



**POLICY TITLE:**                    **Boards and Commissions**

**POLICY NO.:**                    **PR-22**

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**I.     PURPOSE**

The purpose of this Policy is to establish guidelines for the appointment and compensation, if applicable, of various boards, commissions, committees, authorities, and other bodies reporting to the Board of County Commissioners (“Board”).

**II.    GENERAL POLICY**

The Board recognizes the importance of and encourages citizen participation in local government boards and commissions. The Board maintains a file of County residents who are interested in appointment to one of many such bodies. Interested individuals should submit a completed application form which may be obtained online at [www.washco-md.net](http://www.washco-md.net) or upon request from the County Clerk. All applications will be kept on file for two (2) years.

**III.   RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT**

Applicants must be County residents to be considered for appointment, except for the Economic Development Commission (EDC). Applicants for the EDC will be considered who are employed by or affiliated with business entities that have a substantial presence in Washington County. The extent of the affiliation of the applicant and the presence of the entity in Washington County will be factors in the deliberations of the Board on the application for appointment to the EDC.

**IV.    TERM LIMITS**

The provisions of this Policy will govern term limits unless otherwise provided by statute, regulation, by-laws of the board or commission, or action of the Board. Board and commission by-laws will be approved by the Board. The term limit for all board and commission members is two (2) consecutive terms. Terms will be three (3) years. An appointment to fill an unexpired term will not be considered a full term. A member may serve until a successor is appointed. Terms will be staggered wherever possible to assure continuity. A member of a board or commission may be removed by the Board in the best interest of the community.

**V. COMPENSATION**

The Board has the final authority in all compensation decisions pertaining to board and commission members. The Board recognizes that, because of the varied nature of responsibilities, compensation will vary. Most boards and commissions have historically not been paid appointments. A list of current County boards and commissions is maintained by the County Clerk.

**VI. FISCAL YEAR REVIEW**

As part of the budget preparation process, the Board will review the status of all boards and commissions. At that time, the Board may decide to create or abolish boards and commissions, change the paid or unpaid status, or increase or decrease member compensation.

**VII. EXCEPTIONS**

The Board may waive the two (2) year consecutive term limit.

