

PROPOSED BY: COUNCIL STAFF
INTRODUCTION DATE: MARCH 22,2022

ORDINANCE NO. _____

AMENDING WHATCOM COUNTY CODE 2.21, BOARD OF EQUALIZATION

WHEREAS, Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 84.48 requires each county to have a Board of Equalization, which must “consist of not less than three nor more than seven members including alternates”; and

WHEREAS, Whatcom County’s Board of Equalization consists of one position for each County Council district, totaling five members, and no alternates; and

WHEREAS, Whatcom County Code (WCC) 2.03 limits Board member terms to two full terms; and

WHEREAS, if no one applies to fill the district-specific vacancies on the Board of Equalization, the Board may not have enough members available to conduct hearings.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Whatcom County Council that WCC 2.21 is hereby amended as outlined in Exhibit A to this ordinance.

ADOPTED this ____ day of _____, 2022.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Dana Brown-Davis, Clerk of the Council

Todd Donovan, Council Chair

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

WHATCOM COUNTY EXECUTIVE
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

/s/ Karen Frakes (approved via e-mail) / JL

Civil Deputy Prosecutor

Satpal Sidhu, County Executive

() Approved () Denied

Date Signed: _____

EXHIBIT A

Chapter 2.21 BOARD OF EQUALIZATION

Sections:

- 2.21.010 Established – Composition.**
- 2.21.020 Membership – Term of office.**
- 2.21.030 Compensation for meeting attendance.**

2.21.010 Established – Composition.

The Whatcom County board of equalization is established pursuant to Chapter 84.48 RCW and shall consist of five **regular** members, one from each council district, **and two at-large alternates**. Three of the five **regular** members shall act as the board on a rotating basis **and the alternates shall fill in as-needed**.

The board members shall be selected based upon the qualifications established by the Department of Revenue by rule and shall not be members of the Whatcom County council or hold any other elective office, or be employees of any elected official.

2.21.020 Membership – Term of office.

Board members shall be appointed by a majority of the Whatcom County council. Member terms shall be three years, or until their successors are appointed, pursuant to RCW 84.48.026. **When a board member has completed two consecutive full terms, if a position on the board remains unfilled for one month, the county council shall have the right to waive the one-year period of separation set forth in WCC 2.03.030. The exiting board member may apply for the unfilled position if they remain qualified.** Each appointed member may be removed by a majority vote of the Whatcom County council.

2.21.030 Compensation for meeting attendance.

As authorized by RCW 84.48.010, members of the board of equalization shall receive \$75.00 per day for each day of actual attendance at a meeting of the board.