

# 2025 Draft Council Priorities for Discussion

*The following list is compiled from common priorities provided by each councilmember.*

- Budget
    - Budget prioritization process and mid-biennium review
    - Structural imbalance – Road, Behavioral Health, and EMS Funds
    - Impact of projected state & federal funding cuts on county
  - Comprehensive Plan Update
  - Justice Project Implementation
  - Opioid/Fentanyl Crisis
  - Housing and Homelessness
    - Shelter
    - Ideas to reduce cost for permitting housing
  - Healthy Children’s Fund
  - Whatcom County Ferry
    - Summer 2025 deadline for the county to determine its financial plan
  - Food Security
  - Adjudication
  - Evaluation of human resources (HR) policies and procedures
  - Fire/EMS Study
  - Contract Thresholds
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## 2025 Councilmember Priorities

### **Buchanan**

- Budget
- Comprehensive Plan Update
- Justice Project Implementation
- Opioid/Fentanyl Crisis
- Housing and Homelessness
- Healthy Children’s Fund
- Whatcom County Ferry
- Food Security

### **Byrd**

- Budget
  - Budget prioritization process and mid-biennium review
- Adjudication
- HR Policies – Matrix Consulting study

- Ideas to reduce costs & time for permitting for housing - pull from recs from Business and Commerce Advisory Committee, Housing Advisory Committee and others
- Fire/EMS Study

## **Donovan**

## **Elenbaas**

## **Galloway**

### **COUNCIL**

- Budget
  - Budget prioritization process and mid-biennium review
  - Structural imbalance – Road, Behavioral Health, and EMS Funds
- Comprehensive Plan Update
- Justice Project Implementation
- Opioid/Fentanyl Crisis
- Housing and Homelessness
  - Shelter
- Healthy Children's Fund
- Whatcom County Ferry
  - Summer 2025 deadline for the county to determine its financial plan
- Food Security
- Adjudication

### **GALLOWAY**

- Pre-Hire Agreements Ordinance (Galloway/Scanlon/Buchanan)
- Purchasing Code/Procurement
  - Responsible Bidder Criteria
  - Labor Compliance Program
  - Contract Thresholds
  - Equity in Finance/Budget and procurement processes
- Housing and Homelessness
  - Continue efforts to expand year-round and seasonal shelter capacity
  - Support tiny home villages
  - Short-term rental registration and regulations
  - Continue working with PDS to improve permit process
  - Development Agreements – incorporating community benefits
- Agriculture/Food System
  - Slaughterhouse reform (Elenbaas/Galloway)

- Food Security/Support for Food Banks
- Lake Whatcom
  - Update code for phosphorus neutral development
  - Private stormwater inspection/enforcement
- Forestry
  - Forest Resilience Plan
  - Forest Management Plan(s)
- Electrification
  - 230kv Ordinance (Galloway/Donovan)
  - New development: <https://mrsc.org/explore-topics/environment/sustainability/electric-vehicles>
- EMS Levy
  - EMS Study / Evaluation
  - Review and Update EMS Levy Plan
  - Address structural imbalance of the fund
- Continue Working on Advisory Groups
- Tort Claim Code/independent counsel/HR policies/ombuds program (Scanlon/Donovan/Galloway)

## **Scanlon**

### COUNCIL

- Charter review commission/charter amendments
- Large construction projects: jail, Northwest Annex, 23-hour crisis relief center
- Health of the road fund
- Impact of projected state & federal funding cuts on county
- Adjudication
- County priorities for the 2025 state legislative session
- The potential impact of the pending State Supreme Court decision regarding public defender caseload standards
- Continue to strengthen the Council & legislative branch of county government
- Council contract review thresholds & update to contract code
- HR policies - Matrix Consulting study
- Fire/EMS study

### SCANLON

- Cross-border economy & travel, impact on Point Roberts, Blaine, Lynden, Sumas, and county, World Cup 2026 planning & opportunity
- Birch Bay incorporation study
- Point Roberts economic study & stormwater study
- Community Health Assessment
- Board of Health structure
- Learning/sharing across local healthcare projects across the county: East Whatcom County Health Equity Zone; the Lummi Island partnership between WWU, PeaceHealth,

and the Lummi Island Health and Wellness Committee; SeaMar clinic at Mount Baker High School; Nooksack Tribe health center expansion; Point Roberts clinic/public hospital district

- Ideas to reduce costs & time for permitting for housing - pull from recs from Business and Commerce Advisory Committee, Housing Advisory Committee and others
- Winter 2025-26 shelter & year-round shelter

### **Stremmer**

- Sheriff's office
- Justice project implementation
- Budget
- Fiscal notes with proposed ideas