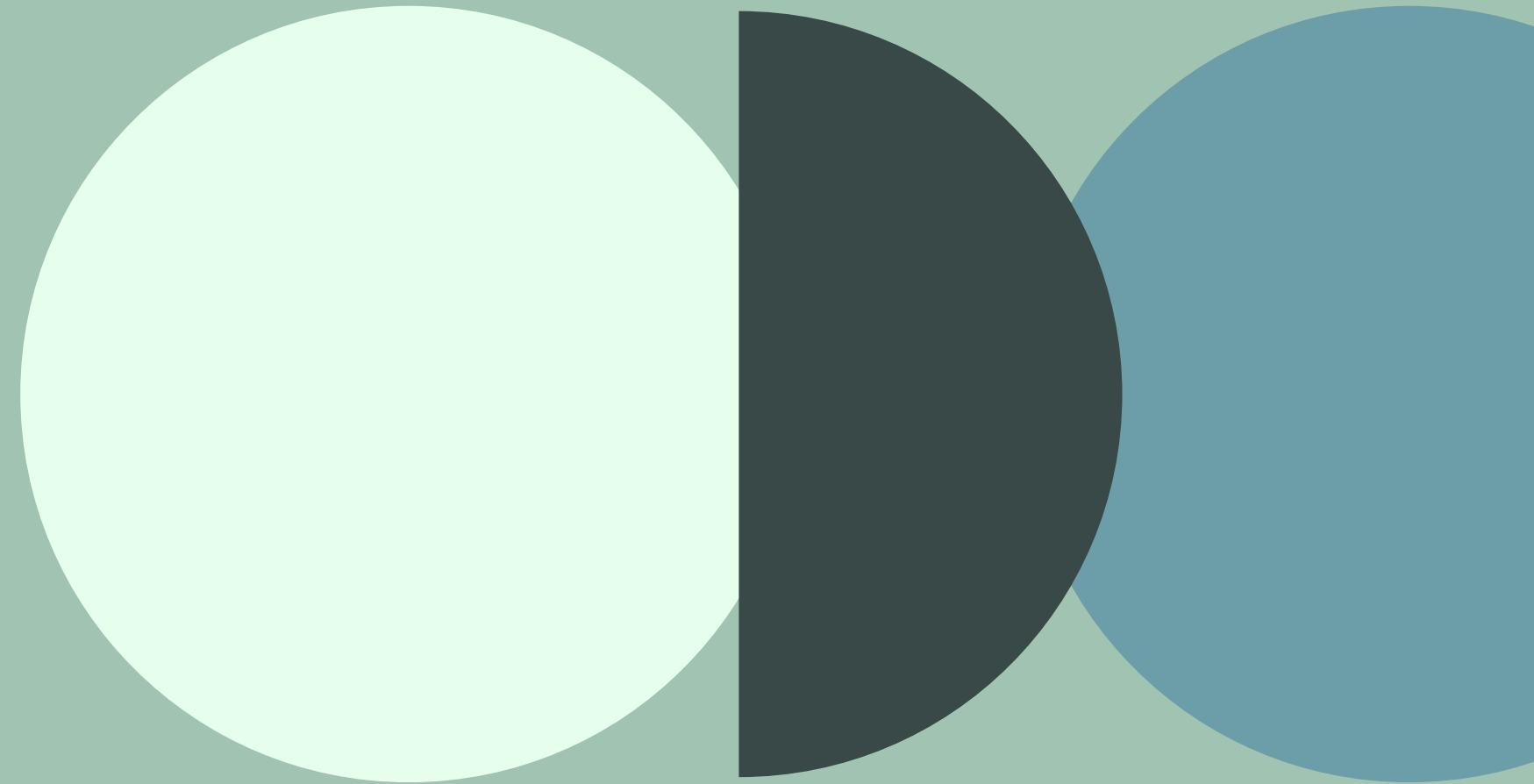




Making Washington and Bellingham
a place to prosper.

Bellingham City Council 2025 Scorecard



Brought to you by Future 42 Whatcom County

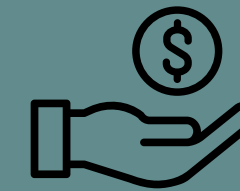
www.future42.org/whatcom



Take a look at this list.
Do any of these relate to your life?

**These are issues the
Bellingham City Council
discusses regularly.**

Public Safety



**Business
Climate**

**Taxes + Fiscal
Responsibility**

Environment





Hannah Stone
1st Ward



Hollie Huthman
2nd Ward



Dan Hammill
3rd Ward



Edwin "Skip" Williams
4th Ward



City of
Bellingham
WASHINGTON



Lisa Anderson
5th Ward



Michael Lillquist
6th Ward



Jace Cotton
7th Ward



How did your Bellingham City Councilmembers vote on these issues in 2025? Let's find out.

COUNCIL MEMBER	TERM ENDS	2026 PROPERTY TAX LEVY A	PUBLIC SAFETY SALES TAX B	RENTAL FEES C	WASTE MANAGEMENT D	LANDMARK TREE PROTECTIONS E
Hannah Stone <i>1st Ward</i>	12/2027	X	✓ VOTED YES	X	X	X
Hollie Huthman <i>2nd Ward</i>	12/2029	X	✓ VOTED YES	X	X	X
Dan Hammill <i>3rd Ward</i>	12/2027	X	✓ VOTED YES	X	X	X
Edwin "Skip" Williams <i>4th Ward</i>	12/2029	X	✓ VOTED YES	X	X	X
Lisa Anderson <i>5th Ward</i>	12/2027	X	✓ VOTED YES	X	X	X
Michael Lillquist <i>6th Ward</i>	12/2029	X	✓ VOTED YES	X	X	X
Jace Cotton <i>7th Ward</i>	12/2027	X	✓ VOTED YES	X	X	X

Vote KEY



Voted **with**
Future 42's Position



Voted **against**
Future 42's Position



Neutral Future 42's
Position



FUTURE 42

Taxes

2026 Property Tax Levy

Ordinance 2025-11-031 sets Bellingham's 2026 regular property tax levy, including approximately a 1% increase over the prior year's base levy, plus allowable revenue from new construction and assessed valuation changes. Property tax revenue funds general government services such as police, fire, parks, and administration. Supporters argue the increase is necessary to maintain service levels amid inflation. Opponents argue revenues have increased each year and that additional spending reductions should be considered to reduce cost-of-living pressures. *Future 42 position: Oppose*

This Passed 7-0 ✘



Safe and Stable Community Sales Tax (0.1%)

Ordinance 2025-10-023 imposes an additional 0.1% local sales and use tax for criminal justice purposes under recently authorized state law. The revenue is restricted to public safety and criminal justice uses but is not specifically dedicated to hiring additional police officers and was proposed in response to projected budget deficits. Sales tax applies broadly to purchases and is generally considered regressive because lower-income households pay a higher share of their income toward it. Supporters argue it will help fund public safety services.

Opponents raise concerns about increasing the tax burden and argue that structural spending reforms should be evaluated before adding new taxes. Future 42 has a neutral position but will monitor how the funds are allocated to determine whether they are used for public safety needs such as hiring additional officers. *Future 42 position: Neutral*

This Passed 7-0 ✓



**Fiscal Responsibility
+ Environment**

Prohibiting Unfair or Excessive Rental Fees

Ordinance 2025-06-010 creates a new chapter of the Bellingham Municipal Code that limits certain rental fees landlords may charge, caps deposits and late fees, requires disclosure of charges, and establishes legal remedies for violations. The stated goal is to increase fairness and transparency in rental housing. Supporters argue it protects renters from excessive fees they identify as “junk fees”.

Opponents express concern that increased regulation and legal exposure may discourage small landlords, shift costs into higher base rents, and reduce housing supply. *Future 42 position: Oppose*

This Passed 7-0 ✕



Waste Management / Climate Alignment Updates

Ordinance 2025-02-003 updates Bellingham’s solid waste regulations to align with the City’s Climate Action Plan and emission-reduction goals. The changes require most single-family households to participate in curbside organic waste collection, adding a compost bin service for food scraps, yard waste, and compostable materials that is collected regularly as part of the city’s waste program. Supporters argue it advances environmental sustainability commitments. Opponents question whether added service requirements will increase costs for residents and businesses without clearly measurable outcomes or transparent cost analysis. *Future 42 position: Oppose*

This Passed 7-0 ✕



FUTURE 42

Environment



Landmark Tree Protections

Ordinance 2025-03-004 establishes temporary protections for large landmark trees while permanent regulations are developed for Council consideration. It requires permits for removal and strengthens enforcement standards during the interim period. Supporters argue it preserves tree canopy, environmental resilience, and neighborhood character. Opponents raise concerns that additional regulatory layers may increase development costs, reduce buildable area, and further constrain housing supply at a time of affordability challenges. *Future 42 position: Oppose*

This Passed 7-0 ✕

About Future 42 Whatcom



By turning frustration into action, we are building a diverse and engaged community of Washingtonians and Whatcom County citizens and fueling a wave of empowerment. We provide a means for citizens to make their voices heard and their actions count by timely and respectfully communicating with local lawmakers on issues including Creating a safe and livable state, ensuring a more affordable cost of living, lowering our taxes, and providing an environment for our citizens and businesses to thrive.

Ways To Get Involved:

Sign up for our newsletter at Future42.org/whatcom for updates and call to action emails!

Make a contribution to support what Project 42 is building in Whatcom County and around the state - www.pfortytwo.com

A decorative graphic at the top of the page features three overlapping circles on the left: a light green circle, a dark teal circle, and another light green circle. To the right of these circles is a stylized mountain range composed of several overlapping, light-colored lines forming triangular peaks.

Thank You

To access this scorecard and to share it, visit

www.future42.org/whatcom

Be sure to sign up for our emails to stay updated on our Whatcom
County action alerts throughout the year.