

Pending Council amendments = Yellow Highlight  
Approved Council amendments = Green Highlight

## **Preface**

### **Land Acknowledgement**

Whatcom County Government acknowledges that present day Whatcom County is located on the traditional and ancestral homelands of the Lummi Nation and Nooksack Indian Tribe, as well as other Coast Salish peoples who have lived in and stewarded this land since time immemorial. We honor their enduring connection to the lands and waters of this region — including the Salish Sea, rivers, forests, and mountains — and recognize their continued presence, sovereignty, and cultural traditions. We express our respect and gratitude for their stewardship of this place and commit to learning from and supporting Indigenous communities today. Truth and acknowledgment are critical to building mutual respect and connection across all barriers of heritage and difference. We begin this effort to acknowledge what has been buried by honoring the truth. We pay respect to the elders past and present. We take a moment to consider the many legacies of violence, displacement, migration, and settlement that bring us together here today and seek to uncover such truths in all that we do. (#1)

### **Labor Acknowledgement**

Whatcom County as it stands today is only possible because of ancestors, elders, and those who have gone before us. The Whatcom County government acknowledges the labor that built our county, institutions, and infrastructures. Our region depended on the labor, dehumanization, exploitation, suffering, wisdom, and skills of: enslaved people primarily of African descent, Indigenous peoples of this land, the Chinese immigrants who built railroads that allowed for westward American development, Japanese Americans whose properties and livelihoods were taken from them while incarcerated during World War II, and migrant workers from the Philippines, Mexico, South Asia, and Central and South America who have worked lumber mills, farms, and canneries within harsh and unjust systems. (#2) We recognize immigrant communities with their wisdom and skills to develop agriculture lands which remains a vital part of Whatcom County's economy. (#3) We recognize the immigrant and American-born workers of African, Asian, and Central and South American descent whose labor often remains unseen yet contributes to the wellbeing of our collective community. We acknowledge all unpaid care-giving labor. (#2)

**OR**

Whatcom County as we know it today was shaped by the generations of people who came before us, those who worked the land and water, built communities and infrastructure, raised families, operated businesses, served their neighbors, and

*Preface for on 5.19.2026*

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contributed through labor, service, innovation, and care for others. We acknowledge that the county's growth and prosperity were built through both opportunity and hardship, and that many people labored under difficult and unjust conditions throughout different periods of our history. We recognize the contributions of workers, families, farmers, tradespeople, laborers, caregivers, entrepreneurs, public servants, and community members whose efforts, often unseen or unrecognized, helped build and sustain our region. This acknowledgment is offered in a spirit of gratitude, stewardship, and shared responsibility as we work together to build a future that serves all residents of Whatcom County. (#5)