

Second Annual General Meeting

November 21, 2024

Call to Order & Group Agreement

- I will approach others with the assumption of positive intentions and treat everyone with both personal and professional respect.
- I will strive to balance my contributions with those of others to ensure equal participation.
- I will consciously set aside the belief that my perspective is inherently superior and remain open to others' viewpoints.

Thank you for your dedication and contributions as
a member of the 2024 BBIA Steering Committee!

Matt Berry
Lisa Guthrie
Sharman Burnam
Chuck Kinzer
Jonathan Mallahan
Caprice Pine
Brian Bell

Barney Yorkston
Cecil Robinson
Jason Polverari
Patrick Alesse
Wayne Kortlever
Bob Aiken

4. Executive Committee Report

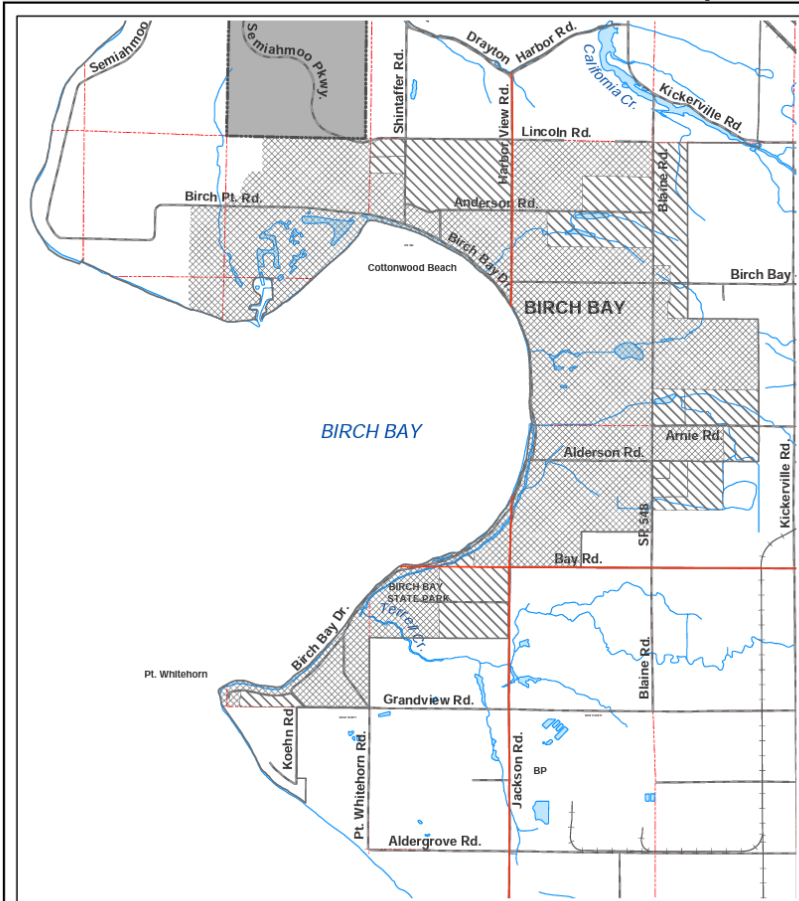
Committee Chair: Matt Berry

A little history...

“In 1992, an attempt was made to incorporate Birch Bay; however, it was defeated by the voters. In 2008, the county completed an incorporation feasibility study for the Birch Bay UGA which identified the issues with and benefits of incorporating. It concluded that Birch Bay incorporation was financially feasible given the community’s tax base and service needs. The community has not made another attempt to incorporate as of 2015.”

(Source: Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan, Page 2-47)

Map #28-H



Birch Bay Urban Growth Area

- Urban Growth Areas
- Major Port/Industrial UGA
- Short Term Planning Areas
- 2004 City Limits

October 14, 2004

Birch Bay was established as an Urban Growth Area in 1997

RCW 36.70A.110 Comprehensive plans — Urban growth areas.

(1) Each county that is required or chooses to plan under RCW 36.70A.040 shall designate **an urban growth area or areas within which urban growth shall be encouraged** and outside of which growth can occur only if it is not urban in nature...

(4) In general, **cities are the units of local government most appropriate to provide urban governmental services.**

Birch Bay is unique in that it is a standalone UGA, not centered around a city

**Our population
has grown and will
continue to grow...**

Sources:

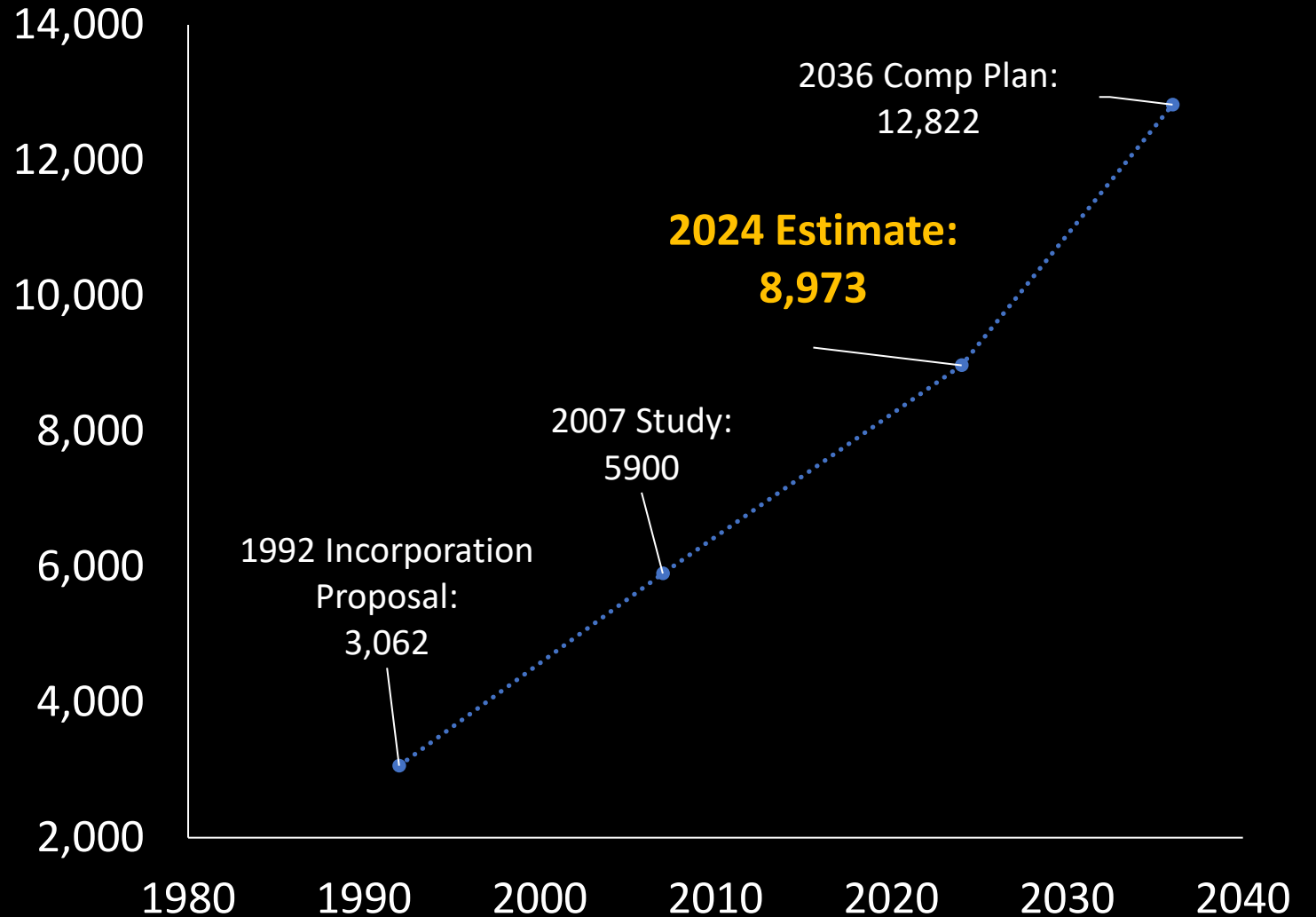
1992 – Incorporation Proposal

2007 – Feasibility Study

*2024 – WA Office of Financial
Management, Small Area
Estimates Program*

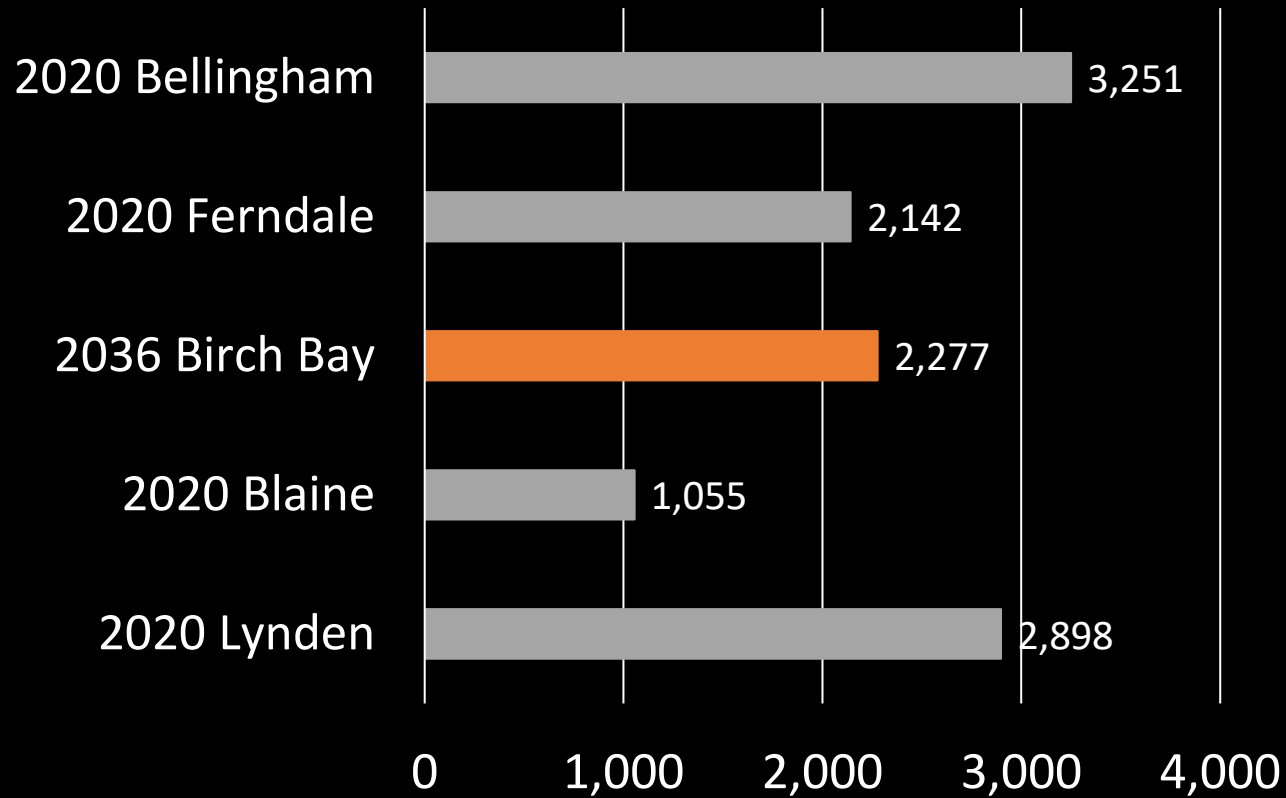
*2036 – Current Comprehensive
Plan*

Birch Bay Resident Population



We have a larger population than 78% of all cities across Washington State (496 cities)

Population Per Square Mile 2036 Birch Bay compared to 2020 Cities



The 15-year growth rate of Birch Bay (48.3%) exceeds 8 out of 10 of the most recently incorporated cities in Washington State.

We are on track to have the population density of Ferndale without local representation or municipal services...

Given these transformations, it's wise
to reconsider the question:

**Is establishing Birch Bay as an
incorporated city in our best
interest?**

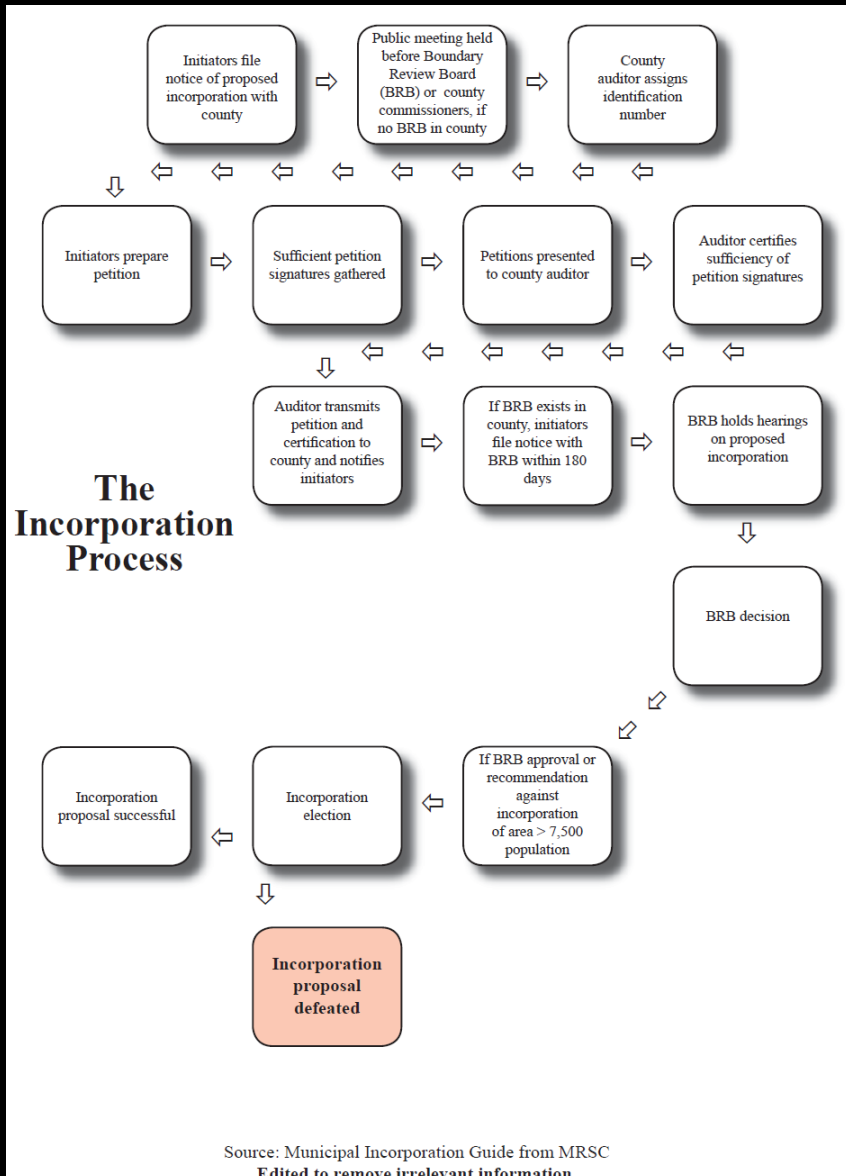
*The most recent incorporation in Washington State was Spokane Valley in 2003.
The most recent incorporation in Whatcom County was Everson in 1929.*

What will change if we vote to become a city?

- We **WILL** keep tax dollars here
- We **WILL** have more control over our development and priorities
- We **WILL** elect City Council members from within our community
- We **WILL** have better access to state and federal grants
- We **WILL NOT** need to build a city hall, police station, post office
- We **WILL NOT** radically change the character of Birch Bay but better preserve it

Regarding timeline...

- There is a clear and well documented process
- Incorporation is not achieved without thorough research and consideration
- It will take years to complete



“Whatcom County will encourage and assist the citizens of Birch Bay Urban Growth Area with incorporation when appropriate.”

Source: Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan, Chapter 2 - Land Use, Policy 2Q-5

BBIA Adopted Statement of Purpose

The purpose of BBIA is to explore and, if found feasible, advocate for incorporation to give residents of Birch Bay more direct control over the future of their community. BBIA will accomplish this by:

1. Creating an inclusive, nonpartisan process to explore the creation, through incorporation, of a future City of Birch Bay...
2. Promoting a feasibility study and community engagement, soliciting feedback, and information sharing...
3. Serving as a liaison with County, State, and Boundary Review Board...

Executive Committee Achievements

- **Hosted three Quarterly Association Meetings**
 - County Executive Satpal Sidhu
 - Washington State Senator Sharon Shewmake
 - Roland Middleton
 - Community Roundtable Discussion
- **Contacted 50+ stakeholders** including HOA boards, service providers, local businesses, etc.
- **Successfully lobbied the county to fund an update to the 2008 Birch Bay Incorporation Feasibility Study**

Going forward...

- Continuing to facilitate an inclusive, nonpartisan community discussion on the pros and cons of incorporation
- Hosting community events to discuss and share results of the Incorporation Feasibility Study Update
- If found feasible, advocate for and advance the incorporation process through a citizen initiative.



Questions?

5. Communications Committee Report

Committee Chair: Lisa Guthrie

Expanding Community Engagement

- **Focus:** Increasing reach and inviting community participation in the process.
- **Key Email Achievements:**
 - 60% growth in email contacts.
 - Sent over **20,000 emails** this year.
 - **60% email open rate** (20% higher than industry standards).
 - Over **1,200 clicks** to view survey results.
 - Contact list includes residents, non-resident property owners, seasonal residents, Canadians, etc.

Demonstrating Community Engagement

- **Recent General Survey collected 639 responses**
 - This response represents over 10% of registered voters in Birch Bay.
- **Significance:** Strong indicator of community interest and involvement.
- Please continue participating in future surveys to help shape the future of Birch Bay.

Community Outreach Highlights

- **Informational Booths at major events:**
 - Rollback & Sand Sculpture Competition Weekend
 - Derby Day
 - Fall Festival
- **New Opportunities:**
 - HOA meetings
 - Neighborhood gatherings
 - Any community events where Birch Bay residents are present.
 - **Invite us to your meetings or events!**

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Media Coverage

- Meeting notices and updates received coverage via
 - The Northern Light
 - All Point Bulletin
 - Cascadia Daily News
 - My Bellingham Now (KGMI)
 - KPUG
 - Birch Bay Buzz (Birch Bay Chamber of Commerce)

Birch Bay Incorporation Association accepting steering committee applications



Over 100 people attended a meeting on Birch Bay incorporation at Christ the King North Bay Community Church on November 15, 2023. The group, which had been meeting since June, was formally established as the Birch Bay Incorporation Association during the meeting. Voters also approved city boundaries for a feasibility study and elected 15 steering committee members.

PHOTO BY GRACE MCCARTHY

Posted Wednesday, October 16, 2024 3:40 pm

By Grace McCarthy

The Birch Bay Incorporation Association (BBIA) is accepting candidate applications for its steering committee members, who guide discussions on the potential of Birch Bay becoming its own city.

The steering committee is composed of up to 15 volunteers serving one-year terms. People who live, work or own property in Birch Bay are eligible to serve on the committee.

Steering committee members are required to attend monthly steering committee meetings as well as participate in additional subcommittee work like research and public outreach, according to the application.

RECE

Ways

An aerial photograph of a coastal town, likely in the Pacific Northwest, featuring a large body of water, a sandy beach, and residential buildings. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter. The word "Questions?" is written in a large, bold, yellow font across the center of the image.

Questions?

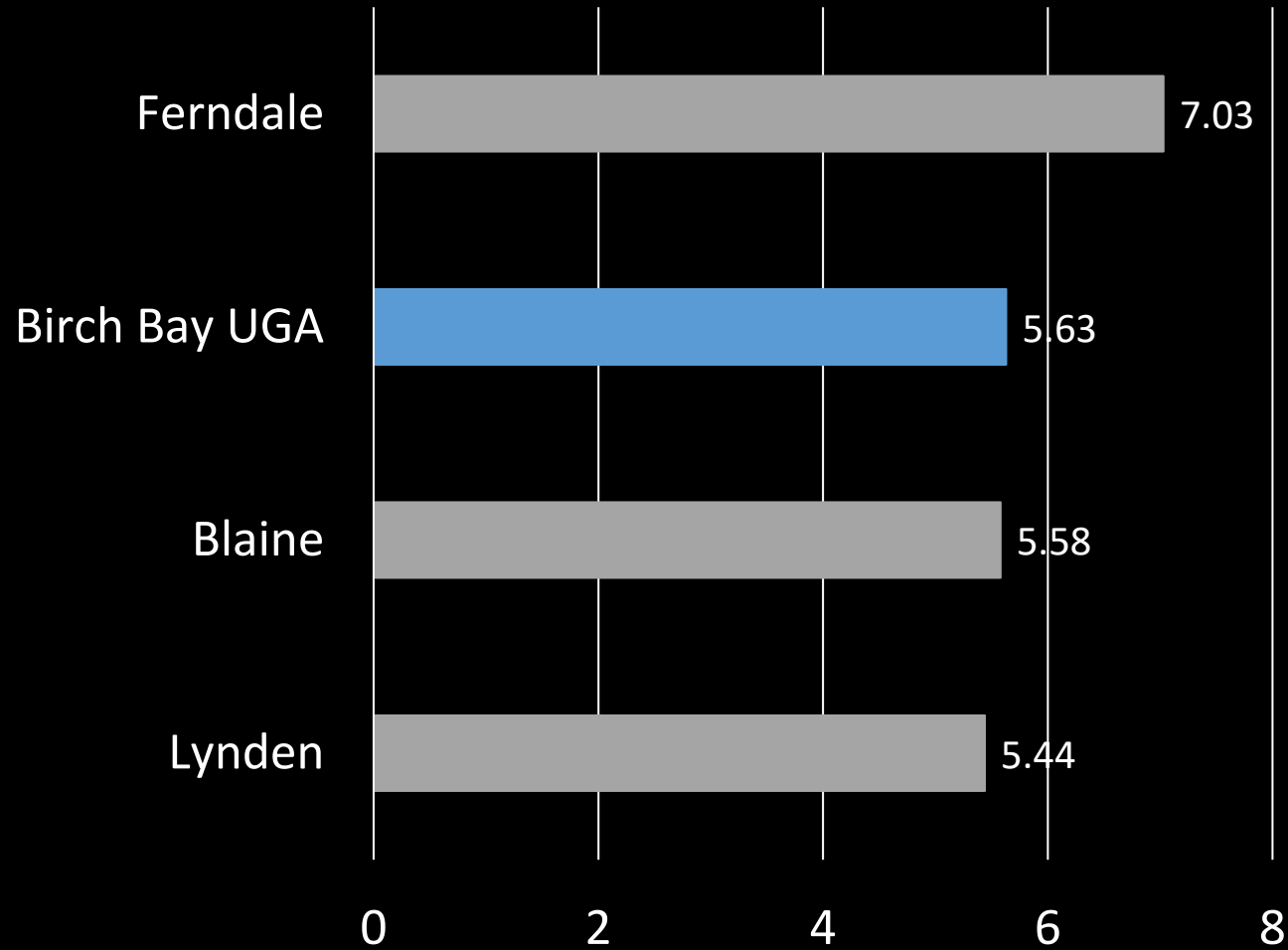
6. Research & Feasibility Committee Report

Committee Chairs: Chuck
Kinzer & Jonathan Mallahan

Taxes according to the 2008 Feasibility Study

- “Does the Contemplated Incorporation of Birch Bay Appear Financially Feasible? Yes. If Birch Bay residents pay the same level of taxes they would pay as part of unincorporated Whatcom County, a City of Birch Bay would generate enough revenues to provide a slightly higher level of service than Birch Bay residents currently receive.” (Page ES-2)
- “When one thinks about running a city, there are any number of costs that are to some extent fixed (i.e. costs that tend to change little with modest changes in city size)... Given these built-in economies of scale, all else being equal, a larger city will find it easier to make ends meet than a smaller city.” (Page ES-5)
- **“So...if we vote to incorporate, will taxes go up with incorporation, or will they go down? The answer is: every city is different, and every city makes its own decisions.” (Page ES-8)**

2020 Land Area in Square Miles



We are as large as most cities...

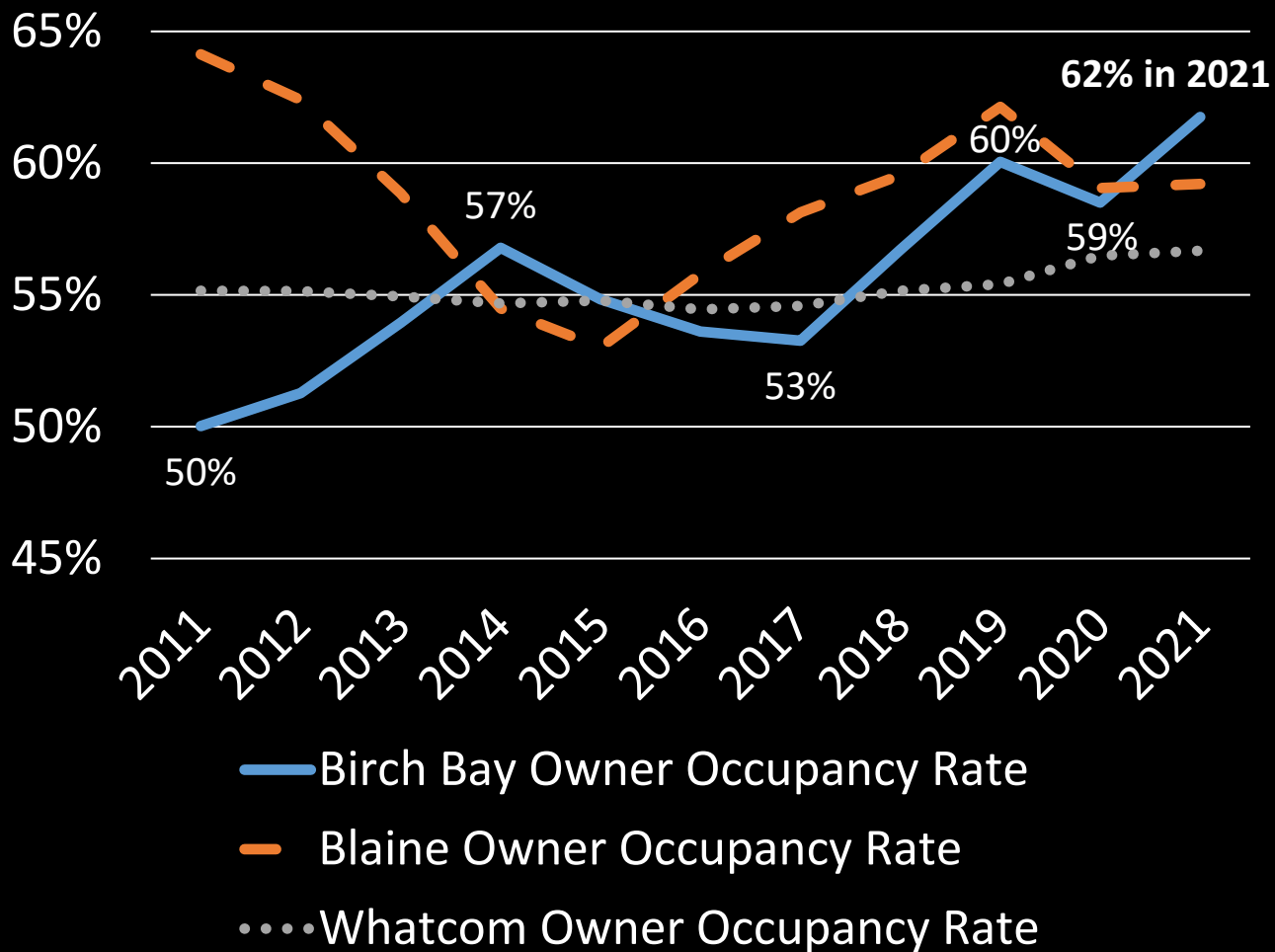
*More families are
choosing to call
Birch Bay home...*

“Out of 966 children under 5 in Blaine and Birch Bay, 25 percent live in Blaine, while the other **75 percent reside in Birch Bay.**

Additionally, 3,132 residents in Blaine and Birch Bay are under 18. **Nearly 60 percent reside in Birch Bay,** and the other 41 percent in Blaine, according to the 2020 U.S. Census data.”

(Article in The Northern Light by Cameron Sires, September 7, 2022)

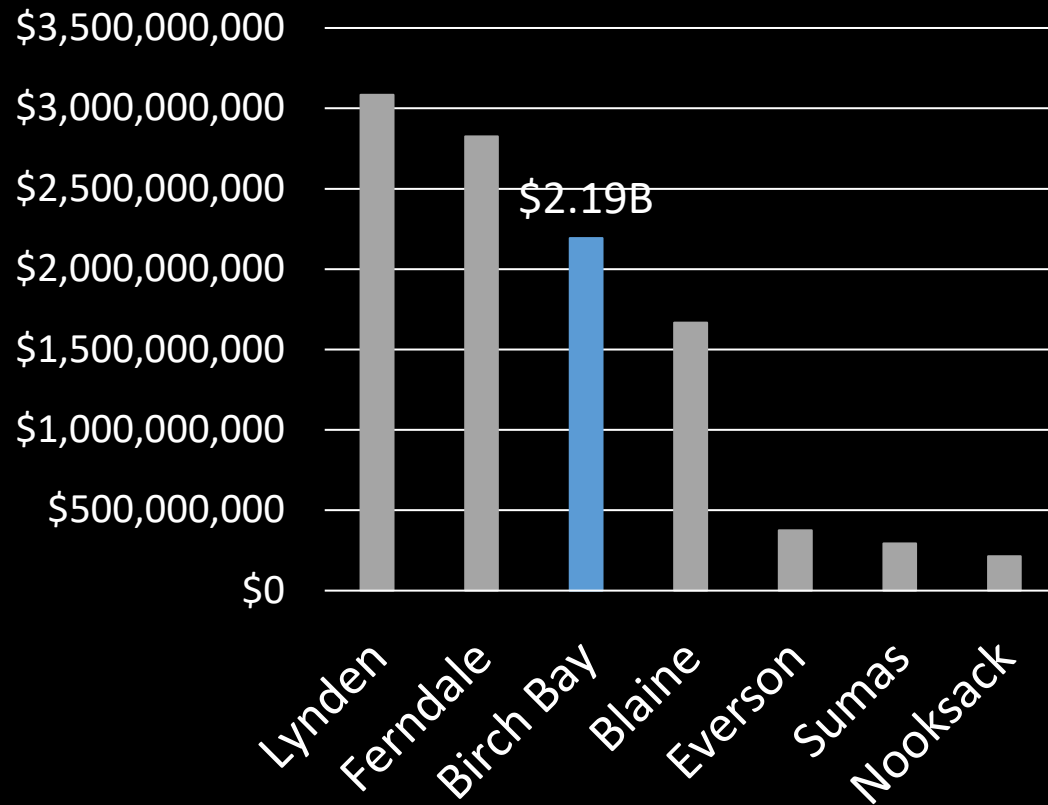
Owner Occupancy Rate



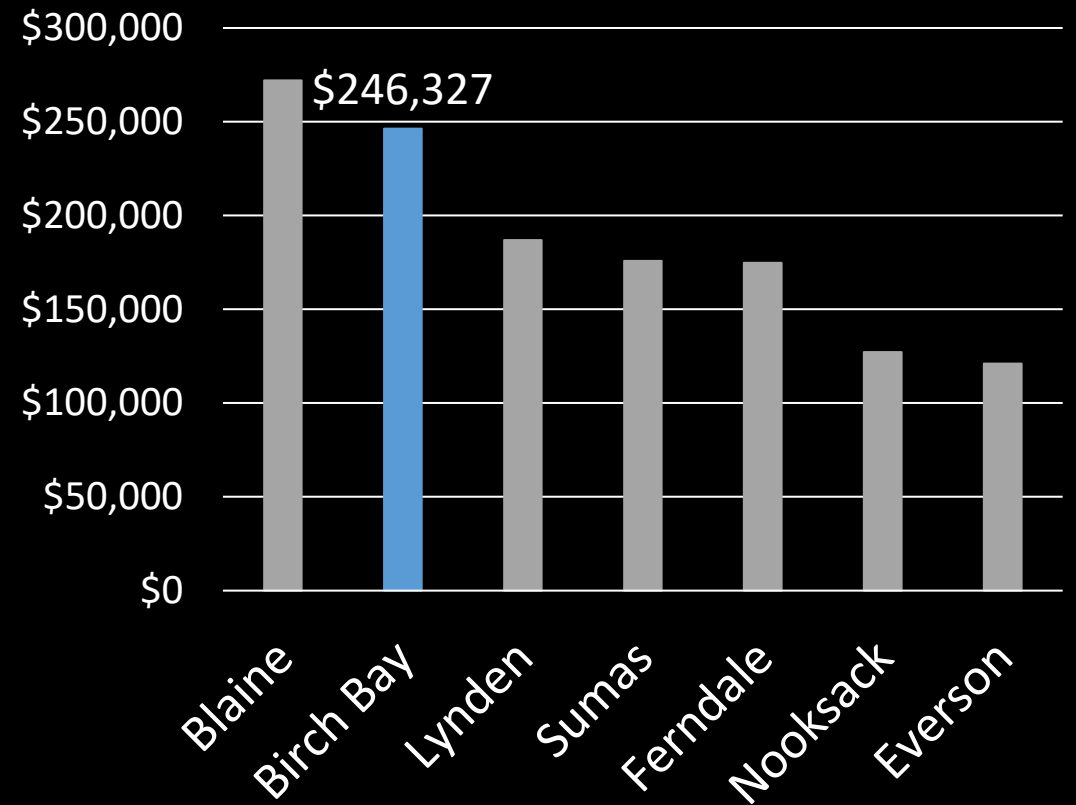
The number of full-time residents is trending upward while Canadian ownership is down from 25% in 2019 to below 16% in 2024...

Regarding taxes...

Total Property Tax Valuation

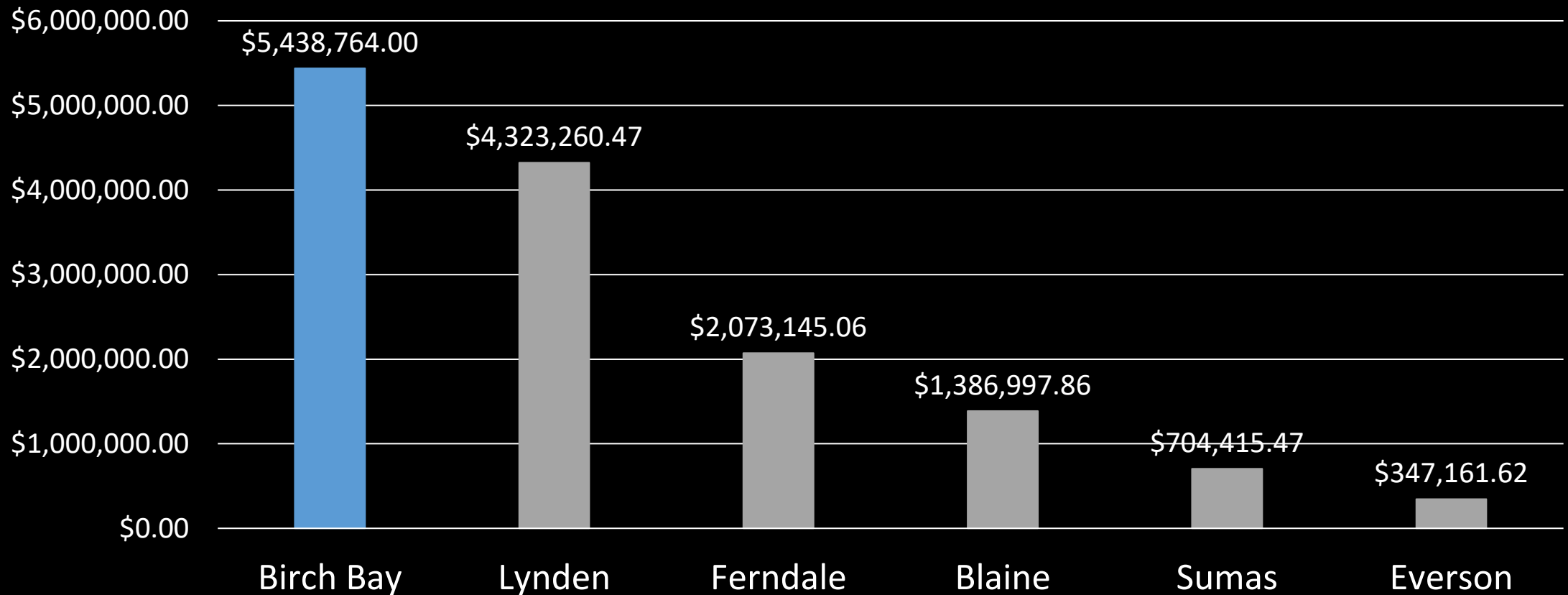


Property Tax Valuation Per Resident



Regarding taxes...

Property Taxes Paid by City or UGA



An aerial photograph of a coastal town. On the left, a large body of water, possibly a bay or inlet, stretches towards the horizon. The town is built along the shoreline, with a mix of residential houses and larger buildings. A dense forest of evergreen trees covers the hills behind the town. In the far distance, a range of mountains is visible under a clear blue sky. The word "Questions?" is overlaid in large, bold, yellow font across the center of the image.

Questions?

7. Finance Committee Report

Committee Chair: Sharman
Burnam

An aerial photograph of a coastal town. A river flows through the center of the town, which is densely packed with houses and buildings. The town is situated on a peninsula or a narrow strip of land, with a large body of water to the right. In the background, there are rolling hills and mountains under a clear blue sky. The overall scene is bright and sunny.

Questions?

8. Open Session

Please state your name for the record and speak into the microphone so remote participants can hear your statement.

In the interest of keeping the meeting to a reasonable length, each speaker is allotted three minutes.

9. BBIA Steering Committee Election

- The Steering Committee coordinates the activities of BBIA
- The committee is responsible for strategy and vision
- The Steering Committee shall consist of between seven and fifteen members
- Candidates will have 60 seconds to address the Association



Candidate #1: Jason Polverari

Neighborhood: Central Reaches

Eligibility: I live within the current proposed boundaries



Candidate #2: Jan Barnes

Neighborhood: Cottonwood Reach

Eligibility: I live within the current proposed boundaries



Candidate #3: Lisa Guthrie

Neighborhood: Birch Point Village
Reach

Eligibility: I live within the current
proposed boundaries



Candidate #4: Raymond Chladny

Neighborhood: State Park Reach

Eligibility: I own property but do not reside within the current proposed boundaries (vacation property, second home, short-term rental, etc.)



Candidate #5: Jonathan Mallahan

Neighborhood: Central Reaches

Eligibility: I own property but do not reside within the current proposed boundaries (vacation property, second home, short-term rental, etc.)



Candidate #6: Caprice Pine

Neighborhood: Birch Point Village
Reach

Eligibility: I live within the current
proposed boundaries



Candidate #7: Lisa Black

Neighborhood: Central Uplands

Eligibility: I live within the current proposed boundaries



Candidate #8: Patrick Alesse

Neighborhood: Central Reaches

Eligibility: I live within the current proposed boundaries



Candidate #9: Sharman Burnam

Neighborhood: Central Reaches

Eligibility: I live within the current proposed boundaries



Candidate #10: Pauline Nefcy

Neighborhood: Central Reaches

Eligibility: I live within the current proposed boundaries



Candidate #11: Michael Edward
Rutkowski

Neighborhood: Hillsdale

Eligibility: I live within the current
proposed boundaries



Candidate #12: Matt Berry

Neighborhood: Cottonwood Reach

Eligibility: I live within the current proposed boundaries



Candidate #13: Yorkson Jeen

Neighborhood: Birch Point Village
Reach

Eligibility: I live within the current
proposed boundaries



Candidate #14: Michael Stringam

Neighborhood: Birch Point Village
Reach

Eligibility: I live within the current
proposed boundaries



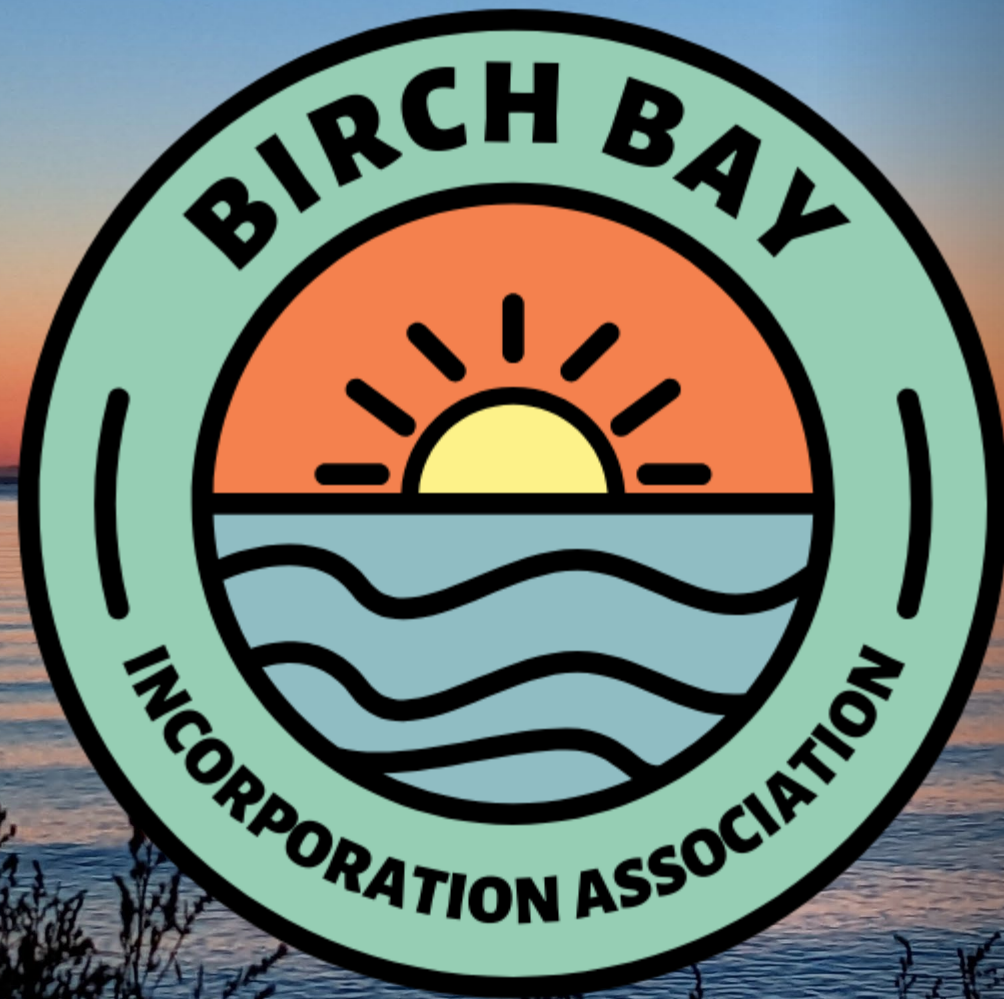
Candidate #15: Holly G. Hamilton

Neighborhood: Cottonwood Reach

Eligibility: I live within the current proposed boundaries

A black and white photograph of a large crowd of people at an outdoor event. In the background, there is a stand with a sign that reads "ICE CREAM". The crowd is dense, and many people are wearing hats. The text "Please turn in your ballots at the front desk when finished." is overlaid in white on the image.

Please turn in your
ballots at the front desk
when finished.



Thank you!

Next Steering
Committee Meeting –
Tentatively scheduled
for Thursday,
December 12