

## DOMESTIC EXTREMISM AND MASS VIOLENCE TASK FORCE CHARTER

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### I. AUTHORITY, PURPOSE, SCOPE & DURATION, AND OPERATING PRINCIPLES

**Authority:** The Domestic Extremism and Mass Violence Task force is established pursuant to the 2024-25 Washington State Operating Budget, Sec. 125 (37).

The legislature directs the Attorney General's Office (AGO) to provide staff support to the Task Force. The Task Force's final report must include legislative and policy recommendations for establishing a comprehensive public health and community-based framework to combat domestic extremism and mass violence. No aspect of ESSB 5950 (125) (37) should be construed as a directive to alter any aspect of criminal law, create new criminal penalties, or increase criminal law enforcement.

**Proposed addition (September 2025):** The Task Force's authority is limited to the directive of the enacting proviso. No part of the proviso grants the Task Force the authority to engage in activities or functions beyond creating policy recommendations for a public health framework to combat extremism and mass violence in Washington. Consistent with standard practices of other task forces, advisory committees, and work groups convened and staffed by the AGO, the Task Force does not have the authority to speak on behalf of the AGO or the Attorney General.

**Proposed new subsection (May 2025): Operating Principles:** The Task Force recognizes the harm and fear that designations of extremism can have on individuals and groups. The Task Force will not collect data, perform surveillance, create or maintain lists of individuals, or investigate or designate individuals or groups as suspected domestic extremists. The Task Force will not investigate or respond to mass violence incidents. The Task Force will encourage discourse on current and past examples of extremism to help inform the group's recommendations which emphasize prevention.

**Purpose:** To make legislative and policy recommendations for establishing a comprehensive public health and community-based framework to combat domestic extremism and mass violence.

**Scope & Duration:** The Task force will meet five times through December 2025, then meet quarterly through 2026. The Task force must submit two reports to the Governor and the Legislature:

- A preliminary report by June 1, 2025; and
- A final report by December 1, 2026.

**Proposed amendment (September 2025): Scope & Duration:** The Task Force will meet according to the schedule outlined below, concluding in November 2026.

- Every other month (bi-monthly): November 2024 – May 2025
- Every three months (quarterly): September 2025 – June 2026
- Every month (monthly): September 2026 – November 2026
  - Depending on the number of recommendations developed, the Task Force may meet in August 2026 if AGO staff find that additional time is needed for discussion and voting on recommendations. AGO staff will notify the Task Force of an August 2026 meeting at the June 2026 meeting.

The Task Force must submit two reports to the Governor and the Legislature:

- June 1, 2025: a preliminary report; and
- December 1, 2026: a final report containing policy recommendations for a public health framework to combat extremism and mass violence in Washington.

## II. MEMBERSHIP

**Composition:** The Task force shall consist of at least ten members, representing the following organizations as required by the proviso:

- Community organizations that work to address or assist those affected by extremism and mass violence;
- Law enforcement agencies that gather data or work to combat EMV; and
- Public health or other nonprofit organizations that work to address the impacts of EMV.

Members of the Task Force can be found [here](#).

**Code of Conduct:** Building trust, honoring relationships and working together in harmony and balance are integral to the work of the task force as a whole and in service to the communities affected by extremism and mass violence. As a result, task force members are expected to, at a minimum:

- Work respectfully with other members of the Task Force, subcommittees, and AGO staff;
- Attend and participate in all scheduled Task Force meetings, including community meetings and public comment sessions;
- Not make any statements or act on behalf of the Task Force independently;
- Respond timely and by identified deadlines to communications from the Attorney General's Office (AGO) that relate to the Task Force and require a response;
- Even when representing yourself or your organization, keep the AGO staff informed about all communications, media interviews and appearances and any other business related to Task Force work;
- Share relevant information regarding Task Force work with your constituency;
- Not use your position on the Task Force for personal or organizational gain;
- Identify any actual or potential conflicts of interest that arise and recuse yourself from participating in any voting or decision making that give rise to conflict of interests; and
- Be courageous in challenging biases and previously held beliefs;
- Not engage in comments that perpetuate negative stereotypes about race, gender identity, sexual orientation, mental health status, housing status, political affiliation or religious beliefs; and
- Prioritize care of other members, the community and families.

**Members can expect that the Attorney General's Office will:**

- Provide administrative and staff assistance to the Task Force and subcommittees;
- Provide the necessary direction and guidance to subcommittees in their work to advise the Task Force on findings and recommendations;
- Provide oversight and coordination of the members and subcommittees of the Task Force;
- Oversee the development of two legislative reports as required by ESSB 5950 (125) (37); and
- Provide ongoing opportunities for Task Force members to work with staff to identify areas to improve the Task Force's work.

**Removal of Members:** Violations of this code of conduct may be used as due cause to remove members of the Task Force. Violations of this code of conduct should be reported to the staff as soon as possible after the incident(s). Removal of members will be decided by a simple majority vote of appointed Task Force members at the next scheduled meeting.

Additionally, the AGO reserves the right to remove members for violations of the above code of conduct following communication with a Task Force member, including written notice, to inform them that their conduct is in violation of the code of conduct.

**Non-Members:**

The Domestic Extremism and Mass Violence Task Force welcomes written public comment on issues under consideration by the Task Force. **Public comment is an opportunity for members of the public to share their thoughts on items that appear on meeting agendas.** Written public comment can be provided through this [portal](#). The portal will open after the Task Force meeting agenda has been posted to the Task Force [website](#) and will remain open for one week after the meeting.

Written comments received **by 5pm the evening** before a Task Force meeting will be distributed to Task Force members before the meeting begins. The remaining written comments received through the portal will be distributed to Task Force members when the portal closes.

### III. MEETINGS

Meetings are expected to last two-and-a-half hours and will not extend past the time as stated on the agenda without the consent of the majority of the members in attendance.

**Notification:** The Attorney General's Office will send notices that include the date, time, and place of the meeting, and will create agendas indicating the business to be transacted. The Attorney General's Office will send meeting materials to task force members at least two days before the meeting. Agendas will be posted to the Task force's website no later than 24 hours in advance.

**Quorum:** A simple majority of Task Force members will constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, meeting operations, and voting.

**Location:** Task force meetings will be held hybrid, with webinar settings, with virtual options on the Zoom conference platform. In-person space will be available at the offices of the Attorney General but may also be held at other sites as deemed appropriate.

**Accessibility:** The Attorney General's Office is committed to ensuring that all of the information, services, and technology provided is accessible to everyone. Materials in alternative formats, ASL interpreters, real-time captioning and other accommodations will be made available upon request to the Policy Division at [atgdemvtaskforce@atg.wa.gov](mailto:atgdemvtaskforce@atg.wa.gov).

**Voting Process:** The Attorney General's Office will facilitate and assist with recommendation development and voting as follows:

- Solicit proposals for recommendations.
- Open discussion on the topic, soliciting opinions from all members.
- At the conclusion of the discussion, allow for feedback on unresolved issues related to the topic.

- Solicit final comments.
- Voting can only occur when a quorum of members is present.
- Each member will be asked to vote openly on the proposed recommendations. No secret ballots will be allowed.
- Recommendations will be adopted by simple majority, the final report will contain a record of each member's vote, to reflect any differing perspectives on the recommendation.

**Proxies:** In limited circumstances, members may vote by proxies. Proxies may attend meetings. Intentions to have proxies vote or attend meetings must be submitted in writing to Task Force staff at [atgdemvtaskforce@atg.wa.gov](mailto:atgdemvtaskforce@atg.wa.gov) at least two hours prior to the meeting. Use of proxies for voting or meeting attendance should be limited and used only when absolutely necessary.

**Meeting Decorum:** For video conferences, group members are asked to use these meeting practices:

1. Mute yourself when you are not talking;
2. Be on camera if possible;
3. Use the rename function to post the name you prefer to be called & your representing entity in the meeting;
4. Limit background distractions to the extent possible;
5. Let the speaker finish their thought; and
6. Use the raised hand function to request a turn to talk.

Additionally, these social practices will help ensure the Task Force's productivity:

1. Seek multiple perspectives;
2. Maintain a flexible and open mind;
3. Listen from the speaker's point of view;
4. Confront ideas not people;
5. Pose questions rather than disagreements;
6. Respect time limitations; and
7. Work toward consensus and our shared purpose and common interests.

### **Proposed Addition (May 2025): COMMUNITY NORMS**

The four agreements of courageous conversations are:

- **Stay engaged:** Commit to being emotionally, intellectually, and socially involved in the conversation.
- **Expect to experience discomfort:** Be willing to step out of your comfort zone.
- **Speak your truth:** Express your views openly and truthfully.
- **Expect and accept non-closure:** Be aware that understanding the root causes that lead to extremism and mass violence requires ongoing dialogue.

Tips for courageous conversations:

- Be open to learning.
- Share something you appreciate about the other person.
- Acknowledge ways you may have contributed to the problem.
- Listen to and act on feedback.

- Provide feedback that will lead to improvements.

#### IV. COMMUNICATIONS

**Electronic Communication:** All email and other electronic communication to the Task Force are subject to relevant public records laws and disclosure (RCW 42.56). To help ensure compliance with the retention requirements for public records, all non-transitory written correspondence should be cc'd or forwarded to Task Force staff ([atgdemvtaskforce@atg.wa.gov](mailto:atgdemvtaskforce@atg.wa.gov)). In addition, although the Task Force is primarily advisory in nature, all "decisions" of the Task Force must be made in the open during working group meetings.

**Records Retention Clause:** All original materials created by Task Force members on behalf of this committee need to be retained for 6 years. Upon conclusion of this committee, members will be asked to send their records to the AGO for retention purposes

**Meeting Minutes:** Meeting notes summarizing the highlights of the previous meeting will be prepared by staff and distributed to the Task force members. Meeting notes will be provided for consideration in the following meeting. Meeting notes shall include, at a minimum, the following information:

- Date, time, location of the meeting, and a list of members in attendance;
- A summary of discussion topics; and
- The outcome of proposals and recommendations.