



# Join the Board of Commissioners Bellingham & Whatcom County Housing Authorities

*Whatcom County (Outside Bellingham) Appointment*

## ***Join the Board: Help Shape the Future of Affordable Housing in Whatcom County***

The Bellingham & Whatcom County Housing Authorities (BWCHA) are seeking a new commissioner to join their combined Board of Commissioners. Bellingham Housing Authority and WCHA – together BWCHA – work to provide affordable housing throughout the region through a variety of rental assistance and affordable housing programs. BWCHA supports 7,000 people throughout the region each year through the Housing Choice Voucher Program (or Section 8), Public Housing, and other affordable housing properties.

**For this board appointment, BWCHA is seeking an individual who resides in Whatcom County outside of Bellingham.**

As a member of the combined Bellingham & Whatcom County Housing Authorities' boards, you will:

- Guide affordable housing investments in a growing region.
- Review, advise on, and approve agency policies and strategic plans.
- Oversee governance and financial information of the housing authority.
- Collaborate with leadership to shape workplans and organizational goals.
- Participate in monthly board meetings and contribute to decision-making.

## ***Background on BWCHA's Boards***

The combined boards of the Bellingham Housing Authority and the Whatcom County Housing Authority consist of five members, one of which is a resident position. Of these, three members are named by the Bellingham Mayor and two are named by Whatcom County Executive.

The Board of Commissioners serve as the governing bodies for both housing authorities and are responsible for approving decisions that chart the direction of current and future programs, and authorize the actions of the Executive Director and their designees.





## **Eligibility**

To be eligible for appointment, candidates must be residents of **Whatcom County outside of the City of Bellingham** and be at least 18 years old. In addition to these requirements, it is highly desirable that candidates possess one or more of the following qualifications:

- Commitment to the housing authority’s mission to offer opportunities for people to thrive by ensuring access to quality, affordable homes;
- Familiarity with the needs, conditions, and services available to lower income residents.
- Experience developing, implementing, and monitoring public policy;
- Knowledge and expertise concerning the successful administration of mid-to large business, non-profit, or governmental entities and have served in a management position within such an entity;
- Knowledge and expertise concerning community development programs and issues;
- Knowledge and expertise concerning affordable housing programs and issues.

## **How to Apply**

To be considered for appointment by the County Executive, please send a letter of interest, resume, and a list of three professional references via email to [Lindsay.Burmeister@bellinghamhousing.org](mailto:Lindsay.Burmeister@bellinghamhousing.org). An application must also be submitted through the County website at: <https://www.whatcomcounty.us/210/Boards-Commissions>.

Your letter of interest should address your desire and willingness to serve on the Board, the strengths you would bring, and a brief record of your personal history that highlights any of the above listed qualifications.

Applicants will also be asked to provide proof of Whatcom County residency outside of the City of Bellingham.

**Applications are reviewed upon receipt, so it is in your best interest to submit your application as soon as possible. All applicants will be notified concerning the status of their applications and subsequent steps in the Board’s recruitment effort.**