



Whidbey Weekly

VOTER GUIDE

November General Election 2023

Editor's Note:

Thank you for taking this opportunity to read *Whidbey Weekly's Voter Guide* for the upcoming Nov. 7, 2023, general election.

Here are a few notes on our process:

We included only Whidbey Island races with multiple candidates; we did not include water or cemetery districts or races with a single, unopposed candidate. We did not include any Stanwood/Camano Island races.

We emailed candidates based on the contact information provided in the Island County Auditor's filing records and the Washington State Public Disclosure Commission. An initial email with questions was sent to each candidate Oct. 5, and follow up/reminder emails were sent Oct. 9 and 11. No emails bounced back to us due to incorrect addresses, etc. For those candidates who failed to respond to our requests, it is possible our emails wound up in junk or spam folders. However, out of the 36 candidates in the 18 races included in this guide, 30 candidates responded.

All candidates were sent the same questions and were asked to keep their responses to each question to no more than 150 words. Those responses over the word limit were cut off at the end of the sentence closest to the 150-word mark. *Whidbey Weekly* did not change spelling or grammar in any of the candidates' responses; they appear as we received them. Candidates were also asked to include a photograph; nearly all of them did so.

It is our pleasure to provide this guide to Whidbey Island voters. We hope it will be a useful tool.

Whidbey  Weekly



***Ballots must
be postmarked
by Nov. 7***



COUPEVILLE MAYOR

Meg Olson

Owner, Kingfisher Bookstore, Coupeville

Preferred political party? None



Why do you seek election/re-election?

Our town's needs are increasingly complex, and we face growing challenges, from sea level rise and aging infrastructure to affordable housing. We need a professional town administrator with the training and skills to meet the community's needs for years to come. As mayor, I will bring positive leadership, work with stakeholders to achieve common goals, and with town council to draft policies that meet the community's current and future needs. I propose a reduction in the mayor's salary so that the town can hire a professional public administrator to implement those policies, build a strong team at town hall, ensure cost-effective programs, and work with department heads anticipating and planning for the community's long-term needs.

What qualifies you to run for this position?

With experience as a council member in a small city and two decades of experience in community news I have seen what works, and what doesn't. As owner of a small business and historic building on Front Street and long-time advocate for strong small communities, I am fiercely committed to ensuring Coupeville has a resilient, proactive government structure, and inclusive town government.

In what ways, or through which organizations, have you served your community?

Since we moved to Coupeville in 2018 I have served on the board of the Coupeville Historic Waterfront Association and volunteered for many of that organization's events, including Musselfest. I am a member of the Coupeville Lions Club and the Coupeville Chamber of Commerce.

What do you believe is the biggest issue facing your community?

The impact of sea level rise, affordable housing and balancing the challenges, and rewards, of increasing visitors to our town are issues the mayor's office needs to proactively address.

How do you intend to help deal with the aforementioned issue through the position you seek?

Information from a recently completed Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Assessment needs to be followed up expeditiously by a strategy to adapt to rising sea levels and other effects of climate change. In addition to seeking grant funding to develop such a strategy I would reach out to federal and state elected officials and agencies for their support in meeting this challenge. A housing needs assessment for the town of Coupeville should come before any zoning changes to address the availability of affordable housing. I would move forward with such an assessment while investigating creative ways to add housing options to the community without impacting its character. I would work collaboratively with regional initiatives highlighting regenerative tourism while addressing local needs from restrooms to parking.

What do you hope to accomplish through your public service?

I hope to establish the mayor's office as a community-forward position accessible to all citizens supported by an effective and experienced administration that efficiently manages tax dollars to meet community needs while ensuring pro-active regulatory compliance.

Why should people vote for you?

I have the experience, leadership skills and positive attitude to bring a new approach to town hall highlighting public process and efficient, effective administration.

Molly Hughes

Mayor of Coupeville

Preferred political party? Coupeville Mayor is a nonpartisan position



Why do you seek election/re-election?

I believe I have four more years of ideas and energy to contribute to Coupeville. We have many projects identified and/or in the works and I would like to continue working on them to see them through. It is very meaningful work to help identify the Town Council, town staff and our resident's priorities and I would like to continue to help make them a reality. I love coming to work every day, I love that the work is different every day and I love the staff I get to work with every day!

What qualifies you to run for this position?

I was an elected Coupeville Town Councilmember for 12 years before being elected Mayor. I have a solid record of getting work done and making good decisions on behalf of our residents. The Town has been fiscally responsible during my two terms and we have been very successful in obtaining grants to leverage our taxpayers money. Along with our great staff, I have been able to partner with other federal, state, county and nonprofit organizations to make the most of our resources. We have completed a strong Comprehensive Plan which reflects our residents' priorities and values. We have made many improvements to the town's equipment, infrastructure, facilities and streets and have a long-term plan to continue that work.

In what ways, or through which organizations, have you served your community?

There are many wonderful non-profits in Central Whidbey. I support many of them financially, am a member of some, or give a little time, but there are two I am very active with. I am a 21-year volunteer/President of our local food bank, Gifts from the Heart. I am also a 19-year member and Past President of the Coupeville Lions Club. I am dedicated to the 'service' mission of both organizations. As a result, I get to work with and serve a diverse group of Coupeville residents I might not otherwise have had the opportunity to meet.

What do you believe is the biggest issue facing your community?

There are several large issues impacting our community and the biggest difficulty to resolving them is a limited budget and the need to go to outside experts for help. Housing shortages, climate change, and infrastructure improvements come to mind as our biggest priorities right now. In all three instances we need financial assistance from the state and feds and help from specialists to come up with practical solutions. We are very good at finding grants and we have been very successful with contracting help from qualified specialists and consultants.

How do you intend to help deal with the aforementioned issue through the position you seek?

We will continue to look for outside funding to help with these large issues. We currently have four grants, totaling \$500,000 for work on wastewater discharge improvements, climate adaptability planning, and a housing inventory study. We will continue to look for 'best practices' from experts and advice from others who have completed similar work. We are a small town and we always start by looking at what has worked for others. Sometimes this work is more costly than we had hoped and takes longer to complete than we would like but we understand we are in the long game, and we have to keep planning for the future of our town.

What do you hope to accomplish through your public service?

I hope to keep Coupeville moving forward while understanding that our community values historic preservation and slow and thoughtful growth. We are proud of our small-town look and feel and we want to keep it. I hope to continue taking care of the Town's facilities and public spaces so they can be used and enjoyed for years to come. I hope to continue working with our businesses and partners so we can help each other reach our goals. I hope to continue to be a contributing member of our Town as the Mayor.

Why should people vote for you?

I love Coupeville and feel so lucky to live here! I have a long history of volunteering and working in our Town, I know the community, value our quality of life and respect our residents. I also love the job and look forward to coming to work every day! I would be honored to continue contributing to Coupeville as your Mayor.

WhidbeyHealth Board Commissioner

Retain



Morgan COOPER



Healthcare Experience Proven Leadership
Building A Stronger Community Connection
cooper4whcommissioner@gmail.com

Experience in Healthcare

- **Current WhidbeyHealth Board Commissioner**
 - Finance and Quality Improvements Committees
- **Clinic Administration**
 - Managing Healthcare Providers and Support Staff
 - Billing and Epic EMR Documentation and Coding
- **Evaluation of Hospital and Private Practice Programs**
- **Market and Promotion of:**
 - Cardiology
 - Orthopedics
 - Behavioral Health
 - Bariatrics
 - Endoscopy
- **Resident of Whidbey Island since 1973**
- **Community Engagement with Charity & Events**



Vote for a Strong Community Advocate!



COUPEVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT, POSITION 1

Charles Merwine
Retired

Preferred political party? N/A



Why do you seek election/re-election?

Over my years in several school districts I have seen how important it is to have a school board that is positive, cohesive, and supportive of students and staff. A board that works together gets things done and I can be a positive contributor to that board. I have benefited from the work of good boards and I would like to pay that back.

What qualifies you to run for this position?

I have experience working in school districts as a teacher and as a support staff employee. I have served on district curriculum committees and served on the design committee for the current high school. While working in tech support for the district, I was involved in making decisions about how to spend tech levy money and allocate resources. While serving as President and Treasurer of the Coupeville Schools Foundation I have seen the many wonderful teachers we have that submit creative grants every year to increase the quality of their students' experience and have worked with district staff to help students in need. With this background I have a good understanding of the different lenses that teachers, administrators, staff, students, and community members use to see issues. This empathy allows me to appreciate all viewpoints when making decisions and to help others see things from different angles.

In what ways, or through which organizations, have you served your community?

When I retired from teaching in 2007 I joined the board of the Coupeville Schools Foundation, then served as President for nine years and am now Treasurer. While serving as President and Treasurer I have seen the many wonderful teachers we have that submit creative grants every year to increase the quality of their students' experience and have worked with district staff to help students in need.

What do you believe is the biggest issue facing your community?

The mental health of students and staff in this social media driven world is an ever-increasing problem. There is a lot of stress on young people that previous generations did not have to endure. For instance, bullying has always been an issue, but cyberbullying has added a new dimension that the student of today has to deal with. The mental health of students is just as important as whether they can factor a quadratic equation!

How do you intend to help deal with the aforementioned issue through the position you seek?

I would respond to the issue of student mental health by supporting district programs that aid students in navigating today's social media world. This would include counseling, mental health support staff, and working with and listening to parents to both learn from and educate about best practices in managing their student's journey through today's society. Helping students navigate the dangers and benefits of our modern tech driven society needs to be something every teacher is aware of, trains for, and incorporates into their everyday teaching.

What do you hope to accomplish through your public service?

I hope my service will result in the schools making the optimum use of available resources to provide the best educational experience possible for Coupeville students.

Why should people vote for you?

The board needs someone who can work well with the other board members and with the district administration to bring out the best in our teachers and staff. That is my wheelhouse. I would be a knowledgeable, positive, encouraging, and supportive force for the district.

VS.

Leann Leavitt
NO RESPONSE RECEIVED

COUPEVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT, POSITION 4

Alison Perera

Preferred political party?
n/a (nonpartisan race)



Why do you seek election/re-election?

Last December, when this school board seat came open, I had recently been part of the months-long effort to develop a new Strategic Plan for our district. I was inspired by that collaborative process, and I knew that the plan represented a turning point for our district and our board. An effective board with a common vision and strategic focus is one of the best assets a district has when it comes to helping its students succeed. I knew I wanted to be part of such a board, and to see the Strategic Plan fulfill its promise. So, I was proud to be selected by the other school board members to join their team, and I'm excited by our progress in these few short months. I'm eager to keep up the momentum!

What qualifies you to run for this position?

I have spent many years engaged in community service in Coupeville. With each new role I have taken on, I have grown my skills in leadership and organizational management. I am an analytical thinker, which served me in good stead earning my degree in physics. And I have approached every organization I work with by seeking to understand how it works, how it could work at its best, and how it could be lifted up with thoughtful encouragement and strategic focus. These skills have already served me well in my time on the school board. And by the time I take the oath of office again in December, I will have nearly a year of experience with the school board and current members. That understanding of the systems and people will allow me to continue making positive change in our district, right from the start.

In what ways, or through which organizations, have you served your community?

Since moving to Coupeville I have served as the treasurer of the Central Whidbey Cooperative Pre-school, the treasurer and then secretary for the Coupeville Elementary Parent-Teacher Association, and treasurer of the Central Whidbey Soccer Club. In the school district, before joining the school board, I have volunteered on the Strategic Planning Committee and the Instructional Materials Committee. I have also taken on many parent roles, such as helping in the classroom and chaperoning field trips. I currently volunteer as coach for Coupeville Middle School Robotics and am the secretary of the Coupeville Farm to School program.

What do you believe is the biggest issue facing your community?

Our community members, including our students and teachers, have been operating for the past few years in an environment of instability and uncertainty. No one is sure what is going to change or remain the same over the course of a year, and that makes it difficult to focus on the mundane details of daily life. People are grappling with rebuilding social relationships, and young people especially may find that they need to re-learn appropriate behavior and emotional regulation.

How do you intend to help deal with the aforementioned issue through the position you seek?

In order to re-establish that confidence and stability, Coupeville School District is focusing this year on developing our new normal. We are bringing back routines and expectations that served us well before the pandemic, and finding new ways to meet student and staff needs when the old ways aren't working. As a board member, I am committed to providing reliable, consistent leadership and expectations that our students and staff can count on. Budget cuts and funding challenges are a major source of unease for all our stakeholders. So I am committed to working with the board and with the Budget & Finance Subcommittee on establishing sustainable expectations for our finances, with open communication and trustworthy decision-making.

What do you hope to accomplish through your public service?

I hope to look back at this four-year term of board service and see positive change at every level. I want our staff to know that the programs they deliver are fully supported by the district, and are part of a strategic big picture. I want our students to feel empowered to engage in their own education and take confident steps into their future, knowing that they've been provided with skills and knowledge and tools to succeed and thrive. And I want our district culture to develop a norm of collaboration and mutual support, with principals and teachers and parents and students all lifting each other up to be the best they can be. An effective school board is the common thread that makes all that positive change possible, and I look forward to continuing to be part of such a team.

Why should people vote for you?

Since my children started preschool 12 years ago, I have been proud to put my time and energy into many different organizations that all serve to improve the lives of Coupeville children. I've also played a key role in our school district's strategic plan, and the collaborative process that brought it together. I understand and value the partnerships between Coupeville organizations and the school district. And I understand and am committed to the community's vision of what we want from our school district. I am the right person to take advantage of Coupeville School District's strengths, and to help guide a vision for its future.

VS.

David Ford
NO RESPONSE RECEIVED

Elect **CHRIS** Wiegenstein



For Oak Harbor
City Council Position 2
ElectChris.org
[#strongertogether](https://twitter.com/strongertogether)



Paid for by Christopher Wiegenstein for Oak Harbor City Council
PO Box 891, Oak Harbor, WA 98277



PORT OF COUPEVILLE, COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 1

Marianne Burr

Preferred political party? NA



Why do you seek election/re-election?

I will focus on the rehabilitation of the Wharf and the Farm with the special taxes we are paying and work to delay any new projects until that rehab is complete.

What qualifies you to run for this position?

I have lived here and been a registered voter since 1984. I have many years of attendance at Port meetings and a long history of public service as a Water Commissioner.

In what ways, or through which organizations, have you served your community?

In addition to leading my Water District as a Commissioner, I was a volunteer at the Coupeville Art Center for many years

What do you believe is the biggest issue facing your community?

A short term additional tax is now being collected to rehabilitate both the Coupeville Wharf and Greenbank Farm. The multiple projects for these long neglected properties must be the focus of the Board to see that our taxes are spent in the most advantageous way for the future of these facilities.

How do you intend to help deal with the aforementioned issue through the position you seek?

I will work to see that Port finances are presented in a way that is easy to understand and that my decisions on Port projects always consider the possibility of negative effects. As a fiduciary of public money, I must take the time to consider negatives as well as positives in financial matters.

What do you hope to accomplish through your public service?

I hope to focus the Port officials on the rehabilitation projects being started with our significant tax levy devoted to that purpose. The Board must show the Public that it can complete the work that our special taxes are paying for now. It will take a significant level of public trust and support for the Port to venture out into new realms.

Why should people vote for you?

A vote for Marianne Burr is a vote for our iconic Wharf and historic Farm. If we don't take care of our present, there may not be a future.

Bradley R. Duncan

Senior Counsel, Snell & Wilmer (Seattle)



Preferred political party? Not formally affiliated, but lean strongly Democrat

Why do you seek election/re-election?

(No response)

What qualifies you to run for this position?

From a professional perspective, I've practiced law with large firms on both coasts for 35 years, and have spent most of that time working through and litigating complex financial matters. I would love to have the opportunity to use that background to help the Port address some of the challenges that lie ahead. From a personal perspective, my wife and I, though relatively new to the area, are interested in engaging with and contributing to the community, and this position would offer an opportunity to do that.

In what ways, or through which organizations, have you served your community?

My record of public service is frankly somewhat limited, as I've spent the bulk of my career practicing law with large law firms. In that context, though, I've been very active in pro bono matters, including serving as a disciplinary hearing officer for the Washington State Bar Association since 2014, with responsibility for presiding over hearings involving alleged attorney ethical violations. As my wife and I move toward retirement, we see positions like this one as offering an opportunity to increase our engagement with the community.

What do you believe is the biggest issue facing your community?

In my view, the biggest issue facing our community is the need to balance what we now have -- a semi-rural, physically beautiful, relatively uncrowded and pleasant place to live -- against the need for a form of economic development that is consistent with these characteristics while also offering meaningful opportunities for economic stability for residents. The pressure to compromise the former in service of the latter will only grow with time, and our community needs to be ready to deal with it.

How do you intend to help deal with the aforementioned issue through the position you seek?

The Port is only a part, and perhaps a small part, of that puzzle. But the Port is responsible for administering two assets that are awfully important to the Island's identity -- the Coupeville Wharf and Greenbank Farm. Using my background to help protect those assets and ensure their financial viability into the future is a way of contributing to the preservation of what makes this area so delightful. And if the Port can help in other ways -- perhaps through an expansion of its footprint, and with that an expansion of its tax base (which will help reduce the burden on the existing base) and allow for the exploration of other opportunities to provide value to the community -- it ought to be open to that.

What do you hope to accomplish through your public service?

Throughout my career, I have been the (perhaps not always deserving) beneficiary of the hard work and community-mindedness of others. As my professional responsibilities begin to wind down, the opportunity to take up that responsibility myself, and to add value to a place that I have come to cherish as my home, is one that I would find very rewarding.

Why should people vote for you?

See all of the above. Having said that, I do not know much about my opponent at all, other than that she has been concerned with the Port's affairs for much longer than I have lived on the Island. She may be an ideal candidate, and every bit as deserving of votes as I am, if not more deserving. Either way, I would expect the Port and its mission to be in good hands.

PORT OF COUPEVILLE, COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 3

Angela Ewert

Legislative Aide to Snohomish County Councilmember Jared Mead



Preferred political party? This position is a non-partisan position.

Why do you seek election/re-election?

I want to use this opportunity to serve my community. I spend a lot of time at both Greenbank Farm and the Coupeville Wharf, and I would be honored to represent my community to oversee the operation, maintenance, and longevity of these properties.

What qualifies you to run for this position?

My experience working for an elected official has taught me a lot about how to be accountable to taxpayers and exercise fiduciary responsibility. Before joining Councilmember Mead, I worked for a private organization as their manager of government and public affairs. I have a deep understanding and commitment to working on behalf of the communities I serve.

In what ways, or through which organizations, have you served your community?

In my current role, I serve the constituents of Snohomish County and play a role in ensuring that residents are heard, valued, and have opportunity to engage with their local government. As a resident of Whidbey Island, I deeply value the community and have a vested interest in the longevity and prosperity of the community and the Port of Coupeville properties. Additionally, I volunteer with NAMI Sno-Isle which is a non-profit organization focused on resources, support, and advocacy for mental health and mental illness (National Alliance on Mental Illness).

What do you believe is the biggest issue facing your community?

I think like many other organizations, both public and private, the biggest issue facing the Port community is costs related to maintenance and operation of the properties it owns. As the costs of labor, goods, and services rises, leadership will need to be thinking of sustainable and equitable revenue streams to support the properties and ultimately the community. Additionally, mitigating the impacts of climate change is a prudent issue for the Port community, particularly in ways that we manage the Greenbank Farm and the Coupeville Wharf.

How do you intend to help deal with the aforementioned issue through the position you seek?

I want to work collaboratively with local organizations and various levels of leadership representing our community to help manage and finance the properties. I also want to work with the community and governmental organizations to leverage funding and opportunities to find creative and collaborative ways to mitigate the impacts of climate change, much like the Port has worked to leverage grant funding for the Coupeville Wharf renovation project.

What do you hope to accomplish through your public service?

Ultimately, I want to work on behalf of the constituents to the best of my ability. If I can achieve a transparent, productive, and proactive time in office, that will be an accomplishment. For this position specifically, I hope to find ways to bring more community events to both properties, create space and opportunity for local businesses to use our properties, and find intentional ways to ensure our community will be able to enjoy our properties for generations to come.

Why should people vote for you?

I hope people will vote for me as someone who wants to work for constituents that I represent. I approach issues with a pragmatic lens, allowing myself to gather as much information as possible before reaching a solution. I like to listen, learn, and share with people and I keep an open mind when approaching conversations with people who might not share the same values that I have. I want to serve the community in a meaningful and intentional way.

John Callahan

Public Statement:

I am no longer in a position to be a candidate for the office of Commissioner District 3, Port of Coupeville. Due to personal issues that require my full attention, I cannot devote the time and energy necessary to fulfill the responsibilities of Commissioner. Because it is too late in the process to officially have my name withdrawn from the ballot, I want to go on the record as supporting and endorsing my opponent. In the event I am elected, I will resign my position as Commissioner. I wish my opponent the best of luck for a rewarding and productive term as Commissioner.

Regards,
John K. Callahan, Jr.



LANGLEY MAYOR

Kennedy Horstman

Principal Consultant, K2H2 LLC

Preferred political party? Democrat



Why do you seek election/re-election?

I'm running because I care about our community, I care about democracy, and I have the skills and experience to make a positive difference for Langley and the broader community I want our City to be financially healthy, to have a plan to achieve continuity of services and to build for the future. I want Langleyites to feel confident that staff have what they need to work toward the plan. I want people who engage with the City to find it responsive, transparent, and accountable to deliver on shared goals. This is how the City needs to operate to meet what I believe are our most pressing challenges -- and opportunities -- of affordability, sustainability and inclusion.

What qualifies you to run for this position?

At core local governments are service organizations providing, in the case of Langley, clean drinking water, sewer and storm water utilities, public safety, community planning and infrastructure, and governance services enabling the community to make well-informed decisions and implement them effectively. As a tech sector professional with 25+ years of management experience, I have a proven track-record of leading service organizations through change to better serve their constituents. In all my work I focus on what matters in the long term:

- Bringing stakeholders with diverse interests together to deliver outcomes that work in the real world for real people;
- Designing and maintaining solutions for functionality and security over time; and
- Building healthy and resilient organizations that can weather and respond to tough situations.

In what ways, or through which organizations, have you served your community?

I have served on Langley's Dismantling Systemic Racism Commission since its inception in 2020, currently as Chair. Through this service, I have:

- Worked with diverse constituencies about complex issues that impact people personally;
- Lead public meetings and dealing with public notice requirements; and
- Advanced policy proposals for City Council consideration.

I am crew volunteer and a member of the Whidbey Island Maritime Heritage Foundation. I have coached youth volleyball and sailing.

What do you believe is the biggest issue facing your community?

Regional economic dynamics are putting tremendous affordability pressure on our community. Failure to address housing affordability profoundly and adversely affect our economy and our community.

How do you intend to help deal with the aforementioned issue through the position you seek?

The City has worked hard to pass policies intended to produce density and affordable housing. Unfortunately, given the housing market conditions in Langley at this time, feasible projects are effectively limited to development of market rate (i.e. expensive) townhomes on undeveloped lots (that are in very short supply in Langley). Towns all over the country like Langley are struggling against structural macroeconomic barriers to create affordable housing. Ultimately, we will all need to grapple with these forces but in the meantime, Langley should focus on:

- Innovative methods to preserve currently affordable housing
- Encouraging philanthropic or non-profit developments that can provide or access subsidization
- Developing incentives for multi-family infill projects that include the creation of affordable units as part of the overall development
- Partnering with public agencies like the Port of South Whidbey who can make suitable excess land available at favorable prices while still supporting their core missions.

What do you hope to accomplish through your public service?

As a progressive leader and I am committed to building consensus to achieve:

- Housing affordability
- Sustainability
- Inclusion As an experienced and pragmatic leader, I recognize that achieving these goals first requires improving how City Hall operates and delivers services. I want my legacy as Mayor to be a solid organization that reliably delivers services to our community whether in the form of:
 - Well run Council meetings;
 - City Hall that is fiscally stable, easy to work with, and proactively seeks input from residents and businesses on policies that affect them; or
 - Land use codes that encourage and result in affordable housing units.

Why should people vote for you?

As a professional with 25+ years of management experience, I have a proven track-record of leading service organizations through change to better serve their constituents. I will put that experience to work for Langley.

Thomas Gill

Technical Support Specialist at Whidbey Telecom

Preferred political party? None



Why do you seek election/re-election?

(No response)

What qualifies you to run for this position?

14 years of active participation in city government, including 8 years on the City Council, 4+ years as Chair of the Planning Advisory Board, and 2 years as Chair of the Civil Service Commission.

In what ways, or through which organizations, have you served your community?

I ran the South Whidbey Masonic Scholarship program from 2010 through 2020. I provided volunteer IT support to the city of Langley from 2009-2013 and still do in an unofficial capacity.

What do you believe is the biggest issue facing your community?

Our shrinking workforce and due diligence to the transparency requirements of the Washington State Open Public Meetings Act

How do you intend to help deal with the aforementioned issue through the position you seek?

Langley, and the surrounding community, is losing the ability to support a local workforce. The causes are many, but the lack of reasonable housing development over the last 25 years is a huge factor. We need housing, of various types, at many different affordability levels. What we need to be wise about the development, to ensure that our character remains intact.

What do you hope to accomplish through your public service?

I want to see Langley thrive. To embrace our diversity, support our local businesses, and become an inviting community for everyone. I also want to ensure that everything the city does is in the open, that all of our actions and records are in the open, and available for inspection by anyone, without a massive, complex process that can result in errors.

Why should people vote for you?

I have an established track record of being thoughtful and open minded to new ideas. I may not make a decision quickly, but I will weigh all of the information before making one. I also want to see Langley go from saying "no", to saying "let's see what we can do."



Re-Elect **MAYOR MOLLY HUGHES**

www.ReelectMayorMolly.com

Re-Elect Mayor Molly Hughes

- 27-year resident of Coupeville, 21 year volunteer with our local food bank, 19 year member of the Coupeville Lions.
- 12 years as a Coupeville Councilmember. 8 years as Mayor. I am experienced, dependable, and fiscally responsible.
- I'm not afraid to make hard decisions when it supports our Town's economy, long term sustainability and quality of life.
- I know and love this town. I understand our residents' priorities and look forward to working collaboratively on future projects.
- I believe I have four more years of enthusiasm and ideas to contribute. I love this job and have been honored to be your Mayor for 8 years. I would appreciate your vote!

Please visit my website for more information on past accomplishments and future priorities.

Thank you!

www.reelectmayormolly.com

Remember to Vote!

Your voice, your choice, your vote.





LANGLEY CITY COUNCIL, POSITION 3

Kay Kenneweg Advocate Activist



Preferred political party? Nonpartisan

Why do you seek election/re-election?

Important to hear diverse voices in the city council. I love Langley and want to be included in city decisions.

What qualifies you to run for this position?

Passion for city of Langley and its citizens and businesses, scenery, environment, and culture of art and music venues.

In what ways, or through which organizations, have you served your community?

Service to others through Washington Power of Providers, assisting people with getting appointments for vaccines, how to access covid 19 tests and masks. Island County fair volunteer in the agriculture booth for South Whidbey Tilth organization, member of Tilth. Disaster Action Nurse Red Cross, Skagit Valley College graduate Practical Nurse, EMT-B Jefferson County Search and Rescue, Port Townsend School Nurse,

What do you believe is the biggest issue facing your community?

Housing for homeless on Whidbey. Families, students, and people sleeping at the bus stops. People who self-medicate to control symptoms of mental illness. Affordable supportive housing should be developed if possible with social service supports if needed.

How do you intend to help deal with the aforementioned issue through the position you seek?

Refer people to Housing Support in Coupeville.

What do you hope to accomplish through your public service?

To keep Langley City council moving ahead and the budget to pay for the city administrator.

Why should people vote for you?

I am honest and ethical and civil to others. I have attended Langley City Council meetings since moving here and I hope others will attend the meetings in person to see how the city council members conduct themselves and give citizens comments and be aware what is going on. We also need to set up an emergency preparedness plan and have transparency in government.

Chris Carlson

Technology Program Manager for Research Compliance at the University of Washington



Preferred political party? Democratic

Why do you seek election/re-election?

I am running for City Council because I care about Langley and I want to help our community thrive. I believe that everyone has a role to play in a healthy democracy, which is why I have been an active volunteer for the City of Langley and South Whidbey nonprofits. This experience has given me insight into what is working at City Hall, what is not, and what our community values.

Langley is currently facing long-term challenges such as housing insecurity, strained services due to staffing shortages, and the growing effects of climate change. To successfully address these challenges we need expertise, professionalism, and a disciplined focus on what's most important. I believe that my public-sector experience and education are what the Langley City Council needs today in order to secure a more prosperous future for our community.

What qualifies you to run for this position?

My career and education have focused on delivering results in the public and non-profit sectors. In my 12 years working for the University of Washington I have proven results improving complex processes, developing strategic plans, and managing large complex projects, personnel and resources. With an Executive Master's degree in Public Administration (EMPA), also from the UW, I have expertise in government policymaking, management, finances, and planning.

In what ways, or through which organizations, have you served your community?

I have been an active volunteer in the Langley community. I am currently chair of the City of Langley's Finance & Personnel Legislative Commission and Civil Service Commission. Previously, I was on Langley's Ethics Training & Advisory Board and on the boards of the non-profit South Whidbey Children's Center and Kids First of Island County. These experiences have given me critical insights into the needs of working families in our community, what's working in city government, and ways in which the city better address the community's needs.

What do you believe is the biggest issue facing your community?

Langley's greatest challenge is encouraging the development of housing that's affordable to local working families, young people, and those with low or fixed incomes. As a city that has public utilities that are essential to scalable housing, Langley must take action to encourage increased housing density while also maintaining the city's historical character and protecting ecologically sensitive areas. In addition to targeted density, we need to encourage the development of diverse housing options so that individuals and families of all sizes and incomes have the opportunity to make Langley their home. This is not only the equitable thing to do – it is essential to the long-term sustainability of our community to ensure that we have the workers necessary to deliver local services.

How do you intend to help deal with the aforementioned issue through the position you seek?

We can make progress toward addressing the housing crisis through actions like thoughtful land use and zoning, streamlined planning codes and processes, identifying public and lower-cost undeveloped land for targeted multi-family development, developing partnerships with nonprofit developers, and actively pursuing state and federal grants to subsidize construction costs.

What do you hope to accomplish through your public service?

My primary responsibility as a member of the Langley City Council is to ensure that the city is delivering high-quality, efficient, and equitable services to our community. I will also ensure the public is an active participant in setting the city's goals, establishing the budget, and in developing policy. I want our community to feel informed, invested, and heard. Langley can one day be a model for how small governments can successfully tackle big challenges like the housing crisis and the effects of climate change. We can only accomplish that future by working together toward shared goals.

Why should people vote for you?

I am a public-sector professional that has experience and expertise in delivering high-quality, efficient, and equitable public services. I know how to bring diverse people together to work toward shared goals, which is the only way that we'll be able to successfully tackle the major challenges facing our community in the years ahead. You can count on me to be a dedicated public servant that is always listening and learning and communicating with our community. I ask for your vote on November 7th so that we can get to work on securing a more prosperous and sustainable future for our community.

ELECT KATE ROSE

HOSPITAL COMMISSIONER, POSITION 5



COMMITTED TO CARE!!



Paid For By Committee To Elect Kate Rose
1681 Scenic Heights Rd, Oak Harbor, WA 98277

Elect

David

FORD

COUPEVILLE SCHOOL BOARD

LET'S MAKE EDUCATION
THE PRIORITY



LANGLEY CITY COUNCIL, POSITION 4

Scott Chaplin Mayor of Langley



Preferred political party? No affiliation for this race, just staunch independent thinking.

Why do you seek election/re-election?

I'm switching my focus to policy issues which is my passion and the proper role of a City Councilmember. There are several issues in particular: 1) energy supply resiliency in the face of severe weather; 2) affordable workforce housing for our firefighters, teachers, restaurant workers, shop workers and others in the middle income workforce; 3) protection/restoration of our creeks and watersheds; 4) decreased traffic in town and safer streets for everyone; 5) increased government transparency and accountability; 6) creating a community in which all residents (black/white/red/LGBTQ+/young/old/etc.) feel safe and welcome; 7) making Langley a possible location for young people to live; 8) budgeting so the City can be more responsive, and 9) creating a "Blue Zone" (see www.bluezones.com and Secrets of the Blue Zones - Netflix) where our seniors can live happier, healthier and longer; and more!

What qualifies you to run for this position?

While working for local government agencies on and off since 1986 I have seen what works, what doesn't and what kind of talent is needed on a team to be successful. In Colorado I served on a Planning and Zoning Commission, an Environmental Board, a regional transit agency board and was twice elected to a town council. I am proud of the progress Langley has made in upgrading our finance and record keeping policies and practices and also of the fine staff we have, including some new directors and the police I hired. Because of the experiences I have had working for cities like Ann Arbor, Michigan and Carbondale, Colorado I have developed a good sense for the skills and dedication needed to do various municipal jobs.

In what ways, or through which organizations, have you served your community?

I have volunteered and supported numerous non-profit organizations on South Whidbey over the years and became involved with the City of Langley during discussions about affordable workforce housing about four years ago. As mayor I represent the city on the Island County Council of Governments, a regional salmon recovery task force, a regional tourism committee, a regional transportation committee and I assist with several of the City's commissions.

What do you believe is the biggest issue facing your community?

With our population at just under 1,200 people we are stretched thin when it comes to providing the kinds of services that most people expect even in small towns. Currently the city is financially hurting; it took a few decades for us to get into this situation and it will take a 2 or 3 year financial strategy for us to get out of it completely. Like many small towns, we have not kept up with the increased challenges all small communities face in terms of fiscal health and record management. Without millions of dollars in grants we would not be able to keep up with even the basic maintenance of our water and sewer infrastructure. If we are unable to carefully grow our population and business base to keep our economy strong, then our water and sewer rates are likely to go up dramatically and we will fall behind on other basic services.

How do you intend to help deal with the aforementioned issue through the position you seek?

With a healthy and gradual slight increase in population, that includes younger people, including school aged children, we can help bring our community back into balance. Supporting our small business community, who provide nearly all of our sales tax revenue, which is the largest single revenue source for the City's General Fund. We need 30-50 new homes over the next few years for people already working here, this would benefit our tax base and support basic services as well as reduce the need for many to commute. We can manage a slightly larger population without increasing car traffic by increasing public transportation options, car sharing, and increasing safe opportunities for biking and walking. A slightly larger population will allow us to keep water and sewer rates from skyrocketing and provide additional funding for the city to improve our parks, protect our environment and provide other basic municipal services.

What do you hope to accomplish through your public service?

1) 30 units of affordable workforce housing in 2024, 2) providing solar electricity with battery back up to all city buildings and similar projects throughout the community, 3) a pilot project for passenger only ferry service to Langley/South Whidbey in 2024, 4) improved relations and cooperation with neighboring communities, including tribes, 5) increase preparation for disasters and infrastructure resiliency, 6) fewer and more efficient use of City commissions, 7) a new state-of-the-art financial management software system up and running in 2024, 8) removal of all City records from the library basement and the digitization of all records the City is required to keep by the end of 2024; 9) full participation of the City in the region's new model for tourism based on transformational experiences, 10) more efficient and respectful discussions at Council and commission meetings.

Why should people vote for you?

I am comfortable saying what I think and taking stands, even when my professional advice is not popular with some members of the public or staff. I am confident making tough decisions but am also willing to listen to other points of view, considering them and learning from them. I don't take it personally when others disagree with me on policy or administrative strategies. By keeping interactions professional a team can create more successful strategies than an individual. More details can be found on my Website at <https://scottc1962.wixsite.com/voteforscottchaplin>.

VS.

Craig Cyr
NO RESPONSE RECEIVED



ELECT
John
CHASZAR
OAK HARBOR
CITY COUNCIL
POSITION 4

Experience and Accountability Matter

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ENDORSEMENT

- | | |
|---|---------------------------|
| North Puget Sound Association of Realtors | Terri & Ken Hulett |
| Bob Genereaux | Tara Hizon |
| Greg & Lynn Goebel | Annie Cash |
| Rick Almberg | Millicent Goebel |
| Laura Moore | Skip Dickinson |
| Evan & Paula Kestenbaum | Marge Moore |
| Larry & Beth Munns | Larry & Cynthia Mason |
| Joseph Mosolino | Lucas & Samantha Horrobin |
| Peter & Laurie Hunt | Ralph & Helene Valdez |
| Michelle Kuss-Cybula | Jeff & Mary Jo Lambert |
| Dan Cybula | Brad & Nikki Tesch |
| Dwight & Shanna Lundstrom | Walt & Lyn Bankowski |
| Steve & Beth Kelley | Clay Hughes |
| Joel & Celine Servatius | Alex & Hayley Katsafaros |
| Bill & Sheila Weinsheimer | Jared & Rachael Wirth |
| Mike & Melissa Vrbanac | Juli Brooks-Leete |
| Mike & Cathy Horrobin | Beez & Sara Lucero |
| Brian & Erica Wasinger | Timothy "TJ" Ewen |
| Jake & Patty Cohen | Jamie Ewen |
| Duncan & Kathy Chalfant | Sarah Foy |
| | Lori Sandberg |

Paid for by Committee to Elect John Chaszar
2700 SW Scenic Heights St., Oak Harbor, WA 98277



OAK HARBOR MAYOR

Ronnie Wright

Accountant, MBA, EA, CEO –
Pacific Grace Tax and Accounting

Preferred political party? Independent



Why do you seek election/re-election?

I am running for the position of Mayor because of my love for this community. I am a US Navy Veteran and own a practice that has been rooted in this community for more than 40 years. In addition to my practice, I have lived here and called Whidbey Island home for 27 years. I am the only candidate with the qualified business experience necessary to take the helm of our city's business operations.

What qualifies you to run for this position?

In addition to my formal education, BA in Accounting, Masters of Business Administration, I worked as a Contracting Officer for the United States Navy, a Former Internal Revenue Service Supervisory Agent, and a Former Washington State Auditor. I have more than 25 years of experience as an Accountant and I have served in a financial management/advisement role for local non-profit organizations, as well as on state board licensing and credentialing agencies. I hold a professional license as an Enrolled Agent, licensed to practice and represent my clientele before the Internal Revenue Service.

In what ways, or through which organizations, have you served your community?

I have served on the following Non-Profit Boards of Directors:
Greater Oak Harbor Chamber of Commerce (Past President and Financial Chairperson)
Steps – formerly know as Toddler Learning Center (Current Board of Directors – Treasurer/Financial Chairperson)
Northwest Hearts and Hammers (Current Board of Directors – Treasurer/Financial Chairperson)
Oak Harbor Creative Arts Foundation (Current Board of Directors – Treasurer/Financial Chairperson)
PBY Memorial – (Current Board of Directors)
Whidbey Golf and Country Club (Past Board of Directors)
Washington Association of Accountant and Tax Professionals (Past State Board of Director/Treasurer/Financial Chairperson)

In addition to serving on these board and providing professional experience, insight and expertise, I have sponsored and given to events and organizations through both my time and financially:

- Oak Harbor Music Festival
- Greater Oak Harbor Chamber of Commerce
- Lions Club
- Boys and Girls Club
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Island County
- JUMP
- Oak Harbor Athletic Booster Club
- Oak Harbor Education Foundation
- Habitat for Humanity

What do you believe is the biggest issue facing your community?

Limited financial resources available to address the multitude of demands: Public Safety, Infrastructure, Marina, Homelessness Epidemic, Community Center,

How do you intend to help deal with the aforementioned issue through the position you seek?

(No response)

What do you hope to accomplish through your public service?

Government accountability and transparency, as well as a level of diplomacy amongst our government leaders. We don't always have to agree and shouldn't, but we can do it in a way that is respectful and professional. We need to be an example in leadership with financial responsibility, as well as how we interact and get the job done. Elected positions are not self-serving and should reflect the people that elected them into office.

Why should people vote for you?

Because I am the only qualified candidate to ensure that financial oversight is achieved, and now more than ever we need to leverage every resource we have available to us to yield the greatest result for our community.

Shane Hoffmire

City Councilmember/Director of
Maintenance and Aquatic Facility
Operations

Preferred political party? Preferred
candidate of both the Island County
Republican Party and Island County
Democratic Party



Why do you seek election/re-election?

My nearly life-long love for Oak Harbor and belief that we should all enjoy the best quality of life is where I find my civic calling to run for Mayor. Oak Harbor is at a critical point in its battle with affordability and our administration has the fortunate position of influencing big decisions and continuing to bring positive results to our constituents. The progress that has taken place in the last few years while I served on the City Council needs to continue. I truly believe it will best continue with me serving as Mayor. I value hard work and thoroughly enjoy it. I know this drive translates to working towards a better tomorrow for every Oak Harbor citizen!

What qualifies you to run for this position?

An extensive background in management and administrative positions is what originally led me to elected office. I was elected to the Oak Harbor City Council in November 2021, receiving over 73% of the vote. Previously I served as an elected Commissioner for the North Whidbey Pool, Park, and Recreation District beginning in 2015 through 2020. Over the course of my tenure, I held every position on the board. I work ceaselessly to restore the voice many Oak Harbor citizens feel they had lost in previous administrations. My focus has been fiercely advocating for the community. This often comes in the form of prioritizing affordability and basing my actions on how it will directly affect every citizen. Their best interest is always at the forefront of my mind.

In what ways, or through which organizations, have you served your community?

I've always believed in volunteerism, be it giving back to the community through serving the North Whidbey Pool Park and Recreation District, Coaching Baseball with the North Whidbey Little League, or Building Jumps for the Whidbey Island Pony Club. Volunteerism, especially in the presence of – and alongside – our children is about shared success and building a better tomorrow. Looking out for our amazing city and its citizens is, and always has been, my utmost priority. The representation of our citizenry cannot be something that ceases in council chambers. The needs of our community must be represented beyond City Hall, from Oak Harbor to Olympia, from Washington State to the other Washington. Most importantly, this representation must not be timid, but instead fierce and unwavering!

What do you believe is the biggest issue facing your community?

Pinpointing the single "biggest" issue is difficult because I recognize Oak Harbor is diverse in its needs. I will, however, highlight that we have individually lost what our community once was and I find it highly problematic. Continuing to restore our community by focusing on necessities and giving the people their voice back is a must. Restoring our community and regaining the trust of our citizenry might just be our biggest challenge.

How do you intend to help deal with the aforementioned issue through the position you seek?

Principles I'll continue leaning on to restore our community:

- 1) Affordability: My approach to every decision has been, and will continue to be, based on how it affects every citizen in Oak Harbor and how affordable it will be to its residents.
- 2) Accountability: Speaking up for every Oak Harbor citizen is what drives me. I am ready to continue to work hard, in a greater capacity, to ensure each resident has a voice, no matter their job, income, or political leaning. Accountability without transparency is impossible, and I will continue to maintain open channels of communication with my constituency.
- 3) Livability: Without disregard for affordability or accountability, I promise to continue working towards a community that is both safer and more financially sound for our citizenry, much as I have in my City Council role. Expanding choices on where to live, work and recreate and improving public safety.

What do you hope to accomplish through your public service?

It's my utmost desire to accelerate the effort to restore the voices of the people at City Hall. It is time to fully elevate those voices. With a goal of providing efficient, cost effective, quality change to Oak Harbor that increases communication and heightens the overall liveability of our community. Visualize an Oak Harbor that's more affordable, more livable, and with a trusted local government known as being part of the solution to the problem, this vision is why I serve.

Why should people vote for you?

I have listened and responded to the people of Oak Harbor, working ceaselessly to decrease costs and fees to the citizenry. And I can confidently say I have been successful for the most part. During my time on Council I've always been transparent, honest, and available, approaching every issue, with an eye for the win-win solution.

Now, I'm taking my work ethic, elected experience, dedication and proven track record to the citizens of Oak Harbor and asking for your vote yet again in my run for Mayor of Oak Harbor.

Do you seek an affordable future? Do you seek accountability from your city government? Do you seek a more livable community? I do. If you believe like I do, that this is achievable, then join with me!

Please elect me as your next Mayor. I will listen and take action.



★ VOTE ★
MEG
OLSON
***** FOR *****
COUPEVILLE
★ MAYOR ★
MEGFORCOUPEVILLE.COM

Due to a communications error our submissions were not received for inclusion in the voter's pamphlet. Please visit our website to learn more.



OAK HARBOR CITY COUNCIL, POSITION 2

Chris Wiegenstein

Licensed Mental Health Counselor and Substance Use Disorder Professional, Oak Harbor City Council Position 4



Preferred political party? I am moderate, Democrat running for a non-partisan city council position

Why do you seek election/reelection?

I seek election because I'm dedicated to Oak Harbor's growth and prosperity, having lived here off and on since 1975. My deep commitment drives me to contribute positively to our community. As I am mentored by my families commitment to ensure we all live in a vibrant, resourceful, supportive city which cares for all you reside and visit.

What qualifies you to run for this position?

My qualifications come from serving as an elected Commissioner for the North Whidbey Pool, Park, and Recreation District. I've expanded programs, revitalized community spaces, and managed funds effectively. My 15 years of non-profit board experience has taught me many skills on how to advocate both to legislative bodies and the local individual in need of help.

In what ways, or through which organizations, have you served your community?

I've served the community through my role as Commissioner, focusing on recreation programs and community spaces like the John Vanderzicht Memorial Pool. I have been serving Oak Harbor and Whidbey Island through community service by serving on local and state nonprofit boards, some of these include Whidby Homeless Coalition, New Leaf, Oak Harbor Youth Coalition and Washing Association for Addiction Professionals.

What do you believe is the biggest issue facing your community?

The biggest issue in Oak Harbor is mental health, unity, and workforce housing. I believe the mental health crisis is a local issue and not unique to oak harbor. This affects business and residents. Most have experienced this in their personal lives or know family members and friends who have been affected by mental health. This is why I feel my experience as a mental Health professional will be valuable to the City of Oak Harbors future planning.

How do you intend to help deal with the aforementioned issue through the position you seek?

I hope to bring mental health and substance use awareness to the City of Oak Harbor, I plan to reach out to our community providers and businesses and help bring insight on how we as a city can help reduce this issue together. It is important to ensure our future residents, both young and those who have yet to arrive, have a safe and well supportive community with the resources every human being is eligible to utilize through hard work and community support.

What do you hope to accomplish through your public service?

First, my main priority is to bring the Oak Harbor community together. One idea is to find a way to develop a community/sport complex open to all citizens. I believe the City of Oak Harbor can provide many diverse activities, programs, and venues to help our citizens enjoy this great city. Second, mental health in our community and across the globe is a major issue worth acting on. There is room in our discussions and planning to find a way to support members of Oak Harbor with avenues to improve mental health. Third, workforce housing is an issue in keeping our community supported. There must be a way as a city we can find common solutions to ensure our workforce is able to live in the community in which they work.

Why should people vote for you?

I bring an aspect to local government which is concerned for the mental wellbeing of our entire community. I share a fiscally responsible mindset to ensure we are not wasting our resources and getting the most from our taxes. Vote for me because I bring compassion, transparency, and integrity to every community service and personal involvement I have.

Andy Plumlee

Owner, Popsies



Preferred political party? Independent

Why do you seek election/reelection?

I am seeking election because I believe I can be service to my community. The community of Oak Harbor has given much to me and my family. I am fortunate enough to be at a stage in my life where I can contribute back to my community.

What qualifies you to run for this position?

I have over 20 years of leadership and management experience. I hold a Master's in Public Administration.

In what ways, or through which organizations, have you served your community?

Served 14 years in the U.S. Navy. Seven of those years were as a Chief Petty Officer in which I held multiple leadership positions including Landing Craft Officer in-Charge. For the last year I have been on Oak Harbor's Planning Commission and am currently the commission Chairperson. I currently am on the board for the Oak Harbor Chamber of Commerce as well. I have volunteered for numerous events and causes in the community.

What do you believe is the biggest issue facing your community?

Self-sufficiency is the biggest issue facing our community. We do not currently have an economy that allows our community members to live where they work. This will only get worse as brick and mortar retail loses ground to digital options. We have to find ways to bring revenue into the community and keep it circulating here. We have to equip our community with the skills and resources necessary to purchase homes and shop locally.

How do you intend to help deal with the aforementioned issue through the position you seek?

My degrees are in sustainability. I believe we should be preservationist in our approach, not environmentalist. Overly restrictive building codes make development to expensive to be profitable. So in this role I will work to balance our duty to preserve our natural environment with our duty to facilitate community development. We need to support and promote our local trades as much as we do college programs, I will work to do that by asking local experts, (builders, plumbers, electricians, etc.) to be on the city's planning commission. If we build a sustainable and robust community that invests back into our community, we can increase the resiliency of our local economy and with it the self sufficiency of our community.

What do you hope to accomplish through your public service?

I hope to increase community engagement in their own governance. I would like to see every seat in future elections be contested. I hope to make positive contributions to the growth and prosperity of our community. I hope to create a model of local government that makes Oak Harbor the standard of excellence other communities try to emulate.

Why should people vote for you?

People should vote for me if they believe doing so is in the best interest of them and their family. If they feel my views and beliefs best align with theirs, they should vote for me. If they believe I am the best candidate for the position, they should vote for me.

IMPORTANT DATES:

- Oct. 20** Deadline to mail out standard ballots
- Oct. 30** Deadline to receive new registrations and voter updates online and by mail
- Nov. 7** GENERAL ELECTION
- Nov. 27** Canvassing Board Meeting
- Nov. 28** Canvassing Board Meeting to certify election
- Dec. 11-15** Diking and drainage district candidate filing week
- Dec. 15** Last day to file a resolution for February special election
- Feb.6** Diking and Drainage District Election Day (where applicable)
- Feb. 13** Special Election (where applicable)
- Feb. 23** Last day to file a resolution for April special election
- March 12** Presidential Primary
- April 23** Special Election (where applicable)

Information Courtesy of Island County Auditor's Office

ALL MAIL-IN BALLOTS:

Washington is a vote by mail state; there are no traditional polling places. Ballots are mailed to the voter's residence or mailing address; this allows voters approximately two weeks to vote and return ballots.

RETURNING YOUR BALLOT:

Ballots must be postmarked no later than Election Day. Please check with your local Post Office to clarify the last pickup of the day. State Law requires a ballot must have a postmark on or before Election Day (RCW 29A.40.091(4)). If a ballot is received with a postmark on it that is after Election Day, it cannot be counted.



ADA Compliant Ballot drop boxes are available 24-hours per day from the time ballots are mailed to voters. They will close promptly at 8 p.m. on election night.

No stamp is required to return your ballot.

Ballot drop boxes are located at:

- **Island County Elections Office** - 400 N. Main St., Coupeville (outside or in lobby)
- **Trinity Lutheran Church** - 18341 SR 525, Freeland
- **Ken's Korner Shopping Center** - 4141 SR 525, Clinton
- **Camano Island** - 121 N. East Camano Drive, Camano Island
- **Oak Harbor City Hall** - 865 S.E. Barrington Dr., Oak Harbor
- **Langley Post Office** - (front patio), 115 2nd St., Langley

Information Provided by Island County Auditor's Office



OAK HARBOR CITY COUNCIL, POSITION 4

Barbara Armes Precinct Committee Officer



Preferred political party? Conservative

Why do you seek election/reelection?

The community and citizens of Oak Harbor want change. Voters feel their needs and concerns are not being met by the council. I want to be an advocate for them. I have heard numerous complaints regarding the economy, increased utility prices, and increased crime in the city. I can devote my time and attention to the community and council since I am retired.

What qualifies you to run for this position?

I started attending city council meetings and work-shops over the past two years because I had concerns about the state of our community. I took a tour of the sewer plant and found the city infrastructure was in a "state of decay" according to the public works department. I am also attending public parks meetings. I am also engaged with my precinct as a PCO.

In what ways, or through which organizations, have you served your community?

I managed the Legislative District 10 office for local, state, and federal candidates in 2020. I was appointed PCO for precinct 217 and canvassed for local and state candidates in the last two election cycles. I have testified on legislative bills since 2021. I was elected Precinct PCO in the last election cycle. I have strengthened my ability to communicate with the citizens of Oak Harbor to provide information, encourage dialogue, and address the needs and concerns of the community.

What do you believe is the biggest issue facing your community?

After meeting with the public works director July 3, 2023 my top priority is obtaining monetary resources to repair our city infrastructure.

How do you intend to help deal with the aforementioned issue through the position you seek?

I want to work with the state and federal government to obtain funding and encourage private corporations to do the same to prevent a huge burden to the tax payers of Oak Harbor. Since I have campaigned for local, state, and federal officials, I already have a working relationship with them.

What do you hope to accomplish through your public service?

The biggest issues Oak Harbor is facing right now are the stagnant economy, lack of retail businesses to encourage tourism downtown and on the waterfront, crime, homelessness, and the decaying infrastructure. The council needs to work with elected officials to find funding and resources to address these issues. Mental health resources and affordable housing are lacking in Oak Harbor. Inflation has made it much more difficult for families to thrive in our community. The council also needs to work with Oak Harbor Main Street, The Arts Commission, and the Chamber of Commerce to encourage more retail businesses, artists, and tourism downtown. We should partner with the city parks department to improve our parks to accommodate people with disabilities and increase more recreational activities in Oak Harbor. I would encourage NAS Whidbey to be more involved in our community.

Why should people vote for you?

I would be an excellent advocate for the citizens of Oak Harbor and would do my best to find solutions to their problems and our community needs. I would work with the other council members to encourage us to provide the best leadership to our city.

John Chaszar Substitute Teacher



Preferred political party? (No response)

Why do you seek election/reelection?

I have been in love with this community for over 35 years. I believe my life experiences will contribute greatly to the guidance of Oak Harbor into the future.

What qualifies you to run for this position?

With over 30 years of executive leadership roles in the hospitality industry, I believe I have the qualifications to contribute greatly to the future of this community. In my roles, I have managed budgets of over \$150M and staffs greater than 1000 team members. I have held several voluntary community service leadership roles with various Chamber of Commerce's and Convention and Visitor Bureaus. I am currently the Vice-Chair of the Oak Harbor Planning Commission.

In what ways, or through which organizations, have you served your community?

I am currently the Vice-Chair of the Oak Harbor Planning Commission. I am also a member of the Oak Harbor Chamber of Commerce as well as the Oak Harbor Garden Club.

What do you believe is the biggest issue facing your community?

The first issue we would need to address is our aging infrastructure and ensure there is a viable plan to address the short and long term needs and most importantly, that we receive the community's input in the plan, especially those most affected.

How do you intend to help deal with the aforementioned issue through the position you seek?

I would work with the Mayor and City Administrators to ensure that the community's needs are being met, allocate funds necessary to complete the plan and finally, holding those in authority accountable for the measurable goals outlined in the plan.

What do you hope to accomplish through your public service?

I have often said, "What does Oak Harbor want to be when it grows up"? I have seen remarkable changes to this town over the years, but I believe we are at the crossroads of making the next giant leap forward. I have seen what communities can do when there is a collaborative effort to get the input of our citizens and business owners on what their vision is for the future. I believe we can be a vibrant community with a cohabitation of business, tourists and residents that creates the ultimate quality of life for all.

Why should people vote for you?

My family and I feel lucky to call Oak Harbor Home. Since moving here in 2018, I have worked as a substitute teacher for the Oak Harbor School District and serve on the Oak Harbor Planning Commission. Until I retired, I managed hotels and casinos across the country. In that role, I oversaw budgets of over \$150 million and teams of over 1000 employees. I believe my past experience puts me in a position to manage your hard-earned tax dollars wisely, encourage input from the community, and hold those in authority accountable.

I humbly asked for your vote for Oak Harbor City Council.

OAK HARBOR SCHOOL DISTRICT, DIRECTOR, POS. 2

Jessica Aws

Oak Harbor Youth Coalition
Coordinator, OHPS School Board
Director, Equine Instructor/Trainer/Barn
Owner, Bramblewood Farm



Preferred political party? Nonpartisan

Why do you seek election/reelection?

It has been an honor and privilege to serve on the Oak Harbor School Board for the past 6 years. In that time, I have demonstrated my commitment to maintaining and expanding strong partnerships between the district, students, families, the military, and the community. I want to continue this important work. I believe it is essential to foster an environment where students and families feel safe, welcome and heard. We must continue to elevate student voice, set high standards for academic excellence, and support the mental and emotional well-being of our students.

What qualifies you to run for this position?

As the incumbent in this position, I've spent the last six years learning every aspect of this position. With continued support of other board members, I feel that I am in an excellent place to continue this work for the next four years. Additionally, I am a former youth librarian at the Oak Harbor Library and the coordinator of the Oak Harbor Youth Coalition. As part of my job with the youth coalition, once a trimester, I go into the high school and have discussions with students about refusal skills, substance use prevention, peer pressure, and healthy coping skills. I am dedicated to our community's youth in both my personal and professional life, and spend much of my time interacting with and supporting our students both in school and out of it.

In what ways, or through which organizations, have you served your community?

I have served on the Oak Harbor School Board for the past six years, supporting students in their goals to graduate and thrive after graduation through our wonderful Career and Technical Education Programs, as well as college and career readiness programs. I've also supported elevating student voice through listening sessions and strong collaboration with our two student board members to give them experience with process and advocacy. As the Oak Harbor Community Coalition Coordinator I work closely with teachers and counselors in the middle schools and high school to teach about substance use prevention and healthy coping strategies. I also co-advise CAPE Club (Community

Awareness Peer Educators), a student-led prevention club. Additionally, I partner with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Island County and Northwest Hearts United to host Equine Assisted Mental Health Therapy programs as well as horseback riding lessons at our farm for youth free of charge.

What do you believe is the biggest issue facing your community?

Youth mental health is one of the largest issues facing our community right now, and there are not nearly enough community or school based resources to meet the mental health needs of our youth and families.

How do you intend to help deal with the aforementioned issue through the position you seek?

Youth mental health advocacy has been a cornerstone of my advocacy efforts in my time on the board. I will continue to advocate for additional funding for counselors and mental health professionals, as well as supporting the district's efforts towards incorporating multi-tiered systems of support and social emotional learning into our instructional framework.

What do you hope to accomplish through your public service?

I will continue to work with the rest of the board to hold the administrative team accountable, and ensure that tax dollars are being used appropriately, with student-centered learning the priority in everything we do. We are currently navigating through post-COVID budget reductions, while also embarking on a large strategic planning process, as well as building two new schools through grant funding from the Department of Defense and the state. Each one of those things would be challenging in it's own right, and balancing all of them while keeping a laser focus on the needs of our students and families will be a heavy lift, but one I am prepared for.

Why should people vote for you?

I've been on the school board for six years and feel the parents, students, and staff I've met with and talked to have enriched our community and school district. I still believe, as I did four years ago, that this generation of students can change the world and have a lot to offer our community, state, and country. It is an honor and privilege to help shape the environment that will inspire, support, and educate them from the time they first set foot in kindergarten until they cross the stage at graduation. I would love to continue this work for the next four years, and hope that I have earned your vote and made this community proud. I hope to see you at future school board meetings as we work together to make our schools the best they can be.

VS.

Karen Lesetmoe
NO RESPONSE RECEIVED

IT'S THE LAW:

Return postage prepaid for all elections: Return postage is paid for all elections. Voters may use a ballot drop box or return ballots by mail at no cost. Ballots must be postmarked on or before election day or they will not be counted.

Same Day Registration: Voters may register to vote in person from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Election Day.

Electronic Registrations: Registrations submitted electronically (Motor Voter, Online, etc.) must be submitted no later than eight days prior to an election.

Mail In Registrations: Registrations submitted through the Post Office must be received by an elections official no later than eight days prior to an election.

Early Registration: Future voters ages 16 and 17 may register to vote. Registrations will be kept "on hold" until voters are 18 years of age at the time of the next election. At that time, they will be registered to vote.

-Information Courtesy of Island County Auditor's Office

A Commitment to Health Care
A Commitment to You

Marion Jouas, RN

for Public Hospital District Commissioner
Position 1



Experience Leadership Advocacy

Vote to put a health care professional on your hospital board

www.marion4ourhealthcare.com

Paid for by Marion4OurHealthCare
marion4ourhealthcare@gmail.com

ELECT JESSICA THOMPSON



Oak Harbor School Board Position 4

LEADERSHIP TRANSPARENCY ACCOUNTABILITY

MY 4 POINT PLAN

- 1.) I will put families first in education
- 2.) I will be a friendly and strong voice for parents and students
- 3.) I pledge to bring transparency to curricula
- 4.) I will work on bringing education back to the local level and keep it out of the hands of unelected bureaucrats.

Paid for by Jessica Thompson for Oak Harbor School Board Position 4
2179 Colonial Way, Oak Harbor, WA, 98277

I APPRECIATE YOUR VOTE!

★ RONNIE WRIGHT ★



FOR MAYOR

PROVEN EXPERIENCE & INTEGRITY

Paid for by **RONNIE WRIGHT FOR MAYOR**
31925 SR 20, Oak Harbor, WA, 98277 • 360-203-5026



OAK HARBOR SCHOOL DISTRICT, DIRECTOR, POS. 3

Josh MacLean

I have been a Data Analyst at Skagit Regional Health for 5 years

Preferred political party? I am independent, but lean Democrat in most elections. This is a non-partisan office, and I am committed to represent the community.



Why do you seek election/re-election?

I see a need for the School Board to better represent the parents of the district.

What qualifies you to run for this position?

I will bring different viewpoints and skills to the board. The current board has very few members with children in the district schools, I don't expect that to change much in this election. Additionally, I have a degree in mathematics and work as a data analyst; My skills will help me dig into the large amounts of information that lay behind the reports that are presented to the board. I am a passionate advocate for the students and have demonstrated my continued interest in the operation of the school board.

In what ways, or through which organizations, have you served your community?

I have been a volunteer coach for soccer and basketball. I have also volunteered with the Boy Scouts of America. I was interviewed for School Board Director position #5 when it was vacated last year, and I have enjoyed attending the meetings ever since.

What do you believe is the biggest issue facing your community?

Our students have been regaining proficiency in reading and math, but there is still a lot of work to be done. Bullying and depression are also concerns that plague many of our students.

How do you intend to help deal with the aforementioned issue through the position you seek?

While the renewed focus on core subjects has been successful, I think we can go further by recognizing and expanding approaches that have been shown to work. We need to share these approaches with the parents and students and see them as a partner in the education of our children. We have never had the tools to interact and engage with parents that we do today, we can leverage new technology to work closely with parents.

What do you hope to accomplish through your public service?

I have 5 elementary school age children (triplets and twins) in the school district and I will grow learning opportunities for all the students in the district by improving the outreach from the school to the parents as partners in learning. The School Board should always be focused on the student. This may be difficult since we are generally addressed by our excellent educators, but the focus should be on the children we are tasked to help. I strongly believe every decision should ask, "How will this benefit our students? Can we do better?"

Why should people vote for you?

I have new skills and viewpoints that the current board and other candidates do not. I am highly skilled in analyzing information and I am motivated to help my own children and yours to make Oak Harbor an example to schools in the area.

Frederick Wilmot

Captain, USN (Retired)

Preferred political party? Republican



Why do you seek election/re-election?

I am disheartened at the U.S.'s declining rank in the education systems of the world, and in particular, the low proficiency of our Oak Harbor students by grade level. I have the experience and know-how to turn that around and have Oak Harbor produce graduates capable of immediately becoming productive members of our society and/or excelling in college. I'm also concerned about parental rights and their inclusion in the current «woke» environment and will work to ensure their involvement in our education system.

What qualifies you to run for this position?

I have first-hand experience in the field of education, having taught NJROTC and coached football and baseball in High Schools in Las Vegas and overseas in the acclaimed Department of Defense Dependents School system for 18 years. I also served on the Navy's Curriculum Advisory Committee, revising the textbooks used by over 650 schools, and on the Oak Harbor School District Curriculum Committee, selecting textbooks for our schools. In my Navy career, which included serving as Commanding Officer of VAQ-135 and later, as a Program Manager in Washington, DC, I managed multi-million dollar budgets and thousands of personnel.

In what ways, or through which organizations, have you served your community?

In addition to the above, I am serving as a U.S. Naval Academy Blue & Gold Officer, counselling and interviewing candidates for USNA on Whidbey Island and the San Juans. I have served as an AARP Tax-Aide Preparer; Elder in the Whidbey Presbyterian Church; Umpire at the South Whidbey Parks & Recreation Center; singer with the Whidbey Presbyterian Church Choir, Pacific Northwest Opera Chorus, Whidbey Community Chorus and cast of the Whidbey Playhouse.

What do you believe is the biggest issue facing your community?

Our education system graduating students less than adequately prepared to take their place as productive members of our society (as noted above). An average of 1 out of 3 students are not proficient for their grade level and, although COVID accommodations have played a part in that, the major reason for the shortfalls is insufficient time being devoted to the 3 "R"s (especially reading) because of "wokeness" indoctrination.

How do you intend to help deal with the aforementioned issue through the position you seek?

Working with teachers, parents and students, modify the curricula being offered/taught, adjust staff positions to ensure students' psychological concerns are adequately addressed (a recent study indicated that almost three quarters of the student population reported feeling "depressed") and adapt the budget as necessary.

What do you hope to accomplish through your public service?

I hope to get parents more involved and help this District graduate the best educated students who are prepared to join the work force «running» or excel as they continue their education in college.

Why should people vote for you?

I am a fiscal conservative and, as mentioned above, I have the practical experience from a career of teaching/coaching students along with the desire to make our education system second to none!

It's Not Too Late!

You can still register to vote in the Nov. 7 general election!

Voters may register to vote in person from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on election day. In Island County, go to 400 N Main Street in Coupeville.

Voter registrations submitted by U.S. Mail must be received no later than eight days before an election.

Voters may register to vote online at www.VoteWA.gov, if you have a Washington driver's license or ID card. Electronic registrations must be completed no later than eight days before an election.

Not sure if you're registered? Voter registration can be confirmed online at www.VoteWA.gov or by contacting the Elections Office. 360-678-8290

Learn more at www.islandcountywa.gov/570/Frequently-Asked-Voter-Questions. You can also go to www.VoteWa.gov to register to vote, update your name or address, check to see if your registration is current or to get a replacement ballot.

CONTACT YOUR LOCAL ELECTIONS OFFICE

On Whidbey Island:

Elections Office, 400 N Main St., Coupeville

Email: Elections@islandcountywa.gov

Phone 360-678-8290

Fax Number: 360-678-2326

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1410 Coupeville, WA 98239

Office Hours: 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday - Friday

On Camano Island:

Camano Annex, 121 N East Camano Dr., Camano Island

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 5000, Coupeville, WA 98239-5000

Phone: 360-387-3443

Office Hours: 8 a.m.–Noon/ 1-3 p.m., Monday-Friday



OAK HARBOR SCHOOL DISTRICT, DIRECTOR, POS. 4

Jessica Thompson

Stay at home mom & State Committeewoman for the Island County Republican Party

Preferred political party? GOP



Why do you seek election/re-election?

I am running for this position because I want to bring education and policy back to the local level. Currently, I believe there is too much bureaucracy in local school boards which affects communities because decisions and policies school boards set based solely on influence and or pressure from unelected bureaucrats, can be distant from family needs or worse, conflict all together with families in their communities. I also want to honor our state's constitution's demand that our public schools deliver high-quality education, I want to focus on properly incentivizing teachers to give students the best possible education, and lastly, I want to defend and protect parental rights in schools.

What qualifies you to run for this position?

As the State Committeewoman for the Island County Republican Party, and my access to the state party, I am very familiar with the problems plaguing our education system across the state and here in Oak Harbor. I have spent a few years now educating and involving myself with groups across the state comprised of moms, teachers, administrators, legislators and community members geared towards finding solutions to these problems and fixing what's broken.

In what ways, or through which organizations, have you served your community? I have served Oak Harbor by being a school bus driver for our district, working in children's ministry at my church, engaging with the community as an elected Precinct Committee Officer, and serving as the State Committeewoman for our Island County Republican Party.

In what ways, or through which organizations, have you served your community?

I have served Oak Harbor by being a school bus driver for our district, working in children's ministry at my church, engaging with the community as an elected Precinct Committee Officer, and serving as the State Committeewoman for our Island County Republican Party.

What do you believe is the biggest issue facing your community?

I believe the biggest issues facing our schools are the amount of students suffering from Covid-induced learning loss and the amount of bureaucracy which has infiltrated the public school system and strangled the role intended for the local school board.

How do you intend to help deal with the aforementioned issue through the position you seek?

Basic K-12 education is most effective when it is delivered by local educators who are hired and held accountable by locally-elected school boards. For school boards to truly serve their communities, they need to exercise their "broad discretionary power" when developing curriculum, selecting textbooks, hiring teachers, etc, and stop relying so heavily on federal education priorities and this "one size fits all" model from the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction. The way we are currently doing things is failing our children. Concerning Covid-induced learning loss, I would propose re-allocation of funds from Social Emotional Learning Surveys, Diversity Equity & Inclusion trainings, administrative compensation (just to name a few) for additional tutoring and extended learning programs for our students who are suffering.

What do you hope to accomplish through your public service?

If I elected, I hope to maximize parent involvement as I believe parents are the #1 stakeholders in their children's education. I want to govern from a local perspective and truly serve and listen to my constituents. I hope to do away with Social Emotional Learning Surveys which are highly invasive and which our district has yet to articulate to the community their end result and who actually sees them. And lastly, I hope to bring high quality education back to our schools which is the "paramount duty" of our state government and to "make ample provision for the education of all children residing within its borders."

Why should people vote for you?

I believe children are gifts and their impact on the future is powerful. I believe our schools must provide a solid grounding in fundamental skills (reading, writing, arithmetic), and preparation for the real world. Every child has unlimited potential, but only when they are given the right tools and support. Currently, our system of doing things is failing as we see tests scores plummet, depression & anxiety rise, increased teacher/staff burn out, and union and state ideology pushing Social Emotional Learning & Diversity Equity Inclusion demands on districts tied to money and incentives which are a waste of time and resources and which actually damage social and emotional wellness. If elected, I will work hard to change the areas where this system is broken.

Nicole Tesch

Oak Harbor School Board Director #4; Executive Assistant to the Human Resources Director of Amazon Web Services Infrastructure and Human Resources Director of Amazon Web Services Global Data Centers

Preferred political party? Bi-partisan



Why do you seek election/re-election?

My husband and I are proud alumni going back four generations starting in 1934 and ranging all the way to 2033. More importantly I am a mom of 5 kids, 4 of which are in 3 different schools in the Oak Harbor School District. To say I'm invested in our school district is an understatement. I want to continue to be a member of the board because I am in the thick of it. With kids in elementary, intermediate, and middle school currently in Oak Harbor I am able to speak to how items on the agenda affect the kids in our district. Things have changed since I was a wildcat. I want to show up for our community and our children. We have a proud community who supports our schools. I love Oak Harbor and I love our schools.

What qualifies you to run for this position?

My professional experience as a grant writer and my work in city, county, and tribal government makes me uniquely qualified for this position. Most importantly, I am a mom who cares about our schools and my children's education. I worked with the Superintendent on the applications to the Department of Commerce for Hand in Hand learning/Home Connection and Crescent Harbor Elementary replacement. Receiving funding for one school, let alone two schools, was honestly a long shot. Thanks to the help from our legislative representatives, we were successful with those efforts allowing us to utilize 80% match from the Department of Defense. I spoke to Director Patrick O'Brien, Director from Local Defense Community Operation of the Department of Defense during a tour of our two schools to display the poor conditions and capacity limits compared to other military installations about the importance of these schools in our community.

In what ways, or through which organizations, have you served your community?

Oak Harbor School Board Director Position #4 | May 2022 to present date
Co-chair, Citizens for Better Schools | November 2020 to December 2021
City of Oak Harbor City Administrators Office | November 2015 to June 2018
Island County Commissioners Office | April 2013 to November 2015

What do you believe is the biggest issue facing your community?

Funding!

How do you intend to help deal with the aforementioned issue through the position you seek?

As the board's legislative representative, I have advocated for funding due to the uniqueness of our district and its needs, including special education, needs for funding for the aging infrastructure of our schools, and so much more. As a grant writer, I will seek and assist staff with applications to benefit our community and district.

What do you hope to accomplish through your public service?

I am focusing on continuous improvement and learning, student voice and achievement, and improving/replacing the aging infrastructure of our schools with a supportive and challenging learning environment.

Why should people vote for you?

I contribute my individual thinking, as well as working as a team with my fellow board and our amazing superintendent. We have a laser focused superintendent, effective administration, and incredible staff (and volunteers). From the boardroom to the classroom we are being intentional with the decisions we have made at the right pace for long-term success for our students and the district.

Vote Responsibly

STEP #1
Become an informed citizen.

STEP #2
Cast a ballot!

BARBARA ARMES
for CITY COUNCIL POSITION 4

I will provide:
CITIZEN ADVOCACY
HONESTY | INTEGRITY

I will be your representative. I will provide information, encourage dialogue, and address the needs and concerns of our local community.

armesbarbara60@gmail.com

Paid for by BARBARA ARMES for CITY COUNCIL POSTION 4
351 Nunan Loop, Oak Harbor, WA 98277

OAK HARBOR SCHOOL DISTRICT, DIRECTOR, POS. 5

Sharon Jensen

*Self-employed/ Finance & HR manager
of architecture firm*

Preferred political party?
This is a non-partisan position.



Why do you seek election/re-election?

I was appointed to fill a vacancy in January 2023. Board policy states that the appointee will serve until the next regularly scheduled board election. I was motivated to apply for the vacated seat based on controversies at school board meetings as highlighted on news reports. I was moved to put my name in the pool to be a voice of reason, and collaboration, as my husband and I are strong proponents for public schools. I was selected out of 13 candidates. This position has a high learning curve, and I am beginning to feel more comfortable with the role and responsibilities as well as district staff. We have a strong superintendent, cabinet, and collaborative board right now, and are making good strides in student achievement and overall well-being. I hope to be part of continuing on this path and helping every student reach their highest potential in all ways.

What qualifies you to run for this position?

I believe my business skills and experience, as well as my personality and care for others make me a strong candidate. The superintendent reports to the Board of Directors, and my experience in my employer's hiring process has proved that my evaluative skills are strong. Additionally, the board establishes and oversees the budget. My accounting degree, as well as skills and experience allow me to understand financial reports and ask valuable questions. Another important role is serving as a community representative. I engage with people easily and have a listening ear. As an open-minded person, and candidate with no political agenda, I believe that I dialog with fellow members in a respectful and productive manner as we seek to make decisions in the best interest of students, their families, and the community. Lastly, and perhaps most importantly, I have eight months' experience serving as a current board member.

In what ways, or through which organizations, have you served your community?

My husband and I moved back to Oak Harbor over four years ago, after living in Shoreline for the prior 13 years. Since then, I have been actively engaged in serving in my local church (children's ministry and Home Group host) as well as serving as a small group leader in Bible Study Fellowship. My husband and I volunteered for our local community homeowners' association in the construction of easement access stairs.

Prior to our move, we lived in Oak Harbor for nine years when our four girls were young. I was an active member of PTA as well as a youth soccer coach, and Girl Scout cookie mom. Additionally, I helped with after school programs, field trips, and chaired fundraisers.

In Shoreline, I was active in PTA, serving as treasurer. I volunteered in the classroom, and for school events, and chaired fundraising events there as well.

What do you believe is the biggest issue facing your community?

Speaking of the school community specifically, academic achievement remains a concern. I want to work toward continuing the academic improvements that have been made since the pandemic shutdowns and work toward continuous improvement, and excellence. Oak Harbor School District isn't unique as test scores are a concern across the nation. The good news is that there was noted improvement in SBA scores (The state's standardized test for English Language Arts (ELA)/Literacy and math for grades 3-8 and 10) last spring. In fact, Oak Harbor improved more than the state average on most of the tests. That said, the students can achieve their best if they are motivated to do so, meaning we need to help create learning environments that address the whole child for both their academic success and well-being. Additionally, improved academic achievement requires an understanding of what is needed to best support our district staff as well.

How do you intend to help deal with the aforementioned issue through the position you seek?

By voicing this as a top priority, and I have. The current year's goals of the board and the superintendent include a focus on student academic achievement and well-being.

The district is in the process of developing a strategic plan, working with a core team from the district, which includes students, as well as community members. This will set the vision for the future, with high academic success as a core value. The Board is overseeing this process. We will monitor academic achievement and progress through quarterly disaggregated data reports from the superintendent. Another goal is to continue the collaborative partnership with DPAC (District Parent Advisory Committee) focused on student achievement and well-being.

I plan to be involved with the schools this year so I can better understand the student and staff experience. We have a lot to celebrate in Oak Harbor and I want to give voice to that.

What do you hope to accomplish through your public service?

My goals are to humbly serve, continue to learn, and be open-minded. As there is so much to learn, I believe this approach will allow me to be most successful. I have high standards for myself, and others, and will strive to do this job well. To me, that means being open-minded and yet inquisitive, with the goal of understanding all sides of an issue and differing viewpoints. I hope to be both a voice for the district and a listening ear to students, families, the community, and my fellow board members.

I believe the board will be successful and accomplished if we hold both the superintendent and ourselves to high standards. We need to meet our goals, and strive for excellence in all we do, working together in a respectful manner. I also think it is paramount to be good fiscal stewards of financial resources.

Why should people vote for you?

What makes me a strong candidate are: my eight months of serving, my business background and being the mother of four daughters who attended public schools. As I work part-time, I can give the time commitment that this role entails to do it well.

With the responsibility of approving the budget, I believe it is in the community's best interest to have someone with experience in both preparing and reading financial reports. Being from outside academia, I bring a different perspective.

William "Will" Smith

Director of Technology

Preferred political party? I am running as a nonpartisan for school board director, my primary focus is on serving the best interests of our students, families, and the community. I believe that education should be free from partisan politics, and my commitment is to make decisions based on what benefits our schools and the students within them. It's essential for school board directors to represent all parties and ideologies to ensure a fair and balanced approach to education policy. I aim to be a unifying force that brings people together to achieve common goals rather than being tied to a specific political party. My priority is to create an inclusive and effective educational environment for all, irrespective of political affiliations.

Why do you seek election/re-election?

I am seeking election to the school board because my unique blend of experience and perspective allows me to effectively serve our students, families, staff and community. As a school district employee, I intimately understand school policies and procedures, ensuring a smooth governance process. My role in managing the school technology budget demonstrates fiscal responsibility and the ability to prioritize resources for the benefit of students. Moreover, being a parent of two Oak Harbor students, I have firsthand insight into the challenges our students, staff, and families encounter, enabling me to advocate for their best interests. By seeking election, I aim to support and improve our educational system while representing the diverse needs of our students, schools, families and community.

What qualifies you to run for this position?

I am qualified to run for this position based on my extensive experience and diverse background. As a veteran, I have managed multi-million-dollar budgets, demonstrating my fiscal responsibility and leadership skills. Serving as a school technology director has given me a deep understanding of school budgeting, policies, and procedures, enabling me to make informed decisions for our educational system. My close collaboration with teachers and students has provided valuable insights into their challenges and needs. Additionally, my role as a parent volunteer has allowed me to work directly with students, fostering a genuine commitment to their success. Together, these experiences equip me with the knowledge, empathy, and skills needed to effectively serve in this position.

In what ways, or through which organizations, have you served your community?

I have served my community in several ways, including my service as a retired Navy Chief, where I contributed to national defense. I also volunteered at Hillcrest Elementary as a parent volunteer when my child attended the school, supporting various school activities and events. In addition, I've been involved in supporting the JROTC team for the past four years. These experiences have allowed me to give back to my community by sharing my expertise and contributing to the growth and well-being of students and future leaders.

What do you believe is the biggest issue facing your community?

The most significant issue in my community is a lack of trust in our local school district, particularly concerning budgeting, student success, resource allocation, staffing, and transparency. Many community members are concerned about how funds are managed, whether they adequately support student learning, and if resources and staff are distributed equitably. Transparency issues often leave residents feeling uninformed about district decisions, fueling mistrust. To address this, it is crucial for the district to prioritize open communication, provide clear financial reporting, and involve the community in decision-making processes. Rebuilding trust is essential for ensuring that our schools effectively serve all students and allocate resources in an equitable manner.

How do you intend to help deal with the aforementioned issue through the position you seek?

In the position I seek, I plan to address the mentioned issues through a multifaceted approach. First, I will prioritize transparent budgeting by advocating for clear financial reporting and involving stakeholders in the decision-making process, ensuring resources are allocated efficiently and in line with educational goals. Second, we need to focus on student success by promoting programs that enhance learning outcomes, student support services, and engagement. Additionally, we need to work with the superintendent and stakeholders to optimize resource allocation, directing funds to areas that have the most significant impact on student achievement. Lastly, we need to work with the superintendent in addressing staffing needs and work to attract and retain high-quality educators and staff, ensuring a well-rounded and capable workforce. By implementing these strategies, we can create a more efficient and effective educational environment that prioritizes student success, safety and financial transparency.

What do you hope to accomplish through your public service?

Through my public service, I aim to be a champion for our students and make their success my utmost priority. My primary goal is to provide them with the necessary resources and support systems to ensure their educational and personal growth. I aspire to create an environment where every student has equal access to quality education and opportunities, regardless of their background. By advocating for educational equity and fostering a nurturing atmosphere, I hope to see our students thrive academically and personally. Ultimately, my objective is to empower our youth to reach their full potential and contribute positively to society, making their success the most significant accomplishment of my public service.

Why should people vote for you?

People should vote for me because I am committed to championing the success of our students. With my experience in managing school budgets, I will ensure that resources are allocated efficiently to benefit our students. I value transparency in decision-making and will work to keep the community informed. My involvement in the district safety council and equity team demonstrates my dedication to creating a safe and inclusive learning environment. As a retired Chief, I understand the importance of selfless leadership and will always prioritize the needs of others. I am dedicated to our students' well-being and future, and I am ready to use my experience and expertise to make a positive impact on our education system.

PUBLIC HOSPITAL DISTRICT, COMMISSIONER, POS. 1

Marion Jouas

President, WhidbeyHealth Foundation

Preferred political party? Nonpartisan

Why do you seek election/re-election?

I am running to ensure that all of us who call Whidbey Island home have access to quality health care, to bring my forty years of health care experience to the board, and to ensure that the board fulfills its financial and other oversight responsibilities. I am running because our Hospital Board has no health care professionals among its five members. Our community needs the voice of a seasoned health care leader among its hospital commissioners, and I know health care from the perspective of a bedside nurse, manager, and leader who interfaced with every aspect of hospital staff for years. Finally, I am running because we need someone who welcomes new ideas and possibilities and is selected by the people, not the commissioners.

What qualifies you to run for this position?

I have lived on Whidbey Island for over eight years – I know our community and the needs of our hospital. I am a career registered nurse with over 40 years' experience in critical care, emergency, and management roles. I served my country around the world for 21 years as an active-duty and reserve Air Force nurse and retired as a Lieutenant Colonel. For the last three years I have been President of WhidbeyHealth Foundation, during which time our team and generous community raised over \$2 million for life saving and quality care equipment for WhidbeyHealth. I have worked in large and small civilian hospitals across the US and served on several nonprofit boards as a member and in leadership positions. Lastly, I have a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing from Thomas Jefferson University and a Master's Degree in Health Systems Management from Georgetown University.

In what ways, or through which organizations, have you served your community?

I served our country for 21 years as an Air Force nurse, on active duty and as a reserve officer, and retired as a Lieutenant Colonel. During that time and afterwards I supported numerous military spouse and dependent programs in the US and at overseas locations. In 2014 I was awarded the Joint Chiefs of Staff Distinguished Public Service Award, the highest civilian public service award bestowed by the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. After moving to Whidbey Island in 2015 I worked on the levy drive committees for the fairgrounds in Langley and the hospital in Coupeville. I also served as a board member for the Whidbey Island Center for the Arts from 2019-2022. I joined WhidbeyHealth Foundation in 2019, was elected president in 2020, and since then have led a team that's raised over \$2 million to meet our hospital's needs.

What do you believe is the biggest issue facing your community?

The biggest healthcare issue facing our hospital community is financial balance. Healthcare across the nation is struggling due to the high cost of staff, materials, and low reimbursement from insurance companies. WhidbeyHealth is no exception. Our new hospital CEO and CFO deciphered the previous financial puzzles and restructured the billing system, but challenges remain. We need more people to make WhidbeyHealth their healthcare of choice to increase the mix of insurance payers. Another challenge is the navy base hospital being reduced to a clinic, which pushed all military in-patient care and some outpatient care into the community. Unfortunately, Tricare military insurance reimburses at a lower rate than Medicare, which further exacerbates the financial balance when combined with our high number of Medicare and Medicaid patients. We pride ourselves in providing excellent health care to these populations, but must obtain the highest level of payment from each insurance program.

How do you intend to help deal with the aforementioned issue through the position you seek?

As a commissioner I will closely monitor expenses, revenues, and liabilities, and look for solutions and new ideas from across the State and US. I will encourage our community to make WhidbeyHealth their healthcare of choice. We need to use our health system if we want it to be here when we need it. Lab work, x-rays, mammograms, outpatient procedures, rehabilitation, and more are available at WhidbeyHealth. A specialist in Edmonds can order labs, radiology, or IV therapy that can be administered in our hospital. That benefits WhidbeyHealth's bottom line, and you don't have to sit in ferry lines or drive around. The national problem of low reimbursement from military healthcare insurance (Tricare) is getting the attention of more leaders in Washington DC. We need to amplify our voices, work with our elected officials, and address the underfunding that hurts our military families and community hospitals.

What do you hope to accomplish through your public service?

I hope to continue the legacy started over 50 years ago that brought quality, accessible, and independent healthcare to Whidbey Island. I want to develop community forums for the administration and commissioners to meet the public, share information, and listen to their concerns. I don't think the only way to see commissioners should be at a monthly meeting with a 3-minute time limit for comments. The public should have full financial transparency and awareness of challenges the hospital faces. One example is the low reimbursement from military insurance, which has a tremendous impact on a small health system like ours. I want to amplify these needs to our representatives in Congress and the Dept of Defense to obtain legislation that will provide financial support for small hospitals that care for military patients. Whidbey Island supports our military and we need support from Washington DC. I'm ready to do this.

Why should people vote for you?

Throughout my life I've had a passion and purpose for service to my community, from growing up in Pennsylvania to serving in the Air Force in places as far apart as Alaska, Hawaii, Texas, Japan, Korea, and Germany. In 2015 Whidbey Island became our forever home, and my passion and purpose are laser focused here. I've served as president of the WhidbeyHealth Foundation and helped to raise millions for new equipment, infrastructure upgrades, and staff education. I believe in WhidbeyHealth and exceptional healthcare for all. I am dedicated to providing 6 years as a commissioner, asking hard questions, advocating for our outstanding staff and services, listening to our community, and planning for the future. A commissioner should be a voice for all islanders to the WhidbeyHealth administration and a visionary for the next 50 years of healthcare on our island. I'm ready to serve.



Morgan Cooper

Current Board Commissioner, Position 1

Preferred political party? Bi-Partisan Position

Why do you seek election/re-election?

To continue my work as I have been seated since February 1st, 2023

What qualifies you to run for this position?

I have over 18 years of internal hospital marketing along with providing education and representation of specialty services like cardiology, orthopedics, radiology, bariatrics, behavioral health, and clinic administration experience in weight loss, bariatrics, and plastic and reconstructive surgery for cancer patients. Our clinic at Swedish was one of the first to launch EPIC and we spent a year and a half fine-tuning billing and provider documentation to support those services, measuring staff needs, growing support services, and hospital referrals. I have been active in establishing best practices, and employee engagement while managing quality care for patients. Not only do I have experience, but I am a community member who feels we need a committed voice that will truly represent the residents of the island. All of this is a plus for the board and the community as I am the only one currently with this skill set.

In what ways, or through which organizations, have you served your community?

I have been thoughtfully engaged in my community in a number of ways since 1973. Through civic organizations, fundraising efforts, and special community events, I have always given my time and energy to help whether by my former disc jockey profession, my graphic design, and marketing services. Some of these include: BB/BS, The Burned Children's Foundation, Seattle Children's Hospital, Hydros for Heroes, The Backpack for Kid's Food Program, and the Oak Harbor Music Festival, are only a few.

What do you believe is the biggest issue facing your community?

Our rural hospital has faced many significant challenges that are multi-level but they do "live together" to promote a healthy community hospital. Rural hospitals across the state struggle due to many of the same challenges and need to think outside of the box to correct their impact. We have a heavy Medicare, Medicaid, and Tricare payor mix which pays pennies on the dollar, and in many cases, we lose money providing care. It is important that we advocate to our legislators for opportunities to improve reimbursements. Billing, proper coding, and timely submission of services has been addressed and we are currently running 39-52 days cash-on-hand, as opposed to 3 days. Employee retention and adding quality providers to expand our range of services are also critical to the future of WhidbeyHealth. The final piece is to provide more transparency and regain public trust so they will utilize our services.

How do you intend to help deal with the aforementioned issue through the position you seek?

I was seated on February 1st this year and I have been working on a number of committees. I am on the board for the Finance Committee with efforts to evaluate past scenarios and to bring accountability/transparency to former issues. Some were: billing issues, improper coding of services, and no one to follow up if charges were denied. Some billing was at 180 days to a year in receivables. Under the former CEO, we did not have a financial goal or monthly financial report. This should never happen again. You cannot meet goals or measure success if you do not have information. The board also provides guidance to the CEO so I am excited with our newly hired CEO who is really proactive in providing leadership. I also sit on the Quality Improvement Committee that keeps track of and measures hospital care, employee engagement, and patient care initiatives and results.

What do you hope to accomplish through your public service?

I hope to build a stronger community connection to our rural healthcare system. WhidbeyHealth can be profitable, healthy, and vibrant while meeting the needs of its community. I hope to accomplish this by providing community access, increasing education and resources, and connecting our community in a healthy way. I self-funded my campaign so that I could demonstrate my neutrality and desire to serve my community. The hospital belongs to all of us and as a board member, I'm a community member, just like we all are and I will carry your voice, your concerns, and be watchful and mindful of the delicate balance needed in order to provide excellent healthcare for all.

Why should people vote for you?

I had my first child at WhidbeyHealth eons ago, I have been a part of this community for the better part of my life. I raised my family here and I am a committed community member with hospital, healthcare, and marketing experience. I have no agenda but to ensure that our hospital is well-managed and accountable to the community it serves. I have been serving the community and would like to continue to do so and would greatly appreciate your vote this November 7th so I can continue what I have started.



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PUBLIC HOSPITAL DISTRICT, COMMISSIONER, POS. 5

Kate Rose

Program Manager, Leadership
Whidbey/Skagit Valley College

Preferred political party? Democrat



Why do you seek election/re-election?

As a 27-year resident of Whidbey Island, I am highly committed to doing my part to create a community where we can all thrive. I am passionate about the importance of a local hospital. The health of our community depends on the continued functioning of WhidbeyHealth which provides not only local health-care but is a vital part of our economy by providing various employment opportunities.

What qualifies you to run for this position?

I entered the healthcare field as a respiratory therapist in an acute care hospital. My career went on to span over two decades in diverse healthcare settings. These included home care and rehabilitation, research, education, and public health. I have experienced firsthand the challenges and the possibilities for providing excellent health care. I have participated on many organizational boards and have a firm grasp of the expectations of a hospital commissioner.

In what ways, or through which organizations, have you served your community?

I began my first volunteer work on the Board of "Concerts on the Cove," just six months after moving to Whidbey Island. In the ensuing 27 years, I served on the Boards of the Toddler Learning Center, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Oak Harbor Music Festival, WhidbeyHealth Hospital Foundation, and the Community Health Advisory Board. I am currently on the Parks & Recreation Board for the City of Oak Harbor and a Civil Service Commissioner for the City of Oak Harbor.

What do you believe is the biggest issue facing your community?

I define my community as all of Whidbey Island. One of the most significant issues is access to healthcare through limitations in insurance coverage, medical staff shortages, transportation issues, and long appointment wait times.

How do you intend to help deal with the aforementioned issue through the position you seek?

Though a hospital commissioner does not have a direct role in forming policy, I will be a vocal participant in hospital board meetings, as well as a conduit for communication between the community and WhidbeyHealth.

What do you hope to accomplish through your public service?

A thriving healthcare system that is accessible to all community members.

Why should people vote for you?

The role of a Hospital Commissioner is two-fold. First is financial stewardship. This involves paying attention, asking questions, and having difficult conversations when necessary. The second is building relationships with the community through active listening and responding to their questions and concerns. I am skilled, ready and excited to fulfill this role.

VS.

Eric E. Anderson

NO RESPONSE RECEIVED

NORTH WHIDBEY FIRE AND RESCUE COMMISSIONER, POS. 1

Scott E. Jackson

911 Emergency Dispatcher,
Volunteer Firefighter/EMS Instructor,
Trained Paramedic

Preferred political party? Non-partisan



Why do you seek election/re-election?

North Whidbey Fire and Rescue has been a department that is near and dear to me for many years. I started volunteering with them in 2006 and have seen the growth that they have gone through and see the potential for much more. Times have changed, and NWFR needs to adapt or be left behind. In order for the organization to do so, it needs to have oversight by people who are flexible, and see how the fire service has changed. The taxpayers and citizens of their service area deserve more than what they are receiving. The full time, part time, and volunteers deserve the same. I hope to be able to bring the change that I want to see, and the change that everyone that works there, and that lives in the community deserves.

What qualifies you to run for this position?

I have lived on the north end of Whidbey Island since 1986, and I have been a member of North Whidbey Fire and Rescue since 2006. Since I started with NWFR, I have dedicated myself to public service. I love this community and everyone in it. I have worked on every side of the fire service. Working as a paramedic for WhidbeyHealth, a 911 Dispatcher for ICOM911, as well as a volunteer for NWFR. I know the struggles, I have lived the struggles, and I know I can help fix them. I believe in following a strong budget and strategic plan without frivolous spending. I have never lacked communication skills and believe that working together with the Chief of NWFR, through his leadership of the organization, NWFR can become one of the most astounding departments in the area.

In what ways, or through which organizations, have you served your community?

I currently wear a few different hats. I currently sit on the board for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Island County and have done so for the past couple years. I also assist my wife with the running of her business who partners with various organizations around the county to give access to equine assisted therapy. I am currently the 8th District representative for the Washington State Council of Firefighters Burn Foundation, which is a non-profit that helps burn victims and their families in their most terrible of times. I would also consider myself a bit of an activist, championing the causes of local businesses and non-profits. Which is to say I am not afraid to speak to state/county elected officials to ensure that NWFR is heard and seen.

What do you believe is the biggest issue facing your community?

North Whidbey Fire and Rescue is behind. They are behind on staffing, funding, and equipment. There are days that there are no full time (paid) people working and even more days where there is only one. This means loss in property and life, and a very dangerous situation for the single person working. NWFR needs to catch up to the current model of staffing. The citizens deserve it and the staff deserve it. The volunteers at NWFR do a phenomenal job, but given the current climate, cannot be the only answer. NWFR needs more fulltime firefighters/EMT's.

How do you intend to help deal with the aforementioned issue through the position you seek?

That is a hard issue to solve. It won't be done overnight. However, it must be done as soon as possible. Through the implementation of a strong and fiscally responsible budget, ensuring that all monies are spent appropriately and not frivolously, we can do our best to be able to hire the appropriate amount of staffing required. By listening to the leaders of the organization, and trusting them to make decisions that follow the same ideals as above, NWFR will thrive. If NWFR thrives, we as a community will thrive.

What do you hope to accomplish through your public service?

I hope to accomplish a very simple task. Ensure that so that every citizen that is served by North Whidbey Fire and Rescue is served by a fire department that is full of members and leaders that have been given the tools to safely and successfully do the job they volunteer or have been hired to do.

Why should people vote for you?

Short answer: I care. Fires grow at exponential rates. Seconds and minutes matter. Currently on days that there is no paid staffing, there are sometimes upwards of 3-4 "pages" for volunteers to respond. That delay can mean the difference between repairing a home, or completely rebuilding in the case of a fire. It can also mean never seeing a loved one again, in the case of a medical request. I will stand against and vote against recent and any future policy changes that directly impact the welfare of our citizens, taxpayers, and the employees of NWFR. I will be against using taxpayer funds for anything that does not directly increase the service that NWFR can provide. For example, thousands of dollars spent on changing the color of hubcaps on an apparatus because they don't match a different apparatus. Color does not matter, functionality does. Safe Staffing. Safe Tomorrow. Thank you.

VS.

T J Lamont

NO RESPONSE RECEIVED