

Whidbey Island
VOTER'S

ELECTION

GUIDE

2019

Publisher's Note:

Thank you for taking this opportunity to read *Whidbey Weekly's* Voter Guide for the upcoming Nov. 5 general election.

Here are a few notes on our process:

We included only Whidbey Island races with multiple candidates and only those of more broad appeal; we did not include races for water districts or races with a single 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. *Whidbey Weekly* made every effort to find updated contact information for those emails that bounced back to us and to contact candidates for email addresses if only a telephone number was given. However, we cannot say with 100 percent certainty that every candidate received our email.

Candidates who did not respond are listed, but as we stated above, we do not know if they did not receive our email or whether they chose not to respond.

Responses have been edited for length only; candidates were asked to keep responses to each question to 100 words. Those responses over 100 words were cut off at the end of the sentence closest to the 100-word mark.

Other than editing for length, *Whidbey Weekly* did not change spelling or grammar in any of the candidates' responses; they appear as we received them.

We hope this guide will prove to be useful to Whidbey Island voters.

Whidbey  Weekly





OAK HARBOR MAYOR

Bob Severns

Mayor of Oak Harbor

Why do you seek election (or reelection)?

Seeking re-election as Mayor to continue the good things I've started and complete some things I've started during my first term. Additional housing is needed for our citizens and we have several different projects being developed at this time. We are in discussions with the Navy to treat a portion of their wastewater and we are examining opportunities around our marina. We just made an offer to acquire property for a regional park to add many additional ballfields and park amenities in our future.



What qualifies you to run for this position?

I'm qualified because of my experience as Mayor and my history with our City Council. My extensive local business career and my continued community involvement got me elected to City Council and I believe again that what I've accomplished and can continue to accomplish if re-elected far outweighs anything my opponent has planned.

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

During my 45 years in Oak Harbor I have served on the boards and in all officer positions of our Chamber of Commerce and the noon Rotary club. I served on our State Bar Assn. Limited Practice Board for eight years, a County Economic Development board for four years, an eight year member of the Citizens Against Domestic Abuse (CADA) board, eight years on City Council and nearly four years as Mayor. I have donated funds to the CofC, Rotary, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Boys and Girls Club, Cancer Society, Oak Harbor School District and our Pool just to name a few.

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

The biggest issue facing our community is the lack of workforce housing, however I am concerned about the State Attorney General's recent legal challenge to Naval Air Station Whidbey Island (NASWI). Any possible future decisions to locate the planes at NASWI could negatively affect our City and the local economy.

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

The City currently has about 450 units of housing in projects that are in process in our Development Services Department. I will encourage those developers to work with our staff and our staff to work with those developers to find solutions to bring these projects to completion. We are communicating with our County to make sure our City can grow if and when necessary. I serve on a task force to support NASWI and we are actively working in their behalf.

What do you hope to accomplish through your public service?

Oak Harbor is a wonderful place to live. Our schools are winning national awards, our citizens live in one of the safest cities in the country. I want to continue our safe and comfortable future for our residents going forward. I believe Oak Harbor can be better served by broadband services that allow more people to work from home and more homes with access to better, faster services. I also want to keep our NASWI family right here protecting our citizens and our country.

Why should people vote for you?

I've lived, worked and served in Oak Harbor for 45 years. My style is balance in how to listen and balance in how I react. I know that City Council makes most decisions about policy and actual direction, I have experience with them and them with me. My opponent retired here a little over ten years ago and has not been involved in any city committee, commission, or council to my knowledge, also I don't know of anything he has supported in our city, except perhaps by leasing a slip in our marina for his boat.

Pat Harman

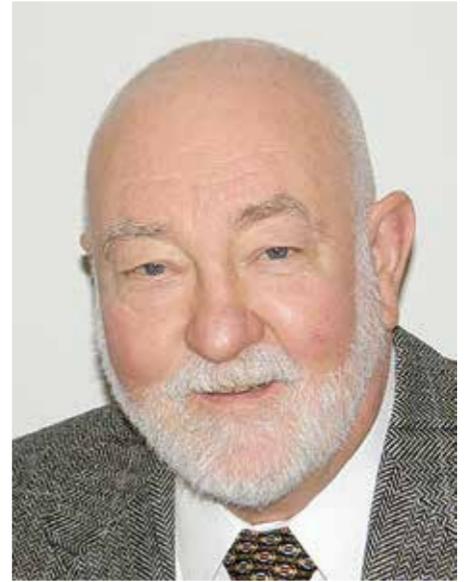
Retired

Why do you seek election (or reelection)?

I am upset at the financial mismanagement of our city. In particular, I am upset with the financial mismanagement of the construction of the sewer plant. I have a strong background in public finance. The City of Oak Harbor can use my financial and leadership skills.

What qualifies you to run for this position?

I learned public finance, which is very different from business finance, while a legislative aide in Alaska. The city needs a leader who understands, and practices the principle of public finance.



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

In Alaska I was chairman of the Municipal Light and Power Commission. In this position I lead the successful effort to purchase an interest in the Beluga gas field. Owning our own fuel supply provided Anchorage with proven reserves that would supply the utility with 30 years of fuel. This gave the city of Anchorage much needed economic stability, and the opportunity for economic growth.

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

Deferred maintenance! Failure to maintain our streets and roads has led to the City Council to ask for an increase in sales tax to cover the cost of what should be a budgeted maintenance item. Failure to maintain the boat lift and dredging at the marina has led to our loss of Race Week, which brought hundreds of thousands of dollars into our economy. Failure to maintain our beloved windmill has led to its removal for safety reasons.

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

Fund road maintenance and other necessary maintenance projects, and fund the Capital Improvement Plan in future budgets.

What do you hope to accomplish through your public service?

I will implement sound public finance practices which will lead to financial stability. I will stop the practice of deferred maintenance so we can retain the activities and landmarks that make Oak Harbor such a wonderful place to live. We need economic development, so I would like to build a municipal airport. This is a proven way to bring millions into our local economy.

Why should people vote for you?

I consider myself to be the candidate for change. I have the leadership and public finance experience to make it happen. If you want change, then vote for it!



There is still time to register for this year's elections!

Register online or by mail until Monday, Oct. 28 or
in-person at 400 N. Main Street in Coupeville until 8 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 5.



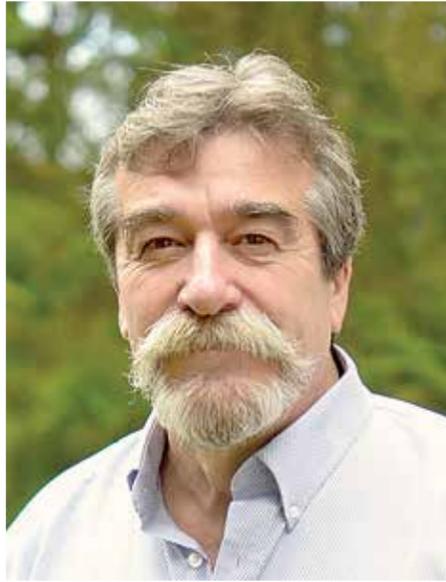
PORT OF COUPEVILLE COMMISSIONER, POS. 1

David Day

Commissioner District 1, Port of Coupeville
Catering chef / "Paella guy" at bayleaf, Coupeville

Why do you seek election (or reelection)?

It is vitally important to keep the Port of Coupeville focused on the stabilization, preservation and renovation of the Coupeville Wharf while maintaining the viability of the Greenbank Farm. These iconic historic properties play an important role in the maritime and agricultural history of Whidbey Island and contribute to the economic diversity of Central Whidbey. Trying to make sure that the financial resources of the Port are used in the best interest of these important assets and the taxpayers is my reason for wanting to continue to serve as Port commissioner.



What qualifies you to run for this position?

Former Executive Director for the Port of Coupeville

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

- My experience serving on the Coupeville Planning Commission (chair for ten years).
- President, Friends of Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve
- 30 plus years working in and managing successful restaurants, including co-ownership of Wildflowers Restaurant in Mount Vernon for 13 years.

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

[The Port:] Years of deferred maintenance due to a lack of funding

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

The Port needs to carefully determine how it spends the taxpayer's money, and leverage it's revenue by working to find additional funds through grants, gifts and other sources.

What do you hope to accomplish through your public service?

It is important to get the public involved in understanding what the Port does, the properties that have been entrusted to it, and what needs to be done to keep them viable. (See reasons for running)

Why should people vote for you?

I have experience working to promote financially responsible open government, passion for the preservation of these historical structures, and a history of community service over the past 18 years since moving to Whidbey Island.

VS.

Roger L. Eelkema

No response received.

VOTE
By November 5

BOB SEVERNS

MAYOR

A Trusted Leader For Oak Harbor

Experience Matters!

Working with Pentagon officials to ensure the long term stability of NAS Whidbey Island
Negotiating contracts to ideally lower individual utility rates
Increasing public safety measures
Developed a community wide effort to diminish homelessness and litter

- Director, Island County Board of Health
- Director, Island County Council of Governments
- Director/Chair, NAS Whidbey Island Task Force
- Director, Island County Regional Transportation Planning
- Director, Island County Economic Development Council
- Director, Oak Harbor Chamber of Commerce
- Director, Affordable Housing Task Force
- Director, Northwest Clean Air Agency
- Two terms Oak Harbor City Council
- Over 45 years of business experience

"We could not have completed our new building and would have relocated our entire business off island had it not been for Mayor Bob Severns."
Abdul Sharif, President/CEO Technical Services Institute

PAID FOR BY CITIZENS TO ELECT BOB SEVERNS MAYOR
1199 SE DOCK STREET, OAK HARBOR, WA 98277
360-929-3339 • rseverns1@gmail.com



COUPEVILLE SCHOOL BOARD DIRECTOR, POS. 3

Sherry Phay

Wife, Mom, Voter, Tax Payer, Registered Nurse at Seattle Cancer Care Alliance and WhidbeyHealth, Strength Coach, I could go on...

Why do you seek election (or reelection)?

During last year's teacher wage negotiations, I became very aware of how little I knew about how our school system worked and how many opportunities I, as a parent, taxpayer and voter, could advocate for my kids, school staff and our school district's programs. The more I learned (am still learning) and the more I've become involved in our community I started to see practices we could improve upon, update, and on some issues, seriously look at to include.

What qualifies you to run for this position?

Assessing and addressing the current status with an eye to the future while being familiar with the past in order to create best practices. The parallels between School Board Director and Nursing patients receiving cutting edge treatment is uncanny. Stepping back and getting the big picture. The ability to listen, contribute and work as a team, the willingness to ask questions and being open to learning new concepts and ideas. These are all primary responsibilities of nursing, or simply being a parent and caregiver for that matter, that I feel can be incorporated and used as a School Board Director.



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

I have served or am currently serving within several community organizations: Coupeville Farm to School Board, Whidbey Island Red Cross, Island County workgroup for depression and suicide prevention, PTA, school event and classroom volunteer

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

1. Recovering the Budget
2. Building a better relationship with the community.
3. A Continuous Improvement Plan that reflects the needs of today's graduates.

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

The issue of budget will take years to recover. Hard decisions will be made that will affect the entire school district so supporting staff as they maintain the level of professional excellence, they bring to their job every school day is important to me. Additionally, communicating progress with the community and maintaining perspective as we move forward with budget recovery are also very important.

What do you hope to accomplish through your public service?

A budget on an increasingly stable trajectory, greater communication between school board and community, an updated Continuous Improvement Plan that reflects the needs of today's graduates

Why should people vote for you?

I am a parent who is "right there" on the receiving end of the school district's decisions so I'm motivated that they are in the best interests of the entire district: students, staff and community. I understand and believe that a being a director is more than budgets and policy approval but staunch advocacy with local and state government to provide the education that our students deserve.

VS.

Jerry Brent Stevens

No response received.

COUPEVILLE SCHOOL BOARD DIRECTOR, POS. 4

David Mahaffy

Senior Software Developer

Why do you seek election (or reelection)?

We've seen education spending increasing far faster than inflation while the number of students in the district is declining. This unsustainable financial course cannot continue. School districts have buckled to illegal strike threats and handed out unsustainable contracts. Over the last decade, spending per student in Coupeville has risen at over 3 times the rate of inflation! I am running to oppose runaway spending.

What qualifies you to run for this position?

I have a major in business administration, so I'm familiar with accounting principles. I'm a homeowner and taxpayer, so I have a vested interest in this community and the wise use of our limited tax dollars. I'm not a former educator and my children are homeschooled, so I can be an independent voice on the school board to represent taxpayers.



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

I was on the board of my homeowner's association for several years, including setting budgets for our association. I also serve as an elder at my church, which also involves setting budgets. I currently serve on the board of my water association.

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

Unsustainable growth in our taxes which contributes to making housing less affordable.

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

As a member of the school board, I can advocate for fiscal responsibility and oppose unsustainable union contracts and unnecessary levies.

What do you hope to accomplish through your public service?

To provide a good, basic education in Coupeville (as our state constitution requires) without increasing spending at the current unsustainable rate.

Why should people vote for you?

If you're tired of your taxes endlessly increasing, it's time to start voting for fiscal conservatives like me! In Coupeville we're spending 67% more per student than we were 10 years ago (details and sources at www.elect.mahaffy.org). Are we seeing a 67% improvement in the quality of our education, or is it time to rein in spending? Former educators and parents of students are already represented on the school board; regular taxpayers should have a voice too.

VS.

Glenda Merwine

No response received.

PORT OF SOUTH WHIDBEY COMMISSIONER, POS. 3



Ed Jenkins

Retired business owner

Why do you seek election (or reelection)?

The Port has incurred huge debt with no way to pay it back other than higher taxes. This debt is for ventures that benefit all of Whidbey but only south Whidbey is paying. The Port is carrying water for all Whidbey and Mukilteo for projects that have no statistics or business plan to see if they are viable. Curt Gordon moves South Whidbey taxpayer deeper in debt catering to a few loud voices but ignores sound

business practices. I have the experience to reorganize these projects and dig us out of financial black holes into sound, financially responsible projects.

What qualifies you to run for this position?

I have had multiple businesses from when I was my early twenties until I retired at forty-five. Several of these were very large and some very small but all were profitable. My business ventures were successful because I gathered statistical data to target direct mailings that were different from most direct mailings. I am blessed to have a knack for promotion and much of that was free. I understood what media wanted and used that to my benefit. Most Port projects flounder and cost enormous sums because they never had a business plan or understood how to run a business.

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

Since I retired at 45 I have dedicated my self to give back. In the fifteen years I have lived on Whidbey I have done the same thing. I have given over thirty seminars and talks on emergency preparation, all free. I have given seminars on emergency preparation and Car Care for Women at the Senior Center. I drove people to doctor appointments through the Senior Center. I was a mentor through the drug court program. I have spoken at many women in business meetings. I led the group that saved the iconic welcome to Whidbey sign at the ferry.

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

Lack of good paying jobs. Whidbey is loosing families and children because of a lack of jobs and this hurts our schools. Although the Ports mandate is economic development Curt has pushed money loosing projects that serve only a few but we are on the hook to pay the millions back through taxes. The Port took on the financial drag of the Langley Marina, Curt took the fairgrounds off the County. Curt plans to spend more perhaps millions for a Mukilteo parking lot when statistics show it serves only a very few islanders but solves a big problem for Mukilteo.

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

The problem is that Curt has already sold us down the black hole of huge debt. The reason that the marina, fairgrounds and Mukilteo parking are such a drag financially is no financial planing and no ability to get the people who will benefit from a parking structure to pay a fair share. Apart from the insanity of a Mukilteo parking lot Curt is thinking about a second phase of the Langley marina. If elected I would put a stop to every Port project and do an in depth study to see how these millstones can be turned around.

What do you hope to accomplish through your public service?

I would bring some sound financial oversight to the Port. I would push for a top to bottom look at what Port employees contribute. I would look at what appears to be a conflict of interest in the Ports offices. The Port could do just fine in less expensive offices. I would stop studies that cost thousands and end up useless from lack of common sense. All this outside studies can and should be done in house with competent employees. In other words run the Port for what it is, a business that serves the community in a responsible way.

Why should people vote for you?

I ask for your vote because you are fed up with mounting debt and more to come. Because you are fed up with a Port that has moved away from economic development to carry water for special interests. I would hope for your vote to see the move to more debt and bringing financial responsibility to the Port. Much of the debt is already a done deal but it is not too late to reorganize these drags into break even or hopefully positive cash flow. I am not a part of any groups or clicks. I work only for you.



Curt Gordon

*Port of South Whidbey
District Commission
Position #3*

Why do you seek election (or reelection)?

I'm seeking re-election to finish projects I've initiated in the last 10 years at the Port as well as help continue to promote economic on South Whidbey.

What qualifies you to run for this position?

My 20 years as a Park Commissioner and 10 as a Port commissioner in

this same district have educated and prepared me to perform this job with insight and experience.

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

Also I spent 11 years on the Island County Conservation Futures Board Technical Advisory Group.

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

The biggest issue facing our community is that we're losing our middle class. How do you intend to help deal with the aforementioned issue?

As a Port Commissioner I hope to make visiting the Island simpler through increased Mukilteo parking as well as make it easier to commute off the island to work. Both of these bring middle class jobs or workers to South Whidbey.

What do you hope to accomplish through your public service?

In general promoting economic development, businesses and jobs will help the balance as well. And that is the job Port Commissioners are elected to do.

Why should people vote for you?

My experience, my history as a lifelong Whidbey Islander and record of successes make me the right choice to continue on as South Whidbey Port Commissioner.

**YOUR
VOTE
COUNTS**



OAK HARBOR CITY COUNCIL POS. 1

Michael E. Crawford

Business Development, Government Contracts at Commercial Aircraft Interiors LLC



Why do you seek election (or reelection)?

I seek election to Council to bring a fresh perspective to current issues Oak Harbor is dealing with, which directly effects public safety, economic growth, housing issues, and partnership with NAS Whidbey Island.

What qualifies you to run for this position?

I have been a citizen of Oak Harbor for over 38 years. I have served with the Navy, primarily commands attached to NAS Whidbey island for nearly 22 years. I have owned two small businesses in Oak Harbor between 2000 and 2019.

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

I do not belong to any particular organizations. That said, I am considering becoming involved with the Navy League.

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

I believe Oak Harbor faces a public safety crisis as we speak. Open drug use and dropping the drug paraphernalia where the users choose to get high has become a danger to the public. Used Needles continue to be found in yards, school yards, parks and retail areas. Our children are becoming more and more vulnerable to injury, disease and I will argue, death as they become more and

more exposed to this danger. Citizens of Oak Harbor become more vulnerable to vandalism, home invasions, and personal injury as drug addicts heighten their boldness to support their drug habit.

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

Empower Oak Harbor law enforcement to take into custody, those individuals who can't or won't respect civil ordinances designed to make our city a safe environment. Require the needle exchange program located in Oak Harbor to strengthen their rules for providing clean needles on an absolute one for one basis, or I would advocate closing the program down in Oak Harbor entirely. Begin discussions with neighboring Cities and Counties with the intent of stopping shuttle drop off practices. Support an ordinance designed to prevent shuttles from other Cities and Counties from entering Oak Harbor without a written Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in place.

What do you hope to accomplish through your public service?

Oak Harbor has no option but to grow. I want to be part of the process that helps Oak Harbor achieve it's growth potential in a systematic, well managed manner. Managed growth will realign Oak Harbor's needs with the Navy's needs. The potential to grow in retail and industrial business will bring the need for more housing thereby increasing our construction industry. Managed growth in our business district will also increase tourism beyond the Deception Pass bridge. Tourists will have a reason to drive the additional 10 miles to visit Oak Harbor. Over 3.4 million people visited Deception Pass Bridge in 2018.

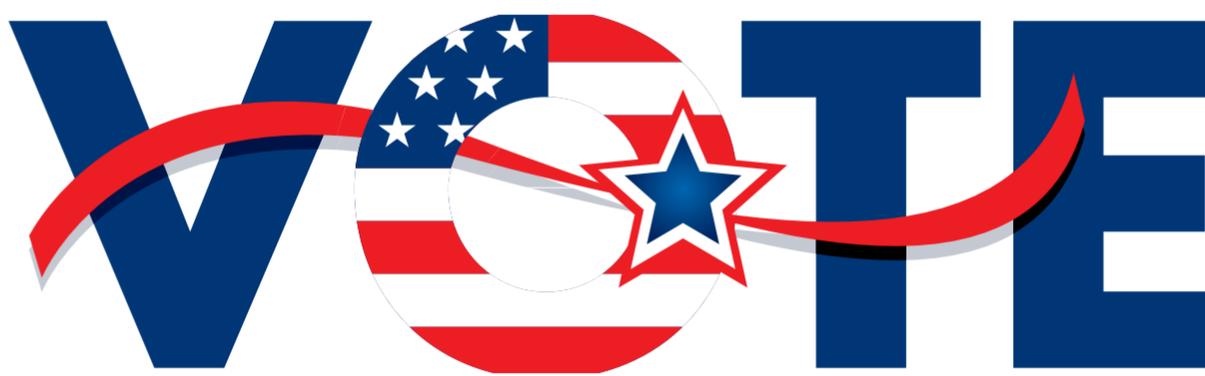
Why should people vote for you?

My opponent has had 8 years to be effective in her position. She has not been a leader on anything substantial and frequently misses the Council meetings she was elected to attend. As a Council Woman for the last 8 years, she bares responsibility for the new sewer system and Windjammer Park fiascos. She supports the needle exchange and Spin Café programs which have led to increased vagrancy, public nuisance and safety issues and last but not least law enforcement issues. My opponent has touted her support for NAS Whidbey Island as a member of the delegation tasked to travel to Washington D.C. designed to keep NAS Whidbey off the Base Closure List.

VS.

Tara Hizon

No response received.



NORTH WHIDBEY POOL, PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSIONER, POS. 1

Christopher Wiegenstein

No response received.

VS.

John Chargualaf

No response received.

SOUTH WHIDBEY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSIONER, POS. 4

Dawn Tarantino

No response received.

VS.

Jennifer Cox

No response received.

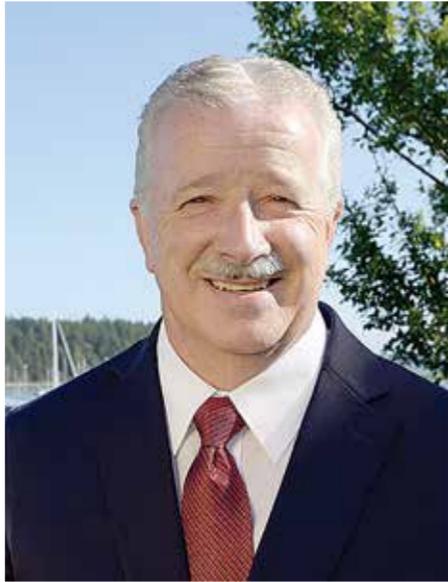
OAK HARBOR CITY COUNCIL POS. 3

Jeffrey Mack

*Owner/Master Goldsmith/GIA Graduate
Gemologist of Whidbey Jeweler*

Why do you seek election (or reelection)?

I am running for this position because not only do I feel that it is my civic duty, but I am also concerned about the lack of positive direction in our community. I am a long time business and property owner here in Oak Harbor. After my 30 years of being a part of this community, I am saddened by the decline of the city government's relationship with the Navy. I believe that the taxpayers and citizens of Oak Harbor deserve more transparency and better representation. It is time for a positive change.



What qualifies you to run for this position?

I have both wisdom and experience after working in retail business my entire life to bring to City Council. I'm a good listener, and I always try to understand my customers' wants and needs. I work hard to deliver! I feel that I have above average negotiating skills and understand common sense business practices from owning my own successful business. I always have a plan in order to balance income and expenses along with being responsible for employee's payroll. I believe that I can use these traits in City Council to help create a better community for all of us.

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

My wife and I have been active in the community since coming to Oak Harbor 30 years ago, supporting many organizations financially such as WAIF, Oak Harbor Schools, Boys and Girls Club, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Island County and a consistent donor to the Help House, as well as being a longtime member of the Oak Harbor Chamber of Commerce. I started the original Light Up Oak Harbor Campaign in conjunction with Christine Cribb and the Chamber.

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

We have a serious lack of obtainable housing at all levels of affordability. North Whidbey currently has a shortage of 3800 homes. I am a proponent for managed growth within our city.

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

By bringing in private capital investors to build new homes at all income levels and possibly extending the Urban Growth Area. With this, we can bring back the military/civilian workers who have had to live as far as Sedro Wooley and commute to Oak Harbor. This will generate more revenue and put some of that lost money back into our city funds. Perhaps then we can allocate money towards repairing/maintaining our city streets and infrastructure, and pay down our current cost overruns. This type of managed growth will bring more work force jobs, new amenities like restaurants and new businesses.

What do you hope to accomplish through your public service?

What I am hoping to accomplish while in office is better communication with the citizens of Oak Harbor, clearer transparency with the taxpayers as well as more fiscal responsibility within the city government. Hopefully I can help facilitate more jobs and opportunities for those in need. I would like to be a part of setting the city on a future pathway that will result in prosperity for all who live and work here.

Why should people vote for you?

Over the years, I've had the unique opportunity to speak to a wide range of people. I believe I've developed a good feel for our community based on these many conversations. I believe I've earned the trust of other business owners and customers through my professionalism. I've always taken pride in my business, and feel I can do the same with common sense business approaches. I'm a strong supporter of NAS Whidbey and all the people serving here. If I'm elected, I'll do everything in my power with City Council - to support NAS Whidbey in every way I can.

Joseph Busig

College Student at Skagit Valley College

Why do you seek election (or reelection)?

I am seeking election to put a working class voice on the city council that will amplify the voices of the most underrepresented and disenfranchised. In my own experience and speaking with residents, the big issues that impact us include the cost of rent, lack of affordable workforce housing, and a lack of government transparency. I believe there isn't anything we can't do if we take an inclusive approach to grow together.



What qualifies you to run for this position?

My qualifications for this position include my work as a former Student Representative on the Oak Harbor Public Schools School Board, a Treasurer on the CADA (Citizens Against Domestic & Sexual Abuse) Board of Directors, and my time on the Oak Harbor Youth Coalition. All of these share the commonality of engaging with my community and actively participating in representing them as well as working with budgets from a non-profit, levy, and government angle.

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

My time on the community boards have allowed me to serve my community for almost four years. In my spare time, I volunteer for Oak Harbor Public Schools, specifically as a co-advisor for the Students Against Destructive Decisions Club in which I engage with students, helping them set club agendas, create club activities, and linking them to community resources where students can help tackle issues, such as tobacco and drug prevention and healthy consensual relationships.

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

I believe the biggest issue facing our community is the lack of affordable housing. After speaking with our community, the cost of rent is far too high. I know what it is like to struggle, as I come from an abusive childhood and being raised by a single mother living paycheck to paycheck. When we tackle the issue of rent, affordable housing, and economic justice, we can grow together in issues that we face whether it's the rights of workers and tenants, homelessness, education, or job creation.

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

I would work with the city, local government, and specialists to create comprehensive policy to protect the rights of tenants. We must ensure that units constructed will maintain their affordable status, not eviction via unjust hiking of rent. Using my platform to educate tenants about their rights would be vital. When there is more dignity and accessibility to housing, it is more likely that children will succeed in school, it is easier to pay bills, and workers will be able to reside and work within our community.

What do you hope to accomplish through your public service?

Through my public service, the paramount issue, is making city council a people's council. In advocating for more transparency, more public input, and engaging more residents with local government, we can make government serve us. By repairing our crumbling inaccessible infrastructure, constructing affordable workforce housing, and installing renewable energy, dignified family wage jobs will be created. I want to amplify the concerns of our most disenfranchised residents, take an inclusive approach to issues, and for all people to prosper in a united growth of our community.

Why should people vote for you?

This campaign has never been about a candidate, it's about us. It has encapsulated the issues that residents face. When all are seated at the table in an inclusive manner, we can take action. Whether it's a lack of housing, rent prices, roads and transit, the environment, childcare, workers and tenants rights, or transparency, it is in people where the power resides. I know what it's like to struggle, to be unheard, and to be disaffected. We have the power to change that. I humbly ask for your vote so we can make the moment into a movement.



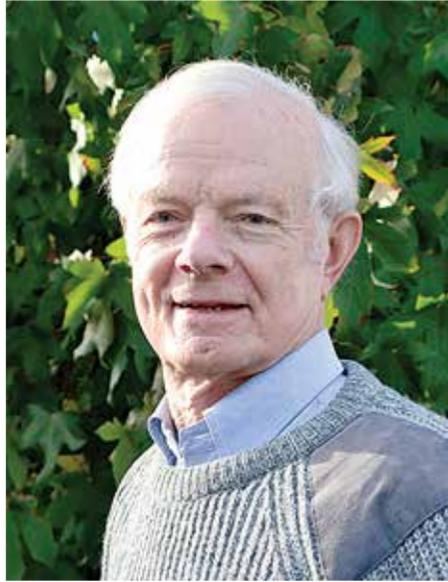
OAK HARBOR SCHOOL DISTRICT DIRECTOR, POS. 2

Fred Wilmot

Retired Navy Captain, Retired high school teacher and coach

Why do you seek election (or reelection)?

I am seeking election because I have concerns about the direction education is going in our public schools and would like to improve the options available to our students.



What qualifies you to run for this position?

I taught NJROTC and coached varsity football and baseball in high schools in Las Vegas and overseas in American schools (Department of Defense Dependent Schools) in Sicily and Spain for 18 years in my second career. I also served on the Navy's Curriculum Advisory Committee which reviews textbook curricula for all the Navy JROTC Units in the U.S. and abroad. Throughout my first career as a Naval Aviator I moved my family to various locations, so I am intimately familiar with the unique educational needs of Navy children as they transfer from one school system to another.

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

I currently serve on the Oak Harbor School District Curriculum Committee and as a United States Naval Academy "Blue & Gold Officer", counseling and interviewing candidates for the Academy's Admissions Board. Additionally, I serve on my church's governing board, prepare income tax returns with AARP for individuals and sing with several local choruses.

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

The biggest issues I see are: (1) Schools "indoctrinating" when they should be "educating", focusing on subjects which should properly be addressed by parents, which leaves insufficient time to devote to the basic "3 Rs" or subjects such as foreign languages. Hence, some students arrive in HS reading on a 5th grade level. (2) Common Core has been forced on our state and local schools if we want federal funding. Common Core requires teachers to teach to tests and removes teachers' ability to be creative and innovative in adapting textbook materials. (3) There are some textbook publishers who "spin" their subjects to reflect a personal agenda (rather than to present basic facts) who need to be avoided.

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

Devote more time in ES to teaching reading, writing (restore "cursive" instruction) and arithmetic. Provide more vocational courses and make Business Math a required subject for all students in HS. Find/develop alternate funding sources to permit the district to replace Common Core with better alternatives. Ensure that selection of textbooks avoids those publishers who have "agendas" in the presentation of their instructional materials.

What do you hope to accomplish through your public service?

I hope to accomplish these modifications to the curricula to improve our school district's already excellent program and make it easier for military dependent students to transfer in and out.

Why should people vote for you?

People should vote for me because I'm conservative and will ensure our school budget is spent wisely, in providing our students with the best education and most practical options upon graduation.

VS.

Jessica Aws

No response received.

Re-elect
Linda Racicot
 for
South Whidbey School Board

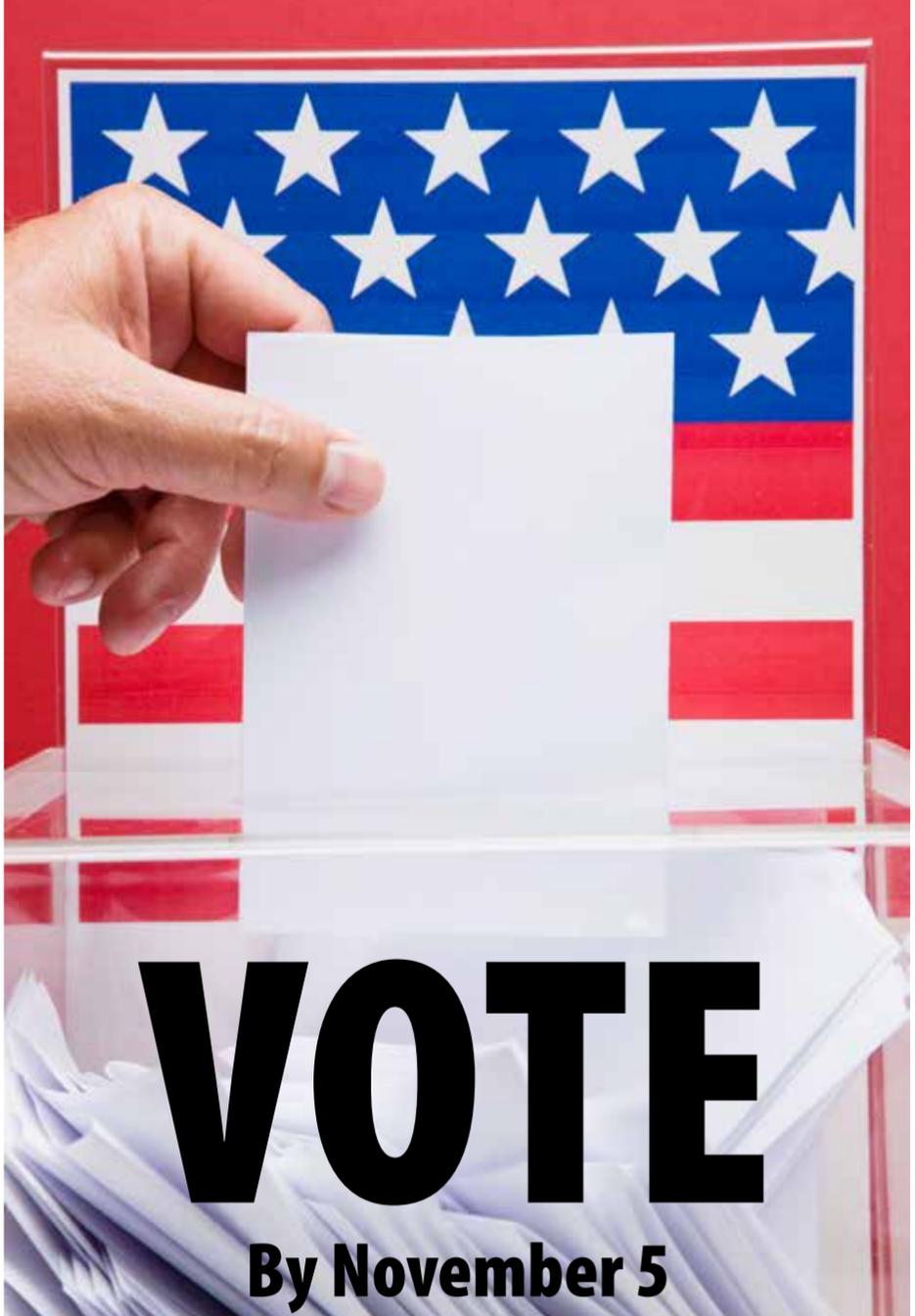


- **Experience**
35 years teaching,
8 years school board service
- **Leadership:**
Board chair for 6 years
- **Commitment:**
Parent, teacher,
community volunteer,
school director

"I want to continue my work to ensure that our students will graduate ready for a future they choose."

RacicotforSchoolBoard.com

Paid for by Racicot for School Board, P.O. Box 786, Langley, WA 98260



VOTE
By November 5

SOUTH WHIDBEY SCHOOL DISTRICT DIRECTOR, POS. 3

Brook Willeford

Co-Manager, The Clyde Theatre

Why do you seek election (or reelection)?

I want my 3-year-old daughter to be as proud of her South Whidbey School District education as I am of mine.

What qualifies you to run for this position?

I'm passionate about education, a quick learner, a hard worker, have experience building communities and communication in my previous positions, and my wife is a teacher.

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

I joined several of the school district's new committees to try and help improve the state of the schools, particular when it comes to community and communications. I've participated in Hearts and Hammers several times, and I ran for Mr. South Whidbey two years ago, helping raise money for Friends of Friends Medical Support Fund.

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

The biggest issue in the school district is clearly declining enrollment. It's been declining for the past 20 years, but the losses have begun to taper off. While some decline was inevitable during that period, there are a number of families that have withdrawn their children from the school district after not feeling like their children were properly supported within the school community, or after disgust with breakdowns in communication.

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

If we can build communities within the schools, improve communication within the schools and with the community, and tie the schools more closely to the community, I believe we can win some of those families back, as well as making the schools safer, healthier, and happier learning environments for all of our students.

What do you hope to accomplish through your public service?

Job number one for any school board member is making the learning environment a better place for the students, and that's exactly what I want to do. I want to be part of shifting the priorities of the school district toward making the students safer, healthier, and happier parts of the South Whidbey community.

Why should people vote for you?

I want to be the type of school board member who listens to the community -- teachers, staff, parents, students, administrators, and other community members -- because the community shouldn't have to shout to have their concerns heard. It's time for new ears and new voices on the school board, starting with me.



Linda Racicot

Retired teacher

Why do you seek election (or reelection)?

I have been a teacher for 35 years and taught at Langley Middle School for 27 years. My husband, Mark, taught at the high school for 30 years. Both of my children graduated from South Whidbey High School and now my grandkids are thriving as students in our schools. We all share a deep commitment to this community. After retiring from teaching in 2010, I turned my attention to volunteering in the schools and attending board meetings. I was elected to the board in 2011. I have been dedicated and committed to this essential work since.



What qualifies you to run for this position?

My many years of teaching and eight years of school board service have provided me with a unique perspective on the board. As board chair for the last 6 years I have gained valuable hands-on experience and leadership skills that have contributed to building strong relationships among board members. In 2016 our board was recognized by our state organization, Washington State School Directors Association (WSSDA) as a "Board of Distinction".

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

My service to the South Whidbey community has included:

- Eight years of school board service
- Serving on the South Whidbey Schools Foundation Board for four years
- Four years volunteering weekly as an art docent at South Whidbey Elementary
- Many years of working with youth as a Beef 4-H leader and as the leader of the South Whidbey Pony Club

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

The biggest issue the school board faces each year is fulfilling our mandate from the state. We are required to support and enhance academic excellence for our students and to ensure oversight for the state and local funding that comes to the district.

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

I have a continued commitment to academic improvement:

- Student test scores have improved significantly over the past two years.
 - Our SWHS graduation rate was recognized by the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) as among the very highest in the state at 90.4% in 2018-19
 - Attendance at the elementary school this past year was 93.34%
- Our board continues to monitor our long-term facilities plan and update it every year. We have successfully re-purposed several of our buildings and they have become valuable assets for community use.

What do you hope to accomplish through your public service?

As board chair for the last six years I have gained valuable hands-on experience and leadership skills that have contributed to building strong relationships among board members. If re-elected, I will support decisions that promote continued improvements in the areas of student achievement, good stewardship of district facilities, maintaining outstanding programs, and providing the wider community with an outstanding school system while maintaining a carefully managed budget.

Why should people vote for you?

My many years of teaching and eight years of school board service have provided me with a unique perspective on the board. School board service can be challenging at times, but it is always rewarding, and I am proud to be a part of it. I want all students in our district to experience the joys of learning and leave South Whidbey well prepared for the career of their choosing, as my own children did, and as my grandkids are currently doing.



NORTH WHIDBEY FIRE AND RESCUE COMMISSIONER, POS. 2

Theresa Jenkins

Sr. Mortgage Loan Officer



Why do you seek election (or reelection)?

My involvement with North Whidbey Fire and Rescue began with family and friends. This involvement has given me the unique perspective of the department of both today and in the past. I have witnessed firsthand the frustrations with coverage, training, and leadership. My goal for this position is to bring a much-needed change. For too many years, the Board has been filled with retired Firefighters or Chiefs. This experience is not a requirement of the position, and by sticking to this tradition, we have failed to bring an outside voice or different perspective. It has made the Board stagnate and opposed change.

What qualifies you to run for this position?

My background is in banking, lending, and management. My business background, I believe, will allow me to assist the Fire Chief when it comes to personnel, marketing, and public relations issues.

Another aspect that has been missing from this department is open communication with the community and its firefighters. We need to be a Representative of the Department. We do this by being involved and having a presence in the community.

People will not support a department they know nothing about. My involvement with many local organizations provides me an opportunity to educate and gain support for the department.

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

Current member: Oak Harbor Chamber of Commerce

Current member: Whidbey Island Association of Realtors

Sponsor: Big Brothers Big Sisters and Boys and Girls Club of Oak Harbor

Past member: Whidbey Island Sunrise Rotary

Previous Youth Soccer Coach: North Whidbey Soccer Club

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

Growth: Just as this is a balancing act for the County and City; NWFR must also address it. We must find ways to deal with increased growth and the number of emergency calls. We must look for alternative ways to supplement the department and recruit new personnel. For too long, NWFR has not addressed these issues. They struggle with a lack of staff and aging infrastructure and Equipment. The current Commissioners have not provided a clear vision for the future of the department. The department needs to address the fact that with the increased growth in the county, our emergency calls are only going to increase.

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

My goal is to address the following immediately:

Recruitment and Retention; they have a crisis level personnel issue. The department has got to evolve and grow. The department needs training, staffing, and growth.

Facilities and Equipment; the district attitude has been focused on a "fix it if it breaks."

Result; buildings and Equipment have deferred maintenance and need repair. Gear is at or nearing age limits, and they do not have the proper safety procedures.

Strategic Plan; NWFR has survived for too many years without a clear and concise strategic plan. If North Whidbey Fire and Rescue is to grow and evolve, we must develop a long-range plan.

What do you hope to accomplish through your public service?

Our job as Commissioners is not to deal with the day to day operations; it is to deal with the budget and big picture. I have no grandiose ideas that everything is going to be solved magically in the first 12 months. But if we can provide a strategic plan for the items above in the first year, it will help gain support, and we will be able to plan for the future. You cannot plan fiscally in regards to grants or future funding without a clear picture of the needs of the District and the support of the community and department.

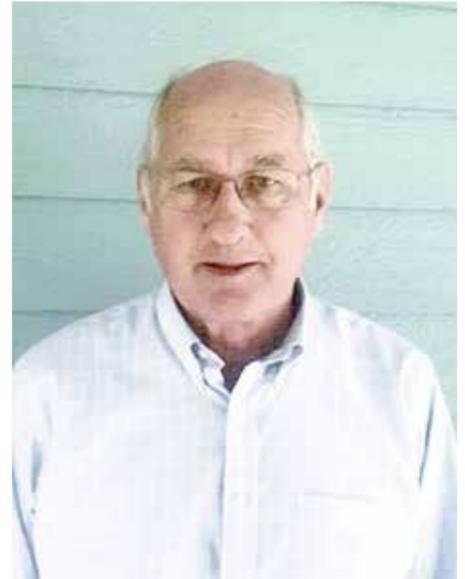
Why should people vote for you?

The most important message I would like to convey is it is Time for Change. The community is growing, and this department has got to grow with it. If the department does not evolve and plan for the future, then there will be no department and personnel to answer the call for assistance.

The Firefighters and the Community deserve transparency and a clear vision for the future of the department.

Marvin D. Koorn

Retired



Why do you seek election (or re-election)?

I have been involved with North Whidbey Fire and Rescue since I was 29 years old. I saw it grow from under 100 calls to almost 2,400 service calls. I started as a volunteer with the San De Fuca department, becoming San De Fuca Chief and then Chief of North Whidbey Fire and Rescue. I want to see the department continue to improve and provide the best service possible for our community. I want our department living within the taxes and continue to upgrade the apparatus and stations. As Chief I set up the budget and know it well.

What qualifies you for the position?

I have a proven record that shows I am fully qualified for Fire Commissioner. As Chief I educated myself by going to seminars and classes to keep myself updated on the laws and safety regulations that govern fire districts. Also as Chief I purchased two new tender/pumpers, four engines, an office building that serves as our offices and brings in over \$50,000 rent, built a new station, all with cash while maintaining a balanced operations budget. I also negotiated with WhidbeyHealth to maintain the Basic Life Support ambulances in the fire department.

In what ways have you served the community?

I have served on the Oak Harbor Christian School Board for over 20 years, I am currently Board President. I am a member of the Christian Reformed Church and have served on the Board for over 20 years. I taught Defensive Driving and Flagging and Traffic control for many years. When my children were in sport I coached little league Baseball and Soccer.

What is the biggest issue facing your community?

North Whidbey Fire and Rescue is facing several challenges. We need more volunteers. We will need to replace some of our fire apparatus. Several of our stations need upgrading in the next few years. These upgrades are needed to maintain current level of service and to keep our current insurance rating which I improved while chief.

What will you do to deal with the above issues?

It is important that we spend the money the taxpayers have given us in an efficient and effective manner. We will need to increase the number of volunteer personnel by increasing incentives and appreciation for the service they provide. We have already started that process by increasing the pay to our part time personnel. Training and long range planning are essential to maintain our department. All of our apparatus have been inspected by an outside vendor and all repairs needed to meet NFPA standards are being addressed.

What to you hope to accomplish by your public service?

As we continue to answer more calls for service and our operational cost continue to increase I will maintain a balanced budget, spending the monies we are given, both efficiently and effectively. We need to continue upgrading both the stations and the fire apparatus. We need to concentrate on maintaining our insurance rating to save our taxpayers the cost of their insurance.

Why should people vote for you?

With my background and experience I have proven to be an effective Fire Commissioner. I know the laws and safety standards that regulate fire districts. I am concerned that we spend tax dollars efficiently and effectively. My history has proven that I can live within the budget we receive from tax dollars and I am able to improve the department by saving and paying cash for apparatus and new stations. I have the ability to work with other partnering agencies and have proven that by negotiating a new contract with WhidbeyHealth to better serve our taxpayers with Basic Life Support ambulances.



LANGLEY COUNCILMEMBER, POS. 4

Craig Cyr

Program Manager / Data Analyst

Why do you seek election (or reelection)?

My run for Langley City Council centers on a desire to serve our community, and help it move forward sustainably, inclusively, and compassionately. Langley must continue to lead on local and regional issues affecting our community. Current troubling times in our nation beg for a progressive voice on Langley City Council, Position 4. I am that voice and I ask for your vote.

What qualifies you to run for this position?

I have been a board member of several non-profits and have participated in successful models of policy making which have made a significant difference in people's lives. And I have been an engaged community activist and involved in the political process for years. Susan and I have involved ourselves on public policy issues for decades. For example, we volunteered for the Marriage Equality campaign in 2012 to ensure that the civil rights of all citizens were not abridged due to who they love.

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

- Hearts & Hammers volunteer
- Langley Emergency Response District 5 Co-Chair
- King County Fire District 5 Commissioner
- Lake Forest Park Library Commissioner
- BSA troop 57 Assistant Scoutmaster (8 years)
- Langley Precinct Committee Officer – Democrats
- Poor People's Campaign Local Organizer

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

There are two top issues:

- 1) Langley must address its crumbling infrastructure. Water pipes, sewer pipes, storm water pipes are at the end of their lifecycle. Catastrophic breaches of these pipes are not uncommon and infrastructure replacement must be accomplished.
- 2) Langley has to walk its talk about addressing the issue of affordable, workforce, and journeyman housing. As new housing developments are presented to the Langley City Council for consideration, focused scrutiny must come to bear on the proposal so that in the end, a significant fraction of new dwellings will actually be affordable at purchase and into perpetuity.

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

- 1) I support the 2019 Capital Improvements Project and November infrastructure Levy. With significant support from Island County, the time is now to pass the levy. Once passed, the growth of water rates will be slowed.
- 2) The Langley City Council must insist that Memorandums of Understanding and Annexation agreements between the City of Langley and developers have language with teeth that requires and ensures affordable housing will be built. Which argues for a public/private partnership of some kind.

What do you hope to accomplish through your public service?

Langley can always take steps forward to form a closer, safer community. I listen and I hear:

- Langley residents want a "fireworks free zone". Fireworks are hugely disruptive to community life. They are unsafe, bad for the environment, scare household pets, trigger PTSD among first responders and veterans. This will be my first public policy initiative.
- Langley citizens want access to a dog park. It is absurd that citizens must drive 10 miles round trip to Bayview to let their pooch off of the leash.
- Everyone wants to see traffic move much slower through Langley. I will champion this cause.

Why should people vote for you?

Langley is a progressive community and needs a progressive councilmember in position 4 that truly represents them. I am the only progressive voice in this race. As issues come before the council, I will consider them through a progressive lens.

I will always be well educated and prepared. I listen to all viewpoints before making my decisions, even those with which I initially disagree. There is something to learn from every viewpoint.

I care about justice, the environment, the free press, and a transparent public policy process.

We buy local supporting local jobs and economy.

I ask for your vote.

VS.

R. Bruce Allen

No response received.



VOTE



IT'S TIME FOR CHANGE
VOTE
THERESA JENKINS
Fire Commissioner

The Firefighters and the Community deserve transparency and a clear vision for the future of the department.

On November 5th, show your concern with:

- Personnel Recruitment and Retention
- Compensation
- Apparatus and Facilities
- Training
- Strategic Planning

 **Vote Theresa Jenkins**
Fire Commissioner, Pos 2
North Whidbey Fire and Rescue

Paid for by Friends of Theresa Jenkins
 4162 Balsam Pl
 Oak Harbor, WA, 98277
 TJ.northisland@gmail.com
<https://www.facebook.com/NWFRJenkins>





Vote Responsibly

STEP #1

Become an informed Citizen.

STEP #2

Cast an informed ballot!



**For more information, contact
the Island County
Auditor's Office at
islandcountywa.gov**