

**State of Washington  
Environmental & Land Use Hearing Office  
invites applications for the position of:  
Growth Management Hearings Board Member**

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THE STATE OF WASHINGTON  
ENVIRONMENTAL & LAND USE HEARINGS OFFICE

The Growth Management Hearings Board is seeking applications to fill two upcoming Board member vacancies. Both positions will be available beginning in June 2023.

**The Growth Management Hearings Board**

The mission of the Growth Management Hearings Board (Board) is to resolve challenges to local government actions adopting or amending comprehensive land use plans and development regulations based on the Growth Management Act (GMA), the adoption or amendment of shorelines master plans and certain portions of State Environmental Policy Act. The Board was established by statute to hear cases arising under implementation of these statutes as an administrative adjudicative body, providing a quicker and more efficient method of enforcing implementation of these laws.

The Board was created in 1990 as part of the GMA, Chapter 36.70A RCW. The GMA was enacted to guide growth and development in Washington state. Under the GMA, participating local governments must adopt comprehensive plans that require compliance with respect to certain elements including land use, housing, rural development, transportation, capital facilities, utilities, and economic development. Review of local compliance with the GMA is through appeal to the Board.

The Board is comprised of five members who reside in three regions around the state as required by the GMA. Board members must have experience or training in pertinent matters pertaining to land use law or land use planning, and experience in the practical application of those matters. At least three members must be attorneys licensed to practice in Washington state, with at least one attorney in each region. At least two members must be former city or county elected officials, with one residing in eastern Washington and one residing in Washington west of the Cascades. No more than three members can be of the same major political party. Board members serve six-year terms at the pleasure of the Governor. (RCW 36.70A.250)

Each petition for review filed with the Board must be heard by a three-member regional panel. The Board regions are central Puget Sound, eastern Washington, and western Washington.

- Central Puget Sound Region: cities and counties located within King, Pierce, Snohomish, and Kitsap counties.
- Eastern Washington Region: planning cities and counties located east of the crest of the Cascade mountains.
- Western Washington Region: planning cities and counties located west of the crest of the Cascade mountains and not included in the Central Puget Sound region.

Unless waived by the Board Chair, each panel must include one attorney, one former local elected official, and reflect the political composition of the Board. (RCW 36.70A.260)

The Environmental and Land Use Hearings Office (ELUHO) is the administrative agency that supports the Pollution Control Hearings Board, the Shorelines Hearings Board, and the Growth Management

Hearings Board. The Boards are supported by a small legal support team, a law clerk, and two administrative appeals judges. ELUHO's office is located in Tumwater.

**What you will do as a Board member:**

Board members are assigned cases by the Chair, including cases in which they are the presiding officer. Day-to-day work includes legal research, legal analysis, and legal writing, presiding over pre-hearing conferences and hearings, determining pre-hearing procedural matters, and producing complete and legally sound orders with consideration of the facts.

The Board provides appellate review of local actions, with review of the local record provided by the parties. The Board panel issues decisions setting forth legal analyses of claims, and if a case goes to hearing, the panel issues a final decision and order that informs all parties of the reasons for the decision. Most Board decisions must be decided by a quorum of the three-member panel. Final orders have the force of law and parties can appeal Board decisions to the courts.

Board members must display a judicial temperament by remaining impartial, considering competing arguments, and rendering informed and unbiased decisions. They must maintain confidentiality and conduct themselves with a commitment to ethics and integrity.

Board members convene and participate in meetings under the Open Public Meetings Act. Board members also support ELUHO's administration by attending open public Board meetings and informing agency decisions regarding policy, budget, and operations.

Board members work remotely from their homes in the regions prescribed by the GMA. Case deliberation discussions and Board meetings are mostly attended virtually via video conference or telephone, with the occasional in-person meeting. Hearings and conferences have been conducted remotely since the onset of the pandemic but are transitioning to allow hybrid (virtual and in-person) options.

**Who we are looking for:**

Both new Board members must reside in western Washington (west of the Cascades) and at least one new member must reside in the Central Puget Sound Region. At least one new member residing in Central Puget Sound must be an attorney licensed in Washington state. One position must be filled by a former city or county elected official. Candidates must have experience or training in land use law or land use planning, including the practical application of land use law or land use planning. Any political party affiliation is acceptable, however we prefer the two new Board members to have different affiliations. Preference will be given to attorneys with administrative or land use law experience.

**This is a unique opportunity:**

This is an opportunity to serve on one of Washington's most impactful boards. As Washington's population continues to grow, the Board makes decisions about how important elements such as housing, transportation, and the environment are managed by cities and counties in their comprehensive plans and regulations. The legal issues are interesting and complex.

The Boards are impartial and Board members are not advocates for any party. There are no billable hours and the workload allows for work/life balance. As a presiding officer, Board members have some flexibility in setting case schedules within statutory requirements. Board members are provided professional growth opportunities as well as opportunities to speak at CLEs and other conferences.

The state offers comprehensive compensation packages, including benefits and paid leave. Board members also have opportunities to mentor law student externs.

**How to apply:**

[Apply online](#) at the Governor's web site. You can contact the ELUHO Director, Dominga Soliz, with any questions about the position at [Dominga.Soliz@eluhho.wa.gov](mailto:Dominga.Soliz@eluhho.wa.gov) or (360) 819-6765.

**COVID Vaccination Requirement:** Governor Inslee's Directive 22-13.1, state employees must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Providing proof of being fully vaccinated is a condition of employment and your vaccine status will be verified prior to starting work. Being fully vaccinated means two weeks after you have received the second dose in a two-dose series of a COVID-19 vaccine or a single-dose COVID-19 vaccine authorized for emergency use, licensed or otherwise authorized or approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration or listed for emergency use or otherwise approved by the World Health Organization. Please note that any offer of employment is contingent upon you providing verification of your vaccine status, having an approved medical accommodation, or having an approved religious accommodation. No start date will be approved until you have either verified your vaccine status or have an approved accommodation.