

Proposed by: _____

Introduction date: _____

RESOLUTION NO. _____

NON-BINDING MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL RESOLUTION REGARDING
POPULATION, HOUSING AND EMPLOYMENT ALLOCATIONS

WHEREAS, the Growth Management Act (GMA) requires Whatcom County and the cities to review and, if needed, update their respective comprehensive plans by December 31, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the GMA requires county and city comprehensive plans to be coordinated and consistent; and

WHEREAS, the GMA states that urban growth areas (UGAs) must be revised to accommodate the urban growth projected to occur in the succeeding 20-year planning period by December 31, 2025 (RCW 36.70A.130); and

WHEREAS, the GMA, county-wide planning policies and inter-local agreements indicate that review of UGAs should be coordinated between the County and the cities; and

WHEREAS, population, housing, and employment allocations are a critical component in the comprehensive plan update and UGA review process; and

WHEREAS, while final decisions on population, housing, and employment allocations will not be made until the comprehensive plan is adopted in 2025, it is important for the County and cities to agree upon preliminary allocations in order to coordinate transportation modeling, capital facility planning, environmental review, and UGA recommendations; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Whatcom County Council hereby agrees to utilize the population, housing, and employment growth allocations shown on Exhibit A as the preliminary allocations for initial review of urban growth areas by the County and cities. It is acknowledged that a range of population, housing, and employment allocations will also be studied in the environmental impact statement and UGA review process and the final UGA growth allocations may be different than set forth in this Resolution.

APPROVED this _____ day of _____ 2025.

ATTEST

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Cathy Halka, Clerk of the Council

Kaylee Galloway, Council Chair

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Civil Deputy Prosecutor

Exhibit A

Population, Housing Unit, and Employment Growth (2023-2045)

	Population	Population Share	Housing Units	Housing Unit Share	Employment	Employment Share
Bellingham City & UGA	30,310	44.8%	18,390	51.1%	19,384	59.9%
Birch Bay UGA	2,662	3.9%	1,051	2.9%	450	1.4%
Blaine City & UGA	3,500	5.2%	1,774	4.9%	1,092	3.4%
Cherry Point UGA	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1,200	3.7%
Columbia Valley UGA	1,137	1.7%	502	1.4%	350	1.1%
Everson City & UGA	1,408	2.1%	610	1.7%	602	1.9%
Ferndale City & UGA	10,961	16.2%	4,659	12.9%	3,337	10.3%
Lynden City & UGA	6,665	9.9%	3,535	9.8%	1,799	5.6%
Nooksack City & UGA	995	1.5%	433	1.2%	232	0.7%
Sumas City & UGA	1,000	1.5%	643	1.8%	500	1.5%
Rural & Resource Lands	9,000	13.3%	4,416	12.3%	3,403	10.5%
Total	67,638	100.0%	36,013	100.0%	32,349	100.0%

Notes:

1. The population, housing, and employment allocations represent, for preliminary planning purposes, the additional growth anticipated between 2023 and 2045. The housing figures are from the Housing for All Planning Tool (HAPT).

Exhibit B

Housing Unit Growth by Income Band (2023-2045)

			0-30%								Emergency Housing Needs
	% of Total	Total	Non-PSH	PSH	>30-50%	>50-80%	>80-100%	>100-120%	>120%		
Bellingham City & UGA	51.06%	18,390	4,978	1,944	4,158	1,197	989	1,400	3,725		299
Birch Bay UGA	2.92%	1,051	285	111	238	68	56	80	213		17
Blaine City & UGA	4.93%	1,774	480	188	401	115	95	135	359		29
Cherry Point UGA	0.00%	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0
Columbia Valley UGA	1.39%	502	136	53	113	33	27	38	102		8
Everson City & UGA	1.70%	610	165	65	138	40	33	46	124		10
Ferndale City & UGA	12.94%	4,659	1,261	492	1,053	303	250	355	944		76
Lynden City & UGA	9.82%	3,535	957	374	799	230	190	269	716		58
Nooksack City & UGA	1.20%	433	117	46	98	28	23	33	88		7
Sumas City & UGA	1.79%	643	174	68	145	42	35	49	130		10
Rural & Resource Lands	12.26%	4,416	0	0	45	855	304	307	2,905		72
Total	100.00%	36,013	8,553	3,340	7,189	2,912	2,002	2,712	9,305		586

Notes:

1. The housing figures are from the Housing for All Planning Tool (HAPT) and represent, for preliminary planning purposes, the additional growth anticipated between 2023 and 2045. PSH means “Permanent supportive housing.” This term is defined in the Growth Management Act at [RCW 36.70A.030\(31\)](#). The 0-30%, 30-50%, 50-80%, etc. figures refer to Area Median Income (AMI). Emergency housing needs represent the beds needed.