

Environmental Justice Council

Interested Applicant Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Environmental Justice Council?

The Environmental Justice Council is an advisory body to the Governor, Legislature, and state agencies shaping budget, policy, and other decisions. It serves as a forum for Tribal Nations and Communities to identify environmental justice priorities and solutions.

How was the Environmental Justice Council created?

The Environmental Justice Council was established under the Healthy Environment for All Act in 2021.

For more history on the environmental justice movement in Washington and the United States:

- Early advocates like [Linda McKeever and Robert Bullard](#)
- [First National People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit](#) who created [Principles of Environmental Justice](#) in 1991,
- Former Senator Rosa Franklin who advocated for an [environmental equity study in 1994](#)
- Environmental Justice Task Force who published a [report](#) in 2020

This is not intended to be an exhaustive list but meant to illustrate the long history of this movement in Washington and beyond.

Who is represented on the Environmental Justice Council?

The Council includes seats for Tribes, community representatives, a youth community representative, environmental justice practitioners or academics, labor, and business.

How do you become a part of the Environmental Justice Council?

Councilmembers are Governor appointed. Interested applicants apply through the [Governor's Office of Boards and Commissions website](#). More information about the Council and how to apply can be found on the [Environmental Justice Council website](#).

Are Councilmembers compensated?

You may be eligible for reimbursement for travel and per diem costs for participation in Council business under [RCW 43.03.220](#). Compensation cannot exceed \$200 day.

What is the time commitment to serve on the Environmental Justice Council?

Each representative has a 4-year term, except for the youth representative which is a 2-year term. Councilmembers spend an average of 10 hours per month attending Council meetings, committee or workgroup meetings, and working on Council projects. This is a working Council, so some Members dedicate more time than this to Council work. The Council typically holds online public meetings throughout the year, develops guidance in small workgroups, and has an annual in-person gathering.

Which positions are vacant? Which one should I select?

You may apply for a board or commission at any time, regardless of whether there is a current or upcoming vacancy. If you have questions or want to know which positions are vacant, email us at envjustice@ejc.wa.gov in any language. On the application, you are only able to select one. Select the position you are most interested in holding. If you are applying for a position with multiple seats, like a community representative seat, don't worry about seat numbers, just select one that says, "community representative". If you are having difficulty finding the position you are interested in applying for, use the search bar in the upper right corner or click 2 in the lower left corner to move to the second page.

Can I be considered for multiple positions? If so, how?

If you would like to be considered for multiple positions, include this information anywhere in your application like under one of the short response questions or uploaded as an attachment.

The application asks me if my family or I could be financially affected by Council decisions? What do they mean? How should I respond?

This question relates to real, potential, or perceived conflicts of interest which is addressed in the [Ethics in Public Service Law \(RCW 42.52\)](#). This law provides a framework for Boards, Councils, and Commissions to navigate conflicts of interests with transparency. Attached are examples of conflicts of interest from the [Boards and Commissions Membership Handbook \(pages 7-8\)](#). More specific examples relevant the EJ Council actions can be found in the [Council Ethics Procedure](#). We encourage you to include anything you may believe is a conflict

of interest. EJ Council staff regularly work with Councilmembers to navigate conflicts of interest.

How many references are required?

Two references are required.

The identity questions are difficult to answer. Can I elaborate somewhere else in my application?

Environmental Justice Council staff have received feedback that some questions are difficult to answer due to the response options. We encourage applicants to share this feedback with the Governor's Office of Boards and Commissions, and we will also share feedback our Council receives to improve the application process. You are not required to respond to identity questions under personal information. The only required response is date of birth. If you would like to include information about your identity, we encourage you to describe yourself in your own words. You can do so anywhere in your application like under one of the short response questions or uploaded as an attachment.

When I submit the application will the Environmental Justice Council members and staff know about my application?

Not necessarily. EJ Council staff support the recruitment and review process; however, appointments are made by the Governor's Office of Boards and Commissions. If you would like us to track your application, we encourage you to notify EJ Council staff once you've submitted. If you are applying for a Tribal Representative seat, we also encourage you to notify the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs.

I am a monolingual Spanish speaker. Do you provide translation and interpretation services?

Yes! It is a core value of the Council to center language justice in our work, not just for Spanish, but for any language. It is also federal law ([Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964](#)), despite [the rescission of Executive Order 13166](#), and a newly passed state law ([SHB 2475](#)). For transparency, we work with Councilmembers who are bilingual (Spanish & English). The Council has not had the opportunity to work with a Councilmember who is a monolingual non-English speaker as of May 2026. We provide translation and interpretation services for all Council meetings in Spanish and English (and provide additional language services on request). Our Councilmembers and staff are committed to ensuring Councilmembers, Communities, Tribes, anyone is able to meaningfully engage with us in any language.

Application materials are available in Spanish on our website. You can also request additional support or translation for another language by emailing envjustice@ejc.wa.gov. Our team will work closely with you to ensure you are supported.

I don't know if I meet all the requirements. Should I still apply?

Yes! We encourage you to apply even if you don't think you meet all the requirements.

Who do I contact if I have questions or need support?

Email envjustice@ejc.wa.gov in any language for questions or support.