



County Up Close

Thurston County, Washington

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Live Stream BoCC Meetings at <https://goo.gl/xzmXqe>

BoCC Highlights

Held several budget public hearings and adopted the [2019-2020 Biennial Budget](#)

Adopted [final marijuana regulations](#) for state-licensed marijuana producers, processors, and retailers

Approved a [10% fee increase](#) for environmental health programs in role as Board of Health

Approved [2019 Heritage Grant](#) funding for seven historic preservation projects

Approved [salary recommendations](#) for elected leaders from the Citizens' Commission on Salaries for Elected Officials

Received [Champion for Children Award](#) from Fight Crime: Invest in Kids

Approved interlocal agreement with cities of Lacey, Olympia, and Tumwater to collaborate on phase II of a [regional Climate Mitigation Plan](#)

[County News Releases](#)

CONTACT US

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711 or 800-833-6388

Thurstoncountywa.gov

Winter 2019

Volume 2, Issue 1

Commissioners Select Downtown Olympia for new Courthouse

Completed Proposal to be Voted on by the People



Over the last year, the Commissioners, along with the City of Olympia, and other County elected officials and staff, have been collaborating on a project to bring forward a proposal to the citizens for a vote to build a new Courthouse and Civic Center. They began with a list of 12 potential sites, developed site criteria for the new location, and narrowed the list of 12 to three potential sites.

The last five months has been a strategic process of working through the pros and cons of each of the three potential sites, including extensive public outreach, to determine a single site to include in the proposal to the citizens. On Tuesday, January 22, the Commissioners voted 2-1 to move forward with the City of Olympia property located on Plum Street.

This was not an easy decision for the Commissioners as there were many opportunities at each of the three sites. Considerations in deciding on the final site included:

- Financial impact on the citizens
- Economic growth opportunities at the selected site
- Ease of use for citizens
- Partnership and collaboration opportunities
- Sustainability and urban planning

“We have a tremendous, and extremely unique opportunity and responsibility for a selection site of a new courthouse,” said Commission Chair John Hutchings. “We have a responsibility to our employees’ safety, to our citizens who use this facility – their safety and convenience – and to our community at large, and the City of Olympia. This is a generational decision, affecting generations down the road, and it’s historic. We, as a Board, take that very seriously.”

Next steps for the project include:

- Significant citizen outreach regarding the need for the new Courthouse and Civic Center and the proposed funding mechanism. Outreach activities will include open houses, news articles, surveys, and meetings with stakeholder groups.
- Finalizing the cost estimate and proposal to move forward for a vote.
- Passing a resolution to include the vote on the ballot.

The Commissioners have also heard feedback from citizens about the name ‘Courthouse and Civic Center’. They will be revisiting the name to ensure the name reflects the services provided at the new facility.

The County expects to bring a full proposal forward for a vote of the citizens during the August 2019 election.

For more information about the project visit: www.thurstoncountywa.gov/bocc/Pages/courthouse-civic-project.aspx.



CAREER SPOTLIGHT

Waste Reduction



Are you passionate about recycling and waste reduction? Do you enjoy working collaboratively to make a real difference? If you have experience in developing and supervising recycling and solid waste diversion programs, we welcome your application for the Recycling and Waste Reduction Programs Supervisor (Education and Outreach Specialist III) position!

For more information, or to apply, please visit: <http://bit.ly/2DxrKAL>

COUNTY BULLETIN

Budget Lessons Learned

Monday, Feb. 4, 10:45am - 11:45am
2000 Lakeridge Dr. SW, Olympia,
Building 1, Room 280

Habitat Conservation Plan Update

Wednesday, Feb. 13, 3pm - 4pm
2000 Lakeridge Dr. SW, Olympia,
Building 1, Room 280

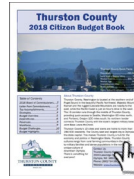
Permit Process Improvements

Wednesday, March 6, 10:30am
2000 Lakeridge Dr. SW, Olympia,
Building 1, Room 280

See the BoCC Master Calendar for additional meeting information



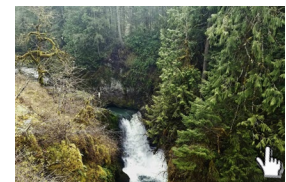
2018 Citizens Budget Book



Want to learn more about the 2019-2020 Biennial Budget? Then check out the [Citizens Budget Book!](#) The County budget is complex, but the Citizens Budget Book will guide you through the budget process and provide a comprehensive review of how the budget was created. Managed for 19 offices and departments, the budget contains 82 funds and thousands of line items. The budget is spent on a wide variety of services such as conducting elections, maintaining roads, operating courts, providing public defense, conducting restaurant inspections, and providing maternal and child health services. The overall purpose is to improve the quality of life in Thurston County.

Deschutes Falls Park

According to [Reader's Digest](#), Thurston County's [Deschutes Falls Park](#) is the coolest secret location in Washington! The 155-acre park earns the name Deschutes Falls for a 27 foot waterfall that spills into the Deschutes River. Water cascades into the river, where the banks rise to approximately 70 feet. The river then moves through a 400 foot gorge, and finally settles into a basin that is 300 by 150 feet. The portion of the Deschutes River that runs through the park has a series of small waterfalls visible to visitors. The park is located near the end of Bald Hill Rd SE ([25005 Bald Hill Rd](#)).



Sheriff's Office Community Service Unit (CSU): Volunteers needed!



Interested in getting involved in your community? Then check out the Sheriff's Office Community Service unit! Volunteers with the CSU help the Sheriff's office provide and increase community services that would normally require a commissioned officer. From enforcing handicap parking laws to providing backpacks to local school children, the CSU makes a difference in our community everyday. Find out how to volunteer [here](#), or by selecting the flyer to the left.

Court in the Classroom

Sue Dubuisson is a retired Thurston County District Court Judge, but retirement hasn't kept her [out of the courtroom](#). She is a volunteer mediator with the Dispute Resolution Center of Thurston County and helps mediate cases in small claims court. Through mediation, Dubuisson and other volunteers are trying to help citizens reach a settlement on their own to avoid having a judge issue the resolution. Small claims cases are limited to \$5,000 in restitution, and those cases may involve anything from traffic accidents, damages to a property, or issues involving small businesses in the community. Learn more at thurstoncountywa.gov/tchome/pages/countynews.

