

AWC Board of Directors candidate statement

Name

City elected position

Joshua Penner

Mayor

City/Town

Check the Board position for which you are running

Orting

District 6

Biographical information and candidate statement:

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

Over the past 14 years, I have dedicated my career to the vibrant community of Orting, progressing from roles on the Planning Commission to Councilmember and now Mayor. My tenure has not only been a privilege but also a platform for broader regional engagement and leadership, as I have actively participated in the Association of Washington Cities and both the Pierce and Puget Sound Regional Councils.

As the incumbent AWC Board Member for District 6, representing Thurston and Pierce Counties, I am responsible for advocating for thirty cities and nearly 1.5 million residents. My leadership approach, however, remains consistent: seek to deeply understand both my duties and the communities I serve. This philosophy has driven me to foster relationships and build strong networks through coffee meetings in Steilacoom, Yelm, Roy, and Gig Harbor and through community luncheons in Olympia, regular communications updates, and even side-by-sides working through very hairy challenges that some of the electeds in this district have had to work through, among other activities.

My proactive engagement has enabled me to mentor new AWC members, guide them to significant roles within regional and state boards, and empower them to counteract challenging rhetoric from Olympia while at the same time becoming better leaders locally in their own cities.

Now, I seek your support for re-election to continue our shared mission of cultivating exceptional leaders through robust advocacy, education, and unwavering support.

Bio:

Mayor, City of Orting (Former Councilmember)
USMC (Vet – Iraq War)
Harvard University, Masters
St. Martin's University, Bachelors
CML - Advanced
Board Director, Dist 6