



APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO WHATCOM COUNTY ADVISORY GROUPS

PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY and COMPLETE ALL ITEMS

Name: Vanessa Bronsema Date: 9/23/2024
9/16/2024

Residential address: [REDACTED]

City: [REDACTED]

Mailing Address (if different from street address): [REDACTED]

Primary Telephone: [REDACTED]

E-mail address: [REDACTED]

1a. Name of advisory group: **See next page** Salary Commission for Elected Officials

1b. Which position are you applying for? **Refer to vacancy list**

2. Do you meet the requirements of the position for which you're applying?

(If applicable, please refer to vacancy list.) () yes () no

3. Which Council district do you live in? () One () Two () Three () Four () Five (☒) Not Applicable

4. Have you ever been a member of this advisory group? (☒) yes () no

If yes, dates: 3/24/23 - 4/27/23 (project end); apt. end 12/31/24.

5. Do you or your spouse have a financial interest in or are you an employee or officer of any business or agency that does business with Whatcom County? (☒) yes () no

If yes, please explain: I am an employee at Whatcom Transportation Authority (WTA)

6. Have you declared candidacy (as defined by RCW 42.17A.005(8)) for a paid elected office in any jurisdiction within the county? () yes (☒) no

You may attach a résumé or detailed summary of experience, qualifications, & interest in response to the following questions.

7. Please describe your occupation (or former occupation if retired), qualifications, professional and/or community activities, and education.

HR Director Currently at WTA 10+ years experience, public sector
MS in Conflict & Dispute Resolution, Master of Public Administration
Mediator, Facilitator, Trainer

8. Please describe why you're interested in serving on this advisory group:

Executive Sidhu invited my application following an
appointment in 2023 to cover a vacancy on the commission. I
value the transparent process and analysis in assessing and setting salaries
for elected officials who are leaders in the community

References (please include daytime telephone number):

Les Reardan, WTA General Manager 360-788-9301 (office) 360-325-1947 (cell)

My signature affirms that the information provided in this application is true and correct. If appointed, I will comply with the Council & Executive Expectations of Advisory Group Members and complete Open Government Training as required by RCW 42.30.205.

Signature of applicant: Vanessa Bronsema See next page for additional instructions.

THIS IS A PUBLIC DOCUMENT: As a candidate for a public board or commission, the above information will be available to the County Council, County Executive, and the public. All board and commission members are expected to be fair, impartial, and respectful of the public, County staff, and each other. Failure to abide by these expectations may result in revocation of appointment and removal from the appointive position.

If you are applying for one of the following boards, committees, or commissions, please send this application to the

Whatcom County Executive's Office:

311 Grand Avenue, Suite 108

Bellingham, Washington 98225

Phone:(360) 778-5200 Fax:(360) 778-5201

For more information on when an application will be considered, you may contact the County Executive's Office

- Agricultural Advisory Committee
- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Compliance Committee
- Behavioral Health Advisory Committee
- Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee
- Boundary Review Board
- Civil Service Commission
- Commission on Sexual and Domestic Violence
- Conservation Easement Program Oversight Committee
- Developmental Disabilities Board
- Development Standards Technical Advisory Committee
- Economic Development Investment Board
- Ethics Commission
- Food System Committee
- Housing Authority of Whatcom County
- Housing Advisory Committee
- Lodging Tax Advisory Committee
- Marine Resource Committee
- North Sound Behavioral Health Organization Advisory Board
- Northwest Senior Services Board
- Parks and Recreation Commission
- Point Roberts Community Advisory Committee
- Salary Commission
- Veteran's Advisory Board
- Whatcom County Library System

If you are applying for one of the following boards, committees, or commissions, please send this application to the

Whatcom County Council Office:

311 Grand Avenue, Suite 105

Bellingham, Washington 98225

Phone:(360) 778-5010 Fax: (360) 778-5011

Council deadline for applications to one of the advisory groups below is 10 a.m. the Tuesday before appointments are scheduled. Council may consider late applications.

Applicants may follow up with Council to advocate for their application by email, mail, phone call, or attending the Council meeting at which appointments are scheduled. See Council website for contact and meeting information.

- Acme/VanZandt Flood Control Sub-Zone Advisory Committee
- Birch Bay Watershed and Aquatic Resources Management Committee
- Board of Equalization
- Business and Commerce Advisory Committee
- Child & Family Well-Being Task Force
- Climate Impact Advisory Committee
- Criminal Justice Treatment Account (CJTA) Panel
- Drayton Harbor Shellfish Protection District Advisory Committee
- Flood Control Zone District Advisory Committee
- Forest Resilience Task Force
- Forestry Advisory Committee
- Horticultural Pest and Disease Board
- Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force/Law and Justice Council
- Lynden/Everson Flood Control Sub-Zone Advisory Committee
- Noxious Weed Control Board
- Open Space Advisory Committee
- Planning Commission
- Portage Bay Shellfish Protection District Advisory Committee
- Public Health Advisory Board
- Solid Waste Advisory Committee
- Sumas/Everson/Nooksack Flood Control Sub-Zone Advisory Committee
- Surface Mining Advisory Committee
- Whatcom County Ferry Advisory Committee
- Wildlife Advisory Committee

RCW 42.17A.005

(7) "Candidate" means any individual who seeks nomination for election or election to public office. An individual seeks nomination or election when he or she first:

- (a) Receives contributions or makes expenditures or reserves space or facilities with intent to promote his or her candidacy for office;
- (b) Announces publicly or files for office;
- (c) Purchases commercial advertising space or broadcast time to promote his or her candidacy; or
- (d) Gives his or her consent to another person to take on behalf of the individual any of the actions in (a) or (c) of this subsection.



Satpal Singh Sidhu
Whatcom County Executive



September 9, 2024

Vanessa Bronsema
2414 Madrona Street
Bellingham, WA 98225

Dear Ms. Bronsema:

I would like to extend my thanks to you for the work you did last year while serving on the Salary Commission for Elected Officials. As an appointed member of this commission, your two-year term of service ends on December 31, 2024. According to the provisions of the commission's founding Ordinance, #2012-008, as well as Ordinance Amendment #2016-026, you are eligible to serve a second term.

I encourage you to commit to serving a second term in preparation for the ongoing work of the commission. If you are interested in doing so, please complete the enclosed application and return it to our office as soon as possible and by no later than **September 23rd**. It can be returned either through the mail or electronically to Jake Logan, jlogan@co.whatcom.wa.us.

Once the selection or re-appointment process is completed, the full slate of commission members will require County Council confirmation, and following that, the work of preparing the next schedule of salaries for elected officials can begin. The next schedule will need to be filed with the Council and Auditor by May 1, 2025. The commission will once again set its own slate of meeting dates and choose a chair from among its members. We anticipate that the process of confirming the slate of commission members will be through Council by this Fall.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me or Jake Logan, Administrative Assistant, at 360-778-5211. Thank you for your consideration of this matter, and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Satpal Sidhu
County Executive

/encl: Application Form



APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO WHATCOM COUNTY ADVISORY GROUPS

PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY and COMPLETE ALL ITEMS

Name: Dan Darwin Date: 11/6/2024
Residential address: [REDACTED]
City: [REDACTED] Zip Code: [REDACTED]
Mailing Address (if different from street address): _____
Primary Telephone: [REDACTED] Secondary Telephone: _____
E-mail address: [REDACTED]

- 1a. Name of advisory group: **See next page** Salary Commission
- 1b. Which position are you applying for? **Refer to vacancy list** Organized Labor
2. Do you meet the requirements of the position for which you're applying?
(If applicable, please refer to vacancy list.) ----- ☒ yes () no
3. Which Council district do you live in? ----- () One () Two ☒ Three () Four () Five () Not Applicable
4. Have you ever been a member of this advisory group? ----- () yes ☒ no
If yes, dates: _____
5. Do you or your spouse have a financial interest in or are you an employee or officer of any business or agency that does business with Whatcom County? ----- ☒ yes () no
If yes, please explain: President/Business Agent of ATU Local 843
6. Have you declared candidacy (as defined by RCW 42.17A.005(8)) for a paid elected office in any jurisdiction within the county? ----- () yes ☒ no

You may attach a résumé or detailed summary of experience, qualifications, & interest in response to the following questions.

7. Please describe your occupation (or former occupation if retired), qualifications, professional and/or community activities, and education.

I have been a Bus Operator at Whatcom Transportation Authority (WTA) for 11 years. Prior to working here I was the Director of Operations for Sun Diego Charter Company in San Diego. I was the accounting manager before that. I have a BS in Mathematics.

8. Please describe why you're interested in serving on this advisory group: _____
The Northwest Washington Central Labor Council was seeking a labor representative for this position. With my prior experience in accounting and working as a Director of Operations, I can bring a fair and balanced approach to this commission.

References (please include daytime telephone number): _____

My signature affirms that the information provided in this application is true and correct. If appointed, I will comply with the Council & Executive Expectations of Advisory Group Members and complete Open Government Training as required by RCW 42.30.205.

Signature of applicant: See next page for additional instructions.

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APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO WHATCOM COUNTY ADVISORY GROUPS

PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY and COMPLETE ALL ITEMS

Name: Karen Funston Date: 9.19.2024
Residential address: [REDACTED]
City: [REDACTED]
Mailing Address (if different from street address): n/a
Primary Telephone: [REDACTED] Secondary Telephone: [REDACTED]
E-mail address: [REDACTED]

- 1a. Name of advisory group: **See next page** Salary Commission
- 1b. Which position are you applying for? **Refer to vacancy list** County Executive Appointment
2. Do you meet the requirements of the position for which you're applying?
(If applicable, please refer to vacancy list.) ----- ☒ yes () no
3. Which Council district do you live in? ----- () One ☒ Two () Three () Four () Five () Not Applicable
4. Have you ever been a member of this advisory group? ----- ☒ yes () no
If yes, dates: 2022 - 2024
5. Do you or your spouse have a financial interest in or are you an employee or officer of any business or agency that does business with Whatcom County? ----- ☒ yes () no
If yes, please explain: law partner Philip Buri does pro tem judge's contract work for County
6. Have you declared candidacy (as defined by RCW 42.17A.005(8)) for a paid elected office in any jurisdiction within the county? ----- () yes ☒ no

You may attach a résumé or detailed summary of experience, qualifications, & interest in response to the following questions.

7. Please describe your occupation (or former occupation if retired), qualifications, professional and/or community activities, and education.

see resume attached.

8. Please describe why you're interested in serving on this advisory group: This board fills an important role in recommending salaries of elected officials. Citizen input improves the process. I would be happy to serve a second term.

References (please include daytime telephone number): Jill Bernstein
Ret. Judge Debora Garrett

My signature affirms that the information provided in this application is true and correct. If appointed, I will comply with the Council & Executive Expectations of Advisory Group Members and complete Open Government Training as required by RCW 42.30.205.

Signature of applicant: Karen brief Funston See next page for additional instructions.

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KAREN LEIGH FUNSTON

Buri Funston Mumford, PLLC



EDUCATION

Juris Doctor Degree, June 1998. Admitted to the Washington State Bar, October 1998.
University of Washington School of Law, Seattle, Washington

Master of Arts, Political Science, 1988 Major concentration: Political Science/Public Administration. Western Washington University, Bellingham, Washington

Bachelor of Arts, Political Science, 1980. Western Washington University, Bellingham, Washington

LEGAL EXPERIENCE

Buri Funston Mumford & Furlong, PLLC

November 2003 – present

Partner. Law practice focuses on serving nonprofit organizations in areas including governance, finance, employment and business law, tax exempt status, and ongoing operations. Extensive experience working with private, public, and nonprofit organizations. Advises organizations in long term planning and transactional matters, and assist organizations facing crisis situations.

Western Washington University

2004-2005

Interim Director for Equal Opportunity Services: Director for the University Equal Opportunity Office. Responsibilities included enforcing state and federal laws through investigations, response recommendations, training, and mediations, for faculty, staff, and students.

Visser, Zender & Thurston, P.S.

September 1998 – November 2003

(Formerly Simonarson, Visser, Zender & Thurston, P.S. and currently Carmichael Clark, P.S.)

Associate: Associate in full service business/commercial and employment law practice. Duties included providing advice and counsel to business and non-profit clients on issues of business entity formation and structure; counsel on employment law compliance, personnel matters, and general or operational issues such as contracts, strategic and succession planning and general commercial law; counsel on real estate and business sale matters; preparing visa applications; researching and writing briefs and legal memoranda; representing clients in court and administrative proceedings regarding issues of commercial and employment law issues.

Affordable Housing Development Clinic, Seattle, Washington

September 1997 - June 1998

Legal Intern: Provided a full range of legal counseling to organizations developing affordable housing. Projects included assisting a sustainable-living development group with choice of entity, incorporating the group as a non-profit, responding to I.R.S. inquiries for a group developing disabled housing, and assisting with application for tax-exempt status for homeless shelter. Taught workshops on legal issues related to home purchases to first-time buyers.

Simonarson, Visser, Zender, & Thurston, Bellingham, Washington

June 1997 - September 1997

Research Assistant to Deborra Garrett: Researched and analyzed issues in employment and adoption law. Drafted summary judgment motions and prepared legal memoranda for pending litigation.

The Honorable Anne Ellington

Washington State Court of Appeals, Division 1, Seattle, Washington

January 1997 - April 1997

Law Clerk/Extern: Reviewed case files including all related briefs and records. Researched applicable statutory and case law for each case, and prepared pre-hearing memoranda with summaries of pertinent facts and legal issues including recommendation for decision. Drafted per curiam opinions. Responsible for employment discrimination summary judgment review through completion.

Raas, Johnsen, & Stuen, Bellingham, Washington

June 1996 - December 1996

Part-time Extern for Lummi Tribe: Researched statutory law related to environmental issues. Prepared summaries of applicable federal, state, and local laws and collected information from state agencies on compliance with existing permits in preparation for potential litigation.

Brett & Daugert, Bellingham, Washington

July 1996 - September 1996

Research Assistant to Breean Beggs: Extern for pro bono civil rights cases. Researched and analyzed legal issues in the areas of employment law, duty of school officials to students, and city juvenile curfew ordinance. Worked on cases in all phases of litigation from initial witness interviews through appeal.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Anderson & Connell, Attorneys at Law, Bellingham, Washington, Bookkeeper

1994 - 1995

Womencare Shelter, Bellingham, Washington, Funding Coordinator

1987 - 1991

Alternatives to Hunger, Bellingham, Washington, Interim Executive Director for Bellingham Food Bank and Whatcom County Food Bank Network

1986 - 1987

Western Washington University Political Science Department, Bellingham, Washington, Teaching Assistant

1984 - 1986

Whatcom County Public Works Department, Bellingham, Washington, Road Department and Administrative Division, Accounting Clerk

1976 - 1983

AFFILIATIONS

Washington Attorneys Advising Community Organizations, Advisory Council Member

City of Bellingham Capitol Facilities Task Force, 2010

Whatcom Community Foundation, Advisory Council, Former Board Member

Washington State Bar Association

Whatcom County Bar Association

Society of Human Resource Managers

League of Women Voters



APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO WHATCOM COUNTY ADVISORY GROUPS

PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY and COMPLETE ALL ITEMS

Name: Guy Occhiogrosso Date: 11/14/24
Residential address: [REDACTED]
City: [REDACTED] Zip Code: [REDACTED]
Mailing Address (if different from street address): _____
Primary Telephone: [REDACTED] Secondary Telephone: _____
E-mail address: [REDACTED]

- 1a. Name of advisory group: **See next page** Salary Commission
- 1b. Which position are you applying for? **Refer to vacancy list** Business Rep
2. Do you meet the requirements of the position for which you're applying?
(If applicable, please refer to vacancy list.) ☒ yes ☐ no
3. Which Council district do you live in? ☐ One ☐ Two ☐ Three ☐ Four ☐ Five ☒ Not Applicable
4. Have you ever been a member of this advisory group? ☐ yes ☒ no
If yes, dates: _____
5. Do you or your spouse have a financial interest in or are you an employee or officer of any business or agency that does business with Whatcom County? ☒ yes ☐ no
If yes, please explain: Bellingham Regional Chamber of Commerce
6. Have you declared candidacy (as defined by RCW 42.17A.005(8)) for a paid elected office in any jurisdiction within the county? ☐ yes ☒ no

You may attach a résumé or detailed summary of experience, qualifications, & interest in response to the following questions.

7. Please describe your occupation (or former occupation if retired), qualifications, professional and/or community activities, and education.

President/CEO - Bellingham Regional Chamber of Commerce

8. Please describe why you're interested in serving on this advisory group: _____

Thank you.

References (please include daytime telephone number): _____

My signature affirms that the information provided in this application is true and correct. If appointed, I will comply with the [Council & Executive Expectations of Advisory Group Members](#) and complete Open Government Training as required by RCW 42.30.205.

Signature of applicant: [Signature] See next page for additional instructions.

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