

THURSTON COUNTY STRATEGIC PLAN

UPDATED FOR 2019/2020

OUR VISION

Thurston County is a vibrant community ensuring the health, safety, and wellbeing of generations to live, work, and play.

OUR MISSION

To create a community that promotes health, commerce, and environmental protection with transparency and accountability.

OUR CORE VALUES

Truth. We act with honesty and good judgment.

Justice. We are inclusive, equitable, and consistent.

Integrity. We are ethical and transparent.

Professionalism. We deliver exceptional public service and treat everyone with respect.

Accountability. We take responsibility for our actions and outcomes.

OUR DESIRED FUTURE

Thurston County supports access to opportunities for all, regardless of sex, race, or address. We strive to diminish inequities in health outcomes and access to housing, economic opportunities, and a healthy environment. Our hopes and desires for the future include:

- Thriving individuals, families, and communities.
- A prosperous economy that benefits all.
- A healthy natural and built environment.
- Responsive law, justice, and public safety.
- Effective county governance.
- An effective county organization.

ABOUT THIS PLAN

This strategic plan will serve as guidance for Thurston County to develop the 2019/2020 biennial budget and future budget cycles. The plan reflects the values, concerns, and hopes of Thurston County residents, as well as those of Elected Officials and County staff.

While fiscal restrictions present a real challenge, Thurston County continuously strives to provide residents with quality services and steer towards a shared vision of the county as “a vibrant community ensuring the health, safety, and wellbeing of generations to live, work, and play.”

This summary and a more detailed plan are designed to advance this vision by establishing:

- A shared understanding of what we are working towards: our desired future.
- Clear identification of mandatory services and essential support services that the County must provide.
- Short-term community priorities based on input from community members and stakeholders.
- Short-term strategies that maximize the impact of the County’s constrained existing resources.
- Longer-term strategies that move us closer to our desired future by leveraging existing and potentially new resources.



For more information, please see our website: www.thurstoncountywa.gov

OUR CURRENT FOCUS

FULFILLING OUR ROLE AS A COUNTY

Thurston County is mandated by federal or state statute to fulfill certain functions as a county. These Mandatory Services, as well as the essential support services that enable us to provide them, are an ongoing priority.

2019/2020 PRIORITIES

The following themes were identified as priority areas of focus for 2019 and 2020 based on input from the public, partner organizations, and members of the Executive Team and Deputies.

- Facilitating access to housing.
- Increasing economic opportunity.
- Guiding sustainable growth and development.
- Championing public safety and criminal justice reform.
- Securing appropriate funding levels for the provision of high quality core services that benefit all residents.

INITIATIVES

1. Improve health outcomes for all.
2. Improve community health, wellness, and safety.*
3. Collaborate with community partners to reduce homelessness and implement Thurston Thrives housing strategies.*
4. Strengthen emergency management planning and community disaster preparedness.
5. Strengthen emergency medical services provided county-wide by Medic One and area hospitals.
6. Proactively shape a strong, diverse economy that provides equitable access to opportunity.*
7. Balance development with the preservation of the County's rural character, natural areas, and open spaces.*
8. Support robust and well-maintained infrastructure systems for a thriving community.
9. Support environmental health and climate stabilization.
10. Ensure safe and equitable access to the legal system, its programs, and services.*
11. Design and deliver innovative services through continued justice system reform to maximize community safety, rehabilitation, accountability, and cost effectiveness.*
12. Enhance effective and timely law enforcement responses to protect public safety.*
13. Increase opportunities for informed and effective civic engagement.
14. Strengthen sound financial management practices.*
15. Diversify County revenue sources to guard against economic cycles.*
16. Provide safe, secure, accessible, and functional facilities to effectively house County services and the associated workforce.
17. Make strategic investments in information technology systems and infrastructure.
18. Develop, hire, and retain a quality, stable, diverse, and thriving workforce.

* = Prioritized for 2019/2020 based on input from the community and Executive Team and Deputies.