

Friday Five

Your weekly Thurston County update



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#1 - The COVID-19 National Public Health Emergency Declaration Ended May 11

End of COVID-19 Public Health Emergency

May 11, 2023



<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/end-of-phe.html>

The National Public Health Emergency Declaration ended yesterday, May 11. This impacts how COVID-19 data is shared. For example, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) COVID-19 Transmission levels, which are primarily used for healthcare facilities, will not be calculated after May 11. The CDC will continue to provide available COVID-19 data after May 11, 2023 on the [CDC COVID-19 Data Tracker](#).

The [WA Notify](#) exposure system is no longer in use and if you opted in to this service, your phone will no longer notify you if you were near someone who tested positive for COVID-19. Thurston County Public Health and Social Services will not be sharing COVID-19 data reporting on Fridays after May 11. However, you can still visit the county's [COVID-19 webpage](#) for Thurston County specific information.

#2 - Thurston County Starts New Solid Waste Contract with Republic Services

New Solid Waste Contract with Republic Services



Beginning May 1, 2023, Thurston County partnered with Republic Services on a new operations, maintenance, transport, and waste disposal contract. After a competitive and comprehensive bidding process, Thurston County Solid Waste awarded Republic Services the contract in April 2022.

With the transition to Republic Services, customers at the Waste and Recovery Center (WARC) in Lacey, and the drop-box sites in Rainier and Rochester will see:

- New, larger containers in the recycling area at all locations
- Mixed recycling containers at all three locations instead of separate containers for specific items
- Republic Services staff on-site at the drop-box locations to help customers in the recycling area.

Read the full news release on the [County News](#) webpage.

#3 - Thurston County Shoreline Master Program Public Hearing, May 16 at 5 p.m.

Board of County Commissioners Public Hearing



The Thurston County community is invited to attend and provide comment at the Shoreline Master Program (SMP) Board of County Commissioners Public Hearing on Tuesday, May 16, 2023, at 5 p.m.

The county's SMP has not been significantly updated since its 1990 adoption. To maintain compliance with the state Shoreline Management Act, the county is considering updates to shoreline jurisdiction, environment designations, and associated protections. The SMP regulates development and redevelopment along the marine shorelines of the Puget Sound as well as large lakes and streams. Depending on your location and plans for development, SMP updates may affect your property.

For more information about meetings, public hearings, and work session agendas: <https://www.thurstoncountywa.gov/departments/board-county-commissioners/meetings-public-hearings-and-work-session-agendas>

#4 - Candidate Filing Begins May 15

CANDIDATE FILING WEEK



Candidate filing for dozens of open local offices will begin online and in person on Monday, May 15. More information about deadlines, open offices, filing fees, and other information is available at the Thurston County Auditor's [Election website](#). Candidate filing will close promptly at 4:30 p.m. on Friday, May 19.

The order of candidates on the Primary ballot or candidates moving directly to the General in Thurston County will be determined by random lot draw as required by law. The random lot draw will be held shortly after 4:30 p.m. on Friday, May 19 at the Thurston County Elections Office. Candidates or other interested parties are welcome to attend.

#5 - Public Service Recognition Week



The Board of Commissioners proclaimed May 7 - 13 Public Service Recognition Week (PSRW). PSRW recognizes the important role public sector employees have in serving their communities and recognizes the accomplishments and contributions each public employee makes to their communities. Throughout the week, county employees participated in Spirit Week dress up days, such as Sports Team day, Twin Day, Disney Day, Superhero Day, and County Day.



Stay current on upcoming public hearings, meetings, and work sessions by bookmarking the [Board of County Commissioners' master calendar](#)! Please call the Board of County Commissioners office at (360) 786-5440 if you're having problems viewing the calendar.

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