

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	Field not completed.
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First Name	Matthew
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Last Name	Berry
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Today's Date	2/5/2026
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<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Do you live in Whatcom County?	Yes
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Do you have a different mailing address?	Field not completed.
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<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Step 2

1. Name of Advisory	Planning Commission
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Group

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 5

4. Have you ever been a member of this Advisory Group

No

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

6. Have you declared candidacy (as defined by RCW 42.17A.055) for a paid elected office in any jurisdiction within the county?

No

You may attach a resume or detailed summary of experience, qualifications, & interest in response to the following questions

Attached

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

Real Estate Appraiser, please see attached supplemental responses.

8. Please describe why

Please see attached supplemental responses.

you're interested in
serving on this
Advisory Group.

References (please
include daytime
telephone number):

Please see attached supplemental responses.

Appointment
Requirements

I understand and agree

Signature of applicant:

Matthew Berry

Place Signed /
Submitted



(Section Break)

Supplemental Responses – Planning Commission District 5 Application

Matthew Berry

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

I've been a licensed residential real estate appraiser for 17 years, which involves highest-and-best-use analysis and developing opinions of value for tax, estate, mortgage, and refinance purposes. For about 10 of those years, I also sold homes, which gave me practical experience helping people assess development feasibility through analysis of zoning and building codes across District 5. I returned to full-time appraisal at the beginning of this year because I prefer the analytical side of real estate over the emotional side.

Through my personal land use applications in Whatcom County, I've worked directly with shoreline management, flood and critical areas, building codes, and the consultant/study process.

For the past three years, I have served on the Birch Bay Chamber of Commerce board and chaired the Birch Bay Incorporation Association. Additionally, I helped draft the code and resolution that created the new Birch Bay Community Advisory Committee. My work with these groups has involved regular interaction with County staff and elected officials on growth, service delivery, and representation.

Altogether, my valuation, real estate, and community volunteer work have given me a well-rounded understanding of planning in Whatcom County and how GMA policies, comprehensive planning, and local regulations affect property owners.

8. Please describe why you're interested in serving on this advisory group:

I've lived most of my life in the Birch Bay Urban Growth Area and want to make sure Birch Bay and Blaine are well represented in county planning decisions. I stay active locally through the Birch Bay Chamber of Commerce and the Birch Bay Incorporation Association/Community Advisory Committee effort, so I'm well positioned to serve as a liaison on the Planning Commission.

At the same time, my work takes me all over District 5, including Blaine, Ferndale, and communities that sometimes get overlooked like Point Roberts, Lummi Island, Sandy Point, and Custer. This work lets me see how these areas are changing over time and gives me a good sense of their needs and constraints. Because I'm rooted in Birch Bay but work across the whole district, I can help connect local concerns to county-level decisions.

Lastly, I enjoy thinking about planning and land use, and the independent nature of my work allows me the flexibility to volunteer my time to this important process.

References (please include daytime telephone number):

Ben Elenbaas, Councilmember, Whatcom County Council

[REDACTED]

Kelvin Barton, Chair, Whatcom County Planning Commission

[REDACTED]

David Wilbrecht, Chair, Birch Bay Community Advisory Committee

[REDACTED]

Danielle Gaughen, Executive Director, Birch Bay Chamber of Commerce

[REDACTED]