

AMENDED AGENDA ACCESS, ADVOCACY, EQUITY, & ENGAGEMENT COMMISSION

April 14, 2026

Hybrid Meeting In-person and via Zoom (amended agenda
reflects Zoom Webinar ID & password change)



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**CITY OF ELLENSBURG
ACCESS, ADVOCACY, EQUITY, & ENGAGEMENT
COMMISSION AGENDA Council Chambers
501 North Anderson Street
Ellensburg, WA 98926
And remotely via Zoom
Zoom Webinar ID: 860 4488 5223
Passcode: 960657
Tuesday, April 14, 2026
3:00 PM - Regular Meeting**

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

- 1.A Grounding Statement - Pause (Needs rewritten for AAEE, any volunteers?)
- 1.B Applicant Introduction: Matthew Stalder, Charlotte Tullos, & Kathryn Martell

2. Approval of Agenda (No Public Comment)

3. Public Comment PUBLIC COMMENT RULES FOR ALL MEETING PARTICIPANTS

- 1. Each speaker's comments are to be limited to 3 MINUTES and must state their name and city of residence.
- 2. Speakers are cautioned not to engage in conduct that disrupts, disturbs or otherwise impedes the orderly conduct of the AAEE Commission meeting.
- 3. Comments must be related to the commission's business or over which the Commission has control.
- 4. Speakers may not identify themselves as candidates for elective public office or make any statements which assist or discuss the campaign of a candidate for elective office or discuss or campaign for or against a ballot proposition

4. Approval of Minutes

- 4.A Approval of March 10, 2026 Meeting Minutes

5. New Business

- 5.A America250 Funding Request
- 5.B Racially Disparate Impacts Memo (Lily Frey)
- 5.C Review Draft Community Survey
- 5.D Commission Name Change

6. Liaison Reports Dr. Elvin Delgado and Ruben Cardenas - CWU; and Rhonda Schmidt - Ellensburg School District

- 6.A Ellensburg School District Update (~10 minutes)

7. Subcommittee Reports

- 7.A Proclamation Subcommittee

8. **Commission Representative Reports**
9. **Staff Report**
 - 9.A Staff Report
10. **Adjournment** Next Meeting: May 12, 2026



For more information on the Access, Advocacy, Equity, and Engagement Commission, contact Public Information Officer Nicole Klauss at (509) 925-8657.

Minutes of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

CITY OF ELLENSBURG

Commission Meeting

Date of Meeting

March 10, 2026

Time of Meeting

3:00 PM

Place of Meeting

Council Chambers & Zoom

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Nancy Goodloe called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. The group read the grounding statement.

Roll Call Present: Phil Backlund, Amber Darting, Nancy Goodloe, Judd Grey, Amber Hoefler, Cody Natland, and M. Eliatamby-O'Brien.

Also present: Nicole Klauss, staff member assigned to the DEI Commission; Stacey Henderson, Planning Manager; Lily Frey, Housing Program Manager; Chris Horner, City Attorney; Heidi Behrends Cerniwey, City Manager; Rhonda Schmidt, Ellensburg School District liaison; Ramona Bryant, League of Women Voters of Kittitas County; and 1 member of the public (in person).

2. Approval of the Agenda

Commissioner Cody Natland moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Amber Darting seconded the motion. There was no discussion. **Motion approved 6-0.**

3. Public Comment

Chair Goodloe called for public comment. There was no public comment.

4. Approval of Commission Minutes from February 3, 2026 Meeting

Commissioner Phil Backlund moved to approve the meeting minutes from the February 3, 2026 DEI Commission meeting. Commissioner Judd Grey seconded the motion. There was no discussion. **Motion approved 6-0.**

5. New Business

A. Arts & Economic Development Manager Kelle Vandenberg presented on the Kittitas County America 250 Celebration, which is in the planning process. The celebration includes multiple events over the year with a day of service on April 18 and a community picnic on July 4. The planning group is looking for help with funding (entire event is expected to be about \$3,000) and event planning. Staff will bring a funding request to the DEI Commission at a future meeting for consideration. Commissioners Backlund, Darting, and Natland expressed interest in joining the planning meeting if available.

There was a question about what equity initiatives are entwined with the celebration and initiative. There was a question about whether the event planning group could apply to an ArtsWA equity grant for the event. Staff will look into this.

B. Housing Program Manager Lily Frey reported on the Racially Disparate Impacts Housing Element of the Comprehensive Plan. Frey shared information about the City's housing survey, which is available in English and Spanish. Suggestions for additional survey distribution included CWU (student success, employee council, faculty, and staff), Kittitas County Health Network, Kittitas Valley Ministerial Association, the Library, 509Teens, HelenHouse, and Kittitas Valley Healthcare). Staff will forward the survey flyer and information to DEI Commission members to share out.

There was a question and concern raised about the rate of acquisition of housing by large property owners and whether that could be considered a displacement risk. There was also a question about hearing from realtors and large property groups and what shape that could take.

There was a suggestion about checking with the Washington State Human Rights Commission and the Fair Housing Center of Washington about data they may have that would be helpful.

Chair Goodloe called for public comment; there was none.

C. Planning Manager Stacey Henderson reported on the Community Vulnerability Climate Element of Comprehensive Plan, which is a new required chapter. Staff asked for feedback on the climate hazards document.

Hoefler suggested another population to consider as at risk is farmworkers/fieldworkers for flooding/smoke/outdoor elements.

There was a question about whether the chapter would include goals and objectives; staff indicated yes.

Chair Goodloe called for public comment; there was none.

D. Staff reported the Council Chambers will be unavailable at the regular meeting time on July 14 due to a training for the wastewater treatment plan. Staff asked if the commission could meet at 5 p.m. instead. Commission members agreed that time would work. Staff will confirm availability of Commissioner Cleary and will then update calendars.

E. City Manager Heidi Behrends Cerniwey presented the staff recommendations on edits to Chapter 1.88 of the City code, which include renaming the commission. The edits include a suggestion to move from the Council-suggested Community Engagement Commission to Access & Engagement Commission. Staff plans to take the draft to the March 16 City Council meeting. If approved, there would be a second reading at the April 6 City Council meeting.

Behrends and City Attorney Chris Horner provided information about why the Council is considering the change including federal risk to grant dollars and staff risk and the desire to have the chapter frame the work of the commission.

Conversation included points that the name of the commission should highlight what the community is about and communicate that the community is welcoming.

Chair Goodloe made a motion to forward an alternative name to the City Council that included the word equity - Access, Equity, and Engagement Commission. Commissioner Cody Natland seconded the motion. During discussion, members noted the preference is to include the word equity in the name, but that Access and Engagement Commission was a secondary choice. Chair Goodloe asked if anyone would want to write up the rationale on that; there was not a volunteer. **Motion approved 6-0.**

The Commission provided other minor edits to staff.

William Coleman provided public comment.

6. Liaison Reports

Chair Goodloe asked if ESD liaison Rhonda Schmidt could give a report at a future meeting on the DOJ settlement and student survey. Staff will add this to a future agenda. The school district is doing some listening sessions for students and staff.

7. Subcommittee Reports

There were no subcommittee reports.

8. Commission Member Reports

There were no commission member reports.

9. Staff Report

Staff reported:

- There were just a few seats left in the Ellensburg Academy, taking place on March 11 & 18.
- The Ellensburg Fieldhouse Project is moving forward.
- Nominations are open for the Historic Preservation community-selected award.

10. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 4:28 p.m.

Nicole Klauss, staff member assigned to the DEI Commission

Drafted: 3/13/26

Approved:

KITTITAS COUNTY AMERICA



Community Picnic @ Unity Park

July 4, 2026
2:00–6:00 pm

America 250 Community Picnic Proposal:

Overview:

The City of Ellensburg proposes hosting a community-wide America 250 Community Picnic at Unity Park on Saturday, July 4, 2026, from 2:00–6:00 pm to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the United States. This event will bring together residents, families, veterans, artists, and local musicians for a relaxed gathering that reflects Ellensburg’s community spirit and creative cultural identity. Designed as a free, family-friendly event, the picnic will combine live music, interactive art, and community connection in an open park setting.

Event Goals:

- Celebrate America’s 250th anniversary through a local, community-centered lens
- Foster civic pride, celebrate a shared identity as Americans, and celebrate the diversity that is America
- Support local artists, musicians, and creatives
- Activate public space and encourage community gathering
- Provide an accessible, intergenerational event for residents and visitors

Event Details:

Community Picnic

- Encourage attendees to bring blankets, lawn chairs, sunshades, towels, and picnic meals
- Invite local restaurants to offer ‘take out’ specials
- Potentially have food vendors in the alley behind the park

Live Music & Entertainment

- Feature two regional bands representing a mix of genres
- Create a casual environment with scheduled performances and background music when bands are not playing
- Feature selected storytellers of shared service experiences during an open mic portion

Interactive Art in the Park

- Invite local artists to create live, thematic artwork inspired by:
 - American identity and history
 - Community and belonging
 - Regional cultures and/or landscapes
- Hands-On Art Activities:
 - Collaborative 'mural' station
 - Thematic craft makers station to build create & take art

Potential Community Partner Tables

- Library story station
- Community nonprofits
- City commissions
- Cultural organizations

Event Atmosphere & Theme:

Rather than a formal or ceremonial tone, the America 250 Community Picnic will emphasize:

- Inclusivity and reflection
- Local storytelling and creativity
- A relaxed, welcoming environment

The event can incorporate subtle patriotic elements while prioritizing a diverse and contemporary expression of community identity.

Proposed Budget & Event Needs:

Sound System	\$1,500.00
Portapotties & Hand Washing Station	\$350.00
Bands	\$1,800.00
Various Community Craft Station Supplies	\$500.00
Spanish translations	\$200.00
Total:	\$4,350.00

Marketing & Promotion:

- Social media campaigns and community calendars
- Partnerships with local organizations and businesses
- Posters and flyers throughout Ellensburg
- Coordination with regional tourism and America 250 initiatives

Community Impact:

- Strengthen community connections and civic pride
- Support the local creative economy
- Activate Unity Park as a vibrant public gathering space
- Contribute to Ellensburg's identity as a hub for arts, culture, and community events



Meeting Date: April 14, 2026
City of Ellensburg
AAEE Commission Agenda Report

Agenda Subject: Racially Disparate Impacts Memo Draft Review
Submitted by:
Department: Community Development

Suggested Motion/Action:
Recommend the Racially Disparate Impacts Memo draft to Planning Commission for approval (noting any recommended changes)

Background/Summary:
House Bill 1220 from 2021 requires jurisdictions to conduct analysis of racially disparate impacts (RDI) of local housing policies. [Guidance for this analysis](#) is available from the Washington State Department of Commerce.

City staff with support from Leland Consulting Group have prepared the attached memo documenting housing policy impacts and recommendations. Based on commission recommendations, staff reached out to Helen House to share the housing survey and the opportunity to share feedback, shared the housing survey with the Kittitas County Health Network (KCHN) and gathered information from the Washington State Human Rights Commission on fair housing complaints from 2016-2026.

The housing survey has not yet concluded at the time of this staff report (scheduled to close on April 12). Additional insights from the survey data could be included in the RDI memo or Housing Element.

Previous Action:
On March 10, 2026, staff presented the work plan and approach to the RDI work to the AAEE Commission and received feedback from the commission on recommended additional outreach.

Analysis:
The attached draft was prepared to follow the Commerce guidance for this analysis. It recommends specific edits to the Housing Element goal and policies to support improved housing equity. Along with requirements to analyze housing availability by income band, the goals and policies seek to provide opportunities for more affordable rental and ownership housing to increase accessibility for impacted racial and ethnic groups as well as lower income community members more broadly.

Financial Impact:
None.

Budget Adjustment: No

Attachments:

1. RDI Memo draft_for review

Racially Disparate Impacts Memo

Introduction

Passed in 2021, House Bill 1220 requires that local governments plan for housing for all income levels and assess the racially disparate impacts of housing policies. The Washington State Department of Commerce identifies racially disparate impacts as occurring when policies, practices, rules or other systems result in a disproportionate impact on one or more racial groups.

In addition, this report considers displacement risk and housing exclusion.

Following the Washington State Department of Commerce guidance, the City has engaged in the following steps for this analysis.

1. Engage the Community -
City staff have engaged Affordable Housing and Access, Advocacy, Equity and Engagement Commission members and community volunteers to advise on the following review, including planning outreach to key organizations and the public and reviewing this draft.
2. Gather and Analyze Data -
Much of the data analyzed below is from the US Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS) data. The US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) further analyzes the previous year's ACS data to create the Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy (CHAS) data. CHAS data below is based on ACS data through 2022 and was released by HUD in 2025.
3. Evaluate Policies -
The Policy Evaluation section below reviews Housing Element goals and policies from the 2037 Ellensburg Comprehensive Plan adopted in 2017.
4. Revise Policies -
Revised housing goals and policies can be found in Chapter 4, the Housing Element of the 2046 Comprehensive Plan for adoption in 2026.
5. Review and Update Regulations -
Regulations will be updated and adopted with the Comprehensive Plan. Areas that require longer term efforts or review will be identified in the Housing Element goals and policies.

Key Findings

- The City of Ellensburg has become more diverse in recent years and is slightly more diverse than Kittitas County.
- Ellensburg has a shortage of affordable housing units compared to low income populations, resulting in approximately 40% of households being cost burdened.

- Renters have much higher rates of cost burden than homeowners. While 62% of all Ellensburg residents rent their homes; only 60% of white residents are renters; 68% of Hispanic and Latino populations (of any race) rent and 70% to 100% of other racial groups rent homes in Ellensburg rent homes.
- Black or African American populations in Ellensburg are particularly cost burdened.
- Most of the city shows either high displacement risk or recent market and demographic change suggesting recent displacement; many renters and homeowners report experiencing displacement or fear of displacement due to housing and related costs.
- Housing goals, policies and programs show opportunities for adjusting language and focus to support more equitable housing outcomes.

Historical Context

Historically, Ellensburg has been, and still is, a multicultural community composed of a broad range of people and families, with many stories and experiences that have yet to be discovered or shared.

Kittitas Valley has always been, and continues to be, sacred to Native people. Traditionally, the Pshwanapum lived in the Kittitas Valley as a sub-band of the larger political and extended family networks of the Yakama tribes and bands. The Pshwanapum members were also referred to as the K'titas ("Kittitas") band, and they moved seasonally throughout the valley and nearby mountains to harvest roots, salmon, berries, game, and medicines. Several other tribal nations including Kiala, Tatxanixsha, Yumi'sh, and Che-lo-han, would hunt and trade in this area as well. Many descendants of these tribes continue to live throughout the 1855 Treaty Territory of the Yakamas.

Many early European settlers were of Norwegian and Danish ancestry and area roads retain the names of their families and farms. Historical records show significant Chinese, Japanese and African American populations, as well as Jewish families and civic leaders, in different eras of Ellensburg's history.

The first known settler of African American decent arrived in Ellensburg in 1886. Censuses dating from 1900-1950 show dozens of African American households in the City, including homeowners, beginning with the 1920 census. An African Methodist Episcopal Church was established in 1908 at 404 South Main Street, and many Black individuals played on local baseball teams as well.

Sources such as Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps have shown that Ellensburg used to have a "China Town," and "Chinese Laundries" appear to have existed throughout town (Sanborn Map 1888). Chinese populations and businesses were centered around 1st Ave and 3rd Ave. Nationally, Chinese communities were denied the opportunity to become citizens by the Chinese Exclusion Act, which was in force from 1882 through 1943. In 1889, the City passed an ordinance limiting Chinese washhouses and other businesses based on nuisance claims. Evidence of the subsequent notice to vacate refers to building fire risk. Historical records indicate fires damaging Chinese businesses and residences.

A Japanese community also resided and operated businesses in the downtown along Water and Main streets. Following the bombing of Pearl Harbor in 1941 and the US's entry into World War II, Enemy



Alien Act was invoked, and Japanese families were removed from communities across the western US, including the Geddis building hotel at 4th Avenue and Pearl Street.

While communities have often concentrated residences or businesses in areas of the community, there is limited local evidence of formal housing exclusion. The Racially Restrictive Covenants Project of Washington has identified one racially restrictive covenant applied to a property in Ellensburg. Intimidation or discrimination of many of these racial and ethnic groups are documented, as are examples of inclusive community events and rebuilding.

Downtown fires have recurred through Ellensburg’s history, often displacing downtown residents. Some households who lost belongings and businesses in these fires chose to make fresh starts elsewhere after these experiences. Repeated fires also reduced and nearly eliminated boarding house style lodging, which was an affordable option for people newly arriving in Ellensburg.

The great fire of 1889 destroyed 10 downtown blocks and about 200 homes, some of which were combined with residents’ businesses. In 1926, the Produce Row fire destroyed areas between 1st and 3rd Avenues west of Main Street. This fire also destroyed evidence of some African American residences along 3rd Ave.

In 1928, the Warehouse District fire also destroyed some lower income housing and businesses. Fires in 1952, 1968, 1980 and 1986 also affected downtown housing options in various buildings, displacing residents, particularly those inhabiting single room occupancy style lodging and apartments.

Today, residents seeking more affordable housing options include some CWU students and the areas where students reside reflect the greater diversity of the campus community. Ellensburg remains a majority renter community with significant cost burden challenges.

Addressing Racially Disparate Impacts

Demographic Change

Between 2019 and 2024, Ellensburg became slightly more diverse. The City is also slightly more diverse than surrounding Kittitas County. Ellensburg and Kittitas County both saw declines in Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander and American Indian and Alaska Native populations, while seeing significant increases in residents identifying as two or more races and a smaller increase in the Hispanic or Latino population.

Table 1. Change in Population by Race/Ethnicity in Ellensburg and Kittitas County in 2019 and 2024

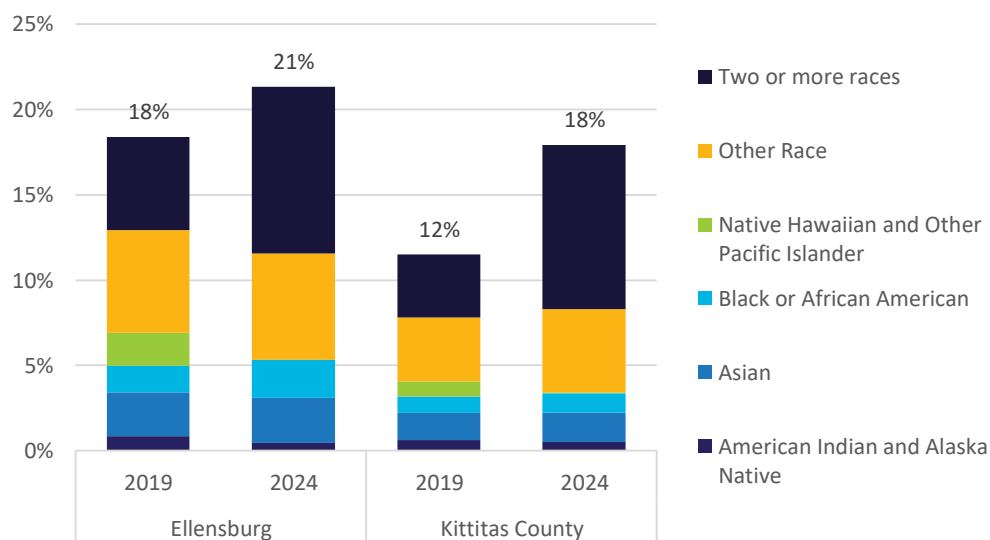
	Ellensburg			Kittitas County		
	2019	2024	Change	2019	2024	Change
American Indian and Alaska Native	169	94	(75)	285	237	(48)
Asian	520	551	31	729	813	84
Black or African American	312	466	154	443	532	89



Hispanic or Latino (any race)	2,190	2,674	484	4,045	4,974	929
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	394	2	(392)	401	25	(376)
Other Race	1,213	1,300	87	1,726	2,308	582
Two or more races	1,099	2,037	938	1,702	4,536	2,834
White	16,460	16,424	(36)	40,611	38,721	(1,890)
Total Population	20,167	20,874	707	45,897	47,172	1,275

Source: American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year Estimates (2019-2024) DP04

Figure 1. Non-White Population by Race/Ethnicity in Ellensburg and Kittitas County



Source: American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year Estimates (2019-2024), DP04

Income and Cost Burden

According to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), a household is cost burdened if it spends more than 30 percent of its gross income on housing costs (rent or mortgage and basic utilities). If a household spends more than 50 of its income on basic housing costs, it is considered severely cost burdened.

Of the nearly 8,300 households in Ellensburg, more than 2,800 renter households (55% of renter households) are cost burdened, of which nearly 1,900 (36% of renter households) are severely cost burdened. Within owner households, 360 are cost burdened (11% of owner households) and under 250 severely cost burdened (7.8%) indicating a significant divide in affordability between renters and owners.

All Black or African American households in the latest data were severely cost burdened renters, a significant difference from other racial or ethnic groups. The cost burden among Hispanic or Latino



households was slightly higher than among White households (both renters and homeowners) while cost burdens for Asian households were slightly lower than other racial and ethnic groups.

There are also racial divides in income distribution, with much higher percentages of Black or African American and American Indian or Alaska Native populations with extremely low incomes compared to other racial groups. More Asian, Pacific Islander and White households are represented in the above median income categories than other racial and ethnic groups. In this analysis, the “not reported category” is significant and the relatively low household numbers, as well as the changing racial makeup, can yield significant changes in percentage distributions.

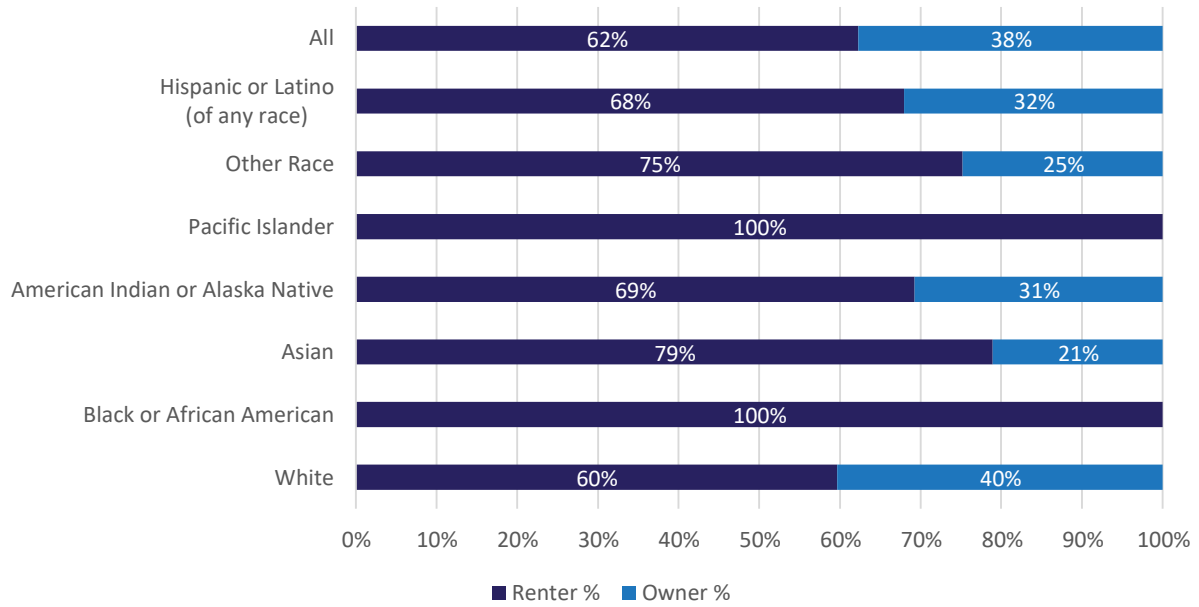
Table 2. Number of Households by Cost Burden (2022)

	White	Black or African American	Asian	American Indian or Alaska Native	Pacific Islander	Other Race	Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	Total
Owner Households								
Not Cost Burdened	2,245	-	20	20	-	95	165	2,545
Total Cost-Burdened	485	-	-	-	-	30	90	605
Cost-Burdened (30-50%)	270	-	-	-	-	-	90	360
Severely Cost-Burdened (>50%)	215	-	-	-	-	30	-	245
Not Calculated	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Owner Household Total	2,725	-	20	20	-	125	250	3,140
Renter Households								
Not Cost Burdened	1,815	-	55	10	35	175	210	2,300
Total Cost-Burdened	2,195	75	20	35	15	190	315	2,845
Cost-Burdened (30-50%)	720	-	-	15	-	80	155	970
Severely Cost-Burdened (>50%)	1,475	75	20	20	15	110	160	1,875
Not Calculated	20	-	-	-	-	15	-	35
Renter Household Total	4,030	75	75	45	50	380	530	5,185
Combined Total Households	6,755	75	95	65	50	505	780	8,325

Source: US HUD, 2018-2022 Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy (CHAS) (Table 9); Washington Department of Commerce, 2023

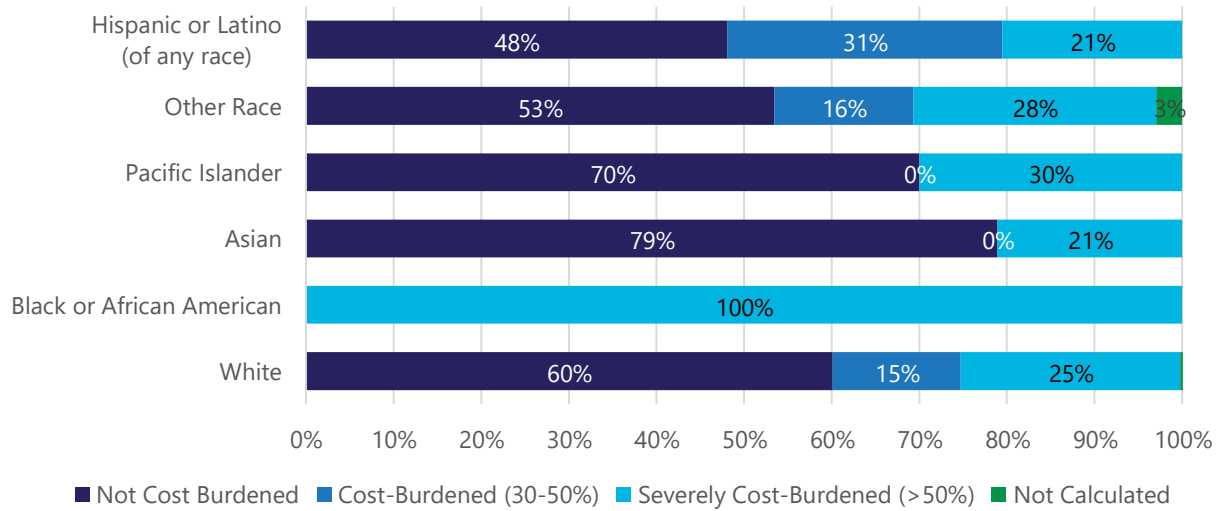


Figure 2. Ellensburg Cost Burdened Households by Race and Ethnicity



Source: US HUD, 2018-2022 Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy (CHAS) (Table 9)

Figure 3. Percent of Households Experiencing Cost Burden



Source: US HUD, 2018-2022 Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy (CHAS) (Table 9)



Table 3. Households by Income and Race

	American Indian or Alaska Native	Asian	Black or African American	Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	Pacific Islander	White	Not Reported*	All
Number of households								
Extremely Low-Income (≤30% AMI)	35	20	75	130	-	1,265	165	1,690
Very Low-Income (30-50%)	-	4	-	75	15	1,090	11	1,195
Low-Income (50-80%)	-	30	-	245	-	1,190	170	1,635
Moderate Income (80-100%)	20	-	-	155	10	390	10	585
Above Median Income (>100%)	10	40	-	169	25	2,820	156	3,220
Total for published estimates	65	94	75	774	50	6,755	512	8,325
Percentage of households								
Extremely Low-Income (≤30% AMI)	54%	21%	100%	17%	0%	19%	32%	
Very Low-Income (30-50%)	0%	4%	0%	10%	30%	16%	2%	
Low-Income (50-80%)	0%	32%	0%	32%	0%	18%	33%	
Moderate Income (80-100%)	31%	0%	0%	20%	20%	6%	2%	
Above Median Income (>100%)	15%	43%	0%	22%	50%	42%	30%	

Sources: US HUD, 2018-2022 Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy (CHAS) (Table 1)

Comparing income distribution between 2016 and 2021 by racial and ethnic groups, incomes increased on average for White households, whereas Black or African American households had the highest percentage of above median income households in 2016 and were exclusively extremely low income as of 2021. Asian households saw an increase from zero to 21% extremely low income and Hispanic / Latino households had increases in extremely low income and moderate income categories and declines in households in higher income brackets.

A majority of all racial and ethnic groups are renters in Ellensburg. White households have the highest percentage of homeownership (40%), followed by Hispanic or Latino households of any race (32%) and American Indian or Alaska Native households (31%). All Pacific Islander and Black or African American households are renters in US Census data.

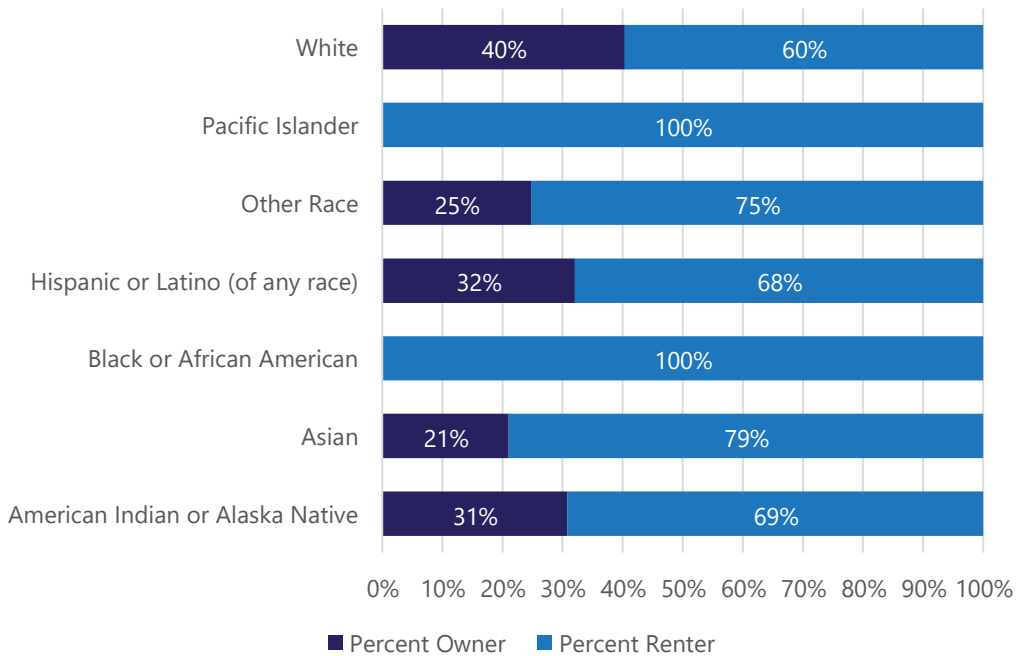


Figure 4. Households by Income and Race 2016 & 2021



Sources: US HUD, 2013-2017 & 2018-2022 Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy (CHAS) Table 1

Figure 5. Owner and renter households by racial group



Source: US HUD, 2018-2022 Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy (CHAS) (Table 9)



As shown in figure 6, Ellensburg has limited rental units affordable to households with incomes below 30% AMI, a deficit of 910 units compared to households. By contrast, 1,830 more rental units are available affordable to households 50-80% AMI than the number of households at this income level. The mismatch of unit affordability to incomes means that lower income households may need to rent units that are not affordable to them, resulting in cost burdened renters.

Figure 6. Renter Households by Income vs. Rental Unit Affordability



Sources: Sources: US HUD, 2018-2022 Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy (CHAS) (Table 8) & US HUD, 2018-2022 Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy (CHAS) (Table 15C)

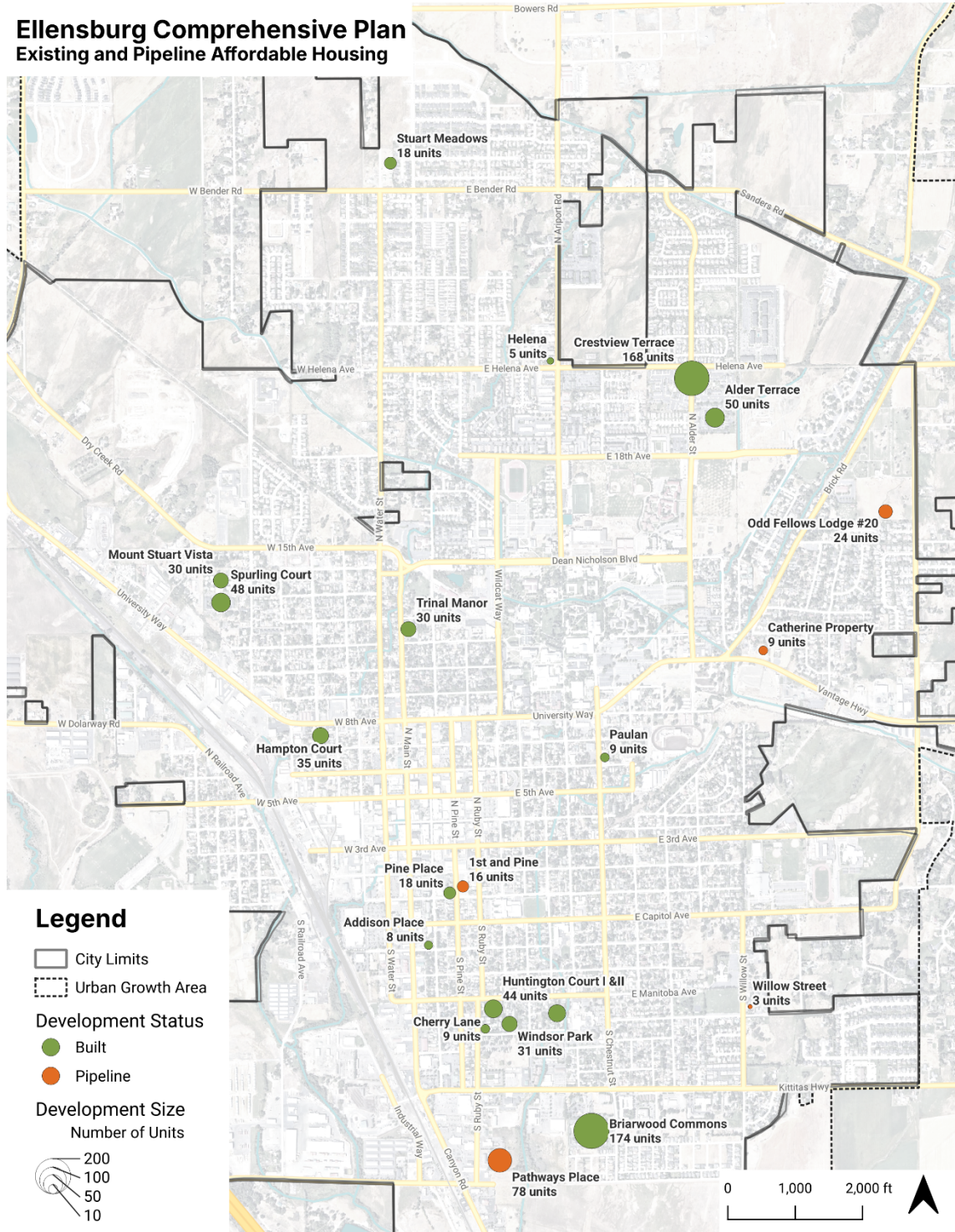
From 2016 through February 2026, the Washington Center for Human Rights received housing discrimination complaints from five Ellensburg households. All five discrimination complaints were made on the basis of disability and three included a service or emotional support animal basis in addition. Three complaints have been closed; two identifying no reasonable cause and a third based on lack of cooperation from the complainant. Two cases, both including animals, remain open.

Exclusion in Housing

Subsidized housing is distributed across the City of Ellensburg. Rental units are owned and operated by several companies and nonprofit organizations. Several homeownership developments exist and pipeline rental and homeownership properties are under development.



Figure 7. Map of Income-Restricted Affordable Housing



Sources: Property owners, City of Ellensburg



Displacement & Displacement Risk

In 2022, Shady Acres manufactured home park closed in the City of Ellensburg, displacing residents. Since then, two other manufactured home parks have sold to new owners, yielding increased lot rents for some residents.

Of the 699 subsidized rental units in the City, none have subsidies expected to expire within the next six years. Within 20 years, however, 224 units that have private ownership have expiring subsidies. In 2024, an acquisition rehabilitation project recapitalized and extended the subsidy expiration for 168 units at the Crestview Terrace property.

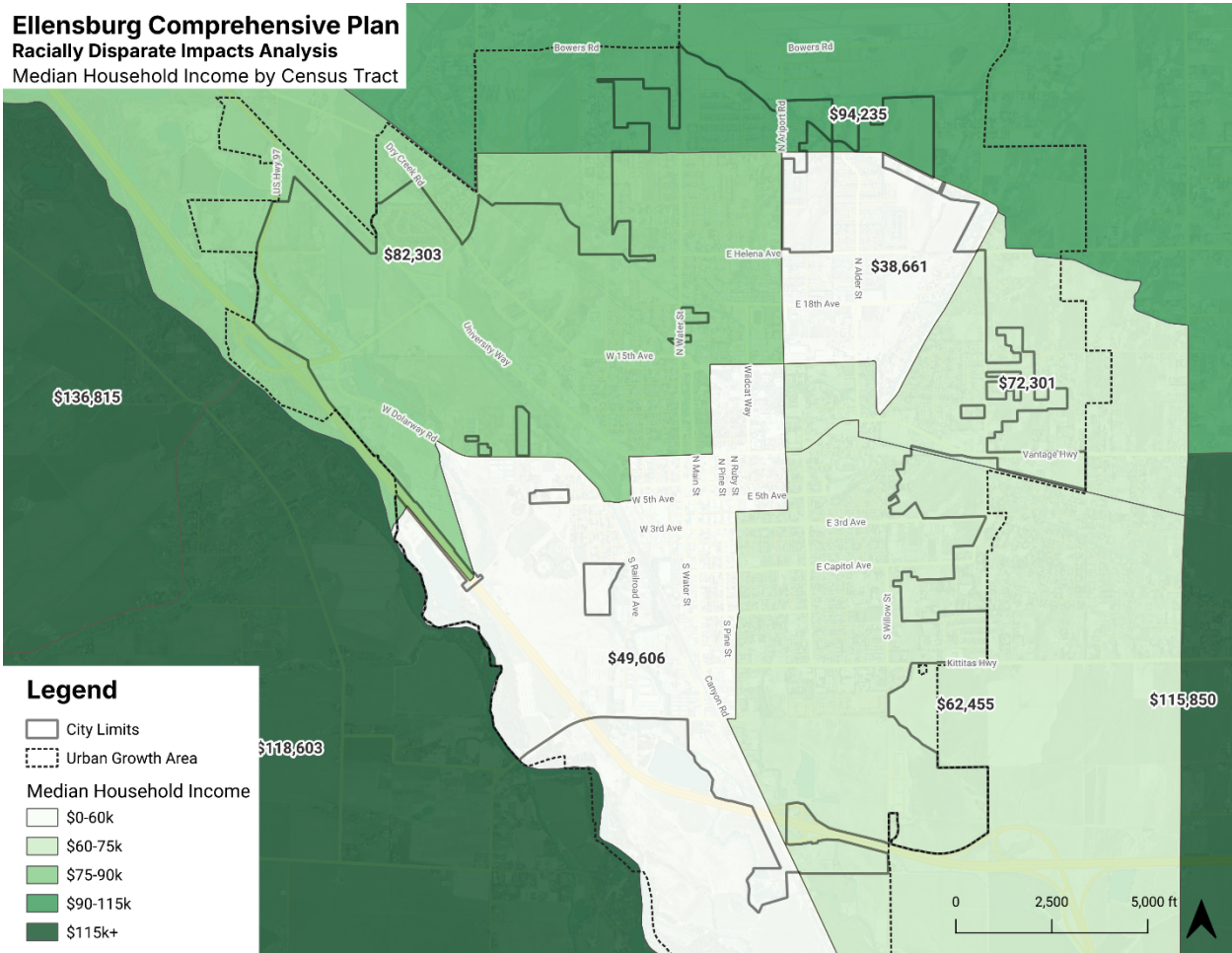
Several income-restricted properties are supported through project-based vouchers. An additional 30 households across Kittitas County receive housing choice vouchers for use with other landlords.

The following analyses of displacement risk are analyzed based on census tract. Census tracts do not align with city or urban growth area boundaries.

As shown in figure 8, incomes in Ellensburg are lower than surrounding areas of Kittitas County and vary significantly within the City. Areas that have lower incomes can be more susceptible to displacement risks. Incomes within the City of Ellensburg also reflect distribution of student housing.



Figure 8. Median Income by Census Tract

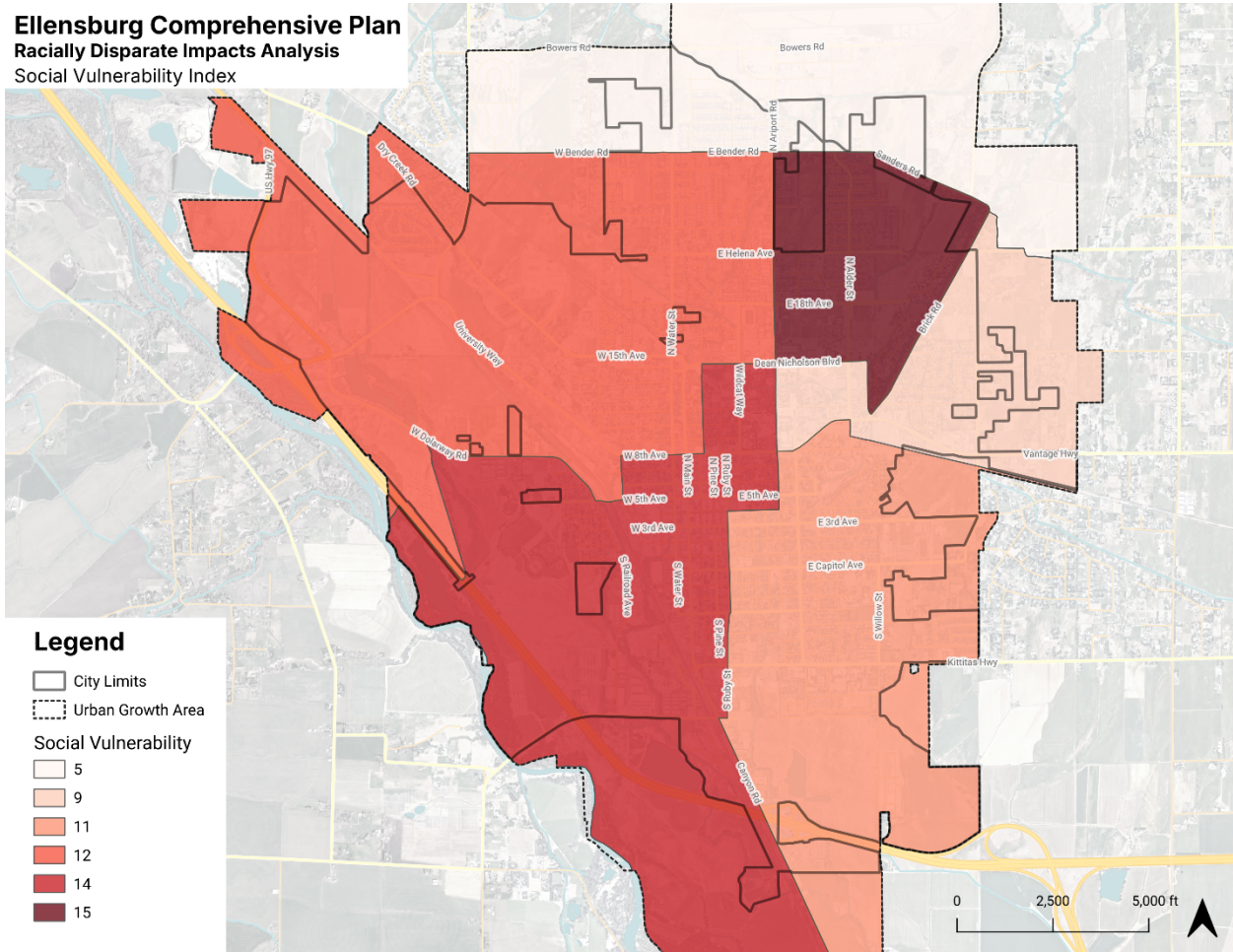


Source: American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year Estimates (2019-2024)

Figure 9 shows social vulnerability scores based on Washington Department of Commerce Data. Scores are based on a composite of: (1) the Black, Indigenous or People of Color (BIPOC) population percentage by the total population as of 2020, (2) the renter share of the population as of 2021, and the median household income, yielding a score between 3 and 15. Four of Ellensburg’s Census Tracts score 11 or higher, classified as high social vulnerability on this index. Higher social vulnerability scores can indicate higher displacement risk.



Figure 9. Social Vulnerability Index by Census Tract

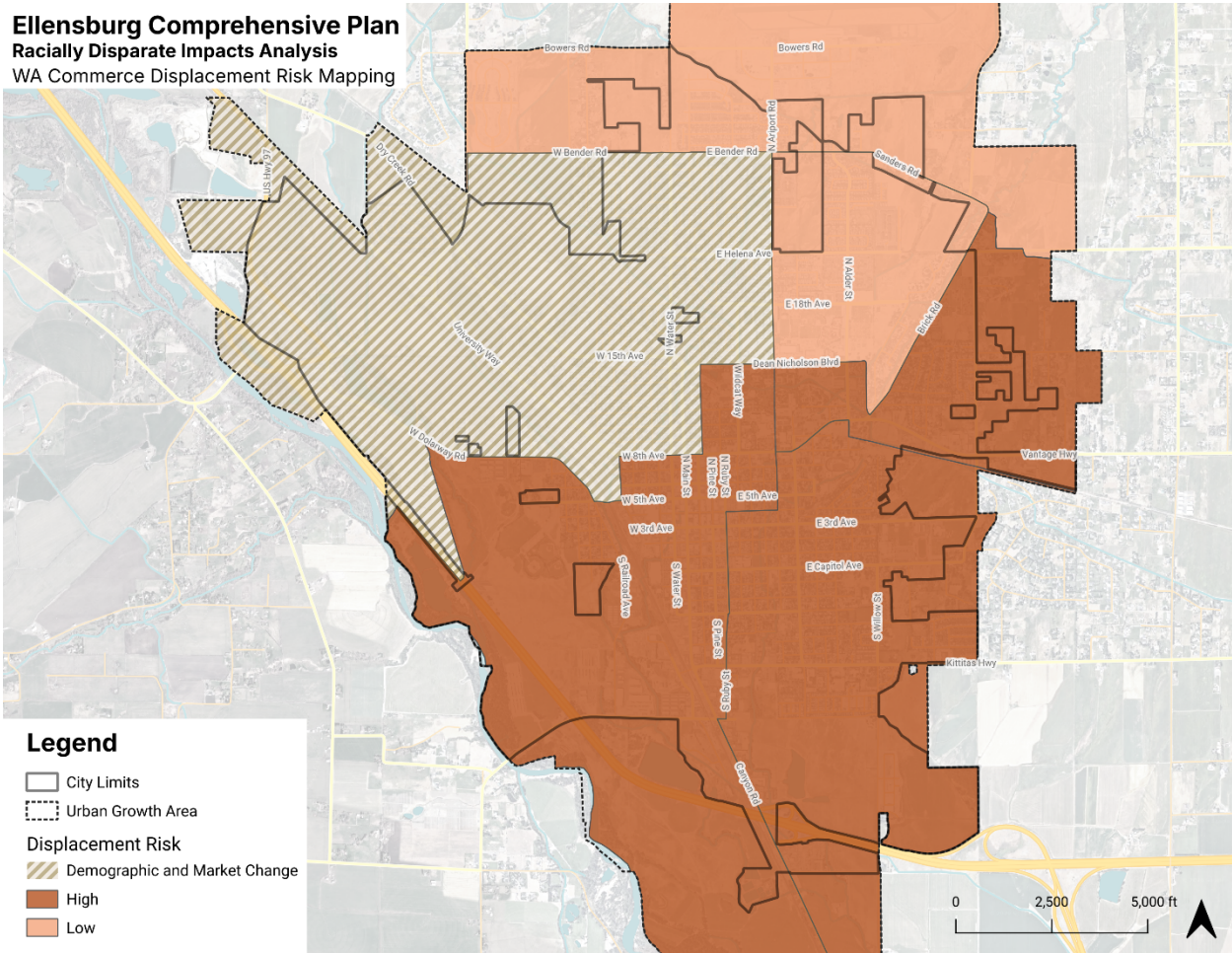


Source: Washington Department of Commerce, based on American Community Survey, 2017-2021 5-year estimates, Table B25003, U.S. Decennial Census, 2020 and American Community Survey, 2017-2021 5-year estimates, Table B19013

The Washington Department of Commerce combines social vulnerability scoring with demographic changes and market trends to identify displacement risk by census tract. Three tracts are categorized as high risk, two low risk (one of which only has 15% of its population in the City) and one as demographic and market change, indicating that displacement may have already occurred based on appreciated market trends and gentrification indicators. The mapped results for Ellensburg are shown in figure 10.



Figure 10. Displacement Risk Mapping



Source: Washington Department of Commerce

Possible policy responses to displacement risk include measures to support current residents, including tenants and manufactured homeowners, supporting initiatives that would expand homeownership opportunities to lower income residents, and encouraging housing production to reduce market-based displacement pressures.

The housing element, land use element and adequate provisions checklist include additional detail on City policies, programs and actions to support the development of additional housing.

In a survey of current residents, approximately 42% of homeowners and 55% of renters replied they have had to move or are concerned they will have to move due to housing and related costs.



Policy Evaluation

Ellensburg’s housing policies require updates in response to the above analysis. In general, policies that favor the development of multifamily housing and lower cost housing can benefit cost burdened communities.

Based on Washington State Department of Commerce guidance, the below policy evaluation framework is used to evaluate the existing Goals and Policies from the 2037 Ellensburg Comprehensive Plan adopted in 2017.

Table 4. Commerce Policy Evaluation Framework

Criteria	Evaluation
The policy is valid and supports meeting the identified housing needs. The policy is needed and addresses identified racially disparate impacts, displacement and exclusion in housing.	S Supportive
The policy can support meeting the identified housing needs but may be insufficient or does not address racially disparate impacts, displacement and exclusion in housing.	A Approaching
The policy may challenge the jurisdiction’s ability to meet the identified housing needs. The policy’s benefits and burdens should be reviewed to optimize the ability to meet the policy’s objectives while improving the equitable distribution of benefits and burdens imposed by the policy.	C Challenging
The policy does not impact the jurisdiction’s ability to meet the identified housing needs and has no influence or impact on racially disparate impacts, displacement or exclusion.	NA Not applicable

Source: Washington State Department of Commerce

Table 5. Housing Goals and Policies Racially Disparate Impact Review

Number	Goal/Policy/Program Text	Equity Assessment	Why	Notes / Changes
Goal H-1	Preserve, protect, and strengthen the vitality and stability of existing neighborhoods.	Challenging	Protecting and preserving existing neighborhoods can exclude new housing types and residents.	Strengthening neighborhood vitality can include new housing types.
Policy A	Encourage development of an appropriate mix of housing choices through innovative land use and well-crafted regulations.	Challenging	“Appropriate” housing choices are subjective; increasing housing choice can help create more heterogeneous communities.	Opportunity to emphasize range of housing types and choices
Program 1	Integrate new development, with consideration to design and scale that complements existing neighborhoods, and provides effective transitions between different uses and intensities.	Supportive	Allows for needed new development complementing existing development with transitions where needed	
Program 2	Encourage infill development on vacant and underused sites.	Supportive	Infill can be lower cost and contribute to neighborhood vitality.	



Policy B	Establish additional logical access routes outside of the existing street system for bicycle and pedestrian traffic.	Not Applicable	Not a housing goal	Consider in transportation
Program 1	Identify trail easements and develop an effective maintenance strategy.	Not Applicable	Not a housing goal	Consider in transportation
Policy C	Protect and connect residential neighborhoods so they retain identity and character and provide amenities that enhance quality of life.	Challenging	Neighborhood character can be exclusionary; connecting residential neighborhoods can support equity.	Reword to emphasize connection and enhance quality of life for all residents.
Program 1	Encourage housing opportunities in mixed residential/commercial settings throughout the city.	Supportive	Mixed use zones can accommodate lower cost, denser housing.	
Program 2	Provide increased residential density and improve infrastructure along arterials and transit routes through redevelopment and retrofitting, such as sidewalks and stormwater treatment.	Approaching	Infrastructure improvements are beyond housing focus; increased density opportunities can support housing choices and equity goals.	Clarify wording to emphasize what the City can do (zoning not construction); consider capital improvement needs in the appropriate chapter.
Program 3	Assure that site, landscaping, building, and design regulations create effective transitions between different land uses and densities.	Challenging	While uses may benefit from separation, requiring landscaping of only moderate and higher density residential has contributed to under production and affected housing costs and equity.	Revise to focus on objective standards and separation of residential and other types of use rather than between similar residential intensities
Policy D	Promote sense of place in neighborhoods.	Supportive		
Program 1	Promote high quality design that is compatible with the overall style and character of established neighborhoods.	Challenging	Unclear standard, emphasis on established neighborhood character may exclude new residents/housing types and does not support equity.	Remove
Program 2	Support the preservation of Ellensburg's historically-significant housing through the City's historic preservation program, which maintains a list of historic properties and districts, and provides education and incentives.	Not Applicable	Does not directly affect equity	



Program 3	Encourage the use of long-lived, low-maintenance building materials; high efficiency energy systems; and low impact development techniques that reduce housing life-cycle costs and provide better environmental performance.	Approaching	Emphasis on sustainability seeks to lower lifetime costs but upfront investments may be challenging.	Revise to defer to building and energy codes where possible. Avoid additional costly requirements.
Program 4	Foster innovative housing and mixtures of housing types that preserve natural resources and consolidate open space.			
Goal H-2	Allow and encourage a variety of housing types and densities to meet housing needs of all economic segments of the community.	Supportive	Directly contributes to addressing needs of lower income populations including residents of color.	
Policy A	Review the Land Development Code to allow for a wider variety of housing types.	Supportive	Indirectly contributes to equity by increasing housing choice, neighborhood heterogeneity and potentially new ownership opportunities.	
Program 1	Review barriers to the development of denser housing types such as duplexes, townhomes, and accessory dwelling units (ADUs).	Supportive	Duplexes, townhomes and ADUs may offer lower cost opportunities for homeownership, which may increase accessibility for households of color.	
Policy B	Encourage residential development in commercial and mixed use zones, especially those within proximity to transit.	Approaching	Supports more dense housing types and connectivity.	May also support climate resilience
Program 1	Expand the Multifamily Tax Exemption (MFTE) program beyond the downtown area to encourage multifamily housing in other areas where it is needed.	Supportive	Indirectly contributes to equity by incentivizing multifamily and affordable housing.	MFTE program includes anti-displacement provisions.
Program 2	Evaluate, review, revise, and publicize the density bonus incentive program.	Supportive	Indirectly contributes to equity by supporting housing choice.	Potential bonus value may need reevaluation based on proposed zoning changes.



Program 3	Work with Central Washington University and private developers to support on campus housing for students and in transit-served mixed residential/commercial settings throughout the city.	Approaching	Students are among cost burdened populations and populations of color; addressing their specific needs can indirectly support equity.	Considering specific actions could clarify potential effect.
Policy C	Consider housing cost and supply implications of proposed regulations and procedures.	Approaching	Does not directly affect equity, but this analysis could be helpful for actions that support housing choice and affordability.	
Program 1	Consider reducing parking requirements for mixed-use housing developments and affordable housing developments in close proximity to jobs and transit.	Supportive	Indirectly contributes to equity by supporting housing affordability and housing choice, with the opportunity to reduce cost burdens.	
Policy D	Create and preserve ADA accessible and affordable housing opportunities locally and with a regional perspective.	Supportive	Planning for and addressing accessibility needs in the housing stock contributed to housing equity.	
Program 1	Promote working partnerships with public, private, non-profit groups, and developers to plan and develop a range of housing choices.	Supportive	Partnership projects to date have emphasized low income residents' needs and coordination enables focus on unmet needs; increasing housing choices can support affordability and homeownership opportunities.	
Program 2	Evaluate other housing affordability programs utilized in other communities that could be incorporated into the Land Development Code.	Approaching	On its own, insufficient to determine equity effect	Specify goals or direction of housing program evaluation to better determine effect.
Program 3	Support the preservation, maintenance, and improvements of older/historic housing and assistance to low income households who want to stay in their homes.	Supportive	Addresses displacement risk for low income households	Include support for retention of naturally occurring affordable housing
Program 4	Foster innovative housing and mixtures of housing types that preserve natural resources and consolidate open space.	Approaching	Unclear actions or effects from this program	Specify actions under this program to evaluate equity impact



Policy E	Identify potential properties to allow for emergency housing, emergency shelter and permanent supportive housing	Approaching	Meeting needs of highly vulnerable community members contributes to housing equity as part of the housing continuum; many steps between initial review and meeting needs	
Program 1	Develop a conditional use provision in the permitted use table in the land development code allowing for emergency housing, shelters, and permanent supportive housing in appropriate zones	Challenging	These uses are required to be permitted outright in some zones; may be conditional in others; appropriate is subjective	Ellensburg City Code has been revised to permit supportive housing types outright in some zones consistent with Commerce guidance; some additional zones permit as conditional uses
Goal H-3	Encourage and support a variety of housing opportunities for older adults and people with disabilities.	Approaching	Targets assistance based on age rather than racially disparate impacts; addresses housing equity concerns for targeted groups	Add other types of housing special needs to make this goal more inclusive
Policy A	Collaborate with other jurisdictions, organizations, and private developers to meet special housing needs that address a broad spectrum of solutions.	Supportive	Partnerships can address varied and developing needs	
Program 1	Promote accessible and affordable housing in areas that are close to services and the rest of the community.	Supportive	Proximity to services can help lower costs and integrate affordable housing developments	
Program 2	Coordinate with local organizations and agencies to provide sufficient and affordable home maintenance and support services.	Supportive	Home maintenance and support can help address displacement risk.	
Program 3	Promote the use of universal design principles for new development or redevelopment housing projects.	Approaching	Not specific to disparate impacts but can assist a with a variety of housing needs.	





Meeting Date: April 14, 2026
City of Ellensburg
Access, Advocacy, Equity & Engagement Commission
Agenda Report

Agenda Subject: Review Draft Community Survey
Submitted by:
Department: City Manager

Suggested Motion/Action:
Review draft community survey and provide feedback

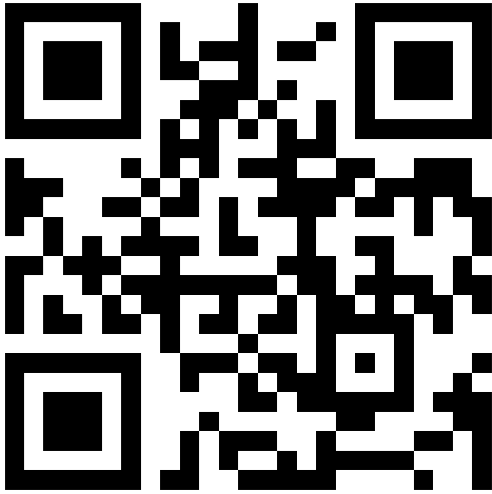
Background/Summary:

The City Manager is working with Dr. Eliann Carr at the Ellensburg Police Department to create a community survey. The survey will allow the City of Ellensburg to understand public perception of community challenges and priorities, as well as city-managed programs and services. These findings will help establish community-centric strategic goals for the City of Ellensburg and measure changes and outcomes over time.

The link will allow for test responses. Please provide feedback on the questions.
Link: <https://arcg.is/1ySfra3>

Participation in this survey is voluntary. You may discontinue the survey at any time and for any reason by closing the browser window. You must be 18 years of age to participate in this study. The survey will take approximately 15 minutes to complete. Confidentiality of Data. No personally identifiable information will be collected, and the anonymity of all participants will be retained by use of aggregation and pseudonyms that cannot be associated back to any specific individual. Because this survey is anonymous, please do not put any identifying

information into your responses.



Previous Council Action:

N/A

Analysis:

N/A

Financial Impact:

N/A

Budget Adjustment: No

Attachments:

None



Meeting Date: April 14, 2026
City of Ellensburg
Access, Advocacy, Equity, & Engagement Commission
Agenda Report

Agenda Subject: Commission Name Change
Submitted by:
Department: City Manager

Suggested Motion/Action:
No formal action required. Update and discussion opportunity.

Background/Summary:
At the April 6, 2026 City Council meeting, the City Council voted to change the DEI Commission's name to the Access, Advocacy, Equity, and Engagement Commission. This was the second reading of the ordinance. Staff is beginning to make changes on the City website and the code changes will be forwarded to the City's code website. Staff will also make updated business cards and name tag inserts, reflecting the commission name change.

The updated ordinance is attached. This is an opportunity for discussion.

Previous Council Action:
The City Council approved first reading of the ordinance on March 16, 2026.

Analysis:
N/A

Financial Impact:
N/A

Budget Adjustment: No

Attachments:
1. Ordinance 4982 - Amending Chapter 1.88 (Second Reading) Clean

ORDINANCE NO. 4982

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ELLENSBURG, WASHINGTON, AMENDING CHAPTER 1.88 DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION COMMISSION OF THE ELLENSBURG CITY CODE.

WHEREAS, City Council created the Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion ("DEI") Commission in March 2021, codified in ECC Chapter 1.88.

WHEREAS, through community conversations and public testimony around the 2025 Comprehensive Plan update activities, focused around Chapter 9, there emerged differing opinions and misunderstandings of the role, duties, actions, and responsibility of the DEI Commission.

WHEREAS, since January 2025, the new federal administration has provided policy direction for DEI programs, and the legal landscape around DEI is continuing to change at the state and federal levels.

WHEREAS, on January 20, 2026, Council and the DEI Commission held a joint study session to discuss and provide direction on the purpose, duties, activities, and priorities of the DEI Commission found in Chapter 1.88 of Ellensburg City Code.

WHEREAS, on February 17, 2026, Council provided direction to staff to draft an ordinance containing revisions to Chapter 1.88 of the Ellensburg City Code, regarding the name, purpose, duties, activities, and priorities of the DEI Commission, for consideration at a future Council meeting.

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2026, Council conducted first reading of Ordinance No. 4982, and directed staff to revise the draft ordinance to reflect the new name of the commission, which is the "Access, Advocacy, Equity, and Engagement Commission."

NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Ellensburg, Washington do hereby ordain as follows:

Section 1. Section 1.88.010 of the Ellensburg City Code, as last amended by Section 1 of Ordinance 4916, is hereby amended to read as follows:

1.88.010 - Creation and purpose.

There is created the access, advocacy, equity and engagement_commission consisting of nine members, one of whom shall be a city council member serving as chairperson and a nonvoting member except in the case of a tie.

The purpose of the access, advocacy, equity, and engagement_commission is to advise and assist the city council in promoting meaningful community participation, equitable access to city

government services, and opportunities that support multicultural understanding, and a sense of belonging within the city of Ellensburg through action, advocacy, education, and guidance. Through its advisory role, the commission will seek to support Ellensburg in fostering a community that welcomes and is supportive to all residents and visitors because doing so enriches each individual's life and the community's well-being, safety, and vitality.

(Ord. No. [4916](#), § 1, 5-15-2023; Ord. 4883 § 37, 2022; Ord. 4871 § 1, 2021)

Section 2. Section 1.88.020 of the Ellensburg City Code, as last amended by Section 38 of Ordinance 4883, is hereby amended to read as follows:

1.88.020 - Term—Composition.

A. Members of the access, advocacy, equity and engagement commission shall serve without compensation for a three-year term. At least five members must reside within the city limits of the city of Ellensburg.

B. Each replacement member of the commission will be appointed to a full three-year term by city council.

C. The city council shall appoint commission members who bring knowledge of community needs, familiarity with barriers that may affect participation in civic life or access to services, and a demonstrated interest in promoting community engagement and access to city services. In making appointments, the city council will seek to attract members who represent business, nonprofit, or education sectors, and who have skills or experience in analytics, translation, marketing, technology, human resources, or community organizations, or other areas relevant to the commission's work. Commission members should demonstrate the ability to engage with individuals with differing viewpoints, collaborate constructively, and contribute to thoughtful discussions of issues impacting community participation.

(Ord. 4883 § 38, 2022; Ord. 4871 § 1, 2021)

Section 3. Section 1.88.040 of the Ellensburg City Code, as last amended by Section 40 of Ordinance 4883, is hereby amended to read as follows:

1.88.040 - Subcommittees.

The commission may create subcommittees that include members of the public to address certain community engagement topics, issues affecting access or barriers to services or civic participation, or assist with specific initiatives. The subcommittee chair must be a member of the access, advocacy, equity and engagement commission, and must be appointed by a majority of the commission membership.

(Ord. 4883 § 40, 2022; Ord. 4871 § 1, 2021)

Section 4. Section 1.88.050 of the Ellensburg City Code, as last amended by Section 1 of Ordinance 4871, is hereby amended to read as follows:

1.88.050 - Communication with city council.

The commission shall forward communications which require city council action to city council through separate memoranda, including all rationale, which shall be scheduled as council agenda items. The commission may designate a representative(s) to present recommendations or provide clarification to the council during council meetings when matters related to the commission are being considered. Memoranda requesting council authority for programs or projects that require funding must be received by June 30 of each year in order to be considered for inclusion in the biennial budget or annual budget amendment process. Commission recommendations not incorporated in the preliminary budget shall be forwarded to the city council for consideration with the preliminary budget.

(Ord. 4871 § 1, 2021)

Section 5. Section 1.88.060 of the Ellensburg City Code, as last amended by Section 1 of Ordinance 4871, is hereby amended to read as follows:

1.88.060 - Duties and responsibilities.

The powers and duties of the commission shall be as follows:

A. Advise city council on actions, strategies, processes, and services needed to sustain and improve community engagement, improve access to city government services, and support opportunities for residents to participate in civic life in Ellensburg;

B. Identify and provide recommendations regarding barriers that may affect residents' ability to participate in community life or access city services and programs;

C. Recommend for council adoption an annual commission plan that may include, but is not limited to, the following:

1. Developing activities such as forums, community gatherings, neighborhood programs, and events to promote mutual understanding and that encourage residents to connect with one another;
2. Identifying partner groups or organizations to sponsor regular multicultural activities and community conversations on relevant policy issues;
3. Advising the city on communication plans, strategies, and culturally appropriate outreach to distribute information to residents who may experience barriers to participation, including language access, disability access, or other accessibility needs

4. Advising the city on outreach strategies for improving awareness of barriers and access to city services;
5. Advising the city council regarding the impact of policy and budgetary decisions on residents who may experience additional barriers to participation or access to city government services;
6. Developing relevant metrics and assessments for measuring progress and/or success of the commission’s work (including, but not limited to, grant funded events); and
7. Submitting a report to council that references the work plan and includes recommendations to the city council on how to achieve the duties and responsibilities outlined in this section. Reports to the city council may be made as progress occurs, but no less than annually.

D. Advise city council on questions and issues the council sends to the commission for review.

(Ord. 4871 § 1, 2021)

Section 6. Severability. If any portion of this ordinance is declared invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portion(s) of this ordinance.

Section 7. Corrections. Upon the approval of the City Attorney, the City Clerk and the codifiers of this ordinance are authorized to make necessary corrections to this ordinance including, but not limited to, the correction of scrivener’s/clerical errors, references, ordinance numbering, section/subsection numbers and any references thereto.

Section 8. Effective Date. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force five (5) days after its passage, approval and publication.

The foregoing ordinance was passed and adopted at a regular meeting of the City Council on the 6th day of April, 2026.

MAYOR

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

Approved as to form:

CITY ATTORNEY

Publish:

I, Beth Leader, City Clerk of said City, do hereby certify that Ordinance No. 4982 is a true and correct copy of said Ordinance of like number as the same was passed by said Council, and that Ordinance No. 4982 was published as required by law.

BETH LEADER

Ellensburg School District DOJ Settlement Agreement Update

APRIL 14, 2026

PRESENTED BY: RHONDA SCHMIDT

1

Why We Entered the Agreement

- ▶ In 2023, the U.S. Department of Justice investigated concerns related to:
 - ▶ Student-on-student and staff-on-student harassment
- ▶ Findings:
 - ▶ District systems and responses needed to be strengthened
- ▶ We entered a voluntary agreement to:
 - ▶ Improve systems
 - ▶ Ensure safe, equitable learning environments for all students

2

What the Agreement Requires

Four focus areas:

- ▶ Strong reporting and tracking systems
- ▶ Clear procedures and accountability
- ▶ Training and prevention for staff and students
- ▶ Ongoing climate assessment and community engagement

3

What We Have Put in Place

- ▶ Centralized harassment reporting system
- ▶ Standardized investigation and response procedures
- ▶ Enhanced training for staff
- ▶ Partnership with ESD 105 consultant
- ▶ Climate surveys (students, staff, families)
- ▶ Listening sessions (March 31)
- ▶ Staffing
 - ▶ Civil Rights Compliance Coordinator
 - ▶ Latino Family Liaison

4

What the Data Shows – Reporting

- ▶ We now have consistent documentation of incidents across the district
- ▶ Increased reporting reflects:
 - ▶ Improved awareness
 - ▶ Clearer expectations

5

What the Data Shows – Climate

Across students, staff, and families:

- ▶ **Strengths**
 - ▶ Increased awareness of how to report concerns
 - ▶ Staff confidence in identifying issues is improving
- ▶ **Areas for growth**
 - ▶ Perception of consistency in how incidents are handled
 - ▶ Confidence that reporting leads to meaningful follow-through

6

What We Are Learning

- ▶ Systems in place, but consistency is still developing
- ▶ Communication with students and families can improve
- ▶ Some environments remain higher risk
 - ▶ Hallways
 - ▶ Bathrooms
 - ▶ Unstructured times
- ▶ Student experience does not always match adult perception

7

Listening Sessions (March 31)

- ▶ Students, staff, and community participated
- ▶ Facilitated by ESD 105
- ▶ Final report pending

Preliminary themes

- ▶ Need for:
 - ▶ Consistent adult response
 - ▶ Clear follow-through
 - ▶ Increased trust in reporting systems

8

Where We Are Now

- ▶ We are meeting structural requirements of the agreement
- ▶ We have robust baseline data due to standardization
- ▶ We have started to identify clear areas for improvement

9

What We Are Doing Next

Short term

- ▶ Analyze listening session results
- ▶ Strengthen consistency in investigations and responses
- ▶ Improve communication with families

Next school year

- ▶ Annual climate surveys and reporting cycle
- ▶ Expanded student programming
- ▶ Ongoing staff training focused on response, not just reporting

10



Meeting Date: April 14, 2026
City of Ellensburg
Access, Advocacy, Equity, & Engagement Commission
Agenda Report

Agenda Subject: Proclamation Subcommittee
Submitted by:
Department: City Manager

Suggested Motion/Action:
Brief overview on the proclamation subcommittee

Background/Summary:
There was a request for information about proclamations. The Commission's proclamation subcommittee currently includes Nancy Goodloe, Kandee Cleary, and the City staff member who submits the requests on behalf of the commission.

The proclamation process is the same for members of the public and the commission. Requirements are posted on the City's website. An application for proclamation and proclamation must be submitted at least 30 days prior to the date the proclamation is desired. Proclamations are reviewed and approved by the Mayor. They are included in the City Council agenda packets and also posted on the City's website on the Proclamations webpage: www.ellensburgwa.gov/1164/Proclamations

Proclamations the commission writes annually:

- National Black History Month - February
- Irish American Heritage Month/St. Patrick's Day - March
- National Women's History Month - March
- Trans Day of Visibility - March 31
- Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month - March
- Jewish American Heritage Month - May
- Asian American/Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Heritage Month - May
- LGBTQ Pride Month - June
- Juneteenth National Independence Day - June 19
- Hispanic/Latinx Heritage Month - September 15-October 15
- National Disability Employment Awareness Month - October
- Native American Heritage Month - November

Previous Council Action:
N/A

Analysis:

N/A

Financial Impact:

N/A

Budget Adjustment: No

Attachments:

None



Meeting Date: April 14, 2026
City of Ellensburg
Access, Advocacy, Equity, & Engagement Commission
Agenda Report

Agenda Subject: Staff Report
Submitted by:
Department: City Manager

Suggested Motion/Action:
Listen to staff updates.

Background/Summary:
Informational Only:

- The City's Arbor Day Free Tree Program application period is open. Residents can apply to receive a free tree to plant on your property or in the public right-of-way. This year's program includes fruit trees. Applications are due by April 24. Limited supplies of trees available. Applications are considered on a first-come, first-served basis. (www.ellensburgwa.gov/arbordaytreegiveaway)
- Take the housing survey and mini polls about Economic Development, Land Use & Infrastructure, and Community Voices on the City's website (www.ellensburgwa.gov/ellensburg2046). These are related to the Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update and are available in English and Spanish.
- Voting for the Community Selected Historic Preservation Award is open until 5 p.m. on April 17. The three buildings nominated are the Kleinberg Building, Johnston & Williams Funeral Home, and the Ellensburg Central Square (Fitterer's Building). Vote at www.ellensburgwa.gov/historicpreservation.
- In celebration of National Poetry Month, the City of Ellensburg invites the community to attend Emerging Ekphrastic Expressions, an evening of art-inspired poetry and civic celebration on Saturday, April 18, from 5:00–6:30 p.m. at Gallery One (408 N. Pearl Street). This free public event will feature dynamic collaborations between local visual artists and poets and include the ceremonial Passing of the Laurel.
- The City of Ellensburg is partnering with Waste Management to hold the second annual Ellensburg Recycling Event from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, May 2, 2026, in the City Hall parking lot, located at 501 N. Anderson St. People can bring clean recyclables and learn about curbside service and local recycling drop-off locations. A new event addition is a paper shred—bring your unneeded confidential documents to be destroyed securely by Shred-It. More information at www.ellensburgwa.gov/recycle
- Save the date for the Ellensburg Bike Month Event from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, May 30 at Unity Park. Throughout the month there will be a ride raffle contest and a photo contest. Additional information coming soon at www.ellensburgwa.gov/bikemonth

- There will be two Coffee With City Council events in May: May 2 at the Recycling Event and May 30 at the Bike Month Event. Council will be at both events from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. for conversation.

Previous Council Action:

N/A

Analysis:

N/A

Financial Impact:

N/A

Budget Adjustment: No

Attachments:

None