

CITIZEN RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

There are many ways in which interested citizens can become engaged in local government:

- ☐ Vote
- ☐ Run for public office
- ☐ Serve on citizen advisory boards and commissions
- ☐ Participate on task forces and ad hoc committees
- ☐ Perform volunteer services within county departments
- ☐ Serve on advisory boards and commissions
- ☐ Provide citizen input

Advisory Boards and Commissions

If you are interested in serving on an advisory board, there are many choices. The County Volunteer Coordinator can help you apply to work with issues surrounding aging, children and youth, developmental disabilities, human rights, job training, long-term care, mental health, substance abuse, county planning, or many other areas. Call the Kitsap County Volunteer Coordinator at 360-337-4650 or view opportunities online at:

www.kitsapgov.com/volunteer/.

- ☐ Give testimony at public meetings and forums
- ☐ Provide feedback through surveys, polls and focus groups
- ☐ Initiate two-way dialog with elected officials or staff
- ☐ Write letters or email

For more detailed information on citizen rights and responsibilities please refer to the following:

• OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT

The Open Public Meetings Act (CH 42.30 RCW) is based on the concept that the public's business must be conducted in the open. Meetings of public government bodies must be open to the public, although not necessarily for public comment or debate.

• FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

The Freedom of Information Act (RCW 42.17) deals with the right of all citizens to inspect and/or copy public records. Exceptions include records containing certain personal information.