

AWC Board of Directors candidate statement

Name

Marla Keethler

City elected position

Mayor

City/Town

White Salmon

Check the Board position for which you are running

At-Large 4 (Eastern, cities with population less than 5,000 in multi-city districts)

Biographical information and candidate statement:

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

After 20 years as a communications professional - with a career spanning from sports television production to supporting nonprofits - I entered into public service seven years ago, first as a White Salmon City Councilor and then as Mayor. As I enter into my second term as White Salmon's Mayor, I'm proud of the ways we have worked to increase community engagement and participation, secured funding for critical infrastructure needs, and (like many other cities and towns) actively worked to address housing affordability.

From the beginning of holding elected office, I have benefited from and seen the positive effect that the work of the Association of Washington Cities has done to elevate the voices and needs of cities and towns large and small. I have been proud to support that work by serving on the Small Cities Advisory Council for the past 3 years, and since February serving as a Board Member representing Eastern Washington's smaller communities (under 5,000 population). I believe our smaller communities need a voice on the board that can represent our unique challenges and experiences to help guide not only the policy direction for the organization, but also inform the direction of member programs and the implementation of AWC's strategic plan. I would be honored to continue being that voice on the board and supporting the organization's work for all of us.