

Whatcom County Official Local Voters' Pamphlet

Learn more about the local candidates and questions on the ballot



General Election

Tuesday, November 5, 2024

Published by the Whatcom County Auditor

Sign Up for Ballot Alerts

Text **VOTE** to **868392**



Stacy Henthorn
Whatcom County Auditor
311 Grand Avenue Suite 103
Bellingham, WA 98225

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CITY STATE ZIP

Letter from the Auditor

Dear Voters,

Election Day is just 20 days away and every eligible voter has the opportunity to have their voice be heard. However, this doesn't happen when your ballot is returned late. For the August Primary Election, 436 ballots were received late and not counted. Help us make sure your ballot is counted and returned on time:

- By official ballot drop box, deposit your ballot before 8:00 pm sharp on November 5 (Election Day). Visit <https://www.whatcomcounty.us/balлотdropboxlocations> to view all 23 locations or see page 24.
- By mail, postmarked by November 5 (Election Day). The United State Postal Service (USPS) recommends mailing your ballot by Tuesday, October 29 to ensure it is postmarked on time.
 - ◊ If mailing your ballot closer to Election Day, check collection days and times.

There are many contests and questions on your ballot. Among the contests is the Charter Review Commission. The 15-member commission is elected every 10 years to review the Whatcom County Charter and propose amendments. *For charter review commission only*, voters can choose up to 3 candidates on the ballot. To read more about the commission see page 12.

Happy Voting!

Stacy Henthorn

Stacy Henthorn
Whatcom County Auditor



About the General Election

If a primary election was held for an office, the two candidates who received the most votes in the Primary advanced to the General Election.

Each candidate for partisan office may state a political party that he or she prefers. A candidate's preference does not imply that the candidate is nominated or endorsed by the party, or that the party approves of or associates with that candidate.

The election for President and Vice President is different. Candidates for President and Vice President are the official nominees of their political party.

VoteWA Voter Portal



VoteWA
VoteWA.gov

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

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

- Voter registration details
- Print a replacement ballot
- An online voter guide for each election
- Information on your elected officials
- Official ballot drop box locations
- A list of past elections in which you returned a ballot
- Track the status of your ballot

Voting in Washington State



To Register to Vote, You Must Be:

- A citizen of the United States.
- A Washington State resident.
- 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 28**.

Starting October 29, 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 28**.



PAPER FORM: Complete and return a Washington State Voter Registration Form. **Forms must be received in the Auditor's Office by October 28**. 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.



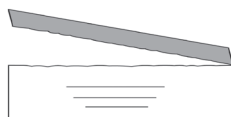
Voting Instructions

1 The ballot packet for the November 5 General Election will be mailed to you on October 16. The packet will include your official ballot, a security sleeve, and a postage-paid return envelope.

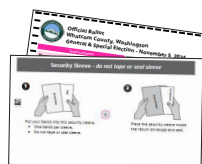
2 To vote, fill in the circle next to your choice with a blue or black pen.



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.**



7 Return your ballot to the Whatcom County Auditor's Office by official ballot drop box or mail. See page 24 (back cover) for more information on returning your ballot.



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 16. 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 5

Hours:

8:30 am - 8:00 pm

Location:

Viking Union, Multi Purpose Room
516 High Street, Bellingham



Assistance in Spanish

Si tiene preguntas, o necesita ayuda en Espanol contactenos.



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
Saturday, November 2, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
Tuesday, November 5, 8:30 am - 8:00 pm

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

Phone: (360) 778-5102

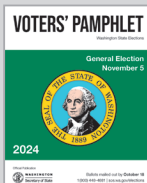
Fax: (360) 778-5101

Email: elections@co.whatcom.wa.us

Web: www.whatcomcounty.us/Elections

Districts Participating in the General Election

The State of Washington Voters' Pamphlet contains Federal and State contests and questions. If you did not receive a State Pamphlet call 1-800-448-4881.



- United States
- State of Washington
- Supreme Court

The Whatcom County Local Voters' Pamphlet contains local contests and questions.



- Whatcom County
- Public Utility District No. 1
- Blaine School District 503
- Meridian School District 505
- Fire Protection Districts 1
- Columbia Valley Park and Recreation District



Eddy Ury

Elected Experience: No Information Submitted

Other Professional Experience: I've worked in Energy Policy locally for the last decade. I received the "4 under 40" award from Northwest Energy Coalition in 2019 (honoring

energy professionals across four states). I brought together Cherry Point stakeholders to find consensus around new development rules that were approved unanimously by Whatcom County Council in 2021.

Education: I earned a B.A. degree at Western Washington University, and studied energy utility regulation at Vermont Law School.

Community Service: I serve on Whatcom County Climate Impact Advisory Committee (appointed by Council), as an Emergency Volunteer in winter weather, and I help out with waste management at big local events.

Statement: It's a pivotal time to shape our shared future. In a changing world, power & water providers bear challenging responsibilities

to maintain and deliver vital resources that are foundational to our economy and quality of life. Let's move to strengthen infrastructure, support our regional economy, improve resiliency, create good jobs locally, and invest in our communities.

As PUD Commissioner, I am committed to best meeting all needs for reliable utility services at the most affordable rates and I will not impose taxes. I will prioritize bringing open access broadband internet to more who need connection. I will work to safely secure sustainable power sources and expand capacity for lower costs. I will seek lasting solutions to sustain freshwater supplies for farms, fisheries, tribes, industries, and rural residents. I will uphold our common values and represent the public interest.

I am prepared to do the work. I'm endorsed by PUD Commissioners, County & City Councilmembers, State Legislators, community leaders and local organizations. I would be honored to earn your vote to serve the people of Whatcom County.

For More Information:

(360) 227-0156
eddy@ury4pud.org
ury4pud.org



Jeremiah J. Goggins

Elected Experience: Nominated for PUD 1 District 1 Commissioner vacancy. Precinct Captain for Precinct 248 in Bellingham.

Other Professional Experience: Field researcher for Let's Go Washington and other public policy organizations. Managed

customer accounts for T-Mobile. Founded and directed a working group of coders from multiple countries; our software product has had 343,875 downloads.

Education: BA, Western Washington University, in process; areas of study include History, Economics, Energy Policy, and Japanese. Classes at Coto Japanese Language School, Shibuya campus, Tokyo. Diploma, Sehome High School.

Community Service: Assistant for neighborhood resident with Alzheimer's. Fundraising for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

Statement: As a third-generation resident of Whatcom County, I am proud of my grandfather's 34-year career at Intalco. I am aware of how my grandparents' contributions to our community were made possible by

the PUD's close working relationship with the Cherry Point smelter. Coming from a farming family, I am also aware of the important role the PUD plays in managing the watershed, promoting water conservation, and assisting the ag community and everyone in the county adapt to changing climate scenarios.

If elected to the PUD 1 Commission, my first priority will be to work closely with the other commissioners to revamp the PUD's efforts to provide affordable high-speed broadband to everyone in the county. Those efforts have experienced some false starts and problems with quality of service, we need to do better now.

I will also make it a top priority to evaluate every PUD proposal, project, and policy on the basis of how it effects every community in the county. No business or special interest will profit at the expense of our families, neighbors, or the environment.

If you like my vision for the PUD, please consider giving me your vote and supporting my campaign, thank you.

For More Information:

(360) 224-5052
jeremiah@goggins4pud.org
goggins4pud.org



Atul Deshmane

Elected Experience: Whatcom Public Utility District Commissioner (2018 Elected): Led organization towards broadband and clean energy deployment. Whatcom County Planning Commissioner (2016 Appointed): Led adoption of wind energy and affordable housing codes.

Other Professional Experience: 1994-1999: Ford Motor Company, Helped engineer first generation hybrid, electric, and fuel cell vehicle technology. 2000-2005: Clean Energy Consultant, Deployed first hydrogen fueling stations. 2006-2018: Whole Energy Fuels, Pioneered renewable natural gas and renewable fuels in state ferries. 2018-Now: Public Office and Consulting

Education: Electrical Engineer, University of Missouri; Post Graduate Education, Industrial Engineering University of Michigan

Community Service: Restorative Community Coalition, Sustainable Bellingham, Salish Seed Guild, and 3 Rivers Cooperative School.

Statement: I've lived in Whatcom County 21 years and raised my kids here on a small working farm. I have devoted my professional life to big causes. First

as an engineer but now as a policy leader. I have several patents but I still raise my own meat, eggs, and vegetables. I helped develop electric vehicle and renewable diesel technology and... I bike commute.

Over the last 5 years I have helped create policy to: explore geothermal energy, develop drought resilience, deploy broadband infrastructure, and improve land use (jobs + environment) for: Wind Energy, Distributed Energy, Cherry Point, and Renewable Fuels.

Your infrastructure needs drive my service.

Going forward at the PUD I have three goals: preserving the Nooksack watershed for everyone, expanding our local clean energy supply, and expanding fast affordable public broadband infrastructure. We are facing a water adjudication. Our climate is changing. Whatcom needs seasoned leaders demonstrating maturity, dedication, creativity and persistence. I have been endorsed by a politically diverse group of 24 local elected officials and groups including the Mayors of Bellingham and Ferndale, five Whatcom County Councilors, City Councilors, all Whatcom County State Legislators, Washington Conservation Action, and Tribal Governments. I am grateful for your support.

For More Information:
(206) 446-1333
adeshman@yahoo.com
VoteAtul.com



Dan Johnson

Elected Experience: No Information Submitted

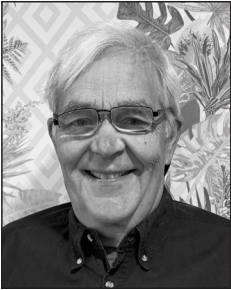
Other Professional Experience: After serving 4 years in the Marine Corps, I spent 23 years in towing building a successful career as a business owner. I also worked with legislators in Olympia on drafting and passing legislation.

Education: After graduating Meridian High School I obtained numerous certifications throughout my career to include auctioneering.

Community Service: I have volunteered with MDA, Lydia Place, Blue Skies for Children, Meridian Boosters, American Legion, Young Life, VFW and many more.

Statement: My goal is to maintain sustainable energy sources for Whatcom County that pull from all resources available so we can continue to provide equitable energy for farming, residential and industry while upholding our conservation values.

For More Information:
(360) 305-3719
danjohnsonsr@comcast.net



Roderick "Robin" Dexter

Statement: I've spent decades commenting and complaining about government behavior at all levels. It's not a privilege I take for granted without being mindful of a century old quote from New York Governor AL Smith that "... all the ills of democracy can be

cured by more democracy." Serving on a commission tasked with an under appreciated but important bit of democratic housekeeping seems like a good way to pay for that privilege. I am a retired commercial fisherman who has lived in Whatcom County for more than 50 years.

For More Information:
(360) 201-0407
labyrinth1148@gmail.com



Dan Robbins

Statement: Dan Robbins, a former Port of Bellingham commissioner, has a deep understanding of governance from his diverse experiences. A lifelong Whatcom County resident, he's known for his collaborative approach and big-picture thinking. His goal is to ensure equal representation in local government as a member of

the Charter Review Commission.

With a comprehensive educational background and extensive professional experience, Dan is committed to maintaining the quality of life in Whatcom County. His decision-making is guided by his experiences in business management, community service, and his commitment to the people of Whatcom County.

For More Information:
(360) 305-4211
danrobbins3@comcast.net



Sarah Rothenbuhler

Statement: Born in Bellingham and raised in Bellingham and SE Alaska, I would be honored to serve on the Charter Review Commission.

In business, community work, and raising my family, I see the long-term local government

impacts that are at times good and, at times, bring unnecessary cost of living increases and other impacts. I'm a local business owner and work hard to support our amazing Bellingham and Whatcom County.

For More Information:
(360) 815-6241
sarah4wcr@gmail.com



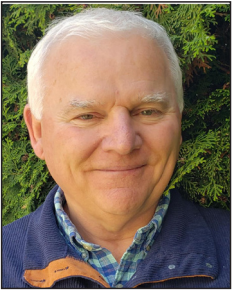
Liz Darrow

Statement: For eleven years, I've worked with neighborhoods, community leaders, local business owners, and legislators to make decisions collectively for policy at the local, state, and federal levels. I am precinct committee officer for precinct 238, co-chair of the

Lettered Streets Neighborhood Association, and a delegate to the 2024 State Democratic Convention. I

am running for Charter Review Commission to help strengthen our democracy, by supporting term limits for county council and recommending ranked choice voting. The charter review matters to me because revisions impact all county residents and I believe everyone who lives and works here deserves equal representation.

For More Information:
(360) 220-9065
lizdeditor@gmail.com



Bill Geyer

Statement: I support Transparency, Accountability, Honesty in our County government, our best protections for democracy. We the People deserve local government that respects citizens, accountable to all, and protected by our County Charter.

I support: Councilmembers living in the District they represent; Continuing to elect our Sheriff,

Treasurer, Auditor, Assessor, and add a County Coroner; Regular audits of County services. My experience: South Hill resident (40 years), professional planner (48 years), expert witness in planning/land use trials, lead fundraiser for major community capital projects. Please vote for Bill Geyer for Charter Review Commission District 1 (www.billgeyer.com).

For More Information:
(360) 224-6317
vote4billgeyer@gmail.com
www.billgeyer.com



Todd Lagestee

Statement: I'm Todd Lagestee, a retired local firefighter, former submarine nuclear operator, U.S. Navy veteran and proud Eagle Scout. I currently serve a local credit union on the board of directors. I also serve on the County Ethics Commission and County Ferry Advisory Committee. I'm running for

County Ferry Advisory Committee. I'm running for

County Charter Review because I want our Charter to expand the required financial reporting the County provides. I also believe we must ensure fairness and equality in financial expenditures throughout our county. Further, I believe the Ethics Commission should expand Ethics oversight to appointed officials as much as our elected leaders.

For More Information:
(360) 927-3753
Toddlagestee@hotmail.com



Andrew Reding

Statement: As Whatcom Democrats Chair, I've achieved bipartisan charter reform. This includes a proposition on your ballot, drafted with a Republican councilmember, which expands the county's conflict of interest protections. In 2021, I wrote

three charter amendments adopted by voters to expand direct democracy.

Good government (transparency, accountability) and greater public participation (RCV) will be my focus. My experience, including twenty years as a federally appointed human rights expert, prepares me to be effective on your behalf. Endorsements: County Councilmembers Kaylee Galloway, Barry Buchanan, Todd Donovan, Jon Scanlon, Sens. Sharon Shewmake and Liz Lovelett, Reps. Debra Lekanoff and Joe Timmons.

For More Information:
aareding@gmail.com



Joel Pitts-Jordan

Statement: South Bellingham has been my home since my wife and I met as Western students ten years ago. I have spent five years in state service and have worked in legislative capacities for the Attorney General's Office and Department of Health. I believe

that through including all communities and building bipartisan consensus, the Charter can create a more

responsive and equitable government for Whatcom County residents.

Endorsed by: State Senator Sharon Shewmake, State Representative Joe Timmons, County Council Member Kaylee Galloway, County Council Member Todd Donovan, County Council Member Jon Scanlon, and Bellingham City Council Member Jace Cotton

For More Information:
(360) 298-4690
joeljordan995@gmail.com



Russ Whidbee

Statement: Hi, I'm Russ Whidbee and I'm running for Charter Commission. I've lived in and served Whatcom County for over 40 years. Our County Charter guides our government and I want better accountability from our elected leaders and

appointed officials. I work in finance and teach accounting, so I also know we can expect better

transparency in the County's financial reporting. I've served on the County's Board of Equalization, been the President of the Whatcom Volunteer Center and currently serve on the Bellingham Planning Commission, among many other positions over 40 years . Please visit www.trustruss.org for more info.

For More Information:
(360) 319-4253
Russell.J.Whidbee@gmail.com
www.trustruss.org



Colton Kaltenfeldt

Statement: I've volunteered with a county advisory board and local non-profits to make it easier for people to get involved in government and advocated for policies that make our local government more accountable. Through this work, I've heard

community members say they don't think their voices are being heard. *This commission let's us*

take action. I will defend the power of your voice in government and work with others to give our leaders better tools to be effective and accountable stewards of our resources.

Endorsements: Senator Sharon Shewmake, Representative Alex Ramel, County Councilmembers Todd Donovan, Jon Scanlon, and Kaylee Galloway.

For More Information:
(509) 903-5017
[Hello@ColtonKaltenfeldt.com](mailto>Hello@ColtonKaltenfeldt.com)
ColtonKaltenfeldt.com



Garrett O'Brien

Statement: Whatcom County residents deserve a government that works for them. This year's Charter Review is an excellent opportunity to ensure our County government is accountable, efficient, and responsive to emergent needs. As a lifelong

resident, business owner, youth sports coach, and community volunteer, I understand the issues unique to Whatcom County.

As a political Independent, I'm dedicated to prioritizing policies backed by consensus and rooted in our founding Charter. I believe government should operate with transparency, fairness, and reflect the values of its constituents. Please vote Garrett O'Brien for County Charter Commission, and let's build a stronger Whatcom County together!

For More Information:
(360) 927-0591
Bellinghamforward@gmail.com
www.bellinghamforward.com



Eamonn Collins

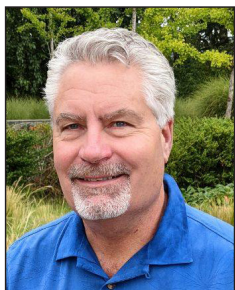
Statement: I support nonpartisan improvements to the charter that make county government more representative, responsive, and accountable.

As a former policy advisor to the U.S. House Education and Labor Committee and a

Democratic U.S. Senator, I routinely negotiated bipartisan legislation. Now I teach chemistry and

environmental science at the Lummi Nation School and volunteer as VP of the Kulshan Community Land Trust to grow affordable homes in our community. My wife Komal and I live in Bellingham's Birchwood neighborhood with our two young children. I'm proud to be endorsed by elected leaders including Senator Sharon Shewmake and County Councilmember Jon Scanlon.

For More Information:
(360) 209-3203
eamonn@eamonncollins.com
www.EamonnCollins.com



Ken Bell

Statement: Charter Review Commissions should be about better governance. All too often this platform is used to give one side or the other an advantage in upcoming elections. Issues brought to the Commission should be things that cannot be

accomplished by any other mechanism. The focus should be on making Whatcom County better.

During my last term I successfully lobbied for term limits on County offices and to implement 5 districts instead of 3. I am a Port Commissioner and served on the Counties Planning Commission. I own my own business and would like to see Whatcom County thrive.

For More Information:
(360) 739-1002
ken4charterreview@gmail.com



Maya Morales

Statement: I'm a working class legislative advocate, educator, artist, and organizer with a MA degree and 25 years of diverse life & work experience who *regularly fights for all of our futures*. I'm running for this once every ten years commission

because I know I can leverage both the policy skills and lived experience to ensure that our laws form a

strong foundation for inclusion, justice, diversity and sustainable growth.

These laws and polices we enact *really* matter. I'll protect and advance our rights, centering renters, unhoused, LGBTQ+ and BIPOC equity. I humbly ask for your vote. Reach out, get involved!

For More Information:
(360) 712-7221
info@electmaya.vote
www.electmaya.vote



Mary Kay Robinson

Statement: I have spent decades helping people achieve the dream of home ownership and want to make sure that dream is available for everyone. Years of volunteering on local boards and commissions have given me the background to assess how

our local government is addressing the needs of the

people. Sadly, the thought of buying a home here doesn't even occur to our young adults. We need to provide opportunities for people to work and live in Whatcom County so we can plan for a future that is sensible, affordable and achievable for anyone who wants to call Whatcom County home.

For More Information:
(360) 303-1911
MaryKayforCharterReview@gmail.com



Bee Oldham

Statement: Whatcom County is naturally beautiful and the people friendly. I retired here and intend to age out here. My review of the County Charter will be to determine if the policies in place will prepare us for the best future. In a rapidly changing

world we want our county to lift all residents, attract visitors, and healthy business, so we can't plan for a future that won't exist in 10 years. There is a benefit in operating in the open without secret goals or processes. Leaders held to the highest integrity and transparency will ensure this.

For More Information:
(360) 255-1410
brianmarkoldham@gmail.com



Jennifer Wright

Statement: As a mom, teacher, and union member, I understand our county’s challenges. I’m running because we must take care of the next generation and ensure our government works for everyone.

As Co-Chair leading the Child and Family Well-Being Task Force, I gained valuable insights into how our government works. I've

experienced rising costs of living first-hand and hear the needs for affordable housing, a strong economy, good jobs, flood prevention, preserving agriculture, and caring for our home. As your voice, I'll represent our shared values. I’m asking for your vote. Together, we can create a brighter future for our community.

For More Information:
(860) 792-6829
campaign@electjenniferwright.com
electjenniferwright.com



Doug Chadwick

Statement: As a lifelong resident, I know and care deeply about Whatcom County and all the people that call it home. I graduated from WWU with a degree in Biology and served the last 30 years as a public safety professional. I am running for

the Charter Review Commission, as the Charter is the framework that ensures the government is

accountable to the citizens they serve.

If elected, I will listen to our community’s concerns, treating everyone with dignity and respect. I will collaborate with other members to propose recommendations that will positively impact Whatcom County’s future.

For More Information:
(360) 410-4666
chadwick.doug103@gmail.com



Roland Middleton

Statement: I have worked for our community for 35 years. Serving on the Charter Review Commission provides me with another opportunity to continue that service. The Charter sets the stage for our County representation. It is critical

we hear every voice in our county to ensure fair

representation and a solid and balanced foundation.

We have some tough decisions during this review cycle. We need experienced people who are committed to our community. The commission is not a stepping stone for my future political career. It is a fundamental role and a task my career has prepared me to take on.

For More Information:
middletonroland89@gmail.com



Kelly Krieger

Statement: During my 17 years in Whatcom County, I have served in a variety of ways - I’ve been a Red Cross volunteer, organized countless community events, served as PCO for my precinct, worked tirelessly on local elections, and currently serve

on the Whatcom Democrats board. I’ve organized

teams to create PPE during the pandemic to support vulnerable populations, and have spearheaded several large volunteer based postcard drives. I am passionately interested in helping Whatcom prepare for an uncertain future by creating sustainable economic growth. I welcome the opportunity to help guide Whatcom as a member of the Charter Review team.

For More Information:
Kjkrieger27@gmail.com





Kent Murray

No information submitted.



John (Westy) Westerfield

Statement: Whatcom County belongs to you, and to me, and is ours to live in, love and steward. That stewardship is done through the County Charter and those we elect to administer it. Our charter will be reviewed again in 2025.

I've studied it carefully and will continue to do so. If elected to the Review Board, I can assure you I will not support any suggested changes that are just for the sake of change and I will most strenuously resist any changes that reduce your, and my, authority and power to elect and hold accountable those in public office.

For More Information:
(360) 201-5514
westy4whatcom@gmail.com



Jessica Rienstra

accountability in our government. My experience

Statement: Throughout my healthcare career, I've honed skills in analysis, process improvement, and prioritizing the best interests of those I'm honored to serve. As a Charter Review Commission candidate, my mission is to promote integrity, efficiency, and

with community collaboration following a devastating flood has strengthened my belief in inclusive decision-making. With a keen eye for detail and commitment to transparency, I am dedicated to listening to and advocating for the community's diverse concerns to shape a charter that reflects our collective values. I respectfully ask for your support and your vote.

For More Information:
No information submitted



David Ramirez

Statement: I am looking for your vote to represent District 3 on the County Charter Review Commission. My family, faith, and community are important to me, and I will bring the diversity needed on the commission to ensure all voices are heard.

Overreach by our local elected officials can have long lasting effects in our ability to be heard through our

election process. I will make sure we have the correct check and balances in place so that the County Charter can continue to represent all the people of Whatcom County.

You can learn more about me by visiting www.VoteRamirez.com

For More Information:
(360) 510-4520
david@voteramirez.com
www.VoteRamirez.com



Charles Carrell

Statement: As your elected charter review commissioner, I will listen to all of the citizens' concerns and the items that they would like the commission to put on the ballot to be voted on.

There are several amendments that should be

worked on for this next charter review, such as parental rights, the safety of our children and property rights. However, anyone that is on the charter review commission should be putting their personal opinions aside, and work with all citizens to have other amendments on the ballot that will be beneficial to Whatcom County.

For More Information:
carrell4senate@gmail.com



Leaf Schumann

Statement: I missed the deadline to withdraw, and I no longer wish to seek this position.

For More Information:
(360) 739-1553
walkbackward@gmail.com



Holly O'Neil

Statement: I have lived in East County for 36 years. I offered to serve because I think the Charter is important, and I am pretty good at reviewing documents and making sense of them. I work as a meeting facilitator, so I like to consider different perspectives

and seek mutually acceptable solutions.

I grew up in a household where my parents had different political views. We were raised to honor everyone's right to their opinion, to uphold our civic duties in a democracy, and to treat others with respect, kindness, and courtesy. Those are the values I bring to this position.

For More Information:
b4klzey83@mozmail.com

Whatcom County Charter Review Commission

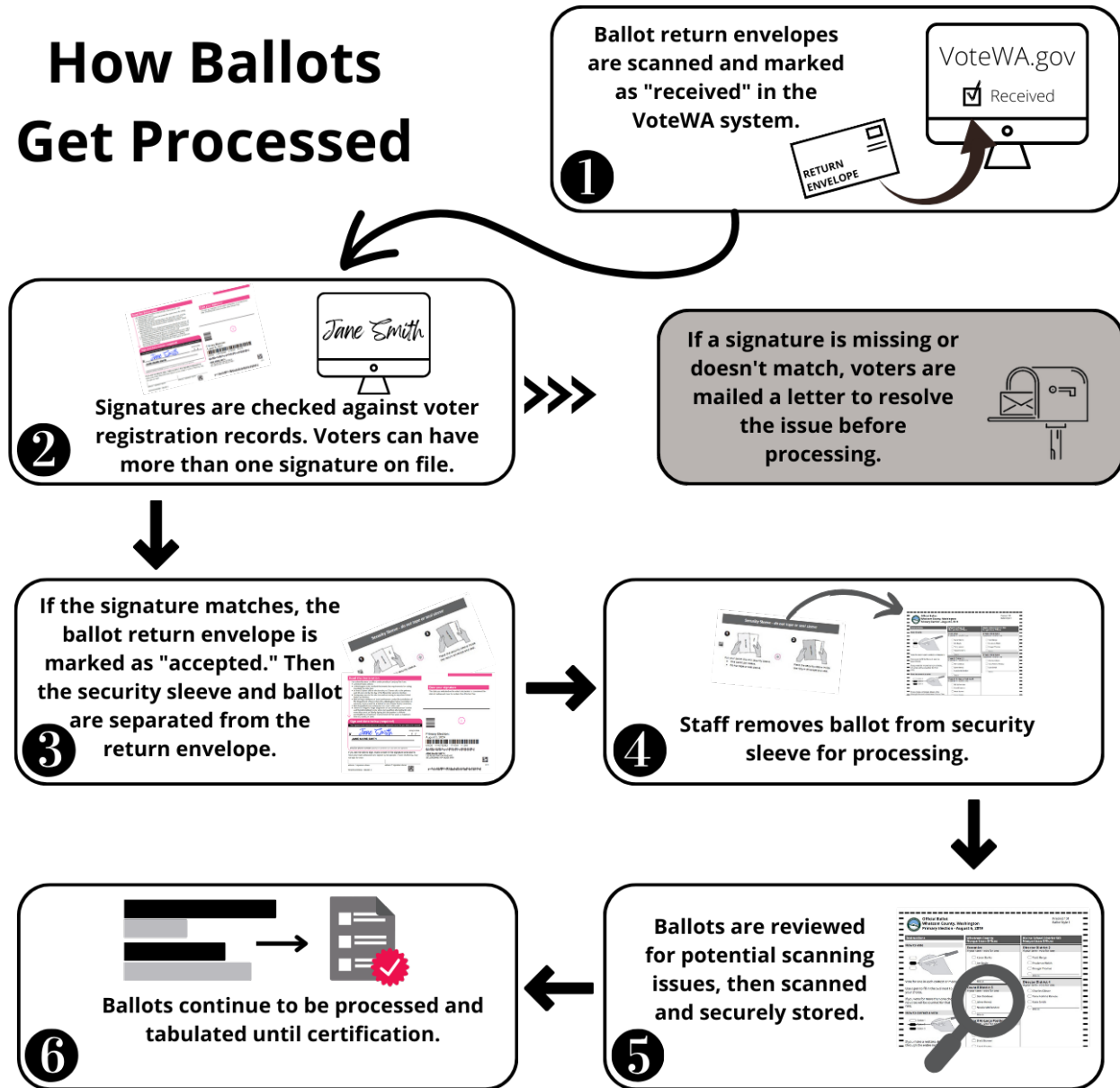
In 1978, voters elected to approve a home rule charter to govern Whatcom County. Whatcom County Charter serves as a "local constitution"

Charter Review Highlights

- County Council calls for election of a Charter Review Commission every 10 years
- Voters can "vote for 3" candidates on the ballot
- The commission consists of 15 people, 3 elected from each County Council district
- The commission will review the County Charter, and may propose amendments
- To move along in the process, a proposed amendment is required to have a supermajority (ten of fifteen) of affirmative votes of the entire membership
- The member of the Commission who receives the greatest number of votes shall convene the Commission
- The term of the office is one year
- The Commission shall meet at such times and in such places as it deems appropriate upon having given public notice

For more information:
Article 8 of the Whatcom County Charter;
<https://www.codepublishing.com/WA/WhatcomCountyCH/>

How Ballots Get Processed



More Contact Information

Federal Election Commission
View information on financial contributions for federal candidates:
www.fec.gov
Toll Free 1 (800) 424-9530 ext 1307

Public Disclosure Commission
View financial contributors for state and local candidates and ballot measure campaigns:
www.pdc.wa.gov
Toll Free 1 (877) 601-2828

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
Email: whatcomofcdems@gmail.com

Republican Headquarters
7072 Portal Way, Suite 104C
Ferndale, WA 98248
Phone: (360) 734-5215
Email: info@whatcomgop.com

Secretary of State - State Elections Division

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

A special thanks to Center for Tech Civic Life for the use of the icons in this pamphlet (electionexcellence.org/resources/civic-icons-and-images)



Russell N. Dzialo

Statement: Environmental sustainability can be found within economic sustainability. We must have both. It is in our Northwest DNA to take care of the environment and to do so while promoting a healthy economy.

Our County is welcoming new residents and becoming more diverse each year. The

charter should reflect the diversity of our residents. While working with the others on the commission I will help to maintain accountability to the people of the 4th District. As a County we need to foster inclusivity.

For More Information:
(360) 927-9927
russ.dzialo@gmail.com



Katherine Orlowski

Statement: I am running for the Charter Review Commission because I believe in creating a governance framework that upholds our community's values. My extensive experience in advocating for community well-being has shown me

the importance of responsible, transparent, and equitable policies. I am committed to bringing

integrity and foresight to this role, ensuring we address systemic issues while promoting fairness and efficiency. By involving diverse perspectives and fostering collaboration, we can create a charter that respects our traditions and enhances our community's future. Together, we can build a more effective and accountable local government.

For More Information:
(360) 595-3951
VoteKatherineOrlowski@gmail.com
VoteKatherineOrlowski.org



Joe Elenbaas

Statement: Thank you to the voters that have supported my involvement in the writing of our Charter, and in All of the Reviews. It has been an honor to serve!

It's my opinion that portions of our government disguise their actions, thus dishonoring their

duty. With your help we can reveal these perceived misdeeds and propose means of resolution. Please remember, you are likely getting the governance you earn if you do not participate in its refinement. We can and must work together to make our system better. Thank you!

For More Information:
(360) 961-1917
joeelenbaas@yahoo.com



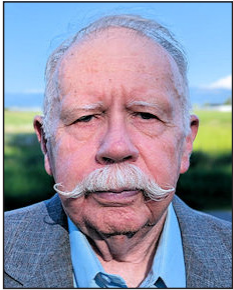
Hannah Ordos

Statement: As a fourth-generation resident, I am deeply committed to Whatcom County. I currently serve as a Be-the-One mentor and Whatcom Support Officer. Our charter preamble states: *to have a government which advances justice, inspires*

confidence, and fosters responsibility, do adopt as a foundation of our government, this charter. You

deserve an experienced voice who advocates for the values we hold dear, so our community thrives for generations to come. I will work to ensure our Sheriff remains an elected position, maintain fiscal accountability, and promote fair representation of rural communities. I humbly ask for your vote.

For More Information:
(425) 835-2857
hannah@hannah4whatcom.com
hannah4whatcom.com



J. G. Sandy Phillips

Statement: Since retiring from the military and moving to Custer over 30 years ago I've seen a number of changes in Whatcom County such as our economy, our demographics, our environmental considerations... and that's just a start. Some of you may know me

as "Sandy Brewer," but my legal name is J.G. Sandy Phillips. You've seen me work with non-profits like

Blaine Community Theater and organizations like the Whatcom County Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee. Now I'm running to bring balanced representation for every resident of District 4 to the Charter Review Commission. Find out more at sandy4whatcom4.com.

For More Information:
(360) 366-4369
sandy4whatcom4@gmail.com
<https://sandy4whatcom4.com/>



Brad Kelly

Statement: As a resident and business owner in Whatcom County, I am committed to promoting good governance, protection of our freedoms, and oppose the continuous expansion of government bureaucracies. I envision county government that

is smaller, efficient, accountable for its spending, responsive to the needs of citizens, and ensures

equal representation for every person. I am proudly endorsed by former state representatives Luanne Van Werven and Vincent Buys, and former Whatcom County Sheriff Bill Elfo. I seek to ensure District 4's values shape our charter. Your vote would be an honor. Please visit votebradkelly.com for more information.

For More Information:
(360) 384-8863
votebradkelly@gmail.com
votebradkelly.com



Ryan Bowman

Statement: Our charter is meant to adapt with our expanding knowledge. Recent insights have highlighted the necessity for amendments to shield future generations from current challenges. When granted the opportunity to serve Whatcom

County, I am committed to addressing issues with pragmatic solutions that promote harmony over

discord. My unique life experiences provide me with a wide-ranging outlook and a commitment to service. It's essential to have fresh perspectives representing new generations, and I would be privileged to listen to you and advocate for your aspirations for the future. United, we can improve, and we are entitled to better.

For More Information:
(360) 961-1402
Buzzedbeeryan@gmail.com

Observe the ballot processing steps in-person or online!



Opportunities to observe:

Logic & Accuracy Test: Accessible Voting Units: October 11 at 10:30 am

Tabulation Equipment: October 17 at 2:00 pm

Ballot Processing: September 30 through November 25

Hand Count: November 7 at 10:00 am

Risk Limiting Audit: November 19 at 9:00 am

Canvassing Board - Challenged Ballot Review: November 25 at 10:00 am

Canvassing Board - Certification: November 26 at 10:00 am

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

No Photo
Submitted

Teresa N. Taylor

No statement submitted

For More Information:
(360) 303-8911
teresantaylor@yahoo.com



Rod Stump

Statement: I'm Rod Stump, a lifelong Whatcom County resident, with over 30 years of experience in residential and industrial construction. My strengths are strategic planning and executing projects with a dose of common sense. My

political passions are increasing individual rights

and ensuring that everyone's voice is heard. The topic that has turned me from voter to candidate is keeping the Whatcom County Sheriff an elected position versus an appointed position. The Sheriff should remain elected by the people and answering to the people, ensuring the individual voter's voice is heard. Please consider voting for me. Thank you!

For More Information:
(360) 303-3535
stump45rod@gmail.com



Douglas Taylor

Statement: I'm a moderate candidate, my goal as a charter review commissioner will be to ensure that the county charter continues to provide for fair ballot procedures and an effective, transparent, and accountable government that serves the

residents and businesses of Whatcom County well over the coming years. I have a BS in computer

engineering (Case Western Reserve University) and an MBA (Northeastern University). I've worked for 30+ years in government, consulting, and the pharmaceutical industry as a health economist, authoring over two dozen peer-reviewed scientific papers. An avid outdoorsman, I enjoy hiking, hunting, camping, and fishing in our beautiful county.

For More Information:
(617) 957-5783
ElectDouglasTaylor@gmail.com



Jackie Dexter

Statement: I am a hard working woman with deeply rooted values that stem from a life enjoying all that Whatcom County has to offer. I have called Whatcom County home since 2005, when I decided to attend Western Washington University to obtain

my BS in biology. My husband and I moved to Blaine

in 2011 to raise our children and we love being a part of this community.

I am an aquaculturist with old-school values and modern, forward thinking ethics. I hope to preserve all that Whatcom County has to offer for our future generations. Thank you for your vote!

For More Information:
(360) 305-8390
Jedexter@gmail.com



Janice Holmes

Statement: I am running for the Charter Commission because I believe in good government and assuring that our government represents the citizens that it serves. I am a retired attorney and small business owner and believe in holding government accountable.

Building strong communities is equally important, and I have been involved in many community organizations and volunteer efforts in my community as well. Our government is only as good as we make it and will only be as good as those who participate in shaping. The Charter Commission is our opportunity to shape our government.

For More Information:
(360) 758-2559
jholmes@q.com



Freddie Lane

No statement submitted

For More Information:
(360) 391-7560
phreddielane@gmail.com



Lindsey Graham Elenbaas

Statement: I am Lindsey Graham Elenbaas, and I'm running for the Charter Review Commission. I am dedicated to a review process that prioritizes an efficient government that truly benefits the people it serves. I am committed to transparency, term limits, keeping our sheriff as an elected position, and

district representation. As a lifelong resident with experience in finance, real estate, and community service, I bring strong problem-solving, leadership, and project management skills, along with a genuine desire to serve. I have a strong dedication to our community. Thank you for your support and vote.

For More Information:
(360) 739-7860
Elenbaascampaignservices@gmail.com



Charlene Waters

Statement: I chose to run for the Charter Review because I feel it is imperative we have a progressive presence on the commission to ensure the Charter is a document that can help meet the needs of Whatcom County today and into the future. I am a

disabled veteran and a proud member of the LGBTQ+ community. I have a BA in Professional Writing and an MA in English. In my 23 year career at the ARCO/ BP refinery, I spent 6 years writing and editing operational manuals and procedures. So, I am well versed in writing and editing complicated documents.

For More Information:
(360) 510-8347
cfwaters42@comcast.net



Colleen Goertz

Statement: Prof Experience: Assistant Store Manager, Personnel Manager, Customer Service Director, Regional Supervisor of New-Store Openings, Point-of-Sale Trainer/ Computer Installations and Conversions, Cash Accountant, Security

Education: WWU Bachelor of Arts, Business Administration
Statement: Having a life-long

connection to nearly all areas of Whatcom County has given me a broad perspective of our ever-growing community; especially the need to 1) Protect our family-farming resources, and 2) Properly manage our beautiful natural environment. I am asking for your vote to contribute my analytical skills and heart-felt values to the *review* of how we govern our county. For More Info: (360) 752-0763 CRGoertz@msn.com

For More Information:
(360) 752-0763
CRGoertz@msn.com



Lisa M. Pantalia

Statement: I missed the deadline to withdraw, and I no longer wish to seek this position.

For More Information:
No information submitted.



Jon Mutchler

Statement: *It's time!* Every 10 years we elect citizens to review our governmental processes and suggest changes to better serve us. In 2014 I served on this Commission and was able to recommend significant improvements that *you then approved*. This background (along with being Ferndale's Mayor and council member) equips me to

serve Whatcom County well.

My family has lived and worked here for decades and, like you, we cherish this place. I would be honored to serve you on this committee; to preserve what we love about Whatcom County and *make things better*. Thank you for voting Jon Mutchler.

For More Information:
(360) 927-1881
jonmutchler@gmail.com
www.VoteForJon.com



Andrew Hansen

Statement: When we elect people to office, *how* we hold elections is just as important as *who* we elect. I am running because I believe that how we run our elections can be fairer, and more accessible, with Ranked Choice Voting, and proportional representation.

As a lifelong resident of Ferndale, I've seen elections decided by a handful of votes, or once, even a coin flip. Many voters in Ferndale, and other communities in Whatcom County, go unrepresented because of our current election system. Now is the time to change that. Let's shape our future together! Vote Hansen for County Charter Review!

For More Information:
(360) 510-2290
andrewehansen1999@gmail.com

Whatcom County

Proposition 2024-22
Proposed Amendment to Whatcom County Charter Section 4.30

Questions? (360) 778-5010
Complete resolution text at
www.whatcomcounty.us/elections

Language on the Ballot:

The Whatcom County Council adopted Ordinance No. 2023-083 proposing amendments to Whatcom County Charter Section 4.30. The proposed amendments would add the letter "s" within the title of Section 4.30, and would add "or any other elected public office during their term of office" within the body of Section 4.30. If approved, this amendment would prohibit elected County officers from holding other elected public office during their terms of office.

Shall these amendments be approved? Yes/No

Explanatory Statement:

If approved, this proposition would amend Whatcom County Charter Section 4.30 as described in County Council Ordinance No. 2023-083, and the Whatcom County Charter would then read: "Section 4.30 Conflicts of Interest. The County Council, Executive, Assessor, Auditor, Treasurer, Sheriff and Prosecuting Attorney shall hold no other office or employment within County government or any other elected public office during their term of office."

Statement For:

Persons holding two (or more) public offices cannot fully and adequately perform the duties of each office. They have less time and attention for each and are more likely to miss discussions and votes. There will sometimes be conflicts of interest between the offices they hold. Multiple office holding also reduces the number of people in public service. All of which is contrary to the public interest.

The Charter currently says, "The County Council, Executive, Assessor, Auditor, Treasurer, Sheriff and Prosecuting Attorney shall hold no other office of employment within County government." This amendment would extend that to any other municipal, state, or federal elected office.

Most other states do not allow lawmakers to simultaneously hold two elected positions. Washington State is unusual in permitting it, but allows county charters to set a more exacting standard. In 2016, with over 83% bipartisan support, Pierce County voters similarly amended their county charter to prohibit dual office holding.

This is a bipartisan proposal, originating with current and former chairs of both parties, and placed on the ballot by a majority of council members of both parties on the Whatcom County Council in a 6-1 vote. It is sensible good government.

Statement Against:

Limiting the number of elected offices which a citizen can hold seems hypocritical to me, because elected county government officials currently encourage multiplied numbers of advisory groups and non-profit organizations to be populated with citizens, while receiving monetary benefits for doing so.

Precinct Committee Officers will not be allowed to hold elected county office and County Charter Review Commissioners will not be able to hold elected county office. Shared knowledge acquired by holding two or more elected positions will be blocked.

How far this prohibition will go is yet to be determined, while the plethora of unelected task forces, advisory groups, non-profit organizations, legal consultants, and office personnel has not increased the responsiveness of government. Rather, the people are experiencing a lack of leadership.

The County Council may be trying to close a loophole in the Charter, but this means that elected Precinct Committee Officers of either party will have to resign their precinct positions. Elected county officers will have to resign their elected positions in order to be involved in political party deliberations. Even though elected county offices are non-partisan, this amendment infringes on party affiliation and involvement by those who hold elected non-partisan county government positions.

Rebuttal of Statement Against:

Most of the Against statement is a jumble of confusing and unsubstantiated assertions. True, county offices are rightly designated nonpartisan. Having their occupants hold partisan office as precinct committee officers undermines that aim by publicly identifying them as partisan. It is already true that county elected officials "shall hold no other office ... within County government," including the County Charter Review Commission. This amendment merely extends that to double dipping with any other elected office.

Rebuttal of Statement For:

While it is true that multiple office holding can be harmful, I'm not sure it is wise to endanger precinct officer and charter review positions through omission in the text. The Pierce County amendment, which passed by 83%, specifically safeguarded precinct officers in language to that effect. The Charter Review Commission will meet this year to go over our Whatcom County Charter with a fine-tooth comb. They will consider dual office holding and make recommendations.

Statement For prepared by:

Kathy Kershner, Andrew Reding, and John Westerfield.

Statement Against prepared by:

Doris Smith.

Blaine School District 503

Proposition 2024-21
General Obligation Bonds - \$70,000,000

Questions? (360) 332-5881
Complete resolution text at
www.whatcomcounty.us/elections

Language on the Ballot:

The Board of Directors of Blaine School District 503 adopted Resolution No. 2324-09 approving a proposition for bonds. This proposition authorizes the District to make improvements and additions to Blaine Primary, Middle and Elementary Schools, Pipeline Athletic Complex, Point Roberts Primary School, Birch Bay site, and other capital improvements; to issue \$70,000,000 of general obligation bonds maturing within a maximum of 20 years, and to collect excess property taxes annually to repay the bonds, as provided in Resolution No. 2324-09.

Should this proposition be: Approved/Rejected

Explanatory Statement:

The Board of Directors of Blaine School District 503 adopted Resolution No. 2324-09 approving a proposition for bonds. This proposition authorizes the District to renovate and modernize Blaine Middle School; field upgrades and additions to Pipeline Athletic Complex; improvements to Point Roberts Primary School; improvements of maintenance facilities, technology infrastructure, electrical and mechanical upgrades; Birch Bay site improvements; and other capital infrastructure improvements to the facilities of the District, to issue \$70,000,000 of general obligation bonds maturing within a maximum of 20 years, and to collect excess property taxes annually to repay the bonds, as provided in the Resolution.

Statement For:

Just as the state did not provide enough money to fully fund the programs and services supported by our local levy, the same is true for school facilities.

Supporting this bond is vital for addressing our school district's critical needs and enhancing community facilities. The bond will finance essential upgrades across the district, including modernizing outdated middle school facilities, improving safety and security, and updating the Performing Arts Center. Furthermore, it will improve Pipeline Fields with new turf, batting cages, and restrooms, benefiting the entire community and generating new revenue for our schools.

Following a thorough analysis and community input, our Facilities Advisory Committee has prioritized updates to address overcrowded hallways, outdated classrooms, and inadequate playgrounds. The bond will also fund preliminary designs for a new elementary school in Birch Bay and improvements to lighting and playground facilities in Point Roberts.

Importantly, tax rates are expected to remain stable or even decrease due to the expiration of current levies and bonds. By supporting this bond, you are investing in our children's education, community spaces, and future growth while ensuring fiscal responsibility. Your vote will drive essential improvements, making our schools safer, more modern, and more efficient for everyone.

Statement Against:

No person in the jurisdiction contacted the Auditor's Office to provide a statement, and there are no statements for this measure.

Rebuttal of Statement Against:

No statement submitted.

Rebuttal of Statement For:

No statement submitted.

Statement For prepared by:

Committee For the Blaine School District 503 General Obligation Bonds - \$70,000,000: Jaime Arnett, Jenna Schrengohst, and Kevin Reid.

Statement Against prepared by:

No committee formed.

Meridian School District 505

Proposition 2024-20
General Obligation Bonds - \$75,000,000

Questions? (360) 398-7111
Complete resolution text at
www.whatcomcounty.us/elections

Language on the Ballot:

The Board of Directors of Meridian School District 505 adopted Resolution No. 06-24 authorizing bonds to fund several capital projects. This proposition authorizes the District to construct and equip a new middle school facility to replace the existing Meridian Middle School, modernize the Performing Arts Center, provide a standby generator at Meridian High School and modernize the Varsity Athletic Stadium and make other capital improvements; (2) issue \$75,000,000 of general obligation bonds maturing within a maximum of 20 years, and (3) levy excess property taxes annually to repay the bonds, as provided in Resolution #06-24.

Should this proposition be: Approved/Rejected

Explanatory Statement:

The Board of Directors of Meridian School District 505 adopted Resolution No. 06-24 approving a proposition for bonds. This proposition authorizes the District to construct and equip a new middle school facility to replace the existing Meridian Middle School, modernize the Performing Arts Center, provide a standby generator at Meridian High School and modernize the Varsity Athletic Stadium and make other capital improvements to the facilities of the District, to issue \$75,000,000 of general obligation bonds maturing within a maximum of 20 years, and to collect excess property taxes annually to repay the bonds, as provided in the Resolution.

Statement For:

Our middle school has served generations of Meridian students since it was first built in 1938, and now it needs your help. This bond will provide a desperately needed reconstruction of the school, including essential safety, earthquake, and accessibility improvements. The new school will again accommodate fifth graders, as it did before 1991. This will improve operations and reduce overcrowding at Irene Reither Elementary. The bond also includes important safety repairs at Meridian High School.

Meridian has a history of strong fiscal stewardship. While neighboring school districts are cutting staff and reducing programs, Meridian has tightened its belt and continues to provide the academic excellence our community deserves. This proposal is precisely the investment our students require and not a cent more; it's the right fit for Meridian.

Now is the time to do the right thing by our students and teachers and invest in the next generation of Trojans. Every year of delay adds millions of dollars due to rising labor and materials costs. Join us to build brighter futures for our kids, please vote yes!

Statement Against:

The Meridian School District cost analysis is illogical and inaccurate, while it also underestimates the true cost to local taxpayers.

For each of the next 21 years, the new bond will increase the annual average tax obligation to \$1250 additional for property owners whose homes were assessed at \$550,000 in 2024.

Contrary to the district's cost analysis, voters and taxpayers are *not* voting on future estimated tax *rates*. Voters are voting on tax amounts in *dollars*, including the \$70M in bond principal, plus the estimated bond interest and fees of \$56M, for a total of \$126M being charged to the community of local taxpayers.

For a logical, mathematically accurate cost analysis, see BondNo.com.

Rebuttal of Statement Against:

The opposition is misleading. Voting yes means just \$63 more per month for a \$550,000 home in 2025. These figures come from independent experts and are on the district website. This bond will give our Trojans safe, modern facilities that will last for decades. Our 85-year-old school can only be rebuilt with voter approval. Saying no means higher costs later and worsening conditions. Our kids deserve the best. Vote yes!

Statement For prepared by:

Meridian Citizens for Education Committee: Sara Bernardy, Paul Kratzig, and Michelle Simmons.

Rebuttal of Statement For:

Local property taxpayers will have to pay over \$50M in interest and fees on top of the advertised bond principal. That is not good fiscal stewardship. The argument that taxpayers better pay up now, because the costs will just be higher later, is disgraceful. That type of thinking is called the inflation mentality and only leads to more inflation. This district and all school districts need to move away from expensive bonds.

Statement Against prepared by:

Ronald McKay.

Fire Protection District 1

Proposition 2024-24
General Obligation Bonds - \$13,000,000

Questions? (360) 966-5757
Complete resolution text at
www.whatcomcounty.us/elections

Language on the Ballot:

The Board of Fire Commissioners of Fire Protection District 1 adopted Resolution No. 2024-16 concerning this proposition for bonds. This proposition would authorize the District to construct and equip a new fire station/headquarters and acquire new fire fighting and life safety equipment, to issue \$13,000,000 of general obligation bonds maturing within a maximum of 20 years, and to collect excess property taxes annually to repay the bonds, as provided in Resolution No. 2024-16.

Should this proposition be: Approved/Rejected

Explanatory Statement:

Passage of Proposition 2024-24 will authorize Fire Protection District 1, Whatcom County, to borrow \$13,000,000 by issuing general obligation bonds. In accordance with Resolution No. 2024-16, approving this proposition, the bonds will be used to construct and equip a new fire station/headquarters and acquire fire fighting and life safety equipment to meet the service and emergency needs of the District. The bonds would be repaid out of the collection of excess property taxes annually over a maximum period of 20 years.

Statement For:

As members of the Pro Committee, we are grateful for the majority of voters who supported the measure to relocate Whatcom Fire District 1's 46-year-old fire station in Everson out of the flood plain during the August election. While the measure narrowly missed the required threshold, your "yes" votes demonstrated strong community support, and we thank you for standing with us. This bond measure is crucial for enhancing public safety. Currently, firefighters are responding to emergencies in Everson from Nugent's Corner, resulting in longer response times. Relocating the station will reduce these times by an estimated 10%, potentially saving lives. Improved staffing at the new location will also bring coverage in Everson up to the level of Nugent's Corner, which could lower insurance costs for residents by meeting higher safety standards. The bond's initial financial impact is estimated at 39 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value, but as the district grows, these costs could decrease over time, easing the burden on taxpayers. This relocation will also create a more reliable emergency command post and provide valuable community meeting space, making it a true asset for all.

Statement Against:

No person in the jurisdiction contacted the Auditor's Office to provide a statement, and there are no statements for this measure.

Rebuttal of Statement Against:

No statement submitted.

Rebuttal of Statement For:

No statement submitted.

Statement For prepared by:

Jim Blattner.

Statement Against prepared by:

No committee formed.

Columbia Valley Park and Recreation District

Proposition 2024-23
Establishing Six-Year Regular Property Tax Levy

Questions? (360) 656-6771
Complete resolution text at
www.whatcomcounty.us/elections

Language on the Ballot:

The Board of Commissioners of Columbia Valley Park and Recreation District, Whatcom County, Washington, adopted Resolution No. 01-2024 authorizing a regular property tax levy of \$0.60 or less per \$1,000.00. This Proposition would authorize the district to establish and maintain its regular property tax levy of \$0.60 or less per \$1,000.00 of assessed valuation for collection in 2025 through 2030 subject to any otherwise applicable statutory dollar rate limitations.

Should this proposal be approved? Yes/No

Explanatory Statement:

This measure establishes a six (6) year-regular property levy rate for the Columbia Valley Parks and Recreation District. This levy will be the primary funding source for parks and recreation services to be provided by the district. Formed by voters in 2016, it currently has no funding. Passage of Proposition 2024-23 will allow the district to establish the levy rate to \$0.60 or less per \$1,000.00 of assessed valuation for a six (6) year period as otherwise authorized by law. Voter approval of Proposition 2024-23 will provide funding for the district to purchase property for parks.

Statement For:

The benefits of parks to any community are multivalent but all benefits lead to improved health and well-being for community members. This levy will provide funds for Columbia Valley Park and Recreation District to improve our existing park property and begin acquiring properties for four more parks per the Columbia Valley Park and Recreation District Comprehensive Plan. The cost to the average homeowner per year is about as much as it costs for six cups of coffee.

Parks are essential for the health and well-being of community members because they provide safe spaces where children can engage with and learn from the natural environment and peers, and places for intergenerational play and exercise. In addition the health benefits of parks include improving health problems which in turn reduces health care costs. Parks give a focus for community identity and pride along with community building and providing local areas for family and community gatherings such as arts/cultural events, sporting activities, all of which encourage healthier activities and lifestyles. In addition parks reduce violence, illegal activities, and property crimes, and because we're in a rural setting, they discourage homeless encampments while increasing property values and encouraging home buying.

Statement Against:

Community parks are wonderful community infrastructure assets. However, a new levy is difficult for homeowners and renters, especially those at the lower income brackets. Landlords often pass on their increased costs by raising rents. Mortgage interest rates have increased and insurers are under pressure to raise homeowner insurance rates because of costly environmental events. Catastrophic forest fires have left some without adequate coverage on their home or in danger of losing their homeowner's insurance. In hard-hit regions, it may become impossible to get the full coverage required to get a mortgage. Also, those of us in rural areas may experience huge increases in our fire insurance premiums based on whether or not a professional fire crew can arrive on the scene of a fire within 10 minutes. And as the value of homes in Washington continue to increase we have higher home values to insure. Our homes are our most important financial asset and must come first over non-essential community improvements. The financial stresses on families are growing. In 2022 there was a 4.8% increase in property taxes and a whopping 9.2% increase in 2023. Can you afford more? If not, please consider a *no* vote on the park levy.

Rebuttal of Statement Against:

No statement submitted.

Rebuttal of Statement For:

The cost of this levy will decrease your discretionary income. Thomas Jefferson said: "A wise and frugal Government shall not take from the mouth of labor the bread it has earned." In the case of this levy, we can substitute six cups of coffee at \$27.00/year. Even if you can spare that, can the widow down the street or the young couple struggling to get ahead? If not, please vote *no* on the park levy.

Statement For prepared by:

Melonie Ancheta, Carl McDaniel, and Cindy Johnson.

Statement Against prepared by:

Committee Against the Columbia Valley Park and Recreation District Establishing Six-Year Regular Property Tax Levy: Susan Sloan and Wendy Kimmel.

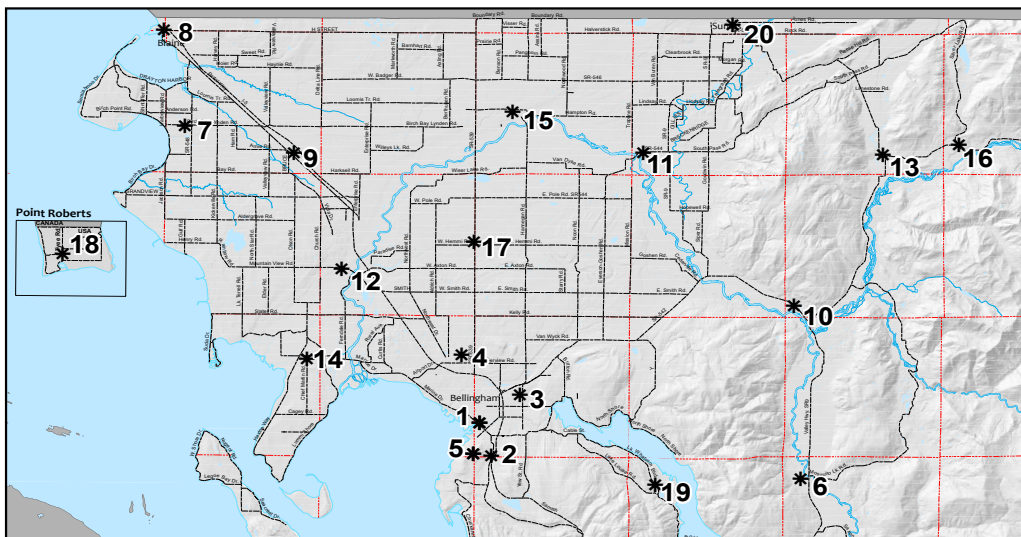


Returning Your Ballot by Official Ballot Drop Box or Mail



By Official Ballot Drop Box: Boxes open October 16, and close November 5 at 8:00 pm sharp

Map #	City	Ballot Drop Box Location	Address	Drive Up Drop Box?
1	Bellingham	Inside rotunda, during business hours	311 Grand Avenue	No
1	Bellingham	Inside Auditor's Office, Suite 103, during business hours	311 Grand Avenue	No
1	Bellingham	In south parking lot of Courthouse, enter from Grand Avenue	247 Grand Avenue	Yes
2	Bellingham	Sehome Haggen parking lot	210 36th Street	Yes
3	Bellingham	Parking lot, between Scotty Browns and WaFd Bank	3055 Woburn Street	Yes
4	Bellingham	WCC, outside the Auxiliary Services Building	620 W. Kellogg Road	Yes
5	Bellingham	WWU, outside Wade King Student Recreation Center	1880 Bill McDonald Parkway	No
5	Bellingham	WWU, outside Bond Hall	516 High Street	No
5	Bellingham	WWU, on November 5 only , on campus inside the Viking Union	516 High Street	No
6	Acme	Acme Elementary School parking lot	5200 Turkington Road	Yes
7	Birch Bay	North Whatcom Fire & Rescue parking lot	4581 Birch Bay-Lynden Road	Yes
8	Blaine	Blaine Library parking lot	610 3rd Street	Yes
9	Custer	Outside Custer Elementary School	7660 Custer School Road	No
10	Deming	Deming Library parking lot	5044 Mt. Baker Highway	Yes
11	Everson	WECU parking lot	106 E. Main Street	No
12	Ferndale	Ferndale City Hall parking lot	2095 Main Street	Yes
13	Kendall	North Fork Library at Kendall parking lot	7506 Kendall Road	Yes
14	Lummi	Lummi Nation Administration Building, outside main entrance	2665 Kwina Road	Yes
15	Lynden	Behind Lynden Library	216 4th Street	Yes
16	Maple Falls	Post Office parking lot	7392 Mt. Baker Highway	No
17	Meridian	Laurel Grange parking lot	6172 Guide Meridian	Yes
18	Point Roberts	Inside the International Marketplace: available during store hours	480 Tye Drive	No
19	Sudden Valley	Outside in the security office turnaround at Gate One	2020 Lake Whatcom Blvd	Yes
20	Sumas	Behind the Post Office	534 Railroad Avenue	Yes



By Mail:

Ballots must be postmarked by November 5

United States Postal Service recommends mailing by Tuesday, October 29

No stamp needed