

## Chapter 1: Overview of a city

- [City and town classification, MRSC](#)
- [City and town forms of government, MRSC](#)
- [Washington city and town profiles, MRSC](#)
- [Why are there so many types of cities and counties? A guide to municipal classifications and forms of government, MRSC](#)
- [Code City Handbook, MRSC](#)
- [Initiative and Referendum Guide, MRSC](#)
- [Knowing the territory: Basic legal guidelines for Washington city, county, and special purpose district officials, MRSC](#)
- [The closest governments to the people: A complete reference guide to local government in Washington State, MRSC](#)
- [You have it, use it: Home rule in Washington, AWC](#)

## Chapter 2: Leadership & management

- [Mayor & Councilmember Handbook, AWC/MRSC](#)
- [City and town forms of government, MRSC](#)
- [Washington city and town profiles, MRSC](#)
- [Elected officials first year road map, AWC](#)
- [Interlocal cooperation, MRSC](#)
- [Roles and responsibilities of local government leaders, MRSC](#)

## Chapter 3: Successful city councils

- [Elected Officials Essentials trainings, AWC](#)
- [City eLearning library, AWC](#)
- [Mayor & Councilmember Handbook, AWC/MRSC](#)
- [OPMA practice tips and checklists, MRSC](#)
- [PRA practice tips and checklists, MRSC](#)
- [When First Amendment rights and public meetings clash, MRSC](#)
- [Local ordinances for Washington cities and counties, MRSC](#)
- [Parliamentary procedure: A brief guide to Robert's Rules of Order, MRSC](#)
- [Advisory boards and commissions, MRSC](#)
- [Statutes related to boards and commissions, MRSC](#)
- [Community engagement resources, MRSC](#)
- [Planning for stronger local democracy, NLC/ICMA](#)

## Chapter 4: Planning your city's future

- [Economic development in Washington state: An introduction, MRSC](#)
- [Planning for economic development, MRSC](#)
- [Economic development statutes, MRSC](#)
- [Strategic planning, MRSC](#)
- [Charting your future Part 2: Conducting a strategic planning retreat, MRSC](#)
- [Facilitator directory, AWC](#)
- [Downtown revitalization, USDA](#)
- [Infrastructure Assistance Coordinating Council, IACC](#)
- [Infrastructure funding opportunities, IACC](#)
- [Tourism and local governments, MRSC](#)
- [Washington Rural Development, USDA](#)
- [Washington State Main Street Program, Dept. of Archaeology & Historic Preservation](#)
- [PDC guidelines for city officials: Elections activity, AWC](#)
- [10 steps for a successful legislative session, AWC](#)
- [Session is only the tip of the iceberg, AWC](#)
- [Public agency lobbying, Public Disclosure Commission](#)
- [Volunteer programs and policies, MRSC](#)
- [Federal Volunteer Protection Act of 1997](#)

## Chapter 5: Ethics, open government, and fairness—Staying on the right side of the law

- [Knowing the territory: Basic legal guidelines for Washington city, county, and special purpose district officials, MRSC](#)
- [OPMA practice tips and checklists, MRSC](#)
- [PRA practice tips and checklists, MRSC](#)
- [Open government resource manual, AGO](#)
- [Electronic records – PRA and records retention practice tips for local governments, MRSC](#)
- [Electronic records – PRA and records retention do's and don'ts for local governments, MRSC](#)
- [PRA – Agency obligations: A starting point checklist for local governments, MRSC](#)
- [PRA – Performing an adequate search for record - Practice tips for local governments, MRSC](#)
- [Public Records Act court decisions, MRSC](#)
- [The PRA applies to work-related texting on a personal cell phone, MRSC](#)
- [Appearance of Fairness Doctrine, MRSC](#)
- [Ethics and conflicts of interest, MRSC](#)
- [Public hearings, MRSC](#)
- [Short course on local planning, AWC, Commerce](#)
- [Running for local elected office, MRSC](#)
- [Guidelines for local government agencies in election campaigns, PDC](#)

## Chapter 6: Municipal budgeting and fiscal management

- [2026 Budget Suggestions, MRSC](#)
- [Budgeting, MRSC](#)
- [Introduction to budgeting, MRSC](#)
- [City and town budget procedures, MRSC](#)
- [Financial intelligence tool \(FIT\), SAO](#)
- [Fraud prevention – Resource library, SAO](#)
- [Recommended budget practices: A framework for improved state and local government budgeting, GFOA](#)
- [Revenue guide for Washington cities and towns, MRSC](#)
- [Salary and Benefit Survey, AWC](#)
- [Municipal Tax and User Fee Survey, AWC](#)
- [Budgeting, Accounting, and Reporting System \(BARS\) Manual, SAO](#)
- [The Center for Government Innovation, SAO](#)
- [About performance audits, SAO](#)
- [Capital facilities planning, Commerce](#)
- [Tax reference manual, DOR](#)
- [Local government financing, Washington State Treasurer](#)
- [Debt management policies, MRSC](#)

## Chapter 7: Human resources and labor relations

- [State of the Cities: Municipal workforce – The foundation of city services, AWC](#)
- [Personnel policy manuals, MRSC](#)
- [Police and law enforcement personnel management, MRSC](#)
- [Hiring procedures, MRSC](#)
- [Civil service, MRSC](#)
- [Basics of collective bargaining – Negotiating with unions in the public sector, AWC](#)
- [2024 Washington State Public Employer Overtime Guide, AWC](#)
- [Salary and Benefit Survey, AWC](#)
- [ADA Guide for Small Towns, DOJ](#)
- [Handy reference guide to the Fair Labor Standards Act, U.S. Department of Labor](#)
- [Family and Medical Leave Act, U.S. Department of Labor](#)
- [Required workplace posters, L&I](#)

## Chapter 8: Public safety & emergency management

- [Fireworks regulation, MRSC](#)
- [Local government fire services – Authority and requirements, MRSC](#)
- [Community wildfire resilience and preparedness, Dept. of Natural Resources](#)
- [Public employers' toolkit, IRS](#)
- [Cannabis regulation, MRSC](#)
- [City and county court services, MRSC](#)
- [Jail services and alternatives to incarceration, MRSC](#)
- [Washington crime data, WASPC](#)
- [Local government emergency planning, MRSC](#)
- [Local mitigation planning handbook, FEMA](#)

## Chapter 9: Public works and infrastructure

- [Bidding and awarding a public works contract, MRSC](#)
- [Competitive bidding for small works contracts, MRSC](#)
- [City Bidding Book, MRSC](#)
- [Transportation Benefit Districts, MRSC](#)
- [Asset management: A handbook for small water systems, EPA](#)
- [Asset management for small water systems, DOH](#)
- [Interlocal cooperation in public works, MRSC](#)
- [Setting small drinking water system rates for a sustainable future, EPA](#)
- [Water utilities, MRSC](#)
- [Sewer utilities, MRSC](#)
- [Local Improvement Districts, MRSC](#)
- [Selecting a preventive maintenance treatment for flexible pavements, USDOT](#)
- [Sidewalk construction, maintenance, and repair, MRSC](#)
- [Snow and ice removal policies, MRSC](#)
- [Comprehensive planning, MRSC](#)
- [Transportation plans and plan elements, MRSC](#)
- [Parks and recreation finance, MRSC](#)

## Chapter 10: Comprehensive planning, growth management, and environmental protection

- [Building resilient cities: From risk assessment to redevelopment, Local Governments for Sustainability](#)
- [Growth management, Commerce](#)
- [Growth Management Act laws and rules, Commerce](#)
- [Growth Management Act, MRSC](#)
- [Comprehensive planning, MRSC](#)
- [Critical areas, Commerce](#)
- [Critical areas, MRSC](#)
- [Critical areas assistance handbook, Commerce](#)
- [Short Course on Local Planning, AWC, Commerce](#)
- [Small communities critical areas ordinance implementation guidebook, Commerce](#)
- [State Environmental Policy Act, MRSC](#)
- [State Environmental Policy Act, Ecology](#)
- [Shorelands and Environmental Assistance, Ecology](#)
- [Shoreline Management Act, Ecology](#)
- [Shoreline Management Act, MRSC](#)
- [Municipal stormwater general permits, Ecology](#)
- [A citizen's guide to the 4\(d\) Rule for threatened salmon and steelhead on the West Coast, NOAA](#)
- [Threatened and endangered species in Washington, WA Fish & Wildlife](#)
- [Endangered and threatened species search, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service](#)
- [Governor's salmon strategy update – Securing a future for people and salmon in Washington, Office of the Governor](#)
- [State of Salmon in Watersheds, Governor's Salmon Recovery Office](#)
- [Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program, WA Fish & Wildlife](#)