

Power Up: Local Government Edition

June 23, 2021



The ACLU would like to

ACKNOWLEDGE

THAT WE ARE ON

INDIGENOUS LAND

of the traditional territories of the
Coast Salish people,
specifically the Duwamish Tribe.

Whose land are you on? <https://native-land.ca>



Goals

- Familiarize (or re-familiarize) yourself with ACLU-WA's Power Up curriculum.
- Understand how local governments make policy decisions and which officials you should know about.
- Meet other activists in Washington!

Zoom Logistics

- This call is being recorded and will be sent to everyone who has registered for this training.
- The breakout rooms are NOT recorded – we will be utilizing these more in future sessions.
- To view captions, click on the “CC” button in your Zoom menu.
- The success of Power Up is built on participation!
 - On the Zoom toolbar, you can raise your hand to be called on or type a question or comment in the chat box.
 - Press *6 to unmute yourself on the phone.

Materials for this training



- Power Up handbook
- Local government supplement

Agenda

1. Introductions
2. Power Up Review
3. Local Government 101
 - a. Structures
 - b. Elected Officials
 - c. Ordinance Process
4. Q&A
5. Wrap-Up & Announcements

Introductions

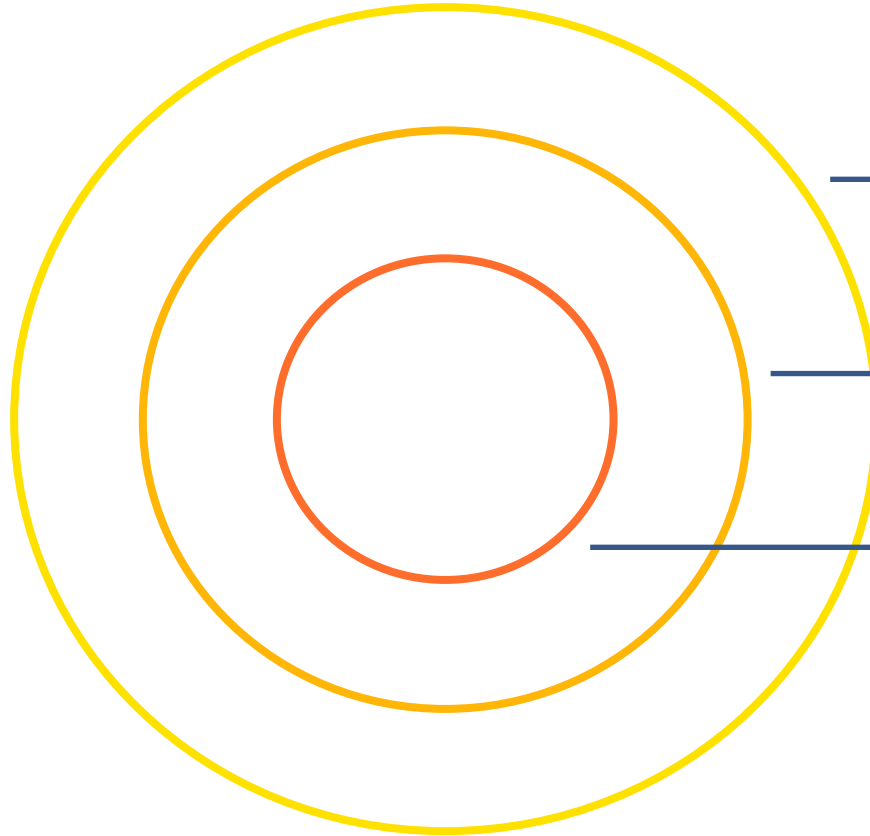
- In your breakout rooms, please introduce yourself:
 - Name
 - Pronouns
 - Where you're joining from
 - How have you participated in local government? (Hint: we all have in some way!)

Power Up Handbook

Public Narrative (pg. 21)



Circle of Influence Stakeholder Map (pg. 29)



OUTER RING: Indirect impact and a significant degree of interest and/or influence

MIDDLE RING: Stakeholders with less direct impact, but high degree of interest and/or influence

INNER RING: Stakeholders who most directly impact and/or are impacted by our work and/or who have the highest degree of interest and influence

Power Map (pg. 30)



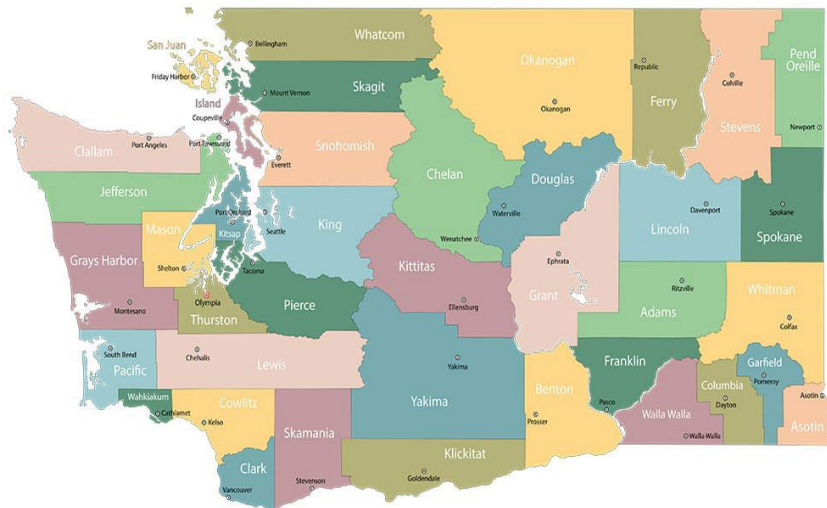
Midwest Academy Strategy Chart (pg. 34)

Goals	Capacity	Stakeholders	Targets	Tactics
<p>Long-Term: What you really want</p> <p>Intermediate: What you are trying to win now</p> <p>Short-Term: Step to the intermediate goal</p>	<p>What we have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People • Time • Space • Skills • Connections • Audience • Funding <p>What we need:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New members • Leadership • Organizing skills • Policy or institutional knowledge 	<p>Who cares about the issue? (Think about your Circle of Influence chart!)</p> <p>Who are your opponents?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What will your success cost them? • How will they oppose you? • How strong are they? • What power do they have over the target? 	<p>Primary target: Person who has the power to give you what you want</p> <p>Secondary target: People who have power or influence over your primary target (e.g. donors, voters, employers)</p>	<p>Actions you will take to move your target to say yes to the short-term goal</p> <p>Tactics must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Show your power & build your power • Be directed toward the targets • Move you closer to your goals • Make sense to your stakeholders • Be flexible & creative

Local Government 101

Washington Jurisdictions

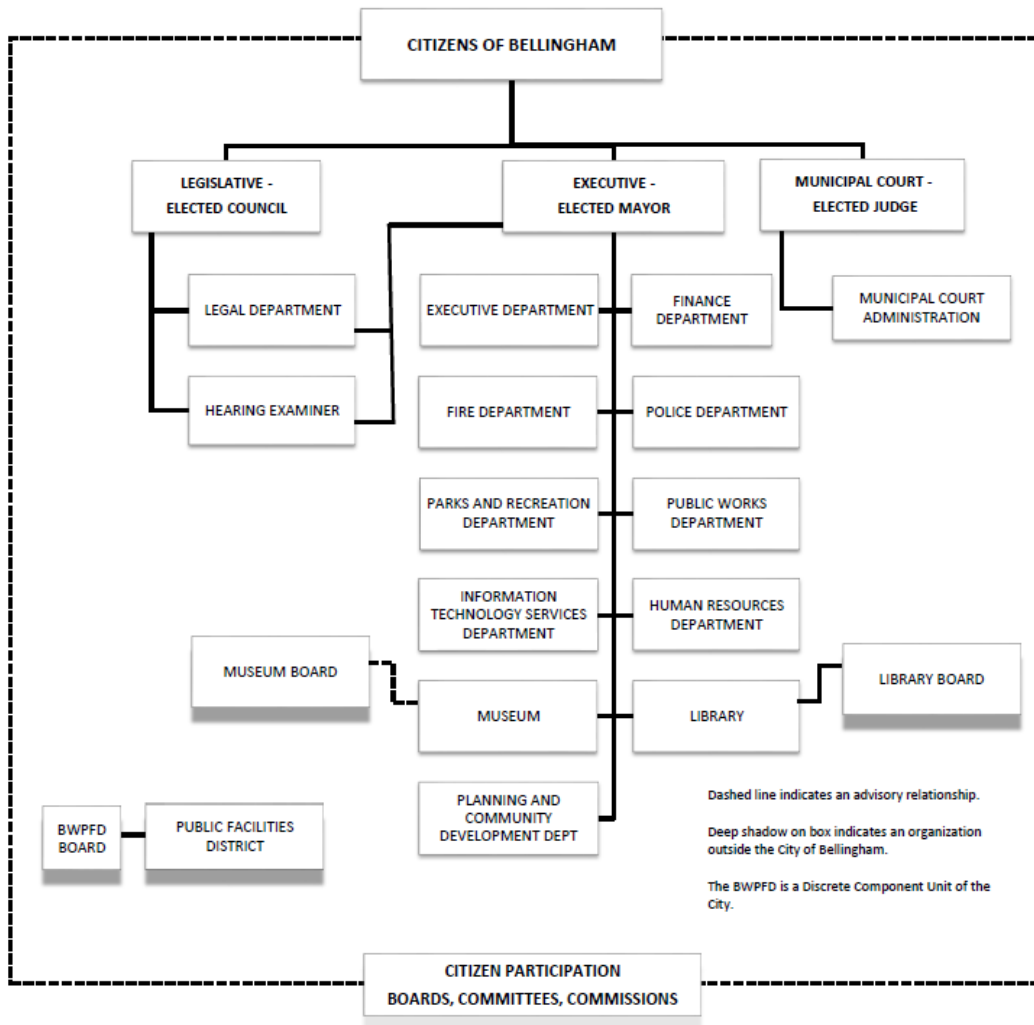
- Jurisdiction: area with a set of laws under the control of a system of courts or local government
- 39 counties composed of 281 municipalities:
 - First-class cities
 - Second-class cities
 - Towns
 - Code cities



Forms of government

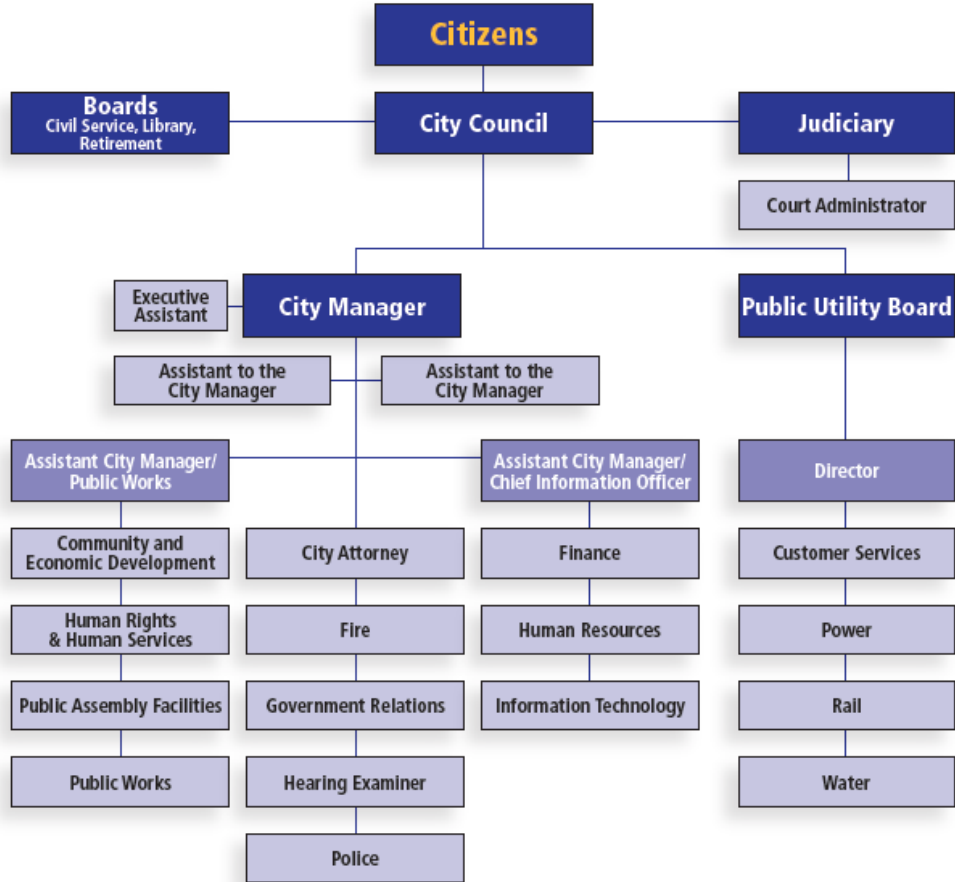


- Mayor-council:
 - Mayor is elected at-large
 - Councilmembers elected at-large or by district
 - Examples: Seattle, Everett, Spokane, Bellingham
- Council-manager:
 - Council is elected at-large or by district
 - Councilmembers appoint city manager
 - Mayor is selected by council
 - Examples: Tacoma, Richland, Vancouver, Yakima



CITY OF TACOMA, WASHINGTON

Organizational Chart



Mayors

- Can be elected by the people or appointed by city council
- Mayoral powers:
 - Preparing the annual budget
 - Serving as tie-breaker vote (in mayor-council structure)
 - Vetoing bills (in mayor-council structure)
 - Serving on city council and voting (in council-manager structure)
 - Appointing citizens to advisory boards or commissions
 - Serving as city administrator (in mayor-council structure)
- Election cycle: Every 4 years

City Councils

- May represent districts or be elected at-large, sometimes a combination
- Number of districts vary depending on the city/town
- Council powers:
 - Passing ordinances and resolutions
 - Reviewing and approving the annual budget
 - Modifying the city's charter
 - Regulating public health and safety
 - Appointing city manager and mayor (in council-manager structure)
 - Creating city positions and setting salaries
 - Confirming mayoral appointments
 - Approving business licenses and regulations
 - Regulating land use
 - Borrowing funds

County Government

- Similar in many ways to city structure
- County council/board of county commissioners: legislative body for county
- Some counties have appointed administrator, others have elected county executive
- County executive: roles and powers determined in county's charter
 - Responsible for day-to-day administrative functions and services



CLARK COUNTY WASHINGTON ORGANIZATION CHART

VOTERS OF CLARK COUNTY

ASSESSOR

Peter Van Nortwick
564.397.2391

Appraisal of all real and personal property subject to taxation

AUDITOR

Greg Kimssey
564.397.2241

Accounting and financial services, elections, recording, titles and licensing for motor vehicles, trailers, and boats, marriage licenses, performance audits, and financial audit management

CLERK

Scott Weber
564.397.2292

Superior Court records and monetary collections, family law facilitator

DISTRICT COURT JUDGES

Amber K. Emery, Administrator
564.397.2424

Court of limited jurisdiction. Trial court for misdemeanor, traffic, civil and small claims cases, district court records and monetary collections, interpreter services for all courts

CORRECTIONS

Post-conviction adult misdemeanor offender supervision, pretrial services for all courts

COUNTY COUNCIL

Eileen Quiring, Chair
Temple Lentz
Julie Olson
John Blom
Gary Medvigy
564.397.2232

Legislative authority for county government. Chief policy making body including adoption of the annual budget and all county ordinances

PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

Tony Golik
564.397.2261

Criminal prosecution, county legal counsel, victim/witness assistance, child support enforcement, adult diversion

Arthur D. Curtis
Children's Justice Center

Amy Russell
564.397.6002

Provides a safe, child-focused place to alleged child victims of criminal-level abuse and their non-offending family members

SHERIFF

Chuck E. Atkins
564.397.2366

Law enforcement, criminal investigations, jail, civil/criminal records, warrants, crime prevention

SUPERIOR COURT JUDGES

Jessica Gurley, Administrator
564.397.2150

Court of general jurisdiction. Trial court for felony, civil, and family law cases

JUVENILE COURT SERVICES

Christine Simonsmeier,
Administrator
564.397.2201

Probation, diversion, detention and truancy services for juvenile offenders and youth at risk

TREASURER

Alishia Topper
564.397.2252

Real and personal property tax collection, cash management, short- and long-term debt management, banking services

Kathleen Otto INTERIM COUNTY MANAGER

564.397.2232

Chief executive officer for functions not vested in other elected officers by state law or county charter

CLARK COUNTY COUNCIL AND COUNTY MANAGER'S OFFICE

564.397.2232

Clark County Council and County Manager's Office support services, policy analysis, economic development, neighborhood outreach, communications, news and information, printed materials, website content, public disclosure requests and indigent defense

CODE ADMINISTRATION

Mitch Nickolds
Director
564.397.4052

Code enforcement, animal protection and control, fire marshal

Geographic Information Services/GIS

Bob Pool
564.397.4654

Central computerized mapping and geographic information services

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Dan Young
Director
564.397.4101

Building safety, development engineering, business technology, land use, administration/finance, wetland/habitat and permitting, and weatherization/energy assistance

COMMUNITY PLANNING

Oliver Orjako
Director
564.397.2280

Long-range land use, comprehensive plan update, growth management projects

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Vanessa Gaston
Director
564.397.2130

Alcohol and drug treatment, developmental disabilities, veterans' assistance, youth programs, housing, emergency shelter, health and social service partnerships, CDBG and HOME administration, Community Action

INTERNAL SERVICES

Mailing, printing, records/archives, construction services, Tri-Mountain Golf Course, fairgrounds site management, property management, purchasing, Board of Equalization

Budget

Emily Zwetzig / 564.397.6097

Facilities

Kevin Rice / 564.397.4003

Human Resources

Mande Lawrence / 564.397.2456

Technology Services

Mike Sprinkle / 564.397.6121

PUBLIC HEALTH

Dr. Alan Melnick
Health Officer/Director
564.397.8000

Communicable and chronic disease control, emergency preparedness/response, environmental health, health assessment, evaluation and outreach, healthy families; birth and death certificates; solid waste; environmental education

MEDICAL EXAMINER

Martha J. Burt, MD
564.397.8405

Death investigation

PUBLIC WORKS

Ahmad Qayoumi
County Engineer/Director
564.397.6118

Equipment services, road operations and maintenance, transportation planning and operations, design and engineering, construction and inspection, wastewater treatment, parks, Camp Bonneville, clean water, stormwater management, forest practices, vegetation management, county railroad, emergency response, safety, ADA compliance

Other Elected Officials

- **Assessor:** Determines property values in the county, which impacts tax liability for taxpayers.
- **Auditor:** Examines and audits financial records; oversees local elections and voter registration; issues titles, licenses, and registrations; and collects county fees and taxes.
 - Auditors are elected in all counties except for King County.
- **Coroner/Medical Examiner:** Conducts death investigations, including inquests.
 - In some counties, the county council or board of commissioners appoints a medical examiner in place of an elected coroner.

Other Elected Officials (cont.)

- **Prosecuting Attorney:** Serves as the legal representative for the county and all county officials, whether appointed or elected; prosecutes violators of state law and county code; represents the county in criminal and civil actions; and serves as legal advisor to all county officers.
 - In small counties, the prosecuting attorney also acts as coroner, conducting death investigations.
- **Sheriff:** Serves as head of county law enforcement, including investigating complaints, providing emergency response, monitoring traffic safety, conducting criminal investigations, and executing warrants.

Other Elected Officials (cont.)

- **Treasurer:** Oversees management of county funds; provides financial services for the county; receives and distributes funds; invests county funds; and maintains financial records.
 - Treasurers are elected in all counties except King County.

Ordinance Process

Resolutions & Ordinances

- Resolution: symbolic declaration about future purposes or proceedings of the governing body, or a policy statement.
- Ordinance: local law that has been adopted by the governing body that has the legal formality of a statute.

How a Bill Becomes an Ordinance

- 1. Bill Introduction:** Councilmember formally introduces a bill
- 2. Committee Hearings:** Bill is scheduled for a hearing in a policy-specific committee, and public can provide comment.
- 3. Committee Vote:** Committee considering the bill will schedule a vote. Bill usually needs to pass by a majority vote.
- 4. Council Vote:** After the bill passes out of committee, it will be scheduled for a vote by the full council.
- 5. Mayoral Approval:** Bill is sent to the mayor for signature. In a mayor-council structure, mayor has authority to veto.
- 6. Bill Becomes Law:** Bill is assigned an ordinance number, codified, and incorporated into municipal code.

Advocating During the Ordinance Process

- What are some examples of ways to participate in the local ordinance process?
- There are opportunities for advocacy at every step!
 - Bringing a bill idea to a councilmember
 - Attending a public hearing
 - Making a comment at a public hearing
 - Contacting councilmembers and asking them to vote yes/no on a bill
 - Contacting the mayor and urging them to sign or veto the bill
 - Educating members of the community about the new law or policy change

Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA)

- Passed by Washington State Legislature in 1971
- Meetings of a “governing body” of a “public agency” must be open to the public (RCW 42.30.030)
- Public agencies include state boards and commissions, cities, counties, school districts, special purpose districts, courts, the state legislature, and more
- Agencies are required to make schedules available to public ahead of time
- OPMA doesn’t require public comment, and topic/amount of time given to speak can be limited

Public Records Act (PRA)

- Passed by Washington voters in 1972
- Requires public access to all records and materials from state and local agencies (RCW 42.56)
- Anyone can submit a request for information to a public agency
- State law requires a response within 5 business days, although they don't necessarily have to furnish records within that time
- Public agencies may charge a “reasonable fee” for copies

Q&A

Wrap-Up

Get Involved

- Volunteer opportunity: Researching local candidate statements on policing. Email me for more info!
- Help us build out our elections center by letting us know about candidate forums & events happening in your communities.
 - You can email events to me or join our Rocket.Chat channel (more information in tomorrow's email)
 - Elections center on our website will include all of these events plus questions to ask candidates and elections FAQ
- If you're in King County, check out People Power Washington's website: <https://www.wethepeoplepower.org/voter-guide-2021>
- Join the People Power WA listserv



Upcoming Events

- Two more Power Up trainings this summer – tell your friends!
 - Wednesday, July 21 – Local governments & policing
 - Thursday, August 18 – Election season prep
- Flights & Rights: Pride
 - Tuesday, June 29, 5-6pm
- House Our Neighbors teach-in on Seattle Charter Amd. 29
 - Wednesday, July 7
 - More information to follow



For more information:

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rgilchrist@aclu-wa.org

www.aclu-wa.org



ACLU

Washington

WE THE PEOPLE