

Frequently Asked Questions about the Survey & Short-term Vacation Rentals

- **What is the purpose of the survey?** *The purpose of the survey is to collect information needed to shape decisions associated with short-term rental policies and regulations. The survey will ask about your experience with short-term rentals, your concerns and opinions about short-term rental impacts, and communication preferences. The results from the survey will be considered for policy development in addition to other sources of information such as best practice findings, existing conditions, stakeholder feedback received at other venues, legal considerations, etc.*
- **Will responses be kept confidential?** *Individual survey responses will not be attributed to you, or your organization. Contact information is optional and won't be associated with your response.*
- **What are short term rentals?** *Short-term (vacation) rentals are dwelling units rented out temporarily for less than 30 days. Examples: furnished townhomes, mother-in-law apartments, condominiums, and entire or portions of homes (bedrooms or suites). They are often listed on platforms such as Airbnb, HomeAway, FlipKey, or Vacation Rental by Owner (VRBO).*
- **What is currently required for short-term rental operators?** *The Kitsap Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) deferred enforcement except for health/safety related issues until a full review can be completed and new policies developed.*
- **Does an owner have to pay taxes on short-term rentals?** *In Kitsap County, lodging businesses or hosts are required to pay a lodging tax rate of two percent to fulfill Washington State Department of Revenue tax requirements and an additional two percent to fulfill special excise tax requirements for Kitsap County. The lodging tax, also referred to as the hotel-motel tax, is a consumer tax on lodging charges for periods of less than 30 consecutive days for hotels, motels, private campgrounds, bed and breakfast houses, RV parks, personal home and room rentals, short-term rentals, and similar facilities. More information is at the Department of Revenue: <https://dor.wa.gov/find-taxes-rates/other-taxes/special-hotelmotel-tax>.*