

COVER MEMO

Briefing Date/Time: September 14, 2026
Staff Contact/Title: Alex Smith, Executive Director, 360-528-8001
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Subject: POCAC Appointments
Purpose: ☐ Information Only ☒ Decision Needed

Type of Agenda Item:

- Action/Other

Background:

On June 8, 2026 the Commission passed Resolution 2026-05 updating the rules governing the Port of Olympia Community Advisory Committee (the POCAC). The Resolution provides for a 15-member POCAC, with a goal of having three members from each of the Port of Olympia election districts. Each Commissioner appoints three POCAC members. The Resolution recognizes that equal representation from all election districts may not be possible and thus provides for Commissioners to appoint members from Thurston County at large.

Under the Resolution, each Commissioner shall nominate three candidates: one from within his or her district and two "at-large" candidates from within Thurston County. The Commission as a whole shall vote on the full slate of nominations at a public meeting. For this first selection period, each Commissioner shall use one of their at-large nominations to nominate a current member of the POCAC who has chosen to submit his or her name for consideration.

The Commission also committed to reappointing current POCAC members who indicated they wanted to stay on the POCAC. On August 10, 2026, staff presented an advisory briefing on the initial applicant pool and the recruitment process. Staff committed to bringing recommendations to the September 14th Commission Meeting for the Commission's consideration.

Summary and Financial Impact:

Following the open recruitment period (June 15 – July 31, 2026) and additional applications received through August, the Port received a total of ten (10) new applications. Six (6) current POCAC members have also indicated they wish to be

reappointed. Together, this results in a pool of 16 candidates. Detailed applicant profiles, including bios and applicants' statements of interest, are provided in the attached Applicant Summary.

New Applicants:

Name	Election District
Heather Christenson	1
Dan Decker	1
Erin English	1
Sherrie Ilg	1
David Lund	1
Timothy Smith	1
Edward Humble	4
Cami Jones	4
Rose Gundersen	4
Dylan Stuwe	5

Current POCAC Members Seeking Reappointment:

Name	Election District	Current Term End Date
Jack Havens	3	December 2026
Darlene Kemery	3	December 2028

Debbie Pattin	3	December 2028
Sue Patnude	3	December 2027
Jim Thornton	2	December 2027
Bob Wubben	1	December 2027

Alignment with Vision 2050:

Supports the Vision 2050 Goal to build community partnerships and expand communication and public participation.

Environmental Considerations and Review:

N/A

Alternatives Considered:

Option 1 — Review, discuss, and defer. Staff presents all 16 candidates to the Commission. The Commission discusses the full applicant pool and determines how it would like to proceed with nominations and appointments, consistent with the process outlined in Resolution 2026-05, Section 11.

Option 2 — Staff Recommended Appointments with Alternate. Consistent with the appointment option previously discussed with the Commission, staff recommends the following 15-member slate, utilizing the at-large provisions in Resolution 2026-05, Section 3, to seat candidates from District 1 under Commissioners whose districts have fewer than three applicants:

District One — Commissioner Vasavada:

Dan Decker (District 1), Sherrie Ilg (District 1), David Lund (District 1)

District Two — Commissioner Toompas:

Jim Thornton (District 2, reappointment), Jack Havens (District 3, reappointment), Timothy Smith (District 1, at-large)

District Three — Commissioner Unsoeld:

Sue Patnude (District 3, reappointment), Debbie Pattin (District 3, reappointment), Darlene Kemery (District 3, reappointment)

District Four — Commissioner Hansen:

Edward Humble (District 4), Cami Jones (District 4), Rose Gundersen (District 4)

District Five — Commissioner Montano:

Dylan Stuwe (District 5), Bob Wubbena (District 1, reappointment/at-large), Heather Christenson (District 1, at-large)

Under this option, Erin English (District 1), application received after the 8/25/26 email briefing from Executive Director Smith, would be designated as the first alternate should any appointed member decline to serve or should a current member step off the committee prior to the end of their term. The next potential term end date is December 2026.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends the Commission consider the alternatives presented and provide direction on how it would like to proceed.

Document(s) Attached:

- Resolution 2026-05
- POCAC Operating Rules (Exhibit A)
- Applicant Summary with Bios and Statements of Interest