

# COUNTY OF WALLA WALLA

## STATE OF WASHINGTON

January 23, 2024

### NEWS RELEASE

Walla Walla County Board of Commissioners  
County Public Health and Legislative Building  
314 West Main/P. O. Box 1506  
Walla Walla, WA 99362  
509/524-2505

### **OPENINGS ON COUNTY ACCESSIBLE COMMUNITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ACAC)**

Walla Walla County is accepting applications for Accessible Communities Advisory Committee (ACAC). Walla Walla and Columbia County have formed a dual-County Accessible Communities Advisory Committee.

The Accessible Community Advisory Committees (ACAC) Act was promoted by the Legislature to help communities be more welcoming and inclusive for persons with disabilities and to promote and provide equal access to the opportunities available to others. Their participation enriches communities, enhances the strength of the diversity of a community and contributes toward the economic vitality of a community.

Walla Walla County envisions the Accessible Communities Advisory Committee be actively involved in:

- Advising policy makers on the needs of persons with disabilities in emergency plans.
- Advising the county and other local governments within the county on access to programs, services, and activities, new construction or renovation projects, sidewalks and other pedestrian routes of travel, and disability parking enforcement.
- Developing local initiatives and activities to promote greater awareness of disability issues, and acceptance, involvement and access for persons with disabilities within the community.

ACAC is looking for broad representation of all disabilities. Interested applicants should: Identify as people with disabilities; have a user's perspective; have personal experience with disability and disability advocacy; can speak broadly on disability issues as opposed to only addressing their own needs; and are knowledgeable about a variety of physical, communication, and program access issues (hearing, vision, mobility, speech, and cognitive limitations, etc.). Other qualified (non-disabled) applicants should: Be connected to and involved in the disability community on a state, local or national level; with active involvement in broad-based disability organizations (for blind, deaf, hard of hearing, learning disability, developmental disability, independent living, etc.); and have in place and use two-way communication methods to facilitate communication with the disability community they are representing.

Time commitments to this board include monthly and/or quarterly board meeting; more often if called upon for input on accessibility issues. Committee members must be residents of Walla Walla County, be willing to attend committee meetings. Travel assistance and interpreters are available for ACAC meetings as approved by State guidelines with member coordinating their own service.

Application forms may be obtained from the County website ([www.co.walla-walla.wa.us](http://www.co.walla-walla.wa.us)), or the Walla Walla County Commissioners' Office, County Public Health and Legislative Building, 314 W. Main/P.O. Box 1506, Walla Walla, or by calling the Commissioners' Office at (509) 524-2505. Application may also be obtained from the Department of Community Health (DCH), 314 W. Main, Rose Street Entrance, or by calling the DCH office at (509) 524-2650. Interested persons are encouraged to call or email ([wwcocommissioners@co.walla-walla.wa.us](mailto:wwcocommissioners@co.walla-walla.wa.us)) questions regarding these openings. If you need assistance with application, an interpreter, or material in an alternative format, please contact Janet Vaupel-Moody at [acac@co.walla-walla.wa.us](mailto:acac@co.walla-walla.wa.us) or (509) 524-2939.

Completed applications must be returned to the county commissioners' office to be considered for applicant selection. There will be a rolling application period until all positions are filled. Applications may be dropped off, mailed, or emailed. As a part of the selection process, applicants may expect to be interviewed.

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