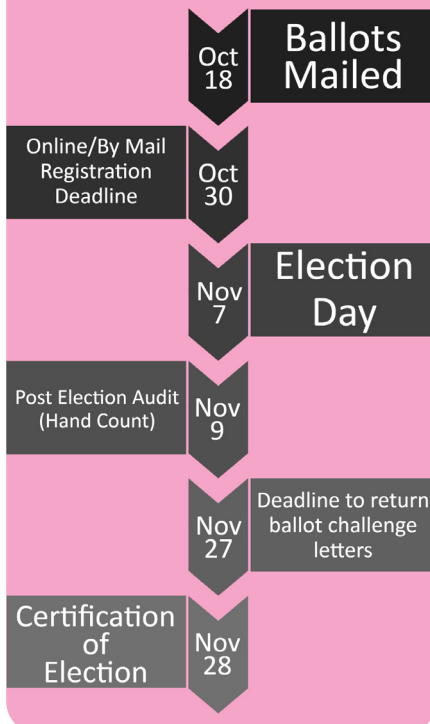


Whatcom County Official Local Voters' Pamphlet

General Election Tuesday, November 7, 2023

Published by the Whatcom County Auditor

ELECTION TIMELINE



Diana Bradrick
Whatcom County Auditor
311 Grand Avenue Suite 103
Bellingham, WA 98225

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Accessible Voting Units

An accessible voting unit (AVU) is equipped with visual and audio technology. Voters requiring reasonable accommodation or assistance may vote on the AVU in the Auditor's Office starting October 18. Contact us for more information.



Student Engagement Hubs

Public universities offer Student Engagement Hubs to ensure that students never miss an election just because they're away from home.

Western Washington University Student Engagement Hub

Tuesday November 7

Hours:

8:30 am - 8:00 pm

Location:

Viking Union, Multi Purpose Room
516 High Street, Bellingham



Whatcom County Auditor's Office Election Division

Services include voter registration, ballot replacement, and accessible voting using visual or audio technology.

Contact us for more information.

Hours: Monday - Friday, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm*

*Open until 8:00 pm on November 7

In Person: 311 Grand Avenue, Suite 103
Bellingham, WA 98225

Phone: (360) 778-5102

Fax: (360) 778-5101

Email: elections@co.whatcom.wa.us

Web: www.whatcomcounty.us/Elections



The November 7, 2023 General Election is an important election with 127 contests and 7 measures – levies, propositions and initiatives. The most important thing is to vote – mark the ballot, sign your envelope and return the ballot by 8:00 p.m. election night (or get a postmark by November 7 for mailed ballots). Every vote matters!

DID YOU KNOW? Hundreds of ballots every election are not counted because they are returned late, or there are signature problems on the envelope (signature does not match, envelope is unsigned, or there is only one witness signature).

In the 2023 Primary Election 647 ballots were rejected out of 58,433 returned.

- 40 had a missing signature and the voter did not return the letter to correct the problem.
- 212 had signatures that did not match the signature in the voter record and the voter did not return the letter to correct the problem.
- 388 ballots were returned late.

We want to count every ballot returned. You can help make that a reality. How?

1. Turn your ballot in on time! How do you ensure it will be on time in order to be counted? Put it in an official ballot drop box before 8:00 on election night, or mail it before election week. The majority of the 388 late ballots were mailed election week and did not receive an on-time postmark. The easiest way to avoid a late postmark is to mail before Monday, November 6th or use an official ballot drop box.
2. Return the “cure” letter to correct problems with signatures that don’t match or are missing. The cure letter will arrive in a white Auditor’s Office envelope, and includes a postage paid envelope for the return. Even if it arrives after election day, return it. Ballots are processed up until 4:30 the day before certification (three weeks after election day).

Don’t make the mistake of thinking your ballot won’t make a difference if it’s processed after election day. In the 2022 general election the outcome of a levy was impacted by “cure letters” returned up until the deadline of 4:30 the day before the election was certified. In other years, races were either tied, or were one vote apart. The return of “cure letters” would have impacted the outcome.

Your vote is your voice. Return your ballot by November 7th.

Diana Bradrick, Whatcom County Auditor



Voting in Washington State



To Register to Vote, You Must Be:

- A citizen of the United States.
- A Washington State resident that meets the requirements for voting mandated by state law.
- At least 18 years old on election day.
- Not disqualified from voting due to a court order.
- Not serving a sentence of total confinement under the jurisdiction of the Department of Corrections for a Washington felony conviction or currently incarcerated for a federal or out-of-state felony conviction.

Registration Deadlines:



Voter registration and address changes online or by mail **must be received by October 30.**

Starting October 31, visit our office in person to register to vote or update your current registration by 8:00 pm Election Day.

How to Register to Vote:



ONLINE: Go to **VoteWA.gov** on or before **Monday, October 30** if you have a current Washington State Driver License or I.D. card.



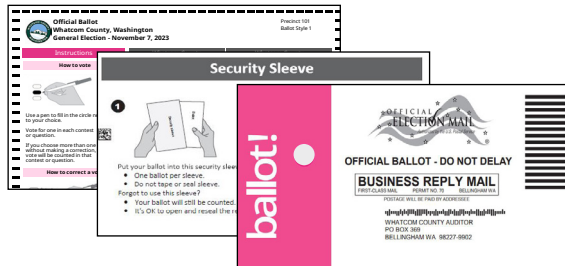
PAPER FORM: Complete and return a Washington State Voter Registration Form. **Forms must be received in the Auditor’s Office by October 30.** Registration forms are available at city halls, libraries, online, or by contacting the Whatcom County Auditor’s Office.



IN PERSON: Come into the Whatcom County Auditor’s Office, Election Division, by 8:00 pm on Election Day.



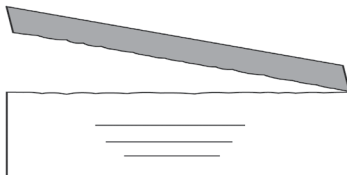
1. The ballot packet for the November 7 General Election will be mailed to you on October 18. The packet will include your official ballot, a security sleeve, and a postage-paid return envelope.



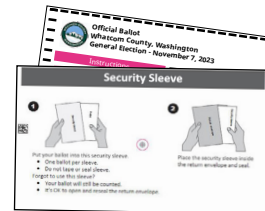
2. To vote, fill in the circle next to your choice with a blue or black pen. Vote for only one in each contest or measure.



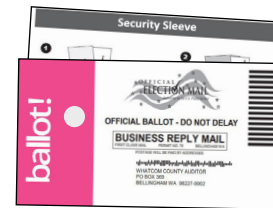
3. Remove the stub at the top of your ballot. *If you forget to remove the stub, your ballot will still be counted.*



4. Place your voted ballot into the security sleeve. *If you forget the security sleeve, your ballot will still be counted.*



5. Put the ballot/security sleeve into the return envelope and seal.



6. Sign and date your return envelope. **Your signature is required for your ballot to be counted.**

Sign and date below

JANE SMITH



Jane S

signature of voter (required)



7. Return your ballot to the Whatcom County Auditor's Office by an official ballot drop box or mail. See page 112 (back cover) for more information on returning your ballot.



Contact Information

For a list of people and organizations that donated to state and local candidates and ballot measure campaigns, visit www.pdc.wa.gov.

A special thanks to Election Tools for the use of the icons in this pamphlet (electiontools.org).

Secretary of State - State Elections Division

Email: elections@sos.wa.gov
Phone: 360-902-4180 or 800-448-4881

Contact Information for Major Political Parties in Whatcom County:

Democratic Headquarters
215 W. Holly Street, Suite B-27
Bellingham, WA 98225
Phone: (360) 647-7661

Republican Headquarters
7072 Portal Way, Suite 104C
Ferndale, WA 98248
Phone: (360) 734-5215



- Whatcom County
- Port of Bellingham
- City of Bellingham
- City of Blaine
- City of Everson
- City of Ferndale
- City of Lynden
- City of Nooksack
- City of Sumas
- Bellingham School District 501
- Ferndale School District 502
- Blaine School District 503
- Lynden School District 504
- Meridian School District 505
- Nooksack Valley School District 506
- Mt Baker School District 507
- Sedro-Woolley School District No. 101
- Concrete School District No. 11
- Fire Protection Districts 1, 4, 5, 7, 8, 11, 14, 16, 17, 18, 21
- Glacier Fire and Rescue
- South Whatcom Fire Authority
- Water District 2
- Point Roberts Water District 4
- Water District 7
- Birch Bay Water & Sewer District
- Lake Whatcom Water and Sewer District
- Samish Water District
- Water District 13
- Glacier Water District 14
- Acme Water District 18
- Columbia Valley Water District
- Cemetery Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10
- Point Roberts Park and Recreation District 1
- Blaine-Birch Bay Park and Recreation District 2
- Lynden Regional Park and Recreation District 3
- Columbia Valley Park and Recreation District
- Point Roberts Public Hospital District
- Hospital District 304



Did You Know?

What is a Ballot Measure?

Measures are anything on a ballot that is not a contest between candidates. Measures include initiatives, referenda, Constitutional or Charter amendments, levies, district formations, etc.

- Initiatives are laws proposed (“initiated”) by citizens. State Initiatives may be sent to the Legislature for adoption (in which case they are called Initiatives to the Legislature, or ITLs), or may be sent directly to the ballot for a vote of the people. An ITL that is not adopted by the Legislature is automatically sent to the ballot for a vote of the people.
- Referenda “refer to the people,” for approval or rejection, laws passed by the Legislature. The legislation might have originated as a bill or as an Initiative to the Legislature.
- Constitutional amendments, in Washington, may be initiated only by the Legislature. Even though the initiative process is well known and often used in Washington, it cannot be used to amend the Constitution.



Your Voting Rights and Responsibilities

You have the right to:

- A replacement ballot;
- Accessible voting materials; and
- Assistance when casting a ballot.

You are responsible for:

- Registering by the deadline;
- Updating your residential and/or mailing address; and
- Returning your ballot by 8:00 pm on Election Day to an official ballot drop box, *OR* postmarked by Election Day.

Military or Overseas Voters:

Maintain your voter registration while in the military or living outside the United States. To register, use your home of record (or that of a family member). You may receive your ballot by mail, email, or fax. Contact us for more information.



The best way to make sure your ballot is on time and counted is to use an official ballot drop box. There are 21 official ballot drop boxes located throughout Whatcom County and are open until 8:00 pm on **November 7**. A list of all locations can be found on page 112.

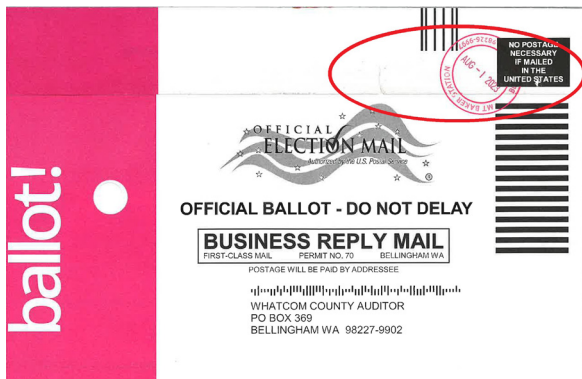
Did you know?



388 ballots were not counted for the August 1 Primary Election because they were returned late.

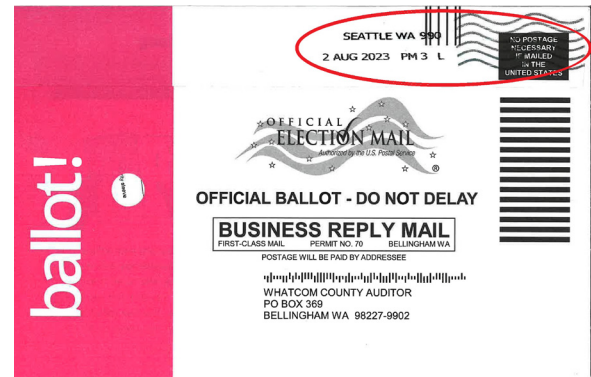
Why are postmarks important when returning your ballot by mail?

For a ballot returned in the mail, it must have a postmark no later than election day to be counted. Postmarks are official postal marking showing the date of mailing by the United States Postal Service (USPS) office that processed the mail, which may be different than the USPS location that received the mail.



To the left is an example of a postmark for the August 1 Primary Election applied to the return envelope inside a local post office. The postmark is on or before election day, so the ballot is on time.

To the right is an example postmark for the August 1 Primary Election applied at a processing center. The postmark is after election day, so the ballot is late.



UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE COLLECTION TIMES			
Location of this box: 25900 MCREAN PARKWAY			
Monday - Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Location of Express Mail Drop: 24355 CREEKSIDE RD
10:00 AM 3:00 PM	10:00 AM 3:00 PM	Holiday	Questions? Call: (800) CALL-USPS
			Location ID#: 919550055
			Date label printed: 02/09/2005
Temporarily with this box, label, or contents is punishable by fine or imprisonment.			

Will a ballot get postmarked with the same day it is put in the mail?

According to the USPS, if mail is dropped off at a postal office or in a USPS collection box before the last pickup time listed at that location, it should be postmarked with the date it was dropped off.

However, the USPS does advise voters to mail their ballot by **October 31**, which will ensure an on time postmark and delivery.



City	City Council: Legislative and policy making body of the City. City Mayor: exercising general supervision over the administrative affairs of the City; the responsibility for the appointment and removal of personnel; and the execution of the laws and policies as adopted by the City Council.
Cemetery District Commissioner	Commissioners acquire, improve and operate cemeteries. They also set a budget and establish fees and rules for cemetery use.
County Assessor	Determines the fair market value of all real and personal property to calculate property taxes.
County Auditor	Administers elections, maintains voter registration, processes vehicle and vessel licenses and titles, records and preserves documents, marriage applications and licenses.
County Council	Vote to approve new laws, power to levy taxes, appropriate revenue and adopt budgets, establish compensation paid to all employees, provide for reimbursement of expenses, adopt comprehensive plans, and hear appeals.
County Executive	CEO of the County; supervises and manages county administrative and executive departments; responsible for enforcement of ordinances and statutes, budgets, comprehensive and capital improvement plans, contracts, claims and deeds.
County Sheriff	Is in charge of law enforcement, jail facilities, civil and legal processing, and emergency operations.
County Treasurer	Collects, reports, invests, and manages all monies and debt for Whatcom County, and all other junior and special purpose districts.
District Court	District Court consists of 2 Judges, elected for 4 years, 1 appointed Commissioner, and professional and paraprofessional staff. The court hears criminal, civil, infraction and miscellaneous cases.
Fire District Commissioner	Commissioners oversee districts that provide fire prevention services, fire suppression, emergency medical services and the protection of life and property in the county.
Hospital District Commissioner	Commissioners establish policy and oversee the general conduct of the hospital district's affairs. They set the mission, vision, values, and strategic goals of the public hospital district.
Park District Commissioner	The commissioners oversee the park district operations, acquiring, improving and operating parks facilities and programs.
Port of Bellingham Commissioner	The Board of Commissioners is a non-partisan, three-person elected body that oversees all Port of Bellingham operations by providing policy direction and decisions in public meetings.
Prosecuting Attorney	Prosecutes criminal and civil actions in superior, district, and juvenile courts and provides legal advice to the county.
Public Utility District No. 1 Commissioner	The Commission is comprised of three local citizens elected on a nonpartisan basis by Whatcom County residents. They establish PUD policies, set rates, adopt system plans for electric and water utilities, and approve the revenue obligations.
School District Director	Five directors make a board whose responsibilities include budget, policy development, curriculum approval, planning and communications for the school district.
Water District Commissioners	A Water District is governed by an elected Board of Commissioners who set the policies and rates of the District.
<p>Where you live determines the issues and candidates you get to vote on. To see the officials that represent you, visit VoteWA.gov (select My Elected Officials).</p>	





What is a Sample Ballot?

A Sample Ballot shows **all** the contests and questions in the election.

Not all contests will be on your ballot. Where you live will determine the candidates and questions you are eligible to vote on.

Visit VoteWA.gov to view a list of districts in which you are eligible to vote.

Whatcom County

Proposition 2023-04

Public Health, Safety, and Justice Sales and Use Tax

The Whatcom County Council passed Ordinance No. 2023 - 39 concerning funding for public health, safety, and justice facilities and services. If approved, this proposition would authorize a sales and use tax of two-tenths of one percent (20 cents per \$100.00) for costs associated with a new County jail, behavioral health, supportive housing, public safety, and other criminal justice facilities and services, as authorized by RCW 82.14.450.

Should this proposition be approved? Yes/No

Whatcom County - Nonpartisan Offices

Executive 4 year term, vote for one

Satpal Sidhu
Dan Purdy

County Council District 4 4 year term, vote for one

Mark Stremler
Kathy Kershner

County Council District 5 4 year term, vote for one

Ben Elenbaas
Jackie Dexter

County Council At-Large Position B 4 year term, vote for one

Jon Scanlon
Hannah Ordos

Assessor 4 year term, vote for one

Rebecca Xczar

Auditor 4 year term, vote for one

Stacy Henthorn

Sheriff 4 year term, vote for one

Donnell "Tank" Tanksley
Doug Chadwick

Treasurer 4 year term, vote for one

Steven N. Oliver

Port of Bellingham - Nonpartisan Office

Commissioner District 3 4 year term, vote for one

Bobby Briscoe

City of Bellingham

Proposition 2023-02

Greenways 5 Levy

The Bellingham City Council adopted Resolution No. 2023-15 concerning a property tax to fund greenways, park facilities, and trails. This proposition would replace a Greenways levy for acquisition, development, climate resiliency, and maintenance of greenways, open space, urban trees, parks, park facilities, and trails, creating a more equitable and climate resilient community, by authorizing a \$0.41 per \$1,000.00 of assessed value increase (to a \$1.55/\$1,000.00 total rate) for collection in 2024 (the 2024 amount to be used to compute limitations for nine succeeding years, as allowed under RCW 84.55).

Should this proposition be approved? Yes/No

Initiative 2023-01

Establishing a City Minimum Wage Above the State Minimum Wage

City of Bellingham Initiative 2023-01 concerns establishing a City minimum wage above the State minimum wage. This measure would establish a City minimum wage that is \$1.00 above the State minimum wage on May 1, 2024, increasing to \$2.00 above the State minimum wage on May 1, 2025. The measure prohibits retaliation by employers against employees; establishes a private right of action for employees; gives the City access to work sites and records; and allows the City to issue civil infractions and order injunctive relief including reinstatement, restitution, and payment of back wages.

Should this measure be enacted into law? Yes/No

Initiative 2023-02

Rental Relocation Assistance Program for Tenants

City of Bellingham Initiative 2023-02 concerns the adoption of a rental relocation assistance program for tenants. This measure would require landlords to provide written notice 120 days before increasing rent by more than 8% in a rolling 12-month period; require landlords to pay relocation assistance equal to three times the current fair market monthly rent for Bellingham or three times the tenant's existing monthly rate, whichever is higher, when increasing rent more than 8%, with limited exceptions; provide tenants receiving assistance a relocation period of 5 months; and authorize private actions and city enforcement.

Should this measure be enacted into law? Yes/No

City of Bellingham - Nonpartisan Offices

Mayor 4 year term, vote for one

Seth Fleetwood
Kim Lund

Council Ward 1 4 year term, vote for one

Hannah Stone
Eamonn Collins

Council Ward 3 4 year term, vote for one

Liz Darrow
Daniel Hammill

Council Ward 5 4 year term, vote for one

Lisa A. Anderson

Council At-Large 2 year term, vote for one

Jace Cotton
Russ Whidbee

***Not all contests or questions on this sample will appear on your ballot.
Only the contests or questions that you are entitled to vote on will appear.**



City of Blaine - Nonpartisan Offices

Council Ward 1 Position 1 4 year term, vote for one

Richard May

Council Ward 2 Position 3 4 year term, vote for one

Sonia Hurt
Steven Tojek

Council Ward 3 Position 5 4 year term, vote for one

Mary Lou Steward

City of Everson - Nonpartisan Offices

Council Position 1 unexpired 2 year term, vote for one

Tim Hanowell

Council Position 4 4 year term, vote for one

John Hammond

Council Position 5 4 year term, vote for one

Ashley Brown
Gary Locke

City of Ferndale - Nonpartisan Offices

Mayor 4 year term, vote for one

Jon Mutchler
Greg Hansen

Council Position 1 4 year term, vote for one

Matthew Durkee
Herb Porter

Council Position 2 4 year term, vote for one

Ali Hawkinson

Council Position 3 4 year term, vote for one

Erin Gunter

Council Position 4 4 year term, vote for one

Wyatt Shedd Stewart
McKenna Pinto-Gonzalez

City of Lynden - Nonpartisan Offices

Council Position 1 4 year term, vote for one

Gary L. Bode

Council Position 2 4 year term, vote for one

Lee Beld

Council Position 3 4 year term, vote for one

Gary A. Vis

Council Position 4 4 year term, vote for one

Brent Lenssen

City of Nooksack - Nonpartisan Offices

Council Position 4 short & full 4 year term, vote for one

Dave Finet

Council Position 5 short & full 4 year term, vote for one

Marshall Judy

- On your ballot, you may vote for one in each contest or measure.
- You are not required to vote for every contest and measure.
- The votes will be counted for the contests and measures you do vote on.

City of Sumas - Nonpartisan Offices

Council Position 3 short & full 4 year term, vote for one

Bob Bromley
Jessica Koehler

Council Position 5 4 year term, vote for one

John Van Wingerden III
Jesse Clawson

Bellingham School District 501 - Nonpartisan Offices

Director Position 1 4 year term, vote for one

Camille Diaz Hackler

Director Position 2 4 year term, vote for one

Aran Clauson
Katie Rose

Director Position 3 4 year term, vote for one

Scott Ritchey

Ferndale School District 502 - Nonpartisan Offices

Director District 1 4 year term, vote for one

Beth Perry
Kevin Erickson

Director District 2 4 year term, vote for one

Antonio Machado Catano
Brent Bode

Director District 3 4 year term, vote for one

Nancy Button
Toni Jefferson

Blaine School District 503 - Nonpartisan Offices

Director District 1 4 year term, vote for one

Kimberly Akre
Erika Creydt

Director District 2 4 year term, vote for one

Ben Lazarus
Dean Berkeley

Director District 3 2 year term, vote for one

Cliff Freeman
Jeffery D. Carrington

Director District 4 4 year term, vote for one

Derrick Bovenkamp
Ryan Ford

Director District 5 2 year term, vote for one

Don Leu



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Lynden School District 504 - Nonpartisan Offices

Director Position 1 4 year term, vote for one

Khush Brar

Director Position 2 4 year term, vote for one

Danny Martinez
Nick Sawka

Director Position 3 4 year term, vote for one

David E. Vis
Jim Verburg

Director Position 5 2 year term, vote for one

Doris Smith
Kenneth "Spin" Owsley

Meridian School District 505 - Nonpartisan Offices

Director District 1 4 year term, vote for one

Jana (Bjornstad) Haugen
Corey Culp

Director District 4 4 year term, vote for one

Marty Gray

Director District 5 4 year term, vote for one

Michelle Simmons
J. Riley Sweeney

Nooksack Valley School District 506 - Nonpartisan Offices

Director District 3 4 year term, vote for one

Shelley Harder
Joshua Clawson

Director At-Large No. 1 4 year term, vote for one

Ty Elmendorf

Director At-Large No. 2 4 year term, vote for one

Tanya Silves

Mt Baker School District 507 - Nonpartisan Offices

Director District 1 2 year term, vote for one

Danielle Gray

Director District 2 4 year term, vote for one

Edward Fox

Director District 3 4 year term, vote for one

Jason Bloodgood
Ashley Sterling

Director District 5 4 year term, vote for one

Theresa Sygitowicz
Russ Pfeiffer-Hoyt

Concrete School District 11 - Nonpartisan Offices

Director District 1 2 year term, vote for one

Jessie Mattingly

Director District 2 4 year term, vote for one

Michael Brondi

Director District 5 At-Large 4 year term, vote for one

Laura Schmidt

Sedro-Woolley School District No. 101 - Nonpartisan Offices

Director District 2 4 year term, vote for one

Lindy Mullen Doyle
Christina Jepperson

Director District 3 4 year term, vote for one

Dani Baird Russell
Hannah Oliver

Fire Protection District 1 - Nonpartisan Office

Commissioner Position 2 6 year term, vote for one

Demus Lourie
Randy VanderHeiden

Fire Protection District 4 - Nonpartisan Offices

Commissioner Position 2 6 year term, vote for one

Steve Cooley
John H. Miller

Commissioner Position 3 unexpired 2 year term, vote for one

Tim Johnson

Fire Protection District 5

Proposition 2023-03

Property Tax Levy For Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services

The Board of Fire Protection District 5 adopted Resolution No. 2023-01 concerning a proposition to maintain and adequately fund District operations. This proposition would authorize the District to establish its regular property tax levy at \$1.14 per \$1,000.00 of assessed value to be assessed in 2023 and collected in 2024. The funds will maintain and improve fire protection and emergency medical services, replace apparatus, equipment and facilities and provide for firefighter safety. The maximum allowable levy in 2023 (collected in 2024) shall serve as the base for subsequent levy limitations as provided by RCW 84.55.

Should this proposition be: Approved/Rejected

Fire Protection District 5 - Nonpartisan Office

Commissioner Position 2 short & full 6 year term, vote for one

Norman Katz

Fire Protection District 7 - Nonpartisan Office

Commissioner Position 2 6 year term, vote for one

Eric Grant

Fire Protection District 8 - Nonpartisan Offices

Commissioner Position 2 unexpired 2 year term, vote for one

Frank White

Commissioner Position 5 6 year term, vote for one

Keith Neher

Fire Protection District 11 - Nonpartisan Office

Commissioner Position 2 6 year term, vote for one

Joan Moye
Robert "Bob" Auld

***Not all contests or questions on this sample will appear on your ballot.
Only the contests or questions that you are entitled to vote on will appear.**



Fire Protection District 14

**Proposition 2023-05
Restoring Property Tax Levy**

The Board of Fire Protection District 14 adopted Resolution No. 2023-05 concerning a proposition to restore the District's regular property tax levy. This proposition would restore the District's regular property tax levy to \$1.20 per \$1,000.00 of assessed valuation in 2023 (for collection in 2024) for each of the five succeeding years. The maximum allowable levy in 2028 shall serve as the base for subsequent levy limitations as provided by RCW 84.55.

Should this proposition be: Approved/Rejected

Fire Protection District 14 - Nonpartisan Office

Commissioner Position 2 short & full 6 year term, vote for one

Russell Vreugdenhil

Fire Protection District 16 - Nonpartisan Office

Commissioner Position 2 6 year term, vote for one

Elvin Kalsbeek

Fire Protection District 17 - Nonpartisan Office

Commissioner Position 2 6 year term, vote for one

William Carroll

Fire Protection District 18 - Nonpartisan Office

Commissioner Position 2 6 year term, vote for one

Socorro Ruiz

Glacier Fire and Rescue - Nonpartisan Office

Commissioner Position 2 6 year term, vote for one

Magenta Widner

Fire Protection District 21 - Nonpartisan Offices

Commissioner Position 2 6 year term, vote for one

Bruce Ansell

Commissioner District 4 short & full 6 year term, vote for one

Matthew Rigberg

Commissioner District 5 6 year term, vote for one

Kimberly McMurray

South Whatcom Fire Authority - Nonpartisan Offices

Commissioner District 2 6 year term, vote for one

James Willson

Commissioner District 3 6 year term, vote for one

Reece Williams

Water District 2 - Nonpartisan Offices

Commissioner Position 2 6 year term, vote for one

Jon "Pete" Rittmueller

Commissioner Position 3 unexpired 2 year term, vote for one

Yaprak Goertz

Point Roberts Water District 4 - Nonpartisan Office

Commissioner Position 2 6 year term, vote for one

Scott Hackleman

Water District 7 - Nonpartisan Office

Commissioner Position 2 6 year term, vote for one

George A. Kaas

Birch Bay Water and Sewer District - Nonpartisan Office

Commissioner Position 2 6 year term, vote for one

Don Montfort

**Lake Whatcom Water and Sewer District
Nonpartisan Offices**

Commissioner District 1 unexpired 4 year term, vote for one

David Holland

Commissioner District 2 6 year term, vote for one

Todd Citron

Commissioner District 4 unexpired 4 year term, vote for one

Jeff Knakal

Commissioner District 5 6 year term, vote for one

John Carter

Samish Water District - Nonpartisan Offices

Commissioner Position 1 unexpired 4 year term, vote for one

Mary B. Hess

Commissioner Position 2 6 year term, vote for one

Michael F. Roberts

Water District 13 - Nonpartisan Offices

Commissioner Position 2 6 year term, vote for one

Rebecca Cayen

Commissioner Position 3 unexpired 2 year term, vote for one

Talitha Shiroma

Glacier Water District 14 - Nonpartisan Offices

Commissioner Position 1 unexpired 4 year term, vote for one

Connie Cook

Commissioner Position 2 6 year term, vote for one

Ellen Baker

Acme Water District 18 - Nonpartisan Offices

Commissioner Position 1 unexpired 4 year term, vote for one

Bradley J. Falcetti

Commissioner Position 2 short & full 6 year term, vote for one

Tom Garland

Columbia Valley Water District - Nonpartisan Office

Commissioner Position 2 6 year term, vote for one

Carl Isom-McDaniel

Cemetery District 1 - Nonpartisan Offices

Commissioner Position 2 short & full 6 year term, vote for one

Wade A. Pettigrew

Commissioner Position 3 unexpired 2 term, vote for one

Vickie Rainey

***Not all contests or questions on this sample will appear on your ballot.
Only the contests or questions that you are entitled to vote on will appear.**





Cemetery District 2 - Nonpartisan Offices

Commissioner Position 1 unexpired 4 term, vote for one

Brenda Beeman

Commissioner Position 2 short & full 6 year term, vote for one

Joanie Roteman

Commissioner Position 3 unexpired 2 year term, vote for one

Judy Trauth-Thomas

Cemetery District 3 - Nonpartisan Office

Commissioner Position 2 short & full 6 year term, vote for one

Aaron De Boer

Cemetery District 4 - Nonpartisan Office

Commissioner Position 2 6 year term, vote for one

Jay Roelof

Cemetery District 6 - Nonpartisan Offices

Commissioner Position 2 6 year term, vote for one

Brandi Tilton

Commissioner Position 3 unexpired 2 year term, vote for one

Amy Bernard

Cemetery District 7 - Nonpartisan Office

Commissioner Position 1 unexpired 4 year term, vote for one

Kenny Sund
Greg Thames

Cemetery District 8 - Nonpartisan Office

Commissioner Position 2 6 year term, vote for one

Dan Bourks

Cemetery District 9 - Nonpartisan Office

Commissioner Position 2 6 year term, vote for one

Virginia Arnason

Cemetery District 10 - Nonpartisan Office

Commissioner Position 2 short & full 6 year term, vote for one

John Kershner

Point Roberts Park and Recreation District 1

Proposition 2023-06 Regular Property Tax Levies

The Board of Commissioners of Point Roberts Park and Recreation District 1 adopted Resolution 23-03 concerning the following question: To support its programs and operations and replace an expiring levy, will the Point Roberts Park and Recreation District 1 be authorized to impose regular property tax levies of 21.5 cents or less per \$1,000.00 of assessed valuation on property within the District for each of six consecutive years, commencing with a levy in 2023 for collection in 2024 and ending with a levy in 2028 for collection in 2029, as provided in District Resolution 23-03? Yes/No

Point Roberts Park and Recreation District 1 Nonpartisan Offices

Commissioner Position 1 short & full 4 year term, vote for one

Allison Calder

Commissioner Position 2 short & full 4 year term, vote for one

Bill Zidel

Commissioner Position 4 unexpired 2 year term, vote for one

Stephen Falk

Commissioner Position 5 4 year term, vote for one

Michael Cressy

Blaine-Birch Bay Park and Recreation District 2 Nonpartisan Offices

Commissioner Position 1 4 year term, vote for one

Jesse Creydt

Commissioner Position 3 4 year term, vote for one

John Roy

Commissioner Position 5 4 year term, vote for one

David Wilbrecht

Lynden Regional Park and Recreation District 3 Nonpartisan Offices

Commissioner Position 2 4 year term, vote for one

Ronald Van Soest

Commissioner Position 3 4 year term, vote for one

Greg Faber

Commissioner Position 5 4 year term, vote for one

Harvey Pelleboer

Columbia Valley Park and Recreation District Nonpartisan Offices

Commissioner Position 2 4 year term, vote for one

Richard Whitson

Commissioner Position 3 4 year term, vote for one

Cindy Johnson

Point Roberts Public Hospital District Nonpartisan Office

Commissioner Position 1 short & full 6 year term, vote for one

Noel Newbolt

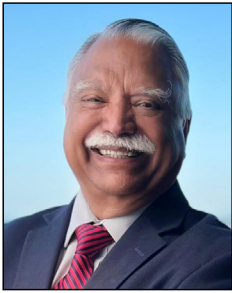
Hospital District 304 - Nonpartisan Offices

Commissioner Position 2 6 year term, vote for one

Ashley Gregorius
Debra Lancaster

Commissioner Position 4 6 year term, vote for one

Jeri Kaufman

Whatcom County - **Executive** - Nonpartisan Office - 4 year term**Satpal Sidhu**

Elected Experience: Whatcom County Executive (2020-present); County Councilmember (2015-2020)

Other Professional Experience:

Professional engineer, senior business executive, and project manager; former Dean of Engineering at Bellingham Technical College; former president of

international solar company. Worked in manufacturing, solar and technical education sectors for 40 years.

Education: Fulbright Scholar, MBA, BS Electrical Engineering, BS Physics & Math.

Community Service: Board Member at Northwest Agricultural Business Center; Whatcom Community College Foundation; NW Clean Air Agency; Whatcom Transportation Authority; PeaceHealth Citizen Council; Whatcom Counselling; Psychiatric Clinic; Bellingham Police Diversity Committee; Meridian Public School District Foundation, and more.

Statement: My values are the American ideals of hard work, strong ethics, and community service. I have 40 years of leadership experience, working with people, building companies, managing multi-million-dollar projects, educating next-

generation workers, and making government work for everyone. As County Executive, I submitted responsible and balanced budgets, guided our response to the pandemic and flooding, and took bold steps toward addressing our community's housing needs. I always work to find common ground, listen to diverse views, find points of agreement, and make informed decisions.

I am supported by fellow elected officials, labor leaders and tribal elders, conservation groups and farmers, because they trust my leadership. I am committed to honoring tribal treaty rights, providing water security for all, and addressing climate change while creating 21st century jobs.

I know that what unites is much stronger than anything that divides us. We must work together to address the pressing issues of today and prepare ourselves for tomorrow's challenges.

I am the proud father of my three boys who graduated from Meridian High School. Mudir, my wife of 44 years, and I have lived in Whatcom County for over three decades. I humbly ask for your vote.

For More Information:

(360) 305-4948
votesatpal.sidhu@gmail.com
www.votesatpalsidhu.com

**Dan Purdy**

Elected Experience: I'm a first time public candidate with significant private sector experience.

Other Professional Experience: Director of Partnerships at a successful firm that manages \$1B in client revenues.

Experienced entrepreneur, consultant, published author, and LEAN expert with

25+ years in Fortune 500s, mid-size companies, and start-ups. Worked at BP, HP, Agilent Technologies, AECOM, and Freeport-McMoRan. Owned 4 small businesses since 2005.

Education: MBA, Business Management, Colorado State University; BBA, International Business Administration, Andrews University; Certified Lean Six Sigma Black Belt (LSSBB), Purdue University

Community Service: Teaches life skills to 30 teenagers weekly at church. Volunteered as School Board Chair/Vice-Chair for 7 years.

Statement: Hello, I'm Dan Purdy, an experienced executive ready to serve you. With a background as an entrepreneur, management consultant, and lean professional, I bring over 25 years of expertise from various company sizes and sectors.

Throughout my career, I demonstrated effective leadership

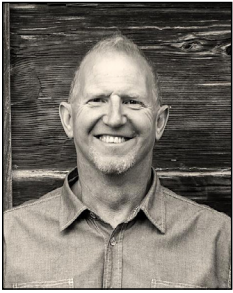
and responsible financial management. My guiding principles include discipline, transparency, and accountability which extends to balancing our \$271M revenue budget. I'm committed to a strategy that reduces rising living costs and unnecessary housing regulations. I'm dedicated to prioritizing environmental stewardship and promoting sustainable development for our county's future.

My wife and three teenagers know that my decision-making process is respectful, fair, and balanced. I'll bring this same approach to the challenges facing Whatcom County. We must support both law enforcement and first responders, while simultaneously increasing mental health services and addiction treatment. By striking a harmonious balance between growth and preservation, we can safeguard Whatcom County's natural beauty and agricultural legacy for future generations.

I'm approaching this campaign as a CEO job interview. I value your input, will actively listen, ask open-ended questions, and consider your perspectives to find reasonable consensus. As one of Whatcom County's taxpayers, what do you value and want in your CEO?

For More Information:

(360) 922-3858
info@danpurdy.com
www.DanPurdy.com

Whatcom County - **Council District 4** - Nonpartisan Office - 4 year term**Mark Stremler**

Elected Experience: I'm a first time candidate, running to serve you, the people of Whatcom County.

Other Professional Experience: After owning Stremler Dairy for 12 years, I became a general contractor, working on farms and homes throughout Whatcom County. I'm currently employed with

Whatcom County Public Works.

Education: Ebenezer Christian grades 1-8; graduated from Lynden Christian High.

Community Service: For 13 years my wife and I were licensed foster parents to over a hundred children. We represented the dairy industry as 1989 Whatcom County Dairy Family and 1990 Washington State Dairy Family. I served on various church advisory boards, as well as in music and youth group ministries.

Statement: Hi, I'm Mark Stremler. As your district 4 candidate, I am dedicated to restoring affordability, preserving our heritage, and advancing responsible development.

As a lifetime resident of Whatcom County, I've witnessed the challenges we face, including the unwarranted rise in our

property taxes resulting most recently from Proposition 5. You deserve a representative who will protect your values and interests. Growing up on a fourth generation farm in Lynden, I understand the unique challenges of agriculture and water rights. I'm devoted to re-establishing the conservative values that have driven the prosperity of District 4.

Responsible development is essential for our future. I believe in balancing growth, sustainability, and community well-being. By supporting local businesses, attracting new industries, and creating jobs, we can drive economic growth while preserving our resources and County character.

By prioritizing affordability and addressing escalating housing costs, we can secure a prosperous future for our community. Together, let's build a thriving economy that works for you, the people of Whatcom County. As your advocate, I will be your unwavering voice on the County Council. Thank you for voting to establish a brighter future for our County and generations to come.

For More Information:
(360) 851-1776
info@electstremler.com
ElectStremler.com

**Kathy Kershner**

Elected Experience: Current Whatcom County Council member - 8 years; Chair, Finance and Administrative Services Committee; Chair, Public Works and Health Committee; Board Member - Northwest Regional Council, North Sound Behavioral Health, Whatcom Council of Governments, Developmental Disabilities; Business and Commerce

Advisory Committee.

Other Professional Experience: U.S. Navy Officer, retired – 22 Years. Business owner evaluating state-funded programs enabling adults with developmental disabilities lead safe, independent lives – 19 Years. Partnered in human service agency with a 22 million budget.

Education: Bachelor of Science, Family Resources, University of Hawaii

Community Service: Past Chair – Whatcom County Republican Party; YES – Safe Jail, Healthy Outcomes; Aging Well Whatcom Committee

Statement: You deserve an experienced, steady, crisis-tested voice, ever vigilant and working on your behalf. I'm seeking re-election to continue providing you with smart, effective,

accountable, and fiscally responsible representation in your local government.

I'm inspired every day by the acts of kindness, grace, and strength seen across our community. These are enduring hometown values at the heart of Whatcom County. I'm a dedicated public servant who honors these values and fights for you. My priorities are simple: to put you first and solve our problems. This means being a leader who listens, understands, and represents you and doesn't waste your time or money.

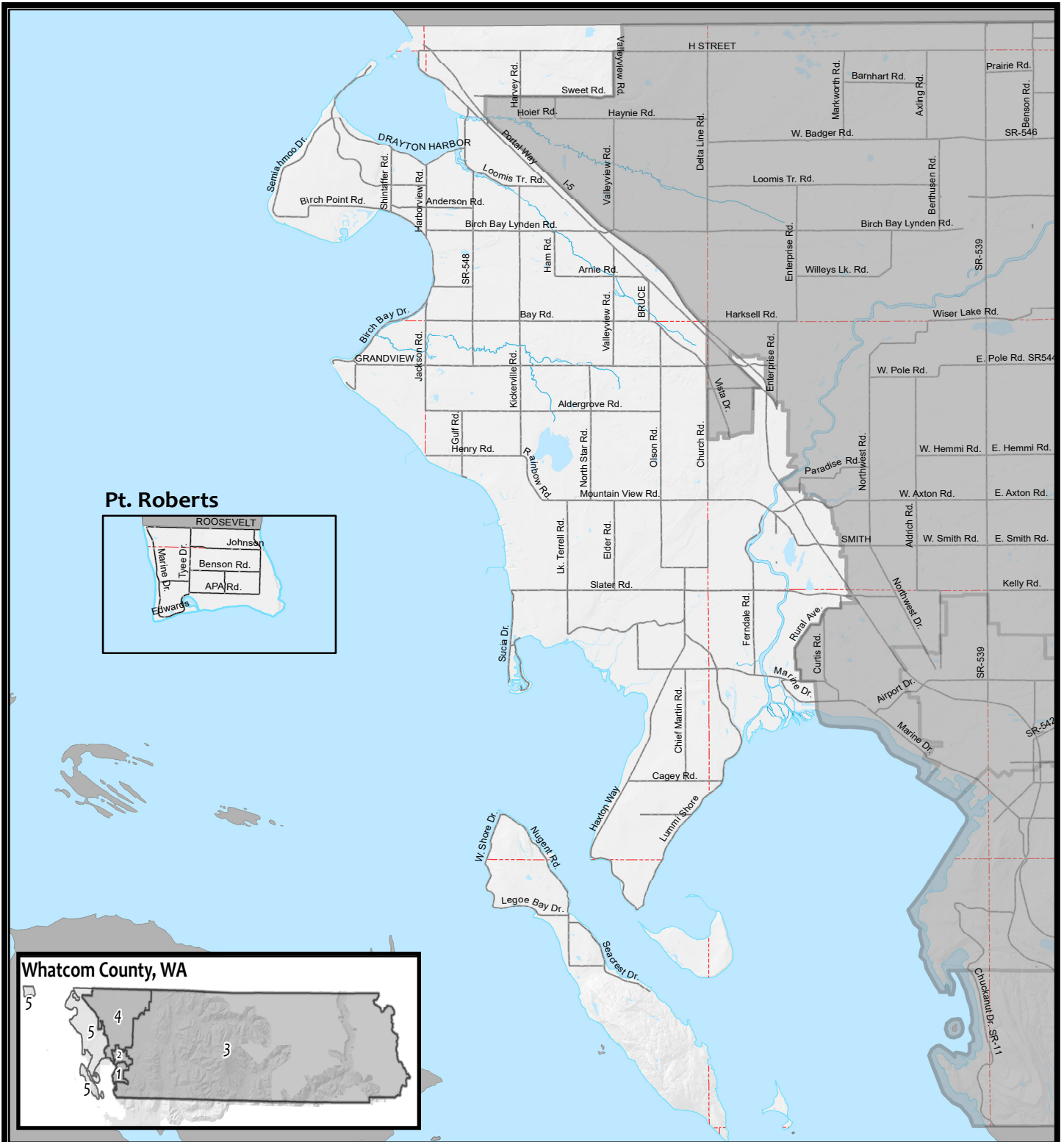
Public safety should be the No. 1 priority of local government because we all deserve to feel safe in our communities. That's why I added 10 deputy positions to the Sheriff's department and improved our emergency response countywide. I voted to protect jobs at Cherry Point and remain focused on increasing access to senior housing, transportation, and support services.

My endorsements include Lynden Mayor Scott Korthuis, Marv Enfield (Enfield Farms), Port Commissioner Ken Bell, Sheriff Bill Efo, and 200+ additional community leaders. I humbly ask for your vote so I may continue to serve you. Thank you.

For More Information:
(360) 220-7535
kathy@votekathykershner.com
votekathykershner.com

Map of Whatcom County Council District 5

Only voters living in County Council District 5 may vote for candidates running in Council District 5.



Whatcom County - **Council District 5** - Nonpartisan Office - 4 year term**Ben Elenbaas**

Elected Experience: Whatcom County Council, District 5, 2020-present (won with 59%); Whatcom County Charter Review Commission, 2015 (led all candidates in votes; unanimously elected by fellow members to chair commission).

Other Professional Experience: Farmer and environmental steward of 300+

acres. Operations Foreman, BP Cherry Point Refinery. Ten-year member, Cherry Point Emergency Response team.

Education: Bachelor's degree, Natural Sciences, with minors in Environmental Studies and Geography, Huxley College of the Environment, Western Washington University.

Community Service: Past youth football coach; volunteer with 4-H and FFA. appointed to Whatcom County Planning Commission; leadership roles with Farm Bureau and Cattlemen's Association.

Statement: It has been an honor representing you on the

Council. Four years ago, I ran to restore a balance to local government residents deserve. I grew up on a farm. I work at an oil refinery. I live in a rural area. On our farm and at the refinery, I help produce things that people need every day. One of the major concerns I hear is that our current council majority continually tries to apply failed solutions, expecting better results. We have a mental health, drug, and affordable housing crisis, family wage jobs are still under attack. Activists say we can't have clean water and agriculture. They say we can't have clean air and thriving industries. In the world I live in we have both, we must have both. This is the perspective I've brought to the council. In an echo chamber, it takes a bold voice to present an alternative opinion to the majority. I have been that bold voice. Business as usual has only served to strengthen the issues our community faces. I will always stand for you, even if it means I'm standing alone. I ask you to re-elect Ben Elenbaas County Council District 5.

For More Information:

(425) 395-4833

Elenbaas4council@gmail.com

elenbaas4council.com

**Jackie Dexter**

Elected Experience: None.

Other Professional Experience:

Aquaculturist, Drayton Harbor Oyster Company's Farm; Appointed, Whatcom County Marine Resource Committee Member, Economic Seat; Puget Sound Shellfish Growers Association Member; Produce Safety Alliance, Produce

Grower Training Course, Association of Food and Drug Officials, Washington Department of Agriculture; Published work in the Journal of Shellfish Research.

Education: BS degree, Biology, Western Washington University; Fisheries and Aquaculture Certificate, Bellingham Technical College

Community Service: Blaine Elementary School PTO; Former Girl Scout Troop Leader, Girl Scout Twilight Camp Leader; Former Member Head Start Policy Council, Opportunity Council; Whatcom County Shellfish Biotxin Monitoring Program.

Statement: Maritime industries, agriculture, and refinery jobs are the economic drivers of District 5. I will be steadfast in preserving Cherry Point jobs. I applaud BP's commitment to transitioning to cleaner technologies while safeguarding jobs.

As an owner of a start-up aquaculture business, I know we can balance growth while protecting the environment. By nurturing our farms, embracing sustainable practices, and investing in job retraining, we can foster economic growth, restore our environment, and prosper.

As a mother, nurturing future generations and fostering community wellbeing are paramount. I will promote a family-friendly social agenda stressing early childhood development and ensuring access to quality childcare. In terms of criminal justice, I support Help Not Handcuffs for those who live with mental health or substance use disorders.

My husband and I have 2 beautiful children who attend Blaine Elementary School. Whatcom County has been our home for 2 decades. When we are not tending our chickens, lambs, and goats on our family farm, we cherish our time spent hunting, fishing, foraging, and camping.

Together, we can build a community that cherishes our natural environment, supports its workers, nurtures its children, and stands in solidarity with Indigenous Peoples. Vote Jackie Dexter November 7th.

For More Information:

(360) 305-8390

j.dexter.forcountycouncil5@gmail.com


 Whatcom County - **Council At-Large Position B** - Nonpartisan Office - 4 year term


Jon Scanlon

Elected Experience: First time candidate.

Other Professional Experience: Through my work, I have seen firsthand the importance of good jobs, economic justice, and ending poverty and hunger. I have 20 years experience in public policy and diplomacy at the state, federal,

and global level working for: the US State Department, Oxfam America, a US Senator, and a Governor. Today, I consult for conservation nonprofits and Indigenous communities on climate and human rights.

Education: Masters, Georgia Institute of Technology; Bachelors, Emory University

Community Service: Security Fellow at the Truman National Security Project. Whatcom Democrats Executive Board. RE Sources Board of Directors. Bellingham Community Development Advisory Board.

Statement: Framed by the North Cascades and the Salish Sea, Whatcom County is a beautiful community. But living here shouldn't be a financial burden. Affordability is my top priority, including housing, childcare, and healthcare. When our County government asks voters to trust them with our

money— whether for a new jail, childcare, or mental health treatment— those dollars better be spent as intended. As your next County Councilmember, I'll ensure fiscal transparency and accountability.

I was raised by a tight-knit family of veterans, educators, and healthcare workers. My commitment to public service is deeply ingrained. That's why I've spent 20 years working to make the world a better place and why I'm asking for your vote. I bring a track record of paying attention to details and negotiating in tough situations. I'll work on: climate impacts including flood resilience; homelessness; clean water for salmon and people; vibrant communities surrounded by forests and farmland.

I live in Bellingham with my wife Jennifer, an obstetrician, and our two dogs Carl and Rhone.

I am endorsed by: Washington Conservation Action, County Councilmembers Carol Frazey, Barry Buchanan, and Todd Donovan, Blaine Mayor Mary Lou Steward, Senator Sharon Shewmake, Representative Joe Timmons, PUD Commissioner Jaime Arnett.

For More Information:

(360) 592-3149

jon@electjonscanlon.com

www.electjonscanlon.com



Hannah Ordos

Elected Experience: First-time candidate for public office.

Other Professional Experience: Customer support manager, Vitamin Portfolio LLC; previously, leadership positions at T-Mobile, Sterling Life Insurance, Charter College and Amazon. Have worked alongside hundreds of

community members.

Education: Bachelor's degree, Human Resource Management, Western Washington University; associate's degree, Accounting, Shoreline Community College; graduated from Nooksack Valley High School. Certifications in nutrition/health, fitness, lean leadership and professional mediation training (Whatcom Dispute Resolution Center).

Community Service: Currently, North Sound Behavioral Health Advisory Board member, Be the One mentor and parent volunteer at Nooksack Valley School District. Previously, Happy Valley PTA president and Mother Baby Center executive board member.

Statement: I'm a fourth-generation Whatcom County resident with extensive education and diverse work experiences. I will listen and work for the people.

Safe neighborhoods, affordable housing, and a strong local economy have begun to feel like a thing of the past. We are experiencing the impact of a local government that just isn't working well for the people it's meant to serve. *My priority will be to work together with all stakeholders to address what matters to our communities over partisan interests.*

I'm committed to promoting community engagement and bringing in people to participate in decisions that impact them directly. I will advocate for transparency and accountability both before and after budget decisions. Taxpayers deserve to know their dollars are being spent on things that matter most and handled with care.

After 20+ years of living in Bellingham, I've recently returned to the county where I was raised and reside in Sumas close to family. All my greatest experiences and milestones have been here, amongst family, friends, and neighbors. Each of these communities has played a part in shaping my life, and I am deeply committed to Whatcom County. *I humbly ask for your vote.*

For More Information:

(425) 835-2857

hannah@hannah4whatcom.com

hannah4whatcom.com

Whatcom County - **Assessor** - Nonpartisan Office - 4 year term**Rebecca Xczar**

Elected Experience: Whatcom County Assessor, 2020 - present, current President of the Washington State Association of County Assessors, prior Ferndale City Councilperson

Other Professional Experience: Certified Residential Real Estate Appraiser, appraising properties in

Whatcom County since 2003. Prior experience in an appraisal office, as well as management and office administration experience. Small business owner.

Education: BA in Business Administration, Western Washington University. Over 400 hours of appraisal education for State residential real estate appraiser certification and biennial renewal.

Community Service: Current Chairperson of the Ferndale Arts Commission, current Program Coordinator of Connect Ferndale. Prior Ferndale Planning Commissioner, prior Chair of Ferndale Parks, Recreation, Trails Advisory Board.

Statement: It has been an honor to serve as your County

Assessor for the past four years.

Within months of taking office in 2020, we faced significant challenges from the impacts of the pandemic. I worked hard to ensure my office was able to adapt to changing restrictions while serving the public and fulfilling my statutory obligations. My amazing team of 30 dedicated public servants and I have stayed focused on providing excellent customer service, access to information, and accurate valuations.

Despite the challenges in my first term, I have improved our processes, improved public access to information, and continue to work towards additional improvements. We launched the online public GIS map in 2021, which was a major advancement for public access to data. Transparency, access to public information, fair and accurate valuations are vital and continue to be my priority.

I am grateful to serve my community in this capacity, and I look forward to serving as your Assessor for another term.

For More Information:
(360) 319-2677
r.m.xczar@gmail.com

Whatcom County - **Auditor** - Nonpartisan Office - 4 year term**Stacy Henthorn**

Elected Experience: First time candidate for public office.

Other Professional Experience: 20 years of leadership experience in the Auditor's Office: Chief Deputy Auditor 2020 – present, Recording/Licensing Supervisor 2003 – 2019. Served on numerous State committees representing county

auditors from legislation to state standardization work groups. Active member of National Association of Election Officials; International Association of Government Officials (IGO); Property Records Industry Association (PRIA); Private sector experience includes Operations Manager and Store Manager for Circuit City 1993 – 1999.

Education: BA, Business Administration, California State University, San Bernardino; Certified State Elections Administrator; Certified State Licensing Operator; Certified Public Official.

Community Service: Alternative Humane Society, 4-H, FFA

Statement: *Experience matters.* As your Chief Deputy Auditor, I am uniquely qualified for the County Auditor position with 20 years of leadership experience in all aspects of county auditor operations. I have in-depth knowledge of each division's technical requirements along with a history of improving

processes through technology and cross-training. My experience includes coordinating numerous elections, census redistricting, implementing new software, historic records access, budget preparation, contract management, hiring, records retention, and so much more.

With important elections in 2024, the Auditor's Office needs an experienced and proven professional. I am running as a non-partisan candidate, because partisanship doesn't belong in the Auditor's Office. I will ensure fair, accurate, accountable, and transparent elections and deliver exceptional customer focused services in voter registration, recording, and vehicle/vessel licensing. I am committed to inspiring public confidence and trust in the election process through education and outreach.

I am endorsed by retiring Whatcom County Auditor, Diana Bradrick, former County Auditors, Debbie Adelstein and Shirley Forslof, various community leaders, and county auditors from across Washington State.

I have lived in Whatcom County for over 28 years with my husband, Bruce, and have two children and twin granddaughters. I would be honored to earn your vote.

For More Information:
(360) 319-9819
votestacyhenthorn@gmail.com
<https://www.votestacyhenthorn.com/>


 Whatcom County - **Sheriff** - Nonpartisan Office - 4 year term


Donnell "Tank" Tanksley

Elected Experience: No Information Submitted

Other Professional Experience: Currently, I'm Chief of Police for the City of Blaine. Previously, Chief of Police at Portland State University and Assistant Chief of Police at Western Washington University. Early in my career, I

rose through the ranks to Lieutenant with St. Louis Police Department. US Navy and US Air Force Veteran.

Education: Masters, Management, Fontbonne University. Bachelors, Management, National Louis University. Four Associates degrees: Criminal Justice (2), Human Resource Management, Training Management

Community Service: Whatcom Commission on Sexual and Domestic Violence, Executive Committee. Mount Baker Foundation, Board Vice President. American Legion, Washington Chapter, Law and Order Committee Chair. Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force.

Statement: Over the past 36 years, I have served my country and communities with dedication, integrity and strong character. I'm fair, transparent, and believe everyone deserves access to

a good quality of life. Public service is my passion and I have a lifelong commitment to public safety.

My experience is broad and deep. I served 21 years with the St. Louis Police Department, retiring as Lieutenant. During my military service, I lived in Japan, Iceland, and Bahrain, and learned a deep appreciation for different cultures. I've led police departments at two Universities: Portland State and here at Western. Today, I'm Chief of Police for Blaine. I'm the only candidate who has led a Law Enforcement agency.

As your next Sheriff, I'll bring a proactive community-focused approach to reduce crime and improve public safety. I'll work with the community to break the cycle of incarceration. My education is in management and I'll ensure every Sheriff Department employee is valued. You can trust me to be transparent and to lead effectively on building a safe, modern jail and community justice center.

Endorsements: Blaine Mayor Mary Lou Steward. Senator Sharon Shewmake. Representatives Joe Timmons, Debra Lekanoff, Alex Ramel. County Councilmembers Galloway, Frazey, Buchanan.

For More Information:

(360) 500-5293

info@tankforsheriff.com

<https://www.tankforsheriff.com/>



Doug Chadwick

Elected Experience: None.

Other Professional Experience: 28 years with Whatcom County Sheriff's Office: Undersheriff; Chief Deputy – Bureau of Law Enforcement and Investigative Services; Lieutenant of Patrol Operations; Patrol Sergeant; Patrol Deputy/Firearms Instructor; Narcotics Detective; DEA Task

Force Agent; Patrol Deputy/Field Training Officer.

Education: Bachelor of Science, Biology, Western Washington University; FBI National Academy; FBI Command Institute; Performance Leadership Institute; Mount Baker High School graduate.

Community Service: Whatcom Community College Criminal Justice Advisory Committee and adjunct instructor; IRPTF Crisis Stabilization and Behavioral Health subcommittees; Fraternal Order of Police, Matt Herzog Memorial Lodge, past president; Lynden Toastmasters Club, past president; Whatcom County youth coach for soccer, football, rugby.

Statement: I was born and raised here in the place we all call home. I worked on farms, in berry processing, retail and hospitality. I'm most proud of my 28 years of service through my

work at the Whatcom County Sheriff's Office.

The responsibilities of Sheriff are extensive and complex, coming with 200+ employees, multiple internal departments, and a \$41 million annual budget that demands efficiency and high performance. I offer the depth and breadth of experience within the WCSO and extensive knowledge of Whatcom County that my opponent doesn't.

I'm honored to have earned five-term Sheriff Bill Elfo's endorsement. It's critical that your new Sheriff be ready to hit the ground running. The safety of our community can't wait for someone to get up to speed. I'm ready to ensure a seamless transition to keep Whatcom safe. I'm also endorsed by two-term County Executive Jack Louws and longtime Prosecuting Attorney Dave McEachran.

I care about and am deeply invested in Whatcom County and all the people in it. Nothing is more important to me than our community's health, safety and vitality and continuing my service to you. That's why I'm running for Sheriff. *I humbly ask for your vote.*

For More Information:

(360) 684-2834

DougForSheriff@VoteDougChadwick.com

votedougchadwick.com



Whatcom County - **Treasurer** - Nonpartisan Office - 4 year term



Steven N. Oliver

Elected Experience: I have served four terms as your Whatcom County Treasurer, first elected in 2007 and re-elected in 2011, 2015 and 2019. Two-term Ferndale City Councilmember, first appointed to complete a partial term, then elected to a 4-year term.

Other Professional Experience: Small business owner and a local corporate board member.

Education: B.A. in Business Administration and Finance, University of Puget Sound. I also participated in Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government Executive Leadership Program.

Community Service: Former corporate board member of Boys and Girls Clubs of Whatcom County and numerous other community-based committees, organizations and efforts.

Statement: I have served as your County Treasurer and Deputy County Treasurer for over 25 years safeguarding taxpayer money, collecting revenues and providing financial services for over 100 public entities, providing excellent customer service, and

implementing new service efficiencies. In the last 25 years, our workload has grown but by using efficient technology, my office has reduced staffing levels by over 25% and maintained high levels of customer service. I'm very proud of that record.

Strong treasury management is the foundation of transparent and accountable government. I fully report all financial activities with no gimmicks. I promise to keep the county and district treasuries above the politics.

The County's strong credit rating and financial stability will save taxpayers millions as the County Council and Administration consider major capital projects such as a new jail, Lummi Island ferry and other County facilities. As an independently elected official, the County Treasurer must consider the interests of taxpayers and County government as project financing needs become more clear. I'm committed to working hard to find the right balance for these important projects.

I work for you and I am honored to continue serving you as County Treasurer. Thank you again.

For More Information:
(360) 303-8811
votesteveoliver@comcast.net

Port of Bellingham - **Commissioner District 3** - Nonpartisan Office - 4 year term



Bobby Briscoe

Elected Experience: Port of Bellingham Port Commissioner District 3. Served two terms.

Other Professional Experience: Independent businessman, commercial fisherman, and a fourth generation Whatcom county native.

Education: Graduated 1974 Sehome High School, Bellingham, WA

Community Service: No information submitted.

Statement: I have served the people of Whatcom County

since 2016 as one of your Port Commissioners. With guidance from the people of Whatcom County, the Port of Bellingham has achieved many good things for the people and businesses. The Port has built a strong relationship with the Lummi nation as well. My maritime experience has helped with our working water front at the port. We have a lot to do over the next four years at the Port of Bellingham. Common sense decisions along with good forward thinking are needed to move Whatcom County into the future.

Please vote.

For More Information:
(360) 739-7590
briscoeforport@gmail.com

*Candidate statements are printed exactly as submitted and are not checked for grammar, punctuation, spelling, or accuracy.

City of Bellingham - **Mayor** - Nonpartisan Office - 4 year term

Seth Fleetwood

Elected Experience: Two terms Whatcom County Council. Two terms Bellingham City Council. One term Mayor of Bellingham.

Other Professional Experience: Self employed lawyer for 25 years in Fairhaven. Before that, various jobs including house painter, waiter, fisherman, construction trades, and congressional aide.

Education: Sehome High School, Bellingham, WA. 1981. University of Washington, 1986. Willamette University School of Law, 1992.

Community Service: Former or current member: Bellingham's Neighborhood Advisory Commission; Bellingham Growth Forums; Whatcom Council of Governments; Whatcom Transportation Authority; Volunteer Lawyer, Street Law; Bellingham City Club; Countywide Housing Affordability Taskforce; Bellingham Greenways Advisory Committee; Whatcom County Climate Advisory Committee; People for Puget Sound.

Statement: It has been my honor and privilege to serve you during these recent challenging years. Throughout, I have collaborated with people in the disciplined work of advancing policy solutions that address problems. I have earned

endorsements from past mayors: Ken Hertz, Tim Douglas, Mark Asmundson and Kelli Linville. Everything we do is in service to the future we need and toward that end my administration has prioritized action on our City's most important issues while making demonstrable progress.

We are: implementing solutions to address public safety staffing shortages; initiating strategies to foster a safe, welcoming downtown; expanding safe shelter options with services for people transitioning to permanent housing; and implementing alternative response services for people suffering addiction and mental health crisis.

We are: establishing the first office of climate to accelerate progress on adaptation and conversion to renewable energy; creating a racial equity commission; working to increase affordable housing options; and building an environmental infrastructure through trails, parks and greenways. On these items and more, I am directing action.

We are creating the hopeful future we need and deserve, a future in which we all work together to do the inspiring work of building a sustainable, equitable and thriving city.

For More Information:
(360) 303-6615
sethfleetwoodformayor@gmail.com
sethfleetwood.com



Kim Lund

Elected Experience: First-time candidate

Other Professional Experience: I have diverse leadership experiences in the for-profit and non-profit sectors including engineer and team leader at Intel, small-business owner, and executive director at the Bellingham Public Schools Foundation

Education: Proud graduate of Bellingham's public schools; BS, Chemical Engineering, University of Washington; Leading Sustainable Corporations Certification from Oxford Said Business School

Community Service: Giving back through service is important to me. Appointments: Whatcom County Planning Commission, Bellingham Public Schools Sustainability Advisory Group. Current boards: Brigid Collins - striving to eliminate child abuse, Whatcom Million Trees Project - planting, protecting, and building resiliency. Past boards: CommunityWise Bellingham, Pediatric Brain Tumor Research Fund

Statement: Bellingham deserves experienced, decisive leadership. We are experiencing health and safety crises, a critical lack of housing, and an uncertain climate future. We simply have to do better. Under my leadership, we'll take urgent, community-centered action in a healthy culture of

transparent, pragmatic, data-informed decision-making with clear communication.

I grew up in Bellingham, the first in my family to attend college, and I am raising my children here. I'm a problem solver by nature and an engineer by training, with a track record of dedicated community service. My work as a tech professional, small-business owner, and executive director has centered on solution-oriented results. I have proven to be thoughtful, collaborative and decisive.

I am running for Mayor because I am confident our community can shape our shared future: A safe, flourishing downtown. Small-businesses that feel supported by city government. A housing continuum with good choices for all. Thriving neighborhoods. Protected green spaces where we live, work and play.

I will lead courageously, listen respectfully and be accountable. These are the values I will bring to City Hall. I'm grateful for the support of a diverse, city-wide coalition of people who love Bellingham. I would be honored to earn your vote.

For More Information:
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electkimlund@gmail.com
electkimlund.com

City of Bellingham - **Council Ward 1** - Nonpartisan Office - 4 year term**Hannah Stone**

Elected Experience: Service on Bellingham City Council as At-Large Representative (2018-2019), Ward 1 Representative (2020-2023), President Pro Tempore (2020), President (2021) (2022), Mayor Pro Tempore (2023)

Other Professional Experience: Attorney, U.S. Immigration and Citizenship Law (2006-Present)

Education: Bachelor of Arts, International Relations, and Spanish Language (1998, Meredith College); Juris Doctor (2005, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill)

Community Service: AmeriCorps VISTA, American Immigration Lawyers Association (WA State Government Committee Chair), Citizens for Bellingham Schools (Campaign Co-Chair), Communitywise Bellingham (Advisory Board Member), Goodwill Job Training & Education Center (Legal Volunteer), LAW Advocates (Legal Volunteer), Opportunity Council (Board Member), Sunnlyland PTA (President), Whatcom County Chapter ACLU-WA (Chair)

Statement: As a City Council Member, I recognize public service is a privilege and accept the responsibilities in earnest. The City

Council establishes public policies, adopts long-range plans, approves the budget, and passes laws to benefit and protect our residents. As an attorney, I am an analytical thinker which means I pay attention to the details and use logic and critical thinking to analyze problems and develop workable solutions. I listen and show respect to everyone, and I speak with honesty and candor. My education, experience, and empathy are invaluable assets to both the community and the Council.

As Bellingham continues to grow, our community faces critical decisions that require astute judgement and forethought on issues related to affordable housing, homelessness, behavioral health, and public safety. We must lead by example. Future generations are dependent upon us to develop solutions to advance our climate action goals, encourage diverse housing options, promote multi-modal transportation, and facilitate a just transition.

Bellingham is our home, and collectively we all have a vested interest in its future. Thank you to my husband Brad, our children Grayson and Skylar, and my mother Wendy for your support, sacrifice, and shared commitment.

For More Information:

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Ward1@VoteHannahStone.com

www.votehannahstone.com

**Eamonn Collins**

Elected Experience: First-time candidate.

Other Professional Experience: Chemistry and Physics teacher, Lummi Nation School; Legislative Assistant, U.S. Senator Chris Murphy (D-CT); Education Policy Advisor, U.S. House of Representatives, Committee on

Education and the Workforce (Democratic Staff)

Education: BA – University of Wisconsin; M.Ed. – Marquette University; MA – Western Governors University

Community Service: Trustee / Treasurer, Kulshan Community Land Trust: building affordable homes for low- and middle-income families; Former tutor, Shuksan Middle School.

Statement: The current city leadership is not acting quickly or decisively enough to relieve strained families and workers from the worsening housing crisis. As a teacher, I know housing insecurity undermines student success, but these damaging effects aren't limited to classrooms. When residents live unsheltered in public, they're vulnerable to crime and illness. When businesses struggle to fill well-paying jobs because

employees can't afford housing, the economy suffers.

Affordable homes are the gateway to community health, supporting families, and helping us meet the challenges of climate change. My family relies on my retired parents for childcare. They're able to live affordably because we built an accessory dwelling unit in our backyard. Prioritizing multifamily urban infill reduces sprawl, preserving wildlands and lowering carbon emissions.

Bellingham's complex planning process severely limits affordable housing, leaving federal and state dollars on the table by building too slowly. Meanwhile, tenants are backed into a corner, suffering rent increases while too often dealing with unlivable conditions.

My wife, Komal, and I have a 3-year-old and a newborn. They – and all our residents – deserve a strong community. As a Council member, I'll act urgently to implement bold policies that match the scale of our interconnected challenges.

For More Information:

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City of Bellingham - **Council Ward 3** - Nonpartisan Office - 4 year term

Liz Darrow

Elected Experience: Lowell Elementary PTA president 2006-2008, Parkview Elementary PTA vice president 2009-2011, Lettered Streets Neighborhood Association Area representative 2014-2022; co-chair 2022-present, Precinct Committee Officer precinct 238 2022-present

Other Professional Experience: Appointed member to the Immigration Advisory Board for the city of Bellingham 2019-present, Legislative Advocate, Community to Community Development 2018-present, Technical Director, Cascadia International Women's Film Festival 2017-present, contract film editor 2011-2021

Education: Bachelor of Arts from Fairhaven College 2003

Community Service: I am a proud volunteer and supporter of the Birchwood Food Desert Fighters, Community to Community Development, HomesNow, Bellingham Tenants Union, Whatcom Democrats, People First Bellingham, Community First Whatcom and the Lettered Streets Neighborhood Association.

Statement: I believe city government must be for us, by us, and include us. As a legislative advocate and long time community

organizer, integrity, transparency and accountability are my highest values.

For 24 years, I've lived, raised my family and worked in Bellingham. I'm proud of this community, and I want everyone who lives here to lead a vibrant and dignified life. I prioritize accountable civic engagement so we can work together to meet our needs for housing, food access, worker rights, climate justice, racial equity, and restorative services.

In my political advocacy work at the federal, state and local levels, I always strive to bring the voices and perspectives of those not usually represented in the process. Only when elected officials meaningfully collaborate with those who are too often shut out of decision making will our budget and policies truly address our community's needs and reflect our values of equity for all.

When elected, I will continue to work with and for every person who calls Bellingham home. It is time for bold and accountable leadership to implement the solutions that the community is demanding. I am honored to have the opportunity to represent you.

For More Information:

(360) 220-9065

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Daniel Hammill

Elected Experience: I've been your City Councilmember since 2014. My wife, Bellingham School Board Director Kelly Bashaw and I are Sunnyland neighbors. I bring a wealth of experience, strong connections and a comprehensive understanding of local government.

Other Professional Experience: Owner, Make it Rain Media and Events, LLC. Previously Program Director at Whatcom Volunteer Center.

Education: Bachelor's Degree, Western Washington University; Associates Degree, Whatcom Community College.

Community Service: I've served on over 30 boards, task forces and committees including Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services, Opportunity Council, Kulshan Community Land Trust, Sustainable Connections, Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force, Downtown Bellingham Partnership, and Whatcom Racial Equity Development Board.

Statement: Experience matters. Bellingham continues to face housing unaffordability, increased homelessness and an emerging fentanyl crisis. Our downtown is everyone's neighborhood and needs to be safe for workers and visitors. That's why I'm actively addressing the fentanyl crisis by banning

public drug use and expanding treatment and intervention options. I'm the co-founder of prevention programs like LEAD and GRACE and Bellingham's Alternate Response Team. I'm a leader in providing funding for affordable housing and mental health.

I led the way in banning single-use plastics, making Bellingham a model for Washington state. I protected our drinking water supply by purchasing hundreds of acres in the Lake Whatcom watershed. Galbraith Mountain is protected for generations of mountain bikers, runners, and hikers through my leadership on City Council.

After the repeal of Roe vs. Wade, I passed a resolution affirming women's reproductive rights. I brought forward and passed - twice - protections for renters in Bellingham.

I bring over 8 years of elected experience to Bellingham City Council with proven leadership on public safety, affordable housing, homelessness, climate change and the environment. I'm running for re-election to continue this work on behalf of our great city and all of us who call it home.

For More Information:

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peoplefordan23@gmail.com

peoplefordanhammill.com

City of Bellingham - **Council Ward 5** - Nonpartisan Office - 4 year term**Lisa A. Anderson****Elected Experience:** Bellingham City Councilor - Ward 5, 2019-2023**Other Professional Experience:** Program Specialist II, Whatcom Community College, 2005-present; Program Assistant, Woodring College of Education, Western Washington University, 1997-2005.**Education:** Master's of Education, Higher Education Administration, Western Washington University; B.A., WWU; A.A., Whatcom Community College.**Community Service:** Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services (DVSAS) Board of Directors, 2022 – current; City of Bellingham, Planning and Community Development Commission, 2016-2018; Bellingham Shoreline Committee, 2016-2017; Washington State SBCTC GED Advisory Committee, 2012-2013; York Neighborhood Association Board, 2009-2015; Member, AFSCME Local 1060. Married to Cory Anderson retired Whatcom County Public Works, member Teamsters Local 231.**Statement:** During Lisa's first term on City Council COVID required all to pivot and be resilient. As a leader she collaborated to accomplish much.*Environment:* Protected our Post Point heron colony; voted to ban single-use plastic; supported land purchase to protect Lake Whatcom watershed. *Affordable housing:* protected manufactured home parks; funded tiny homes with 24/7 support services to transition residents to permanent housing; supported pandemic rent, mortgage, and utility assistance. *Economy and Living Wage Jobs:* Led the effort to pass the grocery worker Hazard Pay Ordinance; passed the city contracts apprenticeship program; provided COVID-funded grants to support struggling businesses. *Public Safety:* formation of an Alternative Response Team (ART); personally volunteered at inclement weather shelters two winters; funded the Racial Equity Commission; expanded EMS, Fire, and Police staffing.

Your vote for Lisa will assure continued advocacy for subsidized affordable housing, funding for police and firefighters, neighborhood-based planning, aggressive clean energy initiatives, and environmental protections. She is a proven leader in her first City Council term who previously served three years on the City Planning Commission, 10 years on her neighborhood board, and is a 35-year Bellingham resident. Endorsed by, NW WA Central Labor Council, UFCW 3000, Teamsters Local 231

For More Information:(509) 866-6726
anderson4bellingham@gmail.com
<https://anderson4bellingham.com>**Observe the election process in person or online!****Opportunities to observe:**

- Logic & Accuracy Test: October 17 at 2:00 pm
- Ballot Processing: October 18 through November 27, Monday-Friday, 8:00 am - 5:00 pm
- Hand Count: November 9 at 10:00 am
- Risk Limiting Audit: November 21 at 9:00 am
- Canvassing Board - Challenged Ballot Review: November 27 at 11:00 am
- Canvassing Board - Certification: November 28 at 11:00 am

Visit the Observer Resources webpage, www.whatcomcounty.us/3747/Observer-Resources, for updated dates/times, access to the live webcams, and more.


 City of Bellingham - **Council At-Large** - Nonpartisan Office - 2 year term


Jace Cotton

Elected Experience: First-time candidate.

Other Professional Experience: As a professional organizer and campaign director, I've been privileged to work with inspiring groups of workers, retirees, and children's advocates. I led the effort to count *every vote* to pass the Healthy

Children's Fund; the 2022 Whatcom Democrats campaign to *ensure a pro-climate action and pro-choice legislature*; and the 2021 campaign to protect our County Council majority and ban city-funded union-busting. As Campaigns Director for Community First Whatcom, I led drafting of initiatives to *raise the minimum wage and protect renters*.

Education: Bachelors in Political Science, Western Washington University.

Community Service: Vice Chair, Whatcom Democrats.

Statement: I hear stories every day of neighbors hurting in a local economy growing more unaffordable. Low-wage workers and retirees whose rent won't stop climbing. Young parents who need second jobs to afford childcare, groceries, and housing. As a former public K-12 paraeducator and pandemic grocery worker, I know many of these challenges personally. I

love Bellingham and believe our community can tackle these problems.

As a professional campaign director, I know how to bring people together to accomplish shared goals. I've helped flip critical seats from red to blue in Whatcom County and passed local initiatives like the Healthy Children's Fund. Running a winning campaign requires strong principles, hard work, building coalitions, and deep community engagement. I'll bring those skills to City Council.

City Council should be the most responsive branch of government, but our Council is often too slow to act. As Bellingham grows, we face growing problems. We need leaders committed to doing the legwork to tackle climate, affordability, and public safety.

Endorsements: Senator Sharon Shewmake, Representative Debra Lekanoff, Representative Alex Ramel, County Councilmember Todd Donovan, County Councilmember Barry Buchanan, City Councilmember Kristina Michele Martens, PUD Commissioner Jaime Arnett. See more at electjacecotton.com

For More Information:

(360) 480-5321
info@electjacecotton.com
electjacecotton.com



Russ Whidbee

Elected Experience: Candidate Bellingham City Council At-Large 2021

Other Professional Experience: Financial Advisor (1999-Present); Adjunct Faculty (Accounting), Whatcom Community College (WCC); Accounting Instructor, Bellingham Technical College (BTC)

Education: Western Washington University (WWU), City University of Seattle, Bachelor of Science (Accounting) (1992)

Community Service: Bellingham Planning Commission; Racial Justice Coalition; Kulshan Community Land Trust matching donor; Whatcom Volunteer Center; Whatcom County Board of Equalization (hears and decides property tax appeals); Bellingham Public Schools (BPS), Dollars for Scholars; Brothers and Sisters of Whatcom (BASOW); Bellingham Technical College (BTC) Foundation, Western Washington University (WWU) Men's Basketball Mentor Coach, Mt. Baker Kidney Foundation Legacy Committee; American Federation of Teachers, proud union member.

Statement: Bellingham is facing significant crises. We need a bold and experienced leader who understands our community. My 40+ years of volunteering, working, and raising my family here; combined with my financial education and experience in

accounting make me the City Councilor that Bellingham needs. My training in risk management and accounting principles have prepared me for legislation and budgetary oversight. I will focus on effective solutions as we address drug addiction, homelessness, affordable housing, residential diversity, public safety, and living wage jobs, all under the cloud of climate change.

Through my 40+ years contributing to the vitality of Bellingham, I am recognized as a "Bridge Maker & Change Agent" who works on behalf of our entire community. My approach to public policy decision making is solution oriented through a lens of effective compassion.

I listen to the entire spectrum of voices represented within our city. My integrity and character shall continue to guide me in my work as your City Council member. I will maintain being a servant leader, being responsive and accountable to our community.

I am proudly endorsed by current Council members Lisa Anderson and Kaylee Galloway. Together, we can achieve solutions for a better future for all!

For More Information:

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russ4bham@gmail.com
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City of Blaine - **Council Ward 1 Position 1** - Nonpartisan Office - 4 year term



Richard May

Elected Experience: Whatcom Charter Commission (2015), Blaine City council.

Other Professional Experience: Owned two restaurants, 20 employees. Former president, Everson Nooksack Chamber of Commerce.

Education: High school graduate. Chef's diploma, 1986. Studies languages.

Community Service: Serves on Whatcom Council of Governments. Previously: Blaine Planning Commission, 10 years. Board of directors, Communities In Schools dropout prevention, 10 years. Blaine Parks Board, Whatcom County permit Appeals Board, Whatcom County Utilities Planning Committee, board of Blaine Community Theater, Volunteering Habitat for Humanity and salmon restoration (NSEA). Helped win measures as chair of Whatcom Libraries campaign, publicist for Blaine school bond, and a bipartisan traffic safety initiative in Bellingham.

Statement: On planning commission then council, we teed up economic growth that's now strong. I was at the front of

rezoning parts of downtown to enable a more bustling mix of business and residential development that can benefit each other. Blaine has become a world class dining destination, even during challenges of the last 3 years.

This year, I went to Washington DC and Olympia to advocate for a rail overpass at Bell Road that could solve traffic delays. I have dug deep for great new solutions about how to add reasonably priced housing and enable the library upgrade, and how to make sure that our city policy on mobile home parks can match the law and what our residents want, while finding a financially sound path for good development.

When government and its systems may not get the results we hope for, we need listening, vigilance, and assertive advocacy. When Blaine government can't get what we want, I will at least try to help you understand why not, or what we can do instead. I am here to learn your feedback, do the homework, and make the best efforts to get things back on track (or over it).

For More Information:
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info@richardmay.org
www.richardmay.org

VoteWA
VoteWA.gov



You can register to vote or update your address in Washington State with your Washington State ID or driver license at VoteWA.gov.

Once registered, you can view personalized voter information, including:

- Details of your voter registration
- A link to print a replacement ballot
- An online voter guide for each election
- Information on your elected officials
- Locations of ballot drop boxes
- A list of past elections in which you returned a ballot
- Seeing if your ballot has been received

*Candidate statements are printed exactly as submitted and are not checked for grammar, punctuation, spelling, or accuracy.


 City of Blaine - **Council Ward 2 Position 3** - Nonpartisan Office - 4 year term


Sonia Hurt

Elected Experience: I've never been elected to public office, however as the wife of a former two-term county supervisor in California, I'm very familiar with the workings of local government. I learned that building consensus among council members is essential if important things are going to be accomplished.

Other Professional Experience: Current member of the Blaine Tourism Advisory Board, former small business owner and teacher.

Education: BA degree in Biophysical Geography from UCLA.

Community Service: Current Chair of the Salishan Neighborhood Association (3years), Wings Over Water NW Birding Festival committee member, and former Commodore of the International Catalina 42 (sailboat) Association.

Statement: Leadership means listening to everyone, shelving personal agendas and representing All of the people.

If we want to address the many problems facing us— a

struggling downtown that has eight empty stores, but no affordable place to lease, staffing shortages that hurt our businesses, renovating our sewer system, and the City deficit—we need leaders who listen, understand constituents' concerns and are willing to reach out to every neighborhood, forming partnerships with our residents, our businesses, and our faith community to find solutions. I have been doing that for the past three years as the Chair of the Salishan Neighborhood Association.

Blaine doesn't need another study, but it does need to reach out to its residents to determine what their concerns are, what they want their city to look like, what amenities they want and don't want. The marketing study we just did needs to be implemented beyond a new website.

We need to find ways to bring more businesses—and job opportunities—into Blaine. Balancing our environmental needs with the need to employ Blaine residents will expand our tax base while maintaining what we love about Blaine. I would be honored to have your support and your vote.

For More Information:
(360) 201-4726
ElectSoniaHurt@gmail.com



Steven Tojek

Elected Experience: No Information Submitted

Other Professional Experience: No Information Submitted

Education: No Information Submitted

Community Service: I was involved with Workforce Development for youth advancement in the educational

computer repair and assembly work fields for giving youth first-hand experience to earn a paycheck while performing on the job training. The Workforce Development experience assisted in creating a foundation for future employment to young people. I've been in the Law Enforcement field for approximately 13 years. I belonged to PUSH Buffalo neighborhood development prior to moving to Blaine, WA. My experiences with PUSH Buffalo involved spending time in activities regarding community enhancement for the Western Buffalo area in New York.

Statement: I have been living in Blaine, WA for approximately 11 years, and I have been a home owner for about 9 of those

years. There are multiple people on the panel when deciding to approve or disapprove concerning matters related to the city. Transparency and community involvement in decision making are essential in these times. Decisions made by our elected officials have a big impact on the community in multiple ways, and I hope someday I can be a balanced voice for the people when needed. I understand city leadership compiled with other officials alike can affect trust when matters are not properly considered; however, a balanced perspective or a different perspective can make all the difference when coming to a final decision. I would like to bring additional classroom instruction to assist in law enforcement for helping with foundational focused professional ideas concerning our community. I've lived in multiple areas of the USA from the East Coast-New York to the borders of Texas to the West Coast of the beautiful Seattle, Washington-Vancouver, Canadian coastal area. I recognized modern society's generational variances with passing time alongside recognizing cultural differences from different parts of the USA/World.

For More Information:
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City of Blaine - **Council Ward 3 Position 5** - Nonpartisan Office - 4 year term



Mary Lou Steward

Elected Experience: I have served on the Blaine City Council since 2015. During my time on the Blaine City Council I have served on the Public Works Committee and as Council liaison with the Senior Center. In 2020, I was elected Mayor Pro-Tem and I was subsequently elected as Mayor in 2022.

Other Professional Experience: I worked as a physician anesthesiologist in Los Angeles. Before Medical School I taught at a community college.

Education: I graduated with Masters in Biochemistry and MD in Medicine from the University of British Columbia having graduated from high school in a small city in the interior of the Province.

Community Service: No Information Submitted

Statement: I wanted to get involved in the City Council as I felt that, as I enjoy living here so much, I wanted to help to keep Blaine such a special place. I have travelled extensively and realize that we are so fortunate to have such a beautiful place to call home, with such delightful neighbors. This is possible to maintain only if we get involved in making it happen.

I am enthusiastic about bringing the right kind of residential, commercial and industrial developments to our City so that we can see it continue to grow and prosper. I am working with many others to ensure that our main street continues to develop properly and to try to ensure that we get a solution to the Bell Road railway crossing problem.

For More Information:
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City of Everson - **Council Position 1** - Nonpartisan Office - Unexpired 2 year term

Tim Hanowell

No Information Submitted

For More Information:
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t.hanowell@yahoo.com

City of Everson - **Council Position 4** - Nonpartisan Office - 4 year term

John Hammond

No Information Submitted

For More Information:
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 City of Everson - **Council Position 5** - Nonpartisan Office - 4 year term


Ashley Brown

Elected Experience: Precinct Committee Officer, Everson City Council Position 5

Other Professional Experience: No Information Submitted

Education: Human Services

Community Service: I've been a leader on DisAbility advocacy and accessibility as well as empowering engagement

for students on a range of Higher Education issues. I've been involved in a number of groups that focus on finding community solutions to broader concerns from both sides of the aisle and a wide range of backgrounds. I've been active in volunteering in Nooksack tribal and community events to serve my local community. I've donated time and resources to voter registration efforts, food banks, Books for Prisoners, and to a number of community and political organizations.

Statement: I offer a diverse perspective due to various life experiences, along with knowledge of how crucial resources/ services for homelessness, trauma survivors, mental health,

disAbilities and accessibility are. I have lost people I cared deeply about to suicide, and with this recorded increase of mental health issues in our youth, I am concerned about their health and the environment we have available for them to safely hang out within a rural area, so I am still looking for ideas on how to continue creating those spaces for them. Our youth are the backbone of our future generation and as a community, we need to come together to increase services so as to help their growth. Being a parent and an aunt myself, the youth will always be one of my top priorities.

I come from a strong ancestry that dates many generations within Whatcom county. I look to further my experience growing within this position once re-elected, and creating stronger bonds with my community. I will continue to strive to be a true representative voice of the constituents. We have gone through a lot in our community during my recent term, and I hope to continue doing work for our community.

For More Information:
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ashleypco@hotmail.com



Gary Locke

Elected Experience: none

Other Professional Experience: Retired mechanic/truck driver, Navy Veteran

Education: No Information Submitted

Community Service: No Information Submitted

Statement: No Information Submitted

For More Information:
(360) 255-3436
glocke380@gmail.com

City of Ferndale - **Mayor** - Nonpartisan Office - 4 year term**Jon Mutchler**

Elected Experience: Ferndale mayor (one term), Ferndale City Council (3 terms), Whatcom Charter Review commissioner (2015), Whatcom Council of Governments chair person.

Other Professional Experience: Lead pastor, Ferndale Alliance Church. Professional pianist and teacher.

Motorcoach driver/trainer (Holland America Westours).

Education: Master's degree (Regent College, Vancouver, B.C.); Bachelor's degree (Western Washington University, Bellingham); Associate of Science degree (Olympic College); Advanced Certificate in Municipal Leadership (AWC) and guest lecturer.

Community Service: Commission on Sexual & Domestic Violence. Whatcom Self-help Homes executive board and volunteer. Blaine Summer Music Festival faculty. Whatcom County fire chaplain. Whatcom Old Settlers Association trustee. Ferndale Schools Levy Committee. Ferndale Community Coalition. Severe Weather Shelter volunteer.

Statement: I'm running for a second term as Ferndale's mayor because residents and businesses want a flourishing city that is safe, affordable, and served by a government that lives within its means.

Water rates are unnecessarily high and city property taxes have soared 42%. This administration wishes to build a new \$13 million city hall campus when \$3 million in improvements at the existing location would serve us well for years *and keep money in our pockets*. I authored and championed a recent city ordinance that offers water/sewer bill *reductions 15 to 30%* to hundreds of low- and middle-income households.

During my public service Ferndale built its modern police station, replaced the library, revitalized Pioneer Pavilion, added sidewalks to Pioneer Village, increased handicap parking, and worked closely with state legislators to secure funding for the Thornton Road Overpass that will open soon. I led the effort to name two streets, *Joe Moser Lane* and *Dick Stone Lane*, honoring two residents who were WWII POW survivors.

Former Mayor Gary Jensen (2008-2015) says, "I am pleased to endorse Jon. His unmatched public service, accessibility, Ferndale-first attitude, and leadership experience is needed now." I would be honored to receive your vote for mayor.

For More Information:
(360) 927-1881
JonMutchler@gmail.com
voteforjon.com

**Greg Hansen**

Elected Experience: Currently serving as Ferndale's Mayor after 4 years on city council.

Other Professional Experience: After nearly twenty years in the hospitality industry in different management roles, I joined the Business Administration faculty at Whatcom Community College

in 2006 as an adjunct professor. I am currently the Hospitality and Tourism Business Management program coordinator and instructor.

Education: I hold Bachelor's degrees in Economic & Political Science, and Social Studies, a Secondary Education teaching certificate, and have completed graduate work at Western Washington University.

Community Service: I proudly volunteer for the Ferndale Chamber of Commerce, Ferndale Downtown Association, Ferndale Heritage Society, and Whatcom County Old Settlers Association.

Statement: It has been a difficult few years and I am incredibly proud of how Ferndale faced the challenges head on. With steady leadership, results-based solutions, and thoughtful

planning, we are accomplishing some big things for Ferndale. We will complete the Thornton Street overpass. We will build the long awaited skate park. We invested hundreds of thousands of dollars in Federal grant money in our downtown, and much more. Success for our community does not happen by accident, it requires thoughtful planning while ignoring partisan bickering. It means being fully engaged, head and heart, with making our city an even better place to live, work, and raise a family.

But the work is nowhere near done. We need to take big steps on affordable housing, improving our road system, supporting our business community, and ensuring we can provide the services people expect of a modern city.

When we respect and consider the diversity of opinions, identities, and backgrounds within our community, we make decisions that enable everybody in Ferndale to thrive.

Return me to City Hall, and I will continue to fight for a Ferndale that can rise to meet the future with robust infrastructure, fantastic parks, and a thriving downtown.

For More Information:
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GregHansenforFerndale@gmail.com
www.greghansenforferndale.com


 City of Ferndale - **Council Position 1** - Nonpartisan Office - 4 year term


Matthew Durkee

Elected Experience: No Information Submitted

Other Professional Experience: VFW, American Legion post 7, National Student Affairs Administrators Higher Education, National Asian American Student Administrators Higher Education, National Association of Veterans'

Program Administrators, SBCTC Veterans committee, Korean American Coalition committee for Washington state, Asian Adult Adoptee of Washington, Korean Defense Veterans Association). American Psychological Association Div 19 (Military psychology).

Education: AA Transfer -Whatcom Community College WWU - BA Education MA - Military Psychology, Adlerian Focused Adler University Doctoral Candidate (Ed.D.) Community Counseling & Traumatology Liberty University

Community Service: Washington State Korean American Coalition recognition day, Veterans Affairs research (MERCC, Colorado) on Asian Veterans suicide, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee Group (Former, Ferndale).

Statement: As a US army Veteran, and who grew up here in

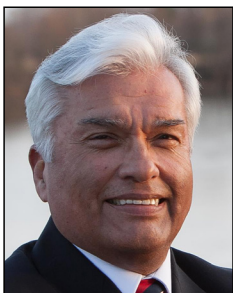
Whatcom county I stand for an open transparent interaction between our elected officials and you the community members. I support in making judgements not from emotion but from a collective informed review of all the facts. I will work to continue and build on those community members work to ever increased and keep informed our community interest, while at the at the same time looking at the fiscal budget in all matters that relate to our constituents.

With my experience working in higher education, my experience from my time in the Army, and education goals I feel I have the knowledge to promote a common sense approach to government understanding of policy.

Moreover, I feel we must build a livable community, policing from respect and cultural lens that serves and takes in consideration all values of our community.

In conclusion, it is the work of the council and the people to make and keep accountable our local, state, and federal government in their governance that they have been charged with.

For More Information:
durkee01@comcast.net



Herb Porter

Elected Experience: :Council Member since January 2019; Chair: Public Works Committee; Vice-Chair: Planning and Land Use Committee; Liaison to Fire District # 7 Board of Directors and Ferndale Heritage Society; Member Ferndale ACS Group; Mayor Pro-Tempore (Jan-Dec 2023). Advanced CML Certificate

Other Professional Experience: : Retired Ferndale High School Spanish Teacher (1980-2018); Veteran: Retired Colonel USAF (1985-2013); Retired CBP Officer (1993-2007)

Education: No Information Submitted

Community Service: B.A. History & Spanish; B.A. in Education; M.Ed. in Spanish; Air Force Air Staff and Command College; Air Force Air War College

Statement: :As promised four years ago, I have worked diligently to find a balanced approach to residential growth, creating the right environment for new and existing businesses, while implementing sensible environmental practices. I have

been a team builder, with the goal of achieving consensus among all parties involved. I strongly believe in a common-sense approach to government, together with comprehensive fiscal oversight of taxpayer monies.

The pandemic posed some unique challenges. Through careful planning and timely decisions, we were able to utilize federal aid funds to help our local businesses and invest in helping the most vulnerable in our city. We moved forward with the construction of the Thornton Road overpass, completed our new water and sewer treatment plant, along numerous other infrastructure and building development projects.

In the coming years, there will be more growth-related issues. I will continue listening to your concerns and ideas with an open mind, willing to make tough decisions, and always keeping in mind what is best for our fair city.

I look forward to continue working for you. It would be an honor to represent you on the council, once again, and thank you for your support.

For More Information:
(360) 820-2547
herbert.g.porter@gmail.com

City of Ferndale - **Council Position 2** - Nonpartisan Office - 4 year term**Ali Hawkinson**

Elected Experience: Currently serving on Ferndale City Council, position 2

Other Professional Experience: Employment Specialist III & Team Lead at Work Opportunities of Whatcom County for over 10 years; Executive Recruiter at Management Recruiters International; Support Staff Administrator at North

Bay Christ the King Church; Office Manager, Northwest Business Monthly Magazine; Co-owner Blue Cab, LLC.

Education: Advanced Certificate of Municipal Leadership, Certificate of Municipal Leadership, College Accounting

Community Service: Large events coordinator for City of Ferndale Arts Commission, Volunteer Events Coordinator for Ferndale Chamber of Commerce, Liaison to Ferndale Arts Commission, Vice Chair of Whatcom Transit Authority Board of Directors.

Statement: Ferndale is facing some big challenges, and we need responsible leaders on council. With my experience on council, and years of professional work experience in community outreach and organization, I have honed my skills of advocating

to support people and providing a strong and persistent voice to accomplishing constructive goals through concise planning.

Good ideas are bigger than partisanship. I continue to turn down endorsements so that I can serve without political expectation, continuing my commitment to listening to our community and reaching out in ways to make information and participation accessible to everyone. Though our individual perspectives may differ, our commitment to this city and the issues that affect us all do not.

The people of Ferndale are pleading to be fairly and accurately represented. I will continue to listen and fight for your wants and needs, holding the council and the city accountable to extreme responsibility with our resources, understanding that our dollars are hard earned and should be protected from frivolous over-spending.

Ferndale can thrive. With transparency and teamwork, we can do this together. Through your vote, I would be honored to represent your voice and continue to serve as your city councilmember. ali4council@gmail.com

For More Information:
(360) 223-0044
ali4council@gmail.com

City of Ferndale - **Council Position 3** - Nonpartisan Office - 4 year term**Erin Gunter**

Elected Experience: Elected in 2019 to the Ferndale City Council.

Other Professional Experience: I work at Vista Middle School helping support our teachers and students to make our schools even better places to learn. Before that I worked at at Fred Meyer for 25 years doing everything from customer

service to management.

Education: Graduated in 1993 from WWU.

Community Service: Big Sister for Big Brothers/Sisters, Volunteer for Whatcom Crisis Services, Board Member for Miss Patti's Preschool, Eagleridge PTO President, Horizon PTO President, Junior Achievement Volunteer, Basketball Coach for 4 years, Be the One Volunteer and photographer for just about any neat event involving Ferndale students I can find.

Statement: The last four years serving as your council member have been eye-opening. It is incredible all the work, community

members, business leaders, volunteers and staff do to make Ferndale the incredible place we all know and love. On council I have learned so much about how to be effective in setting a course for our city and the more I learn the more I want to do!

We need to have safe streets to keep dangerous drugs out of children's hands which is why public safety is my top priority. We need to be able to get groceries without breaking the bank. We need affordable housing so starting a family in Ferndale is an attainable goal not a pipe dream The City has a role to play in all these issues and we can do so while being responsible with your tax dollars. Smart investments, thinking ahead and finding solutions that are Ferndale sized is how we solve these problems.

It has been an honor to serve as your councilmember, and with your support, I will continue to make those decisions for a future we can all believe in. This November, please vote for Erin Gunter for City Council.

For More Information:
(360) 325-1261
egunter12@yahoo.com


 City of Ferndale - **Council Position 4** - Nonpartisan Office - 4 year term


Wyatt Shedd Stewart

Elected Experience: None yet - First time seeking public office.

Other Professional Experience: Currently work professionally in the insurance/risk management industry, previous work includes working with seniors and community members in customer service and was a Campus

minister in training for University Christian Ministries after college.

Education: Proud graduate of Western Washington University with a Bachelor of Arts in Communication. Minored in Political Science.

Community Service: Volunteered with Whatcom Dispute Resolution Center and undeniably suspicious suspect in Ferndale's Mystery in the Park 2022.

Statement: Ferndale is changing – What should it become? My name is Wyatt Shedd-Stewart, proud resident of Whatcom County. I'm in Ferndale because I love this community and want our town to thrive. We need a City Council that represents all of

Ferndale.

I was grateful that my family was able to buy a house in Ferndale; but, successful home ownership and community should be common here. As your next Councilmember, I will fight for affordable housing. Our neighborhoods need to have houses for growing families, apartments for younger and older residents, and good buses. Ferndale cannot be just for those who afford it. We must invest in parks, schools, roads, and social services expected from a modern City. I will fight for safe, quality, public spaces where we can all thrive.

These are not partisan positions. No matter how you vote for President, we all want great things from our City. As a man of faith and a working professional I want our town to care for our most vulnerable and have thriving businesses.

As we consider how Ferndale is changing, we need a City Council that speaks for all of our community. This year, I would appreciate your vote.

For More Information:

(206) 920-0999

Wyatt4Ferndale@gmail.com

www.wyatt4ferndale.com



McKenna Pinto-Gonzalez

Elected Experience: At age 27, I'm running for elected office for the first time.

Other Professional Experience: Currently real-estate broker with RE/MAX Whatcom County and superintendent in training at Colacurcio Construction; owner-operator, MVP Martial Arts and Fitness, 2015-2020 (closed by COVID pandemic).

Education: Associate's degree, Whatcom Community College; graduate, Ferndale High School.

Community Service: I've worked with Blue Skies for Children, enabling children to participate in extracurricular activities at no charge to their parents. I've also joined cleanups of Hovander Park and developed a self-defense class for children who were autistic or had Down syndrome.

Statement: As a 27-year-old mother and businessperson, I've noticed that the perspective of young adults is lacking on the Ferndale City Council. I'm raising three sons with my husband. We want safety, security and stability for them as well as all Ferndale citizens. How can we keep children in our schools safe?

Can we bring back a law enforcement presence within Ferndale schools?

As a homeowner, I'm concerned about the impact of rising property taxes on both my generation and senior citizens, plus the challenge of finding affordable housing. We must do more to improve city infrastructure and promote economic growth, especially by attracting new businesses.

I'm proud to be the daughter of Ferndale martial arts instructor Mick Jolly, who helped me become a three-time karate world champion with a black belt in Chinese kenpo karate. The dedication, discipline and perseverance necessary to excel in martial arts will enable me to be a strong and effective representative of Ferndale residents.

I'm endorsed by former Mayor Gary Jensen, Sheriff Bill Elfo and Brad and Rhonda Oxford, owners of the historic Carnation Oxford Building. *I'm McKenna Pinto-Gonzalez and I'd be honored to receive your vote and serve you on the City Council.*

For More Information:

(360) 510-2549

VoteMcKennaPG@gmail.com

www.VoteMcKenna.com



City of Lynden - **Council Position 1** - Nonpartisan Office - 4 year term



Gary L. Bode

Elected Experience: No Information Submitted

Other Professional Experience: No Information Submitted

Education: No Information Submitted

Community Service: No Information Submitted

many exciting things coming up in the near future, including completion of our new medical center, more work on drainage issues for northwest Lynden, expansion of the industrial area with new businesses and job opportunities. One important part of my position as councilman is to insure that all city business and rulings are fair and equal do not infringe on any of our constitutional rights and privileges that we have been given. Regulation creep is a real thing and watching out for that is a constant exercise in vigilance.....thank you again for being able to serve

For More Information:
(360) 961-1178
colony411@gmail.com

Statement: Thank you for the privilege to serve you as your representative for the last 24 years. Together we have accomplished many positive things in our city that have helped make our town the quality place to live that it is. There are

City of Lynden - **Council Position 2** - Nonpartisan Office - 4 year term



Lee Beld

Elected Experience: I have never held elected office

Other Professional Experience: I am the owner of Northwest Hedging LLC

Education: Graduated from Lynden Christian Schools in 1985. Graduated Skagit College in 1987 with an A/A degree in law enforcement

Community Service: Spent the last 33 years proudly serving in

the Lynden Police Department until recent retirement

Statement: Lynden is a very special place with unique characteristics. People comment all the time about how different Lynden is and how they hope that this truly different character wont get lost in an often confusing and secular world. If elected, I will provide the citizens of Lynden a councilman who has local knowledge and celebrates the character of Lynden both past and present.

For More Information:
(360) 815-3271
Leeforlynden@gmail.com

*Candidate statements are printed exactly as submitted and are not checked for grammar, punctuation, spelling, or accuracy.



City of Lynden - **Council Position 3** - Nonpartisan Office - 4 year term



Gary A. Vis

Elected Experience: Lynden City Council, Lynden Regional Parks and Recreation District, Lynden School District Board of Directors

Other Professional Experience: Whatcom County LEOFF Board member, Bellingham Whatcom County Tourism Marketing Committee, Bellingham

International Airport Advisory Committee, City of Lynden City Hall Design Committee, City of Lynden Zoning Text Review Committee, Association of Washington Cities Certified Municipal Leader, Lynden School District Facilities Advisory Committee, Lynden School District Superintendent's Advisory Committee, Lynden Chamber of Commerce

Education: Lynden High School

Community Service: Millions Smiles Playground Co-General Coordinator, Leadership WSSDA, Northwest Washington Fair Association member, Lynden Heritage Museum Board of Directors

Statement: A primary reason the community of Lynden has been successful over its 130-year history is the active

participation of the people who call Lynden home. Be it the houses of worship where many gather, great schools both private and public educating our youth, numerous businesses large and small who give back in so many ways, or the service organizations who year after year give their time, talent and treasure to make Lynden just a touch better than they found it, just to name a few, the tradition of rolling our sleeves up, putting in the effort and energy, and often the dollars in our wallets lives on.

All this is to say that "we the people" are who make Lynden what it is, and in my view, while government from the federal level on up can help facilitate great achievements, government alone cannot make positive activities happen without those whom they represent.

Regardless of who "wins" an election, or what letter is behind their name, we as individuals, working together despite our differences, will build the positive legacy of our earthly works that will pass on to future generations. Please get involved, give as you are able, and please vote.

For More Information:
(360) 354-6517
garyavis@gmail.com

City of Lynden - **Council Position 4** - Nonpartisan Office - 4 year term



Brent Lenssen

Elected Experience: Lynden City Council, Position 4, 2009-current, Lynden City Planning Commission, 2002-2009

Other Professional Experience: General Manager, Vander Griend Lumber, Lynden

Education: BA in Economics, Calvin University, Graduate of Lynden Christian High School

Community Service: Executive Committee Member, Million Smiles Playground Project, Lynden City Park 2006-2007, Active in a local church and a non-profit engaged in international development.

Statement: It has been an honor to serve as your Lynden City Councilor for almost 14 years. During this time, our community has grown significantly. Likewise, the City's ability to serve its citizens has expanded as well. Some of the significant

accomplishments during this time have been: constructing a new water treatment plant, purchasing 50 acres of additional park property, remodeling the fire station and funding increased for frontline staff at both the fire and police departments. Your city leaders strive to manage growth while balancing both our community values and state and federal regulations.

Ongoing challenges continue to be: providing affordable housing and opportunities for home ownership, building an industrial and commercial business base that provides family-wage jobs and revenue to pay for government services, and continuing to work to keep our citizens safe.

I look forward to the opportunity to continue to partner with you in our quest to make Lynden a great community to live and work.

For More Information:
(360) 815-4191
brentlenssen@gmail.com



City of Nooksack - **Council Position 4** - Nonpartisan Office - short & full 4 year term

No Photo Submitted

Dave Finet

Elected Experience: None

Other Professional Experience: 1986-2016 worked at Opportunity Council helping people and families with lower income and other challenges stabilize their lives and where possible become more self-reliant; 2011–2015 collaborated with foothills residents and

Whatcom County to organize and establish the East Whatcom Community Council and East Whatcom Community Resource Center in Kendal; past member of the Housing Advisory Committee of Whatcom County.

Education: Lifetime resident of Nooksack Valley, 1975 Graduate of Nooksack Valley High School; 2011 awarded NVHS Graduate of Distinction

Community Service: 2019 to present commissioner Housing Authority of Whatcom County, 2021 to present Board member of the Nooksack Valley Food Bank.

Statement: The City of Nooksack is a great place to live, work and raise a family. My primary goal as Nooksack city council member will be to retain what we love about our city while

managing and adapting to inevitable growth and change. Our city and region of Whatcom County is seeing exponential growth which can be positive but can have negative ramifications as well. With citizen input, thorough planning and solid leadership we can have growth and retain what is special about Nooksack.

Ensuring Nooksack’s livability, resident safety and rural charm are primary areas of focus for me. Our natural environment In the Nooksack Valley is special and we should work hard and collaboratively to retain it.

I believe my experience working with federal, state, county and city governments while advocating for policies that affect citizens and the local community in a positive way will be an asset to the city. The best local government is one that listens to residents concerns and needs while addressing them in a thoughtful way.

Having recently been annexed into the city of Nooksack I welcome the opportunity to help shape the city’s future for the benefit of all current and future citizens.

For More Information:
(360) 739-7953
davefinet@yahoo.com

City of Nooksack - **Council Position 5** - Nonpartisan Office - short & full 4 year term

No Photo Submitted

Marshall Judy

Elected Experience: No Information Submitted

Other Professional Experience: No Information Submitted

Education: No Information Submitted

Community Service: No Information Submitted

Statement: Serving 4 more years on the Nooksack City Council is a privilege that I take seriously and look forward to.

For More Information:
(360) 510-7422
msj210@gmail.com

*Candidate statements are printed exactly as submitted and are not checked for grammar, punctuation, spelling, or accuracy.


 City of Sumas - **Council Position 3** - Nonpartisan Office - short & full 4 year term


Bob Bromley

Elected Experience: Sumas City Mayor elected 2001-2017 / 16yrs., Sumas City Council appointed 2022-2023 / current, Sumas City Council elected 1987-2001 / 14 yrs.

Other Professional Experience: Teal Jones Dry Kilns (Supervisor/Operations, and Equipment Operator) 2021-current,

Pacific Rim Reload (Supervisor/Operations, and Equipment Operator) 2018-2021, Bromleys Market IGA (Owner) 1999-2018, Bromleys Market (Manager) 1977-1999

Education: Nooksack Valley High School Graduated 1975-Class Valedictorian, Western Washington University

Attended-1975-1977

Community Service: Sumas Chamber of Commerce Past Member and President, Sumas Lions Club Past Member

Statement: I am a fourth generation Sumas resident and have lived in the City my entire life in which I have owned a business or been employed only in Sumas throughout that course of time. Also, I've served in City of Sumas government for 31 years and understand the issues, policies, and the process to get things accomplished for our town. For those who are new residents and those who have been here supporting me over the years, I ask for your vote to serve once again.

For More Information:
(360) 961-2303
bullet13@outdrs.net



Jessica Koehler

Elected Experience: None

Other Professional Experience: Employed at Whatcom County Government since 2018

Education: Associates Degree - Business Administration & Accounting, Whatcom Community College 2013, High School Diploma, Nooksack Valley High School

2005

Community Service: No Information Submitted

Statement: For the past year, I've been known as the 'girl who takes the minutes' at the council meetings. Upon returning to my flood-damaged home last July, I started attending the council meetings, trying to be very involved in discussions about the devastating flood that ripped apart my hometown. I became

immersed in a wide range of matters. I have been sharing what I learn after each meeting with my community; a fragile community that is still building back, a busy community full of young families, a strong community that cares. This was my way of helping, at a time when I felt completely helpless.

I believe that Sumas is on its way to being built back stronger. I want to continue the momentum by sitting at the table of these council meetings, instead of in the audience. Being able to advocate for what is right, for residents and businesses alike. I want to maintain the open level of communication that I have brought to the community, and continue to be a listening ear. Sumas is my hometown and I want us all to be involved in its future.

For More Information:
(360) 319-4600
jessicakoe52@gmail.com



City of Sumas - **Council Position 5** - Nonpartisan Office - 4 year term



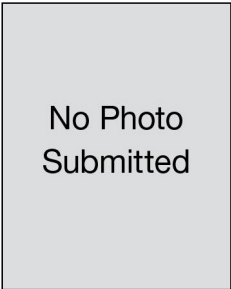
John Van Wingerden III

Elected Experience: None
Other Professional Experience: Sales/ Marketing Manager for IER, Facility Tech/ Lab Manager for Port of Sunnyside
Education: BS in Chemistry form University of Washington
Community Service: Sumas Planning Commission

Statement: In the 4 short years that I have lived in Sumas, it has become a home for my family and I. Living through the 2021

flood and its aftermath has led me to want to be more involved in the community in its recovery and future growth. I have been attending city council meetings and have been involved in the Sumas Planning Commission and am now running for city council. I look forward to providing a fresh perspective and insight to our community. Having worked for a Port District and my current job which allows me to interact with municipalities, I have gained a knowledge about how municipalities work. I look forward to using my knowledge to help our city to continue to grow and improve. I look forward to a bright future for Sumas.

For More Information:
(509) 439-9626
johnvwforsumas@gmail.com



Jesse Clawson

Elected Experience: 4-years Sumas City council
Other Professional Experience: No Information Submitted
Education: Graduate from Nooksack Valley High School
Community Service: Volunteer and coordinator for Sumas Show and shine

for the past 10 years.

Statement: I have lived in Sumas my entire life. I have seen the good old days and I have seen the not so good days. Being a flood victim, I know firsthand how difficult it has been for so many families and our businesses. My main priority has been and will continue be doing what's best for our community and small businesses. I am not afraid to ask the tough questions and challenge the way we do things.

For More Information:
jesse_jessica@frontier.com

*Candidate statements are printed exactly as submitted and are not checked for grammar, punctuation, spelling, or accuracy.


 Bellingham School District 501 - **Director Position 1** - Nonpartisan Office - 4 year term


Camille Diaz Hackler

Elected Experience: Currently serving on the Bellingham School Board as School Board President.

Other Professional Experience: I am employed at MGM Solutions Inc. I've been married for 32 years to Tim, a Navy Veteran currently employed at Construction Supply Company. Mother

of two BHS graduates, Ryan and Alex. My grandchildren are now attending Parkview Elementary. My hobbies include walking, gardening, converting a bus to a RV and wearing Nu Muus.

Education: Graduated from Bellingham High, Whatcom Community College and Western Washington University.

Community Service: I have served on many boards including

the YWCA, Cornwall Park Neighborhood Association and the Mayor's Neighborhood Advisory Commission.

Statement: The challenges facing the families in our community have grown. I have and will continue to support all students because I believe that every child deserves the opportunity to find their place in this world and speak out for what they believe in. The years ahead will require outstanding leadership and vision from our youth in order to overcome the biggest challenges of our day. If we want them to succeed – our educational system needs to give them all the tools that we can. I am committed to ensuring they have the knowledge and development opportunities they need to become tomorrow's leaders.

For More Information:

(360) 441-1808

camille.hackler@gmail.com

Has your address changed?

Update your registration online at VoteWA.gov

OR

Notify the Election Division:

Phone: (360) 778-5102 We accept relay calls.

Email: elections@co.whatcom.wa.us



Bellingham School District 501 - **Director Position 2** - Nonpartisan Office - 4 year term**Aran Clauson**

Elected Experience: First time candidate.

Other Professional Experience: Senior Instructor at WWU, former lecturer at North Seattle CC, former Software Engineer.

Education: AS Tacoma Community College, BS and MS Computer Science

from WWU, PhD Computer Science from University of Oregon, and welding at BTC.

Community Service: ABET Computing Accreditation Commissioner; Bellingham Community Development Advisory Board chair; Director of Emergency Services Washington Wing, Civil Air Patrol, the U.S. Air Force Auxiliary; occasional home delivery driver for the Bellingham Food Bank.

Statement: There are two reasons that I am running for school board. First, Education is the foundation upon which our society sits. That education goes beyond primary and secondary

education. It includes vocational training, certificate programs, military training, and the various levels of university. There is not one post-secondary option that is right for every student, but every student in the Bellingham School District needs a path from where they are today to wherever they decide to go after graduation. I believe in this so strongly, that I have been a teacher in several different roles, which leads to the second point.

At my core, I am a teacher. I have taught in the software industry, in the evenings at a community college, and as a senior instructor at university. I appreciate the challenges, the rewards, and the specialty of the profession. More importantly, I respect the dedication and training of our teachers.

I am running for school board to help ensure that students are prepared for how they will live their lives and to support teachers in achieving that vision.

For More Information:

(360) 305-3910
ac@100acres.us
aranclauson.com

**Katie Rose**

Elected Experience: No Information Submitted

Other Professional Experience: Fund Development Manager, Opportunity Council; Community Outreach & Development Specialist, Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services, Brigid Collins Family Support Center,

and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwest Washington; Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Educator; Personal and Family Skills Coach (working with neurodivergent and adults and children); Nonprofit Management, Fundraising, and Outreach Consultant.

Education: BA Psychology

Community Service: No Information Submitted

Statement: I'm a lifelong Whatcom County resident and have spent more than 15 years working on behalf of children and families impacted by poverty, PTSD, and trauma. I'm also single mother of two sons in Bellingham Public Schools, and work with individuals and families experiencing ADHD and ASD.

For the last 3 years, I've served as your Bellingham School Board Director. As a board member, I work to ensure that *all* students are heard, included, and supported. I'll work to engage students and families that feel disconnected from our school system due to culture and circumstance.

Understanding that teachers and school staff are the backbone of our schools, I'll work to ensure that appropriate resources are amply available to those who have dedicated their lives to serving our children. This includes supporting increased professional development on learning and developmental disabilities, building peer support for parents, reducing the impact of poverty, and better identifying and addressing the struggles that leave many students—and their families—feeling isolated.

Students cannot learn or succeed without a foundation of inclusion, health, and safety. With your support, I commit to continuing to build those foundations and ensuring Bellingham Public Schools are successful in serving every child.

For More Information:

No Information Submitted


 Bellingham School District 501 - **Director Position 3** - Nonpartisan Office - 4 year term


Scott Ritchey

Elected Experience: None

Other Professional Experience: 24 years working for large educational non-profit supporting global educators, researchers, and students in optics and photonics. 15+ years in executive roles; currently serving as Chief Technology Officer.

Education: Masters of Business

Administration, University of Washington; Bachelors in Management Information Systems and East Asian Studies, Western Washington University.

Community Service: Served as a board/committee member or volunteer for many organizations including Bellingham School District, Whatcom Community College, Western Washington University, Whatcom Technology Alliance Group, Interfaith Coalition. Serving students, people experiencing homelessness and supporting diversity.

Statement: I am motivated by success for every student through the Bellingham Promise, sustaining our diverse and vibrant community, and supporting the dedicated staff and volunteers of our schools.

Embracing a commitment to every child is fundamental to the mission of public education and I look forward to supporting strong and sustainable outcomes for our community. We are fortunate to have a strong and successful district and in this role I hope to support ongoing improvement, help tackle key governance challenges, and provide board support for our communities kids.

My experiences serving as an executive in a Bellingham-based, international educational scientific non-profit, as a local volunteer, and parent of 3 children who have or are currently enrolled in our schools have provided helpful perspectives that I will use in this role supporting our community.

For More Information:

(360) 605-0694

ScottRitcheyBellingham@gmail.com

Top 4 Reasons a Ballot Cannot Be Counted

- Ballot received with a late postmark.
- Signature on the ballot envelope doesn't match the signature we have on file.*
- Ballot envelope is not signed.*
- Someone other than the voter has signed the envelope for them.

*If a ballot is not signed or the signature doesn't match the signature on your voter registration, the voter is mailed a form to correct the issue.

Ferndale School District 502 - **Director District 1** - Nonpartisan Office - 4 year term**Beth Perry****Elected Experience:** none**Other Professional Experience:** Wife and Homeschool mom to three children ages 15, 12 & 10; Local Small business owner.**Education:** Squalicum High School (2000), Attended Whatcom community college and Briercrest College Caronport,

Saskatchewan, Canada.

Community Service: Volunteer at children's Vacation Bible school and Children's Programs at Baker Creek Bible Church and Ferndale First Baptist.**Statement:** I was born and raised in Whatcom County and have lived in Ferndale for 20 years.

I'm running for the school board to advocate for the best education possible for Ferndale's children, so our students can bounce back from learning losses due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Ferndale should strive to excel in the core subjects

and maintain excellence in arts, sports and music, while fostering interests in agriculture, tech and stem sciences. So that, regardless of which path a student takes in life, they should receive the foundational building blocks upon which to launch successful adult lives.

Families are disappointed with the state of public education and many feel that personal family values are being disregarded inside school walls, Ferndale can do better. Parents and families deserve to know that their children are in safe hands while entrusted to the district. Voters should know that their tax dollars are being used wisely and on student education. As a member of the board, I would make it a priority to find money for resource officers and promote proficiency in core subjects.

Every Student deserves a quality education- it's time for Ferndale to raise the bar.

For More Information:

(360) 559-2814

perryforfsdboard@gmail.com

www.votebethperry.com

**Kevin Erickson****Elected Experience:** Ferndale School Board: 2010 - Present; Board president for past two years, able to mentor & provide historical perspective to our newer board members and superintendent**Other Professional Experience:** Employed at Kulshan Veterinary Hospital

for 33 years - Veterinarian & Managing Partner. My career has given me the opportunity to learn from a variety of situations, people and animals

Education: 1984 - Ferndale High School 1988 - Washington State University - Bachelor of Veterinary Science; 1990 - Washington State University - Doctor of Veterinary Medicine**Community Service:** First Baptist Church - various roles over several years; School volunteer; 4-H Volunteer; FFA Volunteer; Northwest Washington Fair Foundation**Statement:** Children are precious gifts for whom we are ultimately accountable. Providing them with quality education is critical to their well-being as the future of our community and society.

I'm Kevin Erickson and because of these convictions, I'm asking you for the opportunity to continue serving on the School Board. Growing up in Ferndale, attending Ferndale schools, having children that graduated from Ferndale schools and working in the community gives me a broad perspective on the community and local educational process. Time spent participating in school events and advocating for student needs has further developed my educational viewpoint.

School boards must partner with families and their community to focus on education, not agendas. As a board member, I represent you, the people who elected me, and vow to be a good steward of your trust. I will conscientiously lead so that all children receive the best possible education and your tax dollars are spent responsibly. I will also listen intently to everyone's concerns, address their questions and understand the issues so I can make appropriate decisions.

Our children deserve an education that prepares them for the future. I am committed to that responsibility! I thank you for your trust and vote.

For More Information:

(360) 739-9984

kevinherickson@comcast.net


 Ferndale School District 502 - **Director District 2** - Nonpartisan Office - 4 year term


Antonio Machado Catano

Elected Experience: First-time candidate.

Other Professional Experience: Antonio has extensive experience in technical and policy leadership roles for the energy sector including as a liaison between governmental agencies and industry. He has worked for a major local energy

producer, a vital contributor to our charming town of Ferndale. Antonio is currently a Senior Manager of Regulatory Affairs for an important trade association representing major energy producers on the West Coast.

Education: Bachelor of Science in Chemistry, Minor in Business Management - Brigham Young University.

Community Service: Served from 2018 to 2022 on the Ferndale Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. President of the Board in 2019.

Statement: I am a first-generation Latino-American that has enjoyed the opportunities this great country has to offer to those that work hard and persevere. As a husband and a father of three children who attend the Ferndale School District, I

have a great desire to give back and serve the students in our community.

I believe that aside from home the most important place of learning is at school. It is very important to me that schools are a place of safety, quality of learning and positive interactions.

Every student in our district deserves a curriculum that prepares them for the future, and teachers who possess the necessary tools to help them thrive and have success on their academic journey.

I approach challenges with common sense and utilize my analytical abilities to tackle problems with solutions. I am a strong proponent of partnerships between schools, community, and local businesses. By utilizing all the resources available to us we can serve our students in a way that strengthens their confidence and boosts their chances of succeeding in life. When we support and improve the quality of education today, we are investing in the future generations and our community.

For More Information:

(360) 504-8258

voteantoniomachado@gmail.com

www.voteantoniomachado.com



Brent Bode

Elected Experience: First-time Candidate

Other Professional Experience: I currently serve as Senior Assistant Director of Admissions at Western Washington University in the Office of Admissions, where I have worked for over a decade to promote and provide

college access to prospective students in Washington state and beyond.

Education: Master of Education, Western Washington University, Bachelor of Arts - Environmental Studies and Policy, Western Washington University

Community Service: City of Ferndale Planning Commission, Pacific Northwest Association for College Admission Counseling (PNACAC) Executive Board member, WWU Professional Staff Organization Executive Committee member

Statement: As someone with deep family ties to education, I understand so clearly the value of educators who empower students and create inclusive environments where they can thrive. The focus on service to community has inspired and guided me through my personal education and my professional experience in higher education, where I still think about the educators and administrators who guided me. Now, in my professional experience in higher education, I am honored to see (and help) students succeed in their academic endeavors, and am excited to have the chance to serve the Ferndale community in a similar way. The future of our city is right within our schools, and through this role I want to support the student experience, advocate for the tools and support they need to succeed, and make sure all families have a voice. As someone who sees Ferndale as home, I'd be honored for your consideration to serve on the Ferndale School Board.

For More Information:

(925) 276-2074

bodeforferndale@outlook.com

Ferndale School District 502 - **Director District 3** - Nonpartisan Office - 4 year term**Nancy Button**

Elected Experience: Nancy is a first time candidate, ready to support the students in Ferndale in a new role.

Other Professional Experience: Nancy taught for 20 years in the FSD. She has a teacher's perspective on what works for children's development that will help the Board focus on our most important responsibility, educating our students well.

Education: Nancy graduated from WWU, cum laude. She has endorsements in K-8 Education, K-12 Reading and K-12 Special Education.

Community Service: Nancy volunteered as president for Ferndale Cooperative Preschool 1993-95, sparking a passion for teaching and learning. She continues to serve Ferndale children by volunteering for the education program at Pioneer Park.

Statement: As a teacher in the Ferndale School District for 20 years, I am running with a strong commitment towards fostering family inclusivity and nurturing parent partnerships. I have a positive vision for how we can improve the education of all of our students.

I firmly believe that a strong community begins with strong families. Parents are the primary advocates and educators in their children's lives. As your School Board representative, I will actively seek meaningful parent relationships and ensure your voices are heard and respected.

By restoring education to its core academic purpose, our students will receive the world class education they deserve. Ferndale schools should prioritize the fundamentals of learning - equipping students with essential knowledge, critical thinking skills, and a love for lifelong learning. Setting high expectations and supporting teachers in carrying out their mission to provide the very best, student focused education, is my priority. As a passionate advocate for student success, I will work tirelessly to restore our Ferndale schools to their core purpose.

I am dedicated to building a community where families thrive, parents are engaged partners, and education is prioritized. With your vote for me, Nancy Button, we can make this vision a reality.

For More Information:

(360) 836-0198

ButtonOnBoard@gmail.com

www.buttononboard.com

**Toni Jefferson**

Elected Experience: I currently hold the position of Director District 3. I am seeking your support to continuing in this position.

Other Professional Experience: I am the Director of Human Resources at the Silver Reef Casino Resort since 2020. I've held other positions within the

Lummi Nation tribal government such as the General Manager, Tribal Gaming Director and the Director of Human Resources. I am very knowledgeable of the education system and related stakeholders.

Education: September 2002, AA Business Administration, Northwest Indian College, June 2005, BA Business Administration—Major MIS/Minor Accounting, Western

Washington, June 2012, Leadership Executive Master Business Administration, Seattle University

Community Service: No Information Submitted

Statement: I am member of the Lummi Nation and have been very active in the Lummi community as well as the greater community of Ferndale and Whatcom County. I am a former student of Ferndale high school 90-91. I have also been a guardian for over 10 years of my 11-year-old grandnephew (my son) who is a student at Horizon middle school. I have a direct vested interest in the success of the Ferndale school district. I appreciate your time and consideration. ~Hy'shqe (thank you in Lummi language)

For More Information:

(360) 927-4927

toni.jefferson2022@gmail.com

Blaine School District 503 - **Director District 1** - Nonpartisan Office - 4 year term**Kimberly Akre**

No Information Submitted

For More Information:

(360) 961-0083

No Photo
Submitted**Erika Creydt****Elected Experience:** Blaine School Board Director District 3 Legislative Representative.**Other Professional Experience:** Psychologist and Clinical Director of TouchStone Counseling, provided counseling to youth for 20 years, conducted Psychological Assessments in

Chicago Catholic Schools for special needs, and taught graduate classes at Adler University Vancouver, BC.

Education: Blaine School District K-12, Class of 99, BA California Lutheran University, 2003, Thousand Oaks, CA (Philosophy and Psychology), MA Adler University, 2005, Chicago, IL (Couples and Family Therapy), PsyD Adler University, 2010, Chicago, IL (Doctorate in Clinical Psychology).**Community Service:** Youth Advocacy, Youth Resource Center

Volunteer. Scout Mom, Den Leader and Committee Chair Blaine Cub Scouts. Volunteered at Chamber of Commerce.

Statement: Erika Creydt is an advocate for children and wants to see our youth, teachers, and staff thrive in the Blaine School District. Erika is third generation in Blaine, married and has 3 children (10), (13), (15). She has been involved in the Blaine School District since childhood first as a student (attended K-12), later as a parent, and professionally via meeting Mental Health needs in our community. Erika understands the heartbreak parents went through when the schools closed abruptly, and the stressful impact it had on youth, parents, and educators. She cares deeply about the future of the Blaine School District, values transparency, and believes it will take the whole community to give our children a solid foundation, where their gifts can be nurtured.**For More Information:**

(360) 990-3848

ERIKA.CREYDT@TOUCHSTONEBHC.COM

Blaine School District 503 - **Director District 2** - Nonpartisan Office - 4 year term**Ben Lazarus**

Elected Experience: No prior elected experience

Other Professional Experience: Full time instructor at the British Columbia Institute of Technology, teaching aircraft gas turbine and piston engines courses. Part time mechanic performing maintenance on commercial aircraft for

several operators. Owner of Westwind Marine boat repair yard for 8 years.

Education: Completed Professional Instructor Diploma Program 2018. Licensed aircraft mechanic, certified on Boeing 737/757/767. Licensed boat captain up to 60 tons. Certified Mercruiser marine engine mechanic. Graduated with honors at Centennial Sr. Secondary School. Graduated as top student from BCIT Aerospace AME-M program. Certified Mercruiser marine engine mechanic.

Community Service: No Information Submitted

Statement: I have two daughters attending BHS who have had their entire education in the Blaine school district. I offer my

unique blend of skills to the board including business experience owning a local company, active experience in industry as an aircraft mechanic, active experience as an instructor at a post-secondary institution, and appreciation for the value of supporting the arts in our schools. I have been a resident of Whatcom County for over 18 years.

Collaboration between the school board, superintendent, administration and teachers is crucial for the success of our students. I will take the time to read through the budgets, consider the comments from parents, teachers, and administration, and search for creative solutions to bring the best education possible for every student in the Blaine school system. There seems to be a lot of misinformation and frustration from all parties, and I will work towards eliminating these issues. Communicating *why* a decision has been made is almost as important as the decision itself. I can't promise miraculous solutions to the problems we are facing, but I will do my best to ensure everyone is heard and their concerns are acknowledged.

For More Information:

(360) 525-5041

lazarus_ben@hotmail.com

**Dean Berkeley**

Elected Experience: A successful 6 year term as a NWFRS commissioner, Past VP of the Sedro Woolley Fire Fighter Assoc. Current Pres. of our HOA, in Blaine - for 8 years consecutively.

Other Professional Experience: HOA President.

Education: Kwantlen Polytechnic Univ.

BCIT, FAG Bearing Tech School. Western Avtech trained as a private pilot.

Community Service: 14 year Volunteer Fire Fighter. Co-Managed the Custer Brass Kickers national Jr long range shooting team and Team GOTTA our local national Jr speed steel team. Sponsor our Blaine Little league. I am in the process of donating

approximately 10K worth of welding equipment to Blaine SD for the Trades Welding shop.

Statement: My main focus will be on special needs and the IEP students that need extra support. We should not be waiting half way through the year to review each child. We need more staff and assistance in this area. We need to get back to the basics and help these children. The Board voted a few years back to disallow teachers to tutor our children after school and felt it was a conflict of interest to help our children. This needs to be reversed right away.

We need to focus on the trades that have been neglected and have the Arts program built up and fully supported. Our children deserve to be recognized.

For More Information:

(360) 661-5868

DABERKELEY@AOL.COM



Blaine School District 503 - **Director District 3** - Nonpartisan Office - 2 year term



Cliff Freeman

Elected Experience: *ASB President, Blaine HS, 1970-71*

Other Professional Experience: Civil Engineer, Anvil Corporation, 42 years, Retired.

Education: Blaine HS Class of '71, WSU BSCE '76.

Community Service: Blaine Food Bank, St Anne Catholic Church – Parish Council, CTE advisor- Blaine HS, Blaine Athletic Booster Club- Board member, Hillsdale Cemetery- Board Member.

Statement: Parents have the number 1 responsibility for their kids. It is your duty to know and affect what's being taught to your kids.

I strongly support career and technical education (CTE), an area where our district is headed in the right direction. We have many excellent teachers and administrators in Blaine, and I support rewarding excellence.

Schools are being pressured by divisive radical and woke ideology. Schools are not a laboratory for social experiments, and kids are not guinea pigs. We must take a stand against this irrational thinking: there are only 2 genders, girls' sports are for girls (not boys) and drag queen story hour is not appropriate in our schools.

Let's refocus education on the basics and prepare our students for success. This is our solemn obligation to the next generation.

For More Information:
(360) 510-3500
clfreeman@frontier.com

Jeffery D. Carrington

No Information Submitted

For More Information:
(360) 220-3224
JDC4177@MSN.COM

Blaine School District 503 - **Director District 4** - Nonpartisan Office - 4 year term

Derrick Bovenkamp

Elected Experience: None

Other Professional Experience: Nearly 20 years of experience working in the field of healthcare information technology. 5 years as an adjunct instructor at Bellingham Technical College. Also, I spent 7 years as a board director for the Centricity Healthcare

Users Group.

Education: Bellingham Technical College, Associate of Applied Science in Computer Network Engineering Technology

Community Service: I've served the youth of Whatcom County with the Mount Baker Council, Boy Scouts of America for over 10 years. Currently, I serve as Vice President of Operations, and for the last 7 years, I've served on the Council's Executive Board.

Statement: If elected, I would work hard in service to the students of the Blaine School District. As the parent of a Blaine School District student, I care deeply about the education our school district provides. I commit to always putting the students first and listening to parents.

For More Information:
bsdboard@bovenkamp.us



Ryan Ford

Elected Experience: No Information Submitted

Other Professional Experience: I Manage a sales team & have been a successful salesman for over 10 years in my family's 3rd generation trucking & crane business. Previously I was a marketing campaign builder & trainer

for a vendor of Google. I also had multiple internships with large corporations such as BMW and World Minerals.

Education: Graduated from BYU-Idaho with a Bachelor's degree in business management & Entrepreneurship in 2011.

Community Service: Led & taught Blaine youth groups & primary age children in church for over 8 years.

Statement: As parents we need more clarity and transparency from our school district. I am a product of the Blaine School system. After obtaining a first class business education and workforce experience with large corporations, I returned

to Blaine to raise my 5 children in this community. I feel my education & business background will help me find innovative solutions to the issues we are facing as a district.

As parents we haven't had as much access to the district budget as we should, it's our tax money. I am incredibly concerned as so many teachers and other district employees are losing their jobs. Our kids need more support and guidance at school, not less. I know that there are budget deficits all over the county and state, but are we doing enough to find alternate forms of funding such as grants.

I am willing to work with both sides to improve educational opportunities. I will always speak up for what is right and give a voice to those who haven't been heard.

Give me your vote and we will work together as a community to support our students & teachers.

For More Information:
(208) 358-8694
ryan.ford.elections@gmail.com


 Blaine School District 503 - **Director District 5** - Nonpartisan Office - 2 year term


Don Leu

Elected Experience: President, Vice-President, Board Member: Literacy Research Association. Board of Directors: International Literacy Association. Elected: Reading Hall of Fame.

Other Professional Experience: Appointed to Blaine School Board:

February, 2022. Professor and Endowed Chair of Education, University of Connecticut. Professor of Reading Education: Syracuse University. Reading Specialist and Elementary Teacher: Piedmont, California. Peace Corps Volunteer: Marshall Islands.

Education: Michigan State University, B.A. Harvard Graduate School of Education, Masters Degree. University of California, Berkeley, Ph.D.

Community Service: Member, Semiahmoo Men's Club. Contributor: Blaine Scholarship Fund, Blaine Booster Club, Blaine Food Bank, San Juan Preservation Trust, League of Women Voters, PBS.

Statement: I was appointed to the Blaine School Board as Director, District 5 in February, 2022. I combine my knowledge

and experience in educational science with a positive, optimistic voice. I approach problem solving with a passionate commitment to supporting our students. We have a complex set of perspectives about education within the Blaine, Birch Bay, Point Roberts, and Semiahmoo communities, but we all have one focus: helping our children develop into intelligent, thoughtful, and caring members of society.

My relatives have lived in Whatcom County since 1910, when my grandfather first opened a stall in the Bellingham Market. I was born in the original St. Joe's hospital in Bellingham. While my schooling and work took me East, I spent nearly every summer here since 1950. My wife, Deborah, and I chose to retire in Blaine because of the special nature of our wonderful community.

Our schools face many challenges. I am committed to supporting our children by bringing insights from research in education, the interests of a diverse community, and a positive approach to problem solving using facts, not rumor, speculation, or misinformation. I would be sincerely honored to continue service as your School Board Director, District 5.

For More Information:
(860) 680-3752
donald.leu@icloud.com

 Lynden School District 504 - **Director Position 1** - Nonpartisan Office - 4 year term


Khush Brar

Elected Experience: This would be my initial public office position.

Other Professional Experience: Family businesses in farming and trucking. Led food safety audits, bookkeeping, facilitated tax forms, managed customs and freight brokerage, navigated large budget loans and grants. Fluent in 4

languages. (Punjabi, Hindi, English and Tagalog)

Education: Immaculate Conception Cathedral High School (Philippines); University Graduate- B.S. Applied Mathematics Major in Actuarial Science. (Philippines)

Community Service: City of Lynden Planning Commissioner, Lynden school facilities planning committee, long time recycler, volunteer to numerous non-profit organizations.

Statement: Education is one of the pillars that makes a community strong and without good education, there is no growth, stability or empowerment.

I am an outsider when it comes to education here in the

States, which is exactly why I have a different perspective of what education should be like but most of all, what it should not be like. We have failed our students by allowing politics to outweigh and interfere their curriculum. Public education should be a model of excellence and pride, not shame. Parents should not have to worry about sending their children to school, in any aspect of their wellbeing.

There is a lot of fixing that needs to be done. I will work towards a holistic education to nurture our children's wellbeing, whilst protecting parent's rights and keeping it local! I stand against propaganda such as CRT, transgender & queer agenda and sex education paraphernalia that corrupt innocent minds. Education should be geared towards excelling in maths, sciences, arts, sports and teaching practical life skills that will help enable our students.

I look forward to forming camaraderie between governments, school authorities & staff in making sure we stand in the right for public education.

For More Information:
(360) 543-3980
electkhushbrar.com

Lynden School District 504 - **Director Position 2** - Nonpartisan Office - 4 year term**Danny Martinez**

Elected Experience: First time candidate.

Other Professional Experience: Danny Martinez currently serves as the Youth/ Associate Pastor at Faith Community Church. He's also a full-time student pursuing a master's degree through Biola University.

Education: M.A. in Christian Apologetics – Biola University (*Pending 2024*), B.A. in Psychology and Human Services with Distinction – Trinity Western University, A.A.S. & Philosophy Discipline Award– Whatcom Community College, Lynden School District K-12.

Community Service: Lynden School District – Community Connections, Raising Highly Capable Kids (*Spanish*), Community Truancy Board. Outreach and Meal Distribution through M2535 Mission Organization, Guest Speaker, Partnership with Students and Parents through Mentorship Programs, Community Service, Life Coaching, Counseling, and Spiritual Formation.

Statement: For nearly 25 years, Lynden has been my home and shaped who I am today. I understand the needs of our students,

aspirations of our community, and dreams of our parents/ guardians because I have experienced them myself.

As a husband and father of three, I empathize with the dreams you have for your student's success and recognize the valid concerns that arise from the current state of schools nationwide. I pledge to serve as a strong advocate for open and transparent communication between parents/guardians and schools. As a director, I aspire to uphold moral and ethical values throughout our district, committing to integrity in all that we do.

Having dedicated the past decade of my life to working with adolescents, I've witnessed the transformative power of investing in our youth. I'm proud of my American and Latino heritage, which, combined with being bilingual, enables me to bridge language barriers and forge stronger connections between the school board and Spanish-speaking students and parents. *¡Me comprometo a servir y escuchar a la comunidad Hispana lo mejor que puedo!*

I humbly ask for your trust and vote; may God bless our amazing community! Proverbs 16:3 & 9.

For More Information:
danny4director@gmail.com

**Nick Sawka**

Elected Experience: First time candidate

Other Professional Experience: 20 Years of military experience with the United States Coast Guard (Ret. May 2021).

Education: Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Management.

Community Service: Over the past two years I volunteered to coach both

of my daughter's basketball and soccer teams. I believe that it's important for kids to learn communication and team work skills at a young age. In addition to coaching, I also host a before

school program at Fisher Elementary called All-Pro Parents (All-Pro Dads). I was also the president of the New Haven PTO while I was stationed in Michigan.

Statement: I would like your vote for Lynden School Board Position 2. I would love to serve our community by representing you. Over the next few years it will be vital to elect someone like me that has a strong moral compass and can think critically. From changing curriculum to building facilities for the student body we will need strong leadership. It's my hope that you will give me a chance and vote for me. Thanks for your support.

For More Information:
nickforlyndenschoolboard@gmail.com
<https://www.facebook.com/Nick4LSB>


 Lynden School District 504 - **Director Position 3** - Nonpartisan Office - 4 year term


David E. Vis

Elected Experience: David has served on the Lynden School Board for over Five years.

Other Professional Experience: Private Practice of Law in Bellingham Washington, specializing in Consumer Bankruptcy Law and Debt management for 25 years. Currently Director of

Finance and Care Ministry at North County Christ the King Church, Lynden for the past 7 years

Education: Dordt College, Sioux Center Iowa -- Bachelor of Arts in Political Science --1986, University of South Dakota School of Law -- Juris Doctorate, Honors Graduate -- 1989

Community Service: Founding Board Member of Camp Shiloh Christian Camp, Many years as youth baseball coach with Lynden Cal Ripken and Babe Ruth Baseball clubs

Statement: My original desire some five years ago in applying for a vacant board position was simply a community give back. I love this community and the schools, both public and private,

have served my children well, with the oldest 3 having graduated from Lynden Christian and my youngest 2 from Lynden Public. I had many friends encourage me to apply and I have truly felt it a privilege to serve as a director and have truly enjoyed the steep learning curve that is public education.

Five turbulent years, 3 Superintendents and a global pandemic later, the work ahead remains significant. We are processing the difficult financial realities facing our District and public education more broadly. We need to build awareness and community consensus for a much needed new Lynden High School, while making much needed improvements at our oldest elementary schools as well. We also need to be planning for future growth in Lynden as our community continues to grow.

We have great schools here in Lynden, and we have strong leadership in David VanderYacht and his team, and we have great committed teachers, staff and coaches. I would be honored to continue to serve you on the board.

For More Information:

(360) 303-8258
david.vis@ncctk.com



Jim Verburg

Elected Experience: First-time candidate.

Other Professional Experience: Jim has extensive experience working in local Whatcom County industries over the past three decades as a technical expert, manager, and policy advocate. He started his career with a major local aluminum

producer and more recently worked for a major energy producer. Jim is currently a Senior Director of Regulatory policy for an important trade association representing major energy producers on the West Coast.

Education: Bachelor of Science in Chemistry – Western Washington University

Community Service: Served on Lynden School Health Curriculum and IMC Committees. Youth leader at local church.

Statement: I am the proud son of a 32-year career public school teacher and coach. My daughter has been a student in Lynden since kindergarten and will graduate in 2024. I am keenly aware

of the important role our public schools play in preparing our young people for the future.

My wife and I have resided in Lynden for 20 years in total. After moving away for 5 years in the early 2000s, we moved back after the birth of our daughter because of the quality of Lynden schools. We have never regretted that decision. I believe we must earnestly protect, maintain, and improve the quality of Lynden schools so that the same reasons we moved back will remain for the benefit of future generations of students and parents.

I believe that parents are the most important stakeholders in their children's education on a wide range of issues from school policy to curriculum. I believe in a school district that has a culture of openness and transparency with parents and the community. I believe in fiscal responsibility and good stewardship of our public's resources. I believe that doing the right thing is frequently not synonymous with doing the easy thing.

For More Information:

(360) 526-2317
jimmiejam85@gmail.com

Lynden School District 504 - **Director Position 5** - Nonpartisan Office - 2 year term**Doris Smith**

Elected Experience: First time candidate.

Other Professional Experience: My primary focus has been bringing up four amazing sons! My husband of 47 years and I—we did this together! My experience includes being a foreign language teacher, a children's violin

teacher, and a pastor's wife.

Education: I received a classical education in literature, music, philosophy, and science from Wheaton College in Illinois.

Community Service: I led discussion groups about the meaning and history of the US Constitution; submitted Lynden Tribune guest opinions; organized the Nooksack River Flooding Declaration of Disaster Emergency which gathered about 1,500 signatures; volunteered church music services; and provided agricultural field talks to families.

Statement: I want all children to learn how to know the truth. Curiosity needs to be nurtured along with the skill and capacity to promote physical scientific and technological productivity for our nation. The Washington State Constitution gives local

communities and elected representatives on school boards the power to do this.

In recent years, our school board failed to stand up to State mandates. It kept Lynden Schools closed to in-person learning when no teachers or students were ill! Our students lost nearly a full year of education due to the board's failure to listen to local parents rather than Olympia bureaucrats. I am seeking a way to restore proper accountability to our school board and end its feckless weakness.

Age-Inappropriate policies like Sex Ed For Kindergartners, Genital Mutilation, and Critical Race Theory, do not belong in our schools. Rather, My Vision is to begin small group readings, discussion of primary texts, and classical music programs, to turn every child into a Genius!

Our spectacular, amazing, local, and retired, US military veterans, tool-and-die makers, machinists, metallurgists, physicians, musicians, engineers, farmers, and physicists, would like to volunteer, teach, and bequeath their scientific knowledge and technological skills upon our young people.

For More Information:

Doris@DorisSmithForBetterSchools.com

**Kenneth "Spin" Owsley**

Elected Experience: Lynden School Board 2022 - Present

Other Professional Experience: I have worked in Information Technology in Whatcom County for 30 years.

Education: Associates Degree in Computer Support, Whatcom Community College

Community Service: Served on numerous church councils including North County Christ the King in Lynden, United States Army Veteran

Statement: When I applied to fill a vacant position on the board, I said there were three reasons for doing so: I wanted to learn, I didn't want to be someone who simply complained about things without doing something, and I wanted to push for

a new high school in Lynden. In the last year I've learned a great deal about how a school district operates. I want to take what I've learned in the past year and put it to work to support our new superintendent, to help ensure we have the best schools possible, to ensure that parents are heard and supported, and to hopefully see a new high school approved by the voters and built.

My family has lived in the school district for nearly 25 years. We've put all four of our kids through the school district and the youngest is enrolled in running start through LHS/BTC. I have lived in Washington State my whole life, aside from my time in the Army, and my wife has lived in Whatcom County all of her life.

Vote for Spin!

For More Information:

kenneth.owsley@gmail.com


 Meridian School District 505 - **Director District 1** - Nonpartisan Office - 4 year term

Jana (Bjornstad) Haugen

Elected Experience: Meridian Youth Sports (MYS) - Board of Directors/Vice-President 10+ years, Skagit Valley College - Secretary

Other Professional Experience: 25+ years private sector business, 25+ years in real estate investment and management. 35 years family berry

farming. 5+ years working in and with public agencies

Education: Skagit Valley College

Community Service: MYS 10+ years, Meridian Outdoor Education Program – Parent volunteer, coordinator and student leader, Meridian Levy Committee, International Order of Rainbow for Girls - Leadership

Statement: As a 3rd generation Meridian alumnus, it was important to me to raise my kids in the Meridian School District

to become the 4th generation in my family to graduate from Meridian. I have lived in the Meridian School District most of my life and have invested many volunteer hours in different capacities within the schools over the years. Joining the school board seems like a natural progression for me.

I am running for school board to not only fulfill an item on my bucket list, but to ensure that the Meridian School District maintains the values and goals that many have grown up with and expect from the rural and unique District that it is.

I have a passion for helping others and a work ethic to match. If I were elected to serve, I would be fully-committed to moving the Meridian School District in the right direction. I would love nothing more than to continue that journey with you. I am excited for this opportunity and the exciting projects, tasks and items on the horizon within the district. Thank you, Jana

For More Information:
 (360) 220-7931
 janahaugen143@gmail.com

Corey Culp

No Information Submitted

For More Information:
 (360) 319-3891
 culp2281@msn.com

Meridian School District 505 - **Director District 4** - Nonpartisan Office - 4 year term**Marty Gray**

Elected Experience: Elected to School Board Director for the Meridian School District #505 in 2011. I have been serving on the Board for the past 11 years.

Other Professional Experience: U.S. Navy - Aircraft Director, U.S.S. Carl Vinson, S&S Concrete Construction, City of Bellingham Public Works -

Superintendent of Maintenance

Education: Graduated from Meridian High School in 1986., American Public Works Institute - Public Works Supervision and Management. May 12, 2017

Community Service: Washington Association of School Administrators (WASA) Community Leadership Award - 2017 for the Meridian School District.

Statement: I have been serving on the Meridian School Board for just over eleven years now and continue to work on attending professional development seminars to improve my knowledge to be a successful Board Director for the Meridian

School District. Each year is a learning experience for me, and I serve with a very talented school board and a highly visible Superintendent, Dr. James Everett.

One of the things I enjoy most by being on the School Board is interacting with staff and community members before and after sporting events, watching students excel in athletics, CTE programs, FFA, and Performing Arts.

Meridian truly is a great place to be. I wouldn't want to be anywhere else. For some of us, especially myself, the school is our hometown. My goal as a board member is to keep improving our schools, our facilities, educational instruction, and provide our students with a friendly, safe, and inclusive learning environment. I want to encourage the administration to hire well and improve our staff with motivated, outgoing individuals that will leave every student that attends Meridian with a positive and productive learning experience.

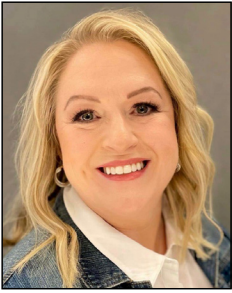
I love being at Meridian. Go Trojans!

For More Information:
(360) 510-5417
martygray86@yahoo.com

Observe the election process in person or online!**Opportunities to observe:**

- Logic & Accuracy Test: October 17 at 2:00 pm
- Ballot Processing: October 18 through November 27, Monday-Friday, 8:00 am - 5:00 pm
- Hand Count: November 9 at 10:00 am
- Risk Limiting Audit: November 21 at 9:00 am
- Canvassing Board - Challenged Ballot Review: November 27 at 11:00 am
- Canvassing Board - Certification: November 28 at 11:00 am

Visit the Observer Resources webpage, www.whatcomcounty.us/3747/Observer-Resources, for updated dates/times, access to the live webcams, and more.


 Meridian School District 505 - **Director District 5** - Nonpartisan Office - 4 year term


Michelle Simmons

Elected Experience: First Time Candidate

Other Professional Experience:

Michelle grew up in the raspberry industry. An experienced international businesswoman, excelling in local, state, and global operations, focused on developing teams, business growth and sustainability. Committed to serving her community and raising her children – all of whom have attended Meridian schools. Communication, leading with transparency and compassion are her strengths.

Education: Meridian High School; Bellingham Technical College

Community Service: Meridian Boosters, Meridian Strategic Planning Committee, Senior Presentations Panelist, MPC Founder, Salvation Army Committees, Laurel Church, former BTC Advisory Board, PTA Chair, Coach, Big Kahuna Scholarship, Leaders and Legends, Relay for Life Captain, Participant in NAMI Stop the Stigma

Statement: I will represent you and will lead our district with a servant's heart for this and future generations. I will advocate for all students and families; while also honoring family values,

cultural diversity, and socio-economic conditions. I will focus on age appropriate educational standards, safety on our campuses, resource availability and a sense of community.

We must have age-appropriate educational standards with accountability in our classrooms and provide environments free of intimidation, where students and families feel welcome. We must develop well rounded citizens who have hope for their futures by providing tools such as mentoring programs, additional mental health, and personal development counselors. I will be proactive in understanding student needs and acknowledge that each student's tools for success are different, and that managing and obtaining resources is our responsibility but must be done without strings attached funding. I believe in grassroots efforts and community involvement.

I believe personal victories and a sense of belonging are keys to achievement. My approach to all matters will be transparent communication and engagement, getting to the root cause and fighting for local results and following through on commitments to our community.

There is no place like this place – we are Meridian.

For More Information:

(360) 303-8832

VoteMichelle5@gmail.com



J. Riley Sweeney

Elected Experience: First time on the ballot.

Other Professional Experience:

Communication/Recreation Coordinator for the City of Ferndale, previous work includes nonprofit and private sector experience as well as assisting my wife's small business. Skills include writing, event organizing, public policy development, grant writing, and facilitating community conversations on controversial topics to ensure all viewpoints are considered by decision-makers.

Education: Proud public school attendee, recovering orchestra and theater kid, and WWU graduate.

Community Service: County Food System Committee Chair working to strengthen our local food system for our hardworking farmers and consumers. Content creator/fundraiser for KMRE 102.3/88.3 FM. Recently elected IRE PTA board member.

Statement: I'm a proud Meridian parent who is impressed by the district's dedicated staff and teachers who give it their all despite difficult budgets, a global shutdown, and the growing impacts of tough economic times. Meridian needs our help and I am ready to fight for the health and well-being of our schools

and children.

Schools should be where individuals are respected and creativity nurtured. Where teachers are able to encourage inquisitive minds. Where facts and science prevail - and the partisan politics dividing our country are not invited to the table. Schools should be safe places to learn, share, create, and build success without fear.

I will advocate for the salaries, support staff and equipment our schools desperately need so we can recruit and retain quality educators. I will fight for arts, theater, and enrichment programs that engage our children and inspire the next generation.

As Ferndale's recreation coordinator, I create quality experiences for communities to come together. By bringing that same passion and commitment to the School Board, we can make Meridian a place where All students and families are welcome. Please vote for me, J. Riley Sweeney, Position 5. More about my experience and values at www.sweeneyforschoolboard.com.

For More Information:

(360) 441-4191

sweeneyforschoolboard@gmail.com

www.sweeneyforschoolboard.com

Nooksack Valley School District 506 - **Director District 3** - Nonpartisan Office - 4 year term**Shelley Harder**

Elected Experience: First time running for elected position.

Other Professional Experience: Paraprofessional substitute, Nooksack Valley School District; basketball coach, Nooksack Valley Middle School; property management company owner, Whatcom County.

Education: Nooksack Valley High School, Class of 2002; Western Washington University, BA, Class of 2009

Community Service: Board member - Nooksack Youth Soccer; basketball coach - L-Town Sports; volunteer - Children's House International Advocacy Camp; leader - Young Life; volunteer - Peace Health, St. Joseph's Hospital; leader - AWANA program.

Statement: Not only am I an alumna of Nooksack, but I also have four children who attend Nooksack schools. I am close with fellow parents, their children, and other students through

my roles as a volunteer and coach. I am passionate about ensuring both the education and well-being of all students are top priority. This is why I am running for the school board.

I will advocate for equitable access for all students. I believe creating a culture that recognizes the dignity of each student and celebrating the gift of diversity should be cornerstone objectives of our district. This is of particular importance to me as I have a child with exceptional needs - he is an English second language learner and was adopted from a foreign orphanage. Advocacy is paramount in providing equitable access to education and it would be my goal as a school board member to ensure parents have a voice in their children's education and can openly advocate for their children. I would like to bring a collaborative nature to the school board and consider the voices of all who are invested in our students.

For More Information:
(360) 815-2819
shelleyharder@yahoo.com

Joshua Clawson

No Information Submitted

For More Information:
(360) 510-6422



Nooksack Valley School District 506 - **Director At-Large No. 1** - Nonpartisan Office - 4 year term



Ty Elmendorf

Elected Experience: No Information Submitted

Other Professional Experience: Serving as a police officer for the City of Bellingham for over 27 years., Currently appointed to the Nooksack Valley School Board of Directors as the at large no. 1 position.

Education: Attended the United States Naval Academy and graduated from the University of Washington with a BA in Society and Justice.

Community Service: Served on Nooksack Valley School safety committee., Served on Nooksack Valley facilities committee., Coached both Nooksack Valley Youth Soccer and Youth Basketball., Current coach of North County Alliance Football Association soccer team.

Statement: I care deeply about public education and see it as the foundation of our community. I'm honored to currently

serve on the board of directors. Our kids need to feel supported, feel valued and be given equitable opportunities for success in the classroom and in extracurricular activities. My goal is to see people statewide look to Nooksack Valley and: have parents say, "I want my child to go to that district", have teachers statewide say, "I want to teach in that district", have athletes statewide say, "I want to compete for Nooksack Valley"

We are well on the way, based on the incredible efforts of school district employees and the entire community so far. I've witnessed first hand what it means to be "Valley Strong" and continue to be impressed by the resilience of this community. As a school board member I'll continue to lend my voice on your behalf to those making critical decisions for our district.

Thank you for entrusting me as a steward of our district. It is a privilege to serve.

Go Pioneers!

For More Information:
(360) 305-0500
tyelmendorf@gmail.com

Nooksack Valley School District 506 - **Director At-Large No. 2** - Nonpartisan Office - 4 year term



Tanya Silves

Elected Experience: None

Other Professional Experience: I am a Certified Public Accountant, a Partner and current Tax Director at a regional accounting firm.

Education: I am a graduate of Western Washington University, 2001 and Nooksack Valley High School, 1999.

Community Service: I am the Secretary/Treasurer for the Whatcom Long Term Recovery Group, Secretary for the Nooksack Valley Scholarship Foundation since 2009, founding member and former Treasurer for Nooksack Youth Baseball, founding member and current Director for Nooksack Youth Football since 2015, founding member and current Treasurer for Nooksack Valley Youth Basketball since 2015 and recently joined as a Director for the Pioneer Football Booster Club.

Statement: I am a graduate of Nooksack and live in the city of Nooksack with my husband and our four children who currently attend school in the district, with students in the Elementary, Middle and High School levels. This gives me real time insight in our growing district and the ability to interact with parents, teachers, and students. I am passionate about providing opportunities for our students to belong, achieve their goals, and be valued members of our community. I am an active member of our community and an advocate for our students and families. It's important to me to give back to the community that has given me so much.

For more information:

360.303.0610

tanyasilves@gmail.com

For More Information:
(360) 303-0610
tanyasilves@gmail.com

Mt Baker School District 507 - **Director District 1** - Nonpartisan Office - 2 year term**Danielle Gray**

Elected Experience: Current Mount Baker School District Board Director. Unanimously appointed in 2023

Other Professional Experience: Award-winning educator recognized for innovation and leadership in public service roles including classroom teaching, college department chairing,

writing program administration, certificate program advisory board, curriculum design, eLearning, student access and achievement. Experience hiring, assessing, and mentoring educators and educational programs.

Education: Mount Baker High School 1998; B.A. Linguistics and English, Western Washington University 2003; M.A. English, Miami University 2005.

Community Service: Whatcom Literacy Council; Lydia Place, supporting families experiencing homelessness; Community Assistance Program Clothing Bank; Harmony PTO; Foothills Foodbank; Harmony Elementary volunteer; Mt. Baker PTA Concession stand, MBSD Health Team Volunteer.

Statement: As your current School Board Director of District 1, Danielle brings 20 years' experience working in public education, a 25 year record of community service and 40 years living in

Whatcom County. A Mount Baker High School graduate and parent of children in the district, Danielle understands our schools' opportunities and challenges. A fiscally responsible steward, Danielle has job experience maximizing limited resources and managing million-dollar budgets. From classroom teaching to administrative leadership, her passion for quality curriculum and her know-how in assessing school-wide effectiveness, make her a pillar for strong schools and strong communities.

Danielle's educational expertise and roots in Mount Baker School District make her a powerful advocate—in school board meetings and in Olympia. Danielle understands rural districts like ours raise fewer local dollars from industry and rely more on state and federal support to provide the same quality education as neighboring districts. With over 40% of our students' families qualifying as low-income, Danielle understands voters cannot cover budget shortfalls alone. Danielle will use her voice on behalf of students, reminding representatives to fund K-12 education, but also of the impact bills and budgets will have on rural communities and schools like ours.

For More Information:

(360) 325-3466

daniellegrayforschoolboard@gmail.com

<https://daniellegrayforschoolboard.blogspot.com/>

Mt Baker School District 507 - **Director District 2** - Nonpartisan Office - 4 year term**Edward Fox**

Elected Experience: Director Mount Baker School Board since January 2022

Other Professional Experience: I'm a Professional Engineer and work in the construction industry as a business owner (Partner) and General Manager of an HVAC Sales Agency.

Education: I have a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from Grove City College (Pennsylvania) where I also had the opportunity to play four years of college football. I graduated from Middletown Area High School (Pennsylvania)

Community Service: I've enjoyed coaching various youth sports: football, wrestling, fast pitch, and basketball.

Statement: My wife Laura and I live in the Columbia Valley and are busy raising our 4 children: ages 14, 12, 8 and 2.

At our school board meetings, I've been asking lots of questions and learning as much as I can about how the board

and school district operate. I have visited classrooms in all schools' multiple times and have been meeting with Principals and their staff to listen and apply what I've learned to help the school board improve our schools for student success.

My hope for MBSD students is that their school will be a place where they can make friends, build relationships, and clearly envision their own future with hope and excitement... whatever their interests may be. On the school board, I hope to be voice of constructive criticism where MSBD can do better (me included), and also a voice of encouragement and appreciation for the many things working well at MBSD. There are many opportunities within MBSD for students to learn valuable skills and build confidence.

If you've read this far, thank you for your interest in my statement, and please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns to discuss.

For More Information:

(360) 599-3484

edward.j.fox@icloud.com



Mt Baker School District 507 - **Director District 3** - Nonpartisan Office - 4 year term

Jason Bloodgood

No Information Submitted

Ashley Sterling

No Photo
Submitted

Statement: As a result of unexpected work and family obligations, I have decided to not campaign this season. I will continue to support the Mount Baker School District in my current capacity, and will continue to strive to make a positive impact in our community and for our youth.

Mt Baker School District 507 - **Director District 5** - Nonpartisan Office - 4 year term**Theresa Sygitowicz**

Elected Experience: Whatcom Conservation Board, Farm Service Agency Board, Van Zandt Cemetery Dist 5.

Other Professional Experience: Non-Law Enforcement Community Representative with LEMART., These teams are activated for deadly force by law enforcement investigations

Community Reps are required by law to be a part of the investigation.

Education: Mt. Baker Graduate, Marylhurst College, WCC, WWU

Community Service: A small business owner 20+ years., Currently Chair of the South Fork Heritage Foundation, Vice-President of THE Rome Grange 226, Past member: EMT/Fireman Acme WCFD #16. Van Zandt Cemetery Board -10 years, Mount Baker Scholarship Foundation -15 years, Deming Log Show, 40+ on various Count/community boards, and Women in Timber.

Statement: I am a fourth generation Mt Baker School Dist.

resident. My father's family settled in So. Fork Valley area in 1890's. Mothers' family settled in Nugent's Corner area in 1910's. I am a recently retired, lifelong resident of Whatcom County. As a graduate of Mt Baker, I have always cared deeply about the students and future of the Mt Baker School Dist. Examples of this is, my sister, the Dr. Christine Sygitowicz Sherman Scholarship of 50+ years and my support of MB FFA.

My Main Goals Are Kids, Safety and Learning

Fiscal responsibility & safety of our schools is one of my primary goals. We must provide our students with the best education foundation available. This includes each and every student, no matter their skill level.

Vote for Kids. Join with your community, Vote For Kids, Safety and Learning. Vote for Theresa Sygitowicz for Mt Baker School Board, Position 5. For More Information: (360) 319-6935 thesyg70@gmail.com

For More Information:
(360) 319-6935
thesyg70@gmail.com

**Russ Pfeiffer-Hoyt**

Elected Experience: Mount Baker School Board member since 1999, I am currently Board President.

Other Professional Experience: Business owner, building trails and bridges across the Pacific Northwest.

Education: Bachelor of Science, TESC

Community Service: Served as volunteer firefighter with WCFD #16 (Acme) for over 30 years. I serve on the Washington State Wildland Fire Advisory Committee. I am Chair of the Washington State School Directors Trust Land Advisory Committee, promoting school revenue from DNR-managed lands. I also served on the Washington School Directors Academic Achievement Task Force.

Statement: I'm honored to serve on the Mount Baker School Board, joining hard-working board members and staff to prepare our students to be successful and good citizens. We work to improve academic success, beginning with a strong focus on

reading in the primary grades. I helped start Play and Learn for preschool parents to learn with their children. With solid academic and vocational programs, Baker grads are ready for their future.

We adapt teaching to fit the different learning styles - we won't give up on any child. I'm proud that most of our students participate in athletics, music, drama or FFA.

I work hard to ensure our district's financial stability, which is challenging because of unfunded state mandates. For decades, the state took most of our district's local timber revenue. I led successful state-wide efforts to fix this, bringing back several million dollars to Mount Baker. I helped start our capital projects program to maintain our buildings. I'm now helping lead efforts to improve state funding for rural school buildings. We have a great school board - my role is to provide the voice of experience. Together we provide solid leadership, sustaining the pride our community has in our schools.

For More Information:
(360) 595-2512
saxoncreek@msn.com


 Concrete School District No. 11 - **Director District 1** - Nonpartisan Office - 2 year term


Jessie Mattingly

Elected Experience: No Information Submitted

Other Professional Experience: I have been serving on the Concrete School Board since September of 2022 (through a vacancy application and appointment).

Education: Master of Arts in Teaching, English Education (expected graduation December, 2023); Bachelor of Science – Business and Financial Planning (2019); Juris Doctorate (2010); Bachelor of Arts – Law

and Diversity (2007)

Community Service: No Information Submitted

Statement: I have thoroughly enjoyed my time on the Concrete School Board since being appointed in September, 2022. As someone who grew up in and currently lives in Birdsvew, I understand the complexities of small, rural school districts. I want to be an advocate for students, parents, teachers, and community members, to ensure our school district is striving to serve students to the best of its ability.

For More Information:
jessielmattingly@gmail.com

 Concrete School District No. 11 - **Director District 2** - Nonpartisan Office - 4 year term

No Photo
Submitted

Michael Brondi

Elected Experience: 12 years as Skagit Fire Protection District 19 Commissioner, 8 years as School Board Director for Concrete School District.

Other Professional Experience: 28 years' experience at North Cascades National Park as a Maintenance Worker including 9 years as Youth and Volunteer Program Coordinator. Substitute Teacher for 7 years.

Education: BS in Forestry, Rutgers University, Graduated in 1975

Community Service: 35 years as volunteer Firefighter and Emergency Medical Technician with Skagit Fire Protection District 19. 7 years volunteering 2 days/week in the Concrete Farm to School program, frequent volunteer on field trips etc. for

Concrete School District.

Statement: I arrived in Skagit County in 1975 and am fortunate enough to have lived in Rockport since 1979. It has been an honor to serve on the Concrete School Board for the past 8 years, despite some very turbulent and challenging times. As we move forward, I hope we can re-build more community involvement in our schools. Today's students will be adult community leaders surprisingly soon and we can all work together to support them, which is the very best long-term investment we can make for our community. Please learn more about the great kids and staff in the Concrete schools, and the exciting learning that happens there every day. Then think about how else you can join in to help our kids. It's fun! Thank you.

For More Information:
(360) 853-6835
mbrondi@yahoo.com



Concrete School District No. 11 - **Director District 5, At-Large** - Nonpartisan Office - 4 year term

Laura Schmidt

No Information Submitted

For More Information:

(360) 708-8312

jandschmidt@msn.com



*Candidate statements are printed exactly as submitted and are not checked for grammar, punctuation, spelling, or accuracy.

Sedro-Woolley School District No. 101 - **Director District 2** - Nonpartisan Office - 4 year term

Lindy Mullen Doyle

Elected Experience: First time candidate for public office, following years of participation in school board meetings.

Other Professional Experience: Adjunct college professor; published scientist; regional and international scientific presentations; Master Project Manager and Leadership training; Lead

Continuous Specialist with experience leading teams for positive organizational change.

Education: Sedro-Woolley High School valedictorian; Central Washington University, (B.S.), University of Montana, (M.S.), having paid my way through college with financial aid, including academic and collegiate running scholarships, teaching and research assistantships.

Community Service: Skagit Academy classroom volunteer & Parent Group founding member; Sedro-Woolley Youth Sports volunteer; volunteer CrossFit competitors coach; Lyman volunteer for Heart to Heart Charity, Community Egg Hunt.

Statement: I attended Sedro-Woolley Schools, K-12, and I am proud to raise my children in Lyman, where I grew up, and where my family settled in 1902. I am running for school board

to help our schools meet the needs of students, parents and the community. The district budget has doubled in the last 10 years to over \$84 million in 2023, yet student success has declined.

According to long-term state report-cards, half or fewer Sedro-Woolley students have acceptable grade-level understanding of English, math, and science. The district is spending nearly \$20,000 / student / year, which is more than twice as much as local private schools. This is unacceptable. My first priority will be funding *classrooms*, in support of *all* students learning basic subjects. Ultimately, the goal is student success in all graduation pathways, including Career & Technical Education and college-bound.

Current district policy prevents parents and community members from participating in decisions about school curriculum. I am the only candidate that will partner with teachers, parents and community members in curriculum and policy decisions that support families and student success.

I ask for your vote so we can work together to make positive changes in our schools.

For More Information:

(360) 399-6219

lindyforswschools@gmail.com

LindyforSWSchools.com



Christina Jepperson

Elected Experience: Sedro-Woolley District 2 Representative (10 years) and past Lyman elementary school PTA President (6 years). Sedro Woolley School District Board President current.

Other Professional Experience: Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner working in Family Practice. Registered

Nurse since 1998.

Education: University of Washington 1994-98, Seattle Pacific University 1998-2000, and Gonzaga University Master of Science in Nursing Graduate 2014.

Community Service: Highly Capable committee member. 4H volunteer mom. Parent Volunteer in Lyman Elementary. CMS Band, Orchestra and WA D.C. History Trip Parent chaperone. Volunteer medical provider: sports physicals for youth, Haiti and 2016 Olympics.

Statement: Married to my husband Ryan for 23 years. We have two children, Jacob Sedro-Woolley Class of 2022 and Samantha will be class of 2025.

A community that prioritizes students makes us stronger.

Here is how I have directly prioritized students. I have voted to fund and extend Career and Technical Education programs. I have worked within the community to increase partnerships and specifically those that offer internships and apprenticeships. These partnerships elevate hands-on student learning and offer a direct job pipeline as highly skilled employees to our local industries.

Funding our Good Beginnings Preschool and our transitional Kindergarten classes, ensuring community children have access to early interventions and education. I have invested tax dollars into our buildings: new heating systems, window replacement, roofing, siding, and sewer repairs. These projects keep our students safe and focused on learning. I encourage community involvement with over 505 volunteers in our schools and over 3600 hours donated. I have prioritized High School Dual Credit and AP class expansion. Our Sedro-Woolley students are competitive in college and beyond.

I am so proud of Sedro-Woolley School district. I am excited to continue to foster strong relationships with you, and above all, to place our students first.

For More Information:

(206) 714-1902

osmrducks@hotmail.com

Sedro-Woolley School District No. 101 - **Director District 3** - Nonpartisan Office - 4 year term**Dani Baird Russell**

Elected Experience: Currently serving as school director of District 3, Sedro-Woolley School District No. 101

Other Professional Experience: WA State Real Estate Broker since 2004. Co-owner of John L. Scott Skagit & Sedro-Woolley. Member of the North Puget Sound Association of Realtors.

Education: Graduate of Sedro-Woolley High School, 2002. Graduate of University of Oregon, B.S., Political Science, 2006.

Community Service: Sedro-Woolley Rotarian, Sedro-Woolley Alumni & Schools Foundation Board Member, Sedro-Woolley Little League Coach, SW Youth Soccer Coach, Leadership Skagit 2014 Graduate, Mount Vernon Boys & Girls Club Community Council, Sedro-Woolley HS Fastpitch Volunteer, Big Lake Parent Group Participant, University of Oregon Student-Athlete Development Mentor Program Volunteer.

Statement: As a former K-12 student, a graduate of the Sedro-Woolley School District, and now the mother of two students at Big Lake Elementary, I am deeply committed to the success of every student who walks through our halls and the continued growth of our District.

Whether through volunteering, coaching, or stepping in as an emergency substitute, my active participation in our schools has granted me invaluable insights from the perspectives of both students and educators. Having the opportunity to interact with our students regularly is my favorite part of serving in this position. I firmly believe in the power of partnerships and the continued engagement with stakeholders, including students, families, local businesses, school staff, and our community members. Each of these entities plays a crucial and integral role in strengthening our schools and advancing student achievement.

The task of educating our students is an ongoing journey. As a District, we must continue to challenge ourselves, seek improvement in student outcomes and proficiencies, provide new learning opportunities, and make strategic investments to address the missed learning in recent years.

I would love your support as we work together towards a brighter future for our students and community.

For More Information:

(360) 202-9818

danibairdrussell@gmail.com

www.danirussell.com

**Hannah Oliver**

Elected Experience: Big Lake PCO

Other Professional Experience: Statewide Coordinator, Washington Student Engagement Networks; Volunteer Coordinator, Skagit Habitat for Humanity; Paraprofessional, Mount Vernon School District (MVSD); Student Teacher/Substitute Teacher, Sedro-

Woolley School District (SWSD)

Education: Masters in Teaching from Western Washington University (WWU). Bachelors in Political Science from Central Washington University (CWU). Certificate in the Fundamentals of Veterinary Assisting from Northwest Career and Technical Academy (NCTA).

Community Service: Skagit Gleaners volunteer, Cascade Middle School Club Volunteer, Skagit Women's Alliance and Network (SWAN) selection committee member

Statement: We are fortunate to reside in a tight-knit community that values family and its significant impact on our education system. When communities engage with their schools, learning

outcomes improve, graduates are encouraged to remain in the area, and the entire community prospers.

As an educator, I possess a strong foundation to tackle the challenges of our education system. I will leverage my years of experience in community engagement and K-12 Schools to champion initiatives that strengthen the bonds between our schools, families, and community, including regular communication channels, community-driven decision-making, and opportunities for meaningful engagement. Together, we can foster a collaborative environment where everyone feels valued and genuinely invested in our student's education.

When educators, families, and communities come together, we create an environment where all students thrive. With my experience, I will strengthen these connections and make the Sedro-Woolley School District an even stronger education institution for our children.

Together, we can improve our schools. Thank you for your support.

For More Information:

hannahforswschools@gmail.com



Fire Protection District 1 - **Commissioner Position 2** - Nonpartisan Office - 6 year term

Demus Lourie

No Information Submitted



Randy VanderHeiden

Elected Experience: I have served as a Fire Commissioner with Whatcom County Fire District #1 for the past 6 years.

Other Professional Experience: I have served in various capacities within Whatcom County Fire District #1 for the past 37 years. I also was with Bellingham

Fire Department for 32 years as a professional Firefighter Paramedic and Division Chief of EMS.

Education: I am a graduate of Nooksack Valley High School and

attended Western Washington University. I received fire service training at Bates Technical College and paramedic training at Bellingham Technical College.

Community Service: No Information Submitted

Statement: I have vast experience and knowledge of the fire service in Whatcom County and am well equipped to meet the challenges as Fire Commissioner. I look forward to serving Whatcom County Fire District #1 in the years ahead.

For More Information:

(360) 815-6887

rgvanderheiden@gmail.com



Fire Protection District 4 - **Commissioner Position 2** - Nonpartisan Office - 6 year term

Steve Cooley

No Information Submitted

For More Information:
scooleywcf4@gmail.com

John H. Miller

No Information Submitted

Fire Protection District 4 - **Commissioner Position 3** - Nonpartisan Office - unexpired 2 year term



Tim Johnson

Elected Experience: Appointed as Fire District 4 Commissioner in March 2022.

Other Professional Experience: Retired in 2022 after 30 years in environmental cleanup management, compliance, and permitting, and 4 years as public and government affairs director and public information officer.

Education: BS Biology, Eastern University, PA; MS Zoology, University of Idaho

Community Service: Board of director member at Habitat for Humanity of Whatcom County for nine years. Board of director member at Washington Research Council for two years.

Volunteer for numerous local non-profits and neighborhood events and activities.

Statement: Our family has lived in Fire District 4 for over 15 years and are so thankful for the first responders that serve our district - it's a privilege to support them.

Since joining the Board of Commissioners last year, we have collaborated to seek solutions to Fire District 4 financial challenges, improve outreach to residents, and propose options for our district voters' awareness and approval. There is still work to be done, and I would be grateful for your vote to continue to serve our district residents as Commissioner.

For More Information:
(360) 391-8895
tdanielj@hotmail.com

*Candidate statements are printed exactly as submitted and are not checked for grammar, punctuation, spelling, or accuracy.



Fire Protection District 5 - **Commissioner Position 2** - Nonpartisan Office - short & full 6 year term



Norman Katz

Elected Experience: Secretary/Treasurer of OVECA in Point Roberts

Other Professional Experience: My career was in software sales mainframe management for close to three decades before I retired in Point Roberts in 2004.

Education: Sir George Williams University

Community Service: I have been a member of PREP and did volunteer work here in Point Roberts. We did planning and preparedness for emergencies on the Point. I still take part in the yearly pancake breakfast which helps to fund the organization.

Statement: The Fire Department of Point Roberts has proven to be an integral resource for Point Roberts. It was clear to the community during the covid crisis, how the Department led

the way in spearheading the actions needed during that time. I joined with other volunteers at one of the many covid testing clinics. The dedication and work of the Fire Department and volunteers was truly impressive. The Department provided exceptional planning and execution of the vaccination and testing clinics. Ongoing training is paramount to this Department and it has paid off wonderfully. There are notable examples of the emergency services of the Fire Department saving lives in Point Roberts. As a Commissioner for the last fifteen months, it is a pleasure to be working alongside the other Commissioners and Staff to discuss and implement decisions by the Board for the benefit of the safety and quality of life for the Point Roberts Community. I am asking for your vote to allow me to continue to serve. Thank you and sincerely, Norm Katz

For More Information:
(360) 945-2383
normkatz101@yahoo.com

Fire Protection District 7 - **Commissioner Position 2** - Nonpartisan Office - 6 year term

No Photo
Submitted

Eric Grant

Elected Experience: Six years as WCFD7 Fire Commissioner.

Other Professional Experience: Volunteer Firefighter/EMT, US Marine Corps Reserve, Whatcom County Corrections Deputy, currently assigned to the Detective Division at Ferndale Police Department.

Education: Fire Department/1st responder training and EMT certification 1990-2008, Sehome High School 1993, Corrections Officer Academy 2001, Basic Law Enforcement Academy 2008

Community Service: 18 years as a Volunteer Firefighter, Toys for Tots with the US Marine Corps Reserve, Ferndale Veterans Memorial board member, Ferndale Police Department Association President for 8 years. (Ferndale community charitable organization)

Statement: At the age of 16, I began volunteering as a fire fighter in Whatcom County. I spent the next 18 years

volunteering at three different departments. 10 of those years with Whatcom County Fire Dist.7.

My wife and I have lived in Ferndale for the past 25 years. We have enjoyed working, volunteering, and raising our children in this amazing community.

For the past six years, I have enjoyed serving as your Fire Commissioner. I have worked hard balancing my responsibility to the taxpayers while making improvements for the firefighters in the area.

As a commissioner I helped increase our reserve fund, ensured new exhaust extraction systems in the fire stations, and updated the apparatus. We were able to add a Community Paramedic and increase compensation for our Volunteers. I voted to support competitive wages and benefits to maintain WCFD7 recruitment and retention efforts. I would love the opportunity to serve as your Fire Commissioner for another 6 years.

For More Information:
(360) 739-2214
EricGrant119@comcast.net



Fire Protection District 8 - **Commissioner Position 2** - Nonpartisan Office - unexpired 2 year term

Frank White

No Information Submitted

Fire Protection District 8 - **Commissioner Position 5** - Nonpartisan Office - 6 year term

No Photo
Submitted

Keith Neher

Elected Experience: WCFD #8
Commissioner 2016-2017, 2021-Present

Other Professional Experience: No
Information Submitted

Education: No Information Submitted

Community Service: No Information Submitted

Statement: No Information Submitted

For More Information:
(360) 739-5393
Kaneher@cob.org


 Fire Protection District 11 - **Commissioner Position 2** - Nonpartisan Office - 6 year term


Joan Moye

Elected Experience: No Information Submitted

Other Professional Experience: Ferndale School District Para educator, Head Start Support Staff, Owner and Operator - Lummi Island Day Care

Education: Graduate Parma High School Parma, ID; Social Work BA Boise State

College, Boise, ID

Community Service: Board Secretary, NW Deaf and Hard of Hearing Association; Board, Lummi Island Community Land Trust; Board, Lummi Island Heritage Trust; Volunteer, Meals On Wheels and Parish Health Ministry; Fire Fighter/EMT Lummi Island Fire Department; Volunteer, Lummi Island Fire Department Disaster Preparedness Committee

Statement: I am a long time Lummi Island resident. My husband and I have raised our family here.

The knowledge and experience I have gained through my past service to Lummi Island has given me an understanding of the Lummi Island community. As a past member of the Lummi Island Fire Department and current volunteer with the Disaster Preparedness Committee, I have gained specific first hand understanding of the issues that need to be addressed in order to insure the fire district accomplishes its purposes. I will be honored to work as a Commissioner, in close collaboration with other commissioners and the LIFD fire chief, to maintain the standard of excellence and effective volunteer service that the Lummi Island Fire Department has provided over many years.

For More Information:

(360) 758-2178

joanmoye1@gmail.com

No Photo Submitted

Robert "Bob" Auld

Elected Experience: No Information Submitted

Other Professional Experience: No Information Submitted

Education: Graduate Seattle University with a Bachelors degree in Finance and Banking.

Community Service: 10 years as a Lummi Island volunteer fire fighter and EMT

Statement: I retired after 35 years at a national stock brokerage firm. I volunteered at the Lummi Island Fire Department in

2009 and completed the emergency medical certification. For over 10 years I respond to both fire and medical 911 calls. I was appointed the Firefighters Representative to the Fire commissioners. I attended commissioners meetings for over 3 years and I have a clear understanding of both the fire station operations and the financial duties and responsibilities of the commissioners.

I look forward to using my financial and fire station operation experience as an elected commissioner.

For More Information:

(360) 758-4117

lummiranch@yahoo.com



Fire Protection District 14 - **Commissioner Position 2** - Nonpartisan Office - short & full 6 year term



Russell Vreugdenhil

Elected Experience: NA

Other Professional Experience: Owner of Sumas Ag Services, Inc

Education: Cornerstone Christian School 2014.; Diesel Technician, Walla Walla John Deere Tech School

Community Service: Volunteer First Responder at Whatcom County Fire

Statement: As a Sumas resident all my life, I have had the honor of being a volunteer first responder for the last 10 years. I joined as an 18-year-old and had the opportunity to be mentored by great examples of leadership in the Department. I also have had the last 10 years to get to know the district, its people, and their needs. I have witnessed repeatedly how the Fire Department has shown up for the community and vice versa. Being a commissioner is another opportunity for me to continue serving the department, and our community in a new way, and I look forward to the service. Thank you for your consideration!

For More Information:
rhvreugdenhil@gmail.com

District 14 for 10 years

Fire Protection District 16 - **Commissioner Position 2** - Nonpartisan Office - 6 year term

Elvin Kalsbeek

No Information Submitted

For More Information:
(360) 739-0355
ejkalsbeek@yahoo.com

Fire Protection District 17 - **Commissioner Position 2** - Nonpartisan Office - 6 year term

William Carroll

No Information Submitted

Fire Protection District 18 - **Commissioner Position 2** - Nonpartisan Office - 6 year term

Socorro Ruiz

No information submitted

Glacier Fire & Rescue - **Commissioner Position 2** - Nonpartisan Office - 6 year term

Magenta Widner

No Information Submitted

*Candidate statements are printed exactly as submitted and are not checked for grammar, punctuation, spelling, or accuracy.


 Fire Protection District 21 - **Commissioner Position 2** - Nonpartisan Office - 6 year term

Bruce Ansell

Elected Experience: Fire Commissioner - Chair - KCFD#45/Duvall - 1989-1995.; Fire Commissioner NWFRS District 21 - 2016-present, current board chair.

Other Professional Experience: Bellevue Fire Department 1983-2013

Education: Bachelors degree - University of Washington, Fire

Command and Administration - Bellevue College

Community Service: Habitat for Humanity, American Red Cross

Statement: In 2016, I was appointed to the Board of Commissioners based upon my background and experience in public safety, leadership, labor relations and communication skills. Elected in 2017, I have worked with board members to

create an open and transparent relationship with all employees and the community, based upon trust, respect, professionalism and fiscal responsibility.

Fire District 21 currently faces some significant economic challenges, requiring the public to support our strategic plan for the future. Our stations and equipment are in desperate need of upgrades. Our financial audits have been outstanding but due to our funding limitations, we will be asking the voters for future support so that we can continue to provide industry standard levels of service.

As current Board Chair, I would appreciate your vote so that we can continue the important work of the District.

For More Information:
(206) 948-1826
bmanzell80@gmail.com

 Fire Protection District 21 - **Commissioner Position 4** - Nonpartisan Office - short & full 6 year term

Matthew Rigberg

Elected Experience: Current Fire Commissioner incumbent.

Other Professional Experience: Former small business owner.; Retired police sergeant.; Current criminal investigator.; Adjunct professor for Whatcom Community College Criminal Justice program.

Education: Undergraduate degree in English/Creative Writing.; Master's in Business Administration.

Community Service: I am a current volunteer with NOAA.; I

volunteered with my family at Wild at Heart bird sanctuary in Arizona.; My wife and I recently volunteered with the Red Cross to install smoke detectors in homes in Birch Bay.

Statement: As a former business owner and retired law enforcement professional, I believe I understand the dynamics of emergency services as well as the underlying business machine that drives those services. I am proud to have served as a Fire Commissioner for NWFRS, and I look forward to continuing the work our Commissioner Board has been doing in the spirit of providing the best possible emergency services to our area.

For More Information:
No Information Submitted

Fire Protection District 21 - **Commissioner Position 5** - Nonpartisan Office - 6 year term**Kimberly McMurray**

Elected Experience: NWFR D21 Commissioner #5, September 2020 - present, includes membership to the Washington Fire Commissioners Association and Whatcom County Fire Commissioners Association

Other Professional Experience: American Burn Association - conference speaker and 1-term MAC. Harborview Burn Center - volunteer & Consumer Advisory Board member. MSKTC Burn Ambassador. Phoenix Society - conference speaker, committee member and SOAR certified volunteer.

Education: BA in business administration from NNU

Community Service: Cornwall Church Salt on the Street and Lighthouse Mission volunteer. Speaker at school assemblies and alumni banquets. My husband & I also enjoy helping at community events and "make a difference" opportunities in our neighborhood, church and Whatcom County.

Statement: Serving as a fire commissioner, I consider it to be

an honor and privilege. I attend monthly and special board meetings. I have immersed myself in several tasks, such as attending Blaine City Council meetings to stay apprised of local events and housing projects, which affect our fire department. Recently I have begun working on grant writing projects. Some tools and equipment need replacing; grant money can help our department augment some of those costs. A grant was secured through the Red Cross for free smoke alarms, including regular, strobe light and bed shaker models for our citizens. Our team also partnered with the Red Cross to install smoke alarms in two mobile home parks in Birch Bay. As a burn survivor, fire safety is a paramount concern of mine. As a publicly funded agency, NWFR receives regular audits to provide essential accountability and transparency for district operations. I am proud to be a part of a dedicated and financially responsible team of people. Our district received the highest rating possible from the Office of the Washington State Auditor. We will continue to be good stewards of the property tax money our citizens pay for fire protection and emergency services.

For More Information:
kimberlydmcmurray@outlook.com

South Whatcom Fire Authority - **Commissioner District 2** - Nonpartisan Office - 6 year term**James Willson**

No Information Submitted


 South Whatcom Fire Authority - **Commissioner District 3** - Nonpartisan Office - 6 year term


Reece Williams

Elected Experience: First time candidate for public office.

Other Professional Experience:

Firefighter/Paramedic, Marysville Regional Fire Authority (present); Field Service Representative, International Association of Fire Fighters (present); Vice President, Marysville Professional

Firefighters Association (present); Firefighter/Paramedic, City of Mount Vernon Fire Department; Paramedic, Skagit County Medic One; Treasurer, Skagit County Paramedic Association; Firefighter/Paramedic, Spokane County Fire District 8.

Education: Spokane Community College, Paramedicine. Washington State Paramedic Certification. WSP IFSAC FF1, FF2, Hazmat Operations certifications. Extensive education and experience in labor-management relationships. Joel E. Ferris High School, Spokane Washington.

Community Service: Muscular Dystrophy Association volunteer (fill the boot), Operation Warm volunteer (coats for kids). Mount Baker Ski Patrol Aid Room volunteer.

Statement: As a homeowner in this community with fifteen

years of experience as a Firefighter/Paramedic, I know firsthand the importance of having a well-supported, adequately staffed Fire District in the pursuit of saving lives and protecting property. When a member of your family experiences a life threatening emergency and calls 911, it's critical that our Firefighter/EMTs have the equipment, training, resources, and funding needed to make the difference between a positive and negative outcome. The responsibility of your Fire Commissioners is to set the organizational vision for the Fire District, determine necessary funding levels, and determine the level of services required to meet the needs of our community. As our neighborhoods continue to grow, and wildfires continue to have a larger impact on Western Washington, it is my intent if elected, to support a level of service that is robust yet fiscally responsible, ensuring that our tax dollars go toward staffing levels capable of keeping this community safe. I would be honored to have your support in this mission. I am proudly endorsed by your Bellingham/Whatcom County Professional Firefighters Local 106, and I look forward to hearing your input on what you hope to see in your local Fire District.

For More Information:
(509) 879-0985
r_sap30@yahoo.com

 Water District 2 - **Commissioner Position 2** - Nonpartisan Office - 6 year term

No Photo
Submitted

Jon "Pete" Rittmueller

Elected Experience: Water District 2 Commissioner since 2012. Current Chair of commission.

Other Professional Experience: Owner/president Hydrology Northwest, Inc. 1985- 2020.

Education: BS Natural Resources, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, IL.; MS Biology, Western Washington University, Bellingham, WA

Community Service: No Information Submitted

Statement: No Information Submitted

For More Information:
(360) 739-5662



Water District 2 - **Commissioner Position 3** - Nonpartisan Office - unexpired 2 year term



Yaprak Goertz

Elected Experience: No Information Submitted

Other Professional Experience: No Information Submitted

Education: No Information Submitted

Community Service: No Information Submitted

Statement: I have been serving as an appointed commissioner at WCWD#2 since November 2022. I take the responsibility of making critical decisions on behalf of our district members very

seriously and have been continuing to work in order to make accessing affordable, clean water feasible for all of them.

My analytical skills combined with the teamwork, professionalism and organizational skills I possess, give me perspective and insight for implementing cost effective improvements at Whatcom County Water District #2.

As a commissioner, I will continue to work hard to improve and maintain our water system and give full disclosure of all spending.

Thank you for your support. Yaprak Goertz

For More Information:
YAPRAKWD2@GMAIL.COM

Point Roberts Water District 4 - **Commissioner Position 2** - Nonpartisan Office - 6 year term

Scott Hackleman

No Information Submitted

For More Information:
(360) 945-1552
jay.hackleman@alum.calarts.edu

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Water District 7 - **Commissioner Position 2** - Nonpartisan Office - 6 year term**George A. Kaas**

Elected Experience: I currently serve Whatcom County Water District #7 as an elected Commissioner.

Other Professional Experience: I am a retired Whatcom County educator currently working at Cloud Mountain Farm Center.

Education: B.S. in Ornamental Horticulture and M.S. in Agriculture Production and Education from California Polytechnic, San Luis Obispo, California.

Community Service: Whatcom County Noxious Weed Board; Drayton Harbor Shellfish Protection Advisory Committee; Bellingham Theater Guild

Statement: Improvements in water quality, accessibility and efficiency have been made for our subscribers in my first term. The future includes aging pipe replacement and digital monitoring of meters and leaks to conserve water and be cost efficient for subscribers. I would like to continue this important work as the District continues to grow.

For More Information:
No Information Submitted

Birch Bay Water & Sewer District - **Commissioner Position 2** - Nonpartisan Office - 6 year term**Don Montfort**

No Information Submitted



Lake Whatcom Water & Sewer District - **Commissioner District 1** - Nonpartisan Office - unexpired 4 year term



David Holland

Elected Experience: No prior elected experience.

Other Professional Experience: I have spent the last 30 plus years within the many facets of the medical imaging field specializing in patient care, imaging management, large project implementations, and process

improvement.

Education: Bachelor of Arts in Healthcare Management - Ottawa University, Ottawa Kansas; Associates in Arts and Sciences - Radiologic Technology - Yakima Valley College

Community Service: Whatcom Emergency Communications Group - a subgroup of the Whatcom County Search and Rescue; Sudden Valley Auxillary Communications Group - Associated

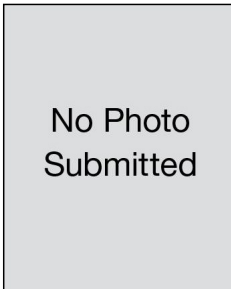
with the South Whatcom Fire Authority

Statement: I am David Holland, and I am running for election to the Board of Commissioners for the Lake Whatcom Water and Sewer District. I was born and raised in Eastern Washington, and I have lived in Sudden Valley since 1994.

Appointed to the Board in April of 2023, I am running for election because I believe that I have the experience, knowledge, and dedication to continue to serve the Sudden Valley Community, and the Water District as a whole. I am committed to working with the Board of Commissioners, the staff, and the community to ensure that the Lake Whatcom Water and Sewer District continues to provide high quality water and wastewater services to our residents.

For More Information:
atpsew@yahoo.com

Lake Whatcom Water & Sewer District - **Commissioner District 2** - Nonpartisan Office - 6 year term



Todd Citron

Elected Experience: 20+ years as Lake Whatcom Water & Sewer District commissioner.

Other Professional Experience: 25 years in PC computer networking, software, and hardware support.

Education: BA: Wesleyan University, 1983; MAT: Boston College, 1988

Community Service: No Information Submitted

Statement: I want to continue serving my community here in the Lake Whatcom Watershed, and I want to preserve the health and beauty of the area by continuing to build a robust water and sewer district with safe and efficient operating practices, while striving to distribute costs equitably.

For More Information:
No Information Submitted

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Lake Whatcom Water & Sewer District - **Commissioner District 4** - Nonpartisan Office - unexpired 4 year term



Jeff Knakal

Elected Experience: Lake Whatcom Water and Sewer Districted Position 4 (appointed)

Other Professional Experience: Aerospace Engineer/Manager – 38 years (retired)

Education: BS Mechanical Engineering

1982 University of Rochester

Community Service: Volunteer Firefighter/EMT, South Whatcom Fire Authority

Statement: Jeff is committed to the oversight role of Commissioner to ensure a safe and reliable water supply at reasonable cost

For More Information:
jknakal60@gmail.com

Lake Whatcom Water & Sewer District - **Commissioner District 5** - Nonpartisan Office - 6 year term

John Carter

No Information Submitted

Samish Water District - **Commissioner Position 1** - Nonpartisan Office - unexpired 4 year term**Mary B. Hess**

Elected Experience: None

Other Professional Experience:

Appointed Lake Samish Water District Commissioner 2021; Appointed Advisory Council Member for Northwest Clean Air Agency 2004-2021; Professional Engineer for 39 years; my career focused on

water, wastewater treatment (designs, operations, and management), pollution prevention controls, and environmental, health, and safety audits.

Education: B.S. in Chemical Engineering at University of Illinois

Community Service: Prepared a drinking water management plan for Black Mountain Camp (pro bono). Drinking water technician for Camp Lutherwood. Provided Environmental and Sustainability education for public schools, local camps. Watershed Watcher for Lake Samish. Assisted in establishing several drinking water treatment systems in Honduras. Girl Scout

Leader for 10 years

Statement: We have owned property at Lake Samish for 24 years so I am aware of the great need to keep Lake Samish healthy and thriving. I am interested in serving on the Board of Commissioners for several reasons. I hope to continue to use my technical skills and professional experiences to assist our community. I would like to help our community with making sustainable choices, prepare for climate change driven requirements, and enhance the safe operation and durability of our wastewater utility. Throughout my career, the complexity of ecosystems, human health needs, and environmental sustainability have required weighing multiple potential scenarios in decision making. I have the capability and experience to assist Board members and staff in these types of critical decisions.

For More Information:

(360) 393-7988

chionie1980@gmail.com

Samish Water District - **Commissioner Position 2** - Nonpartisan Office - 6 year term**Michael F. Roberts**

No Information Submitted


 Water District 13 - **Commissioner Position 2** - Nonpartisan Office - 6 year term


Rebecca Cayen

Elected Experience: Whatcom Water District 13 Commissioner 2018-Present.

Other Professional Experience: I have over fourteen years of experience working in federal and local government agencies and the private sector navigating various contracts, policies, regulations, and laws.

Education: Eastern Washington University (MBA), Western Washington University (B.S., Geology)

Community Service: Board member for East Whatcom Community Council and Washington Association of Water & Sewer Districts. Co-Chair for NW Clean Air Agency's Columbia Valley Committee. Organized free wood chipping events for

residents in the greater Columbia Valley area to remove over 170 tons of wildfire fuel over the past five years.

Statement: Many important decisions will be made regarding the future of water for Water District 13. As a current commissioner, I am up to date with the myriad of issues facing the district and I look forward to continuing to help the district manage these challenges and the growth happening within our community. I believe it is critically important to maintain the long-term infrastructure and goals of the community without placing undue financial burden on its citizens. I will continue to work diligently with my fellow commissioners to protect and preserve our precious water resources. I respectfully ask for your support.

For More Information:
(360) 510-3137
cayenwd13@gmail.com

 Water District 13 - **Commissioner Position 3** - Nonpartisan Office - unexpired 2 year term


Talitha Shiroma

Elected Experience: No Information Submitted

Other Professional Experience: With 8+ years of talent acquisition and management experience, I offer expertise in stakeholder management, and data analysis. As a commissioner, I bring the ability to optimize operations,

collaborate, and drive positive change in water management efforts.

Education: No Information Submitted

Community Service: Through my volunteer work at the Foothills Food Bank, I actively contribute to alleviating food insecurity in the community by providing support while fostering a sense of compassion and community engagement.

Statement: As a dedicated and experienced professional in talent acquisition and management, I bring a strategic mindset, strong stakeholder management skills, and a commitment to data-driven decision-making to the role of water board commissioner, ensuring effective governance and sustainable water management for the community.

For More Information:
No Information Submitted



Glacier Water District 14 - **Commissioner Position 1** - Nonpartisan Office - unexpired 4 year term

Connie Cook

No Information Submitted

Glacier Water District 14 - **Commissioner Position 2** - Nonpartisan Office - 6 year term

Ellen Baker

No Information Submitted

Acme Water District 18 - **Commissioner Position 1** - Nonpartisan Office - unexpired 4 year term

Bradley J. Falcetti

No Information Submitted

Acme Water District 18 - **Commissioner Position 2** - Nonpartisan Office - short & full 6 year term

Tom Garland

No Information Submitted

For More Information:

(949) 257-9493

tomgpsibeta@gmail.com

Columbia Valley Water District - **Commissioner Position 2** - Nonpartisan Office - 6 year term



Carl Isom-McDaniel

Elected Experience: Columbia Valley Water District Commissioner 5 years, Columbia Valley Park Commissioner 3 years.

Other Professional Experience: Research, consulting, Computer Network maintenance, Construction Management, and Customer service.

Education: WWU - Bachelor of science, WWU - Master of Science, OSU - Doctoral candidate

Community Service: I have volunteered in several areas in the Kendal area. Helping with the creation of the Park District as well as the Communication Hub. Work with CVCC, MBCC, Community Watchdog Group, Foothills Community Alliance, water district and park district, PTA. I also maintain Cimarron from the entrance to Poppy Ln, help the disabled and elderly, do twice a month garbage pickup, and more.

Statement: I have lived in the district for over 22 years. During that time, I have raised a family, adopted 2 of my grandkids, and have 1 left in Highschool. I care deeply about the Kendall Community and have worked hard to build community and assist anyone in need. I have been the Water Commissioner for the past 5 years, and declined any compensation to help the district go a new direction. Since I have been Commissioner we have purchased 2 new tractors, a new truck and a trailer so we could start doing more work in house. All with no rate hikes. I lobbied for HB 1621, signed into law, to increase the amount we can spend in house from \$50K to \$300K so we do not have to pay prevailing wage to get work done. I am currently working with our Engineer to acquire a \$5M grant to upgrade our ageing mains. I also worked with the 10th District utility covid fund director to instate financial help for water like there is for power and cable. As a Commissioner, I will reach out to the community to listen to their concerns and be your voice.

For More Information:

(360) 599-9968

SwtCarl_1@hotmail.com



Cemetery District 1 - **Commissioner Position 2** - Nonpartisan Office - short & full 6 year term

Wade A. Pettigrew

No Information Submitted

For More Information:

(360) 393-0832
ghostcat72.wp@gmail.com

Cemetery District 1 - **Commissioner Position 3** - Nonpartisan Office - unexpired 2 year term

Vickie Rainey

No Information Submitted

Cemetery District 2 - **Commissioner Position 1** - Nonpartisan Office - unexpired 4 year term



Brenda Beeman

Elected Experience: President of the Heritage Condo Association - 2022 to present

Other Professional Experience: After dedicating over 27 years of my life to the criminal justice system, I have recently embarked on a new journey as a realtor, embracing a second career.

Education: The Rockwell Institute of Real Estate, Whatcom Community College, and learning through life's challenges.

Community Service: Engaging with the homeless population and individuals facing accusations in Whatcom County.

Statement: Being a fourth-generation resident of Whatcom County and having lived on Lummi Island on and off most of my life, I have a vested interest in the well-being of Lummi island. I plan to collaboratively work with various individuals and organizations to get our District reorganized. Persistence, research, and effective communication will be key to achieving this goal. I am grateful for your vote.

For More Information:
(360) 201-6640
sinclairisland@msn.com



Cemetery District 2 - **Commissioner Position 2** - Nonpartisan Office - short & full 6 year term



Joanie Roteman

Elected Experience: During the '80s and 90's I held leadership positions in the Cabrillo Beach Yacht Club, a 500-member club in Los Angeles. I was commodore in 1994.

Other Professional Experience: I taught for 25 years, mainly in Long Beach, CA but also substituted and taught pottery at the Beach School on Lummi Island for many years.

Education: I have as BA in Political Science from UCLA and an MA in Education from Cal State Dominguez Hills.

Community Service: On Lummi Island I have been active in the Grange, Meals on Wheels, LICA, Elderberries and the Lummi Island Artists' Tour.

Statement: Having lived on Lummi Island since 2000, I have been active in the community since then. I was appointed as an interim Commissioner in March and have been instrumental in reorganizing the administration of the District. I would be honored to continue to serve.

For More Information:
(310) 415-4789
synergyp36@msn.com

Cemetery District 2 - **Commissioner Position 3** - Nonpartisan Office - unexpired 2 year term



Judy Trauth-Thomas

Elected Experience: No Information Submitted

Other Professional Experience: No Information Submitted

Education: No Information Submitted

Community Service: No Information Submitted

Statement: I have lived on Lummi Island over 40 years. In addition to my teaching career I have devoted many years as a volunteer on this beautiful island: 20 year volunteer on the LI Fire Dept District 11 as an EMT and retired; Head Teacher at Beach School (Ferndale School District) for over 10 years; Assisted in the development of the International School at Beach School; Volunteer at the Lummi Island Congregational Church

assisting in Sunday School 5 years; Volunteered in many fund-raising activities of the Grange and community organizations.

Besides teaching for 20 years in the Ferndale School District I was a Fisheries Biologist technician for NOAA, the Washington Dept of Fisheries and the Lummi Indian Tribe where I was a founding scientist in the development of the Lummi Aquaculture Program that led to the Lummi College of Fisheries that was located on Lummi Island. I hold a Bachelors degree in Biology from the University of Kentucky and a Masters Degree from Western Washington University.

Joining the Lummi Island Cemetery Commission is another way I can contribute to our community. I appreciate your support.

For More Information:
(360) 961-4429
jatt@isomedia.com

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Cemetery District 3 - **Commissioner Position 2** - Nonpartisan Office - short & full 6 year term

Aaron De Boer

No Information Submitted

Cemetery District 4 - **Commissioner Position 2** - Nonpartisan Office - 6 year term

Jay Roelof

No Information Submitted

Cemetery District 6 - **Commissioner Position 2** - Nonpartisan Office - 6 year term

Brandi Tilton

No Information Submitted

For More Information:
(360) 739-2073

Cemetery District 6 - **Commissioner Position 3** - Nonpartisan Office - unexpired 2 year term

Amy Bernard

No Information Submitted

For More Information:
amyber3@aol.com

VoteWA
VoteWA.gov



You can register to vote or update your address in Washington State with your Washington State ID or driver license at VoteWA.gov.

Once registered, you can view personalized voter information, including:

- Details of your voter registration
- A link to print a replacement ballot
- An online voter guide for each election
- Information on your elected officials
- Locations of ballot drop boxes
- A list of past elections in which you returned a ballot
- Seeing if your ballot has been received

Cemetery District 7 - **Commissioner Position 1** - Nonpartisan Office - unexpired 4 year term**Kenny Sund**

No Information Submitted

For More Information:

kenny.sund@yahoo.com

**Greg Thames****Elected Experience:** First time candidate**Other Professional Experience:** US. Navy Member, Owner of Like the River Films, Member of Local 12-590 Steelworkers Union, Unit Operator at Phillips 66**Education:** Whatcom Community College; Jackson State University,

Mass Communications, University of Maryland, Business Administration

Community Service: Serving our community is a great honor. I look forward to continuing to serve you!**Statement:** I believe a key characteristic of an exceptional society is the willingness of its people to dedicate their personal time and resources to support activities and services that benefit everyone. This belief of placing service before self, resonates deeply with me. 25 years ago, I arrived in Whatcom County

being stationed at NAS Whidbey Island, while my wife pursued her studies at WWU. From that moment, we were captivated by this place, and it has been our home ever since.

I am immensely grateful for the opportunity to contribute to this community. Whether it involved replanting trees in Whatcom Falls Park after the Olympic pipeline explosion or helping in the building of Star Park. I have gladly devoted my time to various endeavors. Now, I see another avenue to serve in a community that holds a special place in my heart.

Cemetery districts may be one of the smallest forms of local governance, but their importance should not be understated. It is their responsibility to provide affordable burial options and ensure that everyone has access to a dignified final resting place. My foremost objective is to fulfill these goals. Thank you for entrusting me with this opportunity to serve.

For More Information:

(360) 389-3530

greg@votegregthames.com

votegregthames.com



Cemetery District 8 - **Commissioner Position 2** - Nonpartisan Office - 6 year term

Dan Bourks

No Information Submitted

For More Information:

(360) 296-2154
dsdosh@pointroberts.com

Cemetery District 9 - **Commissioner Position 2** - Nonpartisan Office - 6 year term

Virginia Arnason

No Information Submitted

Cemetery District 10 - **Commissioner Position 2** - Nonpartisan Office - short & full 6 year term

John Kershner

No Information Submitted

For More Information:

(360) 202-9869
Jmattk59@outlook.com

Point Roberts Park & Recreation District 1 - **Commissioner Position 1** - Nonpartisan Office - short & full 4 year term

Allison Calder

No Information Submitted

For More Information:

(360) 907-5982
Alli.calder17@gmail.com

Point Roberts Park & Recreation District 1 - **Commissioner Position 2** - Nonpartisan Office - short & full 4 year term



Bill Zidel

Elected Experience: Current President of a large non-profit historical society.

Other Professional Experience: After serving in the military, I enjoyed working in several fields in different states.

I eventually settled into a Financial Services career with Citibank and J.P. Morgan Chase Treasury Services which

included over 38 years of Relationship, Product and Project Management including several overseas assignments and 24 years managing State and Federal benefit programs.

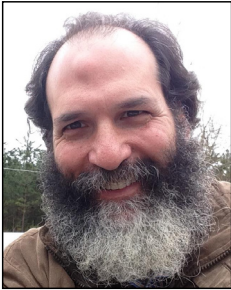
Education: Bachelor of Science, Business, Seton Hall University 1970

Community Service: Appointed to the Point Roberts Community Advisory Committee, the Point Roberts Parks and Rec., Trustee with the Point Roberts Circle of Care and Lions Clubs for 23 years.

Statement: For over 52 years I have managed projects, programs, and operations. I believe in the practice, Facto non Verba, deeds not words.

For More Information:

(360) 790-7398
bzidel@comcast.net

Point Roberts Park & Recreation District 1 - **Commissioner Position 4** - Nonpartisan Office - unexpired 2 year term**Stephen Falk**

Elected Experience: Point Roberts Park and Recreation District No. 1 (2014-2021 (with a 2 month gap)); Point Roberts Public Hospital District (2018-present); Whatcom County Cemetery District No. 8 (2019-present)

Other Professional Experience:
Attorney, Philadelphia, PA (1990-2013)

Education: J.D., Temple University (1990); B.S., UNC-CH (1983)

Community Service: Point Roberts Community Advisory Committee (2019-2021); Point Roberts Beekeepers Association; Jewish Genealogical Society of British Columbia

Statement: In my 10 years living in Point Roberts, I have served as a commissioner for Point Roberts Park and Recreation District No. 1 for over 7 years. Now, after a short gap, I am seeking to return to the Park District board to bring some institutional memory and standard practice back to its operations and its monthly public meetings. I have limited goals for the Park District — mainly to remind people that the Community Center, the grounds around it, and Baker Field park are available for the many activities our residents may want to organize. The Park District runs a few programs itself, but mainly it can provide a place for your programs.

For More Information:
No Information Submitted

Point Roberts Park & Recreation District 1 - **Commissioner Position 5** - Nonpartisan Office - 4 year term**Michael Cressy**

No Information Submitted



Blaine-Birch Bay Park & Recreation District 2 - **Commissioner Position 1** - Nonpartisan Office - 4 year term



Jesse Creydt

Elected Experience: Blaine-Birch Bay Park and Recreation District 2 Commissioner Position 1.

Other Professional Experience: Executive Director TouchStone Counseling Group.

Education: BA California Lutheran University, 2003.

Community Service: Youth Resource Center President, Healthy Youth Coalition, Teach One to Lead One (T1L1), Blaine Economic Development Committee, Blaine Tourism Advisory Committee, Birch Bay Chamber of Commerce Director, Blaine Chamber of Commerce Member and Volunteer. Jesse helps serve at many community service projects and clean up efforts.

Statement: "Let's go to the park" Commissioner Jesse Creydt is working hard to make local healthy recreational opportunities accessible to all. Jesse would like you to experience the joy the local parks and recreation have brought to him and his family.

Jesse believes every park in our community should be a safe and inviting place for our residents. Parks should be usable and highlight our beautiful landscapes. Improving access to parks means connecting them via awesome trails. An energetic stroll through our parks and on our trails helps to bring our friends and families together.

Access to ongoing activities and special events are important in our lives. Using the gyms, birdwatching, taking a dance class, playing pickleball and everything in between can bring great joy. Jesse will continue to work hard to sustain current and create new recreational opportunities we all can say yes to!

Our leaders need your input and Jesse will help ensure your voice is heard. Jesse wants you to be able to create special memories at our parks. Jesse has demonstrated commitment to help create more opportunities for us to enjoy locally. Jesse Creydt is working hard to help our community and is honored to represent you.

For More Information:
(360) 510-0221
jesse.creydt@touchstonebhc.com

Blaine-Birch Bay Park & Recreation District 2 - **Commissioner Position 3** - Nonpartisan Office - 4 year term

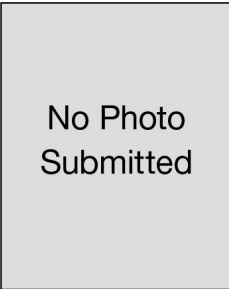
John Roy

No Information Submitted

For More Information:
(360) 820-4756



Blaine-Birch Bay Park & Recreation District 2 - **Commissioner Position 5** - Nonpartisan Office - 4 year term



David Wilbrecht

Elected Experience: Elected as a Commissioner for the Blaine Birch Bay Park and Recreation District 2.

Other Professional Experience: 40 years of public service in local government including being appointed County Administrative Officer, Town Manager, and Parks, Recreation, & Cultural Services

Director in California and Deputy Director of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services and City Manager in Washington.

Education: Master Degree Public Administration from Seattle

University.

Community Service: Serve on local boards

Statement: I appreciate the opportunity to serve as a member of the Blaine Birch Bay Park and Recreation District 2 Commission the past four years and look forward to continuing to serve the next four years. With an emphasis on developing the California Creek kayak launch park and the multi-modal trail between Birch Bay and Blaine, the next four years will be an exciting time for our community.

For More Information:
davidwilbrecht@hotmail.com

Lynden Regional Park & Recreation District 3 - **Commissioner Position 2** - Nonpartisan Office - 4 year term



Ronald Van Soest

Elected Experience: I have been a Lynden Parks and Recreation Commissioner since its inception in the mid 1990's.

Other Professional Experience: I have been President of the Northwest Board of Basketball Officials for over 30 years. We provide basketball officials for the

schools in Whatcom, Skagit, Island and San Juan Counties.

Education: I am a graduate of Lynden Christian High School. I attended Western Washington College for 2 years studying accounting and economics.

Community Service: I have been a Little League baseball

,basketball and softball coach, Babe Ruth Baseball coach.I was in charge of the Adult basketball and softball leagues in Lynden for over 50 years.

Statement: I will work to continue improving and expanding recreational activities in the Lynden Regional Parks and Recreational District.I will continue to work in conjunction with the city of Lynden. We are currently working with the City on Benson Road Park (Heusinkveld Farm) Dickinson Park and Glenning Street Park. We have also been working with the Puget Sound Antique Tractor and Machinery Club on improvements at Berthusen Park.

For More Information:
(360) 815-6326
Rvansoest1@yahoo.com

*Candidate statements are printed exactly as submitted and are not checked for grammar, punctuation, spelling, or accuracy.


 Lynden Regional Park & Recreation District 3 - **Commissioner Position 3** - Nonpartisan Office - 4 year term


Greg Faber

Elected Experience: Deacon - American Reformed Church

Other Professional Experience: United Stated Marine Corps (2nd BN/5th MAR); Civil Project/Division Manager (10+ years)

Education: Nooksack Valley High School (2004); Civil Engineering Degree,

Washington Engineering Institute (2016)

Community Service: ARC - Evangelism support committee (New Way, Engedi, other Local Charities); Local Soccer & Hockey Coach.

Statement: Whatcom County born and bred, I love the area

and community we live in! God has blessed my wife and I with 5 kids that will grow up in Lynden - a town that we also see growing all around us. As Parks Commissioner I hope to use the experience and talents I've been given to support and give back to our community. Having public parks and sports fields is an important part of the healthy development of everyone in our district, and I will work to support and maintain our current facilities, as well as look to develop additional parks and recreational activities. At the same time, I understand that the funds available to us belong to you, and I will take seriously the responsibility of allocating those funds to assist us all in raising the next generation in the great outdoors! Thank you for your consideration.

For More Information:

Greg@Faberconstruction.com

 Lynden Regional Park & Recreation District 3 - **Commissioner Position 5** - Nonpartisan Office - 4 year term

Harvey Pelleboer

No Information Submitted



Columbia Valley Park & Recreation District - **Commissioner Position 2** - Nonpartisan Office - 4 year term



Richard Whitson

Elected Experience: I have currently served 2 terms as a commissioner.

Other Professional Experience: No Information Submitted

Education: No Information Submitted

Community Service: No Information Submitted

Statement: No Information Submitted

For More Information:
(360) 510-5219
rawdew55@gmail.com

Columbia Valley Park & Recreation District - **Commissioner Position 3** - Nonpartisan Office - 4 year term



Cindy Johnson

Elected Experience: Columbia Valley Park Commissioner since 2020.

Other Professional Experience: Kendall PTA president and secretary, Mt. Baker Coop Preschool vice-president and president.

Education: BS from WWU

Community Service: No Information Submitted

Statement: I have enjoyed serving on the Columbia Valley Parks and Recreation Commission for the past 3 years and would appreciate your vote to continue the work of bringing community activities to the area as well as building our first park!

For More Information:
No Information Submitted

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Point Roberts Public Hospital District - **Commissioner Position 1** - Nonpartisan Office - short & full 6 year term

Noel Newbolt

No Information Submitted

Hospital District 304 - **Commissioner Position 2** - Nonpartisan Office - 6 year term



Ashley Gregorius

Elected Experience: No Information Submitted

Other Professional Experience: I am the Business Operations Manager of an optometry practice and medical spa, where I developed extensive protocols for day-to-day operations and marketing management. Before my healthcare

career, I worked in education with children and adults with disabilities and trained as a Behavior Specialist. I taught in various education settings, including School Districts, nonprofits, and childcare centers.

Education: Whatcom Community College AA; Cornell University Executive Healthcare Management Certification and Healthcare Change Certification; Studied Criminal Justice and Communication at WSU

Community Service: President of the Board at Burlington Little School; Previous Board Member at Friendship House; Previous Board Vice Chair at Fildalgo Nature School

Statement: In this position, I will utilize all my experience to ensure we continue providing outstanding programs for Skagit

County citizens and implement positive change. Growing up on a five-acre farm, I recognize our community's needs and healthcare access challenges in rural communities. As a parent in our community, combined with my business expertise, I will ensure people of all ages have a healthy future while maintaining a fiscally responsible board. On this board, I will advocate for more programs and healthcare expansion and continue to fight for our rural communities to have the same level of care as those in the city.

I am active in the community and have had the honor of working alongside many of our nonprofit leaders and local elected officials. I became an advocate for healthcare after eight years of working with people who struggled with mental health issues and disabilities. In addition to building and expanding a successful optometry practice, I volunteered for the people of this community, supported business organizations, and improved early childhood education throughout Skagit County.

I am committed to improving the health and vitality of all those in Skagit County.

For More Information:
(360) 610-7052
ash.gregorius@gmail.com
Ashley4Skagit.com

Debra Lancaster

No Information Submitted

For More Information:
(360) 708-9573
debraforcommissioner@gmail.com



Hospital District 304 - **Commissioner Position 4** - Nonpartisan Office - 6 year term

Jeri Kaufman

No Information Submitted

For More Information:

(360) 708-3793

Jerikaufman2@gmail.com

End of Candidate Statements

Whatcom County



Auditor's Office



Picture taken August 1, 2023

Front Row: Whatcom County Auditor Diana Bradrick, Morgan, Arcenia, Sarah, Agy, Dodi, Tania, Cheif Deputy Stacy Henthorn.

Back Row: Susan, Cullen, Kathleen, Becca, Laura, Kellye, Amy.

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**Whatcom County
Proposition 2023-04
Public Health, Safety, and Justice Sales and Use Tax**

Language on the Ballot:

The Whatcom County Council passed Ordinance No. 2023 - 39 concerning funding for public health, safety, and justice facilities and services. If approved, this proposition would authorize a sales and use tax of two-tenths of one percent (20 cents per \$100.00) for costs associated with a new County jail, behavioral health, supportive housing, public safety, and other criminal justice facilities and services, as authorized by RCW 82.14.450.

Should this proposition be approved? Yes/No

Explanatory Statement:

If adopted, this measure would authorize Whatcom County to collect a sales and use tax of two-tenths of one percent (20 cents per \$100.00) to provide funds for a new jail and behavioral health center offering mental health and substance use disorder treatment, and other projects prioritized in the Justice Project Implementation Plan such as community-based behavioral health treatment, supportive housing, re-entry support programs, expansion of incarceration reduction programs, and other public health, safety and criminal justice facilities and services. The Plan and additional information about the Justice Project can be viewed at www.whatcomcounty.us/justice.

Statement For:

Our jail is dangerous and unhealthy for inmates and staff: 20 women share one toilet/shower; failing elevators; no smoke evacuation - it's inhumane and a liability. Expensive to run and inadequate, even as Whatcom's population has doubled, mental health and addiction problems worsen, and inmate challenges grow. Cramped space limits family/attorney visitation; medical, behavioral, and addiction services. Millions of tax-dollars maintain it beyond its useful life, yet inmates don't have needed services for healthy outcomes.

Overcrowding means repeat offenders are often not held. We're experiencing significantly increased property crimes, overdose deaths, and havoc from a growing drug crisis. Our current jail doesn't enable accountability, public safety, or deliver critical treatment.

Past levy results showed voters demand a humane jail with diversion and behavioral health programs, oversight, accountability, and public safety. Mental health professionals, first-responders, community leaders, citizens from diverse communities have built an innovative roadmap for better criminal justice and behavioral health outcomes. Twenty cents sales tax on \$100 purchase, paid by everyone (including Canadian shoppers): about half builds a right-sized jail with onsite mental health and drug treatment, and half expands behavioral health and other public safety uses.

Vote Yes for a safe jail and healthy outcomes.

Rebuttal of Statement Against:

The opposition ignores the many pretrial diversion and behavioral health programs and services implemented since 2017. This funds even more. A new jail is the cost-effective, humane answer to our expensive, unhealthy, failing, and dangerous jail. The cost estimate assumes a jail 20% over current capacity; that's not a "mega-jail" – that's right-sized for our growing community. Delays increase costs and impact public safety. The misinformation about "solving homelessness" and "overborrowing" are addressed at yeswhatcomjail.com/misdirections

Statement For prepared by:

Yes! Safe Jail Healthy Outcomes
Peter Frazier, Rud Browne, and Scott Korthuis

Statement Against:

Vote "No" on this re-packaged Jail Tax. We rejected this new tax twice already for the same reasons: it's too expensive, and the Ferndale location means higher transportation costs, increased climate impacts, and an inefficient justice system. This year's purposely vague proposal for a Ferndale jail is even larger than the ones we voted against twice.

A 2017 report to the County Council said our jail population was too high because people sit in jail awaiting trial. Today, it's even worse. People who can't afford bail lose jobs and housing, leaving them homeless – a bigger jail won't solve homelessness.

A rough estimate suggests \$137 million+ for construction alone (not including increased operating costs), and the County Treasurer has long-term fiscal concerns about overborrowing for a building at the expense of delivering services. We're still paying a jail tax passed 19 years ago with little to show for it. Let's reduce the need for jail beds instead of recklessly imposing a higher tax for an oversized jail.

Twice our community has said to do the humane thing: fund services first. This proposal postpones services until 2030 to build an unaffordable mega-jail. Once again: "Vote No."

Rebuttal of Statement For:

Mismanagement of our current jail has caused it to fall into disrepair in less than 40 years, misusing funds from our current jail tax. Without a detailed jail design, we cannot guarantee these issues won't happen again. Our jail overcrowding stems from inability to pay bail, not more or worse criminals. A bigger jail will not solve mental health, homelessness, or addiction. It is *inhumane* to lock people up before providing services they need.

Statement Against prepared by:

Makenzie Graham, Andrew Reding, and Todd Lagestee



Whatcom County Proposition 2023-04 Public Health, Safety, and Justice Sales and Use Tax

PROPOSED BY: EXECUTIVE INTRODUCTION DATE: JUNE 26, 2023

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-039

PROVIDING FOR SUBMISSION OF A PROPOSITION TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF WHATCOM COUNTY PURSUANT TO RCW 82.14.450 AUTHORIZING THE COLLECTION OF A LOCAL SALES AND USE TAX OF TWO-TENTHS OF ONE PERCENT FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING FUNDS FOR COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY, AND JUSTICE FACILITIES AND SERVICES, INCLUDING A NEW COUNTY JAIL, BEHAVIORAL HEALTH, SUPPORTIVE HOUSING, PUBLIC SAFETY, AND OTHER CRIMINAL JUSTICE FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, Whatcom County has an opportunity to plan for a criminal legal system that is built to address the root causes of incarceration and designed with rehabilitation as the goal; and

WHEREAS, the Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force (IPRTF), established in 2015 and acting as the Law and Justice Council (LJC) for Whatcom County (as per RCW 72.09.300), reviews and makes recommendations to safely and effectively reduce incarceration of individuals struggling with mental health and substance use disorders and minimize jail utilization by pre-trial defendants who can safely be released; and

WHEREAS, the IPRTF's Phase One Report identified challenges with current systems and services, including the need for expansion of the crisis triage facility, jail diversion programs, and behavioral health programs to reduce jail use by people with mental health and substance use disorders; and

WHEREAS, on August 7, 2019, the Whatcom County Council approved Resolution 2019-036, adopting a statement of public health, safety, and justice facility planning principles for Whatcom County; and

WHEREAS, Resolution 2019-036 identified the need to strive for conditions where the cycle of incarceration is broken rather than perpetuated, with continued support and focus on mental health and substance use disorder treatment and diversion rather than incarceration; and

WHEREAS, Resolution 2019-036 identified "the following are inextricably linked: responsible stewardship of public funds, ensuring public safety, and providing adequate countywide behavioral health services"; and

WHEREAS, Resolution 2019-036 established a workplan to develop a public health, safety, and justice facility needs assessment (Justice Project) and prioritize community engagement to guide its development; and

WHEREAS, Resolution 2019-036 recognized that there are multiple deficiencies with the downtown public safety (jail) facility that include life-safety issues and that the cost of addressing the most significant issues are too high to continue into the future and the need for an appropriately sized replacement facility continues to be the most burdensome and needed capital issue that Whatcom County government faces; and

WHEREAS, Resolution 2019-036 recognized the need to create a funding proposal to address the Justice Project needs assessment, provide a safer, more secure, and healthier environment for those who work, visit, and are incarcerated within the public safety/justice facility, identifying the goal of a future ballot measure; and

WHEREAS, on December 3, 2019, the Whatcom County Council established a Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC) to guide the development of a public health, safety, and justice facility needs assessment (as amended, see Resolution No. 2022-021); and

WHEREAS, the development of a public health, safety, and justice facility needs assessment (Justice Project) was paused in early 2020,

due to the COVID-19 public health emergency and restarted in early 2022; and

WHEREAS, on January 2021, the Anne Deacon Center for Hope (Crisis Stabilization Center) opened to provide short-term, in-patient substance use disorder and behavioral health support services, offering 32 beds and doubling the capacity of the triage center it replaced; and WHEREAS, the SAC held its first meeting on January 20, 2022 and, over the course of a year, the SAC held 10 meetings and additional group discussions to review data, identify gaps in the current community response, and consider what it would take to fill gaps to improve health and public safety; and

WHEREAS, the IPRTF, acting as the LJC, provided support, expertise, and assistance to the SAC throughout its efforts to create the Justice Project Needs Assessment Report; and

WHEREAS, the development of the SAC's Justice Project Needs Assessment sought community feedback through a variety of methods, including:

- A town hall listening session on November 15, 2022,
• A public online survey with over 1,700 respondents,
• A survey of incarcerated individuals and staff at the Whatcom County jail with 109 respondents,
• Listening sessions (6) with priority audiences, including people with lived experience in the criminal legal system, tribal members, and immigrants, and
• Informal interviews (8) with immigrant community leaders and Lummi Nation elders; and

WHEREAS, on January 26, 2023, the SAC approved the Justice Project Needs Assessment Report, which

- Establishes a vision, values, and goals, for the criminal legal system in Whatcom County,
• Examines data related to incarceration rates,
• Identifies gaps in the current community response to health and public safety needs, both inside and outside Whatcom County's jail facilities,
• Considers what it would take to fill those gaps in order to improve health and public safety, and
• Makes recommendations to address the community's public health, safety, and justice concerns; and

WHEREAS, the Needs Assessment focuses on three elements of public health, safety, and justice systems that are interrelated:

- Systems, which includes shifts in practices, policies, and funding that facilitate efficient functioning of the criminal legal system, and reduce incarceration and the duration of incarceration,
• Services, which are the supports that need to be in place for people to prevent and reduce involvement in the criminal legal system, and
• Facilities, which include a jail and a variety of residential and non-residential facilities and settings for legal and healthcare treatment and services; and

WHEREAS, the Needs Assessment recognizes two-long standing community needs:

- To have a safe and humane jail that is safe for those in it, with sufficient services needed to support successful community re-entry, and
• To more appropriately respond to lower-level offenses through the provision of incarceration prevention, diversion, and alternative services, including reducing the number of people incarcerated who have behavioral health issues; and

WHEREAS, the Needs Assessment report identifies more specific challenges in Whatcom County's criminal legal system, including:

- Inconsistency in data collection systems and limited publicly available information,





Whatcom County Proposition 2023-04 Public Health, Safety, and Justice Sales and Use Tax

- Insufficient access to mental health and substance use disorder treatment (in-patient and out-patient),
- Limited capacity in effective diversion programs,
- Inadequate jail capacity to meet the needs of incarcerated people with regards to everything from the most basic functions, such as laundry, kitchen, and dining facilities, to enough confidential spaces to receive behavioral and physical healthcare, meet with attorneys, or attend support groups,
- Insufficient affordable housing and permanent supportive housing,
- Inadequate discharge planning, and
- Significant delays in competency restoration services due to the Washington State Department of Social and Human Services' failure to meet constitutional obligations for competency evaluation and restoration services; and

WHEREAS, the Needs Assessment Report identifies needs and recommendations along a continuum, including prevention and diversion, jail-based, re-entry, and post-incarceration; and

WHEREAS, on February 21, 2023, the Whatcom County Council approved [Resolution 2023-006](#), accepting the SAC's Justice Project Needs Assessment Report and identifying the next steps to create a Justice Project Implementation Plan that includes:

- Analysis of potential facilities concepts, including location options and planning level costs,
- Identification of a site and concept for the main jail and service facilities in the community,
- Proposed services and systems efforts and their costs,
- Identification of county departments, community leaders and organizations to lead implementation of the recommendations, and
- A funding approach, including but not limited to elements to be funded through a proposed ballot measure; and

WHEREAS, Resolution 2023-006 identifies that the County Executive shall work with the IPRTF/LJC to develop an Implementation Plan with feedback from priority audiences and the general public; and

WHEREAS, the IPRTF/LJC conducted five (5) workshops to develop a list of project ideas in responding to the recommendations of the Justice Project Needs Assessment; and

WHEREAS, in Spring 2023, seven (7) focus groups and an additional twenty (20) surveys provided feedback from priority audiences including people with lived experience in the criminal justice system, Lummi Nation members, Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) individuals, and Latinx/Hispanic individuals; and

WHEREAS, the Justice Project Needs Assessment Implementation Plan (incorporated herein as Exhibit A) includes fifteen specific action items in the following five categories:

- Ensuring oversight, accountability, and transparency by
 - Establishing a Justice Project Oversight and Planning (JPOP) Committee,
 - Establishing a Finance Advisory Board, and
 - Collecting data to measure progress toward desired outcomes and developing a data dashboard
- Increasing Access to behavioral health services by
 - Addressing workforce shortages in behavioral health services,
 - Building systems to facilitate communication and coordination between organizations, and
 - Increasing the capacity of effective existing programs to divert people from incarceration
- Building the array of facilities needed to promote public health, safety, and justice by
 - Building a 23-hour crisis relief center,
 - Building a new jail and behavioral health treatment center, and
 - Identifying what additional facilities are needed to support people with behavioral health and substance use disorder issues at risk of incarceration

- Expanding the capacity of programs to reduce incarceration/re-incarceration by
 - Ensuring people leaving detention and treatment facilities have transportation to a safe destination,
 - Bolstering re-entry support services, and
 - Maintaining and expanding supportive housing programs for people with behavioral health issues and a history of incarceration
- Making system changes with local, regional, state, and federal partners by
 - Continuing to make changes in court systems,
 - Expediting access to competency restoration services, and
 - Advocating for a state waiver to allow use of Medicaid funds to pay for medical, dental, and behavioral health services for incarcerated individuals

WHEREAS, on June 12, 2023, the IPRTF, acting as the Law and Justice Council, endorsed the Justice Project Implementation Plan as ultimately approved by the County Executive and County Council; and

WHEREAS, Whatcom County is committed to promoting community safety, health, and justice, and aims to reduce crime and incarceration through early interventions and long-term investments in people and programs that support prevention, restoration, and accountability; and

WHEREAS, Whatcom County currently invests considerably in diversion, housing, and behavioral health services for individuals at high risk of incarceration, including but not limited to the establishment and ongoing funding of Mental Health Court, Recovery Court, the Ground-Level Response & Coordinated Engagement Program (GRACE), the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) Program, the Alternative Response Team (ART), transportation services for vulnerable individuals, behavioral health Sheriff deputies and co-responder programs, the City Gate Re-Entry Housing Program, and the Sun House mental health shelter program; and

WHEREAS, to accomplish the Justice Project Implementation Plan, the County Council will need to make significant investments from local funds, including but not limited to the proposed 2023 two-tenths of one percent public health, safety, and justice sales and use tax, the 2004 one-tenth of one percent Sales and Use Tax passed by voters, the County's existing general fund, the behavioral health fund, and housing funds; and

WHEREAS, in 2004, Whatcom County voters approved Proposition No. 1, authorizing a one-tenth of one percent jail facilities sales and use tax under RCW 82.14.350 "to be used solely for costs associated with financing, design, acquisition, construction, equipping, operating, maintaining, remodeling, repairing, reequipping and improvement of jail facilities that house inmates being held, charged, or convicted of misdemeanor and felony acts"; and

WHEREAS, from 2005-2022, the jail facilities sales and use tax has collected approximately \$72 million, or about \$4 million per year on average; and

WHEREAS, from 2005-2022, the County has spent the revenue from the jail facilities sales and use tax on minimum security in-custody operations, alternative corrections operations, city jail credit, new jail project funding, jail controls debt service, and minimum-security jail funding; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the Whatcom County Council, moving forward, to continue to dedicate this voter approved one-tenth of one percent jail facilities sales and use tax to the construction and operations of a new jail, including jail-based behavioral health services; and

WHEREAS, significant additional investment is needed to uphold the County's commitment to promoting community safety, health, and justice; and

WHEREAS, RCW 82.14.450 authorizes counties and cities to submit an

The complete text for this ballot measure is continued on the next page



Whatcom County Proposition 2023-04 Public Health, Safety, and Justice Sales and Use Tax

authorizing proposition to the voters in order to impose a sales and use tax for criminal justice and other purposes; and

WHEREAS, at least one third of moneys collected under the authorized sales and use tax must be used for criminal justice purposes, fire protection purposes, or both; and

WHEREAS, RCW 82.14.450 defines "criminal justice purposes" as provided for in RCW 82.14.340, "such criminal justice purposes of mutual benefit include, but are not limited to, the construction, improvement, and expansion of jails, court facilities, juvenile justice facilities, and services with ancillary benefits to the civil justice system"; and

WHEREAS, money received by a county under RCW 82.14.450 must be shared between the county and the cities as follows: 60 percent must be retained by the county and 40 percent must be distributed on a per capita basis to cities in the county; and

WHEREAS, in 2005, Whatcom County voters approved a one-tenth of one percent sales tax under RCW 82.14.450 for Emergency Medical Services and criminal justice purposes; and

WHEREAS, Whatcom County intends to utilize the remainder of its revenue collection authority under RCW 82.14.450 to fulfill the commitments in the Justice Project Implementation Plan; and

WHEREAS, Whatcom County and cities within Whatcom County have a shared interest in the criminal justice system as well as revenue collected under RCW 82.14.450 and therefore require a structure for collaboration on an ongoing basis; and

WHEREAS, on June 6th, 2023, the Whatcom County Council received a letter from the mayors of Whatcom County's seven cities recognizing their cities' role and responsibility in supporting this effort, collectively calling on the County to place the sales tax measure on the November ballot; and

WHEREAS, the mayors of the Whatcom County cities requested that the County include specific provisions in this ordinance to eliminate booking restrictions upon the opening of a new jail facility, to authorize facility expansion to provide for additional bed capacity when and if it reaches 85% operational capacity, to identify potential cost-sharing mechanisms for both jail facility construction and design, and to develop a funding strategy that includes opportunities for federal and state appropriations and grants to support the need for increased behavioral health spending; and

WHEREAS, on June 9th, 2023, the Whatcom County Council and Whatcom County Executive received a letter from the City of Bellingham supporting the Implementation Plan and making recommendations to improve the Plan and this ordinance. Those recommendations include but are not limited to increasing accountability, transparency and oversight as well as ensuring a parity of commitment between public health facilities and incarceration facilities. The letter also stated that "the City of Bellingham is prepared to support increased behavioral health facilities and programming subject to new revenue from passage of the ballot measure"; and

WHEREAS, in order to provide funding for costs associated with financing, design, construction, maintenance, and operations of the County jail, and public health, safety, and justice facilities and services, as determined by the Justice Project Implementation Plan, it is deemed necessary and advisable for Whatcom County to submit a ballot proposition to the voters for authorization to impose an additional local sales and use tax of two-tenths of one percent (0.002 or 20 cents per \$100), as authorized by RCW 82.14.450; and

WHEREAS, following passage of a voter-approved proposition for a sales and use tax, the County intends to use a portion of the tax revenue as allowed by the Sales and Use Tax Ordinance to issue general obligation bonds for the planning, design and construction costs of the facilities identified in the Justice Project Implementation Plan; and

WHEREAS, the life of the bonds of the jail and behavioral health facilities may be no more than thirty (30) years, and may expire on or around December 31, 2055. Once the total capital financing costs of the jail and behavioral health facilities have been paid for, the County Council shall consider, at that time, the repeal of one-half of the two-tenths of one percent sales and use tax.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Whatcom County Council that:

SECTION 1 – AUTHORIZATION OF SALES AND USE TAX: a ballot proposition shall be submitted to the qualified electors of Whatcom County pursuant to RCW 82.14.450 to authorize the County Council to fix and impose a local sales and use tax of two-tenths of one percent (0.002 or 20 cents for every \$100) to provide funding for public health, safety, and justice facilities and services, including a new County jail, behavioral health, substance use disorder treatment, supportive housing, public safety, and other criminal justice facilities and services as identified and prioritized in the Justice Project Implementation Plan.

SECTION 2 - DEPOSIT OF PROCEEDS: If the Proposition is approved, all of the County's portion of the proceeds will be deposited into the new Health, Safety & Justice Fund. Any interest generated by the new Health, Safety & Justice Fund shall benefit the same.

SECTION 3 - SALES AND USE TAX PURPOSE: The purpose of the Sales and Use Tax is to provide funds for costs associated with public health, safety, and justice facilities and services, including a new County jail, behavioral health, supportive housing, public safety, and other criminal justice facilities and services in accordance with the Justice Project Implementation Plan.

The primary purpose of initial expenditures of the proceeds shall be to construct a jail and behavioral health facilities needed to promote public health and safety. Proceeds shall also support expansion of incarceration reduction programs, access to behavioral health services, re-entry services, supportive housing, diversion, and accountability measures to monitor progress and inform future planning.

SECTION 4 - ELIGIBLE EXPENDITURES: The Whatcom County Council hereby adopts the Justice Project Implementation Plan (Exhibit A). Funds collected under this sales and use tax may be used for any expense consistent with the Implementation Plan, as adopted or as may be amended consistent with Sections 3 and 7, or future implementation plans adopted by the Whatcom County Council. Cities within Whatcom County with a 2023 population less than 20,000 people may use proceeds from this sales and use tax for any public health, safety, and justice purpose, including but not limited to municipal public safety expenditures, and which use shall not be limited or restricted by the provisions and guidance of the Implementation Plan.

SECTION 5 - INTERJURISDICTIONAL AND STAKEHOLDER COORDINATION:

If this sales and use tax is approved by the voters:

1. The Whatcom County Council requests the Whatcom County Executive to develop and enter into a long-term agreement with the Whatcom County cities governing the distribution of sales and use tax revenue collected. This agreement shall be executed by the County and the cities no later than June 1, 2024. The Executive shall endeavor to develop an agreement that:

- a. Acknowledges that all tax proceeds will be used for mutually beneficial public health, safety, and justice facilities and services, and
- b. Provides adequate funding to accomplish the projects as established in the Justice Project Implementation Plan, such as construction of a new jail and behavioral health facilities and maximizes utilization of the remainder of sales and use





**Whatcom County
Proposition 2023-04
Public Health, Safety, and Justice Sales and Use Tax**

- tax proceeds for investments in behavioral health, re-entry, supportive housing, and diversion facilities and services, and
- c. Acknowledges the cities' request to eliminate booking restrictions through the construction of a new, appropriately-sized jail facility based on a fair analysis of jail use, bookings, and population growth, taking into consideration strategic investments to avoid unnecessary incarceration; identifies and develops a mechanism for additional bed capacity if the facility reaches 85% of operational capacity (defined by national standards for a period of eight of the past twelve months); establishes collaborative protocols to utilize other county or regional jails to accommodate the bed needs of the County and cities when needed; and, in a last case scenario, relies on judicial authority to implement booking restriction, and
 - d. Allows for cost-effective terms of bonding for the construction of the jail and behavioral health facilities by including a sharing of the first four to six years of sales tax revenue to reduce the bond size. In subsequent years, a minimum of 50% of the ongoing county-wide Public Health, Safety, and Justice sales and use tax revenue will be used for projects as prioritized in the Justice Project Implementation Plan, such as the construction and operation of behavioral health facilities serving populations outside of the County jail, expansion of incarceration reduction programs, increasing access to community-based behavioral health and substance use disorder treatment services, re-entry programs, supportive housing, diversion programs, and accountability measures that monitor progress and inform future planning, and
 - e. Recognizes the County and cities' goal to allow the public safety tax allocation to be consistent with RCW 82.14.450(6) as soon as reasonably possible.
2. The Whatcom County Council requests the Whatcom County Executive to include in the long-term agreement with the Whatcom County cities the development of a Finance Advisory Board, which shall provide financial oversight of the funds collected from this sales and use tax and make recommendations on the finance and operations of the jail, behavioral health, and supportive housing facilities and services, aligned with a population health report on public health and safety. County Council shall appoint members to the Finance Advisory Board. The Advisory Board shall consist of the Whatcom County Executive, one Whatcom County Councilmember, the Whatcom County Sheriff, the Mayor of Bellingham, one Bellingham City Councilmember, one elected representative from the remaining cities within Whatcom County, two elected representatives from federally recognized tribes within Whatcom County, one municipal law enforcement representative, the chair(s) of the IPRTF/LJC, one individual with lived experience in the criminal justice system, and one representative of the behavioral health system. Meetings of the Board shall be subject to the Open Public Meetings Act.
 3. The IPRTF/LJC shall advise the County and cities on policy matters related to law and justice. The IPRTF/LJC shall participate in the development of a population health report such as the Community Health Assessment that includes a public health and safety component. This report shall be developed in collaboration with the local community health advisory board as defined by RCW 70.46.140 and the local Community Health Improvement Plan process. The IPRTF/LJC shall establish a Justice Project Oversight and Planning (JPOP) Committee that includes a balanced membership ensuring fair representation of BIPOC communities, service providers, and people with lived experience. The JPOP membership

shall consist of the Whatcom County Executive, one Whatcom County Councilmember, the Whatcom County Sheriff, the Mayor of Bellingham, one Bellingham City Councilmember, one public defender, one elected representative from the remaining cities within Whatcom County, at least one representative from each federally recognized tribe within Whatcom County, two criminal legal system utilizers with preference for formerly incarcerated and BIPOC individuals, one community-based behavioral health provider, one community-based treatment provider, one reentry specialist, one paramedic from EMS, one recovery subject matter expert, one youth representative such as from teen court programs, one supportive housing subject matter expert, one representative from the Racial Equity Commission, and the chairs of the IPRTF/LJC. With guidance from the JPOP Committee, the IPRTF/LJC shall coordinate with the Finance Advisory Board to monitor the progress of the Implementation Plan and provide a written report of progress towards Plan goals annually to the Advisory Board and County Council. The IPRTF/LJC and JPOP Committee shall provide recommendations for plan updates a minimum of every five years. The Whatcom County Council and Whatcom County Executive shall provide the resources needed for the IPRTF/LJC to fulfill its planning, community consultation, and oversight charge.

4. The Whatcom County Council directs the IPRTF/LJC to evaluate representation of BIPOC communities and people with criminal justice lived experience in its membership and to update membership, as needed, to ensure adequate representation.
5. The IPRTF/LJC shall further consult BIPOC communities, service providers, and people with criminal justice lived experience in the progress of the Implementation Plan and future planning efforts. Further, the Whatcom County Executive, County Council, and the IPRTF/LJC shall consult with the Whatcom Racial Equity Commission on progress and planning efforts, particularly as it relates to data gathered on racially disparate impacts in the Whatcom County criminal justice system, and recommendations regarding elimination of barriers to public participation.

SECTION 6 - AUTHORITY TO BOND: If approved, the County may issue general obligation bonds to finance planning, design and construction of a jail and behavioral health and supportive housing facilities.

SECTION 7 - INCARCERATION PREVENTION AND REDUCTION INVESTMENTS:

1. Whatcom County will continue to make initial and ongoing investments - using a combination of proceeds from this sales and use tax and other local, state, and federal funds - in Justice Project Implementation Plan projects that increase access to community-based behavioral health services, substance use disorder treatment, re-entry services, supportive housing, diversion, and other incarceration reduction programs. Investments will begin in 2023 and occur concurrently with the planning and construction of a new jail facility and behavioral health treatment center.
2. The Whatcom County Council requests the Whatcom County Executive to coordinate with the Whatcom County cities, the Washington State Legislature, community-based providers, the Finance Advisory Board, and the IPRTF/LJC to maximize resources, build capacity, and align plans in order to accomplish such projects.
3. The Whatcom County Council intends to provide sufficient budgetary authority to accomplish such projects and requests the Executive to include such expenses in relevant biennial and supplemental budgets and budget amendments as appropriate.

SECTION 8 -SUBSEQUENT IMPLEMENTATION PLANS AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN AMENDMENTS:

1. No less than every two years, the Whatcom County Executive shall



**Whatcom County
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coordinate with the IPRTF/LJC and Finance Advisory Board to update the Implementation Plan with a detailed Spending Plan for the public health, safety, and justice tax, that adheres to the terms of this ordinance. The spending plan may not impede the County's ability to pay debt service on facility bonds issued against the tax.

- No less than every five years, the Whatcom County Executive shall coordinate with the IPRTF/LJC and Finance Advisory Board to update the Justice Project Implementation Plan based on an analysis of data collected, measurements for outcomes and efficacy of the current Plan, and in alignment with a population health report such as the Community Health Assessment, as well as cost estimates, timelines, and gaps in resources needed to reach community health targets. The IPRTF/LJC shall transmit the Implementation Plan to the Whatcom County Council for approval.
- Implementation plans must be consistent with Section 3 - Sales and Use Tax Purpose and may not impede the County's ability to pay debt service on facility bonds issued against this tax.
- This language is not intended to limit the Whatcom County Council's authority to amend the Implementation Plan through ordinance at any time.

SECTION 9 - OVERSIGHT, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND TRANSPARENCY:

- The IPRTF/LJC shall monitor progress toward the goals of the Justice Project Implementation Plan and shall provide a written and oral report no less than annually to the Finance Advisory Board and Whatcom County Council. This report shall detail steps taken to achieve the goals of the Implementation Plan; an assessment of progress toward goals; a review of resources needed to further meet goals; and recommendations for any necessary updates to the Implementation Plan and/or Spending Plan.
- The Finance Advisory Board shall monitor the spending of the Public Health, Safety, and Justice Tax and provide a written and oral report no less than annually to the IPRTF/LJC and Whatcom County Council on the financial performance of the fund and associated programs. This report shall detail fund revenue; expenditures by Implementation Plan project; resources beyond this sales and use tax invested in Implementation Plan projects; additional resources needed to further meet goals; and recommendations for any updates to the Implementation Plan and/or Spending Plan.
- Whatcom County shall contract with an independent third-party entity to conduct an evaluation of the Public Health, Safety, and Justice Sales and Use Tax, and the process and progress of the Implementation Plan, including an analysis of data collected, measurements for outcomes and efficacy, and alignment with a population health report such as the Community Health Assessment. This audit will occur ten years after approval of this sales and use tax levy.
- In the case that the capacity expansion (an increase in the number of beds or cells) is considered for the new jail facility, a variety of factors shall be examined including, but not limited to, population growth, operational capacity, success of diversion, reentry, and housing programs, changes in state law or court rules affecting

pretrial detention and sentencing, and other factors as listed in the Justice Project Implementation Plan. Any plans for expansion shall include a robust and inclusive community engagement process and be approved by the County Council.

SECTION 10 - BALLOT PROPOSITION SUBMITTAL: The County Auditor shall cause notice of the proposed proposition to be published in accordance with the state constitution and general law and shall submit to the qualified electors of the County the proposition hereinafter set forth on the ballot of the county-wide general election to be held on November 7, 2023. The Clerk of the Council shall certify that proposition to the County Auditor in substantially the following form:

WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON
PROPOSITION NUMBER 2023- _____

PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY, AND JUSTICE SALES AND USE TAX
The Whatcom County Council passed Ordinance No. 2023 - 39 concerning funding for public health, safety, and justice facilities and services. If approved, this proposition would authorize a sales and use tax of two-tenths of one percent (20 cents per \$100) for costs associated with a new County jail, behavioral health, supportive housing, public safety, and other criminal justice facilities and services, as authorized by RCW 82.14.450. Should this proposition be approved?

____ Yes
____ No

SECTION 11 - CORRECTIONS AND EXPLANATORY STATEMENT: The Prosecuting Attorney is authorized to make such minor adjustments to the wording of this proposition as may be required that do not change its substantive meaning and are consistent with the intent of this ordinance, and the Prosecuting Attorney shall prepare an explanatory statement based on this ordinance for use in the Voters Pamphlet.

SECTION 12 - AMENDMENTS AND SEVERABILITY: If the ballot measure proposed herein passes by a majority vote, the sales and use tax authorized must be imposed in compliance with the terms of RCW 82.14. Provided that it is consistent with state law, the Council may, through its inherent authority, otherwise amend this ordinance if it determines that circumstances warrant such amendment. If any provision of this ordinance or its application to any person or circumstance is determined to be invalid, the remainder of the ordinance or its application to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected.

ADOPTED this 11th day of July, 2023.

ATTEST: Dana Brown-Davis, Clerk of the Council

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL, WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON:
Barry Buchanan, Council Chair

APPROVED AS TO FORM: Karen Frakes, Chief Civil Deputy Prosecutor
Approved

Satpal Sidhu, County Executive

*Exhibit A for this resolution can be found at:
<https://www.whatcomcounty.us/3947/2023-Ballot-Resolutions>



City of Bellingham Proposition 2023-02 Greenways 5 Levy

Language on the Ballot:

The Bellingham City Council adopted Resolution No. 2023-15 concerning a property tax to fund greenways, park facilities, and trails. This proposition would replace a Greenways levy for acquisition, development, climate resiliency, and maintenance of greenways, open space, urban trees, parks, park facilities, and trails, creating a more equitable and climate resilient community, by authorizing a \$0.41 per \$1,000.00 of assessed value increase (to a \$1.55/\$1,000.00 total rate) for collection in 2024 (the 2024 amount to be used to compute limitations for nine succeeding years, as allowed under RCW 84.55).

Should this proposition be approved? Yes/No

Explanatory Statement:

The Greenways 5 Levy will replace an existing City of Bellingham levy expiring at the end of 2023. Levy proceeds will be allocated between property acquisition, development, climate resiliency, and maintenance, for greenways, open space, wildlife habitat and corridors, urban trees, parks, park facilities, and trails. Levy proceeds will be used to create an equitable and climate resilient Greenways system consistent with the City of Bellingham Greenways Strategic Plan, Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan, Habitat Restoration Technical Assessment, and Urban Forestry Management Plan. The funds will also be used for administrative and implementation costs incurred by the Greenways program.

Statement For:

Vote Yes to replace a popular property tax measure our community has approved since 1990 to fund our Greenways.

The visionary Greenways program expresses our community's desire to incorporate trails, urban forests, parks, community gardens, wildlife habitat, and open spaces into the fabric of our lives and that of our growing City. Our Greenways program has acquired or developed beloved public places such as the Taylor Street Dock, Cordata Community Park, Squalicum Creek Park, Whatcom Creek Trail, Fairhaven Village Green, and Galbraith Mountain. Bellingham has become defined by our Greenways.

This levy will create parks and trails, fund the development and restoration of acquired sites, and ensure maintenance of existing sites. Voting Yes ensures the continued support and expansion of our Greenways but this levy is more than a continuation of the program. Greenways 5 emphasizes *equity* to balance our parks and trails system to serve everyone, *urban trees* to create a healthy and robust urban forest, and *climate resiliency* to ensure our Greenways are adapted to future climate changes to continue to provide service and comfort to our community. Each vote for the Greenways Levy is a vote of confidence in ourselves and our community. Please vote Yes.

Rebuttal of Statement Against:

Greenways and indoor recreational facilities are both necessary for our community to thrive, but they are not exclusive – we can have both. This levy proposal carefully considers the costs to achieve the Greenways program goals. Equitable indoor facilities are important, but they are outside the scope of Greenways. A vote against this Greenways levy is not a vote for more indoor recreational facilities. Indoor facilities need additional planning, community input, and consideration of funding sources.

Statement For prepared by:

Neil Schaner, Susan Pollard, and Jack Weiss

Statement Against:

During the past 33 years, the Greenways Program has been successful in maintaining and creating outdoor recreation opportunities in Bellingham. It is time for the city to shift their attention to year-round, equitable, indoor recreation.

We need modern, energy efficient, public (unlike the YMCA), equitable facilities like pools, ice rinks, senior centers, and community centers. These facilities should be thought of as parks. The retreat of government and privatization of swimming pools and recreation has hurt minority groups the hardest. Swimming and other forms of indoor recreation have become exclusive activities due to the lack of public facilities, forcing the community to seek indoor activities outside of Whatcom County. The \$36M Greenways levy collected from 2017 to 2022 could have funded a new pool or community center. Every family should be able to have access to swim lessons, swim teams, lap swims, and water exercise classes for health and wellness. That is not currently the case.

We need to look at recreational facilities and programs, with the goal of providing well rounded services equitably across our community.

I hope that the Greenways Program can continue the good work it has done, while also finally focusing on our public indoor parks.

Rebuttal of Statement For:

The Greenways levy doesn't help to provide equitable, diverse recreation opportunities for our community. Our growing city desires public, accessible, indoor recreation opportunities. Public transit systems have more stops at fixed facilities, making them more accessible than trail systems and open-air parks. It's time to shift some of the taxpayer dollars to climate friendly, equitable indoor recreation. Let's go back to the drawing board on this levy. Vote No.

Statement Against prepared by:

Brad Jones, Chris Fuhrman, and Linda Murphy





City of Bellingham Proposition 2023-02 Greenways 5 Levy

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-15

A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE SUBMISSION TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF BELLINGHAM AT AN ELECTION TO BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 7, 2023 OF A PROPOSITION AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO INCREASE ITS REGULAR PROPERTY TAX LEVY ABOVE THE LIMIT ESTABLISHED IN RCW 84.55.010 TO FUND THE ACQUISITION, DEVELOPMENT, AND MAINTENANCE OF GREENWAYS, OPEN SPACE, WILDLIFE HABITAT AND CORRIDORS, URBAN TREES, PARKS, PARK FACILITIES, AND TRAILS IN ORDER TO CREATE A MORE EQUITABLE AND CLIMATE RESILIENT COMMUNITY.

WHEREAS, Bellingham residents approved Greenways levies in 1990, 1997, 2006, and 2016, funding the acquisition and development of over 3,200 acres of parks and open spaces and over 80 miles of trails, the preservation and enhancement of critical habitat and wildlife corridors, and other projects; and

WHEREAS, Greenways levy funds leverage many millions of dollars in matching funds and donations to expand the community benefits of Greenways; and

WHEREAS, the Greenways IV levy expires at the end of 2023, and voters must decide how to shape the future of the City's Greenways system and whether to continue the legacy of funding Greenways; and

WHEREAS, the City adopted the 2022 Greenways Strategic Plan identifying needed greenway, park, and trail expansion and development projects and additional land acquisition needs for parks, open space, and critical trail connections to expand the Greenways system; and

WHEREAS, the City adopted the 2020 Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan, demonstrating the ongoing need and public support for dedicated funding to create and preserve a healthy, equitable, inclusive, and resilient open space, park, trail, and recreation system; and

WHEREAS, protecting, restoring, and enhancing habitat is an integral element of Greenways, and the City completed a Habitat Restoration Technical Assessment demonstrating the need for additional ecosystem protection, enhancement, and restoration in the City; and

WHEREAS, the adverse effects of climate change are apparent and growing, and the Greenways program mitigates climate change impacts and increases community climate resilience in support of the City's adopted Climate Protection Action Plan; and

WHEREAS, urban trees provide habitat, health benefits, and climate resiliency, the City is creating an Urban Forestry Management Plan, and Greenways funds should be one eligible source to assist in achieving the plan's goals; and

WHEREAS, undeveloped rights-of-way hold significant potential to provide trail connections, and identifying and developing those connections will enhance the City's trail system; and

WHEREAS, community gardens provide benefits consistent with Greenways program goals, and maintenance and expansion of community gardens is an appropriate use of Greenways funds; and

WHEREAS, since the creation of the Greenways program, the Greenways Advisory Committee has provided dedicated citizen oversight of the use of Greenways levy funds, ensuring well-informed decision making, accountability, and maintenance of public trust; and

WHEREAS, numerous citizens, local organizations, and civic leaders support the continuation of a levy to fund the development, improvement, acquisition, and maintenance of existing and future City Greenways; and

WHEREAS, the City recognizes the need to provide funds for a Greenways program and finds it necessary to institute a levy and use the proceeds of a temporary increase of the regular property tax levy rate of the City as authorized by RCW 84.55.050; and

WHEREAS, the Council has determined to submit to voters the question of whether to levy up to a total regular property tax levy rate of \$1.55

per thousand of assessed valuation, to provide up to \$0.41 per \$1,000 assessed valuation for Greenway purposes over a period of ten years; and WHEREAS, if approved, the proposed levy will not relieve developers or others from obligations otherwise existing in applicable Federal, State, County, and local development, subdivision, critical areas, and shoreline laws, regulations, and ordinances; and

WHEREAS, RCW 84.55.050 requires that the question of whether the City may collect such a levy be submitted to the qualified voters of the City for ratification or rejection.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BELLINGHAM:

Section 1. Findings.

- A. The general fund of the City of Bellingham has neither sufficient resources to provide for the acquisition of additional greenways, open space, wildlife habitat and corridors, urban trees, parks, park facilities, and trails, nor sufficient funds for the development, maintenance, and improvement of those and existing City park properties, based on the needs described in the City's Greenways Strategic Plan and Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan.
B. The City Council recognizes the need to provide funds for the improvement, development, acquisition, and maintenance of the City's existing and future Greenways system.
C. The City Council desires to support the Greenways program by submitting to the qualified voters of the City a fifth Greenways levy ("Greenways 5 Levy") to replace the current Greenways IV levy and is based upon a reduced Greenways levy rate of up to \$0.41 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation.
D. The City Council finds and declares it is in the best interests of the City that its voters have an opportunity to vote on the question of whether to provide funding to acquire, improve, develop, and maintain the existing and future Greenways system from an increase in the City's regular property tax levy above the limitations established in RCW 84.55.010 for a period commencing with collections in the year 2024 and thereafter for nine succeeding years for this limited purpose.
E. The City Council finds and declares it is in the best interests of the City that its voters have an opportunity to vote on the question of whether a levy for such purposes shall be instituted to collect approximately \$8.6 million per year over a period of ten years.
F. The City Council finds and declares it is in the best interests of the City that the Greenways 5 Levy proposition should be submitted to the qualified voters of the City regarding whether the City shall levy regular property taxes above the limitation established in RCW 84.55.010 for their ratification or rejection at a special election on November 7, 2023.

Section 2. Use of Funds.

Proceeds and interest on the proceeds from the additional tax levied pursuant to Proposition No. 2023-# submitted to the voters pursuant to this resolution shall be applied to acquire, improve, develop, and maintain greenways, open space, wildlife habitat and corridors, urban trees, parks, park facilities, and trails in order to create a more equitable and climate resilient community. The below described allocations and program components are guidelines for using Greenways 5 levy funds in implementation of the Greenways program over the duration of this levy:

- A. Property Acquisition: A minimum of 35% of the proceeds and interest on the proceeds of the levy are intended to be dedicated to land acquisition including the completion of trail connections as designated in the Greenways Strategic Plan and the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan.



City of Bellingham Proposition 2023-02 Greenways 5 Levy

- B. Development: A minimum of 20% of the proceeds and interest on the proceeds of the levy are intended to be dedicated to the development of properties purchased by the City consistent with the Greenways Strategic Plan and the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan.
- C. Climate Resiliency: A minimum of 15% of the proceeds and interest on the proceeds of the levy are intended to be dedicated to reducing emissions and increasing the climate resiliency of City park properties and facilities based on methods supported by peer-reviewed research.
- D. Maintenance and Operations: A minimum of 20% of the proceeds and interest on the proceeds of the levy are intended to be dedicated to ongoing maintenance, operation, and capital replacement needs of City park properties and facilities.
- E. Funds not utilized pursuant to subsections A, B, C or D of this section may be used, consistent with the purposes of the Greenways program as set forth herein.

The City Council shall determine, or provide for the determination of, the scope, timing, order, components, and manner of funding the Greenways program. The City Council shall allocate levy proceeds to the program, and among program components, as it determines is in the best interests of the City and consistent with greenways, open space, wildlife habitat and corridors, urban trees, parks, park facilities, and trails acquisition, development, climate resiliency and maintenance purposes.

Section 3. Election-Ballot Title.

- A. The City Council requests that the Auditor of Whatcom County, as *ex officio* supervisor of elections, call and conduct a special election in the City on November 7, 2023, for the purpose of submitting to the qualified voters of the City for their approval or rejection Proposition No. 2023-# authorizing the City to increase its regular property tax levy by up to \$0.41 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation on all of the taxable property (to a total 2024 levy rate of \$1.55 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation) within the City, for collection in 2024 and thereafter for nine succeeding years together with annual increase thereon as allowed under RCW 84.55, to be used for City greenways, open space, wildlife habitat and corridors, urban trees, parks, park facilities, and trails acquisition, development, climate resiliency, and maintenance as set forth in this resolution. The 2024 levy amount would be used as the basis to calculate subsequent levy limits for the additional nine year period (through 2033) of the levy lid lift. The taxes authorized by this proposition will be in addition to the maximum amount of regular property taxes the City would have been limited to by RCW 84.55.010, as may be amended from time to time, in the absence of voter approval under this resolution, including all other authorized lid lifts.
- B. The City Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to certify to the County Auditor of Whatcom County, Washington, as *ex officio* supervisor of elections, prior to August 1, 2023, a copy of this resolution and the propositions to be submitted at that election in the form of a ballot title in substantially the following form pursuant to RCW 29A.36.071:

**CITY OF BELLINGHAM
PROPOSITION NO. 2023-#
GREENWAYS 5 LEVY**

The Bellingham City Council adopted Resolution No. 2023-15 concerning a property tax to fund greenways, park facilities, and trails. This proposition would replace a Greenways levy for acquisition, development, climate resiliency, and maintenance of greenways, open space, urban trees, parks, park facilities, and trails, creating a more equitable and climate resilient community, by authorizing a \$0.41 per \$1,000 of assessed value increase (to a \$1.55/\$1,000 total rate) for collection in 2024 (the 2024 amount to be used to compute limitations for nine succeeding years, as allowed under RCW 84.55). Should this proposition be approved?

YES []
NO []

Section 4. Minor Adjustments. For purposes of receiving notice of the exact language of the ballot proposition required by RCW 29A.36.080, the City Council hereby designates the City Attorney as the individual to whom such notice should be provided. The City Attorney is authorized to approve changes to the ballot title, if any, deemed necessary by the Auditor. The City Clerk is authorized to make necessary clerical corrections to this resolution including, but not limited to, the correction of scrivener's or clerical errors, references, numbering, section/subsection numbers, and any reference thereto.

The proper City officials are authorized to perform such duties as are necessary or required by law to submit the question of whether the regular property tax shall be increased, as provided in this resolution, to the electors at the November 7, 2023 election.

Section 5. Exemption. If the ballot proposition set forth herein is approved by the voters, as authorized by RCW 84.36.381, qualifying senior citizens, disabled veterans, and other people with disabilities (as defined in RCW 84.36.381) shall be exempt from the tax increase resulting from such levy lid lift.

Section 6. Local Voters' Pamphlet Authorized. The preparation and distribution of a local voters' pamphlet providing information on the foregoing ballot measure is hereby authorized. The pamphlet shall include an explanatory statement in substantially the form set forth below and arguments advocating approval and disapproval of the ballot measure, if any. In accordance with RCW 29A.32.280, the arguments advocating approval and rejection of the ballot measure shall be prepared by committees appointed by the City Council. Each committee shall be composed of not more than three persons; however, a committee may seek the advice of any person or persons. The committee advocating approval shall be composed of persons known to favor the ballot measure, and the committee advocating rejection shall be composed of persons known to oppose the ballot measure.

Explanatory Statement (100-word limit)

The Greenways 5 Levy will replace an existing City of Bellingham levy expiring at the end of 2023. Levy proceeds will be allocated between property acquisition, development, climate resiliency, and maintenance, for greenways, open space, wildlife habitat and corridors, urban trees, parks, park facilities, and trails. Levy proceeds will be used to create an equitable and climate resilient Greenways system consistent with the City of Bellingham Greenways Strategic Plan, Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan, Habitat Restoration Technical Assessment, and Urban Forestry Management Plan. The funds will also be used for administrative and implementation costs incurred by the Greenways program.

Section 7. Severability. If any provision of this resolution is declared by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, then such provision shall be null and void and shall be separable from the remaining provisions of this resolution and shall in no way affect the validity of the other provisions of this resolution or of any other ordinance or resolution, or of the levy or collection of the taxes authorized herein.

PASSED by the Council this 10th day of July, 2023.

Michael Lilliquist, Council President

APPROVED by me this 21 day of July, 2023.

Seth Fleetwood, Mayor

ATTEST:

Andy Asbjornsen, Finance Director

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

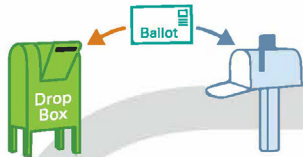
James Erb, Office of the City Attorney

Observe the election process in person or online!

Visit the Observer Resources webpage, www.whatcomcounty.us/3747/Observer-Resources, for access to the live webcams, dates and times for different activities to observe, and more.

Vote By Mail in Washington state

All eligible voters are sent a ballot at least 18 days before election.



Ballot has pre-paid postage and can be returned by U.S. mail or placed in an official ballot drop box. If mailed, must be postmarked by election day. Drop boxes are open until 8 p.m. on election day.



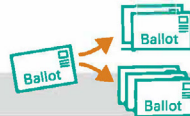
The security envelope or sleeve is put in a return envelope and signed. Voter may add email or phone number in case county needs to contact them.



Voter places marked ballot into a security envelope or sleeve.



Drop boxes are regularly emptied by teams of trained election staff. Ballots are tracked from collection through processing.



At processing facility ballots are sorted into batches. An image of the voter's signature is captured for verification.



Signature is checked against voter registration record. Voter is contacted by available means before processing to "cure" signature if it is missing or doesn't match the voter registration record.



Return envelope is opened and security envelope or sleeve is removed.



Voters can check their ballot status online. Allow 3-4 days for the system to post status updates.



When signature is verified, ballot is marked as "Accepted" in the VoteWA system and the voter is credited for participating, ensuring that if more than one ballot is returned, only one is counted.



Security envelope or sleeve is opened and ballot is removed for processing, resulting in secrecy of the vote.

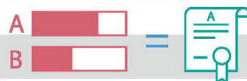


Ballot is reviewed for potential scanning issues like torn corners, then scanned and securely stored.



Scanners are not connected to any form of network or internet.

The election is complete, and preparations for the next election cycle begin.



Ballots continue to be processed, cured, and tabulated until certification.



At 8 p.m. on election night, ballots that have already been scanned are tabulated and results reported.



**City of Bellingham
Initiative 2023-01
Establishing a City Minimum Wage Above the State Minimum Wage**

Language on the Ballot:

City of Bellingham Initiative 2023-01 concerns establishing a City minimum wage above the State minimum wage. This measure would establish a City minimum wage that is \$1.00 above the State minimum wage on May 1, 2024, increasing to \$2.00 above the State minimum wage on May 1, 2025. The measure prohibits retaliation by employers against employees; establishes a private right of action for employees; gives the City access to work sites and records; and allows the City to issue civil infractions and order injunctive relief including reinstatement, restitution, and payment of back wages.

Should this measure be enacted into law? Yes/No

Explanatory Statement:

This measure would establish a higher minimum wage in the City of Bellingham than the Washington State Minimum Wage set under RCW 49.46. The measure would set the Bellingham minimum wage at \$1.00 above the applicable State minimum wage on May 1, 2024. The Bellingham minimum wage would increase to \$2.00 above the State minimum wage on May 1, 2025, and be adjusted on January 1st of each subsequent year to be \$2.00 above the State minimum wage. The measure creates a private right of action, prohibits retaliation against employees, and violations would constitute civil infractions enforced by the City.

Statement For:

Bellingham workers need a raise. At the current minimum wage of \$15.74/hour, workers struggle to pay the rent and make ends meet. The MIT Living Wage Calculator finds that a living wage in Bellingham in 2023 for a single adult with no dependents is \$17.30/hour. When we expect workers, especially those with children, to live paycheck to paycheck, our local economy and community are undermined. A modest increase of \$2 in the minimum wage in Bellingham by 2025 will improve the living standards of minimum-wage workers by putting an additional \$4160/year in their pockets. When wages go up, the community benefits through stimulated consumer spending, business support, and economic growth. A local minimum wage set at \$2 above the state minimum wage by 2025 will help workers afford to stay and spend in our city.

Vote Yes to support essential workers and a strong local economy.

Rebuttal of Statement Against:

Empirical studies in dozens of jurisdictions find employment levels, business failure rates, local prices, non-profit staffing and scheduled hours *are not affected* by small and moderate minimum wage increases. Instead, local economies benefit. Inflation in sectors like housing and energy has hit working people the hardest. In 2016, Bellingham *voted three-to-one* to raise the minimum wage. Essential workers need your support again. Learn more: <https://www.communityfirstwhatcom.org/>

Statement For prepared by:

Devan Fischer, Seth Mangold, and Betsy Pernotto

Statement Against:

It's a proven fact: When well-intended mandates are placed on local small businesses and nonprofits without consideration of broader economic realities, negative consequences occur. While increasing the minimum wage is meant to address the affordability challenges of workers earning starting wages during a time of high inflation, inflation affects everyone - and *this proposal will increase prices for everyone*.

Inflation has recently forced double-digit increases in labor, occupancy, energy, and supplies onto nonprofits and local small businesses. Because of the tight labor market, many nonprofits and small businesses are already paying starting wages above the state's minimum wage, which exceeded \$15/hour in January after growing by \$2/hr in three years.

As small businesses continue to strike the balance between resolving their pandemic related expenses and impacts, keeping their prices affordable, and keeping their businesses viable, a \$2/hr wage increase on top of the state's growing minimum wage will only lead to price increases in basic goods and services and/or fewer hours for employees. Nonprofits will be forced to reduce hours for employees and/or the services they provide.

Please reject the idea that mandates on local small businesses and nonprofits should be set at the ballot box, regardless of consequences.

Rebuttal of Statement For:

Costs for local families have skyrocketed. If this initiative passes, *Your* groceries, restaurant meals, childcare, and other goods and services will cost *You* even more. Local small businesses say they will increase prices, reduce hours, and raise most employees by \$2/hr. for equity. This cost will be passed on to *You* if local businesses and non-profits are to remain viable. A one size fits all initiative is *not* how we address Bellingham's affordability. Vote No.

Statement Against prepared by:

Guy Occhiogrosso and Doug Engerman

The complete text for this ballot measure can be found on page 106

Statements For, Statements Against, and Rebuttals are the opinions of the authors and have not been checked for accuracy by any government agency.



**City of Bellingham
Initiative 2023-02
Rental Relocation Assistance Program for Tenants**

Language on the Ballot:

City of Bellingham Initiative 2023-02 concerns the adoption of a rental relocation assistance program for tenants. This measure would require landlords to provide written notice 120 days before increasing rent by more than 8% in a rolling 12-month period; require landlords to pay relocation assistance equal to three times the current fair market monthly rent for Bellingham or three times the tenant's existing monthly rate, whichever is higher, when increasing rent more than 8%, with limited exceptions; provide tenants receiving assistance a relocation period of 5 months; and authorize private actions and city enforcement.

Should this measure be enacted into law? Yes/No

Explanatory Statement:

This measure would create an economic displacement assistance mandate. Residential landlords who increase rent by more than 8% in a rolling 12-month period would be required to pay relocation assistance to their tenants equal to three times the current fair market monthly rent for a similarly sized apartment in Bellingham or three times the tenant's existing monthly rent, whichever is larger. The tenant would have 5 months from the date they receive the assistance to relocate. The measure creates a private cause of action, establishes an affirmative defense to eviction, and violations would constitute civil infractions enforced by the City.

Statement For:

For too many working families and retirees, extreme rent hikes mean losing their housing, savings, and stability. Since 2019, the number of homeless seniors has increased 141% in Bellingham. The housing crisis is getting worse, but targeted policy interventions can prevent the worst outcomes.

58% of Bellingham renting households are cost-burdened, especially vulnerable to losing their home to an extreme rent increase. The costs of securing new housing, including first and last month's rent, as well as a security deposit, exceed the savings of most renters. This Initiative, informed by successful implementation in other cities and subjected to expert legal review, protects those neighbors.

This initiative will apply only when rent is increased by an extreme amount, more than 8% in a single year. In those extreme cases, and only when a tenant vacates the unit, renters will be able to request and receive relocation assistance from their landlord. This policy provides relief for vulnerable tenants, so they can land on their feet after losing their home to an extreme rent hike, as well as a fair and balanced framework for landlords.

Vote Yes to prevent homelessness and protect retirees, working families, and all Bellingham renters.

Rebuttal of Statement Against:

It's crucial to differentiate between necessary adjustments and drastic hikes that push families out. *Even in extreme-inflation years, surveys find most small landlords raise rents by less than 5% or not at all.* Seattle and Portland already have similar laws, both with only positive outcomes. *Landlords imposing extreme increases*, as well as accruing equity and profit—not vulnerable renters and cash-strapped local governments—*can afford to prevent resulting homelessness.* communityfirstwhatcom.org.

Statement For prepared by:

Kerri Burnside, Peter C. Pihos, and J. Paige Heinen

Statement Against:

Tenants need solutions, not guaranteed rent increases. Initiative 2023-02, offering a short-term solution, will certainly harm tenants. Rental rates reflect housing costs: mortgage payments, utilities, insurance premiums, property taxes. Providers typically adjust rent to cover costs as increases occur, but this initiative forces providers to increase rent annually; building reserves while costs are low and spending when costs exceed 8%. When costs increase, Tenants pay higher rent. It's that simple. Additional regulations like this initiative cause landlords to raise rents to meet the regulatory burden.

Providers exceeding the 8% cap owe relocation costs to the tenant whether the tenant uses it or not! A tenant who does not use the funds within five months becomes indebted further to the landlord and, if the tenant does not reimburse, risks a lawsuit from the landlord.

We have witnessed increased water and sewer rates from the City, increased garbage rates from the City's contractor, and increased property taxes from the City and county. With climbing mortgage rates, costs in a year can exceed 8%, and limiting provider's ability to recoup costs and operate rental housing at a potential loss will only harm tenants in the long run. Protect tenants, reject Bellingham Initiative 2023-02.

Rebuttal of Statement For:

A "fair and balanced" initiative would not jeopardize a landlord's ability to recoup housing costs by implementing income limits but setting no limits on landlord expenses. The economic reality is that Initiative 2 means landlord losses. Our housing crisis results from decades of poor land use and zoning policy. Implementing a misguided initiative dictating how landlords set rental rates cannot compensate for poor housing decisions. This initiative protects no one. Vote "No" on Initiative Two.

Statement Against prepared by:

R. Perry Eskridge, in his personal capacity



**City of Bellingham
Initiative 2023-01
Establishing a City Minimum Wage Above the
State Minimum Wage**

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-17

**A RESOLUTION DEFERRING INITIATIVE NO. 2023-01 WHICH CONCERNS
RAISING THE MINIMUM WAGE TO THE VOTERS**

WHEREAS, a sufficient number of qualified electors of the City of Bellingham have proposed an initiative bill, previously assigned number 2023-01, which would establish a city minimum wage above the state minimum wage; and

WHEREAS, initiative bill no. 2023-01 would establish a City minimum wage that is \$1.00 above the State minimum wage on May 1, 2024, increasing to \$2.00 above the State minimum wage on May 1, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the bill would also prohibit retaliation by employers against employees; establish a private right of action for employees; give the City access to work sites and records; and allow the City to issue civil infractions and order injunctive relief including reinstatement, restitution, and payment of back wages; and

WHEREAS, the Charter and the Bellingham Municipal Code provide that City Council may enact the initiative bill, reject the initiative bill, reject the initiative bill and propose another bill dealing with the same subject, defer the initiative bill to the voters, or take no action on the initiative bill; and **WHEREAS**, the City Council considered Initiative No. 2023-01 during a regularly scheduled meeting on July 10, 2023, and moved to defer the bill to the voters in November; and

WHEREAS, RCW 29A.04.330 requires that the City Council pass a resolution requesting that the Whatcom County Auditor, as ex officio supervisor of elections, place Initiative No. 2023-01 on the November 7, 2023, ballot on or before the day of the primary election, i.e., August 1, 2023; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BELLINGHAM:

The City Council hereby defers Initiative No. 2023-01 which concerns raising the minimum wage to the voters.

The Finance Director or designee shall promptly deliver a copy of this resolution to the Whatcom County Auditor requesting that Initiative No. 2023-01 be submitted to the qualified electors of the City for approval or rejection at an election to be held on November 7, 2023, pursuant to the City Charter and the Bellingham Municipal Code.

City staff is authorized to take additional actions that may be required by the County Auditor to ensure that this measure is placed on the ballot in November.

PASSED by the Council this 24th day of July, 2023.

Michael Lilliquist, Council President

APPROVED by me this 26th day of July, 2023.

Seth Fleetwood, Mayor

ATTEST:

Andy Asbjornsen, Finance Director

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

James Erb, Office of the City Attorney

**City of Bellingham
Initiative 2023-02
Rental Relocation Assistance Program for
Tenants**

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-18

**A RESOLUTION DEFERRING INITIATIVE NO. 2023-02 WHICH CONCERNS
THE ADOPTION OF AN ECONOMIC DISPLACEMENT ASSISTANCE
MANDATE IN LANDLORD-TENANT RELATIONS TO THE VOTERS**

WHEREAS, a sufficient number of qualified electors of the City of Bellingham have proposed an initiative bill, previously assigned number 2023-02, which would establish an economic displacement assistance mandate (also referred to as relocation assistance) in landlord-tenant relations; and

WHEREAS, initiative bill no. 2023-02 would require landlords to provide written notice 120 days before increasing rent by more than 8% in a rolling 12-month period; require landlords to pay relocation assistance equal to three times the current fair market monthly rent for Bellingham or three times the tenant's existing monthly rate, whichever is higher, when increasing rent more than 8%, with limited exceptions; provide tenants receiving assistance a relocation period of 5 months; and authorize private actions and city enforcement; and

WHEREAS, the Charter and the Bellingham Municipal Code provide that City Council may enact the initiative bill, reject the initiative bill, reject the initiative bill and propose another bill dealing with the same subject, defer the initiative bill to the voters, or take no action on the initiative bill; and **WHEREAS**, the City Council considered Initiative No. 2023-02 during a regularly scheduled meeting on July 10, 2023, and moved to defer the bill to the voters in November; and

WHEREAS, RCW 29A.04.330 requires that the City Council pass a resolution requesting that the Whatcom County Auditor, as ex officio supervisor of elections, place Initiative No. 2023-02 on the November 7, 2023, ballot on or before the day of the primary election, i.e., August 1, 2023; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BELLINGHAM:

The City Council hereby defers Initiative No. 2023-02 which would establish a rental relocation assistance, also referred to as economic displacement relocation assistance, program for tenants to the voters.

The Finance Director or designee shall promptly deliver a copy of this resolution to the Whatcom County Auditor requesting that Initiative No. 2023-02 be submitted to the qualified electors of the City for approval or rejection at an election to be held on November 7, 2023, pursuant to the City Charter and the Bellingham Municipal Code.

City staff is authorized to take additional actions that may be required by the County Auditor to ensure that this measure is placed on the ballot in November.

PASSED by the Council this 24th day of July, 2023.

Michael Lilliquist, Council President

APPROVED by me this 26th day of July, 2023.

Seth Fleetwood, Mayor

ATTEST:

Andy Asbjornsen, Finance Director

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

James Erb, Office of the City Attorney



**Fire Protection District 5
Proposition 2023-03
Property Tax Levy For Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services**

<p>Language on the Ballot:</p> <p>The Board of Fire Protection District 5 adopted Resolution No. 2023-01 concerning a proposition to maintain and adequately fund District operations. This proposition would authorize the District to establish its regular property tax levy at \$1.14 per \$1,000.00 of assessed value to be assessed in 2023 and collected in 2024. The funds will maintain and improve fire protection and emergency medical services, replace apparatus, equipment and facilities and provide for firefighter safety. The maximum allowable levy in 2023 (collected in 2024) shall serve as the base for subsequent levy limitations as provided by RCW 84.55.</p> <p>Should this proposition be: Approved/Rejected</p>	<p>Explanatory Statement:</p> <p>Fire Protection District 5 provides emergency fire protection and medical services to its citizens. The maximum regular levy rate for Washington fire districts is \$1.50 per \$1,000.00 of assessed value. If approved by the voters, this proposition will authorize the District to establish its levy rate at \$1.14 per \$1,000.00 of assessed valuation in 2023 for collection in 2024. The District's Board of Commissioners determined that this proposition will provide funds necessary to maintain an effective level of services, fire fighter staffing, equipment and facilities in light of rising costs, rising demands and the continued growth of our community.</p>
<p>Statement For:</p> <p>I have attended the majority of the Fire District public meeting concerning the levy. I also attend the monthly Fire District meetings. Recently I sat with the Chief and on the 5th and talked through any additional questions that I had about the levy. His proposal and request for a levy is reasonable. He has control of the Fire District expenses, maintains his capital equipment in a ready conditions and has a realistic view of the future for the 5th Fire District. The 5th Fire District is an integral part of our community and has an excellent Chief and his request for funding is appropriate. I support the request for the Levy.</p> <p>Statement For prepared by: William Zidel</p>	<p>Statement Against:</p> <p>No Statement Submitted</p> <p>Statement Against prepared by: No Committee Formed</p>

**WHATCOM COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 5
RESOLUTION NO. 2023-01
RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE SUBMISSION OF LEVY
GENERAL ELECTION**

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF WHATCOM COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 5 PROVIDING FOR THE SUBMISSION TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE DISTRICT AT AN ELECTION TO BE HELD WITHIN THE DISTRICT ON NOVEMBER 7, 2023, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE STATE GENERAL ELECTION TO BE HELD ON THE SAME DATE, OF A PROPOSITION ESTABLISHING THE LEVY OF A PROPERTY TAX NOT TO EXCEED \$1.14 PER \$1,000.00 OF TRUE AND ASSESSED VALUATION SUBJECT TO OTHERWISE APPLICABLE STATUTORY LIMITATIONS.

Background: WHEREAS, it is the judgment of the Board of Commissioners of the District that it is essential and necessary for the protection of the health and life of the residents of the District that the fire and emergency medical services be provided by the District. WHEREAS, The Board of Commissioners has determined that the accelerated demands for, and increasing costs of, providing services will necessitate the expenditure of revenues for improved capital facilities and firefighter safety, additional apparatus, maintenance and operations in excess of those which can be provided by the District's regular tax revenue levied at the current rate of approximately \$.69 per \$1,000.00 of assessed valuation of taxable property within the District as limited by the 101% limitation. WHEREAS, The Board of Commissioners has determined that it is in the best interest of the District that the maximum allowable levy

authorized by this Resolution serve as the levy base for purposes of applying the limit factor established by RCW 84.55.010 in subsequent years.

Resolution: NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of Whatcom County Fire Protection District No. 5 Whatcom County, Washington as follows:

Section 1. It is necessary for the District to operate and maintain emergency fire and medical service vehicles, to acquire and improve station and other capital facilities and to retain properly trained personnel equipped with proper fire fighting and emergency medical equipment. The revenues generated by this lid lift will allow the District to cover the gap between inflation and the statutory one percent limit on increases to the District's budget to fund apparatus replacement and facility upgrades and to provide for investments in firefighter safety all of which are necessary to maintain and improve the level of fire protection, prevention, emergency medical services and the protection of life and property in the District.

Section 2. In order to provide the revenue adequate to pay the costs of maintaining and providing the services described in Section 1 and to assure the continuation and improvement of such services the District shall, in accordance with RCW 84.55.050, remove the one percent limitation on regular property taxes imposed by RCW 84.55.010, and levy beginning in 2023 and collect beginning in 2024, pursuant to RCW 52.16.130, RCW 52.16.140 and RCW 52.16.160, a general tax on taxable property within the District at a rate of \$1.14 per \$1,000.00 of assessed valuation subject to otherwise applicable statutory limits.



**Fire Protection District 5
Proposition 2023-03
Property Tax Levy For Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services**

Section 3. The amount levied in 2023 shall serve as the District's tax levy base for purposes of applying the limit factor established by RCW 84.55.010 in subsequent years.

Section 4. There shall be submitted to the qualified electors of the District for their ratification or rejection, at an election on November 7, 2023, in conjunction with the state general election to be held on the same date the question of whether or not the regular property tax levy of the District should be restored to \$1.14 per \$1,000.00 of true and assessed valuation, subject to otherwise applicable statutory limitations. The Board of Commissioners hereby requests the auditor of Whatcom County, as ex-officio Supervisor of Elections, to call such election, and to submit the following proposition at such election, in the form of a ballot title substantially as follows:

Whatcom County Fire Protection District No. 5
Proposition No. 1 Property Tax Levy For Fire Protection
and Emergency Medical Services.

The Board of Whatcom County Fire Protection District No. 5 adopted Resolution No. 2023-01 concerning a proposition to maintain and adequately fund District operations.

This proposition would authorize the District to establish its regular property tax levy at \$1.14 per \$1,000 of assessed value to be assessed in 2023 and collected in 2024. The funds will maintain and improve fire protection and emergency medical services, replace apparatus, equipment and facilities and provide for firefighter safety. The maximum allowable levy in 2023 (collected in 2024) shall serve as the base for subsequent levy limitations as provided by chapter 84.55 RCW. Should this proposition be:

Approved

Rejected

Section 5. Pursuant to RCW 84.55.050(1), the measure requires a simple majority vote to be approved.

Section 6. The Board of Commissioners finds and declares that it is in the best interest of the District to have information regarding the ballot measure included in the local voters' pamphlet. Furthermore, that the appropriate costs thereof shall be paid for by the District. The Board of Commissioners further authorizes and directs the Fire Chief to provide such information to the County Elections department for inclusion and to take other actions as necessary to that end.

Section 7. The Board hereby assigns to the Fire Chief or designee the task of appointing members to a committee to advocate voters' approval of the proposition and to a committee to prepare arguments advocating voters' rejection of the proposition.

Section 8. For purposes of receiving notice of any matters related to the ballot title, as provided in RCW 29A.36.080, the Board hereby designates the Fire Chief as the individual to whom the County Auditor shall provide such notice.

Section 9. The Chief is authorized to implement such administrative procedures as may be necessary to carry out the directives of this resolution, including modifying the text of the ballot title and any other text, language and/or descriptions relative thereto necessary to conform such ballot title, text, language and/or descriptions to the intent of the parties, consistent with the objectives of this resolution.

Section 10. The Chief, or designee, is hereby authorized and directed, no later than August 1, 2023, to provide to the County Auditor a certified copy of this resolution and the proper District officials are authorized to perform such other duties or take such other actions as are necessary or required by law to the end that the proposition described in this resolution appear on the ballot before the voters at the November 7, 2023 election.

Section 11. If any section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this resolution is declared unconstitutional or invalid for any reason, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this resolution.

Section 12. Any act consistent with the authority and prior to the effective date of this resolution is hereby ratified and affirmed.

Section 13. This resolution shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its passage.

Adoption: ADOPTED by the Board of Commissioners of Whatcom County Fire Protection District No. 5 at an open public meeting of such Board on the 12th day of July, 2023 with the following Commissioners being present and voting:

Commissioner Lester
Commissioner Harper
Commissioner Katz
Secretary Linda Hughes



**Fire Protection District 14
Proposition 2023-05
Restoring Property Tax Levy**

Language on the Ballot:

The Board of Fire Protection District 14 adopted Resolution No. 2023-05 concerning a proposition to restore the District's regular property tax levy. This proposition would restore the District's regular property tax levy to \$1.20 per \$1,000.00 of assessed valuation in 2023 (for collection in 2024) for each of the five succeeding years. The maximum allowable levy in 2028 shall serve as the base for subsequent levy limitations as provided by RCW 84.55.

Should this proposition be: Approved/Rejected

Explanatory Statement:

Fire Protection District 14 seeks voter approval to restore its regular property tax levy to \$1.20 per \$1,000.00 of assessed valuation in 2023 (for collection in 2024) and authorize an annual increase in the limit factor of up to 103% in each of the five subsequent years (but not to exceed \$1.50 per \$1,000.00 of assessed valuation). This levy is the primary source of funding for fire and emergency medical services by Fire Protection District 14. Voter approval of Proposition 2023-05 will provide funding to maintain and increase the level of services currently provided.

Statement For:

Having devoted 35 years to Fire District #14, responding all hours of the day and night I can attest to the needs of the fire district for staffing, equipment and facilities to maintain a level of service expected today from emergency services, no matter if it be inner city or rural application. Volunteerism is a waning commodity so maintaining current levels of service is ever demanding. I strongly urge the residents and tax payers of this community to support the request of the fire district for funding of services.

Thanks for your cooperation and support.

Statement For prepared by:

Frank Cain Sr. and Kathleen Cain

Statement Against:

No Statement Submitted

Statement Against prepared by:

No Committee Formed

WHATCOM COUNTY
FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 14
**RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE SUBMISSION OF LEVY
GENERAL ELECTION
RESOLUTION NUMBER 2023-06
Revision of 2023-05**

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF WHATCOM COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT **NO. 14** PROVIDING FOR THE SUBMISSION TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE DISTRICT AT AN ELECTION TO BE HELD WITHIN THE DISTRICT ON **NOVEMBER 7, 2023**. IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE STATE **GENERAL** ELECTION TO BE HELD ON THE SAME DATE, OF A PROPOSITION RESTORING THE DISTRICT'S REGULAR PROPERTY TAX TO AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED **\$1.20 PER \$1,000.00** OF TRUE AND ASSESSED VALUATION **IN 2023** AND ESTABLISHING A ONE HUNDRED THREE PERCENT LIMIT FACTOR SUBJECT TO OTHERWISE APPLICABLE STATUTORY LIMITATIONS FOR THE FOLLOWING FIVE YEARS

Background: WHEREAS, it is the judgment of the Board of Commissioners of the District that it is essential and necessary for the protection of the health and life of the residents of the District that the fire and emergency medical services be provided by the District. **WHEREAS**, The Board of Commissioners has determined that the accelerated demands for, and increasing costs of, providing services will necessitate the expenditure of revenues for improved capital facilities and firefighter safety, additional apparatus, maintenance and operations in excess of those which can be provided by the District's regular tax revenue levied at the current rate of approximately **\$0.75 per \$1,000.00** of assessed valuation of taxable property within the District as limited by the 101% limitation. The District voters last approved a levy lid lift to **\$1.30 per thousand in 2015**.

WHEREAS, The District experiences annual cost increases affecting its operations that reflect standard inflationary indices and that consistently exceed the statutory 101% limitation on tax levy increases. **WHEREAS**, The District believes that it is reasonable to adopt a limit factor for years 2-6 of the levy lid lift period at a rate of **103%** per year to help the District keep up with inflation in Whatcom County. **WHEREAS**, The Board of Commissioners has determined that it is in the best interest of the District that the maximum allowable levy in the sixth year of the levy authorized by this Resolution serve as the levy base for purposes of applying the limit factor established by RCW 84.55.010 in subsequent years.

Resolution: NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of Whatcom County Fire Protection District **No. 14** Whatcom County, Washington as follows:

Section 1. It is necessary for the District to operate and maintain emergency fire and medical service vehicles, to acquire and improve station and other capital facilities and to retain properly trained personnel equipped with proper firefighting and emergency medical equipment. The revenues generated by this lid lift will allow the District to cover the gap between inflation and the statutory one percent limit on increases to the District's budget to fund apparatus replacement and facility upgrades and to provide for investments in firefighter safety all of which are necessary to maintain and improve the level of fire protection, prevention, emergency medical services and the protection of life and property in the District.

Section 2. In order to provide the revenue adequate to pay the costs of maintaining and providing the services described in Section 1 and to assure the continuation and improvement of such services the District shall, in accordance with RCW84.55.050, remove the one percent



**Fire Protection District 14
Proposition 2023-05
Restoring Property Tax Levy**

limitation on regular property taxes imposed by RCW 84.55.010, and levy beginning in 2023 and collect beginning in 2024, pursuant to RCW 52.16.130, RCW 52.16.140 and RCW 52.16.160, a general tax on taxable property within the District at a rate of \$1.20 per \$1,000.00 of assessed valuation subject to otherwise applicable statutory limits. The \$1.20 is lower than the District previously levied at the rate at \$1.30 per thousand of assessed valuation in 2015.

Section 3. In order to provide the revenue adequate to pay the costs of providing adequate life protection services and facilities as described in Section 1 and to maintain reserve funds sufficient to assure the continuation of such services beyond 2024, the District has determined that the limit factor for the five succeeding years shall be one hundred three percent (103%). Such percentage shall be used to determine the actual levy rate, subject to the maximum statutory rate of \$1.50 per \$1,000.00 of assessed valuation, in 2024-2028. The funds raised under this levy shall not supplant existing funds used for the purposes described in Section 1.

Section 4. The amount levied in 2028 shall serve as the District's tax levy base for purposes of applying the limit factor established by RCW 84.55.010 in subsequent years.

Section 5. There shall be submitted to the qualified electors of the District for their ratification or rejection, at an election on November 7, 2023, in conjunction with the state general election to be held on the same date the question of whether or not the regular property tax levy of the District should be set at to \$1.20 per \$1,000.00 of true and assessed valuation and be adjusted by 103% for each of the following five years, subject to otherwise applicable statutory limitations. The Board of Commissioners hereby requests the auditor of Whatcom County, as ex-officio Supervisor of Elections, to call such election, and to submit the following proposition at such election, in the form of a ballot title substantially as follows:

Whatcom County Fire Protection District No. 14
Proposition No. 1

Restoring Property Tax Levy

The Board of Whatcom County Fire Protection District No. 14 adopted Resolution No. 2023-05 concerning a proposition to restore the District's regular property tax levy.

This proposition would restore the District's regular property tax levy to \$1.20 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation in 2023 (for collection in 2023) for each of the five succeeding years.

The maximum allowable levy in 2028 shall serve as the base for subsequent levy limitations as provided by Chapter 84.55 RCW.

Should this proposition be: Approved _ Rejected _

Section 6. In accordance with RCW 84.55.050(1), the ballot measure shall require approval of a simple majority of voters.

Section 7. The Board of Commissioners finds and declares that it is in the best interest of the District to have information regarding the ballot measure included in the local voters' pamphlet. Furthermore, that the appropriate costs thereof shall be paid for by the District. The Board of Commissioners further authorizes and directs the Fire Chief to provide such information to the County Elections department for inclusion and to take other actions as necessary to that end. The Board hereby assigns to the Chief or designee the task of appointing members to a committee to advocate voters' approval of the proposition and to a committee to prepare arguments advocating voters' rejection of the proposition.

Section 8. For purposes of receiving notice of any matters related to the ballot title, as provided in RCW 29A.36.080, the Board hereby designates the Chief or designee as the individual to whom the County Auditor shall provide such notice.

Section 9. The Chief or designee is authorized to implement such administrative procedures as may be necessary to carry out the directives of this resolution, including modifying the text of the ballot title and any other text, language and/or descriptions relative thereto necessary to conform such ballot title, text, language and/or descriptions to the intent of the parties, consistent with the objectives of this resolution.

Section 10. The Chief, or designee, is hereby authorized and directed, no later than August 1, 2023, to provide to the County Auditor a certified copy of this resolution and the proper District officials are authorized to perform such other duties or take such other actions as are necessary or required by law to the end that the proposition described in this resolution appear on the ballot before the voters at the November 7, 2023 election.

Section 11. If any section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this resolution is declared unconstitutional or invalid for any reason, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this resolution.

Section 12. Any act consistent with the authority and prior to the effective date of this resolution is hereby ratified and affirmed.

Section 13. This resolution shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its passage.

Adoption: ADOPTED by the Board of Commissioners of Whatcom County Fire Protection District No. 14 at an open public meeting of such Board on the 13th day of June 2023, the following Commissioners being present and voting:

RobRoy Graham, Commissioner Chair

Chris Moe, Commissioner

Russell Vreugdenhil, Commissioner

Jo Olson, District Administrator



Point Roberts Park and Recreation District 1
Proposition 2023-06
Regular Property Tax Levies

Language on the Ballot:

The Board of Commissioners of Point Roberts Park and Recreation District 1 adopted Resolution 23-03 concerning the following question: To support its programs and operations and replace an expiring levy, will the Point Roberts Park and Recreation District 1 be authorized to impose regular property tax levies of 21.5 cents or less per \$1,000.00 of assessed valuation on property within the District for each of six consecutive years, commencing with a levy in 2023 for collection in 2024 and ending with a levy in 2028 for collection in 2029, as provided in District Resolution 23-03?

Yes/No

Explanatory Statement:

This proposition renews the expiring authority of the Board of Commissioners of the Point Roberts Park and Recreation District 1 to levy a regular property tax to pay for the District's recreational programs and operations. As provided in District Resolution 23-03, the authorization lasts six years, with taxes to be collected beginning in 2024 through 2029. The levy will be set each year by the District's Board, subject to a maximum rate of 21.5 cents per \$1,000.00 assessed value, and subject also to the 101% limitation on annual increases in tax collections, as provided in state law.

Statement For:

No Committee Formed

Statement Against:

No Committee Formed

RESOLUTION NO 23-03

A RESOLUTION of the Board of Commissioners of Point Roberts Park and Recreation District No. 1, Whatcom County, Washington, providing for submission to the qualified electors of the District at the election to be held on November 7, 2023, of a proposition authorizing the District to levy regular property taxes at a rate of 21.5 cents or less per \$1,000 of assessed value of property in the District for six years, commencing with a levy in 2023 for collection in 2024 and ending with a levy in 2029 for collection in 2030, which taxes will pay operating expenses of the District..

WHEREAS, for the past six years Point Roberts Park and Recreation District No. 1, Whatcom County, Washington (the "District"), has had in effect a voter-approved regular property tax levy to enable the District to pay for its recreational programs and operations; and WHEREAS, the District's regular property tax levy is the primary source of revenue for its programs and operations; and WHEREAS, the District's current regular property tax levy expires at the end of 2023; and WHEREAS, RCW 36.69.145 authorizes the District to impose regular property tax levies for another six years with voter approval and; WHEREAS, at the November 7, 2023, election, the District wishes to submit the question of whether regular property taxes may be levied to the qualified electors of the District for their approval or rejection;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF POINT ROBERTS PARK AND RECREATION DISTRICT NO. 1, WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON, as follows:

Section 1. Authorization of Levies. To support the District's programs and operations, the District authorizes the levy of regular property taxes at a rate of 21.5 cents or less per \$1,000 of assessed valuation on all taxable property within the District for six years, commencing with a levy in 2023 for collection in 2024 and ending with a levy in 2029 for collection in 2030. Subject to approval by the voters, as provided in Section 2 of this resolution, the actual levy for each of those six years will be fixed by the Board in accordance with state law and with regulations of the Whatcom County Treasurer and Whatcom County Assessor and subject to the levy increase limitations of Chapter 84.55 RCW.

Section 2. Authorization of Election and Approval of Ballot Proposition. The Board hereby finds that the best interests of the District require submitting to the qualified electors of the District the proposition of whether the District will be authorized to levy a regular property tax in amounts not to exceed the maximum rate described in Section 1 for their ratification or rejection at a special election in conjunction with the general election to be held in the District on November 7, 2023.

The Whatcom County Auditor, as ex officio supervisor of elections in Whatcom County, Washington, is hereby requested to conduct the election to be held within the District on November 7, 2023, and to submit the proposition to the qualified electors of the District in substantially the following form, as provided in RCW 29A.36.210(1):

PROPOSITION NO. 1
POINT ROBERTS PARK AND RECREATION DISTRICT NO. 1
REGULAR PROPERTY TAX LEVIES

The Board of Commissioners of Point Roberts Park and Recreation District No. 1 adopted Resolution 23-03 concerning the following question:

To support its programs and operations and replace an existing levy, will the Point Roberts Park and Recreation District be authorized to impose regular property tax levies of 21.5 cents or less per \$1,000 of assessed valuation on property within the District for each of six consecutive years, commencing with a levy in 2023 for collection in 2024 and ending with a levy in 2029 for collection in 2030, as provided in District Resolution No. 23-03.
YES □
NO □

The Secretary of the Board of Commissioners of the District is hereby directed to deliver a certified copy of this resolution to the Whatcom County Auditor prior to August 1, 2023.

Section 3. Notices Relating to Ballot Proposition. For purposes of receiving notice of the exact language of the ballot title required by RCW 29A.36.080, the Board hereby designates the Chairman of the Board, Mitchell Friedman, telephone (503) 869-7310 and email Mitch.friedman3@gmail.com, as the individual to whom the Auditor would provide such notice. The Chairman of the Board is authorized to approve changes to the ballot proposition, if any, deemed necessary by the Auditor or the Whatcom County Prosecuting Attorney.
Section 4. Effective Date. This resolution will become effective immediately upon its adoption.

ADOPTED by the Board of Commissioners of the Point Roberts Park and Recreation District No. 1, Whatcom County, Washington, at a regular meeting held on July 10, 2023.

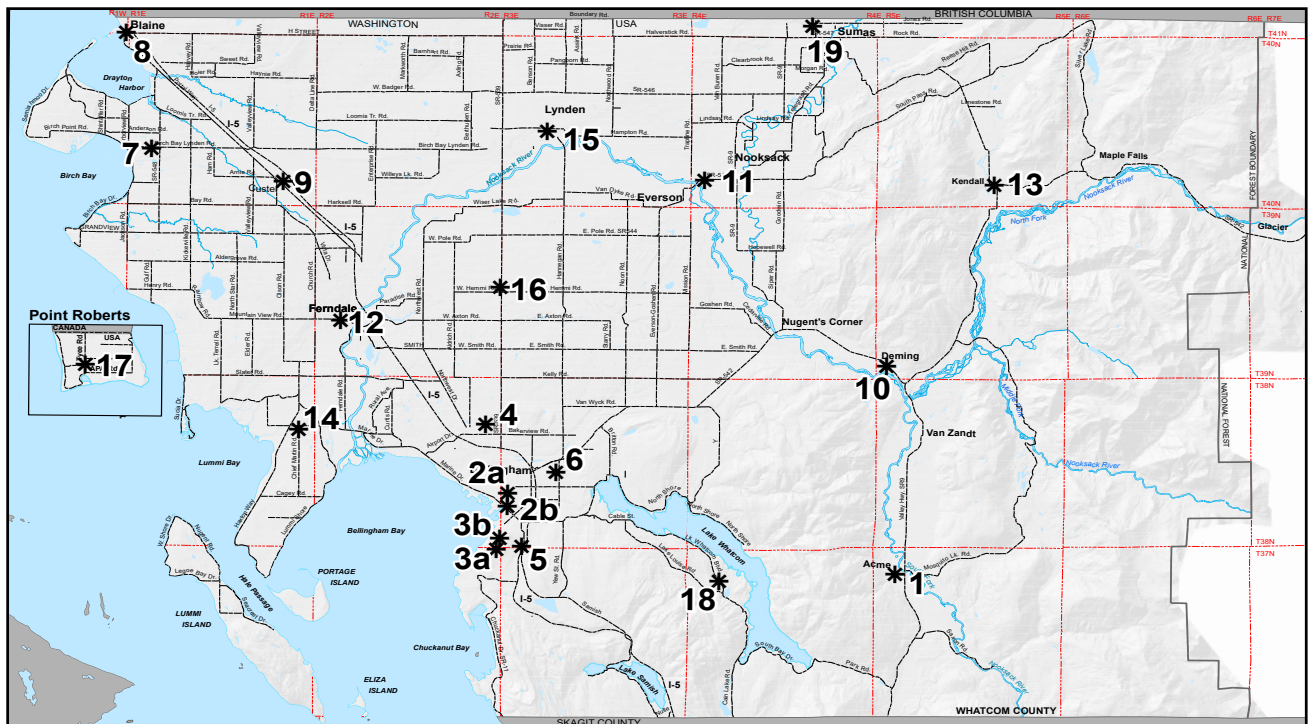
POINT ROBERTS PARK AND RECREATION DISTRICT NO. 1, WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON
Mitchell Friedman, Chair and Commissioner
Allison Calder, Commissioner
Matt Wang, Commissioner
Bill Zidel, Commissioner

ATTEST:
Lynn Van Buskirk, Secretary, Board of Commissioners



By Official Ballot Drop Box: Boxes open October 18, and close November 7 at 8:00 pm

Map #	City	Official Ballot Drop Box Location	Address
1	Acme	Acme Elementary School parking lot	5200 Turkingon Road
2a	Bellingham	Inside the Whatcom County Courthouse (in rotunda)	311 Grand Avenue
2b	Bellingham	In south parking lot of the Courthouse (enter from Grand Avenue)	247 Grand Avenue
3a	Bellingham	WWU - on campus outside Wade King Student Recreation Center	1880 Bill McDonald Parkway
3b	Bellingham	WWU - on campus outside Bond Hall in Red Square	516 High Street
3c	Bellingham	WWU - on November 7 only , on campus inside the Viking Union	516 High Street
4	Bellingham	Outside Whatcom Community College ASB building, in parking lot	620 W. Kellogg Road
5	Bellingham	Haggen Sehome Village, northeast corner of parking lot	210 36th Street
6	Bellingham	In theatre parking lot, between Scotty Browns and WaFd Bank	3055 Woburn Street
7	Birch Bay	North Whatcom Fire & Rescue parking lot	4581 Birch Bay-Lynden Road
8	Blaine	Blaine Library parking lot	610 3rd Street
9	Custer	Outside Custer Elementary School	7660 Custer School Road
10	Deming	Deming Library parking lot	5044 Mt. Baker Highway
11	Everson	WECU parking lot	106 E. Main Street
12	Ferndale	Ferndale City Hall parking lot	2095 Main Street
13	Kendall	North Fork Library at Kendall parking lot	7506 Kendall Road
14	Lummi	Lummi Nation Administration Building, outside main entrance	2665 Kwina Road
15	Lynden	Behind the Lynden Library	216 4th Street
16	Meridian	Laurel Grange parking lot	6172 Guide Meridian
17	Point Roberts	Inside the International Marketplace: <i>Only available during store hours</i>	480 Tye Drive
18	Sudden Valley	Outside in the security office turnaround at Gate One	2020 Lake Whatcom Blvd
19	Sumas	Behind the Post Office in parking lot	534 Railroad Avenue



By Mail

Ballots must be postmarked by November 7
 United States Postal Service recommends mailing by Tuesday, October 31
No stamp needed