

Resolution Calling for the Establishment of a Whatcom County Ombuds Office

WHEREAS, the trust between the residents and their government is paramount to the functioning of a healthy democracy; and

WHEREAS, an ombudsperson is an independent, impartial, and confidential complaint handler who dedicated to investigating allegations of fraud, waste, abuse, and ethics violations; and

WHEREAS, an Office of the Ombuds could respond to employee's concerns efficiently and impartially; and

WHEREAS, the residents of Whatcom County deserve an independent and impartial Office of Ombuds to support public confidence and ensure adherence to the principles of justice and due process, and

WHEREAS, the current civil litigation system, driven by adversarial motives, often neglects the subtleties of sensitive cases, leading to a conflict of interest and a potential disregard for the finer details that are crucial for a fair outcome; and

WHEREAS, the need for greater accountability and oversight has been emphatically expressed by the County Council;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to uphold the values of justice, minimize harm, and manage county funds with utmost efficiency, the 42nd Legislative District Democrats call on the Whatcom County to establish an Ombuds Office. This office will be dedicated to the independent investigation of public complaints and grievances from Whatcom County employees, with the aim to resolve issues, provide necessary assistance, and recommend policy enhancements to prevent similar controversies in the future; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Ombuds Office shall stand as a beacon of transparency and trust in government, ensuring that the voices of the aggrieved are heard and that justice is served without prejudice or delay.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we call upon all residents of Whatcom County to support the establishment of the Ombuds Office, a step forward in our collective pursuit of a fair and just community.

Dated this 8th day of June 2024
42nd LD Democrats