

## CENCOM- Kitsap 911 Governance Change FAQs

1. Why are you changing the governance structure?  
The CENCOM Board has decided to bring our leadership under a single organization so that Kitsap 911 is more responsive (to the changing needs and demographics in our region), more effective (at managing our resources), more nimble (increasing our ability to quickly solve problems and take advantage of opportunities), and transparent (making our plans and decisions more visible).
2. Does this mean 911 service is being privatized?  
No. Kitsap 911 is being created as a public authority under RCW 35.21.730-759.
3. Who will govern Kitsap 911?  
The Kitsap 911 Board of Directors will be made up of the same elected officials that currently serve on the CENCOM board- The three county commissioners and the sheriff, the mayors of Bainbridge Island, Bremerton, Port Orchard, and Poulsbo, three fire commissioners, and two Bremerton City Council members.
4. If it's the same board, why change?  
CENCOM is currently a department of Kitsap County. As such, some decisions are made by the CENCOM Board and some are made by the Board of County Commissioners. This change vests ultimate responsibility for Kitsap 911 in the Kitsap 911 Board.
5. Will our taxes go up as a result of this change?  
No. Our analysis of both models shows that costs are similar either way. Also, Kitsap 911 will have no taxing authority. The Board of County Commissioners will remain as the taxing authority for the 911 sales tax and telephone excise taxes. The sales tax (1/10 of 1%) and telephone excise taxes currently dedicated to 911 will continue and will remain the primary funding sources for Kitsap 911.
6. Will Kitsap 911 be subject to the public records, open public meetings, and finance laws?  
Yes, Kitsap 911 is subject to all general laws regulating Kitsap County and its officers and officials, including, but not limited to:
  - (a) Audits by the State auditor and accounting requirements in chapter 43.09 RCW;
  - (b) Open public record requirements in chapter 42.17 RCW;
  - (c) Open public meetings and other public process laws in chapter 42.30 RCW;
  - (d) Preservation and destruction of public records in chapter 40.14;
  - (e) Public works requirements in chapter 39.04 RCW;
  - (f) Competitive bidding and prevailing wage laws in chapter 39.04 RCW;
  - (g) Local government whistleblower laws in chapter 42.41 RCW;
  - (h) The prohibition on using public facilities for campaign purposes in chapter 42.17A RCW;
  - (i) The Code of Ethics for municipal officers in chapter 42.23 RCW;

- (j) Payments and advancements in chapter 42.24 RCW; and
- (k) The provisions of chapter 4.96 RCW for actions against 911 and its directors, officers, employees, and volunteers.