

Chapter and Policy Update

The City has completed the first round of review and edits to several Comprehensive Plan chapters. The following document provides the updated goals and policies meant to guide growth and development in the City of Spokane through the lens of the **Local Governance Through Civic Participation** element.

As part of the [PlanSpokane 2046 Periodic Update](#), drafts of the non-technical chapters of the Comprehensive Plan are now available for public review and comment. **Please send all comments and recommendations to PlanSpokane@spokanecity.org.** We encourage the public to include the Chapter name and Goal/Policy number(s) as applicable for ease of comment consideration.

Each of the available chapters have been updated from the [current Comprehensive Plan](#) to reflect recent plans and studies, updated state legislation, and extensive community feedback, seeking to create a streamlined plan that will be easier to read and implement.

Updates throughout the draft chapters include the removal of unnecessary text as well as new, moved, or removed policies. Also included are minor edits to the language to ensure clarity and consistency throughout the Plan. Not all minor edits have been marked, but icons and notes (shown in the sidebar on the right) provide additional insight into larger changes. Any policies removed from the chapter are highlighted at the end.

Additional changes to each chapter are likely to occur based on continued [Climate Planning](#) and [Racially Disparate Impacts Analysis](#) as well as public feedback and the selection of a preferred alternative for the final Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). See PlanSpokane.org for more information on all the ongoing work for PlanSpokane 2046.

In summary, to date, this chapter has seen the following changes:

Local Governance **REPORT CARD**



Action	Number of Policies
New Goals & Policies	4
Removed Goals & Policies	0
Changed Goals & Policies (Moved, Change in Direction)	2

To help track where changes have been made, the following icons will appear where:



General information or notation is provided, clarifying changes to the existing text.



Language was streamlined or condensed. Minor changes won't be marked.



New text or policy was added, not sourced from the current plan.



Two or more policies in the existing plan were combined into one.



A policy or language was added because of a change in state law requirements.



Climate and Resiliency work might impact this language in the future.



Racially Disparate Impacts or Displacement work may impact this language in the future.



Text, goals, or policies were removed—a reason will be provided.

Local Governance Through Civic Participation

Introduction

Leadership, governance, and civic participation are broad concepts that refer to the two pillars that uphold a healthy community: leaders and decision makers who responsibly govern and community members who actively participate and contribute to the decision-making process and otherwise help shape the direction of Spokane. Such contributions can occur both within and outside the governing process. A prime opportunity for residents to practice civic participation within City decision-making is comprehensive planning, an activity that finds people's shared interests to build consensus on the community's future and results from a joint effort from elected leaders and active members of the community.

To ensure successful governance, the City must encourage the civic participation of all residents, build community partnerships, effectively and accessibly engage with residents and community groups, and respond to feedback received."

Goals and Policies

Goals and policies provide specific direction to planning and decision-making processes. Overall, they indicate desired directions, accomplishments, or aims in relation to the growth and development of Spokane.

Goal: LGC-1, Decision Making Process

Make substantive planning decisions through an open public process in which the outcome of that process is expressed in the decision of elected officials.

Policy: LGC 1.1, City Council Direction

Begin each planning activity with formal Spokane City Council direction and a commitment to the process's outcome to ensure community awareness and clarity on the proposed activity.

Policy: LGC 1.2, Resource Allocation

Commit sufficient resources to planning and other City activities to ensure that those activities engage the public and follow current best practices for equitable engagement, especially where past engagement may have been less robust.



The title has been reworded to highlight participation in government, not one's citizenship status.



The introduction was updated to recognize the fact that the Comprehensive Plan serves all people who live, work, or visit Spokane.

Policy: LGC 1.3, Public Participation

Employ a variety of techniques and venues to encourage the involvement of community members in the decision-making process, including the participation of vulnerable populations and overburdened communities.

Policy: LGC 1.4, Documentation Trail

Incorporate a documentation trail into the public record of each planning activity, illustrating how public input shaped the final decision.

Policy: LGC 1.5, Respect for Public Input

Demonstrate respect for public opinion, value the involvement of all community members in governmental decision processes and treat all community members as equals through the actions of officials and city staff.

Goal: LGC-2, Community Involvement

Encourage community members to become engaged in the public process.

Policy: LGC 2.1, Leadership Training

Pursue and support a variety of public and private leadership training programs for the general public, elected officials, and city staff to promote an informed and committed community.

Policy: LGC 2.2, Civics Education

Encourage the development of responsible civic participation and a knowledge of civics through activities such as courses, lectures, webinars, and a strong public participation program to foster a more engaged community.

Policy: LGC 2.3, Broad Community Representation

Strengthen the connection between city residents and city government by maintaining geographic, demographic, and cultural diversity, and a wide range of community philosophies on boards and commissions, ensuring the representation of vulnerable populations and overburdened communities.

Policy: LGC 2.4, Boards and Commissions

Recognize the credibility and value of City of Spokane boards and commissions, which are made up by volunteer community members, by emphasizing the value of recommendations that are forwarded to decision-making bodies.

Goal: LGC-3, Planning Through Neighborhood Councils

Utilize the Neighborhood Councils and the Community Assembly as a way for the public to participate in planning activities and bring proposals through the Spokane Plan Commission to the City Council.



This policy was reworded for clarity. Overburdened communities were added as well to support updated understanding of environmental justice and resiliency.



Similar language was originally under Goal 4, but it fits better here. It has been updated as well to include respect for *all* community members



The policy language was amended slightly to conform with recent legislation (HB1181).

Policy: LGC 3.1, Forum for Community Members

Use Neighborhood Councils as one of many forums for community members to bring issues and/or problems to the City of Spokane for debate and to express their preferences for resolution.

Policy: LGC 3.2, Roles, Relationships, and Responsibilities

Maintain the role, relationship, and responsibility of the Neighborhood Councils as expressed in the City of Spokane Charter, such as assisting in prioritizing neighborhood needs and future policies.

Policy: LGC 3.3, Collaboration and Problem Solving

Create opportunities that foster successful collaboration among the neighborhoods in pursuit of the common good rather than individual interests to the detriment of other neighborhoods or the city at large.

Policy: LGC 3.4, Community Representation

Encourage representation of a broad range of community members, including by vulnerable populations and overburdened communities, within the Neighborhood Councils to deepen neighborhood collaboration and connectedness.

Goal: LGC-4, Community and Government Communication

Maintain open two-way communication between the City and its community through a variety of avenues.

Policy: LGC 4.1, Dissemination of Public Information

Use City cable television, websites, email, and other current technologies for timely dissemination of information on city, neighborhood, and regional activities, including language access.

Policy: LGC 4.2, Encouraging Respectful Interactions

Reinforce public trust by ensuring all community members are treated with respect by providing periodic training to city employees in customer service techniques and by promoting mutual respect between community members and city employees.

Goal: LGC-5, Youth Civic Participation

Value youth civic participation as the foundation of the community's future and ensure that young community members are informed about the community, invited into community-building processes, and given the opportunity to contribute their insights and diversity to the community dialogue.



This policy was updated slightly for clarity. A cross-reference to the Neighborhoods chapter is likely to be added here as well.



The policy is new, added to conform with recent legislation (HB1181).



This policy was expanded slightly to include regional activities and language access concepts.



This policy was adjusted slightly for clarity and to update the language.

Policy: LGC 5.1, Youth Participation

Support and promote participation strategies that provide opportunities for young people to engage in the decision-making process, including on Boards and Commissions and other ways of representation.

Policy: LGC 5.2, Young People as Civic Members

Share community resources, including public space and facilities, with young community members.

Policy: LGC 5.3, Strategic Networking

Create effective advocacy in the interests of young people by building and maintaining collaboration between local government and a broad range of human resources, community interest groups, and private sector entities that work with and for the community's youth.

Goal: LGC-6, Responsive City Government

Increase public confidence in the City's responsiveness to the pursuit of community values through the day-to-day administration of land use and development codes.

Policy: LGC 6.1, Enforcement of Land Use and Development Codes

Utilize a violation-driven code enforcement system rather than a complaint-driven system to achieve compliance with land use and development codes that support quality of life to increase responsiveness and provide equitable enforcement.

Goal: LGC-7, Community Participation

Increase community collaboration, partnership, and connectedness by supporting resident involvement in organizations and efforts that support the community outside of governing processes.

Policy: LGC 7.1, Awareness of Opportunities

Use City resources to share and support community volunteering and participation opportunities that support the collective vision of Spokane.

Policy: LGC 7.2, Partner with Organizations

Explore ways to partner with local and regional organizations that provide community resources and opportunities for civic engagement for all community members.



The participation of youth in boards and commissions was added here to broaden the effect slightly.



This goal and policies are new, added to accommodate some of the comments received in ongoing engagement and as a result of efforts like the Climate & Resiliency work.

