



WASHOE COUNTY

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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: DECEMBER 17, 2024

DATE: Thursday, November 21, 2024

TO: Board of County Commissioners

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

THROUGH: Eric Brown, Washoe County Manager

SUBJECT: Recommendation to appoint two candidates from a pool of applicants including: Michael Gratz, Rost Olsen, Tracey Thomas, and Corinthia Yancey to fill two vacancies on the Washoe County Board of Equalization with one term beginning on January 1, 2025, and ending on June 30, 2026, and the other term beginning on January 1, 2025, and ending on June 30, 2028. (All Commission Districts.)

SUMMARY

The Washoe County Board of Equalization is recommending that the Board of County Commissioners appoint two candidates from a pool of applicants including: Michael Gratz, Rost Olsen, Tracey Thomas, and Corinthia Yancey to fill two vacancies on the Washoe County Board of Equalization with one term beginning on January 1, 2025, and ending on June 30, 2026, and the other term beginning on January 1, 2025, and ending on June 30, 2028.

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 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.

AGENDA ITEM # _____

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:

Mr. James Ainsworth, term expires June 2026

Ms. Eugenia Bonnenfant, term expires June 2027

Mr. Daren McDonald, term expires June 2027

Alternate:

None.

Mr. Rob Pierce resigned from the Board of Equalization on April 20, 2024, due to his appointment to the Washoe County Board of Adjustment. This resulted in a vacancy to fill Mr. Pierce’s unexpired term beginning on January 1, 2025, and ending on June 30, 2026. Mr. Dennis George’s term expired on June 30, 2024. This resulted in an open, full four-year term beginning on January 1, 2025, and ending on June 30, 2028.

Recruitment for Washoe County Board of Equalization members is a continuous ongoing process. Applications were solicited beginning in October 2024, following the expiration of the term of Mr. Dennis George and the resignation of Mr. Rob Pierce.

Applications were received from:

Michael Gratz

Rost Olsen

Tracey Thomas

Corinthia Yancey

FISCAL IMPACT

Washoe County Board of Equalization members are compensated at a rate of \$125 per meeting. There is adequate budget authority in the adopted Fiscal Year 2024/25 budget, account 100107-710100 in support of these costs.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board appoint two candidates to serve on the Washoe County Board of Equalization to fill two vacancies, with one term beginning on January 1, 2025, and ending on June 30, 2026, and the other term beginning on January 1, 2025, and ending on June 30, 2028.

POSSIBLE MOTION

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

“Move to appoint [selected applicant] to fill the vacancy on the Washoe County Board of Equalization, beginning on January 1, 2025, and ending on June 30, 2026.”

“Move to appoint [selected applicant] to fill the vacancy on the Washoe County Board of Equalization, beginning on January 1, 2025, and ending on June 30, 2028.”