



PRESS RELEASE

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Whatcom County Executive Jack Louws Announces Agreement with WTA to Facilitate Salary Commission

Bellingham, WA: Whatcom County Executive Jack Louws has again entered into an agreement with the Whatcom Transportation Authority to facilitate the County's Salary Commission (for Elected Officials), which convenes again this year. This agreement was made in order to ensure that the commission's work remains independent of any elected offices of Whatcom County government. WTA Human Resources Director, Andy Rowson, has been designated as the staff person who will be facilitating the work with the Commission. The first meeting of this commission has been set for January 19th at 4 p.m. and will be held at WTA's Administration Building.

Under county ordinance six of the ten commission members were selected by lot by the County Auditor from among those registered voters eligible to vote at the time persons were selected for appointment to full terms on the commission. The following have agreed to serve: Mike Arbiter, Kristi Birkeland, George King, Randy Morris, Jason Russell and Diana Schmidt. Four of the ten commission members were selected by the County Executive. They include Justin Iverson, Brian Lydiard, Jon Sitkin and Wendy Wefer-Clinton. All commission members serve a two-year term.

The purpose of the commission is to establish the salaries of the county council, executive, assessor, auditor, prosecuting attorney, sheriff, and treasurer in accordance with the county code, county charter and state law. The commission studies the relationship of salaries to the duties of the elected officials and establishes the salary for each position. The schedule of salaries is due to the County Council by May 1, 2017 and then by May 1 every two years thereafter.

More information on the commission and its process can be found at <http://www.whatcomcounty.us/576/Salary-Commission>

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