

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

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Do you live in Yes
Whatcom County?

Do you have a different Field not completed.
mailing address?

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Step 2

1. Name of Advisory Board of Equalization

Group

Board of Equalization District 2
Position

2. Do you meet the Yes
residency,
employment, and/or
affiliation requirements
of the position for
which you're applying?

3. Which Council District 2
district do you live in?

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

If yes, please list dates: Alternate starting in 2022, Full member since 2023

5. Do you or your No
spouse have a financial
interest in or are you
an employee or officer
of any business or
agency that does
business with
Whatcom County?

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

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

7. Please describe your Current member of Board of Equalization. Past Chairman of
occupation (or former
occupation if retired),
qualifications,
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

[REDACTED]

(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.

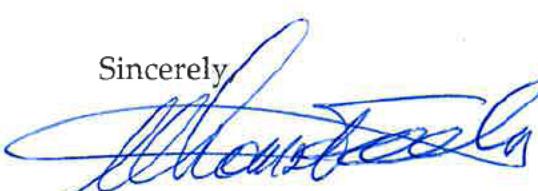
I am a military veteran and retired from the USAF as a Lt. Colonel.

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 an instructor in real estate.

Personal references are as follows:

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

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