



WASHOE COUNTY

Integrity Communication Service

www.washoecounty.gov

STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: OCTOBER 14, 2025

DATE: Thursday, September 18, 2025

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Jan Galassini, Washoe County Clerk
(775) 784-7287, jgalassini@washoecounty.gov

THROUGH: Kate Thomas, Interim Washoe County Manager

SUBJECT: Recommendation to appoint four candidates from a pool of applicants, including Erin Albright, Richard Berman, Brian Erbis, Robert Lissner, Savita Shukla, Tracey Thomas, Brandi Tripp Russell, Duong Betty Tsuji, and Corinthia Yancey, to fill vacancies of three regular members and one alternate member on the Washoe County Board of Equalization with one regular member term beginning on January 1, 2026, and ending on June 30, 2028, two regular member terms beginning on January 1, 2026, and ending on June 30, 2026, and one alternate member term beginning on January 1, 2026, and ending on June 30, 2026. (All Commission Districts.)

SUMMARY

The Washoe County Board of Equalization is recommending that the Board of County Commissioners appoint three regular members and one alternate member from a pool of applicants, including Erin Albright, Richard Berman, Brian Erbis, Robert Lissner, Savita Shukla, Tracey Thomas, Brandi Tripp Russell, Duong Betty Tsuji, and Corinthia Yancey. The terms for these members include: one regular member term beginning on January 1, 2026, and ending on June 30, 2028, two regular member terms beginning on January 1, 2026, and ending on June 30, 2026, and one alternate member term beginning on January 1, 2026, and ending on June 30, 2026.

Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item: Innovative Services:
Strengthen Our Culture of Service.

PREVIOUS ACTION

No previous action.

BACKGROUND

The Washoe County Board of Equalization is charged with hearing appeals filed by property owners who do not agree with the value placed on their property for tax purposes by the County Assessor. The Board conducts its hearings annually during the

AGENDA ITEM # _____

month of February and is required to conclude its business on or before the last day of February.

Pursuant to NRS 361.340, the Washoe County Board of Equalization is comprised of five members with four-year terms. The Board of County Commissioners may also appoint alternate members.

NRS 361.340(4) provides as follows: “The Chair of the Board of County Commissioners shall nominate persons to serve on the County Board of Equalization who are sufficiently experienced in business generally to be able to bring knowledge and sound judgment to the deliberations of the board or who are elected public officers. The nominees must be appointed upon a majority vote of the Board of County Commissioners. The Chair of the Board of County Commissioners shall designate one of the appointees to serve as Chair of the County Board of Equalization.”

The Washoe County Board of Equalization currently has the following members:

Current Members:

Ms. Eugenia Bonnenfant, term expires June 30, 2027

Mr. Daren McDonald, term expires June 30, 2027

Alternate:

None.

Mr. James Ainsworth resigned from the Board of Equalization on March 28, 2025, due to retirement. This resulted in a vacancy to fill Mr. Ainsworth’s unexpired term, which began on January 17, 2023, and ends on June 30, 2026.

Mr. Michael Gratz resigned from the Board of Equalization on April 9, 2025, due to his unavailability during the Board of Equalization season. This resulted in a vacancy to fill Mr. Gratz’s unexpired term, which began on January 1, 2025, and ends on June 30, 2026.

Mr. Rost Olsen resigned from the Board of Equalization on August 7, 2025, due to his acceptance of a position with the Washoe County District Attorney’s Office. NRS 361.340 states: “A district attorney, county treasurer or county assessor or any of their deputies or employees may not be appointed to the county board of equalization.” This resulted in a vacancy to fill Mr. Olsen’s unexpired term, which began on December 17, 2024, and ends on June 30, 2028.

Recruitment for Washoe County Board of Equalization members is a continuous ongoing process. Applications were solicited beginning in May 2025, following the resignations of Mr. James Ainsworth and Mr. Michael Gratz, and again on August 12, 2025, following the resignation of Mr. Rost Olsen

Applications were received from:

Erin Albright

Richard Berman

Brian Erbis

Robert Lissner
Savita Shukla
Tracey Thomas
Brandi Tripp Russell
Duong Betty Tsuji
Corinthia Yancey

FISCAL IMPACT

Washoe County Board of Equalization members are compensated at a rate of \$125 per meeting. The adopted Fiscal Year 2025/26 budget, account 100107-710100, provides adequate budget authority to support these costs.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board appoint three regular members and one alternate member to serve on the Washoe County Board of Equalization to fill one regular member vacancy with a term beginning on January 1, 2026, and ending on June 30, 2028, two regular member vacancies with terms beginning on January 1, 2026, and ending on June 30, 2026, and one alternate member vacancy, with a term beginning on January 1, 2026, and ending on June 30, 2026.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with the recommendation, three motions are needed. The possible motions would be:

“Move to appoint [selected applicant 1] to fill the vacancy on the Washoe County Board of Equalization, beginning on January 1, 2026, and ending on June 30, 2028.”

“Move to appoint [selected applicant 2] and [selected applicant 3] to fill the vacancies on the Washoe County Board of Equalization, beginning on January 1, 2026, and ending on June 30, 2026.”

“Move to appoint [selected applicant 4] to fill the alternate position on the Washoe County Board of Equalization, beginning on January 1, 2026, and ending on June 30, 2026.”