

**Subject:** Online Form Submittal: Board and Commission Application  
**Date:** Friday, December 15, 2023 2:09:11 PM

---

## Board and Commission Application

### Step 1

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 Ms.

---

First Name Vesla

---

Last Name Tonnessen

---

Today's Date 12/15/2023

---

Street Address [REDACTED]

---

City [REDACTED]

---

Zip [REDACTED]

---

Do you live in & are you registered to vote in Whatcom County? Yes

---

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

---

Primary Telephone [REDACTED]

---

Secondary Telephone *Field not completed.*

---

Email Address [REDACTED]

---

### Step 2

1. Name of Board or Committee Child & Family Well-Being Task Force

Child & Family Well-Being Task Force	Yes
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?	Yes
If yes, please list dates:	I have been a member since the creation of the Task Force in 2020/2021
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?	Yes
If yes, please explain	I work for a non-profit agency called Washington Family Engagement. We provide leadership training and civics education for youth and adults. We offer programing in Whatcom County.
You may attach a	<i>Field not completed.</i>

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

---

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

I have been involved in the early childhood world in Whatcom County for over 5 years. In my former role, I was the coordinator for the Whatcom Early Learning Alliance. I am a single parent to 2 children and I have lived in Whatcom County for 15 years. I am passionate about supporting parents and caregivers to be leaders in their community.

---

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

I have actively participated on the TF for the last 2 years. I have recently been elected a co-chair. However, my seat was originally acquired through my position at the Whatcom Early Learning Alliance. I have since taken a new job and that seat should go to a new coordinator. I would like to keep my role in the TF, so I am asking County Council to approve my application for an open seat. It would be my pleasure to keep serving on this county advisory board. I believe I bring expertise in the field of family voice and family leadership that is relevant and helpful to this board and to the council.

---

References (please include daytime telephone number):

Allison Williams (Whatcom County Health and Human Services, 360-319-2064), Jed Holmes (Whatcom County Community Outreach Facilitator, 360-778-5209), Ray Deck (Skookum Kids and Co-chair of the CFWBTF, 518-290-0729), Adie Simmons (Executive Director of Washington Family Engagement, 425-273-1595)

---

Appointment Requirements

I understand and agree

---

Signature of applicant:

Vesla Tonnessen

---

Place Signed / Submitted



---

(Section Break)

---