

2008-09 ADOPTED BUDGET

THE COUNTY ORGANIZATION

Advisory Boards and Commissions

Several hundred County volunteers serve in advisory roles to the Board of County Commissioners. Appointed by the Board, their terms typically run from 2-4 years. As the list below makes clear, advisory boards and commissions play a key role in the governance of Washington County. Vacancies are announced periodically by the Board and advertised in local newspapers. A complete listing of current vacancies is available on the County's web page www.co.washington.or.us.

Accessibility and Disability Services Advisory Council: This advisory council ensures effective service provision and equal access to county facilities, programs and services for persons with disabilities.

Aging and Veterans Services Advisory Council: These 17 volunteers plan for future services and review current programs having to do with issues facing seniors and veterans.

Audit Committee: The Audit Committee monitors audits of the County's finances, in the belief that access to knowledgeable individuals helps prevent an excessive reliance on the expertise of the external auditor.

Board of Property Tax Appeals: This citizen committee hears appeals from taxpayers based on property values.

Budget Committee: Composed of the Board of Commissioners and five lay citizens appointed by the Board, the Budget Committee reviews and, if necessary, revises the proposed budget submitted annually by the County Administrative Office.

Civil Service Commission: This Commission is responsible for assuring proper administration of the Civil Service Act, which includes the areas of classification, testing, appointment, and protection of employee rights. Commission members also serve in an advisory role for the County's affirmative action program.

Commission on Children and Families: More than 90 volunteers serve on six advisory committees that ensure state funding is directed to effective local programs that address issues identified by the community. The committees focus on early child care and education; student retention; drug, alcohol, and tobacco prevention; teen pregnancy prevention; and clinical services. A youth committee complements its advisory role with a long list of community service projects.

Community Development Block Grant Policy Advisory Board: Representatives from each of the participating cities and one County representative develop and recommend to the Board of Commissioners a three-year, comprehensive plan that guides allocations of Community Development Block Grant funds. Once the plan is in place, the advisory group also reviews and recommends projects for funding.

Cooperative Library Services Advisory Board: This eleven member board advises Washington County Cooperative Library Services and the Board of County Commissioners on issues concerning operation of the County-wide library system. Key Board topics include program priorities, policies, service levels, and funding.

Fair Board: This five member board is responsible for the business and financial management of the Washington County Fair Complex.

Farm Review Board: This board meets annually to discuss and approve farmland rentals and value information used to determine property taxes on specially assessed farm lands.

Housing Advisory Committee: Nine representatives from real estate, banking, building, agriculture, employment, public housing and neighborhoods help the Department of Housing Services and the Board of Commissioners provide affordable housing in Washington County.

Human Services Advisory Committee: This committee is composed of the Developmental Disabilities and Adult Behavioral Health Councils, which identify community needs, establish funding priorities, and help select and evaluate service providers

Land Use Advisory Committee: LUAC's five members read all proposed land use ordinances; they also draft notices for Planning Commission hearings. They make recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners about the timing and scope of proposed ordinances, including how to effectively get the information to the public.

Metzger Park Advisory Board: This advisory group oversees the only park in the County supported through a Local Improvement District. The board plans and helps with park maintenance needs and deals with the administrative issues involved in running an active urban park.

Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee: Members of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee provide advice on issues ranging from Greenspace acquisition to capital development issues.

Planning Commission: These nine appointed volunteers advise the Board of County Commissioners on land use planning issues. They conduct public hearings and make recommendations to the Board on comprehensive plan and community development ordinances.

Public Safety Coordinating Council: The council's primary responsibility is to encourage development of coordinated policy and funding decisions that address adult and juvenile offender populations. It also works on plans to prevent criminal involvement by youth.

Rural Roads Operations & Maintenance Advisory Committee (RROMAC): Studies rural road operations and maintenance concerns in Washington County, works with County staff to develop program and funding alternatives and makes recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners.

Solid Waste Advisory Committee: Questions about what to do with waste (reduce, reuse, recycle, put it in your garbage) are considered by this nine member committee - three industry and six citizens.

Urban Roads Maintenance District (URMD)/Enhanced Sheriff's Patrol District (ESPD) Budget Committee: A single committee representing the built-up urban areas in eastern Washington County, outside of cities, addresses both these County districts. Their responsibility is to review the annual budgets for these two programs.

West Slope Community Library Board: The board provides input on general library policy, rules, regulations, and makes recommendations regarding the management of the West Slope Library.