



Discussion Table Topics & Questions

After hearing from Washington County staff about the budget process, you'll have the opportunity to choose up to THREE tables to join to share feedback with department staff. These tables are based on departments at Washington County that receive funding for programs that might be important to you and your community. Read the table descriptions below and choose up to THREE tables to join during our (3) 20-minute table discussions. Then, read some of the questions below and think about how you might answer these to give feedback to department staff. Feel free to share any other feedback about budget priorities you might have with staff.

Discussion Tables

Public Health

This table will gather feedback on the funding of programs like COVID-19 response and recovery and emergency preparedness. Staff who work on these programs will be at this table.

Disability, Aging, and Veteran Services

This table will gather feedback on the funding of programs for community members over the age of 60, veterans, and people with a disability, including programs to support their caretakers. Staff who work on these programs will be at this table.

Mental Health and Addiction Services

This table will gather feedback on the funding of programs related to addressing mental health issues in the community including for people who are experiencing houselessness, and for people experiencing addiction. Staff who work on these programs will be at this table.

Housing Services

This table will gather feedback on the funding of programs like affordable housing, houselessness and temporary housing, rental assistance, and resources for renters and landlords. Staff who work on these programs will be at this table.

Land Use & Transportation

This table will gather feedback on funding for planning sustainable communities with housing, job, recreation and travel options that meet people's needs. This involves planning for roads, including transit, bicycle, pedestrian and freight travel; trails; businesses and housing; building and development permitting and inspections; and road maintenance. Staff who work on these programs will be at this table.

Public Safety & Justice #1

This table will gather feedback on the funding of programs like community corrections, justice court, and juvenile court. Staff who work on these programs will be at this table.

Public Safety & Justice #2

This table will gather feedback on the funding of programs like community corrections, justice court, and juvenile court. Staff who work on these programs will be at this table.

Culture, Education, & Recreation

This table will gather feedback on funding for the Washington County Cooperative Library Services, Fair Complex, Metzger Park, and Hagg Lake. Staff who work on these programs will be at this table.

Other Programs

This table will gather feedback on funding for Emergency Management, Assessment & Taxation, and other departments and programs. Staff who work on these programs will be at this table.

Conversaciones en español #1

This table is for Spanish-speaking community members who prefer to give their feedback in Spanish and would like to hear from and have conversations with other community members and staff in Spanish. If you join this table, you can stay here for the entire event or join another table with English speaking community members and staff at any time. All your feedback will be written down and translated for department staff so you're fully included.

Conversaciones en español #2

This table is the same as conversaciones en español #1 for Spanish-speaking community members who prefer to give their feedback in Spanish and would like to hear from and have conversations with other community members and staff in Spanish. If you join this table, you can stay here for the entire event or join another table with English speaking community members and staff at any time. All your feedback will be written down and translated for department staff so you're fully included.

Discussion Questions

These questions are meant to be conversation starters to help guide your conversation with department staff. You are welcome to share your answers to these questions with staff and share other perspectives, as well.

- What resources does your community/you need to increase access and quality of services? What barriers need to be removed? What do you or your community need to help you use the services that this department provides to the public?
- What groups or community organizations do you rely on for support in your community? Which community organizations do you or others go to when you need help?
- How can Washington County engage Black, Indigenous, Latina/o/x, immigrant and refugee communities in the development of our proposed budget? If you belong to a Black, Indigenous, Latina/o/x, immigrant, and/or refugee community, what role do you wish to play in the development of the County's budget? How can Washington County make it easier for you and for communities of color, immigrants, and refugees to let the County know what services they need and what they should fund?
- What is the most important service that your community needs that the County does not offer?
- The people who make decisions on what services to provide are here in this room. What is the most important thing you want them to know or understand?