



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – AUGUST 2, 2011

Whatcom County Association of REALTORS® announce local endorsed candidates

Bellingham, WA – The Whatcom County Association of REALTORS®, the county's largest professional association representing over 550 members, endorsed candidates for the following local races:

Doug Ericksen – Whatcom County Executive: As a life-long resident of Whatcom County, Doug knows that we enjoy a very high Quality of Life. Doug will work to ensure that we vigorously plan for communities that work for us while protecting our rights and way of life, not for planning special interests that have a singular focus. "Doug's efforts on behalf of farmers, business owners, and their employees shows he understands the current economic challenges we face in the county and, as a county resident, he knows what it will take to get the job done as well as create living wage jobs." said Jon Soine, a member of the interview team and former Vice President of Government Affairs for the Washington REALTORS®.

Kelli Linville – Bellingham Mayor: Kelli's record of representation for over two decades means she is uniquely familiar with the issues and concerns of our community. Her demonstrated ability to work with multiple interest groups and facilitate agreement between opposing views is the type of leadership we need to explore and resolve the economic and environmental opportunities that confront our community today. REALTOR® President Ray Pelletti stated, "Kelli's tireless advocacy for the working people of Whatcom County, for living-wage jobs, healthy communities, and the American Dream of home ownership, has made Whatcom County a special place for those of us who live here."

Tony Larson – Whatcom County Council District 1B: Tony is an intelligent person with his finger on the pulse of Whatcom County business. Tony understands the need to "Get Whatcom Working" and that Quality of Life has an entirely different meaning when you do not have a job or your employer is struggling with a business unfriendly environment. When confronted with the choice between Tony's fresh approach to the council and a person who believes "business as usual" is acceptable, we choose Mr. Larson's enthusiasm and energy.

Larry Farr – Bellingham City Council At-Large: Larry Farr is an individual with a clear passion for Bellingham. He not only possesses a clear understanding of business and what Bellingham needs to attract living-wage jobs to our area, but his work with youth also demonstrates that he is invested in our future generations and working to ensure their success as well. "As the person who will be responsible for representing all of Bellingham, Larry is the only candidate that has demonstrated his ability to work with a broad range of individuals and interests to reach common goals," said Nina Denson, Government Affairs Committee Chairperson for the Whatcom Association of REALTORS®.

The REALTORS® choose candidates based on a personal interview centered on the REALTOR® Quality of Life program. Quality of Life is a five point program that stresses building better communities through

economic vitality, housing choices, and environmental preservation. REALTOR® candidates are those that express a similar desire to balance these interests and who demonstrate a willingness to work with REALTORS® in a cooperative manner as we seek to maintain our communities.

In addition to those candidates interviewed, the Association endorsed Sheriff Bill Elfo and County Council member Sam Crawford in their re-election bids. Both of these individuals serve the people of Whatcom County very well and we encourage all residents to support Sheriff Elfo's and Sam Crawford's continued work on our behalf.

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Questions or interviews may be directed to R. Perry Eskridge, Government Affairs Director for the Whatcom County Association of REALTORS®- 360-671-5477.

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