



WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
Boards and Commission Vacancies

Through January 31, 2026

Updated 1/20/2026

This list represents all vacancies through January 31, 2025. All appointees must live in Whatcom County and, if applicable, meet the residency, employment, and/or affiliation requirements of the position. Vacancies are often filled by reappointment of current members to a second term. All appointees must complete Open Public Meeting Act training within 90 days of appointment.

PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

AB2026-034

~~12 Vacancies, ten 3-year full terms, 1 partial term ending 1/31/2028 and 1 partial term ending 1/31/2027.~~

13 Vacancies, ten 3-year full terms, **2 partial terms ending 1/31/2028 and 1 partial term ending 1/31/2027**. Nine applicants are eligible to reapply.

Applicants must have expertise & experience as a consumer of public health, community member with lived experience in one of the areas listed below, or community stakeholders, including nonprofit organizations, the business community, and those regulated by public health. Membership preference shall be given to tribal, racial, ethnic, and other minorities. The advisory board shall consist of a balance of persons with expertise, career experience, and consumer experience in:

- i. Health care access and quality;
- ii. Physical environment, including built and natural environments;
- iii. Social and economic sectors, including housing, basic needs, education, and employment;
- iv. Business and philanthropy;
- v. Communities that experience health inequities;
- vi. Government;
- vii. Tribal communities and tribal government

Applicants:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Mike Cohen | 8. Deb Shawver |
| 2. Christine Espina, incumbent | 9. Markis Dee Stidham |
| 3. Alison Fontaine | 10. Ashley Thomasson, incumbent |
| 4. Carl Isom-McDaniel | 11. Ben Twigg |
| 5. Rachel McGarrity, incumbent | 12. Amelia Vader |
| 6. Nathaline Nivens | 13. Shu-Ling Zhao, incumbent |
| 7. Robyn Phillips-Madson, incumbent | |

UPDATE 1/20/2026:

1. We received a resignation from a PHAB member on 1/20/2026, increasing the number of vacancies to 13, including an additional partial term ending 1/31/2028.
2. Councilmember Scanlon asked each applicant (on Jan. 14) and all PHAB members (on Jan. 20) to provide additional information on their experience and expertise in areas required by both the Revised Code of Washington (RCW) and [Whatcom County Code 24.01.051\(B\)\(4\)](#), shown above. Applicant responses are attached to their applications. Current member responses will be posted as a packet to the Council Legislative Information Center.

REQUESTED ACTION:

- Vote 1** - Appoint new members
- Vote 2** - Which member is assigned to partial term ending 1/31/2027?
- Which 2 members are assigned to partial term ending 1/31/2028?