



Bellevue Planning Commission

November 5, 2025

PLANNING COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM

SUBJECT

Bellevue by the Numbers

STAFF CONTACTS

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POLICY ISSUES

Empirical estimates pertaining to the Bellevue community & built environment provide the necessary context that underpins much of the work that city staff carry out (for example, regional planning and policy analysis, comprehensive planning, traffic modeling, voluntary & mandatory reporting to state and local agencies, etc.) as well as the decision-making of elected and appointed city leadership (for example, housing and job targets, long range planning, etc.).

DIRECTION NEEDED FROM THE PLANNING COMMISSION

ACTION



DIRECTION



INFORMATION ONLY



As the Planning Commission holds its annual retreat, this brief presentation about Bellevue is intended to serve as a backdrop for broader discussions among members related to their work and inform the Commission about changes in demographic trends.

BACKGROUND

The demographer on staff in the Community Development department is an integral part of the team that implements the State's Growth Management Act. One of the position's roles that has developed over time is maintaining the City's [Community Data](#) webpage. Initially, this resource was spread across several webpages and provided some high-level data visualizations of statistics pertaining to the Bellevue community & built environment (i.e. total population, total housing units, race/ethnicity distribution, etc.). Over time, that has been transformed into a collection of five dynamic, interactive data dashboards organized around five issue areas:

- An overall Demographic Profile
- Commuting in Bellevue
- Living in Bellevue

- Working in Bellevue
- Thriving in Bellevue

The data underlying these dashboards are drawn from a combination of local, state, federal, and proprietary sources – some of which is collected/prepared by City of Bellevue staff themselves.

In addition to maintaining the City's Community Data webpage, the demographer provides empirical/statistical support to:

- Projects within the Community Development department (for example, Comprehensive Plan updates, Great Neighborhoods Program, Jubilee in the Community, Bellevue Essentials, etc.)
- Projects in other departments (traffic modeling, Water Facility Inventory reporting, Police Annual Report, Finance TIFIA Bond Report, Finance Annual Comprehensive Financial Report, Human Services Needs Update, Water and Sewer System Planning, etc.)
- Projects led by external agencies (housing estimates used by the Washington State Office of Financial Management for the April 1 Population & Housing Estimates Program, jobs and employer review used by the Puget Sound Regional Council, Economic Outlook used by the Bellevue Chamber for their Economic Forecast Summit, etc.)

BRIEF SUMMARY

Bellevue has changed over the course of the past few decades with its evolution from a suburb and a satellite city into a regional jobs hub and center unto itself; with each of the City's neighborhoods being distinct from one another.

Bellevue's population grew by just over 80% between 1990 and 2025, but nearly all (about 95%) of that growth can be attributed to the city's foreign born residents. This growth has been driven, in part, by Bellevue's booming technology sector. Today, about half of all residents were born outside of the United States and speak a language other than English at home. More than two-thirds of residents are people of color.

As new residents have moved to Bellevue, some neighborhoods such as Crossroads and Downtown have transformed into multicultural hubs for new residents while other neighborhoods such as Newport and West Lake Sammamish have changed less significantly. Residents in Downtown are the least likely to be born in Washington (only about 16 percent of residents) while residents in Factoria, Woodridge and Eastgate are most likely to be born in Washington State (between about 38 and 40 percent).

Jobs have grown by about 76% between 1990 and 2024. Downtown continues to be the commercial center of the city with about 40% of the city's total employment. About a third of

workers in Bellevue commute from Seattle and Snohomish County while a little over a quarter of workers reside in Bellevue and other Eastside and South King County cities.

ATTACHMENTS

N/A