



## *Board of County Commissioners*

Lewis County Courthouse • 351 NW North Street • Chehalis, WA 98532-1900

○ 360.740.1120  
TDD 360.740.1480

[bocc@lewiscountywa.gov](mailto:bocc@lewiscountywa.gov)

### **PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

*Lewis County, Washington – September 23, 2025*

## **Lewis County Commissioners adopt Comprehensive Plan**

CHEHALIS – Following three public workshops, countless hours of testimony and dozens of public meetings, the Lewis County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) has unanimously approved the county's Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update.

The plan adopted today includes regulation of short-term rentals (STRs), updates to the requirements related to development in Onalaska and Packwood, allowances for new energy production and storage facilities, and regulation of signs on private property. Commissioner Scott Brummer introduced amendments to the ordinance that adjusted requirements in the urban growth areas (UGAs) related to building design, landscaping and bicycle parking.

The new development regulations take effect Oct. 1, 2025, except requirements for short-term rentals and signs, which will take effect Jan. 1, 2026. The delay is designed to provide staff time to finalize a permitting process for STRs, including the creation of permits as well as processes for review and approval.

"The Comprehensive Plan is an important tool for managing growth and development over the next 10 years in Lewis County," said Community Development Director Mindy Brooks. "Today represents years of working with the community to identify priorities and update the plans to match."

BOCC Chair Scott Brummer echoed those sentiments and praised the Lewis County Planning Commission, which helped draft the proposed updates. "Thank you to the Planning Commission, staff and public for all your hard work," he said. "This is a huge accomplishment."

Counties and cities planning under the state's Growth Management Act are required to complete periodic updates to their comprehensive plans and development regulations every 10 years. The last step in Lewis County's Periodic Update will be the Critical Areas ordinance, which the BOCC will hear this fall. The county will kick off its next Periodic Update cycle in 2032.

All materials – including minutes and handouts from the dozens of open public meetings the Planning Commission held – are available at <https://lewiscountywa.gov/departments/community-development/comprehensive-plan-and-development-regulation-amendments/>.

For more information, contact Brooks at [mindy.brooks@lewiscountywa.gov](mailto:mindy.brooks@lewiscountywa.gov) or 360-740-2610.

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**Ryan Barrett**  
County Manager

**Sean Swope**  
First District

**Lindsey R. Pollock, DVM**  
Second District

**Scott Brummer**  
Third District

**Rieva Lester**  
Clerk of the Board