

Friday Five

Your weekly Thurston County update



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#1 - 2024 Property Taxes Mailed to Thurston County Taxpayers



2024 Property Tax notices went out in the mail to Thurston County taxpayers on Friday, February 9, 2024. Property tax amounts can now be viewed and paid through the [Thurston County Treasurer's website](#).

Thurston County's 2024 total property taxes assessed for all jurisdictions is \$580,604,188.

Payment can be made by electronic check on the Treasurer's website with no additional fee. You may also pay by major credit card which has an additional 2.35% transaction fee, or a VISA Debit card that has a flat fee of \$3.95. Thurston County receives none of the transaction fee.

Taxpayers can make property tax payments online, by mail, over the phone, or at the parking lot drop box – located outside our new office location of 3000 Pacific Ave SE, Olympia WA 98501. Payments may also be made in person, but the same transaction fees apply for payments made in person or over the phone.

The Treasurer's Office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Payments made by mail must be postmarked by the due date. As required by Washington State law, late fees will be charged for those who do not have their payments in on time.

The Treasurer's Office would like to remind property owners you can sign up to receive property tax bills electronically. This is an opt-in service that requires the taxpayer to create an account.

Visit www.thurstoncountywa.gov/departments/treasurer for more information. Taxpayers who wish to continue receiving a paper bill in the mail do not need to do anything.

#2 - Commissioners Appoint Leonard Hernandez as County Manager



After an extensive search, interview, background, and reference check process with both internal and external partners, the Thurston County Commissioners have appointed Leonard Hernandez as the new Thurston County Manager. Hernandez previously served in a similar capacity in San Bernardino, California. He will begin his role as the county manager on Monday, April 1, 2024. His starting salary is \$220,000 with a hiring bonus of \$20,000 and a \$5,000 moving stipend.

Thurston County Commission Chair, Tye Menser said, “we are very excited to welcome Mr. Hernandez as our new county manager. After a lengthy and thorough hiring process, including multiple panels with internal and external stakeholders, Mr. Hernandez was the top candidate. He brings a wealth of experience and fresh ideas which will be of great benefit to the county. We look forward to welcoming and introducing him to our community.”

Hernandez served as Chief Executive Officer for San Bernardino County in California for three years prior to resigning for an urgent family health issue. He has worked in city and county executive leadership roles for more than ten years and was with the San Bernardino County Library system for an additional ten years. Government and library positions included deputy executive officer, interim museum director, county librarian, and head of the Fontana library.

#3 - Public Comment Sought on Proposed Projects for the 2024 - 2025 Comprehensive Plan and Development Code Dockets



The Thurston County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) is seeking public comment on the proposed comprehensive plan amendments and development regulation changes for the 2024-2025 dockets. The Comprehensive Plan docket contains amendments to zoning and/or visionary policies. The Development Code docket contains proposed changes to what you can do with your land and the types of permits you may need.

The comment period is from February 23 to March 14 by 5:00 p.m.

Following the comment period, The BoCC will select and prioritize projects for each docket. They will sort projects based on their priorities, staff capacity, and budgetary restraints.

Projects added to the work plan (official dockets) will then be forwarded to the Thurston County Planning Commission for review. The Planning Commission and BoCC will hold public hearings on the merits of the project approved for the official dockets prior to adoption of any final regulations.

Visit the Comprehensive Plan and Development Code Dockets webpage to learn more about the dockets and the 2024-2025 update, anticipated timelines, or provide comments on projects: <https://www.thurstoncountywa.gov/comprehensive-plan-and-development->

#4 - You're Invited! Join Thurston County's Solid Waste Team for a Presentation on Organics Management



Are you a Thurston County business owner, an operations or facility manager, or know someone who is? Thurston County's Waste Reduction and Recycling Specialists will be hosting a special presentation about the Organics Management Law, its impacts on businesses, and the different compliance measures available.

When: February 28, 2024

Time: 1:00 – 1:45 pm

Where: LeMay Pacific Disposal, 2414 Hogum Bay Rd NE, Lacey, WA 98516

Don't miss out on this opportunity, space is limited! Secure your seat today at community.thurstonwaste.org, under the 2024 Presentation Series with LeMay Pacific Disposal.

#5 - Thurston County Seeks Applicants for Citizen Advisory Boards, Commissions, and Committees

Now Recruiting Board and Commission Members!

**We have openings on several
Thurston County boards and
commissions!**

Interested? Visit:

<https://www.thurstoncountywa.gov/departments/board-county-commissioners/boards-commissions-and-committees>



The Thurston County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) is encouraging interested members of the public to apply for one of the 25 citizen advisory boards, commissions, and committees. Community members bring an important point of view, often representing a geographic interest, area of expertise, or professional association. The county is actively recruiting applicants for the Board of Equalization and Civil Service Commission.

The Board of Equalization (BOE) is a quasi-judicial board separate and independent of the Thurston County Assessor's Office. The BOE impartially adjudicates appeals brought by taxpayers on assess property valuations and other determinations of the Assessor. Visit the [Board of Equalization webpage](#) for more information.

The Civil Service Commission makes decisions on proposed revisions to Civil Service rules, classifications, and employment standards, and hears appeals to eligibility list removals. Commissioners must commit to attending regularly scheduled Civil Service Commission open public meetings. For more information, visit the [Civil Service Commission webpage](#).

Commission Chair, Tye Menser said, "We rely on boards, commissions, and committees to help inform the business of the county." He added, "We are grateful to those who volunteer their time to actively participate and serve our community."

For more information and to apply, visit the [Thurston County Boards, Commissions, and Committees webpage](#) for more information.

For questions, please contact Amy Davis, Clerk of the Board, 360-786-5447, or email at amy.davis@co.thurston.wa.us.



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Stay current on upcoming public hearings, meetings, and work sessions by bookmarking the [Board of County Commissioners' master calendar](#)! Please call the Board of County Commissioners office at (360) 786-5440 if you're having problems viewing the calendar.

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