



April 28, 2026

TO: Mayors
 City Councilmembers

FROM: AWC Past President Rob Putaansuu, Mayor, Port Orchard
 Chair, 2026 Nominating Committee

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform you of actions taken to date by the AWC Nominating Committee.

The purpose of the Nominating Committee is to compile a list of candidates for the AWC Board of Directors and to present the slate of candidates to the membership at the Annual Meeting, June 25, 2026, in Spokane.

2026 Nominating Committee report – 2

The AWC Nominating Committee set the deadline of April 13, 2026, for applications to even-numbered district positions, as well as district 13 from elected officials from Washington cities and towns interested in serving on the AWC Board of Directors.

During the April 28, 2026 meeting, the Committee reviewed the application materials submitted by candidates for the open officer and director positions on the AWC Board of Directors, as well as candidate campaign guidelines and interview questions.

Pursuant to AWC Bylaws, the AWC Board of Directors shall forward the names of the incoming President, Vice President, and Secretary to the Nominating Committee. These individuals are then elected at the Annual Meeting, with no additional nominations from the floor. The AWC Board of Directors took action on January 20, 2026, to forward Mayor Jon Nehring for President, Mayor Matthew Lundh for Vice President, and Mayor Nancy Backus for Secretary. Because Mayor Backus will vacate District 13 when she assumes the role of Secretary at the Annual Meeting, the Nominating Committee has recruited for that position in addition to even-numbered positions.

The Nominating Committee is forwarding the candidates listed below to interview, subject to completion of the Certificate of Municipal Leadership (CML) by the stated deadline.

President	Mayor Jon Nehring, Marysville, <i>forwarded by the AWC Board of Directors</i>
Vice President	Mayor Matthew Lundh, Cle Elum, <i>forwarded by the AWC Board of Directors</i>
Secretary	Mayor Nancy Backus, Auburn, <i>forwarded by the AWC Board of Directors</i>
District 2	Councilmember Jillian Henze, Waitsburg, <i>incumbent</i>
District 4	Mayor Ashley Lara, Grandview, <i>incumbent</i>
District 6	Mayor Terry Carter, Bonney Lake, <i>incumbent</i>
District 8	Councilmember Michael Gallagher, Brier Mayor Joe Marine, Mukilteo Mayor Daniel Rankin, Darrington <i>No incumbent running for position.</i>
District 12	Mayor Amy Howard, Port Townsend, <i>incumbent</i>
District 13	Mayor Dana Ralph, Kent <i>Incumbent moving to Secretary position. No incumbent running for position.</i>

Nominating Committee Report #2

Page 2

April 28, 2026

District 14	Councilmember Karl de Jong, Sedro-Woolley Councilmember TJ Fantini, Anacortes, <i>incumbent</i>
At-Large #2 (Western, less than 5,000 pop)	Mayor Dee Roberts, Raymond, <i>incumbent</i>
At-Large #4 (Eastern, less than 5,000 pop)	Mayor Marla Keethler, White Salmon, <i>incumbent</i>

District 10 is a single-city district, appointed by the legislative body of the City of Tacoma. Like other even-numbered district positions, District 10 is a two-year term that will commence at the Annual Meeting. The City of Tacoma has reported its selection of Councilmember John Hines to continue serving in this position.

To be eligible to serve on the AWC Board of Directors in a multi-city or at-large district an elected official must meet the following criteria: 1) Serve as an elected official from a member city or town located within an AWC Board District with an ending term in 2026 or a mid-term vacancy; 2) Hold elective office in a city or town within the state for a minimum of one year; and 3) Meet the requirements for the CML by the June 5, 2026 deadline.

With the exception of the offices of President, Vice President, Secretary, and single city districts, the AWC Nominating Committee will forward at least two candidates for each position when the committee finds two candidates seeking such a position to be well qualified, willing, and able to perform the duties.

The AWC Nominating Committee will reconvene on Tuesday, June 23, 2026, in Spokane to interview the candidates for open positions.

Individuals not applying for the AWC Board through the nominating process or not advanced to the ballot may run for a multi-city or at-large position directly from the floor during the Annual Meeting on Thursday, June 25, 2026.

AWC Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 25, 2026, from 4 pm to 5:45 pm, in Spokane. Voting delegates and AWC members will also be able to view the meeting online.

As directed by the AWC Nominating Committee, AWC staff will produce and distribute a summary of the Board of Director candidates, similar to a “voter’s pamphlet.” The pamphlet will be available at the Annual Meeting, on the AWC website (wacities.org), and distributed to the voting delegates via email. AWC does not endorse any candidate and is simply providing delegates with background information on each candidate.

Candidates receive Campaign Guidelines when notified of the interview schedule. Candidates are advised to employ the highest of campaign standards. A campaign shall be based upon the candidates’ professional qualifications to serve as an AWC Board member and shall avoid disparaging comments, aspersions, personal denigration, or personal attacks on other candidates.

Every candidate on the ballot will have the opportunity to present a two-minute live, in-person speech before the membership during the Annual Meeting. Delegates will vote on the open director positions during the meeting.

Nominating Committee Report #2

Page 3

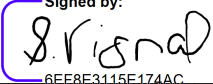
April 28, 2026

2026 AWC Board Nominating Committee

The 2026 Board Nominating Committee consists of the following members appointed by AWC President Fred Brink.

Name	Title	City	AWC Board District
Rob Putaansuu	Mayor (Chair)	Port Orchard	12
Francis Benjamin	Mayor (Vice Chair)	Pullman	2
Stephanie Vignal	Mayor (Secretary)	Mill Creek	8
Matt Cole	Mayor	Ridgefield	5
Naila Duval	Councilmember	Toppenish	4
Cris Kaminskis	Mayor	Liberty Lake	1
Satwinder Kaur	Council President	Kent	13
Erin McCardle	Mayor	Chelan	3
Dave Olson	Mayor	Edgewood	6
Chris Roberts	Councilmember	Shoreline	7
Ronnie Wright	Mayor	Oak Harbor	14

Attest:

Signed by:

6EE8E3115E174AC
Secretary

4/30/2026
Date