

**Subject:** Online Form Submittal: Board and Commission Application  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 18, 2022 9:40:24 AM

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## Board and Commission Application

### Step 1

Application for Appointment to Whatcom County Boards and Commissions

#### Public Statement

*THIS IS A PUBLIC DOCUMENT: As a candidate for a public board or commission, the information provided 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.*

Title	Ms.
First Name	Debra
Last Name	David
Today's Date	1/18/2022
Street Address	2115 F St
City	Bellingham
Zip	98225
Do you live in & are you registered to vote in Whatcom County?	Yes
Do you have a different mailing address?	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Primary Telephone	360-961-7325
Secondary Telephone	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Email Address	pacificnwdeb@yahoo.com

### Step 2

1. Name of Board or      Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force/Law &

Committee	Justice Council
Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force Position:	Concerned Citizen
2. Do you meet the residency, employment, and/or affiliation requirements of the position for which you're applying?	Yes
3. Which Council district do you live in?	District 2
4. Are you a US citizen?	Yes
5. Are you registered to vote in Whatcom County?	Yes
6. Have you declared candidacy (as defined by RCW 42.17A.055) for a paid elected office in any jurisdiction within the county?	No
7. Have you ever been a member of this Board/Commission?	No
8. 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?	No
You may attach a resume or detailed summary of experience, qualifications, &	<i>Field not completed.</i>

interest in response to the following questions

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

I'm a Licensed Home Care Aide and work almost full-time providing personal care for two of my elementary school-age grandchildren who have developmental disabilities. Additionally, I'm a High School Graduate with two years of college during which I received a scholarship in journalism.

I worked Civil Service positions in Wisconsin most of my adult life, County and State. At age 18 I became a matron in the jail at the Sauk County Sheriff's Dept., and also worked as a Sheriff's Office dispatcher, in my hometown of Baraboo, WI.

I grew up in a law enforcement family, my late mother, Donna Burgess, was one of the first female deputy sheriffs in Wisconsin in the mid 1950's. She served as undersheriff and a number of other appointments/assignments until her untimely death in 1992 due to cancer. My late father Robert was also a reserve sheriff's deputy and worked in the jail as well as serving on the Sheriff's Posse.

During my years in State Civil service I excelled as clerical and administrative support and held positions within the: Department of Transportation; Transportation Commission; Division of Vocational Rehabilitation; Secretary of State's Office, Corporations Division under Douglas La Follette; Department of Health, Federal grant to Improve Emergency Medical Services for Children; UW-School of Veterinary Medicine – Dean's Office; and lastly the Department of Corrections – Administration, before moving to Bellingham, Washington in 1990 as a divorced mother of three.

Shortly after arriving in Bellingham I enrolled in Real Estate coursework, became licensed and began working with Century 21-DeBoer Realty. My new career came to an abrupt halt when I was diagnosed with relapsing, remitting Multiple Sclerosis in 1992. The course of the MS confined me to a wheelchair for more than a year at which time it was unknown if I would ever walk again.

During occasional periods of remission, I worked with an employment agency and was placed at BP Refinery, Ayers Consulting, Fiberglass Structural Engineering, Key Bank, and Whatcom Land Title. I trained for and was certified in Community Emergency Response Team program in 2000 through the WCSO. As a CERT member, I participated in a disaster drill at the Bellingham International Airport and another at the Intalco aluminum smelter shortly thereafter.

In 2008 during a hiring freeze set by Governor Christine Gregoire, I volunteered as an Administrative Assistant at Division of Vocational Rehabilitation in Bellingham.

In 2009 I was hired by Service Alternatives, a subcontractor of DVR, as a Community Support Specialist. As such I worked with disabled adults to facilitate inclusion in workplace and community activities. During my work with this population group I became

aware of the dire need for advocacy and reform regarding the criminal justice system.

In April 2010 I attended a public meeting held by the Whatcom County Re-Entry Coalition, a non-profit whose mission was to assist formerly incarcerated citizens successfully return to their communities. I soon joined this group, now known as the Restorative Community Coalition, and have served on their Board for a decade.

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10. Please describe why you're interested in serving on this board or commission

Thank you for considering my application. My interest in serving on the Intervention Prevention and Reduction Task Force is to give voice to the marginalized and underserved population groups, as well as seeking the greatest return on investment for taxpayers.

I've worked in public service for the majority of my adult life and I realize I've always been drawn to that which serves the higher, greater good.

In addition, my youngest adult daughter is a military veteran; she came home from Iraq with PTSD and is still struggling to stabilize as she co-parents three young children, two of which have developmental disabilities. I've seen first-hand the barriers to mental health care she faces. We can and must do better for our veterans and all our citizens struggling to live a healthy, balanced and productive life each and every day.

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References (please include daytime telephone number):

Joy Gilfilen - 360-739-7493  
Irene Morgan - 360-354-2685

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Signature of applicant:

Debra David

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Place Signed / Submitted

Bellingham, WA

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