

## 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                               | W. Thomas            |
| Last Name                                | Follis               |
| Today's Date                             | 11/4/2025            |
| <div></div>                              | <div></div>          |
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| Do you live in Whatcom County?           | Yes                  |
| Do you have a different mailing address? | Field not completed. |
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### Step 2

|                     |                       |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Name of Advisory | Board of Equalization |
|---------------------|-----------------------|

## Group

Board of Equalization  
Position

District 2

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. Have you ever been  
a member of this  
Advisory Group

Yes

If yes, please list dates:

Alternate starting in 2022, Full member since 2023

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,

Current member of Board of Equalization. Past Chairman of  
Bellingham Civil Service Commission.  
Retired General Real Estate Appraisal Certification. Former  
owner of William T. Follis, Realtor.

professional and/or  
community activities,  
and education

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

Career based upon real estate application and knowledge in a  
four-county area in northwest Washington.

References (please  
include daytime  
telephone number):

please see attached document, more available upon request

Appointment  
Requirements

I understand and agree

Signature of applicant:

W. Tom Follis

Place Signed /  
Submitted



(Section Break)

11/4/25

Dear Liia Bray,

John Bruton contacted me on March 23 regarding the Whatcom County Board of Equalization. He inquired about my interest in being a member of the Board. I would be interested in being on the Board.

I recently retired from the real estate business after operating an appraisal and brokerage office for 51 years. I was a licensed Certified General Appraiser and broker. I completed in excess of 30,000 appraisals and evaluations in my career. I have a thorough knowledge of Whatcom County and am a lifelong resident for 77 years.

I have appraised properties of all types, including single family, multi-family, commercial, industrial, agricultural (dairy, berry and dry crop operations), condominiums, forest land and leasehold and leased fee interests.

I have also testified before the Board on many occasions as an expert so I am familiar with the Board's procedures. I was also recognized as an expert witness in District Court, Superior Court, and Federal Court relating to real estate and real property evaluation.

I am a past president of the Whatcom County Board of Realtors and was the chairperson of the City of Bellingham Civil Service Commission.

I am a military veteran and retired from the USAF as a Lt. Colonel.

From an educational standpoint, I graduated from Bellingham High School in 1962, the University of Washington in 1966, and received advanced degrees from Squadron Officers School and Air Command and Staff while in the USAF. I also completed numerous continuing education courses in real estate appraisal from 1980-2020. I was also on the faculty of Whatcom Community College as an instructor in real estate.

Personal references are as follows:

1. Starck Follis
2. Terry Todd
3. Gary Tetrick
4. Glenn Crowe

Sincerely



W. Thomas Follis

Whatcom County Council,

This letter is a formal request from me to renew my appointment for a second term as a member of the Whatcom County Board of Equalization.

I have enjoyed my first term and I know I have been a productive and beneficial Board member based upon a nearly 50 year career in the real estate field most as a State Certified General Real Estate appraiser. I served as Vice Chairperson of the Board in 2025 and have been elected to serve in that same capacity for 2026.

I know the Board, as currently comprised, fills a vital and respected role for the taxpayer, the Dept. of Revenue, and the Whatcom County Assessor.

You already have my previous application for my first term appointment.. I would like to reinforce my qualifications. They include being a lifelong resident of Whatcom County, a 50 year career in real estate in northwest Washington, and I am a military veteran, retiring as a Lt. Colonel in the U.S. Air Force. Included in my qualifications is a B. A. degree in Political Science from the University of Washington in 1966, and was elected as the President of the Whatcom County Board of Realtors. Additionally, I served 5 years on the Bellingham Civil Service Commission, including one year as Chairperson.

Thank you for considering my request for re-appointment.

  
W. Thomas Follis

**RECEIVED**

**NOV 18 2025**

**WHATCOM COUNTY  
BOARD OF EQUALIZATION**