

**State of Washington
Environmental & Land Use Hearing Office
invites applications for the position of:**

Growth Management Hearings Board Member



THE STATE OF WASHINGTON
ENVIRONMENTAL & LAND USE HEARINGS OFFICE

The Growth Management Hearings Board is seeking applications to fill a Board member vacancy. This position is a full-time remote position and must be located in western Washington. Board members are appointed by the Governor and serve 6-year terms at the pleasure of the Governor.

This is a unique opportunity to serve on one of Washington's most impactful boards. As Washington's population continues to grow, the Growth Management Hearings Board (Board) makes decisions about how important elements such as housing, transportation, and the environment are managed by Washington's cities and counties in their comprehensive plans and regulations.

The Growth Management Hearings Board Offers:

- A diverse portfolio of interesting legal issues;
- Opportunity to gain experience in an impartial, non-advocacy role;
- No billable hours;
- Cases with legal issues of first impression;
- Some flexibility in setting case schedules;
- Opportunity to mentor law student externs;
- Camaraderie in a supportive team atmosphere;
- Training and development opportunities;
- Comprehensive compensation packages, including benefits and paid leave;
- The fulfillment of public service; and
- A healthy work/life balance.

About the 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 the 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 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 Board is supported by a small legal support team and a law clerk. ELUHO's headquarters is located in Tumwater. ELUHO values diversity and provides a workplace inclusive of different cultures, backgrounds, and ideas. We are committed to the health and well-being of our employees and their families. We support healthy lifestyles and a healthy work/life balance, and we aim to provide employees with professional development opportunities.

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, conferring with Board members, coordinating with staff, 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 strong 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 are mostly conducted

remotely since the onset of the pandemic but may be conducted in-person. Travel is occasionally required to ELUHO's Tumwater office and to in-person hearings around the state.

Who we are looking for:

The vacancy must be filled by a resident of western Washington (west of the Cascades). 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. Preference will be given to attorneys with administrative or land use law experience.

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@eluhwa.gov or (360) 819-6765.