

# Thurston County

## Official Local Voters' Pamphlet

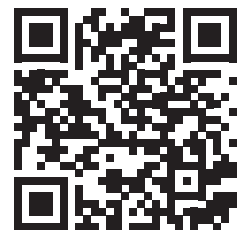
### November 4, 2025 General Election



2025 "I Voted" Sticker Design  
Contest Winner: **Alexis Trono**

Thurston County Auditor's  
Elections Center  
**2915 29th Ave SW**  
**Tumwater, WA 98512**

Scan for a map  
to our office!



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### Notice to Voters:

Candidate and jurisdiction statements are published exactly as submitted to the Thurston County Auditor's Elections Office. We do not make corrections of any kind or verify statements for truth or fact.

If a primary election was held for an office, the two candidates who received the most votes in the Primary advanced to the General Election.



Registering to vote is easy. Log on to [VoteWA.gov](http://VoteWA.gov).

Online Registration is available until 8 days before the election (October 27). In person registration is available until 8 p.m. on November 4.

### Replacement Ballots

If you lost, damaged, or did not receive your ballot, replacement ballots are available. To get a replacement ballot:

**Email:** [elections@co.thurston.wa.us](mailto:elections@co.thurston.wa.us)

**Online:** [VoteWA.gov](http://VoteWA.gov)

**Phone:** 360.786.5408  
711 Washington Relay

**In person:** Thurston County Elections  
2915 29th Ave SW, Tumwater  
October 15 through November 3  
8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. M-F  
8 a.m. - 8 p.m. Election Day (Nov. 4)  
  
Lacey Timberland Library  
500 College St SE, Lacey  
October 31 & November 3  
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
8 a.m. - 8 p.m. Election Day (Nov. 4)

Additional locations on Page 15



### Who donates to campaigns?

Public Disclosure Commission  
[www.pdc.wa.gov](http://www.pdc.wa.gov)  
Toll Free 1 (877) 601-2828

Planning to mail your ballot? No postage needed!

**If it's a week before Election Day,  
use a ballot drop box!**

Ballots must be postmarked by November 4 to be counted.

## Message from Thurston County Auditor Mary Hall



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Dear Voters,

Being a future thinker, I always look ahead to anticipate any major changes or challenges that lay ahead. By the time you read this letter, there may have been significant changes to our national election laws. The U.S. Senate is currently considering the SAVE Act, which would require anyone registering to vote in a federal election to provide proof of U.S. citizenship. The President's Executive Order(s), currently being debated in the courts, would have significant impacts on our election processes.

But for the sake of simplicity, I'm going to address only the changes the current version of the SAVE Act would make.

As an election official, I am bound by my oath to follow the state and federal laws and constitutions. If the SAVE Act becomes law, proof of citizenship to vote will become law. If you have a U.S. Passport or WA Enhanced Drivers License (EDL) you've got what you need. If you don't have one of these documents proving you're a U.S. citizen, you should gather the documents you need to apply for one now.

The process to apply for a passport can take months and costs more than \$130. The Auditor's Office is a full-time passport acceptance facility.

A birth certificate is another option, along with a government-issued photo ID. You can order a certified copy of your birth certificate from the state you were born in. That process can take weeks.

Name changes can complicate things. If your birth certificate shows a different last name than your drivers license (due to marriage, divorce, or legal change) you'll need documents to prove the link between those names, such as a marriage certificate or court order. Marriage certificates and court orders are available from the jurisdiction in which they were issued.

Without that paper trail, you could run into problems when registering or re-registering. It's worth checking now to make sure your name matches across your proof-of-citizenship documents and your voter registration.

Be aware the new requirement would apply when you move, change your name, or re-register for any reason even if already registered. That's why it's smart to check your voter registration status regularly through [VoteWA.gov](https://VoteWA.gov). Doing so well before registration deadlines will give you time to address any issues.

Because the SAVE Act does not provide funding to help voters obtain these documents, there could be costs involved, both in money and time. Preparing early will be key.

We'll keep you updated. For now, the bill appears to be stalled in the Senate unless they change their rules (the filibuster). If the bill does pass, our office will announce how we'll implement the law and when the new rules take effect. The sooner you understand the requirements and gather the necessary documents, the smoother your voting experience will be. If you know friends or family who might be caught off guard, sharing this information could help ensure everyone stays eligible to vote.

Let's work together to ensure we keep democracy alive.

Respectfully

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Hall".

Mary Hall  
Thurston County Auditor, CERA

## Ballot Drop Box Locations

Drop boxes are open 24 hours a day and close promptly at 8 p.m. on Election Day.

### Lacey Area

Lacey Fire 3, Station 34 .....	8447 Steilacoom Rd SE
Lacey Fire 3, Station 35 .....	3701 Willamette Dr NE
Lacey City Hall .....	420 College St SE
Lacey Post Office .....	5815 Lacey Blvd SE
Martin Village .....	5600 Martin Way E
Woodland Retirement & Assisted Living .....	4532 Intelco Lp SE

### Olympia Area

Church of the Good Shepherd .....	1601 North St SE
4th Ave & Quince St (formerly AlphaGraphics) .....	1006 4th Ave E
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church .....	1515 Harrison Ave NW
Haggen NW Fresh .....	1313 Cooper Point Rd SW
Olympia City Hall .....	601 4th Ave E
The Evergreen State College .....	2700 McCann Plaza Dr NW
Thurston County Courthouse .....	2000 Lakeridge Dr SW
Thurston County Atrium .....	3000 Pacific Ave SE
South Puget Sound Community College .....	2011 Mottman Rd SW

### Tumwater Area

McLane Black Lake Fire Station 95 .....	5911 Black Lake Blvd SW, Olympia
Tumwater Timberland Library .....	7023 New Market St SW
Tumwater School Administration .....	621 Linwood Ave SW
Thurston County Auditor's Election Office .....	2915 29th Ave SW

### South County Area

Bucoda .....	103 S Main St
Tenino School District Administration .....	301 Old Hwy 99 N

### Southeast County

Lackamas Elementary .....	16240 Bald Hill Rd SE, Yelm
Nisqually Tribal Admin Bldg .....	4820 She Nah Num Dr SE, Olympia
Rainier City Hall .....	102 Rochester St W
Yelm School Administration .....	110 1 <sup>st</sup> St NE

### Southwest County

Grand Mound Center .....	19949 Old Hwy 99 SW, Rochester
Littlerock Fire 11 .....	10828 Littlerock Rd SW, Olympia
Rochester Fire 1, Station 3 .....	18346 Albany St SW

### Steamboat Island

Griffin Fire 13, Station 1 .....	3707 Steamboat Lp NW, Olympia
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### North County

South Bay Fire 8, Station 81 .....	3506 Shincke Rd NE, Olympia
South Bay Fire 8, Station 83 .....	5046 Boston Harbor Rd NE, Olympia



**Drop boxes are the best way to ensure your ballot will get to us on time.**

Drop boxes are securely locked and emptied by teams of two trained elections officials. Boxes are open 24/7 beginning October 15 and close promptly at 8 p.m. on November 4, Election Day.

Find the closest drop box at [ThurstonWAVotes.gov](https://ThurstonWAVotes.gov) or scan this QR code.



# Finding Voter Services

Need a replacement ballot or to register? **We can help!**

## Voting Centers

Need to register to vote or update your address? Need a ballot? Need election information, including voters' pamphlets? Need to use the Expressvote™ an accessible voting device? We are here for you!

Locations		Voter Services Hours	
Thurston County Elections	2915 29th Ave SW Tumwater 98512	Oct. 15 through Nov. 3 Monday - Friday Election Day, Nov. 4	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Voting Center at the Lacey Timberland Library	500 College St SE	Friday, Oct. 31 Monday, Nov. 3 Election Day, Nov. 4	10 a.m. - 4 p.m. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. (Library services 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.)

## Student Engagement HUB

Need to register to vote or update your address? Need a ballot? Need election information, including voters' pamphlets?

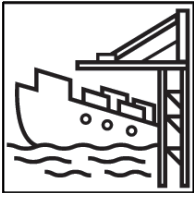
Location	Voter Services Hours		
Evergreen College HUB	2700 McCann Plaza Drive NW	Friday, Oct. 31 Monday, Nov. 3 Election Day, Nov. 4	10 a.m. - 4 p.m. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.

## Voting at your Timberland Library

Need to register to vote or update your address? Need a ballot? Need election information, including voters' pamphlets?

Location	Voter Services Hours		
Olympia	313 8th Avenue SE	Friday, Oct. 31 Monday, Nov. 3 Election Day, Nov. 4	10 a.m. - 4 p.m. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. (Library services 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.)
Tenino	172 Central Avenue W	Friday, Oct. 31 Monday, Nov. 3 Election Day, Nov. 4	10 a.m. - 4 p.m. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. (No library services available) 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. (Library services 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.)
Tumwater	7023 New Market Street	Friday, Oct. 31 Monday, Nov. 3 Election Day, Nov. 4	10 a.m. - 4 p.m. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. (Library services 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.) 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. (Library services 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.)
Yelm	210 Prairie Park Street	Friday, Oct. 31 Monday, Nov. 3 Election Day, Nov. 4	10 a.m. - 4 p.m. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. (No library services available) 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. (Library services 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.)

## Position Descriptions



### Port Commissioner

Operates, manages, equips, and maintains the port, and establishes port policy. Manages the Port of Olympia and Olympia Municipal Airport.



### Mayor

Works with the city council to make the city's budget and laws. Runs the day-to-day business of city government.



### City Councilmember

Makes the city's budget, laws, and policies. Oversees public services, including public safety, parks, and more.



### Municipal Court Judge

Hears and decides misdemeanor cases.



### School District Director

Makes the local schools' budget and policies, including what's taught in the classroom.



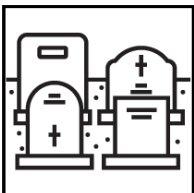
### Fire District Commissioner

Makes the local fire district's budget and policies and provides fire permits.



### Park District Commissioner

Makes the local park district's budget and policies.



### Cemetery Commissioner

Makes the local cemetery district's budget and policies.

## Why is my signature important?

Your signature is needed to make sure your ballot gets counted.

The signature on your return envelope is compared to the signature on your voter registration record. Trained election officials verify each and every signature.

If your signature is missing or does not match your voter registration record, the county elections office will contact you by mail before results are certified. They may call or email if you gave them this information.

If you registered to vote online or through Department of Licensing, the signature from your driver's license, permit or state ID will be on your voter registration record.

**Voters can track and check their ballot status at [VoteWA.gov](https://VoteWA.gov).**



## ¿Por qué es importante mi firma?

Su firma es necesaria para asegurarse de que su boleta sea contada.

La firma en su sobre de devolución se compara con la firma en su registro de inscripción electoral. Los empleados electorales capacitados verifican todas y cada una de las firmas.

Si falta su firma o esta no coincide con su registro de inscripción electoral, la oficina electoral de su condado se comunicará con usted por correo antes de que los resultados se certifiquen. Es posible que le llamen o le envíen un correo electrónico si les proporcionó esta información.

Si se inscribió a votar en línea o a través del Departamento de Licencias, la firma que aparece en su licencia de conducir, permiso, o identificación del estado será la que esté en su registro de inscripción electoral.

**Los votantes pueden seguir la trayectoria y verificar el estado de su boleta en [VoteWA.gov](https://VoteWA.gov).**





**Jerry  
Toompas**

#### **Elected Experience**

Elected to multiple nonprofit boards focused on education, civic engagement, and community service.

#### **Other Professional Experience**

Special education teacher with a background in business management. Led community initiatives and local campaigns across Thurston County. Former legislative intern at the Washington State House of Representatives. Business manager and small business owner for over 10 years.

#### **Education**

Master of Business Administration (MBA) with a focus on large-scale project management. Dual Bachelor's Degrees in Business and Education, with a minor in Government.

#### **Community Service**

Lifelong advocate for education and civic participation. Served on three community-focused nonprofit boards, organized local campaigns, mentored students, and supported community events throughout Thurston County.

#### **Statement**

I'm a special education teacher and longtime community volunteer with no ties to special interests or outside commitments. I have always stepped up to serve, not for personal gain but because I care about the people and places that make Thurston County home.

The Port of Olympia has the potential to benefit everyone, but many communities feel overlooked. While residents pay into the Port through taxes, the returns are not always felt equally. I believe we can do better by making sure Port projects reflect the needs and values of our entire county.

As your Port Commissioner, I will focus on community-first development. That means protecting public land, supporting projects that include public access and recreational opportunities, and ensuring residents have a voice in decisions. I will bring transparency, accountability, and a commitment to listening.

I am proud of the community support behind this campaign, from local educators to environmental advocates and working families. I have no business interests, no corporate ties, and no agenda beyond serving our community. If you are looking for someone who understands everyday challenges and wants to make the Port more accessible, inclusive, and beneficial for everyone, I would be honored to earn your vote.

#### **Contact**

contact@jerrytoompas.com (253) 987-6547  
JerryToompas.com



**Bob  
Iyall**

#### **Elected Experience**

Commissioner, Port of Olympia (elected 2021). Served two, one-year terms, 2022 and 2024 as Commission President.

#### **Other Professional Experience**

Former CEO, Medicine Creek Enterprise Corporation, a Nisqually Tribe-owned holding company. Board member for regional economic and community organizations. Retired, 45-year member of the Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Union.

#### **Education**

MBA, Carson College of Business, Washington State University. B.S. in Business Management, Western Governors University. Apprenticeship, Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers. Tumwater High School graduate.

#### **Community Service**

Board of Trustees, Thurston County Chamber of Commerce. Director, Capital Pacific Regional Board. Supporter of numerous local nonprofits and education-focused foundations.

#### **Statement**

Bob Iyall brings decades of hands-on experience, executive leadership, and a deep commitment to community-driven governance. A 45-year union member and former CEO of the Nisqually Tribe's business enterprise, Bob is uniquely positioned to grow economies while protecting the environment and honoring community values.

Elected Port Commissioner in 2021, Bob has worked to ensure the Port of Olympia serves all Thurston County through responsible growth and inclusive leadership. His top priorities remain completion of the Budd Inlet contaminated sediment cleanup (*a vital step toward restoring Puget Sound and supporting long-term environmental health*), finalizing the Habitat Conservation Plan *to unlock sustainable development opportunities at the New Market Industrial Campus while protecting endangered species*, and advancing the Destination Waterfront Master Plan in alignment with Vision 2050. *to transform the Olympia waterfront into a vibrant, accessible, and economically productive public asset*

Re-elect Bob Iyall to ensure the Port of Olympia remains a forward-looking engine for sustainable growth and community prosperity. Bob supports collaborative solutions involving local governments, labor, tribal nations, private industry, and public interest. He will continue working with other commissioners and staff and remains committed to job creation, environmental stewardship, and expanding opportunities for Thurston County.

#### **Contact**

BobIForOlyPort@gmail.com (253) 778-2147  
www.bobiyaill.org





**Krag**  
**Unsoeld**

#### Elected Experience

Precinct Committee Officer

#### Other Professional Experience

Senior Researcher/Analyst at Public Disputes Network, Harvard Law School; Budget and Revenue Lead and Environmental Planner for Washington State Puget Sound Water Quality; Vice Chair of the Infrastructure Assistance Coordinating Council; Certified Washington State Teacher; Institutional Education Administrator in Mason County; Director of the Mason County 4-H Summer Forestry Leadership Program; Outdoor Instructor for Outward Bound and similar adventure programs.

#### Education

Master of City Planning, MIT; Teacher Certification, St. Martin's University; Bachelor of Arts, The Evergreen State College

#### Community Service

Board member and officer for various professional and nonprofit organizations; management and volunteer roles in numerous initiative and candidate campaigns.

#### Statement

I want to make the Port economically and environmentally sustainable. The public must be fully informed and included in every policy decision. *Port revenues—including property taxes—must be used wisely.* The Port must partner with the three cities, the county, tribes, labor unions, small businesses, federal and state agencies, and other stakeholders to drive real results.

We live in changing times—marked by a major shakeup in the international economy and dramatic shifts in global temperatures, weather events, and sea level rise. At Puget Sound Water Quality, I led intergovernmental coordination, leveraged diverse funding sources, and wove scientific expertise into political decision-making. *My experience in government and the nonprofit sector makes me uniquely qualified to chart the Port's course through these challenges.*

The Port impacts community development and environmental stewardship. We must adopt low-impact development standards to control stormwater and prevent flooding, and we need to coordinate our seaport, airport, and real estate operations with local planning efforts—always listening first to our constituents.

Drawing on my proven record of intergovernmental collaboration and inclusive outreach, *I will unite jurisdictions and sectors so that together we harness the Port's full potential as a driver of local prosperity and environmental resilience.*

#### Contact

campaign@UnsoeldforPort.org (360) 280-2533  
www.UnsoeldforPort.org



**Anthony**  
**Hemstad**

#### Elected Experience

Former elected Public Hospital District Commissioner. Oversaw \$1 billion+ healthcare system.

#### Other Professional Experience

Current: Economic Development and Public Policy Consultant. Past: Senior Advisor, Washington State Treasurer; *President/CEO, World Trade Center Association offices in Tacoma and San Francisco*; City Manager, Maple Valley; *Founded/built a business in Europe that became a market-leader in four countries*; University Professor, Anglo-American University in Prague and St. Martin's University program in Asia; *Legislative Assistant - United States Senate.*

#### Education

Olympia Public Schools. Universities of Puget Sound (BA), London (MA), Chicago (International MBA)

#### Community Service

Current: Chair, Economic Development Committee, Port of Olympia Citizens Advisory Committee; Past: Rotary, Scouting, Youth Soccer volunteer.

#### Statement

The Port of Olympia will face many challenges in the coming years. I have the international business, economic development and public policy experience to help ensure that the Port succeeds.

We live in divisive times. It is increasingly hard to unite people in a common cause. As your Commissioner I will strive to bring people together, find commonsense solutions, and utilize Port resources to grow jobs for working families while protecting our environment.

My diverse list of endorsements illustrates that ability. *All five sitting Port Commissioners endorse me as do the three candidates that ran for Port but did not win in 2023.* I am endorsed by Democrats including Congresswoman Marilyn Strickland and Commissioner of Public Lands Dave Upthegrove and Republicans including former Secretary of State Kim Wyman and House Minority Leader J.T. Wilcox. These leaders recognize that in trying times the Port and community will be best served by electing a Commissioner with the right values and experience to meet the Port's many challenges.

I will work to build international trade, attract foreign direct investment, redevelop the Port Peninsula, protect the environment, improve Port services and ensure the Port remains a strong economic engine for Thurston County. Thank you!

#### Contact

Hemstadforport@gmail.com (253) 335-9163  
hemstadforport.com



Joel  
Hansen

**Elected Experience**  
Precinct Committee Officer

**Other Professional Experience**

Chair of Port of Olympia Citizens Advisory Committee and Chair of Thurston County Planning Commission. Business management background includes investment management and business development for companies large and small. Currently develop large renewable energy and sustainability projects for Ameresco, a leading international energy solutions company.

**Education**

Studied Environmental Science, Business, and Finance at South Puget Sound Community College, and Evergreen State College.

**Community Service**

Served on Boards for PARC Foundation of Thurston County, Tumwater Planning Commission, Olympia Parks and Recreation Committee, Thurston Thrives Coordinating Council, Tumwater Farmers Market, South Sound Food Systems Network, Thurston Conservation District, and Tulip Credit Union.

**Statement**

As a lifelong resident of Thurston County, I am deeply committed to our community and our local economy. My vision for a thriving, inclusive Port comes from years of service to the Thurston County Planning Commission, the Port of Olympia Citizens Advisory Committee, and several local nonprofits.

The Port of Olympia is uniquely positioned at the intersection of economic development and environmental conservation. As your Port Commissioner, I will work to drive positive change in both those areas. What does that look like? For one, cultivating living-wage jobs. This means attracting and supporting businesses that take care of people and our environment. To grow our future, we will need a holistic approach.

The Port Commissioners manage hundreds of millions of dollars of assets for the residents of Thurston County. I am one of those residents, and I know that we want Port Commissioners who have strong experience in Business, Economic Development, and Public Policy.

Transparency, accountability, and compassion are the heart of public service. That is why I promise open communication about the Port's activities and that I will listen to you. Together, we can build a Port that works for everyone. I would be honored to earn your vote.

**Contact**

joel@votejoel.org (360) 970-3321  
votejoel.org



## Accessible Voting is available with the ExpressVote™.

The ExpressVote™ is a voting assistance device that enables voters with visual impairments, cognitive/learning disabilities, or limited mobility to vote independently and with privacy.

Voters are welcome to:

- **visit us:** Voting Center & Voter Services  
2915 29th Ave SW, Tumwater  
  
Voting Center at Lacey Timberland Library  
500 College St SE, Lacey  
(See Page 15 for more details)
- **call us:** 360.786.5408  
711 Washington Relay
- **email us:** elections@co.thurston.wa.us





**Callie  
Carpenter**

**Elected Experience**

No information submitted

**Other Professional Experience**

No information submitted

**Education**

No information submitted

**Community Service**

No information submitted

**Statement**

My family and I have lived in Bucoda for almost 6 years. I was on the Town Council for almost 2 years until the unfortunate passing of our previous mayor. My husband and I decided that I would step up to help support the community and Town we have been apart of. I was only planning on finishing the term that was left but since being the mayor I have realized that there's a lot of good things I believe can be accomplished for the entire community. Things from re-doing our Town's baseball field to opening up the community gym for kids out of school during the summer. Thank you for the opportunity to serve our Town.

**Contact**

Ccarpenter@pnwcookies.com (360) 280-4179



**Laura  
Wilson**

**Elected Experience**

Bucoda Town Council Member, Seat 1

**Other Professional Experience**

President, Bucoda Improvement Club – Led Community-driven initiatives to enhance local quality of life, including organizing events, promoting civic engagement, and collaborating with local partners to support small-town revitalization.

**Education**

Associate of Arts Degree, South Puget Sound Community College; B. A. in Psychology and Health Medicine, The Evergreen State College

**Community Service**

President of the Bucoda Improvement Club – involved in various local projects focused on public safety, economic development, and youth engagement. Animal Rescue/Foster, Red Rose Animal Rescue

**Statement**

As a mom raising my growing family in our beautiful community, I am honored to be your candidate. When my family bought our home here, we knew we had found a wonderful place to live. As I became involved in the Bucoda Improvement Club and shortly after that being elected by Council vote for my current seat as Bucoda Town Council seat 1, I began to really see the great potential within our Town. I am committed more than ever to the citizens here and want to hear everyone's voice represented.

I strive daily to be of benefit to the town by my acts of ongoing community service. I work for you to have free local community events and learning opportunities. I have been in full support of initiatives to improve upon our town parks and green spaces as well as working to open access to programs aimed to help those in our communities with lower incomes. I am always getting involved in efforts to see that we expand upon all our Town has to offer to every citizen.

If elected, I will continue to bring my hope and my drive to the Town Council position and will work for everyone to grow and thrive in our beautiful Town of Bucoda.

**Contact**

Lorelei844@gmail.com (360) 556-3015



**Charles  
Beck**

#### **Elected Experience**

Precinct Committee Officer 1986 to Present

#### **Other Professional Experience**

President of the WA Auctioneers Association for two terms and served on its Board of Directors for ten years

#### **Education**

BA from California State University at Los Angeles (Major in History/Minor in Political Science)

#### **Community Service**

Parish Advisory Board Member at St. George Byzantine Catholic Church in Olympia; Member of Knights of Columbus; Farm Bureau member

#### **Statement**

My wife and I have proudly called Lacey our home since 1984. We raised our four adult children here and now enjoy watching our seven grandchildren grow up.

I'm running for Lacey city council to enhance the safety and quality of life for all citizens. I will do this while being frugal with your taxes. This year alone, my property taxes went up nearly \$500. I believe many of us struggle to make ends meet. For families and seniors on fixed incomes, these increases are real burdens.

While not all taxes are local and the city's percentage of property tax is modest, I can't support raising the city's tax rate any further. We already pay more than enough. Government must tighten its belt just as families do.

I'm also committed to keeping Lacey safe. That means supporting law enforcement and investing in smart, effective ways to reduce crime and strengthen our neighborhoods. As your councilman, I'll evaluate every proposal with three simple questions: Is it truly necessary? How can it be done more efficiently? Can we fund it without raising taxes? Let's protect what matters most—our families, our homes and our city's future. Save a buck, vote for Chuck!

#### **Contact**

Citizens For Beck  
citizensforbeck@yahoo.com (360) 643-5943  
www.citizensforbeck.com



**Maren  
Turner**

#### **Elected Experience**

None.

#### **Other Professional Experience**

Currently, the Office Chief at the Health & Community Living Administration (HCLA) of DSHS; previously served as Executive Director at Win/Win; State Director at AARP; Adjunct and visiting professor.

#### **Education**

BS, Columbia Union College; MS, Howard University; MA and PhD, University of Kansas

#### **Community Service**

Current volunteer activity: Thurston County League of Women Voters; Thurston County Chapter of the NAACP; End of Life Washington; Delta Sigma Theta. Previous volunteer activity: Meals on Wheels; Board member at Red Cross, Mental Health Foundation; Rotary Foundation (Vice President); American Diabetes Association.

#### **Statement**

I'm Maren Turner - a policy leader, community advocate, and proud Lacey resident running for City Council to make meaningful changes through local government. My career has focused on equity, serving seniors and vulnerable populations, and solving complex community challenges.

Currently, I lead Washington's Home & Community Programs, managing Medicaid waiver programs that serve elders and people with disabilities. This and other experiences strengthened my ability to navigate government systems and deliver results for Lacey. My record reflects our community's values: creating AARP's first Diversity Council, serving with Thurston County NAACP, and finding bipartisan solutions for housing and healthcare needs.

Lacey's special blend of urban amenities and small-town charm must be preserved while addressing critical issues: housing affordability, balanced growth that protects green spaces, support for working families and seniors, and community-focused public safety. As a Rotary member, Meals on Wheels volunteer, and local arts supporter, I understand the power of engaged citizens.

When not working, I walk my dogs in our beautiful parks, support local theaters, and enjoy Lacey's cafes. My 18-year-old daughter motivates me to build a sustainable future. I will bring proven leadership, fiscal responsibility, and inclusive vision to the Council. I hope to earn your vote.

#### **Contact**

marenturnerforlacey@gmail.com (360) 951-4809





**Andy  
Ryder**

**Elected Experience**

Lacey Councilmember- 16 years, Mayor of Lacey- 6 consecutive terms to present

**Other Professional Experience**

Board of Directors, National League of Cities- 6 years, Association of Washington Cities Advocacy All-Star, Board of Directors, Washington Retailers Association- 6 years, Chair of Thurston Regional Council's Transportation Policy Board- 14 years, Joint Base Lewis McChord Civilian Hall of Fame Inductee-2022, plus too many others to list

**Education**

Whitman College, BA in Politics

**Community Service**

Honorary Commander 446th Airlift Wing- 2019-2022, Lacey Rotarian, plus too many others to list

**Statement**

During my first campaign in 2009 I knew together we would have a profound impact on the future of our community. I couldn't possibly know at the time, however, that with your trust and support I would go on not only to be the longest serving Mayor in Lacey's history, but currently the longest serving Mayor in the state.

The list of what we have been able to accomplish together focusing on innovation and fiscal responsibility, while leading in environmental stewardship, long term planning and always remembering government works best when it helps people and businesses succeed is too long for this statement.

The key to our success has been combining the stable leadership, respect and unity of the Council on the Legislative side with the excellence of the Executive side where every day we have been working together to find effective ways to provide better service.

I will continue to listen, learn and lead because our community can only thrive when we are all working together. Thank you for the honor of putting your trust in me and as your neighbor I will continue to do everything I can to make sure we keep it classy, Lacey.

**Contact**

AndyDRyder@aol.com (360) 349-3133

Question:

**"Should I mail  
my ballot?  
Or take it to a  
drop box?"**

Answers:

**Before Tuesday, Oct 28?**

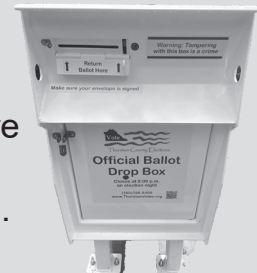
**Use the mail, but** a ballot drop box is still the most secure way to return your ballot. Ballot drop boxes are open until 8 p.m. on Election Day. Ballots must be postmarked by Nov. 4th.



**Tuesday, Oct 28 or later?**

**Use a Ballot Drop Box!**

There are 31 secure drop boxes in Thurston County. Ballot drop boxes are open until 8 p.m. on Election Day, Nov. 4. Details on page 14.





**Evette  
Temple**

#### **Elected Experience**

I have none except for Board Positions and being appointed by Lacey City Council as a Human Services Commissioner.

#### **Other Professional Experience**

Over 35 years of banking experience, specializing in small to medium sized business, along with Commercial Real Estate experience.

#### **Education**

Issaquah High School

#### **Community Service**

Current past president for Homes First, prior Board of Director for SafePlace, Behavioral Health Resources Foundation and The Olympia, Lacey Tumwater Visitor and Convention Bureau. Volunteer for Habitat for Humanity Women Who Build, Current Olympia Downtown Alice Economic Vitality Committee Member, 2024 Ambassador of the Year and current Ambassador Thurston County Chamber. Current Commissioner Lacey Human Services

#### **Statement**

As a candidate for Lacey City Council Position 6 I am committed to inclusive growth, housing affordability, public safety, and transparent governance - ensuring no one is left behind as Lacey continues to grow and change. I will focus on honesty, balance and long-term solutions that benefit future generations. As a long time, Thurston County resident and a single mother of two, I bring decades of financial and real estate experience from my career in banking. To balance out this expertise I have a strong record of community service, including leadership roles with Homes First. I have championed for the past 5 years affordable housing and stronger community ties. Rooted in a family with military service I embrace the values of humility, dedication and civic duty. My leadership emphasizes connection, collaboration and practical problem solving. I believe in fostering a community that we can all be proud to call home. With deep local roots, and a unifying vision I aim to help Lacey thrive now and for generations to come. This is grass roots campaign, and someone who has no political background I hope the Citizens of Lacey can see my vision for a wonderful place to live and work.

#### **Contact**

evette4lacey@outlook.com (360) 972-9833



**Ryan  
Siu**

#### **Elected Experience**

None

#### **Other Professional Experience**

Owned a small business; Program Analyst at the Washington State Office of Public Defense

#### **Education**

BA in Political Science and Sociology - Western Washington University, Post-Baccalaureate Paralegal certification, JustLead WA Leadership Academy graduate

#### **Community Service**

Served in the Peace Corps (2010-2012), NAACP of Thurston County Executive Committee member-elect, Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Volunteer, Parent Volunteer at Horizons Elementary

#### **Statement**

As a working parent and former small business owner, I know firsthand what it takes to find balance. As a member of the City Council, I will advocate for the right balance between competing demands on city resources, and co-create sensible, environmentally responsible solutions for housing, economic growth, and transportation infrastructure for our city.

Housing affordability is critical. I will champion creative ways to expand middle- and low-income options, from starter homes for young families to stable rentals for seniors and other vulnerable neighbors. Small businesses drive our economy. I will balance support for a thriving, diverse business community in Lacey with maintaining spaces that make the city unique. I will advocate for mixed-use zoning to create walkable districts where shops, homes, and parks coexist. Traffic congestion hurts families and businesses alike. I support current road improvements and will push for long-term solutions such as reliable public transportation, bike lanes and pedestrian-friendly designs to reduce car dependency.

Collaboration is key to finding lasting solutions. Together, we can build a more sustainable, inclusive, and vibrant Lacey.

Endorsements include: State Representatives Beth Doglio and Lisa Parshley, County Commissioners Rachel Grant and Tye Menser, and Lacey City Councilmembers Carolyn Cox and Robin Vazquez.

#### **Contact**

ryan@ryanforlacey.com (360) 223-9333  
ryanforlacey.com





**Carolyn H.  
Cox**

#### **Elected Experience**

Two terms Lacey City Council Position 7, Thurston Regional Housing Council, Intercity Transit Authority (chair), LOTT Clean Water Alliance, Thurston Regional Planning Council (vice chair), Thurston Climate Mitigation Collaborative.

#### **Other Professional Experience**

Lacey Planning Commission (2013-2017), Thurston Boundary Review Board (2010-2012), editor/reporter for five daily newspapers, public relations for Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium, Public Information Officer state Department of Health.

#### **Education**

BA in Communication Arts, University of West Florida; BA in Expressive Arts, The Evergreen State College.

#### **Community Service**

Served on Interfaith Works Board for past six years; founding member and Executive Committee member Thurston County NAACP; president Rainier Park Homeowners Association.

#### **Statement**

Lacey has experienced significant growth and changes during my 8 years in office. We have become Thurston County's largest and most diverse city. We have risen to address the challenges of homelessness and climate change while working to develop affordable housing. We established the Commission on Equity, which shaped new policies aimed at making Lacey more welcoming, equitable, and accessible to all. We expanded the Lacey Veterans Hub.

We have accomplished much, yet many challenges remain. If you re-elect me, I will focus on housing for all income levels, developing solutions for homelessness—including increased mental health and addiction treatment services—and planning to accommodate growth while maintaining Lacey's beauty and livability. I also want to help residents make their homes and vehicles more energy-efficient and to foster greater cooperation and collaboration among local governments.

I am committed to doing the hard work and making tough, thoughtful decisions. I ask for your vote for one more term to help Lacey reach its potential as a vibrant, inclusive city we're all proud to call home.

Key endorsements: Congresswoman Marilyn Strickland, Lieutenant Governor Denny Heck, Senator Jessica Bateman, State Representatives Beth Doglio and Lisa Parshley, and Lacey Mayor Andy Ryder.

#### **Contact**

choosecarolyncox@gmail.com (360) 252-0415  
www.choosecarolyncox.com

Candidate statements are printed as submitted and not edited for factual or grammatical accuracy by the Secretary of State or Auditor's Office.



**Michael Ron  
Steadman**

#### **Elected Experience**

Elected to Lacey City Council (2013), re-elected (2017, 2021). Committees: Transportation, Utilities, Community Relations & Public Affairs.

#### **Other Professional Experience**

Fmr. Top-Secret clearance for nuclear facilities, Police Officer Safety Training certified, Lacey Planning Commission, coach & referee, Thurston County Veteran Services.

#### **Education**

Milpitas High School (1989), U.S. Marine Corps Reserves (1991-1999), Sheet Metal Building Trades Journeyman (1996-present)

#### **Community Service**

Gold Star Family Monument, Purple Heart Monument, Thurston County Law & Justice Council, Law Enforcement Officers & Firefighters Disability Board, Olympic Regional Clear Air Alliance, Saint Martin's Business Advisor, West Park Owners Association, Solid Waste Advisory, Community Action Council, Visitor Convention Bureau, Hawks Prairie Community Association, Rotarian.

#### **Statement**

I am a Marine Corps veteran, owner of two local small businesses and current Lacey City councilman. My priorities are Public Safety, Infrastructure and a stable economy that maintains a balance with environmental excellence.

As a 19-year-old, Lacey welcomed me when I purchased my first home. I grew up in this community until I joined "The Corps" during the first Gulf War. I am proud of my military service and have worked hard as a councilman to support our local military community, which includes opening the Veterans Hub.

Serving on my third Lacey City Council term, I continue to protect family wage jobs, affordable housing and public safety for all in our community. I founded the Gold Star Family Memorial Monument in Freedom Plaza and the planning for the Purple Heart Memorial Monument, while fundraising for numerous other non-profit causes. My daily goal is to continue to help enhance partnerships in the City, the Nisqually tribe, JBLM, and the local business community. I will continue to serve the citizens of Lacey and their best interests.

Compassion, dedication, integrity and the ability to find common ground, let's ensure Lacey remains the place to live, stay, work and play.

#### **Contact**

steady16@hotmail.com (360) 790-7947



**Clark  
Gilman**

#### **Elected Experience**

Clark Gilman's service on Olympia City Council began in 2016. He currently chairs the City's Finance and Budget Committee. He has previously served as Mayor Pro-Tem, chaired the City's Land Use and Environment Committee, chaired the Intercity Transit Authority, and served in leadership of Thurston Regional Planning Council.

#### **Other Professional Experience**

Clark and his wife Marilyn live and raised their family on Olympia's Westside. Clark is a union carpenter, UBC Local 360. He has worked as a union and community organizer.

#### **Education**

BA The Evergreen State College

#### **Community Service**

Clark is Board President of The Bridge Music Project and Board volunteer at First Christian Church Olympia.

#### **Statement**

I ask you to vote for Clark Gilman, Olympia City Council. I strike a balance between governing fairly and advocating for the majority. I speak up for everyday Olympians. I love Olympia and I want everyone in our city to feel like they belong.

My campaign slogan has always been Clark listens. Here's what I've learned: it's super important to say *who* I listen to. Clark listens to you. I listen with an ear to the many. I commit to ensuring that every resident of Olympia has economic opportunity, fairness and equity, and a safe and healthy community.

With your support, City Council can continue to focus on essential city services like parks and roads while offering visionary support for low wage workers and renters. Council can support police and fire responders while we reimagine a more fair and effective public safety system. Olympia can do both.

Will you consider the old slogan, *Think globally and act locally*? Olympia city government delivers local services that directly impact the safety and quality of life for you and your neighbors. Olympia's local actions also provide a progressive model to state and federal lawmakers. Please vote for Clark Gilman, Olympia City Council.

#### **Contact**

clark4olympia@gmail.com (360) 358-0275  
clarkgilman.com



**Wendy  
Carlson**

#### **Elected Experience**

None

#### **Other Professional Experience**

Retired Community Corrections Officer, Washington State Department of Corrections (1993-2014), helping people reintegrate into society and turn their lives around.

#### **Education**

B.A., Sociology, Central Washington University; Olympia High School; Washington Middle School; Pioneer Elementary School

#### **Community Service**

All Kids Win (formerly Homeless Backpacks); McKenny Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization; Olympia & Capital High School Football Booster Clubs; Capital High School Girl's Basketball Coach

#### **Statement**

Olympia is home. It's where I grew up, where my wife and I raised our boys, and where my family has lived for generations. I have witnessed this community undergo many positive changes, but we now also face significant challenges. Homelessness has reached alarming levels, our small businesses are struggling, people feel less safe in their neighborhoods, and quality housing is becoming unattainable for many. We can reverse these trends, and as your councilmember, I will work tirelessly to bring the community together around practical, effective, and compassionate solutions.

We must help our unhoused neighbors off the streets, into shelter, and connected with the services they need to get their lives back on track. We need to build more attainable housing to ensure that young people and our workforce can afford to live here. We must support our public safety professionals and ensure they have the tools and training to keep us safe. We can do these things while being good stewards of your tax dollars.

I'm not satisfied with the status quo. City government must be more focused on providing basic services we expect, with excellence, while being more transparent and accountable to all. I ask for your vote.

#### **Contact**

wendy@carlsonforcouncil.com (360) 227-0115  
carlsonforcouncil.com



Kelly  
Green

**Elected Experience**

Olympia City Council, position 5 (appointed January 2025).  
Serving on: Finance Committee, Solid Waste Advisory  
Committee, LEOFF Disability Board, Joint Animal Services  
Commission, and EMS Council.

**Other Professional Experience**

Community college administration; non-profit leadership; US  
Peace Corps Volunteer (2002-2003)

**Education**

M.S., Management and Leadership, Western Governors  
University (WGU); B.A., Communication and Public Relations,  
Carroll College (Helena, Mont.)

**Community Service**

Rotary Club of Olympia, Roosevelt Elementary PTA (former  
treasurer), Expanding Your Horizons Conference (former  
co-chair), Leadership Thurston County Board (former chair),  
Experience Olympia & Beyond Board (former president), Inspire  
Olympia Community Work Group, Thurston County Chamber of  
Commerce Board, Bethel Park HOA (former president)

**Statement**

I've lived and worked in Thurston County since 2005, and it's  
an honor to serve Olympia. I want our city to be a place of  
opportunity—a thriving, inclusive community where everyone  
can live, work, and play.

On the Council, I focus on practical, people-first solutions to  
our biggest challenges: increasing affordable housing, reducing  
homelessness, strengthening our workforce and economy,  
addressing climate change, and supporting a vibrant downtown.

As a community college executive and longtime public  
servant, I've spent my career bringing people together to solve  
problems. I've worked across sectors to expand access to  
opportunity and lift up underrepresented voices.

I believe in a government that listens, includes everyone, and  
gets results. I want Olympia to be a place where individuals,  
families and small businesses can succeed, and where every  
person—no matter their race, gender, abilities, income, age,  
or background—has a chance to thrive. I'm running to keep  
nurturing a city that cares for its people, plans for the future  
and governs with kindness. I'd be honored to earn your vote.

**Contact**

kelly@electkellygreen.com (360) 338-8020  
electkellygreen.com

## Same Day Registration

You can now register to vote,  
update your address, or make  
other updates to your voter  
registration until 8 p.m. on  
November 4, Election Day  
(in person only).

Call 360.786.5408 or visit  
[ThurstonWAVotes.gov](https://ThurstonWAVotes.gov)  
for more information.





**Robert  
Vanderpool**

#### **Elected Experience**

It has been my honor to serve as your Olympia City Council Member over the last two years.

#### **Other Professional Experience**

Chair of the Olympia Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee, Land Use & Environment Committee, Intercity Transit Authority Board, Regional Transportation Policy Board, Thurston Regional Planning Council, Sea Level Rise Governance Committee, Thurston Climate Mitigation Collaborative, Coalition of Neighborhood Associations, Regional Housing Council, Safe School Routes Steering Committee, Olympia-OSD Childcare Study, and more.

#### **Education**

Evergreen State College, BA - History and Policy; MPA, Public Administration, Public Policy

#### **Community Service**

Washington Federation of State Employees 443, Eagle Scout

#### **Statement**

I am proud of our work around regional housing, climate collaboration, streamlining affordable housing permitting, approving a fair wage contract for our bus drivers, expanding our sanctuary city status, increasing road safety funding, and expanding community safety through closing Percival Creek encampment while opening more permanent supportive housing for former residents.

With your support I will work on a long-term sustainable and transparent budget, fund the Olympia Strong Plan, work regionally to meet our needs - fund safer streets, reduce our climate impact through housing and transportation, protect our green spaces by expanding parks and arts, ensure Olympia is affordable for all, pursue working-class housing solutions, address the childcare benefits cliff, find ways to create walkable accessible communities, and continue to learn from and listen to Olympians.

I am endorsed by Olympia Fire Fighters; TLC Central Labor Council; UFCW 3000; WFSE 443; Bus Operators Local ATU 1765; State Representative Beth Doglio and Lisa Parshley; Fmr State Representative Laurie Dolan; County Commissioner Tye Menser and Rachel Grant; Port Commissioner Sarah Tonge; Olympia City Council Members Dani Madrone, Clark Gilman, Jim Cooper; Lacey and Tumwater City Council Members; Olympia and Tumwater School Board Directors; and many more local community members and groups.

#### **Contact**

robert@robertvanderpool.com (206) 823-6146  
robertvanderpool.com



**Justin  
Stang**

#### **Elected Experience**

First Political Campaign

#### **Other Professional Experience**

I currently work as a policy analyst for the non-profit Pacific Coast Shellfish Growers Association representing more than 100 family and Tribal shellfish farms. Prior work includes managing wholesale shellfish operations for Hama Hama Oyster Co., advocating for workers, protecting natural resources and the environment. I've worked for the South Sound YMCA, and played in local bands.

#### **Education**

Providence College, B.A. History; Honors: cum laude; AgForestry Education Foundation Leadership Program, Class 44; Kupers Leadership Award Recipient

#### **Community Service**

Pacific Coast Shellfish Growers Association, Board Member; Youth Pickleball Initiative, Board Member; Volunteer with: ALS Association, Team Gleason, Thurston County Pickleball.

#### **Statement**

Everyone should feel safe and welcome in Olympia. That includes housing you can afford, clean streets and parks, and a city council that listens to you.

Over the last 14 years, I've seen firsthand the growth and community pride that make Olympia such a special place— first as a downtown renter and now as a homeowner and small business owner with my wife. I understand how city decisions affect people every day. I have nonprofit and private sector experience, where I learned to balance economic growth with environmental protection. I've led projects that support healthy communities, clean water, and local jobs.

As a council member, I'll increase support for small businesses and their employees, expand housing options and affordability, improve neighborhood safety and well-being, and ensure Olympia's budget reflects our community's needs. Every resident deserves a voice in shaping Olympia's success. We make the best decisions when we listen, build trust, and work together. I'm proud to call Olympia home and would be honored to represent you on the City Council. I humbly ask for your vote.

Endorsed by a coalition of community leaders, housing advocates, public servants, business owners, local labor, and neighbors. Join the list at [justinstang.com](http://justinstang.com)

#### **Contact**

vote@justinstang.com (360) 726-2722  
justinstang.com





**Paul  
Berendt**

#### **Elected Experience**

Chairman, Washington State Democratic Party, 1995-2006

#### **Other Professional Experience**

Business consultant working with the Washington Ambulance Association, Compass Health and other Behavioral Health organizations, Jefferson County, multiple cities, public and private utilities, tribes, businesses and labor organizations

#### **Education**

BA. The Evergreen State College

#### **Community Service**

Past member of the Board of Directors for USA Volleyball, Puget Sound Region, Olympia Bears Volleyball Booster, Past President of The Cove neighborhood association. Active in community political campaigns in support of candidates and causes.

#### **Statement**

I'm running for Olympia City Council because I believe we can do better—for our neighbors, our parks and our future. I'm a collaborator and problem solver who listens, brings people together, and gets things done. I'll fight to protect and improve our parks, expand trails and recreation, and invest in what makes Olympia special.

I'll stand up for a more just and inclusive city—supporting women, communities of color, the disabled and our LGBTQ+ neighbors. I'll also work to expand services for people experiencing homelessness, mental illness, or addiction. That means more shelter options and better coordination among service providers.

We can make Olympia more livable and connected by investing in sidewalks, bike lanes, and public transit—creating infrastructure that supports a green economy and good jobs. These improvements also make our neighborhoods safer and more accessible for everyone.

The best way to bring housing costs down is to build more of it. I'll push for smart, sustainable development that helps renters and housing providers alike. I'm proud to be endorsed by leaders like former Mayor Cheryl Selby, Beth Doglio, Congresswoman Marilyn Strickland, Denny Heck, and former Governor Christine Gregoire—and I'm ready to get to work.

#### **Contact**

berendtpaul@comcast.net (360) 790-1195  
berendtfory Olympia.com



**Caleb  
Gieger**

#### **Elected Experience**

None.

#### **Other Professional Experience**

Assistant Attorney General at the Washington Office of the Attorney General; Policy Analyst at the Oregon Department of Transportation; proud member of the Washington Federation of State Employees (WFSE).

#### **Education**

Juris Doctor, Syracuse University College of Law; Bachelor of Arts, Portland State University.

#### **Community Service**

Olympia Indivisible, Union and Worker Justice Team volunteer; Washington State Board of Bar Examiners; YMCA Mock Trial Program volunteer; Vice President of the First Generation Law Student Association; Law Clerk for the Housing Team at Hiscock Legal Aid Society.

#### **Statement**

I am running for the Olympia City Council because Olympians deserve a livable, resilient, and just city. I'm committed to fostering regional partnerships that help us build every kind of housing, reduce homelessness, and give our first responders the tools they need. I will listen to unions and business owners to help ensure living wage jobs that help our community thrive.

I will pursue Olympia's climate goals as well as reduced barriers and fees for green building and transportation. We must preserve our green space to keep our city cooler, capture carbon, and protect our urban wildlife. As the federal government threatens to withhold funding from our sanctuary city, we must take action. I will work across jurisdictions to help Olympia maintain essential services and a balanced budget.

I've examined complex policy issues, generated creative solutions, and built consensus while recovering hundreds of thousands of dollars for Washingtonians and advocating for people in our state with a 95% win rate.

I'm thankful for the support of people that live here including unions, Thurston County Commissioners, Port Commissioners, members of the Olympia, Tumwater, and Lacey City Councils and Olympia School Board Directors. It is an honor to earn your vote.

#### **Contact**

Calebforolympia@gmail.com (971) 678-8190  
calebforoly.com



No photo  
submitted

Pamella  
Nogueira

**Elected Experience**

Protem judge 2019-2021: Grays Harbor Superior & District, Aberdeen, Hoquiam & Olympia Municipal Courts. PT Thurston Superior Court Commissioner: 2021. FT Thurston Superior Court Commissioner: 2021-2023. Serving OMC since October 2023.

**Other Professional Experience**

District and Municipal Courts Association (DMCJA) committee member: Education, Legislative, Therapeutic Courts, Public Outreach, and Leadership. Co-chair: Diversity. Subcommittees Member: WA criminal jury instructions & civil protection orders. Board member: Child Care Action Council.

**Education**

University of Washington: Politics, Philosophy & Economics; Law School.

**Community Service**

Extensive experience. Mock trials and program furthering education on the justice system.

**Statement**

Judge Nogueira is proud of the work the OMC team has done since she took office in October of 2023. She is honored to serve Olympia and its residents.

**Contact**

pam.nogueira@gmail.com

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## Thurston County Auditor's Elections Office

- 360.786.5408
- Elections@co.thurston.wa.us

**VoteWA.gov**







**Bob  
Shaw**

#### **Elected Experience**

2007-2017: Rainier City Council; 2017-present: Mayor of Rainier

#### **Other Professional Experience**

No information submitted

#### **Education**

Master of Arts for Teachers: Mathematics; Bachelor of Arts: Education - Mathematics

#### **Community Service**

No information submitted

#### **Statement**

Since joining the city council in 2007 and becoming mayor in 2017, I have been dedicated to serving the citizens of Rainier. Over the past four years, my administration has focused on enhancing safety and accessibility for our children, implementing new sidewalks and crosswalks with flashing beacon lights to ensure safe travels to and from school.

I take pride in our efforts to beautify our community, including the renovation of our historic church, the facelift to the city hall, construction of new paved parking lots, several new signs around town, and adding sprinkler systems in some key areas in town. Collaborating with the Thurston County Commissioners we've successfully secured new bathrooms at Wilkowski Park and added pickleball courts and playground equipment to the sports complex, enriching recreational opportunities for families.

As I look forward to serving you for another four years, I remain committed to fostering a vibrant, safe and welcoming community for all residents of Rainier and guests.

#### **Contact**

bshawssboa@gmail.com (360) 280-3795



**Amy N.  
Baker**

#### **Elected Experience**

No information submitted

#### **Other Professional Experience**

Supervisor in Washington's public service sector; Vice President of We Love Rainier WA; Owner of The Artful Momma; over a decade of leadership in community and nonprofit settings.

#### **Education**

Degree in Digital Design; Certificate in Paralegal Studies; Certificate in Leadership Development; Currently earning a Certificate in Nonprofit Management from the University of Washington.

#### **Community Service**

Volunteer and event organizer for We Love Rainier WA; active contributor to local civic and cultural efforts in Thurston County; engaged in supporting families and small-town connections.

#### **Statement**

As a proud Rainier resident, parent, and public servant, I'm running for City Council to ensure our small-town values are honored while addressing the real challenges we face — from rising costs to infrastructure needs. I bring over a decade of experience in public service, community leadership, and advocacy. As Vice President of We Love Rainier WA, I've helped coordinate events, support families, and build stronger connections across our town.

My approach is collaborative, creative, and deeply rooted in listening. I believe local government works best when it reflects the people it serves — transparent, responsive, and focused on practical solutions. I will advocate for smart development, support local small businesses, and explore realistic ways to ease the effects of inflation on working families.

Rainier deserves a council member who shows up, follows through, and puts community first. I would be honored to serve and represent you.

#### **Contact**

contact@amyforrainier.com (360) 228-0771



Tom  
**Arnbrister**

No photo submitted

**Elected Experience**

No information submitted

**Other Professional Experience**

No information submitted

**Education**

No information submitted

**Community Service**

No information submitted

**Statement**

No information submitted

**Contact**

tbristor@msn.com      (360) 763-2257



Bill  
**Koutrouba**

No photo submitted

**Elected Experience**

No information submitted

**Other Professional Experience**

No information submitted

**Education**

No information submitted

**Community Service**

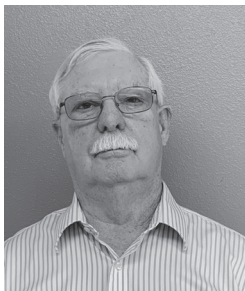
No information submitted

**Statement**

No information submitted

**Contact**

scarletarts0505@yahoo.com      (360) 480-9311



Dennis C.  
**McVey**

**Elected Experience**

It has been my privilege to serve the Rainier Community as a member of the Rainier City Council, as a Rainier Planning Commissioner and as the Chair of the Rainier Arts Commission.

**Other Professional Experience**

I have been the City's representative to the Thurston Regional Planning Council and have served as the City's representative to other county-wide boards and committees.

**Education**

I have a bachelor's degree and have been awarded the Association of Washington Cities Certificate of Advanced Municipal Leadership.

**Community Service**

I am a veteran having served thirty plus years in the United States Army with my last duty assignment at Fort Lewis, Washington.

**Statement**

I am running for the office of Rainier City Council, position #5. It has been my privilege to serve the residents and business owners of Rainier as a Planning Commissioner and as a City Council Member. I believe it is a responsibility of citizenship to serve one's community and country with that service directed to the good of the community and not based on personal ideals or preferences. We have a great community with a great school system and a sense of community that supports our residents and businesses, and I want to see that continue. We have an effective city government that is fiscally responsible and conscious of our residents' financial concerns. I want to see a continued development of our parks and recreation facilities to support our residents. I hope you will support me in keeping that team working to support our city. Thank you for your vote.

**Contact**

dgmcvvey@aol.com (360) 402-5060

## REMINDER:

Candidate statements are printed exactly as submitted to the Auditor's Office.

These statements are not edited for factual or grammatical accuracy by the Auditor's Office.



Linda  
**Gotovac**

**Elected Experience**

No information submitted

**Other Professional Experience**

No information submitted

**Education**

No information submitted

**Community Service**

No information submitted

**Statement**

It has been my honor to serve as your Tenino council member, and I ask for the opportunity to continue. I am pleased with the progress we have made in bringing new business to Tenino. Our partnership with the Thurston County Economic Development Commission in bringing the SW Washington Agriculture and Innovation Park to Tenino has set us on the road to new heights. As a small businesswoman, I am very knowledgeable about the needs of the Tenino business community, and I have been an active participant in the Tenino Area Chamber of Commerce for over a decade. I believe that my experience and passion for the Tenino Community make me the most qualified candidate for position 1 of Tenino City Council.

**Contact**

Lingen@Scattercreek.com (360) 489-9610



Adam  
**Carney**

**Elected Experience**

Vice President and President of college club.

**Other Professional Experience**

Various roles in accounting. Legislative Assistant at Washington House of Representatives. Various roles at non-profit associations.

**Education**

University of Washington - Tacoma: Masters in Accounting;  
Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration - Accounting Focus

**Community Service**

Planning Commissioner - City of Tenino; Prisoners for Christ - Juvenile Detention Ministry

**Statement**

My name is Adam and I have the privilege to serve as one of Tenino's planning commissioners. Now, I am asking for your vote for city council.

When my wife and I were looking for a home, we found Tenino perfectly situated. Affordable and accessible with abundant public park space and amenities. Having fallen in love with this city's culture, I want to cultivate that charm.

As city councilman, you can expect three things from me. First, dedication to fiscal responsibility. Not glamorous, but critical to our continued success. Second, maintaining safe streets. Budgets are tough, but the city must maintain the public safety it enjoys. This can be achieved through investments in law enforcement and a connected community. Last, we need to plan for future development that makes sense by thinking ahead and working within our means.

I will work collaboratively to ensure we build a city that works for all of our residents. That is why I am asking for your vote for city council.

**Contact**

adam.h.carney@gmail.com (360) 628-9271



Tianne  
Curtiss

**Elected Experience**

President of the Tenino Lions Club 2023-2024, President Washington Reflexology Association 2020-2025, President of The American Massage Therapy Association Washington Chapter 2005-2010.

**Other Professional Experience**

Tenino Lions Club, Oregon Trail Days Parade chair 2018-current. Splash Bash volunteer, Chamber auction volunteer, Spring & Fall Artisan Fair volunteer.

**Education**

No information submitted

**Community Service**

I have been involved in a number of community service projects during my time in Tenino with the Lions Club.

**Statement**

As a 21 year resident of Tenino and a former local business owner, I feel both a duty and a deep desire to contribute to the decisions that will shape the future of our community by serving on the Tenino City Council. Over the past two decades, I've witnessed significant changes in our town, some great, some not so great and I believe it's more important than ever to ensure the voices of our community members are heard and represented. I'm excited for the opportunity to serve and look forward to what we can accomplish together in 2026 and beyond. Thank you for your trust and vote.

**Contact**

TianneCurtiss@gmail.com (360) 264-4460

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for more information.





**Leatta  
Dahlhoff**

#### **Elected Experience**

Tumwater Mayor Pro Tem (2023–present); Tumwater City Council (2018–present)

#### **Other Professional Experience**

27 years as an environmental chemist with the Department of Ecology and now at the Department of Commerce, working to reduce pollution and hazardous substances in goods and services.

#### **Education**

Advanced Certificate & Certificate of Municipal Leadership, Association of Washington Cities; B.S. in Chemistry, University of Puget Sound; Proud graduate of Tumwater High School

#### **Community Service**

Current board member: Family Support Center, Family Education and Support Services. Past board member: Senior Services of South Sound, Homes First, ASHHO. Member: Zonta International, American Chemical Society, AFSCME 443, League of Women Voters, NOW.

#### **Statement**

*Tumwater is more than where I live—it's where I grew up, where I serve, and where I've spent decades helping build a strong, connected community. As a current City Council member, I'm committed to *teamwork, transparent governance, and responsiveness to all residents*. We all deserve clear communication, mutual respect, and prompt responses from elected leaders and city staff.*

*I'm running to *refocus our priorities* on listening to constituents, solving infrastructure challenges, improving public health and safety, and managing growth responsibly. This includes connecting sidewalks, expanding transit access, providing body-worn cameras for police, strengthening environmental code enforcement, and implementing Tumwater's Capitol Boulevard Corridor and Brewery District plans.*

*Tumwater has a rich history and a strong sense of place. We're grounded in a civic identity that values *community, natural beauty, and a shared commitment to our future*. We must protect what we love while planning thoughtfully for prosperity and sustainable growth.*

*Together, we can uphold Tumwater's traditions of *neighborliness, honesty, and our unique urban-rural character*. I'm proud to have earned the support of many current and former elected leaders, along with endorsements from Tumwater's fire and police unions. *Please make me your choice for Mayor of Tumwater.**

#### **Contact**

info@voteleatta.com (360) 280-2533  
www.voteleatta.com



**Lance  
Brender**

#### **Elected Experience**

First time candidate, not a career politician.

#### **Other Professional Experience**

Twenty years' military service in the U.S. Army, own two small businesses on both sides of the state.

#### **Education**

M.A., U.S. Command and General Staff College; B.A., Pacific Lutheran University; A.A., Wenatchee Valley College.

#### **Community Service**

Olympia Union Gospel Mission, Cascadia Conservation District, Sunday school teacher, Shelter of Hope, Oxford Winter Nights Shelter, CS Lewis Institute. Combat veteran.

#### **Statement**

*I'm Lance Brender—pear orchard owner, retired Army officer, and a man who still believes in rolling up his sleeves and getting the job done. I served over twenty years in uniform, earned a Purple Heart, and collected a few degrees along the way—from Wenatchee Valley College to Pacific Lutheran University, and a master's from the U.S. Command and General Staff College. I even had the honor of conducting research with the University of Oxford.*

*Tumwater needs leadership that delivers. Let's bring back pride and purpose to the Olympia Brewery, make housing affordable for future generations, support our local businesses, protect our environment and old growth, and fully fund emergency services.*

*My roots in this land run deep, and I carry tremendous respect for all local tribes, who have stewarded this place for generations. Their presence and history deserve partnership and honor in how we lead and grow as a community.*

*I believe in strong families, small-town grit, and transparent government that listens to its people. No gimmicks—just honesty, hard work, and the occasional pear. I humbly ask for your vote.*

#### **Contact**

lance.brender@icloud.com (509) 423-3643  
brenderformayor.org





Eileen

## Swarthout

### **Elected Experience**

Appointed in 2014, it has been an honor to represent the residents of Tumwater as your Councilmember-Position 4

### **Other Professional Experience**

I currently serve as Chair-Thurston Climate Mitigation Collaborative Executive Committee; Secretary-Thurston Regional Planning Council; Chair- Public Works Committee; Budget and Finance Committee.

### **Education**

University of Puget Sound-BA Public Administration

### **Community Service**

President-Tumwater Education Foundation

### **Statement**

Quality schools, beautiful parks and trails, and that "small town" feeling drew my family here over 30 years ago. Tumwater is my home. As your Councilmember, I have worked to promote: Safe Streets: With the voter supported Transportation Benefit District and our incredible Public Works staff, Tumwater continues to make essential improvements to preserve and maintain our streets. Parks and Trails: Tumwater voters supported the Park District that allows for the essential maintenance of our current parks and trails, plans for future parks and a future Community Center. Environment: Tumwater Council adopted the Thurston County Climate Mitigation Plan and the Tumwater Urban Tree Study. I pledge to continue the work to protect our environment for future generations. Economic Growth: Tumwater has welcomed growth in the craft brewing and distillery industry. With introduction of the SPSCC Craft Brewing and Distilling Center and upcoming development, this will provide the "spark" for future Brewery District revitalization. Tumwater has a bright future. As your Councilmember, I look forward to our continued efforts, making Tumwater the best place to live, work and play. Thank you for your vote!

### **Contact**

brahmasmom@comcast.net (360) 790-4536

## REMINDER:

Candidate statements are printed exactly as submitted to the Auditor's Office.

These statements are not edited for factual or grammatical accuracy by the Auditor's Office.



**Rachelle  
Martin**

#### **Elected Experience**

Thurston Lewis Mason Central Labor Council, President-2024-Current; Treasurer-2019-2024; Trustee-2015-2019; Washington Federation of State Employees, Executive Board Member-2021-Current; Policy Delegate-2021-Current

#### **Other Professional Experience**

CascadiaNow, President 2023-Current; Treasurer 2020-2023; WA Department of Health, Head Union Steward-2021-Current; Growing Together Community Garden, Founding Board Member-2013-2017; Pacific County Fair, Superintendent-2014-2017

#### **Education**

Masters of Public Administration, The Evergreen State College -2025; Labor Arbitrator Apprentice, Federal Mediation and Conciliatory Agency -2021; State Certified Mediator, Dispute Resolution Center of Thurston County -2020; Bachelor of Arts-Political Science and Economics, The Evergreen State College -2006

#### **Community Service**

Social Justice and Equity Commissioner-City of Olympia-2022-2025; Labor for Single Payer Healthcare-Washington Chapter-Organized Labor Representative; Poor People's Campaign-Legislative Director

#### **Statement**

Civic engagement is essential to strong, healthy communities. It's not just about knowing your neighbors; it's about feeling like an active and valued participant in shaping the place you call home.

As a Tumwater resident and parent, I want to use the skills I've built over the years, as a mediator, community organizer, budget analyst and policy writer, to contribute more directly to our city's future. Whether through elected office or community partnerships, I'm excited to continue doing the work of building a more connected, just, and inclusive community. I look forward to meeting neighbors, listening to concerns, and identifying meaningful ways we can grow together.

My experiences—from digging garden beds as a founding member of a community garden that donated produce to our local food bank, managing grant budgets and writing policy with multiple organizations, mediating disputes in workplaces and with families as well as organizing community members—have given me a wide-ranging and deeply rooted perspective. They've all pointed me toward this moment, running for office in Tumwater, where I now live and raise my children. I'm excited to bring these skills and values to local government and to serve this community with care, connection, and action

#### **Contact**

Rachellesmartin@gmail.com (360) 261-2090  
martinfortumwater.com



**Meghan  
Sullivan**

#### **Elected Experience**

First-time candidate

#### **Other Professional Experience**

20+ year public health leader, including Executive Director of TOGETHER! (2013–2020) and Deputy Director (2020–present)

#### **Education**

Tumwater High School graduate; Bachelor of Science, Community Health Education – Western Washington University; Certificate, Nonprofit Leadership Institute – South Puget Sound Community College; Master of Public Administration, Nonprofit Leadership and Public Policy – The Evergreen State College; Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Facilitation Intensive – The Center Consultancy

#### **Community Service**

Community Action Council of Lewis, Mason & Thurston Counties (2023–present); Tumwater Planning Commission (2016–2023, Vice Chair 4 years, Chair 1 year); Carlyon/North Neighborhood Association (2011–2023); Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southwest Washington (2011–2015)

#### **Statement**

*My Tumwater roots run deep.* Tumwater is home. I've chosen to raise my family here. *I care deeply about the future of our beautiful city.* As a seasoned executive, *I know what it means to lead in Tumwater.* For years, I volunteered on the Tumwater Planning Commission, working toward a safer, healthier, and stronger community.

I'm running for Council to build on this good work—and to help shape a more *vibrant, inclusive, and sustainable* Tumwater. I'm committed to addressing housing accessibility and homelessness; advancing strategic redevelopment in the brewery district and beyond; and strengthening public health, safety, and environmental protections for a better Tumwater, today and tomorrow.

I'm running because I believe the best solutions come when we work together—and *everyone's voice is heard.* As your Tumwater City Council member, I will collaborate with *creativity*, listen with *curiosity*, and advocate with *courage—centering your voice* in every decision. *Together, we can ensure Tumwater is a great place to live, work, and play for all families, including yours.*

I'm proud to be endorsed by the entire Tumwater City Council, and *I would be honored to have your vote.*

#### **Contact**

Friends of Meghan Sullivan  
meghan@meghanfortumwater.com (360) 820-0634  
meghanfortumwater.com



Peter  
Agabi

**Elected Experience**

Tumwater City Council (2021 – Present)

**Other Professional Experience**

Washington State Department of Health Office of Family and Community Health Improvement – Prevention and Community Health, Certificate of Need Program (18 Years). As a Councilmember, currently serve as the chairperson Public Health and Safety Committee, Budget and Finance committee, LEOFF Disability Board, and Thurston County Transportation Board. Previously, vice chairperson Thurston County Joint Animal Services, board member Thurston County Economic Development Council

**Education**

Portland State University - Oregon BSc Community Health / Public Health Education. Portland State University master program candidate Public Health.

**Community Service**

Multnomah County Independent Living Program for At-risks youths - Volunteered (10 Years).

**Statement**

It has been an honor serving as your Tumwater City Councilmember. As your City Councilmember this past three and half years, I have brought a fresh approach to our city government and provided a vision that represents all Tumwater residents, and families. I have worked with Thurston County Economic Development Council to attract businesses to the city and the region. I have also worked with Thurston County Transportation Board to tackle transportation issues within the city and region. It will be my honor to continue to help with the revitalization that is taking place in Tumwater. On the Council, I have championed safe and stronger neighborhoods as public health and safety chairperson. Together with my fellow councilmember, we have advocated to make sure that Tumwater continues to be a livable community. I have advocated for preserving Tumwater historic heritage for example making sure that our cherished 400-plus years oak tree is preserved. I have also advocated for regional issues such as housing accessibility and environmental issues that affect our region and city.

It would be an honor to continue serving as your Tumwater City Councilmember. I thank you for your vote.

**Contact**

agabip@yahoo.com (503) 515-3122



**Register in person  
until 8 p.m. on  
Election Day  
November 4, 2025.**

If you have questions or need  
assistance, contact

Thurston County Elections at:

- 360.786.5408
- Elections@co.thurston.wa.us
- 2915 29th Ave SW  
Tumwater, WA 98512

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**Joe  
DePinto**

#### **Elected Experience**

Mayor | City of Yelm (2022 – Present); Councilmember | Yelm City Council, Position 6 (2016 – 2021)

#### **Other Professional Experience**

Owner | Quark & Odo's Escape Room Experience (2024 – Present); Lobbyist | Hometown Consulting (2016 – Present); Executive Legislative Assistant | Washington State House of Representatives (2011 – 2016)

#### **Education**

Association of Washington Cities — Advanced Certificate of Municipal Leadership (2021); Eastern Washington University (2011); Yelm High School (2005); New Market Skills Center (2004)

#### **Community Service**

Board of Directors | Thurston Economic Development Council; Board of Directors | Thurston Regional Planning Council; Member | Yelm Fraternal Order of Eagles; Member | Yelm Rotary

#### **Statement**

Yelm is my hometown — it's a big part of who I am. I love this town and I'm proud to be your Mayor. I offer my professional experience working with state and local governments in service to our community. As Mayor, my priorities have remained: increasing public safety, prioritizing transportation and infrastructure projects, and expanding recreational opportunities.

My administration changed outdated practices, modernized our government and started planning for growth. I fought for the Yelm Loop, and after decades of delays, it will finally be completed. Along with fully funded roundabouts (including the bottleneck in McKenna), and even more transportation projects, traffic in Yelm will get fixed.

I have ensured public safety is fully funded and increased our police force to historic levels — by the end of our next budget cycle, Yelm will have at least two officers on duty at all times. We went from 2 city events a year to almost 100. All without raising taxes, a promise I kept and make again. I've also never missed a council meeting or study session.

Believing in term limits, this will be my last as Mayor. It's been my honor to serve, I ask for your support one last time.

#### **Contact**

joe@joedepinto.com  
JoeDePinto.com



**JW  
Foster**

#### **Elected Experience**

Yelm City Council 2011-2016, Mayor 2016-2021

#### **Other Professional Experience**

USMC 1975-1979, Firefighter/Paramedic 1979-2013, Asst. Yelm Fire Chief 1995-2001, Chair-Thurston Regional Planning Council, Board member-Risk Management Services Agency, Board President-Nisqually Land Trust.

#### **Education**

EGHS 1974, USMC leadership courses, Mountaineering Instructor. Paramedic School 1979. National Fire Academy Incident Command School, CPR/First Aid Instructor Trainer. Association of Washington Cities Certificate of Municipal Leadership (advanced), AWC Courses on Budgeting, Planning, Risk Management.

#### **Community Service**

Volunteering since 1995 for: Yelm Schools, Rotary, Lions Club, Dollars for Scholars, Nisqually Land Trust, youth sports, Jazz in the Park, numerous community events.

#### **Statement**

During my first term as Mayor, our team lowered water rates, built free public amenities like the splash pad, and improved trails, sidewalks, and parks. It was my full-time job to be a leader who listened, and I took your voices to the City Council and staff to make real changes that helped Yelm thrive. We had balanced, sustainable budgets and clean audits. I built and have maintained strong relationships with our regional partners, hence my endorsement by elected officials throughout Thurston County. They know they can work with me, and I've proven I will work for you.

I will steer us back toward slower, controlled growth - More storefronts to provide jobs, boost our economy, and fund public services instead of more unaffordable housing. I'll support our schools, youth, elderly, and Veterans. I'll strengthen the infrastructure for public safety, safe roads, and emergency services. I did it my first term, I will do it again.

I'm a Marine Veteran, retired Firefighter/Paramedic, Yelm resident since 1995, and a lifelong public servant. As Mayor, I will be in the office and on the streets full-time, working with you to keep Yelm, Yelm!

Your Voice, My Job, Our Future.

#### **Contact**

fosterforyelm@gmail.com (360) 791-2900  
fosterforyelm.com





**Joshua  
Crossman**

#### **Elected Experience**

Yelm City Council 2021-2025

#### **Other Professional Experience**

Award winning hardwood floor craftsman; Yelm business owner

#### **Education**

Yelm High School Class of 1996

#### **Community Service**

My community service includes many small but impactful contributions, such as hosting litter pickup days and donating to various fundraiser events in Yelm. I sponsor and participate in community activities like the Yelm Spring Expo, Yelm Christmas Parade, and Lion's Club Movies in the Park. I've also sponsored items for the Yelm Dog Park and Fitness Court. Additionally, I volunteer with organizations such as Rebuilding Together Thurston County, CareNet and Operation Christmas Child.

#### **Statement**

Serving on the Yelm City Council has been an honor and a tremendous learning experience. Even after nearly four years, I'm still discovering new aspects of this role. The biggest lesson I've learned is that success truly takes a team effort. Together with my fellow councilmembers and city staff, I've worked to address the needs of our growing community while preserving the charm that makes Yelm special.

I've been a strong advocate for building sidewalks to make Yelm a safer and more walkable community for families. I've also worked to stop unnecessary regulations that could have cost small businesses thousands of dollars—protecting the livelihoods of local entrepreneurs and fostering a strong local economy.

*I remain committed to: Making Yelm safer with infrastructure improvements; Supporting small businesses by keeping regulations fair and manageable. Collaborating with the council to responsibly manage Yelm's growth.*

As a lifelong Yelm area resident, parent of nine children plus two foster children, and a local business owner, I truly understand the challenges our community faces and the value of teamwork in addressing them. Let's continue building a brighter future for Yelm —together. Thank you for your support. Let's Keep It Yelm.

#### **Contact**

joshuacrossman@ymcitycouncil@gmail.com  
(253) 732-4298



**Griselda  
Arias**

#### **Elected Experience**

Chair – Thurston County Veterans Advisory Board

#### **Other Professional Experience**

Program Manager, WA Dept. of Health Pesticide Illness Surveillance; former Community Health Center Administrator; Iraq War veteran 2006-2007, U.S. Army National Guard

#### **Education**

M.H.A. – University of Washington; B.S. Public Health – Central Washington University; Gonzaga Certificate in Foundational Leadership

#### **Community Service**

Yelm Lions Club member and Movies in the Park organizer; farm-worker-health advocate; mentor to first-generation students; All Kids Win volunteer

#### **Statement**

I've served my country, led in crisis, and stood with my neighbors. Now I'm ready to serve Yelm. At 17 I joined the Army National Guard as a chemical-operations specialist and later deployed to Iraq. That tour taught me to lead steady, focused, and always rooted in service.

After the military I earned my degrees and moved here to run our community health center. I bought a home, joined the Lions Club, and now chair the Thurston County Veterans Advisory Board. I've organized Movies in the Park, mentored first-generation students, and fought for farm-worker health. This is my community, and I show up for it.

Too often our current council doesn't. Yelm is missing from county and state tables, and our roads, services, schools, and families pay the price. We deserve better.

I'll be the voice that shows up, speaks out, and delivers. I'll lead with transparency, push for smart growth, and make sure Yelm's needs are never ignored again. I'd be honored to earn your vote.

#### **Contact**

Friends of Griselda  
Hello@griseldaarias.com (509) 901-1074  
www.griseldaarias.com



Stephanie  
Kangiser

**Elected Experience**

Yelm City Council, March 2024-current

**Other Professional Experience**

Yelm Chamber of Commerce Member 2012-current, Yelm Chamber of Commerce BOD 2020-current, Yelm Dollars for Scholars Executive BOD (Secretary) 2020-current, Rotary Club of Yelm Member 2019-current, Rotary Club of Yelm BOD/ Membership 2021-2023, Licensed Cosmetologist 1999-current, Employee Based Salon Owner 2012-current

**Education**

Tacoma Baptist Schools, Gene Juarez Academy, The Salon People Business Academy, ScaleUp Training Series, Aveda Professional Network, AWC Training Courses, Jurassic Parliament, MRSC Training

**Community Service**

I love to be involved with my community and serve where I can make a difference. I volunteer for many different entities and events.

**Statement**

Over 25 years ago, I found my passion in an industry built on education, commitment, and hard work. Thirteen years ago, I opened my own salon here in Yelm, where this community has given back to me in ways I could never have imagined. Giving back has always been my goal — to complete the circle of local support by serving the community that supports us.

For the past 1.5 years, I've been honored to serve on the Yelm City Council. In that time, I've worked to be a voice for our residents, staying informed, listening to concerns, and advocating for transparent communication between our local government and the people we serve.

I also continue to volunteer and serve on several local boards, because I believe leadership happens both inside and outside of City Hall. My focus is always on strengthening the connections that make our community stronger.

I'm committed to bridging the gap between local government and all of 98597 — city residents, families, and the businesses that make Yelm thrive. I would be honored to continue serving and representing our community with integrity, dedication, and heart.

**Contact**

skangiser@hotmail.com (253) 780-1170

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**Brian G.  
Hess**

#### **Elected Experience**

Current Member of Yelm City Council

#### **Other Professional Experience**

Retired U.S. Army Veteran with 25-years of Service, including leadership roles in Iraq and Afghanistan, overseeing more than 100 personnel. Interned at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory working on embedded systems and energy infrastructure. Former security supervisor for Amazon and commercial Driver for Schneider National, Inc.

#### **Education**

Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering with a Minor Ethics - University of Washington

#### **Community Service**

Volunteer with Veteran Organizations; youth soccer and baseball coach

#### **Statement**

I'm proud to serve the people of Yelm. A community rooted in hard work, family values, and small-town pride. As one of your seven city councilmembers, I've consistently stood up for what's best for our residents, not politics or personal agendas. I'm here to serve you.

Over the past four years, I've helped pass balanced budgets while delivering results. We've added police officers to keep our neighborhoods safe, secured land for future parks, upgraded our city park, and made steady improvements to roads and sidewalks. These are the kinds of investments that matter to working families and long-time residents alike.

Yelm is growing fast. We need leaders who understand how to manage that growth without losing what makes this place special. That means making room for more jobs, more housing options, and a stronger local economy while protecting our infrastructure and keeping Yelm affordable.

I'll keep working to support our local businesses, protect public safety, expand family-friendly spaces, and make sure every tax dollar is spent wisely. We've made progress, but there's more to do. With your support, we can make Yelm greater than ever before. I would be honored to continue fighting for you on the Yelm City Council.

#### **Contact**

hess.brian.g@gmail.com (360) 878-6167



**Kayla  
Russell**

#### **Elected Experience**

Head Start policy council Chair 2024-2025 vice chair 2023-2024; head start policy council is governing body of a head start program, and acts as the parent voice for major decisions made to and for the program.

#### **Other Professional Experience**

several positions on different baseball boards; to include NBYB general position and Elite baseball treasurer as well as a general board position. Booster club board member 2024-2025 and re-elected for 2025-2026 school year

#### **Education**

Yelm High School graduated class of 2007; some college for nursing

#### **Community Service**

yelm parks committee and yelm civil service committee

#### **Statement**

I am a lifelong resident of Yelm running for city council to preserve the small-town character that makes Yelm special, while embracing thoughtful business growth and strengthening our community bonds.

As our city grows, I am committed to supporting local businesses and fostering partnerships that benefit both new and longtime residents. I believe in compassionate support for our local law enforcement and first responders ensuring they have what they need to prioritize efforts to reduce crime and enhance public safety for all.

I will continue to have open and transparent communication with residents, listening to your concerns and ideas while we work to build relationships that reflect our community values. Recognizing the importance of planning for our future, I am dedicated to collaborating with Yelm community schools and community leaders to address housing growth to ensure our schools are at the forefront, when it comes to planning . understanding these are separate entities, it is important to create and maintain a close working relationship.

Together we can protect Yelm's hometown spirit while preparing for a bright future. I respectfully ask for your support

#### **Contact**

Krussell598910@gmail.com (253) 561-5093



**David  
Johnstone**

#### **Elected Experience**

President, Local Community Association (2018–Present)

#### **Other Professional Experience**

With over 20 years of experience progressing from electrician to project manager to business owner, my background spans construction, design, manufacturing, and building systems. I've led teams, managed complex projects, and developed technical solutions for commercial and public infrastructure. I bring hands-on expertise, a strong work ethic, and a commitment to practical, community-focused problem-solving.

#### **Education**

South Puget Sound Community College; Art Institute of Seattle; Training: Parliamentary Procedure, Public Records Act, Open Public Meetings Act, Graduate of Thurston EDC ScaleUp Business Program

#### **Community Service**

Planning Commissioner, City of Yelm (2023–Present), Volunteer for various local outreach programs and community events.

#### **Statement**

As a proud father, husband, and lifelong Thurston County resident, I am deeply committed to transparent governance and thoughtful, reasonable development. My time serving on the Yelm Planning Commission has provided me with valuable experience in land use and civic planning, as well as a unique perspective on how we can manage change more effectively and responsibly.

Yelm is more than just city limits. It is a hub for the greater 98597 area. I want to ensure voices are heard, foster stronger connections, and build a sense of shared investment in Yelm's future.

Yelm is evolving, and that brings real challenges: traffic, infrastructure, and essential services among them. I will advocate for practical investments and sound planning that meet the needs of today while laying a strong foundation for tomorrow. I believe in showing up, listening carefully, asking the tough questions, and doing the hard work. I'm ready to bring that commitment to the Yelm City Council.

Together, we can build a future that respects our past and plans wisely for what's ahead. I respectfully ask for your vote to serve with integrity, vision, and purpose.

#### **Contact**

info@johnstone4yelm.com (253) 532-1967  
www.johnstone4yelm.com



**Nicole  
Sims**

#### **Elected Experience**

This would be the first.

#### **Other Professional Experience**

28+ years as an accounting professional; Office of Management and Budget Director for Nisqually Indian Tribe; Past-President of Medicine Creek Enterprise Corporation

#### **Education**

Bachelor's Degree from North West Indian College in Tribal Governance Business Management

#### **Community Service**

Financial Literacy Dinners funded by Bank of America quarterly; Street Feed, Olympia Homelessness Resources

#### **Statement**

I'm Nicole Sims, a proud member of the Nisqually Indian Tribe and an advocate for Yelm. I'm running to make sure every child has the opportunity to grow up safe, supported, and seen. That every parent and grandparent knows their efforts are valued and their voices heard.

No child in our community should ever go without a meal or feel left behind. I believe a strong Yelm means investing in our kids, honoring the wisdom of our elders, and creating systems of care that serve every generation.

With decades of experience in economic development and community engagement, I know how to balance a budget and use public funds responsibly. Every dollar should reflect our priorities: safe schools, families, and a future worth creating together.

Whether you're raising a family or helping raise the next generation, you deserve a leader who will show up with heart, history, and hope. I'm ready to work for you. *Culture. Community. Commitment.* I humbly ask for your vote.

#### **Contact**

electnicolesims@gmail.com  
www.electnicolesims.com



**Terry  
Kaminski**

**Elected Experience**

Yelm City Council - 8 Years; Yelm Planning Commission - 12 Years; Finance Committee; Public Services Committee; Nisqually River Council; Liaison to the Arts Commission

**Other Professional Experience**

Windermere Real Estate Yelm; Managing Broker/Owner; Real Estate Broker 38 Years

**Education**

Bilingual Bachelor of Arts Degree; York University, Toronto Ontario; Royal Conservatory of Music - Toronto

**Community Service**

Board of Directors - Bounty for Families; Chamber of Commerce Volunteer at events; Yelm Senior Center

**Statement**

"Upgrade" has been my focus on City Council this past term, driving progress across our city, from the ongoing road improvements like the Phase Two Bypass and roundabouts to crucial infrastructure projects, including new wells and securing vital water rights. Elevating Yelm's visual appeal through the Beautification Grant program, has resulted in enhanced signage and vibrant murals. My work on the Steering Committee aims to further enrich our cultural landscape by achieving State approval to be a Creative Arts District.

Looking ahead, the acquisition of 640 acres presents an exciting opportunity. My vision for this land is to thoughtfully address our community's evolving needs. I am committed to elevating our urban design, ensuring both functionality and beauty that harmonizes with our natural prairie setting and the majestic presence of Mt. Rainier. This expansive property offers the potential to integrate vital parks and wild spaces, balancing development with a deep respect for nature. While a long-term endeavor, I believe it's our responsibility as leaders to lay a strong foundation for future generations. I am deeply grateful for the chance to contribute to Yelm and would be honored to continue serving our community on the Council.

Thank you for your support!

**Contact**

ttkaminski@msn.com (360) 701-2711

Candidate statements are printed as submitted and not edited for factual or grammatical accuracy by the Secretary of State or Auditor's Office.

## *"Did my ballot arrive?"*

# How to check your ballot status

After you return your ballot, check your ballot status on [VoteWA.gov](https://VoteWA.gov). Ballot status tells you where your ballot is in processing.

1. Log on to [VoteWA.gov](https://VoteWA.gov)
2. Enter your information
3. Click on



Your Ballot & Voting Materials

4. Review your ballot status
5. Questions? Contact us!

- 360.786.5408
- [Elections@co.thurston.wa.us](mailto:Elections@co.thurston.wa.us)
- 2915 29th Ave SW  
Tumwater, WA 98512
- [ThurstonWAVotes.gov](https://ThurstonWAVotes.gov)



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Deb  
Parnham

**Elected Experience**

School Board Director Position 1 - 2021-2025

**Other Professional Experience**

Teacher for 36 years in the Centralia School District, attend conferences with the Washington State School Directors Association.

**Education**

BA in Education - CWU Ellensburg, WA, MA in Education - Lesley College Cambridge, MA

**Community Service**

Church, school levy, Noah Jon Markstrom Foundation, distinguished alumni, alumni night.

**Statement**

It has been an honor to serve our community. I remain deeply committed to leading with purpose and approaching each topic with intentionality always aligning my decisions with the district's mission, vision and the values of our community. I prioritize preparation and research, ensuring that every decision is made thoughtfully, strategically and with input of my constituents. I believe that well structured policies create the foundation for student success with clear consistent guidelines that empower our teachers and administrators to do their best work for the best outcomes. We face many challenging topics and open communication is essential. Building trust within our community starts with listening, putting in the time, focusing on outcomes, and leading with a genuine love for our schools and the people in them. Let's keep working together for the future of Centralia Schools.

**Contact**

debforcentraliaschools@gmail.com (360) 388-1301

Question:

**"Should I mail my ballot?  
Or take it to a drop box?"**

Answers:

**Before Tuesday, Oct 28?**

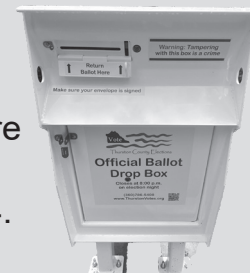
**Use the mail, but** a ballot drop box is still the most secure way to return your ballot. Ballot drop boxes are open until 8 p.m. on Election Day. Ballots must be postmarked by Nov. 4th.



**Tuesday, Oct 28 or later?**

**Use a Ballot Drop Box!**

There are 31 secure drop boxes in Thurston County. Ballot drop boxes are open until 8 p.m. on Election Day, Nov. 4. Details on page 14.





Lisa A  
Leon

**Elected Experience**

No prior elected experience

**Other Professional Experience**

I have worked with youth and families involved in the mental health system as well as community agencies. I coordinated the local youth mentorship program, and am a part of local nonprofit focused on helping youth overcome barriers to success.

**Education**

I have a Bachelor’s degree in psychology and am currently working on my Master’s degree.

**Community Service**

I have worked to coordinate/support the annual Back to School Supply Giveaway and Resource Fair, the Hispanic/LatinX Resource fair and am a board member of a local nonprofit for to help youth.

**Statement**

Hello, my name is Lisa Leon and I am running for the Centralia School Board Director position 3. I am proud parent and community member with a deep passion for public education and the future of our youth. I’ve lived in Centralia for 10 years, and all three of my children have attended the school in the Centralia School District. With my background in youth mental health, working for the Youth Mentorship Program, and having a bachelor’s degree in psychology focusing on child and adolescent behavioral health, I will bring experience and passion to improving our schools for all students.

I support strong academics, a safe learning environment, community involvement, and fiscal responsibility. I’m running because I believe in our youth. I feel that with strong leadership and open communication, we can create an environment that ensures our schools serve every student and prepare them for the future.



No photo  
submitted

Cameron  
McGee

**Elected Experience**

No information submitted.

**Other Professional Experience**

No information submitted.

**Education**

No information submitted.

**Community Service**

No information submitted.

**Statement**

No information submitted.

**Contact**

mcgeeforschoolboard@gmail.com





**No photo  
submitted**

**Tim**

**Browning**

**Elected Experience**

No information submitted.

**Other Professional Experience**

No information submitted.

**Education**

No information submitted.

**Community Service**

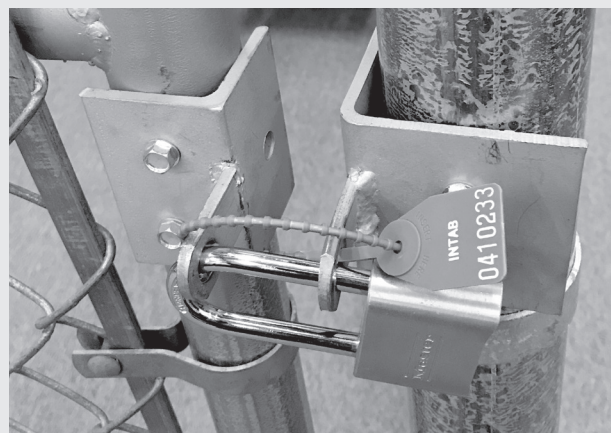
No information submitted.

**Statement**

No information submitted.

**Contact**

timbrowning@localaccess.com (360) 269-5830



## Election Security Fact

Our ballot counting system is covered by cameras 24/7, not connected to the internet (air-gapped), and is securely locked and sealed when not in use.

Because it's not connected to any networks, it is impossible to access without being present. Access is only made in teams of two!

## Your vote is secure!



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Julie  
**Osterberg**

**Elected Experience**

Currently serving as Griffin School Board Director, Position 4

**Other Professional Experience**

During my professional career in both the public and private sector, I have gained experience in process improvement, teambuilding, customer service, rulemaking, project management, leadership and IT system implementation.

**Education**

BA, Speech and Hearing Sciences, Washington State University

**Community Service**

Americorps, Parents Advocating for Childcare Excellence (PACE), United Way Day of Caring, Thurston County American Cancer Society - Relay For Life, Girl Scouts of Western Washington, Griffin PTO and Griffin School Foundation

**Statement**

I have lived in the Steamboat area since 1998 with my family, and I am proud of the community we live in - the heart of which I believe is Griffin School. I feel we all must do our part to support the social, emotional and academic growth of children and I have chosen to do that through years of volunteering in numerous settings, including at Griffin School while my son was a student. When I ran for Board Director in 2021, I wrote in my candidacy statement that being prepared, working together, and being able to adapt to change would be crucial in this role, and I was committed to doing so. While I couldn't have imagined some of the challenges we'd face as I stepped into this role, through it all, we worked together, led through change, and became more prepared. I feel honored to have had the opportunity to serve as a Griffin School Board Director the last 3 ½ years, and I am looking forward to building on this foundation and continuing to serve - working together to make Griffin School a place where our students, staff and families thrive.

**Contact**

osterbergjf@gmail.com (360) 490-1632



Trish  
**Gregory**

**Elected Experience**

15 years Griffin School Board

**Other Professional Experience**

25 years experience as a local community leader developing and administering social service programs to support the health, safety, and wellbeing of children and their families. 5 years experience as a teacher and parent educator in the field of Early Learning.

**Education**

Early Childhood Education- South Puget Sound Community College

**Community Service**

I am deeply engaged in our community supporting organizations and efforts working to reduce childhood abuse and neglect, address domestic violence, improve education, and enhance the lives of children. Locally, I have volunteered supporting the Griffin School Foundation Auction and PTO fundraising efforts since 2010.

**Statement**

Friends and neighbors,

Supporting kids, education, and families has been the focus of my life's work. I love the Griffin community, and it has been an honor to serve as a school board director for the past 15 years. While the role has come with significant challenges—and at times, the weight of the responsibility has been heavy—my commitment has never wavered. I continue to serve because I believe deeply in our school, staff, students, and our shared future.

I'm passionate about being part of the solutions that move us forward. The relationships I've built with families, staff, and community members have only strengthened my resolve. I'm grateful for the trust you've placed in me to listen, speak up, and take action. Your voices matter, and I am committed to ensuring they continue to lead to meaningful change.

Together, we will keep working to strengthen what makes Griffin such a special place for all of us.

**Contact**

nkj\_bird@yahoo.com (360) 628-7344



**Jeremy  
Ryan**

#### **Elected Experience**

President - Cantergrove at Long Lake HOA; 3/2025-Present;  
Vice President Cantergrove at Long Lake HOA; 9/2022-3/2025

#### **Other Professional Experience**

I began as a journalist before shifting careers to a youth and family minister. I then became a special education teacher before adding on history, PE, and elementary education endorsements, followed by my principal license.

#### **Education**

Bachelors of Science in Journalism from University of Colorado; Masters in Theology from Fuller Theological Seminary; Education Specialist degree in Educational Leadership from University of Northern Colorado; Doctorate of Education from McKendree University (in progress)

#### **Community Service**

I have volunteered with organizations serving the homeless and low income families.

#### **Statement**

I've been a mentor, teacher and administrator for nearly 20 years, but before anything else, I'm a husband and a dad. With two boys in North Thurston elementary and middle schools, I approach all education through the lens of what students and parents need to succeed.

While K-12 history, PE, and special education have been my professional fields, my heart for servant leadership compels me to invest in my fellow educators to capitalize on their passion. I thrive on diplomacy and collaboration, with a constant ear to the community and a penchant for immediate, measurable results.

Safe schools, researched practices, supported staff, and diverse means of engagement are the bedrocks to a strong education. North Thurston Public Schools have championed these ideals, but I see room for improvement in an ever changing world. I aim to enrich others through education while improving upon and illuminating the value of learning in every facet of our community.

When I'm not teaching or leading, I'm serving as president of our neighborhood's HOA, reading comics with my kids, exploring hiking trails with my family, watching the Kraken with my wife, or getting absolutely destroyed by my eldest son in Fortnite.

#### **Contact**

jeremyryanforntps@gmail.com (949) 231-2029  
JeremyRyanForNTPS.com



**Tim  
Bullus**

#### **Elected Experience**

N/A

#### **Other Professional Experience**

15 years of experience across education, the military, and the private sector. I currently serve as Senior Director of Customer Experience at TechSmart, supporting 150+ school districts nationwide. I have taught both AP Computer Science and Math programs in Middle and High School. I am a veteran of the US Navy. My focus remains on literacy, SEL, CTE, supporting teachers, and life after graduation.

#### **Education**

BSBA in Finance - Drexel University; Teaching Certification - Philadelphia Teacher Residency Program

#### **Community Service**

Coaching youth, middle, and high school sports, I also have volunteered with the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

#### **Statement**

As a father of three and lifelong educator, I believe every student deserves strong expectations, a safe environment, and a path to success after graduation—whether that's college, a career, or the military. My background as a classroom teacher, businessman, and national education leader has shown me the power of CTE programs to open doors for students who might not see college as their only option. Literacy must remain our foundation—every student, regardless of grade or ability, deserves access to high-quality reading and writing instruction that prepares them for life. I also believe in holding district leadership accountable for ensuring teachers have the support, tools, and professional development they need—not just policies handed down from above. Budget cuts should never start with the people working face-to-face with students, but with cutting redundancy in senior admin. Teachers must have a voice in curriculum adoption, and discipline systems should be ones they're trained to use and can implement with confidence. I am committed to fiscal responsibility, transparency, and to building a system where every student, whether gifted or behind grade level, is seen, supported, and given a real opportunity to succeed.

#### **Contact**

electtimbullus@gmail.com (360) 489-2621  
timbullusforntps.com



**Sarah  
Tracy**

#### **Elected Experience**

Current School Board Director, District 3, NTPS (appointed September 2024)

#### **Other Professional Experience**

Registered pharmacist for 28 years with experience in various pharmacy settings, collaborating in medical clinics, and teaching in classrooms and experiential practice sites; certified parent coach and parent educator providing educational workshops and support for parents for 12 years

#### **Education**

BS Pharmacy and PharmD, University of Washington; graduate certificate in parent coaching, Parent Coaching Institute, Seattle Pacific University

#### **Community Service**

NTPS Facilities Advisory Committee, Superintendent's Parent Advisory Council, North Thurston Citizens for Schools, school and classroom volunteer, PTA President, soccer team manager for club and rec teams

#### **Statement**

As a lifelong member of the NTPS community - first as a K-12 student and the daughter of a long-time teacher, then the parent of two recent River Ridge HS graduates, and now as a school board director - I have been deeply connected with our district for over 45 years. I am incredibly proud of the diversity within our schools, the strength of our community, and the unique programs and partnerships we've developed.

I believe all students and staff should feel welcome, safe, supported, and engaged in their education at NTPS. That means celebrating and honoring the differences in our community. As we continue to rebuild post-pandemic, we must recommit to restoring and exceeding high levels of academic rigor, ensuring that all students are challenged, empowered, and equipped for success. We must practice fiscal responsibility and uphold high expectations for our entire district.

My priority is to connect with our community, listen openly, collaborate to seek constructive solutions, and advocate for the needs of our diverse community. It is an honor to represent our students, families, educators, staff, and community. With your vote, we will continue the work to ensure success for all of our students - together.

#### **Contact**

sarahforourschools@gmail.com (360) 481-3300  
sarahforourschools.com



**Loretta  
Byrnes**

#### **Elected Experience**

none

#### **Other Professional Experience**

Over 20 years designing, managing, and evaluating poverty alleviation and multisectoral programs with the Gates Foundation, CARE, and World Vision in Bangladesh, India, Nigeria, Tanzania and other counties. Lived 17 years in Bangladesh, Rwanda and Sierra Leone. Labor market analyst and WorkSource Area Director for Employment Security.

#### **Education**

MS in Natural Resource Economics, BS in Agronomy from WSU

#### **Community Service**

Volunteered with World Relief Refugee Program, Rotary, Olympia SD, Mission Creek Correctional Facility, and Coffee Oasis with at risk youth. Attend North Thurston School board meetings and Community Conversations, review all agendas and reports, and provided input on policies and reports.

#### **Statement**

As the child of a broken home, I know how important it is to have a safe and engaging learning environment that delivers the skills and knowledge enabling children to engage with the world and have hope for the future. And, with a blended family of 8 children and 10 grandchildren I am very familiar with today's educational system.

We have excellent teachers and yet less than 50 percent of students can read or do math (36%) at grade level. We spend over \$17,000 per student and yet the board has never had a serious discussion on this low performance and neither is it addressed in the Strategic Plan.

Too much is spent on administrators who rarely share the views and challenges of the teachers—lack of time to focus on reading, student discipline, irregular attendance, excessive testing, removal of students from the classroom for special interventions etc.

We need a school board that listens to teachers, parents, and students to identify and address state and district policies that have made schools less safe for teachers and students and lead to low student performance. I will work for a more analytical, transparent, and communicative school board to address these issues.

#### **Contact**

ElectLorettaByrnes@gmail.com (360) 513-8349  
facebook.com/profile.php?id=100011660052124





**Renee  
Fullerton**

#### **Elected Experience**

First-time candidate

#### **Other Professional Experience**

Workforce development specialist with the Washington Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board; workforce co-lead for the Children and Youth Behavioral Health Work Group; member of the Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities. Spent 10 years at the Washington State Department of Health, including serving as Executive Director for multiple health professional regulatory boards.

#### **Education**

Master of Public Health – University of Arizona; Bachelor of Journalism and Biology – University of Missouri

#### **Community Service**

Board Member, Carlyon/North Neighborhood Association (2017–2020); Active participant, Olympia School Board meetings (September 2024–present); Volunteer, Washington Middle School Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO); Member, Pioneer Elementary School Parent-Teacher Association (PTA)

#### **Statement**

*Olympia School District is at a pivotal moment. Students continue to struggle with the academic and mental health impacts of the pandemic. At the same time, needs are growing and resources are shrinking. OSD needs pragmatic leaders with fresh ideas and experience working across state and local systems to ensure success for every student.*

*I bring decades of public service experience and a strong commitment to our community. My children were born in Olympia and attend OSD neighborhood schools. I'm deeply invested in the future of our district and ready to serve.*

*Today's students are tomorrow's workers and community leaders. As a school district we must partner with local employers to create meaningful career pathways for all students. Some will pursue college; others will head directly into the workforce and trades. All deserve a strong foundation and a sense of possibility.*

*We must recommit to students still recovering from pandemic disruptions. Test scores aren't the only measure of success, but districtwide, achievement remains significantly below past levels. We must support our teachers and paraprofessionals so every student has the resources they need to thrive. I'm ready to lead on behalf of all students, and I respectfully ask for your vote.*

#### **Contact**

renee@reneefullerton.com (360) 280-2533  
www.reneefullerton.com



**Rhyan  
Smith**

#### **Elected Experience**

Local HOA Member and Co-President

#### **Other Professional Experience**

Vocational Ministry; Coffee Shop Owner; Real Estate Broker; Home Care Agency Owner; Teacher – Olympia School District

#### **Education**

Olympia High School – Diploma; Washington State University – Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education; Princeton Seminary – Master's Degree

#### **Community Service**

Advisory Board Member – St. Martin's School of Business; Booster Club Member – Olympia High School Girls Basketball; Lacey Chamber of Commerce; Volunteer Coach – Thurston County Youth Football; Volunteer Coach – Olympia Basketball Academy; Organized Fundraising Golf Tournament – Olympia Free Clinic; Volunteer Auctioneer – Pioneer Elementary and Olympia High School events; Volunteer Youth Leader

#### **Statement**

*I'm Rhyan Smith, running for Position 3 on the Olympia School Board. I grew up in Olympia and graduated from Olympia High School. I met my wife of 27 years in Mr. Freemantle's ceramics class. I was a teacher in the Olympia School District, and my wife also worked in the OSD. Our four children have gone through or are currently attending OSD schools.*

*We have a deep connection to the Olympia community, and are saddened to see how recent decisions by the district have led to declining enrollment, an increased focus on ideology over education, and the threat of school closures due to budget shortfalls.*

*I'm running for school board because I wish to serve my OSD community. I look forward to providing balanced and trusted leadership. I will listen to teachers and find ways to empower them for success, especially as they are continually asked to do more with less. I will listen to parents and be an objective, grounded voice on the board.*

*Together, I believe we can restore stability, balance, and a renewed sense of hope to our school district. I am grateful for your support. Vote for *Rhyan Smith* for the Olympia School Board!*

#### **Contact**

rhyansmithforosd@gmail.com (360) 480-7028  
www.rhyansmithforosd.com





**Gilbert  
Lamont**

#### **Elected Experience**

None.

#### **Other Professional Experience**

Military veteran with over a decade of leadership experience. I work as a data analyst, using large data sets to support decision making and improve systems through evidence-based approaches.

#### **Education**

Bachelor of Science and Master of Arts in Economics. My academic training equips me to understand complex systems, evaluate policies, and make informed, data-driven decisions.

#### **Community Service**

Active parent volunteer in the Olympia School District, with a long history of various community volunteer experiences. I support initiatives that empower educators, promote student success, and foster inclusion. I believe in listening, collaborating, and building strong partnerships with families, teachers, and the broader community.

#### **Statement**

As a parent of two children in the Olympia School District and the husband of a public educator, I'm running for the OSD Board in District 5 to bring a practical, community-focused voice to our schools. With experience in data analysis and a background rooted in service, I will prioritize thoughtful, transparent, and collaborative decision-making to address the challenges facing our district.

I believe public education must be built on inclusion, empowerment, and measurable results. My priorities include: empowering educators with the resources and autonomy they deserve, elevating student voices to ensure every child feels supported, strengthening partnerships between families and schools, and using data responsibly to guide decisions that benefit students. Every child deserves a safe and supportive learning environment where they can thrive.

As a veteran, data analyst, and volunteer, I bring a commitment to equity, service, and evidence-based solutions. With a BS and MA in Economics, I understand complex systems and will advocate for practical, sustainable policies. My years of volunteering in schools and the community have shown me the importance of listening to educators, students, and families.

I'm ready to work collaboratively to put students first. I would be honored to earn your vote.

#### **Contact**

gilbert@lamontforosd.com  
lamontforosd.com



**Emily  
Leddige**

#### **Elected Experience**

No prior elected experience.

#### **Other Professional Experience**

Approximately seven and a half years as a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney spanning Spokane County, WA; Grays Harbor County, WA; Thurston County, WA.

#### **Education**

Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, minors in Business and Philosophy, Whitworth University; Juris Doctorate, University of Idaho, College of Law

#### **Community Service**

Facilitated fundraising for a community tool library for the Upper East side Olympia; Volunteered at local schools about certain parts of the criminal justice system as outreach; Participated in a roundtable to begin a dialog between individuals with intellectual disabilities and law enforcement.

#### **Statement**

As a parent, public servant, and advocate, I'm running for school board to ensure every student is seen, supported, and given the opportunity to succeed. I believe public schools should meet students where they are—academically, emotionally, and socially—so they can thrive in and beyond the classroom.

My approach centers on five key values: inclusivity, accessibility, accountability, transparency, and efficiency. I will work to ensure that resources are used wisely and decisions are made with the best interests of students, families, and educators at heart.

Our district deserves leadership that listens and acts with integrity. I will champion safe, welcoming schools where every student—regardless of background or ability—has access to the support and opportunities they need.

With a practical mindset and a deep commitment to public service, I'm ready to bring thoughtful, student-focused leadership to our school board. I'd be honored to earn your vote.

#### **Contact**

emilyleddige@gmail.com (509) 995-9878  
emilyforosd.com



Edgar  
Ooms

**Elected Experience**  
No information submitted

**Other Professional Experience**  
No information submitted

**Education**  
No information submitted

**Community Service**  
No information submitted

**Statement**  
No information submitted

**Contact**  
edgar\_ooms@yahoo.com      (360) 359-6624



Rebecca  
Stillings

**Elected Experience**  
Elected to serve on the Rainier School Board since 2003.

**Other Professional Experience**  
Washington State School Directors' Association (WSSDA)  
Legislative Committee and Federal Relations Network (FRN)  
Congressional District 3 Coordinating Member. Senior Strategy  
and Performance Advisor at the Washington State Department  
of Commerce.

**Education**  
Proud graduate of Rainier High School, Centralia College and  
Washington State University.

**Community Service**  
Rainier Education Foundation Board Member since 2006.

**Statement**  
For 22 years, I've had the privilege of serving the students,  
families and staff of Rainier School District. I believe in the  
power of public education and am committed to providing  
every student with a high-quality, well-rounded educational  
experience. Our district's work is gaining recognition, and it's  
all about advancing the best education for our students —  
whether they're heading to the workforce, apprenticeship or  
higher education. Our students deserve the best education,  
every day and every way.

I approach every decision through the lens of what's best for  
kids. Supporting their academic, social, and emotional needs is  
a top priority. During my tenure, we've expanded educational  
pathways, including vocational training, Advanced Placement,  
and workforce readiness programs to meet diverse student  
needs.

I believe in local control and fiscal responsibility. I value an  
open, inclusive process that encourages students, staff and the  
community to participate in board meetings and work sessions.  
Listening, communicating and fostering teamwork are vital to  
achieving our shared goals.

We've accomplished much, but there is still more to do. I ask  
for your support to continue serving on the Rainier School  
District Board and to keep advocating for the best educational  
opportunities for our students.

**Contact**  
rms16052@gmail.com      (360) 951-2922



Francisco J.  
**Villanueva A**

**Elected Experience**  
None

**Other Professional Experience**  
Management Analyst at the Washington State Department of Revenue

**Education**  
Washington State University Bachelor's in business administration, minor in marketing and a certificate in sales; Associate in Arts from Centralia College; Centralia High School.

**Community Service**  
Washington State Commission on Hispanic Affairs for one legislative session reviewing legislative bills impacting the Hispanic community; Volunteer coach for my son's soccer team for five years at the local Rochester Youth Soccer Club.

**Statement**  
Mahatma Gandhi famously stated "The true measure of any society can be found in how it treats its most vulnerable members." By serving in this position, I plan to do just that and advocate for historically underserved and marginalized populations in the district.

As a bilingual Spanish speaker and parent with two children in the district, I am committed to ensuring that our diverse community feels heard and represented. I am passionate about fostering inclusive learning environments, ensuring fiscal responsibility, and equipping teachers with the tools they need to inspire and educate.

My priorities include strengthening academic excellence, promoting student well-being, and enhancing transparency between the board and the community. I am committed to listening to parents, educators, and students, working collaboratively to make informed decisions that serve our district's best interests.

I envision a school district where every child—regardless of background—has access to the tools and opportunities they need to succeed. I am committed to fostering an environment that champions innovation, values educators, and prioritizes student growth. Through open dialogue, responsible decision-making, and strategic initiatives, we can strengthen our schools and shape a brighter future together. I would be honored to help shape a brighter future for our children.

**Contact**  
fvillanueva@wsu.edu (360) 508-3224



Heather  
**Harris**

**Elected Experience**  
No prior elected experience.

**Other Professional Experience**  
Rochester Branch Director, Boys & Girls Clubs of Thurston County—leading youth programs, family engagement, and community collaboration. Former Events & Communications Coordinator, Griffin Branch Director, Program Director and Youth Development Professional. Small business owner for 15 years.

**Education**  
Extensive training in youth development, trauma-informed care, and leadership. Committed to ongoing professional learning.

**Community Service**  
Rochester School District's Strategic Planning Committee member. Supporter of Rochester High School theatre. Advocate for youth voice and equity.

**Statement**  
As a dedicated youth advocate and mother of one current and one former Rochester School District student, I am honored to run for a seat on the school board. With over 11 years of experience in youth development, I bring a deep understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing students today.

In my role as Branch Director at the Rochester Boys & Girls Club, I've worked closely with children and families across our community. This work has given me valuable insight into the gaps in services and the critical needs that often go unaddressed. I am passionate about bridging these gaps by fostering stronger partnerships between schools, families, and the broader community.

My service on the Rochester School District's Strategic Planning Committee allowed me to collaborate with educators, students, and parents to envision a more supportive and equitable educational system. I've seen firsthand the importance of building strong community connections and fostering much-needed skills like communication, self-regulation, and resilience.

Serving on the school board allows me to further champion the voices of youth and contribute to meaningful changes that improve their real, everyday experiences. I am ready to listen, lead, and work collaboratively to support every child in our district.

**Contact**  
harrisforrsdboard@gmail.com



Chato  
**Salisbury**

**Elected Experience**

No information submitted

**Other Professional Experience**

No information submitted

**Education**

No information submitted

**Community Service**

No information submitted

**Statement**

My name is Chato Salisbury and I am running for the Tenino school board. I have two children that attend Tenino schools, and I have a vested interest in the Tenino school district. My wife and I have volunteered countless hours to be involved in and a part of tenino schools. I have a passion for giving back to the community to show up and to be supportive of our students, teachers, and administrative staff. I have been involved in community service and community work for the past 24 years. For the past three years I've been a volunteer firefighter and EMT with South Thurston Fire and EMS, serving and supporting our community.

**Contact**

chatojames@comcast.net (360) 556-2948

## Three Ways to Register to Vote

### 1. Online **VoteWA.gov**

This is the fastest way to register to vote. The best way is to use your state-issued driver's license or ID card or the last 4 digits of your SSN. Log on to [VoteWA.gov](http://VoteWA.gov) to complete the process (must be done by October 27).

### 2. In Person (Info on Page 15)

You may register in person up to 8 p.m. on Election Day at any voting center or designated registration location in the state. Contact us by calling 360.786.5408 or emailing [elections@co.thurston.wa.us](mailto:elections@co.thurston.wa.us).

### 3. By Mail/Email

Forms are available online. You may print and mail or scan and email them to our office (must be received by October 27). If you cannot access a printer, contact us by calling 360.786.5408 or emailing [elections@co.thurston.wa.us](mailto:elections@co.thurston.wa.us).

### Already registered to vote?

Take a moment and log on to [VoteWA.gov](http://VoteWA.gov) or contact our office to find out if your address is correct. This will ensure that your ballot reaches you.

**Be a  
Voter!**





**Julie  
Watts**

#### **Elected Experience**

None

#### **Other Professional Experience**

I have over 25 years of experience as a public policy professional and currently serve as Senior Policy Advisor for Government Affairs for the Washington State Department of Children, Youth and Families; Former Deputy Director of the Washington State Budget and Policy Center and former Instructor at the University of Washington.

#### **Education**

Master's degree in social work, University of Washington; bachelor's degree in social work, University of Kansas.

#### **Community Service**

I've volunteered for the boards of multiple community nonprofit organizations dedicated to addressing poverty, supporting low-income children and families, and supporting survivors of human trafficking.

#### **Statement**

Every student deserves a high-quality education, to feel safe, and know they belong. This begins with a school board that focuses on creating an environment where every child can thrive, not arguing over whether some kids – like LGBTQ+ kids, students of color, or those with disabilities - deserve to participate in class or after-school activities.

As a parent of a student with a disability, I know how important special education is to help kids develop life skills and be full participants in the classroom. Special education is not just about services for a select group of students; it is a fundamental part of creating a caring and inclusive educational environment.

Public education is a cornerstone of a healthy and thriving community. As a policy professional with over 25 years of experience in budget and policy analysis, I will guide our district to set priorities for academic success and supportive learning environments for all students. We must fix our budget problems so we can invest in the needs of our diverse student body and staff both in and beyond the classroom.

Endorsements: Tumwater Mayor Debbie Sullivan; Councilmember Leatta Dahloff; State Representatives Beth Doglio, Lisa Parshley, and Former Representative Laurie Dolan.

#### **Contact**

friendsofjuliewatts@gmail.com (360) 485-8266  
www.electjuliewatts.com



**Sarah  
Overbay**

#### **Elected Experience**

First time candidate after serving on Tumwater School District Budget Advisory Committee and District Equity Committee.

#### **Other Professional Experience**

WA State licensed foster parent and parent advocate; currently serving on Evergreen Christian School Advisory Board consulting on policy, budgeting and operations.

#### **Education**

Was Graduate of the Year with B.A. in Psychology at Concordia University; Trust-Based-Relational Intervention (TBRI) trained through Karen Purvis Institute of Child Development

#### **Community Service**

Executive Board Member of Olympia Night To Shine, Tumwater Soccer Club coach, volunteer at various school and athletic events; developed THS baseball and Challenger baseball partnership.

#### **Statement**

I'm running for Tumwater School Board with a vision for our district to be a model of academic excellence and sound financial stewardship. With a new district strategic plan, exceptional educators, and community support, I'll use my leadership experience to help implement the plan and ensure accountability and continuity. As an education first board member, I believe this approach will empower Tumwater School District students and graduates to become skilled and capable learners.

In 2014, our family returned to Washington after my husband's career in professional baseball, and we purposefully chose to live in Tumwater because of the strong schools and generous community spirit. Serving our community is a foundational value for me. My husband and I are licensed foster parents, coach several athletic teams and volunteer our time and are dedicated to serving kids and families in our area. I look forward to continuing to serve our community as a Tumwater school board member.

I'm committed to ensuring we remain focused on serving every student while prioritizing education at its core. It would be an honor to serve the Tumwater School District and to help guide it toward a future defined by opportunity, excellence, and unity.

#### **Contact**

sarahforTSDschools@gmail.com  
sarahfortsdschools.com





Ty  
Kuehl

#### Elected Experience

Appointed Tumwater School Board Director, August 2024.

#### Other Professional Experience

Nearly 20 years of experience in the manufacturing industry, focused on customer service, procurement, management, team leadership, sales operations, budgeting, and strategic planning.

#### Education

Tumwater High School; University of Washington; B.A. in Business Administration with concentrations in Management and Marketing, Saint Martin's University.

#### Community Service

Known to many local families as "Coach Ty" through years of involvement in youth programs and school events. Former volunteer in the classroom and at the high school level as an assistant coach. Active supporter of student programs, school fundraisers, and community events across the district.

#### Statement

I was honored to be appointed to the Tumwater School Board in August 2024. I come from a long line of public educators, including my father who held many roles from teacher to administrator. That foundation, combined with my professional leadership experience and deep community ties, gives me a well-rounded understanding of the issues facing public education today.

During my time on the board, I've worked to listen, ask hard questions, and focus on student-first decision making. In a time of uncertainty, I believe it's essential to lead with steadiness, clarity, and respect for the community's concerns.

I'm passionate about both Tumwater and Black Hills High Schools, and I believe equity across our two comprehensive high schools is essential. I support responsible, sustainable budgeting — and believe we must prioritize staff having the tools and support required to meet individual student needs, maintain high academic expectations, and deliver on the district's strategic plan.

My four young children are either attending or will attend Tumwater schools. I'd be honored to have your vote to continue my work on the board and serve with purpose on behalf of our community. Together, we can help keep Tumwater a destination district for all families.

#### Contact

tykuehl@gmail.com  
ty4tsd.com



Daniel  
Mies

#### Elected Experience

None

#### Other Professional Experience

Department of Social and Health Services Economic Service; Administration Division of Child Support Support Enforcement Officer

#### Education

BAS Evergreen State College, MA University of Arizona

#### Community Service

Veteran's and Department of Corrections Outreach, De-Escalation Instructor, WCAG Training Auditor

#### Statement

I'm a dad. I mow my lawn, fix what breaks, and drive my son to soccer practice. I'm also a veteran who served in the Army as a mechanic. I went to Bush Middle School in the 90's and raised 3 kids through the Tumwater School District and have just started our 4th child in kindergarten this year.

I believe in the good that is the Tumwater School District which is why I live here. I'm running for the school board to help fix what broke when the board voted this last year to deviate from Tumwater's history and exclude students; all people are deserving of being a part of our community no matter who they are and no student should be excluded.

Public education is how we build great communities like Tumwater and great public education is built by great teachers. I believe in supporting teachers. Teachers are on the front line of our children's development and are our schools need our support to attract, train, and retain the best and brightest.

Let's get to work.

#### Contact

mies.tumwater+schoolboard@gmail.com (253) 275-8020



**Melissa Determan  
Beard**

**Elected Experience**

Tumwater School Board (2016-present)

**Other Professional Experience**

Director of Legislative Affairs, Council of Presidents representing UW, WSU, CWU, EWU, WWU and The Evergreen State College (2023-present); Budget and Policy positions at the state and local levels; House of Representatives, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, Office of Financial Management, school district (2000-2023)

**Education**

BS Psychology; University of Washington; MA Education Policy Analysis and Evaluation; Stanford University; PhD Education Leadership and Policy Studies; University of Washington

**Community Service**

TVW Washington's Public Affairs Network Board Member (2025-present); TOGETHER! Board Member (2023-present) WSU 4-H Know Your Government (High School Civic Education Conference) Committee (1998-present)

**Statement**

Tumwater is my home. I grew up here, graduated from Tumwater High, and raised a Black Hills graduate. My dad was a longtime Tumwater school bus driver, and I started my career as a classroom aide in our schools. I know firsthand how a strong public education system shapes lives, and I am deeply committed to ensuring every student has the opportunity to succeed.

Since 2016, I've served on the Tumwater School Board. The best solutions come from our community and should be shaped by students, families, staff, and local partners. Through the challenges of the past nine years, I've been inspired by the resilience and dedication of our teachers, families, and administrators. These experiences reinforce the need for open, transparent communication to ensure every voice is heard.

I've worked to expand student representation on the board, strengthen partnerships with the Nisqually Tribe and Tumwater City Council, and ensure student needs guide our decisions. With a Ph.D. in Educational Leadership and over 25 years of experience in education policy, I bring deep expertise in school finance, governance, and advocacy.

I am honored to serve you as a listener, problem-solver, and connector. With your vote, I hope to continue this work—together.

**Contact**

melissafortumwaterschools@gmail.com (360) 402-0582  
melissafortumwaterschools.com



**Aimee  
Staudt**

**Elected Experience**

Aimee is a first-time candidate ready to work with all students, parents, and teachers throughout Tumwater School District.

**Other Professional Experience**

Aimee is currently a Private School Office Administrator, Preschool-8th. Previously: Financial Administrator & Community Manager for Irvine Company; Director of Operations for ASL Senior Living. Oversaw seven communities, managing all aspects of operations: budgeting, financial oversight, team leadership, and growth and development of all communities.

**Education**

Irvine Valley College

**Community Service**

Former President of National Charity League, Irvine. Volunteers with Tim Tebow Foundation's Night to Shine Prom for individuals with special needs. Has also served as a classroom volunteer, and for the Union Gospel Mission.

**Statement**

As a mother of four (two proud Tumwater graduates, and two currently in the district), I bring both a personal and practical commitment to our schools. I'm not just advocating for my children; I'm here for all children.

Every student deserves to graduate equipped with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to thrive whether they choose a trade, military service, the workforce, or college.

The current Tumwater Strategic Plan is more than a document, it's a promise: "A promise that every student will be known by name, supported with strength, and prepared for a future they define." With strong, accountable leadership, that vision is within reach.

We must also face financial realities head-on. Our overstretched budget demands responsible stewardship to restore trust, deliver results, and protect every taxpayer dollar. We can meet high academic standards by applying common sense priorities and focusing on what matters most. Over the last decade, the trajectory of our district has gone off track. As a mother, taxpayer, and resident, I am here with solutions. Let's raise test scores, focus on core subjects, ensure school safety, and balance the budget. The time is now!

**Contact**

aimee4tumwatersd@gmail.com (949) 400-1950



**Rob  
Warner**

#### **Elected Experience**

None

#### **Other Professional Experience**

I have been an accountant for a local corporation, a small business owner, and am a local pastor.

#### **Education**

Michael T. Simmons, Tumwater Junior High and Tumwater High School. Graduate of Pacific University, with a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration/Accounting

#### **Community Service**

Volunteer Chaplain for the Tumwater Police Department and local fire agencies. Longtime volunteer coach for youth, middle and high school athletics. Active board member for several local non-profit organizations.

#### **Statement**

My family has been in Tumwater for seven generations. My grandparents, parents and children all attended Tumwater Schools. I am a proud graduate of Tumwater Schools. I have served as a guest teacher and coach in the Tumwater School District for many years. My immediate family includes current and former educators in Tumwater and other districts.

As a member of the School Board, I will work with the other members, teachers, para-educators, staff and administrators to prioritize the academic excellence for which Tumwater has been known. I will work to help provide a safe school environment for all students to prioritize effective learning.

I will advocate for fiscal responsibility to the taxpayers of Tumwater, and will lobby local, state, and federal agencies for all the resources that are available for our students and educators. I will listen to families and educators to make sure they are provided all the tools necessary to benefit the students of Tumwater. As we face budget challenges, I will be transparent and communicate clearly the needs and goals of the district.

As we navigate this challenging time in education, we must operate with integrity as we evaluate the issues we face.

#### **Contact**

warnertsd33@gmail.com (253) 732-9962  
www.warnertsd33.com



**Mike  
McGowan**

#### **Elected Experience**

Yelm City Council, 2006-2015. Thurston County Home Consortium. Solid Waste Advisory Committee.

#### **Other Professional Experience**

Library Associate, Yelm Timberland Library

#### **Education**

State University of New York at Buffalo, BA in political science.

#### **Community Service**

Best Elected Official, Nisqually Valley News. Yelm Community Schools, Certificate of Appreciation. Best Librarian, Nisqually Valley News.

#### **Statement**

I have lived in Thurston County for 35 years. My family and I moved to the Tumwater School District 11 years ago, and both my granddaughters are now students in the district. I spent 27 years as a youth librarian working closely with teachers, administration, and families in our local public schools.

All Tumwater students need a safe environment to learn. Tumwater teachers deserve our support to continue their work. Taxpayers want to see effective use of their tax dollars.

Tumwater School Board directors have responsibilities that include: budget, policy development, curriculum approval, planning, and communications. The Tumwater School District faces enormous challenges, as do many public schools across the country. Not the least of these challenges are potential budget shortfalls. I was elected to represent my community for three terms on the Yelm City Council and served nine years on the Budget Committee. That experience gives me the technical know-how to understand these issues and effect practical solutions to achieve positive outcomes for our community.

Endorsements: Angela Jefferson, Tumwater City Council; Kevin McGowan, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools, Brighton Central School District 2023 AASA National Superintendent of the Year. See more at [votemikemcgowan.com](http://votemikemcgowan.com)

#### **Contact**

mikemcgowan1969@gmail.com (360) 464-5393



**Frank  
King**

#### **Elected Experience**

Appointed to vacant Yelm School board position one in July 2024.

#### **Other Professional Experience**

United Parcel Service driver for 9 years, where I served as a CHSP safety co-chair and a shop steward. Proud family-owned small business owner for over a decade.

#### **Education**

Yelm High School graduate (2004).

#### **Community Service**

Active member in the local church and volunteer. Past youth leader in national and international mission trips. Current school board director position 1.

#### **Statement**

I felt compelled to fill the open School Board position in 2024 following a double levy failure. With potential cuts, teacher layoffs, and significant funding reductions threatening our children's future, I wanted to be actively involved in the process. Serving as a Board Director during the 2024-2025 school year highlighted the complexities of public education and vital partnerships among parents, educators, community members, and business owners.

As a father of two in our district and one starting kindergarten, I understand the hardships of navigating today's education system, including reduced staff, limited resources, the State of Washington's agenda and transportation challenges. These issues drive me to advocate for policies that promote student achievement.

As a small business owner, I recognize the economic challenges our community faces without levy support. My experience equips me to manage resources effectively, set realistic budgets, and prioritize essential needs. I believe in empowering parents and advocating for their involvement in education. Fifteen years of supporting my wife's dedication as a teacher in a neighboring district has given me a deep appreciation for the hard work of all educators. Together, we are committed to supporting our schools and standing up for our children's future.

#### **Contact**

frank\_king@ycs.wednet.edu (360) 870-7864  
facebook.com/FrankKingYelmschooldirector1



**No photo  
submitted**

**Ray  
Duncan**

#### **Elected Experience**

No information submitted (N/A).

#### **Other Professional Experience**

Owner and operator of Sasquatch Eco Clean. U.S. Army Veteran (Paralegal Non-Commissioned Officer) with extensive leadership and organizational experience. Former UPS™ Yard Control Supervisor and Insurance Account Representative at State Farm™.

#### **Education**

Pursuing BA in Business Administration (Portland State University, University of Houston)

#### **Community Service**

Active in local community engagement and service projects through Sasquatch Eco Clean. Dedicated to supporting families and youth in Thurston County.

#### **Statement**

As a husband, father to a wonderful six-year-old autistic son, and proud Army veteran, I am deeply invested in the future of our schools and community. I am running for Yelm Community Schools Board Director, Area 1, to ensure every student has the opportunity to thrive.

My 11 years of military service have instilled in me the values of integrity, accountability, and teamwork. As a small business owner and community volunteer, I understand the importance of supporting families, fostering inclusion, and making responsible decisions with public resources.

I am committed to advocating for all students, including those with special needs, and ensuring our schools are safe, welcoming, and equipped for success. I believe in transparent communication, collaboration with parents and educators, and preparing our students for the challenges of tomorrow.

With your support, I will bring strong leadership, practical problem-solving, and a passion for service to the Yelm School Board. Together, we can build an educational environment where every child feels valued and empowered to reach their full potential.

#### **Contact**

duncan.r.c.stephen@gmail.com (803) 847-2045





**Ryan  
Jewell**

#### **Elected Experience**

First time candidate for public office

#### **Other Professional Experience**

Master Builders Association of Pierce County Board of Directors 2019-2022; Superintendent American Container Homes 2010, 2011; Managing Member at Kingdom Builders Construction, LLC 2003-2009, 2012-Present

#### **Education**

Yelm Community Schools, Abeka Homeschool, South Puget Sound Community College (Running Start Program)

#### **Community Service**

Habitat for Humanity; Mary Bridge Festival of Trees volunteer; Worship pastor; Youth group leader; Thurston County Youth Football Coaching Staff

#### **Statement**

What children are taught today shapes what our community looks like tomorrow. I am a product of Yelm Community Schools (YCS) and many core values Yelm was built upon. The people here are loyal, hardworking and generous. We're proud of our town and what we've built together.

There are outside influences that want our schools to be more aligned with an agenda inconsistent with the heart and soul of our beliefs. It's time to get back to basics and focus on the fundamentals of education.

I will stay in close communication with our legislature and encourage the community to stand against bills like HB1296 that recently gutted the parental bill of rights and violated the will of voters. Greater accountability would ensure YCS staff are resourced to prepare students for what's next, whether that be college, civil service, or vocational training.

I don't see three failed levy attempts as a lack of community support, but rather frustration with slipping test scores, declining graduation rates, and a growing cost of living. We need to call for accountability of the district but more importantly Washington State. Our kids deserve a great education and taxpayers deserve leaders that steward their hard-earned money.

#### **Contact**

ry.jewell@gmail.com (360) 790-0501  
www.facebook.com/groups/ryanjewellforyelmschoolboard/



**Debbie  
Edwards**

#### **Elected Experience**

Have held the roles of School Board President, Vice President and Legislative Representative.

#### **Other Professional Experience**

No information submitted

#### **Education**

Regularly attend Washington State School Directors' Association conference and trainings in Open Public Meetings Act, Public Records Act, Educational Equity, and Tribal Education.

#### **Community Service**

Actively involved in Boys and Girls Club of Yelm and Dollars for Scholars. Member of Yelm Rotary.

#### **Statement**

As a longtime Yelm resident, parent, and advocate for our students, I'm running for School Board because I believe our public schools are the heart of our community. When our schools are strong, our entire community thrives. With years of experience serving our schools and supporting families, I understand the challenges we face—academic achievement, staffing shortages, and budget pressures. My background equips me to navigate these issues with steady, informed leadership.

I believe in the power of public education to prepare students for life, work, and citizenship. Our schools must be academically focused, fiscally responsible, and free from political distractions. I will ensure tax dollars directly support students, staff, and classrooms. I'm committed to making thoughtful decisions that keep kids at the center. That means listening, being accessible, and working with transparency.

Parents are essential partners. I fully support their right to be involved in their child's education and will strengthen respectful, open communication. Local control is critical. The best decisions come from within our community—not from one-size-fits-all state mandates.

With your support, I'll bring principled, experienced leadership to the Yelm School Board. *Committed to Kids. Grounded in Community. Ready to Serve.*

#### **Contact**

gdedwards357@gmail.com (360) 894-2812





**Sylvia Sonne  
Roberts**

**Elected Experience**

Appointed as Fire Commissioner Lacey Fire District 3 in 2015. Served as Fire Commissioner from 2015 to present

**Other Professional Experience**

Teacher, Middle School Principal, School District Executive Director Human Resources, Assistant Superintendent for Operations, and Deputy Superintendent

**Education**

Graduated from St. Placid High School, Gonzaga University(B.S.), University of Washington(M.Ed), Seattle Pacific University(Administrative credentials)

**Community Service**

Involved in my grandchildren's school, honorary member of Beta Sigma Phi, and senior citizen outreach

**Statement**

It has been my privilege to serve as your Lacey Fire District 3-position 2 commissioner. I was born and raised in the Olympia/ Lacey area. This community is my home and as such, I care deeply about our community. Representing you on the Board of Fire Commissioners is one way that I can give back to this community I love.

As you Fire Commissioner, I will continue to work collaboratively with my fellow commissioners and administration to insure Lacey Fire is a good steward of your trust. It is critical that our response to your emergency remains at the high level you have come to expect and deserve. In order to maintain this rapid response time, it is essential that we continue to employ caring compassionate staff, are fiscally responsible to the funds you trust us with, and are open and transparent with all.

It truly has been my honor to represent you. I hopefully look forward to continuing to serve you in the future. Please cast your vote for Sylvia Sonne Roberts. Thank you.

**Contact**

Sylvia.roberts54@comcast.net (425) 478-7126



**Melissa  
Gamble**

**Elected Experience**

Appointed as a Lacey Fire Commissioner in 2020-2021. Elected to a 4 year term as a Lacey Fire Commissioner in 2021.

**Other Professional Experience**

Family Practice Physician Assistant since 2006. Currently practicing at Providence Lacey Family Medicine since 2017.

**Education**

University of Washington, Bachelor of Science in Zoology. Pacific University, Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies

**Community Service**

No information submitted

**Statement**

As a lifelong resident of Thurston County, I have chosen to raise my own family here and understand the need for fair, compassionate, strong, and dedicated leaders in elected positions. It has been a privilege to serve as your elected Fire Commissioner for Lacey Fire District 3 over the past 5 years. During this time, I have participated in many critical decisions surrounding our fire district's expansion, training, and budgeting to meet the needs of our growing community. I will continue to make decisions that serve all the citizens of our community while being fiscally responsible and putting Lacey Fire District 3 in the best position for future success.

I ask for your vote to continue serving as a Fire Commissioner for Lacey Fire District 3. Thank you for your continued support.

**Contact**

melissagamble4office@gmail.com (360) 556-3828



Kevin A.  
**Pierce**

**Elected Experience**

No experience running. 26 years of experience providing direct customer support for most of the elected officials in the Washington State Legislature.

**Other Professional Experience**

30 years of experience working with City and State budgets. Decades of providing IT, audiovisual, and technology support. Extensive background in instructing customer service workshops. Completed multiple management and leadership training programs. A career marked by successful collaboration with individuals and organizations to achieve win-win outcomes.

**Education**

Washington State University, Bachelor of Arts

**Community Service**

Former Board Member of Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Thurston County, YMCA, Little Baseball Association, Former President of Thurston County Youth Softball Association.

**Statement**

I bring nearly 40 years of public service, including 35 years in leadership positions and the last decade as the Director of the State agency, Office of Legislative Support Services, in the Washington State Legislature. Now, recently retired, I wish to continue serving our community.

I am committed to transparency and open communication with the public. You deserve to know how your tax dollars are spent and to have a voice in the direction of your fire district. I will work to ensure accountability and foster trust through honest, accessible leadership.

Fire Districts must continue to move forward progressively, adding firefighting staff and other resources when needed to ensure safety. They must also adapt to the demands of modern fire service while continuing to deliver outstanding service that exceeds public expectations.

Drawing on decades of experience managing operations, public budgets, and policy, I'll provide the steady and informed leadership this role requires. I'm proud of the public service work I've provided throughout my career and most of my life and ask for your support to continue that work with dedication and integrity as a Commissioner in East Olympia's Fire Protection District #6.

**Contact**

kapierce11@gmail.com (360) 791-0645

## REMINDER:

Candidate statements are printed exactly as submitted to the Auditor's Office.

These statements are not edited for factual or grammatical accuracy by the Auditor's Office.



**Douglas  
Kilpatrick**

**Elected Experience**

Fire Commissioner, South Bay Fire Protection District 8, 2020 to present.

**Other Professional Experience**

35 years as a licensed engineer with the state of Washington.  
26 years as volunteer firefighter and first responder.

**Education**

BS Environmental Resources Engineering, Humboldt State University.

**Community Service**

Volunteer firefighter, Fire Commissioner, Thurston County Elections worker.

**Statement**

Thank you for the opportunity to represent you as a Fire Commissioner over the past six years. Working cooperatively with the other Commissioners to guide the District has been ever so rewarding. I am proud to say our organization is currently providing the highest levels of life safety and property protection due to the combined work and vision of the Board of Commissioners and the District Administrative Staff.

I have been a member of South Bay Fire for over 30 years and have lived in the district for over 35 years. I was a volunteer firefighter, a shift officer, a battalion chief and assistant chief during my 26 years in active duty. I am proud to call the current staff of firefighters, EMTs, volunteers, administrative support, chief officers and fellow commissioners as my friends and colleagues. I ask for your vote to continue working with this cadre of talented individuals to provide responsive and supportive services to you, the members of our community.

Thank you for your vote.

**Contact**

Kilpatrick4dist8@Comcast.net (360) 280-4259



**Pamela L.  
Long**

**Elected Experience**

I retired from 42-years at Providence St. Peter Hospital and served the past 6 years as a Fire Commissioner with South Bay Fire District.

**Other Professional Experience**

My husband Mark and I have resided in the South Bay area for more than 24 years. We love spending time with our two sons and their beautiful families, and spending time with friends, gardening, playing guitar, and relaxing at our waterfront property.

**Education**

Trained in NFPA 101 Fire and Life Safety, FEMA ICS 100, 200, 700, 800a, Incident Command 300, Hazardous Materials and Waste Management, Emergency Response, Decontamination, OSHA Industrial Hygiene Training, Ergonomics, and Fall Protection.

**Community Service**

No information submitted

**Statement**

I have been honored to represent district taxpayers during my first 6 year term as South Bay Fire Commissioner and would like to continue to support our community in this role. I'll work to see that our Fire Department and first responders have what they need to work effectively and safely so they can continue to put life and property first. That their response times continue to be reviewed and improved. I enjoy collaborating with our team of Commissioners and the Executive Team to assure we are using taxpayer monies wisely and to avoid unnecessary purchases while creating a successful and strong fire department. Thank you for supporting me in this campaign.

**Contact**

mplong1975@gmail.com (360) 791-1164



Dale M.  
Putnam

**Elected Experience**

20 years as Fire Commissioner

**Other Professional Experience**

35 years in state and private management. Baldrige National Quality Award examiner for two years; Washington State Quality Award senior examiner for six years. Presented at national conferences. Taught college course on Management Information Systems and quality improvement and personnel management classes for state government. Had nine papers published in national trade magazines or conference proceedings.

**Education**

Bachelor of Science in Sociology, Master of Business Administration

**Community Service**

Chairman of local Credit Union board of directors for several years. Presently on both church and Providence St. Peter Hospital committees. Previously involved with various youth and community organizations.

**Statement**

I have enjoyed serving the McLane/Black Lake community as a fire commissioner for a number of years. During this time the McLane and Black Lake districts have merged into one. We have had an excellent long-time chief retire and replaced him with a new, equally qualified, chief who is leading the department through these changing times.

The department serves over 16,000 citizens living within the 84 square mile fire district and responded to over 2200 calls in 2024. It provides both fulltime and volunteer personnel with equipment and ongoing training to maintain their skills at a high level. The department also actively participates in the Thurston County Special Operations Rescue Team (SORT) that provides specialized technical rescue services in Thurston and surrounding counties.

For more information about the department, its personnel and activities, please visit the department web page at <https://www.mclanefire.org>

**Contact**

putnadm@comcast.net (360) 866-8172

Question:

**"Should I mail my ballot?  
Or take it to a drop box?"**

Answers:

**Before Tuesday, Oct 28?**

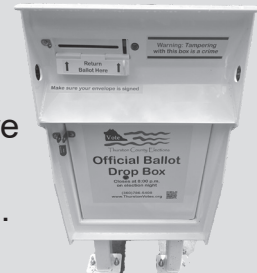
**Use the mail, but** a ballot drop box is still the most secure way to return your ballot. Ballot drop boxes are open until 8 p.m. on Election Day. Ballots must be postmarked by Nov. 4th.



**Tuesday, Oct 28 or later?**

**Use a Ballot Drop Box!**

There are 31 secure drop boxes in Thurston County. Ballot drop boxes are open until 8 p.m. on Election Day, Nov. 4. Details on page 14.





Cary  
**Williams**

**Elected Experience**

I have no prior experience as an elected official.

**Other Professional Experience**

With nearly 10 years experience as a small-business owner and operator, I understand making the most of available resources and putting in the necessary work to ensure projects are completed successfully, on time, and within budget.

**Education**

I graduated with honors from Washington State University with a BA in social sciences and minors in psychology and aging.

**Community Service**

As Vice President of our local grange, we engage in a variety of community-service projects ranging from the funding of youth scholarships to promoting volunteerism and providing a venue for community events.

**Statement**

Our first responders deserve steady, common-sense leadership focused on what matters most: protecting our communities and ensuring the safety of those who protect us. As a candidate for Fire Commissioner, I am committed to keeping politics out of public safety. This role is not about partisanship—it's about service. My priorities are clear:

Support our firefighters and emergency personnel with the training, equipment, and staffing they need. Protect our communities through proactive planning, fire prevention, and rapid response. Respect taxpayers by ensuring every dollar is spent wisely, with transparency and accountability.

I will work collaboratively with other commissioners, public safety experts, and the community as a whole to make data-informed decisions that keep us all safe.

Please join me in putting safety first and making smart choices for today and into the future. I would be honored to earn your vote. Thank you!

**Contact**

carywilliams@gmail.com (253) 344-7491



No photo  
submitted

Eric  
**Klein**

**Elected Experience**

None

**Other Professional Experience**

Partner at Colvin Ranch and SW WA Food Co-Op board member, Downtown Burlingame Business Improvement District Board Member, Former CEO of a Logistics tech company, Retired USN officer and merchant mariner.

**Education**

USMMA - Kings Point, NY graduate with a commission in the US Navy.

**Community Service**

No information submitted

**Statement**

Having a reliable, well maintained, staffed, and supportive Fire Department is a vital importance to Thurston County as the department faces challenges with aging infrastructure and I hope to help keep track and improve things for the future of Thurston County.

**Contact**

eric96k@icloud.com (360) 339-5744





**Meredith  
Hutchins**

**Elected Experience**

No information submitted

**Other Professional Experience**

No information submitted

**Education**

No information submitted

**Community Service**

No information submitted

**Statement**

I am running for re-election as a Fire Commissioner for District 13. I am an active member of The Thurston County Fire Commissioners Association. I also serve as a board member on TCOMM – 911 Communications.

I am a practicing attorney and I spent a number of years as Senior Counsel for the Washington Attorney General. Post retirement I joined a private practice firm and also served as a board member for Thurston County Volunteer Legal Services. I appreciate live entertainment and spent a number of years on Washington Center for the Performing Arts board.

As a district resident and commissioner, I appreciate and thank you for the community support that Griffin Fire has received. We have been able to increase our staffing level so that we have firefighters and EMTs working 24/7. We received approval to have one of our aid units fully fitted so that, if necessary, we are able to transport our residents to a local hospital. We have a close relationship with Griffin School, Pre-school and the Griffin Neighborhood Association.

**Contact**

bzcican@comcast.net (360) 701-4852



**Diana  
Anaya-McMaster**

**Elected Experience**

It has been a privilege to serve as your Fire Commissioner since my appointment in 2017. I have been a resident of this area since 1991. For the past 30 years I have been active as a Volunteer Firefighter/EMT for the Bald Hills community. I am certified as a Washington State Instructor 1 & 2 and am an EMT Instructor/Evaluator for Thurston County.

**Other Professional Experience**

No information submitted

**Education**

I have a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (R.N.), and a Master's degree in Healthcare Administration.

**Community Service**

For the past 30 years I have been active as a Volunteer Firefighter/EMT for the Bald Hills community.

**Statement**

My goal, as your commissioner, is to ensure the department stays on target by finding better ways to meet our district's needs. I will work to be a good steward of our budget and provide careful financial management to ensure that quality services are provided for our community. District 17 is a volunteer department composed of individuals. I believe strongly in providing support, education and training for these men and women who give up their time to this community. I believe in our community. I am committed to continuing the work and service our area needs to meet all emergency situations.

**Contact**

admin@baldhillsfire.org (360) 894-2517



**Jonathan A.  
Sprouffske**

**Elected Experience**

Elected Fire Commissioner for SE Thurston Fire Authority in 2007, 2013, and 2019.

**Other Professional Experience**

Attorney/Partner with Connolly Tacon & Meserve.

**Education**

Seattle University School of Law, J.D.; Saint Martin's University, B.A.

**Community Service**

American Cancer Society - Relay For Life; Gateway Rotary Club; Scouts BSA Troop 9307

**Statement**

Jonathan Sprouffske, a long-term resident of Rainier, has consistently demonstrated his commitment to improving the community. He has served with the SE Thurston Fire Authority for over 26 years, first as a firefighter/EMT and now as Fire Commissioner. He has personally witnessed the challenges facing this growing district.

In addition to his experience, Jonathan holds a Bachelor's Degree in Business Management from Saint Martin's College and a Juris Doctorate from Seattle University School of Law. These have provided a foundation from which he can continue to lead the Board of Fire Commissioners. Jonathan was first elected as Commissioner in 2007. He has served as Chair of the SE Thurston Fire Authority Board of Fire Commissioners since 2012. He has continued to work to make the department more efficient and improve the level of service to our community.

Jonathan enjoys serving the community that gave him so much support growing up.

**Contact**

jsprouffske@gmail.com (360) 446-2222



**Stewart  
Kunkel**

**Elected Experience**

SETFA fire commissioner since 2007

**Other Professional Experience**

Carrier Firefighter for 27 years, Breathing air compressor and Oxygen generator technician, Tractor mechanic, Crew/shift manager for a large grocer.

**Education**

Mercer Island High School, Bellevue Community College.

**Community Service**

Volunteer Firefighter for the city of Black Diamond, Watch D.O.G.S., School chaperone.

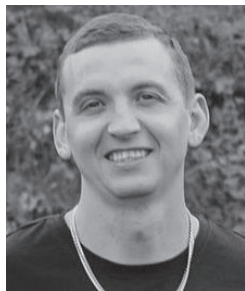
**Statement**

Thank you for taking a moment to read what I am about. I am a husband, father, and firefighter. My wife and I have been married for 35 years. Our four children have all grown up here in Yelm and are graduates of Yelm High School. Our family has been proud to call Yelm our home for the past 22 years. I have also had the privilege to serve as your SETFA fire commissioner since 2007.

I would like to serve you again as your board works through the needs of our growing community and the stresses that will be placed on our services to you. Several projects, notably the Lake Lawrence Fire Station project, remain incomplete. I would appreciate your vote and support as we continue to work on a fire department that meets the needs of our community.

**Contact**

Kskunkel@fairpoint.net (360) 701-1177



**Chris  
White**

#### **Elected Experience**

Currently serving as Fire Commissioner Position No. 2.

#### **Other Professional Experience**

Current EMT/Firefighter

#### **Education**

No information submitted

#### **Community Service**

As a proud member of the Firefighter's Union, I have always made it a priority to stay actively involved in community service. Each year, I dedicate time to ensuring that children receive warm coats. One of the projects I'm most proud of was leading the effort to restore a long-abandoned ballpark in our area with your local firefighters. Thanks to the hard work and dedication, that field is now alive again—with little league teams back on the diamond and families able to gather to support them.

#### **Statement**

I am honored to serve as your Fire Commissioner, appointed by the board following a resignation. My service to West Thurston began over nine years ago when I started as a volunteer firefighter. That opportunity grew into a full-time career with the West Thurston Regional Fire Authority, where I proudly served this community for many years.

I made the difficult decision to leave West Thurston to further my education, with the clear goal of returning in a new capacity to serve and support the community I care deeply about. When the opportunity to rejoin the district as a Fire Commissioner became available, I was proud to step up and give back in this leadership role.

As a former volunteer and career firefighter, I bring real-world experience, firsthand knowledge of our district's strengths and challenges, and a deep respect for the needs of both our responders and our community.

I respectfully ask for your vote so I can continue working to ensure strong, effective, and community-centered fire and emergency services for all who live and work in the West Thurston region.

#### **Contact**

chris.white@wtrfa.org (360) 480-4931



**Vernon  
Merryman**

#### **Elected Experience**

No information submitted

#### **Other Professional Experience**

No information submitted

#### **Education**

No information submitted

#### **Community Service**

No information submitted

#### **Statement**

My name is Vernon Merryman and I'm honored to be a candidate for Fire Commissioner. As a retired veteran and public servant, I've spent my life serving our great nation, state and community with integrity, accountability and a deep respect for public trust. I believe in responsible leadership, leadership that protects the safety of our community while being wise stewards of hard earned taxpayer dollars. I understand what it means to work within a budget, make tough decisions and find solutions without asking for more from our hard working families.

I'm committed to maintaining strong emergency services without raising taxes. I will prioritize efficiency and ensure every dollar spent directly supports emergency response, training and equipment. Our community deserves excellence and we can achieve that through careful planning and fiscal discipline.

I bring a steady hand, real world experience and a lifelong dedication to public service. I'm not seeking this role to start a new career. I'm seeking it to give back, to serve with purpose and to protect what we've all worked hard to build.

Thank you, and I humbly ask for your support.

#### **Contact**

merrymanv@hotmail.com (360) 520-9494



Robert W.  
**Scott**

No photo  
submitted

**Elected Experience**

No information submitted

**Other Professional Experience**

No information submitted

**Education**

No information submitted

**Community Service**

No information submitted

**Statement**

No information submitted

**Contact**

Robert.scott@westthurstonfire.org (360) 239-7945



Thomas  
**Culleton**

**Elected Experience**

I would like to share with you my experience that I believe will help support my ability to serve as your Fire Commissioner. I have held the position of Fire Commissioner since 2019.

**Other Professional Experience**

I have been in management for over 30 years.

**Education**

I attended Western Washington University where I studied Political Science and Environmental Science.

**Community Service**

I am currently on the Board of Trustees supporting the Scott Lake Community. I would like to use my experience to continue to advance and improve the operations in support of our community needs.

**Statement**

My name is Thomas Culleton, and I am seeking your vote for Fire Commissioner. I will bring to the position over 30 years of experience in operations and planning, in addition to ten years' experience in the fire service, and 5 years as a Fire Commissioner. I have a successful history in budget management and cost controls, while meeting high standards of performance. I want to be your voice for the continued improvement of service and response time supporting our community needs. As a thirty-year resident of Scott Lake and our Fire Authority, I have community ties that will provide a strong base to be an effective commissioner. Please vote for Thomas Culleton for West Thurston Fire Commissioner Position 1. Thank you for your consideration.

**Contact**

thomas2622@live.com (360) 705-2341



Tony  
Barrett

No photo  
submitted

**Elected Experience**

No information submitted

**Other Professional Experience**

No information submitted

**Education**

No information submitted

**Community Service**

No information submitted

**Statement**

We moved to Tanglewilde in 1993. I was attracted to the community and the facilities in the community — the park and pool especially. Like many Tanglewilde residents, I took advantage of the facilities but was too busy working and raising my children to actively participate in their operation. Since retiring in 2015, I've been actively involved with the Tanglewilde Recreation Center and with the Park and Recreation District.

We've made a number of significant improvements in the park in recent years — new safety bark, new and refurbished equipment, new or refurbished benches and tables, and at the pool — new pool decking and a dining area and a new chlorination system.

With your support I look forward to continuing that work.

**Contact**

tony.barrett1080@gmail.com (907) 903-5429



Brandyn  
Lindsey

No photo  
submitted

**Elected Experience**

No information submitted

**Other Professional Experience**

No information submitted

**Education**

No information submitted

**Community Service**

No information submitted

**Statement**

No information submitted

**Contact**

patriotsneverforget@protonmail.com (805) 509-6191





**Steve  
Pogue**

**Elected Experience**

Tanglewilde Parks and Recreation District No. 1, Parks and Recreation Commissioner, Position No. 3, 2023-Present

**Other Professional Experience**

Many years in the construction supply industry. A few years doing legal administrative work. 2 Years in Real Estate. United States Army/Operation: Iraqi Freedom veteran.

**Education**

Bachelor of Science, Business Administration; California Polytechnic State University (Cal Poly) San Luis Obispo

**Community Service**

Tanglewilde Pool – Making repairs, cleaning, painting, installing benches, etc.

**Statement**

My family and I moved to the Tanglewilde community in 2022. One of the things that attracted us to this area was the pool and park. After some research, I learned that they were run by the community, so I made sure I got involved. Using my expertise in lighting fixtures, I was able to help the TRC by securing new lighting fixtures at factory pricing, and volunteering to install them in the pool house. This saved the community thousands of dollars. Since then, my family and I have continued to volunteer our time and sweat helping to get the pool ready to open each year.

Late in 2023, I volunteered to become a Commissioner to further help the community. There was a steep learning curve I didn't anticipate, but I pressed on and worked through it. I continue learning new things to ensure I and the Commission do things right. I enjoy working closely with our awesome TRC board members and volunteering with our great neighbors to maintain the park and pool.

Our wonderful and unique park and pool have been running beautifully. I look forward to helping that continue. Thank you for your vote.

**Contact**

steve4tanglewilde@gmail.com (408) 762-4688



**No photo  
submitted**

**Jerome  
Cruz**

**Elected Experience**

No information submitted

**Other Professional Experience**

No information submitted

**Education**

No information submitted

**Community Service**

No information submitted

**Statement**

No information submitted

**Contact**

Jeromejcruz@gmail.com (360) 972-4607



Michael J.  
**Murphy**

**Elected Experience**

No information submitted

**Other Professional Experience**

No information submitted

**Education**

No information submitted

**Community Service**

No information submitted

**Statement**

I have served in a vacant commissioner position for almost a year. I want to continue to be a commissioner to ensure that your levy money is used efficiently and that it is accounted for. Commissioners do not spend levy money but only authorize payment to the TRC board for the purpose of running and maintaining the Two Tanglewilde Community Parks and the Pool.

My wife and I have lived in Tanglewilde since 1993. We purchased our house, in a small part because of the community pool and parks. Our two children and now the grandkids have all learned to swim in the Tanglewilde pool. Both the parks and the pool facilities are available for use because of our dedicated volunteers. I am retired now and want to give my time and support back to this community.

I would like to continue to serve the residents of Tanglewilde as one of your commissioners.

Thank you for your support, Michael Murphy, candidate for Commissioner Position 4.

**Contact**

scorpion14c@comcast.net (360) 801-5756



**No photo  
submitted**

Alexis  
**Wallace**

**Elected Experience**

No information submitted

**Other Professional Experience**

No information submitted

**Education**

No information submitted

**Community Service**

No information submitted

**Statement**

No information submitted

**Contact**

Pct119@tutamail.com (360) 878-9414



Pete  
**Duranceau**

**Elected Experience**

Two terms as Grand Mound Cemetery commissioner

**Other Professional Experience**

Classroom educator for 31 years

**Education**

Master's degree in curriculum and instruction

**Community Service**

No information submitted

**Statement**

Washington's open spaces specifically cemetery's are a sacred place for family's to lay their loved ones to rest. These spaces need to be cared for with the mindset that these places need to be maintained with due respect for the family's and community's. I want to ensure that Grand Mound cemetery is maintained with due respect to the family's and community. Thank You, Pete

**Contact**

duranceaup@gmail.com (360) 789-4996



Tracie  
**Choate**

**Elected Experience**

No information submitted

**Other Professional Experience**

No information submitted

**Education**

No information submitted

**Community Service**

No information submitted

**Statement**

I am honored to currently serve as the Chair of the Board of Commissioners for Yelm Cemetery District #2, where I have worked to uphold the dignity and stewardship of one of our community's most meaningful spaces. As a long-time Yelm resident and small business owner, I care deeply about preserving our local heritage while planning responsibly for the future.

In addition to my work with the cemetery district, I bring extensive leadership experience from running a successful real estate firm to serving as the 2024 President of the Thurston County REALTORS® Association. Throughout my career, I've also contributed to several other community-based organizations, always focused on service, transparency, and meaningful progress.

I'm running for re-election to Position #1 because I believe our cemetery should reflect the values of the people it represents—respect, remembrance, and community. I remain committed to protecting this sacred ground with thoughtful planning and continued community engagement.

Thank you for your support.

**Contact**

tracie@yelmcmemetery.com (253) 209-8784



Lisa

## Declercque

### Elected Experience

Congregational Church Secretary Board Member; Psi Chi Board Member; Architecture Control Committee Board Member

### Other Professional Experience

Several years experience working in public service

### Education

B.A. in Psychology and Spanish, Western Oregon University; Ed. S. degree from Lewis & Clark College

### Community Service

For a few years, I have volunteered with my family for food banks in OR and WA. Volunteer, equine therapy program for Veterans. Volunteerism as delegate Mrs. Washington County America 2023: I brought awareness to platforms of 'spreading kindness' and grief support by co-facilitating free grief group for children. Additional volunteerism shown throughout the years- small Service Scholarship Recipient-Pacific University Psy. D. program.

### Statement

The position of Cemetery Commissioner is an excellent fit for my passion for serving the community. Native to the Pacific Northwest, I have a steady heart for local volunteerism. I earned a Psychology and Spanish degree from Western Oregon University with honors. I then graduated with an Educational Specialist in School Psychology degree from Lewis & Clark College. I have also worked in public service like many of my family members who worked as a Minister, College President, School Secretary, Teachers, Psychotherapist, Nurse, and County Director. I am running for Cemetery Commission because I want to give back to my and my family's community and people who are grieving, remembering and honoring the legacy of their loved ones. It is with my years of experience in, leadership in public service work and volunteerism that I hope to add my support to benefit the Yelm Cemetery.

### Contact

Lisdeclercque@gmail.com (503) 858-9155



Jesse

## Kellems

### Elected Experience

Served on Headstart Policy Council, PTO&Booster Club Volunteer Coordinator, boards including the Yelm Chamber of Commerce, CFYCS, YCS1C, Yelm Historic Preservation Commission&Parks Advisory Committee. I've also been a Graduate Yelm&YHS Business Partner.

### Other Professional Experience

A dedicated Real Estate Broker for 9 years, currently work at Yelm Windermere Real Estate, assisting clients with their property needs in the community.

### Education

Proud alumnus of Yelm Schools, graduated from Yelm High School in 1998, which provided a strong foundation for my professional career.

### Community Service

I actively contribute on various boards, OneNet Yelm&YRBN. Born and raised in Yelm with deep family roots, I'm married with three children.

### Statement

My name is Jesse Kellems, and I'm running for Cemetery District No. 2 (Yelm) – Cemetery Commissioner, Position No. 2. As a lifelong resident, my roots run deep in this community. My family has been here for generations, and I truly understand the importance of our cemetery as a place of remembrance, respect, and peace. It's a sacred space, integral to Yelm's heritage.

I've been a Real Estate Broker for 9 years, and work at Yelm Windermere Real Estate. This experience has given me valuable insight into property management, community needs, and collaborative problem-solving. My past service on the Yelm Historic Preservation Commission, Parks Advisory Committee, and other boards highlights my commitment to preserving our community's heritage and ensuring well-maintained public spaces. I also have experience as a PTO/Booster Club Volunteer Coordinator, demonstrating my ability to organize resources efficiently.

I believe in transparent governance and responsible stewardship. My goal as a Cemetery Commissioner is to ensure the Yelm Cemetery remains a dignified and beautiful resting place, accessible and well-cared for. I will work diligently to maintain the grounds, uphold policies, and listen to community needs. With my dedication and experience, I'm ready to serve. I would love your vote.

### Contact

jessekellems@yahoo.com (360) 280-4398



Angela  
Taylor

**Elected Experience**  
None

**Other Professional Experience**  
As Interim Business Development Director for the Master Builders Association and 13 years with COMC, I bring decades of leadership experience in human resources, accounting, and family business operations.

**Education**  
Sammamish High graduate (1996) and English major from Northwest University (2008)

**Community Service**  
I have proudly served my community through roles with Feed Seattle, the campaign to build Safeco Field, Salvation Army, and as a dedicated Girl Scout leader. I've held key volunteer roles with Thurston County Democrats, Yelm Community Schools and Citizens for Yelm. Gained Endorsement from Thurston County Democrats.

**Statement**  
I'm running for Yelm Cemetery Commissioner to ensure our community's final resting places are maintained with *transparency, respect, and honor*. As Interim Business Development Director for the Master Builders Association, I bring deep experience in budgeting, planning, and public accountability. I've spent over 30 years assisting with my family's small business and have gained vast management experience in my professional endeavors, with additional expertise in human resources and accounting—skills essential to managing cemetery operations with *care* and fiscal *responsibility*.

I believe in building strong, connected communities with a sense of *commitment* and *service*. I've served with the Safeco Field campaign, Feed Seattle, Salvation Army, Girl Scouts, and Cub Scouts.

Locally, I've served as Booster Secretary at Yelm Middle School and Booster Chair at Fort Stevens Elementary. Currently, I am the Volunteer Coordinator for Citizens for Yelm and manage Parents of Yelm and Yelm United. Additionally, I serve on the Yelm Community Schools Strategic Planning Committee and volunteer with Yelm Rotary.

Every life deserves to a *dignified* resting place. As Cemetery Commissioner, I will work to preserve the *integrity* of our cemetery, and the land it rests on, with *compassionate* leadership, *transparent* communication, and deep *respect* for Yelm's history.

**Contact**  
VoteAngelaTaylor@gmail.com      (425) 647-4126



Kim  
Harmon

**Elected Experience**  
No information submitted

**Other Professional Experience**  
No information submitted

**Education**  
No information submitted

**Community Service**  
No information submitted

**Statement**  
No information submitted

**Contact**  
kim@yelmcmemetery.com      (360) 970-9808  
yelmcmemetery.com



Did you receive elections mail for someone else?

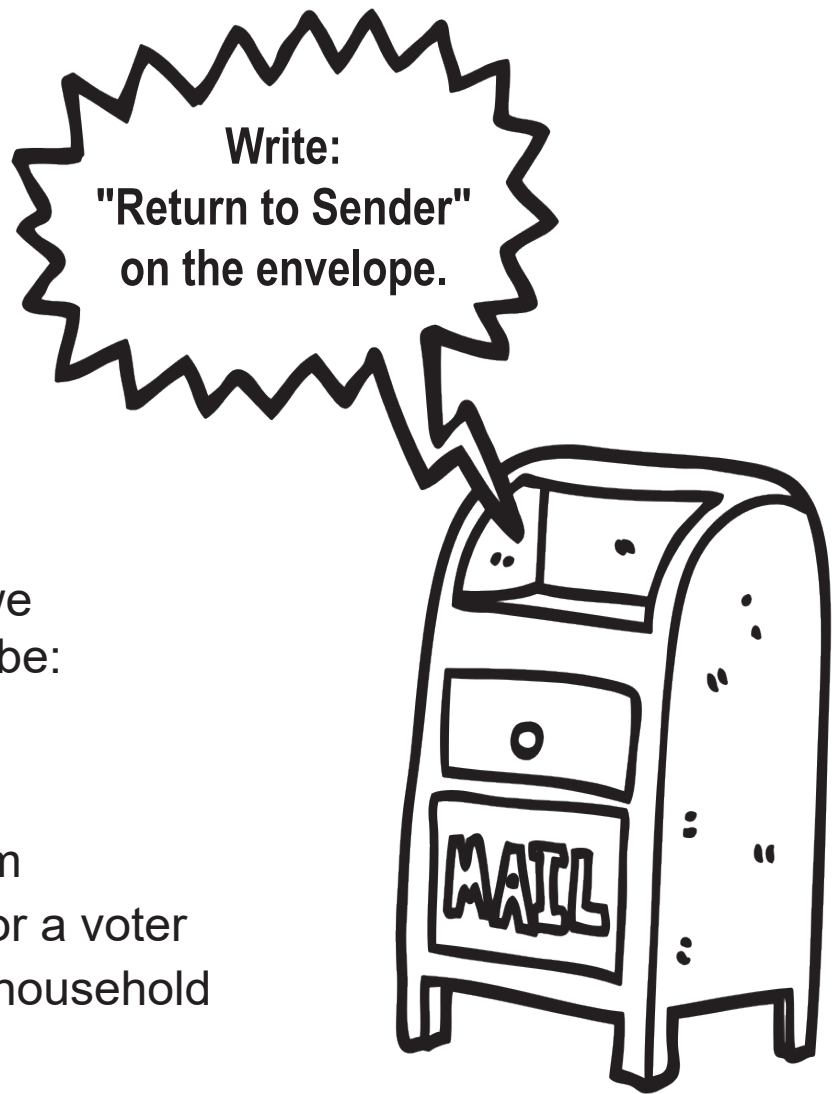
**SEND IT BACK TO US!**

## **Help safeguard elections in Thurston County!**

What is Elections Mail?

Elections mail is anything we send out to voters. It could be:

- A ballot
- A confirmation card
- A signature update form
- Anything you receive for a voter that ISN'T you or your household



**When you return elections mail addressed to someone else, you help us keep the voter rolls up to date!**

Questions? We're here to help! Contact our office: 360.786.5408 or [Elections@co.thurston.wa.us](mailto:Elections@co.thurston.wa.us). [ThurstonWAVotes.gov](http://ThurstonWAVotes.gov).

Question:

## "Should I mail my ballot? Or take it to a drop box?"

Answers:

### **Before Tuesday, Oct 28?**

**Use the mail, but** a ballot drop box is still the most secure way to return your ballot. Ballot drop boxes are open until 8 p.m. on Election Day. Ballots must be postmarked by Nov. 4th.



### **Tuesday, Oct 28 or later?**

#### **Use a Ballot Drop Box!**

There are 31 secure drop boxes in Thurston County. Ballot drop boxes are open until 8 p.m. on Election Day, Nov. 4. Details on page 14.



## Introduction to Local Measures

The following pages contain local measures certified to appear on the November 4, 2025 General Election ballot.

For measures in the Local Voters' Pamphlet, the legislative authority of the jurisdiction placing the measure on the ballot is required to formally appoint committees to prepare statements advocating the approval and rejection of the measure. If the jurisdiction is unable to make such appointments, the Thurston County Auditor advertises for such appointments.

The Auditor's Office encourages you to thoroughly review all statements and seek additional information from the jurisdictions, the appointed citizens' committees, and the local and regional media.

City of Olympia

Proposition No. 1

Citizen Initiative – Fair Wages, Fair Schedules

The Olympia City Council passed Resolution No. M-2633 concerning an initiative to the voters.

Shall the Olympia Municipal Code be amended to add a new chapter titled an “Ordinance Concerning Labor Standards for Certain Employees” to establish labor standards for work scheduling, a minimum wage, a safe workplace environment, and other labor regulations.

Should this initiative ordinance be approved?

Yes

No

Explanatory Statement

Proposition 1 is a citizen initiative. This initiative proposes to enact an ordinance to add a new chapter in the Olympia Municipal Code. The ordinance would establish labor standards relating to work scheduling, shift notification, time between work shifts, a minimum wage, a safe workplace environment, notice and posting of rights, prohibiting retaliation, and providing for enforcement, fines, and administrative rulemaking.

Large employers with more than 500 employees must pay \$20.00 per hour, which may change each year. Medium and small employers shall have a multiyear phase-in period for their hourly minimum wage. Hourly pay of medium employers is reduced from \$20.00 by \$2.00 per hour, that will adjust annually. Small employers hourly minimum wage shall be \$3.00 less than \$20.00, which will decrease annually by \$0.50 cents each year on January 1 until the reduction is zero.

Employers are defined in three classes. “Large Employer” has more than 500 employees regardless where those employees are employed. “Medium employer” has not more than 500 employees. “Small employer” has 15 or fewer employees.

Explanatory statement prepared by: Mark Barber, Olympia City Attorney

See complete resolution text at [ThurstonWaVotes.gov](http://ThurstonWaVotes.gov)

District Contact

Stacey Ray, Assistant City Manager  
sray@ci.olympia.wa.us

Debbie Sullivan, Assistant City Manager  
dsulliva@ci.olympia.wa.us

For Committee

vwgirl78@icloud.com

Jenny Balentine

Adam Hardaway

Kent Markley

Against Committee

monroepointdesign@gmail.com

Ruthann Goularte

Mindy Roberts

Cheryl Selby

## Argument For

*Every worker in Olympia deserves dignity, stability, and a fair wage for their labor.* The Workers' Bill of Rights is a community-driven step toward stronger, more predictable standards for working people. It promotes respect on the job, more control over schedules for working people, and wages that reflect the cost of living in our region.

When working people do well, everyone benefits. Families gain stability, small businesses see stronger retention, and the local economy becomes more resilient. This initiative helps ensure that people who live and work here—whether in food service, grocery, health care, or any other sector—have the tools they need to build secure, healthy lives.

Many other cities have passed similar policies, and the results speak for themselves: less turnover, better morale, and stronger communities. This is not an experiment—it's a proven path forward, and Olympia has the opportunity to lead once again.

Proposition 1 is endorsed by dozens of nonprofits, small businesses, and community organizations as well as local leaders including Superintendent of Public Instruction Chris Reykdal, Olympia City Council members Jim Cooper, Clark Gilman, and Robert Vanderpool, local unions including UFCW 367 (grocery and retail workers) WFSE 443 (state employees), and the Thurston Mason Lewis Central Labor Council. Add to that the over 13,000 people like you who signed the petition in favor of this initiative. *Help us raise the standards for working people across our region. Vote Yes to support fairness, opportunity, and a stronger, more just local economy—for everyone.*

## Rebuttal of For Argument

Olympia's character thrives on small businesses and nonprofits that provide jobs, services, and opportunity. Proposition 1 threatens all of that—cutting good-paying jobs, weakening the tax base, and driving jobs elsewhere. Over 6,000 of the "13,000" petition signatures were ineligible, and a majority of the City Council opposes it. This special-interest measure unfairly targets local employers and puts our economy at risk. Vote "No" to protect Olympia's jobs, services, and future from this untested experiment.

## Argument Against

Olympia can't afford Proposition 1. Our families are already facing high prices, new taxes, and rising costs. *Proposition 1 will make things worse.* It creates unclear, complicated rules with no funding to carry them out. This will raise the cost of housing, groceries, childcare, healthcare, and other essentials, hurting families and seniors on fixed incomes. We understand low-wage workers are struggling, but this is not the right solution.

*Proposition 1 doesn't address urgent issues like affordable housing or homelessness.* Instead, it adds costs and rules for nonprofits, healthcare providers, and small businesses, many still recovering from the pandemic. Charities, restaurants, and childcare centers will face expenses and regulations that threaten their ability to stay open. Its rigid scheduling rules apply to all employers, making it harder for emergency services, seasonal workers, and flexible workplaces to meet community needs.

The measure is poorly written, leaves many unanswered questions, and allows lawsuits without a formal complaint. Even responsible employers could face expensive legal battles, discouraging hiring and local investment. *Worse, it was written by organizers outside Olympia, without real input from city leaders, workers, nonprofits, or small businesses.* If it passes, city leaders cannot change it to fit local needs. With no clear plan for implementation, it will harm our economy and reduce funding for police, fire, housing, and parks.

We need real solutions that strengthen our community—not more bureaucracy, higher costs, and more lawsuits. *Please join nonprofits, community leaders, and small businesses in voting No on Proposition 1.*

## Rebuttal of Against Argument

Opponents say they "understand" struggling workers—but Olympia needs action, not platitudes. Proposition 1 was crafted with local workers to ensure fair wages and predictable schedules, giving families stability while protecting small businesses through a phased rollout. It's flexible, allowing emergency services and seasonal employers to adapt. Economic data shows that when workers thrive, communities prosper. Don't be misled by fear. Vote Yes for dignity, resilience, and a stronger Olympia built for everyone.

Yelm Community Schools

**Proposition No. 1**

**Replacement Educational Programs and Operations Levy**

The Board of Directors of Yelm Community Schools adopted Resolution No. 09-24-25, authorizing a replacement levy to continue support for educational programs. This proposition would authorize the District to levy the following excess taxes, replacing an expired levy, on taxable property within the District, for essential educational programs, extracurricular activities, and operations (including, but not limited to, teachers, arts, nurses, counselors, classified staff, paraeducators, safety, graduation readiness, technology, athletics, facilities, curriculum, training):

Collection Year	Estimated Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value	Maximum Levy Amount
2026	\$1.30	\$8,955,000
2027	\$1.30	\$9,495,000

all as provided in Resolution No. 09-24-25.

Should this proposition be approved?

Yes  
No

See complete resolution text at [ThurstonWaVotes.gov](http://ThurstonWaVotes.gov)

**Explanatory Statement**

This proposition authorizes Yelm Community Schools to replace the educational programs and operations levy that expired at the end of calendar year 2024. The levy will be used to pay expenses of essential educational programs and operations that are not fully funded by the State, including, but not limited to, certificated classroom teachers, certificated specialists (art, P.E., music, drama, library, technology), office support, para-educators, supervision, nurses, counselors, social workers, classified staff, school resource officers and safety staff, graduation and career readiness, technology, athletics, extracurricular activities, facilities, curriculum materials and professional development.

The proposed two-year replacement levy would authorize the collection of taxes to provide up to \$8,955,000 in 2026 and \$9,495,000 in 2027. The levy rate required to produce these amounts is estimated to be \$1.30 per \$1,000 of assessed value. The exact levy rate and amounts to be collected may be adjusted based upon the limitations imposed by State law at the time of the levy. Exemptions from taxes may be available, call your county assessor for more information.

Prepared by:  
Foster Garvey P.C.  
Lee Marchisio, Special Counsel  
1111 Third Avenue, Suite 3000  
Seattle, Washington 98101  
[lee.marchisio@foster.com](mailto:lee.marchisio@foster.com)  
(206) 447-6264

**District Contact**  
Jennifer Carrougher, Chief of Finance and Operations  
[jennifer\\_carrougher@ycs.wednet.edu](mailto:jennifer_carrougher@ycs.wednet.edu)  
Christopher Woods, Superintendent and Secretary to the Board  
[christopher\\_woods@ycs.wednet.edu](mailto:christopher_woods@ycs.wednet.edu)

**For Committee**  
[jwillis@veteranownedmarketing.com](mailto:jwillis@veteranownedmarketing.com)  
Judson Willis  
Tracie Choate

**Against Committee**  
[no2taxpoverty@gmail.com](mailto:no2taxpoverty@gmail.com)  
Martin Miller



## Argument For

### *Yes on the Levy: Protect Our Children from State Funding Failures*

Washington's Constitution declares it the state's paramount duty to provide for the education of all children. Yet despite years of promises, the state has failed to fully fund basic education. This levy is the lifeline our community must rely on now, because neglect cannot come at the expense of our children's futures.

### *State Funding Falls Short—Local Support Keeps Schools Strong*

Legislative shortfalls mean Yelm schools rely on local levies to fund vital programs like special education, arts, athletics, counseling, and classroom teachers. Without this levy, devastating cuts will directly impact learning and well-being.

### *This Levy Is the Last Line of Defense*

Some question the need for levies or suspect waste, but 13% of our budget comes from voter-approved levies because state funding is incomplete. Levy funds are audited and must be spent as approved by voters. Without them, essential programs, services, and teachers will be lost. Passing this levy protects the opportunities our children deserve while we continue holding the state accountable.

### *Vote Yes to Secure Yelm's Future*

Strong public schools protect property values and attract families. Vote Yes to safeguard Yelm schools, protect our future, and give every student the chance to succeed.

## Argument Against

On top of the largest tax increase in state history the Yelm School district has opted to ask for even more. There was plenty of money for large administrative salary increases. There state has frittered away the 9 billion additional taxes they shook us down for and want more. This is unsustainable.

The school system is failing by every measure. Reading, math and science results are dismal despite the highest cost per student west of the Mississippi. We pay twice what Idaho pays for much worse results. I question educational priorities and am astounded at the arrogance shown to parents.

The cost of living in Washington is through the roof. Less than 12% of married 30 year olds own a home. Down from 50% when I was 30. Additional taxes on property will obviously increase the cost of rent and home ownership. The kids graduating today will likely not be able to afford to own a home. Homelessness is up 265% the last decade. The cost of everything will have to go up. Businesses pay property tax too and have to pass increases along to consumers.

It's time to draw a line. Vote no! No to tax poverty.

## Rebuttal of For Argument

Don't be fooled by punitive threats. Administrator's raises were approved knowing full well there was no money to pay for them. The state reimbursement formula allows \$95,000 per administrator, the rest made up with levy funds. The Chief of Finance, who spoke passionately about the need for this levy makes about \$200,000 with her new \$10,000 raise. This leaves \$105,000 for the levy to cover.

This isn't about the children.

## Rebuttal of Against Argument

Investing in Yelm schools is investing in our community's future. This levy provides 13% of critical funding for special education, programs, and educators the state won't pay for. Without it, cuts will force loss of local control and essential services. Yelm Community Schools can only stay local and strong if we pass this levy. Our children's education is on the line and this funding must be secured. Vote Yes to protect our schools and community.

Thurston County Fire Protection District 12

Proposition No. 1

Authorizing Restoration of Previous Property Tax Levy

The Board of Fire Commissioners of Thurston County Fire Protection District #12 adopted Resolution No. 2025-01 concerning a proposition to restore the District’s regular property tax levy. This proposition would restore the regular property tax levy to an amount not to exceed \$1.50 per \$1,000 assessed valuation and set the limit factor for calculating levy rates in 2026 through 2031 at 106% (but not to exceed a rate of \$1.50).

Revenues would fund fire protection, prevention, and emergency medical services, including maintenance, operation and replacement costs. The maximum permitted levy amount for 2031 would become the base for computing levy limits after this measure’s expiration.

Should this proposition be:

Approved

Rejected

See complete resolution text at [ThurstonWaVotes.gov](https://ThurstonWaVotes.gov)

District Contact

Andrew Schaffran, Fire Chief  
Andrewschaffran@tcfd12.org

Nijah Ahmed, Office Manager  
Nijaha@tcfd12.org

For Committee

Committee for Thurston County Fire Protection District #12  
carywilliams@gmail.com

Cary Williams

Bob Bacon

Chato Salisbury

Against Committee

After recruitment attempts, no person in the jurisdiction contacted the Auditor to write a statement against the ballot measure.

Explanatory Statement

The Board of Commissioners of Fire District #12, serving the citizens of Tenino, Gibson Valley Skookumchuck and surrounding areas, is placing a multi-year lid lift proposition on the November 4, 2025 ballot. The District's current levy rate is inadequate to support continuing levels of service. Approval would allow the District to maintain current levels of emergency fire protection and prevention and emergency medical services, repair or replace aging vehicles, and support an operational reserve account as recommended by the state auditor.

Proposition No. 1 will authorize District restoration of the regular property tax levy to the maximum statutory rate of \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value for collection in 2026 and set the limit factor for calculating annual levy rates at up to 106% for the next five years (2026-2031). The 2026 levy amount would become the base for computing levy limits and will be used to calculate subsequent levy limits.

Rejection of this proposition may necessitate reductions in services and increased response times.

Explanatory Statement Prepared By:  
Charles H. Houser, III Budd Bay Law P.S.

Argument For

Proposition No. 1 restores the regular property tax levy up to \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. It applies for a 6-year period from 2026 through 2031, with a limit factor of up to 106% annual increases, not exceeding \$1.50. Funds will support firefighter and EMT staffing, fire engines, training, safety equipment, and maintenance. It continues funding for emergency fire protection, prevention programs, and operational reserve as recommended by the state auditor.

This is a current tax, but the rate has dropped to \$1.21 due to growth and changes in property values. Fire service expenses, equipment costs, and labor costs are increasing faster than the revenue growth cap imposed by state law. Approval allows for hiring one additional full-time firefighter or EMT and the replacement of aging equipment.

If the proposition fails, possible outcomes include reductions in service levels, longer response times for emergencies, and deferred maintenance with an inability to replace critical equipment. Even at \$1.50, District 12’s rate will remain below that of comparable districts. A yes vote ensures 24/7 staffing, modern equipment, and improve emergency response. It protects the safety and property of all community members. Your levy dollars fund the people and tools that protect our homes and families.

This proposition maintains and restores vital funding for our fire district. A Yes vote ensures we can continue providing high-quality emergency fire and EMS services for our community. Vote Yes for Public Safety.

Argument Against

There is no statement against this measure.

The Thurston County Auditor is not responsible for the content of statements or arguments.

Local Voters' Pamphlet

## Thurston County Fire Protection District No. 17 (Bald Hills)

### Proposition No. 1

#### Levy Lid Lift

The Board of Fire Commissioners of Thurston County Fire Protection District #17 adopted Resolution No. 25-07-01 concerning a proposition relating to the District's regular property tax levy. The proposition would keep the District's regular property tax levy for maintenance and operations in an amount not to exceed \$1.50 per \$1,000 assessed valuation for collection in 2026 and authorize setting the limit factor at 106% (not to exceed \$1.50 per \$1,000), for each of the five succeeding years; the 2031 levy limit will be used to calculate subsequent levy limits. The funds will improve fire protection and medical services, replace equipment and provide for firefighter safety.

Should this proposition be:

Approved

Rejected

See complete resolution text at [ThurstonWaVotes.gov](http://ThurstonWaVotes.gov)

#### District Contact

Amanda Stygar, District Secretary  
[admin@baldhillsfire.org](mailto:admin@baldhillsfire.org)

Mark Gregory, Fire Chief  
[mgregory@baldhillsfire.org](mailto:mgregory@baldhillsfire.org)

#### For Committee

Bald Hills Committee for Maintaining  
Emergency Services  
[ableseptic@ywave.com](mailto:ableseptic@ywave.com)  
Bill Owen  
Walter Reichel  
Cristina Keeslar

#### Against Committee

After recruitment attempts, no person in the jurisdiction contacted the Auditor to write a statement against the ballot measure.

#### Explanatory Statement

The Board of Commissioners of Fire District #17, serving the citizens of the Bald Hills and surrounding areas, is placing a multi-year lid lift proposition on the November 4, 2025 ballot.

This proposition will authorize District restoration of the regular property tax levy to the maximum statutory rate of \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value for collection in 2026 and set the limit factor for calculating annual levy rates at up to 106% for the next five years (2026-2031). The 2026 levy amount would become the base for computing levy limits and will be used to calculate subsequent levy limits.

The District's current levy rate is inadequate to support continuing levels of service. Approval would allow the District to maintain current levels of emergency fire protection and prevention and emergency medical services, repair or replace aging vehicles, and support an operational reserve account as recommended by the state auditor. Rejection of this proposition may necessitate reductions in services and increased response times.

Explanatory Statement Prepared By:

Charles H. Houser, III

Budd Bay Law P.S.

General Counsel for the District

#### Argument For

Your *yes* vote will extend a previously approved levy and will safeguard the necessary funding for staff and maintain your Fire Protection District. Your volunteer Firefighters and EMTs provide emergency medical response, structure and wildland fire suppression, downed power lines, and service calls to the Bald Hills community. Over 20 volunteers are committed to keeping our District and over 4,790 citizens safe; they cannot do it without adequate funding.

*This is Not a New Tax.*

A *yes* vote will authorize the current property tax rate to remain the same. The current levy lift was previously approved by voters in 2007, 2013 and again in 2019. The six-year reauthorization ensures that your volunteer Firefighters and EMTs can be properly trained, as well as to procure and maintain the equipment necessary to provide high quality services. Without this backing, our community would experience reductions in life-saving emergency services and increased response times. Your *yes* vote supports continued funding of this critical community service at the current rates.

#### Argument Against

There is no statement against this measure.