

## 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	Markis Dee
Last Name	Stidham
Today's Date	2/8/2025
Do you live in Whatcom County?	Yes
Do you have a different mailing address?	<i>Field not completed.</i>

### Step 2

1. Name of Advisory Whatcom County Ferry Advisory Committee

Group

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Whatcom County Ferry ~~I live within the city limits of an incorporated town in Whatcom~~  
Advisory Committee ~~County~~ Lummi Island Resident

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

Yes

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3. Which Council district do you live in?

District 2

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

No

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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

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6. Have you declared candidacy (as defined by RCW 42.17A.055) for a paid elected office in any jurisdiction within the county?

No

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

*Field not completed.*

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

I've been a long time Whatcom County resident. The first 17 and a half years of my occupation was spent on Lummi Island. There I learned to commercially fish and be a home builder. These are the trades which I have engaged throughout my life here in Whatcom County. While I lived on the island, from which I attended Ferndale High

and education

School , I often engaged community meetings and tough discussions that concerned our community.  
I believe I have a unique perspective of the changes that the island has gone through over the last four decades.  
And while I no longer live on the island, I maintain strong community ties there, and have often participated in further community conversations that affect that community.  
In many ways, I still identify as a Lummi Islander. It doesn't just leave you.  
Many of my closest friends and confidants live there.  
In my time away from the island I have been very very active in community service to Whatcom County, having also served on the homeless strategies work group from 2019 through 2021.  
I was appointed in a 6 to 1 vote by County Council in 2019, and was happy to be unanimously reappointed in 2020.  
I was very active in that group, and helped to make some very impactful changes in our community from that position.  
I'm very proud of that work.  
I've also served on the board of two different nonprofits regarding local homelessness, and have brought to fruition, many different helpful strategies to help us cope with this ongoing issue in our community. I still maintain a great deal of service here as well.

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

Esteemed County Council members,  
Over the last 40 years I have observed many changes on Lummi Island.  
I have seen the demographics change there drastically.  
In short, the people who built the island, cannot afford to live there.  
And while it could be argued that there has been some benefit to the island through what many of us might see as gentrification, as a great location to retire and rather be away from a madding world, the vibrant community that once was there, has suffered greatly due to rising costs of ferry fares, taxation, and a changing political and resource related climate.  
And, like myself, many of those community members who were part of its vibrant culture and community, have been forced to move on, largely because of the growing expense of living on that island.  
I still have many friends there who, once they got their mortgage together, suddenly felt chained to that property that they were rather suddenly unable to otherwise afford, as these changes took hold.  
It's my goal to acknowledge and give voice to those changes, and those disaffected community members, as well as hear the voices of those community members who feel that it is a more livable and happier place because of those changes.  
I identify with the island so strongly, I simply want to see it be represented and representative of the people who live there, and I believe my unique skill set, an intimate familiarity with the community serve that purpose.

It would be my pleasure.  
Thank you again for your consideration.

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References (please include daytime telephone number):

I would defer to the members of Whatcom County Council as my references here. They have seen my work. They know my dedication. They know my passion. They know that I will not walk away from an uncomfortable discussion.  
It would be my great honor and pleasure to serve this community through membership in this Advisory Group, and I genuinely hope you will strongly consider my application to do exactly that. Thank you for your time and consideration.

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Appointment Requirements

I understand and agree

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Signature of applicant:

Mark D Stidham

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Place Signed / Submitted



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