

RESOLUTION NO. 2025 0172

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
FRANKLIN COUNTY, WASHINGTON

**APPROVAL OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE BYLAWS OF THE BENTON-FRANKLIN DISTRICT BOARD OF HEALTH AND REQUESTING FORMATION OF A BYLAWS REVIEW COMMITTEE**

**WHEREAS**, the Franklin County Board of Commissioners recognizes the need to ensure that the governance of the Benton-Franklin Health District reflects equitable representation and respects the statutory legislative authority of each participating county; and

**WHEREAS**, under current Bylaws, specifically Section 4.3, cities maintain autonomy over their jurisdictions so long as their actions are not contradictory to the statutory authority of the District; and

**WHEREAS**, under the current structure, regulations, fee schedules, and budgetary decisions may be made with a majority that does not require the consent of both counties, potentially allowing one county and non-elected representatives to impose decisions affecting the other county, including its cities and residents; and

**WHEREAS**, this structure does not adequately uphold the principles of representative government and may result in decisions that do not reflect the will or best interests of the citizens of each respective county; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed amendment aims to restore balance to the decision-making process and promote cooperative, bi-county governance that respects statutory boundaries and enhances mutual understanding and compromise; and

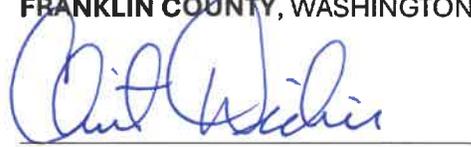
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AS FOLLOWS:** The Franklin County Board of Commissioners hereby submits to the Benton-Franklin District Board of Health the following proposed amendment to the District Bylaws as attachment A; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, The Franklin County Board of Commissioners further requests that the Chairman of the Benton-Franklin District Board of Health appoint, with the consent of the Board, a Bylaws Review Committee to review and consider additional necessary amendments. The purpose of this committee shall be to ensure that:

- The citizenry of each respective jurisdiction is adequately and fairly represented,
- The Bylaws comply with the statutory authority of each participating jurisdiction, and
- The Health District governance structure is appropriately aligned with future operational needs and legal standards.
- Intent and Justification: This proposed amendment is intended to uphold the principles of representative government, prevent unilateral decisions affecting jurisdictions without consent, and promote transparency and balanced oversight. While this amendment alone may not resolve all governance concerns, it represents a meaningful step toward restoring mutual accountability and fostering collaborative, lawful, and equitable decision-making within the Benton-Franklin Health District.

**Approved** this 4th day of June 2025.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FRANKLIN COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Chair

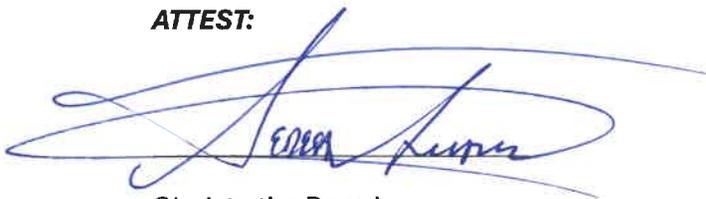
**ABSENT**

Chair Pro Tem



Member

**ATTEST:**



Clerk to the Board

## **Attachment A**

Proposed Bylaws Amendment for the Benton-Franklin District Board of Health

Submitted by the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners

June 4, 2025

**Proposal:** Add New Section 10.10 and renumber accordingly.

### **VOTING**

**Section 10.10 An affirmative vote from one county commissioner of each respective county is required for decisions relating to regulations, fee schedules, budget or budget amendments.**

### **Additional Request:**

It is further requested that the chairman of the Board of Health appoint with the consent of the board a bylaws review committee to consider further necessary changes to the bylaws in order that the citizenry of each respective jurisdiction is adequately represented and that these bylaws be brought into compliance with how we desire to function into the future consistent with the law.

**Reason to justify the bylaws amendment** – Currently section 4.3 allows cities autonomy over their jurisdictions providing their laws/ordinance/resolutions are not contradictory to their statutory authority of the District. Currently, one County or one Commissioner with non-elected members of the Board can set fees or regulations inside the other County and cities of that County. The current language ignores the statutory legislative authority of each County and the citizens they represent. I do not believe that the residents of Benton County would appreciate if the Commissioners and non-elected representatives made a decision that affects them. It is contrary to representative government. While this amendment will not fix everything, it will go a long way in keeping the district from “overstepping” its statutory authority and restore a balance to government oversight. In addition, if a vote fails under the new language, it will create a better more thorough understanding of each jurisdictions needs and allow for compromise to a better outcome for all.