

POCAC Member Appointments — Applicant Summary

September 14, 2026

How New POCAC Members Are Selected

Under Resolution 2026-05, Section 11, new POCAC members are selected through an open and transparent recruitment process. When a vacancy occurs, the Port initiates a public recruitment as soon as practicable. The Port publicly advertises all vacancies on the Port website and through other appropriate communication channels, and the application period must remain open for no fewer than thirty (30) days.

Each potential member submits an application that is forwarded to all Port Commissioners for their consideration. Applicants are asked to provide information demonstrating:

- Interest in the work of the Port and community engagement
- Ability to consider issues from a community-wide perspective
- Relevant knowledge, experience, or professional expertise
- Ability to participate constructively in collaborative deliberations
- Commitment to regular attendance and participation

Each Commissioner shall nominate three candidates for POCAC membership: 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 following adoption of this Resolution, 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.

POCAC Membership Composition

Resolution 2026-05 provides that POCAC membership shall consist of fifteen (15) members, with membership not to fall below nine (9) members. All members shall be residents of Thurston County. The 15 members shall comprise, if possible, three (3) members from each of the five (5) Port of Olympia election districts. In the event that each election district is unable to field three members, the remaining membership shall be recruited from Thurston County at large.

A Port Commissioner and the Executive Director or their designee shall serve as ex officio, non-voting members of POCAC and attend monthly POCAC meetings.

A full term for POCAC members is three years. Terms are staggered to the extent possible to allow for continuity of membership. POCAC members may serve no more than four (4) three-year terms for a total of twelve (12) years.

Current POCAC Members Seeking Reappointment

The following six current POCAC members have indicated they wish to be reappointed:

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 Wubbena	1	December 2027

New Applicants

Following the passage of Resolution 2026-05, Port staff held an open recruitment from June 15 through July 31, 2026. Additional applications continued to be received through August. In total, ten (10) new applications were received. Applicant profiles and their responses to the question “Please briefly describe why you would like to serve on the Port’s Citizens Advisory Committee” are provided below.

1. Heather Christenson — District 1

Bio: Heather Christenson is an attorney with 34 years of diverse corporate, business, and real estate experience at Budd Bay Law, P.S. in Olympia. She has been a Thurston County resident for over 20 years and lives on East Bay Drive overlooking Swantown Marina. She is active in Port-promoted events and has served on the Board of the Coconino County Bar Association, as PTA President at Pioneer Elementary School, and on the Board of Evergreen Swim Club for five years where she also served as Registrar, Secretary, and USA Swimming Administrative Official and Meet Director for seven years.

In the applicant’s own words: “There are three main reasons that I am applying to volunteer for the Port of Olympia Community Advisory Committee (POCAC). First, I would like to give back to the community that has given me so much. Second, I am passionate about the Port of Olympia and would like to support its future. Third, I believe my relevant skills and experience could be of value to the POCAC.”

2. Dan Decker — District 1

Bio: Dan Decker is a retired NOAA Fisheries scientist with 30 years of experience as a fisheries biologist and vessel safety and survival at sea trainer. He has extensive experience with aquatics, boating, and marine research in the North Pacific and Alaska. Decker has been active in the Olympia sailing and small boat community for over 30 years, including efforts to bring a boat lift and small sailboat yard to the Port peninsula. He has served as past President of the IFPTE Local 8A union and as Commodore of the South Sound Sailing Society.

In the applicant's own words: “It is critical that the port change its operations and focus on serving the community which funds it. Facilitating the export of raw materials, damages the environment, the economy and society. There are so many ways that the port and other Portland can be used more effectively and for the benefit of taxpayers.”

3. Erin English — District 1

Bio: Erin English is a local mariner and small marine-business owner who has been a liveaboard in Olympia since 2019. She operates Captain Erin, a sole proprietorship, and has previously served as a dock master for Freedom Boat Club and as a commercial diver. She brings firsthand experience with the challenges and opportunities facing working boaters, small maritime businesses, recreational users, and the waterfront community.

In the applicant's own words: “I want to serve on the Port of Olympia Community Advisory Committee because the Port and Olympia’s waterfront are a meaningful part of my life and community. As a local mariner and small marine-business owner, I have firsthand experience with the challenges and opportunities facing working boaters, small maritime businesses, recreational users, and the waterfront community. I would like to bring that practical perspective to the Port while also listening to and representing the broader community. I’m particularly interested in supporting a healthy, accessible, economically viable waterfront that respects Olympia’s maritime history while creating opportunities for its future.”

4. Rose Gundersen — District 4

Bio: Rose Gundersen is a recently retired professional and Thurston County resident who ran for the Port of Olympia Commissioner position in 2023. She brings policy experience working with a variety of stakeholder groups and is currently active as a Boys and Girls Club Thurston County Board Member and a World Relief of Western WA Advisory Council Member. Her past experience includes co-founding Washington Trafficking Prevention and serving on the Tumwater School District site team and financial committee.

In the applicant's own words: “As a rural resident of Thurston County, I deeply care about representing the voice of rural residents’ voices on POCAC. I also bring the voices of small business, policy experience working with a variety of stakeholder groups, and community engagement on a broad range of issues.”

5. Edward Humble — District 4

Bio: Edward Humble has lived in Thurston County for 30 years and currently serves as Chair of the South Sound Sierra Club Group. He brings extensive experience in education, having served as a teacher, principal, school district superintendent, and University of Idaho professor. After completing his doctorate, he worked as a consultant and partner at MGT Consulting Group from 1993 to 2019. He is active in a number of community organizations, including Thurston Gun Sense and the 35th District Democrats.

In the applicant's own words: “My interest in serving stems from my role as Chair of the South Sound Sierra Club Group. Sierra Club is a long standing national environmental organization that prioritizes collaborating with local groups to ensure protection of the natural environment for generations to come. I am confident that we can be a productive partner with the Port both in protecting the environment while understanding the role of the Port to focus on investments that will yield benefits and outcomes that align with community priorities for years to come.”

6. Sherrie Ilg — District 1

Bio: Sherrie Ilg has lived in Thurston County for 35 years and currently serves as the IT Director and Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) for Thurston County, where she leads a team of 51 employees and manages an annual budget of \$28 million. She holds an MBA in Technology Management from the University of Phoenix and a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from St. Martin's College. Ilg also serves as an adjunct professor at the University of Maryland Global Campus, teaching undergraduate IT courses. She has served on her HOA board for nine years in rotating roles as president, secretary, and treasurer, and has volunteered with Make-A-Wish and her children's PTA.

In the applicant's own words: “I've lived in Thurston County for 35 years, and both my home in Olympia and my work with the County have given me a deep understanding of our community's strengths and challenges. I'm invested in seeing this region grow in a thoughtful, sustainable way, and I believe the Port of Olympia plays an important role in shaping that future. Serving on the Community Advisory Committee would give me an opportunity to contribute my experience, listen to diverse perspectives, and help ensure the Port's work continues to reflect the needs and values of the people who live here.”

7. Cami Jones — District 4

Bio: Cami Jones has lived in Olympia/Tumwater for over 20 years and has been following the Port's airport updates since moving to the Bradbury area five years ago. She has worked for the State of Washington for the past 20 years and currently serves as a process improvement specialist with the Office of the Washington State Auditor.

In the applicant's own words: “It directly affects my community and life and future.”

8. David Lund — District 1

Bio: David Lund currently serves as the Criminal Justice Specialist for the Washington Secretary of State's Civic Engagement Program, where he develops and implements civic engagement initiatives focused on justice-impacted populations. He previously served as Executive Director of a nonprofit organization and is currently pursuing a Master of Public Administration. His experience includes serving on the Treatment Sales Tax Advisory Board and the Behavioral Health Advisory Board.

In the applicant's own words: "I would like to serve on the Port of Olympia Community Advisory Committee because I believe the Port is one of Thurston County's most important public institutions, and strong public institutions work best when they have informed, constructive community input. Professionally, I work in civic engagement for the Washington Secretary of State's Office, where I focus on strengthening public participation and helping government better serve the people it represents. My career has also included nonprofit leadership and work at the intersection of criminal justice, public policy, and community engagement."

9. Timothy Smith — District 1

Bio: Timothy Smith has lived in Olympia for more than eight years and currently works for the Association of Washington Business, engaging employers and organizations on public policy issues. He previously served as Director of Operations for a multi-location retail organization managing five locations and over 100 employees. He is an active boater and has volunteer experience with the Central Kitsap Band Boosters, High School Boosters Club, and Youth Athletics programs.

In the applicant's own words: "I want to serve on the Port of Olympia Community Advisory Committee to become more involved in and connected with the community I have called home for more than eight years. Thurston County offers a unique combination of natural beauty, rich history, wildlife, and economic opportunity, and I care deeply about helping preserve and strengthen those qualities for future generations. As an active boater and frequent user of our local parks, waterways, and natural areas, I have developed a strong appreciation for the environmental resources that make our region special. At the same time, I recognize the important role the Port plays in supporting economic opportunity through its marine, aviation, and land use operations. I believe our community benefits most when environmental stewardship and economic development are viewed as complementary goals."

10. Dylan Stuwe — District 5

Bio: Dylan Stuwe is a U.S. Army National Guard veteran and small business owner based in the Olympia/Lacey area. His professional background includes information technology, cybersecurity and networking, electrical infrastructure, aviation systems, and technical field service. He currently owns A Helpful Tech, providing affordable one-on-one technology support

to community members, including free assistance for those who cannot afford services. He is also currently training as a substitute school bus driver for the Olympia School District.

In the applicant's own words: "I would like to serve on the Port of Olympia Community Advisory Committee because I want to become more involved in the community where my family and I live and contribute some of the technical and practical experience I have gained throughout my career. My background includes information technology, cybersecurity and networking, electrical infrastructure, aviation, and technical field service. Much of my work has involved understanding complex systems, identifying problems, considering safety and reliability, and working with people from different professional backgrounds to find practical solutions. I believe that perspective could be useful when the Committee considers infrastructure, technology, transportation, economic development, and other issues affecting the Port and the broader community."

Current Applicant Pool by District

With all new applicants and current members seeking reappointment combined, there are 16 total candidates distributed as follows:

District	Candidates	Names
District 1	7	Heather Christenson, Dan Decker, Erin English, Sherrie Ilg, David Lund, Timothy Smith, Bob Wubbena (reappointment)
District 2	1	Jim Thornton (reappointment)
District 3	4	Jack Havens (reappointment), Darlene Kemery (reappointment), Debbie Pattin (reappointment), Sue Patnude (reappointment)
District 4	3	Edward Humble, Cami Jones, Rose Gundersen
District 5	1	Dylan Stuwe

Note: The POCAC target is 15 members with a goal of 3 per district. District 1 has 7 candidates while Districts 2 and 5 each have only 1 candidate. Under the at-large provisions of Resolution 2026-05, Section 3, Commissioners whose districts have fewer than three applicants may nominate District 1 residents to fill their at-large positions.