

AWC Board of Directors candidate statement

Name

City elected position

Jillian Henze, APR

Councilmember

City/Town

Check the Board position for which you are running

Waitsburg

District 2

Biographical information and candidate statement:

Please limit your statement to 1,700 characters, which is approximately 250 words. Hand-written statements are not accepted.

I'm Jillian Henze, APR, mama of three young children, 2nd-term councilmember and cheerleader for the one-of-a-kind city of Waitsburg and communications director at the Seattle Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce. My husband, Dane, is a 3rd-generation Waitsburg volunteer firefighter. We love calling our special city our home and advocating on behalf of young families.

At the Chamber, we're addressing big-city challenges including public safety, homelessness and affordability, and working on opportunities like mega-transit projects and hosting the FIFA World Cup in 2026. My city council work in Waitsburg gives me a front-row view to small-city challenges like lack of resources, aging infrastructure and workforce shortages. This dual perspective and understanding is unique. I would take seriously the responsibility to represent the 34 cities in District 2 (large and small), and I would work to serve all 281 cities and towns of AWC.

Professionally serving membership organizations for 10 years, I'm passionate about using data and digging into what members want and need, and then ensuring the strategic plan meets needs equitably and lays out a clear path to continue to level-up the organization.

Not a new face to AWC, I have served on the Legislative Priorities Committee: 2022-25, Bylaws Review Committee: 2024 and Statement of Policy Committee: 2024.

I want to work more closely with other cities and serve - board members are the bridges connecting members to the association. Connection is my word of 2024, and AWC's mission to build connections between our state's diverse cities and towns and support its members is just what we need to build stronger cities in post-pandemic times.