

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
COUNTY OF KITTITAS
STATE OF WASHINGTON**

RESOLUTION No. 2025- 043

**IN THE MATTER OF REACTIVATING THE CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON SALARIES FOR ELECTED
OFFICIALS (EXCLUDING COUNTY COMMISSIONERS) OF KITTITAS COUNTY**

- WHEREAS,** The Board of County Commissioners, pursuant to the provisions of RCW 36.32.120 (6), has the care of County property and management of County funds and business; and
- WHEREAS,** The Board of County Commissioner, pursuant to the provisions of RCW 36.17.024, is authorized to establish the salaries
- WHEREAS,** The Board of County Commissioners believes an independent committee comprised of registered voters of Kittitas County is appropriate to consult when considering the setting of salaries for County elected officials; and
- WHEREAS,** The Board of County Commissioners believes the ultimate responsibility for making decisions regarding the utilization of County funds should remain with the elected County legislative authority; and
- WHEREAS,** In 2023 the Citizen's Advisory Committee on Salaries for Elected Officials was established and the terms of the committee members concluded in 2024 when the work was completed; and
- WHEREAS,** The Board of County Commissioners believes it to be in the best interests of the citizens of Kittitas County to reactivate an Advisory Committee on Salaries for Elected Officials of Kittitas County;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Kittitas County Board of County Commissioners does ordain as follows:

1. The Citizens' Advisory Committee on Salaries for County Elected Officials is hereby established to review the salaries for the following Elected positions:
 - A. Assessor
 - B. Auditor
 - C. Clerk
 - D. Coroner
 - E. Sheriff
 - F. Treasurer
2. The Committee shall be created as set forth in Attachment A, and said Committee shall operate under the provisions of said Attachment.
3. Salary increases and decreases shall be subject to final approval by the Board of County Commissioners.
4. This resolution shall be effective on the date of passage, and shall supersede Resolutions 2023-131, 2023-222, 2024-015, 2024-088, and 2024-097.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the salaries of the following Elected positions will not be reviewed by the Kittitas County Citizens' Commission on Salaries for County Commissioners:

- A. County Commissioner: The salaries for the position of Kittitas County Board of County Commissioner shall be separately reviewed and set by the Kittitas County Citizens' Commission on Salaries for County Commissioners.
- B. Elected Judges: The State of Washington, in consultation with the Washington State Citizens' Commission on Salaries for Elected Officials, establishes the salaries of the Superior Court Judge and District Court Judge.
- C. Prosecutor: As outlined in Resolution 2024-076, the salary of the Elected Prosecutor shall be equal to 100% of the salary established for Superior Court Judge by the Washington State Citizens' Commission on Salaries for Elected Officials.

DATED this 25th day of February, 2025.



[Signature]
☒ Clerk of the Board
☐ Office Administrator

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

[Signature]
Laura Osjadacz, Chair

[Signature]
Cory Wright, Vice Chair

[Signature]
Brett Wachsmith, Commissioner

ATTACHMENT A

KITTITAS COUNTY CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON SALARIES FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS

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ARTICLE I – ESTABLISHMENT

- 1.1 The Kittitas County Citizens' Advisory Committee on Salaries for Elected Officials is hereby established and will be hereafter referred to as the "Advisory Committee."

ARTICLE II – PURPOSE

- 2.1 The purpose of the Advisory Committee is to prepare biennial recommendations on setting the salaries of the following Kittitas County Elected Officials:

1. Auditor
2. Assessor
3. Clerk
4. Coroner
5. Sheriff
6. Treasurer

The Advisory Committee shall study the relationship of salaries to duties of the Elected Officials and shall enjoy the fullest cooperation of all Elected Officials, departments, and agencies of Kittitas County.

The Board of County Commissioners encourages the Advisory Committee to explore:

- A. The duties and responsibilities of Elected Officials.
- B. A permanent salary structure, such as establishing Elected Official's salary rates based upon a percentage of the established salary for Superior Court Judges set by WCCSEO.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

3.1 The Advisory Committee shall consist of nine (9) members.

3.1.1 Requirements. All members of the Advisory Committee shall be registered voters of Kittitas County. Members of the Advisory Committee may not include any officer, official, or employee of Kittitas County, nor any “family member” of an Elected Official whose salary may be affected by the Advisory Committee.

“Family Member” means any person to whom an Elected Official is directly related, including by marriage, such as, but not limited to, parents, grandparents, spouse, siblings, children, cousins, in-laws, or other dependent relatives of the Elected Official, whether or not living in the same household. “Family Member” shall also include any person living in the same household as an Elected Official whose salary may be affected by the Advisory Committee.

3.1.2 Composition. One (1) member of the Advisory Committee shall reside in Commissioner District 1, one (1) member shall reside in Commissioner District 2, and one (1) member shall reside in Commissioner District 3. Four (4) at-large members shall be selected with experience in personnel management. These members shall be appointed by majority vote of the Board of County Commissioners.

Two (2) Advisory Committee members shall be reserved for the local chapters of the Republican Party and the Democrat Party. Each party shall be provided a single position on the committee and may select one (1) party member to participate.

3.1.3 Terms. Appointment to the Advisory Committee shall be for the duration of the project.

No member of the Advisory Committee may be removed by the County legislative authority during his or her term of office unless for cause of incapacity, incompetence, negligence of duty or malfeasance, or for disqualifying change of residence. Removal will require a majority vote of the Board of County Commissioners.

3.2 Anyone desiring appointment may notify the Board of County Commissioners by completing and submitting an application, located on the Kittitas County website.

ARTICLE IV – MEETINGS AND OPERATION

4.1 **Chair and Vice-Chair.** The Advisory Committee shall elect a Chairperson and a Vice-Chairperson. The Chairperson, or in the absence of the Chairperson the Vice-Chairperson, shall preside over all meetings and shall be a voting member of the Advisory Committee.

4.2 **Committee Support.** The Kittitas County Human Resources Director shall be responsible for providing professional assistance to the Advisory Committee. The HR Director shall serve as the clerk of all meetings, shall take and keep minutes of all meetings, and provide other assistance to the Advisory Committee as deemed necessary to fulfill the Advisory Committee’s obligations. The HR Director shall not be a member of the Advisory Committee and shall not vote on any official Advisory Committee action.

4.3 **Meetings.** Meetings shall be held in the Kittitas County Courthouse. Meeting frequency and regular meeting time shall be determined at the first committee meeting.

ARTICLE V – COMPENSATION

- 5.1 Members of the Advisory Committee shall serve without compensation and/or per diem.

ARTICLE VI – POWERS AND DUTIES

- 6.1 **Authority.** Salary adjustment recommendations by the Advisory Committee shall be subject to acceptance by the Board of County Commissioners. The Board of County Commissioners shall retain the right to accept, decline, or modify the recommendation of the Advisory Committee in any way.
- The Advisory Committee shall act accordingly with all applicable RCWs.
- The Board of County Commissioners reserves the right to disband the Advisory Committee by a majority vote.
- 6.2 **Recommendations.** The Advisory Committee shall review and make recommendations regarding salaries as soon as possible after the Advisory Committee is formed. Any change in salary recommended by the Committee shall be submitted to the County Auditor and the Board of County Commissioners in writing.