

**COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
KITITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON
CONFERENCE ROOM
SPECIAL MEETING**

MONDAY

10:00 AM

JANUARY 12, 2026

Board members present: Chairman Cory Wright; Vice-Chairman Brett Wachsmith; and Commissioner Laura Osiadacz.

Others: Jodi Larsen, Office Administrator; Eileen Murphy, Director of Public Defense.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: NONE

SPECIAL MEETING: PUBLIC DEFENSE DIRECTOR UPDATE COMMISSIONERS

At 10:00 A.M. Chairman Wright opened a Special Meeting with the Director of Public Defense, Eileen Murphy. The Public Defense team is responsible for managing cases in the County as well as all City municipalities. Ms. Murphy reviewed the caseloads that she and her team are currently working on as well as the projection for the remainder of the year.

Ms. Murphy shared that the felony cases in 2025 numbered 281, which is down approximately 50 cases from 2024. That combined with criminal and misdemeanor charges accounted for, there's about 282 cases per Attorney. Due to the Supreme Court ruling, Attorney's will only be allowed to carry 139 cases in 2026.

Ms. Murphy went on to state that she has spoken with Derek Young at Washington State Association of Counties (W.S.A.C), concerning the challenges this ruling has created for rural communities. Mr. Young has asked Ms. Murphy to participate in Legislative discussions regarding this.

Ms. Murphy also explained that her office has been asked to participate in cases or assist clients with situations that are outside of their parameters and could cause hardship for her staff in the future. She has requested Board permission to draft a Resolution that will define the roles, guidelines, and establish parameters for the staff of the Office of Public Defense.

OTHER BUSINESS - NONE

The meeting concluded at 10:34 A.M.

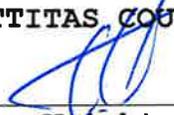
APPROVED
1/20/26

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR



Jodi Larsen

KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Cory Wright, Chairman