



## Snohomish County Council

**Committee:** Planning & Community Development      **Analyst:** Ryan Countryman  
**ECAF:** 2023-0526  
**Proposal:** Proposed Motion 23-191      **Date:** May 16, 2023

### **Consideration:**

Motion 23-191 would reappoint Mark James to the Snohomish County Planning Commission. The appointment is for a second full term and would expire on July 1, 2027.

### **Background**

The Planning Commission is an advisory body to the County Council and Executive whose members serve for terms of four years. (More details about the Planning Commission are on page 3). Commissioner James is nearing completion of his current first term which expires on July 1, 2023.<sup>1</sup> Commissioner James has served capably, satisfying the requirements of [SCC 2.08.080](#) for reappointment, and brings balance to the Planning Commission. Councilmember Nate Nehring is nominating Mark James to a second full term on the Planning Commission.

The Planning Commission has eleven positions, and ten current members.<sup>2</sup> By separate motions, two other planning commissioners with terms expiring on July 1 are also under consideration for renomination.

### **Current Proposal**

*Scope:* Motion 23-191 would reappoint Mark James to the Planning Commission.

*Effective Date:* Mark James' new term would be effective July 1, 2023.

*Fiscal Implications:* No impact

**Handling:** Normal

**Request:** Move to General Legislative Session May 24 to set time and date for a public hearing. Suggested time and date is Wednesday, June 14, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.

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<sup>1</sup> Mark James was originally appointed to Planning Commission by [Motion 19-138](#).

<sup>2</sup> Exhibit A provides a table showing the current membership of the Planning Commission. Exhibit B describes the composition of the commission and requirements for appointment to it.

**Exhibit A – Planning Commission Membership Table**

<b>Planning Commission Membership – May 8, 2023</b>			
<b>Representing</b>	<b>Commissioner</b>	<b>Term</b>	<b>Term Expiration</b>
Council District #1	Merle Ash <b>Mark James*</b>	Second <b>First</b>	July 1, 2024 <b>July 1, 2023</b>
Council District #2	Raymond Sheldon, Jr. ** Kimberly Busteed	First First	July 1, 2023 November 30, 2026
Council District #3	Robert Larsen, Chair** Christine Eck	Second First	July 1, 2023 June 29, 2026
Council District #4	Tom Campbell Neil Pedersen	First First	November 24, 2025 January 4, 2027
Council District #5	Rosanna Brown Vacant	First	January 12, 2026
At-Large	Angie Sievers	First	July 1, 2025
<p><b>* Nominated for reappointment by this motion</b></p> <p>** Nominated for reappointment by other motions</p>			

## **Exhibit B – Composition and Requirements of the Planning Commission**

The Snohomish County Planning Commission is an advisory body to the County Council and County Executive. The commission holds public hearings and provides recommendations on proposed changes to the county's comprehensive plan and development regulations. The commission has positions for eleven members, two from each council district and one at-large member nominated by the executive, which serve four-year terms and may not serve more than two complete consecutive terms.

Snohomish County Code ([2.03.060](#) and [2.08.080](#)) provides that the council appoints planning commission members. Requirements are that commissioners:

1. Not be county employees
2. Have sufficient time to attend all scheduled meetings, and
3. Not serve on more than two boards or commissions at the same time (ad hoc or advisory committees do not count against the limit).

County code also provides that nominees should possess attributes including a background in one or more of the following:

- Architecture
- Law
- Farming
- Recreation
- Finance
- Real estate
- Environment
- Construction
- Fisheries
- Engineering
- Appraisal
- Land use planning
- Education
- Related backgrounds, or job knowledge or interests

Nominees should also have knowledge of land use theories and growth management legislation, minimal potential for conflict of interest, a demonstrated interest in the welfare of Snohomish County, and should add balance to countywide representation on the commission.