

(Enter Code Chapter Here)

# AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMISSION

Sections:

- C Established
- C Purpose of Agricultural Advisory Commission
- C Function of Agricultural Advisory Commission
- C Membership – Term of Office
- C Organization – Meetings
- C Commission -staffing

## (Code) Established

Agricultural Advisory Commission is hereby established (ORD 2024- and EXHIBIT A)

## (Code) Purpose of Agricultural Advisory Commission

The agricultural advisory commission provides review and recommendations to the Clark County Council on issues that affect agriculture in Clark County. The commission also provides a forum of those in the agricultural community and others interested in enhancing and promoting the long-term sustainability. (ORD AND EXH A)

## (Code) Function of Agricultural Advisory Commission

The Agricultural Advisory Commission shall advise and make policy recommendations to the Council and County manager or other appropriate boards and commissions on issues of significance to or that impact the agricultural community, the commissions functions are as follows:

- A. Review and provide recommendations on zoning, comprehensive plan, subarea plans, regulations, annexation issues, Legacy Lands acquisitions, and land use proposals that directly affect lands or agricultural activities, or lands of agricultural significance; and
- B. Analyze and develop recommendation that will assist the county in addressing other issues that affect agriculture at the county, regional, state and federal levels; and
- C. Upon request of the Director of Community Planning the commission may assist department by providing review and comment on comprehensive planning and zoning related to issues in and adjacent to designated agricultural lands or other lands of agricultural significance.

- D. Assist the county and make recommendations to establish, promote, and implement a comprehensive agricultural protection/preservation program.

**(Code) Membership – Term of Office**

Members of the advisory commission shall be appointed by the County Manager and confirmed by a majority of Council. The Agricultural Advisory Commission shall consist of 11 voting members. To ensure a diverse representation of various aspects of farming and agriculture industry when appointing the members, consideration and preference should be given to the following:

- A. One member from the Clark County Conservation District board;
- B. One member representing from the agricultural processing industry;
- C. One member representing consumers of agricultural products;
- D. One member who has expertise in agricultural programs;
- E. The remaining seven voting members are to include agricultural producers representing both large- and small-scale producers of various agricultural commodities produced in Clark County.

In addition to the voting members, a representative from Washington State University Extension, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and agriculturally involved youth such as 4-H or Future Farmers of America may serve on the commission in an ex officio capacity.

Effective October 1, 2024, the first terms of the Commission’s voting members shall be staggered as follows:

- A. Five shall be appointed for two years to expire October 1, 2026; and
- B. Six shall be appointed for four years, to expire October 1, 2028.

Thereafter, the successors to the first appointment shall be appointed to four-year terms. No member of the commission shall be eligible to serve more than two full terms consecutively.

Vacancies occurring for any reason shall be filled by appointment for the remainder of an unexpired term. The County Manager may remove any member of the Commission for inefficiency, neglect of duty, malfeasance, or three unexcused absences within one year.

The Commission shall annually elect a Chair and a Vice Chair from among its voting members. A quorum of the Commission for the purpose of transacting business shall be a majority of voting members currently appointed, to be no less than five. Each voting member of the Commission shall be entitled to one vote on any matter of business before the body. Members of the Commission shall abstain from voting on matters that create a conflict of interest with their professional role or with the organization they represent. Each voting member may designate a proxy if needed.

**(Code) Organization -Meetings**

Meetings of the commission shall be open and accessible to the public and shall be subject to the Open Public Meetings Act. The commission shall determine its own meeting schedule but shall meet a least six times a year. At every meeting, the commission will schedule and open session to take public comment on agricultural issues. Comments by the public are limited to three minutes unless otherwise granted permission by the chair or vice chair of the commission. Written records of the meetings, resolutions, findings and recommendations shall be kept, and such records will be public. The meetings of the commission shall be conducted using Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised as a non-binding guide.

**(Code) Commission staffing**

The Clark County Department of Community Planning shall provide staffing for the committee. The committee is authorized to request additional support if necessary, from the County Manager's office.