



BOARD OF YAKIMA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting

Work Session

Monday, January 12, 2026, at 9:00 am

BOCC Conference Room, Room 232, 128 N 2nd Street, Yakima, WA 98901 or Zoom

1/12/2026 - Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting Called to Order at 9:00 a.m.

PRESENT: Chair LaDon Linde, Commissioner Amanda McKinney, Commissioner Kyle Curtis, Legal Counsel Dan Clark, Clerk of the Board Julie Lawrence, Deputy Clerk of the Board Erin Franklin, Human Resources Director Judy Kendall, Technology Services Director Dale Panattoni, Financial Services Director Brian Carlson, Andres Mantilla (Uncommon Bridges), Jacqueline Robinette (Uncommon Bridges), and guests.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public Comment Received.

3. EXECUTIVE SESSION (20 Minutes)

The Board met in executive session for 20 minutes from 9:01 a.m. to 9:21 a.m. to discuss ongoing litigation with legal counsel pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(i). Commissioner Linde returned at 9:21 a.m. to extend the session by an additional 10 minutes, to 9:31 a.m. The Board returned at 9:31 a.m. and no further action was taken.

4. HUMAN RESOURCES (15 Minutes)

Judy Kendall presented three action memos to the Board. The first was a request from the Prosecutor's Office, for out-of-class pay for an Office Coordinator (B23) fulfilling the duties of a Paralegal I (C41) from January 1, 2026, through April 30, 2026, due to two paralegal long-term absences. The Commissioners approved this request.

The second request was from Juvenile Court, for out-of-class pay for an Office Specialist I (B21) to fulfill the duties of a Manager I (C44) from February 16, 2026, through July 31, 2026, due to a long-term absence of the manager in charge of direct supervision of Juvenile Court clerks. There is no other manager currently available to step into the role, and the Office Specialist has sufficient previous managerial experience to perform the role. The Commissioners approved this request.

The final request was from Human Resources, to eliminate a Manager II (D64) position from the Workers Compensation Fund and establish a new Manager II (D64) position in the General Fund. This position has always been split between multiple funds managed by HR, but the majority of time for this position has now shifted to be from HR, rather than the Workers Compensation Fund. The Commissioners approved this request.

5. TECHNOLOGY SERVICES (10 Minutes)

Discussion on Making a Large Computer and Laptop Purchase: Dale Panattoni explained that Technology Services was notified by its computer supplier that due to a shortage in RAM, computer prices could increase by 10-30% this year. Although this increase has not yet taken effect, Dale suggested purchasing replacement computers earlier than usual to have on hand for life-cycling. Rather than purchasing new computers in four batches this year (once per quarter), he would make a larger purchase during this first quarter to ensure better

pricing. Brian Carlson gave his assent. The Commissioners agreed to this course of action and thanked Dale for monitoring the market on the County's behalf.

6. STRATEGIC PLAN KICKOFF (75 Minutes) - Uncommon Bridges

Andres Mantilla and Jacqueline Robinette introduced themselves, their team, and their company to the Commissioners. They outlined what strategic planning is and isn't, discussed why and when to create a strategic plan, and then broke down the components of a strategic plan. They explained their plan to help Yakima County develop its vision, mission, and values before developing strategic priorities with goals and objectives that can be implemented. Their aim is to focus on assessment through March, planning in April, and implementation in May and June. The Commissioners agreed that this would be beneficial in setting the Board up to begin looking at the 2027 budget around that time.

Assessment activities will likely include documents review, county tours, individual interviews, surveys, and focus groups. The Commissioners each suggested ideas of local groups to include in the process, beginning with County directors and elected officials and expanding outward. Jacqueline noted that her team will take a tiered approach to engagement to determine what gaps need to be filled in, rather than scheduling everything all at once. The Commissioners also offered to help collect this feedback and make introductions.

Andres asked the Commissioners three questions:

- 1) Ten years from now, what does the headline about Yakima County read?
- 2) What are the most significant challenges facing Yakima County?
- 3) What strategic questions need to be answered?

The Commissioners each spoke to a desire for Yakima County to be known for its responsiveness to the community's needs, effective management of resources, health, prosperity, efficiency, good stewardship, abundant water storage, low crime rate, and thriving agricultural industry. They noted a variety of challenges, such as a decaying jail; inflation; limited revenue; attorney shortages; a struggling agricultural sector; unfunded mandates; overregulation from the state; rampant drugs/addiction; lack of funding for community resources (e.g. public pools); lack of high-paying jobs to attract/retain people; loss of processing/manufacturing jobs; turnover/retirements at the County; and harmful state policies related to crime, housing, behavioral health, substance abuse, climate change, taxes, water, and immigration. The Commissioners proceed to identify several strategic questions that need to be answered: how to address the jail, how to address the state mandates regarding attorneys/caseloads, how to get departments on board with looking for financial efficiencies, what programs the community still needs/wants, how to promote economic development that benefits not only the community but also the County's tax rolls, whether to move toward regionalization of resources, whether to put together a revenue package to fund priorities, and how to achieve greater retention of jobs in and/or with Yakima County. Finally, the Commissioners addressed various opportunities to boost agriculture, tourism, and transportation in Yakima County.

Jacqueline explained that she and her team will begin organizing and summarizing all of the information discussed today. They will follow up in person in the next few weeks to conduct interviews and then reconvene formally with the Board to present their assessment. Commissioner Linde thanked Jacqueline and Andres for the good conversation and expressed his excitement to work more with them going forward.

7. YVCOG GENERAL MEMBERSHIP VOTING MEMBER AND ALTERNATE FORM (5 Minutes) - Commissioner Linde

The Commissioners agreed to have Commissioner Linde serve as the voting member and Commissioner Curtis serve as the alternate voting member for YVCOG General Membership.

8. COMMISSIONER UPDATES/ GENERAL DISCUSSION

The Commissioners gave updates on individual committee/board assignments for the week of January 5, 2026 – January 9, 2026.

9. NEW BUSINESS

No New Business.

10. ADJOURN

Commissioner Curtis MOTION: To Adjourn

Commissioner McKinney SECOND

Motion Passes to Adjourn. Meeting Adjourned at 11:01 a.m.

All work sessions are recorded and will be available to view on the BOCC website at <https://www.yakimacounty.us/AgendaCenter/Board-of-Commissioners-2>.

APPROVED DATE

DATE/Minutes

JAN 20 2026

BOARD OF YAKIMA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

LaDon Linde, Chair

Amanda McKinney, Commissioner

Kyle Curtis, Commissioner
*Constituting the Board of County Commissioners
for Yakima County, Washington*

Attest:

Julie Lawrence, Clerk of the Board *or*
Erin Franklin, Deputy Clerk of the Board