

RESOLUTION NO. 27 - 2017

**A RESOLUTION ADOPTING A POPULATION PROJECTION FOR 2018 UPDATE OF
THE SAN JUAN COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN.**

WHEREAS, the Growth Management Act (GMA) was passed by the State Legislature in April, 1990;

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners voted to plan under the GMA in November, 1990;

WHEREAS, RCW 36.70A.130(6)(e) establishes June 30, 2018, as the completion date for the review and update of San Juan County's Comprehensive Plan, (the Plan) and development regulations;

WHEREAS, RCW 43.62.035 authorizes the Washington Office of Financial Management (OFM) to prepare twenty-year GMA population projections for all counties in Washington every five years;

WHEREAS, the twenty-year GMA population projections are developed within the framework of expected population growth in Washington. They provide a range of low, medium, and high growth projections for each county;

WHEREAS, RCW 36.70A.110 and RCW 36.70A.115 require the County's land use planning policies and regulations to be within the range of the OFM's twenty-year GMA population projections;

WHEREAS, identifying the growth of the County's permanent population over the next twenty-year is the first step in the Plan update;

WHEREAS, staff reviewed the OFM projections and United States' Census Bureau data;

WHEREAS, staff reviewed the County's share of Washington State's population;

WHEREAS, since 1980, the County has maintained an average 0.23 percent proportionate share of the State's growing population;

WHEREAS, the volatility of the County's annual population changes were compared to the relative dependability of the County's proportionate share of the State's population;

WHEREAS, the County's proportionate share of the State population provides the most statistically valid basis for projecting the 2036 County population forecast;

WHEREAS, the OFM's 2012 document titled; *County Growth Management Population Projections by Age and Sex: 2010 – 2040* forecasts a State population of 8,546,278 in 2036;

WHEREAS, 0.23 percent of the OFM's 2036 State's population forecast of 8,546,278 is 19,423;

WHEREAS, a permanent population forecast of 19,423 people in 2036 for San Juan County is between the medium and high population forecasts;

WHEREAS, on April 17 and April 21, 2017 staff briefed the County Council and Planning Commission on a technical population projection memorandum dated April 11, 2017;

WHEREAS, on June 5, 2017, staff briefed the County Council on the OFM's methods for developing population projections; the U.S. Census Bureau's methods for determining the average household size; and residential development histories of Orcas Island, Eastsound subarea, Lopez Island and Lopez Village Urban Growth Area (UGA);

WHEREAS, on June 16, 2017, a joint public hearing was held by the County Council and Planning Commission to take testimony on the selection of a projection of the County's 2036 population to be used in the Plan update;

WHEREAS, twenty-one comment letters were received and posted on the County's website, prior to the public hearing;

WHEREAS, on June 16, 2017, the Planning Commission deliberated and unanimously recommended that County adopt the proportionate share of 19,423 as the permanent 2036 population for the County;

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission unanimously approved the following finding:

The following recommendation is supported by the following conclusions: (1) the staff proposal is most consistent with past population relationships, (2) the causal factors affecting potential population results appear too speculative, weak, and potentially counter-balancing to justify rejecting the recommended projection and (3) this recommendation best protects the county's ability to plan for seasonal population issues by preserving planning flexibility (degrees of freedom) and avoiding potential GMA-driven requirements (e.g., infrastructure) related to permanent populations that might divert resources more appropriately devoted to addressing the seasonal issues.

WHEREAS, the Council continued the Council's portion of the joint public hearing to July 11, 2017, heard testimony from one citizen and considered the Planning Commission's recommendation;

WHEREAS, on July 11, 2017, the County Council deliberated and directed staff to develop a resolution adopting a 2036 permanent population forecast of 19,423 for the Plan update.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of San Juan County, state of Washington, as follows:

1. That a 2036 permanent population of 19,423 people is adopted as the basis of the 2018 Comprehensive Plan update; and
2. That a county population of 19,423 in 2036 is consistent with the range of population figures provided by the OFM and is consistent with the requirements of RCW 36.70A.115.

ADOPTED this 25TH day of July 2017.

ATTEST: Clerk of the Council

**COUNTY COUNCIL
SAN JUAN COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

Ingrid Gabriel 7.26.2017
Ingrid Gabriel, Clerk Date

Rick Hughes
Rick Hughes, Chair
District 2

REVIEWED BY COUNTY MANAGER

Michael J. Thomas 7/26/17
Michael J. Thomas Date

EXCUSED
Bill Watson, Vice Chair
District 1

RANDALL K. GAYLORD
APPROVED AS TO FORM ONLY

By: gk 7-24-2017
Date

Jamie Stephens
Jamie Stephens, Member
District 3