

SNOHOMISH COUNTY COUNCIL  
Snohomish County, Washington

NOTICE OF INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE  
AND  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the Snohomish County Council will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, February 4, 2026, at the hour of 10:30 a.m. and continuing thereafter as necessary, in the Henry M. Jackson Room, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor, Robert J. Drewel Building, 3000 Rockefeller, Everett, Washington, in conjunction with a remote meeting platform via the following Zoom link, to consider proposed Ordinance No. 25-077, titled: RELATING TO GROWTH MANAGEMENT; DEFINING RELIGIOUS FACILITIES; AMENDING SNOHOMISH COUNTY CODE (SCC) CHAPTERS 30.22, 30.23, 30.26, 30.27, 30.28, 30.31F, 30.32B, 30.32E, 30.67, 30.91C, AND 30.91E; REPEALING SCC 30.91C.085; AND ADDING A NEW SECTION TO CHAPTER 30.91R SCC. At the hearing, the Council may also consider alternatives and amendments to the proposed ordinance.

**Zoom Webinar Information:**

Join online at <https://zoom.us/j/94846850772>  
or by telephone call 1-253-215-8782 or 1-301-715-8592

**Background:** This ordinance amends Title 30 of the Snohomish County Code (SCC) to repeal the term “church” and replace it with the term “religious facility” in sections relating to the definition and regulations of such uses. The goal of this code amendment project is to adopt a neutral, inclusive term that encompasses religious facilities and activities not associated with a particular faith.

**A summary of the proposed ordinance is as follows:**

PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 25-077

Sections 1 – 3. Adopts recitals, findings of fact, and conclusions, and states that the County Council bases its findings and conclusions on the entire record of the County Council and that any finding that should be a conclusion and any conclusion that should be a finding is adopted as such.

Section 4. Amends SCC 30.22.100 to remove “church” as a listed use from the Urban Zone Categories Use Matrix and add “religious facility” as a new use.

Section 5. Amends SCC 30.22.110 SCC to remove “church” as a listed use from the Rural and Resource Zone Categories Use Matrix and add “religious facility” as a new use.

Section 6. Amends SCC 30.22.120 SCC to remove “church” as a listed use from the Other Zone Categories Use Matrix and add “religious facility” as a new use.

Section 7. Amends SCC 30.22.130 to replace “church” with “religious facility”.

Section 8. Amends SCC 30.23.050 to replace “church” with “religious facility”.

Section 9. Amends SCC 30.23.110 to replace “church” with “religious facility”.

Section 10. Amends SCC 30.26.030 to remove “church as a listed use from Table 30.26.030(1) (Number of Parking Spaces Required) and to add “religious facility” as a new use.

Section 11. Amends SCC 30.26.050 to replace “church” with “religious facility”.

Section 12. Amends SCC 30.27.060 to replace “church” with “religious facility”.

Section 13. Amends SCC 30.28.015 to replace “church” with “religious facility”.

Section 14. Amends SCC 30.28.086 to replace “church” with “religious facility”.

Section 15. Amends SCC 30.31F.110 to replace “church” with “religious facility”.

Section 16. Amends SCC 30.32B.100 to replace “church” with “religious facility”.

Section 17. Amends SCC 30.32E.070 to replace “church” with “religious facility”.

Section 18. Amends SCC 30.67.555 to replace “church” with “religious facility”.

Section 19. Repeals SCC 30.91C.085 SCC, which defined church.

Section 20. Amends SCC 30.91C.198 to replace “church” with “religious facility”..

Section 21. Amends SCC 30.91E.086 to replace “church” with “religious facility”.

Section 22. Creates a new definition in Chapter 30.91R of the SCC defining the term “religious facility” as “a building, along with accessory buildings such as storage, kitchens, classrooms, or housing for clergy, religious officials, or others necessary to the function of the religious facility. This includes churches, synagogues, temples, mosques, and reading rooms or other places for religious worship and religious activity. This definition does not include facilities for training of religious orders, denominations, or sects.”

Section 23. Provides a standard severability and savings clause.

=====

**State Environmental Policy Act:** Requirements with respect to this non-project action have been satisfied through the completion of an environmental checklist and issuance of a determination of non-significance on June 30, 2025. Copies of all applicable SEPA documents are available at the office of the County Council.

**Where to Get Copies of the Proposed Ordinance:** Copies of the full ordinance and other documentation are available upon request by calling the County Council Office at (425) 388-3494, 1-(800) 562-4367x3494, TDD (425) 388-3700 or by e-mailing [contact.council@snoco.org](mailto:contact.council@snoco.org).

**Website Access:** This ordinance and other documents can be accessed through the Council websites at: <https://snohomish.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx> or <http://www.snohomishcountywa.gov/2134/County-Hearings-Calendar>.

**Range of Possible Actions the County Council May Take on This Proposal:** At the conclusion of its public hearing(s), the County Council may make one of the following decisions regarding the proposed actions: (1) adopt the proposed ordinance; (2) adopt an amended version of the proposed ordinance; (3) decline to adopt the proposed ordinance; (4) adopt such

other proposals or modification of such proposals as were considered by the County Council at its own hearing; or (5) take any other action permitted by law.

**Public Testimony:** Anyone interested may testify concerning the above-described matter at the time and place indicated above or by remote participation in the meeting. The County Council may continue the hearing to another date to allow additional public testimony thereafter, if deemed necessary. Written testimony is encouraged and may be sent to the office of the Snohomish County Council at 3000 Rockefeller Ave M/S 609, Everett, WA 98201; faxed to (425) 388-3496 or e-mailing [contact.council@snoco.org](mailto:contact.council@snoco.org). Submitting public comments 24 hours prior to the hearing will ensure that comments are provided to the Council and appropriate staff in advance of the hearing.

**Party of Record:** You may become a party of record on this matter by sending a written request to the Clerk of the County Council at the above address, testifying at the public hearing, or entering your name and address on a register provided for that purpose at the public hearing.

**Americans with Disabilities Act Notice:** Accommodations for persons with disabilities will be provided upon request. Please make arrangements one week prior to the hearing by calling Lisa Hickey at (425) 388-3494, 1(800) 562-4367 X3494, or TDD #1-800-877-8339, or by e-mailing [lisa.hickey@snoco.org](mailto:lisa.hickey@snoco.org).

QUESTIONS: For additional information or specific questions on the proposed ordinance please call Jennifer Cao in the Department of Planning and Development Services at 425-312-0878.

DATED this 16<sup>th</sup> day of January 2026.

SNOHOMISH COUNTY COUNCIL  
Snohomish County, Washington

/s/Megan Dunn  
Council Chair

ATTEST:

/s/Lisa Hickey  
Asst. Clerk of the Council

PUBLISH: January 21, 2026

Send Affidavit to: County Council  
Send Invoice to: Planning #107010