

LEWIS COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

Frank Corbin, Chair

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

To: Lewis County Board of County Commissioners

From: Lewis County Planning Commission

Date: January 29, 2026

Subject: **Transmittal to the BOCC – Recommendation of Planning Commissioners (Districts 1 and 2)**

Attachment: Attachment A – Planning Commission Applications

Dear Commissioners:

The purpose of this letter is to formally transmit the Lewis County Planning Commission's recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) regarding appointments to the Commission for expired positions within Districts 1 and 2.

The Planning Commission received a strong pool of five applicants. After careful review and thoughtful deliberation, the Commission selected two applicants recommended for appointment. The selection process was conducted with due diligence and in consideration of the applicants' experience, qualifications, and commitment to public service.

For the Board's reference, all applications received during this process are included as Attachment A.

Overview

- Nathan Carpenter for District 1, motion made by Commissioner Alves and seconded by Commissioner Moore. The motion passed unanimously.
- Luis Manzo for District 2, motion made by Commissioner Fritsch and seconded by Commissioner Moore. The motion passed unanimously.

Summary of Recommended Appointments

Throughout the selection process, the Commission considered each candidate's commitment to the community, involvement in and interest in local issues, ability to share thoughtful perspectives and insights, and enthusiasm for learning and growing within the evolving aspects of community development.

Nathan Carpenter was recommended for appointment to represent District 1. Mr. Carpenter has consistently demonstrated strong commitment to the group through his engagement and attendance at meetings, and willingness to stay informed and engaged. He has attended most of the meetings during the past year to learn and become familiar with the work of the Planning Commission. His continued presence reflects a clear dedication to the work of Lewis County and a genuine interest in serving the community, making him a well-qualified and supported recommendation.

At the January 27, 2026, regular Planning Commission meeting, the Commission held a meet-and-greet session to become familiar with the two District 2 applicants. Following this session, Commissioner Alves made a motion to nominate Robert Hankins, which was seconded by Commissioner Moore. The resulting vote ended in a 2–2 tie, with Chair Corbin casting the deciding nay vote, and the motion to recommend Robert Hankins did not pass. Commissioner Fritsch subsequently made a motion to recommend Luis Manzo for the Planning Commission District 2 position, which was seconded by Commissioner Moore. This motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Alves noted that both candidates had different but very valuable experience and knowledge and either would be a good addition to the Planning Commission. Ultimately, it was Luis's excitement to serve in the role and experience in mediation that resulted in his nomination.

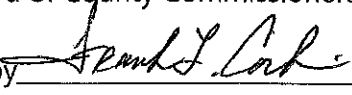
Findings of Fact

Pursuant to RCW 36.70.080 and Lewis County Codes 2.11.030(3) and 2.50.050, the Planning Commission has carefully reviewed all applications submitted in accordance with the established procedures governing nominations and appointments. In conducting this review, the Commission ensured that each application was evaluated consistently and in a manner designed to provide the Board of County Commissioners with a thorough and informed recommendation.

Recommendation

The Lewis County Planning Commission hereby recommends that the Board of County Commissioners appoint Nathan Carpenter to the District 1 Planning Commissioner position and Luis Manza to the District 2 Planning Commissioner position.

Being duly authorized to transmit these recommendations on behalf of the Lewis County Planning Commission, I hereby respectfully submit the accompanying documents to the Lewis County Board of County Commissioners for review and consideration.

Submitted by  Date 1-29-26
Frank Corbin, Chair
Lewis County Planning Commission