



ISLAND COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION AGENDA  
February 21, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.  
BOCC HEARING ROOM, ROOM 102B, 1 NE 6<sup>TH</sup> ST COUPEVILLE, WA  
ONLINE VIA ZOOM

**Meeting to be held in the Board of Island County Commissioners Hearing Room,  
Room 102B, 1NE 6<sup>th</sup> St., Coupeville, WA and online. Interested parties can attend or join  
remotely at the link or via phone number listed below:**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/93636892599?pwd=Y3NicFcrc203OVZBTjBUenJyc21MQT09>

Meeting ID: 936 3689 2599

Passcode: 122086

**+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma, WA)**

Meeting ID: 936 3689 2599

Passcode: 122086

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL
3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES –
4. PUBLIC COMMENT – *Submittal of written comments are encouraged prior to the day of the meeting. Public Comment may be submitted via email to [PlanningCommission@IslandCountyWA.gov](mailto:PlanningCommission@IslandCountyWA.gov). Planning Commission will accept public comment for items not on the agenda. Public comments are limited to 3 minutes per person.*
5. DIRECTOR'S REPORT –
6. WORKSHOP – Vision Statement
7. PRE-WORKSHOP – Land Use Goals & Policies
8. ADJOURN

Please visit our website for related documents: <https://www.islandcountywa.gov/235/Planning-Commission>  
The public may submit comments in writing to Planning & Community Development at 1 NE 7<sup>th</sup> St., Coupeville, WA 98239 or [PlanningCommission@IslandCountyWA.gov](mailto:PlanningCommission@IslandCountyWA.gov).



## Island County Planning and Community Development

*Mary Engle, Director*

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Email: [PlanningDept@islandcountywa.gov](mailto:PlanningDept@islandcountywa.gov) | <https://www.islandcountywa.gov/207/Planning-Community-Development>

~MEMORANDUM~

**TO:** **Island County Planning Commissioners**

**FROM:** **Emily Neff, Long Range Planning  
Island County Planning & Community Development**

**DATE:** **2/12/2024**

**SUBJECT:** **Planning Commission Meeting 2/21/2024**

The Planning Commission meeting on February 21, 2024, will include the following items:

**Workshop:** To launch the review of the Comprehensive Plan elements, staff will lead a discussion and review of the 2016 Vision Statement and associated values statements with the Planning Commission.

**Pre-Workshop:** Staff will frame the request to the Planning Commission for review of the Land Use Goals and Policies along with discussion questions and topics to be considered at our next meeting. This is a pre-workshop for the discussion to take place at the next Planning Commission Meeting.

For more information, please contact:

Emily Neff (360) 678-7807 or [e.neff@islandcountywa.gov](mailto:e.neff@islandcountywa.gov)

# 2025 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN PERIODIC UPDATE

## VISION STATEMENT

January 17, 2024



# Reminders / Requests from Staff

- Review the 2016 Vision Statement and Introduction Chapter in advance.
- Highlight where changes may be needed or where something is missing.
- Come to work session prepared to discuss high-level comments.



# Framing the Discussion

- **Change happens.**
  - While community character is important, the GMA does not support the idea that neighborhoods will remain unchanged over time.
  - Comprehensive planning asks us not to try and stop change, but to understand the forces behind change and work with them to achieve a better future.



# What Makes a Strong Vision Statement

- The Vision is the introduction to the Comp Plan, it guides the rest of our work.
- A good vision will provide:
  - A framework for determining appropriate goals and policies.
  - An explanation to the public of why the plan is the way it is.
  - A yardstick for determining the effectiveness of the plan and policies over time.



# 2016 Vision Statement

“Through comprehensive planning, the County will balance the goals of the GMA to ensure that Island County’s rural character and natural beauty is protected, while meeting the housing and service needs of both existing and future county residents.”



# Public Input

- “Rural Character” should be defined and be consistent with WA State GMA definition. The Rural Character section should better reflect “use of the land by wildlife and for fish and wildlife habitat.”
- “Ecological Integrity” should specifically be addressed.
- “Marine Character” should be specifically addressed to reflect our unique island assets and vulnerabilities.
- “Climate Resilience” should be reflected.



# GMA Updates

- Recommendations to reflect climate (HB 1181):
  - Recommend adding a section to address climate resilience
- Recommendations to reflect affordable housing and addressing disparities in housing (HB 1220):
  - Revise “G: Housing” to reflect new mandate for providing housing at all income levels
  - Revise “A: Allure of the County” to be more reflective of current racial disparities in housing.
  - Revise “D: Challenge” to use more inclusive language.



# Think About

- What do you like about the current vision statement?
- What do you feel is missing?



“Through comprehensive planning, the County will balance the goals of the GMA to ensure that Island County’s rural character and natural beauty is protected, while meeting the housing and service needs of both existing and future county residents.”

# Brainstorm

**In 2045, Island County will have ~15,000 new residents. Define what success looks like:**

- What are Island County's best assets? Why do people choose to live here? What is unique about Island County? What do we not want to lose as we grow?
- If the Comp Plan is successful, what will Island County look like in 2045?
- What are some indicators of a successful outcome?



# Introduction Chapter

## Feedback

Share insights from your review:

- What did you like?
- What is missing?
- Where is there tension?
- Did you see anything in the other County's examples we should emulate?



# Next Steps

- Vision Statement Survey on our new website.  
Encourage your friends, neighbors, colleagues to respond to the survey!
- Staff will continue to gather input and new wording will come back to the Planning Commission later in 2024.
- Next up: Housing & Land Use Element goals and policies (Feb-March)



# QUESTIONS?

**SIGN UP TO RECEIVE COMP PLAN EMAILS:**

[CompPlan@islandcountywa.gov](mailto:CompPlan@islandcountywa.gov)

