

Advisory Group Application

Step 1

Application for Appointment to Whatcom County Advisory Groups

Public Statement

THIS IS A PUBLIC DOCUMENT: As a candidate for a public advisory group, the information provided will be available to the County Council, County Executive, and the public. All advisory group 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	Mr.
First Name	Jerry
Last Name	Burns
Today's Date	1/6/2025
Street Address	
City	
Zip	
Do you live in Whatcom County?	Yes
Do you have a different mailing address?	Field not completed.
Primary Telephone	
Secondary Telephone	Field not completed.
Email Address	

Step 2

1. Name of Advisory	Solid Waste Advisory Committee
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Group

Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) Position:	Citizen with no financial ties to the other sectors (waste collection industry, waste recycling industry, solid waste disposal facility, business/industry, public interest group)
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2. Do you meet the residency, employment, and/or affiliation requirements of the position for which you're applying?	Yes
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3. Which Council district do you live in?	District 3
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4. Have you ever been a member of this Advisory Group	Yes
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If yes, please list dates:	June 2024 - January 31st, 2025.
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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?	No
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6. Have you declared candidacy (as defined by RCW 42.17A.055) for a paid elected office in any jurisdiction within the county?	No
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You may attach a resume or detailed summary of experience, qualifications, & interest in response to the following questions	Attached
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7. Please describe your occupation (or former occupation if retired),	I was raised on a family farm in Stanwood, Washington where I learned how to be a good steward of the land. 2017-2022 owner/operator of tow truck provided local tows and removed
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qualifications,
professional and/or
community activities,
and education

and recycled complete junk cars for free. I worked at Alcoa Intalco Plant for 3 years 2010-2012. I worked as an Alcohol/Drug Assessment Officer at Whatcom County District Court's Assessment unit for a year+ in 2009-2010. I have worked refinery shutdowns in Skagit County. I worked as a State Certified Chemical Dependency Counselor, Assessment Officer, Interventionist, and Alcohol/Drug Information School Instructor for 14 years and two years as an Outpatient Treatment Agency Administrator. I also served at the former Adolescent Residential Treatment Facility, Safe Passage, in Sedro-Woolley as a Primary Counselor. I studied Human Services with emphasis on Substance Abuse and Treatment at Skagit Valley College, Business Administration at Everett Community College, and EMT training while in the Coast Guard at Portsmouth Naval Hospital. I served an elected Student Body representative in the Student Government at Everett Community College in the early 80s and was instrumental in forming and adopting a new student government model for the college on the Student Government Model Committee and as the only member who knew both the U.S.A. and Washington State Constitutions I kept the new student government model constitutionally compliant. As a result of my efforts, the new student government model passed muster with the College administration, the then Washington Attorney General's Office and the Governor's Office on the first pass. I am a board member of the Friends of the North Fork Community Library (FNFCL).

8. Please describe why
you're interested in
serving on this
Advisory Group.

I have uncommon sense which is needed in this county, especially in looking for solid waste solutions. Since the glass recycling company in Seattle stopped taking recyclable glass, I see this as an opportunity for our county to apply for State and federal grants to open a glass recycling business in Whatcom County, which will take recyclable glass from our county and other counties that pay us for this service. This revenue stream may afford our county the opportunity to reduce sales and property taxes, which for example would create more car sales in our county, as most people buy cars in Skagit County, which has a lower sales tax.

I envision a transfer station and recycling center in East Whatcom County that is open Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, except for holiday weekends. I envision our county soliciting grant applications from Whatcom County residents for starting and operating a model yard waste receiving, and composting yard waste for Whatcom County residents ideally with a portion set aside for organic yard waste from property owners who refrain from using pesticides, herbicides, fungicides, and other toxic man made chemicals in, around, and on their yards, trees, etc...I assert that there is a market for organic yard waste compost for gardeners, and other property owners.

References (please

Carl McDaniels (360) 510-3715

include daytime
telephone number):

Rochelle Hollowell (512) 645-8020 or (828) 367-6083
Ron Nussli (206) 841-0446
Denise Lloyd (425) 343-4279
Jason Reimer (360) 988-3789
Robert Hall (360) 947-8784

Appointment
Requirements

I understand and agree

Signature of applicant:

Jerry Burns

Place Signed /
Submitted



(Section Break)

Elected Experience”

Student Government: Everett Community College early 80s.

Other Professional Experience:

14 years as Washington State licensed counselor, assessment officer, interventionist, and instructor; outpatient counseling office administrator two years. Certified Developing Capable People trainer. EMT and duty engineer at Little Creek Coast Guard Station in Norfolk, Virginia. I worked as a Psychiatric Technician lock-down, 48 hour hold facility in Skagit County.

Education:

EMT School, Portsmouth Naval Hospital, Portsmouth, VA, 1988. Skagit Valley College Human Services, 1992-1998. Everett Community College, Business Administration, 1980-1984.

Community Service:

Kendall Summer Fest and Friends of North Fork Community Library. I help beautify our county by removing and recycling junk cars.

Statement:

My primary goal is to make Whatcom County government more fiscally responsible with 100% transparency of all county funds, especially those granted to community organizations.

My second priority is to enhance safety by:

- A.) streamlining and reducing costs of the permitting process for sand and gravel mining in the Nooksack River, to reduce flood risk to our affected communities,
- B.) ban the use of herbicides by all county government departments, and
- C.) I will work towards functional zero homelessness in a fiscally sound way.

My third objective is to get our Sheriff's Department up to full staffing, full funding, and to prioritize mental health training and deescalation techniques in order to enhance safety for our deputies and all our residents.

I love the beauty of our land and recognized the need to preserve both our land and our liberty. I was raised on a family beef and timber farm in Stanwood, where I learned to be a good steward of the land. After military service, I lived just South of Wickersham in Skagit County for 15 years. I began working in Bellingham in 2002 and sold my place and moved to Whatcom County in 2006.