

City of Bellingham Candidates

Local citizens, with expertise in relevant issues, provided these questions. *Whatcom Watch* conducted the survey.

Candidates reviewed their statements before printing.

Responses were not edited by *Whatcom Watch*.

Lake Whatcom Background: The 2004 Lake Whatcom Landscape Plan provides specific forest practices management strategies for the state's public timberlands in the watershed, whereas privately owned timberlands there are regulated by the state's Forest Practices Rules. The landscape plan specifically addresses mitigating impacts to water quality, slope stability, and road construction issues. The more generic Forest Practices Rules don't address the uniqueness of Lake Whatcom as our community's primary drinking water source, e.g., aerial application of glyphosate on 6.5 acres of privately owned timberlands in the watershed was allowed this year under the rules.

Question: Would you advocate for state legislation to require all timberlands in the Lake Whatcom watershed be managed in compliance with the more site-specific Lake Whatcom Landscape Plan?

Salary Commission Background: The Bellingham City Council determines the salary of elected city officials. Some would call it a conflict of interest for the City Council to determine its own salary. At the January 23, 2017 meeting, the council voted to establish a salary commission to determine the salaries for elected city officials. The vote failed — two members voted for it: Dan Hammill and Michael Lilliquist; four voted against it: April Barker, Gene Knutson, Roxanne Murphy and Pinky Vargas; Terry Bornemann was excused. At the 2011 general election, voters approved a charter amendment to establish a commission to determine the salary for elected county officials.

Question: Are you in favor of placing a city salary commission on the ballot?

Internet Service Providers Background: This last year has served to highlight that the public need for reliable internet connections is not being uniformly and adequately met in Whatcom County and its cities. Municipalities across WA, some nearby, are doing a much better job of meeting this public need. A cooperative approach between the City, County, Port and PUD would enable expanded use of existing fiber and fiber build-out. There is a need for a uniform and consistent Dig Once Policy and the public deserves more choice of Internet Service Providers, which could be achieved with an Open Access policy for existing municipal fiber.

Question: How will you determine who is served and not served and commit to bridging this gap, and how will the public be able to measure your progress towards meeting your identified goal?

Bellingham City Council: At-Large — two-year term



Kristina Martens acknowledged receipt of the questions. Two messages were left on her answering machine after she missed the deadline.

Kristina Michele Martens

(360) 920-0682
campaign@electchristina.com



State legislation to align forest management with the DNR Landscape Plan is a reasonable first step, and I hope to help achieve this outcome. I also think we can work with the Forest Practices Board itself, which has some latitude to protect the health of our watershed.

To move forward, City Council will need collaborators who can work constructively with our state legislators. I'm honored to have the endorsements of both State Representatives Alicia Rule and Sharon Shewmake, as well as former State Representative Kelli Linville. The ability to grow these relationships will be vital to this advocacy work.

Russ Whidbee

(360) 319-4253
russellj.whidbee@gmail.com

I would generally support letting voters decide on establishing a salary commission, but I would have to see the specific language of a proposal for the ballot before I could commit to a particular vote. How the commission is selected and who it represents are important details.

I am concerned about inequities in access to public services including utilities. Especially in the context of the pandemic and public meetings going online, broadband internet has effectively become the gateway to engagement in civic life. I would measure progress based on how many of our citizens have access to these online proceedings.

I would work collaboratively with County and Port officials to expand broadband internet access. I am honored to have the endorsements of Port Commissioners Bobby Briscoe and Michael Shepard, as well as officials that have served in local government of other Whatcom cities.

Bellingham City Council: Ward 2— four-year term



I would be interested in speaking with state legislators to learn what state level changes could be made to make the most impact to managing our watershed forestlands in a way that effectively reduces phosphorus output. Tributary stream monitoring and increased data on phosphorus levels should give us increasingly better information about forestland output and the effect of management practices. There should be a multi-jurisdictional effort to adapt practices that mitigate phosphorous output based on this scientific analysis.

Hollie Huthman

360-510-0782
hollie@votehollie.com

Bellingham is a quickly growing and evolving City and we need to ensure that City Council as a legislative branch grows to meet the needs of our city. Council operations need a full review from the supportive staffing, to expected time commitment, to compensation. I am interested in the council once again exploring a salary commission options as well as a potential charter review board.

I look forward to the forthcoming recommendations from the Broadband Advisory Workgroup to help direct the best path for municipal broadband, but believe the most effective and efficient approach will be a cross-jurisdictional plan with the Port, County, and PUD as well. Issues of equity should be a top priority when considering any future implementation, with thorough data analysis, plan of action, and regular reports of progress.

INSTRUMENTS		PRIVATE LESSONS
SALES		GROUP CLASSES
RENTALS		Piano
ACCESSORIES		Guitar & Bass
SHEET MUSIC		Ukulele & Mandolin
		Woodwinds & Brass
	360 676-8742	Beats & Production
	www.bellingham-music.com	Songwriting
	319 E. Champion Street, Bellingham, WA 98225	Voice
		JAM SESSIONS
		PERFORMANCE GROUPS

City of Bellingham Candidates

Local citizens, with expertise in relevant issues, provided these questions. *Whatcom Watch* conducted the survey.

Candidates reviewed their statements before printing.

Responses were not edited by *Whatcom Watch*.

Lake Whatcom Background: The 2004 Lake Whatcom Landscape Plan provides specific forest practices management strategies for the state's public timberlands in the watershed, whereas privately owned timberlands there are regulated by the state's Forest Practices Rules. The landscape plan specifically addresses mitigating impacts to water quality, slope stability, and road construction issues. The more generic Forest Practices Rules don't address the uniqueness of Lake Whatcom as our community's primary drinking water source, e.g., aerial application of glyphosate on 6.5 acres of privately owned timberlands in the watershed was allowed this year under the rules.

Question: Would you advocate for state legislation to require all timberlands in the Lake Whatcom watershed be managed in compliance with the more site-specific Lake Whatcom Landscape Plan?

Salary Commission Background: The Bellingham City Council determines the salary of elected city officials. Some would call it a conflict of interest for the City Council to determine its own salary. At the January 23, 2017 meeting, the council voted to establish a salary commission to determine the salaries for elected city officials. The vote failed — two members voted for it: Dan Hammill and Michael Lilliquist; four voted against it: April Barker, Gene Knutson, Roxanne Murphy and Pinky Vargas; Terry Bornemann was excused. At the 2011 general election, voters approved a charter amendment to establish a commission to determine the salary for elected county officials.

Question: Are you in favor of placing a city salary commission on the ballot?

Internet Service Providers Background: This last year has served to highlight that the public need for reliable internet connections is not being uniformly and adequately met in Whatcom County and its cities. Municipalities across WA, some nearby, are doing a much better job of meeting this public need. A cooperative approach between the City, County, Port and PUD would enable expanded use of existing fiber and fiber build-out. There is a need for a uniform and consistent Dig Once Policy and the public deserves more choice of Internet Service Providers, which could be achieved with an Open Access policy for existing municipal fiber.

Question: How will you determine who is served and not served and commit to bridging this gap, and how will the public be able to measure your progress towards meeting your identified goal?

Bellingham City Council: Ward 4— four-year term



Skip Williams
360-319-8963
electskipwilliams@gmail.com

Extending the Lake Whatcom Landscape Plan Forest practice protections to privately owned timberlands may be beneficial, but only a minor part of the solution. While the plan needs updating to current realities of degradation the dominant adverse impacts are caused by residential development and associated vehicle traffic. To make a real difference, the county and city, should work more to control future development in the Lake Whatcom Watershed and provide better storm water treatment on the lands under their respective jurisdictions. These comprehensive and difficult steps are required to reverse this decades long water quality crises impacting our reservoir.

An annual salary for City Council members was established in the Bellingham Municipal Code in January 1, 2013 with automatic annual increases. Any increases granted beyond those established salary levels can only be applied to council members voting at the time if they are reelected negating the issue of conflict of interest. Having an independent commission could be a more transparent and objective way of determining salaries However, before an independent salary commission model is put on the ballot, several issues would have to be addressed such as developing objective criteria, the scope of council duties, and internal city salary comparability.

There should be no determining who is and who is not served but areas that do not have or have minimal internet access should be prioritized. Internet access is a necessity and should be available to all citizens at an affordable price. Bellingham has established a Broadband Advisory Group to explore options developing improved internet service within our city which I support. There is also growing support encouraging all local governments in Whatcom County to develop publicly owned fiber optic systems, treating internet access as a public utility. I support recommendations and policies that move us in that direction.

Bellingham City Council: Ward 6 — Four-year term



Michael Lilliquist
(360) 920-2684
LilliquistForBellingham@gmail.com

Yes. I support stringent timberland rules in the Lake Whatcom watershed. Although most of the excess pollutant loading to the Lake comes from developed properties (streets and houses), natural forests can also contribute significant loads when disturbed. Much of the watershed should be off limits to logging and clearing. When forests are disturbed, landslides and creek floods can have a huge negative impact on lake water quality, which could undo much of the progress that has been made in the last few years. We cannot take that risk, financially or environmentally.

Yes. State law created the opportunity for salary commissions to provide for a fair and unconflicted decision process, and I believe we should follow the County's example. However, to my mind the important issue is not city council salary. More important are concerns about a city that has grown significantly over the last 50 years, when part-timers on half-pay was first adopted as the rule. The range of issues, the workload, and the expectations of city council members have grown. I think this issue should also be considered by a commission of community volunteers.

The digital divide is a serious and growing concern. I've been the leading voice on the City Council calling for a full review of the possibilities of municipal broadband, which is why I called for established the Broadband Advisory Workgroup. The purpose statement the BAW, which I wrote, asks how the city-owned fiber optic network could be part of a solution to improve availability, equitability, quality, and affordability of broadband for our households, businesses, and disadvantaged community members. To measure progress I would follow guidance from BAW and those community members to reach a consensus view.



Eve Smason-Marcus
360-261-4234
ElectSmasonMarcus@gmail.com

Ensuring the quality of Lake Whatcom's waters is imperative to our community's health. I will advocate for state legislation to require all timberlands in the Lake Whatcom watershed be managed in compliance with the more site-specific lake Whatcom Landscape Plan. Along with stronger regulations, we need to be engaging with landowners and loggers to ensure understanding and implementation of best management practices to keep our lake — and therefore, ourselves — healthy.

Yes, I am in favor of having a salary commission for Bellingham, because we need an impartial body to research and set salaries for elected officials. This will allow Bellingham to not only offer competitive pay to attract high quality candidates, but to address some of the barriers that may keep residents from running for office. In order to have a more diverse representation we need salaries that support people enough to be in office full-time without needing a second or third job.

First, we must focus on implementing a comprehensive Dig Once Policy. This will allow us to plan strategically as the system is being built, map out what we have and what we need, and use city resources efficiently. While investing in broadband infrastructure, we need to be in regular conversation with the community to identify their needs. Service should start with our lowest resourced neighbors then use the data to strategically figure out where to go next to narrow the gap in access. Measuring progress can only begin once the City is fully implementing a Dig Once Policy.

We love your Volvo as much as you do.

Excellence in diagnosis and repair. Pre-purchase inspections and we sell late model and vintage pre-owned Volvos.

RainbowAutoService.com
Phone 360.734.6117
rainbowlarry321@gmail.com

Open Monday to Thursday 8am to 6pm
Four miles east of Bellingham at 2729 Jensen Road

RAINBOW AUTO SERVICE & SALES
Your VOLVO is my specialty!

Servicing, Repairing, Buying, and Selling Volvos Since 1986.

Personal Small Business Bookkeeping

TAX Time
1040s - \$50 and up

CHARLES ARBALLO
P.O. Box 622
Bellingham, WA 98227

Payroll
Ace702@live.com
2217 Woburn St.
Bellingham, WA

Call Anytime
360-671-6219

Whatcom County Candidates

Local citizens, with expertise in relevant issues, provided these questions. *Whatcom Watch* conducted the survey.

Candidates reviewed their statements before printing.

Candidate responses were not edited by *Whatcom Watch*.

Lake Whatcom Background: Lake Whatcom water quality suffers from excessive phosphorus inputs from existing and new houses, lawns, septic systems, and logging. By the year 2066, the city and county are required by EPA to prevent 3,150 pounds of phosphorus from entering the lake. Over 80 percent of the watershed must mimic a natural forest to meet this directive. Yet, the county allows property owners to remove 35 percent or 5,000 square feet of trees onsite, whichever is greater, though tree replacement is required for trees older than 60 years (or one foot diameter). It is therefore questionable that we can achieve EPA's mandated goal.

Question: How do you propose addressing this conflict? Would you support legislation to require stricter standards to retain trees onsite?

Ranked-Choice Voting Background: New York City just used ranked-choice voting (RCV) for the first time to the great acclaim of the voters. Alaska will start using it this year. Maine has used it for years. About 40 cities around the United States are using it this year, including 23 in Utah. In Washington, the Local Options Bill (HB 1156) received bipartisan support this year and would allow local jurisdictions the option to adopt RCV. The Local Options Bill would allow Whatcom County to adopt ranked-choice voting. A primary would no longer be needed, saving us money.

Question: Would you vote for a council resolution urging the state Legislature to pass the Local Options Bill?

Internet Service Providers Background: This last year has served to highlight that the public need for reliable internet connections is not being uniformly and adequately met in Whatcom County and its cities. Municipalities across WA, some nearby, are doing a much better job of meeting this public need. A cooperative approach between the City, County, Port and PUD would enable expanded use of existing fiber and fiber build-out. There is a need for a uniform and consistent Dig Once Policy and the public deserves more choice of Internet Service Providers, which could be achieved with an Open Access policy for existing municipal fiber.

Question: How will you determine who is served and not served and commit to bridging this gap, and how will the public be able to measure your progress towards meeting your identified goal?

Whatcom County Council — At-Large

Kamal Bhachu
(208) 450-3441
kamalbhachuforall@gmail.com

Kamal Bhachu did not acknowledge receipt of the questions. He also ignored three messages left on his answering machine.



Barry Buchanan
(360) 224-4330
info@electbarry.com

Protecting Lake Whatcom has been a huge priority during my time on the council, and will continue to be. I've helped pass and defend policies that protect Lake Whatcom and the Lake Whatcom watershed many times over the years, keeping our drinking water clean and safe. I will support legislation to require stricter standards to retain trees onsite, as preserving clean drinking water is my number one priority.

I would absolutely support this resolution. I believe that rank-choice voting gives more power to the voters and encourages participation in all elections, including local ones like mine. My hope would be that the implementation of RCV would incentivise our younger and low propensity voters to turn out in higher numbers and become more politically engaged. I am pleased that this is receiving bi-partisan support, as RCV will be very beneficial to voters.

I appreciate you asking this question, because you are right that so many families were left behind in the pandemic due to lack of internet and this kind of infrastructure. The state has allocated money specifically to provide funding for fiber build out. I will work in coordination with the PUD and Port officials to ensure that no one is left behind in this effort. The public will be able to follow our progress as the reliance on private corporations dwindles, and our internet access becomes faster and more reliable. Areas of the county that struggled the most will be able to confidently work and school from home.

Whatcom County Council — District 1



Kaylee Galloway
(360) 489-9192
votekaylee@gmail.com

Clean air and clean water are critical to the health and well-being of our communities. Excessive nutrient levels in our watershed pose an unacceptable risk to Lake Whatcom as the main source of our drinking water. As pressures on our environmental resources are poised to increase in the coming decades, we must consider immediate actions that can mitigate the impacts of urban growth and climate change. I support the creation of thoughtful County regulations that will meet the mark before 2066. I am committed to working with the Tribes, federal, state, and local partners to address this and other critical issues.

Rank Choice Voting has the potential to help our democracy better serve, protect, and represent all people, regardless of their identities, background, or lived experiences. I am eager to work with the cities, counties, and state to ensure we have a good plan for successful implementation, a scope and scale that will allow for efficiency and effectiveness, address the costs of implementation, and organize robust education and outreach to ensure voting remains accessible for all. I would vote for a council resolution urging the state to pass a bill with all of this in mind.

I support a cooperative approach between the City, County, Port and PUD to expand municipal-owned broadband. I also support dig once and open access policies. The disruptions of the pandemic as people shifted to working, attending school, and accessing healthcare from home have highlighted just how essential utility broadband is. Questions of access to quality and affordable broadband are a critical matter of equity. Modern infrastructure like broadband is key to kick-starting our economic recovery and future development. We must make significant investments to ensure all people have access throughout Whatcom County, especially our rural communities.



Eddy Ury
(360) 603-2551
elect@eddy4what.com

I support tree retention rules, though the details matter. It is unusual and irresponsible to allow so much polluting development and logging around a drinking water reservoir that 100,000 lives depend on. Anyone purchasing property in the Lake Whatcom watershed should be informed upfront of the stipulations for the Overlay District. Protecting our water supply from the flows of runoff draining from so many lawns and driveways is likely impossible without mandates, but we can still relieve inconvenience or expense from property owners. We should go further in protecting undeveloped lands through zoning and using our Conservation Futures Fund.

Yes without hesitation, I intend to introduce that resolution in January, and thereafter propose a charter amendment for the 2022 ballot for the voters to adopt RCV in all county elections. I am also committed to greater democracy reforms like public financing of elections (democracy vouchers), proportional representation for state and federal legislative elections. The U.S. is one of only five countries in the world that conducts elections with a winner-take all system. Changing this backward process will eliminate incentives for negative campaigning or purported voter fraud. RCV will foster integrity, public trust and more participation in elections.

All residences and businesses should have access to affordable high-speed broadband. First we need a countywide speed-test study. Even the higher speed services sold to select customers by the telecom monopoly are not always delivered reliably. The County should support the PUD and cooperating agencies by dedicating funds and integrating the broadband build-out into capital facilities plans, and also adopting a Dig Once Policy into its utility franchise agreements. County funds for internet infrastructure should be administered with accountability to meet conditions for Open Access to ISPs, including a high-speed/low-cost public option.

Whatcom County Candidates

Local citizens, with expertise in relevant issues, provided these questions. *Whatcom Watch* conducted the survey.

Candidates reviewed their statements before printing.

Candidate responses were not edited by *Whatcom Watch*.

Lake Whatcom Background: Lake Whatcom water quality suffers from excessive phosphorus inputs from existing and new houses, lawns, septic systems, and logging. By the year 2066, the city and county are required by EPA to prevent 3,150 pounds of phosphorus from entering the lake. Over 80 percent of the watershed must mimic a natural forest to meet this directive. Yet, the county allows property owners to remove 35 percent or 5,000 square feet of trees onsite, whichever is greater, though tree replacement is required for trees older than 60 years (or one foot diameter). It is therefore questionable that we can achieve EPA's mandated goal.

Question: How do you propose addressing this conflict? Would you support legislation to require stricter standards to retain trees onsite?

Ranked-Choice Voting Background: New York City just used ranked-choice voting (RCV) for the first time to the great acclaim of the voters. Alaska will start using it this year. Maine has used it for years. About 40 cities around the United States are using it this year, including 23 in Utah. In Washington, the Local Options Bill (HB 1156) received bipartisan support this year and would allow local jurisdictions the option to adopt RCV. The Local Options Bill would allow Whatcom County to adopt ranked-choice voting. A primary would no longer be needed, saving us money.

Question: Would you vote for a council resolution urging the state Legislature to pass the Local Options Bill?

Internet Service Providers Background: This last year has served to highlight that the public need for reliable internet connections is not being uniformly and adequately met in Whatcom County and its cities. Municipalities across WA, some nearby, are doing a much better job of meeting this public need. A cooperative approach between the City, County, Port and PUD would enable expanded use of existing fiber and fiber build-out. There is a need for a uniform and consistent Dig Once Policy and the public deserves more choice of Internet Service Providers, which could be achieved with an Open Access policy for existing municipal fiber.

Question: How will you determine who is served and not served and commit to bridging this gap, and how will the public be able to measure your progress towards meeting your identified goal?

Whatcom County Council — District 2



Todd Donovan

(360) 483-8474
donovan4whatcom@gmail.com

Yes, I support such legislation in order to speed the process of protecting the lake. I docketed a proposal to amend our Lake Whatcom Overlay District zoning code with the goal of placing additional limits on tree removal in the watershed. A lower 20% allowance for tree clearance would be an improvement over the current 35%; a lower square footage and the definition of 'significant trees' to retain should also be considered. The current 'whichever is greater' standard may be particularly problematic for tree retention on larger lots. This proposal is currently under review with the Planning Department.

Yes, I support this, and I support the Local Options Bill. Even if Local Options were law, Whatcom County's charter would need to be amended by voters for us to adopt RCV. The charter requires a 7-0 vote from Council to ask voters to amend the charter on elections matters, or an initiative petition from citizens – which are very high bars. I co-sponsored a charter amendment for the 2021 ballot to lower the bar for citizens to amend the charter, so they might successfully petition for a vote to adopt RCV here. Councilmembers Byrd, Elenbaas, and Kershner blocked that.

Fast, reliable internet service should be an essential utility, such as water, and electricity. The market doesn't provide these adequately to everyone. The costs of building the modern internet infrastructure to serve all of Whatcom County equally prevents private providers from making needed investments in rural areas. Washington has a proud history of public, cooperative operations of utilities. I support our County government's investments of local EDI and federal ARPA funds with Port and PUD efforts to expand fiber into rural Whatcom County that can provide Open Access for ISPs. Success can be judged on how many folks get access.

Kelley O'Conner

(360) 610-7684
kelleyoconner3616@gmail.com

Kelley O'Conner is not actively campaigning for this position.

Whatcom County Council — District 3



Tyler Byrd

(360) 592-3620
tyler@votetylerbyrd.com

Tyler Byrd did not acknowledge receipt of the questions. He also ignored three messages left on his answering machine.

Yes, I would support RCV, or a similar method, here in Washington. I am endorsed by FairVote Washington, which is already working with the state on this issue.

Legally classifying the internet a public utility is a cornerstone of my campaign, having accessible and affordable high-speed internet is a priority for our area. I live in Deming, and my family often can't access materials for school and work, or join Zoom meetings. When we talk about the last mile, that's my family. I want to see the County Council work with the PUD, Port, and Public Works Department to bring public high-speed broadband, using fiber optic lines, in the same way that Anacortes has done. With policies like Dig Once, and independent oversight, I believe that we can provide internet access for everyone in Whatcom County.



Rebecca Lewis

(360) 510-5727
friendsofrebeccalewis@gmail.com

I would like to see the HIP program expanded and communicated better to residents in the Watershed. I recognize that there is likely going to be a need for a more intensive management program going forward, and I want to work with stakeholders as soon as possible to combat phosphorus runoff.