



STATE OF WASHINGTON
PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS COMMISSION

MICHAEL P. SELLARS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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MINUTES

September 15, 2025

The regular meeting of the Public Employment Relations Commission
was called to order at 9:34 a.m.

Via Zoom &
PERC Conference Room
112 Henry Street NE, Suite 300
Olympia, Washington 98506

Those present and participating:
Elizabeth Ford, Commissioner
Henry E. Farber, Commissioner
Mike Sellars, Executive Director
Charity Atchison, Appeals Administrator
Vanessa Smith, Confidential Secretary

Also present:

Dario de la Rosa, PERC, Unfair Labor Practice/Representation Administrator
Chloe Thompson, PERC, Legal Assistant
Emily Whitney, PERC, Unfair Labor Practice/Representation Administrator

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on August 11, 2025, were adopted as presented.

Report of the Executive Director

1. Mike welcomed and introduced our new staff member, Chloe Thompson, who joined us as a legal assistant on August 18. Chloe is filling behind Rebecca Vance.
2. The September meeting provides an opportunity to discuss K-12 mediation activity. Since July, we have received 10 school district contract mediation requests (three involving certificated employees; seven involving classified employees). La Center

School District's certificated employees went on strike for nearly two weeks, and Evergreen School District's classified employees went on strike for two-and-a-half weeks. One mediation involving Vancouver School District's classified employees is outstanding with a strike date set. Each year, PERC field staff are under a leave restriction during the K-12 mediation activity period, which typically lasts through Labor Day weekend. This year's activity went beyond that, so some mediations required more than one mediator to accommodate planned leave.

3. The August case and decision report's featured chart showed strikes by county since 2018, with Clark County leading the way. Mike also pointed out that in PERC's 50-year history up until the last five or six years, all strike activity involved teachers. However, more classified groups have gone on strike in recent years. Otherwise, the trends for the year remained the same as previously discussed. An uptick in unfair labor practice mediation cases reflects that more examiners are bringing forward cases for mediation. We have always promoted and offered this throughout the process but may need to reconsider automatically opening mediation cases or encourage mediation sooner.
4. Two grievance mediation requests were recently filed by private-sector entities. We have the resources to provide these services and are not charging for them.
5. After last month's meeting, we began accepting applications for appointment to the Law Enforcement Arbitrator Roster. Applications are due by 5:00 p.m. on September 15 and will be sent to the commission by the end of the month. Mike recommended that seven appointments be made at the January 2026 meeting.
6. Last month, the commission discussed the Dispute Resolution Panel, specifically with respect to out-of-state members. We are gathering data about other state panels and will bring this topic to next month's meeting.
7. The new agricultural cannabis workers statute and the reorganization of chapter 41.56 RCW will require some rule amendments. The rulemaking process was briefly discussed.

Commission & Court Docket

Charity provided brief updates on the commission and court dockets. Lists of pending cases that have been appealed to court or the commission are available on the agency website at <https://perc.wa.gov/commission/>.

Consideration of Dispute Resolution Panel Applications

The commission reviewed and unanimously accepted the application of Gina Roccanova for membership on the Dispute Resolution Panel. Arbitrator Roccanova will be referred for grievance arbitration cases.

Other Business

The discussion on personnel matters will be postponed to a date when all three commissioners are present.

Adjournment

There being nothing further to come before the commission, the public meeting was adjourned at 10:06 a.m.

APPROVED at Olympia, Washington, this 13th day of October, 2025.

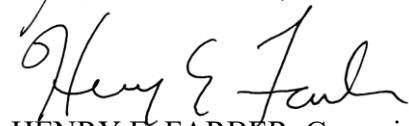
PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS COMMISSION



MARK S. LYON, Chairperson



ELIZABETH FORD, Commissioner



HENRY E. FARBER, Commissioner