

Advisory Council
Washington Coalition for Open Government
(Approved May 2008)

Members of the Advisory Council are prominent individuals who strongly support the mission, objectives and principles of the Washington Coalition for Open Government but for whatever reason are not members of the Board of Directors. Potential members of the Advisory Council include, but are not limited to, current and former elected officials, judges, editors, academics, recipients of WCOG awards, and former and emeritus members of the Board.

Members of the Advisory Council should be members in good standing of the Coalition in any membership category. Individuals are appointed to the Advisory Council by majority vote of the Board of Directors. Individuals may be nominated to the Advisory Council at any time by any member of the Board. Nominations shall first be referred for consideration by the Board Development committee, and the Board shall act on the nomination after consideration of the committee's recommendation.

No individual will be appointed to the Advisory Council without their written consent. Members of the Advisory Council will be acknowledged as such on the Coalition web site, in the Coalition's annual report, in grant requests, in printed programs for public forums and award events, and, space permitting, on the Coalition's letterhead. Members of the Advisory Council consent to the use of their names, titles, and other identifying information for these purposes and such other purposes as they may consent to from time to time.

The size of the Advisory Council is not fixed; there is no minimum or maximum number of members. Members of the Advisory Council do not serve a fixed term; they may resign at any time for any reason, may be removed at any time by majority vote of the Board of Directors, and may be removed if they cease to be a member in good standing of the Coalition.

In addition to the use of their name as supporting the Coalition's mission and objectives, members of the Advisory Council are invited to assist the board in a number of ways, none of which are considered "duties" or "obligations" but as "opportunities to help" when they are able, including but not limited to the following:

- **Wisdom and Advice:** Advise the Board, particularly on major projects, but at any time on any matters before the Coalition including potential legal actions and briefs.
- **Fundraising:** Help make high-level contacts with potential major donors; serve as table captain for events.
- **Outreach:** Be an "ambassador" for WCOG; help spread the word about WCOG in other organizations and events; encourage others to join WCOG; nominate candidates for WCOG awards; serve on panels and helping in other ways at public forums, events, and the Open Government Leadership Institute.
- **Government:** Help facilitate positive relations with government officials; review and provide advice on the Coalition's legislative agenda; serve on stakeholder groups; help persuade legislators and opinion leaders on open government issues.
- **Media:** Review and be named authors in opinion articles; appear in public service announcements.
- **Board Development:** Help identify individuals and organizations having an interest in serving on the board.

The Coalition maintains an email list of members of the Advisory Council. The Board sends messages to the list from time to time offering opportunities to members of the Council related to the above activities, announcing changes in the membership of the Council and of the Board, and other matters of interest (general news releases and membership announcements will not be duplicated on the Advisory Council list because they are sent to all members). The members of the Council may use the list for discussion among the members as well. Only members of the Council, the Board, and Coalition staff may send messages to the Advisory Council email list.