



Application for Appointment to Whatcom County Boards and Commissions

Public Statement

THIS IS A PUBLIC DOCUMENT: As a candidate for a public board or commission, the information provided will be available to the County Council, County Executive, and the public. All board and commission 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	Galen
Last Name	Herz
Today's Date	8/22/2019
Street Address	1106 W Holly St. Apt B1
City	Bellingham
Zip	98225
Do you live in & are you registered to vote in Whatcom County?	Yes
Do you have a different mailing address?	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Primary Telephone	3607286543
Secondary Telephone	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Email Address	galenherz@kulshanclt.org
1. Name of Board or Committee	Public Health Advisory Board
Public Health Advisory Board Position:	Physical (Built) Environment → <i>referred to: Social and Economic position.</i>
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 2

4. Are you a US citizen? Yes

5. Are you registered to vote in Whatcom County? Yes

6. Have you declared candidacy (as defined by RCW 42.17A.055) for a paid elected office in any jurisdiction within the county? No

7. Have you ever been a member of this Board/Commission? No

8. 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

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

[GalenHerzResume071719-PC.pdf](#) - attached

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

I work for the Kulshan Community Land Trust as their Special Projects and Policy Coordinator. I advocate and organize for policies that lead to the creation of permanently affordable homes, expand homeownership opportunities, and improve housing security for Whatcom residents. I have been involved in affordable housing issues for the past three years, beginning with my involvement in the Bellingham Tenants Union. I served as the Campaign Manager for the successful Bellingham Home Fund renewal campaign.

10. Please describe why you're interested in serving on this board or commission

A safe and stable home is fundamental to living a healthy and secure life. I appreciate the Public Health Advisory Board's holistic approach to public health and focus on root causes, which includes poverty and housing insecurity. I believe my background and community connections in the housing world can help inform the Board's work on solving the housing challenge in Whatcom County. I also welcome the opportunity to learn about and work on the other issues affecting public health in Whatcom County, such as reducing incarceration, access to healthy foods, and economic opportunity.

References (please include daytime telephone number):

Dean Fearing, Executive Director of KulshanCLT, 360-383-7274
Greg Winter, Executive Director of Opportunity Council, 360-220-3788

Signature of applicant:

Galen Herz

Place Signed / Submitted

Bellingham, WA

GALEN M. HERZ

1106 W. Holly St, Apt B1 • Bellingham, WA 98225 • gmherz@gmail.com • (360) 728-6543

Education

WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
B. A. in Anthropology and B. S. in Biochemistry

Bellingham, WA
Graduated December 2017

Honors: Chemistry Department Chair's Inaugural Science for the Greater Good Award, Dan L. Smith Scholarship, and 350.org Fossil Free Summer Fellowship

Professional Experience

KULSHAN COMMUNITY LAND TRUST
Special Projects and Policy Coordinator

Bellingham, WA
June 2019 – Present

- Developing policy to expand permanently affordable, community led housing in Bellingham.
- Building relationships with local and state elected officials to collaborate on solving the housing crisis.
- Assisting with community led development of permanently affordable homes.

NATIONAL COMMUNITY LAND TRUST NETWORK

Intern

London, UK
April 2019 – May 2019

- Studied the UK community led housing sector's infrastructure, political strategy, and development practices. Articles and presentations on what I learned are forthcoming.
- Led outreach to NCLTN membership for the 'Winning Over Your Council' campaign, sharing local organizing resources and providing campaigning advice.

NEIGHBORS FOR BELLINGHAM HOME FUND

Campaign Manager

Bellingham, WA
April 2018 – November 2018

- Successfully renewed the Bellingham Home Fund with a historic 66.8% of the vote, securing \$40 million over ten years for affordable housing and housing services.
- Recruited, trained, and managed a team of 165 volunteers as part of a grassroots field campaign that made 3,014 calls and knocked on 7,436 doors.
- Built a diverse coalition of 63 community organizations and businesses supporting the Home Fund.
- Developed and executed a campaign plan that included messaging, social media strategy, community events, and volunteer-led organizing.

DR. WOLCOTT RESEARCH GROUP, WA. STATE UNIVERSITY

Research Assistant

Pullman, WA
June 2017 – September 2017

- Investigated the efficiency of a novel mechanochemo pretreatment designed to enhance sugar yields and value-added products in the development of second-generation lignocellulosic biofuels.

WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY ASSOCIATED STUDENTS

Local Issues Coordinator

Bellingham, WA
September 2016 – June 2017

- Represented 15,000 undergraduate students at Bellingham City Council meetings and was invited to testify before the City Council Planning Committee on housing affordability and accessibility.
- Organized 2nd Annual Local Lobby Day in which I coordinated meetings with over 14 local elected leaders to advance student interests and recruited 35 students to participate, a 40% increase over the previous year.
- Built and maintained relationships with City Councilmembers, including programming two successful campus-community events with City Councilmembers April Barker and Pinky Vargas.

EMS SAVES LIVES CAMPAIGN

Field Manager

Bellingham, WA
August 2016 – November 2016

- Successfully passed Whatcom County Proposition 2016-1, Emergency Medical Services Levy.
- Managed staff of five field organizers and 40 volunteers that knocked on 14,165 doors and talked to 6,195 voters.

WHATCOM DEMOCRATS' COORDINATED CAMPAIGN

Bellingham, WA

Field Organizer

August 2015 – November 2015

- Contributed to the successful election of progressives Todd Donovan and Satpal Sidhu for County Council, and Bobby Briscoe for Port Commissioner through canvassing and community organizing.

350.org

Seattle, WA

Fossil Free Summer Fellow, Organizer partnered with SEIU 925

June 2015 – August 2015

- Collaborated with union staff to identify, recruit and mobilize work-site leaders as part of the University of Washington Faculty Forward campaign.

WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY ASSOCIATED STUDENTS

Bellingham, WA

Environmental Center Coordinator

September 2014 – July 2015

- Provided environmental programming to the campus community including a guided environmental justice bike tour of Bellingham and the Annual Earth Day Festival attended by 520 students, compared to the previous year's 300.
- Managed \$6,300 departmental budget, publicity efforts on social media, and all other event logistics.

Leadership and Activities

BELLINGHAM TENANTS UNION

Bellingham, WA

Co-Founder and Co-Chair

January 2017 – Present

- Organizing a rapidly growing tenants' union with over 180 members to address the housing crisis in Bellingham.
- Led our union's municipal policy advocacy to secure victories for renters: legalized Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) city-wide, banned discrimination by landlords against people with housing assistance, required 60-day notice required for all rent increases over 10% and no-cause evictions.
- Led the union's incorporation as a 501c4, website creation, database management, and bylaws formation.

WWU STUDENTS FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY

Bellingham, WA

Member and President ('16-'17)

September 2012 – December 2017

- Led efforts to divest the WWU Foundation from fossil fuel companies by coordinating non-violent protests including a 137-person 24 hour sit-in and successfully co-sponsoring a divestment resolution with the student body president.
- Organized educational events including a 280+ person Women of Color Speak Out event by recruiting six different offices on campus to collaborate and secure \$1,200 in grant funding.

Other Community Involvement

Vice-Chair, Lettered Streets Neighborhood Association (2018-present)

Co-Organizer, Vienna Model Exhibition in Bellingham (2018)

Commissioner, City of Bellingham Mayor's Neighborhood Advisory Commission (2016–2017)

Member, Associated Students Legislative Affairs Council (2016-2017)

Volunteer, York Community Farm (2013–2016)

Skills, Technology, & Interests

Skills: Community organizing, database management, public speaking, event planning, website creation, record management, policy research, social media management, and conversational in Spanish.

Technology: Adobe Lightroom, Google Suite, Squarespace, Typeform, Zapier, and Microsoft Office Suite.

Interests: Photography, backpacking, board games, gardening, local politics, and housing/climate policy.