

From: noreply@civicplus.com
To: [Jill Nixon](#); [Jake Logan](#); Executive; [Cathy Halka](#); [Faith Williams](#)
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Advisory Group Application
Date: Thursday, April 23, 2026 12:32:45 PM

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.*

First Name Neal

Last Name Walker

Today's Date 4/23/2026

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 Food System Committee

Group

Food System
Committee position: Labor issues

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 1

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 [NealWalkerLaborResume.pdf](#)

7. Please describe your occupation (or former occupation if retired), qualifications, professional and/or community activities, I currently work as a Person in Charge at a community-owned grocery cooperative in Bellingham, where I oversee daily store operations, coordinate staff, and ensure a high standard of customer service for a diverse community. In addition to my operational role, I serve as a union organizer and shop steward. I helped successfully organize a previously union-resistant

and education

workplace, leading to an overwhelming majority vote in favor of unionization. In my role as shop steward, I represent coworkers in grievance procedures, assist with contract interpretation, and act as a liaison between staff and management to resolve workplace concerns.

My professional background also includes political organizing, where I worked as a field coordinator on a public school board campaign. In that role, I managed voter outreach programs, recruited and trained volunteers, and organized community events to increase engagement and support.

I hold a Bachelor of Arts in Communication from George Mason University, with a focus on public relations and speechwriting. My qualifications include strong interpersonal and communication skills, leadership experience grounded in empathy and inclusivity, and hands-on experience in cooperative business models and union environments. I am also actively engaged in community-focused work through organizing, advocacy, and workplace representation.

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

I am passionate about how our food reaches our shelves and our plates, from the soil it's grown in to the hands that picked the crops.

Serving on this Advisory Group would allow me to contribute both my frontline experience in food retail and my background in organizing and worker advocacy. I bring a collaborative, solutions-oriented approach, grounded in relationship-building. I am eager to support efforts that strengthen fairness and sustainability throughout the food system, and to help ensure that policies and recommendations reflect the realities faced by workers at every level.

References (please include daytime telephone number):

Ali Jensen, Business Representative/Political Coordinator at Teamsters Local 231. Ph. 360-592-3622

Appointment Requirements

I understand and agree

Signature of applicant:

Neal Walker

Place Signed / Submitted

Bellingham, WA

(Section Break)

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