

Boards and Commissions

The City of Kennewick is accepting applications from Kennewick residents interested in serving on the **Historic Preservation Commission, Kennewick Board of Adjustment, Kennewick Improvement Board** and the **Planning Commission**.

The **Historic Preservation Commission** is responsible for identifying and actively encouraging the conservation of the City's historic resources by initiating and maintaining a register of historic places and reviewing proposed changes to the City Register of Historic Places. Additionally, the Commission is responsible for raising community awareness of the City's history and historic resources, and serving as the City's primary resource in matters of history, historic planning, and preservation.

The **Kennewick Board of Adjustment** The Board of Adjustment is a seven-member body consisting of residents of the City who are appointed by the Kennewick City Council. The Board serves in a quasi-judicial capacity (like a panel of judges) to hear, decide and grant or deny variances to the requirements of Title 18, (Zoning), and Title 17 (Subdivisions), and to hear and decide upon appeals submitted with regard to administration of the Zoning Ordinance. Decisions of the Board of Adjustment are final unless appealed to the Benton County Superior Court.

The Board's primary responsibility is to hear and decide upon variance applications after holding public hearings. Variances include deviations to the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance, but may not include "use variances" – to allow a use not permitted within the zoning district in which a property is located. In order to grant a variance, The Board must make at least three findings regarding the variance request as required by the Zoning Ordinance and the RCW. The three findings required for approval of a variance are that the variance is necessary due to special lot circumstances, that the variance will not constitute a grant of special privilege and that the variance will not be determined to the surrounding property owners.

The **Kennewick Improvement Board** The Improvement Board is composed of 5 residents of the City of Kennewick and will meet monthly to hear and determine matters concerning unfit dwellings, buildings, structures and premises within the City of Kennewick

The **Planning Commission** is a seven-member body appointed by the Mayor with the consent of Council to serve in an advisory role on matters relating to the growth and development of the City.

The Commission has responsibility for reviewing and making recommendations to Council on proposed amendments to the City's comprehensive plan policies and land use plan map. The plan is reviewed annually and revised to provide for the City's continued growth in ways to create and preserve a more healthful, serviceable and attractive municipality and environment.

Additionally, the Commission makes recommendations to the Council on proposed planned developments and changes to the zoning map and zoning ordinance.

Any person interested in being considered for appointment or additional information may call 585-4238 for an application, download off City of Kennewick website, Boards and Commissions Application, or Email at cminfo@ci.kennewick.wa.us. **Closing date for submitting applications is February 27th, 2009.**

When citizens are actively involved in their government, decisions can better reflect the needs of the community. We want and welcome your involvement!

[City of Kennewick Boards and Commissions Application](#)