



Snohomish County Council

Committee: Planning & Community Development **Analyst:** Ryan Countryman
ECAF: 2023-0928
Proposal: Motion 23-338 **Date:** August 15, 2023

Consideration

Motion 23-338 would reappoint Charlotte Zissel to a third four-year term on the Children’s Commission beginning upon confirmation.

Background

Charlotte Zissel has completed two terms¹ on the Children’s Commission and is eligible to serve for a third per [SCC 2.410.040](#). As an Early Learning Coach and Trainer with Childcare Aware Northwest and 35 years of experience in the early learning field, Charlotte Zissel is well qualified to continue serving on the Children’s Commission. She writes that “When I see the work on equality that is the focus of this commission, it makes me want to continue to be a part of this group.”

The Children’s Commission was created in 1985 by [Ordinance 85-060](#) as a volunteer advisory body to the County Executive and Department of Human Services. There have been some changes over the years regarding provisions for powers, duties, appointments, and terms. Current provisions are in [Chapter 2.410 SCC](#). Additional details are on page 2.

Current Proposal: Motion 23-338 would reappoint Charlotte Zissel to the Children’s Commission.

Handling: Normal

Executive: Approve

Request: Move to General Legislative Session August 23 for consideration.

¹ Charlotte Zissel was originally appointed by [Motion 15-273](#) and then reappointed by [Motion 19-150](#).

Appendix A: About the Children's Commission

Membership consists of up to 25 members which shall serve as advisors on issues of health, safety, and social services for infants, young children, and youth in the community. The commission shall advise the executive and department of human services on all matters related to the administration and enhancement of children's programs ([SCC 2.410.010](#)). Per [SCC 2.410.020](#), the Children's Commission has the powers and duties to:

- (1) Conduct public hearings to determine the needs and priorities of children ages 0-18 in Snohomish County as related to health, mental health, safety, and social services.
- (2) Hold community forums for the surfacing of issues affecting children's well-being and service delivery needs.
- (3) Report within a year and at regular intervals thereafter on the status of children's service needs and resources in Snohomish County; making its findings a written document on which advice and recommendations for future action and planning shall be based.
- (4) Advise county government on matters relating to the priorities, objectives, and tasks to be performed affecting infants, young children and youth.
- (5) Act as a resource center providing technical assistance to community-based organizations dealing with children's issues, assist in the development of grants affecting infants, young children, and youth, and provide input to local, state and federal agencies on these issues.
- (6) Act in an advocate role to public and private sector for the interest of children of Snohomish County.
- (7) [Perform] Such other duties as may be assigned.

The membership's composition pursuant to SCC 2.410.030 is to be as follows:

- 2 members under the age of 18 years old
- 10 at-large members
- 3 members from each of the 5 districts

Additionally, members shall represent one or more of the following areas: health and human services, education, business and labor, law and justice, concerned citizens, Washington department of social and health services, US department of health and human services, youth, elected officials, and minorities. The County Council may name an ex officio member to the commission.

Terms for people under the age of 18 are one year and for people 18 and over are four years. People may serve up to three consecutive terms. After serving three consecutive terms, a person may serve additional terms after two years' absence from the commission.