



## Meeting Agenda

### Youth Council

City Hall  
601 4th Avenue E  
Olympia, WA 98501

Information: 360.753.8244

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**Wednesday, January 21, 2026**

**3:30 PM**

**Room 207**

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

**1.A ROLL CALL**

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**3.A** [26-0067](#) Approval of the December 17, 2025 Youth Council Meeting Minutes  
*Attachments:* [Minutes](#)

**4. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**5. CHECK IN ACTIVITY**

**6. BUSINESS ITEMS**

**6.A** [26-0066](#) Election and Approval of 2026 Youth Council Leadership Positions  
*Attachments:* [Subcommittees and Leadership Positions Description](#)

**6.B** [26-0065](#) Discuss and Recommend a 2026 Youth Council Work Plan  
*Attachments:* [Draft Work Plan](#)

**7. REPORTS**

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

**Upcoming**

**Accommodations**

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## Youth Council

### **Approval of the December 17, 2025 Youth Council Meeting Minutes**

**Agenda Date:** 1/21/2026  
**Agenda Item Number:** 3.A  
**File Number:** 26-0067

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**Type:** minutes **Version:** 1 **Status:** In Committee

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**Title**

Approval of the December 17, 2025 Youth Council Meeting Minutes



## Meeting Minutes - Draft

### Youth Council

City Hall  
601 4th Avenue E  
Olympia, WA 98501

Information: 360.753.8244

**Wednesday, December 17, 2025**

**3:30 PM**

**Council Chambers**

**Joint meeting with the Lacey Youth Council**

#### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting called to order at 3:37 p.m.

#### **1.A ROLL CALL**

**Present:** 11 - Chair Nolan O'Connell, Secretary Sophia Park, Councilmember Gretchen Hillier, Councilmember Varshana Horback, Councilmember Shruthi Lingam-Nattamai, Councilmember Kaelyn Velazquez, Councilmember Alania Wettstein, Councilmember Amelia Eslinger, Councilmember Amelia Lehman, Councilmember Donovan Jojola and Councilmember Zian Zaho

**Excused:** 9 - Treasurer Eric Zhang, Councilmember Eman Haroon, Councilmember Demorie Joseph, Councilmember Elizabeth Mendoza, Councilmember Pamela Palmerson, Councilmember Gian Pama, Councilmember Addy Pitman, Councilmember Toby Wilson and Councilmember Anika Prabakar

#### **2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**The agenda was approved.**

#### **3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**3.A 25-1047** Approval of November 19, 2025 Youth Council Meeting Minutes

**The minutes were approved.**

#### **5. ANNOUNCEMENTS/HOUSEKEEPING**

Staff Liaison Susan Grisham explained the different Youth Council subcommittees and leadership positions. Elections for leadership roles will take place in January 2026.

#### **6. TEAM BUILDING ACTIVITY**

The activity was completed.

**7. BUSINESS ITEMS****7.A 25-1068 Joint Meeting with the Lacey Youth Council**

Olympia and Lacey Youth Councilmembers discussed ideas and goals for the 2026 Youth Council. A subcommittee consisting of councilmembers from both cities will meet to continue planning the logistics.

**The discussion was completed.**

**8. OTHER TOPICS - None****9. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 5:57 p.m.



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## Youth Council

### Election and Approval of 2026 Youth Council Leadership Positions

**Agenda Date:** 1/21/2026  
**Agenda Item Number:** 6.A  
**File Number:** 26-0066

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**Type:** decision **Version:** 1 **Status:** In Committee

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**Title**

Election and Approval of 2026 Youth Council Leadership Positions

**Recommended Action**

Identify Youth Council members to serve in 2026 Youth Council leadership positions. Once completed move to approve a slate of Youth Council members to serve in the 2026 Youth Council leadership positions.

**Report**

**Issue:**

Whether to identify Youth Council members to serve in 2026 Youth Council leadership positions and approve those members to serve as 2026 Youth Council.

**Staff Contact:**

Susan Grisham, Assistant to the City Manager

**Presenter(s):**

Nolan O'Connell, Chair, Youth Council

**Background and Analysis:**

The Youth Council holds annual elections to fill leadership positions critical to the council's operations. The positions include Chair, Chair Pro Tem, Secretary, Treasurer, and three Vice Chairs for Communications, Policy, and Outreach. These roles ensure effective governance, facilitate meetings, coordinate subcommittee activities, and represent youth interests in community decision-making.

**Climate Analysis:**

This item does not have any impact on the City's Climate work.

**Equity Analysis:**

The Youth Council's election process prioritizes inclusivity by allowing self-nominations and multiple nominations per position.

**Neighborhood/Community Interests (if known):**

There are no known community interests related to this item.

**Options:**

1. Move to approve a slate of Youth Council members to serve in the 2026 Youth Council leadership positions.
2. Move to approve a slate of Youth Council members to serve in the 2026 Youth Council leadership positions with amendments.
3. Take no action (not recommended, as leadership positions would remain vacant).

**Financial Impact:**

There is no direct financial impact associated with the elections. All activities were conducted using existing Youth Council meeting resources.

**Attachments:**

Subcommittees and Leadership Positions Description

# Youth Council

## Subcommittees and Leadership Positions



### Subcommittees

#### **Communications Subcommittee**

Manages how the Youth Council shares information. Members create social media content, newsletters, flyers, and announcements, helping amplify youth voices and keep the community informed.

#### **Policy Subcommittee**

Researches issues impacting youth and develops policy recommendations on behalf of the Youth Council. Members analyze data, gather youth input, and help shape positions that inform decision-makers and community leaders.

#### **Outreach Subcommittee**

Focuses on connecting the Youth Council with the broader community. Members plan outreach efforts, build partnerships with schools and ensure youth from diverse backgrounds are informed, involved, and heard.

### Leadership Positions

#### **Chair**

Leads the Youth Council by facilitating meetings, setting agendas, and representing the council to the community and decision-makers.

#### **Chair Pro Tem**

Assists the Chair and assumes leadership responsibilities in the Chair's absence to ensure continuity.

#### **Secretary**

Ensures accurate documentation of council activities when necessary.

#### **Treasurer**

Oversees the Youth Council's budget and tracks financial activity to ensure responsible use of funds.

#### **Vice Chair, Communications Subcommittee**

Leads council communications efforts, including social media, newsletters, and public announcements.

#### **Vice Chair, Policy Subcommittee**

Leads research on youth issues and coordinates the development of policy recommendations.

#### **Vice Chair, Outreach Subcommittee**

Leads community engagement efforts and builds partnerships to ensure diverse youth participation.



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## Youth Council

### Discuss and Recommend a 2026 Youth Council Work Plan

**Agenda Date:** 1/21/2026  
**Agenda Item Number:** 6.B  
**File Number:** 26-0065

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**Type:** decision **Version:** 1 **Status:** In Committee

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**Title**

Discuss and Recommend a 2026 Youth Council Work Plan

**Recommended Action**

Discuss and move the recommend a 2026 Youth Council Work Plan to the Community Livability and Public Safety Committee for recommendation to the full City Council for approval.

**Report**

**Issue:**

Whether to Discuss and move to recommend a 2026 Youth Council Work Plan to the Community Livability and Public Safety Committee for recommendation to the full City Council for approval.

**Staff Contact:**

Susan Grisham, Assistant to the City Manager, Youth Council Liaison, 360.753.8244

**Presenter(s):**

Susan Grisham, Assistant to the City Manager, Youth Council Liaison

**Background and Analysis:**

Each year, the Youth Council is responsible for putting together an annual work plan which will be presented to the Community Livability and Public Safety Committee for review and recommendation to the full City Council for approval. Items on the work plan should reflect the goals of the Youth Council.

The Youth Council serves as an advisory body to elevate youth perspectives in City decision-making. Consistent with the City's equity, inclusion, and community engagement goals, the Youth Council identified topics that prioritize both policy learning and applied civic engagement.

Youth have identified barriers to engagement including complex policy language, limited awareness of city programs, and a lack of accessible spaces for participation. This work plan responds to those challenges by pairing policy briefings with tangible projects that translate learning into action.

The Youth Council identified five priority briefing topics based on youth concerns, community relevance, and alignment with City initiatives:

**1. Mental Health Accessibility and Resources for Youth**

Focus on understanding available services, barriers to access, and opportunities to improve youth awareness and utilization of resources.

**2. Public Safety in Olympia**

Briefing of public safety, including Reimagining Public Safety.

**3. Olympia Sanctuary City**

Education on Olympia's sanctuary policies.

**4. Youth Homelessness**

Briefing on youth homelessness.

**5. Olympia Climate Programs**

Overview of the City's climate initiatives.

Each briefing will include presentations from City staff or community partners, youth discussion, and the development of youth-informed summaries or recommendations.

In addition to policy briefings, the Youth Council will undertake the following projects:

**1. Transit PSA**

In conjunction with the City Communications Team and Intercity Transit, develop a public service announcement to encourage and educate peers about riding the bus system. This will coincide with changes being implemented by Intercity Transit in the spring.

**2. Youth Engagement: Communicating Public Policy to Youth**

Development of youth-friendly explanations of City policies to assist with social media planning for the Youth Council.

**3. Youth Summit**

The Olympia Youth Council is partnering with the City of Lacey to plan a regional Youth Summit aimed at engaging young people in civic dialogue, community issues, and leadership development.

**4. Social Media Presence**

Continued development of a consistent Youth Council social media presence to share resources, promote engagement opportunities, and communicate with youth perspectives.

**5. Creation of Third Places**

Exploration of youth-defined "third places" (non-school, non-home spaces) through youth input and mapping existing spaces.

**Climate Analysis:**

This action does not impact climate outcomes.

**Equity Analysis:**

Based on data from the Washington State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction's "Report Card", minority enrollment in Olympia's schools is at 40% and approximately 20% of students are economically disadvantaged. (This data does not include students who are not in traditional schools, like home school or G.E.D programs.) One of the main goals of a Youth Council is to engage and lift up voices and perspectives of people who are often excluded from decision making and lack access to power.

**Neighborhood/Community Interests (if known):**

Youth in Olympia have expressed an interest in participating in decision making that effects their future.

**Options:**

1. Discuss and move the recommend a 2026 Youth Council Work Plan to the Community Livability and Public Safety Committee for recommendation to the full City Council for approval.
2. Discuss and move the recommend a 2026 Youth Council Work Plan to the Community Livability and Public Safety Committee for recommendation to the full City Council for approval.
3. Discuss a 2026 Youth Council Work Plan and continue the discussion at another meeting.

**Attachments:**

Draft Work Plan

## Draft City of Olympia Youth Council – 2026 Work Plan

### January 21, 2026 – Business Meeting

- Election of Officers
- Approval of Youth Council Work Plan
- Youth Summit Planning

### February 18, 2025 – Business Meeting

- Intercity Transit briefing on changes to the bus system
- Transit PSA Development Discussion
- Youth Summit Planning

### Mar 18, 2025 – Business Meeting

- Olympia Sanctuary City Briefing
- Public Safety Briefing
- Transit PSA Development Check-in
- Youth Summit Planning

### April 15 – Business Meeting

- Youth Engagement: Communicating Public Policy to Youth Discussion
- Youth Summit Planning
- Transit PSA Development Check-in

### May 5 – YOUTH SUMMIT

### May 20 – Business Meeting

- Mental Health Resources for Youth Briefing (Product: \_\_\_\_\_)
- Youth Summit Debrief
- Recruitment Check-in

### June – No Business Meeting

### July – No Business Meeting

### August 19 - Business Meeting

- Olympia Climate Programs Briefing
- Third Places for Youth Discussion
- 2026 Work Plan Discussion

### September 19 – Business Meeting

- Welcome New Members/Team Building
- 2026 Work Plan Discussion

**October 14 – Business Meeting - 207**

- Year Accomplishments Overview/Celebration
- 2026 Work Plan Discussion

**November – No Meeting**

**December – No Meeting**