary to comply with the intent of this chapter, including attendance at state and district meetings which may be required to formulate the reports provided for in \*RCW 36.47.020. [1969 ex.s. c 5 § 4; 1963 c 4 § 36.47.050. Prior: 1959 c 130 § 5.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 36.47.020 was amended by 1998 c 245 § 28, removing the requirement to submit reports.

**36.47.060 Association financial records subject to audit by state auditor.** The financial records of the Washington state association of county officials shall be subject to audit by the state auditor. [1995 c 301 § 66; 1969 ex.s. c 5 § 5; 1963 c 4 § 36.47.060. Prior: 1959 c 130 § 6.]

**36.47.070 Merger of state association of county officials with state association of counties.** It is the desire of the legislature that the Washington State Association of County Officials, as set forth in chapter 36.47 RCW and the Washington State Association of Counties, as set forth in RCW 36.32.350, shall merge into one association of elected county officers. Only one association shall carry out the duties imposed by RCW 36.32.335 through 36.32.360 and 36.47.020 through 36.47.060. [1998 c 245 § 29; 1977 ex.s. c 221 § 2.]

**Chapter 36.48 RCW**  
**DEPOSITARIES**

Sections

36.48.010	Depositaries to be designated by treasurer.
36.48.040	Depositaries to be designated by treasurer—Deposited funds deemed in county treasury.
36.48.050	Depositaries to be designated by treasurer—Treasurer's liability and bond additional.
36.48.060	Definition—"Financial institution."
36.48.070	County finance committee—Approval of investment policy and debt policy—Rules.
36.48.080	County clerk's funds may be deposited.
36.48.090	Clerk's trust fund created—Deposits—Interest—Investments.

**36.48.010 Depositaries to be designated by treasurer.** Each county treasurer shall annually at the end of each fiscal year or at such other times as may be deemed necessary, des-

ignite one or more financial institutions in the state which are qualified public depositories as set forth by the public deposit protection commission as depository or depositories for all public funds held and required to be kept by the treasurer, and no county treasurer shall deposit any public money in financial institutions, except as herein provided. Public funds of the county or a special district for which the county treasurer acts as its treasurer may only be deposited in bank accounts authorized by the treasurer or authorized in statute. All bank card depository service contracts for the county and special districts for which the county treasurer acts as its treasurer must be authorized by the county treasurer. [1998 c 106 § 6; 1984 c 177 § 8; 1973 c 126 § 5; 1969 ex.s. c 193 § 27; 1963 c 4 § 36.48.010. Prior: 1907 c 51 § 1; RRS § 5562.]

*Public depositories: Chapter 39.58 RCW.*

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

**36.48.040 Depositories to be designated by treasurer—Deposited funds deemed in county treasury.** The county treasurer shall deposit with any depository, which has fully complied with all requirements of RCW 36.48.010 through 36.48.060, any county money in his or her hands or under his or her official control, and for the purpose of making the quarterly settlement and counting funds in the hands of the treasurer any sums so on deposit shall be deemed to be in the county treasury. [2009 c 549 § 4084; 1963 c 4 § 36.48.040. Prior: 1907 c 51 § 4; RRS § 5565.]

**36.48.050 Depositories to be designated by treasurer—Treasurer's liability and bond additional.** The provisions of RCW 36.48.010 through 36.48.060 shall in no way relieve or release the county treasurer from any liability upon his or her official bond as such treasurer, or any surety upon such bond, and shall in no way affect the duty of the several county treasurers to give bond as required by law. [2009 c 549 § 4085; 1963 c 4 § 36.48.050. Prior: 1907 c 51 § 5; RRS § 5566.]

**36.48.060 Definition—"Financial institution."** "Financial institution," whenever it occurs in RCW 36.48.010 through 36.48.050, means a branch of a bank engaged in banking in this state in accordance with \*RCW 30.04.300, and any state bank or trust company, national banking association, stock savings bank, mutual savings bank, or savings and loan association, which institution is located in this state and lawfully engaged in business. [1984 c 177 § 9; 1963 c 4 § 36.48.060. Prior: 1907 c 51 § 6; RRS § 5567.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 30.04.300 was recodified as RCW 30A.04.300 pursuant to 2014 c 37 § 4, effective January 5, 2015.

**36.48.070 County finance committee—Approval of investment policy and debt policy—Rules.** The county treasurer, the county auditor, and the chair of the county legislative authority, ex officio, shall constitute the county finance committee. The county treasurer shall act as chair of the committee and the county auditor as secretary thereof. The committee shall keep a full and complete record of all its proceedings in appropriate books of record and all such records and all correspondence relating to the committee shall be kept in the office of the county auditor and shall be

open to public inspection. The committee shall approve county investment policy and a debt policy and shall make appropriate rules and regulations for the carrying out of the provisions of RCW 36.48.010 through 36.48.060, not inconsistent with law. [1999 c 18 § 5; 1991 c 245 § 11; 1963 c 4 § 36.48.070. Prior: 1933 ex.s. c 45 § 2; RRS § 5567-1.]

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

**36.48.080 County clerk's funds may be deposited.** The county clerks of all the counties of the state shall deposit all funds in their custody, as clerk of the superior court of their respective counties, in one or more qualified depositories, as provided in chapter 39.58 RCW, as now or hereafter amended. [1973 c 126 § 7; 1963 c 4 § 36.48.080. Prior: 1933 ex.s. c 40 § 1; RRS § 5561-1.]

**36.48.090 Clerk's trust fund created—Deposits—Interest—Investments.** Whenever the clerk of the superior court has funds held in trust for any litigant or for any purpose, they shall be deposited in a separate fund designated "clerk's trust fund," and shall not be commingled with any public funds. However, in the case of child support payments, the clerk may send the checks or drafts directly to the recipient or endorse the instrument to the recipient and the clerk is not required to deposit such funds. In processing child support payments, the clerk shall comply with RCW 26.09.120. The clerk may invest the funds in any of the investments authorized by RCW 36.29.020. The clerk shall place the income from such investments in the county current expense fund to be used by the county for general county purposes unless: (1) The funds being held in trust in a particular matter are two thousand dollars or more, and (2) a litigant in the matter has filed a written request that such investment be made of the funds being held in trust. Interest income accrued from the date of filing of the written request for investment shall be paid to the beneficiary. In such an event, any income from such investment shall be paid to the beneficiary of such trust upon the termination thereof: PROVIDED, That five percent of the income shall be deducted by the clerk as an investment service fee and placed in the county current expense fund to be used by the county for general county purposes.

In any matter where funds are held in the clerk's trust fund, any litigant who is not represented by an attorney and who has appeared in matters where the funds held are two thousand dollars or more shall receive written notice of the provisions of this section from the clerk. [1994 c 185 § 4; 1987 c 363 § 4; 1979 ex.s. c 227 § 1; 1977 c 63 § 1; 1973 c 126 § 8; 1963 c 4 § 36.48.090. Prior: 1933 ex.s. c 40 § 2; RRS § 5561-2.]

## Chapter 36.49 RCW DOG LICENSE TAX

### Sections

36.49.020	Treasurer to collect—Tags.
36.49.030	Application for license after assessor's list returned.
36.49.040	Delinquent tax, how collected.
36.49.050	"County dog license tax fund"—Created.
36.49.060	"County dog license tax fund"—Transfer of excess funds in.
36.49.070	Penalty.

*Indemnity for dogs doing damage, etc.: RCW 16.08.010 and 16.08.020.*

*Taxes for city and town purposes: State Constitution Art. 11 § 12.*

**36.49.020 Treasurer to collect—Tags.** The county assessor shall turn over the list of dog owners to the county treasurer for collection of the taxes. Upon the payment of the license tax upon any dog or kennel the county treasurer shall deliver to the owner or keeper of such dog or kennel a license, and a metallic tag for each dog taxed and licensed or kept in such kennel. The license shall be dated and numbered and shall bear the name of the county issuing it, the name and address of the owner of the dog or kennel licensed; and if a dog license, a description of the dog including its breed, age, color, and markings; and if a kennel license, a description of the breed, number, and ages of the dogs kept in such kennel. The metallic tag shall bear the name of the county issuing it, a serial number corresponding with the number on the license, and the calendar year in which it is issued. Every owner or keeper of a dog shall keep a substantial collar on the dog and attached firmly thereto the license tag for the current year. [1963 c 4 § 36.49.020. Prior: 1929 c 198 § 2; RRS § 8304-2; prior: 1919 c 6 § 2, part.]

**36.49.030 Application for license after assessor's list returned.** Any person becoming the owner of a dog or kennel after the assessment has been returned by the assessor and any owner of a dog or kennel which for any reason the assessor has failed to assess, may at any time apply to the county treasurer, and upon the payment of the required fee procure a license and a metallic tag or tags. [1963 c 4 § 36.49.030. Prior: 1929 c 198 § 3, part; RRS § 8304-3, part.]

**36.49.040 Delinquent tax, how collected.** If any person whose name appears upon the list prepared by the county assessor fails to pay the license tax to the county treasurer on or before the first day of August of the year in which the list is made, the county treasurer shall proceed to collect the delinquent license taxes in the manner provided by law for collection of delinquent personal property taxes. [1963 c 4 § 36.49.040. Prior: 1929 c 198 § 3, part; RRS § 8304-3, part.]

**36.49.050 "County dog license tax fund"—Created.** All license taxes collected in accordance with the provisions of this chapter shall be placed in a separate fund in the office of the county treasurer to be known as the "county dog license tax fund." [1963 c 4 § 36.49.050. Prior: 1929 c 198 § 4; RRS § 8304-4; prior: 1919 c 6 § 2, part.]

**36.49.060 "County dog license tax fund"—Transfer of excess funds in.** On the first day of March of each year all moneys in the county dog license tax fund in excess of five hundred dollars shall be transferred and credited by the county treasurer to the current expense fund of the county. [1963 c 4 § 36.49.060. Prior: 1929 c 198 § 8; RRS § 8304-5.]

**36.49.070 Penalty.** Any person or officer who refuses to comply with or enforce any of the provisions of this chapter shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. [1963 c 4 § 36.49.070. Prior: 1929 c 198 § 9; RRS § 8304-6.]

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## Chapter 36.50 RCW FARM AND HOME EXTENSION WORK

### Sections

36.50.010 Cooperative extension work in agriculture and home economics authorized.

**36.50.010 Cooperative extension work in agriculture and home economics authorized.** The board of county commissioners of any county and the governing body of any municipality are authorized to establish and conduct extension work in agriculture and home economics in cooperation with Washington State University, upon such terms and conditions as may be agreed upon by any such board or governing body and the director of the extension service of Washington State University; and may employ such means and appropriate and expend such sums of money as may be necessary to effectively establish and carry on such work in agriculture and home economics in their respective counties and municipalities. [1963 c 4 § 36.50.010. Prior: 1949 c 181 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 4589-1.]

## Chapter 36.53 RCW FERRIES—PRIVATELY OWNED

### Sections

36.53.010 Grant of license—Term.  
36.53.020 Licensing tax.  
36.53.030 To whom license granted—Notice of intention if nonowner.  
36.53.040 Notice of application to be posted.  
36.53.050 Bond of licensee.  
36.53.060 Duties of licensee.  
36.53.070 Duties of licensee—Duties as to ferriage—Liability for non-performance.  
36.53.080 Rates of ferriage.  
36.53.090 Commissioners may fix and alter rates.  
36.53.100 Rates to be posted.  
36.53.110 Order of ferriage—Liability for nonperformance.  
36.53.120 Grant exclusive.  
36.53.130 Revocation of license.  
36.53.140 Penalty for maintaining unlicensed ferry.  
36.53.150 Interstate ferry—County may contribute to—Grant of permit to operator.

**36.53.010 Grant of license—Term.** The board of county commissioners may grant a license to keep a ferry across any lake or stream within its county, upon being satisfied that a ferry is necessary at the point applied for, which license shall continue in force for a term to be fixed by the commissioners not exceeding five years. [1963 c 4 § 36.53.010. Prior: Code 1881 § 3002; 1879 p 61 § 38; 1869 p 280 § 40; 1863 p 521 § 1; 1854 p 354 § 1; RRS § 5462.]

**36.53.020 Licensing tax.** The county legislative authority may charge such sum as may be fixed under the authority of RCW 36.32.120(3) for such license, and the person to whom the license is granted shall pay to the appropriate county official the tax for one year in advance. [1985 c 91 § 2; 1963 c 4 § 36.53.020. Prior: Code 1881 § 3003; 1879 p 61 § 39; 1869 p 280 § 41; 1863 p 522 § 2; 1854 p 354 § 2; RRS § 5463.]

**36.53.030 To whom license granted—Notice of intention if nonowner.** No license shall be granted to any person other than the owner of the land embracing or adjoining the lake or stream where the ferry is proposed to be kept, unless

the owner neglects to apply therefor. Whenever application for a license is made by any person other than the owner, the board of county commissioners shall not grant it, unless proof is made that the applicant caused notice, in writing, of his or her intention to make such application to be given to such owner, if residing in the county, at least ten days before the session of the board of county commissioners at which application is made. [2009 c 549 § 4086; 1963 c 4 § 36.53.030. Prior: Code 1881 § 3004; 1879 p 61 § 40; 1869 p 280 § 42; 1863 p 522 § 3; 1854 p 354 § 3; RRS § 5464.]

**36.53.040 Notice of application to be posted.** Every person intending to apply for a license to keep a ferry at any place shall give notice of his or her intention by posting up at least three notices in public places in the neighborhood where the ferry is proposed to be kept, twenty days prior to any regular session of the board of county commissioners at which the application is to be made. [2009 c 549 § 4087; 1963 c 4 § 36.53.040. Prior: Code 1881 § 3005; 1879 p 61 § 41; 1869 p 281 § 43; 1863 p 522 § 4; 1854 p 354 § 4; RRS § 5465.]

**36.53.050 Bond of licensee.** Every person applying for a license to keep a ferry shall, before the same is issued, enter into a bond with one or more sureties, to be approved by the county auditor, in a sum not less than one hundred nor more than five hundred dollars, conditioned that such person will keep the ferry according to law and that if default at any time is made in the condition of the bond, damages, not exceeding the penalty, may be recovered by any person aggrieved, before any court having jurisdiction. [1963 c 4 § 36.53.050. Prior: Code 1881 § 3006; 1879 p 62 § 42; 1869 p 281 § 44; 1863 p 522 § 5; 1854 p 354 § 5; RRS § 5466.]

**36.53.060 Duties of licensee.** Every person obtaining a license to keep a ferry shall provide and keep in good and complete repair the necessary boat or boats for the safe conveyance of all persons and property, and furnish such boats at all times with suitable oars, setting poles, and other implements necessary for the service thereof, and shall keep a sufficient number of discreet and skillful men or women ferry workers to attend and manage the same; and he or she shall also at all times keep the place of embarking and landing in good order and repair, by cutting away the bank of the stream so that persons and property may be embarked and landed without danger or unnecessary delay. [2009 c 549 § 4088; 1963 c 4 § 36.53.060. Prior: Code 1881 § 3007; 1879 p 62 § 43; 1869 p 281 § 45; 1863 p 522 § 6; 1854 p 354 § 6; RRS § 5467.]

**36.53.070 Duties of licensee—Duties as to ferriage—Liability for nonperformance.** Every person obtaining a ferry license shall give constant and diligent attention to such ferry from daylight in the morning until dark in the evening of each day, and shall, moreover, at any hour in the night, if required, except in cases of imminent danger, give passage to all persons requiring the same on the payment of double rate of ferriage allowed to be taken in the daytime.

If the licensee at any time neglects or refuses to give passage to any person or property, the licensee shall forfeit and pay to the party aggrieved for every such offense the sum of five dollars, to be recovered before any district judge having

jurisdiction; the licensee shall, moreover, be liable in an action at law for any special damage which such person may have sustained in consequence of such neglect or refusal.

No forfeiture or damages shall be recovered for a failure or refusal to convey any person or property across the stream when it is manifestly hazardous to do so, by reason of any storm, flood, or ice; nor shall any keeper of a ferry be compelled to give passage to any person or property until the fare or toll chargeable by law has been fully paid or tendered. [1987 c 202 § 207; 1963 c 4 § 36.53.070. Prior: Code 1881 § 3008; 1879 p 62 § 44; 1869 p 281 § 46; 1863 p 523 § 7; 1854 p 355 § 7; RRS § 5468.]

**Intent—1987 c 202:** See note following RCW 2.04.190.

**36.53.080 Rates of ferriage.** Whenever the board of county commissioners grants a license to keep a ferry across any lake or stream, it shall establish the rates of ferriage which may be lawfully demanded for the transportation of persons and property across the same, having due regard for the breadth and situation of the stream, and the dangers and difficulties incident thereto, and the publicity of the place at which the same is established, and every keeper of a ferry who at any time demands and receives more than the amount so designated for ferrying shall forfeit and pay to the party aggrieved, for every such offense, the sum of five dollars, over and above the amount which has been illegally received, to be recovered before any district judge having jurisdiction. [1987 c 202 § 208; 1963 c 4 § 36.53.080. Prior: Code 1881 § 3009; 1879 p 63 § 45; 1869 p 282 § 47; 1863 p 523 § 8; 1854 p 355 § 8; RRS § 5469.]

**Intent—1987 c 202:** See note following RCW 2.04.190.

**36.53.090 Commissioners may fix and alter rates.** The boards of county commissioners may fix, alter, and establish from time to time, the rates of ferriage to be levied and collected at all ferries established by law, within or bordering upon the county lines of any of the counties in this state. [1963 c 4 § 36.53.090. Prior: Code 1881 § 3010; 1879 p 63 § 46; 1869 p 282 § 48; RRS § 5470.]

**36.53.100 Rates to be posted.** Every person licensed to keep a ferry shall post up, in some conspicuous place near his or her ferry landing a list of the rates of ferriage which are chargeable by law at such ferry, which list of rates shall at all times be plain and legible and posted up so near the place where persons pass across the ferry that it may be easily read. If the keeper neglects or refuses to post and keep up such list, it shall not be lawful to charge or take any ferriage or compensation at the ferry, during the time of such delinquency. [2009 c 549 § 4089; 1963 c 4 § 36.53.100. Prior: Code 1881 § 3011; 1879 p 63 § 47; 1869 p 283 § 49; 1863 p 523 § 9; 1854 p 355 § 9; RRS § 5471.]

**36.53.110 Order of ferriage—Liability for nonperformance.** All persons shall be received into the ferry boats and conveyed across the stream over which a ferry is established according to their arrival thereat, and if the keeper of a ferry acts contrary to this regulation, the keeper shall forfeit and pay to the party aggrieved the sum of ten dollars for every such offense, to be recovered before any district judge having jurisdiction: PROVIDED, That public officers on urgent

business, post riders, couriers, physicians, surgeons, and midwives shall in all cases be first carried over, when all cannot go at the same time. [1987 c 202 § 209; 1963 c 4 § 36.53.110. Prior: Code 1881 § 3012; 1879 p 63 § 48; 1869 p 283 § 50; 1863 p 524 § 10; 1854 p 356 § 10; RRS § 5472.]

**Intent—1987 c 202:** See note following RCW 2.04.190.

**36.53.120 Grant exclusive.** Every person licensed to keep a ferry under the provisions of RCW 36.53.010 through 36.53.140 shall have the exclusive privilege of transporting all persons and property over and across the stream where the ferry is established, and shall be entitled to all the fare arising by law therefrom: PROVIDED, That any person may cross such stream at the ferry location in his or her own boat, or take in and carry over his or her neighbor, when done without fee or charge, and not with intent to injure the person licensed to keep a ferry. [2009 c 549 § 4090; 1963 c 4 § 36.53.120. Prior: Code 1881 § 3013; 1879 p 63 § 49; 1869 p 283 § 51; 1863 p 524 § 11; 1854 p 356 § 11; RRS § 5473.]

**36.53.130 Revocation of license.** If any person licensed to keep a ferry fails to pay the taxes assessed thereon when due, or to provide and keep in good and complete repair the necessary boat or boats, with the oars, setting poles, and other necessary implements for the service thereof, or to employ a sufficient number of skilled and discreet ferry workers within three months from the time license is granted, or if the ferry is not at any time kept in good condition and repair, or if it is abandoned, disused, or unfrequented for the space of six months at any one time, the board of county commissioners, on complaint being made in writing, may summon the person licensed to keep such ferry, to show cause why his or her license should not be revoked. The board may revoke or not according to the testimony adduced and the laws of this state, the decision subject to review by the superior court: PROVIDED, That if disuse resulted because the stream is fordable at certain seasons of the year, or because travel by that route is subject to periodical fluctuations, it shall not work a forfeiture within the meaning of this section. [2009 c 549 § 4091; 1963 c 4 § 36.53.130. Prior: Code 1881 § 3014; 1879 p 64 § 50; 1869 p 283 § 52; 1863 p 524 § 12; 1854 p 356 § 12; RRS § 5474.]

**36.53.140 Penalty for maintaining unlicensed ferry.** Any person who maintains any ferry and receives ferriage without first obtaining a license therefor shall pay a fine of ten dollars for each offense, to be collected for the use of the county, by suit before any district judge having jurisdiction, and any person may bring such suit: PROVIDED, That it shall not be unlawful for any person to transport any other person or property over any stream for hire, when there is no ferry, or the ferry established at such place was not in actual operation at the time, or in sufficient repair to have afforded to such person or property a safe and speedy passage. [1987 c 202 § 210; 1963 c 4 § 36.53.140. Prior: Code 1881 § 3015; 1879 p 64 § 51; 1869 p 284 § 53; 1863 p 525 § 13; 1854 p 356 § 13; RRS § 5475.]

**Intent—1987 c 202:** See note following RCW 2.04.190.

**36.53.150 Interstate ferry—County may contribute to—Grant of permit to operator.** Whenever the board of

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county commissioners of any county determines that the construction or maintenance of a ferry in a state adjoining such county or connecting such county with the adjoining state is of necessity or convenience to the citizens of the county, the board may enter into a contract for the construction or maintenance of such ferry, or make such contribution as may be deemed advisable toward the construction or maintenance thereof, and may lease, or grant exclusive permits to use, any wharf or landing owned or leased by the board to any person, firm or corporation furnishing, or agreeing to furnish, ferry service between such county and the adjoining state. [1963 c 4 § 36.53.150. Prior: 1921 c 165 § 1; 1915 c 26 § 1; RRS § 5478.]

**Chapter 36.54 RCW  
FERRIES—COUNTY OWNED**

Sections

- 36.54.010 County may acquire, construct, maintain, and operate ferry.
- 36.54.015 Ferries—Fourteen year long range improvement plan—Contents.
- 36.54.020 Joint ferries—Generally.
- 36.54.030 Joint ferries over water boundary between two counties.
- 36.54.040 Joint ferries over water boundary between two counties—Joint board of commissioners to administer—Records kept.
- 36.54.050 Joint ferries over water boundary between two counties—Commission authority—Expenses shared.
- 36.54.060 Joint ferries over water boundary between two counties—Audit and allowance of claims.
- 36.54.070 Joint ferries over water boundary between two counties—County commissioner duties enumerated—Omission as ground for impeachment.
- 36.54.110 County ferry districts—Authorized—Powers—Governing body—Passenger-only ferry service between Vashon and Seattle.
- 36.54.120 County ferry districts—District may construct, purchase, operate, and maintain passenger-only ferries and wharves.
- 36.54.130 County ferry districts—Tax levy authorized—Uses.
- 36.54.135 County ferry districts—General indebtedness, bond issuance.
- 36.54.140 County ferry districts—Excess levies.
- 36.54.150 County ferry districts—Budget of fund requirements.
- 36.54.160 County ferry districts—General property tax levies.
- 36.54.170 County ferry districts—Treasurer—Ferry district fund.
- 36.54.180 County ferry districts—Not subject to Washington utilities and transportation commission.
- 36.54.190 County ferry districts—Dissolution.
- 36.54.200 Vessel replacement surcharge—Use of revenues.

**36.54.010 County may acquire, construct, maintain, and operate ferry.** Any county may construct, condemn, or purchase, operate and maintain ferries or wharves at any unfordable stream, lake, estuary or bay within or bordering on said county, or between portions of the county, or between such county and other counties, together with all the necessary boats, grounds, roads, approaches, and landings appertaining thereto under the direction and control of the board of county commissioners free or for toll and as the board shall by resolution determine. [1963 c 4 § 36.54.010. Prior: 1919 c 115 § 1; 1899 c 29 § 1; 1895 c 130 § 2; RRS § 5477.]

**36.54.015 Ferries—Fourteen year long range improvement plan—Contents.** The legislative authority of every county operating ferries shall prepare, with the advice and assistance of the county engineer, a fourteen year long range capital improvement plan embracing all major elements of the ferry system. Such plan shall include a listing of each major element of the system showing its estimated cur-

rent value, its estimated replacement cost, and its amortization period. [1975 1st ex.s. c 21 § 2.]

**36.54.020 Joint ferries—Generally.** The board of county commissioners of any county may, severally or jointly with any other county, city or town, or the state of Washington, or any other state or any county, city or town of any other state, construct or acquire by purchase, gift, or condemnation, and operate any ferry necessary for continuation or connection of any county road across any navigable water. The procedure with respect to the exercise of the power herein granted shall be the same as provided for the joint erection or acquisition of bridges, trestles, or other structures. Any such ferries may be operated as free ferries or as toll ferries under the provisions of law of this state relating thereto. [1963 c 4 § 36.54.020. Prior: 1937 c 187 § 31; RRS § 6450-31.]

**36.54.030 Joint ferries over water boundary between two counties.** Whenever a river, lake, or other body of water is on the boundary line between two counties, the boards of county commissioners of the counties adjoining such stream or body of water may construct, purchase, equip, maintain, and operate a ferry across such river, lake, or other body of water, when such ferry connects the county roads or other public highways of their respective counties. All costs and expenses of constructing, purchasing, maintaining, and operating such ferry shall be paid by the two counties, each paying such proportion thereof as shall be agreed upon by the boards of county commissioners. [1963 c 4 § 36.54.030. Prior: 1917 c 158 § 1; RRS § 5479.]

**36.54.040 Joint ferries over water boundary between two counties—Joint board of commissioners to administer—Records kept.** The boards of county commissioners of the two counties, participating in a joint ferry, shall meet in joint session at the county seat of one of the counties interested, and shall elect one of their members as chair of the joint board of commissioners, who shall act as such chair during the remainder of his or her term of office, and, at the expiration of his or her term of office, the two boards of county commissioners shall meet and elect a new chair, who shall act as such chair during his or her term of office as county commissioner, and they shall continue to elect a chair in like manner thereafter. The county auditors of the counties shall be clerks of such joint commission, and the county auditor of the county where each meeting is held shall act as clerk of the commission at all meetings held in his or her county. Each county auditor, as soon as the joint commission is organized, shall procure a record book and enter therein a complete record of the proceedings of the commission, and immediately after each adjournment the county auditor of the county in which the meeting is held shall forward a complete copy of the minutes of the proceedings of the commission to the auditor of the other county to be entered by him or her in his or her record. Each county shall keep a complete record of the proceedings of the commission. [2009 c 549 § 4092; 1963 c 4 § 36.54.040. Prior: 1917 c 158 § 2; RRS § 5480.]

**36.54.050 Joint ferries over water boundary between two counties—Commission authority—Expenses shared.** The joint commission is authorized to transact all business

necessary in carrying out the purposes of RCW 36.54.030 through 36.54.070 and its acts shall be binding upon the two counties, and one-half of all bills and obligations created by the commission shall be binding and a legal charge against the road fund of each county and the claims therefor shall be allowed and paid out of the county road fund the same as other claims against said fund are allowed and paid, unless otherwise provided in an agreement between the two counties. [2006 c 332 § 10; 1963 c 4 § 36.54.050. Prior: 1917 c 158 § 3; RRS § 5481.]

**36.54.060 Joint ferries over water boundary between two counties—Audit and allowance of claims.** All claims and accounts for the construction, operation and maintenance of a joint county ferry shall be presented to and audited by the joint commission: PROVIDED, That items of expense connected with the operation of such ferry which do not exceed the sum of thirty dollars may be presented to the chair of the joint commission and allowed by him or her and when allowed shall be a joint charge against the road fund of each of the counties operating such ferry. [2009 c 549 § 4093; 1963 c 4 § 36.54.060. Prior: 1917 c 158 § 4; RRS § 5482.]

**36.54.070 Joint ferries over water boundary between two counties—County commissioner duties enumerated—Omission as ground for impeachment.** The members of the board of county commissioners of each county shall be members of the joint commission and their refusal to act shall be ground for impeachment. They shall provide for the maintenance and operation of the ferry until it is discontinued by a majority vote of the joint commission. [1963 c 4 § 36.54.070. Prior: 1917 c 158 § 5; RRS § 5483.]

**36.54.110 County ferry districts—Authorized—Powers—Governing body—Passenger-only ferry service between Vashon and Seattle.** (1) The legislative authority of a county may adopt an ordinance creating a ferry district in all or a portion of the area of the county, including the area within the corporate limits of any city or town within the county. The ordinance may be adopted only after a public hearing has been held on the creation of a ferry district, and the county legislative authority makes a finding that it is in the public interest to create the district.

(2) A ferry district is a municipal corporation, an independent taxing "authority" within the meaning of Article VII, section 1 of the state Constitution, and a "taxing district" within the meaning of Article VII, section 2 of the state Constitution.

(3) A ferry district is a body corporate and possesses all the usual powers of a corporation for public purposes as well as all other powers that may now or hereafter be specifically conferred by statute, including, but not limited to, the authority to hire employees, staff, and services, to enter into contracts, and to sue and be sued.

(4) The members of the county legislative authority, acting ex officio and independently, shall compose the governing body of any ferry district that is created within the county. The voters of a ferry district must be registered voters residing within the boundaries of the district.

(5) A county with a population greater than one million persons and having a boundary on Puget Sound, or a county



to the west of Puget Sound with a population greater than two hundred thirty thousand but less than three hundred thousand persons, proposing to create a ferry district to assume a passenger-only ferry route between Vashon and Seattle, including an expansion of that route to include Southworth, shall first receive approval from the governor after submitting a complete business plan to the governor and the legislature by November 1, 2007. The business plan must, at a minimum, include hours of operation, vessel needs, labor needs, proposed routes, passenger terminal facilities, passenger rates, anticipated federal and local funding, coordination with Washington state ferry system, coordination with existing transit providers, long-term operation and maintenance needs, and long-term financial plan. The business plan may include provisions regarding coordination with an appropriate county to participate in a joint ferry under RCW 36.54.030 through 36.54.070. In order to be considered for assuming the route, the ferry district shall ensure that the route will be operated only by the ferry district and not contracted out to a private entity, all existing labor agreements will be honored, and operations will begin no later than July 1, 2008. If the route is to be expanded to include serving Southworth, the ferry district shall enter into an interlocal agreement with the public transportation benefit area serving the Southworth ferry terminal within thirty days of beginning Southworth ferry service. For the purposes of this subsection, Puget Sound is considered as extending north to Admiralty Inlet. [2007 c 223 § 5; 2006 c 332 § 7; 2003 c 83 § 301.]

**Findings—Intent—Captions, part headings not law—Severability—Effective date—2003 c 83:** See notes following RCW 36.57A.200.

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

**36.54.120 County ferry districts—District may construct, purchase, operate, and maintain passenger-only ferries and wharves.** A ferry district may construct, purchase, operate, and maintain passenger-only ferries and wharves at any unfordable stream, lake, estuary, or bay within or bordering the ferry district, or between portions of the ferry district, or between the ferry district and other ferry districts, together with all the necessary boats, grounds, roads, approaches, and landings appertaining thereto under the direction and control of the governing body of the ferry district, free or for toll as the governing body determines by resolution. [2003 c 83 § 302.]

**Findings—Intent—Captions, part headings not law—Severability—Effective date—2003 c 83:** See notes following RCW 36.57A.200.

**36.54.130 County ferry districts—Tax levy authorized—Uses.** (1) To carry out the purposes for which ferry districts are created, the governing body of a ferry district may levy each year an ad valorem tax on all taxable property located in the district not to exceed seventy-five cents per thousand dollars of assessed value, except a ferry district in a county with a population of one million five hundred thousand or more may not levy at a rate that exceeds seven and one-half cents per thousand dollars of assessed value. The levy must be sufficient for the provision of ferry services as shown to be required by the budget prepared by the governing body of the ferry district.

(2) A tax imposed under this section may be used only for:

(a) Providing ferry services, including the purchase, lease, or rental of ferry vessels and dock facilities;

(b) The operation, maintenance, and improvement of ferry vessels and dock facilities;

(c) Providing shuttle services between the ferry terminal and passenger parking facilities, and other landside improvements directly related to the provision of passenger-only ferry service; and

(d) Related personnel costs. [2009 c 551 § 4; 2007 c 223 § 6; 2006 c 332 § 9; 2003 c 83 § 303.]

**Findings—Intent—Captions, part headings not law—Severability—Effective date—2003 c 83:** See notes following RCW 36.57A.200.

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

**36.54.135 County ferry districts—General indebtedness, bond issuance.** (1) A county ferry district may incur general indebtedness, and issue general obligation bonds, to finance the construction, purchase, and preservation of passenger-only ferries and associated terminals and retire the indebtedness in whole or in part from the revenues received from the tax levy authorized in RCW 36.54.130.

(2) The ordinance adopted by the county legislative authority creating the county ferry district and authorizing the use of revenues received from the tax levy authorized in RCW 36.54.130 must indicate an intent to incur this indebtedness and the maximum amount of this indebtedness that is contemplated. [2007 c 223 § 7.]

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

**36.54.140 County ferry districts—Excess levies.** A ferry district may impose excess levies upon the property included within the district for a one-year period to be used for operating or capital purposes whenever authorized by the electors of the district under RCW 84.52.052 and Article VII, section 2(a) of the state Constitution. [2003 c 83 § 304.]

**Findings—Intent—Captions, part headings not law—Severability—Effective date—2003 c 83:** See notes following RCW 36.57A.200.

**36.54.150 County ferry districts—Budget of fund requirements.** The governing body of the ferry district shall annually prepare a budget of the requirements of each district fund. [2003 c 83 § 305.]

**Findings—Intent—Captions, part headings not law—Severability—Effective date—2003 c 83:** See notes following RCW 36.57A.200.

**36.54.160 County ferry districts—General property tax levies.** At the time of making general tax levies in each year, the county legislative authority of the county in which a ferry district is located shall make the required levies for district purposes against the real and personal property in the district. The tax levies must be a part of the general tax roll and be collected as a part of the general taxes against the property in the district. [2003 c 83 § 306.]

**Findings—Intent—Captions, part headings not law—Severability—Effective date—2003 c 83:** See notes following RCW 36.57A.200.

**36.54.170 County ferry districts—Treasurer—Ferry district fund.** (1) The treasurer of the county in which a ferry district is located shall be treasurer of the district. The county treasurer shall receive and disburse ferry district revenues,

collect taxes authorized and levied under this chapter, and credit district revenues to the proper fund.

(2) The county treasurer shall establish a ferry district fund, into which must be paid all district revenues, and the county treasurer shall also maintain such special funds as may be created by the governing body of a ferry district, into which the county treasurer shall place all money as the governing body of the district may, by resolution, direct.

(3) The county treasurer shall pay out money received for the account of the ferry district on warrants issued by the county auditor against the proper funds of the district.

(4) All district funds must be deposited with the county depositaries under the same restrictions, contracts, and security as provided for county depositaries.

(5) All interest collected on ferry district funds belongs to the district and must be deposited to its credit in the proper district funds. [2003 c 83 § 307.]

**Findings—Intent—Captions, part headings not law—Severability—Effective date—2003 c 83:** See notes following RCW 36.57A.200.

**36.54.180 County ferry districts—Not subject to Washington utilities and transportation commission.** A ferry district is exempt from the provisions of Title 81 RCW and is not subject to the control of the Washington utilities and transportation commission. It is not necessary for a ferry district to apply for a certificate of public convenience and necessity. [2003 c 83 § 308.]

**Findings—Intent—Captions, part headings not law—Severability—Effective date—2003 c 83:** See notes following RCW 36.57A.200.

**36.54.190 County ferry districts—Dissolution.** A ferry district formed under this chapter may be dissolved in the manner provided in chapter 53.48 RCW, relating to port districts. [2003 c 83 § 309.]

**Findings—Intent—Captions, part headings not law—Severability—Effective date—2003 c 83:** See notes following RCW 36.57A.200.

**36.54.200 Vessel replacement surcharge—Use of revenues.** A county or ferry district operating ferries under this chapter may impose a vessel replacement surcharge on every ferry fare sold. The surcharge must be at least equal to the surcharge amount included in Washington state ferry fares identified in RCW 47.60.315(7). Revenues generated from the surcharge may be used only for the construction or purchase of ferry vessels and to pay the principal and interest on bonds authorized for the construction or purchase of ferry vessels. The surcharge must be clearly indicated to ferry passengers and drivers and, if possible, on the fare media itself. [2012 c 78 § 1.]

## Chapter 36.55 RCW

### FRANCHISES ON ROADS AND BRIDGES

#### Sections

36.55.010	Pipe line and wire line franchises on county roads.
36.55.020	Cattleguards, tramroad, and railway rights.
36.55.030	Franchises on county bridges.
36.55.040	Application—Notice of hearing.
36.55.050	Hearing—Order.
36.55.060	Limitations upon grants.
36.55.070	Existing franchises validated.
36.55.080	Record of franchises.

**36.55.010 Pipe line and wire line franchises on county roads.** Any board of county commissioners may grant franchises to persons or private or municipal corporations to use the right-of-way of county roads in their respective counties for the construction and maintenance of waterworks, gas pipes, telephone, telegraph, and electric light lines, sewers and any other such facilities. [1963 c 4 § 36.55.010. Prior: 1961 c 55 § 2; prior: 1937 c 187 § 38, part; RRS § 6450-38, part.]

**36.55.020 Cattleguards, tramroad, and railway rights.** Any board of county commissioners may grant to any person the right to build and maintain tramroads and railway roads upon county roads under such regulations and conditions as the board may prescribe, and may grant to any person the right to build and maintain cattleguards across the entire right-of-way on any county road, under such regulations and conditions as the board may prescribe: PROVIDED, That such tramroad or railway road shall not occupy more than eight feet of the county road upon which the same is built and shall not be built upon the roadway of such county road nor in such a way as to interfere with the public travel thereon. [1963 c 4 § 36.55.020. Prior: 1941 c 138 § 1; 1937 c 187 § 39; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 6450-39.]

**36.55.030 Franchises on county bridges.** Any board of county commissioners may grant franchises upon bridges, trestles, or other structures constructed and maintained by it, severally or jointly with any other county or city or town of this state, or jointly with any other state or any county, city or town of any other state, in the same manner and under the same provisions as govern the granting of franchises on county roads. [1963 c 4 § 36.55.030. Prior: 1937 c 187 § 40; RRS § 6450-40.]

**36.55.040 Application—Notice of hearing.** On application being made to the county legislative authority for franchise, it shall fix a time and place for hearing the same, and shall cause the county auditor to give public notice thereof at the expense of the applicant, by posting notices in three public places in the county seat of the county at least fifteen days before the day fixed for the hearing. The county legislative authority shall also publish a like notice two times in the official newspaper of the county, the last publication to be not less than five days before the day fixed for the hearing. The notice shall state the name or names of the applicant or applicants, a description of the county roads by reference to section, township and range in which the county roads or portions thereof are physically located, to be included in the franchise for which the application is made, and the time and place fixed for the hearing. [1985 c 469 § 49; 1963 c 4 § 36.55.040. Prior: 1961 c 55 § 3; prior: 1937 c 187 § 38, part; RRS § 6450-38, part.]

**36.55.050 Hearing—Order.** The hearing may be adjourned from time to time by the order of the board of county commissioners. If, after the hearing, the board deems it to be for the public interest to grant the franchise in whole or in part, it may make and enter a resolution to that effect and may require the applicant to place his or her utility and its appurtenances in such location on or along the county road as

the board finds will cause the least interference with other uses of the road. [2009 c 549 § 4094; 1963 c 4 § 36.55.050. Prior: 1961 c 55 § 4; prior: 1937 c 187 § 38, part; RRS § 6450-38, part.]

**36.55.060 Limitations upon grants.** (1) Any person constructing or operating any utility on or along a county road shall be liable to the county for all necessary expense incurred in restoring the county road to a suitable condition for travel.

(2) No franchise shall be granted for a period of longer than fifty years.

(3) No exclusive franchise or privilege shall be granted.

(4) The facilities of the holder of any such franchise shall be removed at the expense of the holder thereof, to some other location on such county road in the event it is to be constructed, altered, or improved or becomes a primary state highway and such removal is reasonably necessary for the construction, alteration, or improvement thereof.

(5) Counties shall, in the predesign phase of construction projects involving relocation of sewer and/or water facilities, consult with public utilities operating water/sewer systems in order to coordinate design. [2007 c 31 § 6; 1963 c 4 § 36.55.060. Prior: 1961 c 55 § 5; prior: 1937 c 187 § 38, part; RRS § 6450-38, part.]

**36.55.070 Existing franchises validated.** All rights, privileges, or franchises granted or attempted to be granted by the board of county commissioners of any county prior to April 1, 1937, when such board of county commissioners was in regular or special session and when the action of such board is shown by its records, to any person to erect, construct, maintain, or operate any railway or poles, pole lines, wires, or any other thing for the furnishing, transmission, delivery, enjoyment, or use of electric energy, electric power, electric light, and telephone connection therewith, or any other matter relating thereto; or to lay or maintain pipes for the distribution of water, or gas, or to or for any other such facilities in, upon, along, through or over any county roads, are confirmed and declared to be valid to the extent that such rights, privileges, or franchises specifically refer or apply to any county road or county roads, or to the extent that any such county road has prior to April 1, 1937, been actually occupied by the bona fide construction and operation of such utility, and such rights, privileges, and franchises hereby confirmed shall have the same force and effect as if the board of county commissioners prior to the time of granting said rights, privileges, and franchises, had been specifically authorized to grant them. [1963 c 4 § 36.55.070. Prior: 1937 c 187 § 41; RRS § 6450-41.]

**36.55.080 Record of franchises.** The board of county commissioners shall cause to be recorded with the county auditor a complete record of all existing franchises upon the county roads of its county and the auditor shall keep and maintain a currently correct record of all franchises existing or granted with the information describing the holder of the franchise, the purpose thereof, the portion of county road over or along which granted, the date of granting, term for which granted, and date of expiration, and any other information with reference to any special provisions of such fran-

chises. [1963 c 4 § 36.55.080. Prior: 1937 c 187 § 42; RRS § 6450-42.]

## Chapter 36.56 RCW

### METROPOLITAN MUNICIPAL CORPORATION FUNCTIONS, ETC.—ASSUMPTION BY COUNTIES

#### Sections

36.56.010	Assumption of rights, powers, functions, and obligations authorized.
36.56.020	Ordinance or resolution of intention to assume rights, powers, functions, and obligations—Adoption—Publication—Hearing.
36.56.030	Hearing.
36.56.040	Declaration of intention to assume—Submission of ordinance or resolution to voters required—Extent of rights, powers, functions, and obligations assumed and vested in county—Abolition of metropolitan council—Transfer of rights, powers, functions, and obligations to county.
36.56.050	Employees and personnel.
36.56.060	Apportionment of budgeted funds—Transfer and adjustment of funds, accounts and records.
36.56.070	Existing rights, actions, proceedings, etc. not impaired or altered.
36.56.080	Collective bargaining units or agreements.
36.56.090	Rules and regulations, pending business, contracts, obligations, validity of official acts.
36.56.100	Real and personal property—Reports, books, records, etc.—Funds, credits, assets—Appropriations or federal grants.
36.56.110	Debts and obligations.
36.56.121	Maintenance plan.
36.56.900	Severability—Construction—1977 ex.s. c 277.
36.56.910	Effective date—1977 ex.s. c 277.

*Acquisition of interests in land for conservation, protection, preservation, or open space purposes by county or metropolitan municipal corporation: RCW 64.04.130.*

**36.56.010 Assumption of rights, powers, functions, and obligations authorized.** Any county with a population of two hundred ten thousand or more in which a metropolitan municipal corporation has been established pursuant to chapter 35.58 RCW with boundaries coterminous with the boundaries of the county may by ordinance or resolution, as the case may be, of the county legislative authority assume the rights, powers, functions, and obligations of such metropolitan municipal corporation in accordance with the provisions of \*this 1977 amendatory act. The definitions contained in RCW 35.58.020 shall be applicable to this chapter. [1991 c 363 § 72; 1977 ex.s. c 277 § 1.]

\*Reviser's note: "this 1977 amendatory act" or "this act" [1977 ex.s. c 277] consists of chapter 36.56 RCW and the amendment to RCW 35.58.020 by 1977 ex.s. c 277.

**Purpose—Captions not law—1991 c 363:** See notes following RCW 2.32.180.

**36.56.020 Ordinance or resolution of intention to assume rights, powers, functions, and obligations—Adoption—Publication—Hearing.** The assumption of the rights, powers, functions, and obligations of a metropolitan municipal corporation may be initiated by the adoption of an ordinance or a resolution, as the case may be, by the county legislative authority indicating its intention to conduct a hearing concerning assumption of such rights, powers, functions, and obligations. In the event the county legislative authority adopts such an ordinance or a resolution of intention, such ordinance or resolution shall set a time and place at which it will consider the proposed assumption of the rights, powers, functions, and obligations of the metropolitan municipal cor-

poration, and shall state that all persons interested may appear and be heard. Such ordinance or resolution of intention shall be published for at least four times during the four weeks next preceding the scheduled hearing in newspapers of daily general circulation printed or published in said county. [1977 ex.s. c 277 § 2.]

**36.56.030 Hearing.** At the time scheduled for the hearing in the ordinance or resolution of intention, the county legislative authority shall consider the assumption of the rights, powers, functions, and obligations of the metropolitan municipal corporation, and hear those appearing and all protests and objections to it. The county legislative authority may continue the hearing from time to time, not exceeding sixty days in all. [1977 ex.s. c 277 § 3.]

**36.56.040 Declaration of intention to assume—Submission of ordinance or resolution to voters required—Extent of rights, powers, functions, and obligations assumed and vested in county—Abolition of metropolitan council—Transfer of rights, powers, functions, and obligations to county.** If, from the testimony given before the county legislative authority, it appears that the public interest or welfare would be satisfied by the county assuming the rights, powers, functions, and obligations of the metropolitan municipal corporation, the county legislative authority may declare that to be its intent and assume such rights, powers, functions, and obligations by ordinance or resolution, as the case may be, providing that the county shall be vested with every right, power, function, and obligation currently granted to or possessed by the metropolitan municipal corporation pursuant to chapter 35.58 RCW (including \*RCW 35.58.273 relating to levy and use of the motor vehicle excise tax) or other provision of state law, including but not limited to, the power and authority to levy a sales and use tax pursuant to chapter 82.14 RCW or other provision of law: PROVIDED, That such ordinance or resolution shall be submitted to the voters of the county for their adoption and ratification or rejection, and if a majority of the persons voting on the proposition residing within the central city shall vote in favor thereof and a majority of the persons voting on the proposition residing in the metropolitan area outside of the central city shall vote in favor thereof, the ordinance or resolution shall be deemed adopted and ratified.

Upon assumption of the rights, powers, functions, and obligations of the metropolitan municipal corporation by the county, the metropolitan council established pursuant to the provisions of RCW 35.58.120 through 35.58.160 shall be abolished, said provisions shall be inapplicable to the county, and the county legislative authority shall thereafter be vested with all rights, powers, duties, and obligations otherwise vested by law in the metropolitan council: PROVIDED, That in any county with a home rule charter such rights, powers, functions, and obligations shall vest in accordance with the executive and legislative responsibilities defined in such charter. [1977 ex.s. c 277 § 4.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 35.58.273 was repealed by 2002 c 6 § 2.

**36.56.050 Employees and personnel.** All employees and personnel of the metropolitan municipal corporation who are under a personnel system pursuant to RCW 35.58.370

shall be assigned to the county personnel system to perform their usual duties upon the same terms as formerly, without any loss of rights, subject to any action that may be appropriate thereafter in accordance with the laws and rules governing the county personnel system. [1977 ex.s. c 277 § 5.]

**36.56.060 Apportionment of budgeted funds—Transfer and adjustment of funds, accounts and records.** If apportionments of budgeted funds are required because of the transfers authorized by this chapter, the county budget office shall certify such apportionments to the agencies and local governmental units affected and to the state auditor. Each of these shall make the appropriate transfer and adjustments in funds and appropriation accounts and equipment records in accordance with such certification. [1977 ex.s. c 277 § 6.]

**36.56.070 Existing rights, actions, proceedings, etc. not impaired or altered.** No transfer of any function made pursuant to this chapter shall be construed to impair or alter any existing rights acquired under the provisions of chapter 35.58 RCW or any other provision of law relating to metropolitan municipal corporations, nor as impairing or altering any actions, activities, or proceedings validated thereunder, nor as impairing or altering any civil or criminal proceedings instituted thereunder, nor any rule, regulation, or order promulgated thereunder, nor any administrative action taken thereunder; and neither the assumption of control of any metropolitan municipal function by a county, nor any transfer of rights, powers, functions, and obligations as provided in this chapter, shall impair or alter the validity of any act performed by such metropolitan municipal corporation or division thereof or any officer thereof prior to the assumption of such rights, powers, functions, and obligations by any county as authorized by this chapter. [1977 ex.s. c 277 § 7.]

**36.56.080 Collective bargaining units or agreements.** Nothing contained in this chapter shall be construed to alter any existing collective bargaining unit or the provisions of any existing collective bargaining agreement until any such agreement has expired or until any such bargaining unit has been modified as provided by law. [1977 ex.s. c 277 § 8.]

**36.56.090 Rules and regulations, pending business, contracts, obligations, validity of official acts.** All rules and regulations, and all pending business before the committees, divisions, boards, and other agencies of any metropolitan municipal corporation transferred pursuant to the provisions of this chapter shall be continued and acted upon by the county.

All existing contracts and obligations of the transferred metropolitan municipal corporation shall remain in full force and effect, and shall be performed by the county. No transfer authorized in this chapter shall affect the validity of any official act performed by any official or employee prior to the transfer authorized pursuant to \*this amendatory act. [1977 ex.s. c 277 § 9.]

\*Reviser's note: "this amendatory act," see note following RCW 36.56.010.

**36.56.100 Real and personal property—Reports, books, records, etc.—Funds, credits, assets—Appropriations or federal grants.** When the rights, powers, functions, and obligations of a metropolitan municipal corporation are transferred pursuant to this chapter, all real and personal property owned by the metropolitan municipal corporation shall become that of the county.

All reports, documents, surveys, books, records, files, papers, or other writings relating to the administration of the powers, duties, and functions transferred pursuant to this chapter and available to the metropolitan municipal corporation shall be made available to the county.

All cabinets, furniture, office equipment, motor vehicles, and other tangible property employed in carrying out the rights, powers, functions, and obligations transferred by this chapter and available to the metropolitan municipal corporation shall be made available to the county.

All funds, credits, or other assets held in connection with powers, duties, and functions herein transferred shall be assigned to the county.

Any appropriations or federal grant made to any committee, division, board, or other department of a metropolitan municipal corporation for the purpose of carrying out the rights, powers, functions, and obligations authorized to be assumed by a county pursuant to this chapter shall on the effective date of such transfer be credited to the county for the purpose of carrying out such transferred rights, powers, functions, and obligations. [1977 ex.s. c 277 § 10.]

**36.56.110 Debts and obligations.** The county shall assume and agree to provide for the payment of all of the indebtedness of the metropolitan municipal corporation including the payment and retirement of outstanding general obligation and revenue bonds issued by the metropolitan municipal corporation. Until the indebtedness of a metropolitan municipal corporation thus assumed by a county has been discharged, all property within the boundaries of the metropolitan municipal corporation and the owners and occupants of that property, shall continue to be liable for taxes, special assessments, and other charges legally pledged to pay the indebtedness of the metropolitan municipal corporation. The county shall assume the obligation of causing the payment of such indebtedness, collecting such taxes, assessments, and charges and observing and performing the other contractual obligations of the metropolitan municipal corporation. The legislative authority of the county shall act in the same manner as the governing body of the metropolitan municipal corporation for the purpose of certifying the amount of any property tax to be levied and collected therein, and may cause service and other charges and assessments to be collected from such property or owners or occupants thereof, enforce such collection and perform all acts necessary to ensure performance of the contractual obligations of the metropolitan municipal corporation in the same manner and by the same means as if the property of the metropolitan municipal corporation had not been acquired by the county.

When a county assumes the obligation of paying indebtedness of a metropolitan municipal corporation and if property taxes or assessments have been levied and service and other charges have accrued for such purpose but have not been collected by the metropolitan municipal corporation

prior to such assumption, the same when collected shall belong and be paid to the county and be used by such county so far as necessary for payment of the indebtedness of the metropolitan municipal corporation existing and unpaid on the date such county assumed that indebtedness. Any funds received by the county which have been collected for the purpose of paying any bonded or other indebtedness of the metropolitan municipal corporation shall be used for the purpose for which they were collected and for no other purpose until such indebtedness has been paid and retired or adequate provision has been made for such payment and retirement. No transfer of property as provided in \*this act shall derogate from the claims or rights of the creditors of the metropolitan municipal corporation or impair the ability of the metropolitan municipal corporation to respond to its debts and obligations. [1977 ex.s. c 277 § 11.]

\*Reviser's note: "this act," see note following RCW 36.56.010.

**36.56.121 Maintenance plan.** As a condition of receiving state funding, a county that has assumed the transportation functions of a metropolitan municipal corporation shall submit a maintenance and preservation management plan for certification by the department of transportation. The plan must inventory all transportation system assets within the direction and control of the county, and provide a preservation plan based on lowest life-cycle cost methodologies. [2006 c 334 § 29; 2003 c 363 § 303.]

**Finding—Intent—2003 c 363:** See note following RCW 35.84.060. Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**36.56.900 Severability—Construction—1977 ex.s. c 277.** If any provision of this 1977 amendatory 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. In the event the provisions in RCW 36.56.040 requiring approval by both the voters of a central city and the county voters residing outside of the central city are held to be invalid, then such provisions shall be severable and the ballot proposition on the transfer of the metropolitan municipal corporation to the county shall be decided by the majority vote of the voters voting thereon in a countywide election. [1977 ex.s. c 277 § 14.]

**36.56.910 Effective date—1977 ex.s. c 277.** This 1977 amendatory act shall take effect July 1, 1978. [1977 ex.s. c 277 § 15.]

**Chapter 36.57 RCW**

**COUNTY PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY**

Sections

- 36.57.010 Definitions.
- 36.57.020 Public transportation authority authorized.
- 36.57.030 Membership—Compensation.
- 36.57.040 Powers and duties.
- 36.57.050 Chair—General manager.
- 36.57.060 Transportation fund—Contributions.
- 36.57.070 Public transportation plan.
- 36.57.080 Transfer of transportation powers and rights to authority—Funds—Contract indebtedness.
- 36.57.090 Acquisition of existing transportation system—Assumption of labor contracts—Transfer of employees—Preservation of benefits—Collective bargaining.

- 36.57.100 Counties authorized to perform public transportation function in unincorporated areas—Exceptions.
- 36.57.110 Boundaries of unincorporated transportation benefit areas.
- 36.57.120 Rail fixed guideway public transportation system—Safety program plan and security and emergency preparedness plan.
- 36.57.130 Public transportation for persons with special needs.

*Financing of public transportation systems: Chapter 35.95 RCW and RCW 82.14.045.*

*Municipality defined for purposes of RCW 36.57.080, 36.57.100, and 36.57.110: RCW 35.58.272.*

**36.57.010 Definitions.** For the purposes of this chapter the following definitions shall apply:

(1) "Authority" means the county transportation authority created pursuant to this chapter.

(2) "Population" means the number of residents as shown by the figures released for the most recent official state, federal, or county census, or population determination made by the office of financial management.

(3) "Public transportation function" means the transportation of passengers and their incidental baggage by means other than by chartered bus, sightseeing bus, together with the necessary passenger terminals and parking facilities or other properties necessary for passenger and vehicular access to and from such people-moving systems, and may include contracting for the provision of ambulance services for the transportation of the sick and injured: PROVIDED, That such contracting for ambulance services shall not include the exercise of eminent domain powers: PROVIDED, FURTHER, That nothing shall prohibit an authority from leasing its buses to private certified carriers or prohibit the county from providing school bus service. [1981 c 319 § 1; 1979 c 151 § 39; 1974 ex.s. c 167 § 1.]

*Population determinations, office of financial management: Chapter 43.62 RCW.*

**36.57.020 Public transportation authority authorized.** Every county, except a county in which a metropolitan municipal corporation is performing the function of public transportation on May 5, 1974, is authorized to create a county transportation authority which shall perform the function of public transportation. Such authority shall embrace all the territory within a single county and all cities and towns therein. [1974 ex.s. c 167 § 2.]

**36.57.030 Membership—Compensation.** Every county which undertakes the transportation function pursuant to RCW 36.57.020 shall create by resolution of the county legislative body a county transportation authority which shall be composed as follows:

(1) The elected officials of the county legislative body, not to exceed three such elected officials;

(2) The mayor of the most populous city within the county;

(3) The mayor of a city with a population less than five thousand, to be selected by the mayors of all such cities within the county;

(4) The mayor of a city with a population greater than five thousand, excluding the most populous city, to be selected by the mayors of all such cities within the county: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That if there is no city with a population greater than five thousand, excluding the most popu-

lous city, then the sixth member who shall be an elected official, shall be selected by the other two mayors selected pursuant to subsections (2) and (3) of this section; and

(5) An individual recommended by the labor organization representing the public transportation employees within the county transportation authority. If the public transportation employees are represented by more than one labor organization, all such labor organizations shall select the nonvoting member by majority vote. The nonvoting member shall comply with all governing bylaws and policies of the authority. The chair or cochairs of the county transportation authority shall exclude the nonvoting member from attending any executive session held for the purpose of discussing negotiations with labor organizations. The chair or cochairs may exclude the nonvoting member from attending any other executive session.

The members of the authority shall be selected within sixty days after the date of the resolution creating such authority.

Any member of the authority who is a mayor or an elected official selected pursuant to subsection (4) of this section and whose office is not a full time position shall receive one hundred dollars for each day attending official meetings of the authority. [2010 c 278 § 2; 1974 ex.s. c 167 § 3.]

**36.57.040 Powers and duties.** Every county transportation authority created to perform the function of public transportation pursuant to RCW 36.57.020 shall have the following powers:

(1) To prepare, adopt, carry out, and amend a general comprehensive plan for public transportation service.

(2) To acquire by purchase, condemnation, gift, or grant and to lease, construct, add to, improve, replace, repair, maintain, operate, and regulate the use of any transportation facilities and properties, including terminal and parking facilities, together with all lands, rights-of-way, property, equipment, and accessories necessary for such systems and facilities.

(3) To fix rates, tolls, fares, and charges for the use of such facilities and to establish various routes and classes of service. Fares or charges may be adjusted or eliminated for any distinguishable class of users including, but not limited to[,] senior citizens, persons with disabilities, and students.

(4) If a county transit authority extends its transportation function to any area in which service is already offered by any company holding a certificate of public convenience and necessity from the Washington utilities and transportation commission under RCW 81.68.040, to acquire by purchase or condemnation at the fair market value, from the person holding the existing certificate for providing the services, that portion of the operating authority and equipment representing the services within the area of public operation, or to contract with such person or corporation to continue to operate such service or any part thereof for time and upon such terms and conditions as provided by contract.

(5)(a) To contract with the United States or any agency thereof, any state or agency thereof, any metropolitan municipal corporation, any other county, city, special district, or governmental agency and any private person, firm, or corporation for the purpose of receiving gifts or grants or securing loans or advances for preliminary planning and feasibility studies, or for the design, construction, operation, or mainte-

nance of transportation facilities and ambulance services: PROVIDED, That before the authority enters into any such contract for the provision of ambulance service, it shall submit to the voters a proposition authorizing such contracting authority, and a majority of those voting thereon shall have approved the proposition; and

(b) To contract with any governmental agency or with any private person, firm, or corporation for the use by either contracting party of all or any part of the facilities, structures, lands, interests in lands, air rights over lands, and rights-of-way of all kinds which are owned, leased, or held by the other party and for the purpose of planning, constructing, or operating any facility or performing any service related to transportation which the county is authorized to operate or perform, on such terms as may be agreed upon by the contracting parties: PROVIDED, That before any contract for the lease or operation of any transportation facilities shall be let to any private person, firm, or corporation, competitive bids shall first be called for and contracts awarded in accord with the procedures established in accord with RCW 36.32.240, 36.32.250, and 36.32.270.

(6) In addition to all other powers and duties, an authority shall have the power to own, construct, purchase, lease, add to, and maintain any real and personal property or property rights necessary for the conduct of the affairs of the authority. An authority may sell, lease, convey, or otherwise dispose of any authority real or personal property no longer necessary for the conduct of the affairs of the authority. An authority may enter into contracts to carry out the provisions of this section. [2020 c 274 § 17; 1982 c 10 § 6. Prior: 1981 c 319 § 2; 1981 c 25 § 3; 1974 ex.s. c 167 § 4.]

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

**36.57.050 Chair—General manager.** The authority shall elect a chair, and appoint a general manager who shall be experienced in administration, and who shall act as executive secretary to, and administrative officer for the authority. He or she shall also be empowered to employ such technical and other personnel as approved by the authority. The general manager shall be paid such salary and allowed such expenses as shall be determined by the authority. The general manager shall hold office at the pleasure of the authority, and shall not be removed until after notice is given him or her, and an opportunity for a hearing before the authority as to the reason for his or her removal. [2009 c 549 § 4095; 1974 ex.s. c 167 § 5.]

**36.57.060 Transportation fund—Contributions.** Each authority shall establish a fund to be designated as the "transportation fund", in which shall be placed all sums received by the authority from any source, and out of which shall be expended all sums disbursed by the authority. The county treasurer shall be the custodian of the fund, and the county auditor shall keep the record of the receipts and disbursements, and shall draw and the county treasurer shall honor and pay all warrants, which shall be approved before issuance and payment as directed by the authority.

The county and each city or town which is included in the authority shall contribute such sums towards the expense for maintaining and operating the authority as shall be agreed upon between them. [1974 ex.s. c 167 § 6.]

(2022 Ed.)

**36.57.070 Public transportation plan.** The authority shall adopt a public transportation plan. Such plan shall be a general comprehensive plan designed to best serve the residents of the entire county. Prior to adoption of the plan, the authority shall provide a minimum of sixty days during which sufficient hearings shall be held to provide interested persons an opportunity to participate in development of the plan. [1974 ex.s. c 167 § 7.]

**36.57.080 Transfer of transportation powers and rights to authority—Funds—Contract indebtedness.** On the effective date of the proposition approved by the voters in accord with RCW 35.95.040 or 82.14.045, as now or hereafter amended, the authority shall have and exercise all rights with respect to the construction, acquisition, maintenance, operation, extension, alteration, repair, control and management of passenger transportation which the county or any city located within such county shall have been previously empowered to exercise and such powers shall not thereafter be exercised by the county or such cities without the consent of the authority. The county and all cities within such county upon demand of the authority shall transfer to the authority all unexpended funds earmarked or budgeted from any source for public transportation, including funds receivable. The county in which an authority is located shall have the power to contract indebtedness and issue bonds pursuant to chapter 36.67 RCW to enable the authority to carry out the purposes of this chapter and RCW 35.95.040 or 82.14.045, as now or hereafter amended, and the purposes of this chapter and RCW 35.95.040 or 82.14.045, as now or hereafter amended, shall constitute a "county purpose" as that term is used in chapter 36.67 RCW. [1975 1st ex.s. c 270 § 5; 1974 ex.s. c 167 § 8.]

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

**36.57.090 Acquisition of existing transportation system—Assumption of labor contracts—Transfer of employees—Preservation of benefits—Collective bargaining.** A county transportation authority may acquire any existing transportation system by conveyance, sale, or lease. In any purchase from a county or city, the authority shall receive credit from the county or city for any federal assistance and state matching assistance used by the county or city in acquiring any portion of such system. The authority shall assume and observe all existing labor contracts relating to such system and, to the extent necessary for operation of facilities, all of the employees of such acquired transportation system whose duties are necessary to operate efficiently the facilities acquired shall be appointed to comparable positions to those which they held at the time of such transfer, and no employee or retired or pensioned employee of such systems shall be placed in any worse position with respect to pension seniority, wages, sick leave, vacation or other benefits that he or she enjoyed as an employee of such system prior to such acquisition. The authority shall engage in collective bargaining with the duly appointed representatives of any employee labor organization having existing contracts with the acquired transportation system and may enter into labor contracts with such employee labor organization. [2009 c 549 § 4096; 1974 ex.s. c 167 § 9.]

[Title 36 RCW—page 143]

**36.57.100 Counties authorized to perform public transportation function in unincorporated areas—Exceptions.** Every county, except a county in which a metropolitan municipal corporation is performing the public transportation function as of July 1, 1975, is authorized to perform such function in such portions of the unincorporated areas of the county, except within the boundaries of a public transportation benefit area established pursuant to chapter 36.57A RCW, as the county legislative body shall determine and the county shall have those powers as are specified in RCW 36.57.040 with respect to the provision of public transportation as is authorized pursuant to RCW 36.57.040. [1975 1st ex.s. c 270 § 9.]

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

**36.57.110 Boundaries of unincorporated transportation benefit areas.** The legislative body of any county is hereby authorized to create and define the boundaries of unincorporated transportation benefit areas within the unincorporated areas of the county, following school district or election precinct lines, as far as practicable. Such areas shall include only those portions of the unincorporated area of the county which could reasonably assume to benefit from the provision of public transportation services. [1975 1st ex.s. c 270 § 10.]

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

**36.57.120 Rail fixed guideway public transportation system—Safety program plan and security and emergency preparedness plan.** (1) Each county transportation authority that owns or operates a rail fixed guideway public transportation system as defined in RCW 81.104.015 shall submit a system safety program plan and a system security and emergency preparedness plan for that guideway to the state department of transportation by September 1, 1999, or at least one hundred eighty calendar days before beginning operations or instituting significant revisions to its plans. These plans must describe the county transportation authority's procedures for (a) reporting and investigating any reportable incident, accident, or security breach and identifying and resolving hazards or security vulnerabilities discovered during planning, design, construction, testing, or operations, (b) developing and submitting corrective action plans and annual safety and security audit reports, (c) facilitating on-site safety and security reviews by the state department of transportation and the federal transit administration, and (d) addressing passenger and employee safety and security. The plans must, at a minimum, conform to the standards adopted by the state department of transportation as set forth in the most current version of the Washington state rail safety oversight program standard manual as it exists on March 25, 2016, or such subsequent date as may be provided by the department by rule, consistent with the purposes of this section. If required by the department, the county transportation authority shall revise its plans to incorporate the department's review comments within sixty days after their receipt, and resubmit its revised plans for review.

(2) Each county transportation authority shall implement and comply with its system safety program plan and system security and emergency preparedness plan. The county transportation authority shall perform internal safety and security

audits to evaluate its compliance with the plans, and submit its audit schedule to the department of transportation pursuant to the requirements in the most current version of the Washington state rail safety oversight program standard manual as it exists on March 25, 2016, or such subsequent date as may be provided by the department by rule, consistent with the purposes of this section. The county transportation authority shall prepare an annual report for its internal safety and security audits undertaken in the prior year and submit it to the department no later than February 15th. The department shall establish the requirements for the annual report. The contents of the annual report must include, at a minimum, the dates the audits were conducted, the scope of the audit activity, the audit findings and recommendations, the status of any corrective actions taken as a result of the audit activity, and the results of each audit in terms of the adequacy and effectiveness of the plans.

(3) Each county transportation authority shall notify the department of transportation, pursuant to the most current version of the Washington state rail safety oversight program standard manual as it exists on March 25, 2016, or such subsequent date as may be provided by the department by rule, consistent with the purposes of this section, any reportable incident, accident, security breach, hazard, or security vulnerability. The department may adopt rules further defining any reportable incident, accident, security breach, hazard, or security vulnerability. The county transportation authority shall investigate any reportable incident, accident, security breach, hazard, or security vulnerability and provide a written investigation report to the department as described in the most current version of the Washington state rail safety oversight program standard manual as it exists on March 25, 2016, or such subsequent date as may be provided by the department by rule, consistent with the purposes of this section.

(4) The system security and emergency preparedness plan required in subsection (1) of this section is exempt from public disclosure under chapter 42.56 RCW. However, the system safety program plan as described in this section is not subject to this exemption. [2016 c 33 § 5; 2007 c 422 § 4; 2005 c 274 § 270; 1999 c 202 § 4.]

**Effective date—2016 c 33:** See note following RCW 81.104.115.

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

**36.57.130 Public transportation for persons with special needs.** (1) Effective January 1, 2001, in addition to any other authority granted under this chapter, a county transportation authority may be created to purchase, acquire, maintain, operate, or lease transportation services, equipment, and facilities for public transportation limited only to persons with special needs by any method or combination of methods provided by the authority.

(2) As used in this section, "persons with special needs" means those persons, including their personal attendants, who because of physical or mental disability, income status, or age are unable to transport themselves or purchase transportation.

(3) The county transportation authority may fix, regulate, and control fares and rates to be charged for these transportation services. [2001 c 89 § 1.]



## Chapter 36.57A RCW

## PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION BENEFIT AREAS

## Sections

- 36.57A.010 Definitions.
- 36.57A.011 Municipality defined.
- 36.57A.020 Public transportation improvement conference—Convening—Purpose—Multi-county conferences.
- 36.57A.030 Establishment or change in boundaries of public transportation benefit area—Hearing—Notice—Procedure—Authority of county to terminate public transportation benefit area.
- 36.57A.040 Cities included or excluded—Boundaries—Only benefited areas included—One area per county, exception.
- 36.57A.050 Governing body—Selection, qualification, number of members—Travel expenses, compensation.
- 36.57A.055 Governing body—Periodic review of composition.
- 36.57A.060 Comprehensive plan—Development—Elements.
- 36.57A.070 Comprehensive plan—Review.
- 36.57A.080 General powers.
- 36.57A.090 Additional powers—Acquisition of existing system.
- 36.57A.100 Agreements with operators of local public transportation services—Operation without agreement prohibited—Purchase or condemnation of assets.
- 36.57A.110 Powers of component city concerning passenger transportation transferred to benefit area—Operation of system by city until acquired by benefit area—Consent.
- 36.57A.120 Acquisition of existing system—Labor contracts, employee rights preserved—Collective bargaining.
- 36.57A.130 Treasurer and auditor—Powers and duties—Transportation fund—Contribution of sums for expenses.
- 36.57A.140 Annexation of additional area.
- 36.57A.150 Advanced financial support payments.
- 36.57A.160 Dissolution and liquidation.
- 36.57A.170 Rail fixed guideway public transportation system—Safety program plan and security and emergency preparedness plan.
- 36.57A.180 Public transportation for persons with special needs.
- 36.57A.191 Maintenance plan.
- 36.57A.200 Passenger-only ferry service—Authorized—Investment plan.
- 36.57A.210 Passenger-only ferry service—Taxes, fees, and tolls.
- 36.57A.220 Passenger-only ferry service between Kingston and Seattle.
- 36.57A.222 Passenger-only ferry service districts—Authorized—Investment plan—Dissolution.
- 36.57A.224 Passenger-only ferry service districts—Revenue.
- 36.57A.226 Passenger-only ferry service districts—Issuance of bonds.
- 36.57A.230 Public transportation fares—Proof of payment—Civil infractions.
- 36.57A.235 Public transportation fares—Schedule of fines and penalties—Who may monitor fare payment—Administration of citations.
- 36.57A.240 Public transportation fares—Powers of law enforcement authorities.
- 36.57A.245 Public transportation fares—Powers and authority are supplemental to other laws.
- 36.57A.250 Supplemental transportation improvements.

*Financing of public transportation systems: Chapter 35.95 RCW and RCW 82.14.045.*

*Transportation centers authorized: Chapter 81.75 RCW.*

**36.57A.010 Definitions.** The definitions set forth in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "City" means an incorporated city or town.

(2) "City council" means the legislative body of any city or town.

(3) "Component city" means an incorporated city or town within a public transportation benefit area.

(4) "County legislative authority" means the board of county commissioners or the county council.

(5) "Population" means the number of residents as shown by the figures released for the most recent official state, federal, or county census, or population determination made by the office of financial management.

(6) "Proof of payment" means evidence of fare prepayment authorized by a public transportation benefit area for the use of buses or other modes of public transportation.

(7) "Public transportation benefit area" means a municipal corporation of the state of Washington created pursuant to this chapter.

(8) "Public transportation benefit area authority" or "authority" means the legislative body of a public transportation benefit area.

(9) "Public transportation improvement conference" or "conference" means the body established pursuant to RCW 36.57A.020 which shall be authorized to establish, subject to the provisions of RCW 36.57A.030, a public transportation benefit area pursuant to the provisions of this chapter.

(10) "Public transportation service" means the transportation of packages, passengers, and their incidental baggage by means other than by chartered bus, sight-seeing bus, together with the necessary passenger terminals and parking facilities or other properties necessary for passenger and vehicular access to and from such people moving systems: PROVIDED, That nothing shall prohibit an authority from leasing its buses to private certified carriers or prohibit the authority from providing school bus service. "Public transportation service" includes passenger-only ferry service for those public transportation benefit areas eligible to provide passenger-only ferry service under RCW 36.57A.200. [2008 c 123 § 10; 2003 c 83 § 209; 1983 c 65 § 1; 1979 c 151 § 40; 1975 1st ex.s. c 270 § 11.]

**Findings—Intent—Captions, part headings not law—Severability—Effective date—2003 c 83:** See notes following RCW 36.57A.200.

*Population determinations, office of financial management: Chapter 43.62 RCW.*

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

**36.57A.011 Municipality defined.** See RCW 35.58.272.

**36.57A.020 Public transportation improvement conference—Convening—Purpose—Multi-county conferences.** The county legislative authority of every county with a population of forty thousand or more shall, and the legislative authority of every other county may, within ninety days of July 1, 1975, and as often thereafter as it deems necessary, and upon thirty days prior written notice addressed to the legislative body of each city within the county and with thirty days public notice, convene a public transportation improvement conference to be attended by an elected representative selected by the legislative body of each city, within such county, and by the county legislative authority. Such conference shall be for the purpose of evaluating the need for and the desirability of the creation of a public transportation benefit area within certain incorporated and unincorporated portions of the county to provide public transportation services within such area. In those counties where county officials believe the need for public transportation service extends across county boundaries so as to provide public transportation service in a metropolitan area, the county legislative bodies of two or more neighboring counties may elect to convene a multi-county conference. In addition, countywide conferences may be convened by resolution of the legislative bodies of two or more cities within the county, not to exceed one in

any twelve-month period, or a petition signed by at least ten percent of the registered voters in the last general election of the city, county or city/county areas of a proposed benefit area. The chair of the conference shall be elected from the members at large. [1991 c 363 § 73; 1975 1st ex.s. c 270 § 12.]

**Purpose—Captions not law—1991 c 363:** See notes following RCW 2.32.180.

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

**36.57A.030 Establishment or change in boundaries of public transportation benefit area—Hearing—Notice—Procedure—Authority of county to terminate public transportation benefit area.** Any conference which finds it desirable to establish a public transportation benefit area or change the boundaries of any existing public transportation benefit area shall fix a date for a public hearing thereon, or the legislative bodies of any two or more component cities or the county legislative body by resolution may require the public transportation improvement conference to fix a date for a public hearing thereon. Prior to the convening of the public hearing, the county governing body shall delineate the area of the county proposed to be included within the transportation benefit area, and shall furnish a copy of such delineation to each incorporated city within such area. Each city shall advise the county governing body, on a preliminary basis, of its desire to be included or excluded from the transportation benefit area by means of an ordinance adopted by the legislative body of that city. The county governing body shall cause the delineations to be revised to reflect the wishes of such incorporated cities. This delineation shall be considered by the conference at the public hearing for inclusion in the public transportation benefit area.

Notice of such hearing shall be published once a week for at least four consecutive weeks in one or more newspapers of general circulation within the area. The notice shall contain a description and map of the boundaries of the proposed public transportation benefit area and shall state the time and place of the hearing and the fact that any changes in the boundaries of the public transportation benefit area will be considered at such time and place. At such hearing or any continuation thereof, any interested person may appear and be heard on all matters relating to the effect of the formation of the proposed public transportation benefit area.

The conference may make such changes in the boundaries of the public transportation benefit area as they shall deem reasonable and proper, but may not delete any portion of the proposed area which will create an island of included or excluded lands, and may not delete a portion of any city. If the conference shall determine that any additional territory should be included in the public transportation benefit area, a second hearing shall be held and notice given in the same manner as for the original hearing. The conference may adjourn the hearing on the formation of a public transportation benefit area from time to time not exceeding thirty days in all.

Following the conclusion of such hearing the conference shall adopt a resolution fixing the boundaries of the proposed public transportation benefit area, declaring that the formation of the proposed public transportation benefit area will be

conducive to the welfare and benefit of the persons and property therein.

Within thirty days of the adoption of such conference resolution, the county legislative authority of each county wherein a conference has established proposed boundaries of a public transportation benefit area, may by resolution, upon making a legislative finding that the proposed benefit area includes portions of the county which could not be reasonably expected to benefit from such benefit area or excludes portions of the county which could be reasonably expected to benefit from its creation, disapprove and terminate the establishment of such public transportation benefit area within such county. [2016 c 95 § 11; 1977 ex.s. c 44 § 1; 1975 1st ex.s. c 270 § 13.]

**Intent—2016 c 95:** See note following RCW 36.62.252.

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

**36.57A.040 Cities included or excluded—Boundaries—Only benefited areas included—One area per county, exception.** At the time of its formation no public transportation benefit area may include only a part of any city, and every city shall be either wholly included or wholly excluded from the boundaries of such area. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, if subsequent to the formation of a public transportation benefit area additional area became or will become a part of a component city by annexation, merger, or otherwise, the additional area shall be included within the boundaries of the transportation benefit area and be subject to all taxes and other liabilities and obligations of the public transportation benefit area. The component city shall be required to notify the public transportation benefit area at the time the city has added the additional area. Furthermore, notwithstanding any other provisions of law except as specifically provided in this section, if a city that is not a component city of the public transportation benefit area adds area to its boundaries that is within the boundaries of the public transportation benefit area, the area so added shall be deemed to be excluded from the public transportation benefit area: PROVIDED, That the public transportation benefit area shall be given notice of the city's intention to add such area. If a city extends its boundaries through annexation across a county boundary line and such extended boundaries include areas within the public transportation benefit area, then the entire area of the city within the county that is within the public transportation benefit area shall be included within the public transportation benefit area boundaries. Such area of the city in the public transportation benefit area shall be considered a component city of the public transportation benefit area corporation.

The boundaries of any public transportation benefit area shall follow school district lines or election precinct lines, as far as practicable. Only such areas shall be included which the conference determines could reasonably benefit from the provision of public transportation services. Except as provided in RCW 36.57A.140(2), only one public transportation benefit area may be created in any county. [1992 c 16 § 1; 1991 c 318 § 15; 1983 c 65 § 2; 1975 1st ex.s. c 270 § 14.]

**Intent—1991 c 318:** "The legislature recognizes that certain communities have important cultural, economic, or transportation linkages to communities in other counties. Many public services can most efficiently be delivered from public agencies located in counties other than the county within

which the community is located. It is the intent of the legislature by enacting sections 15 through 17 of this act to further more effective public transportation linkages between communities, regardless of county association, in order to better serve state citizen needs." [1991 c 318 § 14.]

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

**36.57A.050 Governing body—Selection, qualification, number of members—Travel expenses, compensation.** Within sixty days of the establishment of the boundaries of the public transportation benefit area the members of the county legislative authority and the elected representative of each city within the area shall provide for the selection of the governing body of such area, the public transportation benefit area authority, which shall consist of elected officials selected by and serving at the pleasure of the governing bodies of component cities within the area and the county legislative authority of each county within the area. The members of the governing body of the public transportation benefit area, if the population of the county in which the public transportation benefit area is located is more than four hundred thousand and the county does not also contain a city with a population of seventy-five thousand or more operating a transit system pursuant to chapter 35.95 RCW, must be selected to assure proportional representation, based on population, of each of the component cities located within the public transportation benefit area and the unincorporated areas of the county located within the public transportation benefit area, to the extent possible within the restrictions placed on the size of the governing body of a public transportation benefit area. If necessary to assure such proportional representation, multiple cities may be represented by a single elected official from one of the cities. A majority of the governing board may not be selected to represent a single component city. If at the time a public transportation benefit area authority assumes the public transportation functions previously provided under the interlocal cooperation act (chapter 39.34 RCW) there are citizen positions on the governing board of the transit system, those positions may be retained as positions on the governing board of the public transportation benefit area authority.

Within such sixty-day period, any city may by resolution of its legislative body withdraw from participation in the public transportation benefit area. The county legislative authority and each city remaining in the public transportation benefit area may disapprove and prevent the establishment of any governing body of a public transportation benefit area if the composition thereof does not meet its approval.

In no case shall the governing body of a single county public transportation benefit area be greater than nine voting members and in the case of a multicounty area, fifteen voting members. Those cities within the public transportation benefit area and excluded from direct membership on the authority are hereby authorized to designate a member of the authority who shall be entitled to represent the interests of such city which is excluded from direct membership on the authority. The legislative body of such city shall notify the authority as to the determination of its authorized representative on the authority.

There is one nonvoting member of the public transportation benefit area authority. The nonvoting member is recommended by the labor organization representing the public transportation employees within the local public transporta-

tion system. If the public transportation employees are represented by more than one labor organization, all such labor organizations shall select the nonvoting member by majority vote. The nonvoting member shall comply with all governing bylaws and policies of the authority. The chair or cochair of the authority shall exclude the nonvoting member from attending any executive session held for the purpose of discussing negotiations with labor organizations. The chair or cochair may exclude the nonvoting member from attending any other executive session. The requirement that a nonvoting member be appointed to the governing body of a public transportation benefit area authority does not apply to an authority that has no employees represented by a labor union.

Each member of the authority is eligible to be reimbursed for travel expenses in accordance with RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060 and to receive compensation, as set by the authority, in an amount not to exceed forty-four dollars for each day during which the member attends official meetings of the authority or performs prescribed duties approved by the chair of the authority. Except that the authority may, by resolution, increase the payment of per diem compensation to each member from forty-four dollars up to ninety dollars per day or portion of a day for actual attendance at board meetings or for performance of other official services or duties on behalf of the authority. In no event may a member be compensated in any year for more than seventy-five days, except the chair who may be paid compensation for not more than one hundred days: PROVIDED, That compensation shall not be paid to an elected official or employee of federal, state, or local government who is receiving regular full-time compensation from such government for attending meetings and performing prescribed duties of the authority.

The dollar thresholds established in this section must be adjusted for inflation by the office of financial management every five years, beginning January 1, 2024, based upon changes in the consumer price index during that time period. "Consumer price index" means, for any calendar year, that year's annual average consumer price index, for Washington state, for wage earners and clerical workers, all items, compiled by the bureau of labor and statistics, United States department of labor. If the bureau of labor and statistics develops more than one consumer price index for areas within the state, the index covering the greatest number of people, covering areas exclusively within the boundaries of the state, and including all items shall be used for the adjustments for inflation in this section. The office of financial management must calculate the new dollar threshold and transmit it to the office of the code reviser for publication in the Washington State Register at least one month before the new dollar threshold is to take effect.

A person holding office as commissioner for two or more special purpose districts shall receive only that per diem compensation authorized for one of his or her commissioner positions as compensation for attending an official meeting or conducting official services or duties while representing more than one of his or her districts. However, such commissioner may receive additional per diem compensation if approved by resolution of all boards of the affected commissions. [2020 c 83 § 2; 2018 c 154 § 1; 2010 c 278 § 3; 2009 c 549 § 4097; 2007 c 469 § 14; 1998 c 121 § 15; 1983 c 65 § 3; 1977 ex.s. c 44 § 2; 1975 1st ex.s. c 270 § 15.]

**Effective date—2018 c 154:** "This act takes effect August 1, 2018." [2018 c 154 § 3.]

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

**36.57A.055 Governing body—Periodic review of composition.** After a public transportation benefit area has been in existence for four years, members of the county legislative authority and the elected representative of each city within the boundaries of the public transportation benefit area shall review the composition of the governing body of the benefit area and change the composition of the governing body if the change is deemed appropriate. When determining if a change to the composition of the governing body is appropriate, the proportional representation requirements of RCW 36.57A.050 must be taken into consideration if the population of the county in which the public transportation benefit area is located is more than four hundred thousand and the county does not also contain a city with a population of seventy-five thousand or more operating a transit system pursuant to chapter 35.95 RCW, and the composition of the governing body must be changed if necessary to meet this requirement. The review shall be at a meeting of the designated representatives of the component county and cities, and the majority of those present shall constitute a quorum at such meeting. Twenty days notice of the meeting shall be given by the chief administrative officer of the public transportation benefit area authority. After the initial review, a review shall be held every four years.

If an area having a population greater than fifteen percent, or areas with a combined population of greater than twenty-five percent of the population of the existing public transportation benefit area as constituted at the last review meeting, annex to the public transportation benefit area, or if an area is added under RCW 36.57A.140(2), the representatives of the component county and cities shall meet within ninety days to review and change the composition of the governing body, if the change is deemed appropriate. This meeting is in addition to the regular four-year review meeting and shall be conducted pursuant to the same notice requirement and quorum provisions of the regular review. [2018 c 154 § 2; 1991 c 318 § 16; 1983 c 65 § 4.]

**Effective date—2018 c 154:** See note following RCW 36.57A.050.

**Intent—1991 c 318:** See note following RCW 36.57A.040.

**36.57A.060 Comprehensive plan—Development—Elements.** The public transportation benefit area authority authorized pursuant to RCW 36.57A.050 shall develop a comprehensive transit plan for the area. Such plan shall include, but not be limited to the following elements:

- (1) The levels of transit service that can be reasonably provided for various portions of the benefit area.
- (2) The funding requirements, including local tax sources, state and federal funds, necessary to provide various levels of service within the area.
- (3) The impact of such a transportation program on other transit systems operating within that county or adjacent counties.
- (4) The future enlargement of the benefit area or the consolidation of such benefit area with other transit systems. [1975 1st ex.s. c 270 § 16.]

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

**36.57A.070 Comprehensive plan—Review.** The comprehensive transit plan adopted by the authority shall be reviewed by the state department of transportation to determine:

- (1) The completeness of service to be offered and the economic viability of the transit system proposed in such comprehensive transit plan;
- (2) Whether such plan integrates the proposed transportation system with existing transportation modes and systems that serve the benefit area;
- (3) Whether such plan coordinates that area's system and service with nearby public transportation systems;
- (4) Whether such plan is eligible for matching state or federal funds. [2006 c 334 § 30; 1985 c 6 § 5; 1975 1st ex.s. c 270 § 17.]

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

**36.57A.080 General powers.** In addition to the powers specifically granted by this chapter a public transportation benefit area shall have all powers which are necessary to carry out the purposes of the public transportation benefit area. A public transportation benefit area may contract with the United States or any agency thereof, any state or agency thereof, any other public transportation benefit area, any county, city, metropolitan municipal corporation, special district, or governmental agency, within or without the state, and any private person, firm or corporation for the purpose of receiving gifts or grants or securing loans or advances for preliminary planning and feasibility studies, or for the design, construction or operation of transportation facilities. In addition a public transportation benefit area may contract with any governmental agency or with any private person, firm or corporation for the use by either contracting party of all or any part of the facilities, structures, lands, interests in lands, air rights over lands and rights-of-way of all kinds which are owned, leased or held by the other party and for the purpose of planning, constructing or operating any facility or performing any service which the public transportation benefit area may be authorized to operate or perform, on such terms as may be agreed upon by the contracting parties. Before any contract for the lease or operation of any public transportation benefit area facilities shall be let to any private person, firm or corporation, a general schedule of rental rates for bus equipment with or without drivers shall be publicly posted applicable to all private certificated carriers, and for other facilities competitive bids shall first be called upon such notice, bidder qualifications and bid conditions as the public transportation benefit area authority shall determine.

A public transportation benefit area may sue and be sued in its corporate capacity in all courts and in all proceedings. [1975 1st ex.s. c 270 § 18.]

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

**36.57A.090 Additional powers—Acquisition of existing system.** A public transportation benefit area authority shall have the following powers in addition to the general powers granted by this chapter:

- (1) To prepare, adopt, and carry out a general comprehensive plan for public transportation service which will best serve the residents of the public transportation benefit area

and to amend said plan from time to time to meet changed conditions and requirements.

(2) To acquire by purchase, condemnation, gift, or grant and to lease, construct, add to, improve, replace, repair, maintain, operate, and regulate the use of transportation facilities and properties within or without the public transportation benefit area or the state, including systems of surface, underground, or overhead railways, tramways, buses, or any other means of local transportation except taxis, and including escalators, moving sidewalks, or other people-moving systems, passenger terminal and parking facilities and properties, and such other facilities and properties as may be necessary for passenger and vehicular access to and from such people-moving systems, terminal and parking facilities and properties, together with all lands, rights-of-way, property, equipment, and accessories necessary for such systems and facilities. Public transportation facilities and properties which are owned by any city may be acquired or used by the public transportation benefit area authority only with the consent of the city council of the city owning such facilities. Cities are hereby authorized to convey or lease such facilities to a public transportation benefit area authority or to contract for their joint use on such terms as may be fixed by agreement between the city council of such city and the public transportation benefit area authority, without submitting the matter to the voters of such city.

(3) To fix rates, tolls, fares, and charges for the use of such facilities and to establish various routes and classes of service. Fares or charges may be adjusted or eliminated for any distinguishable class of users including, but not limited to, senior citizens, persons with disabilities, and students.

In the event any person holding a certificate of public convenience and necessity from the Washington utilities and transportation commission under RCW 81.68.040 has operated under such certificate for a continuous period of one year prior to the date of certification and is offering service within the public transportation benefit area on the date of the certification by the county canvassing board that a majority of votes cast authorize a tax to be levied and collected by the public transportation benefit area authority, such authority may by purchase or condemnation acquire at the fair market value, from the person holding the existing certificate for providing the services, that portion of the operating authority and equipment representing the services within the area of public operation. The person holding such existing certificate may require the public transportation benefit area authority to initiate such purchase of those assets of such person, existing as of the date of the county canvassing board certification, within sixty days after the date of such certification. [2020 c 274 § 18; 1981 c 25 § 4; 1977 ex.s. c 44 § 3; 1975 1st ex.s. c 270 § 19.]

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

**36.57A.100 Agreements with operators of local public transportation services—Operation without agreement prohibited—Purchase or condemnation of assets.** Except in accordance with an agreement made as provided in this section or in accordance with the provisions of RCW 36.57A.090(3) as now or hereafter amended, upon the effective date on which the public transportation benefit area commences to perform the public transportation service, no per-

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son or private corporation shall operate a local public passenger transportation service, including passenger-only ferry service, within the public transportation benefit area with the exception of taxis, buses owned or operated by a school district or private school, and buses owned or operated by any corporation or organization solely for the purposes of the corporation or organization and for the use of which no fee or fare is charged.

An agreement may be entered into between the public transportation benefit area authority and any person or corporation legally operating a local public passenger transportation service, including passenger-only ferry service, wholly within or partly within and partly without the public transportation benefit area and on said effective date under which such person or corporation may continue to operate such service or any part thereof for such time and upon such terms and conditions as provided in such agreement. Such agreement shall provide for a periodic review of the terms and conditions contained therein. Where any such local public passenger transportation service, including passenger-only ferry service, will be required to cease to operate within the public transportation benefit area, the public transportation benefit area authority may agree with the owner of such service to purchase the assets used in providing such service, or if no agreement can be reached, the public transportation benefit area authority shall condemn such assets in the manner and by the same procedure as is or may be provided by law for the condemnation of other properties for cities of the first class, except insofar as such laws may be inconsistent with the provisions of this chapter.

Wherever a privately owned public carrier operates wholly or partly within a public transportation benefit area, the Washington utilities and transportation commission shall continue to exercise jurisdiction over such operation as provided by law. [2003 c 83 § 210; 1977 ex.s. c 44 § 4; 1975 1st ex.s. c 270 § 20.]

**Findings—Intent—Captions, part headings not law—Severability—Effective date—2003 c 83:** See notes following RCW 36.57A.200.

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

**36.57A.110 Powers of component city concerning passenger transportation transferred to benefit area—Operation of system by city until acquired by benefit area—Consent.** The public transportation benefit area shall have and exercise all rights with respect to the construction, acquisition, maintenance, operation, extension, alteration, repair, control and management of passenger transportation which any component city shall have been previously empowered to exercise and such powers shall not thereafter be exercised by such component cities without the consent of the public transportation benefit area: PROVIDED, That any city owning and operating a public transportation system on July 1, 1975 may continue to operate such system within such city until such system shall have been acquired by the public transportation benefit area and a public transportation benefit area may not acquire such system without the consent of the city council of such city. [1975 1st ex.s. c 270 § 21.]

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

**36.57A.120 Acquisition of existing system—Labor contracts, employee rights preserved—Collective bar-**

**gaining.** If a public transportation benefit area shall acquire any existing transportation system, it shall assume and observe all existing labor contracts relating to such system and, to the extent necessary for operation of facilities, all of the employees of such acquired transportation system whose duties are necessary to operate efficiently the facilities acquired shall be appointed to comparable positions to those which they held at the time of such transfer, and no employee or retired or pensioned employee of such systems shall be placed in any worse position with respect to pension seniority, wages, sick leave, vacation or other benefits that he or she enjoyed as an employee of such system prior to such acquisition. The public transportation benefit area authority shall engage in collective bargaining with the duly appointed representatives of any employee labor organization having existing contracts with the acquired transportation system and may enter into labor contracts with such employee labor organization. [2009 c 549 § 4098; 1975 1st ex.s. c 270 § 22.]

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

**36.57A.130 Treasurer and auditor—Powers and duties—Transportation fund—Contribution of sums for expenses.** The treasurer of the county in which a public transportation benefit area authority is located shall be ex officio treasurer of the authority. In the case of a multicounty public transportation benefit area the county treasurer of the largest component county, by population, shall be the treasurer of the authority. However, the authority, by resolution, and upon the approval of the county treasurer, may designate some other person having experience in financial or fiscal matters as treasurer of the authority. Such a treasurer shall possess all of the powers, responsibilities, and duties the county treasurer possesses for a public transportation benefit area authority related to investing surplus authority funds. The authority may (and if the treasurer is not a county treasurer, it shall) require a bond with a surety company authorized to do business in the state of Washington in an amount and under the terms and conditions the authority, by resolution, from time to time finds will protect the authority against loss. The premium on any such bond shall be paid by the authority.

All authority funds shall be paid to the treasurer and shall be disbursed by the treasurer only on warrants issued by the county auditor, upon orders or vouchers approved by the authority. However, the authority may, by resolution, designate some person having experience in financial or fiscal matters, other than the county auditor, as the auditor of the authority. Such an auditor shall possess all of the powers, responsibilities, and duties that the county auditor possesses for a public transportation benefit area authority related to creating and maintaining funds, issuing warrants, and maintaining a record of receipts and disbursements.

The treasurer shall establish a "transportation fund," into which shall be paid all authority funds, and the treasurer shall maintain such special accounts as may be created by the authority into which shall be placed all money as the authority may, by resolution, direct.

If the treasurer of the authority is a treasurer of the county, all authority funds shall be deposited with the county depository under the same restrictions, contracts, and security as provided for county depositories. If the treasurer of the

authority is some other person, all funds shall be deposited in such bank or banks authorized to do business in this state that have qualified for insured deposits under any federal deposit insurance act as the authority, by resolution, shall designate.

An authority may provide and require a reasonable bond of any other person handling moneys or securities of the authority, but the authority shall pay the premium on the bond.

The county or counties and each city or town which is included in the authority shall contribute such sums towards the expense for maintaining and operating the public transportation system as shall be agreed upon between them. [1983 c 151 § 1; 1975 1st ex.s. c 270 § 23.]

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

**36.57A.140 Annexation of additional area.** (1) An election to authorize the annexation of territory contiguous to a public transportation benefit area may be called within the area to be annexed pursuant to resolution or petition in the following manner:

(a) By resolution of a public transportation benefit area authority when it determines that the best interests and general welfare of the public transportation benefit area would be served. The authority shall consider the question of areas to be annexed to the public transportation benefit area at least once every two years.

(b) By petition calling for such an election signed by at least four percent of the qualified voters residing within the area to be annexed and filed with the auditor of the county wherein the largest portion of the public transportation benefit area is located, and notice thereof shall be given to the authority. Upon receipt of such a petition, the auditor shall examine it and certify to the sufficiency of the signatures thereon.

(c) By resolution of a public transportation benefit area authority upon request of any city for annexation thereto.

(2) If the area proposed to be annexed is located within another county, the petition or resolution for annexation as set forth in subsection (1) of this section must be approved by the legislative authority of the county if the area is unincorporated or by the legislative authority of the city or town if the area is incorporated. Any annexation under this subsection must involve contiguous areas.

(3) The resolution or petition shall describe the boundaries of the area to be annexed. It shall require that there also be submitted to the electorate of the territory sought to be annexed a proposition authorizing the inclusion of the area within the public transportation benefit area and authorizing the imposition of such taxes authorized by law to be collected by the authority. [1991 c 318 § 17; 1983 c 65 § 5; 1975 1st ex.s. c 270 § 24.]

**Intent—1991 c 318:** See note following RCW 36.57A.040.

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

**36.57A.150 Advanced financial support payments.** Counties that have established a county transportation authority pursuant to chapter 36.57 RCW and public transportation benefit areas that have been established pursuant to this chapter are eligible to receive a one-time advanced financial support payment from the state to assist in the development of the initial comprehensive transit plan required by

RCW 36.57.070 and 36.57A.060. The amount of this support payment is established at one dollar per person residing within each county or public transportation benefit area, as determined by the office of financial management, but no single payment shall exceed fifty thousand dollars. Repayment of an advanced financial support payment shall be made to the public transportation account in the general fund or, if such account does not exist, to the general fund by each agency within two years of the date such advanced payment was received. Such repayment shall be waived within two years of the date such advanced payment was received if the voters in the appropriate counties or public transportation benefit areas do not elect to levy and collect taxes enabled under authority of this chapter and RCW 35.95.040 and 82.14.045. The state department of transportation shall provide technical assistance in the preparation of local transit plans, and administer the advanced financial support payments authorized by this section. [1985 c 6 § 6; 1979 c 151 § 41; 1975 1st ex.s. c 270 § 25.]

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

**36.57A.160 Dissolution and liquidation.** A public transportation benefit area established pursuant to this chapter may be dissolved and its affairs liquidated when so directed by a majority of persons in the benefit area voting on such question. An election placing such question before the voters may be called in the following manner:

(1) By resolution of the public transportation benefit area authority;

(2) By resolution of the county legislative body or bodies with the concurrence therein by resolution of the city council of a component city; or

(3) By petition calling for such election signed by at least ten percent of the qualified voters residing within the area filed with the auditor of the county wherein the largest portion of the public transportation benefit area is located. The auditor shall examine the same and certify to the sufficiency of the signatures thereon: PROVIDED, That to be validated, signatures must have been collected within a ninety day period as designated by the petition sponsors.

Any dissolution of a public transportation benefit area authority shall be carried out in accordance with the procedures in chapter 53.48 RCW. Any remaining deficit of the authority determined pursuant to RCW 53.48.080 shall be paid from the moneys collected from the tax source under which the authority operated. [1977 ex.s. c 44 § 5; 1975 1st ex.s. c 270 § 26.]

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

**36.57A.170 Rail fixed guideway public transportation system—Safety program plan and security and emergency preparedness plan.** (1) Each public transportation benefit area that owns or operates a rail fixed guideway public transportation system as defined in RCW 81.104.015 shall submit a system safety program plan and a system security and emergency preparedness plan for that guideway to the state department of transportation by September 1, 1999, or at least one hundred eighty calendar days before beginning operations or instituting significant revisions to its plans. These plans must describe the public transportation benefit area's procedures for (a) reporting and investigating any

reportable incident, accident, or security breach and identifying and resolving hazards or security vulnerabilities discovered during planning, design, construction, testing, or operations, (b) developing and submitting corrective action plans and annual safety and security audit reports, (c) facilitating on-site safety and security reviews by the state department of transportation and the federal transit administration, and (d) addressing passenger and employee safety and security. The plans must, at a minimum, conform to the standards adopted by the state department of transportation as set forth in the most current version of the Washington state rail safety oversight program standard manual as it exists on March 25, 2016, or such subsequent date as may be provided by the department by rule, consistent with the purposes of this section. If required by the department, the public transportation benefit area shall revise its plans to incorporate the department's review comments within sixty days after their receipt, and resubmit its revised plans for review.

(2) Each public transportation benefit area shall implement and comply with its system safety program plan and system security and emergency preparedness plan. The public transportation benefit area shall perform internal safety and security audits to evaluate its compliance with the plans, and submit its audit schedule to the department of transportation pursuant to the requirements in the most current version of the Washington state rail safety oversight program standard manual as it exists on March 25, 2016, or such subsequent date as may be provided by the department by rule, consistent with the purposes of this section. The public transportation benefit area shall prepare an annual report for its internal safety and security audits undertaken in the prior year and submit it to the department no later than February 15th. The department shall establish the requirements for the annual report. The contents of the annual report must include, at a minimum, the dates the audits were conducted, the scope of the audit activity, the audit findings and recommendations, the status of any corrective actions taken as a result of the audit activity, and the results of each audit in terms of the adequacy and effectiveness of the plans.

(3) Each public transportation benefit area shall notify the department of transportation, pursuant to the most current version of the Washington state rail safety oversight program standard manual as it exists on March 25, 2016, or such subsequent date as may be provided by the department by rule, consistent with the purposes of this section, any reportable incident, accident, security breach, hazard, or security vulnerability. The department may adopt rules further defining any reportable incident, accident, security breach, hazard, or security vulnerability. The public transportation benefit area shall investigate any reportable incident, accident, security breach, hazard, or security vulnerability and provide a written investigation report to the department as described in the most current version of the Washington state rail safety oversight program standard manual as it exists on March 25, 2016, or such subsequent date as may be provided by the department by rule, consistent with the purposes of this section.

(4) The system security and emergency preparedness plan required in subsection (1) of this section is exempt from public disclosure under chapter 42.56 RCW. However, the system safety program plan as described in this section is not

subject to this exemption. [2016 c 33 § 6; 2007 c 422 § 5; 2005 c 274 § 271; 1999 c 202 § 5.]

**Effective date—2016 c 33:** See note following RCW 81.104.115.

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

**36.57A.180 Public transportation for persons with special needs.** (1) Effective January 1, 2001, in addition to any other authority granted under this chapter, a newly formed public transportation benefit area, or an existing public transportation benefit area that has not yet successfully submitted an authorizing proposition to the voters under RCW 82.14.045, may purchase, acquire, maintain, operate, or lease transportation services, equipment, and facilities for public transportation limited only to persons with special needs by any method or combination of methods provided by the area authority.

(2) As used in this section, "persons with special needs" means those persons, including their personal attendants, who because of physical or mental disability, income status, or age are unable to transport themselves or purchase transportation.

(3) The public transportation benefit area may fix, regulate, and control fares and rates to be charged for these transportation services. [2001 c 89 § 2.]

**36.57A.191 Maintenance plan.** As a condition of receiving state funding, a public transportation benefit area authority shall submit a maintenance and preservation management plan for certification by the department of transportation. The plan must inventory all transportation system assets within the direction and control of the authority, and provide a preservation plan based on lowest life-cycle cost methodologies. [2006 c 334 § 9; 2003 c 363 § 304.]

**Finding—Intent—2003 c 363:** See note following RCW 35.84.060.

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

**36.57A.200 Passenger-only ferry service—Authorized—Investment plan.** A public transportation benefit area having a boundary located on Puget Sound may provide passenger-only ferry service. For the purposes of this chapter and RCW 82.14.440 and 82.80.130, Puget Sound is considered as extending north as far as the Canadian border and west as far as Port Angeles. Before a benefit area may provide passenger-only ferry service, it must develop a passenger-only ferry investment plan including elements to operate or contract for the operation of passenger-only ferry services, purchase, lease, or rental of ferry vessels and dock facilities for the provision of transit service, and identify other activities necessary to implement the plan. The plan must set forth terminal locations to be served, projected costs of providing services, and revenues to be generated from tolls, locally collected tax revenues, and other revenue sources. The plan must ensure that services provided under the plan are for the benefit of the residents of the benefit area. The benefit area may use any of its powers to carry out this purpose, unless otherwise prohibited by law. In addition, the public transportation benefit area may enter into contracts and agreements to operate passenger-only ferry service and public-private partnerships and design-build, general contractor/construction management, or other alternative procurement process substantially consistent with chapter 39.10 RCW. [2003 c 83 § 201.]

**Findings—Intent—2003 c 83:** "The legislature finds that passenger-only ferry service is a key element to the state's transportation system and that it is in the interest of the state to ensure provision of such services. The legislature further finds that diminished state transportation resources require that regional and local authorities be authorized to develop, operate, and fund needed services.

The legislature recognizes that if the state eliminates passenger-only ferry service on one or more routes, it should provide an opportunity for locally sponsored service and the department of transportation should assist in this effort.

It is the intent of the legislature to encourage interlocal agreements to ensure passenger-only ferry service is reinstated on routes that the Washington state ferry system eliminates." [2003 c 83 § 101.]

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

**36.57A.210 Passenger-only ferry service—Taxes, fees, and tolls.** (1) A public transportation benefit area may, as part of a passenger-only ferry investment plan, recommend some or all of the following revenue sources as provided in this chapter:

(a) A motor vehicle excise tax, as provided in RCW 82.80.130;

(b) A sales and use tax, as provided in RCW 82.14.440;

(c) Tolls for passengers and packages and, where applicable, parking; and

(d) Charges or licensing fees for advertising, leasing space for services to ferry passengers, and other revenue-generating activities.

(2) Taxes may not be imposed without an affirmative vote of the majority of the voters within the boundaries of the area voting on a single ballot proposition to both approve a passenger-only ferry investment plan and to approve taxes to implement the plan. Revenues from these taxes and fees may be used only to implement the plan and must be used for the benefit of the residents of the benefit area. A district may contract with the state department of revenue or other appropriate entities for administration and collection of any of the taxes or charges authorized in this section. [2003 c 83 § 202.]

**Findings—Intent—Captions, part headings not law—Severability—Effective date—2003 c 83:** See notes following RCW 36.57A.200.

**36.57A.220 Passenger-only ferry service between Kingston and Seattle.** A public transportation benefit area seeking grant funding as described in \*RCW 47.01.350 for a passenger-only ferry route between Kingston and Seattle shall first receive approval from the governor after submitting a complete business plan to the governor and the legislature by November 1, 2007. The business plan must, at a minimum, include hours of operation, vessel needs, labor needs, proposed routes, passenger terminal facilities, passenger rates, anticipated federal and local funding, coordination with the Washington state ferry system, coordination with existing transit providers, long-term operation and maintenance needs, and a long-term financial plan. [2007 c 223 § 1; 2006 c 332 § 8.]

\***Reviser's note:** RCW 47.01.350 was repealed by 2017 3rd sp.s. c 25 § 39.

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

**36.57A.222 Passenger-only ferry service districts—Authorized—Investment plan—Dissolution.** (1) A governing body of a public transportation benefit area, located in a county that only borders the western side of Puget Sound with a population of more than two hundred thousand and



contains one or more Washington state ferries terminals, may establish one or more passenger-only ferry service districts within all or a portion of the boundaries of the public transportation benefit area establishing the passenger-only ferry service district. A passenger-only ferry service district may include all or a portion of a city or town as long as all or a portion of the city or town boundaries are within the boundaries of the establishing public transportation benefit area. The members of the public transportation benefit area governing body proposing to establish the passenger-only ferry service district, acting ex officio and independently, constitutes the governing body of the passenger-only ferry service district.

(2) A passenger-only ferry service district may establish, finance, and provide passenger-only ferry service, and associated services to support and augment passenger-only ferry service operation, within its boundaries in the same manner as authorized for public transportation benefit areas under this chapter.

(3) A passenger-only ferry service district constitutes a body corporate and possesses all the usual powers of a corporation for public purposes as well as all other powers that may be conferred by statute including, but not limited to, the authority to hire employees, staff, and services, to enter into contracts, to acquire, hold, and dispose of real and personal property, and to sue and be sued. Public works contract limits applicable to the public transportation benefit area that established the passenger-only ferry service district apply to the district. For purposes of this section, "passenger-only ferry service district" means a quasi-municipal corporation and independent taxing authority within the meaning of Article VII, section 1 of the state Constitution, and a taxing district within the meaning of Article VII, section 2 of the state Constitution, created by the legislative body of a public transportation benefit area.

(4) Before a passenger-only ferry service district may provide passenger-only ferry service, it must develop a passenger-only ferry investment plan, including elements: To operate or contract for the operation of passenger-only ferry services; to purchase, lease, or rent ferry vessels and dock facilities for the provision of transit service; and to identify other activities necessary to implement the plan. The plan must set forth terminal locations to be served, projected costs of providing services, and revenues to be generated from tolls, locally collected tax revenues, and other revenue sources. The plan must ensure that services provided under the plan are for the benefit of the residents of the passenger-only ferry service district. The passenger-only ferry service district may use any of its powers to carry out this purpose, unless otherwise prohibited by law. In addition, the passenger-only ferry service district may enter into: Contracts and agreements to operate passenger-only ferry service; public-private partnerships; and design-build, general contractor/construction management, or other alternative procurement processes substantially consistent with chapter 39.10 RCW.

(5) A passenger-only ferry service district may be dissolved by a majority vote of the governing body when all obligations under any general obligation bonds issued by the passenger-only ferry service district have been discharged and any other contractual obligations of the passenger-only

ferry service district have either been discharged or assumed by another governmental entity. [2015 3rd sp.s. c 44 § 313.]

**Effective date—2015 3rd sp.s. c 44:** See note following RCW 46.68.395.

**36.57A.224 Passenger-only ferry service districts—Revenue.** (1) A passenger-only ferry service district may, as part of a passenger-only ferry investment plan, recommend some or all of the following revenue sources as provided in this chapter:

- (a) A sales and use tax, as authorized in RCW 82.14.445;
- (b) A parking tax, as authorized in RCW 82.80.035;
- (c) Tolls for passengers, packages, and, where applicable, parking; and
- (d) Charges or licensing fees for advertising, leasing space for services to ferry passengers, and other revenue generating activities.

(2) Taxes may not be imposed without an affirmative vote of the majority of the voters within the boundaries of the passenger-only ferry service district voting on a single ballot proposition to both approve a passenger-only ferry investment plan and to approve taxes to implement the plan. Revenues from these taxes and fees may be used only to implement the plan and must be used for the benefit of the residents of the passenger-only ferry service district. A district must contract with the department of revenue for the administration and collection of a sales and use tax as authorized in RCW 82.14.445. A district may contract with other appropriate entities for the administration and collection of any of the other taxes or charges authorized in this section. [2015 3rd sp.s. c 44 § 314.]

**Effective date—2015 3rd sp.s. c 44:** See note following RCW 46.68.395.

**36.57A.226 Passenger-only ferry service districts—Issuance of bonds.** (1) To carry out the purposes of this chapter, a passenger-only ferry service district may issue general obligation bonds, not to exceed an amount, together with any other outstanding nonvoter-approved general obligation indebtedness, equal to one and one-half percent of the value of the taxable property within the area, as the term "value of the taxable property" is defined in RCW 39.36.015. A passenger-only ferry service district may also issue general obligation bonds for capital purposes only, together with any outstanding general obligation indebtedness, not to exceed an amount equal to five percent of the value of the taxable property within the area, as the term "value of the taxable property" is defined in RCW 39.36.015, when authorized by the voters of the area pursuant to Article VIII, section 6 of the state Constitution.

(2) General obligation bonds with a maturity in excess of twenty-five years may not be issued. The governing body of the passenger-only ferry service district must by resolution determine for each general obligation bond issue the amount, date, terms, conditions, denominations, maximum fixed or variable interest rate or rates, maturity or maturities, redemption rights, registration privileges, manner of execution, manner of sale, callable provisions, if any, covenants, and form, including registration as to principal and interest, registration as to principal only, or bearer. Registration may include, but not be limited to: (a) A book entry system of recording the

ownership of a bond whether or not physical bonds are issued, or (b) recording the ownership of a bond together with the requirement that the transfer of ownership may only be effected by the surrender of the old bond and either the reissuance of the old bond or the issuance of a new bond to the new owner. Facsimile signatures may be used on the bonds and any coupons. Refunding general obligation bonds may be issued in the same manner as general obligation bonds are issued.

(3) Whenever general obligation bonds are issued to fund specific projects or enterprises that generate revenues, charges, user fees, or special assessments, the passenger-only ferry service district may specifically pledge all or a portion of the revenues, charges, user fees, or special assessments to refund the general obligation bonds. The passenger-only ferry service district may also pledge any other revenues that may be available to the district.

(4) In addition to general obligation bonds, a passenger-only ferry service district may issue revenue bonds to be issued and sold in accordance with chapter 39.46 RCW. [2015 3rd sp.s. c 44 § 317.]

**Effective date—2015 3rd sp.s. c 44:** See note following RCW 46.68.395.

**36.57A.230 Public transportation fares—Proof of payment—Civil infractions.** (1) Persons traveling on public transportation operated by a public transportation benefit area shall pay the fare established by the public transportation benefit area and shall produce proof of payment in accordance with the terms of use established by the public transportation benefit area. Such persons shall produce proof of payment when requested by a person designated to monitor fare payment. The required manner of producing proof of payment specified in the terms of use established by the public transportation benefit area may include, but is not limited to, requiring a person using an electronic fare payment card to validate the card by presenting the card to an electronic card reader before or upon entering a public transportation vehicle or a restricted fare paid area.

(2) The following constitute civil infractions punishable according to the schedule of fines and penalties established by a public transportation benefit area under RCW 36.57A.235:

(a) Failure to pay the required fare, except when a public transportation benefit area fails to meet the requirements of subsection (3) of this section;

(b) Failure to produce proof of payment in the manner required by the terms of use established by the public transportation benefit area including, but not limited to, the failure to produce a validated fare payment card when requested to do so by a person designated to monitor fare payment; and

(c) Failure to depart the bus or other mode of public transportation when requested to do so by a person designated to monitor fare payment.

(3) If fare payment is required before entering a transit vehicle, as defined in RCW 9.91.025(2)(b), or before entering a fare paid area in a transit facility, as defined in RCW 9.91.025(2)(a), signage must be conspicuously posted at the place of boarding or within ten feet of the nearest entrance to a transit facility that clearly indicates: (a) The locations where tickets or fare media may be purchased; and (b) that a

person using an electronic fare payment card must present the card to an electronic card reader before entering a transit vehicle or before entering a restricted fare paid area. [2012 c 68 § 2; 2008 c 123 § 6.]

**36.57A.235 Public transportation fares—Schedule of fines and penalties—Who may monitor fare payment—Administration of citations.** (1) A public transportation benefit area may establish, by resolution, a schedule of fines and penalties for civil infractions established in RCW 36.57A.230. Fines established shall not exceed those imposed for class 1 infractions under RCW 7.80.120.

(2)(a) A public transportation benefit area may designate persons to monitor fare payment who are equivalent to, and are authorized to exercise all the powers of, an enforcement officer as defined in RCW 7.80.040. A public transportation benefit area may employ personnel to either monitor fare payment or contract for such services, or both.

(b) In addition to the specific powers granted to enforcement officers under RCW 7.80.050 and 7.80.060, persons designated to monitor fare payment may also take the following actions:

(i) Request proof of payment from passengers;

(ii) Request personal identification from a passenger who does not produce proof of payment when requested;

(iii) Issue a citation conforming to the requirements established in RCW 7.80.070; and

(iv) Request that a passenger leave the bus or other mode of public transportation when the passenger has not produced proof of payment after being asked to do so by a person designated to monitor fare payment.

(3) A public transportation benefit area shall keep records of citations in the manner prescribed by RCW 7.80.150. All civil infractions established by this section and RCW 36.57A.230 and 36.57A.240 shall be heard and determined by a district court as provided in RCW 7.80.010 (1) and (4). [2008 c 123 § 7.]

**36.57A.240 Public transportation fares—Powers of law enforcement authorities.** RCW 36.57A.230 and 36.57A.235 do not prevent law enforcement authorities from prosecuting for theft, trespass, or other charges by any individual who:

(1) Fails to pay the required fare on more than one occasion within a twelve-month period;

(2) Fails to timely select one of the options for responding to the notice of civil infraction after receiving a statement of the options for responding to the notice of infraction and the procedures necessary to exercise these options; or

(3) Fails to depart the bus or other mode of public transportation when requested to do so by a person designated to monitor fare payment. [2008 c 123 § 8.]

**36.57A.245 Public transportation fares—Powers and authority are supplemental to other laws.** The powers and authority conferred by RCW 36.57A.230 through 36.57A.240 shall be construed as in addition and supplemental to powers or authority conferred by any other law, and nothing contained therein shall be construed as limiting any other powers or authority of any public agency. [2008 c 123 § 9.]

**36.57A.250 Supplemental transportation improvements.** If the legislative authority of a city provides or contracts for supplemental transportation improvements, as described in RCW 35.21.925 or under chapter 36.73 RCW, a public transportation benefit area serving the city or border jurisdictions shall coordinate its services with the supplemental transportation improvements to maximize efficiencies in public transportation services within and across service boundaries. [2010 c 251 § 5.]

### Chapter 36.58 RCW SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL

#### Sections

36.58.010	Acquisition of solid waste or recyclable materials sites authorized.
36.58.020	Rules and regulations as to use—Penalty.
36.58.030	"Transfer station" defined.
36.58.040	Solid waste handling systems authorized—Disposal sites—Contracts for solid waste handling and collection of source separated recyclable material—Waste reduction and recycling.
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36.58.050	Solid waste disposal—Transfer stations.
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36.58.150	Solid waste disposal district—Excess levies authorized—General obligation and revenue bonds.
36.58.160	Collection and transportation of recyclable materials by recycling companies or nonprofit entities—Reuse or reclamation—Application of chapter.

*Solid waste collection companies: Chapter 81.77 RCW.*

**36.58.010 Acquisition of solid waste or recyclable materials sites authorized.** Any county legislative authority may acquire by purchase or by gift, dedication, or donation, sites for the use of the public in disposing of solid waste or recyclable materials. However, no county legislative authority shall be authorized to require any retail enterprise engaged in the sale of consumer-packaged products to locate or place a public solid waste collection site or buy-back center upon or within a certain distance of the retail establishment as a condition of engaging in the sale of consumer-packaged products. [1989 c 431 § 52; 1963 c 4 § 36.58.010. Prior: 1943 c 87 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 6294-150.]

**36.58.020 Rules and regulations as to use—Penalty.** Any board of county commissioners may make such rules and regulations as may be deemed necessary for the use and occupation of such sites, and may provide for the maintenance and care thereof. Any person violating any of the rules and regulations made by the board relating to the use or occupation of any site owned or occupied by the county for garbage disposal purposes shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

(2022 Ed.)

[1963 c 4 § 36.58.020. Prior: 1943 c 87 § 2; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 6294-151.]

**36.58.030 "Transfer station" defined.** As used in RCW 36.58.030 through 36.58.060, the term "transfer station" means a staffed, fixed supplemental facility used by persons and route collection vehicles to deposit solid wastes into transfer trailers for transportation to a disposal site. This does not include detachable containers, except in counties with a population of less than seventy thousand, and in any county with a population of from one hundred twenty-five thousand to less than two hundred ten thousand that is located east of the crest of the Cascade mountain range, where detachable containers shall be securely fenced, staffed by an attendant during all hours when the detachable container is open to the public, charge a tipping fee that shall cover the cost of providing and for use of the service, and shall be operated as a transfer station. [1991 c 363 § 74; 1989 c 431 § 27; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 58 § 1.]

**Purpose—Captions not law—1991 c 363:** See notes following RCW 2.32.180.

**36.58.040 Solid waste handling systems authorized—Disposal sites—Contracts for solid waste handling and collection of source separated recyclable material—Waste reduction and recycling.** (1) The legislative authority of a county may by ordinance provide for the establishment of a system or systems of solid waste handling for all unincorporated areas of the county or for portions thereof. A county may designate a disposal site or sites for all solid waste collected in the unincorporated areas pursuant to the provisions of a comprehensive solid waste plan adopted pursuant to chapter 70A.205 RCW. However for any solid waste collected by a private hauler operating under a certificate granted by the Washington utilities and transportation commission under the provisions of chapter 81.77 RCW and which certificate is for collection in a geographic area lying in more than one county, such designation of disposal sites shall be pursuant to an interlocal agreement between the involved counties.

(2) A county may construct, lease, purchase, acquire, add to, alter, or extend solid waste handling systems, plants, sites, or other facilities and shall have full jurisdiction and authority to manage, regulate, maintain, utilize, operate, control, and establish the rates and charges for those solid waste handling systems, plants, sites, or other facilities. A county may enter into agreements with public or private parties to: (a) Construct, purchase, acquire, lease, add to, alter, extend, maintain, manage, utilize, or operate publicly or privately owned or operated solid waste handling systems, plants, sites, or other facilities; (b) establish rates and charges for those systems, plants, sites, or other facilities; (c) designate particular publicly or privately owned or operated systems, plants, sites, or other facilities as disposal sites; (d) process, treat, or convert solid waste into other valuable or useful materials or products; and (e) sell the material or products of those systems, plants, or other facilities.

(3) The legislative authority of a county may award contracts for solid waste handling that provide that a county provide for a minimum periodic fee or other method of compensation in consideration of the operational availability of those

solid waste handling systems, plants, sites, or other facilities at a specified minimum level, without regard to the ownership of the systems, plants, sites or other facilities, or the amount of solid waste actually handled during all or any part of the contract. When a minimum level of solid waste is specified in a contract entered into under this section, there shall be a specific allocation of financial responsibility in the event the amount of solid waste handled falls below the minimum level provided in the contract. Solid waste handling systems, plants, sites, or other facilities constructed, purchased, acquired, leased, added to, altered, extended, maintained, managed, utilized, or operated pursuant to this section, whether publicly or privately owned, shall be in substantial compliance with the solid waste management plan applicable to the county adopted pursuant to chapter 70A.205 RCW. Agreements relating to such solid waste handling systems, plants, sites, or other facilities may be for such term and may contain such covenants, conditions, and remedies as the legislative authority of the county may deem necessary or appropriate.

(4) As used in this chapter, the terms "solid waste" and "solid waste handling" shall be as defined in RCW 70A.205.015.

(5) The legislative authority of a county may:

(a) By ordinance award a contract to collect source separated recyclable materials from residences within unincorporated areas. The legislative authority has complete authority to manage, regulate, and fix the price of the source separated recyclable collection service. The contracts may provide that the county pay minimum periodic fees to a municipal entity or permit holder; or

(b) Notify the commission in writing to carry out and implement the provisions of the waste reduction and recycling element of the comprehensive solid waste management plan.

(6) This election may be made by counties at any time after July 23, 1989. An initial election must be made no later than ninety days following approval of the local comprehensive waste management plan required by RCW 70A.205.045.

(7) Nothing in this section shall be construed to authorize the operation of a solid waste collection system by counties or to authorize counties to affect the authority of the utilities and transportation commission under RCW 81.77.020. [2020 c 20 § 1022; 1992 c 131 § 3. Prior: 1989 c 431 § 28; 1989 c 399 § 9; 1986 c 282 § 20; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 58 § 2.]

**Severability—Legislative findings—Construction—Liberal construction—Supplemental powers—1986 c 282:** See notes following RCW 35.21.156.

**36.58.045 County may impose fee upon solid waste collection services—Revenue to fund compliance with comprehensive solid waste management plan.** (1) The legislative authority of any county may impose a fee upon the solid waste collection services of a solid waste collection company operating within the unincorporated areas of the county, to fund the administration and planning expenses that may be incurred by the county in complying with the requirements in RCW 70A.205.045. The fee may be in addition to any other solid waste services fees and charges a county may legally impose.

(2) Each county imposing the fee authorized by this section shall notify the Washington utilities and transportation commission and the affected solid waste collection companies of the amount of the fee ninety days prior to its implementation. [2020 c 20 § 1023; 1989 c 431 § 15.]

**36.58.050 Solid waste disposal—Transfer stations.** When a comprehensive solid waste plan, as provided in RCW 70A.205.040, incorporates the use of transfer stations, such stations shall be considered part of the disposal site and as such, along with the transportation of solid wastes between disposal sites, shall be exempt from regulation by the Washington utilities and transportation commission as provided in chapter 81.77 RCW.

Each county may enter into contracts for the hauling of trailers of solid wastes from these transfer stations to disposal sites and return either by (1) the normal bidding process, or (2) negotiation with the qualified collection company servicing the area under authority of chapter 81.77 RCW. [2020 c 20 § 1024; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 58 § 3.]

**36.58.060 Solid waste disposal—Ownership of solid wastes—Responsibility for handling.** Ownership of solid wastes shall be vested in the person or local jurisdiction managing disposal and/or resource recovery facilities upon the arrival of said solid wastes at said facility: PROVIDED, That the original owner retains ownership of the solid wastes until they arrive at the disposal site or transfer station or detachable container, and the original owner has the right of recovery to any valuable items inadvertently discarded: PROVIDED FURTHER, That the person or agency providing the collection service shall be responsible for the proper handling of the solid wastes from the point of collection to the disposal or recovery facility. [1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 58 § 4.]

**36.58.080 County solid waste facilities—Exempt from municipal taxes—Charges to mitigate impacts—Negotiation and arbitration.** County-owned solid waste facilities shall not be subject to any tax or excise imposed by any city or town. Cities or towns may charge counties to mitigate impacts directly attributable to the solid waste facility: PROVIDED, That any city or town establishes that such charges are reasonably necessary to mitigate such impacts and that revenue generated from such charges is expended only to mitigate such impacts. Impacts resulting from commercial and residential solid waste collection within any city or town shall not be considered to be directly attributable to the solid waste facility. In the event that no agreement can be reached between the city or town and the county following a reasonable period of good faith negotiations, including mediation where appropriate, the matter shall be resolved by a board of arbitrators, to be convened at the request of either party, such board of arbitrators to consist of a representative from the city or town involved, a representative of the county, and a third representative to be appointed by the other two representatives. If no agreement can be reached with regard to said third representative, the third representative shall be appointed by a judge of the superior court of the county of the jurisdiction owning the solid waste facility. The determination by the board of arbitrators of the sum to be paid by the county shall be binding on all parties. Each party shall pay the

costs of their individual representatives on the board of arbitrators and they shall pay one-half of the cost of the third representative. [1983 c 171 § 1; 1982 c 175 § 8.]

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

**36.58.090 Contracts with vendors for solid waste handling systems, plants, sites, or facilities—Requirements—Vendor selection procedures.** (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of any county charter or any law to the contrary, and in addition to any other authority provided by law, the legislative authority of a county may contract with one or more vendors for one or more of the design, construction, or operation of, or other service related to, the solid waste handling systems, plants, sites, or other facilities in accordance with the procedures set forth in this section. When a contract for design services is entered into separately from other services permitted under this section, procurement shall be in accord with chapter 39.80 RCW. For the purpose of this chapter, the term "legislative authority" shall mean the board of county commissioners or, in the case of a home rule charter county, the official, officials, or public body designated by the charter to perform the functions authorized therein.

(2) If the legislative authority of the county decides to proceed with the consideration of qualifications or proposals for services from vendors, the county shall publish notice of its requirements and request submission of qualifications statements or proposals. The notice shall be published in the official newspaper of the county at least once a week for two weeks not less than sixty days before the final date for the submission of qualifications statements or proposals. The notice shall state in summary form (a) the general scope and nature of the design, construction, operation, or other service, (b) the name and address of a representative of the county who can provide further details, (c) the final date for the submission of qualifications statements or proposals, (d) an estimated schedule for the consideration of qualifications, the selection of vendors, and the negotiation of a contract or contracts for services, (e) the location at which a copy of any request for qualifications or request for proposals will be made available, and (f) the criteria established by the legislative authority to select a vendor or vendors, which may include but shall not be limited to the vendor's prior experience, including design, construction, or operation of other similar facilities; respondent's management capability, schedule availability and financial resources; cost of the services, nature of facility design proposed by the vendor; system reliability; performance standards required for the facilities; compatibility with existing service facilities operated by the public body or other providers of service to the public; project performance guarantees; penalty and other enforcement provisions; environmental protection measures to be used; consistency with the applicable comprehensive solid waste management plan; and allocation of project risks.

(3) If the legislative authority of the county decides to proceed with the consideration of qualifications or proposals, it may designate a representative to evaluate the vendors who submitted qualifications statements or proposals and conduct discussions regarding qualifications or proposals with one or more vendors. The legislative authority or representative may request submission of qualifications statements and may later request more detailed proposals from one or more vendors

who have submitted qualifications statements, or the representative may request detailed proposals without having first received and evaluated qualifications statements. The representative shall evaluate the qualifications or proposals, as applicable. If two or more vendors submit qualifications or proposals that meet the criteria established by the legislative authority of the county, discussions and interviews shall be held with at least two vendors. Any revisions to a request for qualifications or request for proposals shall be made available to all vendors then under consideration by the city or town and shall be made available to any other person who has requested receipt of that information.

(4) Based on criteria established by the legislative authority of the county, the representative shall recommend to the legislative authority a vendor or vendors that are initially determined to be the best qualified to provide one or more of the design, construction, or operation of, or other service related to, the proposed project or services. The legislative authority may select one or more qualified vendors for one or more of the design, construction, or operation of, or other service related to, the proposed project or services.

(5) The legislative authority or its representative may attempt to negotiate a contract with the vendor or vendors selected for one or more of the design, construction, or operation of, or other service related to, the proposed project or services on terms that the legislative authority determines to be fair and reasonable and in the best interest of the county. If the legislative authority or its representative is unable to negotiate such a contract with any one or more of the vendors first selected on terms that it determines to be fair and reasonable and in the best interest of the county, negotiations with any one or more of the vendors shall be terminated or suspended and another qualified vendor or vendors may be selected in accordance with the procedures set forth in this section. If the legislative authority decides to continue the process of selection, negotiations shall continue with a qualified vendor or vendors in accordance with this section at the sole discretion of the legislative authority until an agreement is reached with one or more qualified vendors, or the process is terminated by the legislative authority. The process may be repeated until an agreement is reached.

(6) Prior to entering into a contract with a vendor, the legislative authority of the county shall make written findings, after holding a public hearing on the proposal, that it is in the public interest to enter into the contract, that the contract is financially sound, and that it is advantageous for the county to use this method for awarding contracts compared to other methods.

(7) Each contract shall include a project performance bond or bonds or other security by the vendor that in the judgment of the legislative authority of the county is sufficient to secure adequate performance by the vendor.

(8) The provisions of chapters 39.12, 39.19, and \*39.25 RCW shall apply to a contract entered into under this section to the same extent as if the systems and plants were owned by a public body.

(9) The vendor selection process permitted by this section shall be supplemental to and shall not be construed as a repeal of or limitation on any other authority granted by law.

(10) The alternative selection process provided by this section may not be used in the selection of a person or entity

to construct a publicly owned facility for the storage or transfer of solid waste or solid waste handling equipment unless the facility is either (a) privately operated pursuant to a contract greater than five years, or (b) an integral part of a solid waste processing facility located on the same site. Instead, the applicable provisions of RCW 36.32.250 and chapters 39.04 and 39.30 RCW shall be followed. [1992 c 131 § 4; 1989 c 399 § 10; 1986 c 282 § 19.]

\*Reviser's note: Chapter 39.25 RCW was repealed by 1994 c 138 § 2.

**Severability—Legislative findings—Construction—Liberal construction—Supplemental powers—1986 c 282:** See notes following RCW 35.21.156.

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

**36.58.100 Solid waste disposal district—Authorized—Boundaries—Powers—Governing body.** The legislative authority of any county with a population of less than one million is authorized to establish one or more solid waste disposal districts within the county for the purpose of providing and funding solid waste disposal services. No solid waste disposal district may include any area within the corporate limits of a city or town unless the city or town governing body adopts a resolution approving inclusion of the area within its limits. The county legislative authority may modify the boundaries of the solid waste disposal district by the same procedure used to establish the district. A solid waste disposal district may be dissolved by the county legislative authority after holding a hearing as provided in RCW 36.58.110.

As used in RCW 36.58.100 through 36.58.150 the term "county" includes all counties other than a county with a population of one million or more.

A solid waste disposal district is a quasi-municipal corporation, an independent taxing "authority" within the meaning of Article VII, section 1 of the state Constitution, and a "taxing district" within the meaning of Article VII, section 2 of the state Constitution.

A solid waste disposal district shall constitute a body corporate and shall possess all the usual powers of a corporation for public purposes as well as all other powers that may now or hereafter be specifically conferred by statute: PROVIDED, That a solid waste disposal district shall not have the power of eminent domain.

The county legislative authority shall be the governing body of a solid waste disposal district. The electors of a solid waste disposal district shall be all registered voters residing within the district. [1991 c 363 § 75; 1982 c 175 § 1.]

**Purpose—Captions not law—1991 c 363:** See notes following RCW 2.32.180.

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

**36.58.110 Solid waste disposal district—Establishment, modification, or dissolution—Hearing—Notice.** A county legislative authority proposing to establish a solid waste disposal district or to modify or dissolve an existing solid waste disposal district shall conduct a hearing at the time and place specified in a notice published at least once not less than ten days prior to the hearing in a newspaper of general circulation within the proposed solid waste disposal district. This notice shall be in addition to any other notice required by law to be published. Additional notice of such

hearing may be given by mail, posting within the proposed solid waste disposal district, or in any manner local authorities deem necessary to notify affected persons. All hearings shall be public and the county legislative authority shall hear objections from any person affected by the formation, modification, or dissolution of the solid waste disposal district and make such changes in the boundaries of the district or any other modifications that the county legislative authority deems necessary. [1982 c 175 § 2.]

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

**36.58.120 Solid waste disposal district—Establishment—Ordinance.** No solid waste disposal district shall be established within a county unless the county legislative authority determines, following a hearing held pursuant to RCW 36.58.110, that it is in the public interest to form the district and the county legislative authority adopts an ordinance creating the solid waste disposal district and establishing its boundaries. [1982 c 175 § 3.]

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

**36.58.130 Solid waste disposal district—Powers—Restrictions—Fees.** A solid waste disposal district may provide for all aspects of disposing of solid wastes. All moneys received by a solid waste disposal district shall be used exclusively for district purposes. Nothing in this chapter shall permit waste disposal districts to engage in the collection of residential or commercial garbage.

A solid waste disposal district shall perform all construction in excess of twenty-five thousand dollars by contract let pursuant to RCW 36.32.250.

A solid waste disposal district may collect disposal fees based exclusively upon utilization by weight or volume for accepting solid wastes at a disposal site or transfer station. The county may transfer moneys to a solid waste disposal district to be used for district purposes. [1982 c 175 § 4.]

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

**36.58.140 Solid waste disposal district—Excise tax—Lien for delinquent taxes and penalties.** A solid waste disposal district may levy and collect an excise tax on the privilege of living in or operating a business in a solid waste disposal taxing district sufficient to fund its solid waste disposal activities: PROVIDED, That any property which is producing commercial garbage shall be exempt if the owner is providing regular collection and disposal. The excise tax shall be billed and collected at times and in the manner fixed and determined by the solid waste disposal district. Penalties for failure to pay the tax on time may be provided for. A solid waste disposal district shall have a lien for delinquent taxes and penalties, plus an interest rate equal to the interest rate for delinquent property taxes. The lien shall be attached to each parcel of property in the district that is occupied by the person so taxed and shall be superior to all other liens and encumbrances except liens for property taxes.

The solid waste disposal district shall periodically certify the delinquencies to the county treasurer at which time the lien shall be attached. The lien shall be foreclosed in the same manner as the foreclosure of real property taxes. [1982 c 175 § 5.]

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

**36.58.150 Solid waste disposal district—Excess levies authorized—General obligation and revenue bonds.** (1) A solid waste disposal district shall not have the power to levy an annual levy without voter approval, but it shall have the power to levy a tax, in excess of the one percent limitation, upon the property within the district for a one year period to be used for operating or capital purposes whenever authorized by the electors of the district pursuant to RCW 84.52.052 and Article VII, section 2(a) of the state Constitution.

A solid waste disposal district may issue general obligation bonds for capital purposes only, subject to the limitations prescribed in RCW 39.36.020(1), and may provide for the retirement of the bonds by voter-approved bond retirement tax levies pursuant to Article VII, section 2(b) of the state Constitution and RCW 84.52.056. Such general obligation bonds shall be issued and sold in accordance with chapter 39.46 RCW.

A solid waste disposal district may issue revenue bonds to fund its activities. Such revenue bonds may be in any form, including bearer bonds or registered bonds as provided in RCW 39.46.030.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, such revenue bonds may be issued and sold in accordance with chapter 39.46 RCW. [1984 c 186 § 25; 1983 c 167 § 71; 1982 c 175 § 6.]

**Purpose—1984 c 186:** See note following RCW 39.46.110.

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

**36.58.160 Collection and transportation of recyclable materials by recycling companies or nonprofit entities—Reuse or reclamation—Application of chapter.** Nothing in this chapter shall prevent a recycling company or nonprofit entity from collecting and transporting recyclable materials from a buy-back center, drop-box, or from a commercial or industrial generator of recyclable materials, or upon agreement with a solid waste collection company.

Nothing in this chapter shall be construed as prohibiting a commercial or industrial generator of commercial recyclable materials from selling, conveying, or arranging for transportation of such material to a recycler for reuse or reclamation. [1989 c 431 § 34.]

## Chapter 36.58A RCW

### SOLID WASTE COLLECTION DISTRICTS

#### Sections

- 36.58A.010 Authorized—Conditions—Modification or dissolution of district.
- 36.58A.020 Hearings upon establishing, modification or dissolution of district—Notice—Scope.
- 36.58A.030 County legislative authority determination required to establish district—Commission findings as to present services.
- 36.58A.040 County may collect fees of garbage and refuse collection company—Disposition of fees—Subrogation—Lien.

*Dissolution of inactive special purpose districts: Chapter 36.96 RCW.*

**36.58A.010 Authorized—Conditions—Modification or dissolution of district.** Any county legislative authority may establish solid waste collection districts within the county boundaries for the mandatory collection of solid waste: PROVIDED, That no such district shall include any area within the corporate limits of any city or town without

the consent of the legislative authority of the city or town. Such districts may be established only after approval of a coordinated, comprehensive solid waste management plan adopted pursuant to chapter 134, Laws of 1969 ex. sess. and chapter 70A.205 RCW or pursuant to another solid waste management plan adopted prior to May 21, 1971 or within one year thereafter. The legislative authority of the county may modify or dissolve such district after a hearing as provided for in RCW 36.58A.020. [2020 c 20 § 1025; 1971 ex.s. c 293 § 2.]

*Certain provisions not to detract from commission powers, duties, and functions: RCW 80.01.300.*

**36.58A.020 Hearings upon establishing, modification or dissolution of district—Notice—Scope.** The county legislative authority proposing to establish a solid waste collection district or to modify or dissolve an existing solid waste collection district shall conduct a hearing at the time and place specified in a notice published at least once not less than ten days prior to the hearing in a newspaper of general circulation within the county. Additional notice of such hearing may be given by mail, posting on the property, or in any manner local authorities deem necessary to notify adjacent landowners and the public. All hearings shall be public and the legislative authority shall hear objections from any person affected by the formation of the solid waste collection district and make such changes in the boundaries of the district or any other modifications of plans that the legislative authority deems necessary. [1971 ex.s. c 293 § 3.]

*Certain provisions not to detract from commission powers, duties, and functions: RCW 80.01.300.*

**36.58A.030 County legislative authority determination required to establish district—Commission findings as to present services.** No solid waste collection district shall be established in an area within the county boundaries unless the county legislative authority, after the hearing regarding formation of such district, determines from that hearing that mandatory solid waste collection is in the public interest and necessary for the preservation of public health. Such determination by the county legislative authority shall require the utilities and transportation commission to investigate and make a finding as to the ability and willingness of the existing garbage and refuse collection companies servicing the area to provide the required service.

If the utilities and transportation commission finds that the existing garbage and refuse collection company or companies are unable or unwilling to provide the required service it shall proceed to issue a certificate of public need and necessity to any qualified person or corporation in accordance with the provisions of RCW 81.77.040.

The utilities and transportation commission shall notify the county legislative authority within sixty days of its findings and actions and if no qualified garbage and refuse collection company or companies are available in the proposed solid waste collection district, the county legislative authority may provide county garbage and refuse collection services in the area and charge and collect reasonable fees therefor. The county shall not provide service in any portion of the area found by the utilities and transportation commission to be receiving adequate service from an existing certificated car-

rier unless the county shall acquire the rights of such existing certificated carrier by purchase or condemnation. [1971 ex.s. c 293 § 4.]

*Certain provisions not to detract from commission powers, duties, and functions: RCW 80.01.300.*

**36.58A.040 County may collect fees of garbage and refuse collection company—Disposition of fees—Subrogation—Lien.** If any garbage and refuse collection company certified by the utilities and transportation commission which operates in any solid waste collection district fails to collect any fees due and payable to it for garbage and refuse collection services, such company may request the county to collect such fees. Upon the collection of such fees, the county shall pay one-half of the fees actually collected to the garbage and refuse collection company entitled to receive such and shall deposit the remaining one-half in the county general fund.

When the county undertakes to collect such fees as requested by the garbage and refuse collection companies, the county shall be subrogated to all of the rights of such companies. Any such fees which the county fails to collect shall become liens on the real or personal property of the persons owing such fees and the county may take all appropriate legal action to enforce such liens. [1971 ex.s. c 293 § 6.]

*Certain provisions not to detract from commission powers, duties, and functions: RCW 80.01.300.*

## Chapter 36.60 RCW COUNTY RAIL DISTRICTS

### Sections

36.60.010	Establishment of district—Boundaries—Powers.
36.60.020	Establishment, modification, or dissolution of district—Public notice and hearing—Election.
36.60.030	Authority of district to provide rail service.
36.60.040	Excess property tax levies authorized.
36.60.050	General obligation bonds authorized—Limitations—Terms.
36.60.060	Revenue bonds authorized—Limitations—Terms.
36.60.070	Power of eminent domain.
36.60.100	Establishment, modification, or dissolution of district—Alternate method.
36.60.110	Establishment, modification, or dissolution of district—Alternate method—Petition.
36.60.120	Establishment, modification, or dissolution of district—Alternate method—Public hearing.
36.60.130	Establishment, modification, or dissolution of district—Alternate method—Determination by county legislative authority.
36.60.140	Annexation by boundary modification—Assumption of outstanding indebtedness.
36.60.900	Liberal construction.

**36.60.010 Establishment of district—Boundaries—Powers.** Subject to RCW 36.60.020, the legislative authority of a county may establish one or more county rail districts within the county for the purpose of providing and funding improved rail freight or passenger service, or both. The boundaries of county rail districts shall be drawn to include contiguous property in an area from which agricultural or other goods could be shipped by the rail service provided. The district shall not include property outside this area which does not, or, in the judgment of the county legislative authority, is not expected to produce goods which can be shipped by rail, or property substantially devoted to fruit crops or producing goods that are shipped in a direction away from the district. A county rail district is a quasi municipal corpora-

tion, an independent taxing "authority" within the meaning of Article VII, section 1 of the state Constitution, and a "taxing district" within the meaning of Article VII, section 2 of the state Constitution.

A county rail district shall constitute a body corporate and shall possess all the usual powers of a corporation for public purposes as well as all other powers that may now or hereafter be specifically conferred by statute, including, but not limited to, the authority to hire employees, staff, and services, to enter into contracts, to accept and expend or use gifts, grants, and donations, and to sue and be sued.

The county legislative authority shall be the governing body of a county rail district. The county treasurer shall act as the ex officio treasurer of the county rail district. The electors of a district are all registered voters residing within the district.

This authority and that provided in RCW 36.60.030 may only be exercised outside the boundaries of the county rail district if such extraterritorial rail services, equipment, or facilities are found, by resolution of the county legislative authority exercising such authority, to be reasonably necessary to link the rail services, equipment, and facilities within the rail district to an interstate railroad system; however, if such extraterritorial rail services, equipment, or facilities are in or are to be located in one or more other counties, the legislative authority of such other county must consent by resolution to the proposed plan of the originating county which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld. [2001 c 58 § 1; 1985 c 187 § 1; 1983 c 303 § 8.]

**36.60.020 Establishment, modification, or dissolution of district—Public notice and hearing—Election.** (1) A county legislative authority proposing to establish a county rail district, or to modify the boundaries of an existing county rail district, or to dissolve an existing county rail district, shall conduct a hearing at the time and place specified in a notice published at least once, not less than ten days prior to the hearing, in a newspaper of general circulation within the proposed county rail district. This notice shall be in addition to any other notice required by law to be published. Additional notice of the hearing may be given by mail, posting within the proposed county rail district, or in any manner the county legislative authority deems necessary to notify affected persons. All hearings shall be public and the county legislative authority shall hear objections from any person affected by the formation, modification of the boundaries, or dissolution of the county rail district.

(2) Following the hearing held under subsection (1) of this section, the county legislative authority may adopt a resolution providing for the submission of a proposal to establish a county rail district, modify the boundaries of an existing county rail district, or dissolve an existing county rail district, if the county legislative authority finds the proposal to be in the public interest. The resolution shall contain the boundaries of the district if applicable.

A proposition to create a county rail district, modify the boundaries of an existing county rail district, or dissolve an existing rail district shall be submitted to the affected voters at the next general election held sixty or more days after the adoption of the resolution providing for the submittal by the county legislative authority. The resolution shall establish the



boundaries of the district and include a finding that the creation of the district is in the public interest and that the area included within the district can reasonably be expected to benefit from its creation. No portion of a city may be included in such a district unless the entire city is included.

The district shall be created upon approval of the proposition by simple majority vote. The ballot proposition submitted to the voters shall be in substantially the following form:

FORMATION OF COUNTY RAIL DISTRICT . . . . .  
Shall a county rail district be established for the area described in a resolution of the legislative authority of . . . . . county, adopted on the . . . . day of . . . . . (year) . . . . ?  
Yes . . . . .  
No . . . . .

[2016 c 202 § 30; 1983 c 303 § 9.]  
*Dissolution of inactive special purpose districts: Chapter 36.96 RCW.*

**36.60.030 Authority of district to provide rail service.** A county rail district is authorized to contract with a person, partnership, or corporation to provide rail service along a light-density essential-service rail line for the purpose of carrying commodities. The district shall also have the power to acquire, maintain, improve, or extend rail facilities within the district that are necessary for the safe and efficient operation of the contracted rail service. A county rail district may receive state rail assistance under chapter 47.76 RCW. Two or more county rail districts may enter into interlocal cooperation agreements under chapter 39.34 RCW to carry out the purposes of this chapter. [1983 c 303 § 10.]

**36.60.040 Excess property tax levies authorized.** A county rail district is not authorized to impose a regular ad valorem property tax levy but may:

- (1) Levy an ad valorem property tax, in excess of the one percent limitation, upon the property within the district for a one-year period to be used for operating or capital purposes whenever authorized by the voters of the district pursuant to RCW 84.52.052 and Article VII, section 2(a) of the state Constitution.
- (2) Provide for the retirement of voter approved general obligation bonds, issued for capital purposes only, by levying bond retirement ad valorem property tax levies, in excess of the one percent limitation, whenever authorized by the voters of the district pursuant to Article VII, section 2(b) of the state Constitution and RCW 84.52.056. [1983 c 303 § 11.]

**36.60.050 General obligation bonds authorized—Limitations—Terms.** (1) To carry out the purpose of this chapter, a county rail district may issue general obligation bonds, not to exceed an amount, together with any outstanding nonvoter approved general obligation indebtedness, equal to three-eighths of one percent of the value of taxable property within the district, as the term "value of taxable property" is defined in RCW 39.36.015. A county rail district may additionally issue general obligation bonds for capital purposes only, together with any outstanding general obligation indebtedness, not to exceed an amount equal to one and one-fourth percent of the value of the taxable property within the district, as the term "value of taxable property" is defined in

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RCW 39.36.015, as prescribed in Article VIII, section 6 of the state Constitution, and to provide for the retirement thereof by excess property tax levies as provided in RCW 36.60.040(2). The county rail district may submit a single proposition to the voters which, if approved, authorizes both the issuance of the bonds and the bond retirement property tax levies.

(2) General obligation bonds with a maturity in excess of forty years shall not be issued. The governing body of the county rail district shall by resolution determine for each general obligation bond issue the amount, date or dates, terms, conditions, denominations, interest rate or rates, which may be fixed or variable, maturity or maturities, redemption rights, registration privileges, manner of execution, price, manner of sale, and covenants. The bonds may be in any form, including bearer bonds or registered bonds. Facsimile signatures may be used on the bonds and any coupons. Refunding general obligation bonds may be issued in the same manner as general obligation bonds are issued.

(3) Whenever general obligation bonds are issued to fund specific projects or enterprises that generate revenues, charges, user fees, or special assessments, the county rail district which issues the bonds may specifically pledge all or a portion of the revenues, charges, user fees, or special assessments to refund the general obligation bonds. [1983 c 303 § 12.]

**36.60.060 Revenue bonds authorized—Limitations—Terms.** (1) A county rail district may issue revenue bonds to fund revenue generating facilities which it is authorized to provide or operate. Whenever revenue bonds are to be issued, the governing body of the district shall create or have created a special fund or funds for the sole purpose of paying the principal of and interest on the bonds of each such issue, into which fund or funds the governing body may obligate the district to pay such amounts of the gross revenue of all or any part of the facilities constructed, acquired, improved, repaired, or replaced pursuant to this chapter as the governing body determines.

(2) The governing body of a county rail district issuing revenue bonds shall create a special fund or funds from which, along with any reserves created under RCW 39.44.140, the principal and interest on the revenue bonds shall exclusively be payable. The governing body may obligate the county rail district to set aside and pay into the special fund or funds a fixed proportion or a fixed amount of the revenues from the public improvements, projects, facilities, and all related additions funded by the revenue bonds. This amount or proportion shall be a lien and charge against these revenues, subject only to operating and maintenance expenses. The governing body shall consider the cost of operation and maintenance of the public improvement, project, facility, or additions funded by the revenue bonds and shall not place into the special fund or funds a greater amount or proportion of the revenues than it thinks will be available after maintenance and operation expenses have been paid and after the payment of revenue previously pledged. The governing body may also provide that revenue bonds payable from the same source or sources of revenue may later be issued on parity with any revenue bonds issued and sold.

(3) Revenue bonds issued pursuant to this section shall not be an indebtedness of the county rail district issuing the bonds, and the interest and principal on the bonds shall only be payable from the revenues lawfully pledged to meet the principal and interest requirements and any reserves created pursuant to RCW 39.44.140. The owner of a revenue bond or any interest coupon issued pursuant to this section shall not have any claim against the county rail district arising from the bond or coupon except for payment from the revenues lawfully pledged to meet the principal and interest requirements and any reserves created pursuant to RCW 39.44.140. The substance of the limitations included in this subsection shall be plainly printed, written, or engraved on each bond issued pursuant to this section.

(4) Revenue bonds with a maturity in excess of thirty years shall not be issued. The governing body of the county rail district shall by resolution determine for each revenue bond issue the amount, date, terms, conditions, denominations, maximum fixed or variable interest rate or rates, maturity or maturities, redemption rights, registration privileges, manner of execution, manner of sale, callable provisions, if any, and covenants including the refunding of existing revenue bonds. The bonds may be in any form, including bearer bonds or registered bonds. Facsimile signatures may be used on the bonds and any coupons. Refunding revenue bonds may be issued in the same manner as revenue bonds are issued. [1983 c 303 § 13.]

**36.60.070 Power of eminent domain.** A county rail district may exercise the power of eminent domain to obtain property for its authorized purposes in the manner counties exercise the powers of eminent domain. [1983 c 303 § 14.]

*Eminent domain by counties: Chapter 8.08 RCW.*

**36.60.100 Establishment, modification, or dissolution of district—Alternate method.** The method of establishing, modifying, or dissolving a county rail district in RCW 36.60.110 through 36.60.130 is an alternate method to that specified in RCW 36.60.020. [1986 c 26 § 1.]

**36.60.110 Establishment, modification, or dissolution of district—Alternate method—Petition.** A petition to establish, modify the boundaries, or dissolve a county rail district shall be filed with the county legislative authority. The petition shall be signed by the owners of property valued at not less than seventy-five percent according to the assessed valuation for general taxation of the property for which establishment, modification or dissolution is petitioned. The petition shall set forth a legal description of the property and shall be accompanied by a plat which outlines the boundaries of the property sought to be annexed. [1986 c 26 § 2.]

**36.60.120 Establishment, modification, or dissolution of district—Alternate method—Public hearing.** If a petition to establish, modify the boundaries, or dissolve a county rail district is filed with the county legislative authority that complies with the requirements specified in RCW 36.60.110, the legislative authority may accept the petition, fix a date for a public hearing, and publish notice of the hearing in one issue of the official county newspaper. The notice shall also be posted in three public places within the area pro-

posed for establishment, modification, or dissolution, and shall specify the time and place of hearing. The expense of publication and posting of the notice shall be paid by the signers of the petition. [1986 c 26 § 3.]

**36.60.130 Establishment, modification, or dissolution of district—Alternate method—Determination by county legislative authority.** Following the hearing, the county legislative authority shall determine by resolution whether the area proposed shall establish, modify the boundaries, or dissolve the county rail district. They may include all or any portion of the proposed area but may not include any property not described in the petition. [1986 c 26 § 4.]

**36.60.140 Annexation by boundary modification—Assumption of outstanding indebtedness.** All property annexed to a county rail district by a boundary modification under RCW 36.60.110 through 36.60.130 shall assume all or any portion of the outstanding indebtedness of the county rail district existing at the date of modification. [1986 c 26 § 5.]

**36.60.900 Liberal construction.** The rule of strict construction does not apply to this chapter, and this chapter shall be liberally construed to permit the accomplishment of its purposes. [1983 c 303 § 15.]

## Chapter 36.61 RCW

### LAKE AND BEACH MANAGEMENT DISTRICTS

#### Sections

36.61.010	Findings—Intent—Purpose.
36.61.020	Creation of district—Special assessments or rates and charges.
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36.61.030	Creation of district—Resolution or petition—Contents.
36.61.040	Creation of district—Public hearing—Notice—Contents.
36.61.050	Creation of district—Public hearing—Amendments to original plan.
36.61.060	Creation of district—Public hearing—Legislative authority may delegate responsibility.
36.61.070	Creation of district—Submittal of question to landowners.
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36.61.150	Special assessment roll—Appeal to superior and appellate courts—Procedure.
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*Assessments and charges against state lands: Chapter 79.44 RCW.*

*Boat trailer fee: RCW 46.17.305.*

**36.61.010 Findings—Intent—Purpose.** (1) The legislature finds that the environmental, recreational, and aesthetic values of many of the state's lakes are threatened by eutrophication and other deterioration and that existing governmental authorities are unable to adequately improve and maintain the quality of the state's lakes.

(2) The legislature intends that an ecosystem-based beach management approach should be used to help promote the health of aquatic ecosystems and that such a management approach be undertaken in a manner that retains ecosystem values within the state. This management approach should use long-term strategies that focus on reducing nutrient inputs from human activities affecting the aquatic ecosystem, such as decreasing nutrients into stormwater sewers, decreasing fertilizer application, promoting the proper disposal of pet waste, promoting the use of vegetative borders, promoting the reduction of nutrients from on-site septic systems where appropriate, and protecting riparian areas. Organic debris, including vegetation, driftwood, seaweed, kelp, and organisms, are extremely important to beach ecosystems.

(3) The legislature further finds that it is in the public interest to promote the conservation and stewardship of shorelines and upland properties adjoining lakes and beaches in order to: (a) Conserve natural or scenic resources; (b) protect riparian habitats and water quality; (c) promote conservation of soils, wetlands, shorelines, or tidal marshes; (d) enhance the value of lakes or beaches to the public as well as the benefit of abutting or neighboring parks, forests, wildlife preserves, nature reservations or sanctuaries, or other open space; (e) enhance recreation opportunities; (f) preserve historic sites; and (g) protect visual quality along highway, road, street, trail, recreational, and other corridors or scenic vistas.

(4) It is the purpose of this chapter to establish a governmental mechanism by which property owners can embark on a program of lake or beach improvement and maintenance for their and the general public's benefit, health, and welfare. Public property, including state property, shall be considered the same as private property in this chapter, except liens for special assessments and liens for rates and charges shall not extend to public property. Lake bottom property and marine property below the line of the ordinary high water mark shall not be considered to be benefited, shall not be subject to special assessments or rates and charges, and shall not receive voting rights under this chapter. [2014 c 85 § 1; 2008 c 301 § 1; 1987 c 432 § 1; 1985 c 398 § 1.]

**36.61.020 Creation of district—Special assessments or rates and charges.** (1) Any county may create lake or beach management districts to finance: (a) The improvement and maintenance of lakes or beaches located within or partially within the boundaries of the county; and (b) the acquisition of real property or property rights within or outside a lake or beach management district including, by way of example, conservation easements authorized under RCW 64.04.130, and to promote the conservation and stewardship

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of shorelines as well as the conservation and stewardship of upland properties adjoining lakes or beaches for conservation or for minimal development. All or a portion of a lake or beach and the adjacent land areas may be included within one or more lake or beach management districts. More than one lake or beach, or portions of lakes or beaches, and the adjacent land areas may be included in a single lake or beach management district.

(2) For the purposes of this chapter, the term "improvement" includes, among other things, the acquisition of real property and property rights within or outside a lake or beach management district for the purposes set forth in RCW 36.61.010 and this section.

(3) Special assessments or rates and charges may be imposed on the property included within a lake or beach management district to finance lake or beach improvement and maintenance activities, including: (a) Controlling or removing aquatic plants and vegetation; (b) improving water quality; (c) controlling water levels; (d) treating and diverting stormwater; (e) controlling agricultural waste; (f) studying lake or marine water quality problems and solutions; (g) cleaning and maintaining ditches and streams entering the lake or marine waters or leaving the lake; (h) monitoring air quality; (i) the acquisition of real property and property rights; and (j) the related administrative, engineering, legal, and operational costs, including the costs of creating the lake or beach management district.

(4) Special assessments or rates and charges may be imposed annually on all the land in a lake or beach management district for the duration of the lake or beach management district without a related issuance of lake or beach management district bonds or revenue bonds. Special assessments also may be imposed in the manner of special assessments in a local improvement district with each landowner being given the choice of paying the entire special assessment in one payment, or to paying installments, with lake or beach management district bonds being issued to obtain moneys not derived by the initial full payment of the special assessments, and the installments covering all of the costs related to issuing, selling, and redeeming the lake or beach management district bonds. [2014 c 85 § 2; 2008 c 301 § 3; 2000 c 184 § 5; 1987 c 432 § 2; 1985 c 398 § 2.]

*Cities and towns authorized to establish lake and beach management districts: RCW 35.21.403.*

*Flood control districts authorized to engage in activities under RCW 36.61.020: RCW 86.09.151.*

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

**36.61.025 Creation of district—Duration.** To improve the ability of counties to finance long-term lake or beach management objectives, lake or beach management districts may be created for any needed period of time. [2008 c 301 § 4; 2000 c 184 § 4.]

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

**36.61.030 Creation of district—Resolution or petition—Contents.** A lake or beach management district may be initiated upon either the adoption of a resolution of intention by a county legislative authority or the filing of a petition signed by ten landowners or the owners of at least twenty percent of the acreage contained within the proposed lake or

beach management district, whichever is greater. A petition or resolution of intention shall set forth: (1) The nature of the lake or beach improvement or maintenance activities proposed to be financed; (2) the amount of money proposed to be raised by special assessments or rates and charges; (3) if special assessments are to be imposed, whether the special assessments will be imposed annually for the duration of the lake or beach management district, or the full special assessments will be imposed at one time, with the possibility of installments being made to finance the issuance of lake or beach management district bonds, or both methods; (4) if rates and charges are to be imposed, the annual amount of revenue proposed to be collected and whether revenue bonds payable from the rates and charges are proposed to be issued; (5) the number of years proposed for the duration of the lake or beach management district; and (6) the proposed boundaries of the lake or beach management district.

The county legislative authority may require the posting of a bond of up to five thousand dollars before the county considers the proposed creation of a lake or beach management district initiated by petition. The bond may only be used by the county to finance its costs in studying, holding hearings, making notices, preparing special assessment rolls or rolls showing the rates and charges on each parcel, and conducting elections related to the lake or beach management district if the proposed lake or beach management district is not created.

A resolution of intention shall also designate the number of the proposed lake or beach management district, and fix a date, time, and place for a public hearing on the formation of the proposed lake or beach management district. The date for the public hearing shall be at least thirty days and no more than ninety days after the adoption of the resolution of intention unless an emergency exists.

Petitions shall be filed with the county legislative authority. The county legislative authority shall determine the sufficiency of the signatures, which shall be conclusive upon all persons. No person may withdraw his or her name from a petition after it is filed. If the county legislative authority determines a petition to be sufficient and the proposed lake or beach management district appears to be in the public interest and the financing of the lake or beach improvement or maintenance activities is feasible, it shall adopt a resolution of intention, setting forth all of the details required to be included when a resolution of intention is initiated by the county legislative authority. [2014 c 85 § 8; 2008 c 301 § 5; 1987 c 432 § 3; 1985 c 398 § 3.]

**36.61.040 Creation of district—Public hearing—Notice—Contents.** Notice of the public hearing shall be published in at least two consecutive issues of a newspaper of general circulation in the proposed lake or beach management district, the date of the first publication to be at least fifteen days prior to the date fixed for the public hearing by the resolution of intention. Notice of the public hearing shall also be given to the owner or reputed owner of any lot, tract, parcel of land, or other property within the proposed lake or beach management district by mailing the notice at least fifteen days before the date fixed for the public hearing to the owner or reputed owner of the property as shown on the tax rolls of the county assessor at the address shown thereon.

Notice of the public hearing shall also be mailed to the departments of fish and wildlife, natural resources, and ecology at least fifteen days before the date fixed for the public hearing.

Notices of the public hearing shall: (1) Refer to the resolution of intention; (2) designate the proposed lake or beach management district by number; (3) set forth a proposed plan describing: (a) The nature of the proposed lake or beach improvement or maintenance activities; (b) the amount of special assessments or rates and charges proposed to be raised by the lake or beach management district; (c) if special assessments are proposed to be imposed, whether the special assessments will be imposed annually for the duration of the lake or beach management district, or the full special assessments will be payable at one time, with the possibility of periodic installments being paid and lake or beach management bonds being issued, or both; (d) if rates and charges are proposed to be imposed, the annual amount of revenue proposed to be collected and whether revenue bonds payable from the rates and charges are proposed to be issued; and (e) the proposed duration of the lake or beach management district; and (4) indicate the date, time, and place of the public hearing designated in the resolution of intention.

In the case of the notice sent to each owner or reputed owner by mail, the notice shall set forth the estimated amount of the cost of the lake or beach improvement or maintenance activities to be borne by special assessment, or annual special assessments, or rates and charges on the lot, tract, parcel of land, or other property owned by the owner or reputed owner.

If the county legislative authority has designated a committee of itself or an officer to hear complaints and make recommendations to the full county legislative authority, as provided in RCW 36.61.060, the notice shall also describe this additional step before the full county legislative authority may adopt a resolution creating the lake or beach management district. [2008 c 301 § 6; 1994 c 264 § 9; 1988 c 36 § 9; 1987 c 432 § 4; 1985 c 398 § 4.]

**36.61.050 Creation of district—Public hearing—Amendments to original plan.** The county legislative authority shall hold a public hearing on the proposed lake or beach management district at the date, time, and place designated in the resolution of intention.

At this hearing the county legislative authority shall hear objections from any person affected by the formation of the lake or beach management district. Representatives of the departments of fish and wildlife, natural resources, and ecology shall be afforded opportunities to make presentations on and comment on the proposal. Members of the public shall be afforded an opportunity to comment on the proposal. The county legislative authority must consider recommendations provided to it by the departments of fish and wildlife, natural resources, and ecology. The public hearing may be extended to other times and dates declared at the public hearing. The county legislative authority may make such changes in the boundaries of the lake or beach management district or such modification in plans for the proposed lake or beach improvement or maintenance activities as it deems necessary. The county legislative authority may not change boundaries of the lake or beach management district to include property that was not included previously without first passing an

amended resolution of intention and giving new notice to the owners or reputed owners of property newly included in the proposed lake or beach management district in the manner and form and within the time provided for the original notice. The county legislative authority shall not alter the plans for the proposed lake or beach improvement or maintenance activities to result in an increase in the amount of money proposed to be raised, and shall not increase the amount of money proposed to be raised, without first passing an amended resolution of intention and giving new notice to property owners in the manner and form and within the time provided for the original notice. [2008 c 301 § 7; 1994 c 264 § 10; 1988 c 36 § 10; 1985 c 398 § 5.]

**36.61.060 Creation of district—Public hearing—Legislative authority may delegate responsibility.** A county legislative authority may adopt an ordinance providing for a committee of itself, or an officer, to hold public hearings on the proposed formation of a lake or beach management district and hear objections to the proposed formation as provided in RCW 36.61.050. The committee or officer shall make a recommendation to the full legislative authority, which need not hold a public hearing on the proposed creation of the lake or beach management district. The full county legislative authority by resolution may approve or disapprove the recommendation and submit the question of creating the lake or beach management district to the property owners as provided in RCW 36.61.070 through 36.61.100. [2008 c 301 § 8; 1985 c 398 § 10.]

**36.61.070 Creation of district—Submittal of question to landowners.** (1) After the public hearing, the county legislative authority may adopt a resolution submitting the question of creating the lake or beach management district to the owners of land within the proposed lake or beach management district, including publicly owned land, if the county legislative authority finds that it is in the public interest to create the lake or beach management district and the financing of the lake or beach improvement and maintenance activities is feasible. The resolution shall also include: (a) A plan describing the proposed lake or beach improvement and maintenance activities which avoid adverse impacts on fish and wildlife and provide for appropriate measures to protect and enhance fish and wildlife; (b) the number of years the lake or beach management district will exist; (c) the amount to be raised by special assessments or rates and charges; (d) if special assessments are to be imposed, whether the special assessments shall be imposed annually for the duration of the lake or beach management district or only once with the possibility of installments being imposed and lake or beach management bonds being issued, or both, and, if both types of special assessments are proposed to be imposed, the lake or beach improvement or maintenance activities proposed to be financed by each type of special assessment; (e) if rates and charges are to be imposed, a description of the proposed rates and charges and the possibility of revenue bonds being issued that are payable from the rates and charges; and (f) the estimated special assessment or rate and charge proposed to be imposed on each parcel included in the proposed lake or beach management district.

(2) No lake or beach management district may be created by a county that includes territory located in another county without the approval of the legislative authority of the other county. [2014 c 85 § 4; 2008 c 301 § 9; 1987 c 432 § 5; 1985 c 398 § 6.]

**36.61.080 Creation of district—Submittal of question to landowners—Mail ballot.** (1) A ballot shall be mailed to each owner or reputed owner of any lot, tract, parcel of land, or other property within the proposed lake management district, including publicly owned land, which ballot shall contain the following proposition:

"Shall lake management district No. . . . be formed?  
Yes . . . . .  
No . . . . ."

(2) A ballot shall be mailed to each owner or reputed owner of any lot, tract, parcel of land, or other property within the proposed beach management district, including publicly owned land, which ballot shall contain the following proposition:

"Shall beach management district No. . . . be formed?  
Yes . . . . .  
No . . . . ."

(3) In addition, the ballot shall contain appropriate spaces for the signatures of the landowner or landowners, or officer authorized to cast such a ballot. Each ballot shall include a description of the property owner's property and the estimated special assessment, or rate and charge, proposed to be imposed upon the property. A copy of the instructions and the resolution submitting the question to the landowners shall also be included. [2008 c 301 § 10; 1987 c 432 § 6; 1985 c 398 § 7.]

**36.61.090 Creation of district—Submittal of question to landowners—Balloting—Conditions.** The balloting shall be subject to the following conditions, which shall be included in the instructions mailed with each ballot, as provided in RCW 36.61.080: (1) All ballots must be signed by the owner or reputed owner of property according to the assessor's tax rolls; (2) each ballot must be returned to the county legislative authority not later than 5:00 p.m. of a specified day, which shall be at least twenty but not more than thirty days after the ballots are mailed; (3) each property owner shall mark his or her ballot for or against the creation of the proposed lake or beach management district, with the ballot weighted so that the property owner has one vote for each dollar of estimated special assessment or rate and charge proposed to be imposed on his or her property; and (4) the valid ballots shall be tabulated and a simple majority of the votes cast shall determine whether the proposed lake or beach management district shall be approved or rejected. [2008 c 301 § 11; 1987 c 432 § 7; 1985 c 398 § 8.]

**36.61.100 Creation of district—Submittal of question to landowners—Majority vote required—Adoption of ordinance.** If the proposal receives a simple majority vote in favor of creating the lake or beach management district, the county legislative authority shall adopt an ordinance creating the lake or beach management district and may proceed with

establishing the special assessments or rates and charges, collecting the special assessments or rates and charges, and performing the lake or beach improvement or maintenance activities. If a proposed lake management district includes more than one lake and its adjacent areas, the lake management district may only be established if the proposal receives a simple majority vote in favor of creating it by the voters on each lake and its adjacent areas. The county legislative authority shall publish a notice in a newspaper of general circulation in a lake or beach management district indicating that such an ordinance has been adopted within ten days of the adoption of the ordinance.

The ballots shall be available for public inspection after they are counted. [2008 c 301 § 12; 1987 c 432 § 8; 1985 c 398 § 9.]

**36.61.110 Creation of district—Limitations on appeals.** No lawsuit may be maintained challenging the jurisdiction or authority of the county legislative authority to proceed with the lake or beach improvement and maintenance activities and creating the lake or beach management district or in any way challenging the validity of the actions or decisions or any proceedings relating to the actions or decisions unless the lawsuit is served and filed no later than forty days after publication of a notice that the ordinance has been adopted ordering the lake or beach improvement and maintenance activities and creating the lake or beach management district. Written notice of the appeal shall be filed with the county legislative authority and clerk of the superior court in the county in which the property is situated. [2008 c 301 § 13; 1985 c 398 § 11.]

**36.61.115 Limitation on special assessments, rates, and charges.** A special assessment, or rate and charge, on any lot, tract, parcel of land, or other property shall not be increased beyond one hundred ten percent of the estimated special assessment, or rate and charge, proposed to be imposed as provided in the resolution adopted in RCW 36.61.070, unless the creation of a lake or beach management district is approved under another mailed ballot election that reflects the weighted voting arising from such increases. [2008 c 301 § 14; 1987 c 432 § 9.]

**36.61.120 Special assessment roll—Adoption—Public hearing.** After a lake or beach management district is created, the county shall prepare a proposed special assessment roll. A separate special assessment roll shall be prepared for annual special assessments if both annual special assessments and special assessments paid at one time are imposed. The proposed special assessment roll shall list: (1) Each separate lot, tract, parcel of land, or other property in the lake or beach management district; (2) the acreage of such property, and the number of feet of lake or beach frontage, if any; (3) the name and address of the owner or reputed owner of each lot, tract, parcel of land, or other property as shown on the tax rolls of the county assessor; and (4) the special assessment proposed to be imposed on each lot, tract, parcel of land, or other property, or the annual special assessments proposed to be imposed on each lot, tract, parcel of land, or other property.

At the time, date, and place fixed for a public hearing, the county legislative authority shall act as a board of equalization and hear objections to the special assessment roll, and at the times to which the public hearing may be adjourned, the county legislative authority may correct, revise, raise, lower, change, or modify the special assessment roll or any part thereof, or set the proposed special assessment roll aside and order a new proposed special assessment roll to be prepared. The county legislative authority shall confirm and approve a special assessment roll by adoption of a resolution.

If a proposed special assessment roll is amended to raise any special assessment appearing thereon or to include omitted property, a new public hearing shall be held. The new public hearing shall be limited to considering the increased special assessments or omitted property. Notices shall be sent to the owners or reputed owners of the affected property in the same manner and form and within the time provided for the original notice.

Objections to a proposed special assessment roll must be made in writing, shall clearly state the grounds for objections, and shall be filed with the governing body prior to the public hearing. Objections to a special assessment or annual special assessments that are not made as provided in this section shall be deemed waived and shall not be considered by the governing body or a court on appeal. [2008 c 301 § 15; 1985 c 398 § 12.]

**36.61.130 Special assessment roll—Public hearing—Legislative authority may delegate responsibility—Appeals.** A county legislative authority may adopt an ordinance providing for a committee of itself, or an officer, to hear objections to the special assessment roll, act as a board of equalization, and make recommendations to the full county legislative authority, which need not hold a public hearing on the special assessment roll. The ordinance shall provide a process by which an appeal may be made in writing to the full county legislative authority by a person protesting his or her special assessment or annual special assessments as confirmed by the committee or officer. The full county legislative authority by resolution shall approve the special assessment roll, modify and approve the special assessment roll as a result of hearing objections, or reject the special assessment roll and return it to the committee or officer for further work and recommendations. No objection to the decision of the full county legislative authority approving the special assessment roll may be considered by a court unless an objection to the decision has been timely filed with the county legislative authority as provided in this section. [1985 c 398 § 13.]

**36.61.140 Special assessment roll—Public hearing—Notice—Contents.** Notice of the original public hearing on the proposed special assessment roll, and any public hearing held as a result of raising special assessments or including omitted property, shall be published and mailed to the owner or reputed owner of the property as provided in RCW 36.61.040 for the public hearing on the formation of the lake or beach management district. However, the notice need only provide the total amount to be collected by the special assessment roll and shall state that: (1) A public hearing on the proposed special assessment roll will be held, giving the time, date, and place of the public hearing; (2) the proposed special

assessment roll is available for public perusal, giving the times and location where the proposed special assessment roll is available for public perusal; (3) objections to the proposed special assessment must be in writing, include clear grounds for objections, and must be filed prior to the public hearing; and (4) failure to so object shall be deemed to waive an objection.

Notices mailed to the owners or reputed owners shall additionally indicate the amount of special assessment ascribed to the particular lot, tract, parcel of land, or other property owned by the person so notified. [2008 c 301 § 16; 1985 c 398 § 14.]

**36.61.150 Special assessment roll—Appeal to superior and appellate courts—Procedure.** The decision of a county legislative authority upon any objection to the special assessment roll may be appealed to the superior court only if the objection had been timely made in the manner prescribed in this chapter. The appeal shall be made within ten days after publication of a notice that the resolution confirming the special assessment roll has been adopted by filing written notice of the appeal with the county legislative authority and the clerk of the superior court in the county in which the real property is situated. The notice of appeal shall describe the property and set forth the objections of the appellant to the special assessment. Within ten days from the filing of such notice of appeal with the clerk of the superior court, the appellant shall file with the clerk of the court a transcript consisting of the special assessment roll and his or her objections thereto, together with the resolution confirming such special assessment roll and the record of the county legislative authority with reference to the special assessment or annual special assessments, which transcript, upon payment of the necessary fees therefor, shall be furnished by an officer of the county and by him or her certified to contain full, true, and correct copies of all matters and proceedings required to be included in the transcript. Such fees shall be the same as the fees payable to the county clerk for the preparation and certification of transcripts on appeal to the supreme court or the court of appeals in civil actions.

At the time of the filing of the notice of appeal with the clerk of the superior court a sufficient bond in the penal sum of two hundred dollars, with a surety or sureties thereon as provided by law for appeals in civil cases, shall be filed conditioned to prosecute such appeal without delay, and if unsuccessful, to pay all costs incurred by the county because of the appeal. The court may order the appellant, upon application therefor, to execute and file such additional bond or bonds as the necessity of the case may require.

Within three days after such transcript is filed in the superior court, the appellant shall give written notice to the county legislative authority that such transcript is filed. The notice shall state a time, not less than three days from the service thereof, when the appellant will call up the cause for hearing.

The superior court shall, at this time or at such further time as may be fixed by order of the court, hear and determine such appeal without a jury, and such cause shall have preference over all civil causes pending in the court, except proceedings under an act relating to eminent domain in such county and actions of forcible entry and detainer. The judg-

ment of the court shall confirm, correct, modify, or annul the special assessment or annual special assessments insofar as the same affects the property of the appellant. A certified copy of the decision of the court shall be filed with the officer having custody of the special assessment roll, and he or she shall modify and correct such special assessment roll in accordance with the decision.

An appeal shall lie to the supreme court or the court of appeals from the judgment of the superior court, as in other cases, however, such appeal must be taken within fifteen days after the date of the entry of the judgment of the superior court, and the record and opening brief of the appellant in the cause shall be filed in the supreme court or the court of appeals within sixty days after the appeal is taken by notice as provided in this section. The time for filing the record and serving and filing of briefs may be extended by order of the superior court, or by stipulation of the parties concerned. The supreme court or the court of appeals on such appeal may correct, modify, confirm, or annul the special assessment or annual special assessments insofar as the same affects the property of the appellant. A certified copy of the order of the supreme court or the court of appeals upon such appeal shall be filed with the officer having custody of such special assessment roll, who shall thereupon modify and correct such special assessment roll in accordance with such decision. [1985 c 398 § 15.]

**36.61.160 Special assessments—Calculation.** Whenever special assessments are imposed, all property included within a lake or beach management district shall be considered to be the property specially benefited by the lake or beach improvement or maintenance activities and shall be the property upon which special assessments are imposed to pay the costs and expenses of the lake or beach improvement or maintenance activities, or such part of the costs and expenses as may be chargeable against the property specially benefited. The special assessments shall be imposed on property in accordance with the special benefits conferred on the property up to but not in excess of the total costs and expenses of the lake or beach improvement or maintenance activities as provided in the special assessment roll.

Special assessments may be measured by front footage, acreage, the extent of improvements on the property, or any other factors that are deemed to fairly reflect special benefits, including those authorized under RCW 35.51.030. Special assessments may be calculated by using more than one factor. Zones around the public improvement may be used that reflect different levels of benefit in each zone that are measured by a front footage, acreage, the extent of improvements, or other factors.

Public property, including property owned by the state of Washington, shall be subject to special assessments to the same extent that private property is subject to the special assessments, except no lien shall extend to public property. [2008 c 301 § 17; 1987 c 432 § 10; 1985 c 398 § 16.]

**36.61.170 Special assessments—Limitations.** (1) The total annual special assessments may not exceed the estimated cost of the lake or beach improvement or maintenance activities proposed to be financed by such special assessments, as specified in the resolution of intention. The total of

special assessments imposed in a lake or beach management district that are of the nature of special assessments imposed in a local improvement district shall not exceed one hundred fifty percent of the estimated total cost of the lake or beach improvement or maintenance activities that are proposed to be financed by the lake or beach management district as specified in the resolution of intention.

(2) After a lake or beach management district has been created, the resolution of intention may be amended to increase or otherwise modify the amount to be financed by the lake or beach management district by using the same procedure in which a lake or beach management district is created, including landowner approvals consistent with the procedures established in RCW 36.61.080 through 36.61.100. [2014 c 85 § 10; 2008 c 301 § 18; 1985 c 398 § 17.]

#### **36.61.180 Special assessments—Modification.**

Whenever annual special assessments are being imposed, the county legislative authority may modify the level of annual special assessments imposed by conforming with the procedures and subject to the limitations included in RCW 36.61.120 through 36.61.170. [1985 c 398 § 18.]

#### **36.61.190 Special assessments—Collection—Notice.**

Special assessments and installments on any special assessment shall be collected by the county treasurer.

The county treasurer shall publish a notice indicating that the special assessment roll has been confirmed and that the special assessments are to be collected. The notice shall indicate the duration of the lake or beach management district and shall describe whether the special assessments will be paid in annual payments for the duration of the lake or beach management district, or whether the full special assessments will be payable at one time, with the possibility of periodic installments being paid and lake or beach management bonds being issued, or both.

If the special assessments are to be payable at one time, the notice additionally shall indicate that all or any portion of the special assessments may be paid within thirty days from the date of publication of the first notice without penalty or interest. This notice shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the lake or beach management district.

Within ten days of the first newspaper publication, the county treasurer shall notify each owner or reputed owner of property whose name appears on the special assessment roll, at the address shown on the special assessment roll, for each item of property described on the list: (1) Whether one special assessment payable at one time or special assessments payable annually have been imposed; (2) the amount of the property subject to the special assessment or annual special assessments; and (3) the total amount of the special assessment due at one time, or annual amount of special assessments due. If the special assessment is due at one time, the notice shall also describe the thirty-day period during which the special assessment may be paid without penalty, interest, or cost. [2008 c 301 § 19; 1985 c 398 § 19.]

#### **36.61.200 Special assessments—Payment period—**

**Interest and penalty.** If the special assessments are to be payable at one time, all or any portion of any special assessment may be paid without interest, penalty, or costs during

this thirty-day period and placed into a special fund to defray the costs of the lake or beach improvement or maintenance activities. The remainder shall be paid in installments as provided in a resolution adopted by the county legislative authority, but the last installment shall be due at least two years before the maximum term of the bonds issued to pay for the improvements or maintenance. The installments shall include amounts sufficient to redeem the bonds issued to pay for the lake or beach improvement and maintenance activities. A twenty-day period shall be allowed after the due date of any installment within which no interest, penalty, or costs on the installment may be imposed.

The county shall establish by ordinance an amount of interest that will be imposed on late special assessments imposed annually or at once, and on installments of a special assessment. The ordinance shall also specify the penalty, in addition to the interest, that will be imposed on a late annual special assessment, special assessment, or installment which shall not be less than five percent of the delinquent special assessment or installment.

The owner of any lot, tract, parcel of land, or other property charged with a special assessment may redeem it from all liability for the unpaid amount of the installments by paying, to the county treasurer, the remaining portion of the installments that is attributable to principal on the lake or beach management district bonds. [2008 c 301 § 20; 1985 c 398 § 20.]

#### **36.61.210 Special assessments—Subdivision of land—Segregation of assessment.**

Whenever any land against which there has been levied any special assessment or annual special assessments by any county has been sold in part, subdivided, or short subdivided, the county legislative authority may order a segregation of the special assessment or annual special assessments. If an installment has been made, the segregation shall apportion the remaining installments on the parts or lots created.

Any person desiring to have such a special assessment or annual special assessments against a tract of land segregated to apply to smaller parts thereof shall apply to the county legislative authority which levied the special assessment or annual special assessments. If the county legislative authority determines that a segregation should be made, it shall by resolution order the county treasurer to segregate the special assessment or annual special assessments on the original assessment roll as directed in the resolution. The segregation shall be made as nearly as possible on the same basis as the original special assessment or annual special assessments were levied, and the total of the segregated parts of the special assessment or annual special assessments shall equal the amount of the special assessment or annual special assessments unpaid before segregation. The resolution shall describe the original tract and the amount and date of the original special assessment or annual special assessments and shall define the boundaries of the divided parts and the amount of the special assessment or annual special assessments chargeable to each part. A certified copy of the resolution shall be delivered to the county treasurer who shall proceed to segregate the special assessment or annual special assessments upon being tendered a fee of three dollars for each tract of land for which a segregation is to be made. In



addition to such charge the county legislative authority may require as a condition to the order of segregation that the person seeking it pay the local government the reasonable engineering and clerical costs incident to making the segregation. [1985 c 398 § 21.]

**36.61.220 Special assessments—Filing with county treasurer.** Within thirty days after a county creates a lake or beach management district, the county shall cause to be filed with the county treasurer, a description of the lake or beach improvement and maintenance activities proposed that the lake or beach management district finances, the lake or beach management district number, and a copy of the diagram or print showing the boundaries of the lake or beach management district and preliminary special assessment roll or abstract of the same showing thereon the lots, tracts, parcels of land, and other property that will be specially benefited thereby and the estimated cost and expense of such lake or beach improvement and maintenance activities to be borne by each lot, tract, parcel of land, or other property. The treasurer shall immediately post the proposed special assessment roll upon his or her index of special assessments against the properties affected by the lake or beach improvement or maintenance activities. [2014 c 85 § 5; 2008 c 301 § 21; 1985 c 398 § 22.]

**36.61.230 Special assessments—Lien created.** The special assessment or annual special assessments imposed upon the respective lots, tracts, parcels of land, and other property in the special assessment roll or annual special assessment roll confirmed by resolution of the county legislative authority for the purpose of paying the cost and expense in whole or in part of any lake or beach improvement or maintenance activities shall be a lien upon the property assessed from the time the special assessment roll is placed in the hands of the county treasurer for collection, but as between the grantor and grantee, or vendor and vendee of any real property, when there is no express agreement as to payment of the special assessments against the real property, the lien of such special assessments shall attach thirty days after the filing of the diagram or print and the estimated cost and expense of such lake or beach improvement or maintenance activities to be borne by each lot, tract, parcel of land, or other property, as provided in RCW 36.61.220. Interest and penalty shall be included in and shall be a part of the special assessment lien. No lien shall extend to public property subjected to special assessments.

The special assessment lien shall be paramount and superior to any other lien or encumbrance theretofore or thereafter created except a lien for general taxes. [2008 c 301 § 22; 1985 c 398 § 23.]

**36.61.240 Special assessments—Lien—Validity—Foreclosure.** Special assessments shall be valid and enforceable as such and the lien thereof on the property assessed shall be valid if the county legislative authority in making the special assessments acted in good faith and without fraud. Delinquent special assessments or installments shall be foreclosed in the same manner as special assessments are foreclosed under chapter 36.94 RCW. Public property subject to

special assessments shall not be subject to liens. [1985 c 398 § 24.]

**36.61.250 Special assessments—Legislative authority may stop—Exceptions.** Except when lake or beach management district bonds are outstanding or when an existing contract might otherwise be impaired, the county legislative authority may stop the imposition of annual special assessments if, in its opinion, the public interest will be served by such action. [2014 c 85 § 6; 1985 c 398 § 25.]

**36.61.260 Bonds.** (1) Counties may issue lake or beach management district revenue bonds in accordance with this section. Lake or beach management district bonds may be issued to obtain money sufficient to cover that portion of the special assessments that are not paid within the thirty-day period provided in RCW 36.61.190.

(2) Whenever lake or beach management district revenue bonds are proposed to be issued, the county legislative authority shall create a special fund or funds for the lake or beach management district from which all or a portion of the costs of the lake or beach improvement and maintenance activities shall be paid. Lake or beach management district bonds shall not be issued in excess of the costs and expenses of the lake or beach improvement and maintenance activities and shall not be issued prior to twenty days after the thirty days allowed for the payment of special assessments without interest or penalties.

(3) Lake or beach management district revenue bonds shall be exclusively payable from the special fund or funds and from a guaranty fund that the county may have created out of a portion of proceeds from the sale of the lake or beach management district bonds.

(4)(a) Lake or beach management district revenue bonds shall not constitute a general indebtedness of the county issuing the bond nor an obligation, general or special, of the state. The owner of any lake or beach management district revenue bond shall not have any claim for the payment thereof against the county that issues the bonds except for: (i) With respect to revenue bonds payable from special assessments, payment from the special assessments made for the lake or beach improvement or maintenance activities for which the lake or beach management district bond was issued and from the special fund or funds, and a lake or beach management district guaranty fund, that may have been created; and (ii) with respect to revenue bonds payable from rates and charges, payment from rates and charges deposited in the special fund or funds that the county may have created for that purpose. Revenue bonds may be payable from both special assessments and from rates and charges. The county shall not be liable to the owner of any lake or beach management district bond for any loss to a lake or beach management district guaranty fund occurring in the lawful operation of the fund. The owner of a lake or beach management district bond shall not have any claim against the state arising from the lake or beach management district bond, rates and charges, special assessments, or guaranty fund. Tax revenues shall not be used to secure or guarantee the payment of the principal or interest on lake or beach management district bonds. Notwithstanding the provisions of this subsection, nothing in this section may be interpreted as limiting a county's issuance of

bonds pursuant to RCW 36.67.010 in order to assist in the financing of improvements to lakes or beaches located within or partially within the boundaries of the county, including without limitation lakes or beaches located within a lake or beach management district.

(b) The substance of the limitations included in this subsection (4) shall be plainly printed, written, engraved, or reproduced on: (i) Each lake or beach management district bond that is a physical instrument; (ii) the official notice of sale; and (iii) each official statement associated with the lake or beach management district bonds.

(5) If the county fails to make any principal or interest payments on any lake or beach management district bond or to promptly collect any special assessment securing lake or beach management district revenue bonds when due, the owner of the lake or beach management district revenue bond may obtain a writ of mandamus from any court of competent jurisdiction requiring the county to collect the special assessments, foreclose on the related lien, and make payments out of the special fund or guaranty fund if one exists. Any number of owners of lake or beach management districts may join as plaintiffs.

(6) A county may create a lake or beach management district bond guaranty fund for each issue of lake or beach management district bonds. The guaranty fund shall only exist for the life of the lake or beach management district bonds with which it is associated. A portion of the bond proceeds may be placed into a guaranty fund. Unused moneys remaining in the guaranty fund during the last two years of the installments shall be used to proportionally reduce the required level of installments and shall be transferred into the special fund into which installment payments are placed. A county may, in the discretion of the legislative authority of the county, deposit amounts into a lake or beach management district bond guaranty fund from any money legally available for that purpose. Any amounts remaining in the guaranty fund after the repayment of all revenue bonds secured thereby and the payment of assessment installments, may be applied to lake or beach improvement and maintenance activities or to other district purposes.

(7) Lake or beach management district bonds shall be issued and sold in accordance with chapter 39.46 RCW. The authority to create a special fund or funds shall include the authority to create accounts within a fund. [2014 c 85 § 7; 2008 c 301 § 23; 2000 c 184 § 6; 1985 c 398 § 26.]

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

**36.61.270 Imposition of rates and charges.** Whenever rates and charges are to be imposed in a lake or beach management district, the county legislative authority shall prepare a roll of rates and charges that includes those matters required to be included in a special assessment roll and shall hold a public hearing on the proposed roll of rates and charges as provided under RCW 36.61.120 through 36.61.150 for a special assessment roll. The county legislative authority shall have full jurisdiction and authority to fix, alter, regulate, and control the rates and charges imposed by a lake or beach management district and may classify the rates or charges by any reasonable factor or factors, including benefit, use, front footage, acreage, the extent of improvements on the property, the type of improvements on the prop-

erty, uses to which the property is put, service to be provided, and any other reasonable factor or factors. The flexibility to establish rates and charges includes the authority to reduce rates and charges on property owned by low-income persons.

Except as provided in this section, the collection of rates and charges, lien status of unpaid rates and charges, and method of foreclosing on such liens shall be subject to the provisions of chapter 36.94 RCW. Public property, including state property, shall be subject to the rates and charges to the same extent that private property is subject to them, except that liens may not be foreclosed on the public property, and the procedure for imposing such rates and charges on state property shall conform with the procedure provided for in chapter 79.44 RCW concerning the imposition of special assessments upon state property. The total amount of rates and charges cannot exceed the cost of lake or beach improvement or maintenance activities proposed to be financed by such rates and charges, as specified in the resolution of intention. Revenue bonds exclusively payable from the rates and charges may be issued by the county under chapter 39.46 RCW. [2008 c 301 § 24; 1987 c 432 § 11.]

**36.61.280 Beach management districts—Purpose—Plan.** (1) Beach management districts may be created for the purpose of controlling and removing aquatic plants or vegetation. These districts must develop a plan for these activities, in consultation with appropriate federal, state, and local agencies. The plan must include an element addressing nutrient loading from land use activities in a subbasin that is a tributary to the area targeted for management. The plan must be consistent with the action agenda approved by the Puget Sound partnership, where applicable.

(2) Plans for the control and removal of aquatic plants or vegetation must, to the greatest extent possible, meet the following requirements:

(a) Avoid or minimize the excess removal of living and nonliving nontarget native vegetation and organisms;

(b) Avoid or minimize management activities that will result in compacting beach sand, gravel, and substrate;

(c) Minimize adverse impacts to: (i) The project site when disposing of excessive accumulations of vegetation; and (ii) other areas of the beach or deep water environment; and

(d) Retain all natural habitat features on the beach, including retaining trees, stumps, logs, and large rocks in their natural location.

(3) Seaweed removal under this section may only occur on the shore of a saltwater body that lies between the extreme low tide and the ordinary high water mark, as those terms are defined in RCW 90.58.030.

(4) The control or removal of native aquatic plants or vegetation shall be authorized in the following areas:

(a) Beaches or nearshore areas located within at least one mile of a ferry terminal that are in a county with a population of one million or more residents; and

(b) Beaches or nearshore areas in a city that meets the following:

(i) Is adjacent to Puget Sound;

(ii) Has at least eighty-five thousand residents;

(iii) Shares a common boundary with a neighboring county; and

(iv) Is in a county with a population of one million or more residents. [2008 c 301 § 2.]

**36.61.290 Acquisition of real property or property rights—Limitations and requirements.** A proposal to acquire real property or property rights within or outside of a lake or beach management district in accordance with RCW 36.61.020 is subject to the following limitations and requirements: (1) The real property or property rights proposed for acquisition must be in a county located west of the crest of the Cascade mountain range that plans under RCW 36.70A.040 and has a population of more than forty thousand and fewer than sixty-five thousand persons as of April 1, 2013, as determined by the office of financial management; and (2) prior to the acquisition of real property or property rights, the proposal must have the written approval of a majority of the property owners of the district, as determined by the tax rolls of the county assessor. [2014 c 85 § 3.]

**36.61.300 Acquisition of real property or property rights—County authority.** (1) In connection with the acquisition of real property or property rights within or outside a lake or beach management district, a county may: (a) Own real property and property rights, including without limitation conservation easements; (b) transfer real property and property rights to another state or local governmental entity; (c) contract with a public or private entity, including without limitation a financial institution with trust powers, a municipal corporation, or a nonprofit corporation, to hold real property or property rights such as conservation easements in trust for the purposes of the lake and beach management district, and, in connection with those services, to pay the reasonable costs of that financial institution or nonprofit corporation; (d) monitor and enforce the terms of a real property right such as a conservation easement, or for that purpose to contract with a public or private entity, including without limitation a financial institution with trust powers, a municipal corporation, or a nonprofit corporation; (e) impose terms, conditions, and encumbrances upon real property or property rights acquired in respect of a lake or beach management district, and amend the same; and (f) accept gifts, grants, and loans in connection with the acquisition of real property and property rights for lake or beach management district purposes.

(2) If a county contracts with a financial institution, municipal corporation, or nonprofit corporation to hold that property or property rights in trust for purposes of the district, the terms of the contract must provide that the financial institution, municipal corporation, or nonprofit corporation may not sell, pledge, or hypothecate the property or property rights for any purpose, and must further provide for the return of the property or property rights back to the county in the event of a material breach of the terms of the contract.

(3) Before a lake or beach management district in existence as of June 12, 2014, exercises the powers set forth in this section, the legislative authority of the county must provide for an amended resolution of intention and modify the plan for the district, with a public hearing, all as provided in RCW 36.61.050. [2014 c 85 § 9.]

**36.61.310 Dissolution—Procedure and conditions.**

(1) Except when lake or beach management district bonds are (2022 Ed.)

outstanding or when an existing contract might otherwise be impaired, a lake or beach management district may be dissolved either by: The county legislative authority upon a finding that the purposes of the district have been accomplished; or a vote of the property owners within the district, if proposed by the legislative authority of the county or through the filing of a sufficient petition signed by the owners of at least twenty percent of the acreage within the district.

(2) If the question of dissolution of a district is submitted to property owners, the balloting is subject to the following conditions, which must be included in the instructions mailed with each ballot, as provided in RCW 36.61.080:

(a) A ballot must be mailed to each owner or reputed owner of any lot, tract, parcel of land, or other property within the district, with the ballot weighted so that a property owner has one vote for each dollar of special assessment or rates and charges imposed on his or her property;

(b) A ballot must be signed by the owner or reputed owner of property according to the assessor's tax rolls;

(c) Each ballot must be returned to the county legislative authority no later than 5:00 p.m. of a specified day, which must be at least twenty, but not more than thirty days after the ballots are mailed; and

(d) Each property owner must mark his or her ballot for or against the dissolution of the district.

(3) If, following the tabulation of the valid ballots, a simple majority of the votes cast are in favor of dissolving the district, the district must be dissolved on the date established in the ballot proposition.

(4) A county, although not separately responsible for satisfying the financial obligations of a dissolved district, has full authority to continue imposing special assessments, rates, and charges for a dissolved district until all financial obligations of the district incurred prior to its dissolution have been extinguished or retired. [2014 c 85 § 11.]

**Chapter 36.62 RCW  
HOSPITALS**

Sections

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*County health boards and officers: Chapter 70.05 RCW.*

*Public hospital districts, county participation: Chapter 70.44 RCW.*

*Sexually transmitted diseases, control and treatment of: Chapter 70.24 RCW.*

*Utilization of, for state medical care: Chapter 74.09 RCW.*

**36.62.010 Authority to establish.** The legislative authority of any county may establish, provide, and maintain hospitals for the care and treatment of the indigent, sick, injured, or infirm, and for this purpose the county legislative authority may:

(1) Purchase or lease real property or use lands already owned by the county;

(2) Erect all necessary buildings, make all necessary improvements and repairs and alter any existing building for the use of said hospitals;

(3) Use county moneys, levy taxes, and issue bonds as authorized by law, to raise a sufficient amount of money to cover the cost of procuring the site, constructing and operating hospitals, and for the maintenance thereof and all other necessary and proper expenses; and

(4) Accept and hold in trust for the county any grant of land, gift or bequest of money, or any donation for the benefit of the purposes of this chapter, and apply the same in accordance with the terms of the gift. [1984 c 26 § 1; 1963 c 4 § 36.62.010. Prior: 1947 c 228 § 1, part; 1925 ex.s. c 174 § 1, part; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 6090-1, part.]

**36.62.030 Hospital may be jointly owned and operated.** Any number of counties or any county and any city in which the county seat of the county is situated may contract one with the other for the joint purchase, acquisition, ownership, control, and disposition of land and other property suitable as a site for a county hospital. [1963 c 4 § 36.62.030. Prior: 1947 c 228 § 1, part; 1925 ex.s. c 174 § 1, part; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 6090-1, part.]

**36.62.040 Contract for joint hospital.** All contracts made in pursuance hereof shall be for such period of time and upon such terms and conditions as shall be agreed upon. The contract shall fully set forth the amount of money to be contributed by the county and city towards the acquisition of such site and the improvement thereof and the manner in which the property shall be improved and the character of the building or buildings to be erected thereon. It may provide for the amount of money to be contributed annually by the county and city for the upkeep and maintenance of the property and the building or buildings thereon, or it may provide for the relative proportion of such expense, which the county and city shall annually pay. The contract may specify the parts of such building or buildings which shall be set apart for the exclusive use and occupation of the county and city. The money to be contributed by the county or city may be raised by a sale of bonds of such county or city or by general taxation. Any such county or city now possessing funds or having funds available for a county or city hospital from a sale of bonds or otherwise may contract for the expenditure of such funds, as herein provided. Such contract shall be made only after a proper resolution or ordinance of the county legisla-

tive authority and ordinance of the city have been passed specifically authorizing it. The contract when made shall be binding upon the county and city during its existence or until it is modified or abrogated by mutual consent evidenced by appropriate legislation. A site with or without buildings may be contributed in lieu of money at a valuation to be agreed upon. [1984 c 26 § 2; 1963 c 4 § 36.62.040. Prior: (i) 1925 ex.s. c 174 § 2; RRS § 6090-2. (ii) 1947 c 228 § 1, part; 1925 ex.s. c 174 § 1, part; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 6090-1, part.]

**36.62.050 Petition to establish—Beds limited.** When it is proposed to establish such hospital, a petition shall be presented to the county legislative authority, signed by three hundred or more resident taxpayers of the county, requesting the county legislative authority to submit to the electors the proposition to issue bonds for the purpose of procuring a site, and erecting, equipping, and maintaining such hospital, and specifying the amount of bonds proposed to be issued for that purpose and the number of hospital beds. [1984 c 26 § 3; 1963 c 4 § 36.62.050. Prior: 1925 ex.s. c 174 § 3; RRS § 6090-3.]

**36.62.060 Bond election.** Upon presentation of the petition, the county legislative authority may submit to the voters of the county at the next general election the question of issuing bonds and levying a tax for such hospital. [1984 c 26 § 4; 1963 c 4 § 36.62.060. Prior: 1925 ex.s. c 174 § 4; RRS § 6090-4.]

**36.62.070 Issuance of bonds—Terms.** The bonds issued for such hospital shall not have maturities in excess of twenty years. Such bonds shall be issued and sold in accordance with chapter 39.46 RCW. [1984 c 186 § 26; 1984 c 26 § 5; 1983 c 167 § 72; 1970 ex.s. c 56 § 49; 1969 ex.s. c 232 § 26; 1963 c 4 § 36.62.070. Prior: 1925 ex.s. c 174 § 5; RRS § 6090-5.]

**Purpose—1984 c 186:** See note following RCW 39.46.110.

**Purpose—1970 ex.s. c 56:** See note following RCW 39.52.020.

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

**36.62.090 Tax levy for maintenance.** If the hospital is established, the county legislative authority, at the time of levying general taxes, may levy a tax, not to exceed fifty cents per thousand dollars of assessed value in any one year, for the maintenance of the hospital. [1984 c 26 § 6; 1973 1st ex.s. c 195 § 37; 1963 c 4 § 36.62.090. Prior: 1925 ex.s. c 174 § 6; RRS § 6090-6.]

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

**36.62.100 Admission of patients—Liability for support.** Patients shall be admitted to such hospitals in accordance with policies to be proposed by the board of trustees and approved by the county legislative authority. The policies shall provide, within the resources available to the hospital, that admission of patients shall not be dependent upon their ability to pay. Whenever a patient has been admitted to the hospital and in accordance with rules established by the board of trustees, the hospital may determine the person's ability to pay for the care provided by the hospital, render billings for the care, and take necessary steps to obtain payment for the costs of the care from the person, from the per-

son's estate, or from any persons or organizations legally liable for the person's support. [1984 c 26 § 7; 1963 c 4 § 36.62.100. Prior: 1945 c 62 § 1; 1925 ex.s. c 174 § 8; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 6090-8.]

**36.62.110 Board of trustees—Membership.** Whenever any county, or any county and city jointly, or two or more counties jointly, establish a hospital for the care and treatment of the indigent, sick, injured, or infirm, under the provisions of this chapter, and such hospital is completed and ready for operation, the county legislative authority of the county in which the institution is located shall appoint thirteen persons as trustees for the institution. The thirteen trustees, together with the additional trustees required by RCW 36.62.130, if any, shall constitute a board of trustees for such hospital. [1984 c 26 § 8; 1967 ex.s. c 36 § 2; 1963 c 4 § 36.62.110. Prior: 1931 c 139 § 1, part; RRS § 6090-9, part.]

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

**36.62.120 Board of trustees—Initial appointment—Terms of office.** The first members of the board of trustees of such institution shall be appointed by the county legislative authority within thirty days after the institution has been completed and is ready for operation. The county legislative authority appointing the initial members shall appoint three members for one-year terms, three members for two-year terms, three members for three-year terms, and four members for four-year terms, and until their successors are appointed and qualified, and thereafter their successors shall be appointed for terms of four years and until their successors are appointed and qualified: PROVIDED, That the continuation of a member past the expiration date of the term shall not change the commencement date of the term of the succeeding member. Each term of the initial trustees shall be deemed to commence on the first day of August following the appointment but shall also include the period intervening between the appointment and the first day of August following the appointment.

For an institution which is already in existence on June 7, 1984, the county legislative authority shall appoint within thirty days of June 7, 1984, three additional members for one-year terms, two additional members for two-year terms, and two additional members for three-year terms, and until their successors are appointed and qualified, and thereafter their successors shall be appointed for terms of four years and until their successors are appointed and qualified: PROVIDED FURTHER, That the continuation of an additional member past the expiration date of the term shall not change the commencement date of the term of the succeeding member. Each term of the initial additional members shall be deemed to commence on the first day of August of the year of appointment but shall also include the period intervening between the appointment and the first day of August of the year of the appointment.

Upon expiration of the terms of current members, the successors to current members shall be appointed for four-year terms and until their successors are appointed and qualified: AND PROVIDED FURTHER, That the continuation of a successor to a current member past the expiration date of the term shall not change the commencement date of the term of the succeeding member. Each term of the initial successors

to current members shall be deemed to commence on the first day of August following the expiration of a current term but shall also include the period intervening between the appointment and the first day of August of the year of the appointment. [1984 c 26 § 9; 1963 c 4 § 36.62.120. Prior: (i) 1931 c 139 § 1, part; RRS § 6090-9, part. (ii) 1931 c 139 § 4, part; RRS § 6090-12, part.]

**36.62.130 Board of trustees—Additional trustees for joint hospital.** In case two or more counties establish a hospital jointly, the thirteen members of the board of trustees shall be chosen as provided from the county in which the institution is located and each county legislative authority of the other county or counties which contributed to the establishment of the hospital shall appoint two additional members of the board of trustees. The regular term of each of the two additional members shall be four years and until their successors are appointed and qualified. Such additional members shall be residents of the respective counties from which they are appointed and shall otherwise possess the same qualifications as other trustees. The first term of office of the persons first appointed as additional members shall be fixed by the county legislative authority of the county in which said hospital or institution is located, but shall not be for more than four years. [1984 c 26 § 10; 1963 c 4 § 36.62.130. Prior: 1931 c 139 § 1, part; RRS § 6090-9, part.]

**36.62.140 Board of trustees—Qualifications of trustees.** No person shall be eligible for appointment as a trustee who holds or has held during the period of two years immediately prior to appointment any salaried office or position in any office, department, or branch of the government which established or maintained the hospital. [1984 c 26 § 11; 1963 c 4 § 36.62.140. Prior: 1931 c 139 § 2; RRS § 6090-10.]

**36.62.150 Board of trustees—Removal of trustee—Procedure.** The county legislative authority which appointed a member of the board of trustees may remove the member for cause and in the manner provided in this section. Notice shall be provided by the county appointing authority to the trustee and the board of trustees generally. The notice shall set forth reasons which justify removal. The trustee shall be provided opportunity for a hearing before the county appointing authority: PROVIDED, That three consecutive unexcused absences from regular meetings of the board of trustees shall be deemed cause for removal of a trustee without hearing. Any trustee removed for a cause other than three consecutive unexcused absences may appeal the removal within twenty days of the order of removal by seeking a writ of review before the superior court pursuant to chapter 7.16 RCW. Removal shall disqualify the trustee from subsequent reappointment. [1984 c 26 § 12; 1963 c 4 § 36.62.150. Prior: 1933 c 174 § 1, part; 1931 c 139 § 3, part; RRS § 6090-11, part.]

**36.62.160 Board of trustees—Vacancies.** Any vacancy in the board of trustees shall be filled by appointment by the county legislative authority making the original appointment, and such appointee shall hold office for the remainder of the term of the trustee replaced. [1984 c 26 §

13; 1963 c 4 § 36.62.160. Prior: 1933 c 174 § 1, part; 1931 c 139 § 3, part; RRS § 6090-11, part.]

**36.62.170 Board of trustees—Quorum.** A majority of the trustees shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. [1984 c 26 § 14; 1963 c 4 § 36.62.170. Prior: 1931 c 139 § 4, part; RRS § 6090-12, part.]

**36.62.180 Board of trustees—Powers and duties.** The board of trustees shall:

(1) Have general supervision and care of such hospitals and institutions and the buildings and grounds thereof and power to do everything necessary to the proper maintenance and operation thereof within the limits of approved budgets and the appropriations authorized;

(2) Elect from among its members a president and vice president;

(3) Adopt bylaws and rules for its own guidance and for the government of the hospital;

(4) Prepare annually a budget covering both hospital operations and capital projects, in accordance with the provisions of applicable law, and file such budgets with the county treasurer or if the hospital has been established by more than one county, with the county treasurer of each county, and if a city has contributed to the establishment of the hospital, with the official of the city charged by law with the preparation of the city budget; and

(5) File with the legislative authority of each county and city contributing to the establishment of such hospital, at a time to be determined by the county legislative authority of the county in which the hospital is located, a report covering the proceedings of the board with reference to the hospital during the preceding twelve months and an annual financial report and statement. [1984 c 26 § 15; 1963 c 4 § 36.62.180. Prior: 1945 c 118 § 1, part; 1931 c 139 § 7, part; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 6090-15, part.]

**36.62.190 Board of trustees—Authority to accept gifts and bequests.** The board of trustees may accept property by gift, devise, bequest, or otherwise for the use of such institution, except that acceptance of any interest in real property shall be by prior authorization by the county. [1984 c 26 § 16; 1963 c 4 § 36.62.190. Prior: (i) 1945 c 118 § 1, part; 1931 c 139 § 7, part; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 6090-15, part. (ii) 1931 c 139 § 8; RRS § 6090-16.]

**36.62.200 Board of trustees—Trustees not compensated—Contract interest barred—Reimbursement for travel expenses.** No trustee shall receive any compensation or emolument whatever for services as trustee; nor shall any trustee have or acquire any personal interest in any lease or contract whatsoever, made by the county or board of trustees with respect to such hospital or institution: PROVIDED, That each member of a board of trustees of a county hospital may be reimbursed for travel expenses in accordance with RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060 as now existing or hereafter amended: PROVIDED FURTHER, That, in addition, trustees of a county hospital shall be reimbursed for travel expenses for traveling from their home to a trustee meeting at a rate provided for in RCW 43.03.060 as now existing or

hereafter amended. [1984 c 26 § 17; 1979 ex.s. c 17 § 1; 1963 c 4 § 36.62.200. Prior: 1931 c 139 § 5; RRS § 6090-13.]

**36.62.210 Superintendent—Appointment—Salary.** The board of trustees shall appoint a superintendent who shall be appointed for an indefinite time and be removable at the will of the board of trustees. Appointments and removals shall be by resolution, introduced at a regular meeting and adopted at a subsequent regular meeting by a majority vote. The superintendent shall receive such salary as the board of trustees shall fix by resolution. [1984 c 26 § 18; 1963 c 4 § 36.62.210. Prior: 1945 c 118 § 1, part; 1931 c 139 § 7, part; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 6090-15, part.]

**36.62.230 Superintendent—Duties.** The superintendent shall be the chief executive officer of the hospital or institution and shall perform all administrative services necessary to the efficient and economical conduct of the hospital or institution and the admission and proper care of persons properly entitled to the services thereof as provided by law or by the rules and regulations of the board of trustees. [1984 c 26 § 19; 1963 c 4 § 36.62.230. Prior: 1931 c 139 § 9; RRS § 6090-17.]

**36.62.252 County hospital fund—Established—Purpose—Monthly report.** Every county which maintains a county hospital or infirmary shall establish a "county hospital fund" into which fund shall be deposited all unrestricted moneys received from any source for hospital or infirmary services including money received for services to recipients of public assistance and other persons without income and resources sufficient to secure such services. The county may maintain other funds for restricted moneys. Obligations incurred by the hospital shall be paid from such funds by the county treasurer in the same manner as general county obligations are paid, except that in counties where a contract has been executed in accordance with RCW 36.62.290, warrants may be issued by the hospital administrator for the hospital, if authorized by the county legislative authority and the county treasurer. The county treasurer shall furnish to the county legislative authority a monthly report of receipts and disbursements in the county hospital funds which report shall also show the balance of cash on hand. [2016 c 95 § 7; 1984 c 26 § 20; 1971 ex.s. c 277 § 1; 1967 ex.s. c 36 § 3; 1963 c 4 § 36.62.252. Prior: 1961 c 144 § 1; 1951 c 256 § 1.]

**Intent—2016 c 95:** "Local governments must be efficient and prudent stewards of our residents' tax resources. To best serve our communities, certain local government statutes must be amended to reflect technological and organizational change. It is the intent of the legislature to clarify current authorities so that local government can better serve their residents, and it is the intent of the legislature that the following sections allow local government to pursue modern methods of serving their residents while preserving the public's right to access public records, and judiciously using scarce county resources to achieve maximum benefit." [2016 c 95 § 1.]

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

**36.62.270 Supplementary budget.** In the event that additional funds are needed for the operation of a county hospital or infirmary, the county legislative authority shall have authority to adopt a supplemental budget. Such supplemental budget shall set forth the amount and sources of funds and the

items of expenditure involved. [1984 c 26 § 21; 1971 ex.s. c 277 § 2; 1963 c 4 § 36.62.270. Prior: 1951 c 256 § 3.]

**36.62.290 Contracts between board of regents of state universities and hospital board of trustees for medical services and teaching and research activities.** Whenever any county, or any county and city jointly, or two or more counties jointly, establish a hospital under the provisions of this chapter, the board of trustees of the hospital is empowered, with the approval of the county legislative authority, to enter into a contract with the board of regents of a state university to provide hospital services, including management under the direction of a hospital administrator for the hospital, to provide for the rendering of medical services in connection with the hospital and to provide for the conduct of teaching and research activities by the university in connection with the hospital. Any such board of regents is empowered to enter into such a contract, to provide such hospital services, and to provide for the rendition of such medical services and for the carrying on of teaching and research in connection with such a hospital. If such a contract is entered into, the provisions of RCW 36.62.210 and 36.62.230 shall not be applicable during the term of the contract and all of the powers, duties and functions vested in the superintendent in this chapter shall be vested in the board of trustees. The board of trustees shall provide for such conditions and controls in the contract as it shall deem to be in the community interest. [1984 c 26 § 22; 1967 ex.s. c 36 § 1.]

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

**36.62.300 Work ordered and materials purchased.** All work ordered and materials purchased by a hospital shall be subject to the requirements established in RCW 70.44.140 for public hospital districts. [1991 c 363 § 76.]

**Purpose—Captions not law—1991 c 363:** See notes following RCW 2.32.180.

**Chapter 36.63 RCW**

**JAILS**

Sections

36.63.255 Transfer of convicted felon to state institution pending appeal.

*City and county jails act: Chapter 70.48 RCW.*

*Use of strip and body cavity searches in correctional facilities: RCW 10.79.060 through 10.79.110.*

**36.63.255 Transfer of convicted felon to state institution pending appeal.** Any person imprisoned in a county jail pending the appeal of his or her conviction of a felony and who has not obtained bail bond pending his or her appeal shall be transferred after thirty days but within forty days from the date judgment was entered against him or her to a state institution for felons designated by the secretary of corrections: PROVIDED, That when good cause is shown, a superior court judge may order the prisoner detained in the county jail beyond said forty days for an additional period not to exceed ten days. [2009 c 549 § 4099; 1981 c 136 § 60; 1969 ex.s. c 4 § 2; 1969 c 103 § 2.]

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

**Chapter 36.64 RCW**

**JOINT GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES**

Sections

- 36.64.010 Joint courthouse and city hall.
- 36.64.020 Joint courthouse and city hall—Terms of contract.
- 36.64.030 Joint courthouse and city hall—Approval of contract.
- 36.64.040 Joint courthouse and city hall—Funds, how provided.
- 36.64.050 Joint armory sites.
- 36.64.060 Joint canal construction.
- 36.64.070 Counties with populations of two hundred ten thousand or more—Contracts with cities concerning buildings and related improvements.
- 36.64.080 Conferences to study regional and governmental problems—Counties and cities may establish—Subjects—Recommendations.
- 36.64.090 Conferences to study regional and governmental problems—Articles—Officers—Agents and employees.
- 36.64.100 Conferences to study regional and governmental problems—Contracts with other governmental agencies—Grants and gifts—Consultants.
- 36.64.110 Conferences to study regional and governmental problems—Public purpose—Contributions to support by municipal corporations.

*Care, support, and relief of needy persons: RCW 74.04.040.*

*Cemetery facilities as: RCW 68.52.192, 68.52.193.*

*Cities and towns*

*agreements with county for planning, establishing, construction, and maintenance of streets: Chapter 35.77 RCW.*

*city may contribute to support of county in which city owned utility plant located: RCW 35.21.420.*

*community renewal: RCW 35.21.660, 35.81.130.*

*Combined city-county health departments: Chapter 70.08 RCW.*

*County and city tuberculosis hospitals: Chapter 70.30 RCW.*

*County public works project, department of transportation cooperation: RCW 47.08.070.*

*County roads: RCW 47.04.080.*

*County superintendent of schools, consolidation of office into joint county district: Chapter 28A.310 RCW.*

*Diking and drainage, intercounty districts: Chapter 85.24 RCW.*

*Elevators, escalators, like conveyances, municipal governing over: RCW 70.87.050.*

*Executory conditional sales contracts for purchase of property for park and library purposes: RCW 39.30.010.*

*Fire protection districts, county contracts with: RCW 52.12.031.*

*Flood control*

*by counties jointly: Chapter 86.13 RCW.*

*county participation with flood control district: RCW 86.24.040.*

*county participation with state and federal governments: Chapter 86.24 RCW.*

*districts (1937 act): Chapter 86.09 RCW.*

*maintenance, county participation with state: Chapter 86.26 RCW.*

*Franchises across joint bridges: RCW 47.56.256.*

*Health districts as: Chapter 70.46 RCW.*

*Highways, construction, benefit of, cooperative agreements, prevention or minimization of flood damages: RCW 47.28.140.*

*Housing authorities, cooperation between: RCW 35.82.100.*

*Housing cooperation law: Chapter 35.83 RCW.*

*Intercounty rural library districts: Chapter 27.12 RCW.*

*Intercounty weed districts: Chapter 17.06 RCW.*

*Intergovernmental disposition of property: RCW 39.33.010.*

*Interlocal cooperation act: Chapter 39.34 RCW.*

*Joint aid river and harbor improvements: RCW 88.32.230, 88.32.235.*

*Joint county teachers' institutes: Chapter 28A.415 RCW.*

*Joint hospitals: RCW 36.62.030.*

*Joint operations by political subdivisions, deposit and control of funds: RCW 43.09.285.*

*Joint planning for improvement of navigable stream: RCW 88.32.240, 88.32.250.*

*Limited access facilities, cooperative agreements: RCW 47.52.090.*

*Metropolitan municipal corporations: Chapter 35.58 RCW.*

*Mosquito control districts: Chapter 17.28 RCW. generally: Chapter 70.22 RCW.*

*Motor vehicles, removal of when disabled and impounding: RCW 46.55.113.*

*Municipal airports: Chapters 14.07 and 14.08 RCW.*

*Operating agencies (electricity, water resources): Chapter 43.52 RCW.*

*Pesticide application, agreements authorized: RCW 17.21.300.*

*Port districts*

*contracts with: RCW 53.08.240.*

*ownership of improvements by with county: RCW 53.20.030.*

*Public assistance, joint county administration: RCW 74.04.180.*

*Public health pooling fund: RCW 70.12.030 through 70.12.070.*

*Reclamation districts of one million acres: Chapter 89.30 RCW.*

*Regional libraries: Chapter 27.12 RCW.*

*Regional planning commission: RCW 35.63.070.*

*River and harbor improvements by counties jointly: RCW 88.32.180 through 88.32.220.*

*Roads and bridges, limited access facilities: Chapter 47.52 RCW.*

*Soil and water conservation districts, county cooperation with: RCW 89.08.341.*

*Taxes, property*

*collection of: Chapter 84.56 RCW.*

*revaluation program: Chapter 84.41 RCW.*

*Toll bridges*

*state boundary, county participation: RCW 47.56.042.*

*tunnels and ferries: Chapter 47.56 RCW.*

*Traffic schools: Chapter 46.83 RCW.*

*Transfer of real property or contract for use for park and recreational purposes: RCW 39.33.060.*

*Washington clean air act: Chapter 70A.15 RCW.*

*World fair or exposition participation: Chapter 35.60 RCW.*

**36.64.010 Joint courthouse and city hall.** If the county seat of a county is in an incorporated city, the county and city may contract, one with the other, for the joint purchase, acquisition, leasing, ownership, control, and disposition of land and other property suitable as a site for a county courthouse and city hall and for the joint construction, ownership, control, and disposition of a building or buildings thereon for the use by such county and city as a county courthouse and city hall. Any county or city owning a site or any interest therein, or a site with buildings thereon, may, upon such terms as appear fair and just to the board of county commissioners of such county and to the legislative body of such city, contract with reference to the joint ownership, acquisition, leasing, control, improvement, and occupation of such property. [1963 c 4 § 36.64.010. Prior: 1913 c 90 § 1; RRS § 3992.]

**36.64.020 Joint courthouse and city hall—Terms of contract.** A contract made in pursuance of RCW 36.64.010 shall fully set forth the amount of money to be contributed by each towards acquisition of the site and the improvement thereof and the manner in which such property shall be improved and the character of the building or buildings to be erected thereon. The contract may provide for the amount of money to be contributed annually by each for the upkeep and maintenance of the property and the building or buildings

thereon, or it may provide for the relative proportion of such expense which such county and city shall annually pay. The contract shall specify the parts of such building or buildings which shall be set apart for the exclusive use and occupation of each. [1963 c 4 § 36.64.020. Prior: 1913 c 90 § 2; RRS § 3993.]

**36.64.030 Joint courthouse and city hall—Approval of contract.** The contract between a county and a city shall be made only after a proper resolution of the board of county commissioners of the county and a proper ordinance of the city have been passed specifically authorizing it. The contract shall be binding upon the county and the city during the term thereof, or until it is modified or abrogated by mutual consent evidenced by a proper resolution and ordinance of the county and city. [1963 c 4 § 36.64.030. Prior: 1913 c 90 § 4; RRS § 3995.]

**36.64.040 Joint courthouse and city hall—Funds, how provided.** The money to be contributed by a county or a city or both may be raised by a sale of its bonds, or by general taxation. Any county or city possessing funds or having funds available for a county courthouse or city hall from the sale of bonds or otherwise, may contract for the expenditure of such funds. [1963 c 4 § 36.64.040. Prior: 1913 c 90 § 3; RRS § 3994.]

**36.64.050 Joint armory sites.** Any city or county in the state may expend money from its current expense funds in payment in whole or in part for an armory site whenever the legislature has authorized the construction of an armory within such city or county. [1963 c 4 § 36.64.050. Prior: 1913 c 91 § 1; RRS § 3996.]

**36.64.060 Joint canal construction.** Whenever the county legislative authority of a county with a population of one hundred twenty-five thousand or more deems it for the interest of the county to construct or to aid the United States in constructing a canal to connect any bodies of water within the county, such county may construct such canal or aid the United States in constructing it and incur indebtedness for such purpose to an amount not exceeding five hundred thousand dollars and issue its negotiable bonds therefor in the manner and form provided in RCW 36.67.010. Such construction or aid in construction is a county purpose. [1991 c 363 § 77; 1985 c 7 § 105; 1983 c 3 § 78; 1963 c 4 § 36.64.060. Prior: (i) 1907 c 158 § 1; RRS § 9664. (ii) 1907 c 158 § 2; RRS § 9665.]

**Purpose—Captions not law—1991 c 363:** See notes following RCW 2.32.180.

**36.64.070 Counties with populations of two hundred ten thousand or more—Contracts with cities concerning buildings and related improvements.** Any county with a population of two hundred ten thousand or more may contract with any city or cities within such county for the financing, erection, ownership, use, lease, operation, control or maintenance of any building or buildings, including open spaces, off-street parking facilities for the use of county and city employees and persons doing business with such county or city, plazas and other improvements incident thereto, for



county or city, or combined county-city, or other public use. Property for such buildings and related improvements may be acquired by either such county or city or by both by lease, purchase, donation, exchange, and/or gift or by eminent domain in the manner provided by law for the exercise of such power by counties and cities respectively and any property acquired hereunder, together with the improvements thereon, may be sold, exchanged or leased, as the interests of said county, city or cities may from time to time require. [1991 c 363 § 78; 1965 c 24 § 1.]

**Purpose—Captions not law—1991 c 363:** See notes following RCW 2.32.180.

**36.64.080 Conferences to study regional and governmental problems—Counties and cities may establish—Subjects—Recommendations.** The boards of county commissioners of any county and any counties contiguous thereto and the governing body of any cities and/or towns within said counties may establish and organize a regional agency hereinafter referred to as a conference, for the purpose of studying regional and governmental problems of mutual interest and concern, including but not limited to, facility studies on highways, transit, airports, ports or harbor development, water supply and distribution, codes and ordinances, governmental finances, flood control, air and water pollution, recommendations of sites for schools and educational institutions, hospitals and health facilities, parks and recreation, public buildings, land use and drainage; and to formulate recommendations for review and action by the member counties and/or cities legislative body. [1965 ex.s. c 84 § 1.]

*Youth agencies, joint establishment: RCW 35.21.630.*

**36.64.090 Conferences to study regional and governmental problems—Articles—Officers—Agents and employees.** The governing bodies of the counties and cities so associated in a conference shall adopt articles of association and bylaws, select a chair and such other officers as they may determine, and may employ and discharge such agents and employees as the officers deem convenient to carry out the purposes of the conference. [2009 c 549 § 4100; 1965 ex.s. c 84 § 2.]

**36.64.100 Conferences to study regional and governmental problems—Contracts with other governmental agencies—Grants and gifts—Consultants.** The conference is authorized to contract generally and to enter into any contract with the federal government, the state, any municipal corporation and/or other governmental agency for the purpose of conducting the study of regional problems of mutual concern, and shall have the power to receive grants and gifts in furtherance of the program. The conference may retain consultants if deemed advisable. [1965 ex.s. c 84 § 3.]

**36.64.110 Conferences to study regional and governmental problems—Public purpose—Contributions to support by municipal corporations.** The formation of the conference is hereby declared to be a public purpose, and any municipal corporation may contribute to the expenses of such conference pursuant to the budgetary laws of the municipal corporations and such bylaws as may be adopted by the conference: PROVIDED, That services and facilities may be

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provided by a municipal corporation in lieu of assessment. [1965 ex.s. c 84 § 4.]

**Chapter 36.65 RCW  
COMBINED CITY AND COUNTY MUNICIPAL  
CORPORATIONS**

Sections

- 36.65.010 Intent.
- 36.65.020 School districts to be retained as separate political subdivisions.
- 36.65.030 Tax on net income prohibited.
- 36.65.040 Method of allocating state revenues.
- 36.65.050 Fire protection or law enforcement units—Binding arbitration in collective bargaining.
- 36.65.060 Public employee retirement or disability benefits not affected.

**36.65.010 Intent.** It is the intent of the legislature in enacting this chapter to provide for the implementation and clarification of Article XI, section 16 of the state Constitution, which authorizes the formation of combined city and county municipal corporations.

"City-county," as used in this chapter, means a combined city and county municipal corporation under Article XI, section 16 of the state Constitution. [1984 c 91 § 1.]

**36.65.020 School districts to be retained as separate political subdivisions.** Recognizing the paramount duty of the state to provide for the common schools under Article IX, sections 1 and 2 of the state Constitution, school districts shall be retained as separate political subdivisions within the city-county. [1984 c 91 § 2.]

**36.65.030 Tax on net income prohibited.** A county, city, or city-county shall not levy a tax on net income. [1984 c 91 § 3.]

**36.65.040 Method of allocating state revenues.** The method of allocating state revenues shall not be modified for a period of one year from the date the initial officers of the city-county assume office. During the one-year period, state revenue shares shall be calculated as if the preexisting county, cities, and special purpose districts had continued as separate entities. However, distributions of the revenue to the consolidated entities shall be made to the city-county. [1984 c 91 § 4.]

**36.65.050 Fire protection or law enforcement units—Binding arbitration in collective bargaining.** Subject to the requirements of RCW 41.56.100 and 41.58.070, if the city-county government includes a fire protection or law enforcement unit that was, prior to the formation of the city-county, governed by a state statute providing for binding arbitration in collective bargaining, then the entire fire protection or law enforcement unit of the city-county shall be governed by that statute. [2021 c 13 § 5; 1984 c 91 § 5.]

**36.65.060 Public employee retirement or disability benefits not affected.** The formation of a city-county shall not have the effect of reducing, restricting, or limiting retirement or disability benefits of any person employed by or retired from a municipal corporation, or who had a vested

right in any state or local retirement system, prior to the formation of the city-county. [1984 c 91 § 6.]

### Chapter 36.67 RCW LIMITATION OF INDEBTEDNESS—COUNTY BONDS

#### Sections

36.67.010	Authority to contract indebtedness—Limitations.
36.67.060	Bond retirement.
36.67.070	Payment of interest.

#### REVENUE BONDS

36.67.500	"This chapter" means RCW 36.67.510 through 36.67.570.
36.67.510	Revenue bonds authorized.
36.67.520	When issued—Amounts—Purposes—Costs and expenses.
36.67.530	Form—Terms—Interest—Execution and signatures.
36.67.540	Special funds, creation and use—Use of tax revenue prohibited—Bonds are negotiable instruments—Statement on face—Remedy for failure to set aside revenue.
36.67.550	Covenants—Law and resolutions constitute contract with holders—Remedies.
36.67.560	Funding and refunding.
36.67.570	Liberal construction—Effect of other acts.

*Airport purposes, bonds for: Chapter 14.08 RCW.*

*Alternative authority to issue revenue bonds: RCW 39.46.150, 39.46.160.*

*Bond elections, vote required: Chapter 39.40 RCW.*

#### Bonds

*as security for city depository: RCW 35.38.040.*

*form, sale, terms of sale, payment, etc.: Chapter 39.44 RCW.*

*sale to federal government at private sale: Chapter 39.48 RCW.*

*Funding indebtedness in counties: Chapter 39.52 RCW.*

*Funds for reserve purposes may be included in issue amount: RCW 39.44.140.*

*Housing authority act, bonds issued under: Chapter 35.82 RCW.*

*Industrial development revenue bonds: Chapter 39.84 RCW.*

*Juvenile detention facilities, bonds for: Chapter 13.16 RCW.*

*Limitation of indebtedness of taxing districts (counties): Chapter 39.36 RCW.*

*State funds, investment in county bonds authorized: RCW 43.84.080.*

*Validation of bonds and financing proceedings: Chapter 39.90 RCW.*

**36.67.010 Authority to contract indebtedness—Limitations.** A county may contract indebtedness for general county purposes subject to the limitations on indebtedness provided for in RCW 39.36.020(2). Bonds evidencing such indebtedness shall be issued and sold in accordance with chapter 39.46 RCW. [1984 c 186 § 27; 1971 c 76 § 1; 1970 ex.s. c 42 § 17; 1963 c 4 § 36.67.010. Prior: 1890 p 37 § 1; RRS § 5575.]

**Purpose—1984 c 186:** See note following RCW 39.46.110.

*Validation requirement: RCW 39.40.010.*

**36.67.060 Bond retirement.** Bonds issued under this chapter shall be retired by an annual tax levy and by any other moneys lawfully available and pledged therefor. [1984 c 186 § 28; 1983 c 167 § 77; 1975 1st ex.s. c 188 § 1; 1963 c 4 § 36.67.060. Prior: (i) 1890 p 39 § 6; RRS § 5580. (ii) 1890 p 39 § 7; RRS § 5581.]

**Purpose—1984 c 186:** See note following RCW 39.46.110.

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

**36.67.070 Payment of interest.** Any coupons for the payment of interest on the bonds shall be considered for all purposes as warrants drawn upon the current expense fund of

the county issuing bonds, and if when presented to the treasurer of the county no funds are in the treasury to pay them, the treasurer shall indorse the coupons as presented for payment, in the same manner as county warrants are indorsed, and thereafter they shall bear interest at the same rate as county warrants presented and unpaid. If there are no funds in the treasury to make payment on a bond not having coupons, the interest payment shall continue bearing interest at the bond rate until it is paid, unless otherwise provided in the proceedings authorizing the sale of the bonds. [1983 c 167 § 78; 1963 c 4 § 36.67.070. Prior: 1890 p 39 § 8; RRS § 5582.]

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

#### REVENUE BONDS

**36.67.500 "This chapter" means RCW 36.67.510 through 36.67.570.** As used in RCW 36.67.500 through 36.67.570 "this chapter" means RCW 36.67.510 through 36.67.570. [1965 c 142 § 8.]

**36.67.510 Revenue bonds authorized.** The county legislative authority of any county is hereby authorized for the purpose of carrying out the lawful powers granted to the counties by the laws of the state to contract indebtedness and to issue revenue bonds evidencing such indebtedness in conformity with this chapter. Such bonds may be issued and sold in accordance with chapter 39.46 RCW. [1983 c 167 § 79; 1965 c 142 § 1.]

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

**36.67.520 When issued—Amounts—Purposes—Costs and expenses.** All such revenue bonds authorized under the terms of this chapter may be issued and sold by the counties from time to time and in such amounts as is deemed necessary by the legislative authority of each county to provide sufficient funds for the carrying out of all county powers, without limiting the generality thereof, including the following: Acquisition; construction; reconstruction; maintenance; repair; additions; operations of parks and recreations; flood control facilities; pollution facilities; parking facilities as a part of a courthouse or combined county-city building facility; and any other county purpose from which revenues can be derived. Included in the costs thereof shall be any necessary engineering, inspection, accounting, fiscal, and legal expenses, the cost of issuance of bonds, including printing, engraving, and advertising and other similar expenses, payment of interest on such bonds during the construction of such facilities and a period no greater than one year after such construction is completed, and the proceeds of such bond issue are hereby made available for all such purposes. Revenue bonds may also be issued to refund revenue bonds or general obligation bonds which are issued for any of the purposes specified in this section. [1981 c 313 § 12; 1969 ex.s. c 8 § 2; 1965 c 142 § 2.]

*Parking facilities as part of courthouse or county-city building: RCW 36.01.080.*

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

**36.67.530 Form—Terms—Interest—Execution and signatures.** (1) When revenue bonds are issued for authorized purposes, said bonds shall be either registered as to

principal only or as to principal and interest as provided in RCW 39.46.030, or shall be bearer bonds; shall be in such denominations, shall be numbered, shall bear such date, shall be payable at such time or times up to a maximum period of not to exceed thirty years and payable at the office of the county treasurer, and such other places as determined by the county legislative authority of the county; shall bear interest payable and evidenced to maturity on bonds not registered as to interest by coupons attached to said bonds bearing a coupon interest rate or rates as authorized by the county legislative authority; shall be executed by the chair of the county legislative authority, and attested by the clerk of the legislative authority, and the seal of such legislative authority shall be affixed to each bond, but not to any coupon; and may have facsimile signatures of the chair and the clerk imprinted on each bond and any interest coupons in lieu of original signatures and the facsimile seal imprinted on each bond.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, such bonds may be issued and sold in accordance with chapter 39.46 RCW. [2009 c 549 § 4101; 1983 c 167 § 80; 1981 c 313 § 13; 1970 ex.s. c 56 § 50; 1969 ex.s. c 232 § 27; 1965 c 142 § 3.]

**Purpose—1970 ex.s. c 56:** See note following RCW 39.52.020.

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

**36.67.540 Special funds, creation and use—Use of tax revenue prohibited—Bonds are negotiable instruments—Statement on face—Remedy for failure to set aside revenue.** Bonds issued under the provisions of this chapter shall be payable solely out of the operating revenues of the county. Such bonds shall be authorized by resolution adopted by the county legislative authority, which resolution shall create a special fund or funds into which the county legislative authority may obligate and bind the county to set aside and pay any part or parts of, or all of, or a fixed proportion of, or fixed amounts of gross revenue received by the county from moneys for services or activities as stated in the resolution, for the purpose of paying the principal of and interest on such bonds as the same shall become due, and if deemed necessary to maintain adequate reserves therefor. Such fund or funds shall be drawn upon solely for the purpose of paying the principal and interest upon the bonds issued pursuant to this chapter.

The bonds shall be negotiable instruments within the provision and intent of the negotiable instruments law of this state, even though they shall be payable solely from such special fund or funds, and the tax revenue of the county may not be used to pay, secure, or guarantee the payment of the principal of and interest on such bonds. The bonds and any coupons attached thereto shall state upon their face that they are payable solely from such special fund or funds. If the county fails to set aside and pay into such fund or funds, the payments provided for in such resolution, the owner of any such bonds may bring suit to compel compliance with the provisions of the resolution. [1983 c 167 § 81; 1965 c 142 § 4.]

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

**36.67.550 Covenants—Law and resolutions constitute contract with holders—Remedies.** The board of county commissioners may provide covenants as it may deem necessary to secure the payment of the principal of and

interest on such bonds and may, but shall not be required to, include covenants to create a reserve fund or account and to authorize the payment or deposit of certain moneys therein for the purpose of securing the payment of such principal and interest; to establish, maintain, and collect rates, charges, fees, rentals, and the like on the facilities and service the income of which is pledged for the payment of such bonds, sufficient to pay or secure the payment of such principal and interest and to maintain an adequate coverage over annual debt service; and to make any and all other covenants not inconsistent with the provisions of this chapter which will increase the marketability of such bonds. The board may also provide that revenue bonds payable out of the same source or sources may later be sold on a parity with any revenue bonds being issued and sold. The provisions of this chapter and any resolution or resolutions providing for the authorization, issuance, and sale of such bonds shall constitute a contract with the holder of such bonds, and the provisions thereof shall be enforceable by any owner or holder of such bonds by mandamus or any appropriate suit, action or proceeding at law or in equity in any court of competent jurisdiction. [1965 c 142 § 5.]

**36.67.560 Funding and refunding.** (1) The county legislative authority of any county may by resolution, from time to time, provide for the issuance of funding or refunding revenue bonds to fund or refund any outstanding revenue bonds and any interest and premiums due thereon at or before the maturity of such bonds, and parts or all of various series and issues of outstanding revenue bonds in the amount thereof to be funded or refunded. Such bonds may be in any form, including bearer bonds or registered bonds as provided in RCW 39.46.030.

The county legislative authority shall create a special fund for the sole purpose of paying the principal of and interest on such funding or refunding revenue bonds, into which fund the legislative authority shall obligate and bind the county to set aside and pay any part or parts of, or all of, or a fixed proportion of, or a fixed amount of the revenue of the facility of the county sufficient to pay such principal and interest as the same shall become due, and if deemed necessary to maintain adequate reserves therefor.

Such funding or refunding bonds shall be negotiable instruments within the provisions and intent of the negotiable instruments law of this state, and the tax revenue of the county may not be used to pay, secure, or guarantee the payment of the principal of and interest on such bonds.

The county may exchange such funding or refunding bonds for the bonds, and any coupons being funded or refunded, or it may sell such funding or refunding bonds in the manner, at such price and at such rate or rates of interest as the legislative authority shall deem to be for the best interest of the county and its inhabitants, either at public or private sale.

The provisions of this chapter relating to the terms, conditions, covenants, issuance, and sale of revenue bonds shall be applicable to such funding or refunding bonds except as may be otherwise specifically provided in this section.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, such bonds may be issued and sold in accordance with chapter

39.46 RCW. [1983 c 167 § 82; 1970 ex.s. c 56 § 51; 1969 ex.s. c 232 § 28; 1965 c 142 § 6.]

**Purpose—1970 ex.s. c 56:** See note following RCW 39.52.020.

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

### 36.67.570 Liberal construction—Effect of other acts.

This chapter shall be complete authority for the issuance of the revenue bonds hereby authorized, and shall be liberally construed to accomplish its purposes. Any restrictions, limitations or regulations relative to the issuance of such revenue bonds contained in any other act shall not apply to the bonds issued under this chapter. Any act inconsistent herewith shall be deemed modified to conform with the provisions of this chapter for the purpose of this chapter only. [1965 c 142 § 7.]

## Chapter 36.68 RCW

### PARKS AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

#### Sections

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*Outdoor recreation land acquisition or improvement under marine recreation land act: Chapter 79A.25 RCW.*

*Parks, bathing beaches, public camps, county may acquire and operate: Chapter 67.20 RCW.*

*RCW 39.33.060 to govern on sales by water-sewer district for park and recreational purposes: RCW 57.08.140.*

*State parks and recreation commission: Chapter 79A.05 RCW.*

*Transfer of real property or contract for use for park and recreational purposes: RCW 39.33.060.*

### 36.68.010 Counties may establish park and playground systems—Disposition of surplus park property.

Counties may establish park and playground systems for public recreational purposes and for such purposes shall have the power to acquire lands, buildings and other facilities by gift, purchase, lease, devise, bequest and condemnation. A county may lease or sell any park property, buildings or facilities surplus to its needs, or no longer suitable for park purposes: PROVIDED, That such park property shall be subject to the requirements and provisions of notice, hearing, bid or inter-governmental transfer as provided in chapter 36.34 RCW: PROVIDED FURTHER, That nothing in this section shall be construed as authorizing any county to sell any property which such county acquired by condemnation for park or playground or other public recreational purposes on or after January 1, 1960, until held for five years or more after such acquisition: PROVIDED FURTHER, That funds acquired from the lease or sale of any park property, buildings or facilities shall be placed in the park and recreation fund to be used for capital purposes. [1963 c 4 § 36.68.010. Prior: 1961 c 92 § 1; 1949 c 94 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 3991-14.]

**36.68.020 Programs of public recreation.** Counties may conduct programs of public recreation, and in any such program property or facilities owned by any individual, group or organization, whether public or private, may be utilized by consent of the owner. [1963 c 4 § 36.68.020. Prior: 1949 c 94 § 2; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 3991-15.]

**36.68.030 Park and recreation board—Composition.** Each county may form a county park and recreation board composed of seven members, who shall be appointed by the board of county commissioners to serve without compensation. [1969 ex.s. c 176 § 93; 1963 c 4 § 36.68.030. Prior: 1949 c 94 § 3; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 3991-16.]

**36.68.040 Park and recreation board—Terms of members.** For the appointive positions on the county park and recreation board the initial terms shall be two years for two positions, four years for two positions, and six years for the remaining positions plus the period in each instance to the next following June 30th; thereafter the term for each appointive position shall be six years and shall end on June 30th. [1969 ex.s. c 176 § 94; 1963 c 4 § 36.68.040. Prior: 1949 c 94 § 4; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 3991-17.]

**36.68.050 Park and recreation board—Removal of members—Vacancies.** Any appointed county park and recreation board member may be removed by a majority vote of the board of county commissioners either for cause or upon the joint written recommendation of five members of the county park and recreation board. Vacancies on the county park and recreation board shall be filled by appointment, made by the board of county commissioners for the unexpired portions of the terms vacated. [1963 c 4 § 36.68.050. Prior: 1949 c 94 § 5; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 3991-18.]

**36.68.060 Park and recreation board—Powers and duties.** The county park and recreation board:

(1) Shall elect its officers, including a chair, vice chair and secretary, and such other officers as it may determine it requires.

(2) Shall hold regular public meetings at least monthly.

(3) Shall adopt rules for transaction of business and shall keep a written record of its meetings, resolutions, transactions, findings and determinations, which record shall be a public record.

(4) Shall initiate, direct, and administer county recreational activities, and shall select and employ a county park and recreation superintendent and such other properly qualified employees as it may deem desirable.

(5) Shall improve, operate, and maintain parks, playgrounds, and other recreational facilities, together with all structures and equipment useful in connection therewith, and may recommend to the board of county commissioners acquisition of real property.

(6) Shall promulgate and enforce reasonable rules and regulations deemed necessary in the operation of parks, playgrounds, and other recreational facilities, and may recommend to the board of county commissioners adoption of any rules or regulations requiring enforcement by legal process which relate to parks, playgrounds, or other recreational facilities.

(7) Shall each year submit to the board of county commissioners for approval a proposed budget for the following year in the manner provided by law for the preparation and submission of budgets by elective or appointive county officials.

(8) May, subject to the approval of the board of county commissioners, enter into contracts with any other municipal corporation, governmental or private agency for the conduct of park and recreational programs. [2009 c 549 § 4102; 1963 c 4 § 36.68.060. Prior: 1949 c 94 § 6; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 3991-19.]

**36.68.070 Park and recreation fund.** In counties in which county park and recreation boards are formed, a county park and recreation fund shall be established. Into this fund shall be placed the allocation as the board of county commissioners annually appropriates thereto, together with miscellaneous revenues derived from the operation of parks, playgrounds, and other recreational facilities, as well as grants, gifts, and bequests for park or recreational purposes. All expenditures shall be disbursed from this fund by the county park and recreation board, and all balances remaining in this fund at the end of any year shall be carried over in such

fund to the succeeding year. [1963 c 4 § 36.68.070. Prior: 1949 c 94 § 7; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 3991-20.]

**36.68.080 Penalty for violations of regulations.** (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section, any person violating any rules or regulations adopted by the board of county commissioners relating to parks, playgrounds, or other recreational facilities is guilty of a misdemeanor.

(2)(a) Except as provided in (b) of this subsection, violation of such a rule or regulation relating to traffic including parking, standing, stopping, and pedestrian offenses is a traffic infraction.

(b) Violation of such a rule or regulation equivalent to those provisions of Title 46 RCW set forth in RCW 46.63.020 remains a misdemeanor. [2003 c 53 § 205; 1979 ex.s. c 136 § 36; 1963 c 4 § 36.68.080. Prior: 1949 c 94 § 8; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 3991-21.]

**Intent—Effective date—2003 c 53:** See notes following RCW 2.48.180.

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

**36.68.090 Counties authorized to build, improve, operate and maintain, etc., parks, playgrounds, gymnasiums, swimming pools, beaches, stadiums, golf courses, etc., and other recreational facilities—Regulation—Charges for use.** Any county, acting through its board of county commissioners, is empowered to build, construct, care for, control, supervise, improve, operate and maintain parks, playgrounds, gymnasiums, swimming pools, field houses, bathing beaches, stadiums, golf courses, automobile racetracks and drag strips, coliseums for the display of spectator sports, public campgrounds, boat ramps and launching sites, public hunting and fishing areas, arboretums, bicycle and bridle paths, and other recreational facilities, and to that end may make, promulgate and enforce such rules and regulations regarding the use thereof, and make such charges for the use thereof, as may be deemed by said board to be reasonable. [1967 ex.s. c 144 § 11.]

*Authority to establish park and playground systems: RCW 36.68.010.*

*Stadiums, powers of cities and counties to acquire and operate: Chapter 67.28 RCW.*

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

**36.68.100 Moorage facilities—Regulations authorized—Port charges, delinquency—Abandoned vessels, public sale.** See RCW 53.08.310 and 53.08.320.

**36.68.110 Counties authorized to permit public libraries on land used for park and recreation purposes.** A county, acting through its county legislative authority, is authorized to permit the location of public libraries on land owned by the county that is used for park and recreation purposes, unless a covenant or other binding restriction precludes such uses. [1993 c 84 § 1.]

**36.68.120 Community athletics programs—Sex discrimination prohibited.** The antidiscrimination provisions of RCW 49.60.500 apply to community athletics programs and facilities operated, conducted, or administered by a park and recreation service area. [2009 c 467 § 8.]

**Findings—Declaration—2009 c 467:** See note following RCW 49.60.500.

### PARK AND RECREATION SERVICE AREAS

**36.68.400 Creation authorized—Purposes—Taxing districts—Powers.** Any county shall have the power to create park and recreation service areas for the purpose of financing, acquiring, constructing, improving, maintaining, or operating any park, senior citizen activities centers, zoos, aquariums, and recreational facilities as defined in RCW 36.69.010 which shall be owned or leased by the county and administered as other county parks or shall be owned or leased and administered by a city or town or shall be owned or leased and administered by the park and recreation service area. A park and recreation service area may purchase athletic equipment and supplies, and provide for the upkeep of park buildings, grounds and facilities, and provide custodial, recreational and park program personnel at any park or recreational facility owned or leased by the service area or a county, city, or town. A park and recreation service area shall be a quasi-municipal corporation, an independent taxing "authority" within the meaning of section 1, Article 7 of the Constitution, and a "taxing district" within the meaning of section 2, Article 7 of the Constitution.

A park and recreation service area shall constitute a body corporate and shall possess all the usual powers of a corporation for public purposes including, but not limited to, the authority to hire employees, staff, and services, to enter into contracts, to accept and expend or use gifts, grants, and donations, and to sue and be sued as well as all other powers that may now or hereafter be specifically conferred by statute.

The members of the county legislative authority, acting ex officio and independently, shall compose the governing body of any park and recreation service area which is created within the county: PROVIDED, That where a park and recreation service area includes an incorporated city or town within the county, the park and recreation service area may be governed as provided in an interlocal agreement adopted pursuant to chapter 39.34 RCW. The voters of a park and recreation service area shall be all registered voters residing within the service area.

A multicounty park and recreation service area shall be governed as provided in an interlocal agreement adopted pursuant to chapter 39.34 RCW. [1988 c 82 § 1; 1985 c 253 § 1; 1981 c 210 § 1; 1965 ex.s. c 76 § 1; 1963 c 218 § 1.]

*Contracts with community service organizations for public improvements: RCW 35.21.278.*

*Dissolution of inactive special purpose districts: Chapter 36.96 RCW.*

*May acquire property for park, recreational, viewpoint, greenbelt, conservation, historic, scenic, or view purposes: RCW 36.34.340.*

*Parks, county commissioners may designate name of: RCW 36.32.430.*

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

**36.68.410 May be initiated by resolution or petition.** Park and recreation service areas may be initiated in any unincorporated area of any county by resolution adopted by the county legislative authority or by a petition signed by ten percent of the registered voters within the proposed park and recreation service area. Incorporated areas may be included

under RCW 36.68.610 and 36.68.620. [1981 c 210 § 2; 1965 ex.s. c 76 § 2; 1963 c 218 § 2.]

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

**36.68.420 Resolution or petition—Contents.** Any resolution or petition initiating a proposed park and recreation service area shall set forth the boundaries of the service area with certainty, describe the purpose or purposes for which the service area is to be formed, and contain an estimate of the initial cost of any capital improvements or services to be authorized in the service area.

"Initial costs" as used herein shall include the estimated cost during the first year of operation of:

- (1) Land to be acquired or leased for neighborhood park purposes by the service area to establish a park or park facility specified in the resolution or petition;
- (2) Capital improvements specified in the objectives or purposes of the service area;
- (3) Forming the service area; and
- (4) Personnel, maintenance or operation of any park facility within the service area as specified by the resolution or petition. [1981 c 210 § 3; 1963 c 218 § 3.]

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

**36.68.430 Petitions—Verification of signatures.** Petitions shall be submitted to the county auditor who shall verify the signatures thereon to determine that the petition has been signed by the requisite number of persons who are registered voters within the proposed service area. If the petition is found not to have the requisite number of signatures, it shall be returned to the petitioners. If the petition is found to be sufficient, the auditor shall so certify and transmit the same to the board of county commissioners. [1963 c 218 § 4.]

**36.68.440 Feasibility and cost studies—Public hearing—Notice.** Upon accepting a petition to form a park and recreation service area, or upon passage of a resolution to establish such a service area, the county legislative authority shall order a full investigation for the purpose or purposes of the proposed service area to determine the feasibility of forming the same and to determine the estimated initial costs involved in obtaining the objectives set forth in the petition or resolution. The reports on the feasibility and the cost of the proposed service area shall be made available to the county legislative authority, and copies of such reports shall be filed with the clerk of the county legislative authority not more than eighty days after the county legislative authority first directs that the studies and reports be undertaken. The county legislative authority shall also provide by resolution that within twenty days after receiving the reports a public hearing shall be held at the county seat or at some convenient location within the proposed service area. At least five days before the hearing, the county legislative authority shall give notice of the hearing not less than twice in a legal newspaper of general circulation in the county. The notice shall describe the boundaries of the proposed service area, the purpose or purposes of the proposed service area, the estimated initial costs, indicate that the reports and other materials prepared at the order of the county legislative authority are available in the office of the clerk of the county legislative authority for the study and review of any interested party, and set the time,

date and place of the hearing. [1981 c 210 § 4; 1963 c 218 § 5.]

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

**36.68.450 Hearing procedure—Inclusion of property—Examination of reports—Recess.** At the hearing, the county legislative authority shall first provide for an explanation of the objectives of the proposed park and recreation service area and the estimated initial costs thereof. The county legislative authority shall permit any resident or property owner of the proposed service area to appear and be heard, and may permit property owners in contiguous areas to include their property within the proposed service area in the event that they make their request for inclusion in writing. The county legislative authority shall examine all reports on the feasibility of the proposed service area and its initial costs and may, if they deem it necessary, recess the hearing for not more than twenty days to obtain any additional information necessary to arrive at the findings provided for in RCW 36.68.420. [1981 c 210 § 5; 1963 c 218 § 6.]

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

**36.68.460 Findings of county commissioners—Dismissal of proceedings, limitation on subsequent initiation.** At the conclusion of a hearing, the board of county commissioners shall make the following findings:

(1) Whether or not the service area's objectives fit within the general framework of the county's comprehensive park plan and general park policies.

(2) The exact boundaries of the service area: The board shall be empowered to modify the boundaries as originally defined in the petition or resolution initiating the proposed service area: PROVIDED, That the boundaries of the service area may not be enlarged unless the property owners within the area to be added consent to their inclusion in writing; or unless the board gives the property owners of the area to be added, written notice, mailed to their regular permanent residences as shown on the latest records of the county auditor, five days prior to a regular or continued hearing upon the formation of the proposed service area.

(3) A full definition or explanation of the nature of improvements or services to be financed by the proposed service area.

(4) Whether or not the objectives of the service area are feasible.

(5) The number or name of the service area.

If satisfactory findings cannot be made by the board, the petition or resolution shall be dismissed, and no petition or resolution embracing the same area may be accepted or heard for at least two years. [1963 c 218 § 7.]

**36.68.470 Resolution ordering election—Election procedure—Formation.** (1) Upon making findings under the provisions of RCW 36.68.460, the county legislative authority shall, by resolution, order an election of the voters of the proposed park and recreation service area to determine if the service area shall be formed. The county legislative authority shall in their resolution direct the county auditor to set the election to be held at the next general election or at a special election held for such purpose; describe the purposes of the proposed service area; set forth the estimated cost of

any initial improvements or services to be financed by the service area should it be formed; describe the method of financing the initial improvements or services described in the resolution or petition; and order that notice of election be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the county at least twice prior to the election date.

(2) A proposition to form a park and recreation service area shall be submitted to the voters of the proposed service area. Upon approval by a majority of the voters voting on the proposition, a park and recreation service area shall be established. The proposition submitted to the voters by the county auditor on the ballot shall be in substantially the following form:

#### FORMATION OF PARK AND RECREATION SERVICE AREA

Shall a park and recreation service area be established for the area described in a resolution of the legislative authority of . . . . . county, adopted on the . . . . day of . . . . . (year) . . . . , to provide financing for neighborhood park facilities, improvements, and services?

Yes . . . . . No . . . . .

[2016 c 202 § 31; 1981 c 210 § 6; 1963 c 218 § 8.]

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

**36.68.480 Property tax levies or bond retirement levies—Election.** If the petition or resolution initiating the formation of the proposed park and recreation service area proposes that the initial capital or operational costs are to be financed by regular property tax levies for a six-year period as authorized by RCW 36.68.525, or an annual excess levy, or that proposed capital costs are to be financed by the issuance of general obligation bonds and bond retirement levies, a proposition or propositions for such purpose or purposes shall be submitted to the voters of the proposed service area at the same election. A proposition or propositions for regular property tax levies for a six-year period as authorized by RCW 36.68.525, an annual excess levy, or the issuance of general obligation bonds and bond retirement levies, may also be submitted to the voters at any general or special election. [1984 c 131 § 7; 1981 c 210 § 7; 1973 1st ex.s. c 195 § 38; 1963 c 218 § 9.]

**Purpose—1984 c 131 §§ 3-9:** See note following RCW 29A.36.210.

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

**36.68.490 Annual excess levy or bond retirement levies—Election procedure—Vote required.** In order for the annual excess tax levy proposition or bond retirement levies proposition to be approved, voters exceeding in number at least sixty percent of the number of voters who cast ballots for the office of county legislative authority within the park and recreation area, or within the proposed service area, in the last preceding general election for that office must cast ballots on the tax levy proposition, and of all the votes cast at the election at least sixty percent of said votes must approve the annual excess tax levy or the bond retirement levies. [1981 c 210 § 8; 1963 c 218 § 10.]

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

**36.68.500 Resolution declaring formation—Treasurer—Disbursement procedure.** If the formation of the service area is approved by the voters, the county legislative authority shall by resolution declare the service area to be formed and direct the county treasurer to be the treasurer of the service area. Expenditures of the service area shall be made upon warrants drawn by the county auditor pursuant to vouchers approved by the governing body of the service area. [1981 c 210 § 9; 1963 c 218 § 11.]

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

**36.68.510 Local service area fund.** If the service area is formed, there shall be created in the office of the county treasurer a local service area fund with such accounts as the treasurer may find convenient, or as the state auditor may direct, into which shall be deposited all revenues received by the service area from tax levy, from gifts or donations, and from service or admission charges. Such fund shall be designated "(name of county) service area No. . . . fund." Or "(name of district) service area fund." Special accounts shall be established within the fund for the deposit of the proceeds of each bond issue made for the construction of a specified project or improvement, and there shall also be established special accounts, within the fund for the deposit of revenues raised by special levy or derived from other specific revenues, to be used exclusively for the retirement of an outstanding bond issue or for paying the interest or service charges on any bond issue. [1963 c 218 § 12.]

**36.68.520 Annual excess property tax levy—General obligation bonds.** (1) A park and recreation service area shall have the power to levy annual excess levies upon the property included within the service area if authorized at a special election called for the purpose in the manner prescribed by section 2, Article VII of the Constitution and by RCW 84.52.052 for operating funds, capital outlay funds, and cumulative reserve funds.

(2) A park and recreation service area may issue general obligation bonds for capital purposes only, not to exceed an amount, together with any outstanding nonvoter approved general obligation indebtedness, equal to three-eighths of one percent of the value of the taxable property within the service area. Additionally, a park and recreation service area may issue general obligation bonds, together with any outstanding voter approved and nonvoter approved general indebtedness, equal to two and one-half percent of the value of the taxable property within the service area, as the term "value of the taxable property" is defined in RCW 39.36.015, when such bonds are approved by the voters of the service area at a special election called for the purpose in accordance with the provisions of Article VIII, section 6 of the Constitution. Such bonds shall be issued and sold in accordance with chapter 39.46 RCW.

Bonds may be retired by excess property tax levies when such levies are approved by the voters at a special election in accordance with the provisions of Article VII, section 2 of the Constitution and RCW 84.52.056.

Any elections shall be held as provided in RCW 39.36.050. [1994 c 156 § 4. Prior: 1984 c 186 § 29; 1984 c 131 § 8; (1983 c 167 § 271 repealed by 1984 c 186 § 70; and repealed by 1984 c 131 § 10); 1983 c 167 § 83; 1981 c 210 §

10; 1973 1st ex.s. c 195 § 39; 1970 ex.s. c 42 § 19; 1963 c 218 § 13.]

**Intent—1994 c 156:** See note following RCW 36.69.140.

**Purpose—1984 c 186:** See note following RCW 39.46.110.

**Purpose—1984 c 131 §§ 3-9:** See note following RCW 29A.36.210.

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

**36.68.525 Six-year regular property tax levies—Limitations—Election.** A park and recreation service area may impose regular property tax levies in an amount equal to sixty cents or less per thousand dollars of assessed value of property in the service area in each year for six consecutive years when specifically authorized so to do by a majority of at least three-fifths of the voters thereof approving a proposition authorizing the levies submitted not more than twelve months prior to the date on which the proposed initial levy is to be made and not oftener than twice in such twelve-month period, either at a special election or at the regular election of the service area, at which election the number of voters voting "yes" on the proposition must constitute three-fifths of a number equal to forty percent of the number of voters voting in the service area at the last preceding general election when the number of voters voting on the proposition does not exceed forty percent of the number of voters voting in such taxing district in the last preceding general election; or by a majority of at least three-fifths of the voters thereof voting on the proposition if the number of voters voting on the proposition exceeds forty per centum of the number of voters voting in such taxing district in the last preceding general election. A proposition authorizing such tax levies may not be submitted by a park and recreation service area more than twice in any twelve-month period. Ballot propositions must conform with RCW 29A.36.210. If a park and recreation service area is levying property taxes, which in combination with property taxes levied by other taxing districts result in taxes in excess of the limitation provided for in RCW 84.52.043(2), the park and recreation service area property tax levy must be reduced or eliminated as provided in RCW 84.52.010. [2010 c 106 § 302; 1994 c 156 § 5; 1984 c 131 § 9.]

**Intent—1994 c 156:** See note following RCW 36.69.140.

**Purpose—1984 c 131 §§ 3-9:** See note following RCW 29A.36.210.

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

**36.68.527 Community revitalization financing—Public improvements.** In addition to other authority that a park and recreation service area possesses, a park and recreation service area may provide any public improvement as defined under RCW 39.89.020, but this additional authority is limited to participating in the financing of the public improvements as provided under RCW 39.89.050.

This section does not limit the authority of a park and recreation service area to otherwise participate in the public improvements if that authority exists elsewhere. [2001 c 212 § 14.]

**36.68.530 Budgets—Appropriations—Accumulation of reserves.** The governing body of each park and recreation service area shall annually compile a budget for each service area in a form prescribed by the state auditor for the ensuing calendar year which shall, to the extent that anticipated



income is actually realized, constitute the appropriations for the service area. The budget may include an amount to accumulate a reserve for a stated capital purpose. In compiling the budget, all available funds and anticipated income shall be taken into consideration, including contributions or contractual payments from school districts, cities, or towns, county or any other governmental entity, gifts and donations, special tax levy, fees and charges, proceeds of bond issues, and cumulative reserve funds. [1995 c 301 § 67; 1981 c 210 § 11; 1963 c 218 § 14.]

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

**36.68.541 Employees.** Park and recreation service areas may hire employees and may fund all or a portion of the salaries and benefits of county park employees who perform work on county park and recreation facilities within the service area and may fund all or a portion of the salaries and benefits of city or town park employees who perform work on city or town park and recreation facilities within the service area. [1988 c 82 § 2; 1981 c 210 § 12.]

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

**36.68.550 Use and admission fees and charges.** A park and recreation service area may impose and collect use fees or other direct charges on facilities financed, acquired, and operated by the park and recreation service area. The county legislative authority may allow admission fees or other direct charges which are paid by persons using county park facilities located within a park and recreation service area to be transferred to a park and recreation service area. Such direct charges to users may be made for the use of or admission to swimming pools, field houses, tennis and handball courts, bathhouses, swimming beaches, boat launching, storage or moorage facilities, ski lifts, picnic areas and other similar recreation facilities, and for parking lots used in conjunction with such facilities. All funds collected under the provisions of this section shall be deposited to the fund of the service area established in the office of the county treasurer, to be disbursed under the service area budget as approved by the governing body of the park and recreation service area. [1988 c 82 § 3; 1981 c 210 § 13; 1963 c 218 § 16.]

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

**36.68.555 Eminent domain.** A park and recreation service area may exercise the power of eminent domain to obtain property for its authorized purposes in a manner consistent with the power of eminent domain of the county in which the park and recreation service area is located. [1988 c 82 § 8.]

**36.68.560 Concessions.** The county legislative authority may transfer the proceeds from concessions for food and other services accruing to the county from park or park facilities which are located in a park and recreation service area to the fund of the service area in the office of the county treasurer to be disbursed under the service area budget. [1981 c 210 § 14; 1963 c 218 § 17.]

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

**36.68.570 Use of funds—Purchases.** A park and recreation service area may reimburse the county for any charge

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incurred by the county current expense fund which is properly an expense of the service area, including reasonable administrative costs incurred by the offices of county treasurer and the county auditor in providing accounting, clerical or other services for the benefit of the service area. The county legislative authority may, where a county purchasing department has been established, provide for the purchase of all supplies and equipment for a park and recreation service area through the department. The park and recreation service area may contract with the county to administer purchasing. [1988 c 82 § 4; 1981 c 210 § 15; 1963 c 218 § 18.]

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

**36.68.580 Ownership of parks and facilities—Expenditure of funds budgeted for park purposes.** Any park facility or park acquired, improved or otherwise financed in whole or in part by park and recreation service area funds shall be owned by the park service area and/or the county and/or the city or town in which the park or facility is located. The county may make expenditures from its current expense funds budgeted for park purposes for the maintenance, operation or capital improvement of any county park or park facility acquired, improved, or otherwise financed in whole or in part by park and recreation service area funds. Similarly, a city or town may make expenditures for any city or town park or park facility acquired, improved, or otherwise financed in whole or in part by park and recreation service area funds. [1988 c 82 § 5; 1981 c 210 § 16; 1963 c 218 § 19.]

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

**36.68.590 Purpose—Level of services—General park programs.** The purpose of RCW 36.68.400 et seq. shall be to provide a higher level of park services and shall not in any way diminish the right of a county to provide a general park program financed from current expense funds. [1963 c 218 § 20.]

**36.68.600 Use of park and recreation service area funds in exercise of powers enumerated in chapter 67.20 RCW.** A park and recreation service area may exercise any of the powers enumerated in chapter 67.20 RCW with respect to any park and recreation facility financed in whole or part from park and recreation service area funds. [1988 c 82 § 6; 1981 c 210 § 17; 1963 c 218 § 21.]

*Parks, bathing beaches, public camps: Chapter 67.20 RCW.*

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

**36.68.610 Area which may be included—Inclusion of area within city or town—Procedure.** A park and recreation service area may include any unincorporated area in the state, and when any part of the proposed district lies within the corporate limits of any city or town said resolution or petition shall be accompanied by a certified copy of a resolution of the governing body of said city or town, approving inclusion of the area within the corporate limits of the city or town. [1973 c 65 § 1.]

**36.68.620 Enlargement by inclusion of additional area—Procedure.** After a park and recreation service area has been organized, an additional area may be added by the same procedure within the proposed additional area as is pro-

vided herein for the organization of a park and recreation service area, and all electors within both the organized park and recreation service area and the proposed additional territory shall vote upon the proposition for enlargement. [1973 c 65 § 2.]

### Chapter 36.69 RCW

#### PARK AND RECREATION DISTRICTS

##### Sections

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*Contracts with community service organizations for public improvements: RCW 35.21.278.*

*RCW 39.33.060 to govern on sales by water-sewer district for park and recreational purposes: RCW 57.08.140.*

*Transfer of real property or contract for use for park and recreational purposes: RCW 39.33.060.*

**36.69.010 Park and recreation districts authorized—"Recreational facilities" defined.** Park and recreation districts are hereby authorized to be formed as municipal corporations for the purpose of providing leisure time activities and facilities and recreational facilities, of a nonprofit nature as a public service to the residents of the geographical areas included within their boundaries.

The term "recreational facilities" means parks, playgrounds, gymnasiums, swimming pools, field houses, bathing beaches, stadiums, golf courses, automobile racetracks and drag strips, coliseums for the display of spectator sports, public campgrounds, boat ramps and launching sites, public hunting and fishing areas, arboretums, bicycle and bridle paths, senior citizen centers, community centers, and other recreational facilities. [1991 c 363 § 79; 1990 c 32 § 1; 1972 ex.s. c 94 § 1; 1969 c 26 § 1; 1967 c 63 § 1; 1963 c 4 § 36.69.010. Prior: 1961 c 272 § 1; 1959 c 304 § 1; 1957 c 58 § 1.]

**Purpose—Captions not law—1991 c 363:** See notes following RCW 2.32.180.

**36.69.020 Formation of district by petition—Procedure.** The formation of a park and recreation district shall be initiated by a petition designating the boundaries thereof by metes and bounds, or by describing the land to be included therein by townships, ranges and legal subdivisions. Such petition shall set forth the object of the district and state that it will be conducive to the public welfare and convenience, and that it will be a benefit to the area therein. Such petition shall be signed by not less than fifteen percent of the registered voters residing within the area so described. The name of a person who has signed the petition may not be withdrawn from the petition after the petition has been filed.

The petition shall be filed with the auditor of the county within which the proposed district is located, accompanied by an obligation signed by two or more petitioners, agreeing to pay the cost of the publication of the notice provided for in RCW 36.69.040. The county auditor shall, within thirty days from the date of filing the petition, examine the signatures and certify to the sufficiency or insufficiency thereof.

If the petition is found to contain a sufficient number of signatures of qualified persons, the auditor shall transmit it, together with a certificate of sufficiency attached thereto, to the county legislative authority, which shall by resolution entered upon its minutes receive it and fix a day and hour when the legislative authority will publicly hear the petition, as provided in RCW 36.69.040. [1994 c 223 § 42; 1969 c 26 § 2; 1967 c 63 § 2; 1963 c 4 § 36.69.020. Prior: 1961 c 272 § 2; 1959 c 304 § 2; 1957 c 58 § 2.]

**36.69.030 Area which may be included—Resolution of governing body of city or town.** A park and recreation district may include any unincorporated area in the state and, when any part of the proposed district lies within the corporate limits of any city or town, said petition shall be accompanied by a certified copy of a resolution of the governing body of said city or town, approving inclusion of the area within

the corporate limits of the city or town. [1969 c 26 § 3; 1967 c 63 § 3; 1963 c 4 § 36.69.030. Prior: 1961 c 272 § 3; 1959 c 304 § 3; 1957 c 58 § 3.]

**36.69.040 Hearing on petition—Notice.** The board of county commissioners shall set a time for a hearing on the petition for the formation of a park and recreation district to be held not more than sixty days following the receipt of such petition. Notice of hearing shall be given by publication three times, at intervals of not less than one week, in a newspaper of general circulation within the county. Such notice shall state the time and place of hearing and describe particularly the area proposed to be included within the district. [1963 c 4 § 36.69.040. Prior: 1957 c 58 § 4.]

**36.69.050 Boundaries—Name—Inclusion, exclusion of lands.** The board of county commissioners shall designate a name for and fix the boundaries of the proposed district following such hearing. No land shall be included in the boundaries as fixed by the county commissioners which was not described in the petition, unless the owners of such land shall consent in writing thereto.

The board of county commissioners shall eliminate from the boundaries of the proposed district land which they find will not be benefited by inclusion therein. [1963 c 4 § 36.69.050. Prior: 1957 c 58 § 5.]

**36.69.065 Election for formation—Inclusion of proposition for tax levy or issuance of bonds.** If the petition or resolution initiating the formation of the proposed park and recreation district proposes that the initial capital or operational costs are to be financed by regular property tax levies for a \*five-year period as authorized by RCW 36.69.145, or an annual excess levy, or that proposed capital costs are to be financed by the issuance of general obligation bonds and bond retirement levies, a proposition or propositions for such purpose or purposes shall be submitted to the voters of the proposed park and recreation district at the same election. A proposition or propositions for regular property tax levies for a \*five-year period as authorized by RCW 36.69.145, an annual excess levy, or the issuance of general obligation bonds and bond retirement levies, may also be submitted to the voters at any general or special election. The ballot proposition or propositions authorizing the imposition of a tax levy or levies, or issuance of general obligation bonds and imposition of tax levies, shall be null and void if the park and recreation district was not authorized to be formed. [1989 c 184 § 1.]

**\*Reviser's note:** 1994 c 156 § 3 amended RCW 36.69.145 to authorize a six-year period.

**36.69.070 Elections—Procedures—Terms.** A ballot proposition authorizing the formation of the proposed park and recreation district shall be submitted to the voters of the proposed district for their approval or rejection at the next general state election occurring sixty or more days after the county legislative authority fixes the boundaries of the proposed district. Notices of the election for the formation of the park and recreation district shall state generally and briefly the purpose thereof and shall give the boundaries of the proposed district and name the day of the election and the hours

during which the polls will be open. The proposition to be submitted to the voters shall be stated in such manner that the voters may indicate yes or no upon the proposition of forming the proposed park and recreation district.

The initial park and recreation commissioners shall be elected at the same election, but this election shall be null and void if the district is not authorized to be formed. No primary shall be held to nominate candidates for the initial commissioner positions. Candidates shall run for specific commissioner positions. A special filing period shall be opened as provided in RCW 29A.24.171 and 29A.24.181. The person who receives the greatest number of votes for each commissioner position shall be elected to that position. The three persons who are elected receiving the greatest number of votes shall be elected to four-year terms of office if the election is held in an odd-numbered year or three-year terms of office if the election is held in an even-numbered year. The other two persons who are elected shall be elected to two-year terms of office if the election is held in an odd-numbered year or one-year terms of office if the election is held in an even-numbered year. The initial commissioners shall take office immediately upon being elected and qualified, but the length of such terms shall be computed from the first day of January in the year following this election. [2015 c 53 § 66; 1994 c 223 § 43; 1979 ex.s. c 126 § 28; 1963 c 4 § 36.69.070. Prior: 1959 c 304 § 4; 1957 c 58 § 7.]

**Purpose—1979 ex.s. c 126:** See RCW 29A.60.280(1).

**36.69.080 Election results.** If a majority of all votes cast upon the proposition favors the formation of the district, the county legislative authority shall, by resolution, declare the territory organized as a park and recreation district under the designated name. [1994 c 223 § 44; 1979 ex.s. c 126 § 29; 1963 c 4 § 36.69.080. Prior: 1957 c 58 § 8.]

**Purpose—1979 ex.s. c 126:** See RCW 29A.60.280(1).

**36.69.090 Commissioners—Terms—Election procedures.** A park and recreation district shall be governed by a board of five commissioners. Except for the initial commissioners, all commissioners shall be elected to staggered four-year terms of office and shall serve until their successors are elected and qualified and assume office in accordance with RCW 29A.60.280. Candidates shall run for specific commissioner positions.

Elections for park and recreation district commissioners shall be held biennially in conjunction with the general election in each odd-numbered year. Elections shall be held in accordance with the provisions of Title 29A RCW dealing with general elections, except that there shall be no primary to nominate candidates. All persons filing and qualifying shall appear on the general election ballot and the person receiving the largest number of votes for each position shall be elected. [2015 c 53 § 67; 1996 c 324 § 2; 1994 c 223 § 45; 1987 c 53 § 1; 1979 ex.s. c 126 § 30; 1963 c 200 § 18; 1963 c 4 § 36.69.090. Prior: 1957 c 58 § 9.]

**Purpose—1979 ex.s. c 126:** See RCW 29A.60.280(1).

**36.69.100 Commissioners—Vacancies.** Vacancies on the board of park and recreation commissioners shall occur and shall be filled as provided in chapter 42.12 RCW. [1994 c 223 § 46; 1963 c 4 § 36.69.100. Prior: 1957 c 58 § 10.]

**36.69.110 Commissioners—Compensation, expenses.**

The park and recreation commissioners shall receive no compensation for their services but shall receive necessary expenses in attending meetings of the board or when otherwise engaged on district business. [1963 c 4 § 36.69.110. Prior: 1957 c 58 § 11.]

**36.69.120 Commissioners—Duties.** The park and recreation district board of commissioners shall:

- (1) Elect its officers including a chair, vice chair, secretary, and such other officers as it may determine it requires;
- (2) Hold regular public meetings at least monthly;
- (3) Adopt policies governing transaction of board business, keeping of records, resolutions, transactions, findings and determinations, which shall be of public record;
- (4) Initiate, direct and administer district park and recreation activities, and select and employ such properly qualified employees as it may deem necessary. [2009 c 549 § 4103; 1963 c 4 § 36.69.120. Prior: 1957 c 58 § 12.]

**36.69.130 Powers of districts.** Park and recreation districts shall have such powers as are necessary to carry out the purpose for which they are created, including, but not being limited to, the power: (1) To acquire and hold real and personal property; (2) to dispose of real and personal property only by unanimous vote of the district commissioners; (3) to make contracts; (4) to sue and be sued; (5) to borrow money to the extent and in the manner authorized by this chapter; (6) to grant concessions; (7) to make or establish charges, fees, rates, rentals and the like for the use of facilities (including recreational facilities) or for participation; (8) to make and enforce rules and regulations governing the use of property, facilities or equipment and the conduct of persons thereon; (9) to contract with any municipal corporation, governmental, or private agencies for the conduct of park and recreation programs; (10) to operate jointly with other governmental units any facilities or property including participation in the acquisition; (11) to hold in trust or manage public property useful to the accomplishment of their objectives; (12) to establish cumulative reserve funds in the manner and for the purposes prescribed by law for cities; (13) to acquire, construct, reconstruct, maintain, repair, add to, and operate recreational facilities; and, (14) to make improvements or to acquire property by the local improvement method in the manner prescribed by this chapter: PROVIDED, That such improvement or acquisition is within the scope of the purposes granted to such park and recreation district. [1972 ex.s. c 94 § 2; 1969 c 26 § 4; 1967 c 63 § 4; 1963 c 4 § 36.69.130. Prior: 1961 c 272 § 4; 1959 c 304 § 5; 1957 c 58 § 13.]

**36.69.140 Excess levies authorized—Bonds—Interest bearing warrants.** (1) A park and recreation district shall have the power to levy excess levies upon the property included within the district, in the manner prescribed by Article VII, section 2, of the Constitution and by RCW 84.52.052 for operating funds, capital outlay funds, and cumulative reserve funds.

(2) A park and recreation district may issue general obligation bonds for capital purposes only, not to exceed an amount, together with any outstanding nonvoter approved general obligation indebtedness equal to three-eighths of one

percent of the value of the taxable property within such district, as the term "value of the taxable property" is defined in RCW 39.36.015. A park and recreation district may additionally issue general obligation bonds, together with outstanding voter approved and nonvoter approved general obligation indebtedness, equal to one and one-fourth percent of the value of the taxable property within the district, as the term "value of the taxable property" is defined in RCW 39.36.015, when such bonds are approved by three-fifths of the voters of the district at a general or special election called for that purpose and may provide for the retirement thereof by levies in excess of dollar rate limitations in accordance with the provisions of RCW 84.52.056. When authorized by the voters of the district, the district may issue interest bearing warrants payable out of and to the extent of excess levies authorized in the year in which the excess levy was approved. These elections shall be held as provided in RCW 39.36.050. Such bonds and warrants shall be issued and sold in accordance with chapter 39.46 RCW. [1994 c 156 § 2; 1984 c 186 § 30; 1983 c 167 § 84; 1981 c 210 § 19; 1977 ex.s. c 90 § 1; 1973 1st ex.s. c 195 § 40; 1970 ex.s. c 42 § 20; 1969 c 26 § 5; 1967 c 63 § 5; 1963 c 4 § 36.69.140. Prior: 1961 c 272 § 5; 1959 c 304 § 6; 1957 c 58 § 14.]

**Intent—1994 c 156:** "The intent of the legislature by enacting sections 2 through 5, chapter 156, Laws of 1994 is:

(1) To allow park and recreation districts and park and recreation service areas to place more than one excess levy on the same ballot, allowing districts and service areas to give voters the opportunity to vote on separate issues, such as for operating and capital funds, at the same election, thereby reducing election costs; and

(2) To increase the amount a park and recreation district or park and recreation service area may collect through a six-year property tax levy from a maximum of fifteen cents per thousand dollars of assessed value to a maximum of sixty cents per thousand dollars of assessed value. This would allow for a more stable funding source for park and recreation districts and park and recreation service areas at a realistic tax rate and reduce the need for holding excess levy elections on an annual or biannual [biennial] basis. In addition, it would level out the collection of taxes over each of six years rather than the practice now of collecting in one year to fund two years." [1994 c 156 § 1.]

**Purpose—1984 c 186:** See note following RCW 39.46.110.

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

**36.69.145 Six-year regular property tax levies—Limitations—Election. (Effective until January 1, 2027.)** (1) A park and recreation district may impose regular property tax levies in an amount equal to 60 cents or less per \$1,000 of assessed value of property in the district in each year for six consecutive years when specifically authorized so to do by a majority of at least three-fifths of the voters thereof approving a proposition authorizing the levies submitted at a special election or at the regular election of the district, at which election the number of voters voting "yes" on the proposition must constitute three-fifths of a number equal to 40 per centum of the number of voters voting in such district at the last preceding general election when the number of voters voting on the proposition does not exceed 40 per centum of the number of voters voting in such taxing district in the last preceding general election; or by a majority of at least three-fifths of the voters thereof voting on the proposition if the number of voters voting on the proposition exceeds 40 per centum of the number of voters voting in such taxing district in the last preceding general election. A proposition authorizing the tax levies may not be submitted by a park and recreation district

more than twice in any 12-month period. Ballot propositions must conform with RCW 29A.36.210.

(2) The limitation in RCW 84.55.010 does not apply to the first levy imposed under this section following the approval of the levies by the voters under subsection (1) of this section. [2021 c 117 § 1; 2010 c 106 § 303; 1994 c 156 § 3; 1984 c 131 § 6; 1981 c 210 § 18.]

**Application—2021 c 117:** "This act applies to taxes levied for collection in calendar years 2022 through 2026." [2021 c 117 § 4.]

**Expiration date—2021 c 117:** "This act expires January 1, 2027." [2021 c 117 § 5.]

**Intent—1994 c 156:** See note following RCW 36.69.140.

**Purpose—1984 c 131 §§ 3-9:** See note following RCW 29A.36.210.

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

**36.69.145 Six-year regular property tax levies—Limitations—Election. (Effective January 1, 2027.)** (1) A park and recreation district may impose regular property tax levies in an amount equal to sixty cents or less per thousand dollars of assessed value of property in the district in each year for six consecutive years when specifically authorized so to do by a majority of at least three-fifths of the voters thereof approving a proposition authorizing the levies submitted at a special election or at the regular election of the district, at which election the number of voters voting "yes" on the proposition must constitute three-fifths of a number equal to forty per centum of the number of voters voting in such district at the last preceding general election when the number of voters voting on the proposition does not exceed forty per centum of the number of voters voting in such taxing district in the last preceding general election; or by a majority of at least three-fifths of the voters thereof voting on the proposition if the number of voters voting on the proposition exceeds forty per centum of the number of voters voting in such taxing district in the last preceding general election. A proposition authorizing the tax levies may not be submitted by a park and recreation district more than twice in any twelve-month period. Ballot propositions must conform with RCW 29A.36.210. In the event a park and recreation district is levying property taxes, which in combination with property taxes levied by other taxing districts subject to the one percent limitation provided for in Article 7, section 2, of our state Constitution result in taxes in excess of the limitation provided for in RCW 84.52.043(2), the park and recreation district property tax levy must be reduced or eliminated as provided in RCW 84.52.010.

(2) The limitation in RCW 84.55.010 does not apply to the first levy imposed under this section following the approval of the levies by the voters under subsection (1) of this section. [2010 c 106 § 303; 1994 c 156 § 3; 1984 c 131 § 6; 1981 c 210 § 18.]

**Intent—1994 c 156:** See note following RCW 36.69.140.

**Purpose—1984 c 131 §§ 3-9:** See note following RCW 29A.36.210.

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

**36.69.147 Community revitalization financing—Public improvements.** In addition to other authority that a park and recreation district possesses, a park and recreation district may provide any public improvement as defined under RCW 39.89.020, but this additional authority is limited

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to participating in the financing of the public improvements as provided under RCW 39.89.050.

This section does not limit the authority of a park and recreation district to otherwise participate in the public improvements if that authority exists elsewhere. [2001 c 212 § 15.]

**36.69.150 District treasurer—Warrants—Vouchers.** The county treasurer of the county in which the district shall be located shall be the treasurer of the district, and expenditures shall be made upon warrants drawn by the county auditor pursuant to vouchers approved by the board of park and recreation commissioners. [1963 c 4 § 36.69.150. Prior: 1957 c 58 § 16.]

**36.69.160 Budget.** The board of park and recreation commissioners of each park and recreation district shall annually compile a budget, in form prescribed by the state auditor, for the ensuing calendar year, and which shall, to the extent that anticipated income is actually realized, constitute the appropriations for the district. The budget may include an amount to accumulate a reserve for a stated capital purpose. In compiling the budget, all available funds and anticipated income shall be taken into consideration, including contributions or contractual payments from school districts, cities or towns, county, or any other governmental unit; gifts and donations; special tax levy; assessments; fees and charges; proceeds of bond issues; cumulative reserve funds. [1995 c 301 § 68; 1963 c 4 § 36.69.160. Prior: 1957 c 58 § 17.]

**36.69.170 Expenditures.** Expenditures shall be made solely in accordance with the budget, and should revenues accrue at a rate below the anticipated amounts, the board of park and recreation commissioners shall reduce expenditures accordingly: PROVIDED, That the board may, by unanimous vote, authorize such expenditures, or authorize expenditures in excess of those budgeted, if sufficient revenue to pay such expenditures is derived by the levy of the district or if provided by other governmental agencies specifically for such purposes. [1963 c 4 § 36.69.170. Prior: 1957 c 58 § 18.]

**36.69.180 Violation of rules—Penalty.** (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section, the violation of any of the rules or regulations of a park and recreation district adopted by its board for the preservation of order, control of traffic, protection of life or property, or for the regulation of the use of park property is a misdemeanor.

(2)(a) Except as provided in (b) of this subsection, violation of such a rule or regulation relating to traffic including parking, standing, stopping, and pedestrian offenses is a traffic infraction.

(b) Violation of such a rule or regulation equivalent to those provisions of Title 46 RCW set forth in RCW 46.63.020 remains a misdemeanor. [2003 c 53 § 206; 1979 ex.s. c 136 § 37; 1963 c 4 § 36.69.180. Prior: 1957 c 58 § 19.]

**Intent—Effective date—2003 c 53:** See notes following RCW 2.48.180.

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

**36.69.190 Additional area may be added to district.** After a park and recreation district has been organized, an

additional area may be added by the same procedure within the proposed additional area as is provided herein for the organization of a park and recreation district, except that no first commissioners shall be nominated by the board of county commissioners or elected, and all electors within both the organized park and recreation district and the proposed additional territory shall vote upon the proposition for enlargement. [1969 c 26 § 6; 1967 c 63 § 6; 1963 c 4 § 36.69.190. Prior: 1961 c 272 § 6; 1959 c 304 § 7; 1957 c 58 § 20.]

**36.69.200 L.I.D.'s—Authorization—Assessments, warrants, bonds—County treasurer's duties.** (1) Whenever the board of park and recreation commissioners of any district shall determine that any proposed capital improvement would be of special benefit to all or to any portion of the district, it may establish local improvement districts within its territory; levy special assessments under the mode of annual installments extending over a period not exceeding twenty years, on all property specially benefited by a local improvement, on the basis of special benefits to pay in whole or in part the damage or costs of any improvements ordered in the district; and issue local improvement bonds in the improvement district to be repaid by the collection of local improvement assessments. The method of establishment, levying, collection and enforcement of such assessments and issuance and redemption of local improvement warrants and bonds and the provisions regarding the conclusiveness of the assessment roll and the review by the superior court of any objections thereto shall be as provided for the levying, collection, and enforcement of local improvement assessments and the issuance of local improvement bonds by cities and towns, insofar as consistent herewith. The duties devolving upon the city treasurer are hereby imposed upon the county treasurer for the purposes hereof. The mode of assessment shall be determined by the board. Such bonds may be in any form, including coupon bonds or registered bonds as provided in RCW 39.46.030.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, such bonds may be issued and sold in accordance with chapter 39.46 RCW. [1983 c 167 § 85; 1983 c 3 § 80; 1963 c 4 § 36.69.200. Prior: 1957 c 58 § 21.]

*Local improvements, supplemental authority: Chapter 35.51 RCW.*

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

**36.69.210 L.I.D.'s—Initiation by resolution or petition.** Local improvement districts may be initiated either (1) by resolution of the board of park and recreation commissioners, or, (2) by petition signed by the owners (according to the county auditor's records) of at least fifty-one percent of the area of land within the limits of the local improvement district to be created. [1963 c 4 § 36.69.210. Prior: 1957 c 58 § 22.]

**36.69.220 L.I.D.'s—Procedure when by resolution.** If the board of park and recreation commissioners desires to initiate the formation of a local improvement district by resolution, it shall first pass a resolution declaring its intention to order such improvement, setting forth the nature and territorial extent of such proposed improvement, designating the number of the proposed local improvement district and

describing the boundaries thereof, stating the estimated cost and expense of the improvement and the proportionate amount thereof which will be borne by the property within the proposed district, and fixing a date, time and place for a public hearing on the formation of the proposed local district. [1963 c 4 § 36.69.220. Prior: 1957 c 58 § 23.]

**36.69.230 L.I.D.'s—Procedure when by petition—Publication of notice of intent by either resolution or petition.** If such local improvement district is initiated by petition, such petition shall set forth the nature and territorial extent of the proposed improvement requested to be ordered and the fact that the signers thereof are the owners (according to the records of the county auditor) of at least fifty-one percent of the area of land within the limits of the local improvement district to be created. Upon the filing of such petition the board of park and recreation commissioners shall determine whether it is sufficient, and the board's determination thereof shall be conclusive upon all persons. No person shall withdraw his or her name from the petition after it has been filed with the board. If the board shall find the petition to be sufficient, it shall proceed to adopt a resolution declaring its intention to order the improvement petitioned for, setting forth the nature and territorial extent of said improvement, designating the number of the proposed local district and describing the boundaries thereof, stating the estimated cost and expense of the improvement and the proportionate amount thereof which will be borne by the property within the proposed local district, and fixing a date, time and place for a public hearing on the formation of the proposed local district.

The resolution of intention, whether adopted on the initiative of the board or pursuant to a petition of the property owners, shall be published in at least two consecutive issues of a newspaper of general circulation in the proposed local district, the date of the first publication to be at least fifteen days prior to the date fixed by such resolution for hearing before the board. [2009 c 549 § 4104; 1963 c 4 § 36.69.230. Prior: 1957 c 58 § 24.]

**36.69.240 L.I.D.'s—Notice—Contents.** Notice of the adoption of the resolution of intention shall be given each owner or reputed owner of any lot, tract, parcel of land or other property within the proposed improvement district by mailing said notice at least fifteen days before the date fixed for the public hearing to the owner or reputed owner of the property as shown on the tax rolls of the county treasurer at the address shown thereon. The notice shall refer to the resolution of intention and designate the proposed improvement district by number. Said notice shall also set forth the nature of the proposed improvement, the total estimated cost, the proportion of total cost to be borne by assessments, the estimated amount of the cost and expense of such improvement to be borne by the particular lot, tract or parcel, the date, time and place of the hearing before the board of park and recreation commissioners; and in the case of improvements initiated by resolution, the notice shall also state that all persons desiring to object to the formation of the proposed district must file their written protests with the secretary of the board before the time fixed for said public hearing. [1963 c 4 § 36.69.240. Prior: 1957 c 58 § 25.]

**36.69.245 L.I.D.'s—Notice must contain statement that assessments may vary from estimates.** Any notice given to the public or to the owners of specific lots, tracts, or parcels of land relating to the formation of a local improvement district shall contain a statement that actual assessments may vary from assessment estimates so long as they do not exceed a figure equal to the increased true and fair value the improvement adds to the property. [1989 c 243 § 4.]

**36.69.250 L.I.D.'s—Public hearing—Inclusion, exclusion of property.** Whether the improvement is initiated by petition or resolution, the board of park and recreation commissioners shall conduct a public hearing at the time and place designated in the notice to property owners. At this hearing the board shall hear objections from any person affected by the formation of the local district and may make such changes in the boundaries of the district or such modifications in the plans for the proposed improvement as shall be deemed necessary: PROVIDED, That the board may not change the boundaries of the district to include or exclude property not previously included or excluded without first passing a new resolution of intention and giving a new notice to property owners in the manner and form and within the time herein provided for the original notice. [1963 c 4 § 36.69.250. Prior: 1957 c 58 § 26.]

**36.69.260 L.I.D.'s—Protests—Procedure—Jurisdiction of board.** After said hearing the board of park and recreation commissioners shall have jurisdiction to overrule protests and proceed with any such improvement initiated by petition or resolution: PROVIDED, That the jurisdiction of the board to proceed with any improvement initiated by resolution shall be divested by a protest filed with the secretary of the board prior to said public hearing for the improvement signed by the owners of the property within the proposed local improvement district which is subject to sixty percent or more of the cost of the improvement as shown and determined by the preliminary estimates and assessment roll of the proposed improvement district. [1963 c 4 § 36.69.260. Prior: 1957 c 58 § 27.]

**36.69.270 L.I.D.'s—Powers and duties of board upon formation.** If the board of park and recreation commissioners finds that the district should be formed, it shall by resolution order the improvement, adopt detailed plans of the local improvement district and declare the estimated cost thereof, acquire all necessary land therefor, pay all damages caused thereby, and commence in the name of the park and recreation district such eminent domain proceedings as may be necessary to entitle the district to proceed with the work. The board shall thereupon proceed with the work and file with the county treasurer its roll levying special assessments in the amount to be paid by special assessment against the property situated within the improvement district in proportion to the special benefits to be derived by the property therein from the improvement. [1963 c 4 § 36.69.270. Prior: 1957 c 58 § 28.]

**36.69.280 L.I.D.'s—Assessment roll—Procedure for approval—Objections.** Before approval of the roll a notice shall be published once a week for two consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the local district, stating

that the roll is on file and open to inspection in the office of the secretary, and fixing the time, not less than fifteen or more than thirty days from the date of the first publication of the notice within which protests must be filed with the secretary against any assessments shown thereon, and fixing a time when a hearing will be held by the board of park and recreation commissioners on the protests. Notice shall also be given by mailing, at least fifteen days before the hearing, a similar notice to the owners or reputed owners of the land in the local district as they appear on the books of the treasurer of the county in which the park and recreation district is located. At the hearing, or any adjournment thereof, the commissioners may correct, change or modify the roll, or any part thereof, or set aside the roll and order a new assessment, and may then by resolution approve it. If an assessment is raised a new notice similar to the first shall be given, after which final approval of the roll may be made. When property has been entered originally upon the roll and the assessment thereon is not raised, no objection thereto shall be considered by the commissioners or by any court on appeal unless the objection is made in writing at, or prior, to the date fixed for the original hearing upon the roll. [1963 c 4 § 36.69.280. Prior: 1957 c 58 § 29.]

**36.69.290 L.I.D.'s—Segregation of assessments—Power of board.** Whenever any land against which there has been levied any special assessment by any park and recreation district shall have been sold in part or subdivided, the board of park and recreation commissioners of such district shall have the power to order a segregation of the assessment. [1963 c 4 § 36.69.290. Prior: 1957 c 58 § 30.]

**36.69.300 L.I.D.'s—Segregation of assessments—Procedure—Fee, charges.** Any person desiring to have such a special assessment against a tract of land segregated to apply to smaller parts thereof shall apply to the board of park and recreation commissioners of the park and recreation district which levied the assessment. If the board determines that a segregation should be made, it shall by resolution order the county treasurer to make segregation on the original assessment roll as directed in the resolution. The segregation shall be made as nearly as possible on the same basis as the original assessment was levied, and the total of the segregated parts of the assessment shall equal the assessment before segregation. The resolution shall describe the original tract, the amount and date of the original assessment, and shall define the boundaries of the divided parts and the amount of the assessment chargeable to each part. A certified copy of the resolution shall be delivered to the county treasurer who shall proceed to make the segregation ordered upon being tendered a fee of three dollars for each tract of land for which a segregation is to be made. In addition to such charge the board may require as a condition to the order of segregation that the person seeking it pay the district the reasonable engineering and clerical costs incident to making the segregation. [1963 c 4 § 36.69.300. Prior: 1957 c 58 § 31.]

**36.69.305 L.I.D.'s—Acquisition of property subject to unpaid or delinquent assessments by state or political subdivision—Payment of lien or installments.** See RCW 79.44.190.

**36.69.310 Dissolution.** (1)(a) Any park and recreation district formed under the provisions of this chapter may be dissolved in its entirety in the manner provided in chapter 53.48 RCW, relating to port districts.

(b) In order to facilitate the dissolution of a park and recreation district, such a district may declare its intent to dissolve and may name a successor taxing district. It may transfer any lands, facilities, equipment, other interests in real or personal property, or interests under contracts, leases, or similar agreements to the successor district, and may take all action necessary to enable the successor district to assume any indebtedness of the park and recreation district relating to the transferred property and interests.

(2) A portion of land may be deannexed and withdrawn from a park and recreation district formed under the provisions of this chapter pursuant to RCW 36.69.315. [2019 c 138 § 1; 2005 c 226 § 3; 1963 c 4 § 36.69.310. Prior: 1957 c 58 § 32.]

*Alternative procedure for dissolution of special districts: Chapter 36.96 RCW.*

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

**36.69.315 Withdrawal or reannexation from a park and recreation district—Authority—Procedure.** (1) As provided in this section, a city, town, or county may withdraw that portion of the city, town, or county from a park and recreation district that was formed under this chapter when:

(a) The governing body of a district, which is part of the district, adopts a resolution and findings of fact supporting the deannexation of that portion of the city, town, or county, which is part of the district; and the governing body of a city, town, or county, which is part of the district, adopts a resolution and findings of fact supporting the deannexation of that portion of the city, town, or county, which is part of the district;

(b) Ten percent of the voters of such city or county who voted at the last general election petition the governing officials for such a vote; or

(c) A district located in a county with a population of two hundred ten thousand or more has not actively carried out any of the special purposes or functions for which it was formed within the preceding consecutive five-year period, in accordance with chapter 57.90 RCW.

(2)(a) After adoption of the resolution approving the deannexation, receipt of a valid petition signed by the requisite number of registered voters, or determination that the district has been inactive in accordance with chapter 57.90 RCW, the governing body of the city, town, or county, which is part of the district, must draft a ballot title, give notice as required by law for ballot measures, and perform other duties as required to put the measure approving or not approving the deannexation before the voters of the city, town, or county, which is part of the district.

(b) The ballot proposition authorizing the deannexation from a proposed park and recreation district must be submitted to the voters of the district for their approval or rejection at the next general election. The ballot measure is approved if greater than fifty percent of the total persons voting on the ballot measure vote to approve the deannexation.

(3) The resolution under subsection (1) of this section and the ballot under subsection (2) of this section must set

forth the specific land boundaries being deannexed from the district.

(4) A deannexation under this section is effective at the end of the day on the thirty-first day of December in the year in which the ballot measure under subsection (2) of this section is approved.

(5) The withdrawal of an area from the boundaries of a park and recreation district does not exempt any property therein from taxation for the purpose of paying the costs of redeeming any indebtedness of the park and recreation district existing at the time of the withdrawal.

(6)(a) An area that has been withdrawn from the boundaries of a park and recreation district under this section may be reannexed into the park and recreation district upon:

(i) Adoption of a resolution by the governing body proposing the reannexation; and

(ii) Adoption of a resolution by the park and recreation district approving the reannexation.

(b) The reannexation is effective at the end of the day on the thirty-first day of December in the year in which the adoption of the second resolution occurs, but for purposes of establishing boundaries for property tax purposes, the boundaries are established immediately upon the adoption of the second resolution.

(c) Referendum action on the proposed reannexation may be taken by the voters of the area proposed to be reannexed if a petition calling for a referendum is filed with the park and recreation district, within a thirty-day period after the adoption of the second resolution, which petition has been signed by registered voters of the area proposed to be reannexed equal in number to ten percent of the total number of the registered voters residing in that area.

(d) If a valid petition signed by the requisite number of registered voters has been so filed, the effect of the resolutions must be held in abeyance and a ballot proposition to authorize the reannexation must be submitted to the voters of the area at the next special election date according to RCW 29A.04.330. Approval of the ballot proposition authorizing the reannexation by a simple majority vote authorizes the reannexation.

(7) For purposes of this section, "deannex" means to withdraw a specified portion of land from a park and recreation district formed under this chapter. [2019 c 138 § 2.]

**36.69.320 Disincorporation of district located in county with a population of two hundred ten thousand or more and inactive for five years.** See chapter 57.90 RCW.

**36.69.350 Board authorized to contract indebtedness and issue revenue bonds.** The board of parks and recreation commissioners is hereby authorized for the purpose of carrying out the lawful powers granted to park and recreation districts by the laws of the state to contract indebtedness and to issue revenue bonds evidencing such indebtedness in conformity with this chapter. [1972 ex.s. c 94 § 3.]

**36.69.360 Revenue bonds—Authorized purposes.** All such revenue bonds authorized under the terms of this chapter may be issued and sold by the district from time to time and in such amounts as is deemed necessary by the board of park and recreation commissioners of each district



to provide sufficient funds for the carrying out of all district powers, without limiting the generality thereof, including the following: Acquisition; construction; reconstruction; maintenance; repair; additions; operations of recreational facilities; parking facilities as a part of a recreational facility; and any other district purpose from which revenues can be derived. Included in the costs thereof shall be any necessary engineering, inspection, accounting, fiscal, and legal expenses, the cost of issuance of bonds, including printing, engraving and advertising and other similar expenses, and the proceeds of such bond issue are hereby made available for all such purposes. [1972 ex.s. c 94 § 4.]

*Alternative authority to issue revenue bonds: RCW 39.46.150, 39.46.160.*

*Funds for reserve purposes may be included in issue amount: RCW 39.44.140.*

### **36.69.370 Revenue bonds—Issuance, form, seal, etc.**

(1) When revenue bonds are issued for authorized purposes, said bonds shall be either registered as to principal only or principal and interest as provided in RCW 39.46.030 or shall be bearer bonds; shall be in such denominations, shall be numbered, shall bear such date, shall be payable at such time or times up to a maximum period of not to exceed thirty years and payable as determined by the park and recreation commissioners of the district; shall bear interest payable semiannually; shall be executed by the chair of the board of park and recreation commissioners, and attested by the secretary of the board, and the seal of such board shall be affixed to each bond, but not to any coupon; and may have facsimile signatures of the chair and the secretary imprinted on any interest coupons in lieu of original signatures.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, such bonds may be issued and sold in accordance with chapter 39.46 RCW. [2009 c 549 § 4105; 1983 c 167 § 86; 1972 ex.s. c 94 § 5.]

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

### **36.69.380 Resolution to authorize bonds—Contents.**

Bonds issued under the provisions of this chapter shall be payable solely out of the operating revenues of the park and recreation district. Such bonds shall be authorized by resolution adopted by the board of park and recreation commissioners, which resolution shall create a special fund or funds into which the board of park and recreation commissioners may obligate and bind the district to set aside and pay any part or parts of, or all of, or a fixed proportion of, or fixed amounts of gross revenue received by the district from moneys for services or activities as stated in the resolution, for the purpose of paying the principal of and interest on such bonds as the same shall become due, and if deemed necessary to maintain adequate reserves therefor. Such fund or funds shall be drawn upon solely for the purpose of paying the principal and interest upon the bonds issued pursuant to this chapter.

The bonds shall be negotiable instruments within the provision and intent of the negotiable instruments law of this state, even though they shall be payable solely from such special fund or funds, and the tax revenue of the district may not be used to pay, secure, or guarantee the payment of the principal of and interest on such bonds. The bonds and any coupons attached thereto shall state upon their face that they are payable solely from such special fund or funds. If the county

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fails to set aside and pay into such fund or funds, the payments provided for in such resolution, the owner of any such bonds may bring suit to compel compliance with the provisions of the resolution. [1983 c 167 § 87; 1972 ex.s. c 94 § 6.]

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

**36.69.390 Payment of bonds—Covenants—Enforcement.** The board of park and recreation commissioners may provide covenants as it may deem necessary to secure the payment of the principal of and interest on such bonds and may, but shall not be required to, include covenants to create a reserve fund or account and to authorize the payment or deposit of certain moneys therein for the purpose of securing the payment of such principal and interest; to establish, maintain, and collect rates, charges, fees, rentals, and the like on the facilities and service the income of which is pledged for the payment of such bonds, sufficient to pay or secure the payment of such principal and interest and to maintain an adequate coverage over annual debt service; and to make any and all other covenants not inconsistent with the provisions of this chapter which will increase the marketability of such bonds. The board may also provide that revenue bonds payable out of the same source or sources may later be sold on a parity with any revenue bonds being issued and sold. The provisions of this chapter and any resolution or resolutions providing for the authorization, issuance, and sale of such bonds shall constitute a contract with the owner of such bonds, and the provisions thereof shall be enforceable by any owner of such bonds by mandamus or any appropriate suit, action or proceeding at law or in equity in any court of competent jurisdiction. [1983 c 167 § 88; 1972 ex.s. c 94 § 7.]

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

**36.69.400 Funding, refunding bonds.** (1) The board of parks and recreation commissioners of any district may by resolution, from time to time, provide for the issuance of funding or refunding revenue bonds to fund or refund any outstanding revenue bonds and any interest and premiums due thereon at or before the maturity of such bonds, and parts or all of various series and issues of outstanding revenue bonds in the amount thereof to be funded or refunded.

The board shall create a special fund for the sole purpose of paying the principal of and interest on such funding or refunding revenue bonds, into which fund the board shall obligate and bind the district to set aside and pay any part or parts of, or all of, or a fixed proportion of, or a fixed amount of the revenue of the recreational facility of the district sufficient to pay such principal and interest as the same shall become due, and if deemed necessary to maintain adequate reserves therefor.

Such funding or refunding bonds shall be negotiable instruments within the provisions and intent of the negotiable instruments law of this state, and the tax revenue of the district may not be used to pay, secure, or guarantee the payment of the principal of and interest on such bonds. Such bonds may be in any form, including bearer bonds or registered bonds as provided in RCW 39.46.030.

The district may exchange such funding or refunding bonds for the bonds, and any coupons being funded or refunded, or it may sell such funding or refunding bonds in the manner, at such price and at such rate or rates of interest

as the board shall deem to be for the best interest of the district and its inhabitants, either at public or private sale.

The provisions of this chapter relating to the terms, conditions, covenants, issuance, and sale of revenue bonds shall be applicable to such funding or refunding bonds except as may be otherwise specifically provided in this section.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, such bonds may be issued and sold in accordance with chapter 39.46 RCW. [1983 c 167 § 89; 1972 ex.s. c 94 § 8.]

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

**36.69.410 Authority for issuance of bonds—Construction.** This chapter shall be complete authority for the issuance of the revenue bonds hereby authorized, and shall be liberally construed to accomplish its purposes. Any restrictions, limitations or regulations relative to the issuance of such revenue bonds contained in any other act shall not apply to the bonds issued under this chapter. Any act inconsistent herewith shall be deemed modified to conform with the provisions of this chapter for the purpose of this chapter only. [1972 ex.s. c 94 § 9.]

**36.69.420 Joint park and recreation district—Authorization.** A park and recreation district may be formed encompassing portions of two or more counties. Such a district shall be known as a joint park and recreation district and shall have all powers and duties of a park and recreation district. The procedures established in this chapter for the formation of a park and recreation district shall be followed in the formation of a joint park and recreation district except as otherwise provided by RCW 36.69.430, 36.69.440, and 36.69.450. [1979 ex.s. c 11 § 1.]

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

**36.69.430 Joint park and recreation district—Formation—Petition.** The formation of a joint park and recreation district shall be initiated by a petition as prescribed in RCW 36.69.020. The petition shall be filed with the county auditor of one of the counties within which a portion of the proposed joint district is located. A copy of the petition shall be filed with the county auditor of the other county or counties within which a portion of the proposed joint district is located. The county auditors shall jointly certify the sufficiency or insufficiency of the petition to the legislative authorities of the counties. [1979 ex.s. c 11 § 2.]

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

**36.69.440 Joint park and recreation district—Formation—Hearing—Boundaries—Election.** (1) If the petition filed under RCW 36.69.430 is found to contain a sufficient number of signatures, the legislative authority of each county shall set a time for a hearing on the petition for the formation of a park and recreation district as prescribed in RCW 36.69.040.

(2) At the public hearing the legislative authority for each county shall fix the boundaries for that portion of the proposed park and recreation district that lies within the county as provided in RCW 36.69.050. Each county shall notify the other county or counties of the determination of the boundaries within ten days.

(3) If the territories created by the county legislative authorities are not contiguous, a joint park and recreation district shall not be formed. If the territories are contiguous, the county containing the portion of the proposed joint district having the larger population shall determine the name of the proposed joint district.

(4) The proposition for the formation of the proposed joint park and recreation district shall be submitted to the voters of the district at the next general election, which election shall be conducted as required by RCW 36.69.070 and 36.69.080. [1994 c 223 § 47; 1979 ex.s. c 11 § 3.]

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

**36.69.450 Joint park and recreation district—Duties of county officers.** For all purposes essential to the maintenance, operation, and administration of a joint park and recreation district, including the apportionment of any funds, the county in which a joint park and recreation district shall be considered as belonging shall be the county containing the largest population of the joint district. Whenever the laws relating to park and recreation districts provide for an action by a county officer, the action, if required to be performed on behalf of a joint park and recreation district, shall be performed by the proper officer of the county to which the joint district belongs, except as otherwise provided by law. This delegation of authority extends but is not limited to:

(1) The declaration by the county legislative authority of the election results, as required by RCW 36.69.080;

(2) The filing of declarations of candidacy with the county auditor under RCW 36.69.090;

(3) The issuance of warrants by the county treasurer under RCW 36.69.150;

(4) The duties of the county treasurer and auditor in the establishment and operation of a local improvement district under RCW 36.69.200, 36.69.220, 36.69.240, and 36.69.300. If the local improvement district is located wholly within any one of the participating counties, then the officers of that county shall perform the duties relating to that local improvement district; and

(5) Receipt by the county treasurer of payments of revenue bonds under RCW 36.69.370. [1979 ex.s. c 11 § 4.]

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

**36.69.460 Joint park and recreation district—Population determinations.** Population determinations for the purposes of RCW 36.69.440 and 36.69.450 shall be made by the office of financial management. [1979 ex.s. c 11 § 5.]

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

**36.69.500 Community athletics programs—Sex discrimination prohibited.** The antidiscrimination provisions of RCW 49.60.500 apply to community athletics programs and facilities operated, conducted, or administered by a park and recreation district. [2009 c 467 § 9.]

**Findings—Declarations—2009 c 467:** See note following RCW 49.60.500.

**36.69.900 Short title.** This chapter may be cited as the "Recreation Districts Act for Counties." [1969 c 26 § 7; 1967 c 63 § 7; 1963 c 4 § 36.69.900. Prior: 1961 c 272 § 7; 1959 c 304 § 9; 1957 c 58 § 33.]

**Chapter 36.70 RCW  
PLANNING ENABLING ACT**

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*Acquisition of interests in land for conservation, protection, preservation, or open space purposes by counties: RCW 64.04.130.*

*Alternative planning enabling act: Chapter 35.63 RCW.*

*Appearance of fairness doctrine—Application to local land use decisions: RCW 42.36.010.*

*County, sewerage, water, and drainage systems as part of comprehensive plan: Chapter 36.70 RCW.*

*Expediting completion of projects of statewide significance—Requirements of agreements: RCW 43.157.020.*

*Joint operations by political subdivisions, deposit and control of funds: RCW 43.09.285.*

*Unfit dwellings, buildings, and structures: Chapter 35.80 RCW.*

**36.70.010 Purpose and intent.** The purpose and intent of this chapter is to provide the authority for, and the procedures to be followed in, guiding and regulating the physical development of a county or region through correlating both public and private projects and coordinating their execution with respect to all subject matters utilized in developing and servicing land, all to the end of assuring the highest standards

of environment for living, and the operation of commerce, industry, agriculture and recreation, and assuring maximum economies and conserving the highest degree of public health, safety, morals and welfare. [1963 c 4 § 36.70.010. Prior: 1959 c 201 § 1.]

**36.70.015 Expenditure of funds declared public purpose.** Regional planning under the provisions of this chapter is hereby declared to be a proper public purpose for the expenditure of the funds of counties, school districts, public utility districts, housing authorities, port districts, cities or towns or any other public organization interested in regional planning. [1963 c 4 § 36.70.015. Prior: 1961 c 232 § 6.]

**36.70.020 Definitions.** The following words or terms as used in this chapter shall have the following meaning unless a different meaning is clearly indicated by the context:

(1) "Approval by motion" is a means by which a board, through other than by ordinance, approves and records recognition of a comprehensive plan or amendments thereto.

(2) "Board" means the board of county commissioners.

(3) "Certification" means the affixing on any map or by adding to any document comprising all or any portion of a comprehensive plan a record of the dates of action thereon by the commission and by the board, together with the signatures of the officer or officers authorized by ordinance to so sign.

(4) "Commission" means a county or regional planning commission.

(5) "Commissioners" means members of a county or regional planning commission.

(6) "Comprehensive plan" means the policies and proposals approved and recommended by the planning agency or initiated by the board and approved by motion by the board (a) as a beginning step in planning for the physical development of the county; (b) as the means for coordinating county programs and services; (c) as a source of reference to aid in developing, correlating, and coordinating official regulations and controls; and (d) as a means for promoting the general welfare. Such plan shall consist of the required elements set forth in RCW 36.70.330 and may also include the optional elements set forth in RCW 36.70.350 which shall serve as a policy guide for the subsequent public and private development and official controls so as to present all proposed developments in a balanced and orderly relationship to existing physical features and governmental functions.

(7) "Conditional use" means a use listed among those classified in any given zone but permitted to locate only after review by the board of adjustment, or zoning adjustor if there be such, and the granting of a conditional use permit imposing such performance standards as will make the use compatible with other permitted uses in the same vicinity and zone and assure against imposing excessive demands upon public utilities, provided the county ordinances specify the standards and criteria that shall be applied.

(8) "Department" means a planning department organized and functioning as any other department in any county.

(9) "Element" means one of the various categories of subjects, each of which constitutes a component part of the comprehensive plan.

(10) "Ex officio member" means a member of the commission who serves by virtue of his or her official position as head of a department specified in the ordinance creating the commission.

(11) "Official controls" means legislatively defined and enacted policies, standards, precise detailed maps and other criteria, all of which control the physical development of a county or any part thereof or any detail thereof, and are the means of translating into regulations and ordinances all or any part of the general objectives of the comprehensive plan. Such official controls may include, but are not limited to, ordinances establishing zoning, subdivision control, platting, and adoption of detailed maps.

(12) "Ordinance" means a legislative enactment by a board; in this chapter the word, "ordinance", is synonymous with the term "resolution", as representing a legislative enactment by a board of county commissioners.

(13) "Planning agency" means (a) a planning commission, together with its staff members, employees and consultants, or (b) a department organized and functioning as any other department in any county government together with its planning commission.

(14) "Variance." A variance is the means by which an adjustment is made in the application of the specific regulations of a zoning ordinance to a particular piece of property, which property, because of special circumstances applicable to it, is deprived of privileges commonly enjoyed by other properties in the same vicinity and zone and which adjustment remedies disparity in privileges. [2009 c 549 § 4106; 1963 c 4 § 36.70.020. Prior: 1959 c 201 § 2.]

**36.70.025 "Solar energy system" defined.** As used in this chapter, "solar energy system" means any device or combination of devices or elements which rely upon direct sunlight as an energy source, including but not limited to any substance or device which collects sunlight for use in:

- (1) The heating or cooling of a structure or building;
- (2) The heating or pumping of water;
- (3) Industrial, commercial, or agricultural processes; or
- (4) The generation of electricity.

A solar energy system may be used for purposes in addition to the collection of solar energy. These uses include, but are not limited to, serving as a structural member or part of a roof of a building or structure and serving as a window or wall. [1979 ex.s. c 170 § 9.]

*Local governments authorized to encourage and protect solar energy systems: RCW 64.04.140.*

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

**36.70.030 Commission—Creation.** By ordinance a board may create a planning commission and provide for the appointment by the commission of a director of planning. [1963 c 4 § 36.70.030. Prior: 1959 c 201 § 3.]

**36.70.040 Department—Creation—Creation of commission to assist department.** By ordinance a board may, as an alternative to and in lieu of the creation of a planning commission as provided in RCW 36.70.030, create a planning department which shall be organized and function as any other department of the county. When such department is created, the board shall also create a planning commission which

shall assist the planning department in carrying out its duties, including assistance in the preparation and execution of the comprehensive plan and recommendations to the department for the adoption of official controls and/or amendments thereto. To this end, the planning commission shall conduct such hearings as are required by this chapter and shall make findings and conclusions therefrom which shall be transmitted to the department which shall transmit the same on to the board with such comments and recommendations it deems necessary. [1963 c 4 § 36.70.040. Prior: 1959 c 201 § 4.]

**36.70.050 Authority for planning.** Upon the creation of a planning agency as authorized in RCW 36.70.030 and 36.70.040, a county may engage in a planning program as defined by this chapter. Two or more counties may jointly engage in a planning program as defined herein for their combined areas. [1963 c 4 § 36.70.050. Prior: 1959 c 201 § 5.]

**36.70.060 Regional planning commission—Appointment and powers.** A county or a city may join with one or more other counties, cities and towns, and/or with one or more school districts, public utility districts, private utilities, housing authorities, port districts, or any other private or public organizations interested in regional planning to form and organize a regional planning commission and provide for the administration of its affairs. Such regional planning commission may carry on a planning program involving the same subjects and procedures provided by this chapter for planning by counties, provided this authority shall not include enacting official controls other than by the individual participating municipal corporations. The authority to initiate a regional planning program, define the boundaries of the regional planning district, specify the number, method of appointment and terms of office of members of the regional planning commission and provide for allocating the cost of financing the work shall be vested individually in the governing bodies of the participating municipal corporations.

Any regional planning commission or municipal corporation participating in any regional planning district is authorized to receive grants-in-aid from, or enter into reasonable agreement with any department or agency of the government of the United States or of the state of Washington to arrange for the receipt of federal funds and state funds for planning in the interests of furthering the planning program. [1963 c 4 § 36.70.060. Prior: 1961 c 232 § 1; 1959 c 201 § 6.]

*Commission as employer for retirement system purposes: RCW 41.40.010.*

**36.70.070 Commission—Composition.** Whenever a commission is created by a county, it shall consist of five, seven, or nine members as may be provided by ordinance: PROVIDED, That where a commission, on June 10, 1959, is operating with more than nine members, no further appointments shall be made to fill vacancies for whatever cause until the membership of the commission is reduced to five, seven or nine, whichever is the number specified by the county ordinance under this chapter. Departments of a county may be represented on the commission by the head of such departments as are designated in the ordinance creating the commission, who shall serve in an ex officio capacity, but such ex officio members shall not exceed one of a five-member commission, two of a seven-member commission, or three of a

nine-member commission. At no time shall there be more than three ex officio members serving on a commission: PROVIDED FURTHER, That in lieu of one ex officio member, only, one employee of the county other than a department head may be appointed to serve as a member of the commission. [1963 c 4 § 36.70.070. Prior: 1959 c 201 § 7.]

**36.70.080 Commission—Appointment—County.** The members of a commission shall be appointed by the chair of the board with the approval of a majority of the board: PROVIDED, That each member of the board shall submit to the chair a list of nominees residing in his or her commissioner district, and the chair shall make his or her appointments from such lists so that as nearly as mathematically possible, each commissioner district shall be equally represented on the commission. [2009 c 549 § 4107; 1963 c 4 § 36.70.080. Prior: 1959 c 201 § 8.]

**36.70.090 Commission—Membership—Terms—Existing commissions.** When a commission is created after June 10, 1959, the first terms of the members of the commission consisting of five, seven, and nine members, respectively, other than ex officio members, shall be as follows:

- (1) For a five-member commission—one, shall be appointed for one year; one, for two years; one, for three years; and two, for four years.
- (2) For a seven-member commission—one, shall be appointed for one year; two, for two years; two, for three years; and two, for four years.
- (3) For a nine-member commission—two, shall be appointed for one year; two, for two years; two, for three years; and three, for four years.

Thereafter, the successors to the first member shall be appointed for four year terms: PROVIDED, That where the commission includes one ex officio member, the number of appointive members first appointed for a four year term shall be reduced by one; if there are to be two ex officio members, the number of appointive members for the three year and four year terms shall each be reduced by one; if there are to be three ex officio members, the number of appointive members for the four year term, the three year term, and the two year term shall each be reduced by one. The term of an ex officio member shall correspond to his or her official tenure: PROVIDED FURTHER, That where a commission, on the effective date of this chapter, is operating with members appointed for longer than four year terms, such members shall serve out the full term for which they were appointed, but their successors, if any, shall be appointed for four year terms. [2009 c 549 § 4108; 1963 c 4 § 36.70.090. Prior: 1959 c 201 § 9.]

**36.70.100 Commission—Vacancies.** Vacancies occurring for any reason other than the expiration of the term shall be filled by appointment for the unexpired portion of the term except if, on June 10, 1959, the unexpired portion of a term is for more than four years the vacancy shall be filled for a period of time that will obtain the maximum staggered terms, but shall not exceed four years. Vacancies shall be filled from the same commissioner district as that of the vacating member. [1963 c 4 § 36.70.100. Prior: 1959 c 201 § 10.]

**36.70.110 Commission—Removal.** After public hearing, any appointee member of a commission may be removed by the chair of the board, with the approval of the board, for inefficiency, neglect of duty, or malfeasance in office. [2009 c 549 § 4109; 1963 c 4 § 36.70.110. Prior: 1959 c 201 § 11.]

**36.70.120 Commission—Officers.** Each commission shall elect its chair and vice chair from among the appointed members. The commission shall appoint a secretary who need not be a member of the commission. [2009 c 549 § 4110; 1963 c 4 § 36.70.120. Prior: 1959 c 201 § 12.]

**36.70.130 Planning agency—Meetings.** Each planning agency shall hold not less than one regular meeting in each month: PROVIDED, That if no matters over which the planning agency has jurisdiction are pending upon its calendar, a meeting may be canceled. [1963 c 4 § 36.70.130. Prior: 1959 c 201 § 13.]

**36.70.140 Planning agency—Rules and records.** Each planning agency shall adopt rules for the transaction of its business and shall keep a public record of its transactions, findings, and determinations. [1963 c 4 § 36.70.140. Prior: 1959 c 201 § 14.]

**36.70.150 Planning agency—Joint meetings.** Two or more county planning agencies in any combination may hold joint meetings and by approval of their respective boards may have the same chair. [2009 c 549 § 4111; 1963 c 4 § 36.70.150. Prior: 1959 c 201 § 15.]

**36.70.160 Director—Appointment.** If a director of planning is provided for, he or she shall be appointed:

(1) By the commission when a commission is created under RCW 36.70.030;

(2) If a planning department is established as provided in RCW 36.70.040, then he or she shall be appointed by the board. [2009 c 549 § 4112; 1963 c 4 § 36.70.160. Prior: 1959 c 201 § 16.]

**36.70.170 Director—Employees.** The director of planning shall be authorized to appoint such employees as are necessary to perform the duties assigned to him or her within the budget allowed. [2009 c 549 § 4113; 1963 c 4 § 36.70.170. Prior: 1959 c 201 § 17.]

**36.70.180 Joint director.** The boards of two or more counties or the legislative bodies of other political subdivisions or special districts may jointly engage a single director of planning and may authorize him or her to employ such other personnel as may be necessary to carry out the joint planning program. [2009 c 549 § 4114; 1963 c 4 § 36.70.180. Prior: 1959 c 201 § 18.]

**36.70.190 Special services.** Each planning agency, subject to the approval of the board, may employ or contract with the planning consultants or other specialists for such services as it requires. [1963 c 4 § 36.70.190. Prior: 1959 c 201 § 19.]

**36.70.200 Board of adjustment—Creation—Zoning adjutor.** Whenever a board shall have created a planning agency, it shall also by ordinance, coincident with the enact-

ment of a zoning ordinance, create a board of adjustment, and may establish the office of zoning adjutor: PROVIDED, That any county that has prior to June 10, 1959, enacted a zoning ordinance, shall, within ninety days thereof, create a board of adjustment. [1963 c 4 § 36.70.200. Prior: 1959 c 201 § 20.]

**36.70.210 Board of adjustment—Membership—Quorum.** A board of adjustment shall consist of five or seven members as may be provided by ordinance, and a majority of the members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of all business. [1965 ex.s. c 24 § 1; 1963 c 4 § 36.70.210. Prior: 1959 c 201 § 21.]

**36.70.220 Board of adjustment—Appointment—Appointment of zoning adjutor.** The members of a board of adjustment and the zoning adjutor shall be appointed in the same manner as provided for the appointment of commissioners in RCW 36.70.080. One member of the board of adjustment may be an appointee member of the commission. [1963 c 4 § 36.70.220. Prior: 1959 c 201 § 22.]

**36.70.230 Board of adjustment—Terms.** If the board of adjustment is to consist of three members, when it is first appointed after June 10, 1959, the first terms shall be as follows: One shall be appointed for one year; one, for two years; and one, for three years. If it consists of five members, when it is first appointed after June 10, 1959, the first terms shall be as follows: One shall be appointed for one year; one, for two years; one, for three years; one, for four years; and one, for six years. Thereafter the terms shall be for six years and until their successors are appointed and qualified. [1963 c 4 § 36.70.230. Prior: 1959 c 201 § 23.]

**36.70.240 Board of adjustment—Vacancies.** Vacancies in the board of adjustment shall be filled by appointment in the same manner in which the commissioners are appointed in RCW 36.70.080. Appointment shall be for the unexpired portion of the term. [1963 c 4 § 36.70.240. Prior: 1959 c 201 § 24.]

**36.70.250 Board of adjustment—Removal.** Any member of the board of adjustment may be removed by the chair of the board with the approval of the board for inefficiency, neglect of duty or malfeasance in office. [2009 c 549 § 4115; 1963 c 4 § 36.70.250. Prior: 1959 c 201 § 25.]

**36.70.260 Board of adjustment—Organization.** The board of adjustment shall elect a chair and vice chair from among its members. The board of adjustment shall appoint a secretary who need not be a member of the board. [2009 c 549 § 4116; 1963 c 4 § 36.70.260. Prior: 1959 c 201 § 26.]

**36.70.270 Board of adjustment—Meetings.** The board of adjustment shall hold not less than one regular meeting in each month of each year: PROVIDED, That if no issues over which the board has jurisdiction are pending upon its calendar, a meeting may be canceled. [1963 c 4 § 36.70.270. Prior: 1959 c 201 § 27.]

**36.70.280 Board of adjustment—Rules and records.**

The board of adjustment shall adopt rules for the transaction of its business and shall keep a public record of its transactions, findings and determinations. [1963 c 4 § 36.70.280. Prior: 1959 c 201 § 28.]

**36.70.290 Appropriation for planning agency, board of adjustment.** The board shall provide the funds, equipment and accommodations necessary for the work of the planning agency. Such appropriations may include funds for joint ventures as set forth in RCW 36.70.180. The expenditures of the planning agency, exclusive of gifts, shall be within the amounts appropriated for the respective purposes. The provisions herein for financing the work of the planning agencies shall also apply to the board of adjustment and the zoning adjustor. [1963 c 4 § 36.70.290. Prior: 1959 c 201 § 29.]

**36.70.300 Accept gifts.** The planning agency of a county may accept gifts in behalf of the county to finance any planning work authorized by law. [1963 c 4 § 36.70.300. Prior: 1959 c 201 § 30.]

**36.70.310 Conference and travel expenses—Commission members and staff.** Members of planning agencies shall inform themselves on matter affecting the functions and duties of planning agencies. For that purpose, and when authorized, such members may attend planning conferences, meetings of planning executives or of technical bodies; hearings on planning legislation or matters relating to the work of the planning agency. The reasonable travel expenses, registration fees and other costs incident to such attendance at such meetings and conferences shall be charges upon the funds allocated to the planning agency. In addition, members of a commission may also receive reasonable travel expenses to and from their usual place of business to the place of a regular meeting of the commission. The planning agency may, when authorized, pay dues for membership in organizations specializing in the subject of planning. The planning agency may, when authorized, subscribe to technical publications pertaining to planning. [1963 c 4 § 36.70.310. Prior: 1959 c 201 § 31.]

**36.70.315 Public notice—Identification of affected property.** Any notice made under chapter 36.70 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. [1988 c 168 § 11.]

**36.70.317 Statement of restrictions applicable to real property.** (1) A property owner may make a written request for a statement of restrictions applicable to a single parcel, tract, lot, or block of real property located in an unincorporated portion of a county to the county in which the real property is located.

(2) Within thirty days of the receipt of the request, the county shall provide the owner, by registered mail, with a statement of restrictions as described in subsection (3) of this section.

(2022 Ed.)

(3) The statement of restrictions shall include the following:

- (a) The zoning currently applicable to the real property;
- (b) Pending zoning changes currently advertised for public hearing that would be applicable to the real property;

(c) Any designations made by the county pursuant to chapter 36.70A RCW of any portion of the real property as agricultural land, forestland, mineral resource land, wetland, an area with a critical recharging effect on aquifers used for potable water, a fish and wildlife habitat conservation area, a frequently flooded area, and as a geological hazardous area; and

(d) If information regarding the designations listed in (c) of this subsection are not readily available, inform the owner of the procedure by which the owner can obtain that site-specific information from the county.

(4) If a county fails to provide the statement of restrictions within thirty days after receipt of the written request, the owner shall be awarded recovery of all attorneys' fees and costs incurred in any successful application for a writ of mandamus to compel production of a statement.

(5) For purposes of this section:

(a) "Owner" means any vested owner or any person holding the buyer's interest under a recorded real estate contract in which the seller is the vested owner; and

(b) "Real property" means a parcel, tract, lot or block: (i) Containing a single-family residence that is occupied by the owner or a member of his or her family, or rented to another by the owner; or (ii) five acres or less in size.

(6) This section does not affect the vesting of permits or development rights.

Nothing in this section shall be deemed to create any liability on the part of a county. [1996 c 206 § 8.]

**Findings—1996 c 206:** See note following RCW 43.05.030.

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

**36.70.320 Comprehensive plan.** Each planning agency shall prepare a comprehensive plan for the orderly physical development of the county, or any portion thereof, and may include any land outside its boundaries which, in the judgment of the planning agency, relates to planning for the county. The plan shall be referred to as the comprehensive plan, and, after hearings by the commission and approval by motion of the board, shall be certified as the comprehensive plan. Amendments or additions to the comprehensive plan shall be similarly processed and certified.

Any comprehensive plan adopted for a portion of a county shall not be deemed invalid on the ground that the remainder of the county is not yet covered by a comprehensive plan. \*This 1973 amendatory act shall also apply to comprehensive plans adopted for portions of a county prior to April 24, 1973. [1973 1st ex.s. c 172 § 1; 1963 c 4 § 36.70.320. Prior: 1959 c 201 § 32.]

\*Reviser's note: "This 1973 amendatory act" refers to 1973 1st ex.s. c 172 § 1.

**36.70.330 Comprehensive plan—Required elements.** The comprehensive plan shall consist of a map or maps, and descriptive text covering objectives, principles and standards used to develop it, and shall include each of the following elements:

(1) A land use element which designates the proposed general distribution and general location and extent of the uses of land for agriculture, housing, commerce, industry, recreation, education, public buildings and lands, and other categories of public and private use of land, including a statement of the standards of population density and building intensity recommended for the various areas in the jurisdiction and estimates of future population growth in the area covered by the comprehensive plan, all correlated with the land use element of the comprehensive plan. The land use element shall also provide for protection of the quality and quantity of groundwater used for public water supplies and shall review drainage, flooding, and stormwater runoff in the area and nearby jurisdictions and provide guidance for corrective actions to mitigate or cleanse those discharges that pollute Puget Sound or waters entering Puget Sound. Development regulations to implement comprehensive plans under this chapter that are newly developed, updated, or amended after January 1, 2025, must allow for the siting of organic materials management facilities in the areas identified in RCW 70A.205.040(3)(a)(i) to the extent necessary to provide for the establishment of the organic materials management volumetric capacity identified under RCW 70A.205.040(3)(a)(ii);

(2) A circulation element consisting of the general location, alignment and extent of major thoroughfares, major transportation routes, trunk utility lines, and major terminal facilities, all of which shall be correlated with the land use element of the comprehensive plan;

(3) Any supporting maps, diagrams, charts, descriptive material and reports necessary to explain and supplement the above elements. [2022 c 180 § 601; 1985 c 126 § 3; 1984 c 253 § 3; 1963 c 4 § 36.70.330. Prior: 1959 c 201 § 33.]

**Findings—Intent—Scope of authority of chapter 180, Laws of 2022—2022 c 180:** See notes following RCW 70A.205.007.

**36.70.340 Comprehensive plan—Amplification of required elements.** When the comprehensive plan containing the mandatory subjects as set forth in RCW 36.70.330 shall have been approved by motion by the board and certified, it may thereafter be progressively amplified and augmented in scope by expanding and increasing the general provisions and proposals for all or any one of the required elements set forth in RCW 36.70.330 and by adding provisions and proposals for the optional elements set forth in RCW 36.70.350. The comprehensive plan may also be amplified and augmented in scope by progressively including more completely planned areas consisting of natural homogeneous communities, distinctive geographic areas, or other types of districts having unified interests within the total area of the county. In no case shall the comprehensive plan, whether in its entirety or area by area or subject by subject be considered to be other than in such form as to serve as a guide to the later development and adoption of official controls. [1963 c 4 § 36.70.340. Prior: 1959 c 201 § 34.]

**36.70.350 Comprehensive plan—Optional elements.** A comprehensive plan may include—

(1) a conservation element for the conservation, development and utilization of natural resources, including water and its hydraulic force, forests, water sheds, soils, rivers and other

waters, harbors, fisheries, wild life, minerals and other natural resources,

(2) a solar energy element for encouragement and protection of access to direct sunlight for solar energy systems,

(3) a recreation element showing a comprehensive system of areas and public sites for recreation, natural reservations, parks, parkways, beaches, playgrounds and other recreational areas, including their locations and proposed development,

(4) a transportation element showing a comprehensive system of transportation, including general locations of rights-of-way, terminals, viaducts and grade separations. This element of the plan may also include port, harbor, aviation and related facilities,

(5) a transit element as a special phase of transportation, showing proposed systems of rail transit lines, including rapid transit in any form, and related facilities,

(6) a public services and facilities element showing general plans for sewerage, refuse disposal, drainage and local utilities, and rights-of-way, easements and facilities for such services,

(7) a public buildings element, showing general locations, design and arrangements of civic and community centers, and showing locations of public schools, libraries, police and fire stations and all other public buildings,

(8) a housing element, consisting of surveys and reports upon housing conditions and needs as a means of establishing housing standards to be used as a guide in dealings with official controls related to land subdivision, zoning, traffic, and other related matters,

(9) a renewal and/or redevelopment element comprising surveys, locations, and reports for the elimination of slums and other blighted areas and for community renewal and/or redevelopment, including housing sites, business and industrial sites, public building sites and for other purposes authorized by law,

(10) a plan for financing a capital improvement program,

(11) as a part of a comprehensive plan the commission may prepare, receive and approve additional elements and studies dealing with other subjects which, in its judgment, relate to the physical development of the county. [1979 ex.s. c 170 § 10; 1963 c 4 § 36.70.350. Prior: 1959 c 201 § 35.]

*"Solar energy system" defined: RCW 36.70.025.*

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

**36.70.360 Comprehensive plan—Cooperation with affected agencies.** During the formulation of the comprehensive plan, and especially in developing a specialized element of such comprehensive plan, the planning agency may cooperate to the extent it deems necessary with such authorities, departments or agencies as may have jurisdiction over the territory or facilities for which plans are being made, to the end that maximum correlation and coordination of plans may be secured and properly located sites for all public purposes may be indicated on the comprehensive plan. [1963 c 4 § 36.70.360. Prior: 1959 c 201 § 36.]

**36.70.370 Comprehensive plan—Filing of copies.** Whenever a planning agency has developed a comprehensive plan, or any addition or amendment thereto, covering any land outside of the boundaries of the county as provided in



RCW 36.70.320, copies of any features of the comprehensive plan extending into an adjoining jurisdiction shall for purposes of information be filed with such adjoining jurisdiction. [1963 c 4 § 36.70.370. Prior: 1959 c 201 § 37.]

**36.70.380 Comprehensive plan—Public hearing required.** Before approving all or any part of the comprehensive plan or any amendment, extension or addition thereto, the commission shall hold at least one public hearing and may hold additional hearings at the discretion of the commission. [1963 c 4 § 36.70.380. Prior: 1959 c 201 § 38.]

**36.70.390 Comprehensive plan—Notice of hearing.** Notice of the time, place and purpose of any public hearing shall be given by one publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the county and in the official gazette, if any, of the county, at least ten days before the hearing. [1963 c 4 § 36.70.390. Prior: 1959 c 201 § 39.]

**36.70.400 Comprehensive plan—Approval—Required vote—Record.** The approval of the comprehensive plan, or of any amendment, extension or addition thereto, shall be by the affirmative vote of not less than a majority of the total members of the commission. Such approval shall be by a recorded motion which shall incorporate the findings of fact of the commission and the reasons for its action and the motion shall refer expressly to the maps, descriptive, and other matters intended by the commission to constitute the plan or amendment, addition or extension thereto. The indication of approval by the commission shall be recorded on the map and descriptive matter by the signatures of the chair and the secretary of the commission and of such others as the commission in its rules may designate. [2009 c 549 § 4117; 1963 c 4 § 36.70.400. Prior: 1961 c 232 § 2; 1959 c 201 § 40.]

**36.70.410 Comprehensive plan—Amendment.** When changed conditions or further studies by the planning agency indicate a need, the commission may amend, extend or add to all or part of the comprehensive plan in the manner provided herein for approval in the first instance. [1963 c 4 § 36.70.410. Prior: 1959 c 201 § 41.]

**36.70.420 Comprehensive plan—Referral to board.** A copy of a comprehensive plan or any part, amendment, extension or addition thereto, together with the motion of the planning agency approving the same, shall be transmitted to the board for the purpose of being approved by motion and certified as provided in this chapter. [1963 c 4 § 36.70.420. Prior: 1959 c 201 § 42.]

**36.70.430 Comprehensive plan—Board may initiate or change—Notice.** When it deems it to be for the public interest, or when it considers a change in the recommendations of the planning agency to be necessary, the board may initiate consideration of a comprehensive plan, or any element or part thereof, or any change in or addition to such plan or recommendation. The board shall first refer the proposed plan, change or addition to the planning agency for a report and recommendation. Before making a report and recommendation, the commission shall hold at least one public

hearing on the proposed plan, change or addition. Notice of the time and place and purpose of the hearing shall be given by one publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the county and in the official gazette, if any, of the county, at least ten days before the hearing. [1963 c 4 § 36.70.430. Prior: 1959 c 201 § 43.]

**36.70.440 Comprehensive plan—Board may approve or change—Notice.** After the receipt of the report and recommendations of the planning agency on the matters referred to in RCW 36.70.430, or after the lapse of the prescribed time for the rendering of such report and recommendation by the commission, the board may approve by motion and certify such plan, change or addition without further reference to the commission: PROVIDED, That the plan, change or addition conforms either to the proposal as initiated by the county or the recommendation thereon by the commission: PROVIDED FURTHER, That if the planning agency has failed to report within a ninety day period, the board shall hold at least one public hearing on the proposed plan, change or addition. Notice of the time, place and purpose of the hearing shall be given by one publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the county and in the official gazette, if any, of the county, at least ten days before the hearing. Thereafter, the board may proceed to approve by motion and certify the proposed comprehensive plan or any part, amendment or addition thereto. [1963 c 4 § 36.70.440. Prior: 1959 c 201 § 44.]

**36.70.450 Planning agency—Relating projects to comprehensive plan.** After a board has approved by motion and certified all or parts of a comprehensive plan for a county or for any part of a county, the planning agency shall use such plan as the basic source of reference and as a guide in reporting upon or recommending any proposed project, public or private, as to its purpose, location, form, alignment and timing. The report of the planning agency on any project shall indicate wherein the proposed project does or does not conform to the purpose of the comprehensive plan and may include proposals which, if effected, would make the project conform. If the planning agency finds that a proposed project reveals the justification or necessity for amending the comprehensive plan or any part of it, it may institute proceedings to accomplish such amendment, and in its report to the board on the project shall note that appropriate amendments to the comprehensive plan, or part thereof, are being initiated. [1963 c 4 § 36.70.450. Prior: 1959 c 201 § 45.]

**36.70.460 Planning agency—Annual report.** After all or part of the comprehensive plan of a county has been approved by motion and certified, the planning agency shall render an annual report to the board on the status of the plan and accomplishments thereunder. [1963 c 4 § 36.70.460. Prior: 1959 c 201 § 46.]

**36.70.470 Planning agency—Promotion of public interest in plan.** Each planning agency shall endeavor to promote public interest in, and understanding of, the comprehensive plan and its purpose, and of the official controls related to it. [1963 c 4 § 36.70.470. Prior: 1959 c 201 § 47.]

**36.70.480 Planning agency—Cooperation with agencies.** Each planning agency shall, to the extent it deems necessary, cooperate with officials and agencies, public utility companies, civic, educational, professional and other organizations and citizens generally with relation to carrying out the purpose of the comprehensive plan. [1963 c 4 § 36.70.480. Prior: 1959 c 201 § 48.]

**36.70.490 Information to be furnished agency.** Upon request, all public officials or agencies shall furnish to the planning agency within a reasonable time such available information as is required for the work of the planning agency. [1963 c 4 § 36.70.490. Prior: 1959 c 201 § 49.]

**36.70.493 Manufactured housing communities—Prohibitions of county due to community status as a nonconforming use.** (1) After June 10, 2004, a county may designate a manufactured housing community as a nonconforming use, but may not order the removal or phased elimination of an existing manufactured housing community because of its status as a nonconforming use.

(2) A county may not prohibit the entry or require the removal of a manufactured/mobile home, park model, or recreational vehicle authorized in a manufactured housing community under chapter 59.20 RCW on the basis of the community's status as a nonconforming use. [2011 c 158 § 11; 2004 c 210 § 3.]

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

**36.70.495 Planning regulations—Copies provided to county assessor.** By July 31, 1997, a county planning under RCW 36.70A.040 shall provide to the county assessor a copy of the county's comprehensive plan and development regulations in effect on July 1st of that year and shall thereafter provide any amendments to the plan and regulations that were adopted before July 31st of each following year. [1996 c 254 § 5.]

**36.70.500 Right of entry—Commission or planning staff.** In the performance of their functions and duties, duly authorized members of a commission or planning staff may enter upon any land and make examinations and surveys: PROVIDED, That such entries, examinations and surveys do not damage or interfere with the use of the land by those persons lawfully entitled to the possession thereof. [1963 c 4 § 36.70.500. Prior: 1959 c 201 § 50.]

**36.70.510 Special referred matters—Reports.** By general or special rule the board creating a planning agency may provide that other matters shall be referred to the planning agency before final action is taken thereupon by the board or officer having final authority on the matter, and final action thereon shall not be taken upon the matter so referred until the planning agency has submitted its report within such period of time as the board shall designate. In reporting upon the matters referred to in this section the planning agency may make such investigations, maps, reports and recommendations as it deems desirable. [1963 c 4 § 36.70.510. Prior: 1959 c 201 § 51.]

**36.70.520 Required submission of capital expenditure projects.** At least five months before the end of each fiscal year each county officer, department, board or commission and each governmental body whose jurisdiction lies entirely within the county, except incorporated cities and towns, whose functions include preparing and recommending plans for, or constructing major public works, shall submit to the respective planning agency a list of the proposed public works being recommended for initiation or construction during the ensuing fiscal year. [1963 c 4 § 36.70.520. Prior: 1959 c 201 § 52.]

**36.70.530 Relating capital expenditure projects to comprehensive plan.** The planning agency shall list all such matters referred to in RCW 36.70.520 and shall prepare for and submit a report to the board which report shall set forth how each proposed project relates to all other proposed projects on the list and to all features in the comprehensive plan both as to location and timing. The planning agency shall report to the board through the planning director if there be such. [1963 c 4 § 36.70.530. Prior: 1959 c 201 § 53.]

**36.70.540 Referral procedure—Reports.** Whenever a county legislative authority has approved by motion and certified all or part of a comprehensive plan, no road, square, park or other public ground or open space shall be acquired by dedication or otherwise and no public building or structure shall be constructed or authorized to be constructed in the area to which the comprehensive plan applies until its location, purpose and extent has been submitted to and reported upon by the planning agency. The report by the planning agency shall set forth the manner and the degree to which the proposed project does or does not conform to the objectives of the comprehensive plan. If final authority is vested by law in some governmental officer or body other than the county legislative authority, such officer or governmental body shall report the project to the planning agency and the planning agency shall render its report to such officer or governmental body. In both cases the report of the planning agency shall be advisory only. Failure of the planning agency to report on such matter so referred to it within forty days or such longer time as the county legislative authority or other governmental officer or body may indicate, shall be deemed to be approval. [1991 c 363 § 80; 1963 c 4 § 36.70.540. Prior: 1959 c 201 § 54.]

**Purpose—Captions not law—1991 c 363:** See notes following RCW 2.32.180.

**36.70.545 Development regulations—Consistency with comprehensive plan.** Beginning July 1, 1992, the development regulations of each county that does not plan under RCW 36.70A.040 shall not be inconsistent with the county's comprehensive plan. For the purposes of this section, "development regulations" has the same meaning as set forth in RCW 36.70A.030. [1990 1st ex.s. c 17 § 24.]

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

**36.70.547 General aviation airports—Siting of incompatible uses.** Every county, city, and town in which there is located a general aviation airport that is operated for the benefit of the general public, whether publicly owned or

privately owned public use, shall, through its comprehensive plan and development regulations, discourage the siting of incompatible uses adjacent to such general aviation airport. Such plans and regulations may only be adopted or amended after formal consultation with: Airport owners and managers, private airport operators, general aviation pilots, ports, and the aviation division of the department of transportation. All proposed and adopted plans and regulations shall be filed with the aviation division of the department of transportation within a reasonable time after release for public consideration and comment. Each county, city, and town may obtain technical assistance from the aviation division of the department of transportation to develop plans and regulations consistent with this section.

Any additions or amendments to comprehensive plans or development regulations required by this section may be adopted during the normal course of land-use proceedings.

This section applies to every county, city, and town, whether operating under chapter 35.63, 35A.63, 36.70, [or] 36.70A RCW, or under a charter. [1996 c 239 § 2.]

**36.70.550 Official controls.** From time to time, the planning agency may, or if so requested by the board shall, cause to be prepared official controls which, when adopted by ordinance by the board, will further the objectives and goals of the comprehensive plan. The planning agency may also draft such regulations, programs and legislation as may, in its judgment, be required to preserve the integrity of the comprehensive plan and assure its systematic execution, and the planning agency may recommend such plans, regulations, programs and legislation to the board for adoption. [1963 c 4 § 36.70.550. Prior: 1959 c 201 § 55.]

**36.70.560 Official controls—Forms of controls.** Official controls may include:

(1) Maps showing the exact boundaries of zones within each of which separate controls over the type and degree of permissible land uses are defined;

(2) Maps for streets showing the exact alignment, gradients, dimensions and other pertinent features, and including specific controls with reference to protecting such accurately defined future rights-of-way against encroachment by buildings, other physical structures or facilities;

(3) Maps for other public facilities, such as parks, playgrounds, civic centers, etc., showing exact location, size, boundaries and other related features, including appropriate regulations protecting such future sites against encroachment by buildings and other physical structures or facilities;

(4) Specific regulations and controls pertaining to other subjects incorporated in the comprehensive plan or establishing standards and procedures to be employed in land development including, but not limited to, subdividing of land and the approval of land plats and the preservation of streets and lands for other public purposes requiring future dedication or acquisition and general design of physical improvements, and the encouragement and protection of access to direct sunlight for solar energy systems. [1979 ex.s. c 170 § 11; 1963 c 4 § 36.70.560. Prior: 1959 c 201 § 56.]

*"Solar energy system" defined: RCW 36.70.025.*

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

**36.70.570 Official controls—Adoption.** Official controls shall be adopted by ordinance and shall further the purpose and objectives of a comprehensive plan and parts thereof. [1963 c 4 § 36.70.570. Prior: 1959 c 201 § 57.]

**36.70.580 Official controls—Public hearing by commission.** Before recommending an official control or amendment to the board for adoption, the commission shall hold at least one public hearing. [1963 c 4 § 36.70.580. Prior: 1959 c 201 § 58.]

**36.70.590 Official controls—Notice of hearing.** Notice of the time, place and purpose of the hearing shall be given by one publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the county and in the official gazette, if any, of the county at least ten days before the hearing. The board may prescribe additional methods for providing notice. [1963 c 4 § 36.70.590. Prior: 1959 c 201 § 59.]

**36.70.600 Official controls—Recommendation to board—Required vote.** The recommendation to the board of any official control or amendments thereto by the planning agency shall be by the affirmative vote of not less than a majority of the total members of the commission. Such approval shall be by a recorded motion which shall incorporate the findings of fact of the commission and the reasons for its action and the motion shall refer expressly to the maps, descriptive and other matters intended by the commission to constitute the plan, or amendment, addition or extension thereto. The indication of approval by the commission shall be recorded on the map and descriptive matter by the signatures of the chair and the secretary of the commission and of such others as the commission in its rules may designate. [2009 c 549 § 4118; 1963 c 4 § 36.70.600. Prior: 1961 c 232 § 3; 1959 c 201 § 60.]

**36.70.610 Official controls—Reference to board.** A copy of any official control or amendment recommended pursuant to RCW 36.70.550, 36.70.560, 36.70.570 and 36.70.580 shall be submitted to the board not later than fourteen days following the action by the commission and shall be accompanied by the motion of the planning agency approving the same, together with a statement setting forth the factors considered at the hearing, and analysis of findings considered by the commission to be controlling. [1963 c 4 § 36.70.610. Prior: 1961 c 232 § 4; 1959 c 201 § 61.]

**36.70.620 Official controls—Action by board.** Upon receipt of any recommended official control or amendment thereto, the board shall at its next regular public meeting set the date for a public meeting where it may, by ordinance, adopt or reject the official control or amendment. [1963 c 4 § 36.70.620. Prior: 1959 c 201 § 62.]

**36.70.630 Official controls—Board to conduct hearing, adopt findings prior to incorporating changes in recommended control.** If after considering the matter at a public meeting as provided in RCW 36.70.620 the board deems a change in the recommendations of the planning agency to be necessary, the change shall not be incorporated in the recommended control until the board shall conduct its own public

hearing, giving notice thereof as provided in RCW 36.70.590, and it shall adopt its own findings of fact and statement setting forth the factors considered at the hearing and its own analysis of findings considered by it to be controlling. [1963 c 4 § 36.70.630. Prior: 1961 c 232 § 5; 1959 c 201 § 63.]

**36.70.640 Official controls—Board may initiate.**

When it deems it to be for the public interest, the board may initiate consideration of an ordinance establishing an official control, or amendments to an existing official control, including those specified in RCW 36.70.560. The board shall first refer the proposed official control or amendment to the planning agency for report which shall, thereafter, be considered and processed in the same manner as that set forth in RCW 36.70.630 regarding a change in the recommendation of the planning agency. [1963 c 4 § 36.70.640. Prior: 1959 c 201 § 64.]

**36.70.650 Board final authority.** The report and recommendation by the planning agency, whether on a proposed control initiated by it, whether on a matter referred back to it by the board for further report, or whether on a matter initiated by the board, shall be advisory only and the final determination shall rest with the board. [1963 c 4 § 36.70.650. Prior: 1959 c 201 § 65.]

**36.70.660 Procedures for adoption of controls limited to planning matters.** The provisions of this chapter with references to the procedures to be followed in the adoption of official controls shall apply only to establishing official controls pertaining to subjects set forth in RCW 36.70.560. [1963 c 4 § 36.70.660. Prior: 1959 c 201 § 66.]

**36.70.670 Enforcement—Official controls.** The board may determine and establish administrative rules and procedures for the application and enforcement of official controls, and may assign or delegate such administrative functions, powers and duties to such department or official as may be appropriate. [1963 c 4 § 36.70.670. Prior: 1959 c 201 § 67.]

**36.70.675 Child care facilities—Review of need and demand—Adoption of ordinances.** Each county that does not provide for the siting of family day care homes in zones that are designated for single-family or other residential uses, and for the siting of mini-day care centers and day care centers in zones that are designated for any residential or commercial uses, shall conduct a review of the need and demand for child care facilities, including the cost of any conditional or special use permit that may be required. The review shall be completed by August 30, 1990. A copy of the findings, conclusions, and recommendations resulting from the review shall be sent to the \*department of community development by September 30, 1990.

On or before June 30, 1991, each municipality that plans and zones under this chapter shall have adopted an ordinance or ordinances that are necessary to implement the findings of this review, if the findings indicate that such changes are necessary, or shall notify the \*department of community development as to why such implementing ordinances were not adopted. [1989 c 335 § 6.]

**\*Reviser's note:** Powers, duties, and functions of the department of community development and the department of trade and economic development were transferred to the department of community, trade, and economic development by 1993 c 280, effective July 1, 1994. The "department of community, trade, and economic development" was renamed the "department of commerce" by 2009 c 565.

**Findings—Purpose—Severability—1989 c 335:** See notes following RCW 35.63.170.

**Definitions for RCW 36.70.675:** See RCW 35.63.170.

**36.70.677 Accessory apartments.** Any local government, as defined in RCW 43.63A.215, that is planning under this chapter shall comply with RCW 43.63A.215(3). [1993 c 478 § 10.]

**36.70.678 Conditional and special use permit applications by parties licensed or certified by the department of social and health services or the department of corrections—Mediation prior to appeal required.** A final decision by a hearing examiner involving a conditional or special use permit application under this chapter that is requested by a party that is licensed or certified by the department of social and health services or the department of corrections is subject to mediation under RCW 35.63.260 before an appeal may be filed. [1998 c 119 § 3.]

**36.70.680 Subdividing and platting.** The planning agency shall review all proposed land plats and subdivisions and make recommendations to the board thereon with reference to approving, or recommending any modifications necessary to assure conformance to the general purposes of the comprehensive plan and to standards and specifications established by state law or local controls. [1963 c 4 § 36.70.680. Prior: 1959 c 201 § 68.]

**36.70.690 County improvements.** No county shall improve any street or lay or authorize the laying of sewers or connections or other improvements to be laid in any street within any territory for which the board has adopted an official control in the form of precise street map or maps, until the matter has been referred to the planning agency by the department or official having jurisdiction for a report thereon and a copy of the report has been filed with the department or official making the reference unless one of the following conditions apply:

- (1) The street has been accepted, opened, or has otherwise received legal status of a public street;
- (2) It corresponds with and conforms to streets shown on the official controls applicable to the subject;
- (3) It corresponds with and conforms to streets shown on a subdivision (land plat) approved by the board. [1963 c 4 § 36.70.690. Prior: 1959 c 201 § 69.]

**36.70.692 County development regulations—Proposed water uses.** For the purposes of complying with the requirements of this chapter, county development regulations must ensure that proposed water uses are consistent with RCW 90.44.050 and with applicable rules adopted pursuant to chapters 90.22 and 90.54 RCW when making decisions under RCW 19.27.097 and 58.17.110. [2018 c 1 § 103.]

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

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

**36.70.695 Development regulations—Jurisdictions specified—Electric vehicle infrastructure.** (1) By July 1, 2010, the development regulations of any jurisdiction with a population over six hundred thousand or with a state capitol within its borders planning under this chapter must allow electric vehicle infrastructure as a use in all areas within one mile of Interstate 5, Interstate 90, Interstate 405, or state route number 520, except those zoned for residential or resource use or critical areas. A jurisdiction may adopt and apply other development regulations that do not have the effect of precluding the siting of electric vehicle infrastructure in areas where that use is allowed.

(2) By July 1, 2011, or six months after the distribution required under RCW 43.31.970 occurs, whichever is later, the development regulations of any jurisdiction planning under this chapter must allow electric vehicle infrastructure as a use in all areas within one mile of Interstate 5, Interstate 90, Interstate 405, or state route number 520, except those zoned for residential or resource use or critical areas. A jurisdiction may adopt and apply other development regulations that do not have the effect of precluding the siting of electric vehicle infrastructure in areas where that use is allowed.

(3) By July 1, 2011, or six months after the distribution required under RCW 43.31.970 occurs, whichever is later, the development regulations of any jurisdiction planning under this chapter must allow battery charging stations as a use in all areas except those zoned for residential or resource use or critical areas. A jurisdiction may adopt and apply other development regulations that do not have the effect of precluding the siting of electric vehicle infrastructure in areas where that use is allowed.

(4) Counties are authorized to adopt incentive programs to encourage the retrofitting of existing structures with the electrical outlets capable of charging electric vehicles. Incentives may include bonus height, site coverage, floor area ratio, and transferable development rights for use in urban growth areas.

(5) The definitions in this subsection apply throughout this section unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(a) "Battery charging station" means an electrical component assembly or cluster of component assemblies designed specifically to charge batteries within electric vehicles, which meet or exceed any standards, codes, and regulations set forth by chapter 19.28 RCW and consistent with rules adopted under RCW 19.27.540.

(b) "Battery exchange station" means a fully automated facility that will enable an electric vehicle with a swappable battery to enter a drive lane and exchange the depleted battery with a fully charged battery through a fully automated process, which meets or exceeds any standards, codes, and regulations set forth by chapter 19.28 RCW and consistent with rules adopted under RCW 19.27.540.

(c) "Electric vehicle infrastructure" means structures, machinery, and equipment necessary and integral to support an electric vehicle, including battery charging stations, rapid charging stations, and battery exchange stations.

(d) "Rapid charging station" means an industrial grade electrical outlet that allows for faster recharging of electric vehicle batteries through higher power levels, which meets or exceeds any standards, codes, and regulations set forth by

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chapter 19.28 RCW and consistent with rules adopted under RCW 19.27.540.

(6) If federal funding for public investment in electric vehicles, electric vehicle infrastructure, or alternative fuel distribution infrastructure is not provided by February 1, 2010, subsection (1) of this section is null and void. [2009 c 459 § 11.]

**Finding—Purpose—2009 c 459:** See note following RCW 47.80.090.

*Regional transportation planning organizations—Electric vehicle infrastructure: RCW 47.80.090.*

**36.70.700 Planning agency—Time limit for report.** Failure of the planning agency to report on the matters referred to in RCW 36.70.690 within forty days after the reference, or such longer period as may be designated by the board, department or official making the reference, shall be deemed to be approval of such matter. [1963 c 4 § 36.70.700. Prior: 1959 c 201 § 70.]

**36.70.710 Final authority.** Reports and recommendations by the planning agency on all matters shall be advisory only, and final determination shall rest with the administrative body, official, or the board whichever has authority to decide under applicable law. [1963 c 4 § 36.70.710. Prior: 1959 c 201 § 71.]

**36.70.720 Prerequisite for zoning.** Zoning maps as an official control may be adopted only for areas covered by a comprehensive plan containing not less than a land use element and a circulation element. Zoning ordinances and maps adopted prior to June 10, 1959, are hereby validated, provided only that at the time of their enactment the comprehensive plan for the county existed according to law applicable at that time. [1963 c 4 § 36.70.720. Prior: 1959 c 201 § 72.]

**36.70.730 Text without map.** The text of a zoning ordinance may be prepared and adopted in the absence of a comprehensive plan providing no zoning map or portion of a zoning map may be adopted thereunder until there has been compliance with the provisions of RCW 36.70.720. [1963 c 4 § 36.70.730. Prior: 1959 c 201 § 73.]

**36.70.740 Zoning map—Progressive adoption.** Because of practical considerations, the total area of a county to be brought under the control of zoning may be divided into areas possessing geographical, topographical or urban identity and such divisions may be progressively and separately officially mapped. [1963 c 4 § 36.70.740. Prior: 1959 c 201 § 74.]

**36.70.750 Zoning—Types of regulations.** Any board, by ordinance, may establish classifications, within each of which, specific controls are identified, and which will regulate:

(1) The use of buildings, structures, and land as between agriculture, industry, business, residence, and other purposes;

(2) The location, height, bulk, number of stories, and size of buildings and structures; the size of yards, courts, and other open spaces; the density of population; the percentage of a lot which may be occupied by buildings and structures;

and the area required to provide off-street facilities for the parking of motor vehicles; and

(3) The minimum gross floor area requirements for single-family detached dwellings, including the elimination of such requirements or reduction of such requirements below the minimum performance standards and objectives contained in the state building code. [2018 c 302 § 6; 1963 c 4 § 36.70.750. Prior: 1959 c 201 § 75.]

**36.70.755 Residential care facilities—Review of need and demand—Adoption of ordinances.** Each county that does not provide for the siting of residential care facilities in zones that are designated for single-family or other residential uses, shall conduct a review of the need and demand for the facilities, including the cost of any conditional or special use permit that may be required. The review shall be completed by August 30, 1990. A copy of the findings, conclusions, and recommendations resulting from the review shall be sent to the \*department of community development by September 30, 1990.

On or before June 30, 1991, each municipality that plans and zones under this chapter shall have adopted an ordinance or ordinances that are necessary to implement the findings of this review, if the findings indicate that such changes are necessary, or shall notify the \*department of community development as to why such implementing ordinances were not adopted. [1989 c 427 § 38.]

**\*Reviser's note:** Powers, duties, and functions of the department of community development and the department of trade and economic development were transferred to the department of community, trade, and economic development by 1993 c 280, effective July 1, 1994. The "department of community, trade, and economic development" was renamed the "department of commerce" by 2009 c 565.

**36.70.757 Family day-care provider's home facility—County may not prohibit in residential or commercial area—Conditions.** (1) Except as provided in subsections (2) and (3) of this section, no county may enact, enforce, or maintain an ordinance, development regulation, zoning regulation, or official control, policy, or administrative practice that prohibits the use of a residential dwelling, located in an area zoned for residential or commercial use, as a family day-care provider's facility serving twelve or fewer children.

(2) A county may require that the facility: (a) Comply with all building, fire, safety, health code, and business licensing requirements; (b) conform to lot size, building size, setbacks, and lot coverage standards applicable to the zoning district except if the structure is a legal nonconforming structure; (c) is certified by the department of children, youth, and families licensor as providing a safe passenger loading area; (d) include signage, if any, that conforms to applicable regulations; and (e) limit hours of operations to facilitate neighborhood compatibility, while also providing appropriate opportunity for persons who use family day-care who work a nonstandard work shift.

(3) A county may also require that the family day-care provider, before state licensing, require proof of written notification by the provider that the immediately adjoining property owners have been informed of the intent to locate and maintain such a facility. If a dispute arises between neighbors and the day-care provider over licensing requirements, the licensor may provide a forum to resolve the dispute.

(4) This section may not be construed to prohibit a county from imposing zoning conditions on the establishment and maintenance of a family day-care provider's home serving twelve or fewer children in an area zoned for residential or commercial use, if the conditions are no more restrictive than conditions imposed on other residential dwellings in the same zone and the establishment of such facilities is not precluded. As used in this section, "family day-care provider" is as defined in RCW 43.216.010. [2018 c 58 § 23; 2007 c 17 § 12; 2003 c 286 § 2.]

**Effective date—2018 c 58:** See note following RCW 28A.655.080.

**36.70.760 Establishing zones.** For the purpose set forth in RCW 36.70.750 the county may divide a county, or portions thereof, into zones which, by number, shape, area and classification are deemed to be best suited to carry out the purposes of this chapter. [1963 c 4 § 36.70.760. Prior: 1959 c 201 § 76.]

**36.70.770 All regulations shall be uniform in each zone.** All regulations shall be uniform in each zone, but the regulations in one zone may differ from those in other zones. [1963 c 4 § 36.70.770. Prior: 1959 c 201 § 77.]

**36.70.780 Classifying unmapped areas.** After the adoption of the first map provided for in RCW 36.70.740, and pending the time that all property within a county can be precisely zoned through the medium of a zoning map, all properties not so precisely zoned by map shall be given a classification affording said properties such broad protective controls as may be deemed appropriate and necessary to serve public and private interests. Such controls shall be clearly set forth in the zoning ordinance in the form of a zone classification, and such classification shall apply to such areas until they shall have been included in the detailed zoning map in the manner provided for the adoption of a zoning map. [1963 c 4 § 36.70.780. Prior: 1959 c 201 § 78.]

**36.70.790 Interim zoning.** If the planning agency in good faith, is conducting or intends to conduct studies within a reasonable time for the purpose of, or is holding a hearing for the purpose of, or has held a hearing and has recommended to the board the adoption of any zoning map or amendment or addition thereto, or in the event that new territory for which no zoning may have been adopted as set forth in RCW 36.70.800 may be annexed to a county, the board, in order to protect the public safety, health and general welfare may, after report from the commission, adopt as an emergency measure a temporary interim zoning map the purpose of which shall be to so classify or regulate uses and related matters as constitute the emergency. [1963 c 4 § 36.70.790. Prior: 1959 c 201 § 79.]

**36.70.795 Moratoria, interim zoning controls—Public hearing—Limitation on length.** A board that adopts a moratorium, interim zoning map, interim zoning ordinance, or interim official control without holding a public hearing on the proposed moratorium, interim zoning map, interim zoning ordinance, or interim official control, shall hold a public hearing on the adopted moratorium, interim zoning map, interim zoning ordinance, or interim official control within at

least sixty days of its adoption, whether or not the board received a recommendation on the matter from the commission or department. If the board does not adopt findings of fact justifying its action before this hearing, then the board shall do so immediately after this public hearing. A moratorium, interim zoning map, interim zoning ordinance, or interim official control adopted under this section may be effective for not longer than six months, but may be effective for up to one year if a work plan is developed for related studies providing for such a longer period. A moratorium, interim zoning map, interim zoning ordinance, or interim official control may be renewed for one or more six-month periods if a subsequent public hearing is held and findings of fact are made prior to each renewal. [1992 c 207 § 4.]

**36.70.800 Procedural amendments—Zoning ordinance.** An amendment to the text of a zoning ordinance which does not impose, remove or modify any regulation theretofore existing and affecting the zoning status of land shall be processed in the same manner prescribed by this chapter for the adoption of an official control except that no public hearing shall be required either by the commission or the board. [1963 c 4 § 36.70.800. Prior: 1959 c 201 § 80.]

**36.70.810 Board of adjustment—Authority.** The board of adjustment, subject to appropriate conditions and safeguards as provided by the zoning ordinance or the ordinance establishing the board of adjustment, if there be such, shall hear and decide:

(1) Applications for conditional uses or other permits when the zoning ordinance sets forth the specific uses to be made subject to conditional use permits and establishes criteria for determining the conditions to be imposed;

(2) Application for variances from the terms of the zoning ordinance: PROVIDED, That any variance granted shall be subject to such conditions as will assure that the adjustment thereby authorized shall not constitute a grant of special privilege inconsistent with the limitations upon other properties in the vicinity and zone in which subject property is situated, and that the following circumstances are found to apply;

(a) because of special circumstances applicable to subject property, including size, shape, topography, location or surroundings, the strict application of the zoning ordinance is found to deprive subject property of rights and privileges enjoyed by other properties in the vicinity and under identical zone classification;

(b) that the granting of the variance will not be materially detrimental to the public welfare or injurious to the property or improvements in the vicinity and zone in which subject property is situated.

(3) Appeals, where it is alleged by the applicant that there is error in any order, requirement, permit, decision, or determination made by an administrative official in the administration or enforcement of this chapter or any ordinance adopted pursuant to it. [1963 c 4 § 36.70.810. Prior: 1959 c 201 § 81.]

**36.70.820 Board of adjustment—Quasi-judicial powers.** The board of adjustment may also exercise such other quasi-judicial powers as may be granted by county ordinance. [1963 c 4 § 36.70.820. Prior: 1959 c 201 § 82.]

**36.70.830 Board of adjustment—Appeals—Time limit.** Appeals may be taken to the board of adjustment by any person aggrieved, or by any officer, department, board or bureau of the county affected by any decision of an administrative official. Such appeals shall be filed in writing in duplicate with the board of adjustment within twenty days of the date of the action being appealed. [1963 c 4 § 36.70.830. Prior: 1959 c 201 § 83.]

**36.70.840 Board of adjustment—Notice of time and place of hearing on conditional permit.** Upon the filing of an application for a conditional use permit or a variance as set forth in RCW 36.70.810, the board of adjustment shall set the time and place for a public hearing on such matter, and written notice thereof shall be addressed through the United States mail to all property owners of record within a radius of three hundred feet of the exterior boundaries of subject property. The written notice shall be mailed not less than twelve days prior to the hearing. [1963 c 4 § 36.70.840. Prior: 1959 c 201 § 84.]

**36.70.850 Board of adjustment—Appeal—Notice of time and place.** Upon the filing of an appeal from an administrative determination, or from the action of the zoning adjustor, the board of adjustment shall set the time and place at which the matter will be considered. At least a ten day notice of such time and place together with one copy of the written appeal, shall be given to the official whose decision is being appealed. At least ten days notice of the time and place shall also be given to the adverse parties of record in the case. The officer from whom the appeal is being taken shall forthwith transmit to the board of adjustment all of the records pertaining to the decision being appealed from, together with such additional written report as he or she deems pertinent. [2009 c 549 § 4119; 1963 c 4 § 36.70.850. Prior: 1959 c 201 § 85.]

**36.70.860 Board of adjustment—Scope of authority on appeal.** In exercising the powers granted by RCW 36.70.810 and 36.70.820, the board of adjustment may, in conformity with this chapter, reverse or affirm, wholly or in part, or may modify the order, requirement, decision or determination appealed from, and may make such order, requirement, decision or determination as should be made and, to that end, shall have all the powers of the officer from whom the appeal is taken, insofar as the decision on the particular issue is concerned. [1963 c 4 § 36.70.860. Prior: 1959 c 201 § 86.]

**36.70.870 Zoning adjustor—Powers and duties.** If the office of zoning adjustor is established as provided in this chapter, all of the provisions of this chapter defining the powers, duties, and procedures of the board of adjustment shall also apply to the zoning adjustor. [1963 c 4 § 36.70.870. Prior: 1959 c 201 § 87.]

**36.70.880 Zoning adjustor—Action final unless appealed.** The action by the zoning adjustor on all matters coming before him or her shall be final and conclusive unless within ten days after the zoning adjustor has made his or her order, requirement, decision or determination, an appeal in

writing is filed with the board of adjustment. Such an appeal may be taken by the original applicant, or by opponents of record in the case. [2009 c 549 § 4120; 1963 c 4 § 36.70.880. Prior: 1959 c 201 § 88.]

**36.70.890 Board of adjustment—Action final—Writs.** The action by the board of adjustment on an application for a conditional use permit or a variance, or on an appeal from the decision of the zoning adjustor or an administrative officer shall be final and conclusive unless within ten days from the date of said action the original applicant or an adverse party makes application to a court of competent jurisdiction for a writ of certiorari, a writ of prohibition or a writ of mandamus. [1963 c 4 § 36.70.890. Prior: 1959 c 201 § 89.]

**36.70.900 Inclusion of findings of fact.** Both the board of adjustment and the zoning adjustor shall, in making an order, requirement, decision or determination, include in a written record of the case the findings of fact upon which the action is based. [1963 c 4 § 36.70.900. Prior: 1959 c 201 § 90.]

**36.70.910 Short title.** This chapter shall be known as the "Planning Enabling Act of the State of Washington". [1963 c 4 § 36.70.910. Prior: 1959 c 201 § 91.]

**36.70.920 Duties and responsibilities imposed by other acts.** Any duties and responsibilities which by other acts are imposed upon a planning commission shall, after June 10, 1959, be performed by a planning agency however constituted. [1963 c 4 § 36.70.920. Prior: 1959 c 201 § 92.]

**36.70.930 Chapter alternative method.** This chapter shall not repeal, amend, or modify any other law providing for planning methods but shall be deemed an alternative method providing for such purpose. [1963 c 4 § 36.70.930. Prior: 1959 c 201 § 93.]

**36.70.940 Elective adoption.** Any county or counties presently operating under the provisions of chapter 35.63 RCW may elect to operate henceforth under the provisions of this chapter. Such election shall be effected by the adoption of an ordinance under the procedure prescribed by RCW 36.32.120(7), and by compliance with the provisions of this chapter. [1963 c 4 § 36.70.940. Prior: 1959 c 201 § 94.]

**36.70.970 Hearing examiner system—Adoption authorized—Alternative—Functions—Procedures.** (1) As an alternative to those provisions of this chapter relating to powers or duties of the planning commission to hear and issue recommendations on applications for plat approval and applications for amendments to the zoning ordinance, the county legislative authority may adopt a hearing examiner system under which a hearing examiner or hearing examiners may hear and issue decisions on proposals for plat approval and for amendments to the zoning ordinance when the amendment which is applied for is not of general applicability. In addition, the legislative authority may vest in a hearing examiner the power to hear and decide those issues it believes should be reviewed and decided by a hearing examiner, including but not limited to:

(a) Applications for conditional uses, variances, shoreline permits, or any other class of applications for or pertaining to development of land or land use;

(b) Appeals of administrative decisions or determinations; and

(c) Appeals of administrative decisions or determinations pursuant to chapter 43.21C RCW.

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

Any county which vests in a hearing examiner the authority to hear and decide conditional uses and variances shall not be required to have a zoning adjustor or board of adjustment.

(2) Each county legislative authority electing to use a hearing examiner pursuant to this section shall by ordinance specify the legal effect of the decisions made by the examiner. Such legal effect may vary for the different classes of applications decided by the examiner but shall include one of the following:

(a) The decision may be given the effect of a recommendation to the legislative authority;

(b) The decision may be given the effect of an administrative decision appealable within a specified time limit to the legislative authority; or

(c) Except in the case of a rezone, the decision may be given the effect of a final decision of the legislative authority.

(3) 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. Such findings and conclusions shall also set forth the manner in which the decision would carry out and conform to the county's comprehensive plan and the county's development regulations. Each final decision of a hearing examiner, unless a longer period is mutually agreed to in writing by the applicant and the hearing examiner, shall be rendered within ten working days following conclusion of all testimony and hearings. [1995 c 347 § 425; 1994 c 257 § 9; 1977 ex.s. c 213 § 3.]

**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)

**36.70.980 Conformance with chapter 43.97 RCW required.** With respect to the National Scenic Area, as defined in the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Act, P.L. 99-663, the exercise of any power or authority by a county or city pursuant to this chapter shall be subject to and in conformity with the requirements of chapter 43.97 RCW, including the Interstate Compact adopted by RCW 43.97.015, and with the management plan regulations and ordinances adopted by the Columbia River Gorge commission pursuant to the Compact. [1987 c 499 § 9.]

**36.70.982 Fish enhancement projects—County's liability.** A county is not liable for adverse impacts resulting from a fish enhancement project that meets the criteria of RCW 77.55.181 and has been permitted by the department of fish and wildlife. [2014 c 120 § 13; 2003 c 39 § 19; 1998 c 249 § 8.]

**Findings—Purpose—Report—Effective date—1998 c 249:** See notes following RCW 77.55.181.



**36.70.990 Treatment of residential structures occupied by persons with handicaps.** No county may enact or maintain an ordinance, development regulation, zoning regulation or official control, policy, or administrative practice which treats a residential structure occupied by persons with handicaps differently than a similar residential structure occupied by a family or other unrelated individuals. As used in this section, "handicaps" are as defined in the federal fair housing amendments act of 1988 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 3602). [1993 c 478 § 22.]

**36.70.992 Watershed restoration projects—Permit processing—Fish habitat enhancement project.** (1) A permit required under this chapter for a watershed restoration project as defined in RCW 89.08.460 shall be processed in compliance with RCW 89.08.450 through 89.08.510.

(2) A fish habitat enhancement project meeting the criteria of RCW 77.55.181 shall be reviewed and approved according to the provisions of RCW 77.55.181. [2014 c 120 § 14; 2003 c 39 § 20; 1998 c 249 § 7; 1995 c 378 § 10.]

**Findings—Purpose—Report—Effective date—1998 c 249:** See notes following RCW 77.55.181.

### Chapter 36.70A RCW

## GROWTH MANAGEMENT—PLANNING BY SELECTED COUNTIES AND CITIES

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*Agricultural lands—Legislative directive of growth management act: See note following RCW 7.48.305.*

*Building permits—Evidence of adequate water supply required: RCW 19.27.097.*

*Expediting completion of projects of statewide significance—Requirements of agreements: RCW 43.157.020.*

*Impact fees: RCW 82.02.050 through 82.02.100.*

*Population forecasts: RCW 43.62.035.*

*Regional transportation planning: Chapter 47.80 RCW.*

*Subdivision and short subdivision requirements: RCW 58.17.060, 58.17.110.*

**36.70A.010 Legislative findings.** The legislature finds that uncoordinated and unplanned growth, together with a lack of common goals expressing the public's interest in the conservation and the wise use of our lands, pose a threat to the environment, sustainable economic development, and the health, safety, and high quality of life enjoyed by residents of this state. It is in the public interest that citizens, communities, local governments, and the private sector cooperate and coordinate with one another in comprehensive land use planning. Further, the legislature finds that it is in the public interest that economic development programs be shared with communities experiencing insufficient economic growth. [1990 1st ex.s. c 17 § 1.]

**36.70A.011 Findings—Rural lands.** The legislature finds that this chapter is intended to recognize the importance of rural lands and rural character to Washington's economy, its people, and its environment, while respecting regional differences. Rural lands and rural-based economies enhance the economic desirability of the state, help to preserve traditional economic activities, and contribute to the state's overall quality of life.

The legislature finds that to retain and enhance the job base in rural areas, rural counties must have flexibility to create opportunities for business development. Further, the legislature finds that rural counties must have the flexibility to retain existing businesses and allow them to expand. The legislature recognizes that not all business developments in rural counties require an urban level of services; and that many businesses in rural areas fit within the definition of rural character identified by the local planning unit.

Finally, the legislature finds that in defining its rural element under RCW 36.70A.070(5), a county should foster land use patterns and develop a local vision of rural character that will: Help preserve rural-based economies and traditional rural lifestyles; encourage the economic prosperity of rural residents; foster opportunities for small-scale, rural-based employment and self-employment; permit the operation of rural-based agricultural, commercial, recreational, and tourist businesses that are consistent with existing and planned land use patterns; be compatible with the use of the land by wildlife and for fish and wildlife habitat; foster the private stewardship of the land and preservation of open space; and enhance the rural sense of community and quality of life. [2002 c 212 § 1.]

**36.70A.020 Planning goals.** The following goals are adopted to guide the development and adoption of comprehensive plans and development regulations of those counties and cities that are required or choose to plan under RCW 36.70A.040. The following goals are not listed in order of priority and shall be used exclusively for the purpose of guiding the development of comprehensive plans and development regulations:

(1) Urban growth. Encourage development in urban areas where adequate public facilities and services exist or can be provided in an efficient manner.

(2) Reduce sprawl. Reduce the inappropriate conversion of undeveloped land into sprawling, low-density development.

(3) Transportation. Encourage efficient multimodal transportation systems that are based on regional priorities and coordinated with county and city comprehensive plans.

(4) Housing. Plan for and accommodate housing affordable to all economic segments of the population of this state, promote a variety of residential densities and housing types, and encourage preservation of existing housing stock.

(5) Economic development. Encourage economic development throughout the state that is consistent with adopted comprehensive plans, promote economic opportunity for all citizens of this state, especially for unemployed and for disadvantaged persons, promote the retention and expansion of existing businesses and recruitment of new businesses, recognize regional differences impacting economic development opportunities, and encourage growth in areas experi-

encing insufficient economic growth, all within the capacities of the state's natural resources, public services, and public facilities.

(6) Property rights. Private property shall not be taken for public use without just compensation having been made. The property rights of landowners shall be protected from arbitrary and discriminatory actions.

(7) Permits. Applications for both state and local government permits should be processed in a timely and fair manner to ensure predictability.

(8) Natural resource industries. Maintain and enhance natural resource-based industries, including productive timber, agricultural, and fisheries industries. Encourage the conservation of productive forestlands and productive agricultural lands, and discourage incompatible uses.

(9) Open space and recreation. Retain open space, enhance recreational opportunities, conserve fish and wildlife habitat, increase access to natural resource lands and water, and develop parks and recreation facilities.

(10) Environment. Protect the environment and enhance the state's high quality of life, including air and water quality, and the availability of water.

(11) Citizen participation and coordination. Encourage the involvement of citizens in the planning process and ensure coordination between communities and jurisdictions to reconcile conflicts.

(12) Public facilities and services. Ensure that those public facilities and services necessary to support development shall be adequate to serve the development at the time the development is available for occupancy and use without decreasing current service levels below locally established minimum standards.

(13) Historic preservation. Identify and encourage the preservation of lands, sites, and structures, that have historical or archaeological significance. [2021 c 254 § 1; 2002 c 154 § 1; 1990 1st ex.s. c 17 § 2.]

*For a 14th goal: See RCW 36.70A.480.*

**36.70A.030 Definitions.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Adopt a comprehensive land use plan" means to enact a new comprehensive land use plan or to update an existing comprehensive land use plan.

(2) "Affordable housing" means, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, residential housing whose monthly costs, including utilities other than telephone, do not exceed thirty percent of the monthly income of a household whose income is:

(a) For rental housing, sixty percent of the median household income adjusted for household size, for the county where the household is located, as reported by the United States department of housing and urban development; or

(b) For owner-occupied housing, eighty percent of the median household income adjusted for household size, for the county where the household is located, as reported by the United States department of housing and urban development.

(3) "Agricultural land" means land primarily devoted to the commercial production of horticultural, viticultural, floricultural, dairy, apiary, vegetable, or animal products or of berries, grain, hay, straw, turf, seed, Christmas trees not sub-

ject to the excise tax imposed by \*RCW 84.33.100 through 84.33.140, finfish in upland hatcheries, or livestock, and that has long-term commercial significance for agricultural production.

(4) "City" means any city or town, including a code city.

(5) "Comprehensive land use plan," "comprehensive plan," or "plan" means a generalized coordinated land use policy statement of the governing body of a county or city that is adopted pursuant to this chapter.

(6) "Critical areas" include the following areas and ecosystems: (a) Wetlands; (b) areas with a critical recharging effect on aquifers used for potable water; (c) fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas; (d) frequently flooded areas; and (e) geologically hazardous areas. "Fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas" does not include such artificial features or constructs as irrigation delivery systems, irrigation infrastructure, irrigation canals, or drainage ditches that lie within the boundaries of and are maintained by a port district or an irrigation district or company.

(7) "Department" means the department of commerce.

(8) "Development regulations" or "regulation" means the controls placed on development or land use activities by a county or city, including, but not limited to, zoning ordinances, critical areas ordinances, shoreline master programs, official controls, planned unit development ordinances, subdivision ordinances, and binding site plan ordinances together with any amendments thereto. A development regulation does not include a decision to approve a project permit application, as defined in RCW 36.70B.020, even though the decision may be expressed in a resolution or ordinance of the legislative body of the county or city.

(9) "Emergency housing" means temporary indoor accommodations for individuals or families who are homeless or at imminent risk of becoming homeless that is intended to address the basic health, food, clothing, and personal hygiene needs of individuals or families. Emergency housing may or may not require occupants to enter into a lease or an occupancy agreement.

(10) "Emergency shelter" means a facility that provides a temporary shelter for individuals or families who are currently homeless. Emergency shelter may not require occupants to enter into a lease or an occupancy agreement. Emergency shelter facilities may include day and warming centers that do not provide overnight accommodations.

(11) "Extremely low-income household" means a single person, family, or unrelated persons living together whose adjusted income is at or below thirty percent of the median household income adjusted for household size, for the county where the household is located, as reported by the United States department of housing and urban development.

(12) "Forestland" means land primarily devoted to growing trees for long-term commercial timber production on land that can be economically and practically managed for such production, including Christmas trees subject to the excise tax imposed under \*RCW 84.33.100 through 84.33.140, and that has long-term commercial significance. In determining whether forestland is primarily devoted to growing trees for long-term commercial timber production on land that can be economically and practically managed for such production, the following factors shall be considered: (a) The proximity of the land to urban, suburban, and rural settlements; (b) sur-

rounding parcel size and the compatibility and intensity of adjacent and nearby land uses; (c) long-term local economic conditions that affect the ability to manage for timber production; and (d) the availability of public facilities and services conducive to conversion of forestland to other uses.

(13) "Freight rail dependent uses" means buildings and other infrastructure that are used in the fabrication, processing, storage, and transport of goods where the use is dependent on and makes use of an adjacent short line railroad. Such facilities are both urban and rural development for purposes of this chapter. "Freight rail dependent uses" does not include buildings and other infrastructure that are used in the fabrication, processing, storage, and transport of coal, liquefied natural gas, or "crude oil" as defined in RCW 90.56.010.

(14) "Geologically hazardous areas" means areas that because of their susceptibility to erosion, sliding, earthquake, or other geological events, are not suited to the siting of commercial, residential, or industrial development consistent with public health or safety concerns.

(15) "Long-term commercial significance" includes the growing capacity, productivity, and soil composition of the land for long-term commercial production, in consideration with the land's proximity to population areas, and the possibility of more intense uses of the land.

(16) "Low-income household" means a single person, family, or unrelated persons living together whose adjusted income is at or below eighty percent of the median household income adjusted for household size, for the county where the household is located, as reported by the United States department of housing and urban development.

(17) "Minerals" include gravel, sand, and valuable metallic substances.

(18) "Moderate-income household" means a single person, family, or unrelated persons living together whose adjusted income is at or below 120 percent of the median household income adjusted for household size, for the county where the household is located, as reported by the United States department of housing and urban development.

(19) "Permanent supportive housing" is subsidized, leased housing with no limit on length of stay that prioritizes people who need comprehensive support services to retain tenancy and utilizes admissions practices designed to use lower barriers to entry than would be typical for other subsidized or unsubsidized rental housing, especially related to rental history, criminal history, and personal behaviors. Permanent supportive housing is paired with on-site or off-site voluntary services designed to support a person living with a complex and disabling behavioral health or physical health condition who was experiencing homelessness or was at imminent risk of homelessness prior to moving into housing to retain their housing and be a successful tenant in a housing arrangement, improve the resident's health status, and connect the resident of the housing with community-based health care, treatment, or employment services. Permanent supportive housing is subject to all of the rights and responsibilities defined in chapter 59.18 RCW.

(20) "Public facilities" include streets, roads, highways, sidewalks, street and road lighting systems, traffic signals, domestic water systems, storm and sanitary sewer systems, parks and recreational facilities, and schools.

(21) "Public services" include fire protection and suppression, law enforcement, public health, education, recreation, environmental protection, and other governmental services.

(22) "Recreational land" means land so designated under \*\*RCW 36.70A.1701 and that, immediately prior to this designation, was designated as agricultural land of long-term commercial significance under RCW 36.70A.170. Recreational land must have playing fields and supporting facilities existing before July 1, 2004, for sports played on grass playing fields.

(23) "Rural character" refers to the patterns of land use and development established by a county in the rural element of its comprehensive plan:

(a) In which open space, the natural landscape, and vegetation predominate over the built environment;

(b) That foster traditional rural lifestyles, rural-based economies, and opportunities to both live and work in rural areas;

(c) That provide visual landscapes that are traditionally found in rural areas and communities;

(d) That are compatible with the use of the land by wildlife and for fish and wildlife habitat;

(e) That reduce the inappropriate conversion of undeveloped land into sprawling, low-density development;

(f) That generally do not require the extension of urban governmental services; and

(g) That are consistent with the protection of natural surface water flows and groundwater and surface water recharge and discharge areas.

(24) "Rural development" refers to development outside the urban growth area and outside agricultural, forest, and mineral resource lands designated pursuant to RCW 36.70A.170. Rural development can consist of a variety of uses and residential densities, including clustered residential development, at levels that are consistent with the preservation of rural character and the requirements of the rural element. Rural development does not refer to agriculture or forestry activities that may be conducted in rural areas.

(25) "Rural governmental services" or "rural services" include those public services and public facilities historically and typically delivered at an intensity usually found in rural areas, and may include domestic water systems, fire and police protection services, transportation and public transit services, and other public utilities associated with rural development and normally not associated with urban areas. Rural services do not include storm or sanitary sewers, except as otherwise authorized by RCW 36.70A.110(4).

(26) "Short line railroad" means those railroad lines designated class II or class III by the United States surface transportation board.

(27) "Urban governmental services" or "urban services" include those public services and public facilities at an intensity historically and typically provided in cities, specifically including storm and sanitary sewer systems, domestic water systems, street cleaning services, fire and police protection services, public transit services, and other public utilities associated with urban areas and normally not associated with rural areas.

(28) "Urban growth" refers to growth that makes intensive use of land for the location of buildings, structures, and

impermeable surfaces to such a degree as to be incompatible with the primary use of land for the production of food, other agricultural products, or fiber, or the extraction of mineral resources, rural uses, rural development, and natural resource lands designated pursuant to RCW 36.70A.170. A pattern of more intensive rural development, as provided in RCW 36.70A.070(5)(d), is not urban growth. When allowed to spread over wide areas, urban growth typically requires urban governmental services. "Characterized by urban growth" refers to land having urban growth located on it, or to land located in relationship to an area with urban growth on it as to be appropriate for urban growth.

(29) "Urban growth areas" means those areas designated by a county pursuant to RCW 36.70A.110.

(30) "Very low-income household" means a single person, family, or unrelated persons living together whose adjusted income is at or below fifty percent of the median household income adjusted for household size, for the county where the household is located, as reported by the United States department of housing and urban development.

(31) "Wetland" or "wetlands" means areas that are inundated or saturated by surface water or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas. Wetlands do not include those artificial wetlands intentionally created from nonwetland sites, including, but not limited to, irrigation and drainage ditches, grass-lined swales, canals, detention facilities, wastewater treatment facilities, farm ponds, and landscape amenities, or those wetlands created after July 1, 1990, that were unintentionally created as a result of the construction of a road, street, or highway. Wetlands may include those artificial wetlands intentionally created from nonwetland areas created to mitigate conversion of wetlands. [2021 c 254 § 6; 2020 c 173 § 4. Prior: 2019 c 348 § 2; 2017 3rd sp.s. c 18 § 2; 2012 c 21 § 1; prior: 2009 c 565 § 22; 2005 c 423 § 2; 1997 c 429 § 3; 1995 c 382 § 9; prior: 1994 c 307 § 2; 1994 c 257 § 5; 1990 1st ex.s. c 17 § 3.]

**Reviser's note:** \*(1) RCW 84.33.100 through 84.33.118 were repealed or decodified by 2001 c 249 §§ 15 and 16. RCW 84.33.120 was repealed by 2001 c 249 § 16 and by 2003 c 170 § 7.

\*\* (2) RCW 36.70A.1701 expired June 30, 2006.

**Finding—2017 3rd sp.s. c 18:** "The legislature recognizes that it enacted the rail preservation program because railroads provide benefits to state and local jurisdictions that are valuable to economic development, highway safety, and the environment. The Washington state freight mobility plan includes the goal of supporting rural economies farm-to-market, manufacturing, and resource industry sectors. The plan makes clear that ensuring the availability of rail capacity is vital to meeting the future needs of the Puget Sound region. Rail-served industrial sites are a necessary part of a thriving freight mobility system, and are a key means of assuring that food and goods from rural areas are able to make it to people living in urban areas and international markets. Planned and effective access to railroad services is a pivotal aspect of transportation planning. The legislature affirms that it is in the public interest to allow economic development infrastructure to occur near rail lines as a means to alleviate strains on government infrastructure elsewhere. Therefore, the legislature finds that there is a need for counties and cities to improve their planning under the growth management act to provide much needed infrastructure for freight rail dependent uses adjacent to railroad lines." [2017 3rd sp.s. c 18 § 1.]

**Intent—2005 c 423:** "The legislature recognizes the need for playing fields and supporting facilities for sports played on grass as well as the need to preserve agricultural land of long-term commercial significance. With

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thoughtful and deliberate planning, and adherence to the goals and requirements of the growth management act, both needs can be met.

The legislature acknowledges the state's interest in preserving the agricultural industry and family farms, and recognizes that the state's rich and productive lands enable agricultural production. Because of its unique qualities and limited quantities, designated agricultural land of long-term commercial significance is best suited for agricultural and farm uses, not recreational uses.

The legislature acknowledges also that certain local governments have either failed or neglected to properly plan for population growth and the sufficient number of playing fields and supporting facilities needed to accommodate this growth. The legislature recognizes that citizens responded to this lack of planning, fields, and supporting facilities by constructing nonconforming fields and facilities on agricultural lands of long-term commercial significance. It is the intent of the legislature to permit the continued existence and use of these fields and facilities in very limited circumstances if specific criteria are satisfied within a limited time frame. It is also the intent of the legislature to grant this authorization without diminishing the designation and preservation requirements of the growth management act pertaining to Washington's invaluable farmland." [2005 c 423 § 1.]

**Finding—Intent—1994 c 307:** "The legislature finds that it is in the public interest to identify and provide long-term conservation of those productive natural resource lands that are critical to and can be managed economically and practically for long-term commercial production of food, fiber, and minerals. Successful achievement of the natural resource industries' goal set forth in RCW 36.70A.020 requires the conservation of a land base sufficient in size and quality to maintain and enhance those industries and the development and use of land use techniques that discourage uses incompatible to the management of designated lands. The 1994 amendment to RCW 36.70A.030(8) (section 2(8), chapter 307, Laws of 1994) is intended to clarify legislative intent regarding the designation of forestlands and is not intended to require every county that has already complied with the interim forestland designation requirement of RCW 36.70A.170 to review its actions until the adoption of its comprehensive plans and development regulations as provided in RCW 36.70A.060(3)." [1994 c 307 § 1.]

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

### 36.70A.035 Public participation—Notice provisions.

(1) The public participation requirements of this chapter shall include notice procedures that are reasonably calculated to provide notice to property owners and other affected and interested individuals, tribes, government agencies, businesses, school districts, group A public water systems required to develop water system plans consistent with state board of health rules adopted under RCW 43.20.050, and organizations of proposed amendments to comprehensive plans and development regulation. Examples of reasonable notice provisions include:

- (a) Posting the property for site-specific proposals;
- (b) Publishing notice in a newspaper of general circulation in the county, city, or general area where the proposal is located or that will be affected by the proposal;
- (c) Notifying public or private groups with known interest in a certain proposal or in the type of proposal being considered;
- (d) Placing notices in appropriate regional, neighborhood, ethnic, or trade journals; and
- (e) Publishing notice in agency newsletters or sending notice to agency mailing lists, including general lists or lists for specific proposals or subject areas.

(2)(a) Except as otherwise provided in (b) of this subsection, if the legislative body for a county or city chooses to consider a change to an amendment to a comprehensive plan or development regulation, and the change is proposed after the opportunity for review and comment has passed under the county's or city's procedures, an opportunity for review and

comment on the proposed change shall be provided before the local legislative body votes on the proposed change.

(b) An additional opportunity for public review and comment is not required under (a) of this subsection if:

(i) An environmental impact statement has been prepared under chapter 43.21C RCW for the pending resolution or ordinance and the proposed change is within the range of alternatives considered in the environmental impact statement;

(ii) The proposed change is within the scope of the alternatives available for public comment;

(iii) The proposed change only corrects typographical errors, corrects cross-references, makes address or name changes, or clarifies language of a proposed ordinance or resolution without changing its effect;

(iv) The proposed change is to a resolution or ordinance making a capital budget decision as provided in RCW 36.70A.120; or

(v) The proposed change is to a resolution or ordinance enacting a moratorium or interim control adopted under RCW 36.70A.390.

(3) This section is prospective in effect and does not apply to a comprehensive plan, development regulation, or amendment adopted before July 27, 1997. [2015 c 25 § 1; 1999 c 315 § 708; 1997 c 429 § 9.]

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

**36.70A.040 Who must plan—Summary of requirements—Resolution for partial planning—Development regulations must implement comprehensive plans—Tribal participation.** (1) Each county that has both a population of fifty thousand or more and, until May 16, 1995, has had its population increase by more than ten percent in the previous ten years or, on or after May 16, 1995, has had its population increase by more than seventeen percent in the previous ten years, and the cities located within such county, and any other county regardless of its population that has had its population increase by more than twenty percent in the previous ten years, and the cities located within such county, shall conform with all of the requirements of this chapter. However, the county legislative authority of such a county with a population of less than fifty thousand population may adopt a resolution removing the county, and the cities located within the county, from the requirements of adopting comprehensive land use plans and development regulations under this chapter if this resolution is adopted and filed with the department by December 31, 1990, for counties initially meeting this set of criteria, or within sixty days of the date the office of financial management certifies that a county meets this set of criteria under subsection (5) of this section. For the purposes of this subsection, a county not currently planning under this chapter is not required to include in its population count those persons confined in a correctional facility under the jurisdiction of the department of corrections that is located in the county.

Once a county meets either of these sets of criteria, the requirement to conform with all of the requirements of this chapter remains in effect, even if the county no longer meets one of these sets of criteria.

(2)(a) The county legislative authority of any county that does not meet either of the sets of criteria established under

subsection (1) of this section may adopt a resolution indicating its intention to have subsection (1) of this section apply to the county. Each city, located in a county that chooses to plan under this subsection, shall conform with all of the requirements of this chapter. Once such a resolution has been adopted, the county and the cities located within the county remain subject to all of the requirements of this chapter, unless the county subsequently adopts a withdrawal resolution for partial planning pursuant to (b)(i) of this subsection.

(b)(i) Until December 31, 2015, the legislative authority of a county may adopt a resolution removing the county and the cities located within the county from the requirements to plan under this section if:

(A) The county has a population, as estimated by the office of financial management, of twenty thousand or fewer inhabitants at any time between April 1, 2010, and April 1, 2015;

(B) The county has previously adopted a resolution indicating its intention to have subsection (1) of this section apply to the county;

(C) At least sixty days prior to adopting a resolution for partial planning, the county provides written notification to the legislative body of each city within the county of its intent to consider adopting the resolution; and

(D) The legislative bodies of at least sixty percent of those cities having an aggregate population of at least seventy-five percent of the incorporated county population have not: Adopted resolutions opposing the action by the county; and provided written notification of the resolutions to the county.

(ii) Upon adoption of a resolution for partial planning under (b)(i) of this subsection:

(A) The county and the cities within the county are, except as provided otherwise, no longer obligated to plan under this section; and

(B) The county may not, for a minimum of ten years from the date of adoption of the resolution, adopt another resolution indicating its intention to have subsection (1) of this section apply to the county.

(c) The adoption of a resolution for partial planning under (b)(i) of this subsection does not nullify or otherwise modify the requirements for counties and cities established in RCW 36.70A.060, 36.70A.070(5) and associated development regulations, 36.70A.170, and 36.70A.172.

(3) Any county or city that is initially required to conform with all of the requirements of this chapter under subsection (1) of this section shall take actions under this chapter as follows: (a) The county legislative authority shall adopt a countywide planning policy under RCW 36.70A.210; (b) the county and each city located within the county shall designate critical areas, agricultural lands, forestlands, and mineral resource lands, and adopt development regulations conserving these designated agricultural lands, forestlands, and mineral resource lands and protecting these designated critical areas, under RCW 36.70A.170 and 36.70A.060; (c) the county shall designate and take other actions related to urban growth areas under RCW 36.70A.110; and (d) if the county has a population of fifty thousand or more, the county and each city located within the county shall adopt a comprehensive plan under this chapter and development regulations that are consistent with and implement the comprehensive plan on

or before July 1, 1994, and if the county has a population of less than fifty thousand, the county and each city located within the county shall adopt a comprehensive plan under this chapter and development regulations that are consistent with and implement the comprehensive plan by January 1, 1995, but if the governor makes written findings that a county with a population of less than fifty thousand or a city located within such a county is not making reasonable progress toward adopting a comprehensive plan and development regulations the governor may reduce this deadline for such actions to be taken by no more than one hundred eighty days. Any county or city subject to this subsection may obtain an additional six months before it is required to have adopted its development regulations by submitting a letter notifying the department of its need prior to the deadline for adopting both a comprehensive plan and development regulations.

(4) Any county or city that is required to conform with all the requirements of this chapter, as a result of the county legislative authority adopting its resolution of intention under subsection (2) of this section, shall take actions under this chapter as follows: (a) The county legislative authority shall adopt a countywide planning policy under RCW 36.70A.210; (b) the county and each city that is located within the county shall adopt development regulations conserving agricultural lands, forestlands, and mineral resource lands it designated under RCW 36.70A.060 within one year of the date the county legislative authority adopts its resolution of intention; (c) the county shall designate and take other actions related to urban growth areas under RCW 36.70A.110; and (d) the county and each city that is located within the county shall adopt a comprehensive plan and development regulations that are consistent with and implement the comprehensive plan not later than four years from the date the county legislative authority adopts its resolution of intention, but a county or city may obtain an additional six months before it is required to have adopted its development regulations by submitting a letter notifying the department of its need prior to the deadline for adopting both a comprehensive plan and development regulations.

(5) If the office of financial management certifies that the population of a county that previously had not been required to plan under subsection (1) or (2) of this section has changed sufficiently to meet either of the sets of criteria specified under subsection (1) of this section, and where applicable, the county legislative authority has not adopted a resolution removing the county from these requirements as provided in subsection (1) of this section, the county and each city within such county shall take actions under this chapter as follows: (a) The county legislative authority shall adopt a countywide planning policy under RCW 36.70A.210; (b) the county and each city located within the county shall adopt development regulations under RCW 36.70A.060 conserving agricultural lands, forestlands, and mineral resource lands it designated within one year of the certification by the office of financial management; (c) the county shall designate and take other actions related to urban growth areas under RCW 36.70A.110; and (d) the county and each city located within the county shall adopt a comprehensive land use plan and development regulations that are consistent with and implement the comprehensive plan within four years of the certification by the office of financial management, but a county or

city may obtain an additional six months before it is required to have adopted its development regulations by submitting a letter notifying the department of its need prior to the deadline for adopting both a comprehensive plan and development regulations.

(6) A copy of each document that is required under this section shall be submitted to the department at the time of its adoption.

(7) Cities and counties planning under this chapter must amend the transportation element of the comprehensive plan to be in compliance with this chapter and chapter 47.80 RCW no later than December 31, 2000.

(8) A federally recognized Indian tribe may voluntarily choose to participate in the county or regional planning process and coordinate with the county and cities that are either required to comply with the provisions of this chapter pursuant to subsection (1) of this section or voluntarily choose to comply with the provisions of this chapter pursuant to subsection (2) of this section. Collaboration and participation is a nonexclusive exercise of coordination and cooperation in the planning process and failure to exercise discretionary collaboration and participation shall not limit a party's standing for quasi-judicial or judicial review or appeal under this chapter.

(a) Upon receipt of notice in the form of a tribal resolution from a federally recognized Indian tribe whose reservation or ceded lands lie within the county, which indicates the tribe has a planning process or intends to initiate a parallel planning process, the county, cities, and other local governments conducting the planning under this chapter shall enter into good faith negotiations to develop a mutually agreeable memorandum of agreement with such tribes in regard to collaboration and participation in the planning process. If a mutually agreeable memorandum of agreement cannot be reached between the local government and such tribes, the local government shall enter mediation with such tribes for a period not to exceed 30 days, which shall be arranged by the department using a suitable expert to be paid by the department. If a mutually agreeable memorandum of agreement is not reached at the conclusion of the mediation period, the period shall be extended for one additional period not to exceed 30 days, upon written notice to the department by one or more parties. If a mutually agreeable memorandum of agreement cannot be reached at the end of the mediation period or the extended mediation period, the parties shall have no further obligation to develop a memorandum of agreement. Inability to reach a mutually agreeable memorandum of agreement shall not preclude a tribe from providing notice as described in this subsection (8)(a) in subsequent planning processes.

(b) Nothing in this subsection, any other provision in this chapter, or a tribe's decision to become a participating tribe for planning purposes, shall affect, alter, or limit in any way a tribe's authority, jurisdiction, or any treaty or other rights it may have by virtue of its status as a sovereign Indian tribe.

(c) Nothing in this subsection or any other provision in this chapter shall affect, alter, or limit in any way a local government legislative body's authority to adopt and amend comprehensive land use plans and development regulations in accordance with this chapter. [2022 c 252 § 1; 2014 c 147 §

1; 2000 c 36 § 1; 1998 c 171 § 1; 1995 c 400 § 1; 1993 sp.s. c 6 § 1; 1990 1st ex.s. c 17 § 4.]

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

**36.70A.045 Phasing of comprehensive plan submittal.** The department may adopt a schedule to permit phasing of comprehensive plan submittal for counties and cities planning under RCW 36.70A.040. This schedule shall not permit a comprehensive plan to be submitted greater than one hundred eighty days past the date that the plan was required to be submitted and shall be used to facilitate expeditious review and interjurisdictional coordination of comprehensive plans and development regulations. [1991 sp.s. c 32 § 15.]

**36.70A.050 Guidelines to classify agriculture, forest, and mineral lands and critical areas.** (1) Subject to the definitions provided in RCW 36.70A.030, the department shall adopt guidelines, under chapter 34.05 RCW, no later than September 1, 1990, to guide the classification of: (a) Agricultural lands; (b) forestlands; (c) mineral resource lands; and (d) critical areas. The department shall consult with the department of agriculture regarding guidelines for agricultural lands, the department of natural resources regarding forestlands and mineral resource lands, and the department of ecology regarding critical areas.

(2) In carrying out its duties under this section, the department shall consult with interested parties, including but not limited to: (a) Representatives of cities; (b) representatives of counties; (c) representatives of developers; (d) representatives of builders; (e) representatives of owners of agricultural lands, forestlands, and mining lands; (f) representatives of local economic development officials; (g) representatives of environmental organizations; (h) representatives of special districts; (i) representatives of the governor's office and federal and state agencies; and (j) representatives of Indian tribes. In addition to the consultation required under this subsection, the department shall conduct public hearings in the various regions of the state. The department shall consider the public input obtained at such public hearings when adopting the guidelines.

(3) The guidelines under subsection (1) of this section shall be minimum guidelines that apply to all jurisdictions, but also shall allow for regional differences that exist in Washington state. The intent of these guidelines is to assist counties and cities in designating the classification of agricultural lands, forestlands, mineral resource lands, and critical areas under RCW 36.70A.170.

(4) The guidelines established by the department under this section regarding classification of forestlands shall not be inconsistent with guidelines adopted by the department of natural resources. [1990 1st ex.s. c 17 § 5.]

**36.70A.060 Natural resource lands and critical areas—Development regulations.** (1)(a) Each county that is required or chooses to plan under RCW 36.70A.040, and each city within such county, shall adopt development regulations on or before September 1, 1991, to assure the conservation of agricultural, forest, and mineral resource lands designated under RCW 36.70A.170. Regulations adopted under this subsection may not prohibit uses legally existing on any parcel prior to their adoption and shall remain in effect until

the county or city adopts development regulations pursuant to RCW 36.70A.040. Such regulations shall assure that the use of lands adjacent to agricultural, forest, or mineral resource lands shall not interfere with the continued use, in the accustomed manner and in accordance with best management practices, of these designated lands for the production of food, agricultural products, or timber, or for the extraction of minerals. Any county located to the west of the crest of the Cascade mountains that has both a population of at least four hundred thousand and a border that touches another state, and any city in such county, may adopt development regulations to assure that agriculture, forest, and mineral resource lands adjacent to short line railroads may be developed for freight rail dependent uses.

(b) Counties and cities shall require that all plats, short plats, development permits, and building permits issued for development activities on, or within five hundred feet of, lands designated as agricultural lands, forestlands, or mineral resource lands, contain a notice that the subject property is within or near designated agricultural lands, forestlands, or mineral resource lands on which a variety of commercial activities may occur that are not compatible with residential development for certain periods of limited duration. The notice for mineral resource lands shall also inform that an application might be made for mining-related activities, including mining, extraction, washing, crushing, stockpiling, blasting, transporting, and recycling of minerals.

(c) Each county that adopts a resolution of partial planning under RCW 36.70A.040(2)(b), and each city within such county, shall adopt development regulations within one year after the adoption of the resolution of partial planning to assure the conservation of agricultural, forest, and mineral resource lands designated under RCW 36.70A.170. Regulations adopted under this subsection (1)(c) must comply with the requirements governing regulations adopted under (a) of this subsection.

(d)(i) A county that adopts a resolution of partial planning under RCW 36.70A.040(2)(b) and that is not in compliance with the planning requirements of this section, RCW 36.70A.040(4), 36.70A.070(5), 36.70A.170, and 36.70A.172 at the time the resolution is adopted must, by January 30, 2017, apply for a determination of compliance from the department finding that the county's development regulations, including development regulations adopted to protect critical areas, and comprehensive plans are in compliance with the requirements of this section, RCW 36.70A.040(4), 36.70A.070(5), 36.70A.170, and 36.70A.172. The department must approve or deny the application for a determination of compliance within one hundred twenty days of its receipt or by June 30, 2017, whichever date is earlier.

(ii) If the department denies an application under (d)(i) of this subsection, the county and each city within is obligated to comply with all requirements of this chapter and the resolution for partial planning adopted under RCW 36.70A.040(2)(b) is no longer in effect.

(iii) A petition for review of a determination of compliance under (d)(i) of this subsection may only be appealed to the growth management hearings board within sixty days of the issuance of the decision by the department.

(iv) In the event of a filing of a petition in accordance with (d)(iii) of this subsection, the county and the department



must equally share the costs incurred by the department for defending an approval of determination of compliance that is before the growth management hearings board.

(v) The department may implement this subsection (1)(d) by adopting rules related to determinations of compliance. The rules may address, but are not limited to: The requirements for applications for a determination of compliance; charging of costs under (d)(iv) of this subsection; procedures for processing applications; criteria for the evaluation of applications; issuance and notice of department decisions; and applicable timelines.

(e) Any county that borders both the Cascade mountains and another country and has a population of less than fifty thousand people, and any city in such county, may adopt development regulations to assure that agriculture, forest, and mineral resource lands adjacent to short line railroads may be developed for freight rail dependent uses.

(2) Each county and city shall adopt development regulations that protect critical areas that are required to be designated under RCW 36.70A.170. For counties and cities that are required or choose to plan under RCW 36.70A.040, such development regulations shall be adopted on or before September 1, 1991. For the remainder of the counties and cities, such development regulations shall be adopted on or before March 1, 1992.

(3) Such counties and cities shall review these designations and development regulations when adopting their comprehensive plans under RCW 36.70A.040 and implementing development regulations under RCW 36.70A.120 and may alter such designations and development regulations to insure consistency.

(4) Forestland and agricultural land located within urban growth areas shall not be designated by a county or city as forestland or agricultural land of long-term commercial significance under RCW 36.70A.170 unless the city or county has enacted a program authorizing transfer or purchase of development rights. [2017 3rd sp.s. c 18 § 3; 2014 c 147 § 2; 2005 c 423 § 3; 1998 c 286 § 5; 1991 sp.s. c 32 § 21; 1990 1st ex.s. c 17 § 6.]

**Finding—2017 3rd sp.s. c 18:** See note following RCW 36.70A.030.

**Intent—Effective date—2005 c 423:** See notes following RCW 36.70A.030.

**36.70A.067 Effective date—Certain actions under RCW 36.70A.070, 36.70A.110, 36.70A.350, and 36.70A.360.** The initial effective date of an action that expands an urban growth area designated under RCW 36.70A.110, removes the designation of agricultural, forest, or mineral resource lands designated under RCW 36.70A.170, creates or expands a limited area of more intensive rural development designated under RCW 36.70A.070(5)(d), establishes a new fully contained community under RCW 36.70A.350, or creates or expands a master planned resort designated under RCW 36.70A.360, is after the latest of the following dates:

(1) 60 days after the date of publication of notice of adoption of the comprehensive plan, development regulation, or amendment to the plan or regulation, implementing the action, as provided in RCW 36.70A.290(2); or

(2) If a petition for review to the growth management hearings board is timely filed, upon issuance of the board's final order. [2022 c 218 § 2.]

**Findings—Intent—2022 c 218:** "The legislature finds that climate change is one of the greatest challenges facing our state and the world today, an existential crisis with major negative impacts on environmental and human health. The legislature further finds that compact and responsibly planned development of residential and public facilities, intended under the growth management act, mitigates climate change through the efficient use of energy resources and the corresponding decrease in greenhouse gas production. This dense development and the concentration of growth in urban areas also prevents sprawl, lessening development's impact on natural resources, ecosystems, and habitats.

The legislature also finds that current legal frameworks work against the act's goal of responsibly planned for growth by prematurely allowing development rights to vest before the validity of plans and regulations can be determined. This flawed process has led to the approval of development that has decreased resource lands and placed a strain on local infrastructure services. Furthermore, it makes it extremely difficult for local jurisdictions to come back into compliance with state laws and leaves citizens with no real remedy to undo these planning violations.

Therefore, the legislature intends to set the effective date of these impactful planning actions to a time that will allow for the thorough review of growth planning decisions intended under the act." [2022 c 218 § 1.]

**36.70A.070 Comprehensive plans—Mandatory elements.** The comprehensive plan of a county or city that is required or chooses to plan under RCW 36.70A.040 shall consist of a map or maps, and descriptive text covering objectives, principles, and standards used to develop the comprehensive plan. The plan shall be an internally consistent document and all elements shall be consistent with the future land use map. A comprehensive plan shall be adopted and amended with public participation as provided in RCW 36.70A.140. Each comprehensive plan shall include a plan, scheme, or design for each of the following:

(1) A land use element designating the proposed general distribution and general location and extent of the uses of land, where appropriate, for agriculture, timber production, housing, commerce, industry, recreation, open spaces, general aviation airports, public utilities, public facilities, and other land uses. The land use element shall include population densities, building intensities, and estimates of future population growth. The land use element shall provide for protection of the quality and quantity of groundwater used for public water supplies. Wherever possible, the land use element should consider utilizing urban planning approaches that promote physical activity. Where applicable, the land use element shall review drainage, flooding, and stormwater runoff in the area and nearby jurisdictions and provide guidance for corrective actions to mitigate or cleanse those discharges that pollute waters of the state, including Puget Sound or waters entering Puget Sound.

(2) A housing element ensuring the vitality and character of established residential neighborhoods that:

(a) Includes an inventory and analysis of existing and projected housing needs that identifies the number of housing units necessary to manage projected growth, as provided by the department of commerce, including:

(i) Units for moderate, low, very low, and extremely low-income households; and

(ii) Emergency housing, emergency shelters, and permanent supportive housing;

(b) Includes a statement of goals, policies, objectives, and mandatory provisions for the preservation, improvement,

and development of housing, including single-family residences, and within an urban growth area boundary, moderate density housing options including, but not limited to, duplexes, triplexes, and townhomes;

(c) Identifies sufficient capacity of land for housing including, but not limited to, government-assisted housing, housing for moderate, low, very low, and extremely low-income households, manufactured housing, multifamily housing, group homes, foster care facilities, emergency housing, emergency shelters, permanent supportive housing, and within an urban growth area boundary, consideration of duplexes, triplexes, and townhomes;

(d) Makes adequate provisions for existing and projected needs of all economic segments of the community, including:

(i) Incorporating consideration for low, very low, extremely low, and moderate-income households;

(ii) Documenting programs and actions needed to achieve housing availability including gaps in local funding, barriers such as development regulations, and other limitations;

(iii) Consideration of housing locations in relation to employment location; and

(iv) Consideration of the role of accessory dwelling units in meeting housing needs;

(e) Identifies local policies and regulations that result in racially disparate impacts, displacement, and exclusion in housing, including:

(i) Zoning that may have a discriminatory effect;

(ii) Disinvestment; and

(iii) Infrastructure availability;

(f) Identifies and implements policies and regulations to address and begin to undo racially disparate impacts, displacement, and exclusion in housing caused by local policies, plans, and actions;

(g) Identifies areas that may be at higher risk of displacement from market forces that occur with changes to zoning development regulations and capital investments; and

(h) Establishes antidisplacement policies, with consideration given to the preservation of historical and cultural communities as well as investments in low, very low, extremely low, and moderate-income housing; equitable development initiatives; inclusionary zoning; community planning requirements; tenant protections; land disposition policies; and consideration of land that may be used for affordable housing.

In counties and cities subject to the review and evaluation requirements of RCW 36.70A.215, any revision to the housing element shall include consideration of prior review and evaluation reports and any reasonable measures identified. The housing element should link jurisdictional goals with overall county goals to ensure that the housing element goals are met.

The adoption of ordinances, development regulations and amendments to such regulations, and other nonproject actions taken by a city that is required or chooses to plan under RCW 36.70A.040 that increase housing capacity, increase housing affordability, and mitigate displacement as required under this subsection (2) and that apply outside of critical areas are not subject to administrative or judicial appeal under chapter 43.21C RCW unless the adoption of such ordinances, development regulations and amendments

to such regulations, or other nonproject actions has a probable significant adverse impact on fish habitat.

(3) A capital facilities plan element consisting of: (a) An inventory of existing capital facilities owned by public entities, showing the locations and capacities of the capital facilities; (b) a forecast of the future needs for such capital facilities; (c) the proposed locations and capacities of expanded or new capital facilities; (d) at least a six-year plan that will finance such capital facilities within projected funding capacities and clearly identifies sources of public money for such purposes; and (e) a requirement to reassess the land use element if probable funding falls short of meeting existing needs and to ensure that the land use element, capital facilities plan element, and financing plan within the capital facilities plan element are coordinated and consistent. Park and recreation facilities shall be included in the capital facilities plan element.

(4) A utilities element consisting of the general location, proposed location, and capacity of all existing and proposed utilities, including, but not limited to, electrical lines, telecommunication lines, and natural gas lines.

(5) Rural element. Counties shall include a rural element including lands that are not designated for urban growth, agriculture, forest, or mineral resources. The following provisions shall apply to the rural element:

(a) Growth management act goals and local circumstances. Because circumstances vary from county to county, in establishing patterns of rural densities and uses, a county may consider local circumstances, but shall develop a written record explaining how the rural element harmonizes the planning goals in RCW 36.70A.020 and meets the requirements of this chapter.

(b) Rural development. The rural element shall permit rural development, forestry, and agriculture in rural areas. The rural element shall provide for a variety of rural densities, uses, essential public facilities, and rural governmental services needed to serve the permitted densities and uses. To achieve a variety of rural densities and uses, counties may provide for clustering, density transfer, design guidelines, conservation easements, and other innovative techniques that will accommodate appropriate rural economic advancement, densities, and uses that are not characterized by urban growth and that are consistent with rural character.

(c) Measures governing rural development. The rural element shall include measures that apply to rural development and protect the rural character of the area, as established by the county, by:

(i) Containing or otherwise controlling rural development;

(ii) Assuring visual compatibility of rural development with the surrounding rural area;

(iii) Reducing the inappropriate conversion of undeveloped land into sprawling, low-density development in the rural area;

(iv) Protecting critical areas, as provided in RCW 36.70A.060, and surface water and groundwater resources; and

(v) Protecting against conflicts with the use of agricultural, forest, and mineral resource lands designated under RCW 36.70A.170.

(d) Limited areas of more intensive rural development. Subject to the requirements of this subsection and except as otherwise specifically provided in this subsection (5)(d), the rural element may allow for limited areas of more intensive rural development, including necessary public facilities and public services to serve the limited area as follows:

(i) Rural development consisting of the infill, development, or redevelopment of existing commercial, industrial, residential, or mixed-use areas, whether characterized as shoreline development, villages, hamlets, rural activity centers, or crossroads developments.

(A) A commercial, industrial, residential, shoreline, or mixed-use area are subject to the requirements of (d)(iv) of this subsection, but are not subject to the requirements of (c)(ii) and (iii) of this subsection.

(B) Any development or redevelopment other than an industrial area or an industrial use within a mixed-use area or an industrial area under this subsection (5)(d)(i) must be principally designed to serve the existing and projected rural population.

(C) Any development or redevelopment in terms of building size, scale, use, or intensity may be permitted subject to confirmation from all existing providers of public facilities and public services of sufficient capacity of existing public facilities and public services to serve any new or additional demand from the new development or redevelopment. Development and redevelopment may include changes in use from vacant land or a previously existing use so long as the new use conforms to the requirements of this subsection (5) and is consistent with the local character. Any commercial development or redevelopment within a mixed-use area must be principally designed to serve the existing and projected rural population and must meet the following requirements:

(I) Any included retail or food service space must not exceed the footprint of previously occupied space or 5,000 square feet, whichever is greater, for the same or similar use; and

(II) Any included retail or food service space must not exceed 2,500 square feet for a new use;

(ii) The intensification of development on lots containing, or new development of, small-scale recreational or tourist uses, including commercial facilities to serve those recreational or tourist uses, that rely on a rural location and setting, but that do not include new residential development. A small-scale recreation or tourist use is not required to be principally designed to serve the existing and projected rural population. Public services and public facilities shall be limited to those necessary to serve the recreation or tourist use and shall be provided in a manner that does not permit low-density sprawl;

(iii) The intensification of development on lots containing isolated nonresidential uses or new development of isolated cottage industries and isolated small-scale businesses that are not principally designed to serve the existing and projected rural population and nonresidential uses, but do provide job opportunities for rural residents. Rural counties may allow the expansion of small-scale businesses as long as those small-scale businesses conform with the rural character of the area as defined by the local government according to RCW 36.70A.030(23). Rural counties may also allow new small-scale businesses to utilize a site previously occupied by

an existing business as long as the new small-scale business conforms to the rural character of the area as defined by the local government according to RCW 36.70A.030(23). Public services and public facilities shall be limited to those necessary to serve the isolated nonresidential use and shall be provided in a manner that does not permit low-density sprawl;

(iv) A county shall adopt measures to minimize and contain the existing areas of more intensive rural development, as appropriate, authorized under this subsection. Lands included in such existing areas shall not extend beyond the logical outer boundary of the existing area, thereby allowing a new pattern of low-density sprawl. Existing areas are those that are clearly identifiable and contained and where there is a logical boundary delineated predominately by the built environment, but that may also include undeveloped lands if limited as provided in this subsection. The county shall establish the logical outer boundary of an area of more intensive rural development. In establishing the logical outer boundary, the county shall address (A) the need to preserve the character of existing natural neighborhoods and communities, (B) physical boundaries, such as bodies of water, streets and highways, and land forms and contours, (C) the prevention of abnormally irregular boundaries, and (D) the ability to provide public facilities and public services in a manner that does not permit low-density sprawl;

(v) For purposes of this subsection (5)(d), an existing area or existing use is one that was in existence:

(A) On July 1, 1990, in a county that was initially required to plan under all of the provisions of this chapter;

(B) On the date the county adopted a resolution under RCW 36.70A.040(2), in a county that is planning under all of the provisions of this chapter under RCW 36.70A.040(2); or

(C) On the date the office of financial management certifies the county's population as provided in RCW 36.70A.040(5), in a county that is planning under all of the provisions of this chapter pursuant to RCW 36.70A.040(5).

(e) Exception. This subsection shall not be interpreted to permit in the rural area a major industrial development or a master planned resort unless otherwise specifically permitted under RCW 36.70A.360 and 36.70A.365.

(6) A transportation element that implements, and is consistent with, the land use element.

(a) The transportation element shall include the following subelements:

(i) Land use assumptions used in estimating travel;

(ii) Estimated traffic impacts to state-owned transportation facilities resulting from land use assumptions to assist the department of transportation in monitoring the performance of state facilities, to plan improvements for the facilities, and to assess the impact of land-use decisions on state-owned transportation facilities;

(iii) Facilities and services needs, including:

(A) An inventory of air, water, and ground transportation facilities and services, including transit alignments and general aviation airport facilities, to define existing capital facilities and travel levels as a basis for future planning. This inventory must include state-owned transportation facilities within the city or county's jurisdictional boundaries;

(B) Level of service standards for all locally owned arterials and transit routes to serve as a gauge to judge perfor-

mance of the system. These standards should be regionally coordinated;

(C) For state-owned transportation facilities, level of service standards for highways, as prescribed in chapters 47.06 and 47.80 RCW, to gauge the performance of the system. The purposes of reflecting level of service standards for state highways in the local comprehensive plan are to monitor the performance of the system, to evaluate improvement strategies, and to facilitate coordination between the county's or city's six-year street, road, or transit program and the office of financial management's ten-year investment program. The concurrency requirements of (b) of this subsection do not apply to transportation facilities and services of statewide significance except for counties consisting of islands whose only connection to the mainland are state highways or ferry routes. In these island counties, state highways and ferry route capacity must be a factor in meeting the concurrency requirements in (b) of this subsection;

(D) Specific actions and requirements for bringing into compliance locally owned transportation facilities or services that are below an established level of service standard;

(E) Forecasts of traffic for at least ten years based on the adopted land use plan to provide information on the location, timing, and capacity needs of future growth;

(F) Identification of state and local system needs to meet current and future demands. Identified needs on state-owned transportation facilities must be consistent with the statewide multimodal transportation plan required under chapter 47.06 RCW;

(iv) Finance, including:

(A) An analysis of funding capability to judge needs against probable funding resources;

(B) A multiyear financing plan based on the needs identified in the comprehensive plan, the appropriate parts of which shall serve as the basis for the six-year street, road, or transit program required by RCW 35.77.010 for cities, RCW 36.81.121 for counties, and RCW 35.58.2795 for public transportation systems. The multiyear financing plan should be coordinated with the ten-year investment program developed by the office of financial management as required by RCW 47.05.030;

(C) If probable funding falls short of meeting identified needs, a discussion of how additional funding will be raised, or how land use assumptions will be reassessed to ensure that level of service standards will be met;

(v) Intergovernmental coordination efforts, including an assessment of the impacts of the transportation plan and land use assumptions on the transportation systems of adjacent jurisdictions;

(vi) Demand-management strategies;

(vii) Pedestrian and bicycle component to include collaborative efforts to identify and designate planned improvements for pedestrian and bicycle facilities and corridors that address and encourage enhanced community access and promote healthy lifestyles.

(b) After adoption of the comprehensive plan by jurisdictions required to plan or who choose to plan under RCW 36.70A.040, local jurisdictions must adopt and enforce ordinances which prohibit development approval if the development causes the level of service on a locally owned transportation facility to decline below the standards adopted in the

transportation element of the comprehensive plan, unless transportation improvements or strategies to accommodate the impacts of development are made concurrent with the development. These strategies may include increased public transportation service, ride-sharing programs, demand management, and other transportation systems management strategies. For the purposes of this subsection (6), "concurrent with the development" means that improvements or strategies are in place at the time of development, or that a financial commitment is in place to complete the improvements or strategies within six years. If the collection of impact fees is delayed under RCW 82.02.050(3), the six-year period required by this subsection (6)(b) must begin after full payment of all impact fees is due to the county or city.

(c) The transportation element described in this subsection (6), the six-year plans required by RCW 35.77.010 for cities, RCW 36.81.121 for counties, and RCW 35.58.2795 for public transportation systems, and the ten-year investment program required by RCW 47.05.030 for the state, must be consistent.

(7) An economic development element establishing local goals, policies, objectives, and provisions for economic growth and vitality and a high quality of life. A city that has chosen to be a residential community is exempt from the economic development element requirement of this subsection.

(8) A park and recreation element that implements, and is consistent with, the capital facilities plan element as it relates to park and recreation facilities. The element shall include: (a) Estimates of park and recreation demand for at least a ten-year period; (b) an evaluation of facilities and service needs; and (c) an evaluation of intergovernmental coordination opportunities to provide regional approaches for meeting park and recreational demand.

(9) It is the intent that new or amended elements required after January 1, 2002, be adopted concurrent with the scheduled update provided in RCW 36.70A.130. Requirements to incorporate any such new or amended elements shall be null and void until funds sufficient to cover applicable local government costs are appropriated and distributed by the state at least two years before local government must update comprehensive plans as required in RCW 36.70A.130. [2022 c 246 § 2; 2022 c 220 § 1; 2021 c 254 § 2. Prior: 2017 3rd sp.s. c 18 § 4; 2017 3rd sp.s. c 16 § 4; 2017 c 331 § 2; 2015 c 241 § 2; 2010 1st sp.s. c 26 § 6; 2005 c 360 § 2; (2005 c 477 § 1 expired August 31, 2005); 2004 c 196 § 1; 2003 c 152 § 1; prior: 2002 c 212 § 2; 2002 c 154 § 2; 1998 c 171 § 2; 1997 c 429 § 7; 1996 c 239 § 1; prior: 1995 c 400 § 3; 1995 c 377 § 1; 1990 1st ex.s. c 17 § 7.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 2022 c 220 § 1 and by 2022 c 246 § 2, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section under RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

**Finding—2017 3rd sp.s. c 18:** See note following RCW 36.70A.030.

**Short title—2017 c 331:** "This act may be known and cited as the economic revitalization act." [2017 c 331 § 1.]

**Effective date—2015 c 241:** See note following RCW 82.02.050.

**Findings—Intent—2005 c 360:** "The legislature finds that regular physical activity is essential to maintaining good health and reducing the rates of chronic disease. The legislature further finds that providing opportunities for walking, biking, horseback riding, and other regular forms of exercise is best accomplished through collaboration between the private sector and local, state, and institutional policymakers. This collaboration can build

communities where people find it easy and safe to be physically active. It is the intent of the legislature to promote policy and planning efforts that increase access to inexpensive or free opportunities for regular exercise in all communities around the state." [2005 c 360 § 1.]

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

**36.70A.080 Comprehensive plans—Optional elements.** (1) A comprehensive plan may include additional elements, items, or studies dealing with other subjects relating to the physical development within its jurisdiction, including, but not limited to:

- (a) Conservation;
- (b) Solar energy; and
- (c) Recreation.

(2) A comprehensive plan may include, where appropriate, subarea plans, each of which is consistent with the comprehensive plan.

(3)(a) Cities that qualify as a receiving city may adopt a comprehensive plan element and associated development regulations that apply within receiving areas under chapter 39.108 RCW.

(b) For purposes of this subsection, the terms "receiving city" and "receiving area" have the same meanings as provided in RCW 39.108.010. [2011 c 318 § 801; 1990 1st ex.s. c 17 § 8.]

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

**36.70A.085 Comprehensive plans—Port elements.**

(1) Comprehensive plans of cities that have a marine container port with annual operating revenues in excess of sixty million dollars within their jurisdiction must include a container port element.

(2) Comprehensive plans of cities that include all or part of a port district with annual operating revenues in excess of twenty million dollars may include a marine industrial port element. Prior to adopting a marine industrial port element under this subsection (2), the commission of the applicable port district must adopt a resolution in support of the proposed element.

(3) Port elements adopted under subsections (1) and (2) of this section must be developed collaboratively between the city, the applicable port, and the applicable tribe, which shall comply with RCW 36.70A.040(8), and must establish policies and programs that:

- (a) Define and protect the core areas of port and port-related industrial uses within the city;
- (b) Provide reasonably efficient access to the core area through freight corridors within the city limits; and
- (c) Identify and resolve key land use conflicts along the edge of the core area, and minimize and mitigate, to the extent practicable, incompatible uses along the edge of the core area.

(4) Port elements adopted under subsections (1) and (2) of this section must be:

- (a) Completed and approved by the city according to the schedule specified in RCW 36.70A.130; and
- (b) Consistent with the economic development, transportation, and land use elements of the city's comprehensive plan, and consistent with the city's capital facilities plan.

(5) In adopting port elements under subsections (1) and (2) of this section, cities and ports must: Ensure that there is

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consistency between the port elements and the port comprehensive scheme required under chapters 53.20 and 53.25 RCW; and retain sufficient planning flexibility to secure emerging economic opportunities.

(6) In developing port elements under subsections (1) and (2) of this section, a city may utilize one or more of the following approaches:

- (a) Creation of a port overlay district that protects container port uses;
- (b) Use of industrial land banks;
- (c) Use of buffers and transition zones between incompatible uses;
- (d) Use of joint transportation funding agreements;
- (e) Use of policies to encourage the retention of valuable warehouse and storage facilities;
- (f) Use of limitations on the location or size, or both, of nonindustrial uses in the core area and surrounding areas; and
- (g) Use of other approaches by agreement between the city and the port.

(7) The \*department of community, trade, and economic development must provide matching grant funds to cities meeting the requirements of subsection (1) of this section to support development of the required container port element.

(8) Any planned improvements identified in port elements adopted under subsections (1) and (2) of this section must be transmitted by the city to the transportation commission for consideration of inclusion in the statewide transportation plan required under RCW 47.01.071. [2022 c 252 § 2; 2009 c 514 § 2.]

\*Reviser's note: The "department of community, trade, and economic development" was renamed the "department of commerce" by 2009 c 565.

**Findings—Intent—2009 c 514:** "(1) The legislature finds that Washington's marine container ports operate within a complex system of marine terminal operations, truck and train transportation corridors, and industrial services that together support a critical amount of our state and national economy, including key parts of our state's manufacturing and agricultural sectors, and directly create thousands of high-wage jobs throughout our region.

(2) The legislature further finds that the container port services are increasingly challenged by the conversion of industrial properties to nonindustrial uses, leading to competing and incompatible uses that can hinder port operations, restrict efficient movement of freight, and limit the opportunity for improvements to existing port-related facilities.

(3) It is the intent of the legislature to ensure that local land use decisions are made in consideration of the long-term and widespread economic contribution of our international container ports and related industrial lands and transportation systems, and to ensure that container ports continue to function effectively alongside vibrant city waterfronts." [2009 c 514 § 1.]

**36.70A.090 Comprehensive plans—Innovative techniques.** A comprehensive plan should provide for innovative land use management techniques, including, but not limited to, density bonuses, cluster housing, planned unit developments, and the transfer of development rights. [1990 1st ex.s. c 17 § 9.]

**36.70A.100 Comprehensive plans—Must be coordinated.** The comprehensive plan of each county or city that is adopted pursuant to RCW 36.70A.040 shall be coordinated with, and consistent with, the comprehensive plans adopted pursuant to RCW 36.70A.040 of other counties or cities with which the county or city has, in part, common borders or related regional issues. [1990 1st ex.s. c 17 § 10.]

**36.70A.103 State agencies required to comply with comprehensive plans.** State agencies shall comply with the local comprehensive plans and development regulations and amendments thereto adopted pursuant to this chapter except as otherwise provided in RCW 71.09.250 (1) through (3), 71.09.342, and 72.09.333.

The provisions of chapter 12, Laws of 2001 2nd sp. sess. do not affect the state's authority to site any other essential public facility under RCW 36.70A.200 in conformance with local comprehensive plans and development regulations adopted pursuant to chapter 36.70A RCW. [2002 c 68 § 15; 2001 2nd sp.s. c 12 § 203; 1991 sp.s. c 32 § 4.]

**Purpose—Severability—Effective date—2002 c 68:** See notes following RCW 36.70A.200.

**Intent—Severability—Effective dates—2001 2nd sp.s. c 12:** See notes following RCW 71.09.250.

**36.70A.106 Comprehensive plans—Development regulations—Transmittal to state—Amendments—Expedited review.** (1) Each county and city proposing adoption of a comprehensive plan or development regulations under this chapter shall notify the department of its intent to adopt such plan or regulations at least sixty days prior to final adoption. State agencies including the department may provide comments to the county or city on the proposed comprehensive plan, or proposed development regulations, during the public review process prior to adoption.

(2) Each county and city planning under this chapter shall transmit a complete and accurate copy of its comprehensive plan or development regulations to the department within ten days after final adoption.

(3)(a) Any amendments for permanent changes to a comprehensive plan or development regulation that are proposed by a county or city to its adopted plan or regulations shall be submitted to the department in the same manner as initial plans and development regulations under this section. Any amendments to a comprehensive plan or development regulations that are adopted by a county or city shall be transmitted to the department in the same manner as the initial plans and regulations under this section.

(b) Each county and city planning under this chapter may request expedited review for any amendments for permanent changes to a development regulation. Upon receiving a request for expedited review, and after consultation with other state agencies, the department may grant expedited review if the department determines that expedited review does not compromise the state's ability to provide timely comments related to compliance with the goals and requirements of this chapter or on other matters of state interest. Cities and counties may adopt amendments for permanent changes to a development regulation immediately following the granting of the request for expedited review by the department.

(c) A federally recognized Indian tribe may request to receive from the department copies of notices received from cities or counties under this section. Upon receipt of a submittal from a city or county under this section, the department shall forward the submittal to any tribe that has requested notification. [2022 c 252 § 3; 2004 c 197 § 1; 1991 sp.s. c 32 § 8.]

**36.70A.108 Comprehensive plans—Transportation element—Multimodal transportation improvements and strategies.** (1) The transportation element required by RCW 36.70A.070 may include, in addition to improvements or strategies to accommodate the impacts of development authorized under RCW 36.70A.070(6)(b), multimodal transportation improvements or strategies that are made concurrent with the development. These transportation improvements or strategies may include, but are not limited to, measures implementing or evaluating:

(a) Multiple modes of transportation with peak and non-peak hour capacity performance standards for locally owned transportation facilities; and

(b) Modal performance standards meeting the peak and nonpeak hour capacity performance standards.

(2) Any county located to the west of the crest of the Cascade mountains that has both a population of at least four hundred thousand and a border that touches another state, and any city in such county, may include development of freight rail dependent uses on land adjacent to a short line railroad in the transportation element required by RCW 36.70A.070. Such counties and cities may also modify development regulations to include development of freight rail dependent uses that do not require urban governmental services in rural lands.

(3) Nothing in this section or RCW 36.70A.070(6)(b) shall be construed as prohibiting a county or city planning under RCW 36.70A.040 from exercising existing authority to develop multimodal improvements or strategies to satisfy the concurrency requirements of this chapter.

(4) Nothing in this section is intended to affect or otherwise modify the authority of jurisdictions planning under RCW 36.70A.040. [2017 3rd sp.s. c 18 § 5; 2005 c 328 § 1.]

**Finding—2017 3rd sp.s. c 18:** See note following RCW 36.70A.030.

**36.70A.110 Comprehensive plans—Urban growth areas.** (1) Each county that is required or chooses to plan under RCW 36.70A.040 shall designate an urban growth area or areas within which urban growth shall be encouraged and outside of which growth can occur only if it is not urban in nature. Each city that is located in such a county shall be included within an urban growth area. An urban growth area may include more than a single city. An urban growth area may include territory that is located outside of a city only if such territory already is characterized by urban growth whether or not the urban growth area includes a city, or is adjacent to territory already characterized by urban growth, or is a designated new fully contained community as defined by RCW 36.70A.350. When a federally recognized Indian tribe whose reservation or ceded lands lie within the county or city has voluntarily chosen to participate in the planning process pursuant to RCW 36.70A.040, the county or city and the tribe shall coordinate their planning efforts for any areas planned for urban growth consistent with the terms outlined in the memorandum of agreement provided for in RCW 36.70A.040(8).

(2) Based upon the growth management population projection made for the county by the office of financial management, the county and each city within the county shall include areas and densities sufficient to permit the urban growth that is projected to occur in the county or city for the succeeding

twenty-year period, except for those urban growth areas contained totally within a national historical reserve. As part of this planning process, each city within the county must include areas sufficient to accommodate the broad range of needs and uses that will accompany the projected urban growth including, as appropriate, medical, governmental, institutional, commercial, service, retail, and other nonresidential uses.

Each urban growth area shall permit urban densities and shall include greenbelt and open space areas. In the case of urban growth areas contained totally within a national historical reserve, the city may restrict densities, intensities, and forms of urban growth as determined to be necessary and appropriate to protect the physical, cultural, or historic integrity of the reserve. An urban growth area determination may include a reasonable land market supply factor and shall permit a range of urban densities and uses. In determining this market factor, cities and counties may consider local circumstances. Cities and counties have discretion in their comprehensive plans to make many choices about accommodating growth.

Within one year of July 1, 1990, each county that as of June 1, 1991, was required or chose to plan under RCW 36.70A.040, shall begin consulting with each city located within its boundaries and each city shall propose the location of an urban growth area. Within sixty days of the date the county legislative authority of a county adopts its resolution of intention or of certification by the office of financial management, all other counties that are required or choose to plan under RCW 36.70A.040 shall begin this consultation with each city located within its boundaries. The county shall attempt to reach agreement with each city on the location of an urban growth area within which the city is located. If such an agreement is not reached with each city located within the urban growth area, the county shall justify in writing why it so designated the area an urban growth area. A city may object formally with the department over the designation of the urban growth area within which it is located. Where appropriate, the department shall attempt to resolve the conflicts, including the use of mediation services.

(3) Urban growth should be located first in areas already characterized by urban growth that have adequate existing public facility and service capacities to serve such development, second in areas already characterized by urban growth that will be served adequately by a combination of both existing public facilities and services and any additional needed public facilities and services that are provided by either public or private sources, and third in the remaining portions of the urban growth areas. Urban growth may also be located in designated new fully contained communities as defined by RCW 36.70A.350.

(4) In general, cities are the units of local government most appropriate to provide urban governmental services. In general, it is not appropriate that urban governmental services be extended to or expanded in rural areas except in those limited circumstances shown to be necessary to protect basic public health and safety and the environment and when such services are financially supportable at rural densities and do not permit urban development.

(5) On or before October 1, 1993, each county that was initially required to plan under RCW 36.70A.040(1) shall

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adopt development regulations designating interim urban growth areas under this chapter. Within three years and three months of the date the county legislative authority of a county adopts its resolution of intention or of certification by the office of financial management, all other counties that are required or choose to plan under RCW 36.70A.040 shall adopt development regulations designating interim urban growth areas under this chapter. Adoption of the interim urban growth areas may only occur after public notice; public hearing; and compliance with the state environmental policy act, chapter 43.21C RCW, and under this section. Such action may be appealed to the growth management hearings board under RCW 36.70A.280. Final urban growth areas shall be adopted at the time of comprehensive plan adoption under this chapter.

(6) Each county shall include designations of urban growth areas in its comprehensive plan.

(7) An urban growth area designated in accordance with this section may include within its boundaries urban service areas or potential annexation areas designated for specific cities or towns within the county.

(8)(a) Except as provided in (b) of this subsection, the expansion of an urban growth area is prohibited into the one hundred year floodplain of any river or river segment that: (i) Is located west of the crest of the Cascade mountains; and (ii) has a mean annual flow of one thousand or more cubic feet per second as determined by the department of ecology.

(b) Subsection (8)(a) of this section does not apply to:

(i) Urban growth areas that are fully contained within a floodplain and lack adjacent buildable areas outside the floodplain;

(ii) Urban growth areas where expansions are precluded outside floodplains because:

(A) Urban governmental services cannot be physically provided to serve areas outside the floodplain; or

(B) Expansions outside the floodplain would require a river or estuary crossing to access the expansion; or

(iii) Urban growth area expansions where:

(A) Public facilities already exist within the floodplain and the expansion of an existing public facility is only possible on the land to be included in the urban growth area and located within the floodplain; or

(B) Urban development already exists within a floodplain as of July 26, 2009, and is adjacent to, but outside of, the urban growth area, and the expansion of the urban growth area is necessary to include such urban development within the urban growth area; or

(C) The land is owned by a jurisdiction planning under this chapter or the rights to the development of the land have been permanently extinguished, and the following criteria are met:

(I) The permissible use of the land is limited to one of the following: Outdoor recreation; environmentally beneficial projects, including but not limited to habitat enhancement or environmental restoration; stormwater facilities; flood control facilities; or underground conveyances; and

(II) The development and use of such facilities or projects will not decrease flood storage, increase stormwater runoff, discharge pollutants to fresh or salt waters during normal operations or floods, or increase hazards to people and property.

(c) For the purposes of this subsection (8), "one hundred year floodplain" means the same as "special flood hazard area" as set forth in WAC 173-158-040 as it exists on July 26, 2009.

(9) If a county, city, or utility has adopted a capital facility plan or utilities element to provide sewer service within the urban growth areas during the twenty-year planning period, nothing in this chapter obligates counties, cities, or utilities to install sanitary sewer systems to properties within urban growth areas designated under subsection (2) of this section by the end of the twenty-year planning period when those properties:

(a)(i) Have existing, functioning, nonpolluting on-site sewage systems;

(ii) Have a periodic inspection program by a public agency to verify the on-site sewage systems function properly and do not pollute surface or groundwater; and

(iii) Have no redevelopment capacity; or

(b) Do not require sewer service because development densities are limited due to wetlands, floodplains, fish and wildlife habitats, or geological hazards. [2022 c 252 § 4; 2017 c 305 § 1; 2010 c 211 § 1. Prior: 2009 c 342 § 1; 2009 c 121 § 1; 2004 c 206 § 1; 2003 c 299 § 5; 1997 c 429 § 24; 1995 c 400 § 2; 1994 c 249 § 27; 1993 sp.s. c 6 § 2; 1991 sp.s. c 32 § 29; 1990 1st ex.s. c 17 § 11.]

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

**36.70A.115 Comprehensive plans and development regulations must provide sufficient land capacity for development.** (1) Counties and cities that are required or choose to plan under RCW 36.70A.040 shall ensure that, taken collectively, adoption of and amendments to their comprehensive plans and/or development regulations provide sufficient capacity of land suitable for development within their jurisdictions to accommodate their allocated housing and employment growth, including the accommodation of, as appropriate, the medical, governmental, educational, institutional, commercial, and industrial facilities related to such growth, as adopted in the applicable countywide planning policies and consistent with the twenty-year population forecast from the office of financial management.

(2) This analysis shall include the reasonable measures findings developed under RCW 36.70A.215, if applicable to such counties and cities. [2017 3rd sp.s. c 16 § 1; 2009 c 121 § 3; 2003 c 333 § 1.]

**36.70A.120 Planning activities and capital budget decisions—Implementation in conformity with comprehensive plan.** Each county and city that is required or chooses to plan under RCW 36.70A.040 shall perform its activities and make capital budget decisions in conformity with its comprehensive plan. [1993 sp.s. c 6 § 3; 1990 1st ex.s. c 17 § 12.]

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

**36.70A.130 Comprehensive plans—Review procedures and schedules—Implementation progress report.** (1)(a) Each comprehensive land use plan and development regulations shall be subject to continuing review and evaluation by the county or city that adopted them. Except as otherwise provided, a county or city shall take legislative action to

review and, if needed, revise its comprehensive land use plan and development regulations to ensure the plan and regulations comply with the requirements of this chapter according to the deadlines in subsections (4) and (5) of this section.

(b) Except as otherwise provided, a county or city not planning under RCW 36.70A.040 shall take action to review and, if needed, revise its policies and development regulations regarding critical areas and natural resource lands adopted according to this chapter to ensure these policies and regulations comply with the requirements of this chapter according to the deadlines in subsections (4) and (5) of this section. Legislative action means the adoption of a resolution or ordinance following notice and a public hearing indicating at a minimum, a finding that a review and evaluation has occurred and identifying the revisions made, or that a revision was not needed and the reasons therefor.

(c) The review and evaluation required by this subsection shall include, but is not limited to, consideration of critical area ordinances and, if planning under RCW 36.70A.040, an analysis of the population allocated to a city or county from the most recent ten-year population forecast by the office of financial management.

(d) Any amendment of or revision to a comprehensive land use plan shall conform to this chapter. Any amendment of or revision to development regulations shall be consistent with and implement the comprehensive plan.

(2)(a) Each county and city shall establish and broadly disseminate to the public a public participation program consistent with RCW 36.70A.035 and 36.70A.140 that identifies procedures and schedules whereby updates, proposed amendments, or revisions of the comprehensive plan are considered by the governing body of the county or city no more frequently than once every year. "Updates" means to review and revise, if needed, according to subsection (1) of this section, and the deadlines in subsections (4) and (5) of this section or in accordance with the provisions of subsection (6) of this section. Amendments may be considered more frequently than once per year under the following circumstances:

(i) The initial adoption of a subarea plan. Subarea plans adopted under this subsection (2)(a)(i) must clarify, supplement, or implement jurisdiction-wide comprehensive plan policies, and may only be adopted if the cumulative impacts of the proposed plan are addressed by appropriate environmental review under chapter 43.21C RCW;

(ii) The development of an initial subarea plan for economic development located outside of the one hundred year floodplain in a county that has completed a state-funded pilot project that is based on watershed characterization and local habitat assessment;

(iii) The adoption or amendment of a shoreline master program under the procedures set forth in chapter 90.58 RCW;

(iv) The amendment of the capital facilities element of a comprehensive plan that occurs concurrently with the adoption or amendment of a county or city budget; or

(v) The adoption of comprehensive plan amendments necessary to enact a planned action under RCW 43.21C.440, provided that amendments are considered in accordance with the public participation program established by the county or city under this subsection (2)(a) and all persons who have



requested notice of a comprehensive plan update are given notice of the amendments and an opportunity to comment.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in (a) of this subsection, all proposals shall be considered by the governing body concurrently so the cumulative effect of the various proposals can be ascertained. However, after appropriate public participation a county or city may adopt amendments or revisions to its comprehensive plan that conform with this chapter whenever an emergency exists or to resolve an appeal of a comprehensive plan filed with the growth management hearings board or with the court.

(3)(a) Each county that designates urban growth areas under RCW 36.70A.110 shall review, according to the schedules established in subsections (4) and (5) of this section, its designated urban growth area or areas, patterns of development occurring within the urban growth area or areas, and the densities permitted within both the incorporated and unincorporated portions of each urban growth area. In conjunction with this review by the county, each city located within an urban growth area shall review the densities permitted within its boundaries, and the extent to which the urban growth occurring within the county has located within each city and the unincorporated portions of the urban growth areas.

(b) The county comprehensive plan designating urban growth areas, and the densities permitted in the urban growth areas by the comprehensive plans of the county and each city located within the urban growth areas, shall be revised to accommodate the urban growth projected to occur in the county for the succeeding twenty-year period. The review required by this subsection may be combined with the review and evaluation required by RCW 36.70A.215.

(c) If, during the county's review under (a) of this subsection, the county determines revision of the urban growth area is not required to accommodate the urban growth projected to occur in the county for the succeeding 20-year period, but does determine that patterns of development have created pressure in areas that exceed available, developable lands within the urban growth area, the urban growth area or areas may be revised to accommodate identified patterns of development and likely future development pressure for the succeeding 20-year period if the following requirements are met:

(i) The revised urban growth area may not result in an increase in the total surface areas of the urban growth area or areas;

(ii) The areas added to the urban growth area are not or have not been designated as agricultural, forest, or mineral resource lands of long-term commercial significance;

(iii) Less than 15 percent of the areas added to the urban growth area are critical areas;

(iv) The areas added to the urban growth areas are suitable for urban growth;

(v) The transportation element and capital facility plan element have identified the transportation facilities, and public facilities and services needed to serve the urban growth area and the funding to provide the transportation facilities and public facilities and services;

(vi) The urban growth area is not larger than needed to accommodate the growth planned for the succeeding 20-year planning period and a reasonable land market supply factor;

(vii) The areas removed from the urban growth area do not include urban growth or urban densities; and

(viii) The revised urban growth area is contiguous, does not include holes or gaps, and will not increase pressures to urbanize rural or natural resource lands.

(4) Except as otherwise provided in subsections (6) and (8) of this section, counties and cities shall take action to review and, if needed, revise their comprehensive plans and development regulations to ensure the plan and regulations comply with the requirements of this chapter as follows:

(a) On or before June 30, 2015, for King, Pierce, and Snohomish counties and the cities within those counties;

(b) On or before June 30, 2016, for Clallam, Clark, Island, Jefferson, Kitsap, Mason, San Juan, Skagit, Thurston, and Whatcom counties and the cities within those counties;

(c) On or before June 30, 2017, for Benton, Chelan, Cowlitz, Douglas, Kittitas, Lewis, Skamania, Spokane, and Yakima counties and the cities within those counties; and

(d) On or before June 30, 2018, for Adams, Asotin, Columbia, Ferry, Franklin, Garfield, Grant, Grays Harbor, Klickitat, Lincoln, Okanogan, Pacific, Pend Oreille, Stevens, Wahkiakum, Walla Walla, and Whitman counties and the cities within those counties.

(5) Except as otherwise provided in subsections (6) and (8) of this section, following the review of comprehensive plans and development regulations required by subsection (4) of this section, counties and cities shall take action to review and, if needed, revise their comprehensive plans and development regulations to ensure the plan and regulations comply with the requirements of this chapter as follows:

(a) On or before December 31, 2024, with the following review and, if needed, revision on or before June 30, 2034, and then every ten years thereafter, for King, Kitsap, Pierce, and Snohomish counties and the cities within those counties;

(b) On or before June 30, 2025, and every ten years thereafter, for Clallam, Clark, Island, Jefferson, Lewis, Mason, San Juan, Skagit, Thurston, and Whatcom counties and the cities within those counties;

(c) On or before June 30, 2026, and every ten years thereafter, for Benton, Chelan, Cowlitz, Douglas, Franklin, Kittitas, Skamania, Spokane, Walla Walla, and Yakima counties and the cities within those counties; and

(d) On or before June 30, 2027, and every ten years thereafter, for Adams, Asotin, Columbia, Ferry, Garfield, Grant, Grays Harbor, Klickitat, Lincoln, Okanogan, Pacific, Pend Oreille, Stevens, Wahkiakum, and Whitman counties and the cities within those counties.

(6)(a) Nothing in this section precludes a county or city from conducting the review and evaluation required by this section before the deadlines established in subsections (4) and (5) of this section. Counties and cities may begin this process early and may be eligible for grants from the department, subject to available funding, if they elect to do so.

(b) A county that is subject to a deadline established in subsection (5)(b) through (d) of this section and meets the following criteria may comply with the requirements of this section at any time within the twenty-four months following the deadline established in subsection (5) of this section: The county has a population of less than fifty thousand and has had its population increase by no more than seventeen percent in the ten years preceding the deadline established in subsection (5) of this section as of that date.

(c) A city that is subject to a deadline established in subsection (5)(b) through (d) of this section and meets the following criteria may comply with the requirements of this section at any time within the twenty-four months following the deadline established in subsection (5) of this section: The city has a population of no more than five thousand and has had its population increase by the greater of either no more than one hundred persons or no more than seventeen percent in the ten years preceding the deadline established in subsection (5) of this section as of that date.

(d) State agencies are encouraged to provide technical assistance to the counties and cities in the review of critical area ordinances, comprehensive plans, and development regulations.

(7)(a) The requirements imposed on counties and cities under this section shall be considered "requirements of this chapter" under the terms of RCW 36.70A.040(1). Only those counties and cities that meet the following criteria may receive grants, loans, pledges, or financial guarantees under chapter 43.155 or 70A.135 RCW:

(i) Complying with the deadlines in this section; or

(ii) Demonstrating substantial progress towards compliance with the schedules in this section for development regulations that protect critical areas.

(b) A county or city that is fewer than twelve months out of compliance with the schedules in this section for development regulations that protect critical areas is making substantial progress towards compliance. Only those counties and cities in compliance with the schedules in this section may receive preference for grants or loans subject to the provisions of RCW 43.17.250.

(8)(a) Except as otherwise provided in (c) of this subsection, if a participating watershed is achieving benchmarks and goals for the protection of critical areas functions and values, the county is not required to update development regulations to protect critical areas as they specifically apply to agricultural activities in that watershed.

(b) A county that has made the election under RCW 36.70A.710(1) may only adopt or amend development regulations to protect critical areas as they specifically apply to agricultural activities in a participating watershed if:

(i) A work plan has been approved for that watershed in accordance with RCW 36.70A.725;

(ii) The local watershed group for that watershed has requested the county to adopt or amend development regulations as part of a work plan developed under RCW 36.70A.720;

(iii) The adoption or amendment of the development regulations is necessary to enable the county to respond to an order of the growth management hearings board or court;

(iv) The adoption or amendment of development regulations is necessary to address a threat to human health or safety; or

(v) Three or more years have elapsed since the receipt of funding.

(c) Beginning ten years from the date of receipt of funding, a county that has made the election under RCW 36.70A.710(1) must review and, if necessary, revise development regulations to protect critical areas as they specifically apply to agricultural activities in a participating watershed in accordance with the review and revision requirements and

timeline in subsection (5) of this section. This subsection (8)(c) does not apply to a participating watershed that has determined under RCW 36.70A.720(2)(c)(ii) that the watershed's goals and benchmarks for protection have been met.

(9)(a) Counties subject to planning deadlines established in subsection (5) of this section that are required or that choose to plan under RCW 36.70A.040 and that meet either criteria of (a)(i) or (ii) of this subsection, and cities with a population of more than 6,000 as of April 1, 2021, within those counties, must provide to the department an implementation progress report detailing the progress they have achieved in implementing their comprehensive plan five years after the review and revision of their comprehensive plan. Once a county meets the criteria in (a)(i) or (ii) of this subsection, the implementation progress report requirements remain in effect thereafter for that county and the cities therein with populations greater than 6,000 as of April 1, 2021, even if the county later no longer meets either or both criteria. A county is subject to the implementation progress report requirement if it meets either of the following criteria on or after April 1, 2021:

(i) The county has a population density of at least 100 people per square mile and a population of at least 200,000; or

(ii) The county has a population density of at least 75 people per square mile and an annual growth rate of at least 1.75 percent as determined by the office of financial management.

(b) The department shall adopt guidelines for indicators, measures, milestones, and criteria for use by counties and cities in the implementation progress report that must cover:

(i) The implementation of previously adopted changes to the housing element and any effect those changes have had on housing affordability and availability within the jurisdiction;

(ii) Permit processing timelines; and

(iii) Progress toward implementing any actions required to achieve reductions to meet greenhouse gas and vehicle miles traveled requirements as provided for in any element of the comprehensive plan under RCW 36.70A.070.

(c) If a city or county required to provide an implementation progress report under this subsection (9) has not implemented any specifically identified regulations, zoning and land use changes, or taken other legislative or administrative action necessary to implement any changes in the most recent periodic update in their comprehensive plan by the due date for the implementation progress report, the city or county must identify the need for such action in the implementation progress report. Cities and counties must adopt a work plan to implement any necessary regulations, zoning and land use changes, or take other legislative or administrative action identified in the implementation progress report and complete all work necessary for implementation within two years of submission of the implementation progress report. [2022 c 287 § 1; 2022 c 192 § 1. Prior: 2020 c 113 § 1; 2020 c 20 § 1026; 2012 c 191 § 1; prior: 2011 c 360 § 16; 2011 c 353 § 2; prior: 2010 c 216 § 1; 2010 c 211 § 2; 2009 c 479 § 23; 2006 c 285 § 2; prior: 2005 c 423 § 6; 2005 c 294 § 2; 2002 c 320 § 1; 1997 c 429 § 10; 1995 c 347 § 106; 1990 1st ex.s. c 17 § 13.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 2022 c 192 § 1 and by 2022 c 287 § 1, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section under RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

**Intent—2011 c 353:** "It is the legislature's intent to provide local governments with more time to meet certain statutory requirements. Many cities and counties in Washington are facing revenue shortfalls, higher expenses, and more difficulty with borrowing money as a result of the economic downturn. The effects of the economic downturn on the budgets of local governments will be felt most deeply from 2010 to 2012. Local governments are facing the combined impact of decreased tax revenues, a falloff in state and federal aid, and increased demand for social services. With the loss of tax revenue and state and federal aid, local governments are being forced to make significant cuts that will eliminate jobs, curtail essential services, and increase the number of people in need. Additionally, local governments are struggling to comply with certain statutory requirements. Local governments want to comply with these statutory requirements, but with budget constraints, they need more time to do so. The legislature does not intend to remove any existing statutory requirement, but rather modify the time under which a local government must meet certain statutory requirements." [2011 c 353 § 1.]

**Intent—2006 c 285:** "There is a statewide interest in maintaining coordinated planning as called for in the legislative findings of the growth management act, RCW 36.70A.010. It is the intent of the legislature that smaller, slower-growing counties and cities be provided with flexibility in meeting the requirements to review local plans and development regulations in RCW 36.70A.130, while ensuring coordination and consistency with the plans of neighboring cities and counties." [2006 c 285 § 1.]

**Intent—Effective date—2005 c 423:** See notes following RCW 36.70A.030.

**Intent—2005 c 294:** "The legislature recognizes the importance of appropriate and meaningful land use measures and that such measures are critical to preserving and fostering the quality of life enjoyed by Washingtonians. The legislature recognizes also that the growth management act requires counties and cities to review and, if needed, revise their comprehensive plans and development regulations on a cyclical basis. These requirements, which often require significant compliance efforts by local governments are, in part, an acknowledgment of the continual changes that occur within the state, and the need to ensure that land use measures reflect the collective wishes of its citizenry.

The legislature acknowledges that only those jurisdictions in compliance with the review and revision schedules of the growth management act are eligible to receive funds from the public works assistance and water quality accounts in the state treasury. The legislature further recognizes that some jurisdictions that are not yet in compliance with these review and revision schedules have demonstrated substantial progress towards compliance.

The legislature, therefore, intends to grant jurisdictions that are not in compliance with requirements for development regulations that protect critical areas, but are demonstrating substantial progress towards compliance with these requirements, twelve months of additional eligibility to receive grants, loans, pledges, or financial guarantees from the public works assistance and water quality accounts in the state treasury. The legislature intends to specify, however, that only counties and cities in compliance with the review and revision schedules of the growth management act may receive preference for financial assistance from these accounts." [2005 c 294 § 1.]

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

*Definitions:* See RCW 36.70A.703.

RCW 36.70A.130(2) does not apply to master planned locations in industrial land banks: RCW 36.70A.367(2)(c).

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

**36.70A.131 Mineral resource lands—Review of related designations and development regulations.** As part of the review required by RCW 36.70A.130(1), a county or city shall review its mineral resource lands designations adopted pursuant to RCW 36.70A.170 and mineral resource lands development regulations adopted pursuant to RCW 36.70A.040 and 36.70A.060. In its review, the county or city shall take into consideration:

(1) New information made available since the adoption or last review of its designations or development regulations, including data available from the department of natural resources relating to mineral resource deposits; and

(2) New or modified model development regulations for mineral resource lands prepared by the department of natural resources, the \*department of community, trade, and economic development, or the Washington state association of counties. [1998 c 286 § 7.]

**\*Reviser's note:** The "department of community, trade, and economic development" was renamed the "department of commerce" by 2009 c 565.

**36.70A.140 Comprehensive plans—Ensure public participation.** Each county and city that is required or chooses to plan under RCW 36.70A.040 shall establish and broadly disseminate to the public a public participation program identifying procedures providing for early and continuous public participation in the development and amendment of comprehensive land use plans and development regulations implementing such plans. The procedures shall provide for broad dissemination of proposals and alternatives, opportunity for written comments, public meetings after effective notice, provision for open discussion, communication programs, information services, and consideration of and response to public comments. In enacting legislation in response to the board's decision pursuant to RCW 36.70A.300 declaring part or all of a comprehensive plan or development regulation invalid, the county or city shall provide for public participation that is appropriate and effective under the circumstances presented by the board's order. Errors in exact compliance with the established program and procedures shall not render the comprehensive land use plan or development regulations invalid if the spirit of the program and procedures is observed. [1995 c 347 § 107; 1990 1st ex.s. c 17 § 14.]

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

**36.70A.142 Comprehensive plans—Siting of organic materials management facilities.** Development regulations to implement comprehensive plans under this chapter that are newly developed, updated, or amended after January 1, 2025, must allow for the siting of organic materials management facilities in the areas identified in RCW 70A.205.040(3)(a)(i) to the extent necessary to provide for the establishment of the organic materials management volumetric capacity identified under RCW 70A.205.040(3)(a)(ii). [2022 c 180 § 602.]

**Findings—Intent—Scope of authority of chapter 180, Laws of 2022—2022 c 180:** See notes following RCW 70A.205.007.

**36.70A.150 Identification of lands useful for public purposes.** Each county and city that is required or chooses to prepare a comprehensive land use plan under RCW 36.70A.040 shall identify lands useful for public purposes such as utility corridors, transportation corridors, landfills, sewage treatment facilities, stormwater management facilities, recreation, schools, and other public uses. The county shall work with the state and the cities within its borders to identify areas of shared need for public facilities. The jurisdictions within the county shall prepare a prioritized list of

lands necessary for the identified public uses including an estimated date by which the acquisition will be needed.

The respective capital acquisition budgets for each jurisdiction shall reflect the jointly agreed upon priorities and time schedule. [1991 c 322 § 23; 1990 1st ex.s. c 17 § 15.]

**Findings—Intent—1991 c 322:** See notes following RCW 86.12.200.

**36.70A.160 Identification of open space corridors—Purchase authorized.** Each county and city that is required or chooses to prepare a comprehensive land use plan under RCW 36.70A.040 shall identify open space corridors within and between urban growth areas. They shall include lands useful for recreation, wildlife habitat, trails, and connection of critical areas as defined in RCW 36.70A.030. Identification of a corridor under this section by a county or city shall not restrict the use or management of lands within the corridor for agricultural or forest purposes. Restrictions on the use or management of such lands for agricultural or forest purposes imposed after identification solely to maintain or enhance the value of such lands as a corridor may occur only if the county or city acquires sufficient interest to prevent development of the lands or to control the resource development of the lands. The requirement for acquisition of sufficient interest does not include those corridors regulated by the interstate commerce commission, under provisions of 16 U.S.C. Sec. 1247(d), 16 U.S.C. Sec. 1248, or 43 U.S.C. Sec. 912. Nothing in this section shall be interpreted to alter the authority of the state, or a county or city, to regulate land use activities.

The city or county may acquire by donation or purchase the fee simple or lesser interests in these open space corridors using funds authorized by RCW 84.34.230 or other sources. [1992 c 227 § 1; 1990 1st ex.s. c 17 § 16.]

**36.70A.165 Property designated as greenbelt or open space—Not subject to adverse possession.** The legislature recognizes that the preservation of urban greenbelts is an integral part of comprehensive growth management in Washington. The legislature further recognizes that certain greenbelts are subject to adverse possession action which, if carried out, threaten the comprehensive nature of this chapter. Therefore, a party shall not acquire by adverse possession property that is designated as a plat greenbelt or open space area or that is dedicated as open space to a public agency or to a bona fide homeowner's association. [1997 c 429 § 41.]

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

**36.70A.170 Natural resource lands and critical areas—Designations.** (1) On or before September 1, 1991, each county, and each city, shall designate where appropriate:

- (a) Agricultural lands that are not already characterized by urban growth and that have long-term significance for the commercial production of food or other agricultural products;
- (b) Forestlands that are not already characterized by urban growth and that have long-term significance for the commercial production of timber;
- (c) Mineral resource lands that are not already characterized by urban growth and that have long-term significance for the extraction of minerals; and
- (d) Critical areas.

(2) In making the designations required by this section, counties and cities shall consider the guidelines established pursuant to RCW 36.70A.050. [1990 1st ex.s. c 17 § 17.]

**36.70A.171 Playing fields—Compliance with this chapter.** In accordance with RCW 36.70A.030, 36.70A.060, \*36.70A.1701, and 36.70A.130, playing fields and supporting facilities existing before July 1, 2004, on designated recreational lands shall be considered in compliance with the requirements of this chapter. [2005 c 423 § 5.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 36.70A.1701 expired June 30, 2006.

**Intent—Effective date—2005 c 423:** See notes following RCW 36.70A.030.

**36.70A.172 Critical areas—Designation and protection—Best available science to be used.** (1) In designating and protecting critical areas under this chapter, counties and cities shall include the best available science in developing policies and development regulations to protect the functions and values of critical areas. In addition, counties and cities shall give special consideration to conservation or protection measures necessary to preserve or enhance anadromous fisheries.

(2) If it determines that advice from scientific or other experts is necessary or will be of substantial assistance in reaching its decision, the growth management hearings board may retain scientific or other expert advice to assist in reviewing a petition under RCW 36.70A.290 that involves critical areas. [2010 c 211 § 3; 1995 c 347 § 105.]

**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)

**36.70A.175 Wetlands to be delineated in accordance with manual.** Wetlands regulated under development regulations adopted pursuant to this chapter shall be delineated in accordance with the manual adopted by the department pursuant to RCW 90.58.380. [1995 c 382 § 12.]

**36.70A.177 Agricultural lands—Innovative zoning techniques—Accessory uses.** (1) A county or a city may use a variety of innovative zoning techniques in areas designated as agricultural lands of long-term commercial significance under RCW 36.70A.170. The innovative zoning techniques should be designed to conserve agricultural lands and encourage the agricultural economy. Except as provided in subsection (3) of this section, a county or city should encourage nonagricultural uses to be limited to lands with poor soils or otherwise not suitable for agricultural purposes.

(2) Innovative zoning techniques a county or city may consider include, but are not limited to:

(a) Agricultural zoning, which limits the density of development and restricts or prohibits nonfarm uses of agricultural land and may allow accessory uses, including nonagricultural accessory uses and activities, that support, promote, or sustain agricultural operations and production, as provided in subsection (3) of this section;

(b) Cluster zoning, which allows new development on one portion of the land, leaving the remainder in agricultural or open space uses;

(c) Large lot zoning, which establishes as a minimum lot size the amount of land necessary to achieve a successful farming practice;

(d) Quarter/quarter zoning, which permits one residential dwelling on a one-acre minimum lot for each one-sixteenth of a section of land; and

(e) Sliding scale zoning, which allows the number of lots for single-family residential purposes with a minimum lot size of one acre to increase inversely as the size of the total acreage increases.

(3) Accessory uses allowed under subsection (2)(a) of this section shall comply with the following:

(a) Accessory uses shall be located, designed, and operated so as to not interfere with, and to support the continuation of, the overall agricultural use of the property and neighboring properties, and shall comply with the requirements of this chapter;

(b) Accessory uses may include:

(i) Agricultural accessory uses and activities, including but not limited to the storage, distribution, and marketing of regional agricultural products from one or more producers, agriculturally related experiences, or the production, marketing, and distribution of value-added agricultural products, including support services that facilitate these activities; and

(ii) Nonagricultural accessory uses and activities as long as they are consistent with the size, scale, and intensity of the existing agricultural use of the property and the existing buildings on the site. Nonagricultural accessory uses and activities, including new buildings, parking, or supportive uses, shall not be located outside the general area already developed for buildings and residential uses and shall not otherwise convert more than one acre of agricultural land to nonagricultural uses; and

(c) Counties and cities have the authority to limit or exclude accessory uses otherwise authorized in this subsection (3) in areas designated as agricultural lands of long-term commercial significance.

(4) This section shall not be interpreted to limit agricultural production on designated agricultural lands. [2006 c 147 § 1; 2004 c 207 § 1; 1997 c 429 § 23.]

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

**36.70A.180 Chapter implementation—Intent.** It is the intent of the legislature that counties and cities required to adopt a comprehensive plan under RCW 36.70A.040(1) begin implementing this chapter on or before July 1, 1990, including but not limited to: (1) Inventorying, designating, and conserving agricultural, forest, and mineral resource lands, and critical areas; and (2) considering the modification or adoption of comprehensive land use plans and development regulations implementing the comprehensive land use plans. It is also the intent of the legislature that funds be made available to counties and cities beginning July 1, 1990, to assist them in meeting the requirements of this chapter. [2012 1st sp.s. c 5 § 3; 1990 1st ex.s. c 17 § 19.]

**36.70A.190 Technical assistance—Grants—Mediation services—Resolution of tribal disputes.** (1) The department shall establish a program of technical and financial assistance and incentives to counties and cities to encourage and facilitate the adoption and implementation of com-

prehensive plans and development regulations throughout the state.

(2) The department shall develop a priority list and establish funding levels for planning and technical assistance grants both for counties and cities that plan under RCW 36.70A.040. Priority for assistance shall be based on a county's or city's population growth rates, commercial and industrial development rates, the existence and quality of a comprehensive plan and development regulations, and other relevant factors.

(3) The department shall develop and administer a grant program to provide direct financial assistance to counties and cities for the preparation of comprehensive plans under this chapter. The department may establish provisions for county and city matching funds to conduct activities under this subsection. Grants may be expended for any purpose directly related to the preparation of a county or city comprehensive plan as the county or city and the department may agree, including, without limitation, the conducting of surveys, inventories and other data gathering and management activities, the retention of planning consultants, contracts with regional councils for planning and related services, and other related purposes.

(4) The department shall establish a program of technical assistance:

(a) Utilizing department staff, the staff of other state agencies, and the technical resources of counties and cities to help in the development of comprehensive plans required under this chapter. The technical assistance may include, but not be limited to, model land use ordinances, regional education and training programs, and information for local and regional inventories; and

(b) Adopting by rule procedural criteria to assist counties and cities in adopting comprehensive plans and development regulations that meet the goals and requirements of this chapter. These criteria shall reflect regional and local variations and the diversity that exists among different counties and cities that plan under this chapter.

(5) The department shall provide mediation services to resolve disputes between counties and cities regarding, among other things, coordination of regional issues and designation of urban growth areas.

(6) The department shall provide services to facilitate the timely resolution of disputes between a federally recognized Indian tribe and a city or county.

(a) A federally recognized Indian tribe may request the department to provide facilitation services to resolve issues of concern with a proposed comprehensive plan and its development regulations, or any amendment to the comprehensive plan and its development regulations.

(b) Upon receipt of a request from a tribe, the department shall notify the city or county of the request and offer to assist in providing facilitation services to encourage resolution before adoption of the proposed comprehensive plan. Upon receipt of the notice from the department, the city or county must delay any final action to adopt any comprehensive plan or any amendment or its development regulations for at least 60 days. The tribe and the city or county may jointly agree to extend this period by notifying the department. A county or city must not be penalized for noncompliance under this chapter due to any delays associated with this process.

(c) Upon receipt of a request, the department shall provide comments to the county or city including a summary and supporting materials regarding the tribe's concerns. The county or city may either agree to amend the comprehensive plan as requested consistent with the comments from the department, or enter into a facilitated process with the tribe, which must be arranged by the department using a suitable expert to be paid by the department. This facilitated process may also extend the 60-day delay of adoption, upon agreement of the tribe and the city or county.

(d) At the end of the 60-day period, unless by agreement there is an extension of the 60-day period, the city or county may proceed with adoption of the proposed comprehensive plan and development regulations. The facilitator shall write a report of findings describing the basis for agreements or disagreements that occurred during the process that are allowed to be disclosed by the parties and the resulting agreed-upon elements of the plan to be amended.

(7) The department shall provide planning grants to enhance citizen participation under RCW 36.70A.140. [2022 c 252 § 5; 1991 sp.s. c 32 § 3; 1990 1st ex.s. c 17 § 20.]

**36.70A.200 Siting of essential public facilities—Limitation on liability.** (1)(a) The comprehensive plan of each county and city that is planning under RCW 36.70A.040 shall include a process for identifying and siting essential public facilities. Essential public facilities include those facilities that are typically difficult to site, such as airports, state education facilities and state or regional transportation facilities as defined in RCW 47.06.140, regional transit authority facilities as defined in RCW 81.112.020, state and local correctional facilities, solid waste handling facilities, and inpatient facilities including substance abuse facilities, mental health facilities, group homes, community facilities as defined in RCW 72.05.020, and secure community transition facilities as defined in RCW 71.09.020.

(b) Unless a facility is expressly listed in (a) of this subsection, essential public facilities do not include facilities that are operated by a private entity in which persons are detained in custody under process of law pending the outcome of legal proceedings but are not used for punishment, correction, counseling, or rehabilitation following the conviction of a criminal offense. Facilities included under this subsection (1)(b) shall not include facilities detaining persons under \*RCW 71.09.020 (6) or (15) or chapter 10.77 or 71.05 RCW.

(c) The department of children, youth, and families may not attempt to site new community facilities as defined in RCW 72.05.020 east of the crest of the Cascade mountain range unless there is an equal or greater number of sited community facilities as defined in RCW 72.05.020 on the western side of the crest of the Cascade mountain range.

(2) Each county and city planning under RCW 36.70A.040 shall, not later than September 1, 2002, establish a process, or amend its existing process, for identifying and siting essential public facilities and adopt or amend its development regulations as necessary to provide for the siting of secure community transition facilities consistent with statutory requirements applicable to these facilities.

(3) Any city or county not planning under RCW 36.70A.040 shall, not later than September 1, 2002, establish a process for siting secure community transition facilities and

adopt or amend its development regulations as necessary to provide for the siting of such facilities consistent with statutory requirements applicable to these facilities.

(4) The office of financial management shall maintain a list of those essential state public facilities that are required or likely to be built within the next six years. The office of financial management may at any time add facilities to the list.

(5) No local comprehensive plan or development regulation may preclude the siting of essential public facilities.

(6) No person may bring a cause of action for civil damages based on the good faith actions of any county or city to provide for the siting of secure community transition facilities in accordance with this section and with the requirements of chapter 12, Laws of 2001 2nd sp. sess. For purposes of this subsection, "person" includes, but is not limited to, any individual, agency as defined in RCW 42.17A.005, corporation, partnership, association, and limited liability entity.

(7) Counties or cities siting facilities pursuant to subsection (2) or (3) of this section shall comply with RCW 71.09.341.

(8) The failure of a county or city to act by the deadlines established in subsections (2) and (3) of this section is not:

(a) A condition that would disqualify the county or city for grants, loans, or pledges under RCW 43.155.070 or 70A.135.070;

(b) A consideration for grants or loans provided under RCW 43.17.250(3); or

(c) A basis for any petition under RCW 36.70A.280 or for any private cause of action. [2021 c 265 § 2. Prior: 2020 c 128 § 1; 2020 c 20 § 1027; 2013 c 275 § 5; 2011 c 60 § 17; 2010 c 62 § 1; 2002 c 68 § 2; 2001 2nd sp.s. c 12 § 205; 1998 c 171 § 3; 1991 sp.s. c 32 § 1.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 71.09.020 was amended by 2021 c 236 § 2, changing subsections (6) and (15) to subsections (7) and (16), respectively.

**Retroactive application—2020 c 128:** "This act applies retroactively to land use actions imposed prior to January 1, 2018, as well as prospectively." [2020 c 128 § 2.]

**Effective date—2020 c 128:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect immediately [March 25, 2020]." [2020 c 128 § 3.]

**Purpose—2002 c 68:** "The purpose of this act is to:

(1) Enable the legislature to act upon the recommendations of the joint select committee on the equitable distribution of secure community transition facilities established in section 225, chapter 12, Laws of 2001 2nd sp. sess.; and

(2) Harmonize the preemption provisions in RCW 71.09.250 with the preemption provisions applying to future secure community transition facilities to reflect the joint select committee's recommendation that the preemption granted for future secure community transition facilities be the same throughout the state." [2002 c 68 § 1.]

**Intent—Severability—Effective dates—2001 2nd sp.s. c 12:** See notes following RCW 71.09.250.

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

**36.70A.210 Countywide planning policies.** (1) The legislature recognizes that counties are regional governments within their boundaries, and cities are primary providers of urban governmental services within urban growth areas. For the purposes of this section, a "countywide planning policy" is a written policy statement or statements used solely for establishing a countywide framework from which county and city comprehensive plans are developed and adopted pursu-

ant to this chapter. This framework shall ensure that city and county comprehensive plans are consistent as required in RCW 36.70A.100. Nothing in this section shall be construed to alter the land-use powers of cities.

(2) The legislative authority of a county that plans under RCW 36.70A.040 shall adopt a countywide planning policy in cooperation with the cities located in whole or in part within the county as follows:

(a) No later than sixty calendar days from July 16, 1991, the legislative authority of each county that as of June 1, 1991, was required or chose to plan under RCW 36.70A.040 shall convene a meeting with representatives of each city located within the county for the purpose of establishing a collaborative process that will provide a framework for the adoption of a countywide planning policy. In other counties that are required or choose to plan under RCW 36.70A.040, this meeting shall be convened no later than sixty days after the date the county adopts its resolution of intention or was certified by the office of financial management.

(b) The process and framework for adoption of a countywide planning policy specified in (a) of this subsection shall determine the manner in which the county and the cities agree to all procedures and provisions including but not limited to desired planning policies, deadlines, ratification of final agreements and demonstration thereof, and financing, if any, of all activities associated therewith.

(c) If a county fails for any reason to convene a meeting with representatives of cities as required in (a) of this subsection, the governor may immediately impose any appropriate sanction or sanctions on the county from those specified under RCW 36.70A.340.

(d) If there is no agreement by October 1, 1991, in a county that was required or chose to plan under RCW 36.70A.040 as of June 1, 1991, or if there is no agreement within one hundred twenty days of the date the county adopted its resolution of intention or was certified by the office of financial management in any other county that is required or chooses to plan under RCW 36.70A.040, the governor shall first inquire of the jurisdictions as to the reason or reasons for failure to reach an agreement. If the governor deems it appropriate, the governor may immediately request the assistance of the department of commerce to mediate any disputes that preclude agreement. If mediation is unsuccessful in resolving all disputes that will lead to agreement, the governor may impose appropriate sanctions from those specified under RCW 36.70A.340 on the county, city, or cities for failure to reach an agreement as provided in this section. The governor shall specify the reason or reasons for the imposition of any sanction.

(e) No later than July 1, 1992, the legislative authority of each county that was required or chose to plan under RCW 36.70A.040 as of June 1, 1991, or no later than fourteen months after the date the county adopted its resolution of intention or was certified by the office of financial management the county legislative authority of any other county that is required or chooses to plan under RCW 36.70A.040, shall adopt a countywide planning policy according to the process provided under this section and that is consistent with the agreement pursuant to (b) of this subsection, and after holding a public hearing or hearings on the proposed countywide planning policy.

(2022 Ed.)

(3) A countywide planning policy shall at a minimum, address the following:

(a) Policies to implement RCW 36.70A.110;

(b) Policies for promotion of contiguous and orderly development and provision of urban services to such development;

(c) Policies for siting public capital facilities of a countywide or statewide nature, including transportation facilities of statewide significance as defined in RCW 47.06.140;

(d) Policies for countywide transportation facilities and strategies;

(e) Policies that consider the need for affordable housing, such as housing for all economic segments of the population and parameters for its distribution;

(f) Policies for joint county and city planning within urban growth areas;

(g) Policies for countywide economic development and employment, which must include consideration of the future development of commercial and industrial facilities;

(h) An analysis of the fiscal impact; and

(i) Policies that address the protection of tribal cultural resources in collaboration with federally recognized Indian tribes that are invited pursuant to subsection (4) of this section, provided that a tribe, or more than one tribe, chooses to participate in the process.

(4) Federal agencies and federally recognized Indian tribes whose reservation or ceded lands lie within the county shall be invited to participate in and cooperate with the countywide planning policy adoption process. Adopted countywide planning policies shall be adhered to by state agencies.

(5) Failure to adopt a countywide planning policy that meets the requirements of this section may result in the imposition of a sanction or sanctions on a county or city within the county, as specified in RCW 36.70A.340. In imposing a sanction or sanctions, the governor shall specify the reasons for failure to adopt a countywide planning policy in order that any imposed sanction or sanctions are fairly and equitably related to the failure to adopt a countywide planning policy.

(6) Cities and the governor may appeal an adopted countywide planning policy to the growth management hearings board within sixty days of the adoption of the countywide planning policy.

(7) Multicounty planning policies shall be adopted by two or more counties, each with a population of four hundred fifty thousand or more, with contiguous urban areas and may be adopted by other counties, according to the process established under this section or other processes agreed to among the counties and cities within the affected counties throughout the multicounty region. [2022 c 252 § 6; 2009 c 121 § 2; 1998 c 171 § 4; 1994 c 249 § 28; 1993 sp.s. c 6 § 4; 1991 sp.s. c 32 § 2.]

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

**36.70A.211 Siting of schools—Rural areas, when authorized—Impact fees. (*Expires June 30, 2031.*)** (1) A county may authorize the siting in a rural area of a school that serves students from an urban area, even where otherwise prohibited by a multicounty planning policy, under the following circumstances:

(a) The county has a population of more than eight hundred forty thousand but fewer than one million five hundred thousand and abuts at least six other counties;

(b) The county must have adopted in its comprehensive plan a policy concerning the siting of schools in rural areas;

(c) Any impacts associated with the siting of such a school are mitigated as required by the state environmental policy act, chapter 43.21C RCW; and

(d) The county must be a participant in a multicounty planning policy as described in RCW 36.70A.210.

(2) A multicounty planning policy in which any county referenced in subsection (1) of this section is a participant must be amended, at its next regularly scheduled update, to include a policy that addresses the siting of schools in rural areas of all counties subject to the multicounty planning policy.

(3) A school sited under this section may not collect or impose the impact fees described in RCW 82.02.050.

(4) This section expires June 30, 2031. [2017 c 129 § 2.]

**36.70A.212 Siting of schools—Periodic updates.** In a county that chooses to site schools under RCW 36.70A.211, each school district within the county must participate in the county's periodic updates required by RCW 36.70A.130(1)(b) by:

(1) Coordinating its enrollment forecasts and projections with the county's adopted population projections;

(2) Identifying school siting criteria with the county, cities, and regional transportation planning organizations;

(3) Identifying suitable school sites with the county and cities, with priority to siting urban-serving schools in existing cities and towns in locations where students can safely walk and bicycle to the school from their homes and that can effectively be served with transit; and

(4) Working with the county and cities to identify school costs and funding for the capital facilities plan element required by RCW 36.70A.070(3). [2017 c 129 § 3.]

**36.70A.213 Extension of public facilities and utilities to serve school sited in a rural area authorized—Requirements for authorization—Report.** (1) This chapter does not prohibit a county planning under RCW 36.70A.040 from authorizing the extension of public facilities and utilities to serve a school sited in a rural area that serves students from a rural area and an urban area so long as the following requirements are met:

(a) The applicable school district board of directors has adopted a policy addressing school service area and facility needs and educational program requirements;

(b) The applicable school district has made a finding, with the concurrence of the county legislative authority and the legislative authorities of any affected cities, that the district's proposed site is suitable to site the school and any associated recreational facilities that the district has determined cannot reasonably be collocated on an existing school site, taking into consideration the policy adopted in (a) of this subsection and the extent to which vacant or developable land within the growth area meets those requirements;

(c) The county and any affected cities agree to the extension of public facilities and utilities to serve the school sited

in a rural area that serves urban and rural students at the time of concurrence in (b) of this subsection;

(d) If the public facility or utility is extended beyond the urban growth area to serve a school, the public facility or utility must serve only the school and the costs of such extension must be borne by the applicable school district based on a reasonable nexus to the impacts of the school, except as provided in subsection (3) of this section; and

(e) Any impacts associated with the siting of the school are mitigated as required by the state environmental policy act, chapter 43.21C RCW.

(2) This chapter does not prohibit either the expansion or modernization of an existing school in the rural area or the placement of portable classrooms at an existing school in the rural area.

(3) Where a public facility or utility has been extended beyond the urban growth area to serve a school, the public facility or utility may, where consistent with RCW 36.70A.110(4), serve a property or properties in addition to the school if the property owner so requests, provided that the county and any affected cities agree with the request and provided that the property is located no further from the public facility or utility than the distance that, if the property were within the urban growth area, the property would be required to connect to the public facility or utility. In such an instance, the school district may, for a period not to exceed twenty years, require reimbursement from a requesting property owner for a proportional share of the construction costs incurred by the school district for the extension of the public facility or utility.

(4) By December 1, 2023, the department shall report to the governor and the appropriate committees of the legislature about schools outside of urban growth areas that have been built, are under construction, or are planned as a result of the requirements of chapter 32, Laws of 2017 3rd sp. sess. The report shall include the number, location, and characteristics of the schools; the number of urban and rural students served; and a cost analysis of schools built outside of urban growth boundaries. [2017 3rd sp.s. c 32 § 1.]

**36.70A.215 Review and evaluation program. (Effective until January 1, 2030.)** (1) Subject to the limitations in subsection (5) of this section, a county shall adopt, in consultation with its cities, countywide planning policies to establish a review and evaluation program. This program shall be in addition to the requirements of RCW 36.70A.110, 36.70A.130, and 36.70A.210. In developing and implementing the review and evaluation program required by this section, the county and its cities shall consider information from other appropriate jurisdictions and sources. The purpose of the review and evaluation program shall be to:

(a) Determine whether a county and its cities are achieving urban densities within urban growth areas by comparing growth and development assumptions, targets, and objectives contained in the countywide planning policies and the county and city comprehensive plans with actual growth and development that has occurred in the county and its cities; and

(b) Identify reasonable measures, other than adjusting urban growth areas, that will be taken to comply with the requirements of this chapter. Reasonable measures are those actions necessary to reduce the differences between growth



and development assumptions and targets contained in the countywide planning policies and the county and city comprehensive plans with actual development patterns. The reasonable measures process in subsection (3) of this section shall be used as part of the next comprehensive plan update to reconcile inconsistencies.

(2) The review and evaluation program shall:

(a) Encompass land uses and activities both within and outside of urban growth areas and provide for annual collection of data on urban and rural land uses, development, zoning and development standards, environmental regulations including but not limited to critical areas, stormwater, shoreline, and tree retention requirements; and capital facilities to determine the quantity and type of land suitable for development, both for residential and employment-based activities;

(b) Provide for evaluation of the data collected under (a) of this subsection as provided in subsection (3) of this section. The evaluation shall be completed no later than three years prior to the deadline for review and, if necessary, update of comprehensive plans and development regulations as required by RCW 36.70A.130. For comprehensive plans required to be updated before 2024, the evaluation as provided in subsection (3) of this section shall be completed no later than two years prior to the deadline for review and, if necessary, update of comprehensive plans. The county and its cities may establish in the countywide planning policies indicators, benchmarks, and other similar criteria to use in conducting the evaluation;

(c) Provide for methods to resolve disputes among jurisdictions relating to the countywide planning policies required by this section and procedures to resolve inconsistencies in collection and analysis of data; and

(d) Develop reasonable measures to use in reducing the differences between growth and development assumptions and targets contained in the countywide planning policies and county and city comprehensive plans, with the actual development patterns. The reasonable measures shall be adopted, if necessary, into the countywide planning policies and the county or city comprehensive plans and development regulations during the next scheduled update of the plans.

(3) At a minimum, the evaluation component of the program required by subsection (1) of this section shall:

(a) Determine whether there is sufficient suitable land to accommodate the countywide population projection established for the county pursuant to RCW 43.62.035 and the subsequent population allocations within the county and between the county and its cities and the requirements of RCW 36.70A.110. The zoned capacity of land alone is not a sufficient standard to deem land suitable for development or redevelopment within the twenty-year planning period;

(b) An evaluation and identification of land suitable for development or redevelopment shall include:

(i) A review and evaluation of the land use designation and zoning/development regulations; environmental regulations (such as tree retention, stormwater, or critical area regulations) impacting development; and other regulations that could prevent assigned densities from being achieved; infrastructure gaps (including but not limited to transportation, water, sewer, and stormwater); and

(ii) Use of a reasonable land market supply factor when evaluating land suitable to accommodate new development

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or redevelopment of land for residential development and employment activities. The reasonable market supply factor identifies reductions in the amount of land suitable for development and redevelopment. The methodology for conducting a reasonable land market factor shall be determined through the guidance developed in RCW 36.70A.217;

(c) Provide an analysis of county and/or city development assumptions, targets, and objectives contained in the countywide planning policies and the county and city comprehensive plans when growth targets and assumptions are not being achieved. It is not appropriate to make a finding that assumed growth contained in the countywide planning policies and the county or city comprehensive plan will occur at the end of the current comprehensive planning twenty-year planning cycle without rationale;

(d) Determine the actual density of housing that has been constructed and the actual amount of land developed for commercial and industrial uses within the urban growth area since the adoption of a comprehensive plan under this chapter or since the last periodic evaluation as required by subsection (1) of this section; and

(e) Based on the actual density of development as determined under (b) of this subsection, review commercial, industrial, and housing needs by type and density range to determine the amount of land needed for commercial, industrial, and housing for the remaining portion of the twenty-year planning period used in the most recently adopted comprehensive plan.

(4) From funds appropriated by the legislature for this purpose, the department shall provide grants to counties, cities, and regional planning organizations required under subsection (5) of this section to conduct the review and perform the evaluation required by this section.

(5) The provisions of this section shall apply to counties, and the cities within those counties, that were greater than one hundred fifty thousand in population in 1996 as determined by office of financial management population estimates and that are located west of the crest of the Cascade mountain range. Any other county planning under RCW 36.70A.040 may carry out the review, evaluation, and amendment programs and procedures as provided in this section.

(6) The requirements of this section are subject to the availability of funds appropriated for this specific purpose. If sufficient funds are not appropriated consistent with the timelines in subsection (2)(b) of this section, counties and cities shall be subject to the review and evaluation program as it existed prior to October 19, 2017. [2017 3rd sp.s. c 16 § 2; 2011 c 353 § 3; 1997 c 429 § 25.]

**Expiration date—2017 3rd sp.s. c 16 § 2:** "Section 2 of this act expires January 1, 2030." [2017 3rd sp.s. c 16 § 8.]

**Intent—2011 c 353:** See note following RCW 36.70A.130.

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

**36.70A.215 Review and evaluation program. (Effective January 1, 2030.)** (1) Subject to the limitations in subsection (7) of this section, a county shall adopt, in consultation with its cities, countywide planning policies to establish a review and evaluation program. This program shall be in addition to the requirements of RCW 36.70A.110, 36.70A.130, and 36.70A.210. In developing and implement-

ing the review and evaluation program required by this section, the county and its cities shall consider information from other appropriate jurisdictions and sources. The purpose of the review and evaluation program shall be to:

(a) Determine whether a county and its cities are achieving urban densities within urban growth areas by comparing growth and development assumptions, targets, and objectives contained in the countywide planning policies and the county and city comprehensive plans with actual growth and development that has occurred in the county and its cities; and

(b) Identify reasonable measures, other than adjusting urban growth areas, that will be taken to comply with the requirements of this chapter.

(2) The review and evaluation program shall:

(a) Encompass land uses and activities both within and outside of urban growth areas and provide for annual collection of data on urban and rural land uses, development, critical areas, and capital facilities to the extent necessary to determine the quantity and type of land suitable for development, both for residential and employment-based activities;

(b) Provide for evaluation of the data collected under (a) of this subsection as provided in subsection (3) of this section. The evaluation shall be completed no later than one year prior to the deadline for review and, if necessary, update of comprehensive plans and development regulations as required by RCW 36.70A.130. The county and its cities may establish in the countywide planning policies indicators, benchmarks, and other similar criteria to use in conducting the evaluation;

(c) Provide for methods to resolve disputes among jurisdictions relating to the countywide planning policies required by this section and procedures to resolve inconsistencies in collection and analysis of data; and

(d) Provide for the amendment of the countywide policies and county and city comprehensive plans as needed to remedy an inconsistency identified through the evaluation required by this section, or to bring these policies into compliance with the requirements of this chapter.

(3) At a minimum, the evaluation component of the program required by subsection (1) of this section shall:

(a) Determine whether there is sufficient suitable land to accommodate the countywide population projection established for the county pursuant to RCW 43.62.035 and the subsequent population allocations within the county and between the county and its cities and the requirements of RCW 36.70A.110;

(b) Determine the actual density of housing that has been constructed and the actual amount of land developed for commercial and industrial uses within the urban growth area since the adoption of a comprehensive plan under this chapter or since the last periodic evaluation as required by subsection (1) of this section; and

(c) Based on the actual density of development as determined under (b) of this subsection, review commercial, industrial, and housing needs by type and density range to determine the amount of land needed for commercial, industrial, and housing for the remaining portion of the twenty-year planning period used in the most recently adopted comprehensive plan.

(4) If the evaluation required by subsection (3) of this section demonstrates an inconsistency between what has

occurred since the adoption of the countywide planning policies and the county and city comprehensive plans and development regulations and what was envisioned in those policies and plans and the planning goals and the requirements of this chapter, as the inconsistency relates to the evaluation factors specified in subsection (3) of this section, the county and its cities shall adopt and implement measures that are reasonably likely to increase consistency during the subsequent five-year period. If necessary, a county, in consultation with its cities as required by RCW 36.70A.210, shall adopt amendments to countywide planning policies to increase consistency. The county and its cities shall annually monitor the measures adopted under this subsection to determine their effect and may revise or rescind them as appropriate.

(5)(a) Not later than July 1, 1998, the department shall prepare a list of methods used by counties and cities in carrying out the types of activities required by this section. The department shall provide this information and appropriate technical assistance to counties and cities required to or choosing to comply with the provisions of this section.

(b) By December 31, 2007, the department shall submit to the appropriate committees of the legislature a report analyzing the effectiveness of the activities described in this section in achieving the goals envisioned by the countywide planning policies and the comprehensive plans and development regulations of the counties and cities.

(6) From funds appropriated by the legislature for this purpose, the department shall provide grants to counties, cities, and regional planning organizations required under subsection (7) of this section to conduct the review and perform the evaluation required by this section.

(7) The provisions of this section shall apply to counties, and the cities within those counties, that were greater than one hundred fifty thousand in population in 1995 as determined by office of financial management population estimates and that are located west of the crest of the Cascade mountain range. Any other county planning under RCW 36.70A.040 may carry out the review, evaluation, and amendment programs and procedures as provided in this section. [2011 c 353 § 3; 1997 c 429 § 25.]

**Intent—2011 c 353:** See note following RCW 36.70A.130.

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

**36.70A.217 Guidance for local governments on the review and evaluation program—Public participation—Analysis and recommendations.** (1) The department of commerce, through a contract with a land use and economics entity, shall develop guidance for local governments on the review and evaluation program in RCW 36.70A.215. The contract shall be with an entity experienced in serving private and public sector clients which can assist developers and policymakers to understand near-term market realities and long-term planning considerations, and with experience facilitating successful conversations between multiple local governments and stakeholders on complex land use issues. The department of commerce shall enable appropriate public participation by affected stakeholders in the development of the guidance for the appropriate market factor analysis and review and update of the overall buildable lands program. This guidance regarding the market factor methodology and buildable lands program shall be completed by December 1,

2018. The buildable lands guidance shall analyze and provide recommendations on:

(a) The review and evaluation program in RCW 36.70A.215 and changes to the required information to be analyzed within the program to increase the accuracy of the report when updating countywide planning policies and the county and city comprehensive plans;

(b) Whether a more effective schedule could be developed for countywide planning policies and the county and city comprehensive plan updates to better align with implementing reasonable measures identified through the review and evaluation program, and population projections and census data while maintaining appropriate and timely consideration of planning needs best done through a comprehensive planning process;

(c) A determination on how reasonable measures, based on the review and evaluation program, should be implemented into updates for countywide planning policies and the county and city comprehensive plans;

(d) Infrastructure costs, including but not limited to transportation, water, sewer, stormwater, and the cost to provide new or upgraded infrastructure if required to serve development; cost of development; timelines to permit and develop land; market availability of land; the nexus between proposed densities, economic conditions needed to achieve those densities, and the impact to housing affordability for homeownership and rental housing; and, market demand when evaluating if land is suitable for development or redevelopment. These all have an impact on whether development occurs or if planned for densities will differ from achieved densities;

(e) Identifying the measures to increase housing availability and affordability for all economic segments of the community and the factors contributing to the high cost of housing including zoning/development/environmental regulations, permit processing timelines, housing production trends by housing type and rents and prices, national and regional economic and demographic trends affecting housing affordability and production by rents and prices, housing unit size by housing type, and how well growth targets align with market conditions including the assumptions on where people desire to live;

(f) Evaluating how existing zoning and land use regulations are promoting or hindering attainment of the goal for affordable housing in RCW 36.70A.020(4). Barriers to meeting this goal shall be identified and considered as possible reasonable measures for each county and city, and as part of the next countywide planning policies and county and city comprehensive plan update;

(g) Identifying opportunities and strategies to encourage growth within urban growth areas;

(h) Identifying strategies to increase local government capacity to invest in the infrastructure necessary to accommodate growth and provide opportunities for affordable housing across all economic segments of the community and housing types; and

(i) Other topics identified by stakeholders and the department.

(2) The requirements of this section are subject to the availability of funds appropriated for this specific purpose. [2017 3rd sp.s. c 16 § 3.]

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**36.70A.250 Growth management hearings board—Creation—Members.** (1)(a) There is hereby created within the environmental and land use hearings office established by RCW 43.21B.005 a growth management hearings board for the state of Washington. The board shall consist of five members qualified by experience or training in pertinent matters pertaining to land use law or land use planning and who have experience in the practical application of those matters. All five board members shall be appointed by the governor. At least three members of the board shall be admitted to practice law in this state, one each residing respectively in the central Puget Sound, eastern Washington, and western Washington regions. At least two members of the board shall have been a city or county elected official, one each residing respectively in eastern Washington and western Washington. No more than three members of the five-member board may be members of the same major political party. No more than two members at the time of their appointment or during their term may reside in the same county. Board members shall operate on a full-time basis, shall receive an annual salary to be determined by the governor pursuant to RCW 43.03.040, shall receive reimbursement for travel expenses incurred in the discharge of their duties in accordance with RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060, and shall be considered employees of the state of Washington subject to chapter 42.52 RCW.

(2) Each member of the board shall be appointed for a term of six years, and until their successors are appointed. A vacancy shall be filled by appointment by the governor for the unexpired portion of the term in which the vacancy occurs. [2020 c 214 § 1; 2010 c 211 § 4; 1994 c 249 § 29; 1991 sp.s. c 32 § 5.]

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

**36.70A.252 Growth management hearings board—Consolidation into environmental and land use hearings office.** On July 1, 2011, the growth management hearings board is administratively consolidated into the environmental and land use hearings office created in RCW 43.21B.005. The chair of the growth management hearings board shall continue to exercise duties and responsibilities pursuant to RCW 36.70A.270(11). The environmental and land use hearings office shall be responsible for all other administrative functions pertaining to the growth management hearings board. [2020 c 214 § 2; 2010 c 210 § 15.]

**Intent—Effective dates—Application—Pending cases and rules—2010 c 210:** See notes following RCW 43.21B.001.

**36.70A.260 Growth management hearings board—Regional panels.** (1) Each petition for review that is filed with the growth management hearings board shall be heard and decided by a regional panel of growth management hearings board members. Regional panels shall be constituted as follows:

(a) Central Puget Sound region. A three-member central Puget Sound panel shall be selected to hear matters pertaining to cities and counties located within the region comprised of King, Pierce, Snohomish, and Kitsap counties.

(b) Eastern Washington region. A three-member eastern Washington panel shall be selected to hear matters pertaining to cities and counties that are required or choose to plan under

RCW 36.70A.040 and are located east of the crest of the Cascade mountains.

(c) Western Washington region. A three-member western Washington panel shall be selected to hear matters pertaining to cities and counties that are required or choose to plan under RCW 36.70A.040, are located west of the crest of the Cascade mountains, and are not included in the central Puget Sound region. Skamania county, if it is required or chooses to plan under RCW 36.70A.040, may elect to be included within either the western Washington region or the eastern Washington region.

(2)(a) Each regional panel selected to hear and decide cases shall consist of three board members, at least a majority of whom shall reside within the region in which the case arose, unless such members cannot sit on a particular case because of recusal or disqualification, or unless the board chair determines otherwise due to caseload management determinations or the unavailability of a board member due to illness, absence, or vacancy. The presiding officer of each case shall reside within the region in which the case arose, unless the board chair determines that there is an emergency.

(b) Except as provided otherwise in this subsection (2)(b), each regional panel must: (i) Include one member admitted to practice law in this state; (ii) include one member who has been a city or county elected official; and (iii) reflect the political composition of the board. The requirements of this subsection (2)(b) may be waived by the board chair due to member unavailability, significant workload imbalances, or other reasons. [2020 c 214 § 3; 2010 c 211 § 5; 1994 c 249 § 30; 1991 sp.s. c 32 § 6.]

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

**36.70A.270 Growth management hearings board—Conduct, procedure, and compensation—Public access to rulings, decisions, and orders.** The growth management hearings board shall be governed by the following rules on conduct and procedure:

(1) Any board member may be removed for inefficiency, malfeasance, and misfeasance in office, under specific written charges filed by the governor. The governor shall transmit such written charges to the member accused and the chief justice of the supreme court. The chief justice shall thereupon designate a tribunal composed of three judges of the superior court to hear and adjudicate the charges. Removal of any member of the board by the tribunal shall disqualify such member for reappointment.

(2) The principal office of the board shall be located in Thurston county, but it may hold hearings at any other place in the state.

(3) Each board member shall not: (a) Be a candidate for or hold any other public office or trust; (b) engage in any occupation or business interfering with or inconsistent with his or her duty as a board member; and (c) for a period of one year after the termination of his or her board membership, act in a representative capacity before the board on any matter.

(4) A majority of the board shall constitute a quorum for adopting rules necessary for the conduct of its powers and duties or transacting other official business, and may act even though one position of the board is vacant. One or more members may hold hearings and take testimony to be reported for action by the board when authorized by rule or

order of the board. The board shall perform all the powers and duties specified in this chapter or as otherwise provided by law.

(5) The board may use one or more hearing examiners to assist the board in its hearing function, to make conclusions of law and findings of fact and, if requested by the board, to make recommendations to the board for decisions in cases before the board. Such hearing examiners must have demonstrated knowledge of land use planning and law. The board shall specify in its rules of practice and procedure, as required by subsection (7) of this section, the procedure and criteria to be employed for designating hearing examiners as a presiding officer. Hearing examiners used by the board shall meet the requirements of subsection (3) of this section. The findings and conclusions of the hearing examiner shall not become final until they have been formally approved by the board. This authorization to use hearing examiners does not waive the requirement of RCW 36.70A.300 that final orders be issued within one hundred eighty days of board receipt of a petition.

(6) The board shall make findings of fact and prepare a written decision in each case decided by it, and such findings and decision shall be effective upon being signed by two or more members of the regional panel deciding the particular case and upon being filed at the board's principal office, and shall be open for public inspection at all reasonable times.

(7) All proceedings before the board, any of its members, or a hearing examiner appointed by the board shall be conducted in accordance with such administrative rules of practice and procedure as the board prescribes. The board shall develop and adopt rules of practice and procedure, including rules regarding expeditious and summary disposition of appeals and the assignment of cases to regional panels. The board shall publish such rules it renders and arrange for the reasonable distribution of the rules. Except as it conflicts with specific provisions of this chapter, the administrative procedure act, chapter 34.05 RCW, and specifically including the provisions of RCW 34.05.455 governing ex parte communications, shall govern the practice and procedure of the board.

(8) The board must ensure all rulings, decisions, and orders are available to the public through the environmental and land use hearings office's websites as described in RCW 43.21B.005. To ensure uniformity and usability of searchable databases and websites, the board shall coordinate with the environmental and land use hearings office, the department of commerce, and other interested stakeholders to develop and maintain a rational system of categorizing its decisions and orders.

(9) A board member or hearing examiner is subject to disqualification under chapter 34.05 RCW. The rules of practice of the board shall establish procedures by which a party to a hearing conducted before the board may file with the board a motion to disqualify, with supporting affidavit, against a board member or hearing examiner assigned to preside at the hearing.

(10) All members of the board shall meet on at least an annual basis with the objective of sharing information that promotes the goals and purposes of this chapter.

(11) The board shall annually elect one of its attorney members to be the board chair. The duties and responsibilities of the chair include developing board procedures, making

case assignments to board members in accordance with the board's rules of procedure in order to achieve a fair and balanced workload among all board members, and managing board meetings. [2020 c 214 § 4; 2019 c 452 § 2. Prior: 2010 c 211 § 6; 2010 c 210 § 16; 1997 c 429 § 11; 1996 c 325 § 1; 1994 c 257 § 1; 1991 sp.s. c 32 § 7.]

**Intent—Effective dates—Application—Pending cases and rules—2010 c 210:** See notes following RCW 43.21B.001.

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

**36.70A.280 Growth management hearings board—Matters subject to review.** (1) The growth management hearings board shall hear and determine only those petitions alleging either:

(a) That, except as provided otherwise by this subsection, a state agency, county, or city planning under this chapter is not in compliance with the requirements of this chapter, chapter 90.58 RCW as it relates to the adoption of shoreline master programs or amendments thereto, or chapter 43.21C RCW as it relates to plans, development regulations, or amendments, adopted under RCW 36.70A.040 or chapter 90.58 RCW. Nothing in this subsection authorizes the board to hear petitions alleging noncompliance with \*RCW 36.70A.5801;

(b) That the twenty-year growth management planning population projections adopted by the office of financial management pursuant to RCW 43.62.035 should be adjusted;

(c) That the approval of a work plan adopted under RCW 36.70A.735(1)(a) is not in compliance with the requirements of the program established under RCW 36.70A.710;

(d) That regulations adopted under RCW 36.70A.735(1)(b) are not regionally applicable and cannot be adopted, wholly or partially, by another jurisdiction; or

(e) That a department certification under RCW 36.70A.735(1)(c) is erroneous.

(2) A petition may be filed only by: (a) The state, or a county or city that plans under this chapter; (b) a person who has participated orally or in writing before the county or city regarding the matter on which a review is being requested; (c) a person who is certified by the governor within sixty days of filing the request with the board; or (d) a person qualified pursuant to RCW 34.05.530.

(3) For purposes of this section "person" means any individual, partnership, corporation, association, state agency, governmental subdivision or unit thereof, or public or private organization or entity of any character.

(4) To establish participation standing under subsection (2)(b) of this section, a person must show that his or her participation before the county or city was reasonably related to the person's issue as presented to the board.

(5) When considering a possible adjustment to a growth management planning population projection prepared by the office of financial management, the board shall consider the implications of any such adjustment to the population forecast for the entire state.

The rationale for any adjustment that is adopted by the board must be documented and filed with the office of financial management within ten working days after adoption.

If adjusted by the board, a county growth management planning population projection shall only be used for the planning purposes set forth in this chapter and shall be known

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as the "board adjusted population projection." None of these changes shall affect the official state and county population forecasts prepared by the office of financial management, which shall continue to be used for state budget and planning purposes. [2011 c 360 § 17; (2014 c 147 § 3 expired December 31, 2020); 2010 c 211 § 7; 2008 c 289 § 5; 2003 c 332 § 2; 1996 c 325 § 2; 1995 c 347 § 108; 1994 c 249 § 31; 1991 sp.s. c 32 § 9.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 36.70A.5801 expired January 1, 2011.

**Expiration date—2014 c 147 § 3:** "Section 3 of this act expires December 31, 2020." [2014 c 147 § 4.]

**Findings—2008 c 289:** "(1) The legislature recognizes that the implications of a changed climate will affect the people, institutions, and economies of Washington. The legislature also recognizes that it is in the public interest to reduce the state's dependence upon foreign sources of carbon fuels that do not promote energy independence or the economic strength of the state. The legislature finds that the state, including its counties, cities, and residents, must engage in activities that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and dependence upon foreign oil.

(2) The legislature further recognizes that: (a) Patterns of land use development influence transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions and the need for foreign oil; (b) fossil fuel-based transportation is the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in Washington; and (c) the state and its residents will not achieve emission reductions established in \*RCW 80.80.020 without a significant decrease in transportation emissions.

(3) The legislature, therefore, finds that it is in the public interest of the state to provide appropriate legal authority, where required, and to aid in the development of policies, practices, and methodologies that may assist counties and cities in addressing challenges associated with greenhouse gas emissions and our state's dependence upon foreign oil." [2008 c 289 § 1.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 80.80.020 was repealed by 2008 c 14 § 13.

**Intent—2003 c 332:** "This act is intended to codify the Washington State Court of Appeals holding in *Wells v. Western Washington Growth Management Hearings Board*, 100 Wn. App. 657 (2000), by mandating that to establish participation standing under the growth management act, a person must show that his or her participation before the county or city was reasonably related to the person's issue as presented to the growth management hearings board." [2003 c 332 § 1.]

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

*Definitions:* See RCW 36.70A.703.

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

**36.70A.290 Growth management hearings board—Petitions—Evidence.** (1) All requests for review to the growth management hearings board shall be initiated by filing a petition that includes a detailed statement of issues presented for resolution by the board. The board shall render written decisions articulating the basis for its holdings. The board shall not issue advisory opinions on issues not presented to the board in the statement of issues, as modified by any prehearing order.

(2) All petitions relating to whether or not an adopted comprehensive plan, development regulation, or permanent amendment thereto, is in compliance with the goals and requirements of this chapter or chapter 90.58 or 43.21C RCW must be filed within sixty days after publication as provided in (a) through (c) of this subsection.

(a) Except as provided in (c) of this subsection, the date of publication for a city shall be the date the city publishes the ordinance, or summary of the ordinance, adopting the comprehensive plan or development regulations, or amendment thereto, as is required to be published.

(b) Promptly after adoption, a county shall publish a notice that it has adopted the comprehensive plan or development regulations, or amendment thereto.

Except as provided in (c) of this subsection, for purposes of this section the date of publication for a county shall be the date the county publishes the notice that it has adopted the comprehensive plan or development regulations, or amendment thereto.

(c) For local governments planning under RCW 36.70A.040, promptly after approval or disapproval of a local government's shoreline master program or amendment thereto by the department of ecology as provided in RCW 90.58.090, the department of ecology shall publish a notice that the shoreline master program or amendment thereto has been approved or disapproved. For purposes of this section, the date of publication for the adoption or amendment of a shoreline master program is the date the department of ecology publishes notice that the shoreline master program or amendment thereto has been approved or disapproved.

(3) Unless the board dismisses the petition as frivolous or finds that the person filing the petition lacks standing, or the parties have filed an agreement to have the case heard in superior court as provided in RCW 36.70A.295, the board shall, within ten days of receipt of the petition, set a time for hearing the matter.

(4) The board shall base its decision on the record developed by the city, county, or the state and supplemented with additional evidence if the board determines that such additional evidence would be necessary or of substantial assistance to the board in reaching its decision.

(5) The board, shall consolidate, when appropriate, all petitions involving the review of the same comprehensive plan or the same development regulation or regulations. [2011 c 277 § 1; 2010 c 211 § 8; 1997 c 429 § 12; 1995 c 347 § 109. Prior: 1994 c 257 § 2; 1994 c 249 § 26; 1991 sp.s. c 32 § 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)

**36.70A.295 Growth management hearings board—Direct judicial review.** (1) The superior court may directly review a petition for review filed under RCW 36.70A.290 if all parties to the proceeding before the board have agreed to direct review in the superior court. The agreement of the parties shall be in writing and signed by all of the parties to the proceeding or their designated representatives. The agreement shall include the parties' agreement to proper venue as provided in RCW 36.70A.300(5). The parties shall file their agreement with the board within ten days after the date the petition is filed, or if multiple petitions have been filed and the board has consolidated the petitions pursuant to RCW 36.70A.300, within ten days after the board serves its order of consolidation.

(2) Within ten days of receiving the timely and complete agreement of the parties, the board shall file a certificate of agreement with the designated superior court and shall serve the parties with copies of the certificate. The superior court shall obtain exclusive jurisdiction over a petition when it receives the certificate of agreement. With the certificate of agreement the board shall also file the petition for review,

any orders entered by the board, all other documents in the board's files regarding the action, and the written agreement of the parties.

(3) For purposes of a petition that is subject to direct review, the superior court's subject matter jurisdiction shall be equivalent to that of the board. Consistent with the requirements of the superior court civil rules, the superior court may consolidate a petition subject to direct review under this section with a separate action filed in the superior court.

(4)(a) Except as otherwise provided in (b) and (c) of this subsection, the provisions of RCW 36.70A.280 through 36.70A.330, which specify the nature and extent of board review, shall apply to the superior court's review.

(b) The superior court:

(i) Shall not have jurisdiction to directly review or modify an office of financial management population projection;

(ii) Except as otherwise provided in RCW 36.70A.300(2)(b), shall render its decision on the petition within one hundred eighty days of receiving the certification of agreement; and

(iii) Shall give a compliance hearing under RCW 36.70A.330(2) the highest priority of all civil matters before the court.

(c) An aggrieved party may secure appellate review of a final judgment of the superior court under this section by the supreme court or the court of appeals. The review shall be secured in the manner provided by law for review of superior court decisions in other civil cases.

(5) If, following a compliance hearing, the court finds that the state agency, county, or city is not in compliance with the court's prior order, the court may use its remedial and contempt powers to enforce compliance.

(6) The superior court shall transmit a copy of its decision and order on direct review to the board, the department, and the governor. If the court has determined that a county or city is not in compliance with the provisions of this chapter, the governor may impose sanctions against the county or city in the same manner as if the board had recommended the imposition of sanctions as provided in RCW 36.70A.330.

(7) After the court has assumed jurisdiction over a petition for review under this section, the superior court civil rules shall govern a request for intervention and all other procedural matters not specifically provided for in this section. [2010 c 211 § 9; 1997 c 429 § 13.]

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

**36.70A.300 Final orders.** (1) The board shall issue a final order that shall be based exclusively on whether or not a state agency, county, or city is in compliance with the requirements of this chapter, chapter 90.58 RCW as it relates to adoption or amendment of shoreline master programs, or chapter 43.21C RCW as it relates to adoption of plans, development regulations, and amendments thereto, under RCW 36.70A.040 or chapter 90.58 RCW.

(2)(a) Except as provided in (b) of this subsection, the final order shall be issued within one hundred eighty days of receipt of the petition for review, or, if multiple petitions are filed, within one hundred eighty days of receipt of the last petition that is consolidated.

(b) The board may extend the period of time for issuing a decision to enable the parties to settle the dispute if additional time is necessary to achieve a settlement, and (i) an extension is requested by all parties, or (ii) an extension is requested by the petitioner and respondent and the board determines that a negotiated settlement between the remaining parties could resolve significant issues in dispute. The request must be filed with the board not later than seven days before the date scheduled for the hearing on the merits of the petition. The board may authorize one or more extensions for up to ninety days each, subject to the requirements of this section.

(3) In the final order, the board shall either:

(a) Find that the state agency, county, or city is in compliance with the requirements of this chapter, chapter 90.58 RCW as it relates to the adoption or amendment of shoreline master programs, or chapter 43.21C RCW as it relates to adoption of plans, development regulations, and amendments thereto, under RCW 36.70A.040 or chapter 90.58 RCW; or

(b) Find that the state agency, county, or city is not in compliance with the requirements of this chapter, chapter 90.58 RCW as it relates to the adoption or amendment of shoreline master programs, or chapter 43.21C RCW as it relates to adoption of plans, development regulations, and amendments thereto, under RCW 36.70A.040 or chapter 90.58 RCW, in which case the board shall remand the matter to the affected state agency, county, or city. The board shall specify a reasonable time not in excess of one hundred eighty days, or such longer period as determined by the board in cases of unusual scope or complexity, within which the state agency, county, or city shall comply with the requirements of this chapter. The board may require periodic reports to the board on the progress the jurisdiction is making towards compliance.

(4)(a) Unless the board makes a determination of invalidity under RCW 36.70A.302, a finding of noncompliance and an order of remand shall not affect the validity of comprehensive plans and development regulations during the period of remand.

(b) Unless the board makes a determination of invalidity, state agencies, commissions, and governing boards may not determine a county, city, or town to be ineligible or otherwise penalized in the acceptance of applications or the awarding of state agency grants or loans during the period of remand. This subsection (4)(b) applies only to counties, cities, and towns that have: (i) Delayed the initial effective date of the action subject to the petition before the board until after the board issues a final determination; or (ii) within thirty days of receiving notice of a petition for review by the board, delayed or suspended the effective date of the action subject to the petition before the board until after the board issues a final determination.

(5) Any party aggrieved by a final decision of the hearings board may appeal the decision to superior court as provided in RCW 34.05.514 or 36.01.050 within thirty days of the final order of the board. Unless the board makes a determination of invalidity under RCW 36.70A.302, state agencies, commissions, or governing boards shall not penalize counties, cities, or towns during the pendency of an appeal as provided in RCW 43.17.250. [2013 c 275 § 1; 1997 c 429 § 14; 1995 c 347 § 110; 1991 sp.s. c 32 § 11.]

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**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)

**36.70A.302 Growth management hearings board—Determination of invalidity—Vesting of development permits—Interim controls.** (1) The board may determine that part or all of a comprehensive plan or development regulations are invalid if the board:

(a) Makes a finding of noncompliance and issues an order of remand under RCW 36.70A.300;

(b) Includes in the final order a determination, supported by findings of fact and conclusions of law, that the continued validity of part or parts of the plan or regulation would substantially interfere with the fulfillment of the goals of this chapter; and

(c) Specifies in the final order the particular part or parts of the plan or regulation that are determined to be invalid, and the reasons for their invalidity.

(2) A determination of invalidity is prospective in effect and does not extinguish rights that vested under state or local law before receipt of the board's order by the city or county. The determination of invalidity does not apply to a completed development permit application for a project that vested under state or local law before receipt of the board's order by the county or city or to related construction permits for that project.

(3)(a) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (2) of this section and (b) of this subsection, a development permit application not vested under state or local law before receipt of the board's order by the county or city vests to the local ordinance or resolution that is determined by the board not to substantially interfere with the fulfillment of the goals of this chapter.

(b) Even though the application is not vested under state or local law before receipt by the county or city of the board's order, a determination of invalidity does not apply to a development permit application for:

(i) A permit for construction by any owner, lessee, or contract purchaser of a single-family residence for his or her own use or for the use of his or her family on a lot existing before receipt by the county or city of the board's order, except as otherwise specifically provided in the board's order to protect the public health and safety;

(ii) A building permit and related construction permits for remodeling, tenant improvements, or expansion of an existing structure on a lot existing before receipt of the board's order by the county or city; and

(iii) A boundary line adjustment or a division of land that does not increase the number of buildable lots existing before receipt of the board's order by the county or city.

(4) If the ordinance that adopts a plan or development regulation under this chapter includes a savings clause intended to revive prior policies or regulations in the event the new plan or regulations are determined to be invalid, the board shall determine under subsection (1) of this section whether the prior policies or regulations are valid during the period of remand.

(5) A county or city subject to a determination of invalidity may adopt interim controls and other measures to be in effect until it adopts a comprehensive plan and development

regulations that comply with the requirements of this chapter. A development permit application may vest under an interim control or measure upon determination by the board that the interim controls and other measures do not substantially interfere with the fulfillment of the goals of this chapter.

(6) A county or city subject to a determination of invalidity may file a motion requesting that the board clarify, modify, or rescind the order. The board shall expeditiously schedule a hearing on the motion. At the hearing on the motion, the parties may present information to the board to clarify the part or parts of the comprehensive plan or development regulations to which the final order applies. The board shall issue any supplemental order based on the information provided at the hearing not later than thirty days after the date of the hearing.

(7)(a) If a determination of invalidity has been made and the county or city has enacted an ordinance or resolution amending the invalidated part or parts of the plan or regulation or establishing interim controls on development affected by the order of invalidity, after a compliance hearing, the board shall modify or rescind the determination of invalidity if it determines under the standard in subsection (1) of this section that the plan or regulation, as amended or made subject to such interim controls, will no longer substantially interfere with the fulfillment of the goals of this chapter.

(b) If the board determines that part or parts of the plan or regulation are no longer invalid as provided in this subsection, but does not find that the plan or regulation is in compliance with all of the requirements of this chapter, the board, in its order, may require periodic reports to the board on the progress the jurisdiction is making towards compliance. [2010 c 211 § 10; 1997 c 429 § 16.]

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

**36.70A.305 Expedited review.** The court shall provide expedited review of a determination of invalidity or an order effectuating a determination of invalidity made or issued under \*RCW 36.70A.300. The matter must be set for hearing within sixty days of the date set for submitting the board's record, absent a showing of good cause for a different date or a stipulation of the parties. [1996 c 325 § 4.]

\***Reviser's note:** The reference to RCW 36.70A.300 appears to refer to the amendments made by 1996 c 325 § 3, which was vetoed by the governor.

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

**36.70A.310 Growth management hearings board—Limitations on appeal by the state.** A request for review by the state to the growth management hearings board may be made only by the governor, or with the governor's consent the head of an agency, or by the commissioner of public lands as relating to state trust lands, for the review of whether: (1) A county or city that is required or chooses to plan under RCW 36.70A.040 has failed to adopt a comprehensive plan or development regulations, or countywide planning policies within the time limits established by this chapter; or (2) a county or city that is required or chooses to plan under this chapter has adopted a comprehensive plan, development regulations, or countywide planning policies, that are not in compliance with the requirements of this chapter. [2010 c 211 § 11; 1994 c 249 § 32; 1991 sp.s. c 32 § 12.]

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

**36.70A.320 Presumption of validity—Burden of proof—Plans and regulations.** (1) Except as provided in subsection (5) of this section, comprehensive plans and development regulations, and amendments thereto, adopted under this chapter are presumed valid upon adoption.

(2) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (4) of this section, the burden is on the petitioner to demonstrate that any action taken by a state agency, county, or city under this chapter is not in compliance with the requirements of this chapter.

(3) In any petition under this chapter, the board, after full consideration of the petition, shall determine whether there is compliance with the requirements of this chapter. In making its determination, the board shall consider the criteria adopted by the department under RCW 36.70A.190(4). The board shall find compliance unless it determines that the action by the state agency, county, or city is clearly erroneous in view of the entire record before the board and in light of the goals and requirements of this chapter.

(4) A county or city subject to a determination of invalidity made under RCW 36.70A.300 or 36.70A.302 has the burden of demonstrating that the ordinance or resolution it has enacted in response to the determination of invalidity will no longer substantially interfere with the fulfillment of the goals of this chapter under the standard in RCW 36.70A.302(1).

(5) The shoreline element of a comprehensive plan and the applicable development regulations adopted by a county or city shall take effect as provided in chapter 90.58 RCW. [1997 c 429 § 20; 1995 c 347 § 111; 1991 sp.s. c 32 § 13.]

**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)

**36.70A.3201 Growth management hearings board—Legislative intent and finding.** The legislature intends that the board applies a more deferential standard of review to actions of counties and cities than the preponderance of the evidence standard provided for under existing law. In recognition of the broad range of discretion that may be exercised by counties and cities consistent with the requirements of this chapter, the legislature intends for the board to grant deference to counties and cities in how they plan for growth, consistent with the requirements and goals of this chapter. Local comprehensive plans and development regulations require counties and cities to balance priorities and options for action in full consideration of local circumstances. The legislature finds that while this chapter requires local planning to take place within a framework of state goals and requirements, the ultimate burden and responsibility for planning, harmonizing the planning goals of this chapter, and implementing a county's or city's future rests with that community. [2010 c 211 § 12; 1997 c 429 § 2.]

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

**36.70A.330 Noncompliance.** (1) After the time set for complying with the requirements of this chapter under RCW 36.70A.300(3)(b) has expired, or at an earlier time upon the motion of a county or city subject to a determination of invalidity under RCW 36.70A.300, the board shall set a hearing for the purpose of determining whether the state agency,



county, or city is in compliance with the requirements of this chapter.

(2) The board shall conduct a hearing and issue a finding of compliance or noncompliance with the requirements of this chapter and with any compliance schedule established by the board in its final order. A person with standing to challenge the legislation enacted in response to the board's final order may participate in the hearing along with the petitioner and the state agency, county, or city. A hearing under this subsection shall be given the highest priority of business to be conducted by the board, and a finding shall be issued within forty-five days of the filing of the motion under subsection (1) of this section with the board. The board shall issue any order necessary to make adjustments to the compliance schedule and set additional hearings as provided in subsection (5) of this section.

(3) If the board after a compliance hearing finds that the state agency, county, or city is not in compliance, the board shall transmit its finding to the governor.

(a) The board may refer a finding of noncompliance to the department. The purpose of the referral is for the department to provide technical assistance to facilitate speedy resolution of the finding of noncompliance and to provide training pursuant to RCW 36.70A.332 as necessary.

(b) Alternatively, the board may recommend to the governor that the sanctions authorized by this chapter be imposed. The board shall take into consideration the county's or city's efforts to meet its compliance schedule in making the decision to recommend sanctions to the governor.

(4) In a compliance hearing upon petition of a party, the board shall also reconsider its final order and decide, if no determination of invalidity has been made, whether one now should be made under RCW 36.70A.302.

(5) The board shall schedule additional hearings as appropriate pursuant to subsections (1) and (2) of this section. [2021 c 312 § 2; 1997 c 429 § 21; 1995 c 347 § 112; 1991 sp.s. c 32 § 14.]

**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)

**36.70A.332 Training regarding findings of noncompliance.** (1) The department shall offer training to assist local governments in understanding findings of noncompliance from the growth management hearings board pursuant to RCW 36.70A.300 and 36.70A.330 and applying prior decisions of the board to ongoing planning efforts to avoid findings of noncompliance.

(2) The department may award grants to a public agency with appropriate expertise and funded by local governments to provide the training required in subsection (1) of this section.

(3) The training provided in subsection (1) of this section is limited to counties that are largely rural. [2021 c 312 § 3.]

**36.70A.335 Order of invalidity issued before July 27, 1997.** A county or city subject to an order of invalidity issued before July 27, 1997, by motion may request the board to review the order of invalidity in light of the section 14, chapter 429, Laws of 1997 amendments to RCW 36.70A.300, the section 21, chapter 429, Laws of 1997 amendments to RCW

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36.70A.330, and RCW 36.70A.302. If a request is made, the board shall rescind or modify the order of invalidity as necessary to make it consistent with the section 14, chapter 429, Laws of 1997 amendments to RCW 36.70A.300, and to the section 21, chapter 429, Laws of 1997 amendments to RCW 36.70A.330, and RCW 36.70A.302. [1997 c 429 § 22.]

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

**36.70A.340 Noncompliance and sanctions.** Upon receipt from the board of a finding that a state agency, county, or city is in noncompliance under RCW 36.70A.330, or as a result of failure to meet the requirements of RCW 36.70A.210, the governor may either:

(1) Notify and direct the director of the office of financial management to revise allotments in appropriation levels;

(2) Notify and direct the state treasurer to withhold the portion of revenues to which the county or city is entitled under one or more of the following: The motor vehicle fuel tax, as provided in chapter 82.38 RCW; the transportation improvement account, as provided in RCW 47.26.084; the rural arterial trust account, as provided in RCW 36.79.150; the sales and use tax, as provided in chapter 82.14 RCW; the liquor profit tax, as provided in RCW 66.08.190; and the liquor excise tax, as provided in RCW 82.08.170; or

(3) File a notice of noncompliance with the secretary of state and the county or city, which temporarily rescinds the county or city's authority to collect the real estate excise tax under RCW 82.46.030 until the governor files a notice rescinding the notice of noncompliance. [2013 c 225 § 604; 2011 c 120 § 2; 1991 sp.s. c 32 § 26.]

**Effective date—2013 c 225:** See note following RCW 82.38.010.

**36.70A.345 Sanctions.** The governor may impose a sanction or sanctions specified under RCW 36.70A.340 on: (1) A county or city that fails to designate critical areas, agricultural lands, forestlands, or mineral resource lands under RCW 36.70A.170 by the date such action was required to have been taken; (2) a county or city that fails to adopt development regulations under RCW 36.70A.060 protecting critical areas or conserving agricultural lands, forestlands, or mineral resource lands by the date such action was required to have been taken; (3) a county that fails to designate urban growth areas under RCW 36.70A.110 by the date such action was required to have been taken; and (4) a county or city that fails to adopt its comprehensive plan or development regulations when such actions are required to be taken.

Imposition of a sanction or sanctions under this section shall be preceded by written findings by the governor, that either the county or city is not proceeding in good faith to meet the requirements of the act; or that the county or city has unreasonably delayed taking the required action. The governor shall consult with and communicate his or her findings to the growth management hearings board prior to imposing the sanction or sanctions. For those counties or cities that are not required to plan or have not opted in, the governor in imposing sanctions shall consider the size of the jurisdiction relative to the requirements of this chapter and the degree of technical and financial assistance provided. [2010 c 211 § 13; 1994 c 249 § 33; 1993 sp.s. c 6 § 5.]

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

**36.70A.350 New fully contained communities.** A county required or choosing to plan under RCW 36.70A.040 may establish a process as part of its urban growth areas, that are designated under RCW 36.70A.110, for reviewing proposals to authorize new fully contained communities located outside of the initially designated urban growth areas.

(1) A new fully contained community may be approved in a county planning under this chapter if criteria including but not limited to the following are met:

(a) New infrastructure is provided for and impact fees are established consistent with the requirements of RCW 82.02.050;

(b) Transit-oriented site planning and traffic demand management programs are implemented;

(c) Buffers are provided between the new fully contained communities and adjacent urban development;

(d) A mix of uses is provided to offer jobs, housing, and services to the residents of the new community;

(e) Affordable housing is provided within the new community for a broad range of income levels;

(f) Environmental protection has been addressed and provided for;

(g) Development regulations are established to ensure urban growth will not occur in adjacent nonurban areas;

(h) Provision is made to mitigate impacts on designated agricultural lands, forestlands, and mineral resource lands;

(i) The plan for the new fully contained community is consistent with the development regulations established for the protection of critical areas by the county pursuant to RCW 36.70A.170.

(2) New fully contained communities may be approved outside established urban growth areas only if a county reserves a portion of the twenty-year population projection and offsets the urban growth area accordingly for allocation to new fully contained communities that meet the requirements of this chapter. Any county electing to establish a new community reserve shall do so no more often than once every five years as a part of the designation or review of urban growth areas required by this chapter. The new community reserve shall be allocated on a project-by-project basis, only after specific project approval procedures have been adopted pursuant to this chapter as a development regulation. When a new community reserve is established, urban growth areas designated pursuant to this chapter shall accommodate the unreserved portion of the twenty-year population projection.

Final approval of an application for a new fully contained community shall be considered an adopted amendment to the comprehensive plan prepared pursuant to RCW 36.70A.070 designating the new fully contained community as an urban growth area. [1991 sp.s. c 32 § 16.]

**36.70A.360 Master planned resorts.** (1) Counties that are required or choose to plan under RCW 36.70A.040 may permit master planned resorts which may constitute urban growth outside of urban growth areas as limited by this section. A master planned resort means a self-contained and fully integrated planned unit development, in a setting of significant natural amenities, with primary focus on destination resort facilities consisting of short-term visitor accommodations associated with a range of developed on-site indoor or outdoor recreational facilities.

(2) Capital facilities, utilities, and services, including those related to sewer, water, stormwater, security, fire suppression, and emergency medical, provided on-site shall be limited to meeting the needs of the master planned resort. Such facilities, utilities, and services may be provided to a master planned resort by outside service providers, including municipalities and special purpose districts, provided that all costs associated with service extensions and capacity increases directly attributable to the master planned resort are fully borne by the resort. A master planned resort and service providers may enter into agreements for shared capital facilities and utilities, provided that such facilities and utilities serve only the master planned resort or urban growth areas.

Nothing in this subsection may be construed as: Establishing an order of priority for processing applications for water right permits, for granting such permits, or for issuing certificates of water right; altering or authorizing in any manner the alteration of the place of use for a water right; or affecting or impairing in any manner whatsoever an existing water right.

All waters or the use of waters shall be regulated and controlled as provided in chapters 90.03 and 90.44 RCW and not otherwise.

(3) A master planned resort may include other residential uses within its boundaries, but only if the residential uses are integrated into and support the on-site recreational nature of the resort.

(4) A master planned resort may be authorized by a county only if:

(a) The comprehensive plan specifically identifies policies to guide the development of master planned resorts;

(b) The comprehensive plan and development regulations include restrictions that preclude new urban or suburban land uses in the vicinity of the master planned resort, except in areas otherwise designated for urban growth under RCW 36.70A.110;

(c) The county includes a finding as a part of the approval process that the land is better suited, and has more long-term importance, for the master planned resort than for the commercial harvesting of timber or agricultural production, if located on land that otherwise would be designated as forestland or agricultural land under RCW 36.70A.170;

(d) The county ensures that the resort plan is consistent with the development regulations established for critical areas; and

(e) On-site and off-site infrastructure and service impacts are fully considered and mitigated. [1998 c 112 § 2; 1991 sp.s. c 32 § 17.]

**Intent—1998 c 112:** "The primary intent of this act is to give effect to recommendations by the 1994 department of community, trade, and economic development's master planned resort task force by clarifying that master planned resorts may make use of capital facilities, utilities, and services provided by outside service providers, and may enter into agreements for shared facilities with such providers, when all costs directly attributable to the resort, including capacity increases, are fully borne by the resort." [1998 c 112 § 1.]

**36.70A.362 Master planned resorts—Existing resort may be included.** Counties that are required or choose to plan under RCW 36.70A.040 may include existing resorts as master planned resorts which may constitute urban growth outside of urban growth areas as limited by this section. An

existing resort means a resort in existence on July 1, 1990, and developed, in whole or in part, as a significantly self-contained and integrated development that includes short-term visitor accommodations associated with a range of indoor and outdoor recreational facilities within the property boundaries in a setting of significant natural amenities. An existing resort may include other permanent residential uses, conference facilities, and commercial activities supporting the resort, but only if these other uses are integrated into and consistent with the on-site recreational nature of the resort.

An existing resort may be authorized by a county only if:

- (1) The comprehensive plan specifically identifies policies to guide the development of the existing resort;
- (2) The comprehensive plan and development regulations include restrictions that preclude new urban or suburban land uses in the vicinity of the existing resort, except in areas otherwise designated for urban growth under RCW 36.70A.110 and \*36.70A.360(1);
- (3) The county includes a finding as a part of the approval process that the land is better suited, and has more long-term importance, for the existing resort than for the commercial harvesting of timber or agricultural production, if located on land that otherwise would be designated as forestland or agricultural land under RCW 36.70A.170;
- (4) The county finds that the resort plan is consistent with the development regulations established for critical areas; and
- (5) On-site and off-site infrastructure impacts are fully considered and mitigated.

A county may allocate a portion of its twenty-year population projection, prepared by the office of financial management, to the master planned resort corresponding to the projected number of permanent residents within the master planned resort. [1997 c 382 § 1.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 36.70A.360 was amended by 1998 c 112 § 2, changing subsection (1) to subsection (4)(a).

**36.70A.365 Major industrial developments.** A county required or choosing to plan under RCW 36.70A.040 may establish, in consultation with cities consistent with provisions of RCW 36.70A.210, a process for reviewing and approving proposals to authorize siting of specific major industrial developments outside urban growth areas.

(1) "Major industrial development" means a master planned location for a specific manufacturing, industrial, or commercial business that: (a) Requires a parcel of land so large that no suitable parcels are available within an urban growth area; or (b) is a natural resource-based industry requiring a location near agricultural land, forestland, or mineral resource land upon which it is dependent. The major industrial development shall not be for the purpose of retail commercial development or multitenant office parks.

(2) A major industrial development may be approved outside an urban growth area in a county planning under this chapter if criteria including, but not limited to the following, are met:

- (a) New infrastructure is provided for and/or applicable impact fees are paid;
- (b) Transit-oriented site planning and traffic demand management programs are implemented;

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(c) Buffers are provided between the major industrial development and adjacent nonurban areas;

(d) Environmental protection including air and water quality has been addressed and provided for;

(e) Development regulations are established to ensure that urban growth will not occur in adjacent nonurban areas;

(f) Provision is made to mitigate adverse impacts on designated agricultural lands, forestlands, and mineral resource lands;

(g) The plan for the major industrial development is consistent with the county's development regulations established for protection of critical areas; and

(h) An inventory of developable land has been conducted and the county has determined and entered findings that land suitable to site the major industrial development is unavailable within the urban growth area. Priority shall be given to applications for sites that are adjacent to or in close proximity to the urban growth area.

(3) Final approval of an application for a major industrial development shall be considered an adopted amendment to the comprehensive plan adopted pursuant to RCW 36.70A.070 designating the major industrial development site on the land use map as an urban growth area. Final approval of an application for a major industrial development shall not be considered an amendment to the comprehensive plan for the purposes of RCW 36.70A.130(2) and may be considered at any time. [1995 c 190 § 1.]

**36.70A.367 Major industrial developments—Master planned locations.** (1) In addition to the major industrial development allowed under RCW 36.70A.365, a county planning under RCW 36.70A.040 that meets the criteria in subsection (5) of this section may establish, in consultation with cities consistent with provisions of RCW 36.70A.210, a process for designating a bank of no more than two master planned locations for major industrial activity outside urban growth areas.

(2) A master planned location for major industrial developments may be approved through a two-step process: Designation of an industrial land bank area in the comprehensive plan; and subsequent approval of specific major industrial developments through a local master plan process described under subsection (3) of this section.

(a) The comprehensive plan must identify locations suited to major industrial development due to proximity to transportation or resource assets. The plan must identify the maximum size of the industrial land bank area and any limitations on major industrial developments based on local limiting factors, but does not need to specify a particular parcel or parcels of property or identify any specific use or user except as limited by this section. In selecting locations for the industrial land bank area, priority must be given to locations that are adjacent to, or in close proximity to, an urban growth area.

(b) The environmental review for amendment of the comprehensive plan must be at the programmatic level and, in addition to a threshold determination, must include:

(i) An inventory of developable land as provided in RCW 36.70A.365; and

(ii) An analysis of the availability of alternative sites within urban growth areas and the long-term annexation feasibility of sites outside of urban growth areas.

(c) Final approval of an industrial land bank area under this section must be by amendment to the comprehensive plan adopted under RCW 36.70A.070, and the amendment is exempt from the limitation of RCW 36.70A.130(2) and may be considered at any time. Approval of a specific major industrial development within the industrial land bank area requires no further amendment of the comprehensive plan.

(3) In concert with the designation of an industrial land bank area, a county shall also adopt development regulations for review and approval of specific major industrial developments through a master plan process. The regulations governing the master plan process shall ensure, at a minimum, that:

(a) Urban growth will not occur in adjacent nonurban areas;

(b) Development is consistent with the county's development regulations adopted for protection of critical areas;

(c) Required infrastructure is identified and provided concurrent with development. Such infrastructure, however, may be phased in with development;

(d) Transit-oriented site planning and demand management programs are specifically addressed as part of the master plan approval;

(e) Provision is made for addressing environmental protection, including air and water quality, as part of the master plan approval;

(f) The master plan approval includes a requirement that interlocal agreements between the county and service providers, including cities and special purpose districts providing facilities or services to the approved master plan, be in place at the time of master plan approval;

(g) A major industrial development is used primarily by industrial and manufacturing businesses, and that the gross floor area of all commercial and service buildings or facilities locating within the major industrial development does not exceed ten percent of the total gross floor area of buildings or facilities in the development. The intent of this provision for commercial or service use is to meet the needs of employees, clients, customers, vendors, and others having business at the industrial site, to attract and retain a quality workforce, and to further other public objectives, such as trip reduction. These uses may not be promoted to attract additional clientele from the surrounding area. Commercial and service businesses must be established concurrently with or subsequent to the industrial or manufacturing businesses;

(h) New infrastructure is provided for and/or applicable impact fees are paid to assure that adequate facilities are provided concurrently with the development. Infrastructure may be achieved in phases as development proceeds;

(i) Buffers are provided between the major industrial development and adjacent rural areas;

(j) Provision is made to mitigate adverse impacts on designated agricultural lands, forestlands, and mineral resource lands; and

(k) An open record public hearing is held before either the planning commission or hearing examiner with notice published at least thirty days before the hearing date and mailed to all property owners within one mile of the site.

(4) For the purposes of this section:

(a) "Major industrial development" means a master planned location suitable for manufacturing or industrial businesses that: (i) Requires a parcel of land so large that no suitable parcels are available within an urban growth area; (ii) is a natural resource-based industry requiring a location near agricultural land, forestland, or mineral resource land upon which it is dependent; or (iii) requires a location with characteristics such as proximity to transportation facilities or related industries such that there is no suitable location in an urban growth area. The major industrial development may not be for the purpose of retail commercial development or multitenant office parks.

(b) "Industrial land bank" means up to two master planned locations, each consisting of a parcel or parcels of contiguous land, sufficiently large so as not to be readily available within the urban growth area of a city, or otherwise meeting the criteria contained in (a) of this subsection, suitable for manufacturing, industrial, or commercial businesses and designated by the county through the comprehensive planning process specifically for major industrial use.

(5) This section and the termination provisions specified in subsection (6) of this section apply to a county that at the time the process is established under subsection (1) of this section:

(a) Has a population greater than two hundred fifty thousand and is part of a metropolitan area that includes a city in another state with a population greater than two hundred fifty thousand;

(b) Has a population greater than one hundred forty thousand and is adjacent to another country;

(c) Has a population greater than forty thousand but less than seventy-five thousand and has an average level of unemployment for the preceding three years that exceeds the average state unemployment for those years by twenty percent; and

(i) Is bordered by the Pacific Ocean;

(ii) Is located in the Interstate 5 or Interstate 90 corridor;

or

(iii) Is bordered by Hood Canal;

(d) Is east of the Cascade divide; and

(i) Borders another state to the south; or

(ii) Is located wholly south of Interstate 90 and borders the Columbia river to the east;

(e) Has an average population density of less than one hundred persons per square mile as determined by the office of financial management, and is bordered by the Pacific Ocean and by Hood Canal; or

(f) Meets all of the following criteria:

(i) Has a population greater than forty thousand but fewer than eighty thousand;

(ii) Has an average level of unemployment for the preceding three years that exceeds the average state unemployment for those years by twenty percent; and

(iii) Is located in the Interstate 5 or Interstate 90 corridor.

(6) In order to identify and approve locations for industrial land banks, the county shall take action to designate one or more industrial land banks and adopt conforming regulations as provided by subsection (2) of this section on or before the last date to complete that county's next periodic review under \*RCW 36.70A.130(4) that occurs prior to December 31, 2016. The authority to take action to designate

a land bank area in the comprehensive plan expires if not acted upon by the county within the time frame provided in this section. Once a land bank area has been identified in the county's comprehensive plan, the authority of the county to process a master plan or site projects within an approved master plan does not expire.

(7) Any county seeking to designate an industrial land bank under this section must:

(a) Provide countywide notice, in conformity with RCW 36.70A.035, of the intent to designate an industrial land bank. Notice must be published in a newspaper or newspapers of general circulation reasonably likely to reach subscribers in all geographic areas of the county. Notice must be provided not less than thirty days prior to commencement of consideration by the county legislative body; and

(b) Make a written determination of the criteria and rationale used by the legislative body as the basis for siting an industrial land bank under this chapter.

(8) Any location included in an industrial land bank pursuant to section 2, chapter 289, Laws of 1998, section 1, chapter 402, Laws of 1997, and section 2, chapter 167, Laws of 1996 shall remain available for major industrial development according to this section as long as the requirements of this section continue to be satisfied. [2014 c 149 § 1; 2007 c 433 § 1; 2004 c 208 § 1; 2003 c 88 § 1; 2002 c 306 § 1; 2001 c 326 § 1; 1998 c 289 § 2; 1997 c 402 § 1; 1996 c 167 § 2.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 36.70A.130 was amended by 2020 c 113 § 1, deleting subsection (4).

**Findings—Purpose—1998 c 289:** "The legislature finds that to fulfill the economic development goal of this chapter, it is beneficial to expand the limited authorization for pilot projects for identifying locations for major industrial activity in advance of specific proposals by an applicant. The legislature further finds that land bank availability may provide economically disadvantaged counties the opportunity to attract new industrial activity by offering expeditious siting and therefore promote a community's economic health and vitality. The purpose of this act is to authorize and evaluate additional pilot projects for major industrial activity in economically disadvantaged counties." [1998 c 289 § 1.]

**Findings—Purpose—1996 c 167:** "In 1995 the legislature addressed the demand for siting of major industrial facilities by passage of Engrossed Senate Bill No. 5019, implementing a process for siting such activities outside urban growth areas. The legislature recognizes that the 1995 act requires consideration of numerous factors necessary to ensure that the community can reasonably accommodate a major industrial development outside an urban growth area.

The legislature finds that the existing case-by-case procedure for evaluating and approving such a site under the 1995 act may operate to a community's economic disadvantage when a firm, for business reasons, must make a business location decision expeditiously. The legislature therefore finds that it would be useful to authorize, on a limited basis, and evaluate a process for identifying locations for major industrial activity in advance of specific proposals by an applicant.

It is the purpose of this act (1) to authorize a pilot project under which a bank of major industrial development locations outside urban growth areas is created for use in expeditiously siting such a development; (2) to evaluate the impact of this process on the county's compliance with chapter 36.70A RCW; and (3) to encourage consolidation and planning, and environmental review procedures under chapter 36.70B RCW." [1996 c 167 § 1.]

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

**36.70A.368 Major industrial developments—Master planned locations—Reclaimed surface coal mine sites.** (1) In addition to the major industrial development allowed under RCW 36.70A.365 and 36.70A.367, a county planning under RCW 36.70A.040 that meets the criteria in subsection (2) of this section may establish, in consultation with cities

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consistent with RCW 36.70A.210, a process for designating a master planned location for major industrial activity outside urban growth areas on lands formerly used or designated for surface coal mining and supporting uses. Once a master planned location is designated, it shall be considered an urban growth area retained for purposes of promoting major industrial activity.

(2) This section applies to a county that, at the time the process is established in subsection (1) of this section, had a surface coal mining operation in excess of three thousand acres that ceased operation after July 1, 2006, and that is located within fifteen miles of the Interstate 5 corridor.

(3) Designation of a master planned location for major industrial activities is an amendment to the comprehensive plan adopted under RCW 36.70A.070, except that RCW 36.70A.130(2) does not apply so that designation of master planned locations may be considered at any time. The process established under subsection (1) of this section for designating a master planned location for one or more major industrial activities must include, but is not limited to, the following comprehensive plan policy criteria:

(a) The master planned location must be located on lands: Formerly used or designated for surface coal mining and supporting uses; that consist of an aggregation of land of one thousand or more acres, which is not required to be contiguous; and that are suitable for manufacturing, industrial, or commercial businesses;

(b) New infrastructure is provided for; and

(c) Environmental review of a proposed designation of a master planned location must be at the programmatic level, as long as the environmental review of a proposed designation that is being reviewed concurrent with a proposed major industrial activity is at the project level.

(4) Approval of a specific major industrial activity proposed for a master planned location designated under this section is through a local master plan process and does not require further comprehensive plan amendment. The process for reviewing and approving a specific major industrial activity proposed for a master planned location designated under this section must include the following criteria in adopted development regulations:

(a) The site consists of one hundred or more acres of land formerly used or designated for surface coal mining and supporting uses that has been or will be reclaimed as land suitable for industrial development;

(b) Urban growth will not occur in adjacent nonurban areas;

(c) Environmental review of a specific proposed major industrial activity must be conducted as required in chapter 43.21C RCW. Environmental review may be processed as a planned action, as long as it meets the requirements of \*RCW 43.21C.031; and

(d) Commercial development within a master planned location must be directly related to manufacturing or industrial uses. Commercial uses shall not exceed ten percent of the total gross floor area of buildings or facilities in the development.

(5) Final approval of the designation of a master planned location designated under subsection (3) of this section is subject to appeal under this chapter. Approval of a specific

major industrial activity under subsection (4) of this section is subject to appeal under chapter 36.70C RCW.

(6) RCW 36.70A.365 and 36.70A.367 do not apply to the designation of master planned locations or the review and approval of specific major industrial activities under this section. [2007 c 194 § 1.]

**\*Reviser's note:** The requirements for a planned action were moved by 2012 1st sp.s. c 1 from RCW 43.21C.031 to RCW 43.21C.440.

**36.70A.370 Protection of private property.** (1) The state attorney general shall establish by October 1, 1991, an orderly, consistent process, including a checklist if appropriate, that better enables state agencies and local governments to evaluate proposed regulatory or administrative actions to assure that such actions do not result in an unconstitutional taking of private property. It is not the purpose of this section to expand or reduce the scope of private property protections provided in the state and federal Constitutions. The attorney general shall review and update the process at least on an annual basis to maintain consistency with changes in case law.

(2) Local governments that are required or choose to plan under RCW 36.70A.040 and state agencies shall utilize the process established by subsection (1) of this section to assure that proposed regulatory or administrative actions do not result in an unconstitutional taking of private property.

(3) The attorney general, in consultation with the Washington state bar association, shall develop a continuing education course to implement this section.

(4) The process used by government agencies shall be protected by attorney client privilege. Nothing in this section grants a private party the right to seek judicial relief requiring compliance with the provisions of this section. [1991 sp.s. c 32 § 18.]

**36.70A.380 Extension of designation date.** The department may extend the date by which a county or city is required to designate agricultural lands, forestlands, mineral resource lands, and critical areas under RCW 36.70A.170, or the date by which a county or city is required to protect such lands and critical areas under RCW 36.70A.060, if the county or city demonstrates that it is proceeding in an orderly fashion, and is making a good faith effort, to meet these requirements. An extension may be for up to an additional one hundred eighty days. The length of an extension shall be based on the difficulty of the effort to conform with these requirements. [1991 sp.s. c 32 § 39.]

**36.70A.385 Environmental planning pilot projects.** (1) The legislature intends to determine whether the environmental review process mandated under chapter 43.21C RCW may be enhanced and simplified, and coordination improved, when applied to comprehensive plans mandated by this chapter. The department shall undertake pilot projects on environmental review to determine if the review process can be improved by fostering more coordination and eliminating duplicative environmental analysis which is made to assist decision makers approving comprehensive plans pursuant to this chapter. Such pilot projects should be designed and scoped to consider cumulative impacts resulting from plan decisions, plan impacts on environmental quality, impacts on

adjacent jurisdictions, and similar factors in sufficient depth to simplify the analysis of subsequent specific projects being carried out pursuant to the approved plan.

(2) The legislature hereby authorizes the department to establish, in cooperation with business, industry, cities, counties, and other interested parties, at least two but not more than four pilot projects, one of which shall be with a county, on enhanced draft and final nonproject environmental analysis of comprehensive plans prepared pursuant to this chapter, for the purposes outlined in subsection (1) of this section. The department may select appropriate geographic subareas within a comprehensive plan if that will best serve the purposes of this section and meet the requirements of chapter 43.21C RCW.

(3) An enhanced draft and final nonproject environmental analysis prepared pursuant to this section shall follow the rules adopted pursuant to chapter 43.21C RCW.

(4) Not later than December 31, 1993, the department shall evaluate the overall effectiveness of the pilot projects under this section regarding preparing enhanced nonproject environmental analysis for the approval process of comprehensive plans and shall:

(a) Provide an interim report of its findings to the legislature with such recommendations as may be appropriate, including the need, if any, for further legislation;

(b) Consider adoption of any further rules or guidelines as may be appropriate to assist counties and cities in meeting requirements of chapter 43.21C RCW when considering comprehensive plans; and

(c) Prepare and circulate to counties and cities such instructional manuals or other information derived from the pilot projects as will assist all counties and cities in meeting the requirements and objectives of chapter 43.21C RCW in the most expeditious and efficient manner in the process of considering comprehensive plans pursuant to this chapter. [1998 c 245 § 30; 1995 c 399 § 43; 1991 sp.s. c 32 § 20.]

**36.70A.390 Moratoria, interim zoning controls—Public hearing—Limitation on length—Exceptions.** A county or city governing body that adopts a moratorium, interim zoning map, interim zoning ordinance, or interim official control without holding a public hearing on the proposed moratorium, interim zoning map, interim zoning ordinance, or interim official control, shall hold a public hearing on the adopted moratorium, interim zoning map, interim zoning ordinance, or interim official control within at least sixty days of its adoption, whether or not the governing body received a recommendation on the matter from the planning commission or department. If the governing body does not adopt findings of fact justifying its action before this hearing, then the governing body shall do so immediately after this public hearing. A moratorium, interim zoning map, interim zoning ordinance, or interim official control adopted under this section may be effective for not longer than six months, but may be effective for up to one year if a work plan is developed for related studies providing for such a longer period. A moratorium, interim zoning map, interim zoning ordinance, or interim official control may be renewed for one or more six-month periods if a subsequent public hearing is held and findings of fact are made prior to each renewal.

This section does not apply to the designation of critical areas, agricultural lands, forestlands, and mineral resource lands, under RCW 36.70A.170, and the conservation of these lands and protection of these areas under RCW 36.70A.060, prior to such actions being taken in a comprehensive plan adopted under RCW 36.70A.070 and implementing development regulations adopted under RCW 36.70A.120, if a public hearing is held on such proposed actions. This section does not apply to ordinances or development regulations adopted by a city that prohibit building permit applications for or the construction of transitional housing or permanent supportive housing in any zones in which residential dwelling units or hotels are allowed or prohibit building permit applications for or the construction of indoor emergency shelters and indoor emergency housing in any zones in which hotels are allowed. [2021 c 254 § 5; 1992 c 207 § 6.]

**36.70A.400 Accessory apartments.** Any local government, as defined in RCW 43.63A.215, that is planning under this chapter shall comply with RCW 43.63A.215(3). [1993 c 478 § 11.]

**36.70A.410 Treatment of residential structures occupied by persons with handicaps.** No county or city that plans or elects to plan under this chapter may enact or maintain an ordinance, development regulation, zoning regulation or official control, policy, or administrative practice which treats a residential structure occupied by persons with handicaps differently than a similar residential structure occupied by a family or other unrelated individuals. As used in this section, "handicaps" are as defined in the federal fair housing amendments act of 1988 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 3602). [1993 c 478 § 23.]

**36.70A.420 Transportation projects—Findings—Intent.** The legislature recognizes that there are major transportation projects that affect multiple jurisdictions as to economic development, fiscal influence, environmental consequences, land use implications, and mobility of people and goods. The legislature further recognizes that affected jurisdictions have important interests that must be addressed, and that these jurisdictions' present environmental planning and permitting authority may result in multiple local permits and other requirements being specified for the projects.

The legislature finds that the present permitting system may result in segmented and sequential decisions by local governments that do not optimally serve all the parties with an interest in the decisions. The present system may also make more difficult achieving the consistency among plans and actions that is an important aspect of this chapter.

It is the intent of the legislature to provide for more efficiency and equity in the decisions of local governments regarding major transportation projects by encouraging coordination or consolidation of the processes for reviewing environmental planning and permitting requirements for those projects. The legislature intends that local governments coordinate their regulatory decisions by considering together the range of local, state, and federal requirements for major transportation projects. Nothing in RCW 36.70A.420 or 36.70A.430 alters the authority of cities or counties under any other planning or permitting statute. [1994 c 258 § 1.]

(2022 Ed.)

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

**36.70A.430 Transportation projects—Collaborative review process.** For counties engaged in planning under this chapter, there shall be established by December 31, 1994, a collaborative process to review and coordinate state and local permits for all transportation projects that cross more than one city or county boundary. This process shall at a minimum, establish a mechanism among affected cities and counties to designate a permit coordinating agency to facilitate multijurisdictional review and approval of such transportation projects. [1994 c 258 § 2.]

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

**36.70A.450 Family day-care provider's home facility—County or city may not prohibit in residential or commercial area—Conditions.** (1) Except as provided in subsections (2) and (3) of this section, no county or city may enact, enforce, or maintain an ordinance, development regulation, zoning regulation, or official control, policy, or administrative practice that prohibits the use of a residential dwelling, located in an area zoned for residential or commercial use, as a family day-care provider's home facility.

(2) A county or city may require that the facility: (a) Comply with all building, fire, safety, health code, and business licensing requirements; (b) conform to lot size, building size, setbacks, and lot coverage standards applicable to the zoning district except if the structure is a legal nonconforming structure; (c) is certified by the department of children, youth, and families licensor as providing a safe passenger loading area; (d) include signage, if any, that conforms to applicable regulations; and (e) limit hours of operations to facilitate neighborhood compatibility, while also providing appropriate opportunity for persons who use family day-care and who work a nonstandard work shift.

(3) A county or city may also require that the family day-care provider, before state licensing, require proof of written notification by the provider that the immediately adjoining property owners have been informed of the intent to locate and maintain such a facility. If a dispute arises between neighbors and the family day-care provider over licensing requirements, the licensor may provide a forum to resolve the dispute.

(4) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit a county or city from imposing zoning conditions on the establishment and maintenance of a family day-care provider's home in an area zoned for residential or commercial use, so long as such conditions are no more restrictive than conditions imposed on other residential dwellings in the same zone and the establishment of such facilities is not precluded. As used in this section, "family day-care provider" is as defined in RCW 43.216.010. [2018 c 58 § 22; 2007 c 17 § 13; 2003 c 286 § 5; 1995 c 49 § 3; 1994 c 273 § 17.]

**Effective date—2018 c 58:** See note following RCW 28A.655.080.

**36.70A.460 Watershed restoration projects—Permit processing—Fish habitat enhancement project.** (1) A permit required under this chapter for a watershed restoration project as defined in RCW 89.08.460 shall be processed in compliance with RCW 89.08.450 through 89.08.510.

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(2) A fish habitat enhancement project meeting the criteria of RCW 77.55.181 shall be reviewed and approved according to the provisions of RCW 77.55.181. [2014 c 120 § 15; 2003 c 39 § 21; 1998 c 249 § 11; 1995 c 378 § 11.]

**Findings—Purpose—Report—Effective date—1998 c 249:** See notes following RCW 77.55.181.

**36.70A.470 Project review—Amendment suggestion procedure—Definitions.** (1) Project review, which shall be conducted pursuant to the provisions of chapter 36.70B RCW, shall be used to make individual project decisions, not land use planning decisions. If, during project review, a county or city planning under RCW 36.70A.040 identifies deficiencies in plans or regulations:

(a) The permitting process shall not be used as a comprehensive planning process;

(b) Project review shall continue; and

(c) The identified deficiencies shall be docketed for possible future plan or development regulation amendments.

(2) Each county and city planning under RCW 36.70A.040 shall include in its development regulations a procedure for any interested person, including applicants, citizens, hearing examiners, and staff of other agencies, to suggest plan or development regulation amendments. The suggested amendments shall be docketed and considered on at least an annual basis, consistent with the provisions of RCW 36.70A.130.

(3) For purposes of this section, a deficiency in a comprehensive plan or development regulation refers to the absence of required or potentially desirable contents of a comprehensive plan or development regulation. It does not refer to whether a development regulation addresses a project's probable specific adverse environmental impacts which the permitting agency could mitigate in the normal project review process.

(4) For purposes of this section, docketing refers to compiling and maintaining a list of suggested changes to the comprehensive plan or development regulations in a manner that will ensure such suggested changes will be considered by the county or city and will be available for review by the public. [1995 c 347 § 102.]

**Findings—Intent—1995 c 347 § 102:** "The legislature finds that during project review, a county or city planning under RCW 36.70A.040 is likely to discover the need to make various improvements in comprehensive plans and development regulations. There is no current requirement or process for applicants, citizens, or agency staff to ensure that these improvements are considered in the plan review process. The legislature also finds that in the past environmental review and permitting of proposed projects have been used to reopen and make land use planning decisions that should have been made through the comprehensive planning process, in part because agency staff and hearing examiners have not been able to ensure consideration of all issues in the local planning process. The legislature further finds that, while plans and regulations should be improved and refined over time, it is unfair to penalize applicants that have submitted permit applications that meet current requirements. It is the intent of the legislature in enacting RCW 36.70A.470 to establish a means by which cities and counties will docket suggested plan or development regulation amendments and ensure their consideration during the planning process." [1995 c 347 § 101.]

**Finding—1995 c 347:** "The legislature recognizes by this act that the growth management act is a fundamental building block of regulatory reform. The state and local governments have invested considerable resources in an act that should serve as the integrating framework for all other land-use related laws. The growth management act provides the means to effectively combine certainty for development decisions, reasonable envi-

ronmental protection, long-range planning for cost-effective infrastructure, and orderly growth and development." [1995 c 347 § 1.]

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

**36.70A.480 Shorelines of the state.** (1) For shorelines of the state, the goals and policies of the shoreline management act as set forth in RCW 90.58.020 are added as one of the goals of this chapter as set forth in RCW 36.70A.020 without creating an order of priority among the fourteen goals. The goals and policies of a shoreline master program for a county or city approved under chapter 90.58 RCW shall be considered an element of the county or city's comprehensive plan. All other portions of the shoreline master program for a county or city adopted under chapter 90.58 RCW, including use regulations, shall be considered a part of the county or city's development regulations.

(2) The shoreline master program shall be adopted pursuant to the procedures of chapter 90.58 RCW rather than the goals, policies, and procedures set forth in this chapter for the adoption of a comprehensive plan or development regulations.

(3)(a) The policies, goals, and provisions of chapter 90.58 RCW and applicable guidelines shall be the sole basis for determining compliance of a shoreline master program with this chapter except as the shoreline master program is required to comply with the internal consistency provisions of RCW 36.70A.070, 36.70A.040(4), 35.63.125, and 35A.63.105.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in (c) of this subsection, development regulations adopted under this chapter to protect critical areas within shorelines of the state apply within shorelines of the state until the department of ecology approves one of the following: A comprehensive master program update, as defined in RCW 90.58.030; a segment of a master program relating to critical areas, as provided in RCW 90.58.090; or a new or amended master program approved by the department of ecology on or after March 1, 2002, as provided in RCW 90.58.080. The adoption or update of development regulations to protect critical areas under this chapter prior to department of ecology approval of a master program update as provided in this subsection is not a comprehensive or segment update to the master program.

(c)(i) Until the department of ecology approves a master program or segment of a master program as provided in (b) of this subsection, a use or structure legally located within shorelines of the state that was established or vested on or before the effective date of the local government's development regulations to protect critical areas may continue as a conforming use and may be redeveloped or modified if: (A) The redevelopment or modification is consistent with the local government's master program; and (B) the local government determines that the proposed redevelopment or modification will result in no net loss of shoreline ecological functions. The local government may waive this requirement if the redevelopment or modification is consistent with the master program and the local government's development regulations to protect critical areas.

(ii) For purposes of this subsection (3)(c), an agricultural activity that does not expand the area being used for the agricultural activity is not a redevelopment or modification.



"Agricultural activity," as used in this subsection (3)(c), has the same meaning as defined in RCW 90.58.065.

(d) Upon department of ecology approval of a shoreline master program or critical area segment of a shoreline master program, critical areas within shorelines of the state are protected under chapter 90.58 RCW and are not subject to the procedural and substantive requirements of this chapter, except as provided in subsection (6) of this section. Nothing in chapter 321, Laws of 2003 or chapter 107, Laws of 2010 is intended to affect whether or to what extent agricultural activities, as defined in RCW 90.58.065, are subject to chapter 36.70A RCW.

(e) The provisions of RCW 36.70A.172 shall not apply to the adoption or subsequent amendment of a local government's shoreline master program and shall not be used to determine compliance of a local government's shoreline master program with chapter 90.58 RCW and applicable guidelines. Nothing in this section, however, is intended to limit or change the quality of information to be applied in protecting critical areas within shorelines of the state, as required by chapter 90.58 RCW and applicable guidelines.

(4) Shoreline master programs shall provide a level of protection to critical areas located within shorelines of the state that assures no net loss of shoreline ecological functions necessary to sustain shoreline natural resources as defined by department of ecology guidelines adopted pursuant to RCW 90.58.060.

(5) Shorelines of the state shall not be considered critical areas under this chapter except to the extent that specific areas located within shorelines of the state qualify for critical area designation based on the definition of critical areas provided by \*RCW 36.70A.030(5) and have been designated as such by a local government pursuant to RCW 36.70A.060(2).

(6) If a local jurisdiction's master program does not include land necessary for buffers for critical areas that occur within shorelines of the state, as authorized by \*\*RCW 90.58.030(2)(f), then the local jurisdiction shall continue to regulate those critical areas and their required buffers pursuant to RCW 36.70A.060(2). [2010 c 107 § 2; 2003 c 321 § 5; 1995 c 347 § 104.]

**Reviser's note:** \*(1) RCW 36.70A.030 was alphabetized pursuant to RCW 1.08.015(2)(k), changing subsection (5) to subsection (6).

\*\*\*(2) RCW 90.58.030 was alphabetized pursuant to RCW 1.08.015(2)(k), changing subsection (2)(f) to subsection (2)(d).

**Intent—2010 c 107:** "(1) The legislature recognizes that Engrossed Substitute House Bill No. 1933, enacted as chapter 321, Laws of 2003, modified the relationship between the shoreline management act and the growth management act. The legislature recognizes also that its 2003 efforts, while intended to create greater operational clarity between these significant shoreline and land use acts, have been the subject of differing, and occasionally contrary, legal interpretations. This act is intended to affirm and clarify the legislature's intent relating to the provisions of chapter 321, Laws of 2003.

(2) The legislature affirms that development regulations adopted under the growth management act to protect critical areas apply within shorelines of the state as provided in section 2 of this act.

(3) The legislature affirms that the adoption or update of critical area regulations under the growth management act is not automatically an update to the shoreline master program.

(4) The legislature intends for this act to be remedial and curative in nature, and to apply retroactively to July 27, 2003." [2010 c 107 § 1.]

**Finding—Intent—2003 c 321:** See note following RCW 90.58.030.

**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)

**36.70A.481 Construction—Chapter 347, Laws of 1995.** Nothing in RCW 36.70A.480 shall be construed to authorize a county or city to adopt regulations applicable to shorelands as defined in RCW 90.58.030 that are inconsistent with the provisions of chapter 90.58 RCW. [1995 c 382 § 13.]

**36.70A.490 Growth management planning and environmental review fund—Established.** The growth management planning and environmental review fund is hereby established in the state treasury. Moneys may be placed in the fund from the proceeds of bond sales, tax revenues, budget transfers, federal appropriations, gifts, or any other lawful source. Moneys in the fund may be spent only after appropriation. Moneys in the fund shall be used to make grants or loans to local governments for the purposes set forth in RCW 43.21C.240, 43.21C.031, 36.70A.500, 36.70A.600, for costs associated with RCW 36.70A.610, and to cover costs associated with the adoption of optional elements of comprehensive plans consistent with RCW 43.21C.420. Any payment of either principal or interest, or both, derived from loans made from this fund must be deposited into the fund. [2019 c 348 § 8; 2012 1st sp.s. c 1 § 309; 1995 c 347 § 115.]

**Finding—Intent—Limitation—Jurisdiction/authority of Indian tribe under act—2012 1st sp.s. c 1:** See notes following RCW 77.55.011.

**Authority of department of fish and wildlife under act—2012 1st sp.s. c 1:** See note following RCW 76.09.040.

**Findings—Purpose—1995 c 347 § 115:** "(1) The legislature finds that:

(a) As of July 23, 1995, twenty-nine counties and two hundred eight cities are conducting comprehensive planning under the growth management act, chapter 36.70A RCW, which together comprise over ninety percent of the state's population;

(b) Comprehensive plans for many of the jurisdictions were due by July 1, 1994, and the remaining jurisdictions must complete plans under due dates ranging from October 1994 to September 1997;

(c) Concurrently with these comprehensive planning activities, local governments must conduct several other planning requirements under the growth management act, such as the adoption of capital facilities plans, urban growth areas, and development regulations;

(d) Local governments must also comply with the state environmental policy act, chapter 43.21C RCW, in the development of comprehensive plans and development regulations;

(e) The combined activities of comprehensive planning and the state environmental policy act present a serious fiscal burden upon local governments; and

(f) Detailed environmental analysis integrated with comprehensive plans, subarea plans, and development regulations will facilitate planning for and managing growth, allow greater protection of the environment, and benefit both the general public and private property owners.

(2) In order to provide financial assistance to cities and counties planning under chapter 36.70A RCW and to improve the usefulness of plans and integrated environmental analyses, the legislature has created the fund described in RCW 36.70A.490." [1995 c 347 § 114.]

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

**36.70A.500 Growth management planning and environmental review fund—Awarding of grant or loan—Procedures.** (1) The department of commerce shall provide management services for the growth management planning and environmental review fund created by RCW 36.70A.490. The department shall establish procedures for fund management. The department shall encourage participation in the grant or loan program by other public agencies. The department shall develop the grant or loan criteria, monitor the grant or loan program, and select grant or loan recipients in

consultation with state agencies participating in the grant or loan program through the provision of grant or loan funds or technical assistance.

(2) A grant or loan may be awarded to a county or city that is required to or has chosen to plan under RCW 36.70A.040 and that is qualified pursuant to this section. The grant or loan shall be provided to assist a county or city in paying for the cost of preparing an environmental analysis under chapter 43.21C RCW, that is integrated with a comprehensive plan, subarea plan, plan element, countywide planning policy, development regulation, monitoring program, or other planning activity adopted under or implementing this chapter that:

(a) Improves the process for project permit review while maintaining environmental quality; or

(b) Encourages use of plans and information developed for purposes of complying with this chapter to satisfy requirements of other state programs.

(3) In order to qualify for a grant or loan, a county or city shall:

(a) Demonstrate that it will prepare an environmental analysis pursuant to chapter 43.21C RCW and subsection (2) of this section that is integrated with a comprehensive plan, subarea plan, plan element, countywide planning policy, development regulations, monitoring program, or other planning activity adopted under or implementing this chapter;

(b) Address environmental impacts and consequences, alternatives, and mitigation measures in sufficient detail to allow the analysis to be adopted in whole or in part by applicants for development permits within the geographic area analyzed in the plan;

(c) Demonstrate that procedures for review of development permit applications will be based on the integrated plans and environmental analysis;

(d) Include mechanisms to monitor the consequences of growth as it occurs in the plan area and to use the resulting data to update the plan, policy, or implementing mechanisms and associated environmental analysis;

(e) Demonstrate substantial progress towards compliance with the requirements of this chapter. A county or city that is more than six months out of compliance with a requirement of this chapter is deemed not to be making substantial progress towards compliance; and

(f) Provide local funding, which may include financial participation by the private sector.

(4) In awarding grants or loans, the department shall give preference to proposals that include one or more of the following elements:

(a) Financial participation by the private sector, or a public/private partnering approach;

(b) Identification and monitoring of system capacities for elements of the built environment, and to the extent appropriate, of the natural environment;

(c) Coordination with state, federal, and tribal governments in project review;

(d) Furtherance of important state objectives related to economic development, protection of areas of statewide significance, and siting of essential public facilities;

(e) Programs to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the permitting process by greater reliance on integrated plans and prospective environmental analysis;

(f) Programs for effective citizen and neighborhood involvement that contribute to greater likelihood that planning decisions can be implemented with community support;

(g) Programs to identify environmental impacts and establish mitigation measures that provide effective means to satisfy concurrency requirements and establish project consistency with the plans; or

(h) Environmental review that addresses the impacts of increased density or intensity of comprehensive plans, subarea plans, or receiving areas designated by a city or town under the regional transfer of development rights program in chapter 43.362 RCW.

(5) If the local funding includes funding provided by other state functional planning programs, including open space planning and watershed or basin planning, the functional plan shall be integrated into and be consistent with the comprehensive plan.

(6) State agencies shall work with grant or loan recipients to facilitate state and local project review processes that will implement the projects receiving grants or loans under this section. [2012 1st sp.s. c 1 § 310; 1997 c 429 § 28; 1995 c 347 § 116.]

**Finding—Intent—Limitation—Jurisdiction/authority of Indian tribe under act—2012 1st sp.s. c 1:** See notes following RCW 77.55.011.

**Authority of department of fish and wildlife under act—2012 1st sp.s. c 1:** See note following RCW 76.09.040.

**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)

**36.70A.510 General aviation airports.** Adoption and amendment of comprehensive plan provisions and development regulations under this chapter affecting a general aviation airport are subject to RCW 36.70.547. [1996 c 239 § 5.]

**36.70A.520 National historic towns—Designation.** Counties that are required or choose to plan under RCW 36.70A.040 may authorize and designate national historic towns that may constitute urban growth outside of urban growth areas as limited by this section. A national historic town means a town or district that has been designated a national historic landmark by the United States secretary of the interior pursuant to 16 U.S.C. 461 et seq., as amended, based on its significant historic urban features, and which historically contained a mix of residential and commercial or industrial uses.

A national historic town may be designated under this chapter by a county only if:

(1) The comprehensive plan specifically identifies policies to guide the preservation, redevelopment, infill, and development of the town;

(2) The comprehensive plan and development regulations specify a mix of residential, commercial, industrial, tourism-recreation, waterfront, or other historical uses, along with other uses, infrastructure, and services which promote the economic sustainability of the town and its historic character. To promote historic preservation, redevelopment, and an economically sustainable community, the town also may include the types of uses that existed at times during its history and is not limited to those present at the time of the historic designation. Portions of the town may include urban

densities if they reflect density patterns that existed at times during its history;

(3) The boundaries of the town include all of the area contained in the national historic landmark designation, along with any additional limited areas determined by the county as appropriate for transitional uses and buffering. Provisions for transitional uses and buffering must be compatible with the town's historic character and must protect the existing natural and built environment under the requirements of this chapter within and beyond the additional limited areas, including visual compatibility. The comprehensive plan and development regulations must include restrictions that preclude new urban or suburban land uses in the vicinity of the town, including the additional limited areas, except in areas otherwise designated for urban growth under this chapter;

(4) The development regulations provide for architectural controls and review procedures applicable to the rehabilitation, redevelopment, infill, or new development to promote the historic character of the town;

(5) The county finds that the national historic town is consistent with the development regulations established for critical areas; and

(6) On-site and off-site infrastructure impacts are fully considered and mitigated concurrent with development.

A county may allocate a portion of its twenty-year population projection, prepared by the office of financial management, to the national historic town corresponding to the projected number of permanent residents within the national historic town. [2000 c 196 § 1.]

**36.70A.530 Land use development incompatible with military installation not allowed—Revision of comprehensive plans and development regulations.** (1) Military installations are of particular importance to the economic health of the state of Washington and it is a priority of the state to protect the land surrounding our military installations from incompatible development.

(2) Comprehensive plans, amendments to comprehensive plans, development regulations, or amendments to development regulations adopted under this section shall be adopted or amended concurrent with the scheduled update provided in RCW 36.70A.130, except that counties and cities identified in \*RCW 36.70A.130(4)(a) shall comply with this section on or before December 1, 2005, and shall thereafter comply with this section on a schedule consistent with \*RCW 36.70A.130(4).

(3) A comprehensive plan, amendment to a plan, a development regulation or amendment to a development regulation, should not allow development in the vicinity of a military installation that is incompatible with the installation's ability to carry out its mission requirements. A city or county may find that an existing comprehensive plan or development regulations are compatible with the installation's ability to carry out its mission requirements.

(4) As part of the requirements of RCW 36.70A.070(1) each county and city planning under RCW 36.70A.040 that has a federal military installation, other than a reserve center, that employs one hundred or more personnel and is operated by the United States department of defense within or adjacent to its border, shall notify the commander of the military installation of the county's or city's intent to amend its com-

prehensive plan or development regulations to address lands adjacent to military installations to ensure those lands are protected from incompatible development.

(5)(a) The notice provided under subsection (4) of this section shall request from the commander of the military installation a written recommendation and supporting facts relating to the use of land being considered in the adoption of a comprehensive plan or an amendment to a plan. The notice shall provide sixty days for a response from the commander. If the commander does not submit a response to such request within sixty days, the local government may presume that implementation of the proposed plan or amendment will not have any adverse effect on the operation of the installation.

(b) When a county or city intends to amend its development regulations to be consistent with the comprehensive plan elements addressed in (a) of this subsection, notice shall be provided to the commander of the military installation consistent with subsection (4) of this section. The notice shall request from the commander of the military installation a written recommendation and supporting facts relating to the use of land being considered in the amendment to the development regulations. The notice shall provide sixty days for a response from the commander to the requesting government. If the commander does not submit a response to such request within sixty days, the local government may presume that implementation of the proposed development regulation or amendment will not have any adverse effect on the operation of the installation. [2004 c 28 § 2.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 36.70A.130 was amended by 2020 c 113 § 1, deleting subsection (4).

**Finding—2004 c 28:** "The United States military is a vital component of the Washington state economy. The protection of military installations from incompatible development of land is essential to the health of Washington's economy and quality of life. Incompatible development of land close to a military installation reduces the ability of the military to complete its mission or to undertake new missions, and increases its cost of operating. The department of defense evaluates continued utilization of military installations based upon their operating costs, their ability to carry out missions, and their ability to undertake new missions." [2004 c 28 § 1.]

**36.70A.540 Affordable housing incentive programs—Low-income housing units—Tiny house communities.** (1)(a) Any city or county planning under RCW 36.70A.040 may enact or expand affordable housing incentive programs providing for the development of low-income housing units through development regulations or conditions on rezoning or permit decisions, or both, on one or more of the following types of development: Residential; commercial; industrial; or mixed-use. An affordable housing incentive program may include, but is not limited to, one or more of the following:

- (i) Density bonuses within the urban growth area;
- (ii) Height and bulk bonuses;
- (iii) Fee waivers or exemptions;
- (iv) Parking reductions; or
- (v) Expedited permitting.

(b) The city or county may enact or expand such programs whether or not the programs may impose a tax, fee, or charge on the development or construction of property.

(c) If a developer chooses not to participate in an optional affordable housing incentive program adopted and authorized under this section, a city, county, or town may not

condition, deny, or delay the issuance of a permit or development approval that is consistent with zoning and development standards on the subject property absent incentive provisions of this program.

(2) Affordable housing incentive programs enacted or expanded under this section shall comply with the following:

(a) The incentives or bonuses shall provide for the development of low-income housing units;

(b) Jurisdictions shall establish standards for low-income renter or owner occupancy housing, including income guidelines consistent with local housing needs, to assist low-income households that cannot afford market-rate housing. Low-income households are defined for renter and owner occupancy program purposes as follows:

(i) Rental housing units to be developed shall be affordable to and occupied by households with an income of fifty percent or less of the county median family income, adjusted for family size;

(ii) Owner occupancy housing units shall be affordable to and occupied by households with an income of eighty percent or less of the county median family income, adjusted for family size. The legislative authority of a jurisdiction, after holding a public hearing, may establish lower income levels; and

(iii) The legislative authority of a jurisdiction, after holding a public hearing, may also establish higher income levels for rental housing or for owner occupancy housing upon finding that higher income levels are needed to address local housing market conditions. The higher income level for rental housing may not exceed eighty percent of the county area median family income. The higher income level for owner occupancy housing may not exceed one hundred percent of the county area median family income. These established higher income levels are considered "low-income" for the purposes of this section;

(c) The jurisdiction shall establish a maximum rent level or sales price for each low-income housing unit developed under the terms of a program and may adjust these levels or prices based on the average size of the household expected to occupy the unit. For renter-occupied housing units, the total housing costs, including basic utilities as determined by the jurisdiction, may not exceed thirty percent of the income limit for the low-income housing unit;

(d) Where a developer is utilizing a housing incentive program authorized under this section to develop market rate housing, and is developing low-income housing to satisfy the requirements of the housing incentive program, the low-income housing units shall be provided in a range of sizes comparable to those units that are available to other residents. To the extent practicable, the number of bedrooms in low-income units must be in the same proportion as the number of bedrooms in units within the entire development. The low-income units shall generally be distributed throughout the development and have substantially the same functionality as the other units in the development;

(e) Low-income housing units developed under an affordable housing incentive program shall be committed to continuing affordability for at least fifty years. A local government, however, may accept payments in lieu of continuing affordability. The program shall include measures to enforce continuing affordability and income standards applicable to

low-income units constructed under this section that may include, but are not limited to, covenants, options, or other agreements to be executed and recorded by owners and developers;

(f) Programs authorized under subsection (1) of this section may apply to part or all of a jurisdiction and different standards may be applied to different areas within a jurisdiction or to different types of development. Programs authorized under this section may be modified to meet local needs and may include provisions not expressly provided in this section or RCW 82.02.020;

(g) Low-income housing units developed under an affordable housing incentive program are encouraged to be provided within developments for which a bonus or incentive is provided. However, programs may allow units to be provided in a building located in the general area of the development for which a bonus or incentive is provided; and

(h) Affordable housing incentive programs may allow a payment of money or property in lieu of low-income housing units if the jurisdiction determines that the payment achieves a result equal to or better than providing the affordable housing on-site, as long as the payment does not exceed the approximate cost of developing the same number and quality of housing units that would otherwise be developed. Any city or county shall use these funds or property to support the development of low-income housing, including support provided through loans or grants to public or private owners or developers of housing.

(3) Affordable housing incentive programs enacted or expanded under this section may be applied within the jurisdiction to address the need for increased residential development, consistent with local growth management and housing policies, as follows:

(a) The jurisdiction shall identify certain land use designations within a geographic area where increased residential development will assist in achieving local growth management and housing policies;

(b) The jurisdiction shall provide increased residential development capacity through zoning changes, bonus densities, height and bulk increases, parking reductions, or other regulatory changes or other incentives;

(c) The jurisdiction shall determine that increased residential development capacity or other incentives can be achieved within the identified area, subject to consideration of other regulatory controls on development; and

(d) The jurisdiction may establish a minimum amount of affordable housing that must be provided by all residential developments being built under the revised regulations, consistent with the requirements of this section.

(4) To provide more affordable housing options, tiny house communities may be part of an incentive program permitted under this section. [2022 c 275 § 2; 2009 c 80 § 1; 2006 c 149 § 2.]

**Findings—Intent—2022 c 275:** "In 2019 the legislature enacted a statutory framework encouraging the construction of tiny houses and tiny house communities. These homes provide a unique opportunity in the affordable housing market. It is the objective of the legislature to facilitate more development of housing that people with lower incomes can own and remove barriers that would prevent the development of tiny houses and tiny house communities." [2022 c 275 § 1.]

**Construction—2022 c 275:** "This act shall be liberally construed to carry out its purposes and objectives." [2022 c 275 § 3.]

**Findings—2006 c 149:** "The legislature finds that as new market-rate housing developments are constructed and housing costs rise, there is a significant and growing number of low-income households that cannot afford market-rate housing in Washington state. The legislature finds that assistance to low-income households that cannot afford market-rate housing requires a broad variety of tools to address this serious, statewide problem. The legislature further finds that absent any incentives to provide low-income housing, market conditions will result in housing developments in many areas that lack units affordable to low-income households, circumstances that can cause adverse socioeconomic effects.

The legislature encourages cities, towns, and counties to enact or expand affordable housing incentive programs, including density bonuses and other incentives, to increase the availability of low-income housing for renter and owner occupancy that is located in largely market-rate housing developments throughout the community, consistent with local needs and adopted comprehensive plans. While this act establishes minimum standards for those cities, towns, and counties choosing to implement or expand upon an affordable housing incentive program, cities, towns, and counties are encouraged to enact programs that address local circumstances and conditions while simultaneously contributing to the statewide need for additional low-income housing." [2006 c 149 § 1.]

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

**36.70A.545 Increased density bonus for affordable housing located on property owned by a religious organization.** (1) Any city or county fully planning under this chapter must allow an increased density bonus consistent with local needs for any affordable housing development of any single-family or multifamily residence located on real property owned or controlled by a religious organization provided that:

(a) The affordable housing development is set aside for or occupied exclusively by low-income households;

(b) The affordable housing development is part of a lease or other binding obligation that requires the development to be used exclusively for affordable housing purposes for at least fifty years, even if the religious organization no longer owns the property; and

(c) The affordable housing development does not discriminate against any person who qualifies as a member of a low-income household based on race, creed, color, national origin, sex, veteran or military status, sexual orientation, or mental or physical disability; or otherwise act in violation of the federal fair housing amendments act of 1988 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 3601 et seq.).

(2) A city or county may develop policies to implement this section if it receives a request from a religious organization for an increased density bonus for an affordable housing development.

(3) An affordable housing development created by a religious institution within a city or county fully planning under RCW 36.70A.040 must be located within an urban growth area as defined in RCW 36.70A.110.

(4) The religious organization developing the affordable housing development must pay all fees, mitigation costs, and other charges required through the development of the affordable housing development.

(5) If applicable, the religious organization developing the affordable housing development should work with the local transit agency to ensure appropriate transit services are provided to the affordable housing development.

(6) This section applies to any religious organization rehabilitating an existing affordable housing development.

(7) For purposes of this section:

(a) "Affordable housing development" means a proposed or existing structure in which one hundred percent of all single-family or multifamily residential dwelling units within the development are set aside for or are occupied by low-income households at a sales price or rent amount that may not exceed thirty percent of the income limit for the low-income housing unit;

(b) "Low-income household" means a single person, family, or unrelated persons living together whose adjusted income is less than eighty percent of the median family income, adjusted for household size, for the county where the affordable housing development is located; and

(c) "Religious organization" has the same meaning as in RCW 36.01.290. [2019 c 218 § 3.]

**36.70A.550 Aquifer conservation zones.** (1) Any city coterminous with, and comprised only of, an island that relies solely on groundwater aquifers for its potable water source and does not have reasonable access to a potable water source outside its jurisdiction may designate one or more aquifer conservation zones.

Aquifer conservation zones may only be designated for the purpose of conserving and protecting potable water sources.

(2) Aquifer conservation zones may not be considered critical areas under this chapter except to the extent that specific areas located within aquifer conservation zones qualify for critical area designation and have been designated as such under RCW 36.70A.060(2).

(3) Any city may consider whether an area is within an aquifer conservation zone when determining the residential density of that particular area. The residential densities within conservation zones, in combination with other densities of the city, must be sufficient to accommodate projected population growth under RCW 36.70A.110.

(4) Nothing in this section may be construed to modify the population accommodation obligations required of jurisdictions under this chapter. [2007 c 159 § 1.]

**36.70A.570 Regulation of forest practices.** (1) Each county, city, and town assuming regulation of forest practices as provided in RCW 76.09.240 (1) and (2) shall adopt development regulations that:

(a) Protect public resources, as defined in RCW 76.09.020, from material damage or the potential for material damage;

(b) Require appropriate approvals for all phases of the conversion of forestlands, including clearing and grading;

(c) Are guided by the planning goals in RCW 36.70A.020 and by the purposes and policies of the forest practices act as set forth in RCW 76.09.010; and

(d) Are consistent with or supplement development regulations that protect critical areas pursuant to RCW 36.70A.060.

(2) If necessary, each county, city, or town that assumes regulation of forest practices under RCW 76.09.240 shall amend its comprehensive plan to ensure consistency between its comprehensive plan and development regulations.

(3) Before a county, city, or town may regulate forest practices under RCW 76.09.240 (1) and (2), it shall update its development regulations as required by RCW 36.70A.130

and, if applicable, RCW 36.70A.215. Forest practices regulations adopted under RCW 76.09.240 (1) and (2) may be adopted as part of the legislative action taken under RCW 36.70A.130 or 36.70A.215. [2007 c 236 § 2.]

**36.70A.590 Complying with requirements relating to surface and groundwater resources.** For the purposes of complying with the requirements of this chapter relating to surface and groundwater resources, a county or city may rely on or refer to applicable minimum instream flow rules adopted by the department of ecology under chapters 90.22 and 90.54 RCW. Development regulations must ensure that proposed water uses are consistent with RCW 90.44.050 and with applicable rules adopted pursuant to chapters 90.22 and 90.54 RCW when making decisions under RCW 19.27.097 and 58.17.110. [2018 c 1 § 102.]

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

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

**36.70A.600 Cities planning under RCW 36.70A.040—Increasing residential building capacity—Housing action plan authorized—Grant assistance.** (1) A city planning pursuant to RCW 36.70A.040 is encouraged to take the following actions in order to increase its residential building capacity:

(a) Authorize development in one or more areas of not fewer than five hundred acres that include at least one train station served by commuter rail or light rail with an average of at least fifty residential units per acre that require no more than an average of one on-site parking space per two bedrooms in the portions of multifamily zones that are located within the areas;

(b) Authorize development in one or more areas of not fewer than two hundred acres in cities with a population greater than forty thousand or not fewer than one hundred acres in cities with a population less than forty thousand that include at least one bus stop served by scheduled bus service of at least four times per hour for twelve or more hours per day with an average of at least twenty-five residential units per acre that require no more than an average of one on-site parking space per two bedrooms in portions of the multifamily zones that are located within the areas;

(c) Authorize at least one duplex, triplex, quadplex, sixplex, stacked flat, townhouse, or courtyard apartment on each parcel in one or more zoning districts that permit single-family residences unless a city documents a specific infrastructure of physical constraint that would make this requirement unfeasible for a particular parcel;

(d) Authorize a duplex, triplex, quadplex, sixplex, stacked flat, townhouse, or courtyard apartment on one or more parcels for which they are not currently authorized;

(e) Authorize cluster zoning or lot size averaging in all zoning districts that permit single-family residences;

(f) Adopt a subarea plan pursuant to RCW 43.21C.420;

(g) Adopt a planned action pursuant to RCW 43.21C.440(1)(b)(ii), except that an environmental impact statement pursuant to RCW 43.21C.030 is not required for such an action;

(h) Adopt increases in categorical exemptions pursuant to RCW 43.21C.229 for residential or mixed-use development;

(i) Adopt a form-based code in one or more zoning districts that permit residential uses. "Form-based code" means a land development regulation that uses physical form, rather than separation of use, as the organizing principle for the code;

(j) Authorize a duplex on each corner lot within all zoning districts that permit single-family residences;

(k) Allow for the division or redivision of land into the maximum number of lots through the short subdivision process provided in chapter 58.17 RCW;

(l) Authorize a minimum net density of six dwelling units per acre in all residential zones, where the residential development capacity will increase within the city. For purposes of this subsection, the calculation of net density does not include the square footage of areas that are otherwise prohibited from development, such as critical areas, the area of buffers around critical areas, and the area of roads and similar features;

(m) Create one or more zoning districts of medium density in which individual lots may be no larger than three thousand five hundred square feet and single-family residences may be no larger than one thousand two hundred square feet;

(n) Authorize accessory dwelling units in one or more zoning districts in which they are currently prohibited;

(o) Remove minimum residential parking requirements related to accessory dwelling units;

(p) Remove owner occupancy requirements related to accessory dwelling units;

(q) Adopt new square footage requirements related to accessory dwelling units that are less restrictive than existing square footage requirements related to accessory dwelling units;

(r) Adopt maximum allowable exemption levels in WAC 197-11-800(1) as it existed on June 11, 2020, or such subsequent date as may be provided by the department of ecology by rule, consistent with the purposes of this section;

(s) Adopt standards for administrative approval of final plats pursuant to RCW 58.17.100;

(t) Adopt ordinances authorizing administrative review of preliminary plats pursuant to RCW 58.17.095;

(u) Adopt other permit process improvements where it is demonstrated that the code, development regulation, or ordinance changes will result in a more efficient permit process for customers;

(v) Update use matrices and allowable use tables that eliminate conditional use permits and administrative conditional use permits for all housing types, including single-family homes, townhomes, multifamily housing, low-income housing, and senior housing, but excluding essential public facilities;

(w) Allow off-street parking to compensate for lack of on-street parking when private roads are utilized or a parking demand study shows that less parking is required for the project;

(x) Develop a local program that offers homeowners a combination of financing, design, permitting, or construction support to build accessory dwelling units. A city may condition this program on a requirement to provide the unit for affordable home ownership or rent the accessory dwelling unit for a defined period of time to either tenants in a housing subsidy program as defined in RCW 43.31.605(14) or to ten-

ants whose income is less than eighty percent of the city or county median family income. If the city includes an affordability requirement under the program, it must provide additional incentives, such as:

- (i) Density bonuses;
- (ii) Height and bulk bonuses;
- (iii) Fee waivers or exemptions;
- (iv) Parking reductions; or
- (v) Expedited permitting; and

(y) Develop a local program that offers homeowners a combination of financing, design, permitting, or construction support to convert a single-family home into a duplex, triplex, or quadplex where those housing types are authorized. A local government may condition this program on a requirement to provide a certain number of units for affordable home ownership or to rent a certain number of the newly created units for a defined period of time to either tenants in a housing subsidy program as defined in RCW 43.31.605(14) or to tenants whose income is less than eighty percent of the city or county median family income. If the city includes an affordability requirement, it must provide additional incentives, such as:

- (i) Density bonuses;
- (ii) Height and bulk bonuses;
- (iii) Fee waivers or exemptions;
- (iv) Parking reductions; or
- (v) Expedited permitting.

(2) A city planning pursuant to RCW 36.70A.040 may adopt a housing action plan as described in this subsection. The goal of any such housing plan must be to encourage construction of additional affordable and market rate housing in a greater variety of housing types and at prices that are accessible to a greater variety of incomes, including strategies aimed at the for-profit single-family home market. A housing action plan may utilize data compiled pursuant to RCW 36.70A.610. The housing action plan should:

(a) Quantify existing and projected housing needs for all income levels, including extremely low-income households, with documentation of housing and household characteristics, and cost-burdened households;

(b) Develop strategies to increase the supply of housing, and variety of housing types, needed to serve the housing needs identified in (a) of this subsection;

(c) Analyze population and employment trends, with documentation of projections;

(d) Consider strategies to minimize displacement of low-income residents resulting from redevelopment;

(e) Review and evaluate the current housing element adopted pursuant to RCW 36.70A.070, including an evaluation of success in attaining planned housing types and units, achievement of goals and policies, and implementation of the schedule of programs and actions;

(f) Provide for participation and input from community members, community groups, local builders, local realtors, nonprofit housing advocates, and local religious groups; and

(g) Include a schedule of programs and actions to implement the recommendations of the housing action plan.

(3) The adoption of ordinances, development regulations and amendments to such regulations, and other nonproject actions taken by a city to implement the actions specified in subsection (1) of this section, with the exception of the action

specified in subsection (1)(f) of this section, are not subject to administrative or judicial appeal under chapter 43.21C RCW.

(4) Any action taken by a city prior to April 1, 2023, to amend its comprehensive plan or adopt or amend ordinances or development regulations, solely to enact provisions under subsection (1) of this section is not subject to legal challenge under this chapter.

(5) In taking action under subsection (1) of this section, cities are encouraged to utilize strategies that increase residential building capacity in areas with frequent transit service and with the transportation and utility infrastructure that supports the additional residential building capacity.

(6) A city that is planning to take at least two actions under subsection (1) of this section, and that action will occur between July 28, 2019, and April 1, 2021, is eligible to apply to the department for planning grant assistance of up to one hundred thousand dollars, subject to the availability of funds appropriated for that purpose. The department shall develop grant criteria to ensure that grant funds awarded are proportionate to the level of effort proposed by a city, and the potential increase in housing supply or regulatory streamlining that could be achieved. Funding may be provided in advance of, and to support, adoption of policies or ordinances consistent with this section. A city can request, and the department may award, more than one hundred thousand dollars for applications that demonstrate extraordinary potential to increase housing supply or regulatory streamlining.

(7) A city seeking to develop a housing action plan under subsection (2) of this section is eligible to apply to the department for up to one hundred thousand dollars.

(8) The department shall establish grant award amounts under subsections (6) and (7) of this section based on the expected number of cities that will seek grant assistance, to ensure that all cities can receive some level of grant support. If funding capacity allows, the department may consider accepting and funding applications from cities with a population of less than twenty thousand if the actions proposed in the application will create a significant amount of housing capacity or regulatory streamlining and are consistent with the actions in this section.

(9) In implementing chapter 348, Laws of 2019, cities are encouraged to prioritize the creation of affordable, inclusive neighborhoods and to consider the risk of residential displacement, particularly in neighborhoods with communities at high risk of displacement. [2022 c 246 § 1; 2020 c 173 § 1; 2019 c 348 § 1.]

### **36.70A.610 Housing supply and affordability report.**

(1) The Washington center for real estate research at the University of Washington shall produce a series of reports as described in this section that compiles housing supply and affordability metrics for each city planning under RCW 36.70A.040 with a population of ten thousand or more.

(a) The initial report, completed by October 15, 2020, must be a compilation of objective criteria relating to income, employment, housing and rental prices, housing affordability by housing tenure, and other metrics relevant to assessing housing supply and affordability for all income segments, including the percentage of cost-burdened households of each jurisdiction. This report may also include city-specific

median income data for those cities implementing the multifamily tax exemption program under chapter 84.14 RCW.

(b) The report completed by October 15, 2021, must include an analysis of the private rental housing market for each area outlining the number of units, vacancy rates, and rents by unit type, where possible. This analysis should separate market rate multifamily rental housing developments and other smaller scale market rate rental housing. This analysis should also incorporate data from the Washington state housing finance commission on subsidized rental housing in the area consistent with the first report under this subsection.

(c) The report completed by October 15, 2022, must also include data relating to actions taken by cities under chapter 348, Laws of 2019 as well as detailed information on development regulations, levies and fees, and zoning related to housing development.

(d) The report completed by October 15, 2024, and every two years thereafter, must also include relevant data relating to buildable lands reports prepared under RCW 36.70A.215, where applicable, and updates to comprehensive plans under this chapter.

(2) The Washington center for real estate research shall collaborate with the Washington housing finance commission and the office of financial management to develop the metrics compiled in the series of reports under this section.

(3) The series of reports under this section must be submitted, consistent with RCW 43.01.036, to the standing committees of the legislature with jurisdiction over housing issues and this chapter. [2020 c 173 § 6; 2019 c 348 § 3.]

**36.70A.620 Cities planning under RCW 36.70A.040—Minimum residential parking requirements.** In counties and cities planning under RCW 36.70A.040, minimum residential parking requirements mandated by municipal zoning ordinances for housing units constructed after July 1, 2019, are subject to the following requirements:

(1) For housing units that are affordable to very low-income or extremely low-income individuals and that are located within one-quarter mile of a transit stop that receives transit service at least two times per hour for twelve or more hours per day, minimum residential parking requirements may be no greater than one parking space per bedroom or .75 space per unit. A city may require a developer to record a covenant that prohibits the rental of a unit subject to this parking restriction for any purpose other than providing for housing for very low-income or extremely low-income individuals. The covenant must address price restrictions and household income limits and policies if the property is converted to a use other than for low-income housing. A city may establish a requirement for the provision of more than one parking space per bedroom or .75 space per unit if the jurisdiction has determined a particular housing unit to be in an area with a lack of access to street parking capacity, physical space impediments, or other reasons supported by evidence that would make on-street parking infeasible for the unit.

(2) For housing units that are specifically for seniors or people with disabilities, that are located within one-quarter mile of a transit stop that receives transit service at least four times per hour for twelve or more hours per day, a city may not impose minimum residential parking requirements for the

residents of such housing units, subject to the exceptions provided in this subsection. A city may establish parking requirements for staff and visitors of such housing units. A city may establish a requirement for the provision of one or more parking space per bedroom if the jurisdiction has determined a particular housing unit to be in an area with a lack of access to street parking capacity, physical space impediments, or other reasons supported by evidence that would make on-street parking infeasible for the unit. A city may require a developer to record a covenant that prohibits the rental of a unit subject to this parking restriction for any purpose other than providing for housing for seniors or people with disabilities.

(3) For market rate multifamily housing units that are located within one-quarter mile of a transit stop that receives transit service from at least one route that provides service at least four times per hour for twelve or more hours per day, minimum residential parking requirements may be no greater than one parking space per bedroom or .75 space per unit. A city or county may establish a requirement for the provision of more than one parking space per bedroom or .75 space per unit if the jurisdiction has determined a particular housing unit to be in an area with a lack of access to street parking capacity, physical space impediments, or other reasons supported by evidence that would make on-street parking infeasible for the unit. [2020 c 173 § 3; 2019 c 348 § 5.]

**36.70A.690 On-site sewage system self-inspection.** This chapter does not preclude counties from authorizing inspections of on-site sewage systems to be conducted by a homeowner, a homeowner's family member, or a homeowner's tenant that has completed certification requirements specified by the county. Nothing in this section eliminates the requirement that counties protect water quality consistent with RCW 36.70A.070 (1) and (5). [2017 c 105 § 1.]

**36.70A.695 Development regulations—Jurisdictions specified—Electric vehicle infrastructure.** (1) By July 1, 2010, the development regulations of any jurisdiction:

(a) Adjacent to Interstate 5, Interstate 90, Interstate 405, or state route number 520, with a population over twenty thousand, and located in a county with a population over one million five hundred thousand; or

(b) Adjacent to Interstate 5 and located in a county with a population greater than six hundred thousand; or

(c) Adjacent to Interstate 5 and located in a county with a state capitol within its borders;

planning under this chapter must allow electric vehicle infrastructure as a use in all areas except those zoned for residential or resource use or critical areas. A jurisdiction may adopt and apply other development regulations that do not have the effect of precluding the siting of electric vehicle infrastructure in areas where that use is allowed.

(2) By July 1, 2011, or six months after the distribution required under RCW 43.31.970 occurs, whichever is later, the development regulations of any jurisdiction adjacent to Interstate 5, Interstate 90, Interstate 405, or state route number 520 planning under this chapter must allow electric vehicle infrastructure as a use in all areas except those zoned for residential or resource use or critical areas. A jurisdiction may adopt and apply other development regulations that do



not have the effect of precluding the siting of electric vehicle infrastructure in areas where that use is allowed.

(3) By July 1, 2011, or six months after the distribution required under RCW 43.31.970 occurs, whichever is later, the development regulations of any jurisdiction planning under this chapter must allow battery charging stations as a use in all areas except those zoned for residential or resource use or critical areas. A jurisdiction may adopt and apply other development regulations that do not have the effect of precluding the siting of electric vehicle infrastructure in areas where that use is allowed.

(4) Cities are authorized to adopt incentive programs to encourage the retrofitting of existing structures with the electrical outlets capable of charging electric vehicles. Incentives may include bonus height, site coverage, floor area ratio, and transferable development rights for use in urban growth areas.

(5) The definitions in this subsection apply throughout this section unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(a) "Battery charging station" means an electrical component assembly or cluster of component assemblies designed specifically to charge batteries within electric vehicles, which meet or exceed any standards, codes, and regulations set forth by chapter 19.28 RCW and consistent with rules adopted under RCW 19.27.540.

(b) "Battery exchange station" means a fully automated facility that will enable an electric vehicle with a swappable battery to enter a drive lane and exchange the depleted battery with a fully charged battery through a fully automated process, which meets or exceeds any standards, codes, and regulations set forth by chapter 19.28 RCW and consistent with rules adopted under RCW 19.27.540.

(c) "Electric vehicle infrastructure" means structures, machinery, and equipment necessary and integral to support an electric vehicle, including battery charging stations, rapid charging stations, and battery exchange stations.

(d) "Rapid charging station" means an industrial grade electrical outlet that allows for faster recharging of electric vehicle batteries through higher power levels, which meets or exceeds any standards, codes, and regulations set forth by chapter 19.28 RCW and consistent with rules adopted under RCW 19.27.540.

(6) If federal funding for public investment in electric vehicles, electric vehicle infrastructure, or alternative fuel distribution infrastructure is not provided by February 1, 2010, subsection (1) of this section is null and void. [2009 c 459 § 12.]

**Finding—Purpose—2009 c 459:** See note following RCW 47.80.090.

*Regional transportation planning organizations—Electric vehicle infrastructure: RCW 47.80.090.*

### **36.70A.696 Accessory dwelling units—Definitions.**

The definitions in this section apply throughout RCW 36.70A.697 and 36.70A.698 unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Accessory dwelling unit" means a dwelling unit located on the same lot as a single-family housing unit, duplex, triplex, townhome, or other housing unit.

(2) "Attached accessory dwelling unit" means an accessory dwelling unit located within or attached to a single-family housing unit, duplex, triplex, townhome, or other housing unit.

ily housing unit, duplex, triplex, townhome, or other housing unit.

(3) "City" means any city, code city, and town located in a county planning under RCW 36.70A.040.

(4) "County" means any county planning under RCW 36.70A.040.

(5) "Detached accessory dwelling unit" means an accessory dwelling unit that consists partly or entirely of a building that is separate and detached from a single-family housing unit, duplex, triplex, townhome, or other housing unit and is on the same property.

(6) "Dwelling unit" means a residential living unit that provides complete independent living facilities for one or more persons and that includes permanent provisions for living, sleeping, eating, cooking, and sanitation.

(7) "Major transit stop" means:

(a) A stop on a high capacity transportation system funded or expanded under the provisions of chapter 81.104 RCW;

(b) Commuter rail stops;

(c) Stops on rail or fixed guideway systems, including transitways;

(d) Stops on bus rapid transit routes or routes that run on high occupancy vehicle lanes; or

(e) Stops for a bus or other transit mode providing actual fixed route service at intervals of at least fifteen minutes for at least five hours during the peak hours of operation on weekdays.

(8) "Owner" means any person who has at least 50 percent ownership in a property on which an accessory dwelling unit is located.

(9) "Short-term rental" means a lodging use, that is not a hotel or motel or bed and breakfast, in which a dwelling unit, or portion thereof, is offered or provided to a guest by a short-term rental operator for a fee for fewer than 30 consecutive nights. [2021 c 306 § 2; 2020 c 217 § 2.]

**Findings—Intent—2020 c 217:** "(1) The legislature makes the following findings:

(a) Washington state is experiencing a housing affordability crisis. Many communities across the state are in need of more housing for renters, across the income spectrum. Accessory dwelling units are frequently rented at below market rate, providing additional affordable housing options for renters.

(b) Accessory dwelling units are often occupied by tenants who pay no rent at all; among these tenants are grandparents, adult children, family members with disabilities, friends going through life transitions, and community members in need. Accessory dwelling units meet the needs of these people who might otherwise require scarce subsidized housing space and resources.

(c) Accessory dwelling units can meet the needs of Washington's growing senior population, making it possible for this population to age in their communities by offering senior-friendly housing, which prioritizes physical accessibility, in walkable communities near amenities essential to successful aging in place, including transit and grocery stores, without requiring costly renovations of existing housing stock.

(d) Homeowners who add an accessory dwelling unit may benefit from added income and an increased sense of security.

(e) Siting accessory dwelling units near transit hubs and near public amenities can help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by increasing walkability, shortening household commutes, and limiting sprawl.

(2) The legislature intends to promote and encourage the creation of accessory dwelling units as a means to address the need for additional affordable housing options." [2020 c 217 § 1.]

### **36.70A.697 Accessory dwelling units—Adoption of requirements.** (1) Cities must adopt or amend by ordinance,

and incorporate into their development regulations, zoning regulations, and other official controls the requirements of RCW 36.70A.698 to take effect by July 1, 2021.

(2) Beginning July 1, 2021, the requirements of RCW 36.70A.698:

(a) Apply and take effect in any city that has not adopted or amended ordinances, regulations, or other official controls as required under this section; and

(b) Supersede, preempt, and invalidate any local development regulations that conflict with RCW 36.70A.698. [2020 c 217 § 3.]

**Findings—Intent—2020 c 217:** See note following RCW 36.70A.696.

**36.70A.698 Accessory dwelling units—Off-street parking—When prohibited.** (1) Except as provided in subsection[s] (2) and (3) of this section, through ordinances, development regulations, zoning regulations, and other official controls as required under RCW 36.70A.697, cities may not require the provision of off-street parking for accessory dwelling units within one-quarter mile of a major transit stop.

(2) A city may require the provision of off-street parking for an accessory dwelling unit located within one-quarter mile of a major transit stop if the city has determined that the accessory dwelling unit is in an area with a lack of access to street parking capacity, physical space impediments, or other reasons supported by evidence that would make on-street parking infeasible for the accessory dwelling unit.

(3) A city that has adopted or substantively amended accessory dwelling unit regulations within the four years previous to June 11, 2020, is not subject to the requirements of this section. [2020 c 217 § 4.]

**Findings—Intent—2020 c 217:** See note following RCW 36.70A.696.

**36.70A.699 Accessory dwelling units—Rights not modified.** Nothing in chapter 217, Laws of 2020 modifies or limits any rights or interests legally recorded in the governing documents of associations subject to chapter 64.32, 64.34, 64.38, or 64.90 RCW. [2020 c 217 § 5.]

**Findings—Intent—2020 c 217:** See note following RCW 36.70A.696.

#### VOLUNTARY STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

**36.70A.700 Purpose—Intent—2011 c 360.** (1) The purpose of chapter 360, Laws of 2011 is to establish the voluntary stewardship program as recommended in the report submitted by the William D. Ruckelshaus Center to the legislature as required by chapter 353, Laws of 2007 and chapter 203, Laws of 2010.

(2) It is the intent of chapter 360, Laws of 2011 to:

(a) Promote plans to protect and enhance critical areas within the area where agricultural activities are conducted, while maintaining and improving the long-term viability of agriculture in the state of Washington and reducing the conversion of farmland to other uses;

(b) Focus and maximize voluntary incentive programs to encourage good riparian and ecosystem stewardship as an alternative to historic approaches used to protect critical areas;

(c) Rely upon RCW 36.70A.060 for the protection of critical areas for those counties that do not choose to participate in this program;

(d) Leverage existing resources by relying upon existing work and plans in counties and local watersheds, as well as existing state and federal programs to the maximum extent practicable to achieve program goals;

(e) Encourage and foster a spirit of cooperation and partnership among county, tribal, environmental, and agricultural interests to better assure the program success;

(f) Improve compliance with other laws designed to protect water quality and fish habitat; and

(g) Rely upon voluntary stewardship practices as the primary method of protecting critical areas and not require the cessation of agricultural activities. [2011 c 360 § 1.]

**36.70A.702 Construction.** Nothing in RCW 36.70A.700 through 36.70A.760 may be construed to:

(1) Interfere with or supplant the ability of any agricultural operator to work cooperatively with a conservation district or participate in state or federal conservation programs;

(2) Require an agricultural operator to discontinue agricultural activities legally existing before July 22, 2011;

(3) Prohibit the voluntary sale or leasing of land for conservation purposes, either in fee or as an easement;

(4) Grant counties or state agencies additional authority to regulate critical areas on lands used for agricultural activities; and

(5) Limit the authority of a state agency, local government, or landowner to carry out its obligations under any other federal, state, or local law. [2011 c 360 § 15.]

**36.70A.703 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply to RCW 36.70A.700 through 36.70A.760 and RCW 36.70A.130 and 36.70A.280 unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Agricultural activities" means all agricultural uses and practices as defined in RCW 90.58.065.

(2) "Commission" means the state conservation commission as defined in RCW 89.08.030.

(3) "Director" means the executive director of the state conservation commission.

(4) "Enhance" or "enhancement" means to improve the processes, structure, and functions existing, as of July 22, 2011, of ecosystems and habitats associated with critical areas.

(5) "Participating watershed" means a watershed identified by a county under RCW 36.70A.710(1) to participate in the program.

(6) "Priority watershed" means a geographic area nominated by the county and designated by the commission.

(7) "Program" means the voluntary stewardship program established in RCW 36.70A.705.

(8) "Protect" or "protecting" means to prevent the degradation of functions and values existing as of July 22, 2011.

(9) "Receipt of funding" means the date a county takes legislative action accepting any funds as required in RCW 36.70A.715(1) to implement the program.

(10) "Statewide advisory committee" means the statewide advisory committee created in RCW 36.70A.745.

(11) "Technical panel" means the directors or director designees of the following agencies: The department of fish and wildlife; the department of agriculture; the department of ecology; and the commission.

(12) "Watershed" means a water resource inventory area, salmon recovery planning area, or a subbasin as determined by a county.

(13) "Watershed group" means an entity designated by a county under the provisions of RCW 36.70A.715.

(14) "Work plan" means a watershed work plan developed under the provisions of RCW 36.70A.720. [2011 c 360 § 2.]

**36.70A.705 Voluntary stewardship program established—Administered by commission—Agency participation.** (1) The voluntary stewardship program is established to be administered by the commission. The program shall be designed to protect and enhance critical areas on lands used for agricultural activities through voluntary actions by agricultural operators.

(2) In administering the program, the commission must:

(a) Establish policies and procedures for implementing the program;

(b) Administer funding for counties to implement the program including, but not limited to, funding to develop strategies and incentive programs and to establish local guidelines for watershed stewardship programs;

(c) Administer the program's technical assistance funds and coordinate among state agencies and other entities for the implementation of the program;

(d) Establish a technical panel;

(e) In conjunction with the technical panel, review and evaluate: (i) Work plans submitted for approval under RCW 36.70A.720(2)(a); and (ii) reports submitted under RCW 36.70A.720(2)(b);

(f) Review and evaluate the program's success and effectiveness and make appropriate changes to policies and procedures for implementing the program, in consultation with the statewide advisory committee and other affected agencies;

(g) Designate priority watersheds based upon the recommendation of the statewide advisory committee. The commission and the statewide advisory committee may only consider watersheds nominated by counties under RCW 36.70A.710. When designating priority watersheds, the commission and the statewide advisory committee shall consider the statewide significance of the criteria listed in RCW 36.70A.710(3);

(h) Provide administrative support for the program's statewide advisory committee in its work. The administrative support must be in collaboration with the department of ecology and other agencies involved in the program;

(i) Maintain a website about the program that includes times, locations, and agenda information for meetings of the statewide advisory committee;

(j) Report to the legislature on the general status of program implementation by December 1, 2013, and December 1, 2015;

(k) In conjunction with the statewide advisory committee, conduct a review of the program beginning in 2017 and every five years thereafter, and report its findings to the legislature by December 1st; and

(l) Report to the appropriate committees of the legislature in the format provided in RCW 43.01.036.

(3) The department shall assist counties participating in the program to develop plans and development regulations under RCW 36.70A.735(1).

(4) The commission, department, department of agriculture, department of fish and wildlife, department of ecology, and other state agencies as directed by the governor shall:

(a) Cooperate and collaborate to implement the program; and

(b) Develop materials to assist local watershed groups in development of work plans.

(5) State agencies conducting new monitoring to implement the program in a watershed must focus on the goals and benchmarks of the work plan. [2011 c 360 § 3.]

**36.70A.710 Critical areas protection—Alternative to RCW 36.70A.060—County's responsibilities—Procedures.** (1)(a) As an alternative to protecting critical areas in areas used for agricultural activities through development regulations adopted under RCW 36.70A.060, the legislative authority of a county may elect to protect such critical areas through the program.

(b) In order to participate in the program, within six months after July 22, 2011, the legislative authority of a county must adopt an ordinance or resolution that:

(i) Elects to have the county participate in the program;

(ii) Identifies the watersheds that will participate in the program; and

(iii) Based on the criteria in subsection (4) of this section, nominates watersheds for consideration by the commission as state priority watersheds.

(2) Before adopting the ordinance or resolution under subsection (1) of this section, the county must (a) confer with tribes, and environmental and agricultural interests; and (b) provide notice following the public participation and notice provisions of RCW 36.70A.035 to property owners and other affected and interested individuals, tribes, government agencies, businesses, school districts, and organizations.

(3) In identifying watersheds to participate in the program, a county must consider:

(a) The role of farming within the watershed, including the number and acreage of farms, the economic value of crops and livestock, and the risk of the conversion of farmland;

(b) The overall likelihood of completing a successful program in the watershed; and

(c) Existing watershed programs, including those of other jurisdictions in which the watershed has territory.

(4) In identifying priority watersheds, a county must consider the following:

(a) The role of farming within the watershed, including the number and acreage of farms, the economic value of crops and livestock, and the risk of the conversion of farmland;

(b) The importance of salmonid resources in the watershed;

(c) An evaluation of the biological diversity of wildlife species and their habitats in the geographic region including their significance and vulnerability;

(d) The presence of leadership within the watershed that is representative and inclusive of the interests in the watershed;

(e) Integration of regional watershed strategies, including the availability of a data and scientific review structure related to all types of critical areas;

(f) The presence of a local watershed group that is willing and capable of overseeing a successful program, and that has the operational structures to administer the program effectively, including professional technical assistance staff, and monitoring and adaptive management structures; and

(g) The overall likelihood of completing a successful program in the watershed.

(5) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (9) of this section, beginning with the effective date of the ordinance or resolution adopted under subsection (1) of this section, the program applies to all unincorporated property upon which agricultural activities occur within a participating watershed.

(6)(a) Except as otherwise provided in (b) of this subsection, within two years after July 22, 2011, a county must review and, if necessary, revise development regulations adopted under this chapter to protect critical areas as they specifically apply to agricultural activities:

(i) If the county has not elected to participate in the program, for all unincorporated areas; or

(ii) If the county has elected to participate in the program, for any watershed not participating in the program.

(b) A county that between July 1, 2003, and June 30, 2007, in accordance with RCW 36.70A.130 completed the review of its development regulations as required by RCW 36.70A.130 to protect critical areas as they specifically apply to agricultural activities is not required to review and revise its development regulations until required by RCW 36.70A.130.

(c) After the review and amendment required under (a) of this subsection, RCW 36.70A.130 applies to the subsequent review and amendment of development regulations adopted under this chapter to protect critical areas as they specifically apply to agricultural activities.

(7)(a) A county that has made the election under subsection (1) of this section may withdraw a participating watershed from the program by adopting an ordinance or resolution withdrawing the watershed from the program. A county may withdraw a watershed from the program at the end of three years, five years, or eight years after receipt of funding, or any time after ten years from receipt of funding.

(b) Within eighteen months after withdrawing a participating watershed from the program, the county must review and, if necessary, revise its development regulations that protect critical areas in that watershed as they specifically apply to agricultural activities. The development regulations must protect the critical area functions and values as they existed on July 22, 2011. RCW 36.70A.130 applies to the subsequent review and amendment of development regulations adopted under this chapter to protect critical areas as they specifically apply to agricultural activities.

(8) A county that has made the election under subsection (1) of this section is eligible for a share of the funding made available to implement the program, subject to funding availability from the state.

(9) A county that has made the election under subsection (1) of this section is not required to implement the program in a participating watershed until adequate funding for the pro-

gram in that watershed is provided to the county. [2011 c 360 § 4.]

**36.70A.715 Funding by commission—County's duties—Watershed group established.** (1) When the commission makes funds available to a county that has made the election provided in RCW 36.70A.710(1), the county must within sixty days:

(a) Acknowledge the receipt of funds; and

(b) Designate a watershed group and an entity to administer funds for each watershed for which funding has been provided.

(2) A county must confer with tribes and interested stakeholders before designating or establishing a watershed group.

(3) The watershed group must include broad representation of key watershed stakeholders and, at a minimum, representatives of agricultural and environmental groups and tribes that agree to participate. The county should encourage existing lead entities, watershed planning units, or other integrating organizations to serve as the watershed group.

(4) The county may designate itself, a tribe, or another entity to coordinate the local watershed group. [2011 c 360 § 5.]

**36.70A.720 Watershed group's duties—Work plan—Conditional priority funding.** (1) A watershed group designated by a county under RCW 36.70A.715 must develop a work plan to protect critical areas while maintaining the viability of agriculture in the watershed. The work plan must include goals and benchmarks for the protection and enhancement of critical areas. In developing and implementing the work plan, the watershed group must:

(a) Review and incorporate applicable water quality, watershed management, farmland protection, and species recovery data and plans;

(b) Seek input from tribes, agencies, and stakeholders;

(c) Develop goals for participation by agricultural operators conducting commercial and noncommercial agricultural activities in the watershed necessary to meet the protection and enhancement benchmarks of the work plan;

(d) Ensure outreach and technical assistance is provided to agricultural operators in the watershed;

(e) Create measurable benchmarks that, within ten years after the receipt of funding, are designed to result in (i) the protection of critical area functions and values and (ii) the enhancement of critical area functions and values through voluntary, incentive-based measures;

(f) Designate the entity or entities that will provide technical assistance;

(g) Work with the entity providing technical assistance to ensure that individual stewardship plans contribute to the goals and benchmarks of the work plan;

(h) Incorporate into the work plan any existing development regulations relied upon to achieve the goals and benchmarks for protection;

(i) Establish baseline monitoring for: (i) Participation activities and implementation of the voluntary stewardship plans and projects; (ii) stewardship activities; and (iii) the effects on critical areas and agriculture relevant to the protec-

tion and enhancement benchmarks developed for the watershed;

(j) Conduct periodic evaluations, institute adaptive management, and provide a written report of the status of plans and accomplishments to the county and to the commission within sixty days after the end of each biennium;

(k) Assist state agencies in their monitoring programs; and

(l) Satisfy any other reporting requirements of the program.

(2)(a) The watershed group shall develop and submit the work plan to the director for approval as provided in RCW 36.70A.725.

(b)(i) Not later than five years after the receipt of funding for a participating watershed, the watershed group must report to the director and the county on whether it has met the work plan's protection and enhancement goals and benchmarks.

(ii) If the watershed group determines the protection goals and benchmarks have been met, and the director concurs under RCW 36.70A.730, the watershed group shall continue to implement the work plan.

(iii) If the watershed group determines the protection goals and benchmarks have not been met, it must propose and submit to the director an adaptive management plan to achieve the goals and benchmarks that were not met. If the director does not approve the adaptive management plan under RCW 36.70A.730, the watershed is subject to RCW 36.70A.735.

(iv) If the watershed group determines the enhancement goals and benchmarks have not been met, the watershed group must determine what additional voluntary actions are needed to meet the benchmarks, identify the funding necessary to implement these actions, and implement these actions when funding is provided.

(c)(i) Not later than ten years after receipt of funding for a participating watershed, and every five years thereafter, the watershed group must report to the director and the county on whether it has met the protection and enhancement goals and benchmarks of the work plan.

(ii) If the watershed group determines the protection goals and benchmarks have been met, and the director concurs under RCW 36.70A.730, the watershed group shall continue to implement the work plan.

(iii) If the watershed group determines the protection goals and benchmarks have not been met, the watershed is subject to RCW 36.70A.735.

(iv) If the watershed group determines the enhancement goals and benchmarks have not been met, the watershed group must determine what additional voluntary actions are needed to meet the benchmarks, identify the funding necessary to implement these actions, and implement these actions when funding is provided.

(3) Following approval of a work plan, a county or watershed group may request a state or federal agency to focus existing enforcement authority in that participating watershed, if the action will facilitate progress toward achieving work plan protection goals and benchmarks.

(4) The commission may provide priority funding to any watershed designated under the provisions of RCW 36.70A.705(2)(g). The director, in consultation with the

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statewide advisory committee, shall work with the watershed group to develop an accelerated implementation schedule for watersheds that receive priority funding.

(5) Commercial and noncommercial agricultural operators participating in the program are eligible to receive funding and assistance under watershed programs. [2011 c 360 § 6.]

**36.70A.725 Technical review of work plan—Time frame for action by director.** (1) Upon receipt of a work plan submitted to the director under RCW 36.70A.720(2)(a), the director must submit the work plan to the technical panel for review.

(2) The technical panel shall review the work plan and report to the director within ninety days after the director receives the work plan. The technical panel shall assess whether at the end of ten years after receipt of funding, the work plan, in conjunction with other existing plans and regulations, will protect critical areas while maintaining and enhancing the viability of agriculture in the watershed.

(3)(a) If the technical panel determines the proposed work plan will protect critical areas while maintaining and enhancing the viability of agriculture in the watershed:

(i) It must recommend approval of the work plan; and

(ii) The director must approve the work plan.

(b) If the technical panel determines the proposed work plan will not protect critical areas while maintaining and enhancing the viability of agriculture in the watershed:

(i) It must identify the reasons for its determination; and

(ii) The director must advise the watershed group of the reasons for disapproval.

(4) The watershed group may modify and resubmit its work plan for review and approval consistent with this section.

(5) If the director does not approve a work plan submitted under this section within two years and nine months after receipt of funding, the director shall submit the work plan to the statewide advisory committee for resolution. If the statewide advisory committee recommends approval, the director must approve the work plan.

(6) If the director does not approve a work plan for a watershed within three years after receipt of funding, the provisions of RCW 36.70A.735(2) apply to the watershed. [2017 3rd sp.s. c 1 § 961; 2011 c 360 § 7.]

**Effective date—2017 3rd sp.s. c 1:** See note following RCW 43.41.455.

**36.70A.730 Report by watershed group—Director consults with statewide advisory committee.** (1) Upon receipt of a report by a watershed group under RCW 36.70A.720(2)(b) that the work plan goals and benchmarks have been met, the director must consult with the statewide advisory committee. If the director concurs with the watershed group report, the watershed group shall continue to implement the work plan. If the director does not concur with the watershed group report, the director shall consult with the statewide advisory committee following the procedures in subsection (2) of this section.

(2) If either the director, following receipt of a report under subsection (1) of this section, or the watershed group, in the report submitted to the director under RCW

36.70A.720(2)(b), concludes that the work plan goals and benchmarks for protection have not been met, the director must consult with the statewide advisory committee for a recommendation on how to proceed. If the director, acting upon recommendation from the statewide advisory committee, determines that the watershed is likely to meet the goals and benchmarks with an additional six months of planning and implementation time, the director must grant an extension. If the director, acting upon a recommendation from the statewide advisory committee, determines that the watershed is unlikely to meet the goals and benchmarks within six months, the watershed is subject to RCW 36.70A.735.

(3) A watershed that fails to meet its goals and benchmarks for protection within the six-month time extension under subsection (2) of this section is subject to RCW 36.70A.735. [2011 c 360 § 8.]

**36.70A.735 When work plan is not approved, fails, or is unfunded—County's duties—Rules.** (1) Within eighteen months after one of the events in subsection (2) of this section, a county must:

(a) Develop, adopt, and implement a watershed work plan approved by the department that protects critical areas in areas used for agricultural activities while maintaining the viability of agriculture in the watershed. The department shall consult with the departments of agriculture, ecology, and fish and wildlife and the commission, and other relevant state agencies before approving or disapproving the proposed work plan. The appeal of the department's decision under this subsection is subject to appeal under RCW 36.70A.280;

(b) Adopt development regulations previously adopted under this chapter by another local government for the purpose of protecting critical areas in areas used for agricultural activities. Regulations adopted under this subsection (1)(b) must be from a region with similar agricultural activities, geography, and geology and must: (i) Be from Clallam, Clark, King, or Whatcom counties; or (ii) have been upheld by a growth management hearings board or court after July 1, 2011, where the board or court determined that the provisions adequately protected critical areas functions and values in areas used for agricultural activities;

(c) Adopt development regulations certified by the department as protective of critical areas in areas used for agricultural activities as required by this chapter. The county may submit existing or amended regulations for certification. The department must make its decision on whether to certify the development regulations within ninety days after the county submits its request. If the department denies the certification, the county shall take an action under (a), (b), or (d) of this subsection. The department must consult with the departments of agriculture, ecology, and fish and wildlife and the commission before making a certification under this section. The appeal of the department's decision under this subsection (1)(c) is subject to appeal under RCW 36.70A.280; or

(d) Review and, if necessary, revise development regulations adopted under this chapter to protect critical areas as they relate to agricultural activities.

(2) A participating watershed is subject to this section if:

(a) The work plan is not approved by the director as provided in RCW 36.70A.725;

(b) The work plan's goals and benchmarks for protection have not been met as provided in RCW 36.70A.720;

(c) The commission has determined under RCW 36.70A.740 that the county, department, commission, or departments of agriculture, ecology, or fish and wildlife have not received adequate funding to implement a program in the watershed; or

(d) The commission has determined under RCW 36.70A.740 that the watershed has not received adequate funding to implement the program.

(3) The department shall adopt rules to implement subsection (1)(a) and (c) of this section. [2011 c 360 § 9.]

**36.70A.740 Commission's duties—Timelines.** (1) By July 31, 2015, the commission must:

(a) In consultation with each county that has elected under RCW 36.70A.710 to participate in the program, determine which participating watersheds received adequate funding to establish and implement the program in a participating watershed by July 1, 2015; and

(b) In consultation with other state agencies, for each participating watershed determine whether state agencies required to take action under the provisions of RCW 36.70A.700 through 36.70A.760 have received adequate funding to support the program by July 1, 2015.

(2) By July 31, 2017, and every two years thereafter, in consultation with each county that has elected under RCW 36.70A.710 to participate in the program and other state agencies, the commission shall determine for each participating watershed whether adequate funding to implement the program was provided during the preceding biennium as provided in subsection (1) of this section.

(3) If the commission determines under subsection (1) or (2) of this section that a participating watershed has not received adequate funding, the watershed is subject to the provisions of RCW 36.70A.735.

(4) In consultation with the statewide advisory committee and other state agencies, not later than August 31, 2015, and each August 31st every two years thereafter, the commission shall report to the legislature and each county that has elected under RCW 36.70A.710 to participate in the program on the participating watersheds that have received adequate funding to establish and implement the program. [2011 c 360 § 10.]

**36.70A.745 Statewide advisory committee—Membership.** (1)(a) From the nominations made under (b) of this subsection, the commission shall appoint a statewide advisory committee, consisting of: Two persons representing county government, two persons representing agricultural organizations, and two persons representing environmental organizations. The commission, in conjunction with the governor's office, shall also invite participation by two representatives of tribal governments.

(b) Organizations representing county, agricultural, and environmental organizations shall submit nominations of their representatives to the commission within ninety days of July 22, 2011. Members of the statewide advisory committee shall serve two-year terms except that for the first year, one representative from each of the sectors shall be appointed to the statewide advisory committee for a term of one year.

Members may be reappointed by the commission for additional two-year terms and replacement members shall be appointed in accordance with the process for selection of the initial members of the statewide advisory committee.

(c) Upon notification of the commission by an appointed member, the appointed member may designate a person to serve as an alternate.

(d) The executive director of the commission shall serve as a nonvoting chair of the statewide advisory committee.

(e) Members of the statewide advisory committee shall serve without compensation and, unless serving as a state officer or employee, are not eligible for reimbursement for subsistence, lodging, and travel expenses under RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

(2) The role of the statewide advisory committee is to advise the commission and other agencies involved in development and operation of the program. [2011 c 360 § 11.]

**36.70A.750 Agricultural operators—Individual stewardship plan.** (1) Agricultural operators implementing an individual stewardship plan consistent with a work plan are presumed to be working toward the protection and enhancement of critical areas.

(2) If the watershed group determines that additional or different practices are needed to achieve the work plan's goals and benchmarks, the agricultural operator may not be required to implement those practices but may choose to implement the revised practices on a voluntary basis and is eligible for funding to revise the practices. [2011 c 360 § 12.]

**36.70A.755 Implementing the work plan.** In developing stewardship practices to implement the work plan, to the maximum extent practical the watershed group should:

(1) Avoid management practices that may have unintended adverse consequences for other habitats, species, and critical areas functions and values; and

(2) Administer the program in a manner that allows participants to be eligible for public or private environmental protection and enhancement incentives while protecting and enhancing critical area functions and values. [2011 c 360 § 13.]

**36.70A.760 Agricultural operators—Withdrawal from program.** An agricultural operator participating in the program may withdraw from the program and is not required to continue voluntary measures after the expiration of an applicable contract. The watershed group must account for any loss of protection resulting from withdrawals when establishing goals and benchmarks for protection and a work plan under RCW 36.70A.720. [2011 c 360 § 14.]

**36.70A.800 Role of growth strategies commission.** The growth strategies commission created by executive order shall:

(1) Analyze different methods for assuring that county and city comprehensive plans adopted under chapter 36.70A RCW are consistent with the planning goals under RCW 36.70A.020 and with other requirements of chapter 36.70A RCW;

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(2) Recommend to the legislature and the governor by October 1, 1990, a specific structure or process that, among other things:

(a) Ensures county and city comprehensive plans adopted under chapter 36.70A RCW are coordinated and comply with planning goals and other requirements under chapter 36.70A RCW;

(b) Requires state agencies to comply with this chapter and to consider and be consistent with county and city comprehensive plans in actions by state agencies, including the location, financing, and expansion of transportation systems and other public facilities;

(c) Defines the state role in growth management;

(d) Addresses lands and resources of statewide significance, including to:

(i) Protect these lands and resources of statewide significance by developing standards for their preservation and protection and suggesting the appropriate structure to monitor and enforce the preservation of these lands and resources; and

(ii) Consider the environmental, economic, and social values of the lands and resources with statewide significance;

(e) Identifies potential state funds that may be withheld and incentives that promote county and city compliance with chapter 36.70A RCW;

(f) Increases affordable housing statewide and promotes linkages between land use and transportation;

(g) Addresses vesting of rights; and

(h) Addresses short subdivisions; and

(3) Develop recommendations to provide for the resolution of disputes over urban growth areas between counties and cities, including incorporations and annexations. [1990 1st ex.s. c 17 § 86.]

**36.70A.900 Severability—1990 1st ex.s. c 17.** 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. [1990 1st ex.s. c 17 § 88.]

**36.70A.901 Part, section headings not law—1990 1st ex.s. c 17.** Part and section headings as used in this act do not constitute any part of the law. [1990 1st ex.s. c 17 § 89.]

**36.70A.902 Section headings not law—1991 sp.s. c 32.** Section headings as used in this act do not constitute any part of the law. [1991 sp.s. c 32 § 40.]

**36.70A.903 Transfer of powers, duties, and functions.** (1) The powers, duties, and functions of the growth management hearings board are hereby transferred to the environmental and land use hearings office.

(2)(a) All reports, documents, surveys, books, records, files, papers, or written material in the possession of the growth management hearings board shall be delivered to the custody of the environmental and land use hearings office. All cabinets, furniture, office equipment, motor vehicles, and other tangible property employed by the growth management hearings board shall be made available to the environmental and land use hearings office. All funds, credits, or other assets held by the growth management hearings board shall

be assigned to the environmental and land use hearings office.

(b) Any appropriations made to the growth management hearings board shall, on July 1, 2011, be transferred and credited to the environmental and land use hearings office.

(c) If any question arises as to the transfer of any personnel, funds, books, documents, records, papers, files, equipment, or other tangible property used or held in the exercise of the powers and the performance of the duties and functions transferred, the director of financial management shall make a determination as to the proper allocation and certify the same to the state agencies concerned.

(3) All employees of the growth management hearings board are transferred to the jurisdiction of the environmental and land use hearings office. All employees classified under chapter 41.06 RCW, the state civil service law, are assigned to the environmental and land use hearings office to perform their usual duties upon the same terms as formerly, without any loss of rights, subject to any action that may be appropriate thereafter in accordance with the laws and rules governing state civil service.

(4) All existing rules and all pending cases before the growth management hearings board shall be continued and acted upon by the growth management hearings board located within the environmental and land use hearings office. All pending business, existing contracts, and obligations shall remain in full force and shall be performed by the environmental and land use hearings office.

(5) The transfer of the powers, duties, functions, and personnel of the growth management hearings board shall not affect the validity of any act performed before July 1, 2011.

(6) If apportionments of budgeted funds are required because of the transfers directed by this section, the director of financial management shall certify the apportionments to the agencies affected, the state auditor, and the state treasurer. Each of these shall make the appropriate transfer and adjustments in funds and appropriation accounts and equipment records in accordance with the certification. [2010 c 210 § 43.]

**Intent—Effective dates—Application—Pending cases and rules—2010 c 210:** See notes following RCW 43.21B.001.

**36.70A.904 Conflict with federal requirements—2011 c 360.** If any part of this act is found to be in conflict with federal requirements that are a prescribed condition to the allocation of federal funds to the state, the conflicting part of this act is inoperative solely to the extent of the conflict and with respect to the agencies directly affected, and this finding does not affect the operation of the remainder of this act in its application to the agencies concerned. Rules adopted under this act must meet federal requirements that are a necessary condition to the receipt of federal funds by the state. [2011 c 360 § 21.]

### Chapter 36.70B RCW LOCAL PROJECT REVIEW

#### Sections

- 36.70B.010 Findings and declaration.
- 36.70B.020 Definitions.
- 36.70B.030 Project review—Required elements—Limitations.
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- 36.70B.050 Local government review of project permit applications required—Objectives.
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**36.70B.010 Findings and declaration.** The legislature finds and declares the following:

(1) As the number of environmental laws and development regulations has increased for land uses and development, so has the number of required local land use permits, each with its own separate approval process.

(2) The increasing number of local and state land use permits and separate environmental review processes required by agencies has generated continuing potential for conflict, overlap, and duplication between the various permit and review processes.

(3) This regulatory burden has significantly added to the cost and time needed to obtain local and state land use permits and has made it difficult for the public to know how and when to provide timely comments on land use proposals that require multiple permits and have separate environmental review processes. [1995 c 347 § 401.]

**36.70B.020 Definitions.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Closed record appeal" means an administrative appeal on the record to a local government body or officer, including the legislative body, following an open record hearing on a project permit application when the appeal is on the record with no or limited new evidence or information allowed to be submitted and only appeal argument allowed.

(2) "Local government" means a county, city, or town.

(3) "Open record hearing" means a hearing, conducted by a single hearing body or officer authorized by the local government to conduct such hearings, that creates the local government's record through testimony and submission of evidence and information, under procedures prescribed by the local government by ordinance or resolution. An open record hearing may be held prior to a local government's



decision on a project permit to be known as an "open record predecision hearing." An open record hearing may be held on an appeal, to be known as an "open record appeal hearing," if no open record predecision hearing has been held on the project permit.

(4) "Project permit" or "project permit application" means any land use or environmental permit or license required from a local government for a project action, including but not limited to building permits, subdivisions, binding site plans, planned unit developments, conditional uses, shoreline substantial development permits, site plan review, permits or approvals required by critical area ordinances, site-specific rezones authorized by a comprehensive plan or subarea plan, but excluding the adoption or amendment of a comprehensive plan, subarea plan, or development regulations except as otherwise specifically included in this subsection.

(5) "Public meeting" means an informal meeting, hearing, workshop, or other public gathering of people to obtain comments from the public or other agencies on a proposed project permit prior to the local government's decision. A public meeting may include, but is not limited to, a design review or architectural control board meeting, a special review district or community council meeting, or a scoping meeting on a draft environmental impact statement. A public meeting does not include an open record hearing. The proceedings at a public meeting may be recorded and a report or recommendation may be included in the local government's project permit application file. [1995 c 347 § 402.]

**36.70B.030 Project review—Required elements—Limitations.** (1) Fundamental land use planning choices made in adopted comprehensive plans and development regulations shall serve as the foundation for project review. The review of a proposed project's consistency with applicable development regulations, or in the absence of applicable regulations the adopted comprehensive plan, under RCW 36.70B.040 shall incorporate the determinations under this section.

(2) During project review, a local government or any subsequent reviewing body shall determine whether the items listed in this subsection are defined in the development regulations applicable to the proposed project or, in the absence of applicable regulations the adopted comprehensive plan. At a minimum, such applicable regulations or plans shall be determinative of the:

(a) Type of land use permitted at the site, including uses that may be allowed under certain circumstances, such as planned unit developments and conditional and special uses, if the criteria for their approval have been satisfied;

(b) Density of residential development in urban growth areas; and

(c) Availability and adequacy of public facilities identified in the comprehensive plan, if the plan or development regulations provide for funding of these facilities as required by chapter 36.70A RCW.

(3) During project review, the local government or any subsequent reviewing body shall not reexamine alternatives to or hear appeals on the items identified in subsection (2) of this section, except for issues of code interpretation. As part of its project review process, a local government shall pro-

vide a procedure for obtaining a code interpretation as provided in RCW 36.70B.110.

(4) Pursuant to RCW 43.21C.240, a local government may determine that the requirements for environmental analysis and mitigation measures in development regulations and other applicable laws provide adequate mitigation for some or all of the project's specific adverse environmental impacts to which the requirements apply.

(5) Nothing in this section limits the authority of a permitting agency to approve, condition, or deny a project as provided in its development regulations adopted under chapter 36.70A RCW and in its policies adopted under RCW 43.21C.060. Project review shall be used to identify specific project design and conditions relating to the character of development, such as the details of site plans, curb cuts, drainage swales, transportation demand management, the payment of impact fees, or other measures to mitigate a proposal's probable adverse environmental impacts, if applicable.

(6) Subsections (1) through (4) of this section apply only to local governments planning under RCW 36.70A.040. [1995 c 347 § 404.]

**Intent—Findings—1995 c 347 §§ 404 and 405:** "In enacting RCW 36.70B.030 and 36.70B.040, the legislature intends to establish a mechanism for implementing the provisions of chapter 36.70A RCW regarding compliance, conformity, and consistency of proposed projects with adopted comprehensive plans and development regulations. In order to achieve this purpose the legislature finds that:

(1) Given the extensive investment that public agencies and a broad spectrum of the public are making and will continue to make in comprehensive plans and development regulations for their communities, it is essential that project review start from the fundamental land use planning choices made in these plans and regulations. If the applicable regulations or plans identify the type of land use, specify residential density in urban growth areas, and identify and provide for funding of public facilities needed to serve the proposed development and site, these decisions at a minimum provide the foundation for further project review unless there is a question of code interpretation. The project review process, including the environmental review process under chapter 43.21C RCW and the consideration of consistency, should start from this point and should not reanalyze these land use planning decisions in making a permit decision.

(2) Comprehensive plans and development regulations adopted by local governments under chapter 36.70A RCW and environmental laws and rules adopted by the state and federal government have addressed a wide range of environmental subjects and impacts. These provisions typically require environmental studies and contain specific standards to address various impacts associated with a proposed development, such as building size and location, drainage, transportation requirements, and protection of critical areas. When a permitting agency applies these existing requirements to a proposed project, some or all of a project's potential environmental impacts will be avoided or otherwise mitigated. Through the integrated project review process described in subsection (1) of this section, the local government will determine whether existing requirements, including the applicable regulations or plans, adequately analyze and address a project's environmental impacts. RCW 43.21C.240 provides that project review should not require additional studies or mitigation under chapter 43.21C RCW where existing regulations have adequately addressed a proposed project's probable specific adverse environmental impacts.

(3) Given the hundreds of jurisdictions and agencies in the state and the numerous communities and applicants affected by development regulations and comprehensive plans adopted under chapter 36.70A RCW, it is essential to establish a uniform framework for considering the consistency of a proposed project with the applicable regulations or plan. Consistency should be determined in the project review process by considering four factors found in applicable regulations or plans: The type of land use allowed; the level of development allowed, such as units per acre or other measures of density; infrastructure, such as the adequacy of public facilities and services to serve the proposed project; and the character of the proposed development, such as compliance with specific development standards. This uniform approach corresponds to existing project review practices and will not place a burden

on applicants or local government. The legislature intends that this approach should be largely a matter of checking compliance with existing requirements for most projects, which are simple or routine, while more complex projects may require more analysis. RCW 43.21C.240 and 36.70B.030 establish this uniform framework and also direct state agencies to consult with local government and the public to develop a better format than the current environmental checklist to meet this objective.

(4) When an applicant applies for a project permit, consistency between the proposed project and applicable regulations or plan should be determined through a project review process that integrates land use and environmental impact analysis, so that governmental and public review of the proposed project as required by this chapter, by development regulations under chapter 36.70A RCW, and by the environmental process under chapter 43.21C RCW run concurrently and not separately.

(5) RCW 36.70B.030 and 36.70B.040 address three related needs with respect to how the project review process should address consistency between a proposed project and the applicable regulations or plan:

(a) A uniform framework for the meaning of consistency;

(b) An emphasis on relying on existing requirements and adopted standards, with the use of supplemental authority as specified by chapter 43.21C RCW to the extent that existing requirements do not adequately address a project's specific probable adverse environmental impacts; and

(c) The identification of three basic land use planning choices made in applicable regulations or plans that, at a minimum, serve as a foundation for project review and that should not be reanalyzed during project permitting." [1995 c 347 § 403.]

**36.70B.040 Determination of consistency.** (1) A proposed project's consistency with a local government's development regulations adopted under chapter 36.70A RCW, or, in the absence of applicable development regulations, the appropriate elements of the comprehensive plan adopted under chapter 36.70A RCW shall be decided by the local government during project review by consideration of:

(a) The type of land use;

(b) The level of development, such as units per acre or other measures of density;

(c) Infrastructure, including public facilities and services needed to serve the development; and

(d) The characteristics of the development, such as development standards.

(2) In deciding whether a project is consistent, the determinations made pursuant to RCW 36.70B.030(2) shall be controlling.

(3) For purposes of this section, the term "consistency" shall include all terms used in this chapter and chapter 36.70A RCW to refer to performance in accordance with this chapter and chapter 36.70A RCW, including but not limited to compliance, conformity, and consistency.

(4) Nothing in this section requires documentation, dictates an agency's procedures for considering consistency, or limits a city or county from asking more specific or related questions with respect to any of the four main categories listed in subsection (1)(a) through (d) of this section.

(5) The \*department of community, trade, and economic development is authorized to develop and adopt by rule criteria to assist local governments planning under RCW 36.70A.040 to analyze the consistency of project actions. These criteria shall be jointly developed with the department of ecology. [1997 c 429 § 46; 1995 c 347 § 405.]

**\*Reviser's note:** The "department of community, trade, and economic development" was renamed the "department of commerce" by 2009 c 565.

**Intent—Findings—1995 c 347 §§ 404 and 405:** See note following RCW 36.70B.030.

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

**36.70B.050 Local government review of project permit applications required—Objectives.** Not later than March 31, 1996, each local government shall provide by ordinance or resolution for review of project permit applications to achieve the following objectives:

(1) Combine the environmental review process, both procedural and substantive, with the procedure for review of project permits; and

(2) Except for the appeal of a determination of significance as provided in RCW 43.21C.075, provide for no more than one open record hearing and one closed record appeal. [1995 c 347 § 406.]

**36.70B.060 Local governments planning under the growth management act to establish integrated and consolidated project permit process—Required elements.** Not later than March 31, 1996, each local government planning under RCW 36.70A.040 shall establish by ordinance or resolution an integrated and consolidated project permit process that may be included in its development regulations. In addition to the elements required by RCW 36.70B.050, the process shall include the following elements:

(1) A determination of completeness to the applicant as required by RCW 36.70B.070;

(2) A notice of application to the public and agencies with jurisdiction as required by RCW 36.70B.110;

(3) Except as provided in RCW 36.70B.140, an optional consolidated project permit review process as provided in RCW 36.70B.120. The review process shall provide for no more than one consolidated open record hearing and one closed record appeal. If an open record predecision hearing is provided prior to the decision on a project permit, the process shall not allow a subsequent open record appeal hearing;

(4) Provision allowing for any public meeting or required open record hearing to be combined with any public meeting or open record hearing that may be held on the project by another local, state, regional, federal, or other agency, in accordance with provisions of RCW \*36.70B.090 and 36.70B.110;

(5) A single report stating all the decisions made as of the date of the report on all project permits included in the consolidated permit process that do not require an open record predecision hearing and any recommendations on project permits that do not require an open record predecision hearing. The report shall state any mitigation required or proposed under the development regulations or the agency's authority under RCW 43.21C.060. The report may be the local permit. If a threshold determination other than a determination of significance has not been issued previously by the local government, the report shall include or append this determination;

(6) Except for the appeal of a determination of significance as provided in RCW 43.21C.075, if a local government elects to provide an appeal of its threshold determinations or project permit decisions, the local government shall provide for no more than one consolidated open record hearing on such appeal. The local government need not provide for any further appeal and may provide an appeal for some but not all project permit decisions. If an appeal is provided after the open record hearing, it shall be a closed record appeal before a single decision-making body or officer;

(7) A notice of decision as required by RCW 36.70B.130 and issued within the time period provided in RCW 36.70B.080 and \*36.70B.090;

(8) Completion of project review by the local government, including environmental review and public review and any appeals to the local government, within any applicable time periods under \*RCW 36.70B.090; and

(9) Any other provisions not inconsistent with the requirements of this chapter or chapter 43.21C RCW. [1995 c 347 § 407.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 36.70B.090 expired June 30, 2000, pursuant to 1998 c 286 § 8.

**36.70B.070 Project permit applications—Determination of completeness—Notice to applicant.** (1) Within twenty-eight days after receiving a project permit application, a local government planning pursuant to RCW 36.70A.040 shall mail or provide in person a written determination to the applicant, stating either:

(a) That the application is complete; or

(b) That the application is incomplete and what is necessary to make the application complete.

To the extent known by the local government, the local government shall identify other agencies of local, state, or federal governments that may have jurisdiction over some aspect of the application.

(2) A project permit application is complete for purposes of this section when it meets the procedural submission requirements of the local government and is sufficient for continued processing even though additional information may be required or project modifications may be undertaken subsequently. The determination of completeness shall not preclude the local government from requesting additional information or studies either at the time of the notice of completeness or subsequently if new information is required or substantial changes in the proposed action occur.

(3) The determination of completeness may include the following as optional information:

(a) A preliminary determination of those development regulations that will be used for project mitigation;

(b) A preliminary determination of consistency, as provided under RCW 36.70B.040; or

(c) Other information the local government chooses to include.

(4)(a) An application shall be deemed complete under this section if the local government does not provide a written determination to the applicant that the application is incomplete as provided in subsection (1)(b) of this section.

(b) Within fourteen days after an applicant has submitted to a local government additional information identified by the local government as being necessary for a complete application, the local government shall notify the applicant whether the application is complete or what additional information is necessary. [1995 c 347 § 408; 1994 c 257 § 4. Formerly RCW 36.70A.440.]

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

**36.70B.080 Development regulations—Requirements—Report on implementation costs.** (1) Development regulations adopted pursuant to RCW 36.70A.040 must establish and implement time periods for local government

actions for each type of project permit application and provide timely and predictable procedures to determine whether a completed project permit application meets the requirements of those development regulations. The time periods for local government actions for each type of complete project permit application or project type should not exceed one hundred twenty days, unless the local government makes written findings that a specified amount of additional time is needed to process specific complete project permit applications or project types.

The development regulations must, for each type of permit application, specify the contents of a completed project permit application necessary for the complete compliance with the time periods and procedures.

(2)(a) Counties subject to the requirements of RCW 36.70A.215 and the cities within those counties that have populations of at least twenty thousand must, for each type of permit application, identify the total number of project permit applications for which decisions are issued according to the provisions of this chapter. For each type of project permit application identified, these counties and cities must establish and implement a deadline for issuing a notice of final decision as required by subsection (1) of this section and minimum requirements for applications to be deemed complete under RCW 36.70B.070 as required by subsection (1) of this section.

(b) Counties and cities subject to the requirements of this subsection also must prepare annual performance reports that include, at a minimum, the following information for each type of project permit application identified in accordance with the requirements of (a) of this subsection:

(i) Total number of complete applications received during the year;

(ii) Number of complete applications received during the year for which a notice of final decision was issued before the deadline established under this subsection;

(iii) Number of applications received during the year for which a notice of final decision was issued after the deadline established under this subsection;

(iv) Number of applications received during the year for which an extension of time was mutually agreed upon by the applicant and the county or city;

(v) Variance of actual performance, excluding applications for which mutually agreed time extensions have occurred, to the deadline established under this subsection during the year; and

(vi) The mean processing time and the number standard deviation from the mean.

(c) Counties and cities subject to the requirements of this subsection must:

(i) Provide notice of and access to the annual performance reports through the county's or city's website; and

(ii) Post electronic facsimiles of the annual performance reports through the county's or city's website. Postings on a county's or city's website indicating that the reports are available by contacting the appropriate county or city department or official do not comply with the requirements of this subsection.

If a county or city subject to the requirements of this subsection does not maintain a website, notice of the reports

must be given by reasonable methods, including but not limited to those methods specified in RCW 36.70B.110(4).

(3) Nothing in this section prohibits a county or city from extending a deadline for issuing a decision for a specific project permit application for any reasonable period of time mutually agreed upon by the applicant and the local government.

(4) The \*department of community, trade, and economic development shall work with the counties and cities to review the potential implementation costs of the requirements of subsection (2) of this section. The department, in cooperation with the local governments, shall prepare a report summarizing the projected costs, together with recommendations for state funding assistance for implementation costs, and provide the report to the governor and appropriate committees of the senate and house of representatives by January 1, 2005. [2004 c 191 § 2; 2001 c 322 § 1; 1995 c 347 § 410; (1995 c 347 § 409 expired July 1, 2000); 1994 c 257 § 3. Formerly RCW 36.70A.065.]

**\*Reviser's note:** The "department of community, trade, and economic development" was renamed the "department of commerce" by 2009 c 565.

**Findings—Intent—2004 c 191:** "The legislature finds that the timely issuance of project permit decisions by local governments serves the public interest. When these decisions, that are often responses to land use and building permit applications, are issued according to specific and locally established time periods and without unnecessary or inappropriate delays, the public enjoys greater efficiency, consistency, and predictability in the permitting process.

The legislature also finds that full access to relevant performance data produced annually by local governments for each type of permit application affords elected officials, project proponents, and the general public the opportunity to review and compare the permit application and processing performance of jurisdictions. Furthermore, the legislature finds that the review and comparison of this data, and the requirement to provide convenient and direct internet access to germane and consistent reports, will likely foster improved methods for processing applications, and issuing project permit decisions in a timely manner.

The legislature, therefore, intends to continue and clarify the requirements for certain jurisdictions to produce and provide access to annual permitting performance reports." [2004 c 191 § 1.]

*Development regulations must provide sufficient land capacity for development: RCW 36.70A.115.*

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

**36.70B.100 Designation of person or entity to receive determinations and notices.** A local government may require the applicant for a project permit to designate a single person or entity to receive determinations and notices required by this chapter. [1995 c 347 § 414.]

**36.70B.110 Notice of application—Required elements—Integration with other review procedures—Administrative appeals (as amended by 1997 c 396).** (1) Not later than April 1, 1996, a local government planning under RCW 36.70A.040 shall provide a notice of application to the public and the departments and agencies with jurisdiction as provided in this section. If a local government has made a threshold determination (~~(of significance)~~) under chapter 43.21C RCW concurrently with the notice of application, the notice of application (~~(shall)~~ may) be combined with the threshold determination (~~(of significance)~~) and the scoping notice for a determination of significance. Nothing in this section prevents a determination of significance and scoping notice from being issued prior to the notice of application.

(2) The notice of application shall be provided within fourteen days after the determination of completeness as provided in RCW 36.70B.070 and include the following in whatever sequence or format the local government deems appropriate:

(a) The date of application, the date of the notice of completion for the application, and the date of the notice of application;

(b) A description of the proposed project action and a list of the project permits included in the application and, if applicable, a list of any studies requested under RCW 36.70B.070 or \*36.70B.090;

(c) The identification of other permits not included in the application to the extent known by the local government;

(d) The identification of existing environmental documents that evaluate the proposed project, and, if not otherwise stated on the document providing the notice of application, such as a city land use bulletin, the location where the application and any studies can be reviewed;

(e) A statement of the public comment period, which shall be not less than fourteen nor more than thirty days following the date of notice of application, and statements of the right of any person to comment on the application, receive notice of and participate in any hearings, request a copy of the decision once made, and any appeal rights. A local government may accept public comments at any time prior to the closing of the record of an open record predecision hearing, if any, or, if no open record predecision hearing is provided, prior to the decision on the project permit;

(f) The date, time, place, and type of hearing, if applicable and scheduled at the date of notice of the application;

(g) A statement of the preliminary determination, if one has been made at the time of notice, of those development regulations that will be used for project mitigation and of consistency as provided in RCW 36.70B.040; and

(h) Any other information determined appropriate by the local government.

(3) If an open record predecision hearing is required for the requested project permits, the notice of application shall be provided at least fifteen days prior to the open record hearing.

(4) A local government shall use reasonable methods to give the notice of application to the public and agencies with jurisdiction and may use its existing notice procedures. A local government may use different types of notice for different categories of project permits or types of project actions. If a local government by resolution or ordinance does not specify its method of public notice, the local government shall use the methods provided for in (a) and (b) of this subsection. Examples of reasonable methods to inform the public are:

(a) Posting the property for site-specific proposals;

(b) Publishing notice, including at least the project location, description, type of permit(s) required, comment period dates, and location where the complete application may be reviewed, in the newspaper of general circulation in the general area where the proposal is located or in a local land use newsletter published by the local government;

(c) Notifying public or private groups with known interest in a certain proposal or in the type of proposal being considered;

(d) Notifying the news media;

(e) Placing notices in appropriate regional or neighborhood newspapers or trade journals;

(f) Publishing notice in agency newsletters or sending notice to agency mailing lists, either general lists or lists for specific proposals or subject areas; and

(g) Mailing to neighboring property owners.

(5) A notice of application shall not be required for project permits that are categorically exempt under chapter 43.21C RCW, unless a public comment period or an open record predecision hearing is required.

(6) A local government shall integrate the permit procedures in this section with environmental review under chapter 43.21C RCW as follows:

(a) Except for a threshold determination (~~(of significance)~~), the local government may not issue (~~(its threshold determination, or issue)~~) a decision or a recommendation on a project permit until the expiration of the public comment period on the notice of application.

(b) If an open record predecision hearing is required and the local government's threshold determination requires public notice under chapter 43.21C RCW, the local government shall issue its threshold determination at least fifteen days prior to the open record predecision hearing.

(c) Comments shall be as specific as possible.

(7) A local government may combine any hearing on a project permit with any hearing that may be held by another local, state, regional, federal, or other agency provided that the hearing is held within the geographic boundary of the local government. Hearings shall be combined if requested by an applicant, as long as the joint hearing can be held within the time periods specified in \*RCW 36.70B.090 or the applicant agrees to the schedule in the event that additional time is needed in order to combine the hearings. All agencies of the state of Washington, including municipal corporations and counties participating in a combined hearing, are hereby authorized to issue joint hearing notices and develop a joint format, select a mutually acceptable hearing body or officer, and take such other actions as may be necessary to

hold joint hearings consistent with each of their respective statutory obligations.

(8) All state and local agencies shall cooperate to the fullest extent possible with the local government in holding a joint hearing if requested to do so, as long as:

(a) The agency is not expressly prohibited by statute from doing so;

(b) Sufficient notice of the hearing is given to meet each of the agencies' adopted notice requirements as set forth in statute, ordinance, or rule; and

(c) The agency has received the necessary information about the proposed project from the applicant to hold its hearing at the same time as the local government hearing.

(9) A local government is not required to provide for administrative appeals. If provided, an administrative appeal of the project decision, combined with any environmental determinations, shall be filed within fourteen days after the notice of the decision or after other notice that the decision has been made and is appealable. The local government shall extend the appeal period for an additional seven days, if state or local rules adopted pursuant to chapter 43.21C RCW allow public comment on a determination of nonsignificance issued as part of the appealable project permit decision.

(10) The applicant for a project permit is deemed to be a participant in any comment period, open record hearing, or closed record appeal.

(11) Each local government planning under RCW 36.70A.040 shall adopt procedures for administrative interpretation of its development regulations. [1997 c 396 § 1; 1995 c 347 § 415.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 36.70B.090 expired June 30, 2000, pursuant to 1998 c 286 § 8.

**36.70B.110 Notice of application—Required elements—Integration with other review procedures—Administrative appeals (as amended by 1997 c 429).** (1) Not later than April 1, 1996, a local government planning under RCW 36.70A.040 shall provide a notice of application to the public and the departments and agencies with jurisdiction as provided in this section. If a local government has made a determination of significance under chapter 43.21C RCW concurrently with the notice of application, the notice of application shall be combined with the determination of significance and scoping notice. Nothing in this section prevents a determination of significance and scoping notice from being issued prior to the notice of application. Nothing in this section or this chapter prevents a lead agency, when it is a project proponent or is funding a project, from conducting its review under chapter 43.21C RCW or from allowing appeals of procedural determinations prior to submitting a project permit application.

(2) The notice of application shall be provided within fourteen days after the determination of completeness as provided in RCW 36.70B.070 and, except as limited by the provisions of subsection (4)(b) of this section, shall include the following in whatever sequence or format the local government deems appropriate:

(a) The date of application, the date of the notice of completion for the application, and the date of the notice of application;

(b) A description of the proposed project action and a list of the project permits included in the application and, if applicable, a list of any studies requested under RCW 36.70B.070 or \*36.70B.090;

(c) The identification of other permits not included in the application to the extent known by the local government;

(d) The identification of existing environmental documents that evaluate the proposed project, and, if not otherwise stated on the document providing the notice of application, such as a city land use bulletin, the location where the application and any studies can be reviewed;

(e) A statement of the public comment period, which shall be not less than fourteen nor more than thirty days following the date of notice of application, and statements of the right of any person to comment on the application, receive notice of and participate in any hearings, request a copy of the decision once made, and any appeal rights. A local government may accept public comments at any time prior to the closing of the record of an open record predecision hearing, if any, or, if no open record predecision hearing is provided, prior to the decision on the project permit;

(f) The date, time, place, and type of hearing, if applicable and scheduled at the date of notice of the application;

(g) A statement of the preliminary determination, if one has been made at the time of notice, of those development regulations that will be used for project mitigation and of consistency as provided in RCW ~~((36.70B.040))~~ 36.70B.030(2); and

(h) Any other information determined appropriate by the local government.

(2022 Ed.)

(3) If an open record predecision hearing is required for the requested project permits, the notice of application shall be provided at least fifteen days prior to the open record hearing.

(4) A local government shall use reasonable methods to give the notice of application to the public and agencies with jurisdiction and may use its existing notice procedures. A local government may use different types of notice for different categories of project permits or types of project actions. If a local government by resolution or ordinance does not specify its method of public notice, the local government shall use the methods provided for in (a) and (b) of this subsection. Examples of reasonable methods to inform the public are:

(a) Posting the property for site-specific proposals;

(b) Publishing notice, including at least the project location, description, type of permit(s) required, comment period dates, and location where the notice of application required by subsection (2) of this section and the complete application may be reviewed, in the newspaper of general circulation in the general area where the proposal is located or in a local land use newsletter published by the local government;

(c) Notifying public or private groups with known interest in a certain proposal or in the type of proposal being considered;

(d) Notifying the news media;

(e) Placing notices in appropriate regional or neighborhood newspapers or trade journals;

(f) Publishing notice in agency newsletters or sending notice to agency mailing lists, either general lists or lists for specific proposals or subject areas; and

(g) Mailing to neighboring property owners.

(5) A notice of application shall not be required for project permits that are categorically exempt under chapter 43.21C RCW, unless ~~((a public comment period or))~~ an open record predecision hearing is required or an open record appeal hearing is allowed on the project permit decision.

(6) A local government shall integrate the permit procedures in this section with its environmental review under chapter 43.21C RCW as follows:

(a) Except for a determination of significance and except as otherwise expressly allowed in this section, the local government may not issue its threshold determination ~~((or issue a decision or a recommendation on a project permit))~~ until the expiration of the public comment period on the notice of application.

(b) If an open record predecision hearing is required ~~((and the local government's threshold determination requires public notice under chapter 43.21C RCW)),~~ the local government shall issue its threshold determination at least fifteen days prior to the open record predecision hearing.

(c) Comments shall be as specific as possible.

(d) A local government is not required to provide for administrative appeals of its threshold determination. If provided, an administrative appeal shall be filed within fourteen days after notice that the determination has been made and is appealable. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this section, the appeal hearing on a determination of nonsignificance shall be consolidated with any open record hearing on the project permit.

(7) At the request of the applicant, a local government may combine any hearing on a project permit with any hearing that may be held by another local, state, regional, federal, or other agency ~~((provided that)),~~ if:

(a) The hearing is held within the geographic boundary of the local government ~~((Hearings shall be combined if requested by an applicant, as long as)); and~~

(b) The joint hearing can be held within the time periods specified in \*RCW 36.70B.090 or the applicant agrees to the schedule in the event that additional time is needed in order to combine the hearings. All agencies of the state of Washington, including municipal corporations and counties participating in a combined hearing, are hereby authorized to issue joint hearing notices and develop a joint format, select a mutually acceptable hearing body or officer, and take such other actions as may be necessary to hold joint hearings consistent with each of their respective statutory obligations.

(8) All state and local agencies shall cooperate to the fullest extent possible with the local government in holding a joint hearing if requested to do so, as long as:

(a) The agency is not expressly prohibited by statute from doing so;

(b) Sufficient notice of the hearing is given to meet each of the agencies' adopted notice requirements as set forth in statute, ordinance, or rule; and

(c) The agency has received the necessary information about the proposed project from the applicant to hold its hearing at the same time as the local government hearing.

(9) A local government is not required to provide for administrative appeals. If provided, an administrative appeal of the project decision ~~((com-~~

binéd-with)) and of any environmental determination((s)) issued at the same time as the project decision, shall be filed within fourteen days after the notice of the decision or after other notice that the decision has been made and is appealable. The local government shall extend the appeal period for an additional seven days, if state or local rules adopted pursuant to chapter 43.21C RCW allow public comment on a determination of insignificance issued as part of the appealable project permit decision.

(10) The applicant for a project permit is deemed to be a participant in any comment period, open record hearing, or closed record appeal.

(11) Each local government planning under RCW 36.70A.040 shall adopt procedures for administrative interpretation of its development regulations. [1997 c 429 § 48; 1995 c 347 § 415.]

**Reviser's note:** \*(1) RCW 36.70B.090 expired June 30, 2000, pursuant to 1998 c 286 § 8.

(2) RCW 36.70B.110 was amended twice during the 1997 legislative session, each without reference to the other. For rule of construction concerning sections amended more than once during the same legislative session, see RCW 1.12.025.

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

**36.70B.120 Permit review process.** (1) Each local government planning under RCW 36.70A.040 shall establish a permit review process that provides for the integrated and consolidated review and decision on two or more project permits relating to a proposed project action, including a single application review and approval process covering all project permits requested by an applicant for all or part of a project action and a designated permit coordinator. If an applicant elects the consolidated permit review process, the determination of completeness, notice of application, and notice of final decision must include all project permits being reviewed through the consolidated permit review process.

(2) Consolidated permit review may provide different procedures for different categories of project permits, but if a project action requires project permits from more than one category, the local government shall provide for consolidated permit review with a single open record hearing and no more than one closed record appeal as provided in RCW 36.70B.060. Each local government shall determine which project permits are subject to an open record hearing and a closed record appeal. Examples of categories of project permits include but are not limited to:

(a) Proposals that are categorically exempt from chapter 43.21C RCW, such as construction permits, that do not require environmental review or public notice;

(b) Permits that require environmental review, but no open record predecision hearing; and

(c) Permits that require a threshold determination and an open record predecision hearing and may provide for a closed record appeal to a hearing body or officer or to the local government legislative body.

(3) A local government may provide by ordinance or resolution for the same or a different decision maker or hearing body or officer for different categories of project permits. In the case of consolidated project permit review, the local government shall specify which decision makers shall make the decision or recommendation, conduct the hearing, or decide the appeal to ensure that consolidated permit review occurs as provided in this section. The consolidated permit review may combine an open record predecision hearing on one or more permits with an open record appeal hearing on other permits. In such cases, the local government by ordinance or resolution shall specify which project permits, if any, shall be subject to a closed record appeal. [1995 c 347 § 416.]

**36.70B.130 Notice of decision—Distribution.** A local government planning under RCW 36.70A.040 shall provide a notice of decision that also includes a statement of any threshold determination made under chapter 43.21C RCW and the procedures for administrative appeal, if any. The notice of decision may be a copy of the report or decision on the project permit application. The notice shall be provided to the applicant and to any person who, prior to the rendering of the decision, requested notice of the decision or submitted substantive comments on the application. The local government shall provide for notice of its decision as provided in RCW 36.70B.110(4), which shall also state that affected property owners may request a change in valuation for property tax purposes notwithstanding any program of revaluation. The local government shall provide notice of decision to the county assessor's office of the county or counties in which the property is situated. [1996 c 254 § 1; 1995 c 347 § 417.]

**36.70B.140 Project permits that may be excluded from review.** (1) A local government by ordinance or resolution may exclude the following project permits from the provisions of RCW 36.70B.060 through \*36.70B.090 and 36.70B.110 through 36.70B.130: Landmark designations, street vacations, or other approvals relating to the use of public areas or facilities, or other project permits, whether administrative or quasi-judicial, that the local government by ordinance or resolution has determined present special circumstances that warrant a review process different from that provided in RCW 36.70B.060 through \*36.70B.090 and 36.70B.110 through 36.70B.130.

(2) A local government by ordinance or resolution also may exclude the following project permits from the provisions of RCW 36.70B.060 and 36.70B.110 through 36.70B.130: Lot line or boundary adjustments and building and other construction permits, or similar administrative approvals, categorically exempt from environmental review under chapter 43.21C RCW, or for which environmental review has been completed in connection with other project permits. [1995 c 347 § 418.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 36.70B.090 expired June 30, 2000, pursuant to 1998 c 286 § 8.

**36.70B.150 Local governments not planning under the growth management act may use provisions.** A local government not planning under RCW 36.70A.040 may incorporate some or all of the provisions of RCW 36.70B.060 through \*36.70B.090 and 36.70B.110 through 36.70B.130 into its procedures for review of project permits or other project actions. [1995 c 347 § 419.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 36.70B.090 expired June 30, 2000, pursuant to 1998 c 286 § 8.

**36.70B.160 Additional project review encouraged—Construction.** (1) Each local government is encouraged to adopt further project review provisions to provide prompt, coordinated review and ensure accountability to applicants and the public, including expedited review for project permit applications for projects that are consistent with adopted development regulations and within the capacity of system-wide infrastructure improvements.

(2) Nothing in this chapter is intended or shall be construed to prevent a local government from requiring a preapplication conference or a public meeting by rule, ordinance, or resolution.

(3) Each local government shall adopt procedures to monitor and enforce permit decisions and conditions.

(4) Nothing in this chapter modifies any independent statutory authority for a government agency to appeal a project permit issued by a local government. [1995 c 347 § 420.]

### **36.70B.170 Development agreements—Authorized.**

(1) A local government may enter into a development agreement with a person having ownership or control of real property within its jurisdiction. A city may enter into a development agreement for real property outside its boundaries as part of a proposed annexation or a service agreement. A development agreement must set forth the development standards and other provisions that shall apply to and govern and vest the development, use, and mitigation of the development of the real property for the duration specified in the agreement. A development agreement shall be consistent with applicable development regulations adopted by a local government planning under chapter 36.70A RCW.

(2) RCW 36.70B.170 through 36.70B.190 and section 501, chapter 347, Laws of 1995 do not affect the validity of a contract rezone, concomitant agreement, annexation agreement, or other agreement in existence on July 23, 1995, or adopted under separate authority, that includes some or all of the development standards provided in subsection (3) of this section.

(3) For the purposes of this section, "development standards" includes, but is not limited to:

(a) Project elements such as permitted uses, residential densities, and nonresidential densities and intensities or building sizes;

(b) The amount and payment of impact fees imposed or agreed to in accordance with any applicable provisions of state law, any reimbursement provisions, other financial contributions by the property owner, inspection fees, or dedications;

(c) Mitigation measures, development conditions, and other requirements under chapter 43.21C RCW;

(d) Design standards such as maximum heights, setbacks, drainage and water quality requirements, landscaping, and other development features;

(e) Affordable housing;

(f) Parks and open space preservation;

(g) Phasing;

(h) Review procedures and standards for implementing decisions;

(i) A build-out or vesting period for applicable standards; and

(j) Any other appropriate development requirement or procedure.

(4) The execution of a development agreement is a proper exercise of county and city police power and contract authority. A development agreement may obligate a party to fund or provide services, infrastructure, or other facilities. A development agreement shall reserve authority to impose new or different regulations to the extent required by a serious threat to public health and safety. [1995 c 347 § 502.]

(2022 Ed.)

**Findings—Intent—1995 c 347 §§ 502-506:** "The legislature finds that the lack of certainty in the approval of development projects can result in a waste of public and private resources, escalate housing costs for consumers and discourage the commitment to comprehensive planning which would make maximum efficient use of resources at the least economic cost to the public. Assurance to a development project applicant that upon government approval the project may proceed in accordance with existing policies and regulations, and subject to conditions of approval, all as set forth in a development agreement, will strengthen the public planning process, encourage private participation and comprehensive planning, and reduce the economic costs of development. Further, the lack of public facilities and services is a serious impediment to development of new housing and commercial uses. Project applicants and local governments may include provisions and agreements whereby applicants are reimbursed over time for financing public facilities. It is the intent of the legislature by RCW 36.70B.170 through 36.70B.210 to allow local governments and owners and developers of real property to enter into development agreements." [1995 c 347 § 501.]

### **36.70B.180 Development agreements—Effect.**

Unless amended or terminated, a development agreement is enforceable during its term by a party to the agreement. A development agreement and the development standards in the agreement govern during the term of the agreement, or for all or that part of the build-out period specified in the agreement, and may not be subject to an amendment to a zoning ordinance or development standard or regulation or a new zoning ordinance or development standard or regulation adopted after the effective date of the agreement. A permit or approval issued by the county or city after the execution of the development agreement must be consistent with the development agreement. [1995 c 347 § 503.]

**Findings—Intent—1995 c 347 §§ 502-506:** See note following RCW 36.70B.170.

### **36.70B.190 Development agreements—Recording—**

**Parties and successors bound.** A development agreement shall be recorded with the real property records of the county in which the property is located. During the term of the development agreement, the agreement is binding on the parties and their successors, including a city that assumes jurisdiction through incorporation or annexation of the area covering the property covered by the development agreement. [1995 c 347 § 504.]

**Findings—Intent—1995 c 347 §§ 502-506:** See note following RCW 36.70B.170.

### **36.70B.200 Development agreements—Public hearing.**

A county or city shall only approve a development agreement by ordinance or resolution after a public hearing. The county or city legislative body or a planning commission, hearing examiner, or other body designated by the legislative body to conduct the public hearing may conduct the hearing. If the development agreement relates to a project permit application, the provisions of chapter 36.70C RCW shall apply to the appeal of the decision on the development agreement. [1995 c 347 § 505.]

**Findings—Intent—1995 c 347 §§ 502-506:** See note following RCW 36.70B.170.

### **36.70B.210 Development agreements—Authority to impose fees not extended.**

Nothing in RCW 36.70B.170 through 36.70B.200 and section 501, chapter 347, Laws of 1995 is intended to authorize local governments to impose impact fees, inspection fees, or dedications or to require any other financial contributions or mitigation measures except as

expressly authorized by other applicable provisions of state law. [1995 c 347 § 506.]

**Findings—Intent—1995 c 347 §§ 502-506:** See note following RCW 36.70B.170.

**36.70B.220 Permit assistance staff.** (1) Each county and city having populations of ten thousand or more that plan under RCW 36.70A.040 shall designate permit assistance staff whose function it is to assist permit applicants. An existing employee may be designated as the permit assistance staff.

(2) Permit assistance staff designated under this section shall:

(a) Make available to permit applicants all current local government regulations and adopted policies that apply to the subject application. The local government shall provide counter copies thereof and, upon request, provide copies according to chapter 42.56 RCW. The staff shall also publish and keep current one or more handouts containing lists and explanations of all local government regulations and adopted policies;

(b) Establish and make known to the public the means of obtaining the handouts and related information; and

(c) Provide assistance regarding the application of the local government's regulations in particular cases.

(3) Permit assistance staff designated under this section may obtain technical assistance and support in the compilation and production of the handouts under subsection (2) of this section from the department of commerce. [2010 c 271 § 707; 2005 c 274 § 272; 1996 c 206 § 9.]

**Purpose—Effective date—2010 c 271:** See notes following RCW 43.330.005.

**Findings—1996 c 206:** See note following RCW 43.05.030.

**36.70B.230 Planning regulations—Copies provided to county assessor.** By July 31, 1997, a local government planning under RCW 36.70A.040 shall provide to the county assessor a copy of the local government's comprehensive plan and development regulations in effect on July 1st of that year and shall thereafter provide any amendments to the plan and regulations that were adopted before July 31st of each following year. [1996 c 254 § 6.]

**36.70B.900 Finding—Severability—Part headings and table of contents not law—1995 c 347.** See notes following RCW 36.70A.470.

## Chapter 36.70C RCW

### JUDICIAL REVIEW OF LAND USE DECISIONS

#### Sections

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**36.70C.005 Short title.** This chapter may be known and cited as the land use petition act. [1995 c 347 § 701.]

**36.70C.010 Purpose.** The purpose of this chapter is to reform the process for judicial review of land use decisions made by local jurisdictions, by establishing uniform, expedited appeal procedures and uniform criteria for reviewing such decisions, in order to provide consistent, predictable, and timely judicial review. [1995 c 347 § 702.]

**36.70C.020 Definitions.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Energy overlay zone" means a formal plan enacted by the county legislative authority that establishes suitable areas for siting renewable resource projects based on currently available resources and existing infrastructure with sensitivity to adverse environmental impact.

(2) "Land use decision" means a final determination by a local jurisdiction's body or officer with the highest level of authority to make the determination, including those with authority to hear appeals, on:

(a) An application for a project permit or other governmental approval required by law before real property may be improved, developed, modified, sold, transferred, or used, but excluding applications for permits or approvals to use, vacate, or transfer streets, parks, and similar types of public property; excluding applications for legislative approvals such as area-wide rezones and annexations; and excluding applications for business licenses;

(b) An interpretative or declaratory decision regarding the application to a specific property of zoning or other ordinances or rules regulating the improvement, development, modification, maintenance, or use of real property; and

(c) The enforcement by a local jurisdiction of ordinances regulating the improvement, development, modification, maintenance, or use of real property. However, when a local jurisdiction is required by law to enforce the ordinances in a court of limited jurisdiction, a petition may not be brought under this chapter.

Where a local jurisdiction allows or requires a motion for reconsideration to the highest level of authority making the determination, and a timely motion for reconsideration has been filed, the land use decision occurs on the date a decision is entered on the motion for reconsideration, and not the date of the original decision for which the motion for reconsideration was filed.

(3) "Local jurisdiction" means a county, city, or incorporated town.

(4) "Person" means an individual, partnership, corporation, association, public or private organization, or governmental entity or agency.

(5) "Renewable resources" has the same meaning provided in RCW 19.280.020. [2010 c 59 § 1; 2009 c 419 § 1; 1995 c 347 § 703.]



**36.70C.030 Chapter exclusive means of judicial review of land use decisions—Exceptions.** (1) This chapter replaces the writ of certiorari for appeal of land use decisions and shall be the exclusive means of judicial review of land use decisions, except that this chapter does not apply to:

(a) Judicial review of:

(i) Land use decisions made by bodies that are not part of a local jurisdiction;

(ii) Land use decisions of a local jurisdiction that are subject to review by a quasi-judicial body created by state law, such as the shorelines hearings board or the growth management hearings board;

(b) Judicial review of applications for a writ of mandamus or prohibition; or

(c) Claims provided by any law for monetary damages or compensation. If one or more claims for damages or compensation are set forth in the same complaint with a land use petition brought under this chapter, the claims are not subject to the procedures and standards, including deadlines, provided in this chapter for review of the petition. The judge who hears the land use petition may, if appropriate, preside at a trial for damages or compensation.

(2) The superior court civil rules govern procedural matters under this chapter to the extent that the rules are consistent with this chapter. [2010 1st sp.s. c 7 § 38; 2003 c 393 § 17; 1995 c 347 § 704.]

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

**36.70C.040 Commencement of review—Land use petition—Procedure.** (1) Proceedings for review under this chapter shall be commenced by filing a land use petition in superior court.

(2) A land use petition is barred, and the court may not grant review, unless the petition is timely filed with the court and timely served on the following persons who shall be parties to the review of the land use petition:

(a) The local jurisdiction, which for purposes of the petition shall be the jurisdiction's corporate entity and not an individual decision maker or department;

(b) Each of the following persons if the person is not the petitioner:

(i) Each person identified by name and address in the local jurisdiction's written decision as an applicant for the permit or approval at issue; and

(ii) Each person identified by name and address in the local jurisdiction's written decision as an owner of the property at issue;

(c) If no person is identified in a written decision as provided in (b) of this subsection, each person identified by name and address as a taxpayer for the property at issue in the records of the county assessor, based upon the description of the property in the application; and

(d) Each person named in the written decision who filed an appeal to a local jurisdiction quasi-judicial decision maker regarding the land use decision at issue, unless the person has abandoned the appeal or the person's claims were dismissed before the quasi-judicial decision was rendered. Persons who later intervened or joined in the appeal are not required to be made parties under this subsection.

(2022 Ed.)

(3) The petition is timely if it is filed and served on all parties listed in subsection (2) of this section within twenty-one days of the issuance of the land use decision.

(4) For the purposes of this section, the date on which a land use decision is issued is:

(a) Three days after a written decision is mailed by the local jurisdiction or, if not mailed, the date on which the local jurisdiction provides notice that a written decision is publicly available;

(b) If the land use decision is made by ordinance or resolution by a legislative body sitting in a quasi-judicial capacity, the date the body passes the ordinance or resolution; or

(c) If neither (a) nor (b) of this subsection applies, the date the decision is entered into the public record.

(5) Service on the local jurisdiction must be by delivery of a copy of the petition to the persons identified by or pursuant to RCW 4.28.080 to receive service of process. Service on other parties must be in accordance with the superior court civil rules or by first-class mail to:

(a) The address stated in the written decision of the local jurisdiction for each person made a party under subsection (2)(b) of this section;

(b) The address stated in the records of the county assessor for each person made a party under subsection (2)(c) of this section; and

(c) The address stated in the appeal to the quasi-judicial decision maker for each person made a party under subsection (2)(d) of this section.

(6) Service by mail is effective on the date of mailing and proof of service shall be by affidavit or declaration under penalty of perjury. [1995 c 347 § 705.]

**36.70C.050 Joinder of parties.** If the applicant for the land use approval is not the owner of the real property at issue, and if the owner is not accurately identified in the records referred to in RCW 36.70C.040(2) (b) and (c), the applicant shall be responsible for promptly securing the joinder of the owners. In addition, within fourteen days after service each party initially named by the petitioner shall disclose to the other parties the name and address of any person whom such party knows may be needed for just adjudication of the petition, and the petitioner shall promptly name and serve any such person whom the petitioner agrees may be needed for just adjudication. If such a person is named and served before the initial hearing, leave of court for the joinder is not required, and the petitioner shall provide the newly joined party with copies of the pleadings filed before the party's joinder. Failure by the petitioner to name or serve, within the time required by RCW 36.70C.040(3), persons who are needed for just adjudication but who are not identified in the records referred to in RCW 36.70C.040(2)(b), or in RCW 36.70C.040(2)(c) if applicable, shall not deprive the court of jurisdiction to hear the land use petition. [1995 c 347 § 706.]

**36.70C.060 Standing.** Standing to bring a land use petition under this chapter is limited to the following persons:

(1) The applicant and the owner of property to which the land use decision is directed;

(2) Another person aggrieved or adversely affected by the land use decision, or who would be aggrieved or adversely affected by a reversal or modification of the land

use decision. A person is aggrieved or adversely affected within the meaning of this section only when all of the following conditions are present:

- (a) The land use decision has prejudiced or is likely to prejudice that person;
- (b) That person's asserted interests are among those that the local jurisdiction was required to consider when it made the land use decision;
- (c) A judgment in favor of that person would substantially eliminate or redress the prejudice to that person caused or likely to be caused by the land use decision; and
- (d) The petitioner has exhausted his or her administrative remedies to the extent required by law. [1995 c 347 § 707.]

**36.70C.070 Land use petition—Required elements.**

A land use petition must set forth:

- (1) The name and mailing address of the petitioner;
- (2) The name and mailing address of the petitioner's attorney, if any;
- (3) The name and mailing address of the local jurisdiction whose land use decision is at issue;
- (4) Identification of the decision-making body or officer, together with a duplicate copy of the decision, or, if not a written decision, a summary or brief description of it;
- (5) Identification of each person to be made a party under RCW 36.70C.040(2) (b) through (d);
- (6) Facts demonstrating that the petitioner has standing to seek judicial review under RCW 36.70C.060;
- (7) A separate and concise statement of each error alleged to have been committed;
- (8) A concise statement of facts upon which the petitioner relies to sustain the statement of error; and
- (9) A request for relief, specifying the type and extent of relief requested. [1995 c 347 § 708.]

**36.70C.080 Initial hearing.** (1) Within seven days after the petition is served on the parties identified in RCW 36.70C.040(2), the petitioner shall note, according to the local rules of superior court, an initial hearing on jurisdictional and preliminary matters. This initial hearing shall be set no sooner than thirty-five days and no later than fifty days after the petition is served on the parties identified in RCW 36.70C.040(2).

(2) The parties shall note all motions on jurisdictional and procedural issues for resolution at the initial hearing, except that a motion to allow discovery may be brought sooner. Where confirmation of motions is required, each party shall be responsible for confirming its own motions.

(3) The defenses of lack of standing, untimely filing or service of the petition, and failure to join persons needed for just adjudication are waived if not raised by timely motion noted to be heard at the initial hearing, unless the court allows discovery on such issues.

(4) The petitioner shall move the court for an order at the initial hearing that sets the date on which the record must be submitted, sets a briefing schedule, sets a discovery schedule if discovery is to be allowed, and sets a date for the hearing or trial on the merits.

(5) The parties may waive the initial hearing by scheduling with the court a date for the hearing or trial on the merits and filing a stipulated order that resolves the jurisdictional

and procedural issues raised by the petition, including the issues identified in subsections (3) and (4) of this section.

(6) A party need not file an answer to the petition. [1995 c 347 § 709.]

**36.70C.090 Expedited review.** The court shall provide expedited review of petitions filed under this chapter. The matter must be set for hearing within sixty days of the date set for submitting the local jurisdiction's record, absent a showing of good cause for a different date or a stipulation of the parties. [1995 c 347 § 710.]

**36.70C.100 Stay of action pending review.** (1) A petitioner or other party may request the court to stay or suspend an action by the local jurisdiction or another party to implement the decision under review. The request must set forth a statement of grounds for the stay and the factual basis for the request.

(2) A court may grant a stay only if the court finds that:

- (a) The party requesting the stay is likely to prevail on the merits;
- (b) Without the stay the party requesting it will suffer irreparable harm;
- (c) The grant of a stay will not substantially harm other parties to the proceedings; and
- (d) The request for the stay is timely in light of the circumstances of the case.

(3) The court may grant the request for a stay upon such terms and conditions, including the filing of security, as are necessary to prevent harm to other parties by the stay. [1995 c 347 § 711.]

**36.70C.110 Record for judicial review—Costs.** (1) Within forty-five days after entry of an order to submit the record, or within such a further time as the court allows or as the parties agree, the local jurisdiction shall submit to the court a certified copy of the record for judicial review of the land use decision, except that the petitioner shall prepare at the petitioner's expense and submit a verbatim transcript of any hearings held on the matter.

(2) If the parties agree, or upon order of the court, the record shall be shortened or summarized to avoid reproduction and transcription of portions of the record that are duplicative or not relevant to the issues to be reviewed by the court.

(3) The petitioner shall pay the local jurisdiction the cost of preparing the record before the local jurisdiction submits the record to the court. Failure by the petitioner to timely pay the local jurisdiction relieves the local jurisdiction of responsibility to submit the record and is grounds for dismissal of the petition.

(4) If the relief sought by the petitioner is granted in whole or in part the court shall equitably assess the cost of preparing the record among the parties. In assessing costs the court shall take into account the extent to which each party prevailed and the reasonableness of the parties' conduct in agreeing or not agreeing to shorten or summarize the record under subsection (2) of this section. [1995 c 347 § 712.]

**36.70C.120 Scope of review—Discovery.** (1) When the land use decision being reviewed was made by a quasi-

judicial body or officer who made factual determinations in support of the decision and the parties to the quasi-judicial proceeding had an opportunity consistent with due process to make a record on the factual issues, judicial review of factual issues and the conclusions drawn from the factual issues shall be confined to the record created by the quasi-judicial body or officer, except as provided in subsections (2) through (4) of this section.

(2) For decisions described in subsection (1) of this section, the record may be supplemented by additional evidence only if the additional evidence relates to:

(a) Grounds for disqualification of a member of the body or of the officer that made the land use decision, when such grounds were unknown by the petitioner at the time the record was created;

(b) Matters that were improperly excluded from the record after being offered by a party to the quasi-judicial proceeding; or

(c) Matters that were outside the jurisdiction of the body or officer that made the land use decision.

(3) For land use decisions other than those described in subsection (1) of this section, the record for judicial review may be supplemented by evidence of material facts that were not made part of the local jurisdiction's record.

(4) The court may require or permit corrections of ministerial errors or inadvertent omissions in the preparation of the record.

(5) The parties may not conduct pretrial discovery except with the prior permission of the court, which may be sought by motion at any time after service of the petition. The court shall not grant permission unless the party requesting it makes a prima facie showing of need. The court shall strictly limit discovery to what is necessary for equitable and timely review of the issues that are raised under subsections (2) and (3) of this section. If the court allows the record to be supplemented, the court shall require the parties to disclose before the hearing or trial on the merits the specific evidence they intend to offer. If any party, or anyone acting on behalf of any party, requests records under chapter 42.56 RCW relating to the matters at issue, a copy of the request shall simultaneously be given to all other parties and the court shall take such request into account in fashioning an equitable discovery order under this section. [2005 c 274 § 273; 1995 c 347 § 713.]

**36.70C.130 Standards for granting relief—Renewable resource projects within energy overlay zones.** (1) The superior court, acting without a jury, shall review the record and such supplemental evidence as is permitted under RCW 36.70C.120. The court may grant relief only if the party seeking relief has carried the burden of establishing that one of the standards set forth in (a) through (f) of this subsection has been met. The standards are:

(a) The body or officer that made the land use decision engaged in unlawful procedure or failed to follow a prescribed process, unless the error was harmless;

(b) The land use decision is an erroneous interpretation of the law, after allowing for such deference as is due the construction of a law by a local jurisdiction with expertise;

(c) The land use decision is not supported by evidence that is substantial when viewed in light of the whole record before the court;

(d) The land use decision is a clearly erroneous application of the law to the facts;

(e) The land use decision is outside the authority or jurisdiction of the body or officer making the decision; or

(f) The land use decision violates the constitutional rights of the party seeking relief.

(2) In order to grant relief under this chapter, it is not necessary for the court to find that the local jurisdiction engaged in arbitrary and capricious conduct. A grant of relief by itself may not be deemed to establish liability for monetary damages or compensation.

(3) Land use decisions made by a local jurisdiction concerning renewable resource projects within a county energy overlay zone are presumed to be reasonable if they are in compliance with the requirements and standards established by local ordinance for that zone. However, for land use decisions concerning wind power generation projects, either:

(a) The local ordinance for that zone is consistent with the department of fish and wildlife's wind power guidelines; or

(b) The local jurisdiction prepared an environmental impact statement under chapter 43.21C RCW on the energy overlay zone; and

(i) The local ordinance for that zone requires project mitigation, as addressed in the environmental impact statement and consistent with local, state, and federal law;

(ii) The local ordinance for that zone requires site specific fish and wildlife and cultural resources analysis; and

(iii) The local jurisdiction has adopted an ordinance that addresses critical areas under chapter 36.70A RCW.

(4) If a local jurisdiction has taken action and adopted local ordinances consistent with subsection (3)(b) of this section, then wind power generation projects permitted consistently with the energy overlay zone are deemed to have adequately addressed their environmental impacts as required under chapter 43.21C RCW. [2009 c 419 § 2; 1995 c 347 § 714.]

**36.70C.140 Decision of the court.** The court may affirm or reverse the land use decision under review or remand it for modification or further proceedings. If the decision is remanded for modification or further proceedings, the court may make such an order as it finds necessary to preserve the interests of the parties and the public, pending further proceedings or action by the local jurisdiction. [1995 c 347 § 715.]

**36.70C.150 Transferring judicial review to court of appeals. (*Expires June 30, 2026.*)** (1) The superior court may transfer the judicial review of a land use decision to the court of appeals upon finding that all parties have consented to the transfer to the court of appeals and agreed that the judicial review can occur based upon an existing record. Transfer of cases pursuant to this section does not require the filing of a motion for discretionary review with the court of appeals.

(2) Upon stipulation and consent to transfer, the parties waive the right to seek an award of attorneys' fees and costs

under RCW 4.84.370, except as may be awarded following an appeal to the supreme court.

(3) RCW 36.70C.090 does not apply to a matter transferred to the court of appeals pursuant to this section.

(4) This section expires June 30, 2026. [2021 c 305 § 1.]

**Effective date—2021 c 305:** "Except for sections 5 and 6 of this act, this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect 30 days after signed into law [June 13, 2021]." [2021 c 305 § 7.]

**36.70C.900 Finding—Severability—Part headings and table of contents not law—1995 c 347.** See notes following RCW 36.70A.470.

## Chapter 36.71 RCW

### PEDDLERS' AND HAWKERS' LICENSES

#### Sections

36.71.010	Peddler's license—"Peddler" defined.
36.71.020	Peddler's license—Application for and issuance of license.
36.71.030	Peddler's license—Record of applications.
36.71.040	Peddler's license—Cancellation of license.
36.71.050	Peddler's license—Liability of deposit—Lien on.
36.71.060	Peddler's license—Penalty for peddling without license.
36.71.070	Hawkers, auctioneers, and barterers must procure license—Exceptions.
36.71.080	Hawkers, auctioneers, and barterers must procure license—Issuance of license.
36.71.090	Farmers, gardeners, etc., peddling own produce exempt from license requirements—Exception.

**36.71.010 Peddler's license—"Peddler" defined.** The term "peddler" for the purpose of this chapter includes all persons, both principals and agents, who go from place to place and house to house, carrying for sale and offering for sale or exposal for sale, goods, wares, or merchandise except agricultural, horticultural, or farm products, which they may grow or raise, and except vendors of books, periodicals, or newspapers: PROVIDED, That nothing in this chapter shall apply to peddlers within the limits of any city or town which by ordinance regulates the sale of goods, wares, or merchandise by peddlers. [1963 c 4 § 36.71.010. Prior: 1929 c 110 § 1; 1909 c 214 § 1; RRS § 8353.]

**36.71.020 Peddler's license—Application for and issuance of license.** Every peddler, before commencing business in any county of the state, shall apply in writing and under oath to the appropriate county official of the county in which he or she proposes to operate for a county license. The application must state the names and residences of the owners or parties in whose interest the business is to be conducted. The applicant at the same time shall file a true statement under oath of the quantity and value of the stock of goods, wares, and merchandise that is in the county for sale or to be kept or exposed for sale in the county, make a special deposit of five hundred dollars, and pay the county license fee as may be fixed under the authority of RCW 36.32.120(3).

The appropriate county official shall thereupon issue to the applicant a peddler's license, authorizing him or her to do business in the county for the term of one year from the date thereof. Every county license shall contain a copy of the application therefor, shall not be transferable, and shall not

authorize more than one person to sell goods as a peddler, either by agent or clerk, or in any other way than his or her own proper person. [2009 c 549 § 4121; 1985 c 91 § 3; 1963 c 4 § 36.71.020. Prior: 1927 c 89 § 1; 1909 c 214 § 3; RRS § 8355.]

**36.71.030 Peddler's license—Record of applications.** The appropriate county official of each county shall keep on file all applications for peddlers' licenses that are issued. All files and records shall be in convenient form and open to public inspection. [1985 c 91 § 4; 1963 c 4 § 36.71.030. Prior: 1909 c 214 § 4; RRS § 8356.]

**36.71.040 Peddler's license—Cancellation of license.** Upon the expiration and return of a county license, the appropriate county official shall cancel it, indorse thereon the cancellation, and place it on file. After holding the special deposit of the licensee for a period of ninety days from the date of cancellation, he or she shall return the deposit or such portion as may remain in his or her hands after satisfying the claims made against it. [2009 c 549 § 4122; 1985 c 91 § 5; 1963 c 4 § 36.71.040. Prior: 1909 c 214 § 5; RRS § 8357.]

**36.71.050 Peddler's license—Liability of deposit—Lien on.** Each deposit made with the county shall be subject to all taxes legally chargeable thereto, to attachment and execution on behalf of the creditors of the licensee whose claims arise in connection with the business done under his or her license, and the county may be held to answer as trustee in any civil action in contract or tort brought against any licensee, and shall pay over, under order of the court or upon execution, such amount of money as the licensee may be chargeable with upon the final determination of the case. Such deposit shall also be subject to the payment of any and all fines and penalties incurred by the licensee through violations of the provisions of RCW 36.71.010, 36.71.020, 36.71.030, 36.71.040 and 36.71.060, which shall be a lien upon the deposit and shall be collected in the manner provided by law. [2009 c 549 § 4123; 1985 c 91 § 6; 1963 c 4 § 36.71.050. Prior: 1909 c 214 § 6; RRS § 8358.]

**36.71.060 Peddler's license—Penalty for peddling without license.** Every peddler who sells or offers for sale or exposes for sale, at public or private sale any goods, wares, or merchandise without a county license, is guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished by imprisonment for not less than thirty days nor more than ninety days or by fine of not less than fifty dollars nor more than two hundred dollars or by both. [2003 c 53 § 207; 1963 c 4 § 36.71.060. Prior: 1909 c 214 § 2; RRS § 8354.]

**Intent—Effective date—2003 c 53:** See notes following RCW 2.48.180.

**36.71.070 Hawklers, auctioneers, and barterers must procure license—Exceptions.** (1) If any person sells any goods, wares, or merchandise, at auction or public outcry, or barter goods, wares or merchandise from traveling boats, wagons, carts or vehicles of any kind, or from any pack, basket or other package carried on foot without first having obtained a license therefor from the board of county commissioners of the county in which such goods are sold or bar-

tered, he or she shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction shall be fined not less than five nor more than fifty dollars, and shall stand committed to the county jail of the county in which the conviction is had until such fine and cost of prosecution are paid, or discharged by due course of law: PROVIDED, That this section shall not be construed as to apply to any seagoing craft or to administrators or executors selling property of deceased persons, or to private individuals selling their household property, or furniture, or farming tools, implements, or livestock, or any produce grown or raised by them, either at public auction or private sale.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, counties shall not license auctioneers that are licensed by the state under chapter 18.11 RCW. [2009 c 549 § 4124; 1984 c 189 § 6; 1963 c 4 § 36.71.070. Prior: 1879 p 130 § 1; 1873 p 437 § 1; RRS § 8341.]

**36.71.080 Hawkers, auctioneers, and barterers must procure license—Issuance of license.** The county legislative authority may, by its order, direct the appropriate county official to issue a license to any person to do any business designated in RCW 36.71.070 for such sum as may be fixed under the authority of RCW 36.32.120(3). [1985 c 91 § 7; 1963 c 4 § 36.71.080. Prior: 1873 p 438 § 3; RRS § 8342.]

**36.71.090 Farmers, gardeners, etc., peddling own produce exempt from license requirements—Exception.** It shall be lawful for any farmer, gardener, or other person, without license, to sell, deliver, or peddle any fruits, vegetables, berries, eggs, or any farm produce or edibles raised, gathered, produced, or manufactured by such person and no city or town shall pass or enforce any ordinance prohibiting the sale by or requiring license from the producers and manufacturers of farm produce and edibles as defined in this section. However, nothing in this section authorizes any person to sell, deliver, or peddle, without license, in any city or town, any dairy product, meat, poultry, eel, fish, mollusk, or shellfish where a license is required to engage legally in such activity in such city or town. [2017 3rd sp.s. c 8 § 56; 2003 c 387 § 5; 2002 c 301 § 9; 1984 c 25 § 4; 1963 c 4 § 36.71.090. Prior: 1917 c 45 § 1; 1897 c 62 § 1; RRS § 8343.]

**Finding—Intent—Effective date—2017 3rd sp.s. c 8:** See notes following RCW 77.08.010.

**Finding—Effective date—2002 c 301:** See notes following RCW 77.65.510.

**Chapter 36.72 RCW  
PRINTING**

Sections

- 36.72.071 All county officers to use official county newspaper.
- 36.72.075 Official county newspaper.
- 36.72.080 Forms for public blanks, compilation of.
- 36.72.090 Forms for public blanks, compilation of—Material to be provided by state.

**36.72.071 All county officers to use official county newspaper.** All county officers shall cause all legal notices and delinquent tax lists to be advertised in the official county newspaper designated by the county legislative authority. [1977 c 34 § 1.]

(2022 Ed.)

**36.72.075 Official county newspaper.** At its first April meeting, the county legislative authority shall let a contract to a legal newspaper qualified under this section to serve as the official county newspaper for the term of one year beginning on the first day of July following. If there be at least one legal newspaper published in the county, the contract shall be let to a legal newspaper published in the county. If there be no legal newspaper published in the county, the county legislative authority shall let the contract to a legal newspaper published in an adjacent county and having general circulation in the county.

When two or more legal newspapers are qualified under the provisions of this section to be the official county newspaper, the clerk of the county legislative authority shall advertise, at least five weeks before the meeting at which the county legislative authority shall let the contract for the official county newspaper, for bid proposals to be submitted by interested qualified legal newspapers. Advertisement of the opportunity to bid shall be mailed to all qualified legal newspapers and shall be published once in the official county newspaper. The advertisement may designate the form which notices shall take, and may require that the successful bidder provide a bond for the correct and faithful performance of the contract.

The county legislative authority shall let the contract to the best and lowest responsible bidder, giving consideration to the question of circulation in awarding the contract, with a view to giving publication of notices the widest publicity. [2017 c 37 § 3; 1977 c 34 § 2.]

**36.72.080 Forms for public blanks, compilation of.** The state auditor, with the aid and advice of the attorney general shall compile the forms for all public blanks used in the counties of this state in conformity with the general statutes thereof. The various blanks shall be uniform throughout the state. [1963 c 4 § 36.72.080. Prior: 1897 c 35 § 1; RRS § 4078.]

**36.72.090 Forms for public blanks, compilation of—Material to be provided by state.** The material used in such blank forms and the printing and binding thereof shall be provided for by the state in the same manner and under the same rules and regulations as other public printing is now provided for under the general statutes of this state. [1963 c 4 § 36.72.090. Prior: 1897 c 35 § 2; RRS § 4079.]

**Chapter 36.73 RCW  
TRANSPORTATION BENEFIT DISTRICTS**

Sections

- 36.73.010 Intent.
- 36.73.015 Definitions.
- 36.73.020 Establishment of district by county or city—Participation by other jurisdictions.
- 36.73.030 Establishment of district by city.
- 36.73.040 General powers of district.
- 36.73.050 Establishment of district—Public hearing—Ordinance.
- 36.73.060 Authority to levy property tax.
- 36.73.065 Taxes, fees, charges, tolls, rebate program.
- 36.73.067 Vehicle fee rebate program—Low-income individuals—Report to legislature.
- 36.73.070 Authority to issue general obligation bonds, revenue bonds.
- 36.73.080 Local improvement districts authorized—Special assessments—Bonds.
- 36.73.090 Printing of bonds.

36.73.100	Use of bond proceeds.
36.73.110	Acceptance and use of gifts and grants.
36.73.120	Imposition of fees on building construction or land development.
36.73.130	Power of eminent domain.
36.73.140	Authority to contract for street and highway improvements.
36.73.150	Department of transportation, counties, cities, and other jurisdictions may fund transportation improvements.
36.73.160	Transportation improvement projects—Material change policy—Annual report.
36.73.170	Completion of transportation improvement—Termination of district operations—Termination of taxes, fees, charges, and tolls—Dissolution of district.
36.73.180	Supplemental transportation improvements.
36.73.900	Liberal construction.

*Roads and bridges, service districts: Chapter 36.83 RCW.*

**36.73.010 Intent.** The legislature finds that the citizens of the state can benefit by cooperation of the public and private sectors in addressing transportation needs. This cooperation can be fostered through enhanced capability for cities, towns, and counties to make and fund transportation improvements necessitated by economic development and to improve the performance of the transportation system.

It is the intent of the legislature to encourage joint efforts by the state, local governments, and the private sector to respond to the need for those transportation improvements on state highways, county roads, and city streets. This goal can be better achieved by allowing cities, towns, and counties to establish transportation benefit districts in order to respond to the special transportation needs and economic opportunities resulting from private sector development for the public good. The legislature also seeks to facilitate the equitable participation of private developers whose developments may generate the need for those improvements in the improvement costs. [2005 c 336 § 2; 1987 c 327 § 1.]

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

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

(1) "City" means a city or town.

(2) "District" means a transportation benefit district created under this chapter.

(3) "Low-income" means household income set by the district creating the rebate program that is at or below seventy-five percent of the median household income, adjusted for household size, for the district in which the fees, taxes, or tolls were imposed.

(4) "Rebate program" means an optional program established by a transportation benefit district that includes a city with a population of five hundred thousand persons or more for the purpose of providing rebates to low-income individuals for fees, taxes, and/or tolls imposed by such transportation benefit district for: (a) Vehicle fees imposed under RCW 36.73.040(3)(b); (b) sales and use taxes imposed under RCW 36.73.040(3)(a); and/or (c) tolls imposed under RCW 36.73.040(3)(d).

(5) "Supplemental transportation improvement" or "supplemental improvement" means any project, work, or undertaking to provide public transportation service, in addition to a district's existing or planned voter-approved transportation improvements, proposed by a participating city member of the district under RCW 36.73.180.

(6) "Transportation improvement" means a project contained in the transportation plan of the state, a regional transportation planning organization, city, county, or eligible jurisdiction as identified in RCW 36.73.020(2). A project may include investment in new or existing highways of statewide significance, principal arterials of regional significance, high capacity transportation, public transportation, and other transportation projects and programs of regional or statewide significance including transportation demand management. Projects may also include the operation, preservation, and maintenance of these facilities or programs. [2015 3rd sp.s. c 44 § 311; 2012 c 152 § 1. Prior: 2010 c 251 § 2; 2010 c 105 § 1; 2006 c 311 § 24; 2005 c 336 § 1.]

**Effective date—2015 3rd sp.s. c 44:** See note following RCW 46.68.395.

**Findings—2006 c 311:** See note following RCW 36.120.020.

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

**36.73.020 Establishment of district by county or city—Participation by other jurisdictions.** (1) The legislative authority of a county or city may establish a transportation benefit district within the county or city area or within the area specified in subsection (2) of this section, for the purpose of acquiring, constructing, improving, providing, and funding a transportation improvement within the district that is consistent with any existing state, regional, or local transportation plans and necessitated by existing or reasonably foreseeable congestion levels. The transportation improvements shall be owned by the county of jurisdiction if located in an unincorporated area, by the city of jurisdiction if located in an incorporated area, or by the state in cases where the transportation improvement is or becomes a state highway. However, if deemed appropriate by the governing body of the transportation benefit district, a transportation improvement may be owned by a participating port district or transit district, unless otherwise prohibited by law. Transportation improvements shall be administered and maintained as other public streets, roads, highways, and transportation improvements. To the extent practicable, the district shall consider the following criteria when selecting transportation improvements:

(1) The legislative authority of a county or city may establish a transportation benefit district within the county or city area or within the area specified in subsection (2) of this section, for the purpose of acquiring, constructing, improving, providing, and funding a transportation improvement within the district that is consistent with any existing state, regional, or local transportation plans and necessitated by existing or reasonably foreseeable congestion levels. The transportation improvements shall be owned by the county of jurisdiction if located in an unincorporated area, by the city of jurisdiction if located in an incorporated area, or by the state in cases where the transportation improvement is or becomes a state highway. However, if deemed appropriate by the governing body of the transportation benefit district, a transportation improvement may be owned by a participating port district or transit district, unless otherwise prohibited by law. Transportation improvements shall be administered and maintained as other public streets, roads, highways, and transportation improvements. To the extent practicable, the district shall consider the following criteria when selecting transportation improvements:

(a) Reduced risk of transportation facility failure and improved safety;

(b) Improved travel time;

(c) Improved air quality;

(d) Increases in daily and peak period trip capacity;

(e) Improved modal connectivity;

(f) Improved freight mobility;

(g) Cost-effectiveness of the investment;

(h) Optimal performance of the system through time;

(i) Improved accessibility for, or other benefits to, persons with special transportation needs as defined in \*RCW 47.06B.012; and

(j) Other criteria, as adopted by the governing body.

(2) Subject to subsection (6) of this section, the district may include area within more than one county, city, port district, county transportation authority, or public transportation benefit area, if the legislative authority of each participating jurisdiction has agreed to the inclusion as provided in an interlocal agreement adopted pursuant to chapter 39.34 RCW. However, the boundaries of the district need not

include all territory within the boundaries of the participating jurisdictions comprising the district.

(3) The members of the legislative authority proposing to establish the district, acting ex officio and independently, shall constitute the governing body of the district: PROVIDED, That where a district includes area within more than one jurisdiction under subsection (2) of this section, the district shall be governed under an interlocal agreement adopted pursuant to chapter 39.34 RCW, with the governing body being composed of (a) at least five members including at least one elected official from the legislative authority of each participating jurisdiction or (b) the governing body of the metropolitan planning organization serving the district, but only if the district boundaries are identical to the boundaries of the metropolitan planning organization serving the district.

(4) The treasurer of the jurisdiction proposing to establish the district shall act as the ex officio treasurer of the district, unless an interlocal agreement states otherwise.

(5) The electors of the district shall all be registered voters residing within the district.

(6) Prior to December 1, 2007, the authority under this section, regarding the establishment of or the participation in a district, shall not apply to:

(a) Counties with a population greater than one million five hundred thousand persons and any adjoining counties with a population greater than five hundred thousand persons;

(b) Cities with any area within the counties under (a) of this subsection; and

(c) Other jurisdictions with any area within the counties under (a) of this subsection. [2010 c 250 § 1; 2009 c 515 § 14; 2006 c 311 § 25; 2005 c 336 § 3; 1989 c 53 § 1; 1987 c 327 § 2.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 47.06B.012 was repealed by 2011 c 60 § 51.

Findings—2006 c 311: See note following RCW 36.120.020.

Transportation benefit district tax authority: RCW 82.47.020.

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

**36.73.030 Establishment of district by city.** See RCW 35.21.225.

**36.73.040 General powers of district.** (1) A transportation benefit district is a quasi-municipal corporation, an independent taxing "authority" within the meaning of Article VII, section 1 of the state Constitution, and a "taxing district" within the meaning of Article VII, section 2 of the state Constitution.

(2) A transportation benefit district constitutes a body corporate and possesses all the usual powers of a corporation for public purposes as well as all other powers that may now or hereafter be specifically conferred by statute, including, but not limited to, the authority to hire employees, staff, and services, to enter into contracts, to acquire, hold, and dispose of real and personal property, and to sue and be sued. Public works contract limits applicable to the jurisdiction that established the district apply to the district.

(3) To carry out the purposes of this chapter, and subject to the provisions of RCW 36.73.065, a district is authorized to impose the following taxes, fees, charges, and tolls:

(a) A sales and use tax in accordance with RCW 82.14.0455;

(b) A vehicle fee in accordance with RCW 82.80.140;

(c) A fee or charge in accordance with RCW 36.73.120.

However, if a county or city within the district area is levying a fee or charge for a transportation improvement, the fee or charge shall be credited against the amount of the fee or charge imposed by the district. Developments consisting of less than twenty residences are exempt from the fee or charge under RCW 36.73.120; and

(d) Vehicle tolls on state routes, city streets, or county roads, within the boundaries of the district, unless otherwise prohibited by law. However, consistent with RCW 47.56.820, the vehicle toll must first be authorized by the legislature if the toll is imposed on a state route. The department of transportation shall administer the collection of vehicle tolls authorized on state routes, unless otherwise specified in law or by contract, and the state transportation commission, or its successor, may approve, set, and impose the tolls in amounts sufficient to implement the district's transportation improvement finance plan. The district shall administer the collection of vehicle tolls authorized on city streets or county roads, and shall set and impose the tolls in amounts sufficient to implement the district's transportation improvement plan. However, consistent with RCW 47.56.850, the vehicle toll, including any change in an existing toll rate, must first be reviewed and approved by the tolling authority designated in RCW 47.56.850 if the toll, or change in toll rate, would have a significant impact, as determined by the tolling authority, on the operation of any state facility. [2008 c 122 § 17; 2005 c 336 § 4; 1989 c 53 § 3; 1987 c 327 § 4.]

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

**36.73.050 Establishment of district—Public hearing—Ordinance.** (1) The legislative authorities proposing to establish a district, or to modify the boundaries of an existing district, or to dissolve an existing district shall conduct a hearing at the time and place specified in a notice published at least once, not less than ten days before the hearing, in a newspaper of general circulation within the proposed district.

Subject to the provisions of RCW 36.73.170, the legislative authorities shall make provision for a district to be automatically dissolved when all indebtedness of the district has been retired and anticipated responsibilities have been satisfied. This notice shall be in addition to any other notice required by law to be published. The notice shall, where applicable, specify the functions or activities proposed to be provided or funded, or the additional functions or activities proposed to be provided or funded, by the district. Additional notice of the hearing may be given by mail, by posting within the proposed district, or in any manner the legislative authorities deem necessary to notify affected persons. All hearings shall be public and the legislative authorities shall hear objections from any person affected by the formation, modification of the boundaries, or dissolution of the district.

(2)(a) Following the hearing held pursuant to subsection (1) of this section, the legislative authorities may establish a district, modify the boundaries or functions of an existing district, or dissolve an existing district, if the legislative authorities find the action to be in the public interest and adopt an ordinance providing for the action.

(b) The ordinance establishing a district shall specify the functions and transportation improvements described under

RCW 36.73.015 to be exercised or funded and establish the boundaries of the district. Subject to the provisions of RCW 36.73.160, functions or transportation improvements proposed to be provided or funded by the district may not be expanded beyond those specified in the notice of hearing, unless additional notices are made, further hearings on the expansion are held, and further determinations are made that it is in the public interest to so expand the functions or transportation improvements proposed to be provided or funded. [2007 c 329 § 3; 2005 c 336 § 5; 1987 c 327 § 5.]

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

**36.73.060 Authority to levy property tax.** (1) A district may levy an ad valorem property tax in excess of the one percent limitation upon the property within the district for a one-year period whenever authorized by the voters of the district pursuant to RCW 84.52.052 and Article VII, section 2(a) of the state Constitution.

(2) A district may provide for the retirement of voter-approved general obligation bonds, issued for capital purposes only, by levying bond retirement ad valorem property tax levies in excess of the one percent limitation whenever authorized by the voters of the district pursuant to Article VII, section 2(b) of the state Constitution and RCW 84.52.056. [2005 c 336 § 6; 1987 c 327 § 6.]

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

**36.73.065 Taxes, fees, charges, tolls, rebate program.**

(1) Except as provided in subsection (4) of this section, taxes, fees, charges, and tolls may not be imposed by a district without approval of a majority of the voters in the district voting on a proposition at a general or special election. The proposition must include a specific description of: (a) The transportation improvement or improvements proposed by the district; (b) any rebate program proposed to be established under RCW 36.73.067; and (c) the proposed taxes, fees, charges, and the range of tolls imposed by the district to raise revenue to fund the improvement or improvements or rebate program, as applicable.

(2) Voter approval under this section must be accorded substantial weight regarding the validity of a transportation improvement as defined in RCW 36.73.015.

(3) A district may not increase any taxes, fees, charges, or range of tolls imposed or change a rebate program under this chapter once the taxes, fees, charges, tolls, or rebate program takes effect, except:

(a) If authorized by the district voters pursuant to RCW 36.73.160;

(b) With respect to a change in a rebate program, a material change policy adopted pursuant to RCW 36.73.160 is followed and the change does not reduce the percentage level or rebate amount;

(c) For up to \$40 of the vehicle fee authorized in RCW 82.80.140 by the governing board of the district if a vehicle fee of \$20 has been imposed for at least 24 months;

(d) For up to \$50 of the vehicle fee authorized in RCW 82.80.140 by the governing board of the district if a vehicle fee of \$40 has been imposed for at least 24 months and a district has met the requirements of subsection (6) of this section; or

(e) For up to three-tenths of one percent of the selling price, in the case of a sales tax, or value of the article used, in the case of a use tax, pursuant to the sales and use tax authorized in RCW 82.14.0455.

(4)(a) A district that includes all the territory within the boundaries of the jurisdiction, or jurisdictions, establishing the district may impose by a majority vote of the governing board of the district the following fees, taxes, and charges:

(i) Up to \$20 of the vehicle fee authorized in RCW 82.80.140;

(ii) Up to \$40 of the vehicle fee authorized in RCW 82.80.140 if a vehicle fee of \$20 has been imposed for at least 24 months;

(iii) Up to \$50 of the vehicle fee authorized in RCW 82.80.140 if a vehicle fee of forty dollars has been imposed for at least 24 months and a district has met the requirements of subsection (6) of this section;

(iv) A fee or charge in accordance with RCW 36.73.120; or

(v) Up to one-tenth of one percent of the sales and use tax in accordance with RCW 82.14.0455.

(b) The vehicle fee authorized in (a) of this subsection may only be imposed for a passenger-only ferry transportation improvement if the vehicle fee is first approved by a majority of the voters within the jurisdiction of the district.

(c)(i) A district solely comprised of a city or cities may not impose the fees or charges identified in (a) of this subsection within 180 days after July 22, 2007, unless the county in which the city or cities reside, by resolution, declares that it will not impose the fees or charges identified in (a) of this subsection within the 180-day period; or

(ii) A district solely comprised of a city or cities identified in RCW 36.73.020(6)(b) may not impose the fees or charges until after May 22, 2008, unless the county in which the city or cities reside, by resolution, declares that it will not impose the fees or charges identified in (a) of this subsection through May 22, 2008.

(5) If the interlocal agreement in RCW 82.80.140(2)(a) cannot be reached, a district that includes only the unincorporated territory of a county may impose by a majority vote of the governing body of the district up to: (a) \$20 of the vehicle fee authorized in RCW 82.80.140, (b) \$40 of the vehicle fee authorized in RCW 82.80.140 if a fee of \$20 has been imposed for at least 24 months, or (c) \$50 of the vehicle fee authorized in RCW 82.80.140 if a vehicle fee of \$40 has been imposed for at least 24 months and a district has met the requirements of subsection (6) of this section.

(6) If a district intends to impose a vehicle fee of more than \$40 by a majority vote of the governing body of the district, the governing body must publish notice of this intention, in one or more newspapers of general circulation within the district, by April 1st of the year in which the vehicle fee is to be imposed. If within 90 days of the date of publication a petition is filed with the county auditor containing the signatures of eight percent of the number of voters registered and voting in the district for the office of the governor at the last preceding gubernatorial election, the county auditor must canvass the signatures in the same manner as prescribed in RCW 29A.72.230 and certify their sufficiency to the governing body within two weeks. The proposition to impose the vehicle fee must then be submitted to the voters of the district



at a special election, called for this purpose, no later than the date on which a primary election would be held under RCW 29A.04.311. The vehicle fee may then be imposed only if approved by a majority of the voters of the district voting on the proposition. [2022 c 182 § 406; 2015 3rd sp.s. c 44 § 309; 2012 c 152 § 3; 2007 c 329 § 1; 2005 c 336 § 17.]

**Intent—Effective date—2022 c 182:** See notes following RCW 70A.65.240.

**Effective date—2015 3rd sp.s. c 44:** See note following RCW 46.68.395.

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

**36.73.067 Vehicle fee rebate program—Low-income individuals—Report to legislature.** (1) A district that: (a) Includes a city with a population of five hundred thousand persons or more; and (b) imposes a vehicle fee under RCW 36.73.040(3)(b), sales and use taxes under RCW 36.73.040(3)(a), or tolls under RCW 36.73.040(3)(d), may establish a rebate program for the purposes of providing rebates of up to forty percent of the actual fee, tax, or toll paid by a low-income individual.

(2) Funds collected from a vehicle fee under RCW 36.73.040(3)(b), sales and use tax under RCW 36.73.040(3)(a) or tolls under RCW 36.73.040(3)(d) may be used for a rebate program established under this section.

(3) A district that establishes a rebate program is responsible for the development and administration of the program and all functions and costs associated with the rebate program.

(4) A district that establishes a rebate program under this section must report back to the legislature two years after the program takes effect. The report must include, but is not limited to, a detailed description of the structure of the program, the average rebate, the total amount of rebates issued, and the number of people that received rebates. [2012 c 152 § 2.]

**36.73.070 Authority to issue general obligation bonds, revenue bonds.** (1) To carry out the purposes of this chapter and notwithstanding RCW 39.36.020(1), a district may issue general obligation bonds, not to exceed an amount, together with any other outstanding nonvoter-approved general obligation indebtedness, equal to one and one-half percent of the value of taxable property within the district, as the term "value of taxable property" is defined in RCW 39.36.015. A district may additionally issue general obligation bonds for capital purposes only, together with any outstanding general obligation indebtedness, not to exceed an amount equal to five percent of the value of the taxable property within the district, as the term "value of taxable property" is defined in RCW 39.36.015, when authorized by the voters of the district pursuant to Article VIII, section 6 of the state Constitution, and may also provide for the retirement thereof by excess property tax levies as provided in RCW 36.73.060(2). The district may, if applicable, submit a single proposition to the voters that, if approved, authorizes both the issuance of the bonds and the bond retirement property tax levies.

(2) General obligation bonds with a maturity in excess of forty years shall not be issued. The governing body of the district shall by resolution determine for each general obligation bond issue the amount, date, terms, conditions, denomina-

tions, maximum fixed or variable interest rate or rates, maturity or maturities, redemption rights, registration privileges, manner of execution, manner of sale, callable provisions, if any, covenants, and form, including registration as to principal and interest, registration as to principal only, or bearer. Registration may include, but not be limited to: (a) A book entry system of recording the ownership of a bond whether or not physical bonds are issued; or (b) recording the ownership of a bond together with the requirement that the transfer of ownership may only be effected by the surrender of the old bond and either the reissuance of the old bond or the issuance of a new bond to the new owner. Facsimile signatures may be used on the bonds and any coupons. Refunding general obligation bonds may be issued in the same manner as general obligation bonds are issued.

(3) Whenever general obligation bonds are issued to fund specific projects or enterprises that generate revenues, charges, user fees, or special assessments, the district may specifically pledge all or a portion of the revenues, charges, user fees, or special assessments to refund the general obligation bonds. The district may also pledge any other revenues that may be available to the district.

(4) In addition to general obligation bonds, a district may issue revenue bonds to be issued and sold in accordance with chapter 39.46 RCW. [2005 c 336 § 7; 1987 c 327 § 7.]

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

**36.73.080 Local improvement districts authorized—Special assessments—Bonds.** (1) A district may form a local improvement district to provide any transportation improvement it has the authority to provide, impose special assessments on all property specially benefited by the transportation improvements, and issue special assessment bonds or revenue bonds to fund the costs of the transportation improvement. Local improvement districts shall be created and administered, and assessments shall be made and collected, in the manner and to the extent provided by law to cities and towns pursuant to chapters 35.43, 35.44, 35.49, 35.50, 35.51, 35.53, and 35.54 RCW. However, the duties devolving upon the city or town treasurer under these chapters shall be imposed upon the district treasurer for the purposes of this section. A local improvement district may only be formed under this section pursuant to the petition method under RCW 35.43.120 and 35.43.125.

(2) The governing body of a district shall by resolution establish for each special assessment bond issue the amount, date, terms, conditions, denominations, maximum fixed or variable interest rate or rates, maturity or maturities, redemption rights, registration privileges, if any, covenants, and form, including registration as to principal and interest, registration as to principal only, or bearer. Registration may include, but not be limited to: (a) A book entry system of recording the ownership of a bond whether or not physical bonds are issued; or (b) recording the ownership of a bond together with the requirement that the transfer of ownership may only be effected by the surrender of the old bond and either the reissuance of the old bond or the issuance of a new bond to the new owner. Facsimile signatures may be used on the bonds and any coupons. The maximum term of any special assessment bonds shall not exceed thirty years beyond the date of issue. Special assessment bonds issued pursuant to

this section shall not be an indebtedness of the district issuing the bonds, and the interest and principal on the bonds shall only be payable from special assessments made for the improvement for which the bonds were issued and any local improvement guaranty fund that the district has created. The owner or bearer of a special assessment bond or any interest coupon issued pursuant to this section shall not have any claim against the district arising from the bond or coupon except for the payment from special assessments made for the improvement for which the bonds were issued and any local improvement guaranty fund the district has created. The district issuing the special assessment bonds is not liable to the owner or bearer of any special assessment bond or any interest coupon issued pursuant to this section for any loss occurring in the lawful operation of its local improvement guaranty fund. The substance of the limitations included in this subsection (2) shall be plainly printed, written, or engraved on each special assessment bond issued pursuant to this section.

(3) Assessments shall reflect any credits given by a district for real property or property right donations made pursuant to RCW 47.14.030.

(4) The governing body may establish, administer, and pay money into a local improvement guaranty fund, in the manner and to the extent provided by law to cities and towns under chapter 35.54 RCW, to guarantee special assessment bonds issued by the district. [2005 c 336 § 8; 1987 c 327 § 8.]

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

**36.73.090 Printing of bonds.** Where physical bonds are issued pursuant to RCW 36.73.070 or 36.73.080, the bonds shall be printed, engraved, or lithographed on good bond paper and the manual or facsimile signatures of both the treasurer and chairperson of the governing body shall be included on each bond. [1987 c 327 § 9.]

**36.73.100 Use of bond proceeds.** (1) The proceeds of any bond issued pursuant to RCW 36.73.070 or 36.73.080 may be used to pay costs incurred on a bond issue related to the sale and issuance of the bonds. These costs include payments for fiscal and legal expenses, obtaining bond ratings, printing, engraving, advertising, and other similar activities.

(2) In addition, proceeds of bonds used to fund capital projects may be used to pay the necessary and related engineering, architectural, planning, and inspection costs. [2005 c 336 § 9; 1987 c 327 § 10.]

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

**36.73.110 Acceptance and use of gifts and grants.** A district may accept and expend or use gifts, grants, and donations. [2005 c 336 § 10; 1987 c 327 § 11.]

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

**36.73.120 Imposition of fees on building construction or land development.** (1) Subject to the provisions in RCW 36.73.065, a district may impose a fee or charge on the construction or reconstruction of commercial buildings, industrial buildings, or on any other commercial or industrial building or building space or appurtenance, or on the development, subdivision, classification, or reclassification of land

for commercial purposes, only if done in accordance with chapter 39.92 RCW.

(2) Any fee or charge imposed under this section shall be used exclusively for transportation improvements as defined in RCW 36.73.015. The fees or charges imposed must be reasonably necessary as a result of the impact of development, construction, or classification or reclassification of land on identified transportation needs.

(3) If a county or city within the district area is levying a fee or charge for a transportation improvement, the fee or charge shall be credited against the amount of the fee or charge imposed by the district. [2010 c 105 § 2; 2007 c 329 § 4; 2005 c 336 § 11; 1988 c 179 § 7; 1987 c 327 § 12.]

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

**36.73.130 Power of eminent domain.** A district may exercise the power of eminent domain to obtain property for its authorized purposes in the same manner as authorized for the city or county legislative authority that established the district. [2005 c 336 § 12; 1987 c 327 § 13.]

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

**36.73.140 Authority to contract for street and highway improvements.** A district has the same powers as a county or city to contract for street, road, or state highway improvement projects and to enter into reimbursement contracts provided for in chapter 35.72 RCW. [2005 c 336 § 13; 1987 c 327 § 14.]

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

**36.73.150 Department of transportation, counties, cities, and other jurisdictions may fund transportation improvements.** The department of transportation, counties, cities, and other jurisdictions may give funds to districts for the purposes of financing transportation improvements under this chapter. [2005 c 336 § 14; 1987 c 327 § 15.]

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

**36.73.160 Transportation improvement projects—Material change policy—Annual report.** (1) The district governing body shall develop a material change policy to address major plan changes that affect project delivery or the ability to finance the plan. The policy must at least address material changes to cost, scope, and schedule, the level of change that will require governing body involvement, and how the governing body will address those changes. At a minimum, in the event that a transportation improvement cost exceeds its original cost by more than twenty percent as identified in a district's original finance plan, the governing body shall hold a public hearing to solicit comment from the public regarding how the cost change should be resolved.

(2) A district shall issue an annual report, indicating the status of transportation improvement costs, transportation improvement expenditures, revenues, and construction schedules, to the public and to newspapers of record in the district. [2005 c 336 § 18.]

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

**36.73.170 Completion of transportation improvement—Termination of district operations—Termination of taxes, fees, charges, and tolls—Dissolution of district.**

Within thirty days of the completion of the construction of the transportation improvement or series of improvements authorized by a district, the district shall terminate day-to-day operations and exist solely as a limited entity that oversees the collection of revenue and the payment of debt service or financing still in effect, if any and to carry out the requirements of RCW 36.73.160. The district shall accordingly adjust downward its employees, administration, and overhead expenses. Any taxes, fees, charges, or tolls imposed by the district terminate when the financing or debt service on the transportation improvement or series of improvements constructed is completed and paid and notice is provided to the departments administering the taxes. Any excess revenues collected must be disbursed to the participating jurisdictions of the district in proportion to their population, using population estimates prepared by the office of financial management. The district shall dissolve itself and cease to exist thirty days after the financing or debt service on the transportation improvement, or series of improvements, constructed is completed and paid. If there is no debt outstanding, then the district shall dissolve within thirty days from completion of construction of the transportation improvement or series of improvements authorized by the district. Notice of dissolution must be published in newspapers of general circulation within the district at least three times in a period of thirty days. Creditors must file claims for payment of claims due within thirty days of the last published notice or the claim is extinguished. [2005 c 336 § 19.]

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

**36.73.180 Supplemental transportation improvements.** (1) In districts comprised of more than one member city, the legislative authorities of any member city that is located in a county having a population of more than one million five hundred thousand may petition the district to provide supplemental transportation improvements.

(2) Upon receipt of a petition as provided in subsection (1) of this section for supplemental transportation improvements that are to be fully funded by the petitioner city, including ongoing operating and maintenance costs, the district must:

(a) Conduct a public hearing, and provide notice and opportunity for public comment consistent with the requirements of RCW 36.73.050(1); and

(b) Following the hearing, if a majority of the district's governing board determines that the proposed supplemental transportation improvements are in the public interest, the district shall adopt an ordinance providing for the incorporation of the supplemental improvements into any existing services. The supplemental transportation improvements must be in addition to existing services provided by the district. The district shall enter into agreements with the petitioner city or identified service providers to coordinate existing services with the supplemental improvements.

(3) Upon receipt of a petition as provided in subsection (1) of this section for supplemental transportation improvements proposed to be partially or fully funded by the district, the district must:

(a) Conduct a public hearing, and provide notice and opportunity for public comment consistent with the requirements of RCW 36.73.050(1); and

(2022 Ed.)

(b) Following the hearing, submit a proposition to the voters at the next special or general election for approval by a majority of the voters in the district. The proposition must specify the supplemental transportation improvements to be provided and must estimate the capital, maintenance, and operating costs to be funded by the district.

(4) If a proposition to incorporate supplemental transportation improvements is approved by the voters as provided under subsection (3) of this section, the district shall adopt an ordinance providing for the incorporation of the supplemental improvements into any existing services provided by the district. The supplemental improvements must be in addition to existing services. The district shall enter into agreements with the petitioner city or identified service providers to coordinate existing services with the supplemental improvements.

(5) A supplemental transportation improvement must be consistent with the petitioner city's comprehensive plan under chapter 36.70A RCW.

(6) Unless otherwise agreed to by the petitioner city or by a majority of the district's governing board, upon adoption of an ordinance under subsection (2) or (4) of this section, the district shall maintain its existing public transportation service levels in locations where supplemental transportation improvements are provided. [2010 c 251 § 3.]

**36.73.900 Liberal construction.** The rule of strict construction does not apply to this chapter, and this chapter shall be liberally construed to permit the accomplishment of its purposes. [1987 c 327 § 16.]

## Chapter 36.74 RCW

### TRANSPORTATION BENEFIT DISTRICTS— ASSUMPTION BY CITIES AND COUNTIES

#### Sections

36.74.010	Assumption of rights, powers, functions, and obligations authorized.
36.74.020	Ordinance or resolution of intention to assume rights, powers, functions, and obligations—Adoption—Publication—Hearing.
36.74.030	Declaration of intention to assume—Abolition of city or county governing body—Transfer of rights, powers, immunities, functions, and obligations to city or county.
36.74.040	Existing rights, actions, proceedings, etc., not impaired or altered.
36.74.050	Rules and regulations, pending business, contracts, obligations, validity of official acts.
36.74.060	Reports, books, records, etc.—Funds, credits, assets—Appropriations or federal grants.
36.74.070	Debts and obligations.

**36.74.010 Assumption of rights, powers, functions, and obligations authorized.** Any city or county in which a transportation benefit district has been established pursuant to chapter 36.73 RCW with boundaries coterminous with the boundaries of the city or county may by ordinance or resolution of the city or county legislative authority assume the rights, powers, functions, and obligations of the transportation benefit district in accordance with this chapter. [2015 3rd sp.s. c 44 § 301.]

**Effective date—2015 3rd sp.s. c 44:** See note following RCW 46.68.395.

**36.74.020 Ordinance or resolution of intention to assume rights, powers, functions, and obligations—Adop-**

**tion—Publication—Hearing.** (1) The assumption of the rights, powers, functions, and obligations of a transportation benefit district may be initiated by the adoption of an ordinance or a resolution by the city or county legislative authority indicating its intention to conduct a hearing concerning the assumption of such rights, powers, functions, and obligations. If the city or county legislative authority adopts such an ordinance or a resolution of intention, the ordinance or resolution must set a time and place at which the city or county legislative authority will consider the proposed assumption of the rights, powers, functions, and obligations of the transportation benefit district, and must state that all persons interested may appear and be heard. The ordinance or resolution of intention must be published at least two times during the two weeks preceding the scheduled hearing in newspapers of daily general circulation printed or published in the city or county in which the transportation benefit district is to be located.

(2) At the time scheduled for the hearing in the ordinance or resolution of intention, the city or county legislative authority must consider the assumption of the rights, powers, functions, and obligations of the transportation benefit district and hear those appearing and all protests and objections to it. The city or county legislative authority may continue the hearing from time to time, not exceeding sixty days in all. [2015 3rd sp.s. c 44 § 302.]

**Effective date—2015 3rd sp.s. c 44:** See note following RCW 46.68.395.

**36.74.030 Declaration of intention to assume—Abolition of city or county governing body—Transfer of rights, powers, immunities, functions, and obligations to city or county.** (1) If, after receiving testimony, the city or county legislative authority determines that the public interest or welfare would be satisfied by the city or county assuming the rights, powers, immunities, functions, and obligations of the transportation benefit district, the city or county legislative authority may declare that to be its intent and assume such rights, powers, immunities, functions, and obligations by ordinance or resolution, providing that the city or county is vested with every right, power, immunity, function, and obligation currently granted to or possessed by the transportation benefit district.

(2) Upon assumption of the rights, powers, immunities, functions, and obligations of the transportation benefit district by the city or county, the governing body established pursuant to RCW 36.73.020 must be abolished and the city or county legislative authority is vested with all rights, powers, immunities, functions, and obligations otherwise vested by law in the governing board of the transportation benefit district. [2015 3rd sp.s. c 44 § 303.]

**Effective date—2015 3rd sp.s. c 44:** See note following RCW 46.68.395.

**36.74.040 Existing rights, actions, proceedings, etc., not impaired or altered.** No transfer of any function made pursuant to this chapter may be construed to impair or alter any existing rights acquired under chapter 36.73 RCW or any other provision of law relating to transportation benefit districts, nor as impairing or altering any actions, activities, or proceedings validated thereunder, nor as impairing or alter-

ing any civil or criminal proceedings instituted thereunder, nor any rule, regulation, or order promulgated thereunder, nor any administrative action taken thereunder; and neither the assumption of control of any transportation benefit district function by a city or county, nor any transfer of rights, powers, functions, and obligations as provided in this chapter, may impair or alter the validity of any act performed by such transportation benefit district or division thereof or any officer thereof prior to the assumption of such rights, powers, functions, and obligations by any city or county as authorized under this chapter. [2015 3rd sp.s. c 44 § 304.]

**Effective date—2015 3rd sp.s. c 44:** See note following RCW 46.68.395.

**36.74.050 Rules and regulations, pending business, contracts, obligations, validity of official acts.** (1) All rules and regulations and all pending business before the board of any transportation benefit district transferred pursuant to this chapter must be continued and acted upon by the city or county.

(2) All existing contracts and obligations of the transferred transportation benefit district remain in full force and effect and must be performed by the city or county. A transfer authorized in this chapter does not affect the validity of any official act performed by any official or employee prior to the transfer authorized pursuant to this chapter. [2015 3rd sp.s. c 44 § 305.]

**Effective date—2015 3rd sp.s. c 44:** See note following RCW 46.68.395.

**36.74.060 Reports, books, records, etc.—Funds, credits, assets—Appropriations or federal grants.** (1) All reports, documents, surveys, books, records, files, papers, or other writings relating to the administration of the powers, duties, and functions transferred pursuant to this chapter and available to the transportation benefit district must be made available to the city or county.

(2) All funds, credits, or other assets held in connection with powers, duties, and functions transferred under this chapter must be assigned to the city or county.

(3) Any appropriations or federal grant made to the transportation benefit district for the purpose of carrying out the rights, powers, functions, and obligations authorized to be assumed by a city or county pursuant to this chapter, on the effective date of such transfer, must be credited to the city or county for the purpose of carrying out such transferred rights, powers, functions, and obligations. [2015 3rd sp.s. c 44 § 306.]

**Effective date—2015 3rd sp.s. c 44:** See note following RCW 46.68.395.

**36.74.070 Debts and obligations.** The city or county must assume and agree to provide for the payment of all of the indebtedness of the transportation benefit district, including the payment and retirement of outstanding general obligation and revenue bonds issued by the transportation benefit district. [2015 3rd sp.s. c 44 § 307.]

**Effective date—2015 3rd sp.s. c 44:** See note following RCW 46.68.395.

## Chapter 36.75 RCW

## ROADS AND BRIDGES—GENERAL PROVISIONS

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*designation as arterial: RCW 46.61.195.*  
*federal funds for, state to match: RCW 47.08.020.*  
*federal grants to, department of transportation to administer: RCW 47.04.060, 47.04.070.*  
*may be selected as state highway route: RCW 47.28.010.*  
*projects by department of transportation, funds set aside: RCW 47.08.080.*  
*state participation in building: RCW 47.04.080.*  
*title to rights-of-way vested in state: RCW 47.04.040.*

*Department of transportation and transportation improvement board to coordinate long range needs studies: RCW 47.01.240.*

*Destroying native flora near county roads unlawful: RCW 47.40.080.*

*Dikes along public road, diking districts by: RCW 85.05.250.*

*Diking, drainage, and sewerage improvement districts benefits to roads, costs: RCW 85.08.370.*  
*crossing roads, procedure: RCW 85.08.340.*

*Diking, drainage district benefits to roads, how paid: RCW 85.07.040, 85.07.050.*

*Diking and drainage intercounty districts, counties to contribute for benefits to roads and bridges by: RCW 85.24.240.*

*Drainage ditches along roads by drainage improvement district: RCW 85.08.385.*

*Flood control districts (1937 act), crossing county roads, procedure: RCW 86.09.229.*

*Glass bottles thrown along county roads, collection and removal: RCW 47.40.090.*

*Highway advertising control act county information signs allowed under: RCW 47.42.050.*  
*not to supersede county ordinance: RCW 47.42.070.*

*Labor on, maximum hours of prescribed: Chapter 49.28 RCW.*

*Limited access facilities: Chapter 47.52 RCW.*

*Local adopt-a-highway programs: RCW 47.40.105.*

*Motor vehicles, maximum weight, size, speed in traversing bridges, tunnels, etc.: RCW 46.61.450.*

*Public lands*

*rights-of-way over for county bridges, trestles, across waterways, tide or shore lands: RCW 79.110.120.*

*rights-of-way over for roads, county wharves: RCW 79.36.440.*  
*sale of road materials on to counties: RCW 79.15.320.*

*Public works contracts, reserve from amount due contractors to cover lien for labor, material or taxes: Chapter 60.28 RCW.*

*Railroad grade crossings, county participation in grant, duty to maintain: Chapter 81.53 RCW.*

*Reclamation districts of one million acres benefit to public roads, procedure: RCW 89.30.181.*

*Right to back and hold waters over county roads: RCW 90.28.010, 90.28.020.*

*Speeds, maximums on county roads: RCW 46.61.415.*

*State cooperation in building roads, bridges, etc.: RCW 47.04.080.*

*Street railways, may cross public road: RCW 81.64.030.*

*Telecommunications companies, use of county roads, how: RCW 80.36.040.*

*Title to rights-of-way in county roads vested in state: RCW 47.04.040.*

*Toll bridges*

*ferry crossings not to infringe existing franchises: RCW 47.60.120.*

*state given right-of-way through county roads: RCW 47.56.100.*

*Toll roads, bridges, and ferries of state, sale or lease of unneeded property to county: RCW 47.56.253.*

**36.75.010 Definitions.** As used in this title with relation to roads and bridges, the following terms mean:

(1) "Alley," a highway not designed for general travel and primarily used as a means of access to the rear of residences and business establishments;

(2) "Board," the board of county commissioners or the county legislative authority, however organized;

(3) "Center line," the line, marked or unmarked, parallel to and equidistant from the sides of a two-way traffic roadway of a highway except where otherwise indicated by painted lines or markers;

(4) "City street," every highway or part thereof, located within the limits of incorporated cities and towns, except alleys;

(5) "County engineer" means the county road engineer, county engineer, and engineer, and shall refer to the statutorily required position of county engineer appointed under RCW 36.80.010; and may include the county director of public works when the person in that position also meets the

requirements of a licensed professional engineer and is duly appointed by the county legislative authority under RCW 36.80.010;

(6) "County road," every highway or part thereof, outside the limits of incorporated cities and towns and which has not been designated as a state highway;

(7) "Department," the state department of transportation;

(8) "Director" or "secretary," the state secretary of transportation or his or her duly authorized assistant;

(9) "Pedestrian," any person afoot;

(10) "Private road or driveway," every way or place in private ownership and used for travel of vehicles by the owner or those having express or implied permission from the owner, but not by other persons;

(11) "Highway," every way, lane, road, street, boulevard, and every way or place in the state of Washington open as a matter of right to public vehicular travel both inside and outside the limits of incorporated cities and towns;

(12) "Railroad," a carrier of persons or property upon vehicles, other than streetcars, operated upon stationary rails, the route of which is principally outside incorporated cities and towns;

(13) "Roadway," the paved, improved, or proper driving portion of a highway designed or ordinarily used for vehicular travel;

(14) "Sidewalk," property between the curb lines or the lateral lines of a roadway, and the adjacent property, set aside and intended for the use of pedestrians or such portion of private property parallel and in proximity to a highway and dedicated to use by pedestrians;

(15) "State highway," includes every highway as herein defined, or part thereof, that has been designated as a state highway, or branch thereof, by legislative enactment. [2005 c 161 § 1; 1984 c 7 § 26; 1975 c 62 § 1; 1969 ex.s. c 182 § 1; 1963 c 4 § 36.75.010. Prior: 1937 c 187 § 1; RRS § 6450-1.]

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

**36.75.020 County roads—County legislative authority as agent of state—Standards.** All of the county roads in each of the several counties shall be established, laid out, constructed, altered, repaired, improved, and maintained by the legislative authority of the respective counties as agents of the state, or by private individuals or corporations who are allowed to perform such work under an agreement with the county legislative authority. Such work shall be done in accordance with adopted county standards under the supervision and direction of the county engineer. [1982 c 145 § 6; 1963 c 4 § 36.75.020. Prior: 1943 c 82 § 1; 1937 c 187 § 2; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 6450-2.]

**36.75.030 State and county cooperation.** The state department of transportation and the governing officials of any county may enter into reciprocal public highway improvement and maintenance agreements, providing for cooperation either in the county assisting the department in the improvement or maintenance of state highways, or the department assisting the county in the improvement or maintenance of county roads, under any circumstance where a necessity appears therefor or where economy in public highway improvement and maintenance will be best served.

[1984 c 7 § 27; 1963 c 4 § 36.75.030. Prior: 1939 c 181 § 11; RRS § 6450-2a.]

**36.75.035 County may fund improvements to state highways.** A county pursuant to chapter 36.88 RCW, or a service district as provided for in chapter 36.83 RCW, may, with the approval of the state department of transportation, improve or fund the improvement of any state highway within its boundaries. The county may fund improvements under this section by any means authorized by law, except that expenditures of county road funds under chapter 36.82 RCW under this section must be limited to improvements to the state highway system and shall not include maintenance or operations. Nothing in this section shall limit the authority of a county to fund cooperative improvement and maintenance agreements with the department of transportation, authorized by RCW 36.75.030 or 47.28.140. [2002 c 60 § 1; 1985 c 400 § 1.]

*County road improvement districts and service districts may improve state highways: RCW 36.83.010 and 36.88.010.*

**36.75.040 Powers of county commissioners.** The board of county commissioners of each county, in relation to roads and bridges, shall have the power and it shall be its duty to:

(1) Acquire in the manner provided by law property real and personal and acquire or erect structures necessary for the administration of the county roads of such county;

(2) Maintain a county engineering office and keep record of all proceedings and orders pertaining to the county roads of such county;

(3) Acquire land for county road purposes by purchase, gift, or condemnation, and exercise the right of eminent domain as by law provided for the taking of land for public use by counties of this state;

(4) Perform all acts necessary and proper for the administration of the county roads of such county as by law provided;

(5) In its discretion rent or lease any lands, improvements or air space above or below any county road or unused county roads to any person or entity, public or private: PROVIDED, That the said renting or leasing will not interfere with vehicular traffic along said county road or adversely affect the safety of the traveling public: PROVIDED FURTHER, That any such sale, lease or rental shall be by public bid in the manner provided by law: AND PROVIDED FURTHER, That nothing herein shall prohibit any county from granting easements of necessity. [1969 ex.s. c 182 § 15; 1963 c 4 § 36.75.040. Prior: 1937 c 187 § 3; RRS § 6450-3.]

**36.75.050 Powers—How exercised.** The powers and duties vested in or imposed upon the boards with respect to establishing, examining, surveying, constructing, altering, repairing, improving, and maintaining county roads, shall be exercised under the supervision and direction of the county road engineer.

The board shall by resolution, and not otherwise, order the survey, establishment, construction, alteration, or improvement of county roads; the county road engineer shall prepare all necessary maps, plans, and specifications therefor, showing the right-of-way widths, the alignments, gradi-

ents, and standards of construction. [1963 c 4 § 36.75.050. Prior: 1943 c 73 § 1, part; 1937 c 187 § 4, part; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 6450-4.]

**36.75.060 County road districts.** For the purpose of efficient administration of the county roads of each county the board may, but not more than once in each year, form their respective counties, or any part thereof, into suitable and convenient road districts, not exceeding nine in number, and cause a description thereof to be entered upon their records.

Unless the board decides otherwise by majority vote, there shall be at least one road district in each county commissioner's district embracing territory outside of cities and towns and no road district shall extend into more than one county commissioner's district. [1969 ex.s. c 182 § 3; 1963 c 4 § 36.75.060. Prior: 1937 c 187 § 5; RRS § 6450-5.]

**36.75.065 Community revitalization financing—Public improvements.** In addition to other authority that a road district possesses, a road district may provide any public improvement as defined under RCW 39.89.020, but this additional authority is limited to participating in the financing of the public improvements as provided under RCW 39.89.050.

This section does not limit the authority of a road district to otherwise participate in the public improvements if that authority exists elsewhere. [2001 c 212 § 16.]

**36.75.070 Highways worked seven years are county roads.** All public highways in this state, outside incorporated cities and towns and not designated as state highways, which have been used as public highways for a period of not less than seven years, where they have been worked and kept up at the expense of the public, are county roads. [1963 c 4 § 36.75.070. Prior: 1955 c 361 § 2; prior: 1945 c 125 § 1, part; 1937 c 187 § 10, part; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 6450-10, part.]

**36.75.080 Highways used ten years are county roads.** All public highways in this state, outside incorporated cities and towns and not designated as state highways which have been used as public highways for a period of not less than ten years are county roads: PROVIDED, That no duty to maintain such public highway nor any liability for any injury or damage for failure to maintain such public highway or any road signs thereon shall attach to the county until the same shall have been adopted as a part of the county road system by resolution of the county commissioners. [1963 c 4 § 36.75.080. Prior: 1955 c 361 § 3; prior: 1945 c 125 § 1, part; 1937 c 187 § 10, part; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 6450-10, part.]

**36.75.090 Abandoned state highways.** All public highways in this state which have been a part of the route of a state highway and have been or may hereafter be no longer necessary as such, if situated outside of the limits of incorporated cities or towns, shall, upon certification thereof by the state department of transportation to the legislative authority of the county in which any portion of the highway is located, become a county road of the county, and if situated within the corporate limits of any city or town shall upon certification thereof by the state department of transportation to the mayor of the city or town in which any portion of the highway is located become a street of the city or town. Upon the certifi-

cation the secretary of transportation shall execute a deed, which shall be duly acknowledged, conveying the abandoned highway or portion thereof to the county or city as the case may be. [1984 c 7 § 28; 1977 ex.s. c 78 § 4; 1963 c 4 § 36.75.090. Prior: 1955 c 361 § 4; prior: 1953 c 57 § 1; 1945 c 125 § 1, part; 1937 c 187 § 10, part; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 6450-10, part.]

**36.75.100 Informalities not fatal.** No informalities in the records in laying out, establishing, or altering any public highways existing on file in the offices of the various county auditors of this state or in the records of the department or the transportation commission, may be construed to invalidate or vacate the public highways. [1984 c 7 § 29; 1963 c 4 § 36.75.100. Prior: 1937 c 187 § 11; RRS § 6450-11.]

**36.75.110 True locations to be determined—Survey.** Whenever the board declares by resolution that the true location, course, or width of any county road is uncertain and that the same should be determined, it shall direct the county road engineer to make examination and survey thereof.

This shall embrace an examination and survey of the original petition, report, and field notes on the establishment of such road; a survey of the present traveled roadway; all topography within a reasonable distance and having a bearing on the true location of such road; the distance from the center line of the traveled roadway to the nearest section and quarter section corners; a map of sufficient scale accurately showing the above with field notes thereon; a map on the same scale showing the original field notes, such field notes to be transposed and the same meridian used on both maps. [1963 c 4 § 36.75.110. Prior: 1937 c 187 § 12; RRS § 6450-12.]

**36.75.120 Action to determine true location.** When the true location, course, or width of a county road, which was prior thereto uncertain, has been reported by the examining engineer, the board shall file an action in the superior court of such county for the determination thereof. All persons affected by the determination of the true location, course, or width insofar as the same may vary from the originally established location, course, or width shall be made parties defendant in such action and service had and return made as in the case of civil actions. Upon the hearing the court shall consider the survey, maps, and all data with reference to the investigation of the examining engineer and may demand such further examination as it may deem necessary and any objection of any party defendant may be heard and considered. The court shall determine the true location, course, and width of the road and may in its discretion assess the cost of such action against the county to be paid from the county road fund. [1963 c 4 § 36.75.120. Prior: 1937 c 187 § 13; RRS § 6450-13.]

**36.75.130 Approaches to county roads—Rules regarding construction—Penalty.** (1) No person shall be permitted to build or construct any approach to any county road without first obtaining permission therefor from the board.

(2) The boards of the several counties of the state may adopt reasonable rules for the construction of approaches which, when complied with, shall entitle a person to build or

construct an approach from any abutting property to any county road. The rules may include provisions for the construction of culverts under the approaches, the depth of fills over the culverts, and for such other drainage facilities as the board deems necessary. The construction of approaches, culverts, fills, or such other drainage facilities as may be required, shall be under the supervision of the county road engineer, and all such construction shall be at the expense of the person benefited by the construction.

(3) Any person violating this section is guilty of a misdemeanor. [2003 c 53 § 208; 1963 c 4 § 36.75.130. Prior: 1943 c 174 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 6450-95.]

**Intent—Effective date—2003 c 53:** See notes following RCW 2.48.180.

**36.75.160 Power of county commissioners as to roads, bridges, and other structures crossing boundary lines.** The board of county commissioners of any county may erect and construct or acquire by purchase, gift, or condemnation, any bridge, trestle, or any other structure which crosses any stream, body of water, gulch, navigable water, swamp or other topographical formation requiring such structure for the continuation or connection of any county road if such topographical formation constitutes the boundary of a city, town, another county or the state of Washington or another state or a county, city or town of such other state.

The board of such county may join with such city, town, other county, the state of Washington, or other state, or a county, city or town of such other state in paying for, erecting, constructing, acquiring by purchase, gift, or condemnation any such bridge, trestle, or other structure, and the purchase or condemnation of right-of-way therefor.

The board of any county may construct, maintain, and operate any county road which forms the boundary line between another county within the state or another county in any other state or which through its meandering crosses such boundary; and acquire by purchase or condemnation any lands or rights within this state, either within or without its county, necessary for such boundary road; and enter into joint contracts with authorities of adjoining counties for the construction, operation, and maintenance of such boundary roads. The power of condemnation herein granted may be exercised jointly by two counties in the manner provided in RCW 36.75.170 for bridges, or it may be exercised by a single county in the manner authorized by law. [2000 c 155 § 1; 1963 c 4 § 36.75.160. Prior: 1943 c 82 § 3; 1937 c 187 § 26; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 6450-26.]

**36.75.170 Power of county commissioners as to roads, bridges, and other structures crossing boundary lines—Resolution to acquire or construct.** The board may by original resolution entered upon its minutes declare its intention to pay for and erect or construct, or acquire by purchase, gift, or condemnation, any bridge, trestle, or other structure upon any county road which crosses any stream, body of water, gulch, navigable water, swamp or other topographical formation constituting a boundary, or to join therein with any other county, city or town, or with this state, or with any other state, in the erection, or construction, or acquisition of any such structure, and declare that the same is a public

necessity, and direct the county road engineer to report upon such project, dividing any just proportional cost thereof.

In the event two counties or any county and any city wish to join in paying for the erection or acquisition of any such structure, the resolution provided in this section shall be a joint resolution of the governing authorities of the counties and cities and they shall further, by such resolution, designate an engineer employed by one county to report upon the proposed erection or acquisition. [1963 c 4 § 36.75.170. Prior: 1937 c 187 § 27; RRS § 6450-27.]

**36.75.180 Power of county commissioners as to roads, bridges, and other structures crossing boundary lines—Freeholders' petition to acquire or construct.** Ten or more freeholders of any county may petition the board for the erection and construction or acquisition by purchase, gift, or condemnation of any bridge, trestle, or any other structure in the vicinity of their residence, and upon any county road which crosses any stream, body of water, gulch, navigable waters, swamp or other topographical formation constituting a boundary by joining with any other county, city or town, or the state of Washington, or with any other state or with any county, city or town of any other state, setting forth and describing the location proposed for the erection of such bridge, trestle, or other structure, and stating that the same is a public necessity. The petition shall be accompanied by a bond with the same requirements, conditions, and amount and in the same manner as in case of a freeholders' petition for the establishing of a county road. Upon the filing of such petition and bond and being satisfied that the petition has been signed by freeholders residing in the vicinity of such proposed bridge, trestle, or other structure, the board shall direct the county road engineer to report upon the project, dividing any just proportional cost thereof.

In the event two counties or any county and any city or town are petitioned to join in paying for the erection or acquisition of such structure, the board of county commissioners of the counties or the board of county commissioners of the county and governing authorities of the city or town shall act jointly in the selection of the engineer who shall report upon such acquisition or erection. [1963 c 4 § 36.75.180. Prior: 1937 c 187 § 28; RRS § 6450-28.]

**36.75.190 Engineer's report—Hearing—Order.** Upon report by the examining engineer for the erection and construction upon any county road, or for acquisition by purchase, gift or condemnation of any bridge, trestle, or any other structure crossing any stream, body of water, gulch, navigable water, swamp or other topographical formation, which constitutes a boundary, publication shall be made and joint hearing had upon such report in the same manner and upon the same procedure as in the case of resolution or petition for the laying out and establishing of county roads. If upon the hearing the governing authorities jointly order the erection and construction or acquisition of such bridge, trestle, or other structure, they may jointly acquire land necessary therefor by purchase, gift, or condemnation in the manner as provided for acquiring land for county roads, and shall advertise calls for bids, require contractor's deposit and bond, award contracts, and supervise construction as by law pro-



vided and in the same manner as required in the case of the construction of county roads.

Any such bridges, trestles or other structures may be operated free, or may be operated as toll bridges, trestles, or other structures under the provisions of the laws of this state relating thereto. [1963 c 4 § 36.75.190. Prior: 1937 c 187 § 29; RRS § 6450-29.]

**36.75.200 Bridges on city or town streets.** The boards of the several counties may expend funds from the county road fund for the construction, improvement, repair, and maintenance of any bridge upon any city street within any city or town in such county where such city street and bridge are essential to the continuation of the county road system of the county. Such construction, improvement, repair, or maintenance shall be ordered by resolution and proceedings conducted in respect thereto in the same manner as provided for the laying out and establishing of county roads by counties, and for the preparation of maps, plans, and specifications, advertising and award of contracts therefor. [1963 c 4 § 36.75.200. Prior: 1937 c 187 § 30; RRS § 6450-30.]

**36.75.203 Responsibility of city to maintain county road forming a municipal boundary.** If the centerline of a portion of a county road is part of a corporate boundary of a city or town as of May 21, 1985, and that portion of county road has no connection to the county road system, maintenance of all affected portions of the road shall be the responsibility of such city or town after a petition requesting the same has been made to the city or town by the county legislative authority. [1985 c 429 § 2.]

**36.75.205 Street as extension of road in town of less than one thousand.** Whenever any street in any town, having a population of less than one thousand persons, forms an extension of a county road of the county in which such town is located, and where the board of county commissioners of such county and the governing body of such town, prior to the commencement of any work, have mutually agreed and each adopted a resolution setting forth the nature and scope of the work to be performed and the share of the cost or labor which each shall bear, such county may expend county road funds for construction, improvement, repair, or maintenance of such street. [1963 c 4 § 36.75.205. Prior: 1959 c 83 § 1.]

**36.75.207 Agreements for planning, establishment, construction, and maintenance of city streets by counties—Use of county road fund—Payment by city—Contracts, bids.** See RCW 35.77.020 through 35.77.040.

**36.75.210 Roads crossing boundaries.** Whenever a county road is established within any county, and such county road crosses the boundary of the county, the board of the county within which the major portion of the road is located may expend the county road fund of such county in laying out, establishing, constructing, altering, repairing, improving, and maintaining that portion of the road lying outside the county, in the manner provided by law for the expenditure of county funds for the construction, alteration, repair, improvement, and maintenance of county roads within the county.

(2022 Ed.)

The board of any county may construct, maintain, and operate any county road which forms the boundary line between another county within the state or another county in any other state or which through its meandering crosses such boundary; and acquire by purchase or condemnation any lands or rights within this state, either within or without its county, necessary for such boundary road; and enter into joint contracts with authorities of adjoining counties for the construction, operation, and maintenance of such boundary roads. The power of condemnation herein granted may be exercised jointly by two counties in the manner provided for bridges, or it may be exercised by a single county in the manner authorized by law. [2000 c 155 § 2; 1963 c 4 § 36.75.210. Prior: 1937 c 187 § 23; RRS § 6450-23. FORMER PART OF SECTION: 1943 c 82 § 3, part; 1937 c 187 § 26, part; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 6450-26, part, now codified in RCW 36.75.160.]

**36.75.220 Connecting road across segment of third county.** Whenever two counties are separated by an intervening portion of a third county not exceeding one mile in width, and each of such counties has constructed or shall construct a county road to the boundary thereof, and the boards of the two counties deem it beneficial to such counties to connect the county roads by the construction and maintenance of a county road across the intervening portion of the third county, it shall be lawful for the boards of the two counties to expend jointly the county road funds of their respective counties in acquiring right-of-way for the construction, improvement, repair, and maintenance of such connecting county road and any necessary bridges thereon, in the manner provided by law for the expenditure of county road funds for the construction, improvement, repair, and maintenance of county roads lying within a county. [1963 c 4 § 36.75.220. Prior: 1937 c 187 § 24; RRS § 6450-24.]

**36.75.230 Acquisition of land under RCW 36.75.210 and 36.75.220.** For the purpose of carrying into effect RCW 36.75.210 and 36.75.220 and under the circumstances therein set out the boards may acquire land necessary for the right-of-way for any portion of a county road lying outside such county or counties by gift or purchase or by condemnation in the manner provided for the taking of property for public use by counties. [1963 c 4 § 36.75.230. Prior: 1937 c 187 § 25, part; RRS § 6450-25, part.]

**36.75.240 Sidewalks and pedestrian paths or walks—Bicycle paths, lanes, routes, and roadways—Standards.** The boards may expend funds credited to the county road fund from any county or road district tax levied for the construction of county roads for the construction of sidewalks, bicycle paths, lanes, routes, and roadways, and pedestrian allocated paths or walks. Bicycle facilities constructed or modified after June 10, 1982, shall meet or exceed the standards of the state department of transportation. [1982 c 55 § 2; 1974 ex.s. c 141 § 7; 1963 c 4 § 36.75.240. Prior: 1937 c 187 § 25, part; RRS § 6450-25, part.]

*Pavement marking standards: RCW 47.36.280.*

**36.75.243 Curb ramps for persons with physical disabilities.** See RCW 35.68.075, 35.68.076.

**36.75.250 State may intervene if maintenance neglected.** If by any agreement with the federal government or any agency thereof or with the state or any agency thereof, a county has agreed to maintain certain county roads or any portion thereof and the maintenance is not being performed to the satisfaction of the federal government or the department, reasonably consistent with original construction, notice thereof may be given by the department to the legislative authority of the county, and if the county legislative authority does not within ten days provide for the maintenance, the department may perform the maintenance, and the state treasurer shall pay the cost thereof on vouchers submitted by the department and deduct the cost thereof from any sums in the motor vehicle fund credited or to be credited to the county in which the county road is located. [1984 c 7 § 30; 1963 c 4 § 36.75.250. Prior: 1937 c 187 § 46; RRS § 6450-46.]

**36.75.255 Street improvements—Provision of supplies or materials.** Any county may assist a street abutter in improving the street serving the abutter's premises by providing asphalt, concrete, or other supplies or materials. The furnishing of supplies or materials or paying to the abutter the cost thereof and the providing of inspectors and other incidental personnel shall not render the street improvements a public work or improvement subject to competitive bidding. The legislative authority of such county shall approve any such assistance at a public meeting and shall maintain a public register of any such assistance setting forth the value, nature, purpose, date and location of the assistance and the name of the beneficiary. [1983 c 103 § 2.]

**36.75.260 Annual report to secretary of transportation.** Each county legislative authority shall on or before May 31st of each year submit such records and reports to the secretary of transportation, on forms furnished by the department, as are necessary to enable the secretary to compile an annual report on county highway operations. [1999 c 204 § 2; 1984 c 7 § 31; 1977 c 75 § 31; 1963 c 4 § 36.75.260. Prior: 1943 c 82 § 8; 1937 c 187 § 58; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 6450-58.]

**36.75.270 Limitation of type or weight of vehicles authorized—Penalty.** The board of county commissioners of each county may by resolution limit or prohibit classes or types of vehicles on any county road or bridge and may limit the weight of vehicles which may travel thereon. Any such resolution shall be effective for a definite period of time which shall be stated in the resolution. If such resolution is published at least once in a newspaper of general circulation in the county and if signs indicating such closure or limitation of traffic have been posted on such road or bridge, any person violating such resolution shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. [1963 c 4 § 36.75.270. Prior: 1949 c 156 § 8; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 6450-8g.]

*Local restrictions or limitations of weight: RCW 46.44.080.*

**36.75.280 Centralized repair and storage of machinery, equipment, supplies, etc.** All county road machinery, equipment, stores, and supplies, excepting stockpiles and other road building material, shall while not in use be stored and repaired at one centralized point in each county: PROVIDED, That if the geography, topography, distance, or other

valid economic considerations require more than one place for storage or repairs, the county commissioners may, by unanimous vote, authorize the same. [1963 c 4 § 36.75.280. Prior: 1949 c 156 § 4; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 6450-8d.]

**36.75.290 General penalty.** It shall be a misdemeanor for any person to violate any of the provisions of this title relating to county roads and bridges unless such violation is by this title or other law of this state declared to be a felony or gross misdemeanor. [1963 c 4 § 36.75.290. Prior: 1943 c 82 § 13, part; 1937 c 187 § 66, part; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 6450-66, part.]

**36.75.300 Primitive roads—Classification and designation.** The legislative authority of each county may by resolution classify and designate portions of the county roads as primitive roads where the designated road portion:

- (1) Is not classified as part of the county primary road system, as provided for in RCW 36.86.070;
- (2) Has a gravel or earth driving surface; and
- (3) Has an average annual daily traffic of one hundred or fewer vehicles.

Any road designated as a primitive road shall be marked with signs indicating that it is a primitive road, as provided in the manual of uniform traffic control devices, at all places where the primitive road portion begins or connects with a highway other than another primitive road. No design or signing or maintenance standards or requirements, other than the requirement that warning signs be placed as provided in this section, apply to primitive roads.

The design of a primitive road, any discretionary maintenance, and the location, placing, or failing to place road signs, other than the requirement that warning signs be placed as provided in this section, shall not be considered in any action for damages brought against a county, or against a county employee or county employees, or both, arising from vehicular traffic on the primitive road. [2014 c 205 § 1; 1985 c 369 § 2; 1980 c 45 § 1.]

## Chapter 36.76 RCW ROADS AND BRIDGES—BONDS

### Sections

36.76.080	Bonds authorized—Election.
36.76.090	How to be held—Issuance of bonds.
36.76.100	Notice of election.
36.76.110	Disposition of proceeds—City assistance.
36.76.120	Payment of principal and interest.
36.76.130	Act cumulative.
36.76.140	Toll bridge bonds authorized—Adjoining counties.

**36.76.080 Bonds authorized—Election.** The legislative authority of any county may, whenever a majority thereof so decides, submit to the voters of their county the question whether the legislative authority shall be authorized to issue negotiable road bonds of the county in an amount subject to the limitations on indebtedness provided for in RCW 39.36.020(2), for the purpose of constructing a new road or roads, or improving established roads within the county, or for aiding in so doing, as herein prescribed.

The word "improvement" wherever used in this section and RCW 36.76.090, 36.76.100, 36.76.110, 36.76.120, and

36.76.130 shall embrace any undertaking for any or all of such purposes. The word "road" shall embrace all highways, roads, streets, avenues, bridges, and other public ways.

The provisions of this section and RCW 36.76.090, 36.76.100, 36.76.110, 36.76.120, and 36.76.130 shall apply not only to roads which are or shall be under the general control of the county, but also to all parts of state roads in such county and to all roads which are situated or are to be constructed wholly or partly within the limits of any incorporated city or town therein, provided the county legislative authority finds that they form or will become a part of the public highway system of the county, and will connect the existing roads therein. Such finding may be made by the county legislative authority at any stage of the proceedings before the actual delivery of the bonds.

The constructing or improving of any and all such roads, or the aiding therein, is declared to be a county purpose.

The question of the issuance of bonds for any undertaking which relates to a number of different roads or parts thereof, whether intended to supply the whole expenditure or to aid therein, may be submitted to the voters as a single proposition in all cases where such course is consistent with the provisions of the state Constitution. If the county legislative authority, in submitting a proposition relating to different roads or parts thereof, finds that such proposition has for its object the furtherance and accomplishment of the construction of a system of public and county highways in such county, and constitutes and has for its object a single purpose, such finding shall be presumed to be correct, and upon the issuance of the bonds the presumption shall become conclusive.

No proposition for bonds shall be submitted which proposes that more than forty percent of the proceeds thereof shall be expended within any city or town or within any number of cities and towns. [1983 c 167 § 90; 1971 c 76 § 2; 1970 ex.s. c 42 § 22; 1963 c 4 § 36.76.080. Prior: 1913 c 25 § 1; RRS § 5592.]

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

**36.76.090 How to be held—Issuance of bonds.** The election shall be held as provided in RCW 39.36.050. If three-fifths of the legal ballots cast on the question of issuing bonds for the improvement contemplated in RCW 36.76.080 are in favor of the bond issue, the county legislative authority must issue the general obligation bonds. Such bonds shall be issued and sold in accordance with chapter 39.46 RCW. [1984 c 186 § 31; 1983 c 167 § 91; 1970 ex.s. c 56 § 53; 1969 ex.s. c 232 § 29; 1963 c 4 § 36.76.090. Prior: 1913 c 25 § 2; RRS § 5593.]

**Purpose—1984 c 186:** See note following RCW 39.46.110.

**Purpose—1970 ex.s. c 56:** See note following RCW 39.52.020.

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

**36.76.100 Notice of election.** The notice of this election shall state which road or roads are to be built or improved. The notice need not describe the road or roads with particularity, but it shall be sufficient either to describe them by termini and with a general statement as to their course, or to use any other appropriate language sufficient to show the purpose intended to be accomplished. The county legislative authority may, at its option, give such other or further notice as it may

deem advisable. [1984 c 186 § 32; 1963 c 4 § 36.76.100. Prior: 1913 c 25 § 4; RRS § 5595.]

**Purpose—1984 c 186:** See note following RCW 39.46.110.

### **36.76.110 Disposition of proceeds—City assistance.**

When the bonds are sold, the money arising therefrom shall be immediately paid into the treasury of the county, and shall be drawn only for the improvement for which they were issued, under the general direction of the board: PROVIDED, That if the improvement includes in whole or in part the constructing or improving of one or more roads, or any part or parts thereof, within the limits of an incorporated city or town, and if the county commissioners find that the amount of the proceeds of the bonds intended to be expended for the improvements within such corporate limits will probably not be sufficient to defray the entire expense of the improvement therein, and if they further find it to be equitable that the city or town should bear the remainder of the expense, they may postpone any expenditure therefor from the proceeds of the bonds until the city or town makes provision by ordinance for proceeding with the improvement within its corporate limits at its own expense insofar as concerns the cost thereof over and above the amount of bond proceeds available therefor.

In such case it shall be lawful for the county commissioners to consent, under such general directions as they shall impose, that the proper authorities of the city or town shall have actual charge of making the proposed improvement within the corporate limits. The city or town shall acquire any needed property or rights and do the work by contract or otherwise in accordance with its charter or ordinances, but the same shall be subject to the approval of the county commissioners insofar as concerns any payment therefor from the proceeds of the bonds.

In such case, as the work progresses and money is needed to pay therefor, the county commissioners shall, from time to time, by proper order, specifying the amount and purpose, direct the county treasurer to turn over to the city or town treasurer such part or parts of the proceeds of the bonds as may be justly applicable to such improvement or part thereof within such city or town, and any money so received by the city or town treasurer shall be inviolably applied to the purpose specified. When that portion of the entire improvement which lies within any such city or town can readily be separated into parts, the procedure authorized by this section may be pursued separately as to any one or more of such parts of the general improvement.

Nothing contained in this section shall be construed to render the county liable for any greater part of the expense of any improvement or part thereof within any city or town than the proper amount of the proceeds of such bonds, or to prevent the city or town from raising any part of the cost of any such improvement or part thereof, over and above the amount arising from the proceeds of the bonds, by assessment upon property benefited, or by contribution from any of its general or special funds in accordance with the provisions of the charter or laws governing such city or town. The provisions of this section, other than the direction for the payment into the county treasury of the money arising from the sale of the bonds, need not be complied with until after the issuance of the bonds and the validity of the bonds shall not be dependent

upon such compliance. [1963 c 4 § 36.76.110. Prior: 1913 c 25 § 5; RRS § 5596.]

**36.76.120 Payment of principal and interest.** The county legislative authority must ascertain and levy annually a tax sufficient to pay the interest on all such bonds whenever it becomes due and to meet the annual maturities of principal. The county treasurer must pay out of any money accumulated from the taxes levied to pay the interest as aforesaid, the interest upon all such bonds when it becomes due as provided on the bond or, if coupons are attached to a bond, upon presentation at the place of payment of the proper coupon. Any interest payments or coupons so paid must be reported to the county legislative authority at its first meeting thereafter. Whenever interest is payable at any place other than the city in which the county treasurer keeps his or her office, the county treasurer shall seasonably remit to the state fiscal agent the amount of money required for the payment of any interest which is about to fall due. When any such bonds or any interest is paid, the county treasurer shall suitably and indelibly cancel them. [2009 c 549 § 4125; 1984 c 186 § 33; 1983 c 167 § 92; 1963 c 4 § 36.76.120. Prior: 1913 c 25 § 3; RRS § 5594.]

**Purpose—1984 c 186:** See note following RCW 39.46.110.

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

**36.76.130 Act cumulative.** \*This act shall not be construed as repealing or affecting any other act relating to the issuance of bonds for road or other purposes, but shall be construed as conferring additional power and authority. [1963 c 4 § 36.76.130. Prior: 1913 c 25 § 7; RRS § 5598.]

\***Reviser's note:** "This act" [1913 c 25] consists of RCW 36.76.080, 36.76.090, 36.76.100, 36.76.110, 36.76.120, and 36.76.130.

**36.76.140 Toll bridge bonds authorized—Adjoining counties.** The county legislative authority may, by majority vote, and by submission to the voters under the same procedure required in RCW 36.76.090 and 36.76.100, issue general obligation bonds for the purpose of contributing money, or the bonds themselves, to the department to help finance the construction of toll bridges across topographical formations constituting boundaries between the county and an adjoining county, or a toll bridge across topographical formation located wholly within an adjoining county, which in the discretion of the county legislative authority, directly or indirectly benefits the county. The bonds may be transferred to the department to be sold by it for the purposes outlined herein. The bonds may bear interest at a rate or rates as authorized by the county legislative authority. Such indebtedness is subject to the limitations on indebtedness provided for in RCW 39.36.020(2). [1984 c 7 § 32; 1971 c 76 § 3; 1970 ex.s. c 56 § 54; 1969 ex.s. c 232 § 30; 1963 c 4 § 36.76.140. Prior: 1955 c 194 § 1.]

**Purpose—1970 ex.s. c 56:** See note following RCW 39.52.020.

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

## Chapter 36.77 RCW

### ROADS AND BRIDGES—CONSTRUCTION

#### Sections

36.77.010 Maps, plans, and specifications.

36.77.020	Approval—Call for bids.
36.77.030	Opening of bids—Deposit.
36.77.040	Award of contract—Bond—Low bidder claiming error.
36.77.065	County forces construction projects or programs—Amounts—Violations.
36.77.070	Publication of information on county forces projects—Penalty—Prosecution.
36.77.075	County roads—Small works roster.

**36.77.010 Maps, plans, and specifications.** Whenever it is ordered by resolution of the board that any county road shall be laid out and established and altered, widened, or otherwise constructed or improved, the county road engineer employed by the county shall prepare such maps, plans, and specifications as shall be necessary and sufficient. A copy of such maps, plans, and specifications shall be approved by the board of county commissioners with its approval endorsed thereon, and such copy shall be filed with the clerk of the board. [1963 c 4 § 36.77.010. Prior: 1959 c 67 § 2; prior: 1937 c 187 § 32, part; RRS § 6450-32, part.]

**36.77.020 Approval—Call for bids.** Upon approval of such maps, plans, and specifications and the filing thereof the board shall, if it determines that the work shall be done by contract, advertise a call for bids upon such construction work by publication in the official county paper and also one trade paper of general circulation in the county, in one issue of each such paper at least once in each week for two consecutive weeks prior to the time set in the call for bids for the opening of bids. All bids shall be submitted under sealed cover before the time set for the opening of bids. [1963 c 4 § 36.77.020. Prior: 1959 c 67 § 3; prior: 1937 c 187 § 32, part; RRS § 6450-32, part.]

**36.77.030 Opening of bids—Deposit.** At the time and place fixed in the call for bids, such bids as have been submitted shall be publicly opened and read. No bid may be considered unless it is accompanied by a bid deposit in the form of a surety bond, cash, cashier's check, or certified check in an amount equal to five percent of the amount of the bid proposed. [1985 c 369 § 3; 1963 c 4 § 36.77.030. Prior: 1959 c 67 § 4; prior: 1937 c 187 § 32, part; RRS § 6450-32, part.]

**36.77.040 Award of contract—Bond—Low bidder claiming error.** The board shall proceed to award the contract to the lowest and best bidder but may reject any or all bids if in its opinion good cause exists therefor. The board shall require from the successful bidder a contractor's bond in the amount and with the conditions imposed by law. Should the bidder to whom the contract is awarded fail to enter into the contract and furnish the contractor's bond as required within ten days after notice of the award, exclusive of the day of notice, the amount of the bid deposit shall be forfeited to the county and placed in the county road fund and the contract awarded to the next lowest and best bidder. A low bidder who claims error and fails to enter into a contract is prohibited from bidding on the same project if a second or subsequent call for bids is made for the project. The bid deposit of all unsuccessful bidders shall be returned after the contract is awarded and the required contractor's bond given by the successful bidder is accepted by the board. [1996 c 18 § 4; 1963 c 4 § 36.77.040. Prior: 1959 c 67 § 5; prior: 1937 c 187 § 32, part; RRS § 6450-32, part.]

**36.77.065 County forces construction projects or programs—Amounts—Violations.** The board may cause any county road to be constructed or improved by use of county forces as provided in this section.

(1) As used in this section:

(a) "County forces" means regular employees of a county; and

(b) "Road construction project costs" means the aggregate total of those costs as defined by the budgeting, accounting, and reporting system for counties and cities and other local governments authorized under RCW 43.09.200 and 43.09.230 as prescribed in the state auditor's budget, accounting, and reporting manual's (BARS) road and street construction accounts: PROVIDED, That such costs shall not include those costs assigned to the right-of-way account, ancillary operations account, preliminary engineering account, and construction engineering account in the budget, accounting, and reporting manual.

(2) For counties with a population that equals or exceeds four hundred thousand people, the total amount of road construction project costs one county may perform annually with county forces shall be no more than the total of the following amounts:

(a) Three million two hundred fifty thousand dollars; and

(b) The previous year's county motor vehicle fuel tax distribution factor, as provided for in RCW 46.68.124(5), multiplied by the amount listed in (a) of this subsection.

(3) For counties with a population that equals or exceeds one hundred fifty thousand, but is less than four hundred thousand people, the total amount of road construction project costs one county may perform annually with county forces shall be no more than the total of the following amounts:

(a) One million seven hundred fifty thousand dollars; and

(b) The previous year's county motor vehicle fuel tax distribution factor, as provided for in RCW 46.68.124(5), multiplied by the amount listed in (a) of this subsection.

(4) For counties with a population that equals or exceeds thirty thousand, but is less than one hundred fifty thousand people, the total amount of road construction project costs one county may perform annually with county forces shall be no more than the total of the following amounts:

(a) One million one hundred fifty thousand dollars; this amount shall increase to one million two hundred fifty thousand dollars effective January 1, 2012; and

(b) The previous year's county motor vehicle fuel tax distribution factor, as provided for in RCW 46.68.124(5), multiplied by the amount listed in (a) of this subsection.

(5) For counties with a population that is less than thirty thousand people, the total amount of road construction project costs one county may perform annually with county forces shall be no more than the total of the following amounts:

(a) Seven hundred thousand dollars; this amount shall increase to eight hundred thousand dollars effective January 1, 2012; and

(b) The previous year's county motor vehicle fuel tax distribution factor, as provided for in RCW 46.68.124(5), multiplied by the amount listed in (a) of this subsection.

(2022 Ed.)

(6) Any county whose expenditure for county forces for road construction projects exceeds the limits specified in this section, is in violation of the county road administration board's standards of good practice under RCW 36.78.020 and is in violation of this section.

(7) Notwithstanding any other provision in this section, whenever the construction work or improvement is the installation of electrical traffic control devices, highway illumination equipment, electrical equipment, wires, or equipment to convey electrical current, in an amount exceeding forty thousand dollars for any one project including labor, equipment, and materials, such work shall be performed by contract as in this chapter provided. This section means a complete project and does not permit the construction of any project by county forces by division of the project into units of work or classes of work. [2019 c 310 § 1; 2009 c 29 § 1; 2005 c 162 § 1; 2001 c 108 § 1; 1980 c 40 § 1.]

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

**36.77.070 Publication of information on county forces projects—Penalty—Prosecution.** If the board determines that any construction should be performed by county forces, and the estimated cost of the work exceeds ten thousand dollars, it shall cause to be published in one issue of a newspaper of general circulation in the county, a brief description of the work to be done and the county road engineer's estimate of the cost thereof. At the completion of such construction, the board shall cause to be published in one issue of such a newspaper a similar brief description of the work together with an accurate statement of the true and complete cost of performing such construction by county forces.

Failure to make the required publication shall subject each county commissioner to a fine of one hundred dollars for which he or she shall be liable individually and upon his or her official bond and the prosecuting attorney shall prosecute for violation of the provisions of this section and RCW 36.77.065. [2009 c 549 § 4126; 2009 c 29 § 2; 1983 c 3 § 81; 1963 c 4 § 36.77.070. Prior: 1949 c 156 § 9, part; 1943 c 82 § 4, part; 1937 c 187 § 34, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 6450-34, part.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 2009 c 29 § 2 and by 2009 c 549 § 4126, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section under RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

**36.77.075 County roads—Small works roster.** In lieu of the procedure for awarding contracts that is provided in RCW 36.77.020 through 36.77.040, a county may award contracts for public works projects on county roads using the small works roster process under RCW 39.04.155. [2000 c 138 § 208; 1991 c 363 § 81.]

**Purpose—Part headings not law—2000 c 138:** See notes following RCW 39.04.155.

**Purpose—Captions not law—1991 c 363:** See notes following RCW 2.32.180.

**Chapter 36.78 RCW**  
**ROADS AND BRIDGES—COUNTY ROAD**  
**ADMINISTRATION BOARD**

## Sections

36.78.010	Definitions—"Board."
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36.78.135	County road administration board emergency loan account.

*Board duties*

*generally: RCW 46.68.120.*

*motor vehicle fund, distribution of amount to counties—Factors of distribution formula for RCW 46.68.120(4) funds: RCW 46.68.122.*

*population, road cost, money need, computed—Allocation percentage adjustment, when: RCW 46.68.124.*

*Equipment rental, ability to inquire into setting rates for: RCW 36.33A.040.*

**36.78.010 Definitions—"Board."** "Board" shall mean the county road administration board created by this chapter. [1965 ex.s. c 120 § 1.]

**36.78.020 Definitions—"Standards of good practice."** "Standards of good practice" shall mean general and uniform practices formulated and adopted by the board relating to the administration of county roads and the safe and efficient movement of people and goods over county roads, which shall apply to engineering, design procedures, maintenance, traffic control, safety, planning, programming, road classification, road inventories, budgeting and accounting procedures, management practices, equipment policies, personnel policies, and effective use of transportation-related information technology. [1993 c 65 § 1; 1991 c 363 § 82; 1965 ex.s. c 120 § 2.]

**Purpose—Captions not law—1991 c 363:** See notes following RCW 2.32.180.

**36.78.030 Board created—Number—Appointment—Terms—Vacancies.** There is created hereby a county road administration board consisting of nine members who shall be appointed by the executive committee of the Washington state association of counties. Prior to July 1, 1965 the executive committee of the Washington state association of counties shall appoint the first members of the county road administration board: Three members to serve one year; three members to serve two years; and three members to serve three years from July 1, 1965. Upon expiration of the original terms subsequent appointments shall be made by the same appointing authority for three year terms except in the case of a vacancy, in which event the appointment shall be only for the remainder of the unexpired term in which the vacancy has occurred. [1971 ex.s. c 85 § 5; 1965 ex.s. c 120 § 3.]

**36.78.040 Composition of board—Qualifications of members.** Six members of the county road administration board shall be county legislative authority members and three members shall be county engineers. If any member, during the term for which he or she is appointed, ceases to be either a member of a county legislative authority or a county engineer, as the case may be, his or her membership on the county road administration board is likewise terminated. Three members of the board shall be from counties with a population of one hundred fifty thousand or more. Four members shall be from counties with a population of from thirty thousand to less than one hundred fifty thousand. Two members shall be from counties with a population of less than thirty thousand. Not more than one member of the board shall be from any one county. [2019 c 22 § 1; 2005 c 233 § 1; 1991 c 363 § 83; 1965 ex.s. c 120 § 4.]

**Purpose—Captions not law—1991 c 363:** See notes following RCW 2.32.180.

**36.78.050 Meetings—Rules and regulations—Election of chair.** The board shall meet at least once quarterly and shall from time to time adopt rules and regulations for its own government and as may be necessary for it to discharge its duties and exercise its powers under this chapter. The board shall elect a chair from its own membership who shall hold office for one year. Election as chair does not affect the member's right to vote on all matters before the board. [1993 c 65 § 2; 1965 ex.s. c 120 § 5.]

**36.78.060 Executive director.** The county road administration board shall appoint an executive director who shall be the chief administrative officer of the board and shall be responsible for carrying out the policies adopted by the board. The executive director is exempt from the provisions of state civil service law, chapter 41.06 RCW, and shall serve at the pleasure of the county road administration board. The executive director's salary shall be set by the board. [1990 c 266 § 1; 1965 ex.s. c 120 § 6.]

**36.78.070 Duties of board.** The county road administration board shall:

(1) Establish by rule, standards of good practice for the administration of county roads and the efficient movement of people and goods over county roads;

(2) Establish reporting requirements for counties with respect to the standards of good practice adopted by the board;

(3) Receive and review reports from counties and reports from its executive director to determine compliance with legislative directives and the standards of good practice adopted by the board;

(4) Advise counties on issues relating to county roads and the safe and efficient movement of people and goods over county roads and assist counties in developing uniform and efficient transportation-related information technology resources;

(5) Report annually before the fifteenth day of January, and throughout the year as appropriate, to the state department of transportation and to the chairs of the house and senate transportation committees, and to other entities as appropriate on the status of county road administration in each

county, including one copy to the staff of each of the committees. The annual report shall contain recommendations for improving administration of the county road programs;

(6) Administer the rural arterial program established by chapter 36.79 RCW, the program funded by the county arterial preservation account established by RCW 46.68.090, and the emergency revolving loan program created in RCW 36.78.130, as well as any other programs provided for in law. [2019 c 157 § 5; 2005 c 319 § 102; 1999 c 269 § 1; 1993 c 65 § 3; 1990 c 266 § 2; 1987 c 505 § 19; 1983 1st ex.s. c 49 § 19; 1977 ex.s. c 235 § 4; 1965 ex.s. c 120 § 7.]

**Finding—Intent—2019 c 157:** See note following RCW 36.78.130.

**Findings—Intent—Part headings—Effective dates—2005 c 319:** See notes following RCW 43.17.020.

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

**36.78.080 Members to serve without compensation—Reimbursement for travel expenses.** Members of the county road administration board shall receive no compensation for their service on the board, but shall be reimbursed for travel expenses incurred while attending meetings of the board or while engaged on other business of the board when authorized by the board in accordance with RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060 as now existing or hereafter amended. [1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 34 § 80; 1975 1st ex.s. c 1 § 1; 1969 ex.s. c 182 § 5; 1965 ex.s. c 120 § 8.]

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

**36.78.090 Certificates of good practice—Withholding of motor vehicle tax distribution.** (1) Before May 1st of each year the board shall transmit to the state treasurer certificates of good practice on behalf of the counties which during the preceding calendar year:

(a) Have submitted to the state department of transportation or to the board all reports required by law or regulation of the board; and

(b) Have reasonably complied with provisions of law relating to county road administration and with the standards of good practice as formulated and adopted by the board.

(2) The board shall not transmit to the state treasurer a certificate of good practice on behalf of any county failing to meet the requirements of subsection (1) of this section, but the board shall in such case and before May 1st, notify the county and the state treasurer of its reasons for withholding the certificate.

(3) The state treasurer, upon receiving a notice that a certificate of good practice will not be issued on behalf of a county, or that a previously issued certificate of good practice has been revoked, shall, effective the first day of the month after that in which notice is received, withhold from such county its share of motor vehicle fuel taxes distributable pursuant to RCW 46.68.120 until the board thereafter issues on behalf of such county a certificate of good practice or a conditional certificate. After withholding or revoking a certificate of good practice with respect to any county, the board may thereafter at any time issue such a certificate or a conditional certificate when the board is satisfied that the county has complied or is diligently attempting to comply with the requirements of subsection (1) of this section.

(4) The board may, upon notice and a hearing, revoke a previously issued certificate of good practice or substitute a

conditional certificate therefor when, after issuance of a certificate of good practice, any county fails to meet the requirements of subsection (1) (a) and (b) of this section, but the board shall in such case notify the county and the state treasurer of its reasons for the revocation or substitution.

(5) Motor vehicle fuel taxes withheld from any county pursuant to this section shall not be distributed to any other county, but shall be retained in the motor vehicle fund to the credit of the county originally entitled thereto. Whenever the state treasurer receives from the board a certificate of good practice issued on behalf of such county he or she shall distribute to such county all of the funds theretofore retained in the motor vehicle fund to the credit of such county. [2009 c 549 § 4127; 1984 c 7 § 33; 1977 ex.s. c 257 § 1; 1965 ex.s. c 120 § 9.]

**36.78.100 Conditional certificates.** Whenever the board finds that a county has failed to submit the reports required by RCW 36.78.090, or has failed to comply with provisions of law relating to county road administration or has failed to meet the standards of good practice as formulated and adopted by the board, the board may in lieu of withholding or revoking a certificate of good practice issue and transmit to the state treasurer on behalf of such county a conditional certificate which will authorize the continued distribution to such county all or a designated portion of its share of motor vehicle fuel taxes. The issuance of such a conditional certificate shall be upon terms and conditions as shall be deemed by the board to be appropriate. In the event a county on whose behalf a conditional certificate is issued fails to comply with the terms and conditions of such certificate, the board may forthwith cancel or modify such certificate notifying the state treasurer thereof. In such case the state treasurer shall thereafter withhold from such county all or the designated portion of its share of the motor vehicle fuel taxes as provided in RCW 36.78.090. [1977 ex.s. c 257 § 2; 1965 ex.s. c 120 § 10.]

**36.78.110 Expenses to be paid from motor vehicle fund—Disbursement procedure.** All expenses incurred by the board including salaries of employees shall be paid upon voucher forms provided by the office of financial management or pursuant to a regular payroll signed by the chair and the executive director of the board. All expenses of the board shall be paid out of that portion of the motor vehicle fund allocated to the counties and withheld for use by the department of transportation and the county road administration board under the provisions of RCW 46.68.120(1), as now or hereafter amended. [2009 c 549 § 4128; 1990 c 266 § 3; 1979 c 151 § 42; 1965 ex.s. c 120 § 11.]

**36.78.121 Maintenance.** The county road administration board, or its successor entity, shall establish a standard of good practice for maintenance of transportation system assets. This standard must be implemented by all counties no later than December 31, 2007. The board shall develop a model maintenance management system for use by counties. The board shall develop rules to assist the counties in the implementation of this system. Counties shall annually submit their maintenance plans to the board. The board shall compile the county data regarding maintenance management

and annually submit it to the office of financial management. [2006 c 334 § 10; 2003 c 363 § 307.]

**Finding—Intent—2003 c 363:** See note following RCW 35.84.060.  
Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**36.78.130 Emergency revolving loan program—Authority—Procedure—Report to the legislature.** (1) The board may create an emergency revolving loan program that is self-supporting in accordance with RCW 43.88.190. The board may award emergency loans to counties with a population of less than eight hundred thousand as of April 1, 2019, from the funds available in the county road administration board emergency loan account created in RCW 36.78.135 for emergency projects.

(2) Emergency projects are work of either a temporary or permanent nature which restores roads and bridges to a preemergency condition and may include reconstruction to current design standards. This work is the result of a sudden natural or man-made event which results in the destruction or severe damage to county roadway sections or structures such that, in the consideration of public safety and use, the roadway sections or structures must be immediately closed or substantially restricted to normal use. Work of an emergency nature is also beyond the scope of work done by a county in repairing damages normally or reasonably expected from seasonal or other natural conditions, and is beyond what would be considered maintenance.

(3) In order to obtain a loan under this section, there must be a county, state, or federal emergency proclamation declaring an emergency related to the event that caused the damage the emergency project intends to correct, and the county must agree to repay the loan with interest of not more than three percent. All repayment amounts must be deposited into the county road administration board emergency loan account.

(4) Any work performed on an emergency project funded in accordance with this section by county forces shall be exempt from the limits of RCW 36.77.065.

(5) Consistent with RCW 43.01.036, the board must submit a report to the legislature by December 1st of each even-numbered year identifying each project that received money from the county road administration board emergency loan account, the amount of the loan, the expected repayment terms of the loan, the expected date of repayment, and the loan repayment status. Each project should be reported about until the loan is repaid. [2019 c 157 § 2.]

**Finding—Intent—2019 c 157:** "The legislature finds there is a need for a county road emergency fund to pay for unexpected costs that arise from natural or man-made events that damage county road infrastructure so it is no longer functional. The legislature intends to provide access to a revolving loan emergency account to ensure that smaller counties have options to pay for repairs to restore transportation services in a timely manner." [2019 c 157 § 1.]

**36.78.135 County road administration board emergency loan account.** (1) The county road administration board emergency loan account is created in the custody of the state treasurer. The account consists of: (a) All receipts from loan repayments and (b) any other revenues derived from transfers, gifts, grants, or bequests to the board for emergency projects. Expenditures from the account may be used only for emergency loans to certain counties in accordance with RCW 36.78.130 and the related administrative costs. Only the

board or its designee may authorize expenditures from the account. The account is subject to allotment procedures under chapter 43.88 RCW, but an appropriation is not required for expenditures.

(2) The state treasurer may invest and reinvest moneys in the county road administration board emergency loan account in the manner provided by law. All earnings from such investment and reinvestment must be credited to the account. [2019 c 157 § 3.]

**Finding—Intent—2019 c 157:** See note following RCW 36.78.130.

## Chapter 36.79 RCW ROADS AND BRIDGES—RURAL ARTERIAL PROGRAM

### Sections

36.79.010	Definitions.
36.79.020	Rural arterial trust account.
36.79.030	Apportionment of rural arterial trust account funds—Regions established.
36.79.040	Apportionment of rural arterial trust account funds—Apportionment formula.
36.79.050	Apportionment of rural arterial trust account funds—Establishment of apportionment percentages.
36.79.060	Powers and duties of board.
36.79.070	Board may contract with department of transportation for staff services and facilities.
36.79.080	Six-year program for rural arterial improvements—Selection of priority improvement projects.
36.79.090	Six-year program for rural arterial improvements—Review and revision by board.
36.79.100	Rural arterial improvements—Coordination with municipal and state projects.
36.79.110	Coordination of transportation improvement board and county road administration board.
36.79.120	Rural arterial trust account—Matching funds.
36.79.130	Recommended budget for expenditures from rural arterial trust account.
36.79.140	Expenditures from rural arterial trust account—Approval by board.
36.79.150	Allocation of funds to rural arterial projects—Subsequent application for increased allocation—Withholding of funds for noncompliance.
36.79.160	Payment of rural arterial trust account funds.
36.79.170	County may appeal decision of board—Hearing.
36.79.901	Effective date—1983 1st ex.s. c 49.

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

(1) "Rural arterial program" means improvement projects on those county roads in rural areas classified as rural arterials and collectors in accordance with the federal functional classification system and the construction of replacement bridges funded by the federal bridge replacement program on access roads in rural areas.

(2) "Rural area" means every area of the state outside of areas designated as urban areas by the state transportation commission with the approval of the secretary of the United States department of transportation in accordance with federal law.

(3) "Board" means the county road administration board created by RCW 36.78.030. [1997 c 81 § 1; 1988 c 26 § 1; 1983 1st ex.s. c 49 § 1.]

**36.79.020 Rural arterial trust account.** There is created in the motor vehicle fund the rural arterial trust account. All moneys deposited in the motor vehicle fund to be credited to the rural arterial trust account shall be expended for (1) the



construction and improvement of county rural arterials and collectors, (2) the construction of replacement bridges funded by the federal bridge replacement program on access roads in rural areas, and (3) those expenses of the board associated with the administration of the rural arterial program. [1997 c 81 § 2; 1988 c 26 § 2; 1983 1st ex.s. c 49 § 2.]

**36.79.030 Apportionment of rural arterial trust account funds—Regions established.** For the purpose of apportioning rural arterial trust account funds, the state is divided into five regions as follows:

(1) The Puget Sound region includes those areas within the counties of King, Pierce, and Snohomish.

(2) The northwest region includes those areas within the counties of Clallam, Jefferson, Island, Kitsap, San Juan, Skagit, and Whatcom.

(3) The northeast region includes those areas within the counties of Adams, Chelan, Douglas, Ferry, Grant, Lincoln, Okanogan, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens, and Whitman.

(4) The southeast region includes those areas within the counties of Asotin, Benton, Columbia, Franklin, Garfield, Kittitas, Klickitat, Walla Walla, and Yakima.

(5) The southwest region includes those areas within the counties of Clark, Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Lewis, Mason, Pacific, Skamania, Thurston, and Wahkiakum. [1983 1st ex.s. c 49 § 3.]

**36.79.040 Apportionment of rural arterial trust account funds—Apportionment formula.** Funds available for expenditure by the board pursuant to RCW 36.79.020 shall be apportioned to the five regions for expenditure upon county arterials in rural areas in the following manner:

(1) One-third in the ratio which the land area of the rural areas of each region bears to the total land area of all rural areas of the state;

(2) Two-thirds in the ratio which the mileage of county arterials and collectors in rural areas of each region bears to the total mileage of county arterials and collectors in all rural areas of the state.

The board shall adjust the schedule for apportionment of such funds to the five regions in the manner provided in this section before the commencement of each fiscal biennium. [1997 c 81 § 3; 1983 1st ex.s. c 49 § 4.]

**36.79.050 Apportionment of rural arterial trust account funds—Establishment of apportionment percentages.** At the beginning of each fiscal biennium, the board shall establish apportionment percentages for the five regions defined in RCW 36.79.030 in the manner prescribed in RCW 36.79.040 for that biennium. The apportionment percentages shall be used once each calendar quarter by the board to apportion funds credited to the rural arterial trust account that are available for expenditure for rural arterial and collector projects and for construction of replacement bridges funded by the federal bridge replacement program on access roads in rural areas. The funds so apportioned shall remain apportioned until expended on construction projects in accordance with rules of the board. Within each region, funds shall be allocated by the board to counties for the construction of specific rural arterial and collector projects and construction of replacement bridges funded by the federal

bridge replacement program on access roads in rural areas in accordance with the procedures set forth in this chapter. [1997 c 81 § 4; 1988 c 26 § 3; 1983 1st ex.s. c 49 § 5.]

**36.79.060 Powers and duties of board.** The board shall:

(1) Adopt rules necessary to implement the provisions of this chapter relating to the allocation of funds in the rural arterial trust account to counties;

(2) Adopt reasonably uniform design standards for county rural arterials and collectors that meet the requirements for trucks transporting commodities. [1998 c 245 § 31; 1997 c 81 § 5; 1988 c 26 § 4; 1983 1st ex.s. c 49 § 6.]

**36.79.070 Board may contract with department of transportation for staff services and facilities.** The board may contract with the department of transportation to furnish any necessary staff services and facilities required in the administration of the rural arterial program. The cost of such services that are attributable to the rural arterial program, together with travel expenses in accordance with RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060 of the members and all other lawful expenses of the board that are attributable to the rural arterial program, shall be paid from the rural arterial trust account in the motor vehicle fund. [1983 1st ex.s. c 49 § 7.]

**36.79.080 Six-year program for rural arterial improvements—Selection of priority improvement projects.** In preparing their respective six-year programs relating to rural arterial improvements, counties shall select specific priority improvement projects for each functional class of arterial based on the rating of each arterial section proposed to be improved in relation to other arterial sections within the same functional class, taking into account the following:

- (1) Its structural ability to carry loads imposed upon it;
- (2) Its capacity to move traffic at reasonable speeds;
- (3) Its adequacy of alignment and related geometrics;
- (4) Its accident experience; and
- (5) Its fatal accident experience.

The six-year construction programs shall remain flexible and subject to annual revision as provided in RCW 36.81.121. [1983 1st ex.s. c 49 § 8.]

**36.79.090 Six-year program for rural arterial improvements—Review and revision by board.** Upon receipt of a county's revised six-year program, the board as soon as practicable shall review and may revise the construction program as it relates to rural arterials and the construction of replacement bridges funded by the federal bridge replacement program on access roads in rural areas for which rural arterial trust account moneys are requested as necessary to conform to (1) the priority rating of the proposed project, based upon the factors in RCW 36.79.080, in relation to proposed projects in all other rural arterial construction programs submitted by the counties and within each region; and (2) the amount of rural arterial trust account funds that the board estimates will be apportioned to the region. [1988 c 26 § 5; 1983 1st ex.s. c 49 § 10.]

**36.79.100 Rural arterial improvements—Coordination with municipal and state projects.** Whenever a rural

arterial enters a city or town, the proper city or town and county officials shall jointly plan the improvement of the arterial in their respective long-range plans. Whenever a rural arterial connects with and will be substantially affected by a programmed construction project on a state highway, the proper county officials shall jointly plan the development of such arterial with the department of transportation district administrator. The board shall adopt rules encouraging the system development of county-city arterials in rural areas and rural arterials with state highways. [1983 1st ex.s. c 49 § 9.]

**36.79.110 Coordination of transportation improvement board and county road administration board.** The county road administration board and the transportation improvement board shall jointly adopt rules to assure coordination of their respective programs especially with respect to projects proposed by the group of incorporated cities outside the boundaries of federally approved urban areas, and to encourage the system development of county-city arterials in rural areas. [1988 c 167 § 7; 1983 1st ex.s. c 49 § 11.]

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

**36.79.120 Rural arterial trust account—Matching funds.** Counties receiving funds from the rural arterial trust account for construction of arterials and the construction of replacement bridges funded by the federal bridge replacement program on access roads in rural areas shall provide such matching funds as established by rules recommended by the board, subject to review, revision, and final approval by the office of financial management. Matching requirements shall be established after appropriate studies by the board, taking into account financial resources available to counties to meet arterial needs. [2006 c 334 § 11; 1988 c 26 § 6; 1983 1st ex.s. c 49 § 12.]

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

**36.79.130 Recommended budget for expenditures from rural arterial trust account.** Not later than November 1st of each even-numbered year the board shall prepare and present to the office of financial management a recommended budget for expenditures from the rural arterial trust account during the ensuing biennium. The budget shall contain an estimate of the revenues to be credited to the rural arterial trust account.

The office of financial management shall review the budget as recommended, revise the budget as it deems proper, and include the budget as revised as a separate section of the transportation budget which it shall submit to the governor pursuant to chapter 43.88 RCW. [2006 c 334 § 12; 1983 1st ex.s. c 49 § 13.]

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

**36.79.140 Expenditures from rural arterial trust account—Approval by board.** At the time the board reviews the six-year program of each county each even-numbered year, it shall consider and shall approve for inclusion in its recommended budget, as required by RCW 36.79.130, the portion of the rural arterial construction program scheduled to be performed during the biennial period beginning the following July 1st. Subject to the appropriations actually approved by the legislature, the board shall as soon as feasi-

ble approve rural arterial trust account funds to be spent during the ensuing biennium for preliminary proposals in priority sequence as established pursuant to RCW 36.79.090. Only those counties that during the preceding twelve months have spent all revenues collected for road purposes only for such purposes, including removal of barriers to fish passage and accompanying streambed and stream bank repair as specified in RCW 36.82.070, and including traffic law enforcement, as are allowed to the state by Article II, section 40 of the state Constitution or RCW 36.82.070(2) are eligible to receive funds from the rural arterial trust account, except that: (1) Counties with a population of less than eight thousand are exempt from this eligibility restriction; (2) counties expending revenues collected for road purposes only on other governmental services after authorization from the voters of that county under RCW 84.55.050 are also exempt from this eligibility restriction; and (3) this restriction shall not apply to any moneys diverted from the road district levy under chapter 39.89 RCW. The board shall authorize rural arterial trust account funds for the construction project portion of a project previously authorized for a preliminary proposal in the sequence in which the preliminary proposal has been completed and the construction project is to be placed under contract. At such time the board may reserve rural arterial trust account funds for expenditure in future years as may be necessary for completion of preliminary proposals and construction projects to be commenced in the ensuing biennium.

The board may, within the constraints of available rural arterial trust funds, consider additional projects for authorization upon a clear and conclusive showing by the submitting county that the proposed project is of an emergent nature and that its need was unable to be anticipated at the time the six-year program of the county was developed. The proposed projects shall be evaluated on the basis of the priority rating factors specified in RCW 36.79.080. [2015 c 223 § 2. Prior: 2001 c 221 § 2; 2001 c 212 § 26; 1997 c 81 § 6; 1991 c 363 § 84; 1990 c 42 § 104; 1984 c 113 § 1; 1983 1st ex.s. c 49 § 14.]

**Purpose—Intent—2001 c 221:** "The legislature recognizes that projects that remove impediments to fish passage can greatly increase access to spawning and rearing habitat for depressed, threatened, and endangered fish stocks. Although counties are authorized to use county road funds to replace culverts and other barriers to fish passage, and may conduct streambed and stream bank restoration and stabilization work in conjunction with removal of these fish barriers, counties are reluctant to spend county road funds beyond the county right-of-way because it is unclear whether the use of road funds for this purpose is authorized. The purpose of this act is to clarify that streambed and stream bank restoration and stabilization activities conducted in conjunction with removal of existing barriers to fish passage within county rights-of-way constitute a county road purpose even if this work extends beyond the county right-of-way. The legislature intends this act to be permissive legislation. Nothing in this act is intended to create or impose a legal duty upon counties for salmon recovery work beyond the county right-of-way." [2001 c 221 § 1.]

**Purpose—Captions not law—1991 c 363:** See notes following RCW 2.32.180.

**Purpose—Effective dates—Application—Implementation—1990 c 42:** See notes following RCW 46.68.090.

**36.79.150 Allocation of funds to rural arterial projects—Subsequent application for increased allocation—Withholding of funds for noncompliance.** (1) Whenever the board approves a rural arterial project it shall determine the amount of rural arterial trust account funds to be allocated for such project. The allocation shall be based upon informa-

tion contained in the six-year plan submitted by the county seeking approval of the project and upon such further investigation as the board deems necessary. The board shall adopt reasonable rules pursuant to which rural arterial trust account funds allocated to a project may be increased upon a subsequent application of the county constructing the project. The rules adopted by the board shall take into account, but shall not be limited to, the following factors: (a) The financial effect of increasing the original allocation for the project upon other rural arterial projects either approved or requested; (b) whether the project for which an additional allocation is requested can be reduced in scope while retaining a usable segment; (c) whether the original cost of the project shown in the applicant's six-year program was based upon reasonable engineering estimates; and (d) whether the requested additional allocation is to pay for an expansion in the scope of work originally approved.

(2) The board shall not allocate funds, nor make payments under RCW 36.79.160, to any county or city identified by the governor under RCW 36.70A.340. [1991 sp.s. c 32 § 31; 1983 1st ex.s. c 49 § 15.]

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

**36.79.160 Payment of rural arterial trust account funds.** (1) Upon completion of a preliminary proposal, the county submitting the proposal shall submit to the board its voucher for payment of the trust account share of the cost. Upon the completion of an approved rural arterial construction project, the county constructing the project shall submit to the board its voucher for the payment of the trust account share of the cost. The chair of the board or his or her designated agent shall approve such voucher when proper to do so, for payment from the rural arterial trust account to the county submitting the voucher.

(2) The board may adopt rules providing for the approval of payments of funds in the rural arterial trust account to a county for costs of preliminary proposal, and costs of construction of an approved project from time to time as work progresses. These payments shall at no time exceed the rural arterial trust account share of the costs of construction incurred to the date of the voucher covering the payment. [2009 c 549 § 4129; 1983 1st ex.s. c 49 § 17.]

**36.79.170 County may appeal decision of board—Hearing.** The legislative body of any county feeling aggrieved by any action or decision of the board with respect to this chapter may appeal to the secretary of transportation by filing a notice of appeal within ninety days after the action or decision of the board. The notice shall specify the action or decision of which complaint is made. The secretary shall fix a time for a hearing on the appeal at the earliest convenient time and shall notify the county auditor and the chair of the board by certified mail at least twenty days before the date of the hearing. At the hearing the secretary shall receive evidence from the county filing the appeal and from the board. After the hearing the secretary shall make such order as in the secretary's judgment is just and proper. [2009 c 549 § 4130; 1983 1st ex.s. c 49 § 18.]

**36.79.901 Effective date—1983 1st ex.s. c 49.** This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public (2022 Ed.)

peace, health, and safety, the support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take effect on July 1, 1983. [1983 1st ex.s. c 49 § 33.]

## Chapter 36.80 RCW

### ROADS AND BRIDGES—ENGINEER

#### Sections

36.80.010	Employment of road engineer.
36.80.015	Office at county seat—Records.
36.80.020	Qualifications—Bond.
36.80.030	Duties of engineer.
36.80.040	Records to be kept.
36.80.050	Highway plat record.
36.80.060	Engineer to maintain records of expenditures for equipment, etc.—Inventory—Physical archival—Public availability.
36.80.070	Plans and specifications to be prepared.
36.80.080	Cost-audit examination by state auditor—Expense.

*County engineer defined for diking, drainage, or sewerage improvement district purposes: RCW 85.08.010.*

*Diking or drainage improvement district, engineer as supervisor: RCW 85.20.050.*

#### *Duties relating to*

*agreements on planning, establishing, constructing, etc., of city streets: RCW 35.77.020, 35.77.030.*

*diking, drainage and sewerage improvement districts: Chapters 85.08, 85.16 RCW.*

*flood control zone districts: Chapter 86.15 RCW.*

**36.80.010 Employment of road engineer.** The county legislative authority of each county shall employ a county road engineer on either a full-time or part-time basis, or may contract with another county for the engineering services of a county road engineer from such other county. [2002 c 9 § 1; 1997 c 147 § 1; 1991 c 363 § 85; 1984 c 11 § 1; 1980 c 93 § 1; 1969 ex.s. c 182 § 6; 1963 c 4 § 36.80.010. Prior: 1943 c 73 § 1, part; 1937 c 187 § 4, part; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 6450-4, part.]

**Purpose—Captions not law—1991 c 363:** See notes following RCW 2.32.180.

**36.80.015 Office at county seat—Records.** The county road engineer shall keep an office at the county seat. The records under the authority of the county road engineer shall be public records, shall be subject to the control of the county road engineer, and shall at all proper times be open to the inspection and examination of the public. [2016 c 19 § 3; 2009 c 105 § 5; 1963 c 4 § 36.80.015. Prior: 1955 c 9 § 1; prior: 1895 c 77 § 10; RRS § 4148.]

**Intent—2016 c 19:** See note following RCW 36.87.120.

**36.80.020 Qualifications—Bond.** He or she shall be a registered and licensed professional civil engineer under the laws of this state, duly qualified and experienced in highway and road engineering and construction. He or she shall serve at the pleasure of the board.

Before entering upon his or her employment, every county road engineer shall give an official bond to the county in such amount as the board shall determine, conditioned upon the fact that he or she will faithfully perform all the duties of his or her employment and account for all property of the county entrusted to his or her care. [2009 c 549 § 4132; 1969 ex.s. c 182 § 7; 1963 c 4 § 36.80.020. Prior: 1943 c 73 §

1, part; 1937 c 187 § 4, part; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 6450-4, part.]

**36.80.030 Duties of engineer.** The county road engineer shall certify to the board and has authority over all estimates and all bills for labor, materials, provisions, and supplies with respect to county roads, prepare standards of construction of roads and bridges, and perform such other duties as may be required by order of the board.

He or she shall have supervision, under the direction of the board, of establishing, laying out, constructing, altering, improving, repairing, and maintaining all county roads of the county. [2016 c 19 § 4; 2009 c 549 § 4133; 1969 ex.s. c 182 § 8; 1963 c 4 § 36.80.030. Prior: 1943 c 73 § 1, part; 1937 c 187 § 4, part; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 6450-4, part.]

**Intent—2016 c 19:** See note following RCW 36.87.120.

**36.80.040 Records to be kept.** The office of county engineer shall be an office of record. The county road engineer shall: Record and has authority over all matters concerning the public roads, highways, bridges, ditches, or other surveys of the county, with the original papers, documents, petitions, surveys, repairs, and other papers, in order to have the complete history of any such road, highway, bridge, ditch, or other survey; and number each construction or improvement project. Records related to roads or rights-of-way annexed or transferred to other jurisdictions may be transferred to those jurisdictions. Records related to transitory or maintenance activities shall be kept according to record retention schedules. The county engineer is not required to retain and file financial documents retained and filed in other departments in the county. [2016 c 19 § 5; 1995 c 194 § 8; 1969 ex.s. c 182 § 9; 1963 c 4 § 36.80.040. Prior: 1907 c 160 § 4; RRS § 4147.]

**Intent—2016 c 19:** See note following RCW 36.87.120.

**36.80.050 Highway plat record.** He or she shall ensure that a highway plat record is kept and is publicly accessible, in which he or she shall have accurately platted all public roads and highways established by the board. [2016 c 19 § 6; 2009 c 549 § 4134; 1963 c 4 § 36.80.050. Prior: 1907 c 160 § 2; RRS § 4149.]

**Intent—2016 c 19:** See note following RCW 36.87.120.

**36.80.060 Engineer to maintain records of expenditures for equipment, etc.—Inventory—Physical archival—Public availability.** The county road engineer shall maintain and has authority over complete and accurate records of all expenditures for (1) administration, (2) bond and warrant retirement, (3) maintenance, (4) construction, (5) purchase and operation of road equipment, and (6) purchase or manufacture of materials and supplies, and shall maintain a true and complete inventory of all road equipment. Records may be physically archived with other county records that are available to the public. The state auditor, with the advice and assistance of the county road administration board, shall prescribe forms and types of records to be maintained by the county road engineers. [2016 c 19 § 7; 2009 c 549 § 4135; 1969 ex.s. c 182 § 10; 1963 c 4 § 36.80.060. Prior: 1949 c 156 § 2; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 6450-8b.]

**Intent—2016 c 19:** See note following RCW 36.87.120.

### 36.80.070 Plans and specifications to be prepared.

All road construction work, except minor construction work, which by its nature does not require plans and specifications, whether performed pursuant to contract or by day labor, shall be in accordance with plans and specifications prepared therefor by or under direct supervision of the county road engineer. [1969 ex.s. c 182 § 11; 1963 c 4 § 36.80.070. Prior: 1949 c 156 § 3; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 6450-8c.]

**36.80.080 Cost-audit examination by state auditor—Expense.** The state auditor shall annually make a cost-audit examination of the books and records of the county road engineer and make a written report thereon to the county legislative authority. The expense of the examination shall be paid from the county road fund. [1995 c 301 § 69; 1985 c 120 § 3; 1984 c 7 § 34; 1963 c 4 § 36.80.080. Prior: 1957 c 146 § 1.]

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

## Chapter 36.81 RCW ROADS AND BRIDGES—ESTABLISHMENT

### Sections

36.81.010	Resolution of intention and necessity.
36.81.020	Freeholders' petition—Bond.
36.81.030	Deeds and waivers.
36.81.040	Action on petition.
36.81.050	Engineer's report.
36.81.060	Survey map, field notes and profiles.
36.81.070	Notice of hearing on report.
36.81.080	Hearing—Road established by resolution.
36.81.090	Expense of proceedings.
36.81.100	County road on or over dikes.
36.81.110	County road on or over dikes—Condemnation for dike roads.
36.81.121	Perpetual advanced six-year plans for coordinated transportation program, expenditures—Nonmotorized transportation—Railroad right-of-way.
36.81.122	Provisions for bicycle paths, lanes, routes, roadways and improvements to be included in annual revision or extension of comprehensive road programs—Exception.
36.81.130	Procedure specified for establishment, construction, and maintenance.
36.81.140	Columbia Basin project road systems—Establishment by plat.

*Alternate date for budget hearing:* RCW 36.40.071.

*Bicycles; pavement marking standards:* RCW 47.36.280.

*State highways in urban areas, allocation of funds, planning, bond issue, etc.:* Chapter 47.26 RCW.

*Urban arterials, planning, construction by cities and towns, transportation improvement board, funds, bond issue, etc.:* Chapter 47.26 RCW.

**36.81.010 Resolution of intention and necessity.** The board may by original resolution entered upon its minutes declare its intention to establish any county road in the county and declare that it is a public necessity and direct the county road engineer to report upon such project. [1963 c 4 § 36.81.010. Prior: 1937 c 187 § 19; RRS § 6450-19.]

**36.81.020 Freeholders' petition—Bond.** Ten or more freeholders of any county may petition the board for the establishment of a county road in the vicinity of their residence, setting forth and describing the general course and terminal points of the proposed improvement and stating that the same is a public necessity. The petition must be accompanied by a bond in the penal sum of three hundred dollars, payable to the county, executed by one or more persons as principal or principals, with two or more sufficient sureties, con-

ditioned that the petitioners will pay into the county road fund of the county all costs and expenses incurred by the county in examining and surveying the proposed road and in the proceedings thereon in case the road is not established by reason of its being impracticable or there not being funds therefor. [1963 c 4 § 36.81.020. Prior: 1937 c 187 § 20, part; RRS § 6450-20, part.]

**36.81.030 Deeds and waivers.** The board may require the petitioners to secure deeds and waivers of damages for the right-of-way from the landowners, and, in such case, before an examination or survey by the county road engineer is ordered, such deeds and waivers shall be filed with the board. [1963 c 4 § 36.81.030. Prior: 1937 c 187 § 20, part; RRS § 6450-20, part.]

**36.81.040 Action on petition.** Upon the filing of the petition and bond and being satisfied that the petition has been signed by freeholders residing in the vicinity of the proposed road, the board shall direct the county road engineer to report upon the project. [1963 c 4 § 36.81.040. Prior: 1937 c 187 § 20, part; RRS § 6450-20, part.]

**36.81.050 Engineer's report.** Whenever directed by the board to report upon the establishment of a county road the engineer shall make an examination of the road and if necessary a survey thereof. After examination, if the engineer deems the road to be impracticable, he or she shall so report to the board without making any survey, or he or she may examine or examine and survey any other practicable route which would serve such purpose. Whenever he or she considers any road as proposed or modified as practicable, he or she shall report thereon in writing to the board giving his or her opinion: (1) As to the necessity of the road; (2) as to the proper terminal points, general course and length thereof; (3) as to the proper width of right-of-way therefor; (4) as to the estimated cost of construction, including all necessary bridges, culverts, clearing, grubbing, drainage, and grading; (5) and such other facts as he or she may deem of importance to be considered by the board. [2009 c 549 § 4136; 1963 c 4 § 36.81.050. Prior: 1937 c 187 § 21, part; RRS § 6450-21, part.]

**36.81.060 Survey map, field notes and profiles.** The county road engineer shall file with his or her report a correctly prepared map of the road as surveyed, which map must show the tracts of land over which the road passes, with the names, if known, of the several owners thereof, and he or she shall file therewith his or her field notes and profiles of such survey. [2009 c 549 § 4137; 1963 c 4 § 36.81.060. Prior: 1937 c 187 § 21, part; RRS § 6450-21, part.]

**36.81.070 Notice of hearing on report.** The board shall fix a time and place for hearing the report of the engineer and cause notice thereof to be published once a week for two successive weeks in the county official newspaper and to be posted for at least twenty days at each termini of the proposed road.

The notice shall set forth the termini of the road as set out in the resolution of the board, or the freeholders' petition, as the case may be, and shall state that all persons interested

may appear and be heard at such hearing upon the report and recommendation of the engineer either to proceed or not to proceed with establishing the road. [1963 c 4 § 36.81.070. Prior: 1937 c 187 § 22, part; RRS § 6450-22, part.]

**36.81.080 Hearing—Road established by resolution.** On the day fixed for the hearing or any day to which the hearing has been adjourned, upon proof to its satisfaction made by affidavit of due publication and posting of the notice of hearing, the board shall consider the report and any and all evidence relative thereto, and if the board finds that the proposed county road is a public necessity and practicable it may establish it by proper resolution. [1963 c 4 § 36.81.080. Prior: 1937 c 187 § 22, part; RRS § 6450-22, part.]

**36.81.090 Expense of proceedings.** The cost and expense of the road, together with cost of proceedings thereon and of right-of-way and any quarries or other land acquired therefor, and the maintenance of the road shall be paid out of the county road fund. When the costs are assessed against the principals on the bond given in connection with a petition for the improvement, the county auditor shall file a cost bill with the county treasurer who shall proceed to collect it. [1963 c 4 § 36.81.090. Prior: (i) 1937 c 187 § 22, part; RRS § 6450-22, part. (ii) 1937 c 187 § 20, part; RRS § 6450-20, part.]

**36.81.100 County road on or over dikes.** The board of any county may establish county roads over, across or along any dike maintained by any diking, or diking and drainage, district in the manner provided by law for establishing county roads over or across private property, and shall determine and offer the amount of damages, if any, to the district and to the owners of the land upon which the dike is constructed and maintained: PROVIDED, That every such county road must be so constructed, maintained, and used as not to impair the use of the dike. [1963 c 4 § 36.81.100. Prior: 1937 c 187 § 15; RRS § 6450-15.]

**36.81.110 County road on or over dikes—Condemnation for dike roads.** If any offer of damages to any diking, or diking and drainage, district is not accepted in the manner provided by law, it shall be deemed rejected, and the board by order, shall direct condemnation proceedings to procure the right-of-way to be instituted in the superior court of the county by the prosecuting attorney in the manner provided by law for the taking of private property for public use, and to that end the board may institute and maintain in the name of the county such proceedings against the diking, or diking and drainage, district and the owners of any land on which the dike is located and that have failed to accept the offer of damages made by the board: PROVIDED, That no taxes or assessments shall be charged or collected by any diking, or diking and drainage, district for any county road as provided in this section. [1963 c 4 § 36.81.110. Prior: 1937 c 187 § 16; RRS § 6450-16.]

**36.81.121 Perpetual advanced six-year plans for coordinated transportation program, expenditures—Nonmotorized transportation—Railroad right-of-way.** (1) At any time before adoption of the budget, the legislative

authority of each county, after one or more public hearings thereon, shall prepare and adopt a comprehensive transportation program for the ensuing six calendar years. If the county has adopted a comprehensive plan pursuant to chapter 35.63 or 36.70 RCW, the inherent authority of a charter county derived from its charter, or chapter 36.70A RCW, the program shall be consistent with this comprehensive plan.

The program shall include proposed road and bridge construction work and other transportation facilities and programs deemed appropriate, and for those counties operating ferries shall also include a separate section showing proposed capital expenditures for ferries, docks, and related facilities. The program shall include any new or enhanced bicycle or pedestrian facilities identified pursuant to RCW 36.70A.070(6) or other applicable changes that promote non-motorized transit. Copies of the program shall be filed with the county road administration board and with the state secretary of transportation not more than thirty days after its adoption by the legislative authority. The purpose of this section is to assure that each county shall perpetually have available advanced plans looking to the future for not less than six years as a guide in carrying out a coordinated transportation program. The program may at any time be revised by a majority of the legislative authority but only after a public hearing thereon.

(2) Each six-year transportation program forwarded to the secretary in compliance with subsection (1) of this section shall contain information as to how a county will expend its moneys, including funds made available pursuant to chapter 47.30 RCW, for nonmotorized transportation purposes.

(3) Each six-year transportation program forwarded to the secretary in compliance with subsection (1) of this section shall contain information as to how a county shall act to preserve railroad right-of-way in the event the railroad ceases to operate in the county's jurisdiction.

(4) The six-year plan for each county shall specifically set forth those projects and programs of regional significance for inclusion in the transportation improvement program within that region. [2005 c 360 § 3; 1997 c 188 § 1. Prior: 1994 c 179 § 2; 1994 c 158 § 8; 1990 1st ex.s. c 17 § 58; 1988 c 167 § 8; 1983 1st ex.s. c 49 § 20; prior: 1975 1st ex.s. c 215 § 2; 1975 1st ex.s. c 21 § 3; 1967 ex.s. c 83 § 26; 1963 c 4 § 36.81.121; prior: 1961 c 195 § 1.]

**Findings—Intent—2005 c 360:** See note following RCW 36.70A.070. *Highways, roads, streets in urban areas, urban arterials, development: Chapter 47.26 RCW.*

*Long range arterial construction planning, counties and cities to prepare data: RCW 47.26.170.*

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

**36.81.122 Provisions for bicycle paths, lanes, routes, roadways and improvements to be included in annual revision or extension of comprehensive road programs—Exception.** The annual revision and extension of comprehensive road programs pursuant to RCW 36.81.121 shall include consideration of and, wherever reasonably practicable, provisions for bicycle paths, lanes, routes, and roadways: PROVIDED, That no provision need be made for such a path, lane, route, or roadway where the cost of establishing it would be excessively disproportionate to the need or probable use. [1974 ex.s. c 141 § 9.]

[Title 36 RCW—page 302]

**36.81.130 Procedure specified for establishment, construction, and maintenance.** The laying out, construction, and maintenance of all county roads shall hereafter be in accordance with the following procedure:

On or before the first Monday in October of each year each county road engineer shall file with the county legislative authority a recommended plan for the laying out, construction, and maintenance of county roads for the ensuing fiscal year. Such recommended plan need not be limited to but shall include the following items: Recommended projects, including capital expenditures for ferries, docks, and related facilities, and their priority; the estimated cost of all work, including labor and materials for each project recommended; a statement as to whether such work is to be done by the county forces or by publicly advertised contract; a list of all recommended purchases of road equipment, together with the estimated costs thereof. Amounts to be expended for maintenance shall be recommended, but details of these proposed expenditures shall not be made. The recommended plan shall conform as nearly as practicable to the county's long range road program.

After filing of the road engineer's recommended plan, the county legislative authority shall consider the same. Revisions and changes may be made until a plan which is agreeable to a majority of the members of the county legislative authority has been adopted: PROVIDED, That such revisions shall conform as nearly as practicable to the county's long range road program. Any appropriations contained in the county road budget shall be void unless the county's road plan was adopted prior to such appropriation.

The final road plan for the fiscal year shall not thereafter be changed except by unanimous vote of the county legislative authority. [2005 c 162 § 2; 1991 c 363 § 86; 1975 1st ex.s. c 21 § 4; 1963 c 4 § 36.81.130. Prior: 1949 c 156 § 7; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 6450-8f.]

**Purpose—Captions not law—1991 c 363:** See notes following RCW 2.32.180.

**36.81.140 Columbia Basin project road systems—Establishment by plat.** When plats or blocks of farm units have been or are filed under the provisions of chapter 89.12 RCW which contain a system of county roads, or when a supplemental plat of a system of county roads to serve such a plat is filed in connection therewith, the filing period and formal approval by the board of county commissioners shall constitute establishment as county roads: PROVIDED, That the board of county commissioners have obtained the individual rights-of-way by deed or as otherwise provided by law. [1963 c 4 § 36.81.140. Prior: 1953 c 199 § 1.]

## Chapter 36.82 RCW

### ROADS AND BRIDGES—FUNDS—BUDGET

#### Sections

36.82.010	"County road fund" created.
36.82.020	County road fund—Limitation upon expenditures.
36.82.040	General tax levy for road fund—Exceptions.
36.82.050	Receipts from motor vehicle fund to road fund.
36.82.060	Federal reimbursement to road fund.
36.82.070	Purpose for which road fund can be used.
36.82.075	Use of county road funds in cooperative agreement with conservation district.

(2022 Ed.)

- 36.82.080 Purpose for which road fund can be used—Payment of bond or warrant interest and principal.
- 36.82.090 Anticipation warrants against road fund.
- 36.82.100 Purchases of road material extraction equipment—Sale of surplus materials.
- 36.82.110 Voluntary contributions for improvements to county roads—Standards.
- 36.82.120 Purchases of road material extraction equipment—Proceeds to road fund.
- 36.82.140 Forest roads may be maintained from road fund.
- 36.82.145 Bicycle paths, lanes, routes, etc., may be constructed, maintained, or improved from county road fund—Standards.
- 36.82.148 Use of street and road funds for pedestrian rights-of-way—Standards.
- 36.82.160 County road budget—Road budget to be prepared—Estimates of expenditures.
- 36.82.170 County road budget—Budget as adopted filed with department of transportation.
- 36.82.180 County road budget—Preliminary supplemental budget.
- 36.82.190 County road budget—Notice of hearing on supplemental budget.
- 36.82.200 County road budget—Hearing, adoption, supplemental budget.
- 36.82.210 Disposition of fines and forfeitures for violations.

*Bicycles; pavement marking standards: RCW 47.36.280.*

*Employee safety award program, funds affected: RCW 36.32.460.*

**36.82.010 "County road fund" created.** There is created in each county of the state a county fund to be known as the "county road fund." Any funds which accrue to any county for use upon county roads, shall be credited to and deposited in the county road fund. [1969 ex.s. c 182 § 12; 1963 c 4 § 36.82.010. Prior: 1943 c 82 § 2, part; 1937 c 187 § 6, part; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 6450-6, part.]

**36.82.020 County road fund—Limitation upon expenditures.** Any funds accruing to and to be deposited in the county road fund arising from any levy in any road district shall be expended for proper county road purposes. [1991 c 363 § 87; 1963 c 4 § 36.82.020. Prior: 1943 c 82 § 2, part; 1937 c 187 § 6, part; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 6450-6, part.]

**Purpose—Captions not law—1991 c 363:** See notes following RCW 2.32.180.

**36.82.040 General tax levy for road fund—Exceptions.** For the purpose of raising revenue for establishing, laying out, constructing, altering, repairing, improving, and maintaining county roads, bridges, and wharves necessary for vehicle ferriage and for other proper county purposes, the board shall annually at the time of making the levy for general purposes make a uniform tax levy throughout the county, or any road district thereof, of not to exceed two dollars and twenty-five cents per thousand dollars of assessed value of the last assessed valuation of the taxable property in the county, or road district thereof, unless other law of the state requires a lower maximum levy, in which event such lower maximum levy shall control. All funds accruing from such levy shall be credited to and deposited in the county road fund except that revenue diverted under RCW 36.33.220 shall be placed in a separate and identifiable account within the county current expense fund and except that revenue diverted under chapter 39.89 RCW shall be expended as provided under chapter 39.89 RCW. [2001 c 212 § 27; 1973 1st ex.s. c 195 § 41; 1971 ex.s. c 25 § 2; 1963 c 4 § 36.82.040. Prior: 1937 c 187 § 7; RRS § 6450-7.]

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

(2022 Ed.)

**36.82.050 Receipts from motor vehicle fund to road fund.** Any funds accruing to the credit of any county from the motor vehicle fund shall be paid monthly to the county treasurer and deposited in the county road fund. [1963 c 4 § 36.82.050. Prior: 1937 c 187 § 8, part; RRS § 6450-8, part.]

**36.82.060 Federal reimbursement to road fund.** Any funds accruing to any county by way of reimbursement by the federal government for expenditures made from the county road fund of such county for any proper county road purpose shall be credited to and deposited in the county road fund. [1963 c 4 § 36.82.060. Prior: 1937 c 187 § 8, part; RRS § 6450-8, part.]

**36.82.070 Purpose for which road fund can be used.**

(1) Any money paid to any county road fund may be used for the construction, alteration, repair, improvement, or maintenance of county roads and bridges thereon and for wharves necessary for ferriage of motor vehicle traffic, and for ferries, and for the acquiring, operating, and maintaining of machinery, equipment, quarries, or pits for the extraction of materials, and for the cost of establishing county roads, acquiring rights-of-way therefor, and expenses for the operation of the county engineering office, and for any of the following programs when directly related to county road purposes: (a) Insurance; (b) self-insurance programs; and (c) risk management programs; and for any other proper county road purpose. Such expenditure may be made either independently or in conjunction with the state or any city, town, or tax district within the county. County road purposes include the construction, maintenance, or improvement of park and ride lots. County road purposes also include the removal of barriers to fish passage related to county roads, and include, but are not limited to, the following activities associated with the removal of these barriers: Engineering and technical services; stream bank stabilization; streambed restoration; the placement of weirs, rock, or woody debris; planting; and channel modification. County road funds may be used beyond the county right-of-way for activities clearly associated with removal of fish passage barriers that are the responsibility of the county. Activities related to the removal of barriers to fish passage performed beyond the county right-of-way must not exceed twenty-five percent of the total cost of activities related to fish barrier removal on any one project, and the total annual cost of activities related to the removal of barriers to fish passage performed beyond the county rights-of-way must not exceed one-half of one percent of a county's annual road construction budget. The use of county road funds beyond the county right-of-way for activities associated with the removal of fish barriers is permissive, and wholly within the discretion of the county legislative authority. The use of county road funds beyond the county right-of-way for such activities does not create or impose a legal duty upon a county for salmon recovery work beyond the county right-of-way.

(2) For counties that consist entirely of islands, county road purposes also include marine uses relating to navigation and moorage. Such a county may deposit revenue collected under RCW 84.52.043 and 36.82.040, in the amount or percentage determined by the county, into a subaccount within the county road fund to be used for marine facilities, includ-

ing mooring buoys, docks, and aids to navigation. [2015 c 223 § 1; 2010 c 43 § 1; 2001 c 221 § 3; 1997 c 189 § 1; 1963 c 4 § 36.82.070. Prior: 1943 c 82 § 5, part; 1937 c 187 § 53, part; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 6450-53, part.]

**Purpose—Intent—2001 c 221:** See note following RCW 36.79.140.

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

**36.82.075 Use of county road funds in cooperative agreement with conservation district.** Whenever a county legislative authority enters into a cooperative agreement with a conservation district as provided in chapter 89.08 RCW, the agreement may specify that the county will participate in the cost of any project which can be anticipated to result in a substantial reduction of the amount of soil deposited in a specifically described roadside ditch normally maintained by the county. The amount of participation by the county through the county road fund shall not exceed fifty percent of the project cost and shall be limited to those engineering and construction costs incurred during the initial construction or reconstruction of the project. [1985 c 369 § 9.]

**36.82.080 Purpose for which road fund can be used—Payment of bond or warrant interest and principal.** The payment of interest or principal on general obligation county road bonds, or retirement of registered warrants both as to principal and interest when such warrants have been issued for a proper county road purpose, are declared to be a proper county road purpose. [1979 ex.s. c 30 § 4; 1963 c 4 § 36.82.080. Prior: 1943 c 82 § 5, part; 1937 c 187 § 53, part; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 6450-53, part.]

**36.82.090 Anticipation warrants against road fund.** The board may expend funds from the county road fund or register warrants against the county road fund in anticipation of funds to be paid to the county from the motor vehicle fund. [1963 c 4 § 36.82.090. Prior: 1943 c 82 § 6; 1937 c 187 § 54; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 6450-54.]

**36.82.100 Purchases of road material extraction equipment—Sale of surplus materials.** The boards of the several counties may purchase and operate, out of the county road fund, rock crushing, gravel, or other road building material extraction equipment.

Any crushed rock, gravel, or other road building material extracted and not directly used or needed by the county in the construction, alteration, repair, improvement, or maintenance of its roads may be sold at actual cost of production by the board to the state or any other county, city, town, or other political subdivision to be used in the construction, alteration, repair, improvement, or maintenance of any state, county, city, town or other proper highway, road or street purpose: PROVIDED, That in counties of less than twelve thousand five hundred population as determined by the 1950 federal census, the boards of commissioners, during such times as the crushing, loading or mixing equipment is actually in operation, or from stockpiles, may sell at actual cost of production such surplus crushed rock, gravel, or other road building material to any other person for private use where the place of contemplated use of such crushed rock, gravel or other road building material is more than fifteen miles distant from the nearest private source of such materials within the county,

distance being computed by the closest traveled route: AND PROVIDED FURTHER, That the purchaser presents, at or before the time of delivery to him or her, a treasurer's receipt for payment for such surplus crushed rock, gravel, or any other road building material. [2009 c 549 § 4138; 1963 c 4 § 36.82.100. Prior: 1953 c 172 § 1; 1937 c 187 § 44, part; RRS § 6450-44, part.]

**36.82.110 Voluntary contributions for improvements to county roads—Standards.** Upon voluntary contribution and payment by any person for the actual cost thereof, such person or legislative authority upon the approval of maps, plans, specifications and guaranty bonds as may be required, may place crushed rock gravel or other road building material or make improvements upon any county road. Such work shall be done in accordance with adopted county standards under the supervision of and direction of the county engineer. [1982 c 145 § 7; 1963 c 4 § 36.82.110. Prior: 1937 c 187 § 44, part; RRS § 6450-44, part.]

**36.82.120 Purchases of road material extraction equipment—Proceeds to road fund.** All proceeds from the sale or placing of any crushed rock, gravel or other road building material shall be deposited in the county road fund to be expended under the same provisions as are by law imposed upon the funds used to produce the crushed rock, gravel, or other road building material extracted and sold. [1963 c 4 § 36.82.120. Prior: 1937 c 187 § 44, part; RRS § 6450-44, part.]

**36.82.140 Forest roads may be maintained from road fund.** The board may maintain any forest roads within its county and expend for the maintenance thereof funds accruing to the county road fund. [1963 c 4 § 36.82.140. Prior: 1937 c 187 § 45; RRS § 6450-45.]

**36.82.145 Bicycle paths, lanes, routes, etc., may be constructed, maintained, or improved from county road fund—Standards.** Any funds deposited in the county road fund may be used for the construction, maintenance, or improvement of bicycle paths, lanes, routes, and roadways, and for improvements to make existing streets and roads more suitable and safe for bicycle traffic. Bicycle facilities constructed or modified after December 31, 2012, shall meet or exceed the standards adopted by the design standards committee under RCW 43.32.020. [2012 c 67 § 5; 1982 c 55 § 3; 1974 ex.s. c 141 § 8.]

**Intent—2012 c 67:** See note following RCW 35.75.060.

**36.82.148 Use of street and road funds for pedestrian rights-of-way—Standards.** Any county may use any funds available for street or road construction, maintenance, or improvement for building, improving, and maintaining a pedestrian right-of-way and for improvements to make existing streets and roads more suitable and safe for pedestrian travel. Any such paths, lanes, roadways, routes, or streets for which any such street or road funds are expended must be suitable for pedestrian travel purposes and not solely for recreation purposes. A pedestrian right-of-way constructed or modified after December 31, 2012, must meet or exceed the



standards adopted by the design standards committee under RCW 43.32.020. [2012 c 67 § 6.]

**Intent—2012 c 67:** See note following RCW 35.75.060.

**36.82.160 County road budget—Road budget to be prepared—Estimates of expenditures.** Each county legislative authority, with the assistance of the county road engineer, shall prepare and file with the county auditor on or before the second Monday in August in each year, detailed and itemized estimates of all expenditures required in the county for the ensuing fiscal year. In the preparation and adoption of the county road budget the legislative authority shall determine and budget sums to become available for the following county road purposes: (1) Administration; (2) bond and warrant retirement; (3) maintenance; (4) construction; (5) operation of equipment rental and revolving fund; and (6) such other items relating to the county road budget as may be required by the county road administration board; and the respective amounts as adopted for these several items in the final budget for the ensuing calendar year shall not be altered or exceeded except as by law provided. [1991 c 363 § 88; 1969 ex.s. c 182 § 14; 1963 c 4 § 36.82.160. Prior: 1949 c 156 § 6, part; 1943 c 82 § 7, part; 1937 c 187 § 56, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 6450-56, part.]

**Purpose—Captions not law—1991 c 363:** See notes following RCW 2.32.180.

**36.82.170 County road budget—Budget as adopted filed with department of transportation.** Upon the final adoption of the county road budgets of the several counties, the county legislative authorities shall file a copy thereof in the office of the department of transportation. [1984 c 7 § 36; 1963 c 4 § 36.82.170. Prior: 1949 c 156 § 6, part; 1943 c 82 § 7, part; 1937 c 187 § 56, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 6450-56, part.]

**36.82.180 County road budget—Preliminary supplemental budget.** If any funds are paid to any county from the motor vehicle fund in excess of the amount estimated by the department of transportation and the excess funds have not been included by the county legislative authority in the then current county road budget or if funds become available from other sources upon a matching basis or otherwise and it is impracticable to adhere to the provisions of the county road budget, the legislative authority may by unanimous consent, consider and adopt a preliminary supplemental budget covering the excess funds for the remainder of the current fiscal year. [1984 c 7 § 37; 1963 c 4 § 36.82.180. Prior: 1949 c 156 § 6, part; 1943 c 82 § 7, part; 1937 c 187 § 56, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 6450-56, part.]

**36.82.190 County road budget—Notice of hearing on supplemental budget.** The county legislative authority shall then publish a notice setting day of hearing for the adoption of the final supplemental budget covering the excess funds, designating the time and place of hearing and that anyone may appear thereat and be heard for or against any part of the preliminary supplemental budget. The notice shall be published once a week for two consecutive weeks immediately following the adoption of the preliminary supplemental budget in the official newspaper of the county. The county legis-

lative authority shall provide a sufficient number of copies of the preliminary supplemental budget to meet reasonable public demands and they shall be available not later than two weeks immediately preceding the hearing. [1985 c 469 § 50; 1963 c 4 § 36.82.190. Prior: 1949 c 156 § 6, part; 1943 c 82 § 7, part; 1937 c 187 § 56, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 6450-56, part.]

**36.82.200 County road budget—Hearing, adoption, supplemental budget.** The board shall hold such hearing at the time and place designated in the notice, and it may be continued from day to day until concluded but not to exceed a total of five days. Upon the conclusion of the hearing the board shall fix and determine the supplemental budget and by resolution adopt it as finally determined and enter it in detail in the official minutes of the board, a copy of which supplemental budget shall be forwarded to the director. [1995 c 301 § 70; 1963 c 4 § 36.82.200. Prior: 1949 c 156 § 6, part; 1943 c 82 § 7, part; 1937 c 187 § 56, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 6450-56, part.]

**36.82.210 Disposition of fines and forfeitures for violations.** All fines and forfeitures collected for violation of any of the provisions of chapters 36.75, and 36.77 to 36.87 RCW, inclusive, when the violation thereof occurred outside of any incorporated city or town shall be distributed and paid into the proper funds for the following purposes: One-half shall be paid into the county road fund of the county in which the violation occurred; one-fourth into the state fund for the support of state parks and parkways; and one-fourth into the highway safety fund: PROVIDED, That all fees, fines, forfeitures and penalties collected or assessed by a district court because of the violation of a state law shall be remitted as provided in chapter 3.62 RCW as now exists or is later amended.

All fines and forfeitures collected for the violation of any of such provisions when the violation thereof occurred inside any incorporated city or town shall be distributed and paid into the proper funds for the following purposes: One-half shall be paid into the city street fund of such incorporated city or town for the construction and maintenance of city streets; one-fourth into the state fund for the support of state parks and parkways; and one-fourth into the highway safety fund: PROVIDED, That all fees, fines, forfeitures and penalties collected or assessed by a district court because of the violation of a state law shall be remitted as provided in chapter 3.62 RCW as now exists or is later amended. [1987 c 202 § 211; 1969 ex.s. c 199 § 21; 1963 c 4 § 36.82.210. Prior: 1949 c 75 § 2; 1937 c 187 § 67; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 6450-67.]

**Intent—1987 c 202:** See note following RCW 2.04.190.

## Chapter 36.83 RCW

### ROADS AND BRIDGES—SERVICE DISTRICTS

#### Sections

36.83.010	Service districts authorized—Bridge and road improvements—Powers—Governing body.
36.83.020	Establishment—Notice, hearing—Termination of proceedings—Modification of boundaries—Dissolution.
36.83.030	Excess ad valorem property taxes authorized.
36.83.040	General obligation bonds, excess property tax levies authorized—Limitations.

36.83.050	Local improvement districts authorized—Assessments—Special assessment bonds and revenue bonds—Limitations.
36.83.060	Bonds—Form.
36.83.070	Bonds—Use of proceeds.
36.83.080	Gifts, grants, and donations.
36.83.090	Eminent domain.
36.83.100	Commissioners—Appointment—Terms—Vacancies—Compensation—Powers.
36.83.110	Election to retain commissioners—Referendum petition.
36.83.120	Removal of commissioner.
36.83.130	Improvements—Ownership.
36.83.140	Local service district fund.
36.83.900	Liberal construction.

*Transportation benefit districts: Chapter 36.73 RCW.*

**36.83.010 Service districts authorized—Bridge and road improvements—Powers—Governing body.** The legislative authority of a county may establish one or more service districts within the county for the purpose of providing and funding capital and maintenance costs for any bridge or road improvement or for providing and funding capital costs for any state highway improvement a county or a road district has the authority to provide. A service district may not include any area within the corporate limits of a city or town unless the city or town governing body adopts a resolution approving inclusion of the area within its limits. A service district is a quasi municipal corporation, an independent taxing "authority" within the meaning of Article VII, section 1 of the state Constitution, and a "taxing district" within the meaning of Article VII, section 2 of the state Constitution.

A service district shall constitute a body corporate and shall possess all the usual powers of a corporation for public purposes as well as all other powers that may now or hereafter be specifically conferred by statute, including, but not limited to, the authority to hire employees, staff, and services, to enter into contracts, to acquire, hold, and dispose of real and personal property, and to sue and be sued. All projects constructed by a service district pursuant to the provisions of this chapter shall be competitively bid and contracted.

A board of three commissioners appointed by the county legislative authority or county executive pursuant to this chapter shall be the governing body of a service district. The county treasurer shall act as the ex officio treasurer of the service district. The electors of a service district are all registered voters residing within the district. [1996 c 292 § 1; 1985 c 400 § 2; 1983 c 130 § 1.]

*County may fund improvements to state highways: RCW 36.75.035.*

**36.83.020 Establishment—Notice, hearing—Termination of proceedings—Modification of boundaries—Dissolution.** (1) A county legislative authority proposing to establish a service district shall conduct a hearing at the time and place specified in a notice published at least once, not less than ten days prior to the hearing, in a newspaper of general circulation within the proposed service district. This notice shall be in addition to any other notice required by law to be published. The notice shall specify the functions or activities proposed to be provided or funded by the service district. Additional notice of the hearing may be given by mail, posting within the proposed service district, or in any manner the county legislative authority deems necessary to notify affected persons. All hearings shall be public and the county legislative authority shall hear objections from any

person affected by the formation, modification of the boundaries, or dissolution of the service district.

(2) Following the hearing held pursuant to subsection (1) of this section, the county legislative authority may establish a service district if the county legislative authority finds the action to be in the public interest and adopts an ordinance or resolution providing for the establishment of the service district. The legislation establishing a service district shall specify the functions or activities to be exercised or funded and establish the boundaries of the service district. Functions or activities proposed to be provided or funded by the service district may not be expanded beyond those specified in the notice of hearing, except as provided in subsection (4) of this section.

(3) At any time prior to the county legislative authority establishing a service district pursuant to this section, all further proceedings shall be terminated upon the filing of a verified declaration of termination signed by a majority of the registered voters of the proposed service district.

(4) With the approval of the county legislative authority, the governing body of a service district may modify the boundaries of, expand or otherwise modify the functions of, or dissolve the service district after providing notice and conducting a public hearing or hearings in the manner provided in subsection (1) of this section. The governing body must make a determination that the proposed action is in the public interest and adopt a resolution providing for the action. [1996 c 292 § 2; 1983 c 130 § 2.]

**36.83.030 Excess ad valorem property taxes authorized.** (1) A service district may levy an ad valorem property tax, in excess of the one percent limitation, upon the property within the district for a one-year period whenever authorized by the voters of the district pursuant to RCW 84.52.052 and Article VII, section 2(a) of the state Constitution.

(2) A service district may provide for the retirement of voter approved general obligation bonds, issued for capital purposes only, by levying bond retirement ad valorem property tax levies, in excess of the one percent limitation, whenever authorized by the voters of the district pursuant to Article VII, section 2(b) of the state Constitution and RCW 84.52.056. [1983 c 130 § 3.]

**36.83.040 General obligation bonds, excess property tax levies authorized—Limitations.** (1) To carry out the purpose of this chapter, a service district may issue general obligation bonds, not to exceed an amount, together with any other outstanding nonvoter approved general obligation indebtedness, equal to three-eighths of one percent of the value of taxable property within the district, as the term "value of taxable property" is defined in RCW 39.36.015. A service district may additionally issue general obligation bonds for capital purposes only, together with any outstanding general obligation indebtedness, not to exceed an amount equal to one and one-fourth percent of the value of the taxable property within the district, as the term "value of taxable property" is defined in RCW 39.36.015, when authorized by the voters of the service district pursuant to Article VIII, section 6 of the state Constitution, and to provide for the retirement thereof by excess property tax levies as provided in RCW 36.83.030(2). The service district may submit a single

proposition to the voters which, if approved, authorizes both the issuance of the bonds and the bond retirement property tax levies.

(2) General obligation bonds with a maturity in excess of forty years shall not be issued. The governing body of the service district shall by resolution determine for each general obligation bond issue the amount, date, terms, conditions, denominations, maximum fixed or variable interest rate or rates, maturity or maturities, redemption rights, registration privileges, manner of execution, manner of sale, callable provisions, if any, covenants, and form, including registration as to principal and interest, registration as to principal only, or bearer. Registration may include, but not be limited to: (a) A book entry system of recording the ownership of a bond whether or not physical bonds are issued; or (b) recording the ownership of a bond together with the requirement that the transfer of ownership may only be effected by the surrender of the old bond and either the reissuance of the old bond or the issuance of a new bond to the new owner. Facsimile signatures may be used on the bonds and any coupons. Refunding general obligation bonds may be issued in the same manner as general obligation bonds are issued.

(3) Whenever general obligation bonds are issued to fund specific projects or enterprises that generate revenues, charges, user fees, or special assessments, the service district which issues the bonds may specifically pledge all or a portion of the revenues, charges, user fees, or special assessments to refund the general obligation bonds. [1983 c 130 § 4.]

**36.83.050 Local improvement districts authorized—Assessments—Special assessment bonds and revenue bonds—Limitations.** (1) A service district may form a local improvement district or utility local improvement district to provide any local improvement it has the authority to provide, impose special assessments on all property specially benefited by the local improvements, and issue special assessment bonds or revenue bonds to fund the costs of the local improvement. Improvement districts shall be created and assessments shall be made and collected pursuant to chapters 35.43, 35.44, 35.49, 35.50, 35.53, and 35.54 RCW.

(2) The governing body of a service district shall by resolution establish for each special assessment bond issue the amount, date, terms, conditions, denominations, maximum fixed or variable interest rate or rates, maturity or maturities, redemption rights, registration privileges, if any, covenants, and form, including registration as to principal and interest, registration as to principal only, or bearer. Registration may include, but not be limited to: (a) A book entry system of recording the ownership of a bond whether or not physical bonds are issued; or (b) recording the ownership of a bond together with the requirement that the transfer of ownership may only be effected by the surrender of the old bond and either the reissuance of the old bond or the issuance of a new bond to the new owner. Facsimile signatures may be used on the bonds and any coupons. The maximum term of any special assessment bonds shall not exceed thirty years beyond the date of issue. Special assessment bonds issued pursuant to this section shall not be an indebtedness of the service district issuing the bonds, and the interest and principal on the bonds shall only be payable from special assessments made for the

improvement for which the bonds were issued and any local improvement guaranty fund that the service district has created. The owner or bearer of a special assessment bond or any interest coupon issued pursuant to this section shall not have any claim against the service district arising from the bond or coupon except for the payment from special assessments made for the improvement for which the bonds were issued and any local improvement guaranty fund the service district has created. The service district issuing the special assessment bonds is not liable to the owner or bearer of any special assessment bond or any interest coupon issued pursuant to this section for any loss occurring in the lawful operation of its local improvement guaranty fund. The substance of the limitations included in this subsection shall be plainly printed, written, or engraved on each special assessment bond issued pursuant to this section.

(3) The governing body may establish and pay moneys into a local improvement guaranty fund to guarantee special assessment bonds issued by the service district.

(4) The governing body of a service district shall provide for the payment of both the special assessments which are imposed and a portion of the utility income from the utility improvement into a special fund established for the payment of the revenue bonds to defray the cost of the utility local improvement district whenever it desires to create a utility local improvement district and issue revenue bonds to fund the local improvement. [1983 c 130 § 5.]

**36.83.060 Bonds—Form.** Where physical bonds are issued pursuant to RCW 36.83.040 or 36.83.050, the bonds shall be printed, engraved, or lithographed on good bond paper and the manual or facsimile signatures of both the treasurer and chairperson of the governing body shall be included on each bond. [1983 c 130 § 6.]

**36.83.070 Bonds—Use of proceeds.** (1) The proceeds of any bond issued pursuant to RCW 36.83.040 or 36.83.050 may be used to pay costs incurred on such bond issue related to the sale and issuance of the bonds. Such costs include payments for fiscal and legal expenses, obtaining bond ratings, printing, engraving, advertising, and other similar activities.

(2) In addition, proceeds of bonds used to fund capital projects may be used to pay the necessary and related engineering, architectural, planning, and inspection costs. [1983 c 130 § 7.]

**36.83.080 Gifts, grants, and donations.** A service district may accept and expend or use gifts, grants, and donations. [1983 c 130 § 8.]

**36.83.090 Eminent domain.** A service district may exercise the power of eminent domain to obtain property for its authorized purposes in the manner counties exercise the powers of eminent domain. [1983 c 130 § 9.]

**36.83.100 Commissioners—Appointment—Terms—Vacancies—Compensation—Powers.** If the county legislative authority establishes a road and bridge service district, it shall promptly appoint three persons who are residents of the territory included in that service district to serve as the commissioners of the service district. For counties having an

elected executive, the executive shall appoint those commissioners subject to confirmation by the legislative authority of the county. The commissioners first appointed shall be designated to serve for terms of one, two, and three years, respectively, from the date of their appointment. Thereafter, service district commissioners shall be appointed for a term of office of five years. Vacancies must be filled for any unexpired term in the same manner as the original appointment. No member of the legislative authority of the county in which a service district is created may be a commissioner of that service district, except that, if the boundaries of the service district are included within or coterminous with the boundaries of a county commissioner or council district, the county commissioner or councilmember elected from that commissioner or council district may be appointed to serve as a commissioner of the service district. A commissioner shall hold office until his or her successor has been appointed and qualified, unless sooner removed from office for cause in accordance with this chapter or removed by referendum in accordance with RCW 36.83.110. A certificate of the appointment or reappointment of any commissioner must be filed with the county auditor, and such certificate is conclusive evidence of the due and proper appointment of the commissioner. The commissioners of the service district shall receive no compensation for their services, in any capacity, but are entitled to reimbursement for reasonable and necessary expenses, including travel expenses, incurred in the discharge of their duties.

The powers of each service district are vested in the commissioners of the service district. Two commissioners constitute a quorum of the service district for the purpose of conducting its business and exercising its powers and for all other purposes. The commissioners of the service district shall organize itself and select its chair, vice chair, and secretary, who shall serve one-year terms but may be selected for additional terms. When the office of any officer becomes vacant, the commissioners of the service district shall select a new officer from among the commissioners for the balance of the term of office. [1996 c 292 § 3.]

**36.83.110 Election to retain commissioners—Referendum petition.** Any registered voter residing within the boundaries of the road and bridge service district may file a referendum petition to call an election to retain any or all commissioners. Any referendum petition to call such election shall be filed with the county auditor no later than one year before the end of a commissioner's term. Within ten days of the filing of a petition, the county auditor shall confer with the petitioner concerning form and style of the petition, issue an identification number for the petition, and write a ballot title for the measure. The ballot title shall be posed as a question: "Shall (name of commissioner) be retained as a road and bridge service district commissioner?" and the question shall be posed separately for each commissioner. The petitioner shall be notified of the identification number and ballot title within this ten-day period.

After this notification, the petitioner shall have thirty days in which to secure on petition forms the signatures of not less than twenty-five percent of the registered voters residing within the boundaries of the service district and file the signed petitions with the county auditor. Each petition form shall contain the ballot title. The county auditor shall

verify the sufficiency of the signatures on the petitions. If sufficient valid signatures are properly submitted, the county auditor shall submit the referendum measure to the registered voters residing in the service district in a special election no later than one hundred twenty days after the signed petition has been filed with the county auditor.

The office of any commissioner for whom there is not a majority vote to retain shall be declared vacant. [2011 c 10 § 79; 1996 c 292 § 4.]

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

**36.83.120 Removal of commissioner.** For neglect of duty or misconduct in office, a commissioner of a service district may be removed by the county legislative authority after conducting a hearing. The commissioner must be given a copy of the charges at least ten days prior to the hearing and must have an opportunity to be heard in person or by counsel. If a commissioner is removed, a record of the proceedings, together with the charges and findings, must be filed in the office of the county auditor. [1996 c 292 § 5.]

**36.83.130 Improvements—Ownership.** Any road or bridge improvements financed in whole by funds of a service district, including but not limited to proceeds of bonds issued by a service district, shall be owned by that service district. Improvements financed jointly by a service district and the county or city within which the improvements are located may be owned jointly by the service district and that county or city pursuant to an interlocal agreement. [1996 c 292 § 6.]

**36.83.140 Local service district fund.** If a service district is formed, there shall be created in the office of the county treasurer, as ex officio treasurer of the service district, a local service district fund with such accounts as the treasurer may find convenient or as the state auditor or the governing body of the service district may direct, into which shall be deposited all revenues received by or on behalf of the service district from tax levies, gifts, donations and any other source. The fund shall be designated "(name of county) (road/bridge) service district No. . . . fund." [1996 c 292 § 7.]

**36.83.900 Liberal construction.** The rule of strict construction does not apply to this chapter, and this chapter shall be liberally construed to permit the accomplishment of its purposes. [1983 c 130 § 10.]

## Chapter 36.85 RCW

### ROADS AND BRIDGES—RIGHTS-OF-WAY

#### Sections

36.85.010	Acquisition—Condemnation.
36.85.020	Aviation site not exempt from condemnation.
36.85.030	Acceptance of federal grants over public lands.
36.85.040	Acceptance of federal grants over public lands—Prior acceptances ratified.

**36.85.010 Acquisition—Condemnation.** Whenever it is necessary to secure any lands for a right-of-way for any county road or for the drainage thereof or to afford unobstructed view toward any intersection or point of possible danger to public travel upon any county road or for any bor-

row pit, gravel pit, quarry, or other land for the extraction of material for county road purposes, or right-of-way for access thereto, the board may acquire such lands on behalf of the county by gift, purchase, or condemnation. When the board so directs, the prosecuting attorney of the county shall institute proceedings in condemnation to acquire such land for a county road in the manner provided by law for the condemnation of land for public use by counties. All cost of acquiring land for right-of-way or for other purposes by purchase or condemnation shall be paid out of the county road fund of the county and chargeable against the project for which acquired. [1963 c 4 § 36.85.010. Prior: 1937 c 187 § 9; RRS § 6450-9.]

**36.85.020 Aviation site not exempt from condemnation.** Whenever any county has established a public highway, which, in whole or in part, abuts upon and adjoins any aviation site in such county, no property shall be exempt from condemnation for such highway by reason of the same having been or being dedicated, appropriated, or otherwise reduced or held to public use. [1963 c 4 § 36.85.020. Prior: 1925 ex.s. c 41 § 1; RRS § 905-2.]

**36.85.030 Acceptance of federal grants over public lands.** The boards in their respective counties may accept the grant of rights-of-way for the construction of public highways over public lands of the United States, not reserved for public uses, contained in section 2477 of the Revised Statutes of the United States. Such rights-of-way shall henceforward not be less than sixty feet in width unless a lesser width is specified by the United States. Acceptance shall be by resolution of the board spread upon the records of its proceedings: PROVIDED, That nothing herein contained shall be construed to invalidate the acceptance of such grant by general public use and enjoyment, heretofore or hereafter had. [1963 c 4 § 36.85.030. Prior: 1937 c 187 § 17; RRS § 6450-17.]

**36.85.040 Acceptance of federal grants over public lands—Prior acceptances ratified.** Prior action of boards purporting to accept the grant of rights-of-way under section 2477 of the Revised Statutes of the United States for the construction of public highways over public lands of the United States, as provided in RCW 36.85.030, is hereby approved, ratified and confirmed and all such public highways shall be deemed duly laid out county roads and boards of county commissioners may at any time by recorded resolution cause any of such county roads to be opened and improved for public travel. [1963 c 4 § 36.85.040. Prior: 1937 c 187 § 18; RRS § 6450-18.]

## Chapter 36.86 RCW

### ROADS AND BRIDGES—STANDARDS

#### Sections

36.86.010	Standard width of right-of-way prescribed.
36.86.020	Minimum standards of construction.
36.86.030	Amendment of standards—Filing.
36.86.040	Uniform standard for signs, signals, guideposts—Railroad grade crossings.
36.86.050	Monuments at government survey corners.
36.86.060	Restrictions on use of oil at intersections or entrances to county roads.
36.86.070	Classification of roads in accordance with designations under federal functional classification system.

36.86.080	Application of design standards to construction and reconstruction.
36.86.090	Logs dumped on right-of-way—Removal—Confiscation.
36.86.100	Railroad grade crossings—Obstructions.

**36.86.010 Standard width of right-of-way prescribed.** From and after April 1, 1937, the width of thirty feet on each side of the center line of county roads, exclusive of such additional width as may be required for cuts and fills, is the necessary and proper right-of-way width for county roads, unless the board of county commissioners, shall, in any instance, adopt and designate a different width. This shall not be construed to require the acquisition of increased right-of-way for any county road already established and the right-of-way for which has been secured. [1963 c 4 § 36.86.010. Prior: 1937 c 187 § 14; RRS § 6450-14.]

**36.86.020 Minimum standards of construction.** In the case of roads, the minimum width between shoulders shall be fourteen feet with eight feet of surfacing, and in the case of bridges, which includes all decked structures, the minimum standard shall be for H-10 loading in accordance with the standards of the state department of transportation. When the standards have been prepared by the county road engineer, they shall be submitted to the county legislative authority for approval, and when approved shall be used for all road and bridge construction and improvement in the county. [1984 c 7 § 38; 1963 c 4 § 36.86.020. Prior: 1943 c 73 § 1, part; 1937 c 187 § 4, part; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 6450-4, part.]

**36.86.030 Amendment of standards—Filing.** Road and bridge standards may be amended from time to time by resolution of the county legislative authority, but no standard may be approved by the legislative authority with any minimum requirement less than that specified in this chapter. Two copies of the approved standards shall be filed with the department of transportation for its use in examinations of county road work. [1984 c 7 § 39; 1963 c 4 § 36.86.030. Prior: 1943 c 73 § 1, part; 1937 c 187 § 4, part; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 6450-4, part.]

**36.86.040 Uniform standard for signs, signals, guideposts—Railroad grade crossings.** The county legislative authority shall erect and maintain upon the county roads such suitable and proper signs, signals, signboards, and guideposts and appropriate stop, caution, warning, restrictive, and directional signs and markings as it deems necessary or as may be required by law. All such markings shall be in accordance with the uniform state standard of color, design, erection, and location adopted and designed by the Washington state department of transportation. In respect to existing and future railroad grade crossings over county roads the legislative authority shall install and maintain standard, nonmechanical railroad approach warning signs on both sides of the railroad upon the approaches of the county road. All such signs shall be located a sufficient distance from the crossing to give adequate warning to persons traveling on county roads. [1984 c 7 § 40; 1963 c 4 § 36.86.040. Prior: 1955 c 310 § 1; 1937 c 187 § 37; RRS § 6450-37.]

**36.86.050 Monuments at government survey corners.** The board and the road engineer, at the time of establishing, constructing, improving, or paving any county road, shall fix permanent monuments at the original positions of all United States government monuments at township corners, section corners, quarter section corners, meander corners, and witness markers, as originally established by the United States government survey, whenever any such original monuments or markers fall within the right-of-way of any county road, and shall aid in the reestablishment of any such corners, monuments, or markers destroyed or obliterated by the construction of any county road heretofore established, by permitting inspection of the records in the office of the board and the county engineering office. [1963 c 4 § 36.86.050. Prior: 1937 c 187 § 36; RRS § 6450-36.]

**36.86.060 Restrictions on use of oil at intersections or entrances to county roads.** No oil or other material shall be used in the treatment of any county road or private road or driveway, of such consistency, viscosity or nature or in such quantities and in such proximity to the entrance to or intersection with any state highway or county road, the roadway of which is surfaced with cement concrete or asphaltic concrete, that such oil or other material is or will be tracked by vehicles thereby causing a coating or discoloration of such cement concrete or asphaltic concrete roadway. Any person violating the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. [1963 c 4 § 36.86.060. Prior: 1937 c 187 § 43; RRS § 6450-43.]

**36.86.070 Classification of roads in accordance with designations under federal functional classification system.** From time to time the legislative authority of each county shall classify and designate as the county primary road system such county roads as are designated rural minor collector, rural major collector, rural minor arterial, rural principal arterial, urban collector, urban minor arterial, and urban principal arterial in the federal functional classification system. [1982 c 145 § 2; 1963 c 4 § 36.86.070. Prior: 1949 c 165 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 6450-8h.]

**36.86.080 Application of design standards to construction and reconstruction.** Upon the adoption of uniform design standards the legislative authority of each county shall apply the same to all new construction within, and as far as practicable and feasible to reconstruction of old roads comprising, the county primary road system. No deviation from such design standards as to such primary system may be made without the approval of the state aid engineer for the department of transportation. [1982 c 145 § 3; 1963 c 4 § 36.86.080. Prior: 1949 c 165 § 4; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 6450-8k.]

**36.86.090 Logs dumped on right-of-way—Removal—Confiscation.** Logs dumped on any county road right-of-way or in any county road drainage ditch due to hauling equipment failure, or for any other reason, shall be removed within ten days. Logs remaining within any county road right-of-way for a period of thirty days shall be confiscated and removed or disposed of as directed by the boards of county commissioners in the respective counties. Confiscated

logs may be sold by the county commissioners and the proceeds thereof shall be deposited in the county road fund. [1963 c 4 § 36.86.090. Prior: 1951 c 143 § 1.]

**36.86.100 Railroad grade crossings—Obstructions.** Each railroad company shall keep its right-of-way clear of all brush and timber in the vicinity of a railroad grade crossing with a county road for a distance of one hundred feet from the crossing in such a manner as to permit a person upon the road to obtain an unobstructed view in both directions of an approaching train or other on-track equipment. The county legislative authority shall cause brush and timber to be cleared from the right-of-way of county roads in the proximity of a railroad grade crossing for a distance of one hundred feet from the crossing in such a manner as to permit a person traveling upon the road to obtain an unobstructed view in both directions of an approaching train or other on-track equipment. It is unlawful to erect or maintain a sign, signboard, or billboard within a distance of one hundred feet from the point of intersection of the road and railroad grade crossing located outside the corporate limits of any city or town unless, after thirty days notice to the Washington utilities and transportation commission and the railroad operating the crossing, the county legislative authority determines that it does not obscure the sight distance of a person operating a vehicle or train approaching the grade crossing.

When a person who has erected or who maintains such a sign, signboard, or billboard or when a railroad company permits such brush or timber in the vicinity of a railroad grade crossing with a county road or permits the surface of a grade crossing to become inconvenient or dangerous for passage and who has the duty to maintain it, fails, neglects, or refuses to remove or cause to be removed such brush, timber, sign, signboard, or billboard, or maintain the surface of the crossing, the utilities and transportation commission upon complaint of the county legislative authority or upon complaint of any party interested, or upon its own motion, shall enter upon a hearing in the manner now provided for hearings with respect to railroad-highway grade crossings, and make and enforce proper orders for the removal of the brush, timber, sign, signboard or billboard, or maintenance of the crossing. Nothing in this section prevents the posting or maintaining thereon of highway or road signs or traffic devices giving directions or distances for the information of the public when the signs conform to the "Manual for Uniform Traffic Control Devices" issued by the state department of transportation. The county legislative authority shall inspect highway grade crossings and make complaint of the violation of any provisions of this section. [2017 c 87 § 4; 1983 c 19 § 1; 1963 c 4 § 36.86.100. Prior: 1955 c 310 § 6.]

*Railroad grade crossings, obstructions: RCW 47.32.140.*

## Chapter 36.87 RCW ROADS AND BRIDGES—VACATION

### Sections

36.87.010	Resolution of intention to vacate.
36.87.020	County road frontage owners' petition—Bond, cash deposit, or fee.
36.87.030	County road frontage owners' petition—Action on petition.
36.87.040	Engineer's report.
36.87.050	Notice of hearing on report.

36.87.060	Hearing.
36.87.070	Expense of proceeding.
36.87.080	Majority vote required.
36.87.090	Vacation of road unopened for five years—Exceptions.
36.87.100	Classification of roads for which public expenditures made— Compensation of county.
36.87.110	Classification of roads for which no public expenditures made—Compensation of county.
36.87.120	Appraised value as basis for compensation—Appraisal costs.
36.87.130	Vacation of roads abutting bodies of water—When authorized.
36.87.140	Retention of easement for public utilities and services.

**36.87.010 Resolution of intention to vacate.** When a county road or any part thereof is considered useless, the board by resolution entered upon its minutes, may declare its intention to vacate and abandon the same or any portion thereof and shall direct the county road engineer to report upon such vacation and abandonment. [1969 ex.s. c 185 § 1; 1963 c 4 § 36.87.010. Prior: 1937 c 187 § 48; RRS § 6450-48.]

**36.87.020 County road frontage owners' petition—Bond, cash deposit, or fee.** Owners of the majority of the frontage on any county road or portion thereof may petition the county legislative authority to vacate and abandon the same or any portion thereof. The petition must show the land owned by each petitioner and set forth that such county road is useless as part of the county road system and that the public will be benefited by its vacation and abandonment. The legislative authority may (1) require the petitioners to make an appropriate cash deposit or furnish an appropriate bond against which all costs and expenses incurred in the examination, report, and proceedings pertaining to the petition shall be charged; or (2) by ordinance or resolution require the petitioners to pay a fee adequate to cover such costs and expenses. [1991 c 363 § 89; 1985 c 369 § 4; 1963 c 4 § 36.87.020. Prior: 1937 c 187 § 49, part; RRS § 6450-49, part.]

**Purpose—Captions not law—1991 c 363:** See notes following RCW 2.32.180.

**36.87.030 County road frontage owners' petition—Action on petition.** On the filing of the petition and bond and on being satisfied that the petition has been signed by petitioners residing in the vicinity of the county road or portion thereof, the board shall direct the county road engineer to report upon such vacation and abandonment. [1963 c 4 § 36.87.030. Prior: 1937 c 187 § 49, part; RRS § 6450-49, part.]

**36.87.040 Engineer's report.** When directed by the board the county road engineer shall examine any county road or portion thereof proposed to be vacated and abandoned and report his or her opinion as to whether the county road should be vacated and abandoned, whether the same is in use or has been in use, the condition of the road, whether it will be advisable to preserve it for the county road system in the future, whether the public will be benefited by the vacation and abandonment, and all other facts, matters, and things which will be of importance to the board, and also file his or her cost bill. [2009 c 549 § 4139; 1963 c 4 § 36.87.040. Prior: 1937 c 187 § 50; RRS § 6450-50.]

**36.87.050 Notice of hearing on report.** Notice of hearing upon the report for vacation and abandonment of a county road shall be published at least once a week for two consecutive weeks preceding the date fixed for the hearing, in the county official newspaper and a copy of the notice shall be posted for at least twenty days preceding the date fixed for hearing at each termini of the county road or portion thereof proposed to be vacated or abandoned. [1963 c 4 § 36.87.050. Prior: 1937 c 187 § 51, part; RRS § 6450-51, part.]

**36.87.060 Hearing.** (1) On the day fixed for the hearing, the county legislative authority shall proceed to consider the report of the engineer, together with any evidence for or objection against such vacation and abandonment. If the county road is found useful as a part of the county road system it shall not be vacated, but if it is not useful and the public will be benefited by the vacation, the county legislative authority may vacate the road or any portion thereof. Its decision shall be entered in the minutes of the hearing.

(2) As an alternative, the county legislative authority may appoint a hearing officer to conduct a public hearing to consider the report of the engineer and to take testimony and evidence relating to the proposed vacation. Following the hearing, the hearing officer shall prepare a record of the proceedings and a recommendation to the county legislative authority concerning the proposed vacation. Their decision shall be made at a regular or special public meeting of the county legislative authority. [1985 c 369 § 5; 1963 c 4 § 36.87.060. Prior: 1937 c 187 § 51, part; RRS § 6450-51, part.]

**36.87.070 Expense of proceeding.** If the county legislative authority has required the petitioners to make a cash deposit or furnish a bond, upon completion of the hearing, it shall certify all costs and expenses incurred in the proceedings to the county treasurer and, regardless of its final decision, the county legislative authority shall recover all such costs and expenses from the bond or cash deposit and release any balance to the petitioners. [1985 c 369 § 6; 1963 c 4 § 36.87.070. Prior: 1937 c 187 § 51, part; RRS § 6450-51, part.]

**36.87.080 Majority vote required.** No county road shall be vacated and abandoned except by majority vote of the board properly entered, or by operation of law, or judgment of a court of competent jurisdiction. [1969 ex.s. c 185 § 2; 1963 c 4 § 36.87.080. Prior: 1937 c 187 § 51, part; RRS § 6450-51, part.]

**36.87.090 Vacation of road unopened for five years—Exceptions.** Any county road, or part thereof, which remains unopen for public use for a period of five years after the order is made or authority granted for opening it, shall be thereby vacated, and the authority for building it barred by lapse of time: PROVIDED, That this section shall not apply to any highway, road, street, alley, or other public place dedicated as such in any plat, whether the land included in such plat is within or without the limits of an incorporated city or town, or to any land conveyed by deed to the state or to any county, city or town for highways, roads, streets, alleys, or other pub-

lic places. [1963 c 4 § 36.87.090. Prior: 1937 c 187 § 52; RRS § 6450-52.]

**36.87.100 Classification of roads for which public expenditures made—Compensation of county.** Any board of county commissioners may, by ordinance, classify all county roads for which public expenditures were made in the acquisition, improvement or maintenance of the same, according to the type and amount of expenditures made and the nature of the county's property interest in the road; and may require persons benefiting from the vacation of county roads within some or all of the said classes to compensate the county as a condition precedent to the vacation thereof. [1969 ex.s. c 185 § 4.]

**36.87.110 Classification of roads for which no public expenditures made—Compensation of county.** Any board of county commissioners may, by ordinance, separately classify county roads for which no public expenditures have been made in the acquisition, improvement or maintenance of the same, according to the nature of the county's property interest in the road; and may require persons benefiting from the vacation of county roads within some or all of the said classes to compensate the county as a condition precedent to the vacation thereof. [1969 ex.s. c 185 § 5.]

**36.87.120 Appraised value as basis for compensation—Appraisal costs.** Any ordinance adopted pursuant to this chapter may require that compensation for the vacation of county roads within particular classes shall equal all or a percentage of the appraised value of the vacated road as of the effective date of the vacation. In determining the appropriate compensation for the road or right-of-way, the board may adjust the appraised value to reflect the value of the transfer of liability or risk, the increased value to the public in property taxes, the avoided costs for management or maintenance, and any limits on development or future public benefit. Costs of county appraisals of roads pursuant to such ordinances shall be deemed expenses incurred in vacation proceedings, and shall be paid in the manner provided by RCW 36.87.070. [2016 c 19 § 2; 1969 ex.s. c 185 § 6.]

**Intent—2016 c 19:** "The intent of the legislature is to update outdated local road statutes to provide taxpayers with lower road maintenance costs and greater road efficiencies." [2016 c 19 § 1.]

**36.87.130 Vacation of roads abutting bodies of water—When authorized. (Effective until December 31, 2023.)** No county shall vacate a county road or part thereof which abuts on a body of salt or freshwater unless:

(1) The purpose of the vacation is to enable any public authority to acquire the vacated property for port purposes, boat moorage or launching sites, or for park, viewpoint, recreational, educational, or other public purposes;

(2) The property is zoned for industrial uses; or

(3) In a county west of the crest of the Cascade mountains and bordered by the Columbia river with a population over four hundred fifty thousand, the county determines that:

(a) The road has been used as an access point to trespass onto private property;

(b) Such trespass has caused loss of human life, and that public use of the county road creates an ongoing risk to public safety; and

(c) Public access to the same body of water abutting the county road is available at not less than three public access sites within two miles in any direction of the terminus of the road subject to vacation. [2020 c 300 § 1; 1969 ex.s. c 185 § 7.]

**Expiration date—2020 c 300 § 1:** "Section 1 of this act expires December 31, 2023." [2020 c 300 § 2.]

**36.87.130 Vacation of roads abutting bodies of water prohibited unless for public purposes or industrial use. (Effective December 31, 2023.)** No county shall vacate a county road or part thereof which abuts on a body of salt or fresh water unless the purpose of the vacation is to enable any public authority to acquire the vacated property for port purposes, boat moorage or launching sites, or for park, viewpoint, recreational, educational or other public purposes, or unless the property is zoned for industrial uses. [1969 ex.s. c 185 § 7.]

**36.87.140 Retention of easement for public utilities and services.** Whenever a county road or any portion thereof is vacated the legislative body may include in the resolution authorizing the vacation a provision that the county retain an easement in respect to the vacated land for the construction, repair, and maintenance of public utilities and services which at the time the resolution is adopted are authorized or are physically located on a portion of the land being vacated: PROVIDED, That the legislative body shall not convey such easement to any public utility or other entity or person but may convey a permit or franchise to a public utility to effectuate the intent of this section. The term "public utility" as used in this section shall include utilities owned, operated, or maintained by every gas company, electrical company, telephone company, telegraph company, and water company whether or not such company is privately owned or owned by a governmental entity. [1975 c 22 § 1.]

## Chapter 36.88 RCW

### COUNTY ROAD IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS

#### Sections

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*Assessments and charges against state lands: Chapter 79.44 RCW.*

*Deferral of special assessments: Chapter 84.38 RCW.*

*Local improvements, supplemental authority: Chapter 35.51 RCW.*

**36.88.010 Districts authorized—Purposes.** All counties have the power to create county road improvement districts for the acquisition of rights-of-way and improvement of county roads, existing private roads that will become county roads as a result of this improvement district process and, with the approval of the state department of transportation, state highways; for the construction or improvement of necessary drainage facilities, bulkheads, retaining walls, and other appurtenances therefor, bridges, culverts, sidewalks, curbs and gutters, escalators, or moving sidewalks; and for the draining or filling of drainage potholes or swamps. Such counties have the power to levy and collect special assessments against the real property specially benefited thereby for the purpose of paying the whole or any part of the cost of such acquisition of rights-of-way, construction, or improvement. [1985 c 400 § 3; 1985 c 369 § 7; 1965 c 60 § 1; 1963 c 84 § 1; 1963 c 4 § 36.88.010. Prior: 1959 c 134 § 1; 1951 c 192 § 1.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 1985 c 369 § 7 and by 1985 c 400 § 3, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section pursuant to RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

*County may fund improvements to state highways: RCW 36.75.035.*

**36.88.015 Additional purposes.** All counties have the power to create county road improvement districts for the construction, installation, improvement, operation, and maintenance of street and road lighting systems for any county roads, and subject to the approval of the state department of transportation, for state highways, and for safeguards to protect the public from hazards of open canals, flumes, or ditches, and the counties have the power to levy and collect special assessments against the real property specially benefited thereby for the purpose of paying the whole or any part of the cost of the construction, installation, or improvement together with the expense of furnishing electric energy, maintenance, and operation. [1984 c 7 § 41; 1965 c 60 § 2; 1963 c 84 § 2; 1963 c 4 § 36.88.015. Prior: 1959 c 75 § 4; 1953 c 152 § 1.]

**36.88.020 Formation of district—How initiated.** County road improvement districts may be initiated either by resolution of the board of county commissioners or by petition signed by the owners according to the records of the office of the county auditor of property to an aggregate amount of the majority of the lineal frontage upon the contemplated improvement and of the area within the limits of the county road improvement district to be created therefor. [1963 c 4 § 36.88.020. Prior: 1951 c 192 § 2.]

**36.88.030 Formation of district—By resolution of intention—Procedure.** In case the board of county commissioners shall desire to initiate the formation of a county road improvement district by resolution, it shall first pass a resolu-

tion declaring its intention to order such improvement, setting forth the nature and territorial extent of such proposed improvement, designating the number of the proposed road improvement district and describing the boundaries thereof, stating the estimated cost and expense of the improvement and the proportionate amount thereof which will be borne by the property within the proposed district, notifying the owners of property therein to appear at a meeting of the board at the time specified in such resolution, and directing the county road engineer to submit to the board at or prior to the date fixed for such hearing a diagram or print showing thereon the lots, tracts and parcels of land and other property which will be specially benefited thereby and the estimated amount of the cost and expense of such improvement to be borne by each lot, tract or parcel of land or other property, and also designating thereon all property which is being purchased under contract from the county. The resolution of intention shall be published in at least two consecutive issues of a newspaper of general circulation in such county, the date of the first publication to be at least fifteen days prior to the date fixed by such resolution for hearing before the board of county commissioners.

Notice of the adoption of the resolution of intention shall be given each owner or reputed owner of any lot, tract or parcel of land or other property within the proposed improvement district by mailing said notice to the owner or reputed owner of the property as shown on the tax rolls of the county treasurer at the address shown thereon at least fifteen days before the date fixed for the public hearing. The notice shall refer to the resolution of intention and designate the proposed improvement district by number. Said notice shall also set forth the nature of the proposed improvement, the total estimated cost, the proportion of total cost to be borne by assessments, the estimated amount of the cost and expense of such improvement to be borne by the particular lot, tract or parcel, the date and place of the hearing before the board of county commissioners, and shall contain the directions hereinafter provided for voting upon the formation of the proposed improvement district.

The clerk of the board shall prepare and mail, together with the notice above referred to, a ballot for each owner or reputed owner of any lot, tract or parcel of land within the proposed improvement district. This ballot shall contain the following proposition:

"Shall . . . . . county road improvement district No. . . . . be formed?  
 Yes . . . . .   
 No. . . . .

and, in addition, shall contain appropriate spaces for the signatures of the property owners, and a description of their property, and shall have printed thereon the direction that all ballots must be signed to be valid and must be returned to the clerk of the board of county commissioners not later than five o'clock p.m. of a day which shall be one week after the date of the public hearing.

The notice of adoption of the resolution of intention shall also contain the above directions, and, in addition thereto, shall state the rules by which the election shall be governed.

[1970 ex.s. c 66 § 2; 1963 c 84 § 3; 1963 c 4 § 36.88.030. Prior: 1951 c 192 § 3.]

**36.88.035 Notice must contain statement that assessments may vary from estimates.** Any notice given to the public or to the owners of specific lots, tracts, or parcels of land relating to the formation of a county road improvement district shall contain a statement that actual assessments may vary from assessment estimates so long as they do not exceed a figure equal to the increased true and fair value the improvement adds to the property. [1989 c 243 § 5.]

**36.88.040 Formation of district—By resolution of intention—Election—Rules.** The election provided herein for cases where the improvement is initiated by resolution shall be governed by the following rules: (1) All ballots must be signed by the owner or reputed owner of property within the proposed district according to the records of the county auditor; (2) each ballot must be returned to the clerk of the board not later than one week after the public hearing; (3) each property owner shall have one vote for each full dollar of estimated assessment against his or her property as determined by the preliminary estimates and assessment roll; (4) the valid ballots shall be tabulated and a majority of the votes cast shall determine whether the formation of the district shall be approved or rejected. [2009 c 549 § 4140; 1963 c 4 § 36.88.040. Prior: 1951 c 192 § 4.]

**36.88.050 Formation of district—By petition—Procedure.** In case any such road improvement shall be initiated by petition, such petition shall set forth the nature and territorial extent of such proposed improvement, and the fact that the signers thereof are the owners, according to the records of the county auditor of property to an aggregate amount of a majority of the lineal frontage upon the improvement to be made and of the area within the limits of the assessment district to be created therefor.

Upon the filing of such petition the board shall determine whether the same shall be sufficient and whether the property within the proposed district shall be sufficiently developed and if the board shall find the district to be sufficiently developed and the petition to be sufficient, it shall proceed to adopt a resolution setting forth the nature and territorial extent of the improvement petitioned for, designating the number of the proposed improvement district and describing the boundaries thereof, stating the estimated cost and expense of the improvement and the proportionate amount thereof which will be borne by the property within the proposed district, notifying the owners of property therein to appear at a meeting of the board at the time specified in such resolution, and directing the county road engineer to submit to the board at or prior to the date fixed for such hearing a diagram or print showing thereon the lots, tracts and parcels of land and other property which will be specially benefited thereby and the estimated amount of the cost and expense of such improvement to be borne by each lot, tract or parcel of land or other property, and also designating thereon all property which is being purchased under contract from the county. The resolution of intention shall be published in at least two consecutive issues of a newspaper of general circulation in such county, the date of the first publication to be at least fifteen days prior

to the date fixed by such resolution for hearing before the board of county commissioners.

Notice of the adoption of the resolution of intention shall be given each owner or reputed owner of any lot, tract or parcel of land or other property within the proposed improvement district by mailing said notice to the owner or reputed owner of the property as shown on the tax rolls of the county treasurer at the address shown thereon at least fifteen days before the date fixed for the public hearing. The notice shall refer to the resolution of intention and designate the proposed improvement district by number. Said notice shall also set forth the nature of the proposed improvement, the total estimated cost, the proportion of total cost to be borne by assessments, the estimated amount of the cost and expense of such improvement to be borne by the particular lot, tract or parcel, the date and place of the hearing before the board of county commissioners, and the fact that property owners may withdraw their names from the petition or add their names thereto at any time prior to five o'clock p.m. of the day before the hearing. [1963 c 4 § 36.88.050. Prior: 1951 c 192 § 5.]

**36.88.060 Formation of district—Hearing—Resolution creating district.** Whether the improvement is initiated by petition or resolution the board shall conduct a public hearing at the time and place designated in the notice to property owners. At this hearing, the board may make such changes in the boundaries of the district or such modifications in the plans for the proposed improvement as shall be deemed necessary: PROVIDED, That the board may neither so alter the improvement as to increase the estimated cost by an amount greater than ten percent above that stated in the notice, nor increase the proportionate share of the cost to be borne by assessments from the proportion stated in the notice, nor change the boundaries of the district to include property not previously included therein without first passing a new resolution of intention and giving a new notice to property owners, in the manner and form and within the time herein provided for the original notice.

At said hearing, the board shall select the method of assessment, ascertain whether the plan of improvement or construction is feasible and whether the benefits to be derived therefrom by the property within the proposed district, together with the amount of any county road fund participation, exceed the costs and expense of the formation of the proposed district and the contemplated construction or improvement and shall make a written finding thereon. In case the proceedings have been initiated by petition, the board shall find whether the petition including all additions thereto or withdrawals therefrom made prior to five o'clock p.m. of the day before the hearing is sufficient within the boundaries of the district so established at said hearing by the board. If said petition shall be found insufficient the board shall by resolution declare the proceedings terminated. In case the proceedings have been initiated by resolution if the board shall find the improvement to be feasible, it shall continue the hearing until a day not more than fifteen days after the date for returning ballots for the purpose of determining the results of said balloting.

After the hearing the board may proceed to adopt a resolution creating the district and ordering the improvement. Such resolution shall establish such district as the ". . . . .

county road improvement district No. . . . ." Such resolution shall describe the nature and territorial extent of the improvement to be made and the boundaries of the improvement district, shall describe the method of assessment to be used, shall declare the estimated cost and the proportion thereof to be borne by assessments, and shall contain a finding as to the result of the balloting by property owners in case the improvement shall have been initiated by resolution.

Upon the adoption of the resolution establishing the district, the board shall have jurisdiction to proceed with the improvement. The board's findings on the sufficiency of petitions or on the results of the balloting shall be conclusive upon all persons. [1963 c 84 § 4; 1963 c 4 § 36.88.060. Prior: 1951 c 192 § 6.]

**36.88.062 Formation of district—Committee or hearing officer may conduct hearings—Report to legislative authority.** In lieu of the county legislative authority holding the hearing under RCW 36.88.060 to create the road improvement district, the county legislative authority may adopt an ordinance providing for a committee of the county legislative authority or an officer to conduct the hearings. The committee or hearing officer shall report recommendations on the resolution to the full county legislative authority for final action, which need not hold a hearing on the proposed assessment role and shall either adopt or reject the recommendations. [1994 c 71 § 3.]

**36.88.065 Formation of district—Alternative method.** If the county legislative authority desires to initiate the formation of a county road improvement district by resolution, it may elect to follow either the procedure set forth in chapter 35.43 RCW or the procedure set forth in RCW 36.88.030, and shall indicate the procedure selected in the resolution of intention. [1985 c 369 § 10.]

**36.88.070 Diagram only preliminary determination.** The diagram or print herein directed to be submitted to the board shall be in the nature of a preliminary determination upon the method, and estimated amounts, of assessments to be levied upon the property specially benefited by such improvement and shall in no case be construed as being binding or conclusive as to the amount of any assessments which may ultimately be levied. [1963 c 4 § 36.88.070. Prior: 1951 c 192 § 7.]

**36.88.072 Waivers of protest—Recording—Limits on enforceability.** If an owner of property enters into an agreement with a county waiving the property owner's right under RCW 36.88.030, 36.88.040, 36.88.050, 36.88.060, and 36.88.065 to protest formation of a road improvement district, the agreement must specify the improvements to be financed by the district and shall set forth the effective term of the agreement, which shall not exceed ten years. The agreement must be recorded with the auditor of the county in which the property is located. It is against public policy and void for an owner, by agreement, as a condition imposed in connection with proposed property development, or otherwise, to waive rights to object to the property owner's individual assessment (including the determination of special benefits allocable to the property), or to appeal to the superior

court the decision of the county council affirming the final assessment roll. [1988 c 179 § 12.]

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

**36.88.074 Preformation expenditures.** The county engineer or other designated official may contract with owners of real property to provide for payment by the owners of the cost of the preparation of engineering plans, surveys, studies, appraisals, legal services, and other expenses associated with improvements to be financed in whole or in part by a local improvement district (not including the cost of actual construction of such improvements), that the owners elect to undertake. The contract may provide for reimbursement to the owner of such costs from the proceeds of bonds issued by the district after formation of a district under this chapter, from assessments paid to the district as appropriate, or by a credit in the amount of such costs against future assessments assessed against such property. Such reimbursement shall be made to the owner of the property at the time of reimbursement. The contract shall also provide that such costs shall not be reimbursed to the owner if a district to construct the specified improvements (as the project may be amended) is not formed within six years of the date of the contract. The contract shall provide that any preformation work shall be conducted only under the direction of the county engineer or other appropriate county authority. [1988 c 179 § 13.]

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

**36.88.076 Credits for other assessments.** A county ordering a road improvement upon which special assessments on property specifically benefited by the improvements are levied and collected, may provide as part of the ordinance creating the road improvement district that moneys paid or the cost of facilities constructed by a property owner in the district in satisfaction of obligations under chapter 39.92 RCW, shall be credited against assessments due from the owner of such property at the time the credit is made, if those moneys paid or facilities constructed directly defray the cost of the specified improvements under the district and if credit for such amounts is reflected in the final assessment roll confirmed for the district. [1988 c 179 § 14.]

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

**36.88.078 Assessment reimbursement accounts.** A county ordering a road improvement upon which special assessments on property specifically benefited by the improvement are levied and collected, may provide as part of the ordinance creating the road improvement district that the payment of an assessment levied for the district on underdeveloped properties may be made by owners of other properties within the district if they so elect, subject to terms of reimbursement set forth in the ordinance. The terms for reimbursement shall require the owners of underdeveloped properties on whose behalf payments of assessments have been made to reimburse all such assessment payments to the party who made them when those properties are developed or redeveloped, together with interest at a rate specified in the ordinance. The ordinance may provide that reimbursement shall be made on a one-time, lump sum basis, or may provide that reimbursement shall be made over a period not to exceed five years. The ordinance may provide that reimbursement shall

be made no later than the time of dissolution of the district, or may provide that no reimbursement is due if the underdeveloped properties are not developed or redeveloped before the dissolution of the district. Reimbursement amounts due from underdeveloped properties under this section are liens upon the underdeveloped properties in the same manner and with like effect as assessments made under this chapter. For the purposes of this section, "underdeveloped properties" may include those properties that, in the discretion of the county legislative authority, (1) are undeveloped or are not developed to their highest and best use, and (2) are likely to be developed or redeveloped before the dissolution of the district. [1988 c 179 § 15.]

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

**36.88.080 Property included in district—Method of assessment—Assessment limited by benefit.** Every resolution ordering any improvement mentioned in this chapter, payment for which shall be in whole or in part by special assessments shall establish a road improvement district which shall embrace as near as may be all the property specially benefited by such improvement and the board shall apply thereto such method of assessment as shall be deemed most practical and equitable under the conditions prevailing: PROVIDED, That no assessment as determined by the board of commissioners shall be levied which shall be greater than the special benefits derived from the improvements. [1963 c 84 § 5; 1963 c 4 § 36.88.080. Prior: 1951 c 192 § 8.]

**36.88.085 Exemption of farm and agricultural land from special benefit assessments.** See RCW 84.34.300 through 84.34.380 and 84.34.922.

**36.88.090 Assessment roll—Hearing—Notice—Objections—New hearing.** Whenever the assessment roll for any county road improvement district has been prepared, such roll shall be filed with the clerk of the county legislative authority. The county legislative authority shall thereupon by resolution set the date for hearing upon such roll before a board of equalization and direct the clerk to give notice of such hearing and the time and place thereof.

Such notice shall specify such time and place of hearing on such roll and shall notify all persons who may desire to object thereto to make such objection in writing and to file the same with the clerk of the county legislative authority at or prior to the date fixed for such hearing; and that at the time and place fixed and at such other times as the hearing may be continued to, the county legislative authority will sit as a board of equalization for the purpose of considering such roll and at such hearing will consider such objections made thereto, or any part thereof, and will correct, revise, raise, lower, change, or modify such roll or any part thereof, or set aside such roll in order that such assessment be made de novo as to such body shall appear just and equitable and then proceed to confirm the same by resolution.

Notice of the time and place of hearing under such assessment roll shall be given to the owner or reputed owner of the property whose name appears thereon, by mailing a notice thereof at least fifteen days before the date fixed for the hearing to such owner or reputed owner at the address of such owner as shown on the tax rolls of the county treasurer;

and in addition thereto such notice shall be published at least two times in a newspaper of general circulation in the county. At least fifteen days must elapse between the date of the first publication of the notice and the date fixed for such hearing. However, mosquito control districts are only required to give notice by publication.

The board of equalization, at the time fixed for hearing objections to the confirmation of the roll, or at such time or times as the hearing may be adjourned to, has power to correct, revise, raise, lower, change, or modify the roll or any part thereof, and to set aside the roll in order that the assessment be made de novo as to the board appears equitable and just, and then shall confirm the same by resolution. All objections shall be in writing and filed with the board and shall state clearly the grounds objected to, and objections not made within the time and in the manner described in this section shall be conclusively presumed to have been waived.

Whenever any such roll is amended so as to raise any assessments appearing thereon, or to include property subject to assessment which has been omitted from the assessment roll for any reason, a new hearing, and a new notice of hearing upon such roll, as amended, shall be given as in the case of an original hearing. At the conclusion of such hearing the board may confirm the same or any portion thereof by resolution and certify the same to the treasurer for collection. Whenever any property has been entered originally on such roll, and the assessment upon such property shall not be raised, no objections to it may be considered by the board or by any court on appeal, unless such objections are made in writing at or prior to the date fixed for the original hearing upon such roll. [1985 c 369 § 8; 1972 ex.s. c 62 § 1; 1963 c 4 § 36.88.090. Prior: 1951 c 192 § 9.]

**36.88.095 Assessment roll—Committee or officer may conduct hearing—Recommendations to legislative authority—Appeals.** In lieu of the county legislative authority holding the hearing on assessment roll under RCW 36.88.090 as the board of equalization, the county legislative authority may adopt an ordinance providing for a committee of the county legislative authority or an officer to conduct the hearing on the assessment roll as the board of equalization.

A committee or an officer that sits as a board of adjustment [equalization] shall conduct a hearing on the proposed assessment roll and shall make recommendations to the full county legislative authority, which need not hold a hearing on the proposed assessment roll and shall either adopt or reject the recommendations. The ordinance shall provide for an appeal procedure by which a property owner may protest his or her assessment that is proposed by the committee or officer to the full county legislative authority and the full county legislative authority may reject or accept any appealed protested assessment and if accepted shall modify the assessment roll accordingly. [1994 c 71 § 4.]

**36.88.100 Appeal—Reassessment.** The decision of the board upon any objections made within the time and in the manner herein prescribed may be reviewed by the superior court upon an appeal taken thereto in the manner provided for taking appeals from objections in local improvement districts of cities and towns.

The board shall have the same powers of reassessment and shall proceed to make such reassessments in the same manner and subject to the same limitations as are provided by law for the making of reassessments in local improvement districts of cities and towns. [1963 c 4 § 36.88.100. Prior: 1951 c 192 § 10.]

**36.88.110 Assessment roll—Conclusive.** Whenever any assessment roll for construction or improvements shall have been confirmed by the board, as provided in this chapter, the regularity, validity and correctness of the proceedings relating to such construction or improvement and to the assessment therefor, including the action of the board on such assessment roll and the confirmation thereof, shall be conclusive in all things upon all parties and cannot in any manner be contested or questioned in any proceeding whatsoever by any person not filing written objection to such roll in the manner and within the time provided in this chapter, and not appealing from the action of the board in confirming such assessment roll in the manner and within the time provided in this chapter. No proceedings of any kind shall be commenced or prosecuted for the purpose of defeating or contesting any such assessment or for the sale of any property to pay such assessment or any certificate of delinquency issued therefor or the foreclosure of any lien issued therefor, but this section shall not be construed as prohibiting the bringing of injunction proceedings to prevent the sale of any real estate upon the grounds that the property about to be sold does not appear upon the assessment roll, or that the assessment has been paid. [1963 c 4 § 36.88.110. Prior: 1951 c 192 § 11.]

**36.88.120 Assessment is lien on property—Superiority.** The charge on the respective lots, tracts, parcels of land and other property for the purpose of special assessment to pay the cost and expense in whole or in part of any construction or improvement authorized in this chapter, when assessed, and the assessment roll confirmed by the board shall be a lien upon the property assessed from the time said assessment rolls shall be placed in the hands of the county treasurer for collection. Said liens shall be paramount and superior to any other lien or encumbrance whatsoever, theretofore or thereafter created, except a lien for general taxes. [1963 c 4 § 36.88.120. Prior: 1951 c 192 § 12.]

**36.88.130 County treasurer—Duties.** The county treasurer is hereby designated as the treasurer of all county road improvement districts created hereunder, and shall collect all road improvement district assessments, and the duties and responsibilities herein imposed upon him or her shall be among the duties and responsibilities of his or her office for which his or her bond is given as county treasurer. [2009 c 549 § 4141; 1963 c 4 § 36.88.130. Prior: 1951 c 192 § 13.]

**36.88.140 Payment of assessment—Delinquent assessments—Penalties—Lien foreclosure.** The county legislative authority shall prescribe by resolution within what time such assessment or installments thereof shall be paid, and shall provide for the payment and collection of interest and the rate of interest to be charged on that portion of any assessment which remains unpaid over thirty days after such date. Assessments or installments thereof which are delin-

quent, shall bear, in addition to such interest, such penalty not less than five percent as shall be prescribed by resolution. Interest and penalty shall be included in and shall be a part of the assessment lien. All liens acquired by the county hereunder shall be foreclosed by the appropriate county officers in the same manner and subject to the same rights of redemption provided by law for the foreclosure of liens held by cities or towns against property in local improvement districts. [1981 c 156 § 11; 1970 ex.s. c 66 § 3; 1963 c 4 § 36.88.140. Prior: 1951 c 192 § 14.]

**36.88.145 Property donations—Credit against assessments.** The county legislative authority may give credit for all or any portion of any property donation against an assessment, charge, or other required financial contribution for transportation improvements within a county road improvement district. The credit granted is available against any assessment, charge, or other required financial contribution for any transportation purpose that uses the donated property. [1987 c 267 § 11.]

*Right-of-way donations: Chapter 47.14 RCW.*

**36.88.150 Payment of assessment—Record of.** Whenever before the sale of any property the amount of any assessment thereon, with interest, penalty, costs and charges accrued thereon, shall be paid to the treasurer, he or she shall thereon mark the same paid with the date of payment thereof on the assessment roll. [2009 c 549 § 4142; 1963 c 4 § 36.88.150. Prior: 1951 c 192 § 15.]

**36.88.160 District fund—Purposes—Bond redemptions.** All moneys collected by the treasurer upon any assessments under this chapter shall be kept as a separate fund to be known as ". . . . ., county road improvement district No. . . . . fund." Such funds shall be used for no other purpose than the payment of costs and expense of construction and improvement in such district and the payment of interest or principal of warrants and bonds drawn or issued upon or against said fund for said purposes. Whenever after payment of the costs and expenses of the improvement there shall be available in the local improvement district fund a sum, over and above the amount necessary to meet the interest payments next accruing on outstanding bonds, sufficient to retire one or more outstanding bonds the treasurer shall forthwith call such bond or bonds for redemption as determined in the bond authorizing ordinance. [2003 c 139 § 3; 1963 c 4 § 36.88.160. Prior: 1951 c 192 § 16.]

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

**36.88.170 Foreclosed property—Held in trust for district.** Whenever any property shall be bid in by any county or be stricken off to any county under and by virtue of any proceeding for enforcement of the assessment provided in this chapter said property shall be held in trust by said county for the fund of the improvement district for the creation of which fund said assessment was levied and for the collection of which assessment said property was sold: PROVIDED, Such county may at any time after the procuring of a deed pay in to such fund the amount of the delinquent assessment for which said property was sold and all accrued interest and interest to the time of the next call for bonds or

warrants issued against such assessment fund at the rate provided thereon, and thereupon shall take and hold said property discharged of such trust: PROVIDED FURTHER, That property deeded to any county and which shall become a part of the trust being exercised by the said county for the benefit of any local improvement district fund of the said county, shall be exempt from taxation for general, state, county and municipal purposes during the period that it is so held. [1963 c 4 § 36.88.170. Prior: 1951 c 192 § 17.]

**36.88.180 Foreclosed property—Sale or lease—Disposition of proceeds.** Any county may at any time after a deed is issued to it under and by virtue of any proceeding mentioned in this chapter, lease or sell or convey any such property at public or private sale for such price and on such terms as may be determined by resolution of the board, and all proceeds resulting from such sale shall ratably belong to and be paid into the fund of the county road improvement district or districts concerned after first reimbursing any fund or funds having advanced any money on account of said property. [1963 c 4 § 36.88.180. Prior: 1951 c 192 § 18.]

**36.88.190 Improvement bonds, warrants authorized.** (1) The county legislative authority may provide for the payment of the whole or any portion of the cost and expense of any duly authorized road improvement by bonds and/or warrants of the improvement district which bonds shall be issued and sold as herein provided, but no bonds shall be issued in excess of the cost and expense of the project nor shall they be issued prior to twenty days after the thirty days allowed for the payment of assessments without penalty or interest.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, such bonds and warrants may be issued and sold in accordance with chapter 39.46 RCW. [1983 c 167 § 93; 1963 c 4 § 36.88.190. Prior: 1951 c 192 § 19.]

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

**36.88.200 Improvement bonds—Form, contents, execution.** (1) Such bonds shall be numbered from one upwards consecutively, shall be in such denominations as may be provided by the county legislative authority in the resolution authorizing their issuance, shall mature on or before a date not to exceed twenty-two years from and after their date, shall bear interest at such rate or rates as authorized by the legislative authority payable annually or semiannually as may be provided by the legislative authority, shall be signed by the chair of the legislative authority and attested by the county auditor, shall have the seal of the county affixed thereto, and shall be payable at the office of the county treasurer or elsewhere as may be designated by the legislative authority. Such bonds may be in any form, including bearer bonds or registered bonds as provided in RCW 39.46.030. In lieu of any signatures required in this section, the bonds and any coupons may bear the printed or engraved facsimile signatures of said officials.

Such bonds shall refer to the improvement for which they are issued and to the resolution creating the road improvement district therefor.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, such bonds may be issued and sold in accordance with chapter 39.46 RCW. [2009 c 549 § 4143; 1983 c 167 § 94; 1980 c

100 § 5; 1970 ex.s. c 56 § 55; 1969 ex.s. c 232 § 73; 1963 c 4 § 36.88.200. Prior: 1951 c 192 § 20.]

**Purpose—1970 ex.s. c 56:** See note following RCW 39.52.020.

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

**36.88.210 Improvement bonds—Issuance—Sale—Deposit of proceeds.** (1) The bonds issued under the provisions of this chapter may be issued to the contractor or sold by the county legislative authority as authorized by the resolution directing their issuance at not less than their par value and accrued interest to the date of delivery. No bonds shall be sold except at public sale upon competitive bids and a notice calling for bids shall be published once a week for two consecutive weeks in the official newspaper of the county. Such notice shall specify a place and designate a day and hour subsequent to the date of last publication thereof when sealed bids will be received and publicly opened for the purchase of said bonds. The proceeds of all sales of bonds shall be deposited in the county road improvement district fund and applied to the cost and expense of the district.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, such bonds may be sold in accordance with chapter 39.46 RCW. [1983 c 167 § 95; 1963 c 4 § 36.88.210. Prior: 1951 c 192 § 21.]

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

**36.88.220 Improvement bonds—Guaranty fund.** All counties may establish a fund for the purpose of guaranteeing to the extent of such fund and in the manner hereinafter provided, the payment of its road improvement district bonds and warrants issued to pay for any road improvement ordered under this chapter. If the county legislative authority shall determine to establish such fund it shall be designated ". . . . county road improvement guaranty fund" and from moneys available for road purposes such county shall deposit annually in said guaranty fund such sums as may be necessary to establish and maintain a balance therein equal to at least five percent of the outstanding obligations guaranteed thereby and to make necessary provision in its annual budget therefor. The moneys held in the guaranty fund may be invested in accordance with the laws relating to county investments. [1997 c 393 § 7; 1967 ex.s. c 145 § 63; 1963 c 4 § 36.88.220. Prior: 1959 c 134 § 2; 1951 c 192 § 22.]

**36.88.230 Improvement bonds—Guaranty fund in certain counties—Operation.** Whenever there shall be paid out of a guaranty fund any sum on account of principal or interest of a road improvement district bond or warrant, the county, as trustee for the fund, shall be subrogated to all the rights of the owner of the bond or any interest coupon or warrant so paid, and the proceeds thereof, or of the assessment underlying the same, shall become part of the guaranty fund. There shall also be paid into each guaranty fund the interest received from investment of the fund, as well as any surplus remaining in any local improvement fund guaranteed hereunder after the payment of all outstanding bonds or warrants payable primarily out of such road improvement fund. Warrants drawing interest at a rate or rates not to exceed the rate determined by the county legislative authority shall be issued, as other warrants are issued by the county, against a guaranty fund to meet any liability accruing against it, and at the time

of making its annual budget and tax levy the county shall provide from funds available for road purposes for the deposit in the guaranty fund of a sum sufficient with other resources of such fund to pay warrants so issued during the preceding fiscal year. As among the several issues of bonds or warrants guaranteed by the fund no preference shall exist, but defaulted bonds, interest payments, and warrants shall be purchased out of the fund in the order of their presentation.

Every county establishing a guaranty fund for road improvement district bonds or warrants shall prescribe by resolution appropriate rules and regulations for the maintenance and operation of the guaranty fund not inconsistent herewith. So much of the money of a guaranty fund as is necessary may be used to purchase underlying bonds or warrants guaranteed by the fund, or to purchase certificates of delinquency for general taxes on property subject to local improvement assessments, or to purchase such property at tax foreclosures, for the purpose of protecting the guaranty fund. Said fund shall be subrogated to the rights of the county, and the county, acting on behalf of said fund, may foreclose the lien of general tax certificates of delinquency and purchase the property at the foreclosure sale for the account of said fund. Whenever the legislative authority of any county shall so cause a lien of general tax certificates of delinquency to be foreclosed and the property to be so purchased at a foreclosure sale, the court costs and costs of publication and expenses for clerical work and/or other expense incidental thereto, shall be chargeable to and payable from the guaranty fund. After so acquiring title to real property, a county may lease or sell and convey the same at public or private sale for such price and on such terms as may be determined by resolution of the county legislative body, and all proceeds resulting from such sales shall belong to and be paid into the guaranty fund. [1997 c 393 § 8; 1983 c 167 § 96; 1981 c 156 § 12; 1963 c 4 § 36.88.230. Prior: 1951 c 192 § 23.]

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

**36.88.235 Improvement bonds—Guaranty fund assets may be transferred to county general fund—When.**

(1) Any county maintaining a local improvement guaranty fund under this chapter, upon certification by the county treasurer that the local improvement guaranty fund has sufficient funds currently on hand to meet all valid outstanding obligations of the fund and all other obligations of the fund reasonably expected to be incurred in the near future, may by ordinance transfer assets from such fund to its general fund. The net cash of the local improvement guaranty fund may be reduced by such transfer to an amount not less than five percent of the net outstanding obligations guaranteed by such fund.

(2) If, at any time within five years of any transfer of assets from the local improvement guaranty fund to the general fund of the county, the net cash of the local improvement guaranty fund is reduced below the minimum amount specified in subsection (1) of this section, the county shall, to the extent of the amount transferred, pay valid claims against the local improvement guaranty fund as a general obligation of the county. In addition, such county shall pay all reasonable costs of collection necessarily incurred by the holders of valid claims against the local improvement guaranty fund. [1991 c 245 § 12.]

**36.88.240 Improvement bonds—Repayment restricted to special funds—Remedies of bond owner—Notice of restrictions.** The owner of any bond or warrant issued under the provisions of this chapter shall not have any claim therefor against the county by which the same is issued, except for payment from the special assessments made for the improvement for which said bond or warrant was issued and except as against the improvement guaranty fund of such county, and the county shall not be liable to any owner of such bond or warrant for any loss to the guaranty fund occurring in the lawful operation thereof by the county. The remedy of the owner of a bond, or warrant in case of nonpayment, shall be confined to the enforcement of any assessments made in such road improvement district and to the guaranty fund. In case the bonds are guaranteed in accordance herewith a copy of the foregoing part of this section shall be plainly written, printed or engraved on each bond issued and guaranteed hereunder. [1983 c 167 § 97; 1963 c 4 § 36.88.240. Prior: 1951 c 192 § 24.]

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

**36.88.250 Improvement bonds—Remedies of bond owners—Enforcement.** If the board fails to cause any bonds to be paid when due or to promptly collect any assessments when due, the owner of any of the bonds may proceed in his or her own name to collect the assessments and foreclose the lien thereof in any court of competent jurisdiction and shall recover in addition to the amount of the bonds outstanding in his or her name, interest thereon at five percent per annum, together with the costs of suit, including a reasonable attorney's fee to be fixed by the court. Any number of owners of bonds for any single project may join as plaintiffs and any number of the owners of property upon which the assessments are liens may be joined as defendants in the same suit. [2009 c 549 § 4144; 1963 c 4 § 36.88.250. Prior: 1951 c 192 § 25.]

**36.88.260 Assessment where bonds issued—Payment in installments.** In all cases where the board shall issue bonds to pay the cost and expense of any county road improvement district and shall provide that the whole or any part of the cost and expense shall be assessed against the lots, tracts, parcels of land, and other property therein, the resolution levying such assessment shall provide that the sum charged thereby against each lot, tract, or parcel of land or any portion of said sum may be paid during the thirty day period provided for in RCW 36.88.270 and that thereafter the sum remaining unpaid may be paid in equal annual installments, the number of which installments shall be less by two than the number of years which the bonds issued to pay for the improvement may run. Interest upon all unpaid installments shall be charged at a rate fixed by said resolution. Each year such installments together with interest due thereon shall be collected in the manner provided in the resolution for the collection of the assessments. [1963 c 4 § 36.88.260. Prior: 1951 c 192 § 26.]

**36.88.270 Assessment where bonds issued—Payment in cash—Notice of assessment.** The owner of any lot, tract, or parcel of land, or other property charged with any such assessments may redeem the same from all or any portion of

the liability for the cost and expense of such improvement by paying the entire assessment or any portion thereof charged against such lot, tract, or parcel of land without interest within thirty days after notice to him or her of such assessment, which notice shall be given as follows: The county treasurer shall, as soon as the assessment roll has been placed in his or her hands for collection, publish a notice for two consecutive daily or weekly issues in the official newspaper of the county in which the district is located, which notice shall state that the assessment roll is in his or her hands for collection and that any assessment thereon or any portion of such assessment may be paid at any time within thirty days from the date of the first publication of said notice without penalty interest or costs. [2009 c 549 § 4145; 1963 c 4 § 36.88.270. Prior: 1951 c 192 § 27.]

**36.88.280 Assessment where bonds issued—Payment in cash during installment period—Duties of county treasurer—Use of funds.** The owners of any lot, tract, or parcel of land may save the same from all liability for the unpaid amount of the assessment, at any time after the thirty-day period herein provided for their payment without interest, by paying the entire amount or all installments on said assessment together with all interest due to the date of maturity of any installment next falling due. All such payments shall be made to the county treasurer whose duty it shall be to collect all assessments under this chapter and all sums so paid or collected shall be applied solely to the payment of the cost and expense of the district and payment of principal and/or interest of any bonds issued. [1963 c 4 § 36.88.280. Prior: 1951 c 192 § 28.]

**36.88.290 Limitation of actions.** An action to collect any special assessment or installment thereof for road improvements, or to enforce the lien of any such assessment or installment, whether such action be brought by the county or by the holder of any certificate of delinquency, or by any other person having the right to bring such action, shall be commenced within ten years after such assessment shall have become delinquent or within ten years after the last installment of any such assessment shall have become delinquent, when said special assessment is payable in installments.

Actions to set aside or cancel any deed issued after midnight, June 6, 1951, upon the sale of property for road improvement assessments, or for the recovery of property sold for delinquent road improvement assessments must be brought within three years from and after date of the issuance of such deed. [1963 c 4 § 36.88.290. Prior: 1951 c 192 § 29.]

**36.88.295 Refunding bonds—Limitations.** The legislative authority of any county may issue and sell bonds to refund outstanding road improvement district or consolidated road improvement district bonds issued after June 7, 1984, on the earliest date such outstanding bonds may be redeemed following the date of issuance of such refunding bonds. Such refunding shall be subject to the following:

(1) The refunding shall result in a net interest cost savings after paying the costs and expenses of the refunding, and the principal amount of the refunding bonds may not exceed the principal balance of the assessment roll or rolls pledged to pay the bonds being refunded at the time of the refunding.



(2) The refunding bonds shall be paid from the same local improvement fund or bond redemption fund as the bonds being refunded.

(3) The costs and expenses of the refunding shall be paid from the proceeds of the refunding bonds, or the same road improvement district fund or bond redemption fund for the bonds being refunded, except the county may advance such costs and expenses to such fund pending the receipt of assessment payments available to reimburse such advances.

(4) The last maturity of refunding bonds shall be no later than one year after the last maturity of bonds being refunded.

(5) The refunding bonds may be exchanged for the bonds being refunded or may be sold in the same manner permitted at the time of sale for road improvement district bonds.

(6) All other provisions of law applicable to the refunded bonds shall apply to the refunding bonds. [1984 c 186 § 67.]

**Purpose—1984 c 186:** See note following RCW 39.46.110.

**36.88.300 District costs and expenses—What to include.** Whenever any district is organized hereunder, there shall be included in the cost and expense thereof: (1) The cost of all of the construction or improvement authorized in the district, including that portion of the construction or improvement within the limits of any street or road intersection, space or spaces; (2) the estimated costs and expenses of all engineering and surveying necessary to be done by the county engineer or under his or her direction or by such other engineer as may be employed by the county commissioners; (3) the cost of all advertising, mailing, and publishing of all notices; (4) the cost of legal services and any other expenses incurred by the county for the district or in the formation thereof, or by the district in connection with such construction or improvement and in the financing thereof, including the issuance of any bonds. [2009 c 549 § 4146; 1963 c 4 § 36.88.300. Prior: 1951 c 192 § 30.]

**36.88.305 District costs and expenses—Credit or reduction of assessments.** At its option, a county may include the value of right-of-way or property that is donated or given to the county for purposes of an improvement to be financed by a road improvement district, together with the costs of acquiring other rights-of-way or property for the improvement that was not donated or given to the county, in the costs of the improvement and credit or reduce the assessments imposed on benefited property for the value of the right-of-way or property that the owner of the benefited property donated or gave to the county for the improvement. [1991 c 363 § 90.]

**Purpose—Captions not law—1991 c 363:** See notes following RCW 2.32.180.

**36.88.310 Acquisition of property—Eminent domain.** All land, premises or property necessary for right-of-way or other purposes in the construction or improvement of any county road, including bridges, sidewalks, curbs and gutters and the drainage facilities therefor, under this chapter may be acquired by the county acting through its board of county commissioners, either by gift, purchase or by condemnation. In the event of any exercise of the power of eminent domain, the procedure shall be the same as is provided by law for the securing of right-of-way for county roads. The

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title to all property acquired for any construction or improvement under this chapter shall be taken in the name of the county. The county commissioners in any eminent domain action brought to secure any property for construction or improvement under this chapter may pay any final judgment entered in such action with county road funds and take possession of the particular property condemned. In the event of any such payment the county commissioners may require that the county road fund be reimbursed out of the particular county road improvement fund of the district for which the property was acquired. [1963 c 4 § 36.88.310. Prior: 1951 c 192 § 31.]

**36.88.320 Construction or improvement—Supervision—Contracts—Standards.** All construction or improvement performed under this chapter shall be under the direction of the board of county commissioners, acting by and through the county road engineer, or such other engineer as the board of county commissioners shall designate. Contracts let and/or work performed upon all construction or improvement hereunder shall be in accordance with the laws pertaining to work upon county roads. The construction and improvement standards of the respective counties for engineering and performance of work, shall apply to all construction or improvement under this chapter. [1963 c 4 § 36.88.320. Prior: 1951 c 192 § 32.]

**36.88.330 Warrants—Issuance—Priority—Acceptance.** The board may provide by resolution for the issuance of warrants in payment of the costs and expenses of any project, payable out of the county road improvement fund. The warrants shall be redeemed either in cash or by bonds for the same project authorized by the resolution.

All warrants issued against any such improvement fund shall be claims and liens against said fund prior and superior to any right, lien or claim of any surety upon the bond given to the county by or for the contract to secure the performance of his or her contract or to secure the payment of persons who have performed work thereon, furnished materials therefor, or furnished provisions and supplies for the carrying on of the work.

The county treasurer may accept warrants against any county road improvement fund upon such conditions as the board may prescribe in payment of: (1) Assessments levied to supply that fund in due order of priority; (2) judgments rendered against property owners who have become delinquent in the payment of assessments to that fund; and (3) certificates of purchase in cases where property of delinquents has been sold under execution or at tax sale for failure to pay assessments levied to supply that fund. [2009 c 549 § 4147; 1980 c 100 § 6; 1963 c 4 § 36.88.330. Prior: 1951 c 192 § 33.]

**36.88.340 Participation of county road fund—Arrangements with other public agencies, private utilities.** Except as they may establish continuing guaranty fund requirements, the board of county commissioners shall be the sole judges as to the extent of county road fund participation in any project under this chapter and the decisions of the board shall be final; the said board may receive grants from or contract with any other county, municipal corporation, public agency or the state or federal government in order to

effect any construction or improvement hereunder, including the construction, installation, improvement, operation, maintenance of and furnishing electric energy for any street and road lighting system, and to effect the construction, installation, improvement, operation and maintenance of and furnishing electric energy for any such street and road lighting system, may contract with any private utility corporation. [1963 c 4 § 36.88.340. Prior: 1953 c 152 § 2; 1951 c 192 § 34.]

**36.88.350 Maintenance—Expense.** After the completion of any construction or improvement under this chapter, all maintenance thereof shall be performed by the county at the expense of the county road fund, excepting furnishing electric energy for and operating and maintaining street and road lighting systems: PROVIDED, That maintenance of canal protection improvements may, at the option of the board of commissioners of the county, be required of the irrigation, drainage, flood control, or other district, agency, person, corporation, or association maintaining the canal or ditch. If such option is exercised reimbursement must be made by the county for all actual costs of such maintenance. [1963 c 4 § 36.88.350. Prior: 1959 c 75 § 8; 1953 c 152 § 3; 1951 c 192 § 35.]

**36.88.360 State, county, school, municipal corporation lands—Assessment—Recipients of notices, ballots.** Lands owned by the state, county, school district or any municipal corporation may be assessed and charged for road improvements authorized under this chapter in the same manner and subject to the same conditions as provided by law for assessments against such property for local improvements in cities and towns.

All notices and ballots provided for herein affecting state lands shall be sent to the department of natural resources whose designated agent is hereby authorized to sign petitions or ballots on behalf of the state. In the case of counties or municipal or quasi municipal bodies notices and ballots shall be sent to the legislative authority of said counties or municipality and petitions or ballots shall be signed by the officer duly empowered to act by said legislative authority. [1963 c 4 § 36.88.360. Prior: 1951 c 192 § 36.]

**36.88.370 Signatures on petitions, ballots, objections—Determining sufficiency.** Wherever herein petitions, ballots or objections are required to be signed by the owners of property, the following rules shall govern the sufficiency thereof: (1) The signature of the record owner as determined by the records of the county auditor shall be sufficient without the signature of his or her spouse; (2) in the case of mortgaged property, the signature of the mortgagor shall be sufficient; (3) in the case of property purchased on contract the signature of the contract purchaser shall be deemed sufficient; (4) any officer of a corporation owning land in the district duly authorized to execute deeds or encumbrances on behalf of the corporation may sign on behalf of such corporation: PROVIDED, That there shall be attached to the ballot or petition a certified excerpt from the bylaws showing such authority; (5) if any property in the district stands in the name of a deceased person or any person for whom a guardian has been appointed, the signature of the

executor, administrator or guardian as the case may be shall be equivalent to the signature of the owner of the property. [1963 c 84 § 6; 1963 c 4 § 36.88.370. Prior: 1951 c 192 § 37.]

**36.88.375 Consolidated road improvement districts—Establishment—Bonds.** For the purpose of issuing bonds only, the governing body of any county may authorize the establishment of consolidated road improvement districts. The road improvements within such consolidated districts need not be adjoining, vicinal, or neighboring. If the governing body orders the creation of such consolidated road improvement districts, the money received from the installment payments of the principal of and interest on assessments levied within original road improvement districts shall be deposited in a consolidated road improvement district bond redemption fund to be used to redeem outstanding consolidated road improvement district bonds. The issuance of bonds of a consolidated road improvement district shall not change the number of assessment installments in the original road improvement districts, but such bonds shall run two years longer than the longest assessment installment of such original districts. [1981 c 313 § 19.]

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

**36.88.380 Safeguarding open canals or ditches—Assessments and benefits.** Whenever a county road improvement district is established for the safeguarding of open canals or ditches as authorized by RCW 36.88.015 the rate of assessment per square foot in the district may be determined by any one of the methods provided in chapter 35.44 RCW for similar improvements in cities or towns, and the land specially benefited by such improvements shall be the same as provided in chapter 35.43 RCW for similar improvements in cities or towns. [1963 c 4 § 36.88.380. Prior: 1959 c 75 § 5.]

**36.88.390 Safeguarding open canals or ditches—Authority.** Every county shall have the right of entry upon every irrigation, drainage, or flood control canal or ditch right-of-way within its boundaries for all purposes necessary to safeguard the public from the hazards of open canals or ditches, including the right to clean such canals or ditches to prevent their flooding adjacent lands, and the right to cause to be constructed and maintained on such rights-of-way or adjacent thereto safeguards as authorized by RCW 36.88.015: PROVIDED, That such safeguards must not unreasonably interfere with maintenance of the canal or ditch or with the operation thereof. [1963 c 4 § 36.88.390. Prior: 1959 c 75 § 6.]

**36.88.400 Safeguarding open canals or ditches—Installation and construction—Costs.** Any county, establishing a road improvement district for canal protection, notwithstanding any laws to the contrary, may require the district, agency, person, corporation, or association, public or private, which operates and maintains the canal or ditch to supervise the installation and construction of safeguards, and must make reimbursement to said operator for all actual costs incurred and expended. [1963 c 4 § 36.88.400. Prior: 1959 c 75 § 7.]

**36.88.410 Underground electric and communication facilities, installation or conversion to—Declaration of public interest and purpose.** It is hereby found and declared that the conversion of overhead electric and communication facilities to underground facilities and the initial underground installation of such facilities is substantially beneficial to the public safety and welfare, is in the public interest and is a public purpose, notwithstanding any resulting incidental private benefit to any electric or communication utility affected by such conversion or installation. [1971 ex.s. c 103 § 1; 1967 c 194 § 1.]

*Cities and towns, conversion of overhead electric and communication facilities to underground facilities: Chapter 35.96 RCW.*

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

**36.88.420 Underground electric and communication facilities, installation or conversion to—Definitions.** As used in RCW 36.88.410 through 36.88.480, unless specifically defined otherwise, or unless the context indicates otherwise:

"Conversion area" means that area in which existing overhead electric and communication facilities are to be converted to underground facilities pursuant to the provisions of RCW 36.88.410 through 36.88.480.

"Electric utility" means any publicly or privately owned utility engaged in the business of furnishing electric energy to the public in all or part of the conversion area and includes electrical companies as defined by RCW 80.04.010 and public utility districts.

"Communication utility" means any utility engaged in the business of affording telephonic, telegraphic, cable television or other communication service to the public in all or part of the conversion area and includes telephone companies and telegraph companies as defined by RCW 80.04.010. [1967 c 194 § 2.]

**36.88.430 Underground electric and communication facilities, installation or conversion to—Powers of county relating to—Contracts—County road improvement districts—Special assessments.** Every county shall have the power to contract with electric and communication utilities, as hereinafter provided, for any or all of the following purposes:

(1) The conversion of existing overhead electric facilities to underground facilities.

(2) The conversion of existing overhead communication facilities to underground facilities.

(3) The conversion of existing street and road lighting facilities to ornamental street and road lighting facilities to be served from underground electrical facilities.

(4) The initial installation, in accordance with the limitations set forth in RCW 36.88.015, or [of] ornamental street and road lighting facilities to be served from underground electrical facilities.

(5) The initial installation of underground electric and communication facilities.

(6) Any combination of the improvements provided for in this section.

To provide funds to pay the whole or any part of the cost of any such conversion or initial installation, together with the expense of furnishing electric energy, maintenance and

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operation to any ornamental street lighting facilities served from underground electrical facilities, every county shall have the power to create county road improvement districts and to levy and collect special assessments against the real property specially benefited by such conversion or initial installation. For the purpose of ascertaining the amount to be assessed against each lot or parcel of land within any county road improvement district established pursuant to RCW 36.88.410 through 36.88.480, in addition to other methods provided by law for apportioning special benefits, the county commissioners may apportion all or part of the special benefits accruing on a square footage basis or on a per lot basis.

That portion of the assessments levied in any county road improvement district to pay part of the cost of the initial installation of underground electric and communication facilities shall not exceed the cost of such installation, less the estimated cost of constructing overhead facilities providing equivalent service. [1971 ex.s. c 103 § 2; 1967 c 194 § 3.]

**36.88.440 Underground electric and communication facilities, installation or conversion to—Contracts with electric and communication utilities—Authorized—Provisions.** Every county shall have the power to contract with electric and communication utilities for the conversion of existing overhead electric and communication facilities to underground facilities, for the conversion of existing street and road lighting facilities to ornamental street and road lighting facilities to be served from underground electrical facilities[,] for the initial installation of ornamental street and road lighting facilities to be served from underground electrical facilities and for the initial installation of underground electric and communication facilities. Such contracts may provide, among other provisions, any of the following:

(1) For the supplying and approval by the electric and communication utilities of plans and specifications for such conversion or installation;

(2) For the payment to the electric and communication utilities for any work performed or services rendered by it in connection with the conversion project or installation;

(3) For the payment to the electric and communication utilities for the value of the overhead facilities removed pursuant to the conversion;

(4) For ownership of the underground facilities and the ornamental street and road lighting facilities by the electric and communication utilities. [1971 ex.s. c 103 § 3; 1967 c 194 § 4.]

**36.88.450 Underground electric and communication facilities, installation or conversion to—Notice to owners to convert service lines to underground—Objections—Hearing—Time limitation for conversion.** When service from the underground electric and communication facilities is available in all or part of a conversion area, the county shall mail a notice to the owners of all structures or improvements served from the existing overhead facilities in the area, which notice shall state that:

(1) Service from the underground facilities is available;

(2) All electric and communication service lines from the existing overhead facilities within the area to any structure or improvement must be disconnected and removed within one

hundred twenty days after the date of the mailing of the notice;

(3) Should such owner fail to convert such service lines from overhead to underground within one hundred twenty days after the date of the mailing of the notice, the county will order the electric and communication utilities to disconnect and remove the service lines;

(4) Should the owner object to the disconnection and removal of the service lines he or she may file his or her written objections thereto with the secretary of the board of county commissioners within one hundred twenty days after the date of the mailing of the notice and failure to so object within such time will constitute a waiver of his or her right thereafter to object to such disconnection and removal.

If the owner of any structure or improvement served from the existing overhead electric and communication facilities within a conversion area shall fail to convert to underground the service lines from such overhead facilities to such structure or improvement within one hundred twenty days after the mailing to him or her of the notice, the county shall order the electric and communication utilities to disconnect and remove all such service lines: PROVIDED, That if the owner has filed his or her written objections to such disconnection and removal with the secretary of the board of county commissioners within one hundred twenty days after the mailing of said notice then the county shall not order such disconnection and removal until after the hearing on such objections.

Upon the timely filing by the owner of objections to the disconnection and removal of the service lines, the board of county commissioners shall conduct a hearing to determine whether the removal of all or any part of the service lines is in the public benefit. The hearing shall be held at such time as the board of county commissioners may establish for hearings on such objections and shall be held in accordance with the regularly established procedure set by the board. The determination reached by the board of county commissioners shall be final in the absence of an abuse of discretion. [2009 c 549 § 4148; 1967 c 194 § 5.]

**36.88.460 Underground electric and communication facilities, installation or conversion to—Utility conversion guaranty fund—Establishment authorized—Purpose—Deposits—Investments.** Every county may establish a fund for the purpose of guaranteeing to the extent of such fund and in the manner hereinafter provided, the payment of its county road improvement district bonds and warrants issued to pay for the underground conversion of electric and communication facilities and the underground conversion or installation of ornamental road and street lighting facilities ordered under this chapter. If the board of county commissioners shall determine to establish such fund it shall be designated ". . . . utility conversion guaranty fund" and from moneys available such county shall deposit annually in said guaranty fund such sums as may be necessary to establish and maintain a balance therein equal to at least five percent of the outstanding obligations guaranteed thereby and to make necessary provision in its annual budget therefor. The moneys held in the guaranty fund may be invested in certificates, notes, or bonds of the United States of America, or in state, county, municipal or school district bonds, or in warrants of taxing

districts of the state; provided, only, that such bonds and warrants shall be general obligations. [1967 c 194 § 6.]

**36.88.470 Underground electric and communication facilities, installation or conversion to—Utility conversion guaranty fund—Operation.** Whenever there shall be paid out of the guaranty fund any sum on account of principal or interest of a county road improvement district bond or warrant, the county, as trustee for the fund, shall be subrogated to all the rights of the owner of the bond or any interest coupon or warrant so paid, and the proceeds thereof, or of the assessment underlying the same, shall become part of the guaranty fund. There shall also be paid into each guaranty fund the interest received from investments of the fund, as well as any surplus remaining in any county road improvement fund guaranteed hereunder after the payment of all outstanding bonds or warrants payable primarily out of such utility conversion county road improvement district fund. Warrants drawing interest at a rate or rates not to exceed the rate determined by the county legislative authority shall be issued, as other warrants are issued by the county, against the guaranty fund to meet any liability accruing against it, and at the time of making its annual budget and tax levy the county shall provide from funds available for the deposit in the guaranty fund of a sum sufficient with other resources of such fund to pay warrants so issued during the preceding fiscal year. As among the several issues of bonds or warrants guaranteed by the fund no preference shall exist, but defaulted bonds, interest payments, and warrants shall be purchased out of the fund in the order of their presentation.

Every county establishing a guaranty fund for utility conversion road improvement district bonds or warrants shall prescribe by resolution appropriate rules and regulations for the maintenance and operation of such guaranty fund not inconsistent herewith. So much of the money of a guaranty fund as is necessary may be used to purchase underlying bonds or warrants guaranteed by the fund, or to purchase certificates of delinquency for general taxes on property subject to local improvement assessments, or to purchase such property at tax foreclosures, for the purpose of protecting the guaranty fund. The fund shall be subrogated to the rights of the county and the county, acting on behalf of the fund, may foreclose the lien of general tax certificates of delinquency and purchase the property at the foreclosure sale for the account of said fund. Whenever the legislative authority of any county shall so cause a lien of general tax certificates of delinquency to be foreclosed and the property to be so purchased at a foreclosure sale, the court costs and costs of publication and expenses for clerical work and/or other expense incidental thereto, shall be chargeable to and payable from the guaranty fund. After so acquiring title to real property, a county may lease or sell and convey the same at public or private sale for such price and on such terms as may be determined by resolution of the county legislative authority, and all proceeds resulting from such sales shall belong to and be paid into the guaranty fund. [1983 c 167 § 98; 1981 c 156 § 13; 1967 c 194 § 7.]

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

**36.88.480 Underground electric and communication facilities, installation or conversion to—Applicability of**

**general provisions relating to county road improvement districts.** Unless otherwise provided in RCW 36.88.410 through 36.88.480, the general provisions relating to county road improvement districts shall apply to local improvements authorized by RCW 36.88.410 through 36.88.480. [1967 c 194 § 8.]

**36.88.485 Underground electric and communication facilities, installation or conversion to—Recording of underground utility installations.** All installations of underground utilities made on and after August 9, 1971 shall be recorded on an "as constructed" map and filed with the county engineer of the county in which the underground utilities are installed. [1971 ex.s. c 103 § 4.]

**36.88.900 Construction—Chapter applicable to state registered domestic partnerships—2009 c 521.** For the purposes of this chapter, the terms spouse, marriage, marital, husband, wife, widow, widower, next of kin, and family shall be interpreted as applying equally to state registered domestic partnerships or individuals in state registered domestic partnerships as well as to marital relationships and married persons, and references to dissolution of marriage shall apply equally to state registered domestic partnerships that have been terminated, dissolved, or invalidated, to the extent that such interpretation does not conflict with federal law. Where necessary to implement chapter 521, Laws of 2009, gender-specific terms such as husband and wife used in any statute, rule, or other law shall be construed to be gender neutral, and applicable to individuals in state registered domestic partnerships. [2009 c 521 § 82.]

### Chapter 36.89 RCW

#### HIGHWAYS—OPEN SPACES—PARKS—OTHER PUBLIC FACILITIES—STORMWATER CONTROL

##### Sections

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36.89.120	Stormwater control facilities—Annexation, incorporation of area by city or town—Imposition of rates and charges by county.
36.89.130	Cooperative watershed management.
36.89.900	Effective date—1967 c 109.

*Assessments and charges against state lands: Chapter 79.44 RCW.*

(2022 Ed.)

**36.89.010 Definitions.** The words "governmental agency" as used in this chapter mean the United States of America, the state or any agency, subdivision, taxing district or municipal or quasi municipal corporation thereof.

The word "highways" as used in this chapter means all public roads, streets, expressways, parkways, scenic drives, bridges and other public ways, including without limitation, traffic control facilities, special lanes, turnouts or structures in, upon, over or under such public ways for exclusive or nonexclusive use by public transit vehicles, and landscaping, visual and sound buffers between such public ways and adjacent properties.

The words "open space, park, recreation and community facilities" as used in this chapter mean any public facility, improvement, development, property or right or interest therein for public park, recreational, green belt, arboretum, multi-purpose community center (as defined in RCW 35.59.010), museum, zoo, aquarium, auditorium, exhibition, athletic, historic, scenic, viewpoint, aesthetic, ornamental or natural resource preservation purposes.

The words "public health and safety facilities" as used in this chapter mean any public facility, improvement, development, property or right or interest therein, made, constructed or acquired for the purpose of protecting life from disease or injury, enforcing the criminal and civil laws or protecting property from damage caused by breach of law, including but not limited to public hospitals, health laboratories, public health clinics or service centers, custodial, correction or rehabilitation facilities, courtrooms, crime laboratories, law enforcement equipment and facilities, training facilities for specialized personnel, facilities for the collection, storage, retrieval or communication of information, and mobile, support or administrative facilities, all as necessary for the foregoing purpose, or any combination of the facilities herein described.

The words "stormwater control facilities" as used in this chapter mean any facility, improvement, development, property or interest therein, made, constructed or acquired for the purpose of controlling, or protecting life or property from, any storm, waste, flood or surplus waters wherever located within the county, and shall include but not be limited to the improvements and authority described in RCW 86.12.020 and chapters 86.13 and 86.15 RCW.

The word "county" as used in this chapter shall mean any county of the state of Washington. [1970 ex.s. c 30 § 1; 1967 c 109 § 1.]

**36.89.020 Purpose.** The legislature finds that the open spaces, park, recreation and community facilities, public health and safety facilities, stormwater control facilities and highways within any county of this state, whether located partly or wholly within or without the cities and towns of such county are of general benefit to all of the residents of such county. The open spaces, park, recreation and community facilities within such county provide public recreation, aesthetic, conservation and educational opportunities and other services and benefits accessible to all of the residents of such county. The public health and safety facilities within such county provide protection to life and property throughout the county, are functionally inter-related and affect the health, safety and welfare of all the residents of such county.

The stormwater control facilities within such county provide protection from stormwater damage for life and property throughout the county, generally require planning and development over the entire drainage basins, and affect the prosperity, interests and welfare of all the residents of such county. The highways within such county, whether under the general control of the county or the state or within the limits of any incorporated city or town, provide an inter-connected system for the convenient and efficient movement of people and goods within such county. The use of general county funds for the purpose of acquisition, development, construction, or improvement of open space, park, recreation and community facilities, public health and safety facilities, stormwater control facilities, or highways or to participate with any governmental agency to perform such purposes within such county pursuant to this chapter is hereby declared to be a strictly county purpose. [1970 ex.s. c 30 § 2; 1967 c 109 § 2.]

**36.89.030 Authority to establish, acquire, develop, construct, and improve highways, open spaces, parks, etc.** Counties are authorized to establish, acquire, develop, construct, and improve open space, park, recreation, and community facilities, public health and safety facilities, stormwater control facilities, and highways or any of them pursuant to the provisions of this chapter within and without the cities and towns of the county and for such purposes have the power to acquire lands, buildings and other facilities by gift, grant, purchase, condemnation, lease, devise, and bequest, to construct, improve, or maintain buildings, structures, and facilities necessary for such purposes, and to use and develop for such purposes the air rights over and the subsurface rights under any highway. The approval of the state department of transportation shall be first secured for such use and development of any state highway. For visual or sound buffer purposes the county shall not acquire by condemnation less than an owner's entire interest or right in the particular real property to be so acquired if the owner objects to the taking of a lesser interest or right. [1984 c 7 § 42; 1970 ex.s. c 30 § 3; 1967 c 109 § 3.]

*Acquisition of interests in land for conservation, protection, preservation, or open space purposes by counties: RCW 64.04.130.*

*Flood control, county powers: RCW 86.12.020.*

**36.89.040 Issuance of general obligation bonds—****Proposition submitted to voters.** To carry out the purposes of this chapter counties shall have the power to issue general obligation bonds within the limitations now or hereafter prescribed by the Constitution and laws of this state. Such general obligation bonds shall be issued and sold as provided in chapter 39.46 RCW.

The question of issuance of bonds for any undertaking which relates to a number of different highways or parts thereof, whether situated wholly or partly within the limits of any city or town within the county, and whether such bonds are intended to supply the whole expenditure or to participate therein, may be submitted to the voters of the county as a single proposition. If the county legislative authority in submitting a proposition relating to different highways or parts thereof declare that such proposition has for its object the furtherance and accomplishment of the construction of a system

of connected public highways within such county and constitutes a single purpose, such declaration shall be presumed to be correct and upon the issuance of the bonds the presumption shall become conclusive.

The question of the issuance of bonds for any undertaking which relates to a number of different open spaces, park, recreation and community facilities, whether situated wholly or partly within the limits of any city or town within the county, and whether such bonds are intended to supply the whole expenditure or to participate therein may be submitted to the voters as a single proposition. If the county legislative authority in submitting a proposition relating to different open spaces, park, recreation and community facilities declare that such proposition has for its object the furtherance, accomplishment or preservation of an open space, park, recreation and community facilities system available to, and for the benefit of, all the residents of such county and constitutes a single purpose, such declaration shall be presumed to be correct and upon the issuance of the bonds the presumption shall become conclusive.

The question of the issuance of bonds for any undertaking which relates to a number of different public health and safety facilities, whether situated wholly or partly within the limits of any city or town within the county, and whether such bonds are intended to supply the whole expenditure or to participate therein may be submitted to the voters as a single proposition. If the county legislative authority in submitting a proposition relating to different public health and safety facilities declare that such proposition has for its object the furtherance or accomplishment of a system of public health and safety facilities for the benefit of all the residents of such county and constitutes a single purpose, such declaration shall be presumed to be correct and upon the issuance of the bonds the presumption shall become conclusive.

The question of the issuance of bonds for any undertaking which relates to a number of different stormwater control facilities, whether situated wholly or partly within the limits of any city or town within the county, and whether such bonds are intended to supply the whole expenditure or to participate therein may be submitted to the voters as a single proposition. If the county legislative authority in submitting a proposition relating to different stormwater control facilities declares that such proposition has for its object the furtherance, accomplishment or preservation of a stormwater control facilities system for the benefit of all the residents of such county and constitutes a single purpose, such declaration shall be presumed to be correct and upon the issuance of the bonds the presumption shall become conclusive.

Elections shall be held as provided in RCW 39.36.050. [1984 c 186 § 34; 1983 c 167 § 99; 1970 ex.s. c 30 § 4; 1967 c 109 § 4.]

**Purpose—1984 c 186:** See note following RCW 39.46.110.

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

**36.89.042 Issuance of general obligation bonds—****Payment from revenue—Additional method.** In issuing general obligation bonds at any time after February 20, 1970 for the purpose of providing all or part of the cost and expense of planning and design, establishing, acquiring, developing, constructing or improving the county capital purposes authorized by this chapter and RCW 86.12.020, the

board of county commissioners may provide that such bonds also be made payable from any otherwise unpledged revenue which may be derived from the ownership or operation of any such properties or facilities. [1970 ex.s. c 30 § 6.]

**36.89.050 Participation by other governmental agencies.** A county may finance, acquire, construct, develop, improve, maintain and operate any open space, park, recreation and community facilities, public health and safety facilities, stormwater control facilities and highways authorized by this chapter either solely or in conjunction with one or more governmental agencies. Any governmental agency is authorized to participate in such financing, acquisition, construction, development, improvement, use, maintenance and operation and to convey, dedicate or lease any lands, properties or facilities to any county for the purposes provided in this chapter and RCW 86.12.020, on such terms as may be fixed by agreement between the respective governing commissions or legislative bodies without submitting the matter to a vote of the electors unless the provisions of general law applicable to the incurring of public indebtedness shall require such submission.

No county shall proceed under the authority of this chapter to construct or improve any stormwater control facility or highway or part thereof lying within the limits of a city or town except with the prior consent of such city or town. By agreement between their respective legislative bodies, cities, towns and counties may provide that upon completion of any stormwater control facility or highway or portion thereof constructed pursuant to this chapter within any city or town, the city or town shall accept the same for maintenance and operation and that such stormwater control facility or highway or portion thereof shall thereupon become a part of the respective stormwater control facility or highway system of the city or town.

A county may transfer to any other governmental agency the ownership, operation and maintenance of any open space, park, recreation and community facility acquired by the county pursuant to this chapter, which lies wholly or partly within such governmental agency, pursuant to an agreement entered into between the legislative bodies of the county and such governmental agency: PROVIDED, That such transfer shall be subject to the condition that either such facility shall continue to be used for the same purposes or that other equivalent facilities within the county shall be conveyed to the county in exchange therefor. [1970 ex.s. c 30 § 5; 1967 c 109 § 5.]

**36.89.060 Powers and authority are supplemental.** The powers and authority conferred upon governmental agencies under the provisions of this chapter, shall be construed as in addition and supplemental to powers or authority conferred by any other law, and nothing contained herein shall be construed as limiting any other powers or authority of such governmental agencies. [1967 c 109 § 6.]

**36.89.062 Power and authority of counties are supplemental.** The power and authority conferred upon counties by this chapter and RCW 86.12.020 shall be in addition and supplemental to those already granted and shall not limit any

other powers or authority of such counties. [1970 ex.s. c 30 § 13.]

**36.89.065 Lien for delinquent charges.** The county shall have a lien for delinquent charges, including interest, penalties, and costs of foreclosure thereon, against any property against which they were levied for the purposes authorized by this chapter, which lien shall be superior to all other liens and encumbrances except general taxes and local and special assessments. Such lien shall be effective upon the charges becoming delinquent and shall be enforced and foreclosed in the same manner as provided for sewerage liens of cities and towns by RCW 35.67.200 through 35.67.290. However, a county may, by resolution or ordinance, adopt all or any part of the alternative interest rate, lien, and foreclosure procedures as set forth in RCW 36.89.092 through 36.89.094 or 36.94.150, or chapters 84.56, 84.60, and 84.64 RCW. [2007 c 295 § 4; 1991 c 36 § 1; 1987 c 241 § 1; 1970 ex.s. c 30 § 8. Formerly RCW 36.89.090.]

**36.89.080 Stormwater control facilities—Rates and charges—Limitations—Use.** (1) Subject to subsections (2) and (3) of this section, any county legislative authority may provide by resolution for revenues by fixing rates and charges for the furnishing of service to those served or receiving benefits or to be served or to receive benefits from any stormwater control facility or contributing to an increase of surface water runoff. In fixing rates and charges, the county legislative authority may in its discretion consider:

- (a) Services furnished or to be furnished;
- (b) Benefits received or to be received;
- (c) The character and use of land or its water runoff characteristics;
- (d) The public benefit nonprofit corporation status, as defined in RCW 24.03A.245, of the land user;
- (e) Income level of persons served or provided benefits under this chapter, including senior citizens and individuals with disabilities; or
- (f) Any other matters which present a reasonable difference as a ground for distinction.

(2) The rate a county may charge under this section for stormwater control facilities shall be reduced by a minimum of ten percent for any new or remodeled commercial building that utilizes a permissive rainwater harvesting system. Rainwater harvesting systems shall be properly sized to utilize the available roof surface of the building. The jurisdiction shall consider rate reductions in excess of ten percent dependent upon the amount of rainwater harvested.

(3) Rates and charges authorized under this section may not be imposed on lands taxed as forestland under chapter 84.33 RCW or as timberland under chapter 84.34 RCW.

(4) The service charges and rates collected shall be deposited in a special fund or funds in the county treasury to be used only for the purpose of paying all or any part of the cost and expense of maintaining and operating stormwater control facilities, all or any part of the cost and expense of planning, designing, establishing, acquiring, developing, constructing and improving any of such facilities, or to pay or secure the payment of all or any portion of any issue of general obligation or revenue bonds issued for such purpose.

[2021 c 176 § 5214; 2003 c 394 § 3; 1998 c 74 § 1; 1995 c 124 § 1; 1970 ex.s. c 30 § 7.]

**Effective date—2021 c 176:** See note following RCW 24.03A.005.

*Sewerage, water, and drainage systems: Chapter 36.94 RCW.*

**36.89.085 Stormwater control facilities—Public property subject to rates and charges.** Except as otherwise provided in RCW 90.03.525, any public entity and public property, including the state of Washington and state property, shall be subject to rates and charges for stormwater control facilities to the same extent private persons and private property are subject to such rates and charges that are imposed by counties pursuant to RCW 36.89.080. In setting these rates and charges, consideration may be made of in-kind services, such as stream improvements or donation of property. [1986 c 278 § 57; 1983 c 315 § 3.]

*Flood control zone districts—Stormwater control improvements: Chapter 86.15 RCW.*

*Rates and charges for stormwater control facilities—Limitations—Definitions: RCW 90.03.500 through 90.03.525. See also RCW 35.67.025, 35.92.021, and 36.94.145.*

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

**36.89.092 Stormwater control facilities—Alternative interest rate on delinquent charges.** Any county may provide, by resolution or ordinance, that delinquent stormwater service charges bear interest at a rate of twelve percent per annum, computed on a monthly basis, in lieu of the interest rate provided for in RCW 35.67.200. [1987 c 241 § 2.]

**36.89.093 Stormwater control facilities—Alternative procedures for lien on delinquent charges.** Any county may, by resolution or ordinance, provide that the stormwater service charge lien shall be effective for a total not to exceed one year's delinquent service charges without the necessity of any writing or recording of the lien with the county auditor, in lieu of the provisions provided for in RCW 35.67.210. [1987 c 241 § 3.]

**36.89.094 Stormwater control facilities—Alternative foreclosure procedures on lien on delinquent charges.** Any county may, by resolution or ordinance, provide that an action to foreclose a stormwater service charge lien may be commenced after three years from the date stormwater service charges become delinquent, in lieu of the provisions provided for in RCW 35.67.230. [1987 c 241 § 4.]

**36.89.100 Stormwater control facilities—Revenue bonds.** (1) Any county legislative authority may authorize the issuance of revenue bonds to finance any stormwater control facility. Such bonds may be issued by the county legislative authority in the same manner as prescribed in RCW 36.67.510 through 36.67.570. Such bonds may be in any form, including bearer bonds or registered bonds as provided in RCW 39.46.030.

Each revenue bond shall state on its face that it is payable from a special fund, naming such fund and the resolution creating the fund.

Revenue bond principal, interest, and all other related necessary expenses shall be payable only out of the appropriate special fund or funds. Revenue bonds shall be payable

from the revenues of the stormwater control facility being financed by the bonds, a system of these facilities and, if so provided, from special assessments, installments thereof, and interest and penalties thereon, levied in one or more utility local improvement districts authorized by \*this 1981 act.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, such bonds may be issued and sold in accordance with chapter 39.46 RCW. [1983 c 167 § 100; 1981 c 313 § 20; 1970 ex.s. c 30 § 9.]

**\*Reviser's note:** For codification of "this 1981 act" [1981 c 313], see Codification Tables.

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

**36.89.110 Stormwater control facilities—Utility local improvement districts—Assessments.** A county may create utility local improvement districts for the purpose of levying and collecting special assessments on property specially benefited by one or more stormwater control facilities. The provisions of RCW 36.94.220 through 36.94.300 concerning the formation of utility local improvement districts and the fixing, levying, collecting and enforcing of special assessments apply to utility local improvement districts authorized by this section. [1981 c 313 § 21.]

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

**36.89.120 Stormwater control facilities—Annexation, incorporation of area by city or town—Imposition of rates and charges by county.** Whenever a city or town annexes an area, or a city or town incorporates an area, and the county has issued revenue bonds or general obligation bonds to finance stormwater control facilities that are payable in whole or in part from rates or charges imposed in the area, the county shall continue imposing all portions of the rates or charges that are allocated to payment of the debt service on bonds in that area after the effective date of the annexation or official date of the incorporation until: (1) The debt is retired; (2) any debt that is issued to refinance the underlying debt is retired; or (3) the city or town reimburses the county amount that is sufficient to retire that portion of the debt borne by the annexed or incorporated area. The county shall construct all facilities included in the stormwater plan intended to be financed by the proceeds of such bonds. If the county provides stormwater management services to the city or town by contract, the contract shall consider the value of payments made by property owners to the county for the payment of debt service.

The provisions of this section apply whether or not the bonds finance facilities that are geographically located within the area that is annexed or incorporated. [1993 c 361 § 1.]

**36.89.130 Cooperative watershed management.** In addition to the authority provided in RCW 36.89.030, a county may, as part of maintaining a system of stormwater control facilities, participate in and expend revenue on cooperative watershed management actions, including watershed management partnerships under RCW 39.34.210 and other intergovernmental agreements, for purposes of water supply, water quality, and water resource and habitat protection and management. [2003 c 327 § 10.]

**Finding—Intent—2003 c 327:** See note following RCW 39.34.190.



**36.89.900 Effective date—1967 c 109.** This chapter shall take effect on June 9, 1967. [1967 c 109 § 9.]

**Chapter 36.90 RCW  
SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON FAIR**

Sections

36.90.010	Control of property.
36.90.020	Fair commission abolished—Rights, duties, and obligations devolved upon Lewis county commissioners—Property vested in Lewis county.
36.90.030	Administration of fair—Appointment of designee or commission—Organization of commission—Funds.
36.90.040	Fair deemed county and district fair and agricultural fair.
36.90.050	Acquisition, improvement, control of property.
36.90.070	Conveyance of property to Lewis county for fair purposes.

**36.90.010 Control of property.** The property of the Southwest Washington Fair Association including the buildings and structures thereon, as constructed or as may be built or constructed from time to time, or any alterations or additions thereto, shall be under the jurisdiction of Lewis county. That property will be under the management and control of the board of county commissioners of Lewis county or that board's designee. [1998 c 107 § 1; 1973 1st ex.s. c 97 § 1; 1963 c 4 § 36.90.010. Prior: 1913 c 47 § 2; RRS § 2746.]

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

**36.90.020 Fair commission abolished—Rights, duties, and obligations devolved upon Lewis county commissioners—Property vested in Lewis county.** The southwest Washington fair commission heretofore established and authorized under the provisions of this chapter is abolished and all rights, duties and obligations of such commission is devolved upon the board of county commissioners of Lewis county and title to or all interest in real estate, choses in action and all other assets, including but not limited to assignable contracts, cash, deposits in county funds (including any interest or premiums thereon), equipment, buildings, facilities, and appurtenances thereto held as of the date of passage of this 1973 amendatory act by or for the commission shall, on \*the effective date of this 1973 amendatory act vest in Lewis county. [1973 1st ex.s. c 97 § 2; 1963 c 4 § 36.90.020. Prior: 1959 c 34 § 1; 1913 c 47 § 3; RRS § 2747; prior: 1909 c 237 § 4.]

\*Reviser's note: "the effective date of this 1973 amendatory act" [1973 1st ex.s. c 97] was July 16, 1973.

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

**36.90.030 Administration of fair—Appointment of designee or commission—Organization of commission—Funds.** The board of county commissioners in the county of Lewis as administrators of all property relating to the southwest Washington fair may elect to appoint either (1) a designee, whose operation and funds the board may control and oversee, to carry out the board's duties and obligations as set forth in RCW 36.90.020, or (2) a commission of citizens to advise and assist in carrying out such fair. The chair of the board of county commissioners of Lewis county may elect to serve as chair of any such commission. Such commission may elect a president and secretary and define their duties and fix their compensation, and provide for the keeping of its records. The commission may also designate the treasurer of

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Lewis county as fair treasurer. The funds relating to fair activities shall be kept separate and apart from the funds of Lewis county, but shall be deposited in the regular depositories of Lewis county and all interest earned thereby shall be added to and become a part of the funds. Fair funds shall be audited as are other county funds. [2009 c 549 § 4149; 1998 c 107 § 2; 1973 1st ex.s. c 97 § 3; 1963 c 4 § 36.90.030. Prior: 1913 c 47 § 4; RRS § 2748.]

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

**36.90.040 Fair deemed county and district fair and agricultural fair.** The southwest Washington fair shall be deemed a county and district fair for the purposes of chapter 15.76 RCW as well as an agricultural fair for the purpose of receiving allocations of funds under RCW 15.76.140 through 15.76.165. [1973 1st ex.s. c 97 § 4; 1963 c 4 § 36.90.040. Prior: 1913 c 47 § 5; RRS § 2749.]

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

**36.90.050 Acquisition, improvement, control of property.** The Lewis county board of county commissioners may acquire by gift, exchange, devise, lease, or purchase, real property for southwest Washington fair purposes and may construct and maintain temporary or permanent improvements suitable and necessary for the purpose of holding and maintaining the southwest Washington fair. Any such property deemed surplus by the board may be (1) sold at private sale after notice in a local publication of general circulation, or (2) exchanged for other property after notice in a local publication of general circulation, under Lewis county property management regulations. [1998 c 107 § 3; 1973 1st ex.s. c 97 § 5; 1963 c 4 § 36.90.050. Prior: 1959 c 34 § 2.]

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

**36.90.070 Conveyance of property to Lewis county for fair purposes.** Upon payment to the state of Washington by Lewis county of the sum of one dollar, which sum shall be deposited in the general fund when received by the treasurer of the state of Washington, such treasurer is authorized and directed to certify to the governor and secretary of state that such payment has been made on the following described property presently utilized for southwest Washington fair purposes situated in Lewis county, Washington: "Beginning at the intersection of the south line of section Seventeen (17) Township Fourteen (14) North of Range Two (2) West of W.M. with the West right-of-way line of the Somerville consent Road, and running thence North 15 degrees 20 feet East along the West line of said Road, Eleven Hundred Forty-four (1144) feet, thence North 2 degrees 33 feet West along the said west line Seventy-four and four-tenths (74.4) feet, thence west on a line parallel with the said south line of said Section Seventeen (17) Eleven Hundred Sixty-seven and two tenths (1167.2) feet to within one hundred fifty (150) feet to the Center line of the Northern Pacific Railroad, thence south 16 degrees 20 feet West on a line parallel with and one hundred fifty (150) feet distant Easterly from the Center line of the Northern Pacific Railroad Eleven Hundred and Thirty-five and seven-tenths (1135.7) feet, thence East on a line parallel with and Eighty-seven and three-tenths (87.3) feet north of the south line of said section seventeen (17) eight hundred fifty-seven (857) feet, thence south 74 degrees 40 feet East

three hundred thirty (330) feet to the point of beginning, containing thirty (30) acres in Section Seventeen (17) Township Fourteen (14) North of Range Two (2) West of W.M." and the governor is thereby authorized and directed forthwith to execute and the secretary of state is authorized and directed to attest to a deed conveying said lands to Lewis county, Washington. The office of the attorney general and the commissioner of public lands shall offer any necessary assistance in carrying out such conveyance. [1973 1st ex.s. c 97 § 6.]

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

## Chapter 36.92 RCW

### COUNTY CENTRAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

#### Sections

36.92.010	Purpose.
36.92.020	Definitions.
36.92.030	County central services department—Created—Supervisor.
36.92.040	Central services fund.
36.92.050	Comprehensive data processing use plan—Utilization of equipment.
36.92.060	Appointment of assistants.
36.92.070	Charges for services—Duties of county treasurer.
36.92.080	Services limited to department.

**36.92.010 Purpose.** The purpose of this chapter is to provide county officials of each county with a modern approach to the common problems encountered by said officers in accounting, recordkeeping, and problem solving, thereby effectuating economies in county government.

It is further the intent of this chapter that the constitutional autonomy of the various county officers be preserved while providing such officials with a centralized department to perform ministerial functions for them on the most modern and efficient machines available. [1967 ex.s. c 103 § 2.]

**36.92.020 Definitions.** As used in this chapter, the following words shall have the meanings ascribed herein:

(1) "Services department" shall mean the county central services department, established in accordance with the provisions of this chapter.

(2) "Board" shall mean the board of county commissioners.

(3) "Automatic data processing" or "ADP" shall mean that method of processing information using mechanical or electronic machines, guided by predetermined instructions to produce information in usable form, and shall include but not be limited to electronic accounting machines, electronic data processing machines, and computers.

(4) "Electronic accounting machines" or "EAM" shall mean that method of ADP utilizing punch cards or unit record equipment.

(5) "Electronic data processing" or "EDP" shall include that system which comprises a combination of equipment or unites to provide input of source data, storage and processing of data and output in predetermined form, including a central processing unit (CPU) or main frame.

(6) "Computer" shall mean any device that is capable of solving problems and supplying results by accepting data and performing prescribed operations. It shall include analog or digital, general purpose or special purpose computers.

(7) "Copy" or "micro-copy" shall mean photographic, photostatic, photomechanical or other copy process.

It is the intent of this chapter that the definitions contained in subsections (3) through (7) of this section shall be construed in the broadest possible interpretation in order that new and modern equipment and methods as they become available shall be included therein. [1967 ex.s. c 103 § 3.]

**36.92.030 County central services department—Created—Supervisor.** By resolution, the board of county commissioners may create a county central services department which shall be organized and function as any other department of the county. When a board creates a central services department, it shall also provide for the appointment of a supervisor to be the administrative head of such department, subject to the supervision and control of the board, and to serve at the pleasure of the board. The supervisor shall receive such salary as may be prescribed by the board. In addition, the supervisor shall be reimbursed for traveling and other actual and necessary expenses incurred by him or her in the performance of his or her official duties. [2009 c 549 § 4150; 1967 ex.s. c 103 § 4.]

**36.92.040 Central services fund.** When a central services department is created, the board shall establish a central services fund for the payment of all costs of conducting those services for which such department was organized and annually budget therefor. It may make transfers into the central services fund from the current expense fund and receive funds for such purposes from other departments and recipients of such services. [1967 ex.s. c 103 § 5.]

**36.92.050 Comprehensive data processing use plan—Utilization of equipment.** Services departments created pursuant to this chapter shall initially draw a comprehensive data processing use plan. It shall establish levels of service to be performed by the department and shall establish levels of service required by using agencies. Before proceeding with purchase, lease or acquisition of the data processing equipment, the comprehensive data processing use plan shall be adopted by the board.

When established by the board, the services department may perform the service functions relating to accounting, recordkeeping, and micro-copy by the utilization of automatic data processing and micro-copy equipment.

In relation to said equipment the services department shall perform any ministerial services authorized by the board and requested by the various officers and departments of the county. In this connection, it is the intent of this chapter that the services department be authorized to utilize such equipment to the highest degree consistent with the purposes of this chapter and not inconsistent with constitutional powers and duties of such officers.

The services department is also authorized to utilize such equipment for the purpose of problem solving when such problem solving is of a ministerial rather than a discretionary nature. [1967 ex.s. c 103 § 6.]

**36.92.060 Appointment of assistants.** The supervisor shall have the authority to appoint, subject to the approval of the board, such clerical and other assistants as may be required and authorized for the proper discharge of the functions of the services department. [1967 ex.s. c 103 § 7.]

**36.92.070 Charges for services—Duties of county treasurer.** The board of county commissioners shall fix the terms and charges for services rendered by the central services department pursuant to this chapter, which amounts shall be credited as income to the appropriate account within the central services fund and charged on a monthly basis against the account of the recipient for whom such services were performed. Moneys derived from the activities of the central services department shall be disbursed from the central services fund by the county treasurer by warrants on vouchers duly authorized by the board. [1967 ex.s. c 103 § 8.]

**36.92.080 Services limited to department.** When a board of county commissioners creates a central services department pursuant to RCW 36.92.030, the ministerial services to be performed by such department in connection with automatic data processing shall not thereafter be performed by any other officer or employee of said county. [1967 ex.s. c 103 § 9.]

### Chapter 36.93 RCW

#### LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION— BOUNDARIES—REVIEW BOARDS

##### Sections

36.93.010	Purpose.
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36.93.030	Creation of boundary review boards in counties with populations of two hundred ten thousand or more—Creation in other counties.
36.93.040	Dates upon which boards in counties with populations of less than two hundred ten thousand deemed established.
36.93.051	Appointment of board—Members—Terms—Qualifications.
36.93.061	Boards in counties with populations of less than one million—Members—Terms—Qualifications.
36.93.063	Selection of board members—Procedure—Commencement of term—Vacancies.
36.93.067	Effect of failure to make appointment.
36.93.070	Chair, vice chair, chief clerk—Powers and duties of board and chief clerk—Meetings—Hearings—Counsel—Compensation.
36.93.080	Expenditures—Remittance of costs to counties.
36.93.090	Filing notice of proposed actions with board.
36.93.093	Copy of notice of intention by water-sewer district to be sent officials.
36.93.100	Review of proposed actions by board—Procedure.
36.93.105	Actions not subject to review by board.
36.93.110	When review not necessary.
36.93.116	Simultaneous consideration of incorporation and annexation of territory.
36.93.120	Fees.
36.93.130	Notice of intention—Contents.
36.93.140	Pending actions not affected.
36.93.150	Review of proposed actions—Actions and determinations of board—Disapproval, effect.
36.93.153	Review of proposed incorporation in county with boundary review board.
36.93.155	Annexation approval—Other action not authorized.
36.93.157	Decisions to be consistent with growth management act.
36.93.160	Hearings—Notice—Record—Subpoenas—Decision of board—Appellate review.
36.93.170	Factors to be considered by board—Incorporation proceedings exempt from state environmental policy act.
36.93.180	Objectives of boundary review board.
36.93.185	Objectives of boundary review board—Water-sewer district annexations, mergers—Territory not adjacent to district.
36.93.190	Decision of board not to affect existing franchises, permits, codes, ordinances, etc., for ten years.
36.93.200	Rules and regulations—Adoption procedure.
36.93.210	Rules and regulations—Filing—Permanent register.
36.93.220	Provisions of prior laws superseded by chapter.
36.93.230	Power to disband boundary review board.
36.93.800	Application of chapter to merged special purpose districts.

(2022 Ed.)

36.93.900 Effective date—1967 c 189.

**36.93.010 Purpose.** The legislature finds that in metropolitan areas of this state, experiencing heavy population growth, increased problems arise from rapid proliferation of municipalities and haphazard extension of and competition to extend municipal boundaries. These problems affect adversely the quality and quantity and cost of municipal services furnished, the financial integrity of certain municipalities, the consistency of local regulations, and many other incidents of local government. Further, the competition among municipalities for unincorporated territory and the disorganizing effect thereof on land use, the preservation of property values and the desired objective of a consistent comprehensive land use plan for populated areas, makes it appropriate that the legislature provide a method of guiding and controlling the creation and growth of municipalities in metropolitan areas so that such problems may be avoided and that residents and businesses in those areas may rely on the logical growth of local government affecting them. [1967 c 189 § 1.]

**36.93.020 Definitions.** As used herein:

(1) "Governmental unit" means any incorporated city or town, metropolitan municipal corporation, or any special purpose district as defined in this section.

(2) "Special purpose district" means any water-sewer district, fire protection district, drainage improvement district, drainage and diking improvement district, flood control zone district, irrigation district, metropolitan park district, drainage district, or public utility district engaged in water distribution.

(3) "Board" means a boundary review board created by or pursuant to this chapter. [1999 c 153 § 44; 1979 ex.s. c 30 § 5; 1967 c 189 § 2.]

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

**36.93.030 Creation of boundary review boards in counties with populations of two hundred ten thousand or more—Creation in other counties.** (1) There is hereby created and established in each county with a population of two hundred ten thousand or more a board to be known and designated as a "boundary review board".

(2) A boundary review board may be created and established in any other county in the following manner:

(a) The county legislative authority may, by majority vote, adopt a resolution establishing a boundary review board; or

(b) A petition seeking establishment of a boundary review board signed by qualified electors residing in the county equal in number to at least five percent of the votes cast in the county at the last county general election may be filed with the county auditor.

Upon the filing of such a petition, the county auditor shall examine the same and certify to the sufficiency of the signatures thereon. No person may withdraw his or her name from a petition after it has been filed with the auditor. Within thirty days after the filing of such petition, the county auditor shall transmit the same to the county legislative authority, together with his or her certificate of sufficiency.

[Title 36 RCW—page 331]

After receipt of a valid petition for the establishment of a boundary review board, the county legislative authority shall submit the question of whether a boundary review board should be established to the electorate at the next primary or general election according to RCW 29A.04.321. Notice of the election shall be given as provided in RCW 29A.52.355 and shall include a clear statement of the proposal to be submitted.

If a majority of the persons voting on the proposition shall vote in favor of the establishment of the boundary review board, such board shall thereupon be deemed established. [2011 c 10 § 80; 2006 c 344 § 28; 1991 c 363 § 91; 1969 ex.s. c 111 § 1; 1967 c 189 § 3.]

**Purpose—Captions not law—1991 c 363:** See notes following RCW 2.32.180.

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

**36.93.040 Dates upon which boards in counties with populations of less than two hundred ten thousand deemed established.** For the purposes of this chapter, each county with a population of less than two hundred ten thousand shall be deemed to have established a boundary review board on and after the date a proposition for establishing the same has been approved at an election as provided for in RCW 36.93.030, or on and after the date of adoption of a resolution of the county legislative authority establishing the same as provided for in RCW 36.93.030. [1991 c 363 § 92; 1967 c 189 § 4.]

**Purpose—Captions not law—1991 c 363:** See notes following RCW 2.32.180.

**36.93.051 Appointment of board—Members—Terms—Qualifications.** The boundary review board in each county with a population of one million or more shall consist of eleven members chosen as follows:

- (1) Four persons shall be appointed by the county appointing authority;
- (2) Four persons shall be appointed by the mayors of the cities and towns located within the county; and
- (3) Three persons shall be appointed by the board from nominees of special districts in the county.

The governor shall designate one initial appointee to serve a term of two years, and two initial appointees to serve terms of four years, if the appointments are made in an odd-numbered year, or one initial appointee to serve a term of one year, and two initial appointees to serve terms of three years, if the appointments are made in an even-numbered year, with the length of the term being calculated from the first day of February in the year the appointment was made.

The county appointing authority shall designate one of its initial appointees to serve a term of two years, and two of its initial appointees to serve terms of four years, if the appointments are made in an odd-numbered year, or one of its initial appointees to serve a term of one year, and two of its initial appointees to serve terms of three years, if the appointments are made in an even-numbered year, with the length of the term being calculated from the first day of February in the year the appointment was made.

The mayors making the initial city and town appointments shall designate two of their initial appointees to serve terms of two years, and one of their initial appointees to serve

a term of four years, if the appointments are made in an odd-numbered year, or two of their initial appointees to serve terms of one year, and one of their initial appointees to serve a term of three years, if the appointments are made in an even-numbered year, with the length of the term being calculated from the first day of February in the year the appointment was made.

The board shall make two initial appointments from the nominees of special districts, with one appointee serving a term of four years and one initial appointee serving a term of two years, if the appointments are made in an odd-numbered year, or one initial appointee serving a term of three years and one initial appointee serving a term of one year if the appointments are made in an even-numbered year, with the length of the term being calculated from the first day of March in the year in which the appointment is made.

After the initial appointments, all appointees shall serve four-year terms.

No appointee may be an official or employee of the county or a governmental unit in the county, or a consultant or advisor on a contractual or regular retained basis of the county, any governmental unit in the county, or any agency or association thereof. [2011 1st sp.s. c 21 § 23; 1991 c 363 § 93; 1989 c 84 § 17.]

**Purpose—Captions not law—1991 c 363:** See notes following RCW 2.32.180.

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

**36.93.061 Boards in counties with populations of less than one million—Members—Terms—Qualifications.** The boundary review board in each county with a population of less than one million shall consist of five members chosen as follows:

- (1) Two persons shall be appointed by the governor;
- (2) One person shall be appointed by the county appointing authority;
- (3) One person shall be appointed by the mayors of the cities and towns located within the county; and
- (4) One person shall be appointed by the board from nominees of special districts in the county.

The governor shall designate one initial appointee to serve a term of two years, and one initial appointee to serve a term of four years, if the appointments are made in an odd-numbered year, or one initial appointee to serve a term of one year, and one initial appointee to serve a term of three years, if the appointments are made in an even-numbered year, with the length of a term being calculated from the first day of February in the year that the appointment was made.

The initial appointee of the county appointing authority shall serve a term of two years, if the appointment is made in an odd-numbered year, or a term of one year, if the appointment is made in an even-numbered year. The initial appointee by the mayors shall serve a term of four years, if the appointment is made in an odd-numbered year, or a term of three years, if the appointment is made in an even-numbered year. The length of the term shall be calculated from the first day in February in the year the appointment was made.

The board shall make one initial appointment from the nominees of special districts to serve a term of two years if the appointment is made in an odd-numbered year, or a term of one year if the appointment is made in an even-numbered

year, with the length of the term being calculated from the first day of March in the year in which the appointment is made.

After the initial appointments, all appointees shall serve four-year terms.

No appointee may be an official or employee of the county or a governmental unit in the county, or a consultant or advisor on a contractual or regular retained basis of the county, any governmental unit in the county, or any agency or association thereof. [1991 c 363 § 94; 1989 c 84 § 18.]

**Purpose—Captions not law—1991 c 363:** See notes following RCW 2.32.180.

**36.93.063 Selection of board members—Procedure—Commencement of term—Vacancies.** The executive of the county shall make the appointments under RCW 36.93.051 and 36.93.061 for the county, if one exists, or otherwise the county legislative authority shall make the appointments for the county.

The mayors of all cities and towns in the county shall meet on or before the last day of January in each odd-numbered year to make such appointments for terms to commence on the first day of February in that year. The date of the meeting shall be called by the mayor of the largest city or town in the county, and the mayor of the largest city or town in the county who attends the meeting shall preside over the meeting. Selection of each appointee shall be by simple majority vote of those mayors who attend the meeting.

Any special district in the county may nominate a person to be appointed to the board on or before the last day of January in each odd-numbered year that the term for this position expires. The board shall make its appointment of a nominee or nominees from the special districts during the month of February following the date by which such nominations are required to be made.

The county appointing authority and the mayors of cities and towns within the county shall make their initial appointments for newly created boards within sixty days of the creation of the board or shall make sufficient additional appointments to increase a five-member board to an eleven-member board within sixty days of the date the county obtains a population of one million or more. The board shall make its initial appointment or appointments of board members from the nominees of special districts located within the county within ninety days of the creation of the board or shall make an additional appointment of a board member from the nominees of special districts located within the county within ninety days of the date the county obtains a population of one million or more.

The term of office for all appointees other than the appointee from the special districts shall commence on the first day of February in the year in which the term is to commence. The term of office for the appointee from nominees of special districts shall commence on the first day of March in the year in which the term is to commence.

Vacancies on the board shall be filled by appointment of a person to serve the remainder of the term in the same manner that the person whose position is vacant was filled. [1991 c 363 § 95; 1989 c 84 § 19.]

**Purpose—Captions not law—1991 c 363:** See notes following RCW 2.32.180.

(2022 Ed.)

**36.93.067 Effect of failure to make appointment.** Whenever appointments under RCW 36.93.051 through \*36.93.065 have not been made by the appointing authority, the size of the board shall be considered to be reduced by one member for each position that remains vacant or unappointed. [1989 c 84 § 21.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 36.93.065 was repealed by 1999 c 124 § 1.

**36.93.070 Chair, vice chair, chief clerk—Powers and duties of board and chief clerk—Meetings—Hearings—Counsel—Compensation.** The members of each boundary review board shall elect from its members a chair, vice chair, and shall employ a nonmember as chief clerk, who shall be the secretary of the board. The board shall determine its own rules and order of business and shall provide by resolution for the time and manner of holding all regular or special meetings: PROVIDED, That all meetings shall be subject to chapter 42.30 RCW. The board shall keep a journal of its proceedings which shall be a public record. A majority of all the members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

The chief clerk of the board shall have the power to administer oaths and affirmations, certify to all official acts, issue subpoenas to any public officer or employee ordering him or her to testify before the board and produce public records, papers, books or documents. The chief clerk may invoke the aid of any court of competent jurisdiction to carry out such powers.

The board by rule may provide for hearings by panels of members consisting of not less than five board members, the number of hearing panels and members thereof, and for the impartial selection of panel members. A majority of a panel shall constitute a quorum thereof.

At the request of the board, the state attorney general, or at the board's option, the county prosecuting attorney, shall provide counsel for the board.

The planning departments of the county, other counties, and any city, and any state or regional planning agency shall furnish such information to the board at its request as may be reasonably necessary for the performance of its duties.

Each member of the board shall be compensated from the county current expense fund at the rate of fifty dollars per day, or a major portion thereof, for time actually devoted to the work of the boundary review board. Each board of county commissioners shall provide such funds as shall be necessary to pay the salaries of the members and staff, and such other expenses as shall be reasonably necessary. [2009 c 549 § 4151; 1997 c 77 § 1; 1987 c 477 § 1; 1967 c 189 § 7.]

**36.93.080 Expenditures—Remittance of costs to counties.** Expenditures by the board shall be subject to the provisions of chapter 36.40 RCW and other statutes relating to expenditures by counties. The \*department of community, trade, and economic development shall on a quarterly basis remit to each county one-half of the actual costs incurred by the county for the operation of the boundary review board within individual counties as provided for in this chapter. However, in the event no funds are appropriated to the said agency for this purpose, this shall not in any way affect the operation of the boundary review board. [1995 c 399 § 44; 1985 c 6 § 7; 1969 ex.s. c 111 § 4; 1967 c 189 § 8.]

[Title 36 RCW—page 333]

\*Reviser's note: The "department of community, trade, and economic development" was renamed the "department of commerce" by 2009 c 565.

**36.93.090 Filing notice of proposed actions with board.** Whenever any of the following described actions are proposed in a county in which a board has been established, the initiators of the action shall file within one hundred eighty days a notice of intention with the board: PROVIDED, That when the initiator is the legislative body of a governmental unit, the notice of intention may be filed immediately following the body's first acceptance or approval of the action. The board may review any such proposed actions pertaining to:

(1) The: (a) Creation, incorporation, or change in the boundary, other than a consolidation, of any city, town, or special purpose district; (b) consolidation of special purpose districts, but not including consolidation of cities and towns; or (c) dissolution or disincorporation of any city, town, or special purpose district, except that a board may not review the dissolution or disincorporation of a special purpose district which was dissolved or disincorporated pursuant to the provisions of chapter 36.96 RCW: PROVIDED, That the change in the boundary of a city or town arising from the annexation of contiguous city or town owned property held for a public purpose shall be exempted from the requirements of this section; or

(2) The assumption by any city or town of all or part of the assets, facilities, or indebtedness of a special purpose district which lies partially within such city or town; or

(3) The establishment of or change in the boundaries of a mutual water and sewer system or separate sewer system by a water-sewer district pursuant to RCW 57.08.065; or

(4) The extension of permanent water or sewer service outside of its existing service area by a city, town, or special purpose district. The service area of a city, town, or special purpose district shall include all of the area within its corporate boundaries plus, (a) for extensions of water service, the area outside of the corporate boundaries which it is designated to serve pursuant to a coordinated water system plan approved in accordance with RCW 70A.100.050; and (b) for extensions of sewer service, the area outside of the corporate boundaries which it is designated to serve pursuant to a comprehensive sewerage plan approved in accordance with chapter 36.94 RCW and RCW 90.48.110. [2020 c 20 § 1028; 1996 c 230 § 1608; 1995 c 131 § 1; 1987 c 477 § 2; 1985 c 281 § 28; 1982 c 10 § 7. Prior: 1981 c 332 § 9; 1981 c 45 § 2; 1979 ex.s. c 5 § 12; 1971 ex.s. c 127 § 1; 1969 ex.s. c 111 § 5; 1967 c 189 § 9.]

*Consolidation of cities and towns—Role of boundary review board: RCW 35.10.450.*

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

**36.93.093 Copy of notice of intention by water-sewer district to be sent officials.** Whenever a water-sewer district files with the board a notice of intention as required by RCW 36.93.090, the board shall send a copy of such notice of intention to the legislative authority of the county wherein such action is proposed to be taken and one copy to the state department of ecology. [1999 c 153 § 45; 1971 ex.s. c 127 § 2.]

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

**36.93.100 Review of proposed actions by board—Procedure.** The board shall review and approve, disapprove, or modify any of the actions set forth in RCW 36.93.090 when any of the following shall occur within forty-five days of the filing of a notice of intention:

(1) Three members of a five-member boundary review board or five members of a boundary review board in a county with a population of one million or more files a request for review: PROVIDED, That the members of the boundary review board shall not be authorized to file a request for review of the following actions:

(a) The incorporation of any special district or change in the boundary of any city, town, or special purpose district;

(b) The extension of permanent water service outside of its existing corporate boundaries by a city, town, or special purpose district if (i) the extension is through the installation of water mains of six inches or less in diameter or (ii) the county legislative authority for the county in which the proposed extension is to be built is required or chooses to plan under RCW 36.70A.040 and has by a majority vote waived the authority of the board to initiate review of all other extensions; or

(c) The extension of permanent sewer service outside of its existing corporate boundaries by a city, town, or special purpose district if (i) the extension is through the installation of sewer mains of eight inches or less in diameter or (ii) the county legislative authority for the county in which the proposed extension is to be built is required or chooses to plan under RCW 36.70A.040 and has by a majority vote waived the authority of the board to initiate review of all other extensions;

(2) Any governmental unit affected, including the governmental unit for which the boundary change or extension of permanent water or sewer service is proposed, or the county within which the area of the proposed action is located, files a request for review of the specific action;

(3) A petition requesting review is filed and is signed by:

(a) Five percent of the registered voters residing within the area which is being considered for the proposed action (as determined by the boundary review board in its discretion subject to immediate review by writ of certiorari to the superior court); or

(b) An owner or owners of property consisting of five percent of the assessed valuation within such area;

(4) The majority of the members of boundary review boards concur with a request for review when a petition requesting the review is filed by five percent of the registered voters who deem themselves affected by the action and reside within one-quarter mile of the proposed action but not within the jurisdiction proposing the action.

If a period of forty-five days shall elapse without the board's jurisdiction having been invoked as set forth in this section, the proposed action shall be deemed approved.

If a review of a proposal is requested, the board shall make a finding as prescribed in RCW 36.93.150 within one hundred twenty days after the filing of such a request for review. If this period of one hundred twenty days shall elapse without the board making a finding as prescribed in RCW 36.93.150, the proposal shall be deemed approved unless the board and the person who submitted the proposal agree to an extension of the one hundred twenty day period. [1994 c 216

§ 13; 1992 c 162 § 1; 1991 c 363 § 96; 1989 c 84 § 3; 1987 c 477 § 3; 1983 c 76 § 1; 1982 c 220 § 1; 1967 c 189 § 10.]

**Purpose—Captions not law—1991 c 363:** See notes following RCW 2.32.180.

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

### **36.93.105 Actions not subject to review by board.**

The following actions shall not be subject to potential review by a boundary review board:

(1) Annexations of territory to a water-sewer district pursuant to RCW 36.94.410 through 36.94.440;

(2) Revisions of city or town boundaries pursuant to RCW 35.21.790 or 35A.21.210;

(3) Adjustments to city or town boundaries pursuant to RCW 35.13.340; and

(4) Adjustments to city and town boundaries pursuant to RCW 35.13.300 through 35.13.330. [1999 c 153 § 46; 1989 c 84 § 4; 1984 c 147 § 5.]

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

**36.93.110 When review not necessary.** Where an area proposed for annexation is less than ten acres and less than two million dollars in assessed valuation, the chair of the review board may by written statement declare that review by the board is not necessary for the protection of the interest of the various parties, in which case the board shall not review such annexation. [2009 c 549 § 4152; 1987 c 477 § 4; 1973 1st ex.s. c 195 § 42; 1967 c 189 § 11.]

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

**36.93.116 Simultaneous consideration of incorporation and annexation of territory.** A boundary review board may simultaneously consider the proposed incorporation of a city or town, and the proposed annexation of a portion of the territory included in the proposed incorporation, if the resolution or petition initiating the annexation is adopted or filed ninety or fewer days after the petition proposing the incorporation was filed. [1994 c 216 § 9.]

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

**36.93.120 Fees.** A fee of fifty dollars shall be paid by all initiators and in addition if the jurisdiction of the review board is invoked pursuant to RCW 36.93.100, the person or entity seeking review, except for the boundary review board itself, shall pay to the county treasurer and place in the county current expense fund the fee of two hundred dollars. [1987 c 477 § 5; 1969 ex.s. c 111 § 6; 1967 c 189 § 12.]

**36.93.130 Notice of intention—Contents.** The notice of intention shall contain the following information:

(1) The nature of the action sought;

(2) A brief statement of the reasons for the proposed action;

(3) The legal description of the boundaries proposed to be created, abolished or changed by such action: PROVIDED, That the legal description may be altered, with concurrence of the initiators of the proposed action, if a person designated by the county legislative authority as one who has expertise in legal descriptions makes a determination that the legal description is erroneous; and

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(4) A county assessor's map on which the boundaries proposed to be created, abolished or changed by such action are designated: PROVIDED, That at the discretion of the boundary review board a map other than the county assessor's map may be accepted. [1987 c 477 § 6; 1969 ex.s. c 111 § 7; 1967 c 189 § 13.]

**36.93.140 Pending actions not affected.** Actions described in RCW 36.93.090 which are pending July 1, 1967, or actions in counties with populations of less than two hundred ten thousand which are pending on the date of the creation of a boundary review board therein, shall not be affected by the provisions of this chapter. Actions shall be deemed pending on and after the filing of sufficient petitions initiating the same with the appropriate public officer, or the performance of an official act initiating the same. [1991 c 363 § 97; 1967 c 189 § 14.]

**Purpose—Captions not law—1991 c 363:** See notes following RCW 2.32.180.

**36.93.150 Review of proposed actions—Actions and determinations of board—Disapproval, effect.** The board, upon review of any proposed action, shall take such of the following actions as it deems necessary to best carry out the intent of this chapter:

(1) Approve the proposal as submitted.

(2) Subject to RCW 35.02.170, modify the proposal by adjusting boundaries to add or delete territory. Subject to the requirements of this chapter, a board may modify a proposal by adding territory that would increase the total area of the proposal before the board. A board, however, may not modify a proposal for annexation of territory to a city or town by adding an amount of territory that constitutes more than one hundred percent of the total area of the proposal before the board. Any modifications shall not interfere with the authority of a city, town, or special purpose district to require or not require preannexation agreements, covenants, or petitions. A board shall not modify the proposed incorporation of a city with an estimated population of seven thousand five hundred or more by removing territory from the proposal, or adding territory to the proposal, that constitutes ten percent or more of the total area included within the proposal before the board. However, a board shall remove territory in the proposed incorporation that is located outside of an urban growth area or is annexed by a city or town, and may remove territory in the proposed incorporation if a petition or resolution proposing the annexation is filed or adopted that has priority over the proposed incorporation, before the area is established that is subject to this ten percent restriction on removing or adding territory. A board shall not modify the proposed incorporation of a city with a population of seven thousand five hundred or more to reduce the territory in such a manner as to reduce the population below seven thousand five hundred.

(3) Determine a division of assets and liabilities between two or more governmental units where relevant.

(4) Determine whether, or the extent to which, functions of a special purpose district are to be assumed by an incorporated city or town, metropolitan municipal corporation, or another existing special purpose district.

(5) Disapprove the proposal except that the board shall not have jurisdiction: (a) To disapprove the dissolution or disincorporation of a special purpose district which is not providing services but shall have jurisdiction over the determination of a division of the assets and liabilities of a dissolved or disincorporated special purpose district; (b) over the division of assets and liabilities of a special purpose district that is dissolved or disincorporated pursuant to chapter 36.96 RCW; nor (c) to disapprove the incorporation of a city with an estimated population of seven thousand five hundred or more, but the board may recommend against the proposed incorporation of a city with such an estimated population.

Unless the board disapproves a proposal, it shall be presented under the appropriate statute for approval of a public body and, if required, a vote of the people. A proposal that has been modified shall be presented under the appropriate statute for approval of a public body and if required, a vote of the people. If a proposal, other than that for a city, town, or special purpose district annexation, after modification does not contain enough signatures of persons within the modified area, as are required by law, then the initiating party, parties or governmental unit has thirty days after the modification decision to secure enough signatures to satisfy the legal requirement. If the signatures cannot be secured then the proposal may be submitted to a vote of the people, as required by law.

The addition or deletion of property by the board shall not invalidate a petition which had previously satisfied the sufficiency of signature provisions of RCW 35.13.130 or 35A.14.120. When the board, after due proceedings held, disapproves a proposed action, such proposed action shall be unavailable, the proposing agency shall be without power to initiate the same or substantially the same as determined by the board, and any succeeding acts intended to or tending to effectuate that action shall be void, but such action may be reinitiated after a period of twelve months from date of disapproval and shall again be subject to the same consideration.

The board shall not modify or deny a proposed action unless there is evidence on the record to support a conclusion that the action is inconsistent with one or more of the objectives under RCW 36.93.180. The board may not increase the area of a city or town annexation unless it holds a separate public hearing on the proposed increase and provides ten or more days' notice of the hearing to the registered voters and property owners residing within the area subject to the proposed increase. Every such determination to modify or deny a proposed action shall be made in writing pursuant to a motion, and shall be supported by appropriate written findings and conclusions, based on the record. [2012 c 212 § 1; 1994 c 216 § 15; 1990 c 273 § 1; 1987 c 477 § 7; 1979 ex.s. c 5 § 13; 1975 1st ex.s. c 220 § 10; 1969 ex.s. c 111 § 8; 1967 c 189 § 15.]

**Legislative finding, intent—1975 1st ex.s. c 220:** See note following RCW 35.02.170.

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

**36.93.153 Review of proposed incorporation in county with boundary review board.** The proposed incorporation of any city or town that includes territory located in a county in which a boundary review board exists shall be

reviewed by the boundary review board and action taken as described under RCW 36.93.150. [1994 c 216 § 10.]

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

**36.93.155 Annexation approval—Other action not authorized.** Boundary review board approval, or modification and approval, of a proposed annexation by a city, town, or special purpose district shall authorize annexation as approved and shall not authorize any other annexation action. [1989 c 84 § 16.]

**36.93.157 Decisions to be consistent with growth management act.** The decisions of a boundary review board located in a county that is required or chooses to plan under RCW 36.70A.040 must be consistent with RCW 36.70A.020, 36.70A.110, and 36.70A.210. [1992 c 162 § 2.]

**36.93.160 Hearings—Notice—Record—Subpoenas—Decision of board—Appellate review.** (1) When the jurisdiction of the boundary review board has been invoked, the board shall set the date, time and place for a public hearing on the proposal. The board shall give at least thirty days' advance written notice of the date, time and place of the hearing to the governing body of each governmental unit having jurisdiction within the boundaries of the territory proposed to be annexed, formed, incorporated, disincorporated, dissolved or consolidated, or within the boundaries of a special district whose assets and facilities are proposed to be assumed by a city or town, and to the governing body of each city within three miles of the exterior boundaries of the area and to the proponent of the change. Notice shall also be given by publication in any newspaper of general circulation in the area of the proposed boundary change at least three times, the last publication of which shall be not less than five days prior to the date set for the public hearing. Notice shall also be posted in ten public places in the area affected for five days when the area is ten acres or more. When the area affected is less than ten acres, five notices shall be posted in five public places for five days. Notice as provided in this subsection shall include any territory which the board has determined to consider adding in accordance with RCW 36.93.150(2).

(2) A verbatim record shall be made of all testimony presented at the hearing and upon request and payment of the reasonable costs thereof, a copy of the transcript of the testimony shall be provided to any person or governmental unit.

(3) The chair upon majority vote of the board or a panel may direct the chief clerk of the boundary review board to issue subpoenas to any public officer to testify, and to compel the production by him or her of any records, books, documents, public records or public papers.

(4) Within forty days after the conclusion of the final hearing on the proposal, the board shall file its written decision, setting forth the reasons therefor, with the board of county commissioners and the clerk of each governmental unit directly affected. The written decision shall indicate whether the proposed change is approved, rejected or modified and, if modified, the terms of the modification. The written decision need not include specific data on every factor required to be considered by the board, but shall indicate that all standards were given consideration. Dissenting members



of the board shall have the right to have their written dissents included as part of the decision.

(5) Unanimous decisions of the hearing panel or a decision of a majority of the members of the board shall constitute the decision of the board and shall not be appealable to the whole board. Any other decision shall be appealable to the entire board within ten days. Appeals shall be on the record, which shall be furnished by the appellant, but the board may, in its sole discretion, permit the introduction of additional evidence and argument. Decisions shall be final and conclusive unless within thirty days from the date of the action a governmental unit affected by the decision or any person owning real property or residing in the area affected by the decision files in the superior court a notice of appeal.

The filing of the notice of appeal within the time limit shall stay the effective date of the decision of the board until such time as the appeal shall have been adjudicated or withdrawn. On appeal the superior court shall not take any evidence other than that contained in the record of the hearing before the board.

(6) The superior court may affirm the decision of the board or remand the case for further proceedings; or it may reverse the decision if any substantial rights may have been prejudiced because the administrative findings, inferences, conclusions, or decisions are:

- (a) In violation of constitutional provisions, or
- (b) In excess of the statutory authority or jurisdiction of the board, or
- (c) Made upon unlawful procedure, or
- (d) Affected by other error of law, or
- (e) Unsupported by material and substantial evidence in view of the entire record as submitted, or
- (f) Clearly erroneous.

An aggrieved party may seek appellate review of any final judgment of the superior court in the manner provided by law as in other civil cases. [2009 c 549 § 4153; 1994 c 216 § 16; 1988 c 202 § 40; 1987 c 477 § 8; 1971 c 81 § 97; 1969 ex.s. c 111 § 9; 1967 c 189 § 16.]

*General corporate powers—Towns, restrictions as to area: RCW 35.21.010.*

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

**36.93.170 Factors to be considered by board—Incorporation proceedings exempt from state environmental policy act.** In reaching a decision on a proposal or an alternative, the board shall consider the factors affecting such proposal, which shall include, but not be limited to the following:

(1) Population and territory; population density; land area and land uses; comprehensive plans and zoning, as adopted under chapter 35.63, 35A.63, or 36.70 RCW; comprehensive plans and development regulations adopted under chapter 36.70A RCW; applicable service agreements entered into under chapter 36.115 or 39.34 RCW; applicable interlocal annexation agreements between a county and its cities; per capita assessed valuation; topography, natural boundaries and drainage basins, proximity to other populated areas; the existence and preservation of prime agricultural soils and productive agricultural uses; the likelihood of significant growth in the area and in adjacent incorporated and unincorporated areas during the next ten years; location and most desirable future location of community facilities;

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(2) Municipal services; need for municipal services; effect of ordinances, governmental codes, regulations and resolutions on existing uses; present cost and adequacy of governmental services and controls in area; prospects of governmental services from other sources; probable future needs for such services and controls; probable effect of proposal or alternative on cost and adequacy of services and controls in area and adjacent area; the effect on the finances, debt structure, and contractual obligations and rights of all affected governmental units; and

(3) The effect of the proposal or alternative on adjacent areas, on mutual economic and social interests, and on the local governmental structure of the county.

The provisions of chapter 43.21C RCW, State Environmental Policy, shall not apply to incorporation proceedings covered by chapter 35.02 RCW. [1997 c 429 § 39; 1989 c 84 § 5; 1986 c 234 § 33; 1982 c 220 § 2; 1979 ex.s. c 142 § 1; 1967 c 189 § 17.]

*Incorporation proceedings exempt from state environmental policy act: RCW 43.21C.220.*

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

**36.93.180 Objectives of boundary review board.** The decisions of the boundary review board shall attempt to achieve the following objectives:

- (1) Preservation of natural neighborhoods and communities;
- (2) Use of physical boundaries, including but not limited to bodies of water, highways, and land contours;
- (3) Creation and preservation of logical service areas;
- (4) Prevention of abnormally irregular boundaries;
- (5) Discouragement of multiple incorporations of small cities and encouragement of incorporation of cities in excess of ten thousand population in heavily populated urban areas;
- (6) Dissolution of inactive special purpose districts;
- (7) Adjustment of impractical boundaries;
- (8) Incorporation as cities or towns or annexation to cities or towns of unincorporated areas which are urban in character; and
- (9) Protection of agricultural and rural lands which are designated for long term productive agricultural and resource use by a comprehensive plan adopted by the county legislative authority. [1989 c 84 § 6; 1981 c 332 § 10; 1979 ex.s. c 142 § 2; 1967 c 189 § 18.]

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

**36.93.185 Objectives of boundary review board—Water-sewer district annexations, mergers—Territory not adjacent to district.** The proposal by a water-sewer district to annex territory that is not adjacent to the district shall not be deemed to be violative of the objectives of a boundary review board solely due to the fact that the territory is not adjacent to the water-sewer district. The proposed consolidation or merger of two or more water-sewer districts that are not adjacent to each other shall not be deemed to be violative of the objectives of a boundary review board solely due to the fact that the districts are not adjacent. [1999 c 153 § 47; 1989 c 308 § 13.]

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

**36.93.190 Decision of board not to affect existing franchises, permits, codes, ordinances, etc., for ten years.** For a period of ten years from the date of the final decision, no proceeding, approval, action, or decision on a proposal or an alternative shall be deemed to cancel any franchise or permit theretofore granted by the authorities governing the territory to be annexed, nor shall it be deemed to supersede the application as to any territory to be annexed, of such construction codes and ordinances (including but not limited to fire, electrical, and plumbing codes and ordinances) as shall have been adopted by the authorities governing the territory to be annexed and in force at the time of the decision. [1967 c 189 § 19.]

**36.93.200 Rules and regulations—Adoption procedure.** Each review board shall adopt rules governing the formal and informal procedures prescribed or authorized by this chapter. Such rules may state the qualifications of persons for practice before the board. Such rules shall also include rules of practice before the board, together with forms and instructions.

To assist interested persons dealing with it, each board shall so far as deemed practicable supplement its rules with descriptive statements of its procedures.

Prior to the adoption of any rule authorized by law, or the amendment or repeal thereof, the board shall file notice thereof with the clerk of the court of the county in which the board is located. So far as practicable, the board shall also publish or otherwise circulate notice of its intended action and afford interested persons opportunity to submit data or views either orally or in writing. Such notice shall include (1) a statement of the time, place, and nature of public rule-making proceedings, (2) reference to the authority under which the rule is proposed, and (3) either the terms or substance of the proposed rule or a description of the subjects and issues involved.

This paragraph shall not apply to interpretative rules, general statements of policy, or rules of internal board organization, procedure or practice. [1967 c 189 § 20.]

**36.93.210 Rules and regulations—Filing—Permanent register.** Each board shall file forthwith with the clerk of the court a certified copy of all rules and regulations adopted. The clerk shall keep a permanent register of such rules open to public inspection. [1967 c 189 § 21.]

**36.93.220 Provisions of prior laws superseded by chapter.** Whenever a review board has been created pursuant to the terms of this chapter, the provisions of law relating to city annexation review boards set forth in chapter 35.13 RCW and the powers granted to the boards of county commissioners to alter boundaries of proposed annexations or incorporations shall not be applicable. [1967 c 189 § 22.]

**36.93.230 Power to disband boundary review board.** When a county and the cities and towns within the county have adopted a comprehensive plan and consistent development regulations pursuant to the provisions of chapter 36.70A RCW, the county may, at the discretion of the county legislative authority, disband the boundary review board in that county. [1991 sp.s. c 32 § 22.]

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

**36.93.800 Application of chapter to merged special purpose districts.** This chapter does not apply to the merger of irrigation districts authorized under RCW 87.03.530(2) and 87.03.845 through 87.03.855 or to the merger of a drainage improvement district, joint drainage improvement district, or consolidated drainage improvement district into an irrigation district authorized by RCW 87.03.720 through 87.03.745 and 85.08.830 through 85.08.890. [1996 c 313 § 2; 1993 c 235 § 10.]

**36.93.900 Effective date—1967 c 189.** The effective date of this chapter is July 1, 1967. [1967 c 189 § 24.]

## Chapter 36.94 RCW

### SEWERAGE, WATER, AND DRAINAGE SYSTEMS

#### Sections

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*Assessments and charges against state lands: Chapter 79.44 RCW.*

*Deferral of special assessments: Chapter 84.38 RCW.*

*Stormwater control facilities: RCW 36.89.080 through 36.89.110.*

*Water-sewer district activities to be approved—Criteria for approval by county legislative authority: RCW 57.02.040.*

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

- (1) A "system of sewerage" means and may include any or all of the following:
- (a) Sanitary sewage collection, treatment, and/or disposal facilities and services, including without limitation on-site or off-site sanitary sewerage facilities, large on-site sewerage systems defined under RCW 70A.115.010, inspection services and maintenance services for private or public on-site systems, or any other means of sewage treatment and disposal approved by the county;
- (b) Combined sanitary sewage disposal and storm or surface water drains and facilities;
- (c) Storm or surface water drains, channels, and facilities;
- (d) Outfalls for storm drainage or sanitary sewage and works, plants, and facilities for storm drainage or sanitary sewage treatment and disposal, and rights and interests in property relating to the system;

- (e) Combined water and sewerage systems;
- (f) Point and nonpoint water pollution monitoring programs that are directly related to the sewerage facilities and programs operated by a county;
- (g) Public restroom and sanitary facilities;
- (h) The facilities and services authorized in RCW 36.94.020; and
- (i) Any combination of or part of any or all of such facilities.
- (2) A "system of water" means and includes:
- (a) A water distribution system, including dams, reservoirs, aqueducts, plants, pumping stations, transmission and lateral distribution lines and other facilities for distribution of water;
- (b) A combined water and sewerage system;
- (c) Any combination of or any part of any or all of such facilities.

(3) A "sewerage and/or water general plan" means a general plan for a system of sewerage and/or water for the county which shall be an element of the comprehensive plan established by the county pursuant to RCW 36.70.350(6) and/or chapter 35.63 RCW, if there is such a comprehensive plan.

(a) A sewerage general plan shall include the general location and description of treatment and disposal facilities, trunk and interceptor sewers, pumping stations, monitoring and control facilities, channels, local service areas and a general description of the collection system to serve those areas, a description of on-site sanitary sewerage system inspection services and maintenance services, and other facilities and services as may be required to provide a functional and implementable plan, including preliminary engineering to assure feasibility. The plan may also include a description of the regulations deemed appropriate to carrying out surface drainage plans.

(b) A water general plan shall include the general location and description of water resources to be utilized, wells, treatment facilities, transmission lines, storage reservoirs, pumping stations, and monitoring and control facilities as may be required to provide a functional and implementable plan.

(c) Water and/or sewerage general plans shall include preliminary engineering in adequate detail to assure technical feasibility and, to the extent then known, shall further discuss the methods of distributing the cost and expense of the system and shall indicate the economic feasibility of plan implementation. The plans may also specify local or lateral facilities and services. The sewerage and/or water general plan does not mean the final engineering construction or financing plans for the system.

(4) "Municipal corporation" means and includes any city, town, metropolitan municipal corporation, any public utility district which operates and maintains a sewer or water system, any sewer, water, diking, or drainage district, any diking, drainage, and sewerage improvement district, and any irrigation district.

(5) A "private utility" means and includes all utilities, both public and private, which provide sewerage and/or water service and which are not municipal corporations within the definition of this chapter. The ownership of a private utility may be in a corporation, nonprofit or for profit, in a cooperative association, in a mutual organization, or in individuals.

(6) "Board" means one or more boards of county commissioners and/or the legislative authority of a home rule charter county. [2020 c 20 § 1029; 2007 c 343 § 14; 1997 c 447 § 10; 1981 c 313 § 14; 1979 ex.s. c 30 § 6; 1971 ex.s. c 96 § 1; 1967 c 72 § 1.]

**Finding—Purpose—1997 c 447:** See note following RCW 70.05.074.  
Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**36.94.020 Purpose—Powers.** The construction, operation, and maintenance of a system of sewerage and/or water is a county purpose. Subject to the provisions of this chapter, every county has the power, individually or in conjunction with another county or counties to adopt, provide for, accept, establish, condemn, purchase, construct, add to, operate, and maintain a system or systems of sanitary and storm sewers, including outfalls, interceptors, plans, and facilities and services necessary for sewerage treatment and disposal, and/or system or systems of water supply within all or a portion of the county. However, counties shall not have power to condemn sewerage and/or water systems of any municipal corporation or private utility.

Such county or counties shall have the authority to control, regulate, operate, and manage such system or systems and to provide funds therefor by general obligation bonds, revenue bonds, local improvement district bonds, utility local improvement district or local improvement district assessments, and in any other lawful fiscal manner. Rates or charges for on-site inspection and maintenance services may not be imposed under this chapter on the development, construction, or reconstruction of property.

Under this chapter, after July 1, 1998, any requirements for pumping the septic tank of an on-site sewage system should be based, among other things, on actual measurement of accumulation of sludge and scum by a trained inspector, trained owner's agent, or trained owner. Training must occur in a program approved by the state board of health or by a local health officer.

Before adopting on-site inspection and maintenance utility services, or incorporating residences into an on-site inspection and maintenance or sewer utility under this chapter, notification must be provided, prior to the applicable public hearing, to all residences within the proposed service area that have on-site systems permitted by the local health officer. The notice must clearly state that the residence is within the proposed service area and must provide information on estimated rates or charges that may be imposed for the service.

A county shall not provide on-site sewage system inspection, pumping services, or other maintenance or repair services under this section using county employees unless the on-site system is connected by a publicly owned collection system to the county's sewerage system, and the on-site system represents the first step in the sewage disposal process. Nothing in this section shall affect the authority of a state or local health officer to carry out their responsibilities under any other applicable law.

A county may, as part of a system of sewerage established under this chapter, provide for, finance, and operate any of the facilities and services and may exercise the powers expressly authorized for county stormwater, flood control, pollution prevention, and drainage services and activities

under chapters 36.89, 86.12, 86.13, and 86.15 RCW. A county also may provide for, finance, and operate the facilities and services and may exercise any of the powers authorized for aquifer protection areas under chapter 36.36 RCW; for lake or beach management districts under chapter 36.61 RCW; for diking districts, and diking, drainage, and sewerage improvement districts under chapters 85.05, 85.08, 85.15, 85.16, and 85.18 RCW; and for shellfish protection districts under chapter 90.72 RCW. However, if a county by reference to any of those statutes assumes as part of its system of sewerage any powers granted to such areas or districts and not otherwise available to a county under this chapter, then (1) the procedures and restrictions applicable to those areas or districts apply to the county's exercise of those powers, and (2) the county may not simultaneously impose rates and charges under this chapter and under the statutes authorizing such areas or districts for substantially the same facilities and services, but must instead impose uniform rates and charges consistent with RCW 36.94.140. By agreement with such an area or district that is not part of a county's system of sewerage, a county may operate that area's or district's services or facilities, but a county may not dissolve any existing area or district except in accordance with any applicable provisions of the statute under which that area or district was created. [2008 c 301 § 25; 1997 c 447 § 11; 1981 c 313 § 1; 1967 c 72 § 2.]

**Finding—Purpose—1997 c 447:** See note following RCW 70.05.074.  
Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**36.94.030 Adoption of sewerage and/or water general plan as element of comprehensive plan.** Whenever the county legislative authority deems it advisable and necessary for the public health and welfare of the inhabitants of the county to establish, purchase, acquire, and construct a system of sewerage and/or water, or make any additions and betterments thereto, or extensions thereof, the board shall adopt a sewerage and/or water general plan for a system of sewerage and/or water for all or a portion of the county as deemed necessary by the board. If the county has adopted a comprehensive plan for a physical development of the county pursuant to chapter 36.70 RCW and/or chapter 35.63 RCW, then the sewerage and/or water general plan shall be adopted as an element of that comprehensive plan pursuant to the applicable statute. [1981 c 313 § 15; 1967 c 72 § 3.]

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

**36.94.040 Incorporation of provisions of comprehensive plan in general plan.** The sewerage and/or water general plan must incorporate the provisions of existing comprehensive plans relating to sewerage and water systems of cities, towns, municipalities, and private utilities, to the extent they have been implemented. [1990 1st ex.s. c 17 § 33; 1967 c 72 § 4.]

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

**36.94.050 Review committee—Composition—Submission of plan or amendment to.** Prior to the adoption of or amendment of the sewerage and/or water general plan, the county legislative authority (or authorities) shall submit the plan or amendment to a review committee. The review committee shall consist of:

(1) A representative of each city with a population of ten thousand or more within or adjoining the area selected by the mayor thereof (if there are no such cities within the plan area, then one representative chosen by the mayor of the city with the largest population within the plan area);

(2) One representative chosen at large by a majority vote of the executive officers of the other cities or towns within or adjoining the area;

(3) A representative chosen by the executive officer or the chair of the board, as the case may be, of each of the other municipal corporations and private utilities serving one thousand or more sewer and/or water customers located within the area;

(4) One representative chosen at large by a majority vote of the executive officers and chairs of the boards, as the case may be, of the other remaining municipal corporations within the area;

(5) A representative of each county legislative authority within the planned area, selected by the chair of each board or county executive, as the case may be; and

(6) In counties where there is a metropolitan municipal corporation operating a sewerage and/or water system in the area, the chair of its council or such person as the chair designates.

If the legislative authority rejects the plan pursuant to RCW 36.94.090, the review committee shall be deemed to be dissolved; otherwise the review committee shall continue in existence to review amendments to the plan. Vacancies on the committee shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment to that position.

Instead of a review committee for each plan area, the county legislative authority or authorities may create a review committee for the entire county or counties, and the review committee shall continue in existence until dissolved by the county legislative authority or authorities. [1994 c 81 § 74; 1981 c 313 § 16; 1971 ex.s. c 96 § 2; 1967 c 72 § 5.]

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

**36.94.060 Review committee—Chair, secretary—Rules—Quorum—Compensation of members.** The members of each review committee shall elect from its members a chair and a secretary. The committee shall determine its own rules and order of business and shall provide by resolution for the time and manner of its proceedings which shall be a public record. A majority of all the members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Each member of the committee shall be compensated from the county current expense fund at the rate of twenty-five dollars per day, or a major portion thereof, for time actually devoted to the work of the committee in reviewing any proposed sewerage and/or water general plan or amendments to a plan. Each board of county commissioners shall provide such funds as shall be necessary to pay the compensation of the members and such other expenses as shall be reasonably necessary. Such payments shall be reimbursed to the counties advancing the funds from moneys acquired from the construction or operation of a sewerage and/or water system. [2009 c 549 § 4154; 1971 ex.s. c 96 § 3; 1967 c 72 § 6.]

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

(2022 Ed.)

**36.94.070 Review committee—Review of plan or amendments thereto—Report.** The committee shall review the sewerage and/or water general plan or amendments thereto and shall report to the board or boards of county commissioners within ninety days their approval or any suggested amendments, deletions, or additions. If the committee shall fail to report within the time, the plan or amendments thereto shall be deemed approved. If the committee submits a report, the board shall consider and review the committee's report and may adopt any recommendations suggested therein. [1971 ex.s. c 96 § 4; 1967 c 72 § 7.]

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

**36.94.080 Hearing by board—Notice—Filing general plan.** Before final action thereon the board shall conduct a public hearing on the plan after ten days published notice of hearing is given pursuant to RCW 36.32.120(7). The notice must set out the full official title of the proposed resolution adopting the plan and a statement describing the general intent and purpose of the plan. The notice shall also include the day, hour and place of hearing and must be given by publication in the newspaper in which legal notices of the county are printed. Ten days prior to the hearing, three copies of the sewerage and/or water general plan shall be filed with the clerk of the board. The copies shall be open to public inspection. [1967 c 72 § 8.]

**36.94.090 Adoption, amendment or rejection of plan.** At the hearing, the board may adopt the plan, or amend and adopt the plan, or reject any part or all of the plan. [1967 c 72 § 9.]

**36.94.100 Submission of plan or amendments thereto to certain state departments—Approval.** Prior to the commencement of actual work on any plan or amendment thereto approved by the board, it must be submitted for written approval to the Washington department of social and health services and to the Washington department of ecology. [1971 ex.s. c 96 § 5; 1967 c 72 § 10.]

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

**36.94.110 Adherence to plan—Procedure for amendment.** After adoption of the sewerage and/or water general plan, all municipal corporations and private utilities within the plan area shall abide by and adhere to the plan for the future development of their systems. A municipal corporation or private utility, including a wastewater company as defined in RCW 80.04.010, may petition for amendments to the plan. Whenever the governing authority of any county or counties or any municipal corporation deems it to be for the public interest to amend the sewerage and/or water general plan for such county or counties, notice must be filed with the board or boards of county commissioners. Upon such notice, the board or boards shall initiate consideration of any amendment requested relating to the plan and proceed as provided in this chapter for the adoption of an original plan. [2011 c 214 § 28; 1967 c 72 § 11.]

**Findings—Purpose—Limitation of chapter—Effective date—2011 c 214:** See notes following RCW 80.04.010.

[Title 36 RCW—page 341]

**36.94.120 Establishment of department for administration of system—Personnel merit system.** The board shall establish a department in county government for the purpose of establishing, operating and maintaining the system or systems of sewerage and/or water. In the department, the board shall establish and provide for the operation and maintenance of a personnel merit system for the employment, classification, promotion, demotion, suspension, transfer, layoff and discharge of its appointive officers and employees, solely on the basis of merit and fitness, without regard to political influence or affiliation. Such merit system shall not apply to the chief administrative officer of the department and, if the sewer and/or water utility is a division of a department having other functions, the chief administrative officer of such utility. [1971 ex.s. c 96 § 6; 1967 c 72 § 12.]

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

**36.94.130 Adoption of rules and regulations.** The board of county commissioners may adopt by resolution reasonable rules and regulations governing the construction, maintenance, operation, use, connection and service of the system of sewerage and/or water. [1967 c 72 § 13.]

**36.94.140 Authority of county to operate system—Rates and charges, fixing of—Factors to be considered—Assistance for low-income persons.** (1) Every county, in the operation of a system of sewerage and/or water, shall have full jurisdiction and authority to manage, regulate, and control it. Except as provided in subsection (3) of this section, every county shall have full jurisdiction and authority to fix, alter, regulate, and control the rates and charges for the service and facilities to those to whom such service and facilities are available, and to levy charges for connection to the system.

(2) The rates for availability of service and facilities, and connection charges so charged must be uniform for the same class of customers or service and facility. In classifying customers served, service furnished or made available by such system of sewerage and/or water, or the connection charges, the county legislative authority may consider any or all of the following factors:

- (a) The difference in cost of service to the various customers within or without the area;
- (b) The difference in cost of maintenance, operation, repair and replacement of the various parts of the systems;
- (c) The different character of the service and facilities furnished various customers;
- (d) The quantity and quality of the sewage and/or water delivered and the time of its delivery;
- (e) Capital contributions made to the system or systems, including, but not limited to, assessments;
- (f) The cost of acquiring the system or portions of the system in making system improvements necessary for the public health and safety;
- (g) The public benefit nonprofit corporation status, as defined in RCW 24.03A.245, of the land user; and
- (h) Any other matters which present a reasonable difference as a ground for distinction.

(3) The rate a county may charge under this section for storm or surface water sewer systems or the portion of the rate allocable to the storm or surface water sewer system of

combined sanitary sewage and storm or surface water sewer systems shall be reduced by a minimum of ten percent for any new or remodeled commercial building that utilizes a permissive rainwater harvesting system. Rainwater harvesting systems shall be properly sized to utilize the available roof surface of the building. The jurisdiction shall consider rate reductions in excess of ten percent dependent upon the amount of rainwater harvested.

(4) A county may provide assistance to aid low-income persons in connection with services provided under this chapter.

(5) The service charges and rates shall produce revenues sufficient to take care of the costs of maintenance and operation, revenue bond and warrant interest and principal amortization requirements, and all other charges necessary for the efficient and proper operation of the system.

(6) A connection charge under this section for service to a manufactured housing community, as defined in RCW 59.20.030, applies to an individual lot within that community only if the system of water or sewerage provides and maintains the connection. [2021 c 176 § 5215; 2005 c 324 § 2; 2003 c 394 § 4; 1997 c 447 § 12; 1995 c 124 § 2; 1990 c 133 § 2; 1975 1st ex.s. c 188 § 2; 1967 c 72 § 14.]

**Effective date—2021 c 176:** See note following RCW 24.03A.005.

**Finding—Purpose—1997 c 447:** See note following RCW 70.05.074.

**Findings—1990 c 133:** "The legislature finds the best interests of the citizens of the state are served if:

- (1) Customers served by public water systems are assured of an adequate quantity and quality of water supply at reasonable rates;
- (2) There is improved coordination between state agencies engaged in water system planning and public health regulation and local governments responsible for land use regulation and public health and safety;
- (3) Public water systems in violation of health and safety standards adopted under RCW 43.20.050 remain in operation and continue providing water service providing that public health is not compromised, assuming a suitable replacement purveyor is found and deficiencies are corrected in an expeditious manner consistent with public health and safety; and
- (4) The state address[es], in a systematic and comprehensive fashion, new operating requirements which will be imposed on public water systems under the federal Safe Drinking Water Act." [1990 c 133 § 1.]

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

**36.94.145 Public property subject to rates and charges for stormwater control facilities.** Except as otherwise provided in RCW 90.03.525, any public entity and public property, including the state of Washington and state property, shall be subject to rates and charges for stormwater control facilities to the same extent private persons and private property are subject to such rates and charges that are imposed by counties pursuant to RCW 36.94.140. In setting these rates and charges, consideration may be made of in-kind services, such as stream improvements or donation of property. [1986 c 278 § 58; 1983 c 315 § 4.]

*Flood control zone districts—Stormwater control improvements: Chapter 86.15 RCW.*

*Rates and charges for stormwater control facilities—Limitations—Definitions: RCW 90.03.500 through 90.03.525. See also RCW 35.67.025, 35.92.021, and 36.89.085.*

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

**36.94.150 Lien for delinquent charges.** (1) All counties operating a system of sewerage and/or water shall have a lien for delinquent connection charges and charges for the availability of sewerage and/or water service, together with

interest fixed by resolution at eight percent per annum from the date due until paid. Penalties of not more than ten percent of the amount due may be imposed in case of failure to pay the charges at times fixed by resolution. The lien shall be for all charges, interest, penalties, and lien recording and release fees, and shall attach to the premises to which the services were available. The lien shall be superior to all other liens and encumbrances, except general taxes and local and special assessments of the county.

(2) The county department established in RCW 36.94.120 shall certify periodically the delinquencies to the auditor of the county at which time the lien shall attach.

(3) In lieu of the procedure provided in subsection (2) of this section, a county may, by resolution or ordinance, adopt the alternative procedure applicable to cities and towns set forth in RCW 35.67.210, 35.67.215, and 35.67.290.

(4) Upon the expiration of sixty days after the attachment of the lien, the county may bring suit in foreclosure by civil action in the superior court of the county where the property is located. Costs associated with the foreclosure of the lien, including but not limited to advertising, title report, and personnel costs, shall be added to the lien upon filing of the foreclosure action. In addition to the costs and disbursements provided by statute, the court may allow the county a reasonable attorney's fee. The lien shall be foreclosed in the same manner as the foreclosure of real property tax liens. [2015 c 41 § 1; 1997 c 393 § 9; 1975 1st ex.s. c 188 § 3; 1967 c 72 § 15.]

**36.94.160 Tax on gross revenues authorized.** The county shall have the power to levy a tax on the system of sewerage and/or water operated by the county or counties as authorized by this chapter, not to exceed eight percent per annum, on the gross revenues, to be paid to the county's general fund for payment of all costs of planning, financing, construction and operation of the system. [1967 c 72 § 16.]

**36.94.170 Authority of municipal corporations—Relinquishment of.** The primary authority to construct, operate and maintain a system of sewerage and/or water within the boundaries of a municipal corporation which lies within the area of the county's sewerage and/or water general plan shall remain with such municipal corporation. A county, after it has adopted and received the necessary approvals of its sewer and/or water general plan under the provisions of chapter 36.94 RCW may construct, own, operate and maintain a system of sewerage and/or water within the boundaries of a city or town with the written consent of such city or town and within any other municipal corporation provided such municipal corporation (1) has the legislative authority to operate such a utility; and (2)(a) has given its written consent to the county to operate therein; or (b) after adoption of a comprehensive plan or an amendment thereto for the area involved, the municipal corporation has not within twelve months after receiving notice by the county of its intention to serve that area held a formation hearing for a utility local improvement district.

Prior to exercising any authority granted in this section, the county shall compensate such municipal corporation for its reasonable costs, expenses and obligations actually incurred or contracted which are directly related to and which benefit the area which the county proposes to serve. The

county may contract with a municipal corporation to furnish such utility service within any municipal corporation.

Except in the case of annexations provided for in RCW 36.94.180, once a county qualifies under this section to serve within a municipal corporation, no municipal corporation may construct or operate a competing utility in the same territory to be served by the county if the county proceeds within a reasonable period of time with the construction of its proposed facilities including the sale of any bonds to finance the same.

As may be permitted by other statutes, a city or town may provide water or sewer service outside of its corporate limits, but such service may not conflict with the county plan or any county, sewer or water facilities installed or being installed.

A county proposing to exercise any authority granted in this section shall give written notice of such intention to the municipal corporation involved and to the boundary review board, if any, of such county. Within sixty days of the filing of such notice of intention, review by the boundary review board of the proposed action may be requested as provided by the provisions of RCW 36.93.100 through 36.93.180. In the event of such review, the board shall consider the factors set forth in this section in addition to the factors and objectives set forth in RCW 36.93.170 and 36.93.180. [1971 ex.s. c 96 § 7; 1967 c 72 § 17.]

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

**36.94.180 Transfer of system upon annexation or incorporation of area.** In the event of the annexation to a city or town of an area, or incorporation of an area, in which a county is operating a sewerage and/or water system, the property, facilities, and equipment of such sewerage and/or water system lying within the annexed or incorporated area may be transferred to the city or town if such transfer will not materially affect the operation of any of the remaining county system, subject to the assumption by the city or town of the county's obligations relating to such property, facilities, and equipment, under the procedures specified in, and pursuant to the authority contained in, chapter 35.13A RCW. [1986 c 234 § 34; 1983 c 3 § 82; 1971 ex.s. c 96 § 8; 1967 c 72 § 18.]

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

**36.94.190 Contracts with other entities.** Every county in furtherance of the powers granted by this chapter shall be authorized to contract with the federal government, the state of Washington, or any city or town, within or without the county, and with any other county, and with any municipal corporation as defined herein or with any other municipal corporation created under the laws of the state of Washington and not limited as defined in RCW 36.94.010, or political subdivision, and with any person, firm or corporation in and for the establishment, maintenance and operation of all or a portion of a system or systems of sewerage and/or water supply.

The state and such city, town, person, firm, corporation, municipal corporation and any other municipal corporation created under the laws of the state of Washington and not limited as defined in RCW 36.94.010, and political subdivision, is authorized to contract with a county or counties for such purposes. [1967 c 72 § 19.]

**36.94.200 Indebtedness—Bonds.** The legislative authority of any county is hereby authorized for the purpose of carrying out the lawful powers granted by this chapter to contract indebtedness and to issue and sell general obligation bonds pursuant to and in the manner provided for general county bonds in chapters 36.67 and 39.46 RCW and other applicable statutes; and to issue revenue bonds pursuant to and in the manner provided for revenue bonds in chapter 36.67 RCW and other applicable statutes. The county legislative authority may also issue local improvement district bonds in the manner provided for cities and towns. [1984 c 186 § 35; 1983 c 167 § 101; 1981 c 313 § 2; 1967 c 72 § 20.]

**Purpose—1984 c 186:** See note following RCW 39.46.110.

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

**36.94.210 Pledge for payment of principal and interest on revenue or general obligation bonds.** The board of county commissioners of any county in adopting and establishing a system of sewerage and/or water may set aside into a special fund and pledge to the payment of the principal and interest due on any county revenue bonds or general obligation bonds any sums or amounts which may accrue from the collection of rates and charges for the private and public use of the system or systems. [1975 1st ex.s. c 188 § 4; 1967 c 72 § 21.]

**36.94.220 Local improvement districts and utility local improvement districts—Establishment—Special assessments.** (1) A county shall have the power to establish utility local improvement districts and local improvement districts within the area of a sewerage and/or water general plan and to levy special assessments under a mode of annual installments extending over a period not exceeding twenty years on all property specially benefited by any local improvement on the basis of the special benefits to pay in whole or in part the damages or costs of any improvements ordered in such county.

(2) Utility local improvement districts and local improvement districts may include territory within a city or town only with the written consent of the city or town, but if the local district is formed before such area is included within the city or town, no such consent shall be necessary. Utility local improvement districts and local improvement districts used to provide sewerage disposal systems may include territory within a water-sewer district providing sewerage disposal systems only with the written consent of such a water-sewer district, but if the local district is formed before such area is included within such a water-sewer district, no consent is necessary. Utility local improvement districts and local improvement districts used to provide water systems may include territory within a water-sewer district providing water systems only with the written consent of such a water-sewer district, but if the local district is formed before such area is included within such a water-sewer district, no consent is necessary.

(3) The levying, collection, and enforcement of all public assessments hereby authorized shall be in the manner now and hereafter provided by law for the levying, collection, and enforcement of local improvement assessments by cities and towns, insofar as the same shall not be inconsistent with the provisions of this chapter. In addition, the county shall file

the preliminary assessment roll at the time and in the manner prescribed in RCW 35.50.005. The duties devolving upon the city or town treasurer under such laws are imposed upon the county treasurer for the purposes of this chapter. The mode of assessment shall be in the manner to be determined by the county legislative authority by ordinance or resolution. As an alternative to equal annual assessment installments of principal provided for cities and towns, a county legislative authority may provide for the payment of such assessments in equal annual installments of principal and interest. Assessments in any local district may be made on the basis of special benefits up to but not in excess of the total cost of any sewerage and/or water improvement made with respect to that local district and the share of any general sewerage and/or water facilities allocable to that district. In utility local improvement districts, assessments shall be deposited into the revenue bond fund or general obligation bond fund established for the payment of bonds issued to pay such costs which bond payments are secured in part by the pledge of assessments, except pending the issuance and sale of such bonds, assessments may be deposited in a fund for the payment of such costs. In local improvement districts, assessments shall be deposited into a fund for the payment of such costs and local improvement bonds issued to finance the same or into the local improvement guaranty fund as provided by applicable statute. [1999 c 153 § 48; 1981 c 313 § 3; 1975 1st ex.s. c 188 § 5; 1971 ex.s. c 96 § 9; 1967 c 72 § 22.]

*Local improvements, supplemental authority: Chapter 35.51 RCW.*

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

**36.94.225 Exemption of farm and agricultural land from special benefit assessments.** See RCW 84.34.300 through 84.34.380 and 84.34.922.

**36.94.230 Local improvement districts and utility local improvement districts—Initiation of district by resolution or petition—Publication—Notice to property owners—Contents.** Utility local improvement districts and local improvement districts to carry out all or any portion of the general plan, or additions and betterments thereof, may be initiated either by resolution of the county legislative authority or by petition signed by the owners according to the records of the office of the county assessor of at least fifty-one percent of the area of land within the limits of the local district to be created.

In case the county legislative authority desires to initiate the formation of a local district by resolution, it shall first pass a resolution declaring its intention to order such improvement, setting forth the nature and territorial extent of such proposed improvement, designating the number of the proposed local district, describing the boundaries thereof, stating the estimated cost and expense of the improvement and the proportionate amount thereof which will be borne by the property within the proposed district, and fixing a date, time, and place for a public hearing on the formation of the proposed local district.

In case any such local district is initiated by petition, such petition shall set forth the nature and territorial extent of such proposed improvement and the fact that the signers thereof are the owners according to the records of the county assessor of at least fifty-one percent of the area of land within



the limits of the local district to be created. Upon the filing of such petition with the clerk of the county legislative authority, the authority shall determine whether the same is sufficient, and the authority's determination thereof shall be conclusive upon all persons. No person may withdraw his or her name from said petition after the filing thereof with the clerk of the county legislative authority. If the county legislative authority finds the petition to be sufficient, it shall proceed to adopt a resolution declaring its intention to order the improvement petitioned for, setting forth the nature and territorial extent of said improvement, designating the number of the proposed local district, describing the boundaries thereof, stating the estimated cost and expense of the improvement and the proportionate amount thereof which will be borne by the property within the proposed local district, and fixing a date, time, and place for a public hearing on the formation of the proposed local district.

Notice of the adoption of the resolution of intention, whether adopted on the initiative of the board or pursuant to a petition of the property owners, shall be published in at least two consecutive issues of a newspaper of general circulation in the proposed local district, the date of the first publication to be at least fifteen days prior to the date fixed by such resolution for hearing before the county legislative authority. Notice of the adoption of the resolution of intention shall also be given each owner or reputed owner of any lot, tract, parcel of land, or other property within the proposed local district by mailing said notice at least fifteen days before the date fixed for the public hearing to the owner or reputed owner of the property as shown on the tax rolls of the county treasurer at the address shown thereon. The notice shall refer to the resolution of intention and designate the proposed local district by number. Said notice shall also set forth the nature of the proposed improvement, the total estimated cost, the proportion of total cost to be borne by assessments, the estimated amount of the cost and expense of such improvement to be borne by the particular lot, tract, or parcel, the date, time, and place of the hearing before the county legislative authority; and in the case of improvements initiated by resolution, said notice shall also state that all persons desiring to object to the formation of the proposed district must file their written protests with the clerk of the county legislative authority before the time fixed for said public hearing. [2002 c 168 § 2; 1981 c 313 § 4; 1971 ex.s. c 96 § 10; 1967 c 72 § 23.]

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

**36.94.232 Local improvement districts and utility local improvement districts—Notice must contain statement that assessments may vary from estimates.** Any notice given to the public or to the owners of specific lots, tracts, or parcels of land relating to the formation of a local improvement district or utility local improvement district shall contain a statement that actual assessments may vary from assessment estimates so long as they do not exceed a figure equal to the increased true and fair value the improvement adds to the property. [1989 c 243 § 6.]

**36.94.235 Local improvement districts and utility local improvement districts—Sanitary sewer or potable water facilities—Notice to certain property owners.** Whenever it is proposed that a local improvement district or

utility local improvement district finance sanitary sewers or potable water facilities, additional notice of the public hearing on the proposed improvement district shall be mailed to the owners of any property located outside of the proposed improvement district that would be required as a condition of federal housing administration loan qualification, at the time of notice, to be connected to the specific sewer or water facilities installed by the local improvement district. The notice shall include information about this restriction. [1987 c 315 § 3.]

**36.94.240 Local improvement districts and utility local improvement districts—Hearing—Improvement ordered—Divestment of power to order, time limitation—Assessment roll.** Whether the improvement is initiated by petition or resolution, the county legislative authority shall conduct a public hearing at the time and place designated in the notice to the property owners. At this hearing the authority shall hear objections from any person affected by the formation of the local district and may make such changes in the boundaries of the district or such modifications in plans for the proposed improvement as are deemed necessary: PROVIDED, That the authority may not change the boundaries of the district to include property not previously included therein without first passing a new resolution of intention and giving a new notice to property owners in the manner and form and within the time herein provided for the original notice.

After said hearing the county legislative authority has jurisdiction to overrule protests and proceed with any such improvement initiated by petition or resolution: PROVIDED, That the jurisdiction of the authority to proceed with any improvement initiated by resolution shall be divested by protests filed with the clerk of the authority prior to said public hearing signed by the owners, according to the records of the county auditor, of at least forty percent of the area of land within the proposed local district. No action whatsoever may be maintained challenging the jurisdiction or authority of the county to proceed with the improvement and creating the local district or in any way challenging the validity thereof or any proceedings relating thereto unless that action is served and filed no later than thirty days after the date of passage of the resolution ordering the improvement and creating the local district.

If the county legislative authority finds that the district should be formed, it shall by resolution order the improvement, adopt detailed plans of the local district and declare the estimated cost thereof, acquire all necessary land therefor, pay all damages caused thereby, and commence in the name of the county such eminent domain proceedings and supplemental assessment or reassessment proceedings to pay all eminent domain awards as may be necessary to entitle the county to proceed with the work. The county legislative authority shall proceed with the work and file with the county treasurer its roll levying special assessments in the amount to be paid by special assessment against the property situated within the local district in proportion to the special benefits to be derived by the property therein from the improvement. [1981 c 313 § 5; 1971 ex.s. c 96 § 11; 1967 c 72 § 24.]

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

**36.94.250 Local improvement districts and utility local improvement districts—Notice of filing roll—Hearing on protests.** Before the approval of the roll a notice shall be published once a week for two consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the local district, stating that the roll is on file and open to inspection in the office of the county legislative authority, and fixing the time, not less than fifteen or more than forty-five days from the date of the first publication of the notice, within which protests must be filed with the clerk against any assessments shown thereon, and fixing a time when a hearing will be held on the protests. The hearing shall be held before the county legislative authority, or the county legislative authority may direct that the hearing shall be held before either a committee of the legislative authority or a designated officer. The notice shall also be given by mailing at least fifteen days before the hearing, a similar notice to the owners or reputed owners of the land in the local district as they appear on the books of the treasurer of the county. [1981 c 313 § 17; 1967 c 72 § 25.]

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

**36.94.260 Local improvement districts and utility local improvement districts—Hearing on protests—Order—Appeal.** (1) At such hearing on a protest to an assessment, or any adjournment thereof, the county legislative authority or committee or officer shall sit as a board of equalization. If the protest is heard by the county legislative authority, it shall have power to correct, revise, raise, lower, change, or modify such roll, or any part thereof, and to set aside such roll, and order that such assessment be made de novo, as shall appear equitable and just. If the protest is heard by a committee or officer, the committee or officer shall make recommendations to the county legislative authority which shall either adopt or reject the recommendations of the committee or officer. If a hearing is held before such a committee or officer, it shall not be necessary to hold a hearing on the assessment roll before such legislative authority: PROVIDED, That any county providing for an officer to hear such protests shall adopt an ordinance providing for an appeal from a decision made by the officer that any person protesting his or her assessment may make to the legislative authority. The county legislative authority shall, in all instances, approve the assessment roll by ordinance or resolution.

(2) In the event of any assessment being raised a new notice similar to such first notice shall be given, after which final approval of such roll may be made by the county legislative authority or committee or officer. Whenever any property has been entered originally upon such roll and the assessment upon any such property shall not be raised, no objection thereto may be considered by the county legislative authority or committee or officer or by any court on appeal unless such objection be made in writing at, or prior, to the date fixed for the original hearing upon such roll. [1981 c 313 § 18; 1967 c 72 § 26.]

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

**36.94.270 Local improvement districts and utility local improvement districts—Enlarged local district may be formed.** If any portion of the system after its installation in such local district is not adequate for the purpose for which

it was intended, or that for any reason changes, alterations, or betterments are necessary in any portion of the system after its installation, then such district, with boundaries which may include one or more existing local districts, may be created in the same manner as is provided herein for the creation of local districts. Upon the organization of such local district as provided for in this section the plan of the improvement and the payment of the cost of the improvement shall be carried out in the same manner as is provided herein for the carrying out of and the paying for the improvement in the utility local improvement districts or local improvement districts previously provided for in this chapter. [1981 c 313 § 6; 1967 c 72 § 27.]

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

**36.94.280 Local improvement districts and utility local improvement districts—Conclusiveness of roll when approved—Adjustments to assessments if other funds become available.** Whenever any assessment roll for local improvements has been confirmed by the county legislative authority, the regularity, validity and correctness of the proceedings relating to the improvement and to the assessment therefor, including the action of the county legislative authority upon the assessment roll and the confirmation thereof, shall be conclusive in all things upon all parties, and cannot in any manner be contested or questioned in any proceeding by any person not filing written objections to the assessment roll in the manner and within the time provided in this chapter, and not appealing from the action of the county legislative authority in confirming the assessment roll in the manner and within the time in this chapter provided. No proceedings of any kind shall be commenced or prosecuted for the purpose of defeating or contesting any assessment, or the sale of any property to pay an assessment, or any certificate of delinquency issued therefor, or the foreclosure of any lien issued therefor: PROVIDED, That this section shall not be construed as prohibiting the bringing of injunction proceedings to prevent the sale of any real estate upon the grounds:

- (1) That the property about to be sold does not appear upon the assessment roll, or
- (2) That the assessment has been paid.

If federal, local, or state funds become available for a local improvement after the assessment roll has been confirmed by the county legislative authority, the funds may be used to lower the assessments on a uniform basis. Any adjustments to the assessments because of the availability of federal or state funds may be made on the next annual payment. [1985 c 397 § 10; 1967 c 72 § 28.]

**36.94.290 Local improvement districts and utility local improvement districts—Appellate review.** The decision of the board of county commissioners upon any objections made within the time and in the manner herein prescribed, may be reviewed by the superior court upon an appeal thereto taken in the following manner. Such appeal shall be made by filing written notice of appeal with the clerk of the board of county commissioners and with the clerk of the superior court within ten days after the resolution confirming such assessment roll shall have become published, and such notice shall describe the property and set forth the objections of such appellant to such assessment. Within the

ten days from the filing of such notice of appeal with the clerk of the superior court, the appellant shall file with the clerk of said court, a transcript consisting of the assessment roll and his or her objections thereto, together with the resolution confirming such assessment roll and the record of the board of county commissioners with reference to said assessment, which transcript, upon payment of the necessary fees therefor, shall be furnished by such clerk of the board of county commissioners and by him or her certified to contain full, true and correct copies of all matters and proceedings required to be included in such transcript. Such fees shall be the same as the fees payable to the county clerk for the preparation and certification of transcripts on appeal to the supreme court or the court of appeals in civil actions. At the time of the filing of the notice of appeal with the clerk of the superior court a sufficient bond in the penal sum of two hundred dollars, with sureties thereon as provided by law for appeals in civil cases, shall be filed conditioned to prosecute such appeal without delay, and if unsuccessful, to pay all costs to which the county is put by reason of such appeal. The court may order the appellant upon application therefor, to execute and file such additional bond or bonds as the necessity of the case may require. Within three days after such transcript is filed in the superior court, as aforesaid, the appellant shall give written notice to the clerk of the board of county commissioners that such transcript is filed. Said notice shall state a time, not less than three days from the service thereof, when the appellant will call up the said cause for hearing. The superior court shall, at said time or at such further time as may be fixed by order of the court, hear and determine such appeal without a jury, and such cause shall have preference over all civil causes pending in said court, except proceedings under an act relating to eminent domain in such county and actions of forcible entry and detainer. The judgment of the court shall confirm, correct, modify or annul the assessment insofar as the same affects the property of the appellant. A certified copy of the decision of the court shall be filed with the officer who shall have the custody of the assessment roll, and he or she shall modify and correct such assessment roll in accordance with such decision. Appellate review of the judgment of the superior court may be sought as in other cases. However, review must be sought within fifteen days after the date of the entry of the judgment of such superior court. The supreme court or the court of appeals on such appeal may correct, change, modify, confirm or annul the assessment insofar as the same affects the property of the appellant. A certified copy of the order of the supreme court or the court of appeals upon such appeal shall be filed with the officer having custody of such assessment roll, who shall thereupon modify and correct such assessment roll in accordance with such decision. [2009 c 549 § 4155; 1988 c 202 § 41; 1971 c 81 § 98; 1967 c 72 § 29.]

**Rules of court:** *Cf. RAP 18.22.*

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

**36.94.300 Local improvement districts and utility local improvement districts—Segregation of special assessment—Fee—Costs.** Whenever any land against which there has been levied any special assessment by a county shall have been sold in part or subdivided, the board

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of county commissioners of such county shall have the power to order a segregation of the assessment.

Any person desiring to have such a special assessment against a tract of land segregated to apply to smaller parts thereof shall apply to the board of county commissioners which levied the assessment. If the board determines that a segregation should be made, they shall by resolution order the county treasurer to make segregation on the original assessment roll as directed in the resolution. The segregation shall be made as nearly as possible on the same basis as the original assessment was levied, and the total of the segregated parts of the assessment shall equal the assessment before segregation. The resolution shall describe the original tract, the amount and date of the original assessment, and shall define the boundaries of the divided parts and the amount of the assessment chargeable to each part. A certified copy of the resolution shall be delivered to the county treasurer who shall proceed to make the segregation ordered upon being tendered a fee of three dollars for each tract of land for which a segregation is to be made. In addition to such charge the board of county commissioners may require as a condition to the order of segregation that the person seeking it pay the county the reasonable engineering and clerical costs incident to making the segregation. [1967 c 72 § 30.]

**36.94.305 Service fees for sewers not constructed within ten years after voter approval—Credit against future assessments, service charges.** See RCW 35.43.260.

**36.94.310 Transfer of system from municipal corporation to county—Authorized.** Subject to the provisions of RCW 36.94.310 through 36.94.350 a municipal corporation may transfer to the county within which all of its territory lies, all or part of the property constituting its system of sewerage, system of water or combined water and sewerage system, together with any of its other real or personal property used or useful in connection with the operation, maintenance, repair, replacement, extension, or financing of that system, and the county may acquire such property on such terms as may be mutually agreed upon by the governing body of the municipal corporation and the legislative authority of the county, and approved by the superior court for such county. [1975 1st ex.s. c 188 § 7.]

**36.94.320 Transfer of system from municipal corporation to county—Assumption of indebtedness.** In consideration of a transfer of property by a municipal corporation to a county in the manner provided in RCW 36.94.310 through 36.94.350, a county may assume and agree to pay or provide for the payment of all or part of the indebtedness of a municipal corporation including the payment and retirement of outstanding general obligation and revenue bonds issued by a municipal corporation. Until the indebtedness of a municipal corporation thus assumed by a county has been discharged, all property within the municipal corporation and the owners and occupants of that property, shall continue to be liable for taxes, special assessments, and other charges legally pledged to pay such indebtedness. The county may assume the obligation of causing the payment of such indebtedness, collecting such taxes, assessments, and charges and observing and performing the other contractual obligations of the municipal

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corporation. The legislative authority of the county may act in the same manner as the governing body of the municipal corporation for the purpose of certifying the amount of any property tax to be levied and collected therein, and may cause service and other charges and assessments to be collected from such property or owners or occupants thereof, enforce such collection and perform all other acts necessary to insure performance of the contractual obligations of the municipal corporation in the same manner and by the same means as if the property of the municipal corporation had not been acquired by the county.

When a county assumes the obligation of paying indebtedness of a municipal corporation and if property taxes or assessments have been levied and service and other charges have accrued for such purpose but have not been collected by the municipal corporation prior to such assumption, the same when collected shall belong and be paid to the county and be used by such county so far as necessary for payment of the indebtedness of the municipal corporation existing and unpaid on the date such county assumed that indebtedness. Any funds received by the county which have been collected for the purpose of paying any bonded or other indebtedness of the municipal corporation shall be used for the purpose for which they were collected and for no other purpose until such indebtedness has been paid and retired or adequate provision has been made for such payment and retirement. No transfer of property as provided in \*this amendatory act shall derogate from the claims or rights of the creditors of the municipal corporation or impair the ability of the municipal corporation to respond to its debts and obligations. [1975 1st ex.s. c 188 § 8.]

\*Reviser's note: For codification of "this amendatory act" [1975 1st ex.s. c 188], see Codification Tables.

**36.94.330 Transfer of system from municipal corporation to county—Transfer agreement.** The governing body of a municipal corporation proposing to transfer all or part of its property to a county in the manner provided by RCW 36.94.310 through 36.94.350 and the legislative authority of a county proposing to accept such property, and to assume if it so agrees any indebtedness of the municipal corporation in consideration of such transfer, shall adopt resolutions or ordinances authorizing respectively the execution of a written agreement setting forth the terms and conditions upon which they have agreed and finding the transfer and acquisition of property pursuant to such agreement to be in the public interest and conducive to the public health, safety, welfare, or convenience. Such written agreement may include provisions, by way of description and not by way of limitation, for the rights, powers, duties, and obligations of such municipal corporation and county with regard to the use and ownership of property, the providing of services, the maintenance and operation of facilities, the allocation of costs, the financing and construction of new facilities, the application and use of assets, the disposition of liabilities and indebtedness, the performance of contractual obligations, and any other matters relating to the proposed transfer of property, which may be preceded by an interim period of operation by the county of the property and facilities subsequently to be transferred to that county. The agreement may provide for a period of time during which the municipal corporation

may continue to exercise certain rights, privileges, powers, and functions authorized to it by law including the ability to promulgate rules and regulations, to levy and collect special assessments, rates, charges, service charges and connection fees, and to adopt and carry out the provisions of a comprehensive plan, and amendments thereto, for a system of improvements and to issue general obligation bonds or revenue bonds in the manner provided by law, or the agreement may provide for the exercise for a period of time of all or some of such rights, privileges, powers, and functions by the county. The agreement may provide that either party thereto may authorize, issue and sell, in the manner provided by law, revenue bonds to provide funds for new water or sewer improvements or to refund or advance refund any water revenue, sewer revenue or combined water and sewer revenue bonds outstanding of either or both such parties. The agreement may provide that either party thereto may authorize and issue, in the manner provided by law, general obligation or revenue bonds of like amounts, terms, conditions and covenants as the outstanding bonds of either or both such parties and such new bonds may be substituted or exchanged for such outstanding bonds to the extent permitted by law. [1975 1st ex.s. c 188 § 9.]

**36.94.340 Transfer of system from municipal corporation to county—Petition for court approval of transfer—Hearing—Decree.** When a municipal corporation and a county have entered into a written agreement providing for the transfer to such county of all or part of the property of such municipal corporation, proceedings may be initiated in the superior court for that county by the filing of a petition to which there shall be attached copies of the agreement of the parties and of the resolutions of the governing body of the municipal corporation and the legislative authority of the county authorizing its execution. Such petition shall ask that the court approve and direct the proposed transfer of property, and any assumption of indebtedness agreed to in consideration thereof by the county, after finding such transfer and acquisition of property to be in the public interest and conducive to the public health, safety, welfare, or convenience. Such petition shall be signed by the members of the legislative authority of the county or chief administrative officer of the municipal corporation and the chair of the legislative authority of the county, respectively, upon authorization by the governing body of the municipal corporation and the legislative authority of the county.

Within thirty days after the filing of the petition of the parties with copies of their agreement and the resolutions authorizing its execution attached thereto, the court shall by order fix a date for a hearing on the petition not less than twenty nor more than ninety days after the entry of such order which also shall prescribe the form and manner of notice of such hearing to be given. After considering the petition and such evidence as may be presented at the hearing thereon, the court may determine by decree that the proposed transfer of property is in the public interest and conducive to the public health, safety, welfare, or convenience, approve the agreement of the parties and direct that such transfer be accomplished in accordance with that agreement at the time and in the manner prescribed by the court decree. [2009 c 549 § 4156; 1975 1st ex.s. c 188 § 10.]

**36.94.350 Transfer of system from municipal corporation to county—Dissolution of municipal corporation.** In the event the agreement of the parties provides for the transfer to the county of all the property of the municipal corporation or all such property except bond redemption funds in the possession of the county treasurer from which outstanding bonds of the municipal corporation are payable, and the agreement also provides for the assumption and payment by the county of all the indebtedness of the municipal corporation including the payment and retirement of all its outstanding bonds, and if the petition of the parties so requests, the court in the decree approving and directing the transfer of property, or in a subsequent decree, may dissolve the municipal corporation effective as of the time of transfer of property or at such time thereafter as the court may determine and establish. [1975 1st ex.s. c 188 § 11.]

**36.94.360 Transfer of system from municipal corporation to county—RCW 36.94.310 through 36.94.350 deemed alternative method.** The provisions of RCW 36.94.310 through 36.94.350 shall be deemed to provide an alternative method for the doing of the things therein authorized and shall not be construed as imposing any additional conditions upon the exercise of any other powers vested in municipal corporations or counties. [1975 1st ex.s. c 188 § 12.]

**36.94.370 Waiver or delay of collection of tap-in charges, connection or hookup fees for low income persons.** Whenever a county waives or delays collection of tap-in charges, connection fees or hookup fees for low income persons, or class of low income persons, to connect to a system of sewerage or a system of water, the waiver or delay shall be pursuant to a program established by ordinance. [1980 c 150 § 2.]

**36.94.380 Local improvement bonds—Local improvement guaranty fund—Payments—Assessments—Certificates of delinquency.** Every county adopting a water and/or sewerage general plan is hereby authorized to create a fund for the purpose of guaranteeing, to the extent of such fund, and in the manner hereinafter provided, the payment of all of its local improvement bonds issued, subsequent to May 19, 1981, to pay for any water or sewerage local improvement within its confines. Such fund shall be designated ". . . . County Local Improvement Guaranty Fund" and shall be established by resolution of the county legislative authority. For the purpose of maintaining such fund, every county, after the establishment thereof, shall at all times set aside and pay into such a fund such proportion of the monthly gross revenues of the water and/or sewerage system of such county as the legislative authority thereof may direct by resolution. This proportion may be varied from time to time as the county legislative authority deems expedient or necessary, except that under the existence of the conditions set forth in subsections (1) and (2) of this section, the proportion must be as therein specified.

(1) Whenever any bonds of any local improvement district have been guaranteed under RCW 36.94.380 through 36.94.400 and the guaranty fund does not have a cash balance equal to five percent of all bonds originally guaranteed under

this chapter (excluding issues which have been retired in full), then five percent of the gross monthly revenues derived from all water and sewer users in the territory included in that local improvement district (but not necessarily from users in other parts of the county as a whole) may be set aside and paid into the guaranty fund. Whenever, under the requirements of this subsection, the cash balance accumulates so that it is equal to five percent of all bonds guaranteed, or to the full amount of all bonds guaranteed, outstanding and unpaid (which amount might be less than five percent of the original total guaranteed), then no further moneys need be set aside and paid into the guaranty fund so long as that condition continues.

(2) Whenever any warrants issued against the guaranty fund, as provided in this section, remain outstanding and uncalled for lack of funds for six months from the date of issuance thereof; or whenever any coupons or bonds guaranteed under this chapter have been matured for six months and have not been redeemed either in cash or by issuance and delivery of warrants upon the guaranty fund, then five percent of the gross monthly revenues (or such portion thereof as the county legislative authority determines will be sufficient to retire those warrants or redeem those coupons or bonds in the ensuing six months) derived from all water and/or sewer users in the county shall be set aside and paid into the guaranty fund. Whenever under the requirements of this subsection all such warrants, coupons, or bonds have been redeemed, no further income need be set aside and paid into the guaranty fund under the requirements of this subsection until and unless other warrants remain outstanding and unpaid for six months or other coupons or bonds default.

(3) For the purpose of complying with the requirements of setting aside and paying into the local improvement guaranty fund a proportion of the monthly gross revenues of the water supply and/or sewerage system of any county, that county shall bind and obligate itself to maintain and operate such system and further bind and obligate itself to establish, maintain, and collect such rates for water as will provide gross revenues sufficient to maintain and operate such systems and to make necessary provision for the local improvement guaranty fund as specified by this section, and the county shall alter its rates for water or sewer service from time to time and shall vary the same in different portions of its territory to comply with those requirements.

(4) Whenever any coupon or bond guaranteed by RCW 36.94.380 through 36.94.400 matures and there is not sufficient funds in the appropriate local improvement district bond redemption fund to pay the coupon or bond, then the county treasurer shall pay the coupon or bond from the local improvement guaranty fund of the county; if there is not sufficient funds in the guaranty fund to pay the coupon or bond, then it may be paid by issuance and delivery of a warrant upon the local improvement guaranty fund.

(5) Whenever the cash balance in the local improvement guaranty fund is insufficient for the required purposes, warrants drawing interest of a rate fixed by the county legislative authority may be issued by the county auditor against the fund to meet any liability accrued against it and must be issued upon demand of the holders of any maturing coupons and/or bonds guaranteed by RCW 36.94.380 through 36.94.400, or to pay for any certificates of delinquency for

delinquent installments of assessments as provided in subsection (6) of this section. Guaranty fund warrants shall be a first lien in their order of issuance upon the gross revenues set aside and paid into the guaranty fund.

(6) Within twenty days after the date of delinquency of any annual installment of assessments levied for the purpose of paying the local improvement bonds of any county guaranteed under the provisions of this chapter, the county treasurer shall compile a statement of all installments delinquent, together with the amount of accrued interest and penalty appurtenant to each of those installments. Thereupon the county treasurer shall forthwith purchase certificates of delinquency for all such delinquent installments. Payment for all such certificates of delinquency shall be made from the local improvement guaranty fund, and if there is not sufficient moneys in the fund to pay for such certificates of delinquency, the county treasurer shall accept the local improvement guaranty fund warrants in payment therefor. All such certificates of delinquency shall be issued in the name of the local improvement guaranty fund, and all guaranty fund warrants issued in payment therefor shall be issued in the name of the appropriate local improvement district fund. Whenever any market is available and the county legislative authority so directs, the county treasurer shall sell any certificates of delinquency belonging to the local improvement guaranty fund, but any such sale may not be for less than face value thereof plus accrued interest from the date of issuance to date of sale.

Such certificates of delinquency, as above provided, shall be issued by the county treasurer, shall bear interest at the rate of eight percent per annum, shall be in each instance for the face value of the delinquent installment, plus accrued interest to date of issuance of certificate of delinquency, plus a penalty of five percent of such face value, and shall set forth the:

- (a) Description of the property assessed;
- (b) Date the installment of the assessment became delinquent; and
- (c) Name of the owner or reputed owner, if known.

Such certificates of delinquency may be redeemed by the owners of the property assessed at any time up to two years from the date of foreclosure of such certificate of delinquency.

If any certificate of delinquency is not redeemed by the second occurring first day of January subsequent to its issuance, the county treasurer shall then proceed to foreclose such certificate of delinquency in the manner specified for the foreclosure of the lien of local improvement assessments, pursuant to the laws applicable to cities or towns; and if no redemption is made within the succeeding two years the treasurer shall execute and deliver a deed conveying fee simple title to the property described in the foreclosed certificate of delinquency. [1981 c 313 § 7.]

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

**36.94.390 Local improvement bonds—Local improvement guaranty fund—Subrogation—Interest—Purchase of real property at foreclosure sales.** Whenever there is paid out of a guaranty fund any sum on account of principal or interest upon the local improvement bond, or on account of purchase of certificates of delinquency, the

county, as trustee for the fund, shall be subrogated to all rights of the holder of the bonds, or interest coupons, or delinquent assessment installments, so paid; and the proceeds thereof, or of the assessment or assessments underlying the same, shall become a part of the guaranty fund. There shall also be paid into each guaranty fund the interest received from the bank deposits of the fund, as well as any surplus remaining in the local improvement funds guaranteed under this chapter, after the payment of all outstanding bonds payable primarily out of such local improvement funds. As among the several issues of bonds guaranteed by the fund, no preference exists, but defaulted interest coupons and/or bonds shall be purchased out of the fund in the order of their presentation.

The legislative authority of every county operating under the provisions of RCW 36.94.380 through 36.94.400 shall by resolution prescribe appropriate rules for the guaranty fund, not inconsistent with this chapter. So much of the money of a guaranty fund as is necessary and is not required for other purposes under the terms of RCW 36.94.380 through 36.94.400 may, at the discretion of the county legislative authority, be used to purchase property at county tax foreclosure sales or from the county after foreclosure in cases where such property is subject to unpaid local improvement assessments securing bonds guaranteed under this chapter and such purchase is deemed necessary for the purpose of protecting the guaranty fund. In such cases the fund shall be subrogated to all rights of the county. After so acquiring title to real property, the county may lease or resell and convey the property in the manner that county property is authorized to be leased or resold and for such prices and on such terms as may be determined by resolution of the county legislative authority. Any provision of law to the contrary notwithstanding, all proceeds resulting from such resales belong to and shall be paid into the guaranty fund. [1981 c 313 § 8.]

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

**36.94.400 Local improvement bonds—Local improvement guaranty fund—Claims by bondholders—Transfer of cash balance to water and/or sewer maintenance fund.** Neither the holder nor the owner of any local improvement bonds guaranteed under the provisions of RCW 36.94.380 through 36.94.400 has any claim therefor against the county by which the bonds are issued, except for payment from the special assessments made for the improvement for which the local improvement bonds were issued, and except as against the local improvement guaranty fund of the county; and the county is not liable to any holder or owner of such local improvement bond for any loss to the guaranty fund occurring in the lawful operation thereof by the county. The remedy of the holder or owner of a local improvement bond, in the case of nonpayment, is confined to the enforcement of the assessment and to the guaranty fund. A copy of the foregoing part of this section shall be plainly written, printed, or engraved on each local improvement bond guaranteed by RCW 36.94.380 through 36.94.400. The establishment of a local improvement guaranty fund by any county shall not be deemed at variance from any water and/or sewerage general plan or amendment thereto heretofore adopted by such county.

If any local improvement guaranty fund authorized under RCW 36.94.380 through 36.94.400 at any time has a cash balance, and the obligations guaranteed thereby have all been paid off, then such balance shall be transferred to the water and/or sewer maintenance fund of the county. [1981 c 313 § 9.]

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

**36.94.410 Transfer of system from county to water-sewer district.** A system of sewerage, system of water or combined water and sewerage systems operated by a county under the authority of this chapter may be transferred from that county to a water-sewer district in the same manner as is provided for the transfer of those functions from a water-sewer district to a county in RCW 36.94.310 through 36.94.340. [1999 c 153 § 51; 1984 c 147 § 1.]

*Actions not subject to review by boundary review board: RCW 36.93.105.*

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

**36.94.420 Transfer of system from county to water-sewer district—Annexation—Hearing—Public notice—Operation of system.** If so provided in the transfer agreement, the area served by the system shall, upon completion of the transfer, be deemed annexed to and become a part of the water-sewer district acquiring the system. The county shall provide notice of the hearing by the county legislative authority on the ordinance executing the transfer agreement under RCW 36.94.330 as follows: (1) By mailed notice to all rate-payers served by the system at least fifteen days prior to the hearing; and (2) by notice in a newspaper of general circulation once at least fifteen days prior to the hearing.

In the event of an annexation under this section resulting from the transfer of a system of sewerage, a system of water, or combined water and sewer systems from a county to a water-sewer district, the water-sewer district shall operate the system or systems under the provisions of Title 57 RCW. [1999 c 153 § 52; 1996 c 230 § 1609; 1985 c 141 § 1; 1984 c 147 § 2.]

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

**36.94.430 Transfer of system from county to water-sewer district—Alternative method.** The provisions of RCW 36.94.410 and 36.94.420 provide an alternative method of accomplishing the transfer permitted by those sections and do not impose additional conditions upon the exercise of powers vested in water-sewer districts and counties. [1999 c 153 § 49; 1984 c 147 § 3.]

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

**36.94.440 Transfer of system from county to water-sewer district—Decree by superior court.** If the superior court finds that the transfer agreement authorized by RCW 36.94.410 is legally correct and that the interests of the owners of related indebtedness are protected, then the court by decree shall direct that the transfer be accomplished in accordance with the agreement. [1984 c 147 § 4.]

**36.94.450 Water conservation programs—Issuance of revenue bonds.** A county engaged in the sale or distribution of water may issue revenue bonds, or other evidence of indebtedness in the manner provided by this chapter for the

purpose of defraying the cost of financing programs for the conservation or more efficient use of water. The bonds or other evidence of indebtedness shall be deemed to be for capital purposes. [1992 c 25 § 2.]

**36.94.460 Water conservation programs—Counties authorized to provide assistance to water customers.** Any county engaged in the sale or distribution of water is hereby authorized, within limits established by the Constitution of the state of Washington, to assist the owners of structures that are provided water service by the county in financing the acquisition and installation of fixtures, systems, and equipment, for compensation or otherwise, for the conservation or more efficient use of water in the structures under a water conservation plan adopted by the county if the cost per unit of water saved or conserved by the use of the fixtures, systems, and equipment is less than the cost per unit of water supplied by the next least costly new water source available to the county to meet future demand. Except where otherwise authorized, assistance shall be limited to:

(1) Providing an inspection of the structure, either directly or through one or more inspectors under contract, to determine and inform the owner of the estimated cost of purchasing and installing conservation fixtures, systems, and equipment for which financial assistance will be approved and the estimated life-cycle savings to the water system and the consumer that are likely to result from the installation of the fixtures, systems, or equipment;

(2) Providing a list of businesses that sell and install the fixtures, systems, and equipment within or in close proximity to the service area of the county, each of which businesses shall have requested to be included and shall have the ability to provide the products in a workmanlike manner and to utilize the fixtures, systems, and equipment in accordance with the prevailing national standards;

(3) Arranging to have approved conservation fixtures, systems, and equipment installed by a private contractor whose bid is acceptable to the owner of the structure and verifying the installation; and

(4) Arranging or providing financing for the purchase and installation of approved conservation fixtures, systems, and equipment. The fixtures, systems, and equipment shall be purchased or installed by a private business, the owner, or the utility.

Pay back shall be in the form of incremental additions to the utility bill, billed either together with the use charge or separately. Loans shall not exceed two hundred forty months in length. [2010 1st sp.s. c 5 § 2; 1992 c 25 § 3.]

**36.94.470 Storm or surface water drains or facilities—Annexation, incorporation of area by city or town—Imposition of rates and charges by county.** Whenever a city or town annexes an area, or a city or town incorporates an area, and the county has issued revenue bonds or general obligation bonds to finance storm or surface water drains or facilities that are payable in whole or in part from rates or charges imposed in the area, the county shall continue imposing all portions of the rates or charges that are allocated to payment of the debt service on bonds in that area after the effective date of the annexation or official date of the incorporation until: (1) The debt is retired; (2) any debt that is

issued to refinance the underlying debt is retired; or (3) the city or town reimburses the county amount that is sufficient to retire that portion of the debt borne by the annexed or incorporated area. The county shall construct all facilities included in the stormwater plan intended to be financed by the proceeds of such bonds. If the county provides stormwater management services to the city or town by contract, the contract shall consider the value of payments made by property owners to the county for the payment of debt service.

The provisions of this section apply whether or not the bonds finance facilities that are geographically located within the area that is annexed or incorporated. [1993 c 361 § 2.]

**36.94.480 Assumption of substandard water system—Limited immunity from liability.** A county assuming responsibility for a water system that is not in compliance with state or federal requirements for public drinking water systems, and its agents and employees, are immune from lawsuits or causes of action, based on noncompliance with state or federal requirements for public drinking water systems, which predate the date of assuming responsibility and continue after the date of assuming responsibility, provided that the county has submitted and is complying with a plan and schedule of improvements approved by the department of health. This immunity shall expire on the earlier of the date the plan of improvements is completed or four years from the date of assuming responsibility. This immunity does not apply to intentional injuries, fraud, or bad faith. [1994 c 292 § 7.]

**Findings—Intent—1994 c 292:** See note following RCW 57.04.050.

**36.94.490 Cooperative watershed management.** In addition to the authority provided in RCW 36.94.020, a county may, as part of maintaining a system of sewerage and/or water, participate in and expend revenue on cooperative watershed management actions, including watershed management partnerships under RCW 39.34.210 and other intergovernmental agreements, for purposes of water supply, water quality, and water resource and habitat protection and management. [2003 c 327 § 9.]

**Finding—Intent—2003 c 327:** See note following RCW 39.34.190.

**36.94.900 Declaration of purpose.** This chapter is hereby declared to be necessary for the public peace, health, safety and welfare and declared to be a county purpose and that the bonds and special assessments authorized hereby are found to be for a public purpose. [1967 c 72 § 33.]

**36.94.910 Authority—Liberal construction of chapter—Modification of inconsistent acts.** This chapter shall be complete authority for the establishment, construction and operation and maintenance of a system or systems of sewerage and/or water hereby authorized, and shall be liberally construed to accomplish its purpose. Any act inconsistent herewith shall be deemed modified to conform with the provisions of this chapter for the purpose of this chapter only. [1967 c 72 § 31.]

[Title 36 RCW—page 352]

## Chapter 36.95 RCW TELEVISION RECEPTION IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS

### Sections

36.95.010	Purpose.
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36.95.030	Petition to form—Contents.
36.95.040	Notice of text of petition, meeting where will be considered.
36.95.050	Resolution creating district.
36.95.060	District board—Duties—How constituted—Quorum—Officers—Filling vacancies.
36.95.070	District board—Reimbursement of members for expenses.
36.95.080	List of television set owners.
36.95.090	County budget provisions applicable to district—Financing budget.
36.95.100	Tax levied—Maximum—Exemptions.
36.95.110	Liability for delinquent tax and costs.
36.95.120	Prorating tax.
36.95.130	District board—Powers generally.
36.95.140	Signals district may utilize.
36.95.150	Claims against district board—Procedure upon allowance.
36.95.160	District treasurer—Duties—District warrants.
36.95.180	Costs of county officers reimbursed.
36.95.190	Penalty for false statement as to tax exemption.
36.95.200	Dissolution of district by resolution—Disposition of property.
36.95.210	District may not be formed to operate certain translator stations.

**36.95.010 Purpose.** The purposes of a television reception improvement district, hereinafter referred to in this chapter as "district", shall be to serve the public interest, convenience, and necessity in the construction, maintenance, and operation of television and FM radio translator stations, including appropriate electric or electronic devices for increasing television program distribution, but said purposes are not meant to include the construction or operation of television cable systems, commonly known and referred to as cable TV systems or CATV. [1985 c 76 § 1; 1971 ex.s. c 155 § 1.]

**36.95.020 Boundaries—Territory excluded.** A district's boundary may include any part or all of any county and may include any part or all of any incorporated area located within the county. A district's boundary may not include any territory already being served by a cable TV system (CATV) unless on August 9, 1971, there is a translator station retransmitting television signals to such territory. [1991 c 363 § 98; 1971 ex.s. c 155 § 2.]

**Purpose—Captions not law—1991 c 363:** See notes following RCW 2.32.180.

**36.95.030 Petition to form—Contents.** A petition to form a district may be presented to the board of county commissioners and such petition shall include: (1) A description of the purposes of the petition; (2) a description of the purposes and powers of the proposed district; (3) a description of the boundaries of the proposed district; and (4) the signatures of more than fifty percent of the registered voters residing within the boundaries of the proposed district. [1971 ex.s. c 155 § 3.]

**36.95.040 Notice of text of petition, meeting where will be considered.** If the board of county commissioners, with the assistance of other appropriate county officers, finds the petition filed under RCW 36.95.030 satisfies the requirements of that section, it shall cause the text of the petition to be published once a week for at least three consecutive weeks



in a newspaper of general circulation within the county where the petition is presented. With the publication of the petition there shall be published a notice of the time, date, and place of the public meeting of the county commissioners when the petition will be considered, stating that persons interested may appear and be heard. [1971 ex.s. c 155 § 4.]

**36.95.050 Resolution creating district.** If after the public meeting or meetings on the petition, the board of county commissioners finds that creation of the proposed district would serve the public interest, the board shall adopt a resolution granting the petition and creating the district. Prior to adoption however, the board may amend the petition in the interest of carrying out the purposes of this chapter. [1971 ex.s. c 155 § 5.]

**36.95.060 District board—Duties—How constituted—Quorum—Officers—Filling vacancies.** The business of the district shall be conducted by the board of the television reception improvement district, hereinafter referred to as the "board". The board shall be constituted as provided under either subsection (1) or (2) of this section.

(1) The board of a district having boundaries different from the county's shall have either three, five, seven, or nine members, as determined by the board of county commissioners at the time the district is created. Each member shall reside within the boundaries of the district and shall be appointed by the board of county commissioners for a term of three years, or until his or her successor has qualified, except that the board of county commissioners shall appoint one of the members of the first board to a one-year term and two to two-year terms. There is no limit upon the number of terms to which a member may be reappointed after his or her first appointment. A majority of the members of the board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, but the majority vote of the board members shall be necessary for any action taken by the board. The board shall elect from among its members a chair and such other officers as may be necessary. In the event a seat on the board is vacated prior to the expiration of the term of the member appointed to such seat, the board of county commissioners shall appoint a person to complete the unexpired term.

(2) Upon the creation of a district having boundaries identical to those of the county (a countywide district), the county commissioners shall be the members of the board of the district and shall have all the powers and duties of the board as provided under the other sections of this chapter. The county commissioners shall be reimbursed pursuant to the provisions of RCW 36.95.070, and shall conduct the business of the district according to the regular rules and procedures applicable to meetings of the board of county commissioners. [2009 c 549 § 4157; 1992 c 150 § 1; 1971 ex.s. c 155 § 6.]

**36.95.070 District board—Reimbursement of members for expenses.** Members of the board shall receive no compensation for their services, but shall be reimbursed from district funds for any actual and necessary expenses incurred by them in the performance of their official duties. [1971 ex.s. c 155 § 7.]

(2022 Ed.)

**36.95.080 List of television set owners.** The board shall, on or before the first day of July of any given year, ascertain and prepare a list of all persons believed to own television sets within the district and deliver a copy of such list to the county treasurer. [1988 c 222 § 1; 1981 c 52 § 1; 1971 ex.s. c 155 § 8.]

**36.95.090 County budget provisions applicable to district—Financing budget.** The provisions of chapter 36.40 RCW, relating to budgets, shall apply to the district. The budget of the district shall be financed by an excise tax imposed by the board, and described in RCW 36.95.100. [1971 ex.s. c 155 § 9.]

**36.95.100 Tax levied—Maximum—Exemptions.** (1) The tax provided for in RCW 36.95.090 and this section may not exceed sixty dollars per year per television set within the district. No person may be taxed for more than one television set, except that a motel or hotel or any person owning more than five television sets must pay at a rate of one-fifth of the annual tax rate imposed for each of the first five television sets and one-tenth of the annual tax rate imposed for each additional television set.

(2) An owner of a television set within the district is exempt from paying the excise tax on the television set if:

(a) The owner's television set does not receive at least a class grade B contour signal retransmitted by the television translator station or other similar device operated by the district, as such class is defined under regulations of the Federal Communications Commission as of August 9, 1971;

(b) The owner is currently subscribing to and receiving the services of a community antenna system (CATV) to which the owner's television set is connected; or

(c) The owner is currently subscribing to and receiving the services of a satellite carrier, as that term is defined in 17 U.S.C. Sec. 119, as of January 1, 2013.

(3) To qualify for an exemption specified in subsection (2) of this section, an owner of a television set must file a statement with the board claiming the owner's grounds for an exemption. Space for the statement must be provided in tax notices sent to taxpayers pursuant to RCW 36.95.160. [2013 c 191 § 1; 2009 c 549 § 4158; 1981 c 52 § 2; 1975 c 11 § 1; 1971 ex.s. c 155 § 10.]

**36.95.110 Liability for delinquent tax and costs.** Any person owing the excise tax provided for under this chapter and who fails to pay the same within sixty days after the board or the county treasurer has sent the tax bill to him or her, shall be deemed to be delinquent. Such person shall be liable for all costs to the county or district attributable to collecting the tax but no such excise tax or costs, nor any judgment based thereon, shall be deemed to create a lien against real property. [2009 c 549 § 4159; 1981 c 52 § 3; 1971 ex.s. c 155 § 11.]

**36.95.120 Prorating tax.** The board may adopt rules providing for prorating of tax bills for persons who have not owned a television set within the district for a full tax year. [1971 ex.s. c 155 § 12.]

**36.95.130 District board—Powers generally.** In addition to other powers provided for under this chapter, the board has the following powers:

(1) To perform all acts necessary to assure that the purposes of this chapter will be carried out fairly and efficiently;

(2) To acquire, build, construct, repair, own, maintain, and operate any necessary stations retransmitting visual and aural signals intended to be received by the general public, relay stations, pickup stations, or any other electrical or electronic system necessary. However, the board has no power to originate programs;

(3) To make contracts to compensate any owner of land or other property for the use of such property for the purposes of this chapter;

(4) To make contracts with the United States, or any state, municipality, or any department or agency of those entities for carrying out the general purposes for which the district is formed;

(5) To acquire by gift, devise, bequest, lease, or purchase real and personal property, tangible or intangible, including lands, rights-of-way, and easements, necessary or convenient for its purposes;

(6) To make contracts of any lawful nature (including labor contracts or those for employees' benefits), employ engineers, laboratory personnel, attorneys, other technical or professional assistants, and any other assistants or employees necessary to carry out the provisions of this chapter;

(7) To contract indebtedness or borrow money and to issue warrants or bonds to be paid from district revenues. The bonds, warrants, or other obligations may be in any form, including bearer or registered as provided in RCW 39.46.030. Moreover, such warrants and bonds may be issued and sold in accordance with chapter 39.46 RCW;

(8) To prescribe excise tax rates for providing services throughout the area in accordance with the provisions of this chapter;

(9) To assist the county treasurer in sending tax notices to taxpayers pursuant to RCW 36.95.160; and

(10) To apply for, accept, and be the holder of any permit or license issued by or required under federal or state law. [2013 c 191 § 2; 1985 c 76 § 2; 1983 c 167 § 102; 1980 c 100 § 2; 1971 ex.s. c 155 § 13.]

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

**36.95.140 Signals district may utilize.** A district may translate or retransmit only those signals which originate from commercial and educational FM radio stations and commercial and educational television stations which directly provide, within some portion of the state of Washington, a class A grade or class B grade contour, as such classes are defined under regulations of the Federal Communications Commission as of August 9, 1971. [1985 c 76 § 3; 1971 ex.s. c 155 § 14.]

**36.95.150 Claims against district board—Procedure upon allowance.** Any claim against the district shall be presented to the board. Upon allowance of the claim, the board shall submit a voucher, signed by the chair and one other member of the board, to the county auditor for the issuance of a warrant in payment of said claim. This procedure for payment of claims shall apply to the reimbursement of board

members for their actual and necessary expenses incurred by them in the performance of their official duties. [2009 c 549 § 4160; 1971 ex.s. c 155 § 15.]

**36.95.160 District treasurer—Duties—District warrants.** (1) The treasurer of the county in which a district is located is the treasurer of the district.

(2) The county treasurer must collect the excise tax provided for under this chapter and send notice of payment due to persons owing the tax. To reduce costs of services performed by the county treasurer, district board members and employees may assist the treasurer in sending tax notices to taxpayers.

(3) Districts with fewer than twelve hundred persons subject to the excise tax and levying an excise tax of forty dollars or more per television set per year may:

(a) Send tax notices bimonthly; and

(b) Collect excise tax revenue, which must be forwarded to the county treasurer for deposit in the district account.

(4) All district funds must be deposited with the county treasurer. All district payments must be made by the county treasurer from district funds upon warrants issued by the county auditor, except the sums to be paid out of any bond fund for principal and interest payments on bonds. All warrants must be paid in the order of issuance.

(5) The treasurer must report monthly to the board, in writing, the amount in the district fund or funds. [2013 c 191 § 3; 2009 c 549 § 4161; 1983 c 167 § 103; 1981 c 52 § 4; 1971 ex.s. c 155 § 16.]

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

**36.95.180 Costs of county officers reimbursed.** (1) The board must reimburse the county auditor, assessor, and treasurer for the actual costs of services performed by them in behalf of the district.

(2) A district may reduce costs of services performed by the county treasurer by assisting the treasurer in sending tax notices to taxpayers pursuant to RCW 36.95.160. [2013 c 191 § 4; 1971 ex.s. c 155 § 18.]

**36.95.190 Penalty for false statement as to tax exemption.** Any person who shall knowingly make a false statement for exemption from the tax provided under this chapter shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. [1971 ex.s. c 155 § 19.]

**36.95.200 Dissolution of district by resolution—Disposition of property.** If the board of county commissioners finds, following a public hearing or hearings, that the continued existence of a district would no longer serve the purposes of this chapter, it may by resolution order the district dissolved. If there is any property owned by the district at the time of dissolution, the board of county commissioners shall have such property sold pursuant to the provisions of chapter 36.34 RCW, as now law or hereafter amended. The proceeds from such sale shall be applied to the county current expense fund. [1971 ex.s. c 155 § 20.]

**36.95.210 District may not be formed to operate certain translator stations.** No television reception improvement district may be formed to operate and maintain any

translator station presently or previously owned, operated or maintained by a television broadcaster. [1971 ex.s. c 155 § 21.]

### Chapter 36.96 RCW

## DISSOLUTION OF INACTIVE SPECIAL PURPOSE DISTRICTS

### Sections

36.96.010	Definitions.
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36.96.030	Determination of inactive special purpose districts—Public hearing—Notice.
36.96.040	Dissolution of inactive special purpose district by county legislative authority—Written findings.
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36.96.060	Dissolution of inactive special purpose district by county legislative authority—Powers and duties.
36.96.070	Dissolved special purpose district—Disposition of property.
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36.96.085	Dissolved special purpose district—Property tax levies or special assessments—When authorized.
36.96.090	New special purpose districts—Duties of county auditor.
36.96.800	Alternative dissolution procedure—Drainage and drainage improvement districts—Conditions.
36.96.900	Chapter not exclusive.
36.96.910	Savings—1979 ex.s. c 5.

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

(1) "Special purpose district" means every municipal and quasi-municipal corporation other than counties, cities, and towns. Such special purpose districts shall include, but are not limited to, water-sewer districts, fire protection districts, port districts, public utility districts, county park and recreation service areas, flood control zone districts, diking districts, drainage improvement districts, and solid waste collection districts, but shall not include industrial development districts created by port districts, and shall not include local improvement districts, utility local improvement districts, and road improvement districts;

(2) "Governing authority" means the commission, council, or other body which directs the affairs of a special purpose district;

(3) "Inactive" means that a special purpose district is characterized by any of the following criteria:

(a) Has not carried out any of the special purposes or functions for which it was formed within the preceding consecutive five-year period;

(b) No election has been held for the purpose of electing a member of the governing body within the preceding consecutive seven-year period or, in those instances where members of the governing body are appointed and not elected, where no member of the governing body has been appointed within the preceding seven-year period; or

(c) The special purpose district has been determined to be unauditably by the state auditor;

(4) "Unauditably" means a special purpose district that the state auditor has determined to be incapable of being audited because the special purpose district has improperly maintained, failed to maintain, or failed to submit adequate accounts, records, files, or reports for an audit to be completed. [2020 c 179 § 2; 1999 c 153 § 50; 1979 ex.s. c 5 § 1.]

(2022 Ed.)

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

**36.96.020 Notice of inactive special purpose districts by county auditor.** On or before June 1st of 1980, and on or before June 1st of every year thereafter, each county auditor shall search available records and notify the county legislative authority if any special purpose districts located wholly or partially within the county appear to be inactive. If the territory of any special purpose district is located within more than one county, the legislative authorities of all other counties within whose boundaries such a special purpose district lies shall also be notified by the county auditor. However, the authority to dissolve such a special purpose district as provided by this chapter shall rest solely with the legislative authority of the county which contains the greatest geographic portion of such special purpose district. [2009 c 337 § 12; 1979 ex.s. c 5 § 2.]

**36.96.030 Determination of inactive special purpose districts—Public hearing—Notice.** (1) Upon receipt of notice from the county auditor as provided in RCW 36.96.020, the county legislative authority within whose boundaries all or the greatest portion of such special purpose district lies shall hold one or more public hearings on or before September 1st of the same year to determine whether or not such special purpose district or districts meet any of the criteria for being "inactive" as provided in RCW 36.96.010. In addition, at any time a county legislative authority may hold hearings on the dissolution of any special purpose district that appears to meet the criteria of being "inactive" and dissolve such a district pursuant to the proceedings provided for in RCW 36.96.030 through 36.96.080.

(2) Notice of such public hearings shall be given by publication at least once each week for not less than three successive weeks in a newspaper that is in general circulation within the boundaries of the special purpose district or districts. Notice of such hearings shall also be mailed to each member of the governing authority of such special purpose districts, if such members are known, and to all persons known to have claims against any of the special purpose districts. Notice of such public hearings shall be posted in at least three conspicuous places within the boundaries of each special purpose district that is a subject of such hearings. Whenever a county legislative authority that is conducting such a public hearing on the dissolution of one or more of a particular kind of special purpose district is aware of the existence of an association of such special purpose districts, it shall also mail notice of the hearing to the association. In addition, whenever a special purpose district that lies in more than one county is a subject of such a public hearing, notice shall also be mailed to the legislative authorities of all other counties within whose boundaries the special purpose district lies. All notices shall state the purpose, time, and place of such hearings, and that all interested persons may appear and be heard. [2020 c 179 § 3; 1979 ex.s. c 5 § 3.]

**36.96.040 Dissolution of inactive special purpose district by county legislative authority—Written findings.** After such hearings, the county legislative authority shall make written findings whether each of the special purpose districts that was a subject of the hearings meets each of the

criteria of being "inactive." Whenever a special purpose district other than a public utility district has been found to meet a criterion of being inactive, or a public utility district has been found to meet both criteria of being inactive, the county legislative authority shall adopt an ordinance dissolving the special purpose district if it also makes additional written findings detailing why it is in the public interest that the special purpose district be dissolved, and shall provide a copy of the ordinance to the county treasurer. Except for the purpose of winding up its affairs as provided by this chapter, a special purpose district that is so dissolved shall cease to exist and the authority and obligation to carry out the purposes for which it was created shall cease thirty-one days after adoption of the dissolution ordinance. [2001 c 299 § 12; 1979 ex.s. c 5 § 4.]

**36.96.050 Application for writ of prohibition or mandamus by interested party—Procedure.** The action of the county legislative authority dissolving a special purpose district pursuant to RCW 36.96.040 shall be final and conclusive unless within thirty days of the adoption of the ordinance an interested party makes application to a court of competent jurisdiction for a writ of prohibition or writ of mandamus. At the hearing upon such a writ, the applicant shall have the full burden of demonstrating that the particular special purpose district, other than a public utility district, does not meet either of the criteria of being inactive or that it is not in the public interest that the special purpose district be dissolved: PROVIDED, That where the particular special purpose district subject to the dissolution proceedings is a public utility district, the applicant shall have the full burden of demonstrating that the public utility district either does not meet both the criteria of being inactive or that it is not in the public interest to dissolve the public utility district. [1979 ex.s. c 5 § 5.]

**36.96.060 Dissolution of inactive special purpose district by county legislative authority—Powers and duties.** For the sole and exclusive purpose of winding up the affairs of a dissolved special purpose district, the county legislative authority, acting as a board of trustees, shall have the same powers and duties as the governing authority of the dissolved special purpose district including the following:

- (1) To exchange, sell, or otherwise dispose of all property, real and personal, of the dissolved special purpose district; and
- (2) To settle all obligations of such special purpose district. Such powers and duties shall commence upon the effective date of dissolution and shall continue thereafter until such time as the affairs of the dissolved special purpose district have been completely wound up. [1979 ex.s. c 5 § 6.]

**36.96.070 Dissolved special purpose district—Disposition of property.** Any moneys or funds of the dissolved special purpose district and any moneys or funds received by the board of trustees from the sale or other disposition of any property of the dissolved special purpose district shall be used, to the extent necessary, for the payment or settlement of any outstanding obligations of the dissolved special purpose district. Any remaining moneys or funds shall be used to pay the county legislative authority for all costs and expenses

incurred in the dissolution and liquidation of the dissolved special purpose district. Thereafter, any remaining moneys, funds, or property shall become that of the county in which the dissolved special purpose district was located. However, if the territory of the dissolved special purpose district was located within more than one county, the remaining moneys, funds, and personal property shall be apportioned and distributed to each county in the proportion that the geographical area of the dissolved special purpose district within the county bears to the total geographical area of the dissolved special purpose district, and any remaining real property or improvements to real property shall be transferred to the county within whose boundaries it lies. A county to which real property or improvements to real property are transferred under this section may, but does not have an obligation to, use the property or improvements for the purposes for which the dissolved special purpose district used the property or improvements and the county does not assume the obligations or liabilities of the dissolved special purpose district as a result of the transfer unless the county expressly assumes such obligations or liabilities through the adoption of a resolution. [2020 c 179 § 4; 2001 c 299 § 13; 1979 ex.s. c 5 § 7.]

**36.96.080 Dissolved special purpose district—Satisfaction of outstanding obligations.** If the proceeds from the sale of any property of the special district together with any moneys or funds of the special purpose district are insufficient to satisfy the outstanding obligations of the special purpose district, the county legislative authority, acting as a board of trustees, shall exercise any and all powers conferred upon it to satisfy such outstanding obligations: PROVIDED, That in no case shall the board of trustees be obligated to satisfy such outstanding obligations from county moneys, funds, or other sources of revenue unless it would have been so obligated before initiation of the dissolution proceedings under this chapter. [1979 ex.s. c 5 § 8.]

**36.96.085 Dissolved special purpose district—Property tax levies or special assessments—When authorized.** A county that dissolves a special purpose district under this chapter may impose a separate regular property tax levy or a special assessment as provided in RCW 84.55.135 if that county assumes responsibility of the services previously provided by the special purpose district. [2020 c 179 § 5.]

**36.96.090 New special purpose districts—Duties of county auditor.** For every newly created special purpose district, the auditor of each county in which the special purpose district is located shall provide the state auditor with the following information:

- (1) The name of the special purpose district and a general description of its location;
- (2) The name, address, and telephone number of each member of its governing authority; and
- (3) The functions that the special purpose district is then presently performing and the purposes for which it was created. [2009 c 337 § 13; 1979 ex.s. c 5 § 9.]

**36.96.800 Alternative dissolution procedure—Drainage and drainage improvement districts—Conditions.** As an alternative to this chapter a drainage district or drainage

improvement district located within the boundaries of a county storm drainage and surface water management utility, and which is not currently imposing assessments, may be dissolved by ordinance of the county legislative authority. If the alternative dissolution procedure in this section is used the following shall apply:

(1) The county storm drainage and surface water management utility shall assume responsibility for payment or settlement of outstanding debts of the dissolved drainage district or drainage improvement district.

(2) All assets, including money, funds, improvements, or property, real or personal, shall become assets of the county in which the dissolved drainage district or drainage improvement district was located.

(3) Notwithstanding RCW 85.38.220, the county storm drainage and surface water management utility may determine how to best manage, operate, maintain, improve, exchange, sell, or otherwise dispose of all property, real and personal, of the dissolved drainage district or drainage improvement district. [1991 c 28 § 1.]

**36.96.900 Chapter not exclusive.** The provisions of this chapter to dissolve inactive special purpose districts shall not be exclusive, and shall be in addition to any other method or methods provided by law to dissolve a special purpose district. [1979 ex.s. c 5 § 10.]

**36.96.910 Savings—1979 ex.s. c 5.** The enactment of this act shall not have the effect of terminating, or in any way modifying, any liability, civil or criminal, which shall already be in existence on September 1, 1979. [1979 ex.s. c 5 § 11.]

### Chapter 36.100 RCW

#### PUBLIC FACILITIES DISTRICTS

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36.100.240	Eminent domain authorized.
36.100.905	Construction—2010 1st sp.s. c 15.

*Changes in tax law—Liability: RCW 82.08.064, 82.14.055, and 82.32.430.*

*Sales and use tax for public facilities districts: RCW 82.14.048.*

*Sales and use tax imposed by public facilities districts for regional centers: RCW 82.14.390.*

**36.100.010 Public facilities districts—Creation—Approval of taxes by election—Corporate powers—Property transfer—Agreements.** (1) One or more public facilities districts may be created in any county and must be coextensive with the boundaries of the county.

(2) A public facilities district is created upon adoption of a resolution providing for the creation of such a district by the county legislative authority in which the proposed district is located.

(3) A public facilities district is a municipal corporation, an independent taxing "authority" within the meaning of Article VII, section 1 of the state Constitution, and a "taxing district" within the meaning of Article VII, section 2 of the state Constitution.

(4) Except as provided in RCW 36.100.040 (4) and (5), no taxes authorized under this chapter may be assessed or levied unless a majority of the voters of the public facilities district has approved such tax at a general or special election. A single ballot proposition may both validate the imposition of the sales and use tax under RCW 82.14.048 and the excise tax under RCW 36.100.040(1).

(5)(a) A public facilities district constitutes a body corporate and possesses all the usual powers of a corporation for public purposes as well as all other powers that may now or hereafter be specifically conferred by statute, including, but not limited to, the authority to hire employees, staff, and services, to enter into contracts, including contracts with public and private parties, to acquire, own, sell, transfer, lease, and otherwise acquire or dispose of property, to grant concessions under terms approved by the public facilities district, and to sue and be sued.

(b) A public facilities district created by a county with a population of one million five hundred thousand or more to acquire, own, and operate a convention and trade center transferred from a public nonprofit corporation may continue to contract with the Seattle-King county convention and visitors' bureau or its successor in interest for marketing the convention and trade center facility and services.

(6) A public facilities district may enter into contracts with a county for the purpose of exercising any powers of a community renewal agency under chapter 35.81 RCW.

(7) The legislative authority of a city or county, the board of directors of a public nonprofit corporation, or the state of Washington may transfer property to a public facilities district created under this chapter, with or without consideration. No property that is encumbered with debt or that is in need of major capital renovation may be transferred to the district without the agreement of the district and revenues adequate to retire the existing indebtedness.

(8) A public facilities district may enter into agreements with the state, any municipal corporation, or any other governmental entity for the design, financing, acquisition, development, construction, reconstruction, lease, remodeling, alteration, maintenance, equipping, reequipping, repair, operation, or management of one or more facilities of the parties thereto. Agreements may provide that any party to the contract designs, finances, acquires, develops, constructs, reconstructs, remodels, alters, maintains, equips, reequips, repairs, and operates one or more facilities for the other party or parties to the contract. A public facilities district may enter into an agreement with the state, any municipal corporation, or other public or private entity that will assist a public facilities district in the financing of all or any part of a district facility on such terms as may be determined by agreement between the respective parties, including without limitation by a loan, guaranty, or other financing agreement. [2010 1st sp.s. c 15 § 2; 2002 c 218 § 26; 1995 3rd sp.s. c 1 § 301; 1995 1st sp.s. c 14 § 1; 1995 c 396 § 1; 1989 1st ex.s. c 8 § 1; 1988 ex.s. c 1 § 11.]

**Findings—Intent—2010 1st sp.s. c 15:** "(1) The legislature finds that conventions and trade shows provide both direct and indirect civic and economic benefits. It is the intent of the legislature to provide for the transfer of the governance and financing of the state convention and trade center to a public facilities district formed by a county with a population of one million five hundred thousand or more to acquire, own, and operate the convention and trade center. The legislature also intends to replace, in connection with such transfer, the authority under chapter 67.40 RCW of the state and city to impose excise taxes on the sale of or charge made for the furnishing of lodging to fund the state convention and trade center with authority for the public facilities district to impose lodging taxes at these rates, without affecting the existing authority of the state, county, cities, and other municipal corporations to impose taxes on the sale or charge made for the furnishing of lodging under existing caps on the aggregate rate that may be charged.

(2) The legislature further finds that the location of the convention and trade center particularly benefits and increases the occupancy of larger hotels and other lodging facilities in the city in which it is located and to a lesser extent in the remainder of the county in which it is located. The legislature finds that imposing excise taxes on the sale of or charge made for the furnishing of lodging at the rates authorized in section 5 of this act is an appropriate method of paying for the cost of acquiring, constructing, owning, remodeling, maintaining, equipping, reequipping, repairing, altering, and operating a convention and trade center." [2010 1st sp.s. c 15 § 1.]

**\*Reviser's note:** The reference to "this chapter" appears to be erroneous. Reference to chapter 36.100 RCW was apparently intended.

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

**36.100.020 Governance—Board of directors.** (1)(a) A public facilities district must be governed by a board of directors consisting of five, seven, or nine members as provided in this section.

(b) If the largest city in the county has a population that is at least forty percent of the total county population, the board of directors of the public facilities district must consist of five members selected as follows:

(i) Two members appointed by the county legislative authority to serve for four-year staggered terms;

(ii) Two members appointed by the city council of the largest city in the county to serve for four-year staggered terms; and

(iii) One person to serve for a four-year term who is selected by the other directors.

(c)(i) Except as provided in (c)(ii) of this subsection (1), if the largest city in the county has a population of less than forty percent of the total county population, the county legis-

lative authority must establish in the resolution creating the public facilities district whether the board of directors of the public facilities district has either five or seven members, and the county legislative authority must appoint the members of the board of directors to reflect the interests of cities and towns in the county, as well as the unincorporated area of the county.

(ii) However, if the county has a population of one million five hundred thousand or more, the largest city in the county has a population of less than forty percent of the total county population, and the county operates under a county charter, which provides for an elected county executive, the members of the board of directors must be appointed as follows:

(A) If the public facilities district is created to construct a baseball stadium as defined in RCW 82.14.0485, three members must be appointed by the governor and the remaining members must be appointed by the county executive subject to confirmation by the county legislative authority. Of the members appointed by the governor, the speaker of the house of representatives and the majority leader of the senate must each recommend to the governor a person to be appointed to the board; and

(B) If the public facilities district is created to acquire, own, and operate a convention and trade center, following the expiration of the terms of the initial board of directors, three members must be appointed by the governor, three members must be nominated by the county executive subject to confirmation by the county legislative authority, and three members must be nominated by the mayor of the city in which the convention and trade center is located subject to confirmation by the city legislative authority. Members of the board of directors may not be members of the legislative authority of the county or any city within the county.

(d) The initial board of directors of a public facilities district created in a county of one million five hundred thousand or more to acquire, own, and operate a convention and trade center must be comprised of the nine members of the board of the public nonprofit corporation that transfers the convention and trade center to the public facilities district under RCW 36.100.230. The governor must designate which of the initial board members must serve two-year terms and which must serve four-year terms and identify the board positions to which successors to initial directors are to be appointed by the county and the city.

(2) At least one member on the board of directors must be representative of the lodging industry in the public facilities district before the public facilities district imposes the excise tax under RCW 36.100.040(1). Of the members of the board of directors of a public facilities district created in a county of one million five hundred thousand or more to acquire, own, and operate a convention and trade center, one of the governor's appointments and one of the county's appointments must be representative of the lodging industry in the public facilities district and one of the city's appointments must be representative of organized labor, except that these requirements do not apply to the initial board of such district.

(3) Members of the board of directors must serve four-year terms of office, except that two of the initial five board members, three of the initial seven board members, and four

of the initial nine board members must serve two-year terms of office.

(4) A vacancy must be filled in the same manner as the original appointment was made and the person appointed to fill a vacancy must serve for the remainder of the unexpired term of the office for the position to which he or she was appointed.

(5) Any director may be removed from office by the person or entity that appointed or confirmed such director for any reason or for no reason as follows: A director appointed by the governor may be removed from office by the governor; and any director confirmed by a city or county legislative authority may be removed from office by action of at least two-thirds of the members of the legislative authority that confirmed the director. [2010 1st sp.s. c 15 § 3; 1995 3rd sp.s. c 1 § 302; 1995 1st sp.s. c 14 § 2; 1995 c 396 § 2; 1989 1st ex.s. c 8 § 2; 1988 ex.s. c 1 § 12.]

**Findings—Intent—Construction—2010 1st sp.s. c 15:** See notes following RCW 36.100.010.

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

**36.100.025 Independent financial feasibility review—When required—Public document.** (1) An independent financial feasibility review under this section is required to be performed prior to any of the following events:

(a) The formation of a public facilities district under this chapter;

(b) The issuance of any indebtedness, excluding the issuance of obligations to refund or replace such indebtedness, by a public facilities district under this chapter; or

(c) The long-term lease, purchase, or development of a facility under this chapter.

(2) The independent financial feasibility review required by this section must be conducted by the department of commerce through the municipal research and services center under RCW 43.110.030 or under a contract with another entity under the authority of RCW 43.110.080. The review must examine the potential costs to be incurred by the public facility [facilities] district and the adequacy of revenues or expected revenues to meet those costs. The cost of the independent financial feasibility review must be borne by the public facility [facilities] district or the local government proposing to form a public facility [facilities] district.

(3) The independent financial feasibility review, upon completion, must be a public document and must be submitted to the governor, the state treasurer, the state auditor, the public facility [facilities] district and participating local political subdivisions, and appropriate committees of the legislature. [2012 c 4 § 2.]

**36.100.027 Statutorily authorized taxing authority.** After June 7, 2012, the statutorily authorized taxing authority of a public facility [facilities] district may not be restricted in any manner by the forming jurisdiction or jurisdictions or by any action of the public facility [facilities] district. [2012 c 4 § 4.]

**36.100.030 Facilities—Agreements—Fees.** (1) A public facilities district is authorized to acquire, construct, own, remodel, maintain, equip, reequip, repair, and operate (a) sports facilities, entertainment facilities, convention facilities,

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ties, including without limitation any convention and trade center transferred from a public nonprofit corporation under RCW 36.100.230(1), or regional centers as defined in RCW 35.57.020, and (b) for districts formed after January 1, 2000, recreational facilities other than ski areas, together with contiguous parking facilities. The taxes that are provided for in this chapter may only be imposed for these purposes, including without limitation implementing any redemption, prepayment, or legal defeasance of outstanding obligations under RCW 36.100.230(3)(a).

(2) A public facilities district may enter into agreements under chapter 39.34 RCW for the design, financing, acquisition, development, construction, reconstruction, lease, remodeling, alteration, maintenance, equipping, reequipping, repair, operation, or management of such facilities and may enter into contracts under chapter 39.34 RCW where any party to the contract provides and operates such facilities for the other party or parties to the contract. A public facilities district may enter into agreements under chapter 39.34 RCW that will assist a public facilities district in the financing of all or any part of a district facility on such terms as may be determined by agreement between the respective parties, including without limitation by a loan, guaranty, or other financing agreement.

(3) Notwithstanding the establishment of a career, civil, or merit service system, a public facilities district may contract with a public or private entity for the operation or management of its public facilities.

(4) A public facilities district is authorized to use the supplemental alternative public works contracting procedures set forth in chapter 39.10 RCW in connection with the design, construction, reconstruction, remodel, or alteration of any of its public facilities.

(5) A public facilities district may impose charges and fees for the use of its facilities, and may accept and expend or use gifts, grants, and donations. [2010 1st sp.s. c 15 § 4; 2003 c 376 § 1; 1999 c 165 § 16; 1995 1st sp.s. c 14 § 3; 1995 c 396 § 3; 1989 1st ex.s. c 8 § 3; 1988 ex.s. c 1 § 13.]

**Findings—Intent—Construction—2010 1st sp.s. c 15:** See notes following RCW 36.100.010.

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

**36.100.035 Additional powers and restrictions on district that constructs baseball stadium.** In addition to other powers and restrictions on a public facilities district, the following shall apply to a public facilities district, located in a county with a population of one million or more, that constructs a baseball stadium:

(1) The public facilities district, in consultation with the professional baseball team that will use the stadium, shall have the authority to determine the stadium site;

(2) The public facilities district, in consultation with the professional baseball team that will use the stadium, shall have the authority to establish the overall scope of the stadium project, including, but not limited to, the stadium itself, associated parking facilities, associated retail and office development that are part of the stadium facility, and ancillary services or facilities;

(3) The public facilities district, in consultation with the professional baseball team that will use the stadium, shall

have the final authority to make the final determination of the stadium design and specifications;

(4) The public facilities district shall have the authority to contract with the baseball team that will use the stadium to obtain architectural, engineering, environmental, and other professional services related to the stadium site and design options, environmental study requirements, and obtaining necessary permits for the stadium facility;

(5) The public facilities district, in consultation with the professional baseball team that will use the stadium, shall have the authority to establish the project budget and bidding specifications and requirements on the stadium project;

(6) The public facilities district, in consultation with the professional baseball team that will use the stadium and the county in which the public facilities district is located, shall have the authority to structure the financing of the stadium facility project; and

(7) The public facilities district shall consult with the house of representatives executive rules committee and the senate facilities and operations committee before selecting a name for the stadium.

As used in this section, "stadium" and "baseball stadium" mean a "baseball stadium" as defined in RCW 82.14.0485. [1995 3rd sp.s. c 1 § 303.]

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

**36.100.036 Donated moneys for baseball stadium.** A public facilities district may accept and expend moneys that may be donated for the purpose of a baseball stadium as defined in RCW 82.14.0485. [1995 3rd sp.s. c 1 § 304.]

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

**36.100.037 Baseball stadium construction agreement.** The public facilities district, the county, and the city with the largest population in the county shall enter into an agreement regarding the construction of a baseball stadium as defined in RCW 82.14.0485. The agreement shall address, but not be limited to:

(1) Expedited permit processing for the design and construction of the project;

(2) Expedited environmental review processing;

(3) Expedited processing of requests for street, right-of-way, or easement vacations necessary for the construction of the project; and

(4) Other items deemed necessary for the design and construction of the project. [1995 3rd sp.s. c 1 § 308.]

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

**36.100.040 Lodging tax authorized—Annual payment amount—Payment of obligations—Application of other tax provisions.** (1) A public facilities district may impose an excise tax on the sale of or charge made for the furnishing of lodging that is subject to tax under chapter 82.08 RCW, except that no such tax may be levied on any premises having fewer than forty lodging units. Except for any tax imposed under subsection (4) or (5) of this section, if a public facilities district has not imposed such an excise tax prior to December 31, 1995, the public facilities district may only impose the excise tax if a ballot proposition authorizing the imposition of the tax has been approved by a simple majority

vote of voters of the public facilities district voting on the proposition.

(2) The rate of the tax may not exceed two percent and the proceeds of the tax may only be used for the acquisition, design, construction, remodeling, maintenance, equipping, reequipping, repairing, and operation of its public facilities. This excise tax may not be imposed until the district has approved the proposal to acquire, design, and construct the public facilities.

(3) Except for a public facilities district created within a county with a population of one million five hundred thousand or more for the purpose of acquiring, owning, and operating a convention and trade center, a public facilities district may not impose the tax authorized in this section if, after the tax authorized in this section was imposed, the effective combined rate of state and local excise taxes, including sales and use taxes and excise taxes on lodging, imposed on the sale of or charge made for furnishing of lodging in any jurisdiction in the public facilities district exceeds eleven and one-half percent.

(4)(a) To replace the tax authorized by \*RCW 67.40.090, a public facilities district created within a county with a population of one million five hundred thousand or more for the purpose of acquiring, owning, operating, renovating, and expanding a convention and trade center may impose an excise tax on the sale of or charge made for the furnishing of lodging (including but not limited to any short-term rental) that is subject to tax under chapter 82.08 RCW, except that no such tax may be levied on:

(i) Any premises:

(A) Having fewer than sixty lodging units if the premises is located in a town with a population less than three hundred; or

(B) Classified as a hostel;

(ii) Any lodging that is concurrently subject to a tax on engaging in the business of being a short-term rental operator imposed by a city in which a convention and trade center is located; or

(iii) Any lodging that is operated by a university health care system exclusively for family members of patients.

(b) The rate of the tax may not exceed seven percent within the portion of the district that corresponds to the boundaries of the largest city within the public facilities district and may not exceed 2.8 percent in the remainder of the district. The tax imposed under this subsection (4) may not be collected prior to the transfer date defined in RCW 36.100.230.

(5) To replace the tax authorized by \*RCW 67.40.130, a public facilities district created within a county with a population of one million five hundred thousand or more for the purpose of acquiring, owning, operating, renovating, and expanding a convention and trade center may impose an additional excise tax on the sale of or charge made for the furnishing of lodging (including but not limited to any short-term rental) that is subject to tax under chapter 82.08 RCW, except that no such tax may be levied on any premises: (a) Having fewer than sixty lodging units if the premises is located in a town with a population less than three hundred; or (b) classified as a hostel. The rate of the additional excise tax may not exceed two percent and may be imposed only within the portion of the district that corresponds to the



boundaries of the largest city within the public facilities district and may not be imposed in the remainder of the district. The tax imposed under this subsection (5) may not be collected prior to the transfer date specified in RCW 36.100.230. The tax imposed under this subsection (5) must be credited against the amount of the tax otherwise due to the state from those same taxpayers under chapter 82.08 RCW. The tax under this subsection (5) may be imposed only for the purpose of paying or securing the payment of the principal of and interest on obligations issued or incurred by the public facilities district and paying annual payment amounts to the state under subsection (6)(a) of this section. The authority to impose the additional excise tax under this subsection (5) expires on the date that is the earlier of (i) July 1, 2029, or (ii) the date on which all obligations issued or incurred by the public facilities district to implement any redemption, prepayment, or legal defeasance of outstanding obligations under RCW 36.100.230(3)(a) are no longer outstanding.

(6)(a) Commencing with the first full fiscal year of the state after the transfer date defined in RCW 36.100.230 and for so long as a public facilities district imposes a tax under subsection (5) of this section, the public facilities district must transfer to the state of Washington on June 30th of each state fiscal year an annual payment amount.

(b) For the purposes of this subsection (6), "annual payment amount" means an amount equal to revenues received by the public facilities district in the fiscal year from the additional excise tax imposed under subsection (5) of this section plus an interest charge calculated on one-half the annual payment amount times an interest rate equal to the average annual rate of return for the prior calendar year in the Washington state local government investment pool created in chapter 43.250 RCW.

(c)(i) If the public facilities district in any fiscal year is required to apply additional lodging excise tax revenues to the payment of principal and interest on obligations it issues or incurs, and the public facilities district is unable to pay all or any portion of the annual payment amount to the state, the deficiency is deemed to be a loan from the state to the public facilities district for the purpose of assisting the district in paying such principal and interest and must be repaid by the public facilities district to the state after providing for the payment of the principal of and interest on obligations issued or incurred by the public facilities district, all on terms established by an agreement between the state treasurer and the public facilities district executed prior to the transfer date. Any agreement between the state treasurer and the public facilities district must specify the term for the repayment of the deficiency in the annual payment amount with an interest rate equal to the twenty bond general obligation bond buyer index plus one percentage point.

(ii) Outstanding obligations to repay any loans deemed to have been made to the public facilities district as provided in any such agreements between the state treasurer and the public facilities district survive the expiration of the additional excise tax under subsection (5) of this section.

(iii) For the purposes of this subsection (6)(c), "additional lodging excise tax revenues" mean the tax revenues received by the public facilities district under subsection (5) of this section.

(7) A public facilities district is authorized to pledge any of its revenues, including without limitation revenues from the taxes authorized in this section, to pay or secure the payment of obligations issued or incurred by the public facilities district, subject to the terms established by the board of directors of the public facilities district. So long as a pledge of the taxes authorized under this section is in effect, the legislature may not withdraw or modify the authority to levy and collect the taxes at the rates permitted under this section and may not increase the annual payment amount to be transferred to the state under subsection (6) of this section.

(8) The department of revenue must perform the collection of such taxes on behalf of the public facilities district at no cost to the district, and the state treasurer must distribute those taxes as available on a monthly basis to the district or, upon the direction of the district, to a fiscal agent, paying agent, or trustee for obligations issued or incurred by the district.

(9) Except as expressly provided in this chapter, all of the provisions contained in RCW 82.08.050 and 82.08.060 and chapter 82.32 RCW have full force and application with respect to taxes imposed under the provisions of this section.

(10) In determining the effective combined rate of tax for purposes of the limit in subsection (3) of this section, the tax rate under RCW 82.14.530 is not included.

(11) The taxes imposed in this section do not apply to sales of temporary medical housing exempt under RCW 82.08.997.

(12) The definitions in this subsection apply throughout this section unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(a)(i) "Hostel" means a structure or facility where a majority of the rooms for sleeping accommodations are hostel dormitories containing a minimum of four standard beds designed for single-person occupancy within the facility. Hostel accommodations are supervised and must include at least one common area and at least one common kitchen for guest use.

(ii) For the purpose of this subsection (12)(a), "hostel dormitory" means a single room, containing four or more standard beds designed for single-person occupancy, used exclusively as nonprivate communal sleeping quarters, generally for unrelated persons, where such persons independently acquire the right to occupy individual beds, with the operator supervising and determining which bed each person will occupy.

(b) "Short-term rental" means a lodging use, that is not a hotel or motel, in which a dwelling unit, or portion thereof, that is offered or provided to a guest or guests by a short-term rental operator for a fee for fewer than thirty consecutive nights. The term "short-term rental" does not include:

(i) A dwelling unit, or portion thereof, that is used by the same person for thirty or more consecutive nights; and

(ii) A dwelling unit, or portion thereof, that is operated by an organization or government entity that is registered as a charitable organization with the secretary of state, state of Washington, and/or is classified by the federal internal revenue service as a public charity or a private foundation, and provides temporary housing to individuals who are being treated for trauma, injury, or disease and/or their family members.

(13) Taxes authorized under subsections (4) and (5) of this section are deemed to have been imposed on December 1, 2000, for the purposes of RCW 82.14.410.

(14)(a) Beginning on the date that the condition in (b) of this subsection is satisfied, a public facilities district created within a county with a population of one million five hundred thousand or more for the purpose of acquiring, owning, operating, renovating, and expanding a convention and trade center must make quarterly payments from tax revenue collected by a public facilities district as a result of the tax imposed in chapter 245, Laws of 2018 to a city in which the convention and trade center is located that has authorized on or before December 31, 2017, a tax on engaging in the business of being a short-term rental operator. Such payments must be made no more than thirty days after the last day of each fiscal quarter and must equal the portion of the revenues received by the public facilities district during such fiscal quarter from the lodging taxes authorized under subsection (4) of this section that are determined by the department of revenue to be derived from the short-term rental activity within such city.

(b) The public facilities district is not required to make any payments under this subsection (14) unless the city has repealed any ordinance authorizing a tax on engaging in the business of being a short-term rental operator.

(c) The public facilities district is not required to make any payments to a city under this subsection (14), if the city, after satisfying the condition in (b) of this subsection imposes any tax specifically on the act of engaging in the business of being a short-term rental operator.

(d) The proceeds of any payments made by a public facilities district to a city under this subsection (14) must be used by the city to support community-initiated equitable development and affordable housing programs, as determined by the city in its sole discretion.

(15) Fifty percent of any tax revenue collected by a public facilities district as a result of the tax imposed in chapter 245, Laws of 2018 must be distributed by the public facilities district to the county in which the convention and trade center is located. However, if a city has satisfied the condition in subsection (14)(b) of this section, payments made under this subsection to the county in which the convention and trade center is located must be calculated after deducting any payments made to a city under subsection (14) of this section from the total tax revenue received by the public facilities district as a result of the enactment of chapter 245, Laws of 2018. The proceeds of such payments to a county under this subsection (15) must be used by the county to support affordable housing programs, as determined by the county, in its sole discretion. [2018 c 245 § 2; 2015 3rd sp.s. c 24 § 702; 2015 c 151 § 1; 2010 1st sp.s. c 15 § 5; 2008 c 137 § 5; 2002 c 178 § 5; 1995 c 396 § 4; 1989 1st ex.s. c 8 § 4; 1988 ex.s. c 1 § 14.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 67.40.090 and 67.40.130 were repealed by 2010 1st sp.s. c 15 § 14, effective November 30, 2010.

**Effective date—2018 c 245:** "This act takes effect October 1, 2018." [2018 c 245 § 3.]

**Findings—Intent—2018 c 245:** "(1) The legislature finds that it is in the public interest that taxation of lodging not distort the market for different types of lodging and that all types of lodging participate in the funding of the public benefits supported with lodging tax revenue.

(2) The legislature further finds that, with respect to the lodging taxes levied under RCW 36.100.040 (4) and (5), the current significant disparity in

the taxation of sales of lodging on premises having fewer than sixty lodging units compared to premises having sixty or more units is contrary to the public interest in both equitable taxation and adequately supporting the public benefits funded by lodging tax revenue.

(3) It is the intent of this act to equalize the taxation levied under RCW 36.100.040 (4) and (5) by applying it to all lodging, regardless of the number of lodging units in premises subject to such taxation." [2018 c 245 § 1.]

**Construction—2015 3rd sp.s. c 24:** See note following RCW 36.160.030.

**Effective date—2015 c 151:** "This act takes effect August 1, 2015." [2015 c 151 § 2.]

**Findings—Intent—Construction—2010 1st sp.s. c 15:** See notes following RCW 36.100.010.

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

**36.100.042 Lodging license fee or tax in excess of rate imposed on retail businesses prohibited.** (1) Except as provided in chapters 35.101, 67.28, and 82.14 RCW, after January 1, 1983, no city, town, or county in which the tax under RCW 36.100.040 (4) and (5) is imposed may impose a license fee or tax on the act or privilege of engaging in business to furnish lodging by a hotel, rooming house, tourist court, motel, trailer camp, or similar facilities in excess of the rate imposed upon other persons engaged in the business of making sales at retail.

(2) For the purposes of this section, "sales at retail" has the same meaning as provided in RCW 82.04.050. [2010 1st sp.s. c 15 § 9.]

**Findings—Intent—Construction—2010 1st sp.s. c 15:** See notes following RCW 36.100.010.

**36.100.050 Ad valorem property tax.** (1) A public facilities district may levy an ad valorem property tax, in excess of the one percent limitation, upon the property within the district for a one-year period to be used for operating or capital purposes whenever authorized by the voters of the district pursuant to RCW 84.52.052 and Article VII, section 2(a) of the state Constitution.

(2) A public facilities district may provide for the retirement of voter-approved general obligation bonds, issued for capital purposes only, by levying bond retirement ad valorem property tax levies, in excess of the one percent limitation, whenever authorized by the voters of the district pursuant to Article VII, section 2(b) of the state Constitution and RCW 84.52.056. [1988 ex.s. c 1 § 15.]

**36.100.060 General obligation bonds—Termination, reauthorization of excise tax.** (1) To carry out the purpose of this chapter, a public facilities district may issue general obligation bonds, not to exceed an amount, together with any outstanding nonvoter approved general obligation indebtedness, equal to one-half of one percent of the value of taxable property within the district, as the term "value of taxable property" is defined in RCW 39.36.015. A public facilities district additionally may issue general obligation bonds for capital purposes only, together with any outstanding general obligation indebtedness, not to exceed an amount equal to one and one-fourth percent of the value of the taxable property within the district, as the term "value of taxable property" is defined in RCW 39.36.015, when authorized by the voters of the public facilities district pursuant to Article VIII, section 6 of the state Constitution, and to provide for the retire-

ment thereof by excess property tax levies as provided in this chapter.

(2) General obligation bonds may be issued with a maturity of up to thirty years, and must be issued and sold in accordance with the provisions of chapter 39.46 RCW. If the public facilities district is formed by a county with a population of one million five hundred thousand or more to acquire, own, and operate a convention and trade center, general obligation bonds may be issued with a maturity of up to forty years, and must be issued and sold in accordance with the provisions of chapter 39.46 RCW. In addition to the powers vested in it under RCW 39.46.030, a public facilities district created by a county with a population of one million five hundred thousand or more to acquire, own, and operate a convention and trade center may appoint, and may specify the rights and duties of, trustees with respect to its bonds, and such trustees may receive, hold, disburse, invest, and reinvest funds on the district's behalf and for the protection of the district's bond owners.

(3) The general obligation bonds may be payable from the operating revenues of the public facilities district in addition to the tax receipts of the district.

(4) The excise tax imposed pursuant to RCW 36.100.040(1) terminates upon final payment of all bonded indebtedness for its public facilities, except that the excise tax may be reauthorized by a public vote, in the same manner as originally authorized, for funding of additional public facilities or a regional center. [2010 1st sp.s. c 15 § 6; 1999 c 165 § 15; 1995 1st sp.s. c 14 § 4; 1995 c 396 § 5; 1989 1st ex.s. c 8 § 5; 1988 ex.s. c 1 § 16.]

**Findings—Intent—Construction—2010 1st sp.s. c 15:** See notes following RCW 36.100.010.

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

**36.100.070 Acquisition and transfer of real and personal property.** A public facilities district may acquire and transfer real and personal property by lease, sublease, purchase, or sale. [1988 ex.s. c 1 § 17.]

**36.100.080 Direct or collateral attack barred after thirty days.** No direct or collateral attack on any public facilities district purported to be authorized or created in conformance with this chapter may be commenced more than thirty days after creation by the county legislative authority. [1995 1st sp.s. c 14 § 5.]

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

**36.100.090 Tax deferral—New public facilities.** (1) The governing board of a public facilities district may apply for deferral of taxes on the construction of buildings, site preparation, and the acquisition of related machinery and equipment for a new public facility. Application shall be made to the department of revenue in a form and manner prescribed by the department of revenue. The application shall contain information regarding the location of the public facility, estimated or actual costs, time schedules for completion and operation, and other information required by the department of revenue. The department of revenue shall approve the application within sixty days if it meets the requirements of this section.

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(2) The department of revenue shall issue a sales and use tax deferral certificate for state and local sales and use taxes due under chapters 82.08, 82.12, and 82.14 RCW on the public facility. The use of the certificate shall be governed by rules established by the department of revenue.

(3) The public facilities district shall begin paying the deferred taxes in the fifth year after the date certified by the department of revenue as the date on which the public facility is operationally complete. The first payment is due on December 31st of the fifth calendar year after such certified date, with subsequent annual payments due on December 31st of the following nine years. Each payment shall equal ten percent of the deferred tax.

(4) The department of revenue may authorize an accelerated repayment schedule upon request of the public facilities district.

(5) Interest shall not be charged on any taxes deferred under this section for the period of deferral, although all other penalties and interest applicable to delinquent excise taxes may be assessed and imposed for delinquent payments under this section. The debt for deferred taxes is not extinguished by insolvency or other failure of the public facilities district.

(6) Applications and any other information received by the department of revenue under this section are not confidential and are subject to disclosure. Chapter 82.32 RCW applies to the administration of this section.

(7) As used in this section, "public facility" means a baseball stadium with a retractable roof or canopy and natural turf. [1995 1st sp.s. c 14 § 6.]

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

**36.100.100 Ex officio treasurer.** The treasurer of the county in which a public facilities district is located must be the ex officio treasurer of the district, unless the board of directors of a public facilities district created in a county of one million five hundred thousand or more designates by resolution another person having experience in financial or fiscal matters as the treasurer of the district. Such a treasurer possesses all of the powers, responsibilities, and duties of, and is subject to the same restrictions as provided by law for, a county treasurer with regard to district financial matters. Such treasurer must be bonded for not less than twenty-five thousand dollars. [2010 1st sp.s. c 15 § 7; 1995 c 396 § 7.]

**Findings—Intent—Construction—2010 1st sp.s. c 15:** See notes following RCW 36.100.010.

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

**36.100.110 Travel, expense reimbursement policy—Required.** The board of directors of the public facilities district shall adopt a resolution that may be amended from time to time that shall establish the basic requirements governing methods and amounts of reimbursement payable to such district officials and employees for travel and other business expenses incurred on behalf of the district. The resolution shall, among other things, establish procedures for approving such expenses; the form of the travel and expense voucher; and requirements governing the use of credit cards issued in the name of the district. The resolution may also establish procedures for payment of per diem to board members. The state auditor shall, as provided by general law, cooperate with the public facilities district in establishing adequate proce-

dures for regulating and auditing the reimbursement of all such expenses. [1995 c 396 § 8.]

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

**36.100.120 Travel, expense reimbursement policy—Limitations.** The board of directors of the public facilities district may authorize payment of actual and necessary expenses of officers and employees for lodging, meals, and travel-related costs incurred in attending meetings or conferences on behalf of the public facilities district and strictly in the public interest and for public purposes. Officers and employees may be advanced sufficient sums to cover their anticipated expenses in accordance with rules adopted by the state auditor, which shall substantially conform to the procedures provided in RCW 43.03.150 through 43.03.210. [1995 c 396 § 9.]

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

**36.100.130 Board of directors—Compensation.** Each member of the board of directors of the public facilities district may receive compensation of fifty dollars per day for attending meetings or conferences on behalf of the district, not to exceed three thousand dollars per year. A director may waive all or a portion of his or her compensation under this section as to a month or months during his or her term of office, by a written waiver filed with the public facilities district. The compensation provided in this section is in addition to reimbursement for expenses paid to the directors by the public facilities district. [1995 c 396 § 10.]

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

**36.100.140 Liability insurance.** The board of directors of the public facilities district may purchase liability insurance with such limits as the directors may deem reasonable for the purpose of protecting and holding personally harmless district officers and employees against liability for personal or bodily injuries and property damage arising from their acts or omissions while performing or in good faith purporting to perform their official duties. [1995 c 396 § 11.]

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

**36.100.150 Costs of defense.** Whenever an action, claim, or proceeding is instituted against a person who is or was an officer or employee of the public facilities district arising out of the performance of duties for or employment with the district, the public facilities district may grant a request by the person that the attorney of the district's choosing be authorized to defend the claim, suit, or proceeding, and the costs of defense, attorneys' fees, and obligation for payments arising from the action may be paid from the district's funds. Costs of defense or judgment or settlement against the person shall not be paid in a case where the court has found that the person was not acting in good faith or within the scope of employment with or duties for the public facilities district. [1995 c 396 § 12.]

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

**36.100.160 Expenditure of funds—Purposes.** (1) The board of directors of the public facilities district shall have authority to authorize the expenditure of funds for the public purposes of preparing and distributing information to the

general public and promoting, advertising, improving, developing, operating, and maintaining facilities of the district. For promotional activities the district board must: (a) Identify the proposed expenditure in its annual budget; and (b) adopt written rules governing promotional hosting by employees, agents, and the board, including requirements for identifying and evaluating the public benefits to be derived and documenting the public benefits realized.

(2) Nothing contained in this section may be construed to authorize preparation and distribution of information to the general public for the purpose of influencing the outcome of a district election. [2009 c 167 § 1; 1995 c 396 § 13.]

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

**36.100.170 Employees—Benefits.** The public facilities district shall have authority to create and fill positions, fix wages, salaries, and bonds therefor, pay costs involved in securing or arranging to secure employees, and establish benefits for employees, including holiday pay, vacations or vacation pay, retirement benefits, medical, life, accident, or health disability insurance, as approved by the board. Public facilities district board members, at their own expense, shall be entitled to medical, life, accident, or health disability insurance. Insurance for employees and board members shall not be considered compensation. District coverage for the board is not to exceed that provided public facilities district employees. [1995 c 396 § 14.]

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

**36.100.180 Service provider agreements—Competitive solicitation process for personal service contracts of one hundred fifty thousand dollars or more—Exceptions.**

(1) The public facilities district may secure services by means of an agreement with a service provider. The public facilities district shall publish notice, establish criteria, receive and evaluate proposals, and negotiate with respondents under requirements set forth by district resolution.

(2) For personal service contracts of one hundred fifty thousand dollars or greater not otherwise governed by chapter 39.80 RCW, contracts for architectural and engineering services, a competitive solicitation process is required. The district shall establish the process by resolution, which must at a minimum include the following:

(a) Notice. A notice inviting statements of either qualifications or proposals, or both, from interested parties must be published in a newspaper of general circulation throughout the county in which the district is located at least ten days before the date for submitting the statements of qualifications or proposals.

(b) Description of services required. The request for statements of either qualifications or proposals, or both published or provided to interested parties must describe the services required and list the types of information and data required of each proposal. It may also describe the evaluation criteria and state the relative importance of the criteria if then available.

(c) Review and evaluation. The district shall establish a process to review and evaluate statements of either qualifications or proposals, or both. That process may include a selection board identified by the district or some other panel of

evaluators. If appropriate, the reviewers may hear oral presentations by proposers.

(d) Selection. The evaluators shall select and rank the most qualified proposers. In selecting and ranking such proposers, the selection board shall consider the evaluation criteria established by the district and may consider such other information as may be secured during the evaluation process related to a proposer's qualifications and experience.

(e) Negotiations. The district shall enter into contract negotiations with the top-ranked proposer or proposers identified in the selection process. Negotiations may be conducted concurrently or sequentially as may be allowed by law.

(f) Approval. When negotiations are complete, the proposed contract will be presented to the district's governing body at its next regularly scheduled meeting for approval or ratification.

(3) Exceptions. The requirements of this section need not be met in the following circumstances:

(a) Emergency. When the contracting authority makes a finding that an emergency requires the immediate execution of the work involved. As used in this subsection, "emergency" has the same meaning as provided in \*RCW 39.29.006;

(b) Contract amendment. Amendments to existing service contracts are exempt from these requirements; and

(c) Sole source. In the event that the services being sought can only be obtained from a single source, then the district shall make a formal written finding stating the factual basis for the exception and the solicitation requirements of this section do not apply. As used in this subsection, "sole source" has the same meaning as provided in \*RCW 39.29.006.

(4) Prospective application. Nothing in this section affects the validity or effect of any district contract executed prior to July 26, 2009. [2009 c 533 § 4; 1995 c 396 § 15.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 39.29.006 was repealed by 2012 c 224 § 29, effective January 1, 2013.

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

**36.100.190 Purchases and sales—Procedures.** In addition to provisions contained in chapter 39.04 RCW, the public facilities district is authorized to follow procedures contained in chapter 39.26 RCW for all purchases, contracts for purchase, and sales. [2015 c 79 § 3; 1995 c 396 § 16.]

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

**36.100.200 Revenue bonds—Limitations.** (1) A public facilities district may issue revenue bonds to fund revenue generating facilities, or portions of facilities, which it is authorized to provide or operate. Whenever revenue bonds are to be issued, the board of directors of the district shall create or have created a special fund or funds from which, along with any reserves created pursuant to RCW 39.44.140, the principal and interest on such revenue bonds shall exclusively be payable. The board may obligate the district to set aside and pay into the special fund or funds a fixed proportion or a fixed amount of the revenues from the public improvements, projects, or facilities, and all related additions, that are funded by the revenue bonds. This amount or proportion shall be a lien and charge against these revenues, subject only to

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operating and maintenance expenses. The board shall have due regard for the cost of operation and maintenance of the public improvements, projects, or facilities, or additions, that are funded by the revenue bonds, and shall not set aside into the special fund or funds a greater amount or proportion of the revenues that in its judgment will be available over and above the cost of maintenance and operation and the amount or proportion, if any, of the revenue so previously pledged. The board may also provide that revenue bonds payable out of the same source or sources of revenue may later be issued on a parity with any revenue bonds being issued and sold.

(2) Revenue bonds issued pursuant to this section shall not be an indebtedness of the district issuing the bonds, and the interest and principal on the bonds shall only be payable from the revenues lawfully pledged to meet the principal and interest requirements and any reserves created pursuant to RCW 39.44.140. The owner or bearer of a revenue bond or any interest coupon issued pursuant to this section shall not have any claim against the district arising from the bond or coupon except for payment from the revenues lawfully pledged to meet the principal and interest requirements and any reserves created pursuant to RCW 39.44.140. The substance of the limitations included in this subsection shall be plainly printed, written, or engraved on each bond issued pursuant to this section.

(3) Revenue bonds with a maturity in excess of thirty years shall not be issued. The board of directors of the district shall by resolution determine for each revenue bond issue the amount, date, form, terms, conditions, denominations, maximum fixed or variable interest rate or rates, maturity or maturities, redemption rights, registration privileges, manner of execution, manner of sale, callable provisions, if any, and covenants including the refunding of existing revenue bonds. Facsimile signatures may be used on the bonds and any coupons. Refunding revenue bonds may be issued in the same manner as revenue bonds are issued. [1995 c 396 § 17.]

*Alternative authority to issue revenue bonds: RCW 39.46.150, 39.46.160.*

*Funds for reserve purposes may be included in issue amount: RCW 39.44.140.*

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

**36.100.205 Bonds issued are securities.** Bonds issued under this chapter are hereby made securities in which all public officers and public bodies of the state and its political subdivisions, all insurance companies, trust companies in their commercial departments, savings banks, cooperative banks, banking associations, investment companies, executors, trustees and other fiduciaries, and all other persons whatsoever who are now or may hereafter be authorized to invest in obligations of the state may properly and legally invest funds, including capital in their control or belonging to them. Such bonds are hereby made securities which may properly and legally be deposited with and received by any state or municipal officer or any agency or political subdivision of the state for any purpose for which the deposit of bonds and other obligations of the state are now or may hereafter be authorized by law. [2010 1st sp.s. c 15 § 11.]

**Findings—Intent—Construction—2010 1st sp.s. c 15:** See notes following RCW 36.100.010.

**36.100.210 Tax on admissions.** A public facility district may levy and fix a tax of not more than one cent on twenty cents or fraction thereof to be paid by the person who pays an admission charge to a regional center, as defined in RCW 35.57.020. This includes a tax on persons who are admitted free of charge or at reduced rates if other persons pay a charge or a regular higher charge for the same privileges or accommodations.

The term "admission charge" includes:

- (1) A charge made for season tickets or subscriptions;
- (2) A cover charge, or a charge made for use of seats and tables reserved or otherwise, and other similar accommodations;
- (3) A charge made for food and refreshment if free entertainment, recreation, or amusement is provided;
- (4) A charge made for rental or use of equipment or facilities for purposes of recreation or amusement; if the rental of the equipment or facilities is necessary to the enjoyment of a privilege for which a general admission is charged, the combined charges shall be considered as the admission charge;
- (5) Automobile parking charges if the amount of the charge is determined according to the number of passengers in the automobile. [1999 c 165 § 17.]

**36.100.220 Tax on vehicle parking charges.** (1) A public facility district may levy and fix a tax on any vehicle parking charges imposed at any parking facility that is owned or leased by the public facility district as part of a regional center, as defined in RCW 35.57.020, or a baseball stadium, as defined in RCW 82.14.0485. No county, city, or town within which the regional center or baseball stadium is located may impose a tax of the same or similar kind on any vehicle parking charges at the facility.

(2) For the purposes of this section, "vehicle parking charges" means only the actual parking charges exclusive of taxes and service charges and the value of any other benefit conferred.

(3) The tax authorized under this section must be at the rate of not more than ten percent. The tax authorized by this section with respect to a parking facility associated with a baseball stadium must be used exclusively to fund repair, reequipping, and capital improvement of the baseball stadium, and is not subject to the requirements of RCW 36.100.010(4). [2011 1st sp.s. c 38 § 3; 1999 c 165 § 18.]

**36.100.230 Transfer of property, assets, and other interests from state convention and trade center public nonprofit to district—Necessary actions.** (1) On the transfer date the board of directors of a public nonprofit corporation formed under \*RCW 67.40.020 that owns and operates a state convention and trade center must transfer all lands, facilities, equipment, assets, other interests in real, personal, and intangible property, and interests under contracts, leases, licenses, and agreements under the control of that board of directors to a public facilities district created as provided in RCW 36.100.010 by the county in which the convention and trade center is located pursuant to an agreement with the public facilities district, subject to the review and approval of the state treasurer.

(2) No real estate excise tax or other excise tax may be imposed with respect to the transfer of assets of the public nonprofit corporation to the public facilities district.

(3) For the purposes of this section, "transfer date" means the date on or prior to June 30, 2011, on which provision has been made for all of the following, pursuant to agreements and other necessary arrangements approved by the state treasurer:

(a) The redemption, prepayment, or legal defeasance on or prior to the transfer date of all outstanding borrowings and other financing obligations of the state of Washington and the public nonprofit corporation with respect to the state convention and trade center, including state bonds and certificates of participation and related financing contracts;

(b) The transfer to the public facilities district on the transfer date of the balances on deposit in the state convention and trade center operations account, the state convention and trade center account and other accounts relating to the state convention and trade center, including the revenues identified under (g)(ii) of this subsection (3);

(c) The imposition by the public facilities district of excise taxes on the sale of or charge made for the furnishing of lodging under RCW 36.100.040 (4) and (5) at the maximum rates permitted in those subsections;

(d) The transfer of all other assets and liabilities and, to the extent permissible by their terms, the assignment or transfer of all contracts and agreements of the public nonprofit corporation from the public nonprofit corporation to the public facilities district;

(e) The execution of an agreement settling all claims in the case of Tourism Alliance, a Washington nonprofit corporation; Craig Schafer; Claridge LLC, a Washington limited liability company; R.C. Hedreen Corporation, a Washington corporation; and on behalf of taxpayers, Andrew Olsen, Amy L. Dee, Christopher M. Dee, Clipper Navigation, Inc., a Washington corporation v. State of Washington and James L. McIntire, in his official capacity as State Treasurer of the State of Washington;

(f) The payment or provision for payment of all fees, costs, and expenses incurred by the state of Washington and the public nonprofit corporation to effect such transfer;

(g) An agreement of the public facilities district to transfer to the state on June 30, 2011, an amount equal to (i) the revenues from the tax imposed under RCW 36.100.040(5) during the state fiscal year ending June 30, 2011, plus (ii) the revenues from the tax imposed under \*\*RCW 67.40.130 during the state fiscal year ending June 30, 2011; and

(h) The agreement between the state treasurer and the public facilities district, referred to in RCW 36.100.040(6)(c)(i). [2010 1st sp.s. c 15 § 8.]

**Reviser's note:** \*(1) RCW 67.40.020 was repealed by 2010 1st sp.s. c 15 § 15, effective December 30, 2010.

\*\*\*(2) RCW 67.40.130 was repealed by 2010 1st sp.s. c 15 § 14, effective November 30, 2010.

**Findings—Intent—Construction—2010 1st sp.s. c 15:** See notes following RCW 36.100.010.

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

**36.100.240 Eminent domain authorized.** (1) Any county with a population of one million five hundred thousand or more that creates a public facilities district pursuant

to this chapter to acquire, own, and operate a convention and trade center transferred from a public nonprofit corporation is authorized to acquire by condemnation property or property rights as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of such district. If the legislative body of such county chooses to exercise its authority to acquire property by eminent domain on behalf of such public facilities district, it must do so pursuant to the procedures set forth in chapter 8.08 RCW.

(2) The accomplishment of the activities authorized by this chapter is declared to be a strictly public purpose of the municipality or municipal entities authorized to perform the same.

(3) The powers and authority conferred by this section are in addition and supplemental to existing powers or authority. Nothing contained in this section limits any other powers or authority of any agency, political subdivision, or unit of local government of this state. [2010 1st sp.s. c 15 § 12.]

**Findings—Intent—Construction—2010 1st sp.s. c 15:** See notes following RCW 36.100.010.

**36.100.905 Construction—2010 1st sp.s. c 15.** Nothing in chapter 15, Laws of 2010 1st sp. sess. may be construed to limit the authority of a public nonprofit corporation under \*chapter 67.40 RCW prior to November 30, 2010. [2010 1st sp.s. c 15 § 10.]

**\*Reviser's note:** A majority of chapter 67.40 RCW was repealed by 2010 1st sp.s. c 15 § 14, effective November 30, 2010. RCW 67.40.020 was repealed by 2010 1st sp.s. c 15 § 15, effective December 30, 2010.

**Findings—Intent—Construction—2010 1st sp.s. c 15:** See notes following RCW 36.100.010.

## Chapter 36.102 RCW

### STADIUM AND EXHIBITION CENTERS

#### Sections

- 36.102.010 Definitions.
- 36.102.020 Public stadium authority—Creation—Powers and duties—Transfer of property.
- 36.102.030 Public stadium authority—Board of directors—Appointment—Terms—Vacancy—Removal.
- 36.102.040 Public stadium authority advisory committee—Appointment—Review and comment on proposed lease agreement.
- 36.102.050 Public stadium authority—Powers and duties—Acquisition, construction, ownership, remodeling, maintenance, equipping, reequipping, repairing, and operation of stadium and exhibition center—Contracts and agreements regarding ownership and operation—Employees unclassified—Supplemental public works contracting procedures—Charges and fees—Gifts, grants, and donations—Prevailing wage and women and minority-business participation.
- 36.102.060 Public stadium authority—Powers and duties—Site—Project scope—Design and specification—Use of professional services—Budget—Financing structure—Development agreement—Lease agreement—Profit-sharing discussion—Master tenant funds for Olympics and world cup—Stadium scheduling—Super Bowl acquisition—Mitigation—Demolition filming—Permanent seat licenses.
- 36.102.070 Deferral of taxes—Application by public stadium authority—Department of revenue approval—Repayment—Schedules—Interest—Debt for taxes—Information not confidential.
- 36.102.080 Naming rights—Use of revenues.
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- 36.102.200 Public stadium authority—Confidentiality of financial information.
- 36.102.800 Referendum only measure for taxes for stadium and exhibition center—Limiting legislation upon failure to approve—1997 c 220.
- 36.102.801 Legislation as opportunity for voter's decision—Not indication of legislators' personal vote on referendum proposal—1997 c 220.
- 36.102.802 Contingency—Null and void—Team affiliate's agreement for reimbursement for election—1997 c 220.
- 36.102.803 Referendum—Submittal—Explanatory statement—Voters' pamphlet—Voting procedures—Canvassing and certification—Reimbursement of counties for costs—No other elections on stadium and exhibition center—1997 c 220.

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

(1) "Design" includes architectural, engineering, and other related professional services.

(2) "Develop" means, generally, the process of planning, designing, financing, constructing, owning, operating, and leasing a project such as a stadium and exhibition center.

(3) "Permanent seat license" means a transferable license sold to a third party that, subject to certain conditions, restrictions, and limitations, entitles the third party to purchase a season ticket to professional football games of the professional football team played in the stadium and exhibition center for so long as the team plays its games in that facility.

(4) "Preconstruction" includes negotiations, including negotiations with any team affiliate, planning, studies, design, and other activities reasonably necessary before constructing a stadium and exhibition center.

(5) "Professional football team" means a team that is a member of the national football league or similar professional football association.

(6) "Public stadium authority operation" means the formation and ongoing operation of the public stadium authority, including the hiring of employees, agents, attorneys, and other contractors, and the acquisition and operation of office facilities.

(7) "Site acquisition" means the purchase or other acquisition of any interest in real property including fee simple interests and easements, which property interests constitute the site for a stadium and exhibition center.

(8) "Site preparation" includes demolition of existing improvements, environmental remediation, site excavation, shoring, and construction and maintenance of temporary traffic and pedestrian routing.

(9) "Stadium and exhibition center" means an open-air stadium suitable for national football league football and for Olympic and world cup soccer, with adjacent exhibition facilities, together with associated parking facilities and other ancillary facilities.

(10) "Team affiliate" means a professional football team that will use the stadium and exhibition center, and any affiliate of the team designated by the team. An "affiliate of the

team" means any person or entity that controls, is controlled by, or is under common control with the team. [1997 c 220 § 101 (Referendum Bill No. 48, approved June 17, 1997).]

**36.102.020 Public stadium authority—Creation—Powers and duties—Transfer of property.** (1) A public stadium authority may be created in any county that has entered into a letter of intent relating to the development of a stadium and exhibition center under chapter 220, Laws of 1997 with a team affiliate or an entity that has a contractual right to become a team affiliate.

(2) A public stadium authority shall be created upon adoption of a resolution providing for the creation of such an authority by the county legislative authority in which the proposed authority is located.

(3) A public stadium authority shall constitute a body corporate and shall possess all the usual powers of a corporation for public purposes as well as all other powers that may now or hereafter be specifically conferred by statute, including, but not limited to, the authority to hire employees, staff, and services, to enter into contracts, and to sue and be sued.

(4) The legislative authority of the county in which the public stadium authority is located, or the council of any city located in that county, may transfer property to the public stadium authority created under this chapter. Property encumbered by debt may be transferred by a county legislative authority or a city council to a public stadium authority created to develop a stadium and exhibition center under RCW 36.102.050, but obligation for payment of the debt may not be transferred. [1997 c 220 § 102 (Referendum Bill No. 48, approved June 17, 1997).]

**36.102.030 Public stadium authority—Board of directors—Appointment—Terms—Vacancy—Removal.**

(1) A public stadium authority shall be governed by a board of directors consisting of seven members appointed by the governor. The speaker of the house of representatives, the minority leader of the house of representatives, the majority leader of the senate, and the minority leader of the senate shall each recommend to the governor a person to be appointed to the board.

(2) Members of the board of directors shall serve four-year terms of office, except that three of the initial seven board members shall serve two-year terms of office. The governor shall designate the initial terms of office for the initial members who are appointed.

(3) A vacancy shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment was made and the person appointed to fill a vacancy shall serve for the remainder of the unexpired term of the office for the position to which he or she was appointed.

(4) A director appointed by the governor may be removed from office by the governor. [1997 c 220 § 103 (Referendum Bill No. 48, approved June 17, 1997).]

**36.102.040 Public stadium authority advisory committee—Appointment—Review and comment on proposed lease agreement.** (1) There is created a public stadium authority advisory committee comprised of five members. The advisory committee consists of: The director of the office of financial management, who shall serve as chair; two

members appointed by the house of representatives, one each appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives and the minority leader of the house of representatives; and two members appointed by the senate, one each appointed by the majority leader of the senate and the minority leader of the senate.

(2) The advisory committee, prior to the final approval of any lease with the master tenant or sale of stadium naming rights, shall review and comment on the proposed lease agreement or sale of stadium naming rights. [1997 c 220 § 104 (Referendum Bill No. 48, approved June 17, 1997).]

**36.102.050 Public stadium authority—Powers and duties—Acquisition, construction, ownership, remodeling, maintenance, equipping, reequipping, repairing, and operation of stadium and exhibition center—Contracts and agreements regarding ownership and operation—Employees unclassified—Supplemental public works contracting procedures—Charges and fees—Gifts, grants, and donations—Prevailing wage and women and minority-business participation.** (1) The public stadium authority is authorized to acquire, construct, own, remodel, maintain, equip, reequip, repair, and operate a stadium and exhibition center as defined in RCW 36.102.010.

(2) The public stadium authority may enter into agreements under chapter 39.34 RCW for the joint provision and operation of a stadium and exhibition center and may enter into contracts under chapter 39.34 RCW where any party to the contract provides and operates the stadium and exhibition center for the other party or parties to the contract.

(3) Any employees of the public stadium authority shall be unclassified employees not subject to the provisions of chapter 41.06 RCW and a public stadium authority may contract with a public or private entity for the operation or management of the stadium and exhibition center.

(4) The public stadium authority is authorized to use the alternative supplemental public works contracting procedures set forth in chapter 39.10 RCW in connection with the design, construction, reconstruction, remodel, or alteration of a stadium and exhibition center.

(5) The public stadium authority may impose charges and fees for the use of the stadium and exhibition center, and may accept and expend or use gifts, grants, and donations.

(6) The public stadium authority shall comply with the prevailing wage requirements of chapter 39.12 RCW and goals established for women and minority-business participation for the county. [1997 c 220 § 105 (Referendum Bill No. 48, approved June 17, 1997).]

**36.102.060 Public stadium authority—Powers and duties—Site—Project scope—Design and specification—Use of professional services—Budget—Financing structure—Development agreement—Lease agreement—Profit-sharing discussion—Master tenant funds for Olympics and world cup—Stadium scheduling—Super Bowl acquisition—Mitigation—Demolition filming—Permanent seat licenses.** In addition to other powers and restrictions on a public stadium authority, the following apply to a public stadium authority created to develop a stadium and exhibition center under RCW 36.102.050:



(1) The public stadium authority, in consultation with the team affiliate, shall have the authority to determine the stadium and exhibition center site;

(2) The public stadium authority, in consultation with the team affiliate, shall have the authority to establish the overall scope of the stadium and exhibition center project, including, but not limited to, stadium and exhibition center itself, associated exhibition facilities, associated parking facilities, associated retail and office development that are part of the stadium and exhibition center, and ancillary services and facilities;

(3) The public stadium authority, in consultation with the team affiliate, shall have the authority to make the final determination of the stadium and exhibition center overall design and specification;

(4) The public stadium authority shall have the authority to contract with a team affiliate for the provision of architectural, engineering, environmental, and other professional services related to the stadium and exhibition center site, design options, required environmental studies, and necessary permits for the stadium and exhibition center;

(5) The public stadium authority, in consultation with the team affiliate, shall have the authority to establish the project budget on the stadium and exhibition center project;

(6) The public stadium authority, in consultation with the team affiliate, shall have the authority to make recommendations to the state finance committee regarding the structure of the financing of the stadium and exhibition center project;

(7) The public stadium authority shall have the authority to enter into a development agreement with a team affiliate whereby the team affiliate may control the development of the stadium and exhibition center project, consistent with subsections (1) through (6) of this section, in consideration of which the team affiliate assumes the risk of costs of development that are in excess of the project budget established under subsection (5) of this section. Under the development agreement, the team affiliate shall determine bidding specifications and requirements, and other aspects of development. Under the development agreement, the team affiliate shall determine procurement procedures and other aspects of development, and shall select and engage an architect or architects and a contractor or contractors for the stadium and exhibition center project, provided that the construction, alterations, repairs, or improvements of the stadium and exhibition center shall be subject to the prevailing wage requirements of chapter 39.12 RCW and all phases of the development shall be subject to the goals established for women and minority-business participation for the county where the stadium and exhibition center is located. The team affiliate shall, to the extent feasible, hire local residents and in particular residents from the areas immediately surrounding the stadium and exhibition center during the construction and ongoing operation of the stadium and exhibition center;

(8) The public stadium authority shall have the authority to enter into a long-term lease agreement with a team affiliate whereby, in consideration of the payment of fair rent and assumption of operating and maintenance responsibilities, risk, legal liability, and costs associated with the stadium and exhibition center, the team affiliate becomes the sole master tenant of the stadium and exhibition center. The master tenant lease agreement must require the team affiliate to publicly

disclose, on an annual basis, an audited profit and loss financial statement. The team affiliate shall provide a guarantee, security, or a letter of credit from a person or entity with a net worth in excess of one hundred million dollars that guarantees a maximum of ten years' payments of fair rent under the lease in the event of the bankruptcy or insolvency of the team affiliate. The master tenant shall have the power to sublease and enter into use, license, and concession agreements with various users of the stadium and exhibition center including the professional football team, and the master tenant has the right to name the stadium and exhibition center, subject to RCW 36.102.080. The master tenant shall meet goals, established by the county where the stadium and exhibition center is located, for women and minority employment for the operation of the stadium and exhibition center. Except as provided in subsection (10) of this section, the master tenant shall have the right to retain revenues derived from the operation of the stadium and exhibition center, including revenues from the sublease and uses, license and concession agreements, revenues from suite licenses, concessions, advertising, long-term naming rights subject to RCW 36.102.080, and parking revenue. If federal law permits interest on bonds issued to finance the stadium and exhibition center to be treated as tax exempt for federal income tax purposes, the public stadium authority and the team affiliate shall endeavor to structure and limit the amounts, sources, and uses of any payments received by the state, the county, the public stadium authority, or any related governmental entity for the use or in respect to the stadium and exhibition center in such a manner as to permit the interest on those bonds to be tax exempt. As used in this subsection, "fair rent" is solely intended to cover the reasonable operating expenses of the public stadium authority and shall be not less than eight hundred fifty thousand dollars per year with annual increases based on the consumer price index;

(9) Subject to RCW 43.99N.020(2)(b)(ix), the public stadium authority may reserve the right to discuss profit sharing from the stadium and exhibition center from sources that have not been identified at the time the long-term lease agreement is executed;

(10) The master tenant may retain an amount to cover the actual cost of preparing the stadium and exhibition center for activities involving the Olympic Games and world cup soccer. Revenues derived from the operation of the stadium and exhibition center for activities identified in this subsection that exceed the master tenant's actual costs of preparing, operating, and restoring the stadium and exhibition center must be deposited into the tourism development and promotion account created in RCW 43.330.094;

(11) The public stadium authority, in consultation with a public facilities district that is located within the county, shall work to eliminate the use of the stadium and exhibition center for events during the same time as events are held in the baseball stadium as defined in RCW 82.14.0485;

(12) The public stadium authority, in consultation with the team affiliate, must work to secure the hosting of a Super Bowl, if the hosting requirements are changed by the national football league or similar professional football association;

(13) The public stadium authority shall work with surrounding areas to mitigate the impact of the construction and operation of the stadium and exhibition center;

(14) The public stadium authority, in consultation with the office of financial management, shall negotiate filming rights of the demolition of the existing domed stadium on the stadium and exhibition center site. All revenues derived from the filming of the demolition of the existing domed stadium shall be deposited into the film and video promotion account created in \*RCW 43.330.092; and

(15) The public stadium authority shall have the authority, upon the agreement of the team affiliate, to sell permanent seat licenses, and the team affiliate may act as the sales agent for this purpose. [1997 c 220 § 106 (Referendum Bill No. 48, approved June 17, 1997).]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 43.330.092 was repealed by 2012 c 198 § 26.

**36.102.070 Deferral of taxes—Application by public stadium authority—Department of revenue approval—Repayment—Schedules—Interest—Debt for taxes—Information not confidential.** (1) The governing board of a public stadium authority may apply for deferral of taxes on the construction of buildings, site preparation, and the acquisition of related machinery and equipment for a stadium and exhibition center. Application shall be made to the department of revenue in a form and manner prescribed by the department of revenue. The application shall contain information regarding the location of the stadium and exhibition center, estimated or actual costs, time schedules for completion and operation, and other information required by the department of revenue. The department of revenue shall approve the application within sixty days if it meets the requirements of this section.

(2) The department of revenue shall issue a sales and use tax deferral certificate for state and local sales and use taxes due under chapters 82.08, 82.12, and 82.14 RCW on the public facility.

(3) The public stadium authority shall begin paying the deferred taxes in the fifth year after the date certified by the department of revenue as the date on which the stadium and exhibition center is operationally complete. The first payment is due on December 31st of the fifth calendar year after such certified date, with subsequent annual payments due on December 31st of the following nine years. Each payment shall equal ten percent of the deferred tax.

(4) The department of revenue may authorize an accelerated repayment schedule upon request of the public stadium authority.

(5) Interest shall not be charged on any taxes deferred under this section for the period of deferral, although all other penalties and interest applicable to delinquent excise taxes may be assessed and imposed for delinquent payments under this section. The debt for deferred taxes is not extinguished by insolvency or other failure of the public stadium authority.

(6) The repayment of deferred taxes and interest, if any, shall be deposited into the stadium and exhibition center account created in RCW 43.99N.060 and used to retire bonds issued under RCW 43.99N.020 to finance the construction of the stadium and exhibition center.

(7) Applications and any other information received by the department of revenue under this section are not confidential and are subject to disclosure. Chapter 82.32 RCW applies to the administration of this section. [1997 c 220 § 201 (Referendum Bill No. 48, approved June 17, 1997).]

**36.102.080 Naming rights—Use of revenues.** Revenues from the sales of naming rights of a stadium and exhibition center developed under RCW 36.102.050 may only be used for costs associated with capital improvements associated with modernization and maintenance of the stadium and exhibition center. The sales of naming rights are subject to the reasonable approval of the public stadium authority. [1997 c 220 § 107 (Referendum Bill No. 48, approved June 17, 1997).]

**36.102.090 Donated moneys.** A public stadium authority may accept and expend moneys that may be donated for the purpose of a stadium and exhibition center. [1997 c 220 § 108 (Referendum Bill No. 48, approved June 17, 1997).]

**36.102.100 Construction agreements—Property assembly—Demolition of existing structures.** (1) The public stadium authority, the county, and the city, if any, in which the stadium and exhibition center is to be located shall enter into one or more agreements regarding the construction of a stadium and exhibition center. The agreements shall address, but not be limited to:

- (a) Expedited permit processing for the design and construction of the stadium and exhibition center project;
- (b) Expedited environmental review processing;
- (c) Expedited processing of requests for street, right-of-way, or easement vacations necessary for the construction of the stadium and exhibition center project; and
- (d) Other items deemed necessary for the design and construction of the stadium and exhibition center project.

(2) The county shall assemble such real property and associated personal property as the public stadium authority and the county mutually determine to be necessary as a site for the stadium and exhibition center. Property that is necessary for this purpose that is owned by the county on or after July 17, 1997, shall be contributed to the authority, and property that is necessary for this purpose that is acquired by the county on or after July 17, 1997, shall be conveyed to the authority. Property that is encumbered by debt may be transferred by the county to the authority, but obligation for payment of the debt may not be transferred.

(3) A new exhibition facility of at least three hundred twenty-five thousand square feet, with adequate on-site parking, shall be constructed and operational before any domed stadium in the county is demolished or rendered unusable. Demolition of any existing structure and construction of the stadium and exhibition center shall be reasonably executed in a manner that minimizes impacts, including access and parking, upon existing facilities, users, and neighborhoods. No county or city may exercise authority under any landmarks preservation statute or ordinance in order to prevent or delay the demolition of any existing domed stadium at the site of the stadium and exhibition center. [1997 c 220 § 109 (Referendum Bill No. 48, approved June 17, 1997).]

**36.102.110 Property acquisition and sale.** A public stadium authority may acquire and transfer real and personal property by lease, sublease, purchase, or sale. [1997 c 220 § 110 (Referendum Bill No. 48, approved June 17, 1997).]

**36.102.120 Public stadium authority board of directors—Travel and business expenses—Resolution on payment and procedures—Operating budget report.** (1) The board of directors of the public stadium authority shall adopt a resolution that may be amended from time to time that shall establish the basic requirements governing methods and amounts of reimbursement payable to such authority and employees for travel and other business expenses incurred on behalf of the authority. The resolution shall, among other things, establish procedures for approving such expenses; the form of the travel and expense voucher; and requirements governing the use of credit cards issued in the name of the authority. The resolution may also establish procedures for payment of per diem to board members. The state auditor shall, as provided by general law, cooperate with the public stadium authority in establishing adequate procedures for regulating and auditing the reimbursement of all such expenses.

(2) The board of directors shall transmit a copy of the adopted annual operating budget of the public stadium authority to the governor and the majority leader and minority leader of the house of representatives and the senate. The budget information shall include, but is not limited to a statement of income and expenses of the public stadium authority. [1997 c 220 § 111 (Referendum Bill No. 48, approved June 17, 1997).]

**36.102.130 Public stadium authority officers and employees—Expenses.** The board of directors of the public stadium authority may authorize payment of actual and necessary expenses of officers and employees for lodging, meals, and travel-related costs incurred in attending meetings or conferences on behalf of the public stadium authority and strictly in the public interest and for public purposes. Officers and employees may be advanced sufficient sums to cover their anticipated expenses in accordance with rules adopted by the state auditor, which shall substantially conform to the procedures provided in RCW 43.03.150 through 43.03.210. [1997 c 220 § 112 (Referendum Bill No. 48, approved June 17, 1997).]

**36.102.140 Public stadium authority board of directors—Compensation—Waiver.** Each member of the board of directors of the public stadium authority may receive compensation of fifty dollars per day for attending meetings or conferences on behalf of the authority, not to exceed three thousand dollars per year. A director may waive all or a portion of his or her compensation under this section as to a month or months during his or her term of office, by a written waiver filed with the public stadium authority. The compensation provided in this section is in addition to reimbursement for expenses paid to the directors by the public stadium authority. [1997 c 220 § 113 (Referendum Bill No. 48, approved June 17, 1997).]

**36.102.150 Public stadium authority—Liability insurance.** The board of directors of the public stadium authority may purchase liability insurance with such limits as the directors may deem reasonable for the purpose of protecting and holding personally harmless authority officers and employees against liability for personal or bodily injuries and

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property damage arising from their acts or omissions while performing or in good faith purporting to perform their official duties. [1997 c 220 § 114 (Referendum Bill No. 48, approved June 17, 1997).]

**36.102.160 Public stadium authority—Defense of suit, claim, or proceeding against officer or employee—Costs—Attorneys' fees—Obligation—Exception.** Whenever an action, claim, or proceeding is instituted against a person who is or was an officer or employee of the public stadium authority arising out of the performance of duties for or employment with the authority, the public stadium authority may grant a request by the person that the attorney of the authority's choosing be authorized to defend the claim, suit, or proceeding, and the costs of defense, attorneys' fees, and obligation for payments arising from the action may be paid from the authority's funds. Costs of defense or judgment or settlement against the person shall not be paid in a case where the court has found that the person was not acting in good faith or within the scope of employment with or duties for the public stadium authority. [1997 c 220 § 115 (Referendum Bill No. 48, approved June 17, 1997).]

**36.102.170 Information preparation and distribution.** The board of directors of the public stadium authority shall have authority to authorize the expenditure of funds for the public purposes of preparing and distributing information to the general public about the stadium and exhibition center. [1997 c 220 § 116 (Referendum Bill No. 48, approved June 17, 1997).]

**36.102.180 Public stadium authority—Employee positions—Wages and benefits—Insurance of employees, board members.** The public stadium authority shall have authority to create and fill positions, fix wages and salaries, pay costs involved in securing or arranging to secure employees, and establish benefits for employees, including holiday pay, vacations or vacation pay, retirement benefits, medical, life, accident, or health disability insurance, as approved by the board. Public stadium authority board members, at their own expense, shall be entitled to medical, life, accident, or health disability insurance. Insurance for employees and board members shall not be considered compensation. Authority coverage for the board is not to exceed that provided public stadium authority employees. [1997 c 220 § 117 (Referendum Bill No. 48, approved June 17, 1997).]

**36.102.190 Public stadium authority—Securing services—Service provider agreement—Resolutions setting procedures.** The public stadium authority may secure services by means of an agreement with a service provider. The public stadium authority shall publish notice, establish criteria, receive and evaluate proposals, and negotiate with respondents under requirements set forth by authority resolution. [1997 c 220 § 118 (Referendum Bill No. 48, approved June 17, 1997).]

**36.102.200 Public stadium authority—Confidentiality of financial information.** The public stadium authority may refuse to disclose financial information on the master tenant, concessioners, the team affiliate, or subleasee under

RCW 42.56.270. [2005 c 274 § 274; 1997 c 220 § 119 (Referendum Bill No. 48, approved June 17, 1997).]

**36.102.800 Referendum only measure for taxes for stadium and exhibition center—Limiting legislation upon failure to approve—1997 c 220.** The referendum on this act is the only measure authorizing, levying, or imposing taxes for a stadium and exhibition center that may be put to a public vote. Should the act fail to be approved at the special election on or before June 20, 1997, the legislature shall not pass other legislation to build or finance a stadium and exhibition center, as defined in RCW 36.102.010, for the team affiliate. [1997 c 220 § 604 (Referendum Bill No. 48, approved June 17, 1997).]

**36.102.801 Legislation as opportunity for voter's decision—Not indication of legislators' personal vote on referendum proposal—1997 c 220.** The legislature neither affirms nor refutes the value of this proposal, and by this legislation simply expresses its intent to provide the voter of the state of Washington an opportunity to express the voter's decision. It is also expressed that many legislators might personally vote against this proposal at the polls, or they might not. [1997 c 220 § 605 (Referendum Bill No. 48, approved June 17, 1997).]

**36.102.802 Contingency—Null and void—Team affiliate's agreement for reimbursement for election—1997 c 220.** Notwithstanding any other provision of this act, this act shall be null and void in its entirety unless the team affiliate as defined in RCW 36.102.010 enters into an agreement with the secretary of state to reimburse the state and the counties for the full cost of the special election to be held on or before June 20, 1997. [1997 c 220 § 606 (Referendum Bill No. 48, approved June 17, 1997).]

**Reviser's note:** The team affiliate entered into an agreement with the secretary of state on May 14, 1997, for reimbursement of the full cost of the special election.

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

**36.102.803 Referendum—Submittal—Explanatory statement—Voters' pamphlet—Voting procedures—Canvassing and certification—Reimbursement of counties for costs—No other elections on stadium and exhibition center—1997 c 220.** (1) The secretary of state shall submit sections 101 through 604, chapter 220, Laws of 1997 to the people for their adoption and ratification, or rejection, at a special election to be held in this state on or before June 20, 1997, in accordance with Article II, section 1 of the state Constitution and the laws adopted to facilitate its operation. The special election shall be limited to submission of this act to the people.

(2) The attorney general shall prepare the explanatory statement required by \*RCW 29.81.020 and transmit that statement regarding the referendum to the secretary of state no later than the last Monday of April before the special election.

(3) The secretary of state shall prepare and distribute a voters' pamphlet addressing this referendum measure following the procedures and requirements of \*\*chapter 29.81 RCW, except that the secretary of state may establish differ-

ent deadlines for the appointment of committees to draft arguments for and against the referendum, for submitting arguments for and against the referendum, and for submitting rebuttal statements of arguments for and against the referendum. The voters' pamphlet description of the referendum measure shall include information to inform the public that ownership of the KingDome may be transferred to the public stadium authority and that the KingDome will be demolished in order to accommodate the new football stadium.

(4) A county auditor may conduct the voting at this special election in all precincts of the county by mail using the procedures set forth in \*\*\*RCW 29.36.121 through 29.36.139.

(5) Notwithstanding the provisions of \*\*\*\*RCW 29.62.020, the county canvassing board in each county shall canvass and certify the votes cast at this special election in that county to the secretary of state no later than the seventh day following the election. Notwithstanding the provisions of \*\*\*\*RCW 29.62.120, the secretary of state shall canvass and certify the returns from the counties no later than the ninth day following the special election.

(6) The secretary of state shall reimburse each county for the cost of conducting the special election in that county in the same manner as state primary and general election costs are reimbursed under \*\*\*\*RCW 29.13.047 (1) and (3).

(7) No other state, county, or local election shall be required or held on any proposition related to or affecting the stadium and exhibition center defined in RCW 36.102.010. [1997 c 220 § 607 (Referendum Bill No. 48, approved June 17, 1997).]

**Reviser's note:** \*(1) RCW 29.81.020 was repealed by 1999 c 260 § 13.

\*\* (2) Chapter 29.81 RCW was recodified as chapter 29A.32 RCW pursuant to 2003 c 111 § 2401, effective July 1, 2004.

\*\*\* (3) RCW 29.36.121, 29.36.124, 29.36.126, and 29.36.130 were recodified as RCW 29.38.020, 29.38.040, 29.38.050, and 29.38.060, respectively, pursuant to 2001 c 241 § 25. RCW 29.36.122 and 29.36.139 were repealed by 2001 c 241 § 24. RCW 29.38.020, 29.38.040, 29.38.050, and 29.38.060 were subsequently recodified as RCW 29A.48.020, 29A.48.040, 29A.48.050, and 29A.48.060, respectively, pursuant to 2003 c 111 § 2401, effective July 1, 2004. RCW 29A.48.020, 29A.48.040, 29A.48.050, and 29A.48.060 were subsequently repealed by 2011 c 10 § 86.

\*\*\*\* (4) RCW 29.62.020, 29.62.120, and 29.13.047 were recodified as RCW 29A.60.160, 29A.60.250, and 29A.04.420, respectively, pursuant to 2003 c 111 § 2401, effective July 1, 2004.

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

## Chapter 36.105 RCW

### COMMUNITY COUNCILS FOR UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF ISLAND COUNTIES

#### Sections

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**36.105.010 Purpose.** Voters of the unincorporated areas of the state are authorized to establish community councils as provided in this chapter.

It is the purpose of this chapter to provide voters of unincorporated areas in counties with a population of over thirty thousand that are made up entirely of islands with direct input on the planning and zoning of their community by establishing a governmental mechanism to adopt proposed community comprehensive plans and proposed community zoning ordinances that are consistent with an overall guide and framework adopted by the county legislative authority. In addition, it is the purpose of this chapter to have community councils serve as forums for the discussion of local issues. [1991 c 363 § 99.]

**Reviser's note:** As to the constitutionality of this section, see *Island Cty. v. State*, 135 Wn.2d 141, 955 P.2d 377 (1998).

**Purpose—Captions not law—1991 c 363:** See notes following RCW 2.32.180.

**36.105.020 Definitions.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Community" means a portion of the unincorporated area for which a community council has been established and which is located in a county with a population of over thirty thousand that is made up entirely of islands.

(2) "Community comprehensive plan" means a comprehensive plan adopted by a community council.

(3) "Community council" means the governing body established under this chapter to adopt community comprehensive plans and community zoning ordinances for a community.

(4) "Community zoning ordinances" means the zoning ordinances adopted by a community council to implement a community comprehensive plan. [1991 c 363 § 100.]

**Reviser's note:** As to the constitutionality of this section, see *Island Cty. v. State*, 135 Wn.2d 141, 955 P.2d 377 (1998).

**Purpose—Captions not law—1991 c 363:** See notes following RCW 2.32.180.

**36.105.030 Minimum requirements.** A community for which a community council is created may include only unincorporated territory located in a single county with a population of over thirty thousand that is made up entirely of islands and not included within a city or town. A community council must have at least one thousand persons residing within the community when the community council is created or, where the community only includes an entire island, at least three hundred persons must reside on the island when the community council is created. Any portion of such a community that is annexed by a city or town, or is incorporated as a city or town, shall be removed from the community upon the effective date of the annexation or the official date of the incorporation. [1991 c 363 § 101.]

**Reviser's note:** As to the constitutionality of this section, see *Island Cty. v. State*, 135 Wn.2d 141, 955 P.2d 377 (1998).

**Purpose—Captions not law—1991 c 363:** See notes following RCW 2.32.180.

**36.105.040 Creation.** (1) The process to create a community council shall be initiated by the filing of petitions with the county auditor of the county in which the community is located which: (a) Call for the creation of a community council; (b) set forth the boundaries for the community; (c) indicate the number of community councilmembers, which shall

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be five, seven, nine, or eleven; and (d) contain signatures of voters residing within the community equal in number to at least ten percent of the voters residing in the community who voted at the last state general election. The county auditor shall determine if the petitions contain a sufficient number of valid signatures and certify the sufficiency of the petitions within fifteen days of when the petitions were filed. If the petitions are certified as having sufficient valid signatures, the county auditor shall transmit the petitions and certificate to the county legislative authority.

(2) The county legislative authority shall hold a public hearing within the community on the creation of the proposed community council no later than sixty days after the petitions and certificate of sufficiency were transmitted to the county legislative authority. Notice of the public hearing shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the community for at least once a week for two consecutive weeks, with the last date of publication no more than ten days prior to the date of the public hearing. At least ten days before the public hearing, additional notice shall be posted conspicuously in at least five places within the proposed community in a manner designed to attract public attention.

(3) After receiving testimony on the creation of the proposed community council, the county legislative authority may alter the boundaries of the community, but the boundaries may not be altered to reduce the number of persons living within the community by more than ten percent or below the minimum number of residents who must reside within the community at the time of the creation of the community council. If territory is added to the community, another public hearing on the proposal shall be held.

(4) The county legislative authority shall call a special election within the community to determine whether the proposed community council shall be created, and to elect the initial community councilmembers, at the next state general election occurring seventy-five or more days after the initial public hearing on the creation of the proposed community council. The community council shall be created if the ballot proposition authorizing the creation of the community is approved by a simple majority vote of the voters voting on the proposition. [1991 c 363 § 102.]

**Reviser's note:** As to the constitutionality of this section, see *Island Cty. v. State*, 135 Wn.2d 141, 955 P.2d 377 (1998).

**Purpose—Captions not law—1991 c 363:** See notes following RCW 2.32.180.

**36.105.050 Election of initial community councilmembers.** The initial members of the community council shall be elected at the same election as the ballot proposition is submitted authorizing the creation of the community council. However, the election of the initial community councilmembers shall be null and void if the ballot proposition authorizing the creation of the community council is not approved.

No primary election shall be held to nominate candidates for initial council positions. The initial community council shall consist of the candidate for each council position who receives the greatest number of votes for that council position. Staggering of terms of office shall be accomplished by having the majority of the winning candidates who receive the greatest number of votes being elected to four-year terms

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of office, and the remaining winning candidates being elected to two-year terms of office, if the election was held in an even-numbered year, or the majority of the winning candidates who receive the greatest number of votes being elected to three-year terms of office, and the remaining winning candidates being elected to one-year terms of office, if the election was held in an odd-numbered year, with the term computed from the first day of January in the year following the election. Initial councilmembers shall take office immediately when qualified in accordance with RCW 29A.04.133.

However, where the county operates under a charter providing for the election of members of the county legislative authority in odd-numbered years, the terms of office of the initial councilmembers shall be four years and two years, if the election of the initial councilmembers was held on an odd-numbered year, or three years and one year, if the election of the initial councilmembers was held on an even-numbered year. [2015 c 53 § 68; 1991 c 363 § 103.]

**Reviser's note:** As to the constitutionality of this section, see *Island Cty. v. State*, 135 Wn.2d 141, 955 P.2d 377 (1998).

**Purpose—Captions not law—1991 c 363:** See notes following RCW 2.32.180.

**36.105.060 Community councilmembers—Election—Terms.** Community councilmembers shall be elected to staggered four-year terms until their successors are elected and qualified. Each council position shall be numbered separately. Candidates shall run for specific council positions. The number of council positions shall be five, seven, nine, or eleven, as specified in the petition calling for the creation of the community council.

Community councilmembers shall be nominated and elected at nonpartisan elections pursuant to general election laws, except the elections shall be held in even-numbered years, unless the county operates under a charter and members of the county legislative authority are elected in odd-numbered years, in which case, community councilmembers shall be elected in odd-numbered years.

The provisions of this section apply to the election and terms of office of the initial community councilmembers, except as provided in RCW 36.105.050.

A councilmember shall lose his or her council position if his or her primary residence no longer is located within the community. Vacancies on a community council shall be filled by action of the remaining councilmembers. [1991 c 363 § 104.]

**Reviser's note:** As to the constitutionality of this section, see *Island Cty. v. State*, 135 Wn.2d 141, 955 P.2d 377 (1998).

**Purpose—Captions not law—1991 c 363:** See notes following RCW 2.32.180.

**36.105.070 Responsibility of county legislative authority.** (1) Within ninety days of the election at which a community council is created, the county legislative authority shall adopt an ordinance establishing policies and conditions and designating portions or components of the county comprehensive plan and zoning ordinances that serve as an overall guide and framework for the development of proposed community comprehensive plans and proposed community zoning ordinances. The conditions and policies shall conform with the requirements of chapter 36.70A RCW.

(2) Proposed community comprehensive plans and proposed community zoning ordinances that are adopted by a community council shall be submitted to the county legislative authority for its review of the consistency of the proposed plans and proposed ordinances with the ordinance adopted under subsection (1) of this section. The county legislative authority shall either approve the proposed plans and proposed ordinances as adopted, or refer the proposed plans and proposed ordinances back to the community council with written findings specifying the inconsistencies, within ninety days after they were submitted. The county comprehensive plan, or subarea plan and comprehensive plan, and zoning ordinances shall remain in effect in the community until the proposed community comprehensive plans and proposed community zoning ordinances have been approved as provided in this subsection.

(3) Each proposed amendment to approved community comprehensive plans or approved community zoning ordinances that is adopted by a community council shall be submitted to the county legislative authority for its review of the consistency of the amendment with the ordinance adopted under subsection (1) of this section. The county legislative authority shall either approve the proposed amendment as adopted or refer the proposed amendment back to the community council with written findings specifying the inconsistencies within ninety days after the proposed amendment was submitted. The unamended community comprehensive plans and unamended community zoning ordinances shall remain in effect in the community until the proposed amendment has been approved as provided in this subsection.

(4) If the county legislative authority amends the ordinance it adopted under subsection (1) of this section, a community council shall be given at least one hundred twenty days to amend its community comprehensive plans and community zoning ordinances to be consistent with this amended ordinance. However, the county legislative authority may amend the community comprehensive plans and community zoning ordinances to achieve consistency with this amended ordinance. Nothing in this subsection shall preclude a community council from subsequently obtaining approval of its proposed community comprehensive plans and proposed community zoning ordinances.

(5) Approved community comprehensive plans and approved community zoning ordinances shall be enforced by the county as if they had been adopted by the county legislative authority. All quasi-judicial actions and permits relating to these plans and ordinances shall be made and decided by the county legislative authority or otherwise as provided by the county legislative authority.

(6) The county shall provide administrative and staff support for each community council within its boundaries. [1991 c 363 § 105.]

**Reviser's note:** As to the constitutionality of this section, see *Island Cty. v. State*, 135 Wn.2d 141, 955 P.2d 377 (1998).

**Purpose—Captions not law—1991 c 363:** See notes following RCW 2.32.180.

**36.105.080 Powers.** A community council shall adopt proposed community comprehensive plans and proposed community zoning ordinances as provided in RCW 36.105.070. Community councils shall not have the authority

to take quasi-judicial actions nor to decide permit applications. In addition, a community council shall serve as a forum for the discussion of local issues.

Community councils are subject to chapter 42.30 RCW, the open public meetings act. [1991 c 363 § 106.]

**Reviser's note:** As to the constitutionality of this section, see *Island Cty. v. State*, 135 Wn.2d 141, 955 P.2d 377 (1998).

**Purpose—Captions not law—1991 c 363:** See notes following RCW 2.32.180.

**36.105.090 Annexation.** A community council may provide for the annexation of adjacent unincorporated areas to the community that are not included within another community for which a community council has been established. Annexations shall be initiated by either resolution of the community council proposing the annexation or petition of voters residing in the adjacent area, which petition: (a) Requests the annexation; (b) sets forth the boundaries of the area proposed to be annexed; and (c) contains signatures of voters residing within the area that is proposed to be annexed equal in number to at least ten percent of the voters residing in that area who voted at the last state general election. Annexation petitions shall be filed with the county auditor who shall determine if the petitions contain a sufficient number of valid signatures, certify the sufficiency of the petitions, and notify the community council of the sufficiency of the petitions within fifteen days of when the petitions are submitted.

A ballot proposition authorizing the annexation shall be submitted to the voters of the area that is proposed to be annexed at a primary or general election in either an odd-numbered or even-numbered year, if the community council initiated the annexation by resolution or if the community council concurs in an annexation that was initiated by the submission of annexation petitions containing sufficient valid signatures. The annexation shall occur if the ballot proposition authorizing the creation of the community is approved by a simple majority vote of the voters voting on the proposition. The county's comprehensive plan, and where applicable to the county's subarea plan, and zoning ordinances shall continue in effect in the annexed area until proposed amendments to the approved community comprehensive plans and approved community zoning ordinance have been approved that apply to the annexed area. [1991 c 363 § 107.]

**Reviser's note:** As to the constitutionality of this section, see *Island Cty. v. State*, 135 Wn.2d 141, 955 P.2d 377 (1998).

**Purpose—Captions not law—1991 c 363:** See notes following RCW 2.32.180.

**36.105.100 Dissolution.** A community council shall be dissolved if the population of the community is reduced to less than five hundred persons, or less than two hundred persons if the community only includes an entire island.

At the next general election at which community councilmembers would be elected, occurring at least four years after the creation or reestablishment of a community, a ballot proposition shall be submitted to the voters of the community on whether the community shall be reestablished. If reestablished, the newly elected members of the community council and the retained members of the community council shall

constitute the members of the community council. [1991 c 363 § 108.]

**Reviser's note:** As to the constitutionality of this section, see *Island Cty. v. State*, 135 Wn.2d 141, 955 P.2d 377 (1998).

**Purpose—Captions not law—1991 c 363:** See notes following RCW 2.32.180.

## Chapter 36.110 RCW JAIL INDUSTRIES PROGRAM

### Sections

36.110.010	Finding—Purpose, intent.
36.110.020	Definitions.
36.110.030	Board of directors established—Membership.
36.110.050	Local advisory groups.
36.110.060	Board of directors—Duties.
36.110.070	Board of directors may receive funds, establish fee schedule.
36.110.080	Board of directors—Meetings—Terms—Compensation.
36.110.085	Board of directors—Immunity.
36.110.090	City or county special revenue funds.
36.110.100	Comprehensive work programs.
36.110.110	Deductions from offenders' earnings.
36.110.120	Free venture industries, tax reduction industries—Employment status of inmates—Insurance coverage.
36.110.130	Free venture industry agreements—Effect of failure.
36.110.140	Education and training.
36.110.150	Department of corrections to provide staff assistance.
36.110.160	Technical training assistance.

**36.110.010 Finding—Purpose, intent.** Cities and counties have a significant interest in ensuring that inmates in their jails are productive citizens after their release in the community. The legislature finds that there is an expressed need for cities and counties to uniformly develop and coordinate jail industries technical information and program and public safety standards statewide. It further finds that meaningful jail work industries programs that are linked to formal education and adult literacy training can significantly reduce recidivism, the rising costs of corrections, and criminal activities. It is the purpose and intent of the legislature, through this chapter, to establish a statewide jail industries program designed to promote inmate rehabilitation through meaningful work experience and reduce the costs of incarceration. The legislature recognizes that inmates should have the responsibility for contributing to the cost of their crime through the wages earned while working in jail industries programs and that such income shall be used to offset the costs of implementing and maintaining local jail industries programs and the costs of incarceration. [1993 c 285 § 1.]

**36.110.020 Definitions.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Board" means the statewide jail industries board of directors.

(2) "City" means any city, town, or code city.

(3) "Cost accounting center" means a specific industry program operated under the private sector prison industry enhancement certification program as specified in 18 U.S.C. Sec. 1761.

(4) "Court-ordered legal financial obligation" means a sum of money that is ordered by a superior, district, or municipal court of the state of Washington for payment of restitution to a victim, a statutorily imposed crime victims compensation fee, court costs, a county or interlocal drug fund, court

appointed attorneys' fees and costs of defense, fines, and other legal financial obligations that are assessed as a result of a felony or misdemeanor conviction.

(5) "Free venture employer model industries" means an agreement between a city or county and a private sector business or industry or nonprofit organization to produce goods or services to both public and private sectors utilizing jail inmates whose compensation and supervision are provided by the private sector business or entity.

"Free venture customer model industries" means an agreement between a city or county and a private sector business or industry, or nonprofit organization to provide Washington state manufacturers or businesses with products or services currently produced, provided, or assembled by out-of-state or foreign suppliers utilizing jail inmates whose compensation and supervision are provided by the incarcerating facility or local jurisdiction.

(6) "Jail inmate" means a preconviction or postconviction resident of a city or county jail who is determined to be eligible to participate in jail inmate work programs according to the eligibility criteria of the work program.

(7) "Private sector prison industry enhancement certification program" means that program authorized by the United States justice assistance act of 1984, 18 U.S.C. Sec. 1761.

(8) "Tax reduction industries" means those industries as designated by a city or county owning and operating such an industry to provide work training and employment opportunities for jail inmates, in total confinement, which reduce public support costs. The goods and services of these industries may be sold to public agencies, nonprofit organizations, and private contractors when the goods purchased will be ultimately used by a public agency or nonprofit organization. Surplus goods from these operations may be donated to government and nonprofit organizations. [1995 c 154 § 1; 1993 c 285 § 2.]

**36.110.030 Board of directors established—Membership.** A statewide jail industries board of directors is established. The board shall consist of the following members:

(1) One sheriff and one police chief, to be selected by the Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs;

(2) One county commissioner or one county councilmember to be selected by the Washington state association of counties;

(3) One city official to be selected by the association of Washington cities;

(4) Two jail administrators to be selected by the Washington state jail association, one of whom shall be from a county or a city with an established jail industries program;

(5) One prosecuting attorney to be selected by the Washington association of prosecuting attorneys;

(6) One administrator from a city or county corrections department to be selected by the Washington correctional association;

(7) One county clerk to be selected by the Washington association of county clerks;

(8) Three representatives from labor to be selected by the governor. The representatives may be chosen from a list of

nominations provided by statewide labor organizations representing a cross section of trade organizations;

(9) Three representatives from business to be selected by the governor. The representatives may be chosen from a list of nominations provided by statewide business organizations representing a cross section of businesses, industries, and all sizes of employers;

(10) The governor's representative from the employment security department;

(11) One member representing crime victims, to be selected by the governor;

(12) One member representing online law enforcement officers, to be selected by the governor;

(13) One member from the \*department of community, trade, and economic development to be selected by the governor;

(14) One member representing higher education, vocational education, or adult basic education to be selected by the governor; and

(15) The governor's representative from the correctional industries division of the state department of corrections shall be an ex officio member for the purpose of coordination and cooperation between prison and jail industries and to further a positive relationship between state and local government offender programs. [1995 c 399 § 45; 1993 c 285 § 3.]

*\*Reviser's note:* The "department of community, trade, and economic development" was renamed the "department of commerce" by 2009 c 565.

**36.110.050 Local advisory groups.** The board shall require a city or a county that establishes a jail industries program to develop a local advisory group, or to use an existing advisory group of the appropriate composition, to advise and guide jail industries program operations. Such an advisory group shall include an equal number of representatives from labor and business. Representation from a sheltered workshop, as defined in RCW 82.04.385, and a crime victim advocacy group, if existing in the local area, should also be included.

A local advisory group shall have among its tasks the responsibility of ensuring that a jail industry has minimal negative impact on existing private industries or the labor force in the locale where the industry operates and that a jail industry does not negatively affect employment opportunities for people with developmental disabilities contracted through the operation of sheltered workshops as defined in RCW 82.04.385. In the event a conflict arises between the local business community or labor organizations concerning new jail industries programs, products, services, or wages, the city or county must use the arbitration process established pursuant to RCW 36.110.060. [1993 c 285 § 5.]

**36.110.060 Board of directors—Duties.** The board, in accordance with chapter 34.05 RCW, shall:

(1) Establish an arbitration process for resolving conflicts arising among the local business community and labor organizations concerning new industries programs, products, services, or wages;

(2) Encourage the development of the collection and analysis of jail industries program data, including long-term tracking information on offender recidivism;



(3) Determine, by applying established federal guidelines and criteria, whether a city or a county jail free venture industries program complies with the private sector prison industry enhancement certification program. In so doing, also determine if that industry should be designated as a cost accounting center for the purposes of the federal certification program; and

(4) Provide technical assistance with product marketing. [1993 c 285 § 6.]

**36.110.070 Board of directors may receive funds, establish fee schedule.** The board may receive funds from local, county, state, or federal sources and may receive grants to support its activities. The board may establish a reasonable schedule of suggested fees that will support statewide efforts to promote and facilitate jail industries that would be presented to cities and counties that have established jail industries programs. [1993 c 285 § 7.]

**36.110.080 Board of directors—Meetings—Terms—Compensation.** The board shall initially convene at the call of the representative of the correctional industries division of the state department of corrections, together with the jail administrator selected from a city or a county with an established jail industries program, no later than six months after July 25, 1993. Subsequent meetings of the board shall be at the call of the board chairperson. The board shall meet at least twice a year.

The board shall elect a chairperson and other such officers as it deems appropriate. However, the chairperson may not be the representative of the correctional industries division of the state department of corrections nor any representative from a state executive branch agency.

Members of the board shall serve terms of three years each on a staggered schedule to be established by the first board. For purposes of initiating a staggered schedule of terms, some members of the first board may initially serve two years and some members may initially serve four years.

The members of the board shall serve without compensation but may be reimbursed for travel expenses from funds acquired under this chapter. [1993 c 285 § 8.]

**36.110.085 Board of directors—Immunity.** Any member serving in their official capacity on the Washington state jail industries board, in either an appointed or advisory capacity, or either their employer or employers, or other entity that selected the members to serve, are immune from a civil action based upon an act performed in good faith. [1995 c 154 § 5.]

**36.110.090 City or county special revenue funds.** A city or a county that implements a jail industries program may establish a separate fund for the operation of the program. This fund shall be a special revenue fund with continuing authority to receive income and pay expenses associated with the jail industries program. [1993 c 285 § 9.]

**36.110.100 Comprehensive work programs.** Cities and counties participating in jail industries are authorized to provide for comprehensive work programs using jail inmate workers at worksites within jail facilities or at such places

within the city or county as may be directed by the legislative authority of the city or county, as similarly provided under RCW 36.28.100. [1993 c 285 § 10.]

**36.110.110 Deductions from offenders' earnings.** When an offender is employed in a jail industries program for which pay is allowed, deductions may be made from these earnings for court-ordered legal financial obligations as directed by the court in reasonable amounts that do not unduly discourage the incentive to work. These deductions shall be disbursed as directed in RCW 9.94A.760.

In addition, inmates working in jail industries programs shall contribute toward costs to develop, implement, and operate jail industries programs. This amount shall be a reasonable amount that does not unduly discourage the incentive to work. The amount so deducted shall be deposited in the jail industries special revenue fund.

Upon request of the offender, family support may also be deducted and disbursed to a designated family member. [1993 c 285 § 11.]

**36.110.120 Free venture industries, tax reduction industries—Employment status of inmates—Insurance coverage.** (1) A jail inmate who works in a free venture industry or a tax reduction industry shall be considered an employee of that industry only for the purpose of the Washington industrial safety and health act, chapter 49.17 RCW, as long as the public safety is not compromised, and for eligibility for industrial insurance benefits under Title 51 RCW, as provided in this section.

(2) For jail inmates participating in free venture employer model industries, the private sector business or industry or the nonprofit organization that is party to the agreement, shall provide industrial insurance coverage under Title 51 RCW. Local jurisdictions shall not be responsible for obligations under Title 51 RCW in a free venture employer model industry except as provided in RCW 36.110.130.

(3) For jail inmates participating in free venture customer model industries, the incarcerating entity or jurisdiction, the private sector business or industry, or the nonprofit organization that is party to the agreement, shall provide industrial insurance coverage under Title 51 RCW dependent upon how the parties to the agreement choose to finalize the agreement.

(4) For jail inmates incarcerated and participating in tax reduction industries:

(a) Local jurisdictions that are self-insured may elect to provide medical aid benefits coverage only under chapter 51.36 RCW through the state fund.

(b) Local jurisdictions, to include self-insured jurisdictions, may elect to provide industrial insurance coverage under Title 51 RCW through the state fund.

(5) If industrial insurance coverage under Title 51 RCW is provided for inmates under this section, eligibility for benefits for either the inmate or the inmate's dependents or beneficiaries for temporary total disability or permanent total disability under RCW 51.32.090 or 51.32.060, respectively, shall not take effect until the inmate is discharged from custody by order of a court of appropriate jurisdiction. Nothing in this section shall be construed to confer eligibility for any industrial insurance benefits to any jail inmate who is not

employed in a free venture industry or a tax reduction industry. [1995 c 154 § 2; 1993 c 285 § 12.]

**36.110.130 Free venture industry agreements—Effect of failure.** In the event of a failure such as a bankruptcy or dissolution, of a private sector business, industry, or nonprofit organization engaged in a free venture industry agreement, responsibility for obligations under Title 51 RCW must be borne by the city or county responsible for establishment of the free venture industry agreement, as if the city or county had been the employing agency. To ensure that this obligation can be clearly identified and accomplished, and to provide accountability for purposes of the department of labor and industries, a free venture jail industry agreement entered into by a city or county and private sector business, industry, or nonprofit organization should be filed under a separate business license application in accordance with chapter 19.02 RCW, establishing a new and separate account with the department of labor and industries, and not be reported under an existing account for parties to the free venture industry agreement. [2013 c 144 § 38; 1995 c 154 § 3; 1993 c 285 § 13.]

**36.110.140 Education and training.** To the extent possible, jail industries programs shall be augmented by education and training to improve worker literacy and employability skills. Such education and training may include, but is not limited to, basic adult education, work towards earning a high school equivalency certificate as provided in RCW 28B.50.536, vocational and preemployment work maturity skills training, and apprenticeship classes. [2013 c 39 § 18; 1993 c 285 § 14.]

**36.110.150 Department of corrections to provide staff assistance.** Until sufficient funding is secured by the board to adequately provide staffing, basic staff assistance shall be provided, to the extent possible, by the department of corrections. [1993 c 285 § 15.]

**36.110.160 Technical training assistance.** Technical training assistance shall be provided to local jurisdictions by the board at the jurisdiction's request. To facilitate and promote the development of local jail industries programs, this training and technical assistance may include the following: (1) Delivery of statewide jail industry implementation workshops for administrators of jail industries programs; (2) development of recruitment and education programs for local business and labor to gain their participation; (3) ongoing staff assistance regarding local jail industries issues, such as sound business management skills, development of a professional business plan, responding to questions regarding risk management, industrial insurance, and similar matters; and (4) provision of guidelines and assistance for the coordination of basic educational programs and jail industries as well as other technical skills required by local jails in the implementation of safe, productive, and effective jail industries programs. [1995 c 154 § 4.]

## Chapter 36.115 RCW SERVICE AGREEMENTS

### Sections

36.115.010	Purpose.
36.115.020	Definitions.
36.115.030	Coordination—Consistency.
36.115.040	Geographic area covered—Contents—When effective.
36.115.050	Matters included.
36.115.060	Procedure for establishment—Counties affected.
36.115.070	Legislative intent.
36.115.080	Duties, requirements, authorities under growth management act not altered.

**36.115.010 Purpose.** The purpose of chapter 266, Laws of 1994 is to establish a flexible process by which local governments enter into service agreements that will establish which jurisdictions should provide various local government services and facilities within specified geographic areas and how those services and facilities will be financed. [1994 c 266 § 1.]

**36.115.020 Definitions.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "City" means a city or town, including a city operating under Title 35A RCW.

(2) "Governmental service" includes a service provided by local government, and any facilities and equipment related to the provision of such services, including but not limited to utility services, health services, social services, law enforcement services, fire prevention and suppression services, community development activities, environmental protection activities, economic development activities, and transportation services and facilities, but shall not include the generation, conservation, or distribution of electrical energy nor maritime shipping activities.

(3) "Regional service" means a governmental service established by agreement among local governments that delineates the government entity or entities responsible for the service provision and allows for that delivery to extend over jurisdictional boundaries.

(4) "Local government" means a county, city, or special district.

(5) "Service agreement" means an agreement among counties, cities, and special districts established pursuant to this chapter.

(6) "Special district" means a municipal or quasi-municipal corporation in the state, other than a county, city, or school district. [1994 c 266 § 2.]

**36.115.030 Coordination—Consistency.** A service agreement addressing children and family services shall enhance coordination and shall be consistent with the comprehensive plan developed under chapter 7, Laws of 1994 sp. sess. [1994 c 266 § 3.]

**36.115.040 Geographic area covered—Contents—When effective.** (1) Agreements among local governments concerning one or more governmental service should be established for a designated geographic area as provided in this section.

(2) A service agreement must describe: (a) The governmental service or services addressed by the agreement; (b)

the geographic area covered by the agreement; (c) which local government or local governments are to provide each of the governmental services addressed by the agreement within the geographic area covered by the agreement; and (d) the term of the agreement, if any.

(3) A service agreement becomes effective when approved by: (a) The county legislative authority of each county that includes territory located within the geographic area covered by the agreement; (b) the governing body or bodies of at least a simple majority of the total number of cities that includes territory located within the geographic area covered by the agreement, which cities include at least seventy-five percent of the total population of all cities that includes territory located within the geographic area covered by the agreement; and (c) for each governmental service addressed by the agreement, the governing body or bodies of at least a simple majority of the special districts that include territory located within the geographic area covered by the agreement and which provide the governmental service within such territory. The participants may agree to use another formula. An agreement pursuant to this section shall be effective upon adoption by the county legislative authority following a public hearing.

(4) A service agreement may cover a geographic area that includes territory located in more than a single county. [1994 c 266 § 4.]

**36.115.050 Matters included.** A service agreement may include, but is not limited to, any or all of the following matters:

- (1) A dispute resolution arrangement;
- (2) How joint land-use planning and development regulations by the county and a city or cities, or by two or more cities, may be established, made binding, and enforced;
- (3) How common development standards between the county and a city or cities, or between two or more cities, may be established, made binding, and enforced;
- (4) How capital improvement plans of the county, cities, and special districts shall be coordinated;
- (5) How plans and policies adopted under chapter 36.70A RCW will be implemented by the service agreement;
- (6) A transfer of revenues between local governments in relationship to their obligations for providing governmental services;
- (7) The designation of additional area-wide governmental services to be provided by the county. [1994 c 266 § 5.]

**36.115.060 Procedure for establishment—Counties affected.** (1) The county legislative authority of every county with a population of one hundred fifty thousand or more shall convene a meeting on or before March 1, 1995, to develop a process for the establishment of service agreements. Invitations to attend this meeting shall be sent to the governing body of each city located in the county, and to the governing body of each special district located in the county that provides one or more of the governmental services as defined in RCW 36.115.020(2).

The legislative authorities of counties of less than one hundred fifty thousand population may utilize this chapter by adopting a resolution stating their intent to do so. In that case or in the case of counties whose populations reach one hun-

dred fifty thousand after March 1, 1995, this meeting shall be convened no later than sixty days after the date the county adopts its resolution of intention or was certified by the office of financial management as having a population of one hundred fifty thousand or more.

(2) On or before January 1, 1997, a service agreement must be adopted in each county under this chapter or a progress report must be submitted to the appropriate committees of the legislature.

(3) In other counties that choose to utilize this chapter or whose population reaches one hundred fifty thousand, the service agreement must be adopted two years after the initial meeting provided for in subsection (1) of this section is convened or a progress report must be submitted to the appropriate committees of the legislature. [1994 c 266 § 6.]

**36.115.070 Legislative intent.** It is the intent of the legislature to permit the creation of a flexible process to establish service agreements and to recognize that local governments possess broad authority to shape a variety of government service agreements to meet their local needs and circumstances. However, it is noted that in general, cities are the unit of local government most appropriate to provide urban governmental services and counties are the unit of local government most appropriate to provide regional governmental services.

The process to establish service agreements should assure that all directly affected local governments, and Indian tribes at their option, are allowed to be heard on issues relevant to them. [1994 c 266 § 7.]

**36.115.080 Duties, requirements, authorities under growth management act not altered.** Nothing contained in this chapter alters the duties, requirements, and authorities of cities and counties contained in chapter 36.70A RCW. [1994 c 266 § 8.]

## Chapter 36.120 RCW

### REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION INVESTMENT DISTRICTS

#### Sections

36.120.010	Findings.
36.120.020	Definitions.
36.120.030	Planning committee—Formation.
36.120.040	Planning committee—Duties.
36.120.045	Planning committee—State route No. 520 improvements.
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36.120.060	Project selection—Performance criteria.
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36.120.080	Formation—Certification.
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36.120.100	Governing board—Organization.
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36.120.170	Dissolution of district.
36.120.180	Findings—Regional models—Grants.
36.120.190	Joint ballot measure.
36.120.200	Regional transportation investment district account.
36.120.210	Advisory ballot for Alaskan Way viaduct improvements—Preferred alternative for Alaskan Way viaduct and Seattle Seawall improvements.

**36.120.010 Findings.** The legislature finds that:

(1) The capacity of many of Washington state's transportation facilities have failed to keep up with the state's growth, particularly in major urban regions;

(2) The state cannot by itself fund, in a timely way, many of the major capacity and other improvements required on highways of statewide significance in the state's largest urbanized area;

(3) Providing a transportation system that provides efficient mobility for persons and freight requires a shared partnership and responsibility between the state, local, and regional governments and the private sector; and

(4) Timely construction and development of significant transportation improvement projects can best be achieved through enhanced funding options for governments at the county and regional levels, using already existing tax authority to address roadway and multimodal needs and new authority for regions to address critical transportation projects of statewide significance. [2002 c 56 § 101.]

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

(1) "Board" means the governing body of a regional transportation investment district.

(2) "Department" means the Washington state department of transportation.

(3) "Highway of statewide significance" means an existing or proposed state route or federal interstate designated as a highway of statewide significance by the transportation commission, the department, or the legislature.

(4) "Lead agency" means a public agency that by law can plan, design, and build a transportation project and has been so designated by the district.

(5) "Regional transportation investment district" or "district" means a municipal corporation that has been created by county legislative authorities and a vote of the people under this chapter to implement a regional transportation investment plan.

(6) "Regional transportation investment district planning committee" or "planning committee" means the advisory committee created under RCW 36.120.030 to create and propose to county legislative authorities a regional transportation investment plan to develop, finance, and construct transportation projects.

(7) "Regional transportation investment plan" or "plan" means a plan to develop, construct, and finance a transportation project or projects.

(8) "Transportation project" means:

(a) A capital improvement or improvements to a highway that has been designated, in whole or in part, as a highway of statewide significance, including an extension, that:

(i) Adds a lane or new lanes to an existing state or federal highway; or

(ii) Repairs or replaces a lane or lanes damaged by an event declared an emergency by the governor before January 1, 2002.

(b) A capital improvement or improvements to all or a portion of a highway of statewide significance, including an extension, and may include the following associated multimodal capital improvements:

- (i) Approaches to highways of statewide significance;
- (ii) High occupancy vehicle lanes;
- (iii) Flyover ramps;
- (iv) Park and ride lots;
- (v) Bus pullouts;
- (vi) Vans for vanpools;
- (vii) Buses; and
- (viii) Signalization, ramp metering, and other transportation system management improvements.

(c) A capital improvement or improvements to all or a portion of a city street, county road, or existing highway or the creation of a new highway that intersects with a highway of statewide significance, if all of the following conditions are met:

(i) The project is included in a plan that makes highway improvement projects that add capacity to a highway or highways of statewide significance;

(ii) The secretary of transportation determines that the project would better relieve traffic congestion than investing that same money in adding capacity to a highway of statewide significance;

(iii) Matching money equal to fifteen percent of the total cost of the project is provided by local entities, including but not limited to a metropolitan planning organization, county, city, port, or private entity in which a county participating in a plan is located. Local entities may use federal grants to meet this matching requirement;

(iv) In no case may the cumulative regional transportation investment district contribution to all projects constructed under this subsection (8)(c) exceed ten percent of the revenues generated by the district;

(v) In no case may the cumulative regional transportation investment district contribution to all projects constructed under this subsection (8)(c) exceed one billion dollars; and

(vi) The specific projects are included within the plan and submitted as part of the plan to a vote of the people.

(d) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, operations, preservation, and maintenance are excluded from this definition and may not be included in a regional transportation investment plan. However, operations, preservation, and maintenance of tolled facilities where toll revenues have been pledged for the payment of contracts is expressly authorized and may be included in a regional transportation investment plan. The authority under this subsection includes operational expenses for toll enforcement.

(e) Operational expenses for traffic mitigation provided solely for transportation project construction mitigation directly related to specific projects as outlined in the plan shall be included in a regional transportation investment plan. Construction mitigation strategies may include, but are not limited to, funding for increased transit service hours, trip reduction incentives, nonmotorized mode support, and ride-matching services. Prior to construction of any project, corridor mitigation plans must be developed in conjunction with the department and partner transit agencies, including local transit agencies and the regional transit authority serving the counties, with the following goals: (i) Reducing drive alone trips in affected corridors; (ii) reducing delay per person and delay per unit of goods in affected corridors; and (iii) improving levels of service that improve system performance for all transportation users in affected corridors. The regional trans-

portation commission established under section 2, chapter 311, Laws of 2006, or a successor regional governing entity, shall review transit investments according to these performance measures to determine whether to continue funding for successful and effective operations after the construction period is completed.

(9) "Weighted vote" means a vote that reflects the population each board or planning committee member represents relative to the population represented by the total membership of the board or planning committee. Population will be determined using the federal 2000 census or subsequent federal census data. [2006 c 334 § 13; 2006 c 311 § 4; 2002 c 56 § 102.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 2006 c 311 § 4 and by 2006 c 334 § 13, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section under RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

**Findings—2006 c 311:** "The legislature finds that effective transportation planning in urbanized regions requires stronger and clearer lines of responsibility and accountability.

The legislature further finds that integrated, multimodal transportation planning will help reduce transportation congestion and improve safety, and that streamlined decision making will help reduce political congestion.

The legislature further finds that coordinated planning of, investment in, and operation of transportation systems will have significant benefit to the citizens of Washington, and that it is the will of the people to fund regional transportation solutions, including improving transit service in urbanized areas and among existing, fragmented transit agencies in the region. Although equity considerations must be respected, transportation problems are broader and deeper than the sum of geographic subareas.

It is therefore the policy of the state of Washington to create a regional transportation commission to develop a proposal for a regional transportation governing entity more directly accountable to the public, and to develop a comprehensive regional transportation finance plan for the citizens of the Puget Sound metropolitan region." [2006 c 311 § 1.]

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

### **36.120.030 Planning committee—Formation.**

Regional transportation investment district planning committees are advisory entities that are created, convened, and empowered as follows:

(1) A county with a population over one million five hundred thousand persons and any adjoining counties with a population over five hundred thousand persons may create a regional transportation investment district and shall convene a regional transportation investment district planning committee.

(a) The boundaries of the district should include at least the contiguous areas within the regional transit authority serving the counties. The boundaries must be proposed by the planning committee and approved by the county legislative authorities by ordinance before or in conjunction with approval of a regional transportation investment plan. Boundaries must follow complete parcels of land. However, any portion of a county that is located on a peninsula shall be exempt from a regional transportation investment district in which more than one county is included if (i) the portion of the county located on the peninsula is connected to the other portion of the county by a bridge improved under chapter 47.46 RCW, and (ii) the county has a national park and a population of more than five hundred thousand persons, but less than one million five hundred thousand persons.

(b) After voters within the district boundaries have approved a plan under RCW 36.120.070, elections to add areas to the district boundaries may be called by a resolution

of the board, after consultation with the regional transportation planning organization and affected transit agencies and with the concurrence of the legislative authority of the city or town if the area is incorporated or with the concurrence of the county legislative authority if the area is unincorporated. The election may include a single ballot measure providing annexation to the district, approval of the plan, and approval of revenue sources necessary to finance the plan. The electorate are the voters voting within the proposed area to be annexed. A simple majority of the persons voting on the single ballot measure is required for approval of the measure.

(2) The members of the legislative authorities participating in planning under this chapter shall serve as the district planning committee. Members of the planning committee receive no compensation, but may be reimbursed for travel and incidental expenses as the planning committee deems appropriate.

The secretary of transportation, or the appropriate regional administrator of the department, as named by the secretary, shall serve on the committee as a nonvoting member.

(3) A regional transportation investment district planning committee may be entitled to state funding, as appropriated by the legislature, for start-up funding to pay for salaries, expenses, overhead, supplies, and similar expenses ordinarily and necessarily incurred in selecting transportation projects and funding for those transportation projects under this chapter. Upon creation of a regional transportation investment district, the district shall within one year reimburse the state for any sums advanced for these start-up costs from the state.

(4) The planning committee shall conduct its affairs and formulate a regional transportation investment plan as provided under RCW 36.120.040, except that it shall elect an executive board of seven members to discharge the duties of the planning committee and formulate a regional transportation investment plan, subject to the approval of the full committee.

(5) At its first meeting, a regional transportation investment district planning committee may elect officers and provide for the adoption of rules and other operating procedures.

(6) Governance of and decisions by a regional transportation investment district planning committee must be by a sixty-percent weighted majority vote of the total membership.

(7) The planning committee may dissolve itself at any time by a two-thirds weighted majority vote of the total membership of the planning committee.

(8) If a multicounty regional transportation investment district is not formed by December 1, 2007, through approval by the voters voting on a regional transportation investment plan, then the authority under this chapter to create a district, and to fund and construct transportation projects, shall be available to each of the eligible counties described in subsection (1) of this section on an individual and independent basis. [2006 c 311 § 5; 2002 c 56 § 103.]

**Findings—2006 c 311:** See note following RCW 36.120.020.

**36.120.040 Planning committee—Duties.** (1) A regional transportation investment district planning committee shall adopt a regional transportation investment plan providing for the development, construction, and financing of

transportation projects. The planning committee may consider the following factors in formulating its plan:

- (a) Land use planning criteria;
- (b) The input of cities located within a participating county; and
- (c) The input of regional transportation planning organizations of which a participating county is a member. A regional transportation planning organization in which a participating county is located shall review its adopted regional transportation plan and submit, for the planning committee's consideration, its list of transportation improvement priorities.

(2) The planning committee may coordinate its activities with the department, which shall provide services, data, and personnel to assist in this planning as desired by the planning committee. In addition, the planning committee may coordinate its activities with affected cities, towns, and other local governments, including any regional transit authority existing within the participating counties' boundaries, that engage in transportation planning.

(3) The planning committee shall:

- (a) Conduct public meetings that are needed to assure active public participation in the development of the plan;
- (b) Adopt a plan proposing the:
  - (i) Creation of a regional transportation investment district, including district boundaries; and
  - (ii) Construction of transportation projects to improve mobility within each county and within the region. Operations, maintenance, and preservation of facilities or systems may not be part of the plan, except for the limited purposes provided under RCW 36.120.020(8); and

(c) Recommend sources of revenue authorized by RCW 36.120.050 and a financing plan to fund selected transportation projects. The overall plan of the district must leverage the district's financial contributions so that the federal, state, local, and other revenue sources continue to fund major congestion relief and transportation capacity improvement projects in each county and the district. A combination of local, state, and federal revenues may be necessary to pay for transportation projects, and the planning committee shall consider all of these revenue sources in developing a plan.

(4) The plan must use tax revenues and related debt for projects that generally benefit a participating county in proportion to the general level of tax revenues generated within that participating county. This equity principle applies to all modifications to the plan, appropriation of contingency funds not identified within the project estimate, and future phases of the plan. Per agreement with a regional transit authority serving the counties participating in a district, the equity principle identified under this subsection may include using the combined district and regional transit authority revenues generated within a participating county to determine the distribution that proportionally benefits the county. For purposes of the transportation subarea equity principle established under this subsection, a district may use the five subareas within a regional transit authority's boundaries as identified in an authority's system plan adopted in May 1996. During implementation of the plan, the board shall retain the flexibility to manage distribution of revenues, debt, and project schedules so that the district may effectively implement the plan. Nothing in this section should be interpreted to prevent the district

from pledging district-wide tax revenues for payment of any contract or debt entered into under RCW 36.120.130.

(5) Before adopting the plan, the planning committee, with assistance from the department, shall work with the lead agency to develop accurate cost forecasts for transportation projects. This project costing methodology must be integrated with revenue forecasts in developing the plan and must at a minimum include estimated project costs in constant dollars as well as year of expenditure dollars, the range of project costs reflected by the level of project design, project contingencies, identification of mitigation costs, the range of revenue forecasts, and project and plan cash flow and bond analysis. The plan submitted to the voters must provide cost estimates for each project, including reasonable contingency costs. Plans submitted to the voters must provide that the maximum amount possible of the funds raised will be used to fund projects in the plan, including environmental improvements and mitigation, and that administrative costs be minimized. If actual revenue exceeds actual plan costs, the excess revenues must be used to retire any outstanding debt associated with the plan.

(6) If a county opts not to adopt the plan or participate in the regional transportation investment district, but two or more contiguous counties do choose to continue to participate, then the planning committee may, within ninety days, redefine the regional transportation investment plan and the ballot measure to be submitted to the people to reflect elimination of the county, and submit the redefined plan to the legislative authorities of the remaining counties for their decision as to whether to continue to adopt the redefined plan and participate. This action must be completed within sixty days after receipt of the redefined plan.

(7) Once adopted by the planning committee, the plan must be forwarded to the participating county legislative authorities to initiate the election process under RCW 36.120.070. The planning committee shall at the same time provide notice to each city and town within the district, the governor, the chairs of the transportation committees of the legislature, the secretary of transportation, and each legislator whose legislative district is partially or wholly within the boundaries of the district.

(8) If the ballot measure is not approved, the planning committee may redefine the selected transportation projects, financing plan, and the ballot measure. The county legislative authorities may approve the new plan and ballot measure, and may then submit the revised proposition to the voters at the next election or a special election. If no ballot measure is approved by the voters by the third vote, the planning committee is dissolved. [2006 c 311 § 6; 2003 c 194 § 1; 2002 c 56 § 104.]

**Findings—2006 c 311:** See note following RCW 36.120.020.

**36.120.045 Planning committee—State route No. 520 improvements.** The planning committee must develop and include in the regional transportation investment plan a funding proposal for the state route number 520 bridge replacement and HOV project that assures full project funding for seismic safety and corridor connectivity on state route number 520 between Interstate 5 and Interstate 405. [2006 c 311 § 7.]

**Findings—2006 c 311:** See note following RCW 36.120.020.

**36.120.050 Planning committee—Taxes, fees, and tolls.** (1) A regional transportation investment district planning committee may, as part of a regional transportation investment plan, recommend the imposition or authorization of some or all of the following revenue sources, which a regional transportation investment district may impose or authorize upon approval of the voters as provided in this chapter:

(a) A regional sales and use tax, as specified in RCW 82.14.430, of up to 0.1 percent of the selling price, in the case of a sales tax, or value of the article used, in the case of a use tax, upon the occurrence of any taxable event in the regional transportation investment district;

(b) A local option vehicle license fee, as specified under RCW 82.80.100, of up to one hundred dollars per vehicle registered in the district. As used in this subsection, "vehicle" means motor vehicle as defined in RCW 46.04.320. Certain classes of vehicles, as defined under chapter 46.04 RCW, may be exempted from this fee;

(c) A parking tax under RCW 82.80.030;

(d) A local motor vehicle excise tax under RCW 81.100.060;

(e) A local option fuel tax under RCW 82.80.120;

(f) An employer excise tax under RCW 81.100.030; and

(g) Vehicle tolls on new or reconstructed local or regional arterials or state routes within the boundaries of the district, if the following conditions are met:

(i) Consistent with RCW 47.56.820, the vehicle toll must first be authorized by the legislature if the toll is imposed on a state route;

(ii) Consistent with RCW 47.56.850, the vehicle toll, including any change in an existing toll rate, must first be reviewed and approved by the tolling authority designated in RCW 47.56.850 if the toll, or change in toll rate, would have a significant impact, as determined by the tolling authority, on the operation of any state facility;

(iii) The regional transportation investment plan must identify the facilities that may be tolled; and

(iv) Unless otherwise specified by law, the department shall administer the collection of vehicle tolls on designated facilities, and the state transportation commission, or its successor, shall be the tolling authority, and shall act in accordance with RCW 47.56.850.

(2) Taxes, fees, and tolls may not be imposed or authorized without an affirmative vote of the majority of the voters within the boundaries of the district voting on a ballot proposition as set forth in RCW 36.120.070. Revenues from these taxes and fees may be used only to implement the plan as set forth in this chapter. A district may contract with the state department of revenue or other appropriate entities for administration and collection of any of the taxes or fees authorized in this section.

(3) Existing statewide motor vehicle fuel and special fuel taxes, at the distribution rates in effect on January 1, 2001, are not intended to be altered by this chapter. [2008 c 122 § 16; 2006 c 311 § 13; 2003 c 350 § 4; 2002 c 56 § 105.]

**Findings—2006 c 311:** See note following RCW 36.120.020.

**36.120.060 Project selection—Performance criteria.**

(1) The planning committee shall consider the following criteria

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for selecting transportation projects to improve corridor performance:

(a) Reduced level of congestion and improved safety;

(b) Improved travel time;

(c) Improved air quality;

(d) Increases in daily and peak period person and vehicle trip capacity;

(e) Reductions in person and vehicle delay;

(f) Improved freight mobility; and

(g) Cost-effectiveness of the investment.

(2) These criteria represent only minimum standards that must be considered in selecting transportation improvement projects. The board shall also consider rules and standards for benchmarks adopted by the transportation commission or its successor. [2002 c 56 § 106.]

**36.120.070 Submission of ballot propositions to the voters.**

(1) Beginning no sooner than the 2007 general election, two or more contiguous county legislative authorities, or a single county legislative authority as provided under RCW 36.120.030(8), upon receipt of the regional transportation investment plan under RCW 36.120.040, may submit to the voters of the proposed district a single ballot proposition that approves formation of the district, approves the regional transportation investment plan, and approves the revenue sources necessary to finance the plan. For a county to participate in the plan, the county legislative authority shall, within ninety days after receiving the plan, adopt an ordinance indicating the county's participation. The planning committee may draft the ballot proposition on behalf of the county legislative authorities, and the county legislative authorities may give notice as required by law for ballot propositions, and perform other duties as required to submit the proposition to the voters of the proposed district for their approval or rejection. Counties may negotiate interlocal agreements necessary to implement the plan. The electorate will be the voters voting within the boundaries of the proposed district. A simple majority of the total persons voting on the single ballot proposition is required for approval.

(2) The participating counties shall submit a regional transportation investment plan at the 2007 general election as part of a single ballot proposition that includes, in conjunction with RCW 81.112.030(10), a plan to support an authority's system and financing plan, or additional implementation phases of the system and financing plan, developed under chapter 81.112 RCW. The regional transportation investment plan shall not be considered approved unless both a majority of the persons voting on the proposition residing in the proposed district vote in favor of the proposition and a majority of the persons voting on the proposition residing within the regional transit authority vote in favor of the proposition. [2007 c 509 § 2; 2006 c 311 § 8; 2002 c 56 § 107.]

**Findings—Intent—2007 c 509:** "The legislature finds that traffic congestion reduces personal and freight mobility and is detrimental to the economy, air quality, and the quality of life throughout the central Puget Sound area. Effective transportation solutions are essential for the future growth and development of the central Puget Sound area and the welfare of its citizens.

The legislature further finds that investments in both transit and road improvements are necessary to relieve traffic congestion and to improve mobility. The transportation improvements proposed by regional transportation investment districts and regional transit authorities within the central Puget Sound region form integral parts of, and are naturally and necessarily

related to, a single regional transportation system. The construction of road and transit projects in a comprehensive and interrelated manner will help reduce transportation congestion, increase road capacity, promote safety, facilitate mobility, and improve the health, welfare, and safety of the citizens of Washington.

The legislature further finds that under RCW 81.112.030 and \*36.120.170 regional transportation investment districts and regional transit authorities are required to submit to the voters propositions for their respective transportation plans on the same ballot at the 2007 general election and that the opportunity to propose a single ballot reflecting a comprehensive, systemic, and interrelated approach to regional transportation would further the legislative intent and provide voters with an easier and more efficient method of expressing their will.

It is therefore the policy and intent of the state of Washington that transportation plans required to be submitted for voter approval at the 2007 general election by a regional transportation investment district and a regional transit authority must be submitted to voters in single ballot question seeking approval of both plans." [2007 c 509 § 1.]

\***Reviser's note:** Reference to RCW 36.120.170 appears to be erroneous. The correct reference should be to RCW 36.120.070.

**Findings—2006 c 311:** See note following RCW 36.120.020.

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

**36.120.080 Formation—Certification.** If the voters approve the plan, including creation of a regional transportation investment district and imposition of taxes and fees, the district will be declared formed. The county election officials of participating counties shall, within fifteen days of the final certification of the election results, publish a notice in a newspaper or newspapers of general circulation in the district declaring the district formed, and mail copies of the notice to the governor, the secretary of transportation, the executive director of the regional transit authority in which any part of the district is located, and the executive director of the regional transportation planning organization in which any part of the district is located. A party challenging the procedure or the formation of a voter-approved district must file the challenge in writing by serving the prosecuting attorney of the participating counties and the attorney general within thirty days after the final certification of the election. Failure to challenge within that time forever bars further challenge of the district's valid formation. [2006 c 311 § 10; 2002 c 56 § 108.]

**Findings—2006 c 311:** See note following RCW 36.120.020.

**36.120.090 Governing board—Composition.** (1) The governing board of a district consists of the members of the legislative authority of each member county, acting ex officio and independently. The secretary of transportation or the appropriate regional administrator of the department, as named by the secretary, shall also serve as a nonvoting member of the board. The governing board may elect an executive board of seven members to discharge the duties of the governing board subject to the approval of the full governing board.

(2) A sixty-percent majority of the weighted votes of the total board membership is required to submit to the counties a modified plan under RCW 36.120.140 or any other proposal to be submitted to the voters. The counties may, with majority vote of each county legislative authority, submit a modified plan or proposal to the voters. [2002 c 56 § 109.]

**36.120.100 Governing board—Organization.** The board shall adopt rules for the conduct of business. The board

shall adopt bylaws to govern district affairs, which may include:

- (1) The time and place of regular meetings;
- (2) Rules for calling special meetings;
- (3) The method of keeping records of proceedings and official acts;
- (4) Procedures for the safekeeping and disbursement of funds; and
- (5) Any other provisions the board finds necessary to include. [2002 c 56 § 110.]

**36.120.110 Governing board—Powers and duties—Intent.** (1) The governing board of the district is responsible for the execution of the voter-approved plan. The board shall:

- (a) Impose taxes and fees authorized by district voters;
- (b) Enter into agreements with state, local, and regional agencies and departments as necessary to accomplish district purposes and protect the district's investment in transportation projects;
- (c) Accept gifts, grants, or other contributions of funds that will support the purposes and programs of the district;
- (d) Monitor and audit the progress and execution of transportation projects to protect the investment of the public and annually make public its findings;
- (e) Pay for services and enter into leases and contracts, including professional service contracts;
- (f) Hire no more than ten employees, including a director or executive officer, a treasurer or financial officer, a project manager or engineer, a project permit coordinator, and clerical staff; and
- (g) Coordinate its activities with affected cities, towns, and other local governments, including any regional transit authority existing either partially or entirely within the district area, that engage in transportation planning; and
- (h) Exercise other powers and duties as may be reasonable to carry out the purposes of the district.

(2) It is the intent of the legislature that existing staff resources of lead agencies be used in implementing this chapter. A district may coordinate its activities with the department, which shall provide services, data, and personnel to assist as desired by the regional transportation investment district. Lead agencies for transportation projects that are not state facilities shall also provide staff support for the board.

(3) A district may not acquire, hold, or dispose of real property.

(4) Except for the limited purposes provided under RCW 36.120.020(8), a district may not own, operate, or maintain an ongoing facility, road, or transportation system.

(5) A district may accept and expend or use gifts, grants, or donations.

(6) It is the intent of the legislature that administrative and overhead costs of a regional transportation investment district be minimized. For transportation projects costing up to fifty million dollars, administrative and overhead costs may not exceed three percent of the total construction and design project costs per year. For transportation projects costing more than fifty million dollars, administrative and overhead costs may not exceed three percent of the first fifty million dollars in costs, plus an additional one-tenth of one percent of each additional dollar above fifty million. These



limitations apply only to the district, and do not limit the administration or expenditures of the department.

(7) A district may use the design-build procedure for transportation projects developed by it. As used in this section "design-build procedure" means a method of contracting under which the district contracts with another party for that party to both design and build the structures, facilities, and other items specified in the contract. The requirements and limitations of RCW 47.20.780 and 47.20.785 do not apply to the transportation projects under this chapter. [2006 c 311 § 11; 2002 c 56 § 111.]

**Findings—2006 c 311:** See note following RCW 36.120.020.

**36.120.120 Treasurer.** The regional transportation investment district, by resolution, shall designate a person having experience in financial or fiscal matters as treasurer of the district. The district may designate the treasurer of a county within which the district is located to act as its treasurer. Such a treasurer has all of the powers, responsibilities, and duties the county treasurer has related to investing surplus funds. The district shall require a bond with a surety company authorized to do business in this state in an amount and under the terms and conditions the district, by resolution, from time to time finds will protect the district against loss. The district shall pay the premium on the bond.

In addition to the account established in RCW 36.120.200, the treasurer may establish a special account, into which may be paid district funds. The treasurer may disburse district funds only on warrants issued by the district upon orders or vouchers approved by the district.

If the treasurer of the district is the treasurer of a county, all district funds must be deposited with a county depository under the same restrictions, contracts, and security as provided for county depositories. If the treasurer of the district is some other person, all funds must be deposited in a bank or banks authorized to do business in this state qualified for insured deposits under any federal deposit insurance act as the district, by resolution, designates.

The district may provide and require a reasonable bond of any other person handling moneys or securities of the district, but the district shall pay the premium on the bond. [2002 c 56 § 112.]

**36.120.130 Indebtedness—Bonds—Limitation.**

(1)(a) Notwithstanding RCW 39.36.020(1), the district may at any time contract indebtedness or borrow money for district purposes and may issue general obligation bonds or other evidences of indebtedness, secured by the pledge of one or more of the taxes, tolls, charges, or fees authorized to be imposed by the district, in an amount not exceeding, together with any existing indebtedness of the district not authorized by the voters, one and one-half percent of the value of the taxable property within the boundaries of the district.

(b) With the assent of three-fifths of the voters voting at an election, a district may contract indebtedness or borrow money for district purposes and may issue general obligation bonds or other evidences of indebtedness as long as the total indebtedness of the district does not exceed five percent of the value of the taxable property within the district, including indebtedness authorized under (a) of this subsection. The

bonds shall be issued and sold in accordance with chapter 39.46 RCW.

(2) The district may at any time issue revenue bonds or other evidences of indebtedness, secured by the pledge of one or more of the revenues authorized to be collected by the district, to provide funds to carry out its authorized functions without submitting the matter to the voters of the district. These obligations shall be issued and sold in accordance with chapter 39.46 RCW.

(3) The district may enter into agreements with the lead agencies or the state of Washington, when authorized by the plan, to pledge taxes or other revenues of the district for the purpose of paying in part or whole principal and interest on bonds issued by the lead agency or the state of Washington. The agreements pledging revenues and taxes shall be binding for their terms, but not to exceed thirty years, and no tax pledged by an agreement may be eliminated or modified if it would impair the pledge made in any agreement.

(4) Once construction of projects in the plan has been completed, revenues collected by the district may only be used for the following purposes: (a) Payment of principal and interest on outstanding indebtedness of the district; (b) to make payments required under a pledging agreement; and (c) to make payments for maintenance and operations of toll facilities as may be required by toll bond covenants. [2003 c 372 § 1; 2002 c 56 § 113.]

**36.120.140 Transportation project or plan modification—Accountability.** (1) The board may modify the plan to change transportation projects or revenue sources if:

(a) Two or more participating counties adopt a resolution to modify the plan; and

(b) The counties submit to the voters in the district a ballot measure that redefines the scope of the plan, its projects, its schedule, its costs, or the revenue sources. If the voters fail to approve the redefined plan, the district shall continue to work on and complete the plan, and the projects in it, that was originally approved by the voters. If the voters approve the redefined plan, the district shall work on and complete the projects under the redefined plan.

(2) The board may modify the plan to change transportation projects within a participating county if:

(a) A majority of the board approves the change;

(b) The modifications are limited to projects within the county;

(c) The county submits to the voters in the county a ballot measure that redefines:

(i) Projects;

(ii) Scopes of projects; or

(iii) Costs; and

(iv) The financial plan for the county;

(d) The proposed modifications maintain the equity of the plan and does [do] not increase the total level of plan expenditure for the county.

If the voters fail to approve the modified plan, the district shall continue to work on and complete the plan, and the projects in it, that was originally approved by the voters. If the voters approve the redefined plan, the district shall work on and complete the projects under the redefined plan.

(3) If a transportation project cost exceeds its original cost by more than twenty percent as identified in the plan:

(a) The board shall, in coordination with the county legislative authorities, submit to the voters in the district or county a ballot measure that redefines the scope of the transportation project, its schedule, or its costs. If the voters fail to approve the redefined transportation project, the district shall terminate work on that transportation project, except that the district may take reasonable steps to use, preserve, or connect any improvement already constructed. The remainder of any funds that would otherwise have been expended on the terminated transportation project must first be used to retire any outstanding debt attributable to the plan and then may be used to implement the remainder of the plan.

(b) Alternatively, upon adoption of a resolution by two or more participating counties:

(i) The counties shall submit to the voters in the district a ballot measure that redefines the scope of the plan, its transportation projects, its schedule, or its costs. If the voters fail to approve the redefined plan, the district shall terminate work on that plan, except that the district may take reasonable steps to use, preserve, or connect any improvement already constructed. The remainder of any funds must be used to retire any outstanding debt attributable to the plan; or

(ii) The counties may elect to have the district continue the transportation project without submitting an additional ballot proposal to the voters.

(4) To assure accountability to the public for the timely construction of the transportation improvement project or projects within cost projections, the district shall issue a report, at least annually, to the public and copies of the report to newspapers of record in the district. In the report, the district shall indicate the status of transportation project costs, transportation project expenditures, revenues, and construction schedules. The report may also include progress towards meeting the performance criteria provided under this chapter. [2003 c 194 § 2; 2002 c 56 § 114.]

**36.120.150 Department of transportation—Role.** (1) The department shall designate an office or division of dedicated staff and services whose primary responsibility is to coordinate the design, preliminary engineering, permitting, financing, and construction of transportation projects under consideration by a regional transportation investment district planning committee or that are part of a regional transportation investment plan being implemented by a regional transportation investment district.

(2) All of the powers granted the department under Title 47 RCW relating to highway construction may, at the request of a regional transportation investment district, be used to implement a regional transportation investment plan and construct transportation projects. [2002 c 56 § 115.]

**36.120.160 Ownership of improvements.** Any improvement to a state facility constructed under this chapter becomes and remains the property of this state. [2002 c 56 § 116.]

**36.120.170 Dissolution of district.** Within thirty days of the completion of the construction of the transportation project or series of projects forming the regional transportation investment plan, the district shall terminate day-to-day operations and exist solely as a limited entity that oversees

the collection of revenue and the payment of debt service or financing still in effect, if any. The district shall accordingly adjust downward its employees, administration, and overhead expenses. Any taxes, fees, or tolls imposed under an approved plan terminate when the financing or debt service on the transportation project or series of transportation projects constructed is completed and paid, thirty days from which point the district shall dissolve itself and cease to exist. If there is no debt outstanding, then the district shall dissolve within thirty days from completion of construction of the transportation project or series of transportation projects forming the regional transportation investment plan. Notice of dissolution must be published in newspapers of general circulation within the district at least three times in a period of thirty days. Creditors must file claims for payment of claims due within thirty days of the last published notice or the claim is extinguished. [2002 c 56 § 117.]

**36.120.180 Findings—Regional models—Grants.** The legislature finds that regional solutions to the state's transportation needs are of paramount concern. The legislature further recognizes that different areas of the state will need the flexibility to fashion local solutions to their transportation problems, and that regional transportation systems may evolve over time. Areas of the state outside of King, Snohomish, and Pierce counties are eligible for grants from the state of no more than two hundred thousand dollars each to study and develop regional transportation models. Regions receiving these grants shall:

(1) Develop a model that can be used within their region to select, fund, and administer regional transportation solutions;

(2) Adopt a county resolution approving the model proposed;

(3) Form interlocal agreements among counties as appropriate;

(4) Report to the transportation committees in the senate and house of representatives, petitioning the legislature to grant them authority to implement their proposed model. [2002 c 56 § 118.]

**36.120.190 Joint ballot measure.** At the option of the planning committee, and with the explicit approval of the regional transit authority, the participating counties may choose to impose any remaining high capacity transportation taxes under chapter 81.104 RCW that have not otherwise been used by a regional transit authority and submit to the voters a common ballot measure that creates the district, approves the regional transportation investment plan, implements the taxes, and implements any remaining high capacity transportation taxes within the boundaries of the regional transportation investment district. Collection and expenditures of any high capacity transportation taxes implemented under this section must be determined by agreement between the participating counties or district and the regional transit authority electing to submit high capacity transportation taxes to the voters under a common ballot measure as provided in this section. If the measure fails, all such unused high capacity transportation taxes revert back to and remain with the regional transit authority. A project constructed with

this funding is not considered a "transportation project" under RCW 36.120.020. [2002 c 56 § 201.]

**36.120.200 Regional transportation investment district account.** The regional transportation investment district account is created in the custody of the state treasurer. The purpose of this account is to act as an account into which may be deposited state money, if any, that may be used in conjunction with district money to fund transportation projects. Additionally, the district may deposit funds into this account for disbursement, as appropriate, on transportation projects. Nothing in this section requires any state matching money. All money deposited in the regional transportation investment district account will be used for design, right-of-way acquisition, capital acquisition, and construction, or for the payment of debt service associated with these activities, for regionally funded transportation projects developed under this chapter. Only the district may authorize expenditures from the account. The account is subject to allotment procedures under chapter 43.88 RCW. An appropriation is not required for expenditures from this account. [2002 c 56 § 401.]

**36.120.210 Advisory ballot for Alaskan Way viaduct improvements—Preferred alternative for Alaskan Way viaduct and Seattle Seawall improvements.** (1) The most populous city, within the three-county region eligible to create a regional transportation investment district under this chapter, shall submit an advisory ballot to the city voters at the 2006 general election regarding voter preference of the tunnel and rebuild alternatives described in the environmental impact statement relative to the Alaskan Way viaduct project. The results of the election shall be advisory only and not binding regarding the final project to be constructed.

(2) In the alternative to the provisions of subsection (1) of this section, following the report of the expert review panel's findings and recommendations completed under \*RCW 47.01.400(4)(c), the city legislative authority shall hold public hearings on the findings and recommendations. After such time, and by November 1, 2006, the city legislative authority shall adopt by ordinance a preferred alternative for the Alaskan Way viaduct and Seattle Seawall replacement project. The preferred alternative must, at a minimum, be based on a substantial project mitigation plan and a comprehensive cost estimate review using the department's cost estimate validation process. [2006 c 311 § 29.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 47.01.400 was repealed by 2017 3rd sp.s. c 25 § 39.

**Findings—2006 c 311:** See note following RCW 36.120.020.

## Chapter 36.125 RCW

### MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEES

#### Sections

36.125.005	Findings—Intent.
36.125.010	Counties authorized to establish—Purpose—Role.
36.125.020	Administration—Members—Petition.
36.125.030	Regional coordinating entities.
36.125.040	Application to committees established under federal law.
36.125.050	Collaborative process for ocean policy development and coastal area management.
36.125.060	Outer coast marine resources committee program—Annual reports.

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**36.125.005 Findings—Intent.** (1) The legislature finds the challenge of developing realistic, effective, and efficient solutions to the conservation and management issues facing Puget Sound and Washington's outer coast requires calling on all available sources of knowledge and creative thinking available in the collective wisdom of Washington's citizens. The legislature further finds that both Puget Sound and the outer coast are dynamic and localized water bodies with unique local challenges and unique local solutions. As such, it is essential for the future management of these ecosystems that citizens, through their local government, have a voice and an opportunity to share their dedication and interest in the well-being of their community's unique marine waters, while providing a valuable contribution to the statewide efforts aimed at restoring the outer coast and Puget Sound as a whole.

(2) The legislature further finds that federally led efforts to establish marine resources committees have proven to be an exciting vehicle for involving local citizens and community leaders in the future discussions, decisions, and restoration commitments in the waters most important to the community. The existing model of using a community-based, nonregulatory organization to examine issues particular to a community's corner of Puget Sound, applying for grants, and thoroughly and fairly investigating available options and solutions has proved to be a valuable asset to Puget Sound and its communities, and is worthy of replication throughout the Puget Sound basin and the outer coast.

(3) In this chapter, the legislature intends to establish a structure on which interested local communities can harness the dedication, creativity, and wisdom of their residents in the form of marine resources committees. These committees are intended to complement, and not compete with or undermine, any other governmental efforts to restore and manage the Puget Sound. The legislature further intends that the department of fish and wildlife should apply the lessons learned from Puget Sound to work with county governments on the outer coast to establish marine resources committees. [2007 c 344 § 1.]

**36.125.010 Counties authorized to establish—Purpose—Role.** (1)(a) The legislative authority for each county that borders the marine waters of southern Puget Sound may establish marine resources committees consistent with the procedures outlined in RCW 36.125.020. Counties authorized to establish marine resources committees in the southern Puget Sound are: King, Pierce, Thurston, Kitsap, and Mason counties.

(b) The legislative authority for each county bordering the marine waters of the outer coast may develop a marine resources committee consistent with the procedures outlined in RCW 36.125.020. Counties authorized to establish marine resources committees on the outer coast are: Pacific, Grays Harbor, and Wahkiakum counties.

(c) Jefferson and Clallam counties may establish a new marine resources committee or a subcommittee of the county's existing marine resources committee, consistent with the procedures outlined in RCW 36.125.020, specifically to address the marine ecosystems for the outer coast or Puget Sound, where appropriate.

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(2) The mission of a marine resources committee created under this section is to address, utilizing sound science, the needs of the marine ecosystem local to the county initiating the marine resources committee.

(3) A marine resources committee created under this section should review current data and resource conservation and management programs and make prioritized recommendations for additional measures that might be necessary to enhance protection of marine resources.

(4) The role of a marine resources committee in developing recommendations includes, but is not limited to:

(a) Utilizing existing data and, to the extent necessary, helping to gather new data on the health of local marine resources;

(b) Making scientifically based recommendations on local candidate sites for marine protected areas;

(c) Working closely with local and state officials to help implement recommendations of the marine resources committee;

(d) Promoting public outreach and education around marine resource conservation and management issues; and

(e) Engaging in any other activities that the initiating county deems appropriate. [2007 c 344 § 2.]

#### **36.125.020 Administration—Members—Petition.**

(1) A marine resources committee, as described in RCW 36.125.010, may be created by the legislative authority of any county bordering the marine waters of the outer coast or Puget Sound, in cooperation with all appropriate cities and special districts within their boundaries. Adjacent county legislative authorities shall coordinate their efforts whenever there is a mutual interest in creating a marine resources committee.

(2) A county may delegate the management and oversight of a marine resources committee created by the county under RCW 36.125.010 to a city, or cities, within its jurisdiction, if the city or cities are located on the marine waters of the outer coast or southern Puget Sound and are willing to accept the delegation.

(3)(a) Participating county legislative authorities must select members of the marine resources committee, ensuring balanced representation from: Local government; local residents; scientific experts; affected economic interests; affected recreational interests; and environmental and conservation interests. Additionally, participating county legislative authorities must invite tribal representatives to participate in the marine resources committee.

(b) In lieu of creating a new entity, participating county legislative authorities may designate a lead entity created under RCW 77.85.050 to also serve as a marine resources committee. County legislative authorities may only make this designation where the lead entity consents in writing to also serve as a marine resources committee.

(c) An initiating county may delegate its appointment authority to a city or cities that have received from the county the delegated responsibilities of managing and overseeing the marine resources committee.

(4) County residents may petition the county legislative authority to create a marine resources committee. Upon receipt of a petition, the county legislative authority must respond in writing within sixty days as to whether they will

authorize the creation of a marine resources committee as well as the reasons for their decision. [2008 c 242 § 2; 2007 c 344 § 3.]

**Findings—Intent—2008 c 242:** "The legislature finds that Washington's coastal and ocean resources provide vital economic, recreation, transportation, and cultural benefits to the state. The legislature seeks to continue recent state and local efforts to preserve and enhance the state's coastal and ocean resources, such as the work of the Washington ocean policy work group and the state's existing marine resources committees.

The legislature finds that outer coast marine resources committees, authorized by the legislature in 2007, provide a mechanism for communities to discuss and develop solutions for the issues facing coastal resources and communities. However, additional state investments are necessary to allow outer coast marine resources committees to fulfill their full potential. Therefore, the legislature intends by this act to provide additional support and resources for outer coast marine resources committees in order to benefit the coastal and ocean resources of Washington." [2008 c 242 § 1.]

**36.125.030 Regional coordinating entities.** (1) The Puget Sound action team, or its successor organization, shall serve as the regional coordinating entity for marine resources committees created in the southern Puget Sound and the department of fish and wildlife shall serve as the regional coordinating entity for marine resources committees created for the outer coast.

(2) The regional coordinating entity shall serve as a resource to, at a minimum:

(a) Coordinate and pool grant applications and other funding requests for marine resources committees;

(b) Coordinate communications and information among marine resources committees;

(c) Assist marine resources committees to measure themselves against regional performance benchmarks;

(d) Assist marine resources committees with coordinating local projects to complement regional priorities;

(e) Assist marine resources committees to interact with and complement other marine resources committees, and other similar groups, constituted under a different authority; and

(f) Coordinate with the Northwest Straits commission on issues common to marine resources committees statewide. [2007 c 344 § 4.]

**36.125.040 Application to committees established under federal law.** Nothing in RCW 36.125.010 or 36.125.020 is intended to expand or limit the authority of local marine resources committees established under the Northwest Straits marine conservation initiative by federal act in San Juan, Whatcom, Skagit, Island, Snohomish, Clallam, and Jefferson counties and existing as of July 22, 2007. [2007 c 344 § 5.]

**36.125.050 Collaborative process for ocean policy development and coastal area management.** Outer coast marine resources committees, in conjunction with their regional coordinating entity, shall meet and consult with key state, federal, local, and tribal governments, and private interest groups to develop a collaborative process to address ocean policy issues. This collaborative process should use Washington's "Ocean Action Plan: Enhancing Management of Washington State's Ocean and Outer Coasts" developed by the Washington ocean policy work group as a guide to begin the work of developing and coordinating state and local

ocean policy and providing better management of Washington's coastal areas. [2007 c 344 § 6.]

**36.125.060 Outer coast marine resources committee program—Annual reports.** (1) The outer coast marine resources committee program is created to provide support for the development, administration, and coordination of outer coast marine resources committees and their projects.

(2) The director of fish and wildlife is the administrator of the outer coast marine resources committee program. As the administrator of the program, the director of fish and wildlife shall:

(a) Provide each outer coast marine resources committee with a coordinator to support the administration and work of the committee; and

(b) Distribute grants to outer coast marine resources committees for projects that benefit Washington's coastal marine resources. The director of fish and wildlife shall develop procedures and criteria for allocating funds for projects, which may include annual allocation of funding to each committee.

(3) Each outer coast marine resources committee shall prepare and deliver an annual report to the director of fish and wildlife by October 31st of each year. The report must include, but is not limited to, a summary of actions taken that year and prioritized recommendations for future action. The director of fish and wildlife shall compile the individual outer coast marine resources committee reports into a consolidated report, and provide the consolidated report to the governor and appropriate committees of the legislature by December 31st of each year. [2008 c 242 § 3.]

**Findings—Intent—2008 c 242:** See note following RCW 36.125.020.

## Chapter 36.130 RCW

### AFFORDABLE HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS

#### Sections

36.130.005	Intent.
36.130.010	Definitions.
36.130.020	Restrictions on affordable housing development requirements—Preferential treatment—Requirements as conditions.

**36.130.005 Intent.** It is the public policy of the state to assist in making affordable housing available throughout the state. The legislature recognizes that despite ongoing efforts there is still a lack of affordable housing in many areas. The legislature also recognizes that some local governments have imposed development requirements on affordable housing developments that are not generally imposed on other housing developments. The intent of this [the] legislature is to prohibit discrimination against affordable housing developments. [2008 c 118 § 1.]

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

(1) "Affordable housing development" means a housing development in which at least twenty-five percent of the dwelling units within the development are set aside for or are occupied by low-income households at a sales price or rent

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amount that is considered affordable by a federal, state, or local government housing program.

(2) "Dwelling unit" means that part of a housing development that is used as a home, residence, or place to sleep by one person or two or more persons maintaining a common household.

(3) "Housing development" means a proposed or existing structure that is used as a home, residence, or place to sleep by one or more persons including, but not limited to, single-family residences, manufactured homes, multifamily housing, group homes, and foster care facilities.

(4) "Low-income household" means a single person, family, or unrelated persons living together whose adjusted income is less than eighty percent of the median family income, adjusted for household size, for the county where the affordable housing development is located. [2008 c 118 § 2.]

**36.130.020 Restrictions on affordable housing development requirements—Preferential treatment—Requirements as conditions.** (1) A city, county, or other local governmental entity or agency may not adopt, impose, or enforce requirements on an affordable housing development that are different than the requirements imposed on housing developments generally.

(2) This section does not prohibit any city, county, or other local governmental entity or agency from extending preferential treatment to affordable housing developments intended for including, but not limited to, occupancy by homeless persons, farmworkers, persons with disabilities, senior citizens, or low-income households. Preferential treatment may include, but is not limited to: A reduction or waiver of fees or changes in applicable requirements including, without limitation, architectural requirements, site development requirements, property line requirements, building setback requirements, or vehicle parking requirements; or other treatment that reduces or is likely to reduce the development or operating costs of an affordable housing development.

(3) A city, county, or other local governmental entity or agency may impose and enforce requirements on affordable housing developments as conditions of loans, grants, financial support, tax benefits, subsidy funds, or sale or lease of public property, or as conditions to eligibility for any affordable housing incentive program under RCW 36.70A.540 or any other program involving bonus density, transfer of development rights, waiver of development regulations or fees, or other development incentives. [2008 c 118 § 3.]

## Chapter 36.135 RCW

### LOCAL PUBLIC WORKS ASSISTANCE FUNDS

#### Sections

36.135.010	Definitions.
36.135.020	Use—Distribution.
36.135.030	Public works projects—Financial assistance for local governments.
36.135.040	Public works projects—Prioritization process.
36.135.050	Records of accounts—Audit.

**36.135.010 Definitions.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Capital facilities plan" means a capital facilities plan required under chapter 36.70A RCW.

(2) "Local government" means cities, towns, counties, special purpose districts, and any other municipal corporations or quasi-municipal corporations in the state, excluding school districts and port districts.

(3) "Public works project" means a project of a local government for the planning, acquisition, construction, repair, reconstruction, replacement, rehabilitation, or improvement of streets and roads, bridges, water systems, or storm and sanitary sewage systems and solid waste facilities, including recycling facilities. [2009 c 45 § 1.]

**36.135.020 Use—Distribution.** (1) County legislative authorities may establish local public works assistance funds for the purpose of funding public works projects located wholly or partially within the county. Moneys may be deposited in local public works assistance funds from existing revenue sources of the county.

(2) Moneys deposited in local public works assistance funds, and interest earned on balances from the funds, may only be used:

(a) To make loans to the county and to other local governments for funding public works projects as provided in this chapter; and

(b) For costs incurred in the administration of funds.

(3) No more than fifty percent of the moneys loaned from a fund in a calendar year may be loaned to the county providing local public works assistance funds. At least twenty-five percent of the moneys anticipated to be loaned from a fund in a calendar year must be made available for funding public works projects in cities or towns.

(4) No more than one percent of the average annual balance of a county's fund, including interest earned on balances from the fund, may be used annually for administrative costs. [2009 c 45 § 2.]

**36.135.030 Public works projects—Financial assistance for local governments.** (1) Counties, in consultation with cities and towns within the county, may make loans to local governments from funds established under RCW 36.135.020 for the purpose of assisting local governments in funding public works projects. Counties may require terms and conditions and may charge rates of interest on its loans as they deem necessary or convenient to carry out the purposes of this chapter. Counties may not pledge any amount greater than the sum of money in their local public works assistance fund plus money to be received from the payment of the debt service on loans made from that fund. Money received from local governments in repayment of loans made under this chapter must be paid into the fund of the lending county for uses consistent with this chapter.

(2) Prior to receiving moneys from a fund established under RCW 36.135.020, a local government applying for financial assistance under this chapter must demonstrate to the lending county:

(a) Utilization of all local revenue sources that are reasonably available for funding public works projects;

(b) Compliance with applicable requirements of chapter 36.70A RCW; and

(c) Consistency between the proposed project and applicable capital facilities plans.

(3) Counties may not make loans under this chapter prior to completing the initial collaboration and prioritization requirements of RCW 36.135.040(1). [2009 c 45 § 3.]

**36.135.040 Public works projects—Prioritization process.** (1) County legislative authorities utilizing or providing money under this chapter must develop a prioritization process for funding public works projects that gives priority to projects necessary to address public health needs, substantial environmental degradation, or increases existing capacity necessary to accommodate projected population and employment growth. This prioritization process must be:

(a) Completed collaboratively with public works directors of local governments within the county;

(b) Documented in the form of written findings produced by the county; and

(c) Revised periodically according to a schedule developed by the county and the public works directors.

(2) In addition to the requirements under subsection (1) of this section, legislative authorities providing funding to other local governments under this chapter must consider, through a competitive application process, the following factors in assigning a priority to and funding a project:

(a) Whether the local government applying for assistance has experienced severe fiscal distress resulting from natural disaster or emergency public works needs;

(b) Whether the project is critical in nature and would affect the health and safety of a great number of citizens;

(c) The cost of the project compared to the size of the local government and amount of loan money available;

(d) The number of communities served by or funding the project;

(e) Whether the project is the acquisition, expansion, improvement, or renovation by a local government of a public water system that is in violation of health and safety standards;

(f) The number of additional housing units estimated to be achieved by funding the project;

(g) The additional jobs estimated to be achieved by funding the project; and

(h) Other criteria the county legislative authority deems appropriate. [2009 c 45 § 4.]

**36.135.050 Records of accounts—Audit.** County legislative authorities providing funding for public works projects under this chapter must keep proper records of accounts and are subject to audit by the state auditor. [2009 c 45 § 5.]

## Chapter 36.140 RCW

### ELECTRICITY GENERATION FROM BIOMASS ENERGY

#### Sections

36.140.010 Generation of electricity from biomass energy.

**36.140.010 Generation of electricity from biomass energy.** (1) Any county legislative authority of a county where a public utility district owns and operates a plant or system for the generation, transmission, and distribution of

electric energy for sale within the county may construct, purchase, acquire, operate, and maintain one facility within the county to generate electricity from biomass energy that is a renewable resource under RCW 19.285.030 or from biomass energy that is produced from lignin in spent pulping liquors or liquors derived from algae and other sources. The county legislative authority has the authority to regulate and control the use, distribution, sale, and price of the electricity produced from the biomass facility authorized under this section.

(2) For the purposes of this section:

(a) "County legislative authority" means the board of county commissioners or the county council;

(b) "Plant" means a natural gas-fueled, combined-cycle combustion turbine capable of generating at least two hundred forty megawatts of electricity; and

(c) "Public utility district" means a municipal corporation formed under chapter 54.08 RCW. [2010 c 167 § 1; 2009 c 281 § 1.]

### Chapter 36.145 RCW COMMUNITY FACILITIES DISTRICTS

#### Sections

36.145.005	Findings.
36.145.010	Definitions.
36.145.020	Formation by petition—Requirements—Amendment.
36.145.030	Public hearing on petition—When held.
36.145.040	Public hearing on petition—Notice requirements.
36.145.050	Receipt of material evidence—Inclusion and removal of land.
36.145.060	Approval of petition—Requirements.
36.145.070	Appeals to formation.
36.145.080	Board of supervisors—Members—Vacancies.
36.145.090	Powers.
36.145.100	Financing district costs, expenses, and facilities—Prohibitions.
36.145.110	Special assessments—Procedures and requirements—Notice.
36.145.120	Payment of bonds—Related costs.
36.145.130	Bonds sole obligation of district.
36.145.140	District treasurer—How appointed, duties and powers.
36.145.150	Individual assessments on district property—Liens.

**36.145.005 Findings.** The legislature finds that:

(1) The state is projected to experience substantial population growth in the next two decades and this growth will require substantial new housing, places of employment, community facilities, and supporting local, subregional, and regional infrastructure;

(2) In most areas of the state projected to accommodate substantial growth, there are inadequate community facilities and infrastructure to facilitate and support such growth. In addition, current public financing options and resources are not adequate to provide the needed community facilities and local, subregional, and regional infrastructure;

(3) A more flexible type of financing mechanism known as a community facilities district should be available to counties, cities, and towns so that needed community facilities and local, subregional, and regional infrastructure can be provided;

(4) This chapter is intended to facilitate voluntary landowner financing of community facilities and local, subregional, and regional infrastructure by authorizing the creation of community facilities districts, while creating jobs and facilitating economic development; and

(5) It is in the interest of the people of the state of Washington to authorize the establishment of community facility

[facilities] districts as independently governed, special purpose districts, vested with the corporate authority included under Article VII, section 9 of the state Constitution to make local improvements in accordance with this chapter and to carry out the purposes specifically authorized under this chapter. [2010 c 7 § 101.]

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

(1) "Board of supervisors" or "board" means the governing body of a community facilities district.

(2) "Community facilities district" or "district" means a district created under this chapter.

(3) "Facility" or "facilities" means the local improvements included under RCW 36.145.100.

(4) "Legislative authority" means the governing body of a county, city, or town to which a petition or amended petition is submitted.

(a) If the proposed district is located entirely within unincorporated land, then the county is the exclusive "legislative authority" for purposes of approving formation of the district under RCW 36.145.020 through 36.145.070, inclusive, and RCW 36.145.080.

(b) If all or a portion of the proposed district is located within unincorporated land that is entirely surrounded by an incorporated city or town, then the "legislative authority" for purposes of approving formation of the district under RCW 36.145.020 through 36.145.070, inclusive, and RCW 36.145.080 includes the governing bodies of the county and the city or town surrounding the unincorporated land.

(c) If the proposed district is located entirely within incorporated land, then the city or town is the exclusive "legislative authority" for purposes of this chapter, and all powers and responsibilities of a county under this chapter must be exercised by that city or town.

(5) "Petition" means a request, meeting the requirements of RCW 36.145.020, made by landowners to form a community facilities district and to voluntarily submit their land to the assessments authorized under this chapter and includes an amended petition meeting the requirements of RCW 36.145.020(3).

(6) "Special assessment" means an assessment imposed in accordance with the requirements of this chapter. [2010 c 7 § 102.]

**36.145.020 Formation by petition—Requirements—Amendment.** Community facilities districts are authorized to be formed for the purposes authorized under this chapter. Community facilities districts may only include land within urban growth areas designated under the state growth management act, located in portions of one or more cities, towns, or counties when created in accordance with this chapter. A district may include one or more noncontiguous tracts, lots, parcels, or other properties meeting the requirements of this chapter.

(1) To form a community facilities district, a petition must be presented to the applicable legislative authorities. The petition must:

(a) Designate and describe the boundaries of the district by metes and bounds or reference to United States townships, ranges, and legal subdivisions;

(b) Be executed by one hundred percent of all owners of private property located within the boundaries of the proposed district. The property owners must include a request to subject their property to the assessments, up to the amount included in the petition and authorized under this chapter;

(c) Include a certification by the petitioners that they want to voluntarily submit their property to the authority of the district under this chapter to approve the petitioner's request to submit their property to the assessments, up to the amount included in the petition and authorized under this chapter;

(d) Include a general explanation of the objective and plan of the district and describe the specific facilities that the district anticipates financing;

(e) Declare the district will be conducive to public health, safety, and welfare;

(f) Assert that the purpose for forming the district will be a benefit to the land located in the district;

(g) Be accompanied by an "obligation" signed by at least two petitioners who agree to pay the costs of the formation process;

(h) Include a list of petitioners or representatives thereof who are willing and able to serve on the board of supervisors. All petitioners within a proposed district who are natural persons, or natural persons who are designated representatives of petitioners, are eligible to include their name on the list of eligible supervisors. The petitioners may nominate qualified professions to serve on the board of supervisors in lieu of the petitioners or representatives of the petitioners;

(i) If it proposes a special assessment, include: (i) A diagram showing each separate lot, tract, parcel of land, or other property in the district; (ii) the acreage of the property; (iii) the name and address of the owner or reputed owner of each lot, tract, parcel of land, or other property as shown on the tax rolls of the county assessor; (iv) a preliminary assessment roll showing the special assessment proposed to be imposed on each lot, tract, parcel of land, or other property; and (v) a proposed method or combination of methods for computing special assessments, determining the benefit to assessed property or use from facilities or improvements funded directly or indirectly by special assessments under this chapter; and

(j) Include an explanation of what security will be provided to ensure the timely payment of assessments and the timely payment of bonds issued by the district.

(2) The petition must be filed with the auditor of each county in which property included within the proposed district is located. The auditor for the county in which the largest geographic portion of the proposed district is located must be the lead auditor for the purposes of this section. Within thirty days of the lead auditor's receipt of the petition, the lead auditor must confirm that the petition has been validly executed by one hundred percent of all owners of the property located within the proposed district, including confirmation by the auditors of all other counties with whom the petition was filed. Within ten days of the lead auditor's finding that the petition either does or does not contain the required signatures, the lead auditor must either (a) transmit the petition, together with a certificate of sufficiency attached thereto, to

each legislative authority petitioned for formation of the district; or (b) return the petition to the petitioners with a list of property owners who must sign the petition in order to comply with this section. There are no restrictions on the number of petitions that may be submitted by one or more property owners.

(3) A petition may be amended for any reason if the amendment is signed by one hundred percent of the owners of property located within the district proposed in the amended petition. [2010 c 7 § 201.]

### **36.145.030 Public hearing on petition—When held.**

A public hearing on the petition for formation of a district must be held by each applicable legislative authority, not less than thirty, but not more than sixty days, from the date that the lead county auditor issues the certificate of sufficiency required under RCW 36.145.020. [2010 c 7 § 202.]

### **36.145.040 Public hearing on petition—Notice requirements.**

Notice of all public hearings must include a description of the proposal, be mailed to all petitioners, and must be published once a week for three consecutive weeks in the official paper for each applicable legislative authority, prior to the date set for the hearing. The notice must be posted for not less than fifteen days prior to the date of the hearing in each of three public places within the boundaries of the proposed district and in three public places for each applicable legislative authority. Each notice must contain the time, date, and place of the public hearing. [2010 c 7 § 203.]

### **36.145.050 Receipt of material evidence—Inclusion and removal of land.**

At the time and place of the public hearing, the legislative authority must consider the petition. The legislative authority may receive any evidence it deems material that supports or opposes the formation of the district, including the inclusion or exclusion of land. Unless an amended petition satisfying the requirements of RCW 36.145.020 is approved in accordance with the requirements of this chapter, no land outside the boundaries described in the petition may be included within the proposed district. No land inside the boundaries of an approved petition may be removed from the district unless an amended petition satisfying the requirements of RCW 36.145.020 is approved in accordance with the requirements of this chapter. [2010 c 7 § 204.]

### **36.145.060 Approval of petition—Requirements.**

(1) The legislative authority may act on the petition to form a community facilities district at the public hearing held under RCW 36.145.050 and in no event may the legislative authority's decision be issued later than thirty days after the day of the public hearing. The applicable legislative authority may approve the petition by resolution if the applicable legislative authority determines, in its sole discretion, that the petitioners will benefit from the proposed district and that the formation of the district will be in the best interest of the county, city or town, as applicable, and that formation of the district is consistent with the requirements of Washington's growth management act.



(2) A community facilities district may not be formed unless each applicable legislative authority makes the finding required under subsection (1) of this section.

(3) All resolutions approving a petition must conform to the terms and conditions contained in the petition, including the maximum amounts of special assessments set forth in the petition, and must designate the name and number of the community facilities district being formed. [2010 c 7 § 205.]

**36.145.070 Appeals to formation.** (1) Any person who objects to formation of the district may appeal the final decision of a legislative authority to approve a petition for formation of a community facilities district by filing an appeal with the superior court of the county in which any part of the district is located within thirty days of the effective date of the resolution approving formation of the district.

(2) If no appeal is timely filed, then the legislative authority's decision is deemed valid, complete, and final, and neither the legal existence of the district, nor the terms and conditions of an approved petition can thereafter be challenged or questioned by any person on the grounds of procedural defect or otherwise. Certified copies of each resolution approving a district must be filed with the auditor of the county or counties in which the community facilities district is located. [2010 c 7 § 206.]

**36.145.080 Board of supervisors—Members—Vacancies.** (1) A community facilities district must be governed by a board of supervisors possessing the powers set forth under RCW 36.145.090. The board of supervisors must be appointed by each applicable legislative authority within sixty days of the formation of the district. Except as expressly provided under this section, each applicable legislative authority is authorized to appoint members to the board of supervisors only from among the members of its own governing body. Each applicable legislative authority must appoint the petitioner members or nominees required under subsection (2) or (3) of this section. The term of office of each supervisor is three years and until a successor is appointed, except that the supervisors first appointed serve for one and two years respectively from the date of their appointments, as designated in their appointments.

(2) Except as provided in subsection (3) of this section, if the proposed district is located entirely within a single jurisdiction, then the board of supervisors consists of: (a) Three members of the legislative authority of the jurisdiction; and (b) two members appointed from among the list of eligible supervisors included in the petition as provided in RCW 36.145.020(1)(h). All members of the board of supervisors must be natural persons.

(3) If all or a portion of the proposed district is located within unincorporated land that is entirely surrounded by an incorporated city or town, then the board of supervisors consists of: (a) Two members appointed from the county legislative authority; (b) two members appointed from the legislative authority of the city or town that is the additional legislative authority under RCW 36.145.010(4); and (c) one member appointed from the list of eligible petitioners included in the petition as provided in RCW 36.145.020(1)(h), depending on the number of additional

members that are required to result in an overall odd number of supervisors.

(4) If the county, city, or town is the exclusive legislative authority pursuant to RCW 36.145.010, then the board of supervisors consists of: (a) Three members appointed from such county, city, or town; and (b) two members from the list of eligible petitioners or nominees included in the petition, as provided in RCW 36.145.020(1)(h), to result in an overall odd number of supervisors.

(5) The legislative authorities may appoint qualified professionals with expertise in municipal finance in lieu of one or more appointments authorized in this section. A jurisdiction's appointments to the board of supervisors may consist of a combination of qualified professionals authorized under this section and one or more members from the applicable legislative authority. Nothing contained in this section authorizes a legislative authority to exceed the maximum number of appointments set forth under subsection (2) or (3) of this section.

(6) A vacancy on the board must be filled by the legislative authority authorized to make the appointment to the applicable supervisor position under this section. Vacancies must be filled by a person in the same position vacating the board, which for initial petitioner members or nominees includes successor owners of property located within the boundaries of an approved district. If the approved district was originally located entirely on unincorporated land and the unincorporated land has been annexed into a city or town, then, as of the effective date of annexation, the city or town is deemed the exclusive legislative authority for the purposes of this chapter and the composition of the board must be structured accordingly, as provided in this section. Supervisors must serve without compensation, but they are entitled to expenses, including traveling expenses, necessarily incurred in discharge of their duties. The board must designate a chair from time to time. [2010 c 7 § 301.]

**36.145.090 Powers.** (1) A community facilities district created in accordance with this chapter is an independently governed, special purpose district, vested with the corporate authority included under Article VII, section 9 of the state Constitution to make local improvements by special assessment in accordance with this chapter. Nothing in this chapter exempts the public improvements and facilities provided by a district from the regulatory and land use permitting requirements of the county, city, or town in which the improvements are to be located.

(2) Subject to the terms and conditions of an approved petition, a community facilities district has the powers necessary to carry out the specific purposes authorized under this chapter in order to carry out the specific objectives, plan, and facilities identified in the approved petition including, but not limited to, the authority to:

(a) Acquire, purchase, hold, lease, finance, manage, occupy, construct, and sell real and personal property, facilities, or any interest therein, either inside or outside of the boundaries of the district, except that any such property, facilities, or interests outside the boundaries of the district must directly serve facilities or benefit properties within the district;

- (b) Finance and construct facilities authorized under this chapter;
- (c) Enter into and perform any and all contracts;
- (d) Levy and enforce the collection of special assessments against the property included within a district;
- (e) Enter into lease-purchase agreements with or without an option to purchase;
- (f) Enter into executory conditional sales contracts, leases, and installment promissory notes;
- (g) Borrow money to the extent and in the manner authorized by this chapter;
- (h) Hold in trust property useful to accomplishment of the authority granted under this chapter;
- (i) Issue revenue bonds in accordance with chapter 39.46 RCW and assessment bonds in accordance with chapter 35.45 RCW, and the requirements of this chapter, payable from revenue or assessments, respectively, of the district that is legally available to be pledged to secure the bonds;
- (j) Contract with any municipal corporation, governmental, or private agencies to carry out the purposes authorized by this chapter;
- (k) Sue and be sued;
- (l) Accept and receive on behalf of the district any money or property donated, devised, or bequeathed to the district and carry out the terms of the donation, devise, or bequest, if it is within the powers granted by law to community facilities districts or, in the absence of such terms, expend or use the money or property for district purposes as determined by the board of supervisors;
- (m) Transfer to any county, city, or other municipal corporation, without compensation, any property or other assets of the district; and
- (n) Do any and all lawful acts required and expedient to carry out the express authority provided in this chapter. [2010 c 7 § 401.]

**36.145.100 Financing district costs, expenses, and facilities—Prohibitions.** (1) Through the use of district revenue derived through special assessments and bonds authorized under this chapter and, consistent with the terms and conditions of a petition approved in accordance with this chapter, a community facilities district may finance all or a portion of the following costs, expenses, and facilities whether located inside or outside the boundaries of an approved district:

- (a) The cost, or any portion thereof, of the purchase, finance, lease, sublease, construction, expansion, improvement, or rehabilitation of any facility with an estimated life of five years or longer;
- (b) The planning and design work that is directly related to the purchase, construction, expansion, improvement, or rehabilitation of a facility, including engineering, architectural, planning, and inspection costs;
- (c) Facilities listed in RCW 35.43.040 to the extent not specified in this section;
- (d) Sanitary sewage systems, including collection, transport, storage, treatment, dispersal, effluent use, and discharge;
- (e) Drainage and flood control systems, including collection, transport, diversion, storage, detention, retention, dispersal, use, and discharge;

(f) Water systems for domestic, industrial, irrigation, municipal, or community facilities purposes, including production, collection, storage, treatment, transport, delivery, connection, and dispersal;

(g) Highways, streets, roadways, and parking facilities, including all areas for vehicular use for travel, ingress, egress, and parking;

(h) Areas for pedestrian, equestrian, bicycle, or other nonmotor vehicle use for travel, ingress, egress, and parking;

(i) Pedestrian malls, parks, recreational facilities, and open-space facilities for the use of members of the public for entertainment, assembly, and recreation;

(j) Landscaping, including earthworks, structures, lakes, and other water features, plants, trees, and related water delivery systems;

(k) Public buildings, public safety facilities, and community facilities;

(l) Publicly owned natural gas transmission and distribution facilities, facilities for the transmission or distribution of electrical energy, and limited communications facilities, specifically poles, trenches, and conduits, for use of any communications provider;

(m) Street lighting;

(n) Traffic control systems and devices, including signals, controls, markings, and signage;

(o) Systems of surface, underground, or overhead railways, tramways, buses, or any other means of mass transportation facilities, including passenger, terminal, station parking, and related facilities and areas for passenger and vehicular use for travel, ingress, egress, and parking;

(p) Library, educational, and cultural facilities; and

(q) Facilities similar to those listed in this section.

(2) The district may not finance public or private residential dwellings, nonprofit facilities as defined in RCW 43.180.300, health care facilities as defined in RCW 70.37.020, higher education institutions as defined in RCW 28B.07.020, or economic development activities as defined in RCW 43.163.010. [2010 c 7 § 501.]

**36.145.110 Special assessments—Procedures and requirements—Notice.** (1) The board of supervisors of a community facilities district may impose special assessments on property located inside the district and benefited by the facilities and improvements provided, or to be provided, by a district, whether the facilities and improvements are located inside or outside of the boundaries of the proposed district. The requirements and powers of a district relating to the formation, assessment, collection, foreclosure, and other powers of a special assessment district are as set forth in chapters 35.43, 35.44, 35.49, and 35.50 RCW, except where otherwise addressed under this chapter. In any case where the provisions of this chapter conflict with the requirements under any other chapter that applies to the formation, assessment, collection, foreclosure, or other powers of a special assessment district, the provisions of this chapter control.

(2) Except as otherwise expressly provided under this chapter, the special assessments imposed and collected on property within a district may not exceed the amount set forth in a petition or amended petition approved in accordance with this chapter.

(3) The term of the special assessment is limited to the lesser of (a) thirty-five years or (b) the full term of any bonds issued by or on behalf of the district to which the assessments or other revenue of the district is specifically dedicated, pledged, or obligated.

(4) The computation of special assessments must follow the requirements of chapter 35.44 RCW, including the authority to use any method or combination of methods to compute assessments which may be deemed by the board of supervisors to fairly reflect the benefit to the properties being assessed. The method of assessment may utilize the supplemental authority granted under chapter 35.51 RCW. A petition meeting the requirements of RCW 36.145.020 may provide for the reduction or waiver of special assessments for low-income households as that term is defined in RCW 36.130.010.

(5) The board must set a date, time, and place for hearing any objections to the assessment roll, which hearing must occur no later than one hundred twenty days from final approval of formation of the district. Petitioners or representatives thereof serving on the board of supervisors must not participate in the determination of the special assessment roll or vote on the confirmation of that assessment roll. The restriction in this subsection does not apply to members of the board of supervisors appointed from among the qualified professionals that petitioners may nominate under RCW 36.145.020(1)(h).

(6) The procedures and requirements for assessments, hearings on the assessment roll, filing of objections to the assessment roll, and appeals from the decision of the board approving or rejecting the assessment roll, must be as set forth in RCW 35.44.010 through 35.44.020, 35.44.080 through 35.44.110, and 35.44.190 through 35.44.270.

(7) At the hearing on the assessment roll, and in no event later than thirty days after the day of the hearing, the board may adopt a resolution approving the assessment roll or may correct, revise, raise, lower, change, or modify the assessment roll or any part thereof, and provide the petitioner with a detailed explanation of the changes made by the board.

(8) If the assessment roll is revised by the board in any way, then, within thirty days of the board's decision, the petitioner(s) must unanimously make one of the following elections: (a) Rescind the petition; or (b) accept the changes made by the board, upon which occurrence the board must adopt a resolution approving the assessment roll as modified by the board.

(9) Reassessments, assessments on omitted property, and supplemental assessments are governed by the provisions set forth under chapter 35.44 RCW.

(10) Any assessment approved under the provisions of this chapter may be segregated upon a petition of one hundred percent of the owners of the property subject to the assessment to be segregated. The segregation must be made as nearly as possible on the same basis as the original assessment was levied and approved by the board. The board, in approving a petition for segregation and amendment of the assessment roll, must do so in a fashion such that the total of the segregated parts of the assessment equal the assessment before segregation. As to any property originally entered upon the roll the assessment upon which has not been raised, no objections to the approval of the petition for segregation,

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the resulting assessment, or the amended assessment roll may be considered by the jurisdiction in which the district is located, the board, or by any court on appeal. Assessments must be collected in districts pursuant to the district's previous assessment roll until the amendment to the assessment roll is finalized under this section.

(11) Except as provided under chapter 35.44 RCW, assessments may not be increased without the approval of one hundred percent of the property owners subject to the proposed increase.

(12) Special assessments must be collected by the district treasurer determined in accordance with RCW 36.145.140.

(13) A notice of any special assessment imposed under this chapter must be provided to the owner of the assessed property, not less than once per year, with the following appearing at the top of the page in at least fourteen point, bold font:

**\*\*\*\*NOTICE\*\*\*\***

**THIS PROPERTY IS SUBJECT TO THE ASSESSMENTS ITEMIZED BELOW AND APPROVED BY COMMUNITY FACILITIES DISTRICT # . . . . . AS THE OWNER OR POTENTIAL BUYER OF THIS PROPERTY, YOU ARE, OR WOULD BE, RESPONSIBLE FOR PAYMENT OF THE AMOUNTS ITEMIZED BELOW.**

**PLEASE REFER TO RCW 36.145.110 OR CONTACT YOUR COUNTY AUDITOR FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.**

(14) The district treasurer responsible for collecting special assessments may account for the costs of handling the assessments and may collect a fee not to exceed the measurable costs incurred by the treasurer. [2019 c 260 § 1; 2010 c 7 § 502.]

**36.145.120 Payment of bonds—Related costs.** (1) The district may utilize the special assessments and revenue derived in accordance with this chapter for the payment of principal and interest on bonds issued pursuant to the authority granted under this chapter to fund or reimburse the costs of facilities authorized under this chapter and prior to the issuance of bonds, may utilize the revenue to directly fund the costs of providing the facilities authorized under this chapter on a pay-as-you-go basis.

(2) The board of supervisors may establish, administer, and pay or otherwise dedicate, pledge, or obligate the assessments and revenue generated in accordance with this chapter into a specific fund created by or on behalf of the district, in order to guarantee payment of obligations incurred in connection with facilities provided under this chapter, including the payment of principal and interest on any bonds issued by or on behalf of the district.

(3) The proceeds of any bond issued pursuant to this chapter may be used to pay any and all costs related to providing the facilities authorized under this chapter, including expenses incurred in connection with issuance of the bonds.

(4) The reporting requirements of RCW 39.44.210 apply to any bond issuance under this chapter. [2010 c 7 § 503.]

**36.145.130 Bonds sole obligation of district.** No bonds issued by or on behalf of a community facilities district are obligations of any city, town, county, or the state of Washington or any political subdivision thereof other than the district and the bonds must so state. [2010 c 7 § 504.]

**36.145.140 District treasurer—How appointed, duties and powers.** (1) If a district includes land that is entirely within a county and the land is not surrounded entirely by a city or town, then the treasurer of that county is the treasurer of the district. If a district includes land that is entirely within a county and the land is entirely surrounded by a city or town, or, if parts of the district include land within or surrounded by more than one jurisdiction, then the board of supervisors may, with the concurrence of the treasurers of all jurisdictions within which the district lies, appoint the treasurer of any of those jurisdictions to serve as the district treasurer. Except as specifically provided under this chapter, the duties of a district treasurer are as provided under applicable law.

(2) The district treasurer must establish a community facilities district fund, into which must be paid all district revenues. The district treasurer must also maintain any special funds created by the board of supervisors of the community facilities district, into which the district treasurer must place all money as the board of supervisors may, by resolution, direct. The treasurer may create such subfunds, accounts, and subaccounts as he or she deems necessary, consistent with applicable law.

(3) The district treasurer must pay assessment bonds and revenue bonds and the accrued interest thereon in accordance with their terms from the appropriate fund when interest or principal payments become due.

(4) All interest collected on community facilities district funds belongs to the district and must be deposited to its credit in the proper district funds. [2010 c 7 § 505.]

**36.145.150 Individual assessments on district property—Liens.** All assessments imposed on the respective lots, tracts, parcels of land, and other property included within the boundaries of an approved district in accordance with this chapter are a lien upon the property from the date of final approval and are paramount and superior to any other lien or encumbrance whatsoever, theretofore or thereafter created, except a lien for general taxes. [2010 c 7 § 601.]

### Chapter 36.150 RCW

#### COUNTY FERRY DISTRICTS—COUNTY ASSUMPTION

##### Sections

36.150.010	County assumption of county ferry district authority.
36.150.020	Initiation of county assumption.
36.150.030	Consideration of county assumption—Public hearing.
36.150.040	Satisfaction of public interest or welfare—Declaration of county assumption—Vesting of authority—Abolishment of county ferry district governing body.
36.150.050	County ferry district employees and personnel.
36.150.060	Preservation of existing rights, proceedings, and actions—Levies.
36.150.070	Continuation of rules, regulations, and pending business—Performance of contracts—Validity of official acts.
36.150.080	Transfer of county ferry district real and personal property—Assumption of appropriations and federal grants.
36.150.090	Assumption and payment of county ferry district indebtedness.

**36.150.010 County assumption of county ferry district authority.** Any county with a population of one million or more in which a county ferry district has been established pursuant to RCW 36.54.110 through 36.54.190 with boundaries coterminous with the boundaries of the county may by ordinance or resolution of the county legislative authority assume the rights, powers, functions, and obligations of the county ferry district in accordance with this chapter. [2014 c 51 § 1.]

**36.150.020 Initiation of county assumption.** The assumption of the rights, powers, functions, and obligations of a county ferry district may be initiated by the adoption of an ordinance or a resolution by the county legislative authority indicating its intention to conduct a hearing concerning the assumption of such rights, powers, functions, and obligations. If the county legislative authority adopts such an ordinance or a resolution of intention, the ordinance or resolution must set a time and place at which the county legislative authority will consider the proposed assumption of the rights, powers, functions, and obligations of the county ferry district, and must state that all persons interested may appear and be heard. The ordinance or resolution of intention must be published at least two times during the two weeks preceding the scheduled hearing in newspapers of daily general circulation printed or published in the county in which the county ferry district is to be located. [2014 c 51 § 2.]

**36.150.030 Consideration of county assumption—Public hearing.** At the time scheduled for the hearing in the ordinance or resolution of intention, the county legislative authority must consider the assumption of the rights, powers, functions, and obligations of the county ferry district and hear those appearing and all protests and objections to it. The county legislative authority may continue the hearing from time to time, not exceeding sixty days in all. [2014 c 51 § 3.]

**36.150.040 Satisfaction of public interest or welfare—Declaration of county assumption—Vesting of authority—Abolishment of county ferry district governing body.** (1) If, after receiving testimony, the county legislative authority determines that the public interest or welfare would be satisfied by the county assuming the rights, powers, immunities, functions, and obligations of the county ferry district, the county legislative authority may declare that to be its intent and assume such rights, powers, immunities, functions, and obligations by ordinance or resolution, providing that the county is vested with every right, power, immunity, function, and obligation currently granted to or possessed by the county ferry district pursuant to RCW 36.54.110 through 36.54.190. However, in exercising such rights, powers, immunities, functions, and obligations, all actions must be taken in the name of the county and title to all property or property rights vest in the county.

(2) Upon assumption of the rights, powers, immunities, functions, and obligations of the county ferry district by the county: The governing body established pursuant to RCW 36.54.110(5) must be abolished; RCW 36.54.110(5) does not apply to the county; and the county legislative authority is vested with all rights, powers, immunities, functions, and obligations otherwise vested by law in the governing board of

the county ferry district. However, in any county with a home rule charter, such rights, powers, functions, and obligations vest in accordance with the executive and legislative responsibilities defined in such charter. [2014 c 51 § 4.]

**36.150.050 County ferry district employees and personnel.** Employees and personnel of the county ferry district do not automatically become employees of the county. [2014 c 51 § 5.]

**36.150.060 Preservation of existing rights, proceedings, and actions—Levies.** No transfer of any function made pursuant to this chapter may be construed to impair or alter any existing rights acquired under RCW 36.54.110 through 36.54.190 or any other provision of law relating to county ferry districts, nor as impairing or altering any actions, activities, or proceedings validated thereunder, nor as impairing or altering any civil or criminal proceedings instituted thereunder, nor any rule, regulation, or order promulgated thereunder, nor any administrative action taken thereunder; and neither the assumption of control of any county ferry district function by a county, nor any transfer of rights, powers, functions, and obligations as provided in this chapter, may impair or alter the validity of any act performed by such county ferry district or division thereof or any officer thereof prior to the assumption of such rights, powers, functions, and obligations by any county as authorized by this chapter. Furthermore, an ad valorem property tax levy upon real and personal property authorized under RCW 36.54.130 and levied by a county as authorized under this chapter must be treated as a levy by a county ferry district for all purposes including, but not limited to, limitations on levies contained in RCW 84.52.043. [2014 c 51 § 6.]

**36.150.070 Continuation of rules, regulations, and pending business—Performance of contracts—Validity of official acts.** (1) All rules and regulations, and all pending business before the board of any county ferry district transferred pursuant to this chapter[,] must be continued and acted upon by the county.

(2) All existing contracts and obligations of the transferred county ferry district remain in full force and effect, and must be performed by the county. A transfer authorized in this chapter does not affect the validity of any official act performed by any official or employee prior to the transfer authorized pursuant to this chapter. [2014 c 51 § 7.]

**36.150.080 Transfer of county ferry district real and personal property—Assumption of appropriations and federal grants.** (1) When the rights, powers, functions, and obligations of a county ferry district are transferred pursuant to this chapter, all real and personal property owned by the county ferry district becomes that of the county.

(2) All reports, documents, surveys, books, records, files, papers, or other writings relating to the administration of the powers, duties, and functions transferred pursuant to this chapter and available to the county ferry district must be made available to the county.

(3) All cabinets, furniture, office equipment, motor vehicles, and other tangible property employed in carrying out the rights, powers, functions, and obligations transferred under

this chapter and available to the county ferry district must be made available to the county.

(4) All funds, credits, or other assets held in connection with powers, duties, and functions transferred under this chapter must be assigned to the county.

(5) Any appropriations or federal grant made to the county ferry district for the purpose of carrying out the rights, powers, functions, and obligations authorized to be assumed by a county pursuant to this chapter, on the effective date of such transfer, must be credited to the county for the purpose of carrying out such transferred rights, powers, functions, and obligations. [2014 c 51 § 8.]

**36.150.090 Assumption and payment of county ferry district indebtedness.** (1) The county must assume and agree to provide for the payment of all of the indebtedness of the county ferry district, including the payment and retirement of outstanding general obligation and revenue bonds issued by the county ferry district. Until the indebtedness of a county ferry district assumed by a county under this chapter has been discharged, all property within the boundaries of the county ferry district and the owners and occupants of that property continue to be liable for taxes, special assessments, and other charges legally pledged to pay the indebtedness of the county ferry district. The county must assume the obligation of causing the payment of such indebtedness, collecting such taxes, assessments, and charges, and observing and performing the other contractual obligations of the county ferry district. The legislative authority of the county must act in the same manner as the governing body of the county ferry district for the purpose of certifying the amount of any property tax to be levied and collected therein, and may cause service and other charges and assessments to be collected from such property or owners or occupants thereof, enforce such collection, and perform all acts necessary to ensure performance of the contractual obligations of the county ferry district in the same manner and by the same means as if the property of the county ferry district had not been acquired by the county.

(2) When a county assumes the obligation of paying indebtedness of a county ferry district and if property taxes or assessments have been levied and service and other charges have accrued for such purpose but have not been collected by the county ferry district prior to such assumption, the same when collected must belong and be paid to the county and be used by such county so far as necessary for payment of the indebtedness of the county ferry district existing and unpaid on the date such county assumed that indebtedness. Any funds received by the county that have been collected for the purpose of paying any bonded or other indebtedness of the county ferry district must be used for the purpose for which they were collected and for no other purpose until such indebtedness has been paid and retired or adequate provision has been made for such payment and retirement. Any funds remaining after the payment and retirement of such indebtedness must be used solely for carrying out the rights, powers, functions, and obligations of the county ferry district assumed by the county. The transfer of property as provided in this chapter does not derogate from the claims or rights of the creditors of the county ferry district or impair the ability of the county ferry district to respond to its debts and obligations. [2014 c 51 § 9.]

**Chapter 36.160 RCW**  
**CULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS**

## Sections

36.160.010	Findings—Intent.
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36.160.800	Attacks prohibited.

**36.160.010 Findings—Intent.** (1) The legislature finds that:

(a) Many Washington cities and counties and their residents are experiencing the lingering effects of the recession. While there are many residents who have been able to successfully weather the economic downturn, unfortunately there are still individuals, families, and valued community organizations who have not. Local governments also have not been immune to this situation. Local government revenues have continued to lag behind economic growth, leaving local communities unable to make adequate and necessary investments in infrastructure and services their residents rely on and benefit from. Additional fiscal tools that provide funding for facilities, services, housing, and programs benefiting vulnerable populations as well as cultural organizations will enable local communities and their residents to choose to invest in their local institutional and human infrastructure to the benefit of the public.

(b) There is a demonstrated need for facilities and services in the community to help people with mental illness, individuals with developmental disabilities, and other vulnerable populations, including foster children, homeless families, veterans, and others in critical need. The need includes, but is not limited to, funding for mental health services, evaluation and treatment facilities, housing, and other projects and services for those in need.

(c) There is also a need to provide public and educational benefits and economic support for cultural organizations. Providing local support for the state's cultural organizations is in the public interest and will serve multiple public purposes including, among others, enhancing and extending the education reach and offerings of cultural organizations; ensuring continued and expanded access to the facilities and programs of cultural organizations by economically and geographically underserved populations; and providing financial stability to the organizations to continue and extend the numerous public benefits they provide.

(2) It is the intent of the legislature to provide local governments and the communities they serve the fiscal tools needed to provide these important services. [2015 3rd sp.s. c 24 § 101.]

**Construction—2015 3rd sp.s. c 24:** See note following RCW 36.160.030.

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

(1) "Administrative costs" means all operating, administrative, and maintenance expenses for a program or a designated entity.

(2) "Attendance" means the total number of visits by persons in physical attendance during a year at cultural organization facilities located or cultural organization programs provided within the county creating a program, including attendance for which admission was paid, discounted, or free, consistent with and verifiable under guidelines adopted by the appropriate program.

(3) "Cultural organization" means a nonprofit corporation incorporated under the laws of the state of Washington and recognized by the internal revenue service as described in section 501(c)(3) of the internal revenue code of 1986, as amended, with its principal location or locations and conducting a majority of its activities within the state, not including: Any agency of the state or any of its political subdivisions; any municipal corporation; any organization that raises funds for redistribution to multiple cultural organizations; or any radio or television broadcasting network or station, cable communications system, internet-based communications venture or service, newspaper, or magazine. The primary purpose of the organization must be the advancement and preservation of science or technology, the visual or performing arts, zoology, botany, anthropology, heritage, or natural history and any organization must directly provide programming or experiences available to the general public. Any organization with the primary purpose of advancing and preserving zoology such as zoos and aquariums must be or support a facility that is accredited by the association of zoos and aquariums or its functional successor. A state-related cultural organization may be a cultural organization.

(4) "Designated entity" means the entity designated by the legislative authority of a county creating the program, as required under RCW 36.160.110(4). The entity may be a public agency, including the state arts commission established under chapter 43.46 RCW, or a Washington nonprofit corporation that is not a cultural organization eligible for funding under this chapter.

(5) "Program" means a cultural access program established by a county by ordinance.

(6) "Revenues" means revenues from all sources generated by a cultural organization, consistent with generally accepted accounting practices and any program guidelines, excluding: (a) Revenues associated with capital projects other than major maintenance projects including, but not limited to, capital campaign expenses; (b) funds provided under this chapter; (c) revenue that would be considered unrelated business taxable income under the internal revenue code of 1986, as amended; and (d) with respect to a state-related cultural organization, state funding received by it or for the institution it supports. Revenues include transfers from an organization's endowment or reserves and may include the value of in-kind goods and services to the extent permitted under any program guidelines.

(7) "State-related cultural organization" means an organization incorporated as a nonprofit corporation under the laws of the state of Washington and recognized by the inter-

nal revenue service as described in section 501(c)(3) of the internal revenue code of 1986, as amended, with a primary purpose and directly providing programming or experiences available to the general public consistent with the requirements for recognition as a cultural organization under this chapter operating in a facility owned and supported by the state, a state agency, or state educational institution. [2020 c 192 § 1; 2015 3rd sp.s. c 24 § 201.]

**Construction—2015 3rd sp.s. c 24:** See note following RCW 36.160.030.

**36.160.030 Cultural access program—Creation.** (1) Any county legislative authority may create a cultural access program by ordinance.

(2) Any contiguous group of counties may create a program by entering into an interlocal agreement under chapter 39.34 RCW, approved by resolution of the county legislative authorities.

(3) A city may create a cultural access program if the county legislative authority in which the city is located adopts a resolution stating that the county forfeits its option to create a program or does not place a proposition before the people to create such a program by June 30, 2017. In the event the exception in this subsection occurs, all references in this chapter to a county must include a city that has exercised its authority under this subsection, unless the context clearly requires otherwise. [2015 3rd sp.s. c 24 § 301.]

**Construction—2015 3rd sp.s. c 24:** "The provisions of this act must be liberally construed to effectuate the policies and purposes of this act." [2015 3rd sp.s. c 24 § 804.]

**36.160.040 Cultural access program—Start-up funding and conditional formation.** (1) The county creating a program may advance to the program funding for its administrative costs, including the cost of informing the public about the formation of the program, how it is proposed to be funded, and the public benefits to be realized if it is successful. However, this subsection does not authorize the preparation and distribution of information to the general public for the purpose of influencing the outcome of any election called for voter authorization of a proposed tax to support a program.

(2) The county creating a program may provide for repayment of any start-up funding advanced to a program from the proceeds of taxes authorized under RCW 36.160.080, 82.14.525, and 84.52.821 and approved by voters after the taxes are first collected. The funds may be repaid to such county with interest at the internal rate of return on the invested funds of such county. [2015 3rd sp.s. c 24 § 302.]

**Construction—2015 3rd sp.s. c 24:** See note following RCW 36.160.030.

**36.160.050 Cultural access program—Nonsupplantation.** In creating a program under this chapter, any county creating the program must affirm that any funding such county usually and customarily provides to cultural organizations similar to funding that would be available to those organizations under this chapter may not be replaced or materially diminished as a result of funding becoming available under this chapter. If an organization designated to receive funds

under this chapter is a state-related cultural organization, the funds received under this chapter may not replace or materially diminish any funding usually or customarily provided by the state. [2015 3rd sp.s. c 24 § 303.]

**Construction—2015 3rd sp.s. c 24:** See note following RCW 36.160.030.

**36.160.060 Cultural access program—Advisory councils.** Each county creating a program under this chapter may establish an advisory council, the membership of which must include citizen representatives of constituencies and organizations with interests relevant to the work of the program including, but not limited to, leaders in the business, educational, and cultural communities. Advisory council members should be residents of the county creating the program. Policies concerning the size and operation of any advisory council must be established by the county that creates the program. [2015 3rd sp.s. c 24 § 304.]

**Construction—2015 3rd sp.s. c 24:** See note following RCW 36.160.030.

**36.160.070 Cultural access program—Alternative administrative arrangements.** A county with a population of less than one million five hundred thousand may contract with the state arts commission formed under chapter 43.46 RCW for the provision of consulting, management, or other administrative services to be provided to its program created under this chapter. Any county creating a program may elect to consolidate administration of such a program with that of the entity or public agency designated by the county creating such a program to perform the functions required under RCW 36.160.110. [2015 3rd sp.s. c 24 § 305.]

**Construction—2015 3rd sp.s. c 24:** See note following RCW 36.160.030.

**36.160.080 Funding—Local tax authority.** (1)(a) Except as provided in (b) of this section, a county creating a program under this chapter may impose sales and use taxes under RCW 82.14.525 or additional regular property tax levies under RCW 84.52.821 for the purposes authorized under this chapter.

(b) A county with a population of one million five hundred thousand or more may not impose additional regular property tax levies under RCW 84.52.821.

(2) If a county imposes sales and use taxes under RCW 82.14.525, the county may not impose an additional regular property tax levy under RCW 84.52.821 so long as such sales and use taxes are in effect.

(3) If a county imposes an additional regular property tax levy under RCW 84.52.821, the county may not impose sales and use taxes under RCW 82.14.525 so long as such property tax levy is in effect.

(4) All revenue from taxes imposed under this chapter must be credited to a special fund in the treasury of the county imposing such tax and used solely for the purpose of paying all or any part of the cost of cultural access programs as provided in this chapter. [2015 3rd sp.s. c 24 § 401.]

**Construction—2015 3rd sp.s. c 24:** See note following RCW 36.160.030.

**36.160.090 Public benefits.** (1) A program created under this chapter must provide or continue to provide funding authorized under this chapter only to cultural organizations that provide discernible public benefits. Each program created under this chapter must identify a range of public benefits that cultural organizations may provide or continue to provide in satisfaction of this requirement for eligibility to receive funding authorized under this chapter. The public benefits include, without limitation: Reasonable opportunities for access to facilities, programs, and services on a reduced or no admission fee basis, particularly for diverse and underserved populations and communities; providing, through technological and other means, services or programs in locations other than an organization's own facilities; providing educational programs and experiences both at an organization's own facilities and in schools and other venues; broadening cultural programs, performances, and exhibitions for the enlightenment and entertainment of the public; supporting collaborative relationships with other cultural organizations in order to extend the reach and impact of the collaborating organizations for the benefit of the public; and, in the case of community-based cultural organizations, organizational capacity-building projects or activities that an organization can demonstrate, to the reasonable satisfaction of the designated entity, will enhance the ability of the organization to provide or continue to provide meaningful public benefits not otherwise achievable.

(2) Each program created under this chapter must adopt guidelines establishing a baseline standard of continuous performance with respect to the provision of public benefits required under this chapter and for evaluating the eligibility of any cultural organization to receive funds under this chapter based on the continuous performance of the organization in the provision of the public benefits. The guidelines must include: (a) Procedures for notifying any organization at risk of losing its eligibility to receive funds under this chapter for failure to achieve the program's baseline standard of performance with respect to the continuous provision of public benefits; and (b) measures or procedures available to the organization for either retaining or recovering eligibility, as appropriate. [2015 3rd sp.s. c 24 § 501.]

**Construction—2015 3rd sp.s. c 24:** See note following RCW 36.160.030.

**36.160.100 Public school cultural access program.** A program created under this chapter must develop and provide a public school cultural access program, as provided in RCW 36.160.110. [2020 c 192 § 2; 2015 3rd sp.s. c 24 § 502.]

**Construction—2015 3rd sp.s. c 24:** See note following RCW 36.160.030.

**36.160.110 Use of funds—Allocation.** A program in a county must allocate the proceeds of taxes authorized under RCW 82.14.525 and 84.52.821 as follows:

(1) If any start-up funding has been provided to the program under RCW 36.160.040 with the expectation that the funding will be repaid, the program must annually reserve from total funds available funding sufficient to provide for repayment of such start-up funding until any such start-up funding has been fully repaid;

(2) The funding determined by the county forming such a program to be reserved for program costs, including direct administrative costs, and repaying any start-up funding provided under RCW 36.160.040. Information disclosing the amount of funding to be reserved for program administrative costs must be included in any proposition submitted to voters under RCW 82.14.525 or 84.52.821;

(3) The county must determine the percentage of total funds available annually to be reserved for a public school cultural access program established and managed by the county to increase access to cultural activities and programming for public school students resident in the county. A public school cultural access program must provide every school in the county a list of appropriate off-site cultural experiences and a list of appropriate on-site cultural experiences for each grade level, every year. Information notifying schools of available transportation funding must be included in the list of off-site cultural experiences. The activities and programming need not be located or provided within the county. In developing its program, the county may consider providing funding for music and arts education in public schools that is in addition to that provided for in the program of basic education funding. A public school cultural access program must provide transportation to off-site cultural experiences for all students at all schools in the county that are located within a school district in which at least forty percent of the district's students are eligible for the federal free and reduced-price school meals program. The county may limit its spending on the transportation benefit to no more than five percent of funds collected each year under RCW 36.160.080;

(4) Remaining funds available annually, including all funds not initially reserved under subsections (1), (2), and (3) of this section as well as funds not distributed by the county from the reserved funds, must be distributed by the county to the entity designated by the legislative authority of the county creating the program. The county must determine:

(a) Guidelines, consistent with the requirements of this chapter, it deems necessary or appropriate for determining the eligibility of cultural organizations to receive funding under this chapter;

(b) Criteria for the award of funds to eligible cultural organizations, including the public benefits to be derived from projects submitted for funding;

(c) The amount of funding to be allocated to support designated entity administrative costs;

(d) Criteria for the identification by the county or, if so directed by the county, by the designated entity of any cultural organization or organizations that would receive annual distributions of funds in such amounts determined by the county or, if so directed by the county, the designated entity;

(e) Procedures to be used by the designated entity in awarding funding to other cultural organizations that may, but are not required to include a periodic competitive process for awarding funds for particular purposes or projects proposed by eligible cultural organizations; and

(f) Procedures to be used by the designated entity in considering the award of funding to community preservation and development authorities formed under chapter 43.167 RCW, if any exist within the county. The procedures must ensure the eligibility of and consider support for the projects and programs identified in the strategic preservation and develop-



ment plans, adopted pursuant to RCW 43.167.030, of each community preservation and development authority within the county;

(5) In evaluating requests for funding authorized under this chapter, the designated entity responsible for the distribution of the funds must consider the public benefits that any cultural organizations represented will be derived from proposed projects. At the conclusion of a project approved for funding, such organization is required to report to the designated entity on the public benefits realized;

(6) Funds distributed to cultural organizations may be used to support cultural and educational activities, programs, and initiatives; public benefits and communications; and basic operations. Funds may also be used for: (a) Capital expenditures or acquisitions including, but not limited to, the acquisition of or construction of improvements to real property; and (b) technology, equipment, and supplies reasonably related to or necessary for a project otherwise eligible for funding under this chapter. Program guidelines may also determine the circumstances under which funds may be used to fund start-up expenses of new community-based cultural organizations;

(7) If the county or designated entity determine the eligibility of a cultural organization to receive funding or the relative magnitude of the funding it receives on the basis of its budget, revenues, or expenses, any determination with respect to a qualifying state-related cultural organization must exclude any state funding received by the organization or for the institution it supports. [2020 c 192 § 3; 2015 3rd sp.s. c 24 § 601.]

**Construction—2015 3rd sp.s. c 24:** See note following RCW 36.160.030.

**36.160.800 Attacks prohibited.** No direct or collateral attack on any program purported to be authorized or created in conformance with this chapter may be commenced more than thirty days after creation. [2015 3rd sp.s. c 24 § 801.]

**Construction—2015 3rd sp.s. c 24:** See note following RCW 36.160.030.

## Chapter 36.165 RCW

### COMMERCIAL PROPERTY ASSESSED CLEAN ENERGY AND RESILIENCY (C-PACER) PROGRAM

#### Sections

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**36.165.005 Finding—2020 c 27.** (1) The legislature finds that the efficiency and resiliency of buildings in Washington is essential for ensuring the health and safety of residents, employees, and tenants; for using water and energy more efficiently; and for economic development of our com-

munities. Buildings in Washington have significant needs for resiliency retrofits, including seismic improvements, storm-water management, flood mitigation, wildfire and wind resistance, and for clean energy and energy efficiency improvements, but these improvements often have high up-front capital costs.

(2) This chapter authorizes the establishment of a commercial property assessed clean energy and resiliency ("C-PACER") program that jurisdictions can voluntarily implement to ensure that free and willing owners of agricultural, commercial, and industrial properties and of multifamily residential properties with five or more dwelling units can obtain low-cost, long-term financing for qualifying improvements, including energy efficiency, water conservation, renewable energy, and resiliency projects. These improvements are repaid by a voluntary assessment on the property, secured by a county lien, and assigned to a capital provider for all the administrative aspects of billing, collecting, and enforcing the lien and without the accumulation of cost to the county and without the creation of a personal debt obligation to the property owner. The obligation is instead carried by the property and remains with the property until repaid, regardless of any potential transfer of property ownership. After the adoption of a C-PACER program, a county's role is limited to the approval of an assessment and recordation of a C-PACER lien, and administration of the C-PACER program which may be contracted out to a private third party.

(3) The legislature declares that the establishment and operation of a C-PACER program under this chapter serves important public health and safety interests. A qualified improvement as defined in RCW 36.165.010 provides benefit to the public, either in the form of energy or water resource conservation, reduced public health risk, or reduced public emergency response risk. Accordingly, the governing body of a county is authorized to determine that it is convenient and advantageous to adopt a program under this chapter. [2020 c 27 § 1.]

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

(1) "Assessment" means the voluntary agreement of a property owner to allow a county to place an annual assessment on their property to repay C-PACER financing.

(2) "Capital provider" means any private entity, their designee, successor, and assigns that makes or funds C-PACER financing under this chapter.

(3) "C-PACER financing" means an investment from a capital provider to a property owner to finance or refinance a qualified project as described under this chapter.

(4) "C-PACER lien" means the lien recorded at the county on the eligible property to secure the voluntary annual assessment, which remains on the property until paid in full.

(5) "Eligible property" means privately owned commercial, industrial, or agricultural real property or multifamily residential real property with five or more dwelling units. Eligible property may be owned by any type of business, corporation, individual, or nonprofit organization permitted by state law.

(6) "Financing agreement" means the contract under which a property owner agrees to repay a capital provider for

the C-PACER financing including, but not limited to, details of any finance charges, fees, debt servicing, accrual of interest and penalties, and any terms relating to treatment of prepayment and partial payment of the C-PACER financing.

(7) "Program" means a C-PACER program established under this chapter.

(8) "Program administrator" means the party designated by a county or the department of commerce to administer a C-PACER program. This may be the department of commerce, the county itself, or a third party, provided that the administration procedures used conform to the requirements of this chapter.

(9) "Program guidebook" means a comprehensive document that illustrates the applicable region for a program and establishes any appropriate guidelines, specifications, underwriting and approval criteria, and any standard application forms consistent with the administration of a program and not detailed in this chapter.

(10) "Project application" means an application submitted to a program to demonstrate that a proposed project qualifies for C-PACER financing and for a C-PACER lien.

(11) "Qualified improvement" means a permanent improvement affixed to real property and intended to: (a) Decrease energy consumption or demand through the use of efficiency technologies, products, or activities that reduce or support the reduction of energy consumption, allow for the reduction in demand, or support the production of clean, renewable energy, including but not limited to a product, device, or interacting group of products or devices on the customer's side of the meter that generates electricity, provides thermal energy, or regulates temperature; (b) decrease water consumption or demand and address safe drinking water through the use of efficiency technologies, products, or activities that reduce or support the reduction of water consumption, allow for the reduction in demand, or reduce or eliminate lead from water which may be used for drinking or cooking; or (c) increase resilience, including but not limited to seismic retrofits, flood mitigation, stormwater management, wildfire and wind resistance, energy storage, and microgrids.

(12) "Qualified project" means a project approved by the program administrator, involving the installation or modification of a qualified improvement, including new construction or the adaptive reuse of eligible property with a qualified improvement.

(13) "Region" means a geographical area as determined by a county pursuant to RCW 36.165.030. [2020 c 27 § 2.]

**36.165.020 Voluntary statewide program—County participation—Program criteria, requirements, and administration.** (1)(a) The department of commerce may establish a voluntary statewide C-PACER program that counties may choose to participate in. A county may establish a separate voluntary countywide C-PACER program, provided that it conforms to the requirements of this chapter.

(b) A C-PACER program shall be managed efficiently and transparently, including by:

(i) Making any services that the program may choose to offer to property owners, such as estimating energy savings, overseeing project development, or evaluating alternative equipment installations, priced separately and open to purchase by the property owner from qualified third-party providers;

(ii) Making any properties participating in the program available to receiving impartial terms from all interested and qualifying third-party capital providers;

(iii) Allowing financial underwriting and evaluation to be performed by capital providers; and

(iv) Working in a collaborative working group process with capital providers and other stakeholders to develop the program guidebook and any other relevant documents or forms.

(2) The program shall establish uniform criteria for which projects qualify due to their public benefit for participation in C-PACER programs including, but not limited to, criteria for measuring or determining if investments in energy will reduce greenhouse gas emissions; be effective for reducing energy demand or replacing nonrenewable energy with renewable energy; will be appropriate to meet seismic risks for each region of the state and type of structure; will reduce stormwater or pollution to be significant public benefit; or will reduce the risk of wildfire, flooding, or other natural or human-caused disaster, including how to determine if the public benefit in reduced public risk and emergency response qualifies for inclusion in C-PACER programs.

(3) The program must prepare a program guidebook that must include at minimum:

(a) A sample form bilateral or triparty agreement or agreements, as appropriate, between a county, the property owner, and the capital provider which details the agreement between the county and the property owner to have an assessment placed on the qualified property as repayment for C-PACER financing; an agreement by the county to place a lien on the property to secure the obligation to repay; the obligation of the property owner to repay the C-PACER financing to the capital provider; and an assignment of the C-PACER lien by the county to the capital provider;

(b) A statement that the period of the financing agreement will not exceed the useful life of the qualified project, or weighted average life if more than one qualified improvement is included in the qualified project, that is the basis for the financing agreement;

(c) A description of the application process and eligibility requirements for participation in the program;

(d) A statement explaining the lender consent requirement provided in RCW 36.165.070;

(e) A statement explaining the review requirement provided by RCW 36.165.030;

(f) A description of marketing and participant education services to be provided for the program;

(g) A statement specifying that the county has no liability as a result of the agreement; and

(h) A program guidebook need not be completed and adopted prior to accepting and approving applications by a program, so long as the program complies with the provisions of this chapter.

(4) The program administrator must make the program guidebook available for public inspection on the county's or department of commerce's website.

(5) A county or the department of commerce may contract out the responsibilities of program administration,

including the responsibilities of this section, to a public, quasi-public, or private third-party entity.

(6) Any county program guidebook established prior to a statewide program may subsequently include or incorporate by reference any aspect of a statewide program guidebook; however, upon development of a statewide program guidebook with a form agreement or agreements developed pursuant to subsection (3)(a) of this section, the form agreement or agreements shall be required to be used by all county programs from the time that the first C-PACER lien is recorded under the statewide program, or the department of commerce may incorporate by reference any portion of any county program guidebooks, including a form agreement or agreements, as its program guidebook.

(7) The department of commerce may provide grants to counties to assist in the design and implementation of C-PACER programs under this chapter. [2020 c 27 § 3.]

### **36.165.030 Program application and review process.**

(1) A program must establish a C-PACER application and review process to review and evaluate project applications for C-PACER financing, and prescribe the form and manner of the application. At a minimum, an applicant must demonstrate:

(a) That the project provides a benefit to the public, in the form of energy or water resource conservation, reduced public health risk, or reduced public emergency response risk;

(b) For an existing building: (i) Where energy or water usage improvements are proposed, certification by a licensed professional engineer, or other professional listed in the program guidebook, stating that the proposed qualified improvements will either result in more efficient use or conservation of energy or water, the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, or the addition of renewable sources of energy or water, or (ii) where resilience improvements are proposed, certification by a licensed professional engineer stating that the qualified improvements will result in improved resilience;

(c) For new construction, certification by a licensed professional engineer stating that the proposed qualified improvements will enable the project to exceed the energy efficiency or water efficiency or renewable energy or renewable water or resilience requirements of the current building code.

(2) The program may charge an application fee to cover the costs of establishing and conducting the application review process.

(3) Upon the denial of an application, the program administrator must provide an opportunity for an adjudicative proceeding subject to the applicable provisions of chapter 34.05 RCW.

(4) After an approved project is completed, an applicant must provide the program written verification, as defined in the program guidebook, stating that the qualified project was properly completed and is operating as intended.

(5) No later than one year after the governing body of a county establishes a program under this chapter, it must begin accepting applications and approving applications.

(6) The department of commerce may adopt rules to implement the voluntary statewide program. [2020 c 27 § 4.]

(2022 Ed.)

**36.165.040 Program adoption—County requirements.** (1) To adopt a program under this chapter, the governing body of a county must take the following actions:

(a) Adopt a resolution or ordinance that includes:

(i) A statement that financing qualified projects, repaid by voluntary assessments on property benefited by C-PACER improvements, is in the public interest for safety, health, and other common good reasons;

(ii) A description of the region in which the program is offered, which:

(A) May include the entire county, which may include both unincorporated and incorporated territory; and

(B) Must be located wholly within the county's jurisdiction; and

(iii) A statement of the time and place for a public hearing on the proposed program; and

(b) Hold a public hearing at which the public may comment on the proposed program.

(2) A county may designate more than one region. If multiple regions are designated, the regions may be separate, overlapping, or coterminous.

(3) The resolution or ordinance adopted by a county under this section may incorporate the department of commerce program guidebook or any amended versions of that program guidebook, as appropriate, by reference.

(4) A county adopting a C-PACER program pursuant to this chapter may narrow the definition of "qualified improvements" to be consistent with the county's climate goals.

(5) Any combination of counties may agree to jointly implement a program under this chapter. If two or more counties implement a program jointly, a single public hearing held jointly by the cooperating counties is sufficient to satisfy the requirements of this chapter.

(6) If a county elects to join the statewide program administered by the department of commerce, it may adopt a resolution or ordinance in accordance with the requirements of the department.

(7) In lieu of establishing a voluntary statewide program, the department of commerce may produce a program guidebook for reference and use by county programs. [2020 c 27 § 5.]

**36.165.050 Recording requirements.** (1) A county shall record each C-PACER lien in the real property records of the county in which the property is located. The lien and release shall be prepared in conformity with chapter 65.04 RCW.

(2) The recording under subsection (1) of this section must contain:

(a) The legal description of the eligible property;

(b) The assessor's parcel number of the property;

(c) The grantor's name, which must be the same as the property owner on the assessment agreement;

(d) The grantee's name, which must be the county in which the property is located;

(e) The date on which the lien was created;

(f) The principal amount of the lien;

(g) The terms and length of the lien; and

(h) A copy of the voluntary assessment agreement between the county and the property owner.

(3) The county shall also record the assignment of the C-PACER lien from the county to the appropriate capital provider.

(4) The lien holder or assignee will record a release upon discharge of the lien. The lien holder may also record a partial release. [2020 c 27 § 6.]

**36.165.060 C-PACER liens.** (1) The C-PACER lien amount plus any interest, penalties, and charges accrued or accruing on the C-PACER lien:

(a) Takes precedence over all other liens or encumbrances except a lien for taxes imposed by the state, a local government, or a junior taxing district on real property, which liens for taxes shall have priority over such benefit C-PACER lien, provided existing mortgage holders, if any, have provided written consent described in RCW 36.165.070; and

(b) Is a first and prior lien, second only to a lien for taxes imposed by the state, a local government, or a junior taxing district against the real property on which the C-PACER lien is imposed, from the date on which the notice of the C-PACER lien is recorded until the C-PACER lien, interest, penalties, and charges accrued or accruing are paid.

(2) The C-PACER lien runs with the land, and that portion of the C-PACER lien that has not yet become due is not accelerated or eliminated by foreclosure of the C-PACER lien or any lien for taxes imposed by the state, a local government, or junior taxing district against the real property on which the C-PACER lien is imposed.

(3) Delinquent installments due on a C-PACER lien incur interest and penalties as specified in the financing agreement.

(4) After the C-PACER lien is recorded as provided in this section, the voluntary assessment and the C-PACER lien may not be contested on the basis that the improvement is not a qualified improvement or that the project is not a qualified project.

(5) Billing, collection, and enforcement of delinquent C-PACER liens or C-PACER assessment installments, including through foreclosure as set forth in subsection (6) of this section, are the responsibility of the capital provider.

(6)(a) The assessment and C-PACER lien shall be assigned by the county to the capital provider at the close of any approved C-PACER financing by the county, as provided in RCW 36.165.050(3). The C-PACER lien, as assigned to the capital provider shall maintain the same precedence and priority and characteristics set forth in this section. The C-PACER lien may be enforced with respect to delinquent C-PACER assessment installments by the capital provider at any time after one year from the date of delinquency, and may be foreclosed in the same manner as a mortgage lien under chapter 61.12 RCW, except that no sale of the property shall discharge or in any manner affect the priority of the C-PACER lien with respect to installments not yet due and payable at the time of sale, as provided in subsections (1)(b) and (2) of this section, and no deficiency judgment may be sought by the capital provider with respect to any unpaid assessment at the time of sale. The participation of the county sheriff in any such foreclosure action shall not be deemed in violation of, or inconsistent with, the provisions of this chapter limiting the role of the county in the enforcement of a C-PACER lien.

(b) In a foreclosure proceeding to collect delinquent C-PACER assessment installments and enforce a C-PACER lien, the capital provider shall have the right to collect delinquent interest and penalties in the manner provided by the financing agreement. The capital provider shall include, in any action to foreclose the C-PACER lien, the amount of any outstanding liens for taxes imposed by the state, a local government, or a junior taxing district against the real property having priority over the C-PACER lien as provided in subsection (1)(a) of this section, and the proceeds of any foreclosure sale of the property shall be applied first to the payment of such outstanding taxes to the extent necessary to satisfy such lien, and then to the delinquent assessments, interest, and penalties secured by the C-PACER lien.

(7) The capital provider may sell or assign, for consideration, any and all liens received from the participating county. The capital provider or their assignee shall have and possess the same powers and rights at law or in equity to enforce the C-PACER lien in the same manner as described in subsection (6) of this section. [2022 c 101 § 1; 2020 c 27 § 7.]

**Effective date—2022 c 101:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect immediately [March 17, 2022]." [2022 c 101 § 2.]

**36.165.070 Financing—Capital providers.** (1) Before a capital provider may enter into a financing agreement to provide C-PACER financing of a qualified project to a record owner of any eligible property, the capital provider must receive written consent from any holder of a lien, mortgage, or security interest in the real property that the property may participate in the program and that the C-PACER lien will take precedence over all other liens except for a lien for taxes as described in RCW 36.165.060.

(2) Before a capital provider may enter into a financing agreement to provide C-PACER financing of a qualified project to the record owner of any multifamily residential real property with five or more dwelling units, the program administrator must also receive written consent from any and all holders of affordable housing covenants, restrictions, or regulatory agreements in the real property that the property may participate in the program and that the C-PACER lien will take precedence over all other liens except for a lien for taxes as described in RCW 36.165.060. [2020 c 27 § 8.]

**36.165.080 Financing—Permitted inclusions.** The C-PACER financing through a program established under this chapter may include:

- (1) The cost of materials and labor necessary for installation or modification of a qualified improvement;
- (2) Permit fees;
- (3) Inspection fees;
- (4) Lender's fees;
- (5) Program application and administrative fees;
- (6) Project development and engineering fees;
- (7) Third-party review fees, including verification review fees;
- (8) Capitalized interest;
- (9) Interest reserves;
- (10) Escrow for prepaid property taxes and insurance; or

(11) Any other fees or costs that may be incurred by the property owner incident to the installation, modification, or improvement on a specific or pro rata basis. [2020 c 27 § 9.]

**36.165.090 Financing—Property owner authorizations.** The proposed C-PACER financing for a qualified project may authorize the property owner to:

(1) Purchase directly the related equipment and materials for the installation or modification of a qualified improvement; and

(2) Contract directly, including through lease, power purchase agreement, or other service contract, for the installation or modification of a qualified improvement. [2020 c 27 § 10.]

**36.165.100 Prohibitions.** A county that adopts a program and designates a program region under this chapter may not:

(1) Make the issuance of a permit, license, or other authorization from the county to a person who owns property in the region contingent on the person entering into a written contract to repay the financing of a qualified project under this chapter; or

(2) Otherwise compel a person who owns property in the region to enter into a written contract to repay the financing of a qualified project under this chapter. [2020 c 27 § 11.]

**36.165.105 Exemptions from personal liability.** The members of the governing body of a county, employees of a county, and board members, executives, and employees under this chapter are not personally liable as a result of exercising any rights or responsibilities granted under this chapter. [2020 c 27 § 12.]

**36.165.110 Privately financed debt not enforceable by county.** A county may not enforce any privately financed debt under this chapter. Neither the state nor any county may use public funds to fund or repay any loan between a capital provider and property owner. No section under this chapter shall be interpreted to pledge, offer, or encumber the full faith and credit of a local government, nor shall any local government pledge, offer, or encumber its full faith and credit for any lien amount through a program. [2020 c 27 § 13.]

## Chapter 36.900 RCW CONSTRUCTION

### Sections

- 36.900.010 Continuation of existing law.
- 36.900.020 Title, chapter, section headings not part of law.
- 36.900.030 Invalidity of part of title not to affect remainder.
- 36.900.040 Repeals and saving.

**36.900.010 Continuation of existing law.** The provisions of this title insofar as they are substantially the same as statutory provisions repealed by this chapter, and relating to the same subject matter, shall be construed as restatements and continuations, and not as new enactments. [1963 c 4 § 36.98.010. Formerly RCW 36.98.010.]

**36.900.020 Title, chapter, section headings not part of law.** Title headings, chapter headings, and section or sub-

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section headings, as used in this title do not constitute any part of the law. [1963 c 4 § 36.98.020. Formerly RCW 36.98.020.]

**36.900.030 Invalidity of part of title not to affect remainder.** If any provision of this title, or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the title, or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected. [1963 c 4 § 36.98.030. Formerly RCW 36.98.030.]

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

**36.900.040 Repeals and saving.** See 1963 c 4 s 36.98.040.

