

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF SPOKANE COUNTY, WASHINGTON

IN THE MATTER OF MODIFYING )  
SPOKANE COUNTY RESOLUTIONS )  
REGARDING THE COMPOSITION OF )  
THE SPOKANE REGIONAL HEALTH )  
DISTRICT BOARD OF HEALTH TO )  
ADDRESS ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE )  
HOUSE BILL 1946 (WASHINGTON )  
LAWS OF 2025) )

**RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the Constitution and laws of the State of Washington, Spokane County, Washington is a class A county duly organized and existing (“Spokane County” or “County”); and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the provisions of RCW 36.01.030, the powers of Spokane County can only be exercised through the Board of County Commissioners of Spokane County, Washington (“Board” or “Board of County Commissioners”); and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the provisions of RCW 36.32.120(6), the Board of County Commissioners has the care of county property and the management of county funds and business; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Resolution No. 21-0791, passed and adopted on November 15, 2021, the Board of County Commissioners modified the composition of the Spokane Regional Health District Board of Health to consist of eight (8) members as provided for therein; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Resolution No. 23-0185, passed and adopted March 21, 2023, the Board of County Commissioners modified Resolution No. 21-0791 as required by law to address the appointment of the local health officer and the administrative officer; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2025 Washington State Legislature under ESHB1946 (“Act”) passed legislation addressing the compositions and appointments to local boards of health which requires local Boards of Health to include:

One (1) representative for each federally recognized Indian tribe that holds reservation or trust land within a county (“Tribe”) selected by the Tribe which notifies the American Indian health commission, and

One (1) representative for each urban Indian organization recognized by the Indian Health services and registered as a 501 (c)(3) organization in Washington that services American Indian and Alaska Native People providing services within a

county ("Organization") selected by the Organization which notifies the American Indian health commission.

; and

**WHEREAS**, as a result of the Act, the Board of County Commissioners desires to modify Resolution Nos. 21-0791 and 23-0185.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED** by the Board of County Commissioners of Spokane County, Washington, pursuant to the provisions of RCW 36.01.030, RCW 36.32.120(6) and ESHB1946, that Resolution Nos. 21-0791 and 23-0185 are modified as more particularly set forth in Attachment "A", attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

**BE IF FURTHER RESOLVED**, by the Board of County Commissioners of Spokane County, Washington, that the modifications provided for in Attachment "A" shall become effective as of July 27, 2025.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** this 15<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2025.



ATTEST:

Ginna Vasquez  
Ginna Vasquez  
Clerk of the Board

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF SPOKANE COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Mary L. Kuney  
MARY L. KUNEY, CHAIR

Josh Kerns  
JOSH KERNS, VICE-CHAIR

Al French  
AL FRENCH, COMMISSIONER

Amber Waldref  
AMBER WALDREF, COMMISSIONER

Chris Jordan  
CHRIS JORDAN, COMMISSIONER

ATTACHMENT "A"

(Underlined and bolded language added, lined out and bolded language deleted.)

III. Establish an ~~eight (8) member~~ Spokane Regional Health District Board ~~to~~ consisting of the following ~~voting~~ members, ~~except as provided to the contrary~~:

A. Three (3) members of the county legislative authority, Provided, however:

- (i) for each federally recognized Indian tribe that holds reservation or trust land within Spokane county ("Tribe") which selects a representative to be on the Spokane Regional Health District Board and notifies the American Indian health commission of its member, and
- (ii) for each urban Indian organization recognized by the Indian Health services and registered as a 501 (c)(3) organization in Washington that services American Indian and Alaska Native People providing services within Spokane County ("Organization") which selects a representative to be on the Spokane Regional Health District Board and notifies the American Indian health commission of its member,

the number of county commissioners shall be increased by one (1) up to a total of five (5). Provided the first additional member from the Board of County Commissioners shall not be appointed until one (1) member is selected by the Spokane County Board of County Commissioners to be an elected official from a city/town within Spokane County as provided for in III (B) to be on the Spokane Regional Health District Board.

B. One (1) member to be an elected official from a city/town within Spokane County to be selected by the Spokane County Board of County Commissioners who shall serve for a two-year term or so long as the individual holds the elected position, whichever comes first who is appointed under III (A) above and additional elected officials from a city/town within Spokane County to be selected by the Spokane County Board of County Commissioners who shall be appointed when a Tribe under III(A)(i) or Organization under III(A)(ii) selects a representative to be on the Spokane Regional Health District Board and communicates that to the American Indian health commission. Provided, however, additional elected official(s) from a city/town with Spokane County to be selected by the Spokane County Board of County Commissioners shall not occur until a total of five (5) county commissioners are on the Spokane Regional Health District Board.

C. Three (3) members appointed by majority vote of the Spokane County Board of County Commissioners who shall not be otherwise elected to any public office selected from one of each of the following categories who shall serve a two-year term. Provided however, these three (3) members may not participate in any decision related to the setting or modification of permit, licensing, or application

fees which shall only be determined by elected members of the Spokane Regional Health District Board. The categories are:

- i. One (1) member representing public health, health care facilities, or providers, who is practicing or employed in Spokane County and are a medical ethicist; epidemiologist; experienced in environmental public health, such as a registered sanitarian; community health worker; holder of a master's degree or higher in public health or equivalent; employee of a hospital located within Spokane County; or any of the following providers holding an active or retired license in good standing under Title 18 RCW: physician or osteopathic physician, advanced practice registered ~~nurse practitioner~~ nurses, physician assistant or osteopathic physician assistant, registered nurse, dentist, naturopath, or pharmacists.
- ii. One (1) member representing consumers of public health who is a Spokane County resident who has self-identified as having faced significant health inequities or having lived experiences with public health-related programs such as: the special supplemental nutrition program for women, infants, and children; the supplemental nutrition program; home visiting, or treatment services. Individuals from historically marginalized and underrepresented communities may be given preference. Provided, this member may not be an elected official and may not have any fiduciary obligation to a health care facility or other health agency, and may not have a material financial interest in the rendering of health services.
- iii. One (1) member representing community stakeholders who represents the following types of organizations located in Spokane County: community-based organization or nonprofit that works with populations experiencing health inequities in Spokane County; the business community; or the environmental public health regulated community.

~~D. One (1) tribal member selected by the American Indian Health Commission who is not an elected official if a federally recognized Indian tribe holds reservation, trust lands, or has usual and accustomed areas within the Spokane County, or if a 501(c)(3) organization registered in Washington serves American Indian or Alaska Native people that provides services within Spokane County. Provided however, this member may not participate in any decision related to the setting or modification of permit, licensing, or application fees which shall only be determined by elected members of the Spokane Regional Health District Board.~~

D. One (1) representative for each federally recognized Indian tribe that holds reservation or trust land within Spokane County ("Tribe") which selects a representative to be on the Spokane Regional Health District Board and notifies

**the American Indian health commission of its member, and**

**One (1) representative for each urban Indian organization recognized by the Indian Health services and registered as a 501 (c)(3) organization in Washington that services American Indian and Alaska Native People providing services within Spokane County ("Organization") which selects a representative to be on the Spokane Regional Health District Board and notifies the American Indian Health commission of its member.**

IV. Members appointed to the Spokane Regional Health District Board shall serve without compensation, but shall be reimbursed for necessary expenses including but not limited to parking and mileage.

V. The Chair of the Spokane Regional Health District Board shall be the official designated to appoint the local health officer as described in RCW 70.05.050 based on a vote from the Spokane Regional Health District Board of Health.

The Chair of the Spokane Regional Health District Board shall be the official designated to appoint the administrative officer as described in RCW 70.05.045 based on a vote from the Spokane Regional Health District Board.

### Spokane Regional Health District Board Composition

Present Definition of Tribe Member	New Definition of Tribe Member (July 27, 2025)
<p><b>One (1)</b> tribal member selected by the American Indian Health Commission who is not an elected official if a <b>federally recognized Indian</b> tribe holds reservation, trust lands, or has usual and accustomed areas within the Spokane County, or if a 501(c)(3) <b>organization registered in Washington serves American Indian or Alaska Native people</b> that provides services within Spokane County. Provided however, this member may not participate in any decision related to the setting or modification of permits, licensing, or application fees which shall only be determined by elected members of the Spokane Regional Health District Board.</p>	<p>1) <b>Tribe:</b> <b>For each</b> federally recognized Indian tribe that holds reservation or trust land within Spokane county (“Tribe”) which selects a representative to be on the Spokane Regional Health District Board and notifies Health District Board who in turn notifies the American Indian health commission, <b>and</b></p> <p>2) <b>Organization:</b> <b>For each</b> urban Indian organization recognized by the Indian Health services and registered as a 501 (c)(3) organization in Washington that services American Indian and Alaska Native People providing services within Spokane County (“Organization”) which selects a representative to be on the Spokane Regional Health District Board and notifies the Health District Board who in turn notifies the American Indian health commission.</p>

### SRHD Board Composition

Present SRHD Board	New SRHD Board July 27, 2025	Future SRHD Board as Tribe or Organization Requests Membership <b>OPTION #1</b>
<p>3 – County Commissioners 1 – Elected City/Town 1 – Public Health Person 1 – Consumer of Public Health 1 – Other Community Stakeholder 1 –Tribe Member</p>	<p>3 – County Commissioners  1 – Public Health Person 1 – Consumer of Public Health 1 – Other Community Stakeholder</p>	<p>For each new Tribe or Organization member, the elected representatives on the SRHD Board will increase by one, with the first appointee being a City/Town elected and the second and third appointees being County Commissioners, and the fourth and other members being an additional City/Town elected.</p>

Note: Once a Tribe or Organization advises the SRHD of its member, the SRHD has within 60 days of receipt of the notice to add the position to the SRHD Board. State Board of Health within 1 year from July 27, 2025, will come up with timelines for modifying membership of local health boards.

Submit to Clerk of the Board with available supporting materials (Resolutions, Agreements, Presentations, etc.)

**AGENDA SHEET**

**SUBMITTING DEPARTMENT:** Commissioners

**CONTACT PERSON:** James Emacio

**PHONE NUMBER:** 509-477-2124

**CHECK TYPE OF MEETING BELOW:**

☒ Regular Legislative Session Agenda

**BELOW FOR CLERK'S USE ONLY:**

Clerk's Resolution No.	<u>25 - 0335</u>
Approved:	<u>Majority/Unanimous</u>
Denied:	<u>Majority/Unanimous</u>
Renews/Amends No.	<u>                    </u>
Public Works No.	<u>                    </u>
Purchasing Dept. No.	<u>                    </u>

**AGENDA TITLE** (please provide a reasonably descriptive agenda title for this item): In the matter of modifying Spokane County Resolutions regarding the composition of the Spokane Regional Health District Board of Health to address Engrossed Substitute House Bill 1946 (Washington Laws of 2025).

**DESCRIPTIVE SUMMARY** (please provide anticipated fiscal and budgetary information & reason for request): Spokane County established a Health District to provide statutory health services within Spokane County. Consistent with State law, the BOCC also established a Spokane Regional Health District Board of Health to consist of certain identified members. One of those members was a Tribal member selected by the American Indian Health Commission. The 2025 Legislature in ESHB 1946 amended the composition of Health District Boards to include one representative for each Federally recognized Tribe and one representative for each Urban Indian Organization. The amendment is effective July 27, 2025. As a result of ESHB 1946, the Board of County Commissioners will need to modify their resolution establishing the composition of the Spokane Regional Health District Board.

**FISCAL IMPACT** (please provide anticipated fiscal and budgetary impact, with amount and source of funds, if applicable): N/A

**REQUESTED BOARD ACTION** (if any): Approve resolution modifying composition of Spokane Regional Health District Board of Health consistent with Engrossed Substitute House Bill 1946 ( Washington Laws of 2025).

Other County Departments Impacted - List any other departments that were notified in advance of this agenda item: N/A

This Item will need to be codified in the Spokane County Code: No