

2018 Whatcom County – Wide Candidate Forum

Candidate self Introduction – 7:10 pm

Round 1 – All Candidates (Start at Table 1 – position 1) – 7:18 pm

The Hirst decision exempted Skagit County for which the 2013 Swinomish v. Department of Ecology decision caused property values to plummet and banks refused to finance or refinance homes because of the decision.

As a legislator, do you support the Hirst decision as written with the Skagit County exemption? Why?

Round 2 – All Candidates (Start at Table 2 – position 1) – 7:28 pm

During a previous session of the Washington State Legislature, a bill was introduced that required executive agencies to get approval from the legislature in order to implement any administrative regulation that would levy a fee to the public.

Would you support such a law in the future? Why or why not?

Round 3 – All Candidates (Start at Table 1 – position 2 – 7:37 pm

Local governments and citizens are struggling to complete the local requirements of the Hirst Fix by February 21st, 2019 deadlines. Some participants are pushing for metering and tighter withdrawal limits on all new exempt wells, even though there is no quantitative data showing a link between such wells and problematic low stream flows. According to Dept. of Ecology, exempt wells in general consume about 1% of all groundwater use in the entire state!

Do you believe the implementation of this law requires meters on all new exempt domestic use wells in a large and physically diverse area such as Western Whatcom County?

Round 4 – All Candidates – Start at Table 2 – position 2 – 7:48 pm

Washington is one of the States without a tax on a person's income. However, some are calling for such a tax.

Do you favor the imposition of a personal income or capital gains tax for Washington State?

Round 5 – All Candidates – Start at Table 1 – position 1 – 8 pm

In your opinion, how essential are individual private property rights to the well being of a healthy, functioning society?

Lighting Round – All Candidates – Start Table 2 – position 2 – 8:10 pm

Do you support Initiative 1631 (Carbon Tax)? Yes or NO

Do you support Initiative 1634 (Grocery Tax)? Yes or NO

Do you support Initiative 1639 (Gun Control)? Yes or NO

Do you support Initiative 940 (Law Enforcement)? Yes or NO

Closing Statements – 1 minute each - 8:20 pm

State Initiative Presentations – 5 minutes each – 8:30 pm

Opening Statements - Appeals Court, PUD, Prosecutor, Whatcom County Council Candidates – 8:50 pm Round 1 – Appeals Court – Start with Position 1 – 8:59 pm

The Kelo Case and the Olympic Stewardship case dealt with taking private property for public interest!

What is your personal view of private property rights and are those rights superior or inferior to the interests of the State vis-à-vis taking for public interests?

Round 2 – PUD – Start with Position 1 – 9:02 pm

You are aware that Whatcom County governments, including the PUD, and many citizens and private interests are working to meet the Hirst fix law requirements, and to update the WRIA 1 Management Plan. This is the most important issue to many local political, environmental and economic interests.

One idea being floated is for the PUD to “take over” most water associations, and to extend large capacity mains in lowland rural areas to provide ample and quality potable water, and fire flow. These mains cost between \$50 and \$150 per foot or from \$265,000 to \$790,000 per mile.

If elected would you support this concept, and if so, how would it be paid for?

Round 3 – Prosecuting Attorney – Start with Position 1 – 9:06 pm

We have all witnessed the recent US Supreme Court confirmation. In the era of allegations being tried on social media and 24 hour news.

Do you think we have waded into dangerous waters regarding our justice system and what role does the “rule of law” now play when individuals are accused of crimes?

Round 4 – Whatcom County Council – Start with Position 1 – 9:10 pm

Cherry Point is an important Heavy Industrial area in Whatcom County. The businesses there pay wages more than double the average wage in the County, support thousands of sub-contractors and contribute hundreds of millions to the tax base.

Do you support the County Councils export moratorium and their move to codify the intent through the Whatcom Comprehensive Plan?

Round 5 – Appeals Court – Start with Position 2 – 9:14 pm

What is the most significant case you have personally litigated and how did that case shape your views on the role of the judiciary?

Round 6 – PUD – Start with Position 2 – 9:18 pm

Do you think there is a maximum reasonable cost for an individual home owner to pay for hook up to a water association? Why?

Round 7 – Prosecuting Attorney – Start with Position 2 – 9:22 pm

What is your solution to the need for a new Whatcom County Jail?

Round 8 – Whatcom County Council – Start with Position 2 – 9:26 pm

What is your solution to the need for a new Whatcom County Jail?

Closing Statements – One minute each – 9:30 pm