

Composition - Whatcom Racial Equity Commission (WREC)

2.107.050 Representative members.

The Whatcom racial equity commission shall consist of up to 31 voting members including the following 12 designated participants or their representatives. It is encouraged that those who have an interest in or have been impacted by racial equity issues are given preference by organizations, entities, and jurisdictions when considering whom to designate or select to serve on the commission:

- A. One representative, Lummi Nation, appointed by Lummi Indian business council;
- B. One representative, Nooksack Tribe, appointed by Nooksack Indian Tribe;
- C. Designated representative, Whatcom County staff member working to advance racial equity within county departments;
- D. Designated representative, city of Bellingham staff member working to advance racial equity within city of Bellingham departments;
- E. Designated representative from a municipal equity advisory body outside of the city of Bellingham;
- F. Law enforcement chief, lieutenant, or other representative, selected by WC Sheriffs and Police Chiefs Association;
- G. Whatcom County school superintendent, selected by the eligible Whatcom County school superintendents;
- H. One community health representative with experience serving Hispanic and Latino individuals and communities. This representative may be associated with organizations such as Community to Community or SeaMar; organizations to be considered and selected when filling vacant positions by the commission's appointment committee;
- I. One designated economic development professional, selected by Port of Bellingham economic development division and Whatcom associate development organization;
- J. Up to three representatives from organizations working in Whatcom County to advance racial equity and human rights; organizations to be considered and selected when filling vacant positions by the commission's appointment committee. (Ord. 2022-065 Exh. A).

2.107.060 Additional appointed members.

In addition to those members designated above, the Whatcom racial equity commission shall include up to 19 members appointed by the mayor of Bellingham and county executive from the following categories of community members:

- A. Up to seven community members, which group shall include at least one of the following:
 - 1. A student living in Whatcom County;
 - 2. A community member with experience caring for a student currently attending a Whatcom County public school such as parent, foster parent, grandparent, caregiver, or guardian;
 - 3. An immigrant, migrant, or refugee;
 - 4. A business owner, manager, or independent contractor;
 - 5. A youth or young adult aged 16 to 24 at the time of appointment;
- B. Two diversity officers or staff members engaged in DEI work in educational institutions: one working in local higher education institutions and one working in local K-12 schools;
- C. Two human service providers, including, but not limited to, victim or offender services, housing or houseless services, and mental health services;
- D. Up to four subject matter experts, individuals with expertise in, and/or specialists in the commission's areas of concern;
- E. One social justice advocate or activist whose area of focus is racial equity;
- F. One representative from a philanthropic organization;
- G. One faith leader;
- H. One multilingual health care provider.

All candidates under this section shall have an interest in or have been impacted by racial equity issues. Candidates under this section shall apply for appointment to the commission and meet the requirements for appointment as outlined in the Whatcom County Code. (Ord. 2022-065 Exh. A).

2.107.080 Liaison members.

In addition to the voting members above, the Whatcom racial equity commission shall include up to six nonvoting liaison members or their representatives.

- A. Whatcom County executive;
- B. Whatcom County councilmember;
- C. Mayor of Bellingham;
- D. Bellingham city councilmember;
- E. One chief executive officer from cities in Whatcom County other than Bellingham, selected by the Small Cities Partnership;
- F. One councilmember from cities in Whatcom County other than Bellingham, selected by the Small Cities Partnership. (Ord. 2022-065 Exh. A).