

## THURSTON COUNTY LAW & JUSTICE COUNCIL CHARTER

- Name:** Thurston County Law and Justice Council
- Purpose:** Provide an inter-jurisdictional forum for consideration of initiatives and resources to improve criminal justice services, enhance public safety and reduce crime throughout Thurston County.
- Authority:** In 1987, the Washington State Legislature enacted legislation to establish local law and justice councils. (RCW 72.09.300). The role of the Law and Justice Council as defined by the state statute is to develop a local law and justice plan for the county, including issues related to proportionality, rehabilitative services and community services for juvenile offenders, data collection and reporting for both adult and juvenile offenders, alternatives to incarceration and services for offenders and current and future service/facility needs for local jail population.
- Background:** In 1993, Thurston County created its Law and Justice Council (Resolution 10412) and a Law and Justice Plan was formally adopted by the Board of County Commissioners in June 1996 (Resolution 11208).
- In 1998, the Thurston County Law and Justice Council was disbanded and replaced by an inter-governmental group convened to plan a new county jail and by an internal County work group, the Jail Population Management Group.
- In spring 2007, the State Legislature enacted Senate **Bill** 6157, known as the "Offender Re-entry **Bill**," focused on reducing criminal offender recidivism by increasing access to and coordination of offender services in communities. Section 108 of SB 6157 revitalized county law and justice councils with a focus on maximizing local resources including personnel and facilities, reducing duplication of services, and sharing resources between local and state government in order to accomplish local efficiencies without diminishing effectiveness.
- In late 2008, the impacts of the U.S. national recession began to seriously impact the Washington State economy and revenues of local governments, including Thurston County. The 2009 legislative session brought many reductions in state funded services for adult offenders and changed supervision and service delivery requirements for the State Department of Corrections. At the same time, Thurston County was faced with reducing over \$7 million in County General Fund expenditures, which reduced staffing levels in the Sheriff's Office (including the county jail), the Clerk's Office, the Prosecuting Attorney's Office, the Office of Assigned Counsel, and both District and Superior Courts. The Thurston County Commissioners and the Sheriff have been working on a strategic plan to open the new Accountability and Restitution Center in 2012. The Law & Justice Council serves as an advisory body to this effort. On December 12, 2012 the Board of County Commissioners amended the Council's

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membership and purpose to reflect Senate Bill 6157 updates to RCW 72.09.300 (Resolution 14821).

### Council Responsibilities:

~~There is a renewed need for county-wide coordination of law enforcement responses and services, a unified approach to state legislative changes and mandates, an increase in shared resources and technology and coordinated responses to specific crimes like gang-related crimes and electronic fraud and issues related to social services for people who come into contact with the criminal justice system. The committee is to seek resources and "best practice" approaches to addressing emerging public safety and law & justice issues (consider consolidation of other inter-jurisdictional law & justice work groups/task forces); serve as the oversight committee for multi-jurisdictional law and justice projects, with an intent to reduce duplication of services and recommend cost containment and service efficiencies (consider consolidation of interjurisdictional law and justice work groups/task forces).~~

The Thurston County Law and Justice Council will be responsible for:

- ~~2)1)~~ Monitoring impacts of changes in law enforcement staffing levels, countywide, on public safety;
- ~~3)2)~~ Monitoring impacts of changes in State Department of Corrections services to/supervision of parolees and making recommendations to local jurisdictions regarding appropriate responses;
- ~~4)3)~~ Monitoring the availability and effectiveness of community services and supports for Thurston County as those services impact crime and crime prevention;
- ~~5)4)~~ Reviewing crime trends and certain measurables provided by each supporting jurisdiction and suggesting interagency approaches as needed;
- ~~6)~~ Serving as the oversight committee for multi-jurisdictional law and justice projects with an intent to reduce duplication of services and recommend cost containment and service efficiencies;
- ~~7)~~ Reviewing inter-agency communication and technology needs and making recommendations to local law enforcement agencies as appropriate;
- ~~8)5)~~ Advising the Board of County Commissioners and City Councils on county-wide public safety issues;
- ~~9)~~ Developing an agenda of items to be considered by the Washington State Legislature as needed;
- ~~10)6)~~ Fulfilling the requirements of RCW 72.09.300.

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## THURSTON COUNTY LAW & JUSTICE COUNCIL CHARTER

### Voting

#### Membership:

Thurston County Commissioner  
Thurston County Sheriff  
Thurston County Prosecuting Attorney  
Thurston County Clerk  
Thurston County Superior Court Judge  
Thurston County District Court Judge  
Municipal Court Judge - Olympia  
City Council Representatives ~~from each local jurisdiction~~  
Chief of Thurston County Corrections  
Municipal Police Chief's ~~Representative~~  
Municipal Prosecutor -designated  
Representative from Washington Department of Corrections  
~~Thurston County Public Defense, Director~~  
Thurston County Risk Manager  
Thurston County Public Health and Social Services Director  
Thurston County Juvenile Court Administrator  
~~Thurston County Pretrial Services, Director~~

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### Non-Voting Members

A representative of the Washington Department of Juvenile Rehabilitation  
Administration  
Thurston County Coroner~~Thurston County Juvenile Court Administrator~~  
911 T-Com Services Director  
Nisqually Tribe representative  
Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis representative  
Military representative – JBLM

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~~2 community-based volunteer representatives from different districts~~

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### Sub-Committees:

The Law and Justice Council may establish regular and ad-hoc sub-committees as needed. Each Sub-Committee shall appoint their own Chair; Sub-committee chairs will attend regular Law & Justice Council meetings. If a Sub-Committee Chair is not an appointed member to the Council, the Chair will be an ex-officio, non-voting member of the Council.

### Meetings:

~~Bi-monthly~~Quarterly.

### Governance:

The Thurston County Law and Justice Council shall elect a Chair from among its members at the first meeting. The term for the Chair shall be one year, renewable for a maximum of three one-year terms.

### Staffing:

Thurston County will provide staff support for the Law and Justice Council ~~for 2019~~. Other jurisdictions may be asked to assist with staff support for specific projects, based on need.

## THURSTON COUNTY LAW & JUSTICE COUNCIL CHARTER

**Reporting:** The [Thurston County Law and Justice Council](#) may produce reports for use by all local jurisdictions in the county.