

Benton County

Official Local Voters' Pamphlet

November 7, 2023 General Election



BENTON COUNTY WA
Auditor | ELECTIONS

Registration Deadlines:

These deadlines apply to new registrations & voter updates!

Mail: October 30

Online: October 30

In-Person: November 7

Military & Overseas Ballots Mailed:

September 23

Ballots Mailed:

October 20

Additional Resources:

Local Election Information

www.bentonelections.com
(livechat feature available)

County Information

www.co.benton.wa.us

State Election Information

www.sos.wa.gov

Campaign Finance Information

www.pdc.wa.gov

Ballot Drop Box Locations:

Courthouse

620 Market St., Prosser

Benton City - City Hall

1009 Dale Ave., Benton City

West Richland Library (Drive up)

3803 W. Van Giesen St., West Richland

West Richland - City Hall (Drive up)

3100 Belmont Blvd., West Richland

Jefferson Park (Drive up)

Symons St., Richland

WSU Tri-Cities (Drive up)

2710 Crimson Way, Richland

Benton County Voting Center (Drive up - in Parking Lot - Streetside)

2600 N. Columbia Center Blvd., Richland

Benton County Voting Center (Inside)

2618 N. Columbia Center Blvd., Richland

Badger Mountain Community Park (Drive up)

350 Keene Rd., Richland

Benton County Campus (Drive up)

7122 W. Okanogan Pl., Kennewick

Kennewick City Hall (Drive up)

210 W. 6th Ave., Kennewick

Finley Middle School (Drive up - In Parking Lot Streetside)

37208 S. Finley Rd., Kennewick

Letter to Voters

Dear Benton County Voters,

We are pleased to present the 2023 Benton County Local Voters' Pamphlet for the November 7, 2023, General Election! This fall you are going to have an opportunity to shape the future of our community by participating in the election process. You will be voting on measures that affect you, your family, and your neighborhood. When you vote, you have a direct say in our government at the local, state, and federal level.

This pamphlet is designed as a reference tool to help you make informed decisions. Inside you'll find useful information about voter registration, instructions on how to properly sign your return envelope, deadlines for returning your ballot, and ballot drop box locations. Benton County will be sending every eligible household in the county a copy of this guide.

This pamphlet includes statements and photos from candidates that have submitted information about their candidacy and information about the local ballot measure. Please note that we do not make edits or corrections to any statements.

To be eligible to vote in the General Election in Benton County, you must be a registered voter within the County.

Your Signature Matters! Two of the most common reasons ballots are unable to be processed are that the return envelope arrives without a signature or with a signature that does not match what we have on file. *Don't let that be You!* Please follow the tips found on page 66 regarding signing your return envelope before returning your ballot in it.

We want to help every eligible person register to vote and every registered voter receive their ballot. The earlier the Elections Division is contacted by individuals who need a replacement ballot, want to register to vote and receive a ballot, or have related issues, the more options there will be available to provide assistance. You can call us at (509) 736-3085, send an email to elections@co.benton.wa.us, visit our website – www.bentonelections.com, or come in to one of our offices at:

Benton County Voting Center,
2618 N. Columbia Center Blvd., Richland, WA
Auditor's Office, Benton County Courthouse,
620 Market St., Prosser, WA

Both offices are open weekdays 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., and on Election Day 8:30 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. The Benton County Elections Division is dedicated to assisting all voters, candidates, and jurisdictions in the election process while ensuring elections are conducted securely, accurately, and transparently in compliance with the laws of the State of Washington. I hope you find this Voters' Pamphlet useful, and of course, do not hesitate to contact my staff or me with any questions.

Brenda Chilton
Benton County Auditor

Table of Contents

General Voting Information 13

Local Measure

Benton County 14

Candidates

Port Districts 16

Public Hospital Districts..... 18

Cities22

School Districts42

Fire Districts58

Water Districts.....64

Additional Information

Your Signature Matters66

2024 Employment Opportunities.....67

To register to vote, you must be:

- A citizen of the United States.
- A legal resident of Washington State.
- Not serving a sentence of total confinement under the jurisdiction of the department of corrections.

Three ways to register:

- Online - VoteWA.gov
- By mail - Call us at (509) 736-3085 and we will mail you a form.
- In Person -
Benton County Courthouse,
620 Market St., Prosser
Benton County Voting Center,
2618 N. Columbia Center Blvd.,
Richland

Ballot Return Deadline

| Election Date | By Mail | Drop Box or In-Person |
|------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| November 7, 2023 | Postmarked by November 7, 2023 | By 8:00 p.m. November 7, 2023 (Election Day) |



Benton County is pleased to be partnering with WSU Tri-Cities to open a Student Engagement Hub (HUB) for the 2023 General Election. Students and citizens will be able to obtain the following services at the HUB:

- Register to vote
- Update your address
- Pick up a ballot
- Accessible Voting Unit (AVU) available
- Deposit ballot in a secure drop box

For more information on dates, times and services available at this location visit www.bentonelections.com.

Important Information: If a primary election was held for an office, the two candidates who received the most votes in the Primary advance to the General Election.

Are you mailing your ballot?

Check the collection time!

To account for delivery standards and to allow for contingencies, the USPS recommends voters mail their ballots at least one week prior to Election Day. If you are unable to do so, we recommend that you use one of the conveniently located drop boxes.

Official Ballot Drop Boxes are open until 8:00 p.m. on November 7, 2023.

Benton County**Proposition No. 1****CONTINUED LOCAL SALES AND USE TAX FOR PUBLIC SAFETY NEEDS**

The Benton County Board of Commissioners adopted Resolution No. 2023-505 concerning funding for public safety, law enforcement and criminal justice. This proposition would continue funding for criminal justice needs such as police officers, sheriff deputies and prosecutors (55 officers and 4 prosecutors are currently funded with this tax), defenders, Metro Drug Task Force and other gang and crime prevention efforts, and court and clerk needs, including judicial officers and drug courts, by continuing the sales and use tax of three-tenths of one percent (thirty cents on a hundred dollar purchase) that otherwise will expire on December 31, 2024. Should this proposition be:

APPROVED

REJECTED

The Official Ballot title was written by the Benton County Prosecuting Attorney's Office as required by law. The Benton County Auditor is not responsible for the content of arguments or statements.

Explanatory Statement

Prepared by Eric Eisinger, Prosecuting Attorney

In 2014, the voters of Benton County approved a local sales and use tax at the rate of three-tenths of one percent (0.3%) to provide funding for public safety needs. On a \$100 purchase, this 0.3% tax would be 30 cents. The tax does not apply to automobile retail sales or the first 36 months of an automobile lease. The public safety tax funds local law enforcement including fifty-five (55) police officers and sheriff deputies, four (4) prosecutors, a superior court judge and supporting staff. This tax expires December 31, 2024, unless Proposition No. 1 is passed.

The revenue from the public safety tax is allocated to Benton County and the five cities within the county as provided by law. In addition to funding essential law enforcement personnel, the tax helps fund a local drug task force and drug court as well as other programs that address drug trafficking and criminal street gangs and that enhance the operation of the criminal justice system.

Proposition No. 1 proposes to continue this local tax after December 31, 2024, at the same rate since its approval in 2014. The tax will continue to provide funding to local jurisdictions for police officers and sheriff deputies, prosecutors, judicial officers and supporting staff. The tax will also continue to fund drug court, will provide potential funding for mental health and veterans' courts, and will fund other programs that support the operation of the criminal justice system.

**Committee & Contact Information
Pro Committee**

Patricia Holten
Brian Ace
Bill Dress

Committee Contact # (509) 521-4290

**Committee & Contact Information
Con Committee**

Jerry Martin
Earl Morgan
Ken Reithmayr

Committee Contact # (509) 586-3349

Argument For

Changing laws in Olympia and on the national stage have made it harder than ever before for law enforcement to do their job. This makes it critical for us as citizens to support not only our police, judges, and attorneys but also restorative programs like drug court, veterans court, gang prevention, and sex trafficking intervention. We have seen the impact of crime in our community; let's not allow it to continue. Do not defund the police, but instead renew this initiative to give all public safety officers the tools they need to keep us safe.

None of us wants to see higher taxes. This initiative does not raise taxes; it keeps them at their current level. Originally passed by voters in 2014, the Public Safety Sales Tax has become foundational funding to support law enforcement officers, prosecutors, and judges working to keep our community safe. Currently, .03% of every dollar, which is a mere 30 cents on every \$100 spent, generates approximately \$19,000,000 for our community. As a sales tax, purchases by not only residents but also out-of-town visitors invest in our public safety.

This is our community, and we all deserve the right to feel safe where we live, work, and play. We ask you to join us and *vote YES to renew* the Public Safety Sales Tax. Join us to ensure Benton County is a safe place to raise families and build businesses. *Voting YES will improve the quality of life for ALL residents.*

Rebuttal of argument against

Citizens, administrators, and our elected representatives have heavily scrutinized public safety funding, and will continue to do so. Input is ongoing and welcomed. Expenses are available on the county website. While it is true there is no sunset clause, the tax is not permanent and could be voted out in the future. Delaying or reducing funding for public safety prevents our community from aggressively dealing with mounting crime. Do not throw public safety into chaos.

Argument Against

No one can deny that good things have been done with the supplemental funding provided by the Public Safety Sales Tax (PSST) enacted in 2015. However, the process for renewing the tax was lacking critical components. First, there was NO citizen input to the proposal to renew the tax. Second, there was no analysis of the data regarding revenues and expenditures of the tax funds over the past 8 plus years. Thus, the current proposal to renew the PSST at a rate of 0.3% with no sunset clause (read: permanent tax), has not been justified. Making the 0.3% tax permanent requires further analysis before you vote.

The resolution to renew the Public Safety Sales Tax supplement of 0.3% and make it permanent is a wish list that will cost taxpayers over \$19 million per year, without end. With no analysis of what was funded and expended since 2015, there is no information on the effectiveness of past expenditures and there is no justification for the 0.3% tax. Maybe 0.2% or even 0.1% would be enough? We don't know! Further, this tax should not be made permanent. There should be a sunset clause so voters can reevaluate it in the future. The voters deserve more information before being asked to approve this resolution. Vote NO on PSST as presented.

Rebuttal of argument for

Supporters for renewing the Public Safety Sales Tax (PSST) say bad laws out of Olympia are why we should pay more to restore financially-strapped police, courts, and prosecutors. They claim the current PSST rate is only 0.03%, but it is really 10 times higher at 0.3%. If the Pro supporters can't get the percentage right, why should we expect them to spend the money wisely? Vote No on the permanent PSST.



Christy Rasmussen

(Nonpartisan)

Elected Experience

Port of Benton Commissioner Pos. 2
Appointed November 2021

Other Professional Experience

Instructional Technologist at Energy Northwest. Former public school administrator and educator in Pasco and Richland School Districts. Served as Principal at Christ the King Catholic School. National presenter on school innovation topics.

Education

Heritage University, M.Ed Educational Administration, Eastern Washington University, BA Education, Central Washington University, BA Office Administration, Attended Marcus Whitman Elementary and Hanford K-12 School

Community Service

Tri-Cities Sunrise Rotary President, Paul Harris Fellow, Board member Pacific Northwest Waterways Association, Hanford Communities and Energy Communities Alliance. Past board member Perfect Image Leadership Foundation, Safe Harbor and My Friends Place, Rural Families Farmworkers

Statement

The mighty Mid-Columbia Basin has blessed me and my family with excellent educational opportunities, stable housing and comfortable family wage careers. My blended family of five children and seven grandchildren choose to reside here, and they propel my deep commitment to this community.

For me, it is vital that I listen to our community and lead with conviction to ensure decisions and actions reflect its collective values. I have over 30 years of volunteer service as I truly believe in service above self; and leading by example is my legacy for family and community. I bring this same dedication to my Port of Benton position.

As the incumbent, I champion our economic development and our daily efforts to maintain and develop our current industry-base, while actively recruiting new industries. We must remain laser-focused on retaining affordable power rates with reliable, baseload sustainable "all the above" energy generation and this demands relentless advocacy of our hydropower generating dams.

As commissioner, it's essential that I support the hiring and retention of highly capable and dedicated staff who expertly collaborate with cities, counties, tribes and government agencies to execute the Port of Benton's mission in our community.

We are better together!

Contact

(509) 219-2666; Rasmussenportofbenton2@gmail.com



Scott D. Keller

(Nonpartisan)

Elected Experience

None

Other Professional Experience

Seventeen years Executive Director, Port of Benton, Twelve years Airport Director, Port of Benton, Banking: Mortgage Loan Officer, Commercial Lending, Marketing Officer

Education

Bachelor of Science in Economics, Professional Port Managers Certification

Community Service

Board of Directors, Tri-Cities Visitor/Convention Bureau, Sam Volpentest Entrepreneurial Award, Rotarian of the year, Board of Directors, Washington Airport Managers Association, Chairman, Hanford Area Economic Development Committee, Board Member, Tri-Cities Chamber of Commerce, Board of Directors, Great Prosser Balloon Rally, Committee Member, Cool Desert Nights, Member, Prosser Chamber of Commerce, Member, Pacific Northwest Waterways Association, Member, American Association of Port Authorities

Statement

As someone who has worked for the Port of Benton for 30 years, I understand the importance of the Port and its role in our local economy. The Port provides jobs, attracts businesses to our region, and helps small businesses thrive and grow to become successful contributors to our economy.

One of my top priorities as commissioner will be to get the Port's focus back to supporting small business development. By working closely with local Government partners, we can create a business-friendly environment that encourages growth and innovation.

As commissioner I will ensure the Port operates in a transparent and accountable manner. We need to make the best decisions possible on where all our tax dollars are being spent.

Finally, I believe that it is important to protect the natural resources that make our region so special. I will work to ensure that the Port operates in an environmentally responsible manner, and that we take steps to minimize our impacts wherever possible. I am committed to working collaboratively with my fellow commissioners, Port staff, and the community to achieve these goals. I am dedicated to serving our community and would be honored to have your support this November.

Contact

(509) 731-3607; Scottkeller4comm@gmail.com; CommissionerKeller.com

Local Voters' Pamphlet

These statements are printed exactly as submitted with no spelling, grammatical or other corrections made. The candidate or campaign committee is responsible for content.



**Skip
Novakovich**

(Nonpartisan)

Unopposed

Elected Experience

Served as a Port of Kennewick Commissioner since 2009, currently President. Possesses a strong background in business/economic development, has a demonstrated history of negotiating mutually beneficial partnerships with private and governmental entities.

Other Professional Experience

Skip owned, Esprit, the Tri-Cities largest printing company for 30 years and was honored as Kennewick Man of the Year and Tri-Citizen of the Year.

Education

Graduate of Whitman College (Economics). Is a Retired Army Lieutenant Colonel. Graduated with honors from US Army Logistical Management College and US Army Command and General Staff College.

Community Service

Served on the board of Printing Industries of America and many governmental and nonprofit organizations.

Statement

Since 2009, it has been my honor to serve you on the Port of Kennewick Commission. In those fourteen years the Port team has made some astounding progress. It hasn't always been easy but the significant rewards to our region make it all worthwhile.

I have always believed *together we are better* and this has been proven by the Port's partnerships with others. In Benton County, Columbia Gardens Wine and Artesian Village is an extremely successful waterfront destination. The Port provided \$500,000 to the City of Kennewick to improve Washington Street connecting it with the riverfront; provided the City of Richland \$800,000 for Columbia Park Trail improvements; sold West Richland the racetrack at \$1,000,000 under value, allowing them to create economic development. Our largest project remains Vista Field which has the potential of creating 3200 new jobs and adding half a billion dollars to the tax roles. This exciting addition to our area is destined to be world-class.

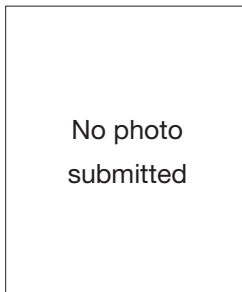
With our partnerships we are improving the region's quality of life and creating economic vitality. I am looking forward to continue serving you in the exciting future of the Port of Kennewick.

Contact

(509) 366-7858; skip@novakovichllc.com

Local Voters' Pamphlet

These statements are printed exactly as submitted with no spelling, grammatical or other corrections made. The candidate or campaign committee is responsible for content.



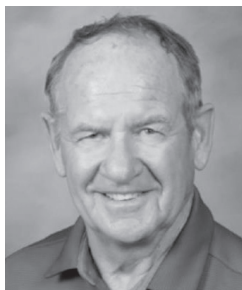
**Sheila
Dunlop**
(Nonpartisan)

Unopposed

No information submitted

Contact

skdunlop@hotmail.com



**Gary
Long**
(Nonpartisan)

Unopposed

Elected Experience

Elected in 2018 as a KGH

Commissioner and currently serving as a Kennewick Public Hospital District Commissioner.

Other Professional Experience

Retired from Benton Public Utility District as Director of Operations and Assistant General Manager, CBC /JATC instructor for the Lineman Apprenticeship Program.

Education

A Journeyman Lineman and instructor for over twenty years for electrical power industry; graduate of Oregon Military Academy as an officer in United States Army.

Community Service

Served as President of the Pasco/Kennewick Rotary; 20+ year Rotarian; Past President and Board member of Columbia Industries; Mid-Columbia Duck Race; Volunteer Kennewick Fishing Pond and Kennewick Playground of Dreams; CBC/Rotary Ambulance Drive and Kennewick Police/Rotary Bicycle Project; Facilitated strategic planning for Carrousel of Dream's Board of Directors.

Statement

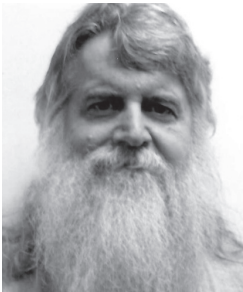
No information submitted

Contact

golf8@charter.net

Local Voters' Pamphlet

These statements are printed exactly as submitted with no spelling, grammatical or other corrections made. The candidate or campaign committee is responsible for content.



**Scott
Carpenter**

(Nonpartisan)

Elected Experience

I have served as a Benton 1 Fire Commissioner from 1993-2015 and again from 2021 to the present.

Other Professional Experience

Merchant Marine, Battelle PNNL

Education

Pasco High School, CBC

Community Service

Lifetime Tri-City resident

Statement

I am running to hopefully change the thinking and the direction of the board. The citizens of the Kennewick Public Hospital District (KPHD) told the board multiple times that they did not want a new hospital at Southridge. The board proceeded with their plan anyway. A banner during the dedication said “We’re making history. For all of us. For life”. They then lost the hospital to bankruptcy. Some history!

The KPHD lost all assets to satisfy the bankruptcy. The terms require the KPHD, now doing business as Two Rivers Health District, to pay 80% of its tax revenue to LifePoint, who currently own Trios under a Community Care Agreement. The other 20% is for philanthropic programs by Two Rivers Health.

It will be at least another five years until we are out of bankruptcy. When this happens, I would like to see the board and district dissolved. The board could do this itself or it could be put on a ballot for the taxpayers to vote on. I believe that taxpayers shouldn't pay for something they don't own. Do we still need a hospital district? What do you think? I would appreciate your vote.

Contact

carpenterscott65@gmail.com



**Marvin
Kinney**

(Nonpartisan)

Elected Experience

Over 20 years as board member of Kennewick Public Hospital District.

Other Professional Experience

42 years in public administration, primarily in economic development with City of Kennewick, Port of Kennewick, and Port of Benton.

Education

BS in Geography and Urban Planning, University of Northern Iowa. Graduate studies at University of Idaho.

Community Service

Tri-Cities Water Follies Board of Directors. Currently Vice-President Kennewick Public Hospital District. Past president of following: Columbia Center Rotary; Kennewick Chamber of Commerce; Kennewick Public Hospital District; Columbia Industries. Board of Past Kennewick Man of the Year Club (Kennewick Man of Year 1989).

Statement

I am running to help continue the services being provided to our communities by the Kennewick Public Hospital District. In 2018 the District, as part of the bankruptcy sales agreement, entered into an agreement with RCCH (now Lifepoint), to provide charitable health care to low-income community members. This was part of the agreement between the District and RCCH was to assure that the hospital would continue to operate in the Kennewick Area.

I was also, as district president, instrumental in facilitating the sale of the of the former Trios Auburn hospital building by Lifepoint to Benton County. This is a major part of the County's future Mental and Rehab program.

This district also provides scholarships to CBC and TC-WSU nursing programs. We also have supported Grace Clinics' dental expansion program. The district continues it decades long partnership with Adult Day Services to provide numerous services to elderly and adult disabled community members.

My goal, if re-elected, is to continue to provide these and other needed community health related projects.

Contact

No information submitted

Local Voters' Pamphlet

These statements are printed exactly as submitted with no spelling, grammatical or other corrections made. The candidate or campaign committee is responsible for content.



Susan L.

Reams

(Nonpartisan)

Unopposed

Elected Experience

Commissioner Prosser Memorial Health since 2014.

Other Professional Experience

Board member for PHM Foundation, Chairperson for Joint Conference Committee, member of Compliance Committee PMH; Retired executive Fortune 50 company. Responsible for Human Resources, Safety/Security, Environmental and Compliance. Previous professional experience same with additional experience in development of Risk Factor Management strategies for major hospital in California

Education

Bachelor of Arts Business Administration; Bachelor of Arts Sociology/Psychology

Community Service

Volunteered as Interpreter for Prosser Memorial Health COVID-19 Vaccine Clinics serving more than 8,000 in our communities. Two mission trips to Panama assisting in construction projects in remote villages.

Statement

My background has been diverse. Raised in Venezuela, I am fully fluent in both English and Spanish. This environment provided me with the opportunity to know and work with people from all walks of life and countries. Serving as your Board Commissioner has been an opportunity for which I am grateful and proud. PMH continues to drive forward providing excellence in patient care, expanded health care services, and building a new facility. The new hospital, presently under construction, exemplifies forward thinking and continued eye to the future growing our services and provider network while remaining fiscally strong and responsible. It would be an honor to continue as a Board Commissioner, serving the community of Prosser, working side by side with our Prosser team.

Contact

(509) 832-0781; VPHRSAF@GMAIL.COM

Local Voters' Pamphlet

These statements are printed exactly as submitted with no spelling, grammatical or other corrections made. The candidate or campaign committee is responsible for content.



**Keith
Sattler**

(Nonpartisan)

Unopposed

Elected Experience

No information submitted

Other Professional Experience

No information submitted

Education

No information submitted

Community Service

No information submitted

Statement

As a Prosser Memorial Health Commissioner, I have been privileged to witness the expansion of health care for Prosser and the surrounding areas. The construction of a new Hospital is underway and will continue the expansion and enhancement of health care for our community as a whole. As a Commissioner I will continue to advocate for and support additional healthcare services. I appreciate your support in the past and will work hard to not disappoint in the future.

Contact

(509) 781-1090; Ksat44@gmail.com

Local Voters' Pamphlet

These statements are printed exactly as submitted with no spelling, grammatical or other corrections made. The candidate or campaign committee is responsible for content.



Len Burton

(Nonpartisan)

Elected Experience

No information submitted

Other Professional Experience

I have lived in Benton/Franklin Counties since 1955. 16 years volunteering for Boy Scouts. 16 years as General Manager of a company grown from startup into one of the largest businesses of its kind in Washington State. Oversaw design, sales and installation of large pivot irrigation projects for 12 years. I have extensive experience working with contractors, various government entities including the Yakama Nation. I have lived in Benton City since 2012. Along with many other volunteers, I have participated in Benton City Beautification projects, food bank and other community events.

Education

No information submitted

Community Service

No information submitted

Statement

I would like to express gratitude to my neighbors, city staff, citizens of Benton City and those council members who have encouraged me to run for mayor. I am proud to live in Benton City. It is a great community. I would like to see the Benton City 1-82 South Sub-Area project go forward with guidance that would insure the project's success. It has been suggested a need exists for more than one bridge into Benton City. Seeking the states and counties help for a second bridge needs to be undertaken. A second bridge would improve community safety and provide for timely emergency responses. If the current bridge was out of service for any length of time, the outage would create major challenges for Benton City. Many hours of service have been freely given for improvement of the boat basin. At one time there was a park that covered most of the cleared area. I would like to see this area again developed into a park as there will be ever increasing numbers of visitors utilizing the boat basin area. If elected, the mayor's monthly salary will be returned to Benton City coffers for community improvements.

Contact

(509) 521-2003; fishingls@hotmail.com



Jake Mokler

(Nonpartisan)

Elected Experience

I was previously elected to the City Council for 2 terms starting in 2015, being re-elected in 2019. I resigned my position in October of 2022 for personal reasons, which was not an easy decision to make. I am ready to now step back into public service and help lead our City.

Other Professional Experience

No information submitted

Education

I graduated Kiona-Benton High School in 1992 and have attended several college level-career oriented courses since then.

Community Service

Firefighter/ EMT with Benton County Fire District 2 starting in 1993.

Statement

I feel that if elected as Mayor of Benton City, the current City Council and I will work to stabilize our City and enable growth in a fashion that allows for City employees to not be overwhelmed and for infrastructure (or plans for) such as; roads, water and sewer to be put into place. Other goals to include; reduction of fiscal waste-responsible spending of City resources is vital to seeing our City thrive. The inclusion of all socio-economic groups, it is important to understand what is needed in our community while continuing to explore all economic opportunities. Seeing Benton City grow while maintaining the "small town feel" that I grew up with is important to me as it is to most of the citizens, while leaving a stable environment for future generations is also an important goal.

If elected as your representative, I can guarantee I will listen to all of the voices of our community, your voices are most important, it is you that our elected officials represent.

Contact

(509) 420-0813; Jake.Mokler@outlook.com

Local Voters' Pamphlet

These statements are printed exactly as submitted with no spelling, grammatical or other corrections made. The candidate or campaign committee is responsible for content.



David

Sandretto

(Nonpartisan)

Unopposed

Elected Experience

I have served in city council position 3 for 8 years. I have served on the Policy Action Committee, Liaison to the Kiona Irrigation, BFW Good Roads Association, Ben-Franklin Transit Board of Directors, and Chair of BFT Planning and Marketing Committee.

Other Professional Experience

I worked at City of Prosser for 13 years. I currently am employed as the Chief of Staff for a Construction firm.

Education

I have 2 AA degrees, I also have a Construction safety supervisor Certificate.

Community Service

I have served the local community fire district for the last 27 years and MC'ed annual fireworks show twice in the last several years.

Statement

I am running for Council Position 3 to assist in continuing to put Benton City back on track. I feel that we need experience and a return to civility where we work together for the common good. My record stands on its own I am fair, not easily swayed, and I want the best for this little town. I know sometimes that is making the hard calls to putting us back on a path forward, compromising to get the work accomplished. Finally I want to ask everyone that is reading this to get involved in the local community and build a better future, just imagine what we could accomplish if no one cared who got credit.

Contact

dave.sandretto@gmail.com

Local Voters' Pamphlet

These statements are printed exactly as submitted with no spelling, grammatical or other corrections made. The candidate or campaign committee is responsible for content.



**Sarah
Funk**

(Nonpartisan)

Unopposed

Elected Experience

Benton City Council Position 4. May 2022-Present

Other Professional Experience

Benton City Planning Commissioner. January 2022 – April 2022

Washington Society of Certified Public Accountants, Board Member. January 2020 – Present

Education

B.A. Washington State University in Business Administration, Accounting

Community Service

Benton County Park Board Member. January 2022 – Present

Benton City Revitalization Organization. June 2020 – Present

Statement

I have been a resident of Benton City for over 5 years and involved in various community initiatives, striving to make it a better place for everyone to live.

I have had the fortunate opportunity to serve on city council for the past year. Collaborative success' include securing a \$2m Federal Appropriation to advance restoration of the train bridge and planning to connect the trails from Red Mountain to Benton City with groups, such as Friends of Badger Mountain and Tapteal Greenway, along with other regional partners.

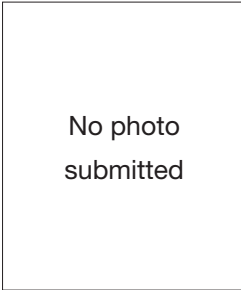
I value diversity and lead with integrity in all I do, whether serving on local boards or through my job at Ben Franklin Transit. Collaborative volunteer efforts can be seen through ongoing city beautification and the completed kiosks on Benton City's walking trails. I am a Benton City homeowner, a wife and mother to a baby boy. Please vote to keep me working for all of us in Benton City.

Contact

sarahforbentoncity@gmail.com

Local Voters' Pamphlet

These statements are printed exactly as submitted with no spelling, grammatical or other corrections made. The candidate or campaign committee is responsible for content.



**Dyana M. G.
Alcazar**
(Nonpartisan)

Unopposed

Elected Experience

I was appointed to the Benton City Council Position 5 Seat in December of 2022. Previously I have spoken at City Council and Planning Commission meetings.

Other Professional Experience

I have had careers in banking, business, and I worked with special needs students for many years. I am currently a high school teacher, and a Docent at a local National Park.

Education

A.A. in General Studies, General Banking Degree, 6-year Advanced Institute of Religion Certificate, B.A. in History for Secondary Education

Community Service

I have served in a large variety of roles from teacher, leader, and more locally with The Church of Jesus Christ of LDS.

Statement

Many people feel they do not have a voice because they are not comfortable speaking up. I have learned to be a voice for those that need one and desire to be that while serving my neighbors here in Benton City. Many that I have talked to have expressed concern about the direction Benton City has taken as they moved here for the small-town, family friendly atmosphere and do not want to lose that.

Serving the citizens in Benton City is not one that I take lightly but after being encouraged by those that I serve I believe there is more that I can do to make and keep Benton City a place individuals and families will thrive in.

Serving the citizens in Benton City is not one that I take lightly but after being encouraged by those that I serve I believe there is more that I can do to make and keep Benton City a place individuals and families will thrive in.

Contact

(509) 430-8908; dolfyn1986@aol.com

Local Voters' Pamphlet

These statements are printed exactly as submitted with no spelling, grammatical or other corrections made. The candidate or campaign committee is responsible for content.



Chuck Torelli

(Nonpartisan)

Elected Experience
Kennewick City Council 2020

Unopposed

Other Professional Experience

Kennewick Planning Commissioner 2017-2019, City Council appointment in 2019. Thirty plus years of leadership experience at the Hanford Plutonium Finishing Plant. Served in managerial positions for Budget, Scheduling, Planning and Operations. Served in the U.S. Navy 1972-1976 – included two tours to Vietnam.

Education

AAS Yakima Valley College, Management Certifications

Community Service

Past service includes Benton Franklin Council of Governments, Visit Tri-Cities, Hanford Advisory Board. Current service includes Community Action Connections, Hanford Governing Board (Chair), Interview Committee, Hanford Area Economic Investment Fund Advisory Committee (Vice-Chair). Member of Benton-Franklin League of Women Voters, Historic Museum, Badgers Club, and Tri-Cities Civility Caucus.

Statement

As one of four generations who served in the Armed Forces (parents, son and grandson), service has always been a part of Chuck's life. For the past seven years, he has been deeply engaged in Kennewick City governance. He has expertise and institutional knowledge of how government and city council works. This makes him uniquely qualified to continue with the responsibilities of councilmember.

Police and fire protection are of utmost importance for the safety of our community. He supported the upgrading of emergency response infrastructure including KFD stations, KPD use of body cams, and the addition of School Resource Officers to our middle schools. Chuck supports visionary projects such as Vista Field and Columbia Gardens because they will add to the vitality of Kennewick. Chuck believes quality of life and economic growth results from the willingness to collaborate with other community entities.

Chuck is dedicated to service and is willing to spend the time, energy and attention to detail in order to benefit all. His ongoing support of partnerships ensures that Kennewick and the surrounding region will continue to prosper.

Chuck Torelli asks for your vote to ensure that Kennewick governance remains open, transparent and fiscally responsible.

Contact

(509) 405-2156; Chuck4CityCouncil@gmail.com

Local Voters' Pamphlet

These statements are printed exactly as submitted with no spelling, grammatical or other corrections made. The candidate or campaign committee is responsible for content.

No photo
submitted

Brad
Beauchamp
(Nonpartisan)

Unopposed

No information submitted

Contact

(509) 308-6556; bmbdevelopment@yahoo.com

Local Voters' Pamphlet

These statements are printed exactly as submitted with no spelling, grammatical or other corrections made. The candidate or campaign committee is responsible for content.



James (Jim) Millbauer

(Nonpartisan)

Elected Experience
Current Kennewick City Councilman,
Position 7

Other Professional Experience

43-year member of UA Local 598; Trustee: Health & Welfare Fund Trust and JATC. Former: Project Chief Steward/Business Agent for Hanford Project; HAMTC Trustee: negotiating committee and grievance chair; member of Dan Newhouse's Labor Working Group.

Education

Richland High School 1977; UA Local 598 Apprenticeship 1983; Columbia Basin College HVAC/R 1994.

Community Service

United Way Board of Directors; UA 598 Bikes for Tikes; Youth baseball/softball coach; KSD Lunch Buddies and After School Matters programs; Benton Franklin Recovery Coalition Board; Hanford Challenge Board; President of PNW Mustang Club Board.

Statement

I am a husband, father, grandfather, and a 36-year resident of Kennewick. I believe in giving back to my community and it would be an honor and privilege to continue to serve the citizens of Kennewick.

Economic development is key to our community and should continue as a central consideration in city council decisions. The City of Kennewick has an Apprenticeship Utilization agreement that supports the use of local apprentices on specific public works projects. Developing an infrastructure that attracts new business and sustains existing business will continue to promote job creation and employ and train our local workforce. Quality of life improvements and safety are vitally important to our community. Building a strong economic environment and strengthening community partnerships creates opportunities to thrive personally, professionally, financially, and culturally.

As a former Hanford employee and current community leader, I have spent a lifetime building relationships with people from all corners of our community, bringing diverse interests together to solve challenges through listening, collaboration, and hard work. I am "Personally Invested in Your Community" and respectfully ask for the opportunity to continue to serve you.

Facebook: MillbauerforKennewick; Instagram: MillbauerforKennewick

Contact

(509) 531-4134; millbauerforkennewick@gmail.com; millbauerforkennewick.com



Ted Owens

(Nonpartisan)

Elected Experience

Endorsed by Benton County Republican Party

Other Professional Experience

General Manager of Food Marketing retail chain, responsible for budgeting, procurement, marketing-merchandising, human resources, Washington Food Industry Association Legislative Committee member

Education

Higher education in Theology

Community Service

Youth Sports Coach, Precinct Committee Officer BCRP, Chaplain, Multnomah County Prison Systems, Chaplain, Tri-City Union Gospel Mission

Statement

Hello, my name is Ted Owens and I am running for Kennewick City Council seat 7.

My family and I have lived in Kennewick for 20 years and want to improve the quality of living for current and future citizens. City policies should be creating an environment enabling the pursuit of happiness and prosperity.

My governing philosophy is based on Judeo-Christian principles, which is not a respecter of societal position but one of civil liberties enumerated in the Bill Of Rights, that God-given unalienable rights is the basis of our freedoms. I am a fiscal conservative and a defender of Civil Liberties and Human Agency. Governance should reflect the community, not because of a percentage or to meet a mandated quota but because of the strength that cultural diversity brings. I have worked with and learned from Latino and Black Communities and have been enriched by those experiences. As the city looks to revitalize and plan for growth I will always exercise fiscal restraint, being respectful of taxpayer dollars, measuring efficiency, effectiveness, and addressing the issues affecting our community with compassion and resolve.

I ask for your support for our campaign and your vote.

Contact

(509) 551-4464; ted4kcc@gmail.com

Local Voters' Pamphlet

These statements are printed exactly as submitted with no spelling, grammatical or other corrections made. The candidate or campaign committee is responsible for content.



Gary Vegar

(Nonpartisan)

Elected Experience
none

Other Professional Experience

Prosser entrepreneur and businessman; I own and operate two multifaceted family businesses in Prosser, a brewery, and a family style restaurant and Saloon. For twenty-eight years I served several school communities as a vocational electronics instructor, coach, athletic director, high school principal, assistant superintendent teaching and learning.

Education

SPU, Educational Leadership; University of Hawaii, Master Education Leadership; EWU, BA Education, Industrial Technology; K-12 Prosser graduate.

Community Service

President, Historic Downtown Prosser; Vice President, Prosser Rotary; Past Vice President, Prosser Chamber; Past Secretary and Trustee, Princess Theater Board; Past President, Stanwood Camano Kiwanis; Prosser School District Study and Survey and Strategic Planning Committees.

Statement

Born and raised in Prosser, I offer unique professional experiences serving twenty-eight years in public education with twenty years of educational administration and fifteen years' experience as a small business entrepreneur and owner of a brewery and family Saloon. I have successfully administered all facets of public and private enterprise. My leadership style is collaborative. I will facilitate citizen engaged shared decision-making using effective communication strategies including face-to-face.

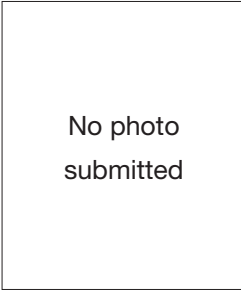
My mission as mayor is to provide improved city leadership building mutually supportive relationships throughout our city and county while advocating for Prosser at the State and Federal levels.

My purpose is to provide leadership and vision for Prosser creating a better future for our residents, enhancing our charming downtown and traditional neighborhoods while we carefully plan new growth and public safety. I will lead conversations between city and county that promote sharing government resources working together in the Benton County Courthouse.

When elected, our city will execute fiscally conservative practices, provide outstanding city services, work together as a community promoting economic development and growth and facilitate city policies and programs that improve the quality of life for city and 99350 residents. Join our campaign "Live Long in Prosser" garyvegar@msn.com (509) 840-0564

Contact

(509) 840-0564; garyvegar@msn.com



Randy Taylor

(Nonpartisan)

Elected Experience

I have served on the city council, I have served as Mayor

Other Professional Experience

No information submitted

Education

No information submitted

Community Service

United Good Neighbors past drive chairman and president, States Day Chairman, Long Range planning committee for the Prosser Schools District, Prosser School District strategic planning

Statement

I would be honored to serve the citizens of Prosser as Mayor.

My philosophy on leadership of Prosser is that we cultivate new business in a way so as to grow the city financially while maintaining our small-town charm. I support Historic Downtown Prosser, Chamber of Commerce and Prosser Economic Development Association. I am proud of our support of the Boys and Girls Club, Prosser Library, Prosser Historical Museum, Princess Theater and others. We value our partnerships with Benton County, the Port of Benton, Prosser School District and several Yakima and Tri-Cities based organizations. Being mayor is a management role. I manage the city team, budgets and partnerships among others. The city council sets policy and the budget. The mayor works with staff, the public and the council to deliver those policies and priorities. We need to keep our crime rate low while keeping high levels of service. I will be working to bring county jobs back to Prosser, so we can have balanced services to the west side of Benton County. I love my city and want to work together to make it a great place to visit, work and live.

Please re-elect me Mayor of Prosser

Contact

randy.taylor4358@gmail.com

Local Voters' Pamphlet

These statements are printed exactly as submitted with no spelling, grammatical or other corrections made. The candidate or campaign committee is responsible for content.



**Jim
Chesley**

(Nonpartisan)

Elected Experience

No information submitted

Other Professional Experience

No information submitted

Education

No information submitted

Community Service

No information submitted

Statement

I seek to be the voice of Responsible Citizens; the taxpayers of Prosser deserve a city council that is responsive to the citizen's needs. Openness is essential.

Prosser born, James A. "Jim" Chesley, I'm a 4th generation Washingtonian. My parents and siblings were all born in Prosser. I graduated from PHS and CBC. I'm an Eagle Scout of Troop 641, former WA Hunter Education Instructor, and a proud father of 3 Navy Veterans. I have always been hands-on people person. Early in my career I owned a company that built grassland fire fighting vehicles for area Fire Departments. I served as a City of Pasco Police Reserve and past Prosser Scottish Fest Honorary Chieftain.

For the last 16 years I have been employed by an international leader in renewable energy and have worked my way up from climbing towers to now managing construction sites. My mother, Zina Mae, taught Prosser residents to swim from the 1940s to 1980s. My father, Roy, was a Horse Heaven farmer, Army veteran and volunteer Prosser and Benton County Fire Fighter.

I seek to be the choice for voters concerned with keeping Prosser a vital thriving community. I would appreciate your vote. Thank You.

Contact

Jim.Chesley@Yahoo.com

No photo
submitted

**Maricela
Sanchez**

(Nonpartisan)

Elected Experience

No information submitted

Other Professional Experience

Anesthesiologist, Kadlec Regional Medical Center

Education

Prosser High School Class of '98; University of Washington, B.A.; Stanford University School of Medicine, M.D.; Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, Anesthesiology Residency and Fellowship

Community Service

Friends of Downtown Prosser, Prosser Princess Theatre Board of Directors, Prosser Friends of the Library, Prosser Planning Commission, Historic Downtown Prosser Association, Benton County Redistricting Committee, Heritage University Board of Directors, Futurewise

Statement

Prosser is my home town, and I am proud to be from here. I am running for city council to preserve Prosser's high quality of living.

The historic beauty of our town and safety of our streets make Prosser unique, and it is vital that we protect and improve upon these valuable assets. I am passionate about Main Street revitalization and creating wonderful public spaces to welcome local residents and visitors into our town to support small businesses. Our city parks and playgrounds, sidewalks, and street trees must be prioritized and well maintained. The quality of life for children, the elderly, and disabled residents should be of highest priority as our town grows.

In 2022, I helped lead a successful citizens' campaign against an expensive new tax burden for Prosser taxpayers. I strongly believe in the importance of maintenance and rehabilitation; our town is not disposable. We must improve our existing city properties and put them to their best and highest use. As a member of Prosser City Council, I will be a strong advocate for a vibrant and beautiful town we can all be proud of and will continue to cherish for years to come.

Contact

sanchezforprosser@gmail.com

Local Voters' Pamphlet

These statements are printed exactly as submitted with no spelling, grammatical or other corrections made. The candidate or campaign committee is responsible for content.



Devin Matheny

(Nonpartisan)

Elected Experience

No information submitted

Other Professional Experience

15+ years as an electrician, working on commercial and industrial projects including foreman on several jobs.

Education

Graduated Grandview High School Class of 1997.
Graduated apprenticeship from International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers 2012

Community Service

Volunteered with the State's Day Parade, and volunteered for the Great Prosser Balloon Rally.

Statement

My name is Devin Matheny, and I am running for City Council in Prosser, position 5. I grew up in the area, and have lived in Prosser for the last 7 years. I am passionate about our community. I believe that I can help make informed, logical, and well-thought-out decisions that will be in the best interests of our town.

I have a strong work ethic, and have been working as an electrician for over 15 years, I understand the value of hard work. I'm raising a family in Prosser and believe I can serve on council and contribute to keeping this community great. I believe listening is the most important skill a council member can have. I won't make impulsive decisions because I am committed to listening to all sides of an issue before deciding.

If elected, I will work hard to represent all of the citizens of Prosser. I will listen to your concerns and work to find solutions that benefit everyone.

I am asking for your vote. Together, we can make Prosser an even better place to live, work, and raise a family.

Contact

devinforprosser@yahoo.com



Carolina Warwick

(Nonpartisan)

Elected Experience

No previous election experience

Other Professional Experience

Worked in the Yakima Valley wine industry for over 23 years; business owner and winemaker

Education

First graduate of the Winery Technology Program at Yakima Valley College; Bachelors of Applied Science Business Management Yakima Valley College

Community Service

Previously served as board member on Princess Theatre and Prosser Wine Network. Currently sit on Prosser Wine Network events and marketing committees; committee to make Prosser a Creative Arts District; and on an AG Winery & Viticulture Advisory committee for Yakima Valley College.

Statement

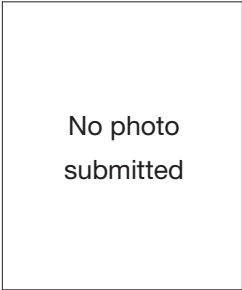
My name is Carolina 'Cat' Warwick. I was born and raised in the Yakima Valley and have lived in Prosser for over 13 years. I have worked in Prosser for 14 years and am co-winemaker and co-owner of Wit Cellars in Prosser which has been operating for over 7 years. I raised my three children here and am very involved in the community. Prosser is very important to me. It is the city in which I have chosen to raise my children and own a business. I am running for city council because what happens in our city matters. I want the citizens of Prosser to feel like they are heard, and their concerns are important. I have been in a leadership role for most of my career and believe that my skillset and experience will allow me to ask the right questions and help make good decisions. With a strong work ethic, a positive attitude, and common sense, we can make a difference in our community. I would be honored to serve on the city council!

Contact

(509) 781-4466; cat@witcellars.com

Local Voters' Pamphlet

These statements are printed exactly as submitted with no spelling, grammatical or other corrections made. The candidate or campaign committee is responsible for content.



Steven W
Becken
(Nonpartisan)

Unopposed

No information submitted

Contact

(509) 786-1562; swbecken@gmail.com

Local Voters' Pamphlet

These statements are printed exactly as submitted with no spelling, grammatical or other corrections made. The candidate or campaign committee is responsible for content.



**Anna
Kellogg**

(Nonpartisan)

Elected Experience

President of Council 2 Employees Union at PMH 15 years.

Other Professional Experience

Negotiating contracts, Representing employees with administration.

Education

AA degree, Studies in Education at CWU, Certified management in Real Estate

Community Service

Member of Prosser Economic Development

Statement

This is a brief history of my qualifications and why I feel I am the right person for the job. I was employed with Prosser Memorial Hospital for 20 years. I spent fifteen of those years as President of the employees Union. During this time, I negotiated employee contracts every two years. This involved three employees, hospital administration and me. We work on salaries, insurance and every part of the working staff. I also represented employees during any dispute between the employee and administration. These two experiences really helped me hon in my negotiating skills. Currently, I am in Real Estate here is Prosser. With this experience I believe I can judge commercial and residential properties which I feel is a large part of the City Council duties. I can be impartial in deciding budgets and helping the City of Prosser grow.

I honestly believe with city collaboration we can make Prosser a great go-to destination, bringing in much needed revenue and keep the quaint beauty Prosser is known for.

If elected, I can work with community leaders and local industry, coming together to develop and grow Prosser in a direction for the future.

Contact

alkellogg@live.com



**Stephanie
Groom**

(Nonpartisan)

Elected Experience

Since 8/23/16

Other Professional Experience

No information submitted

Education

Accounting degree

Community Service

No information submitted

Statement

I have been a resident of Prosser since 1983, graduated high school in 1986. I have a 2 year degree in accounting along with an HR certificate.

Prosser has grown and the growth continues, this will be a unique challenge for conducting city business i.e., increased budgets, increased spending, and making important decisions for the citizens of Prosser.

I look forward to challenges and excepting the responsibility.

Contact

No information submitted

Local Voters' Pamphlet

These statements are printed exactly as submitted with no spelling, grammatical or other corrections made. The candidate or campaign committee is responsible for content.



**Jhoanna R.
Jones**

(Nonpartisan)

Elected Experience

I seek your support for a 2nd term as your City Council representative.

Other Professional Experience

I have actively served our community by volunteering with various organizations like Score, Red Cross, Hispanic Chamber, etc., striving to impact our lives positively.

Education

Master's in Finance, I bring a deep understanding of budgets to the council. I am unafraid to ask tough questions.

Community Service

Animal welfare holds a special place in my heart, and I am an unwavering advocate for our animal shelter and their well-being.

Statement

I want you to know that I come from humble beginnings. My journey began in Colombia, South America, and in 2006, I made Tri-Cities my home when my husband joined the City of Pasco's Police Department. Through hard work and a commitment to education, I triumphed over poverty, abuse, and homelessness. I firmly believe in the boundless opportunities offered by our great nation, where hard work and education can transform dreams into reality. I am honored to be endorsed by the Benton County Republican Party; my dedication transcends political affiliations.

As an avid runner, I hold dear our open spaces, prioritize safety, and advocate for accessible housing options that make our community an ideal place to live. By fostering partnerships with Friends of Badger, Fuse, and other nonprofits, I aim to enhance our city services while reducing the tax burden through their expertise and volunteer support. Together, we can ensure that the voice of our community shapes our collective progress.

I request your support and vote in the upcoming election. We will continue working towards a brighter future for our exceptional city.

Contact

(509) 396-3089; votejhoanna@gmail.com;
www.votejhoanna.com



**Allison
Ball**

(Nonpartisan)

Elected Experience

No information submitted

Other Professional Experience

Delta Air Lines Flight Attendant, 27 years

Education

Columbia Basin College, Georgia State University

Community Service

Washington State Leadership Board, Tres Rios Community Land Trust Board, Tri-Cities Diversity and Inclusion Council Member, Rotary Club of Richland member

Statement

I have an unwavering commitment to a future built on progress. Our city stands at a crossroads, where the decisions we make today in Richland will shape the community we leave for our children.

We must work for a society where every individual, regardless of their social or economic background, has an equal opportunity to succeed. It is not enough to merely speak of equality; we must actively work to dismantle the barriers that stand in its way. We need to move forward, not backward— creating a community that accepts everyone and builds for the future.

I support improving our program of social workers who answer police calls when a police response is not needed. I also support incentives for building more affordable housing. I support efforts to build a facility for better mental health care. Central Richland needs redevelopment. I would also like to see the code enforcement department operating at full complement.

I ask for your support, not just for me, but for the values we hold dear. Together, let us shape a future where justice triumphs over prejudice, where opportunity is accessible to all, and where compassion guides our actions.

Contact

(509) 440-8707

Local Voters' Pamphlet

These statements are printed exactly as submitted with no spelling, grammatical or other corrections made. The candidate or campaign committee is responsible for content.



**Theresa A
Richardson**

(Nonpartisan)

Elected Experience

City Council 2021; Mayor Pro Tem 2022

Other Professional Experience

Habitat for Humanity, CEO 2004-2012; 2017-2019; Development Solutions, owner 1996-2004; Liberty Christian School, Development Director 1993-1996; Washington State University, writing lab instructor 1992; Turner Broadcasting, foreign correspondent 1991.

Education

Washington State University, BA English/Business 1992, Cum laude – commencement speaker.

Community Service

Council liaison: Port of Benton, Code Enforcement, Police Pension Board, Firefighter Pension Board, Hanford Economic Advisory, SWAC, Tri-City Visitors, Park & Recreation, Economic Development Council. Community Boards/Volunteer: CASA Guardian Ad Litem; Boys & Girls Club; Regional Chamber of Commerce; Tri City Pregnancy Network; Union Gospel Mission; Three Rivers Community Foundation; New Heights Church.

Statement

In Theresa's first term as city Councilmember and most recently as mayor pro tem, her professional background, leadership, and collaborative style encouraged business development and employment opportunity.

Richland is on the cusp of several exciting commercial projects. In her next term, she will continue to spotlight the need for workforce homeownership and encourage our city to be investment friendly. An additional focus will be securing high tech manufacturing jobs as the regional energy hub.

To keep our community safe, Theresa is honored to fully support our police and first responders to find solutions to protect our quality of life.

Theresa knows that it is a great privilege to work alongside so many talented, diverse and innovative community leaders. With full collaboration, Richland can successfully implement common-sense fiscal policy, forge private-public partnerships, and grow enduring business relationships to benefit our citizens.

Married 47 years, Theresa and David have profound appreciation for this community. Together they raised three sons with an abundance of hometown memories. Today, all their families and grandchildren call Richland home.

Theresa is motivated to continue to work hard and make sure Richland is ready to thrive for the next generation.

Contact

(509) 554-4595; Richardson4Richland@gmail.com



**Elizabeth 'Liz'
Vann-Clark**

(Nonpartisan)

Elected Experience

None

Other Professional Experience

Technical Writer and Editor, Mathematics educator

Education

Master of Mathematics Education from Western Governors University, Bachelor of Education from Washington State University

Community Service

Columbia Basin Badger Club Board Member, Soroptimist Three Rivers Board Treasurer, SageFen Inc. President, and 20 years of volunteering and leadership roles in Pacific Northwest non-profit organizations.

Statement

Living in Richland most of my life, I have an appreciation for our city's history and the growth Richland has seen. As a mother, wife, and long-time community volunteer, I have a vested interest in Richland's future. Our city benefits from great schools, beautiful parks, and a rich culture of diverse worldviews and experiences. To support our growth and build a brighter future, I advocate for innovative solutions for safer neighbors, improving local economy, and developing infrastructure.

Richland's rapid growth calls for responsible management to ensure that all of our community benefits from the improved economy. I support local small businesses, buying locally, and hiring locally. I will advocate for strategic development that will support a strong economy while decreasing potential negative impact on Richland's way of life.

With over 20 years of experience as a volunteer and in leadership roles focused on civic duty, education, and the arts; I'm experienced in collaborating with a variety of viewpoints to find common ground for success. I believe in ethical leadership founded on transparency and accountability to the community.

Please join in supporting my campaign by voting for Liz Vann-Clark for Richland City Council, Position 2!

Contact

(509) 204-9418; contact@vannclark4richland.com; <https://vannclark4richland.com/>

Local Voters' Pamphlet

These statements are printed exactly as submitted with no spelling, grammatical or other corrections made. The candidate or campaign committee is responsible for content.



D. Shayne VanDyke

(Nonpartisan)

Elected Experience

Appointed to Richland City Council July 2022. HOA president.

Other Professional Experience

Project Management Professional with over 20 years leadership experience working at the Hanford Vitrification Plant and PNNL. Successfully led teams of over 100 people and responsible for over \$200M in work scope. Led teams in government contracts, international nuclear detection and deterrence, training, cybersecurity, and advising senior federal executives. Certifications in process improvement, team behaviors, root cause analysis, training, and financial accountability.

Education

BS Business Management/Minor in Political Science, Brigham Young University, 2001. MBA, Washington State University, 2007.

Community Service

Junior Achievement teacher, Scouting leader, church youth volunteer, and youth sports coach.

Statement

My wife, four children, and I have made Richland home for over 20 years. I want to give back. With my education, training, and proven leadership I can represent you and continue our tradition of excellence.

I am increasingly concerned about rising crime and evolving challenges confronting our fire department. My experience on city council enables me to work collaboratively with our great police and fire departments, further improving their critical services. I will work with local charities and organizations to create safe and fun places where at-risk youth can belong and be mentored. Together, we can improve our communities' mental health and addiction rehabilitation services.

I have the experience to facilitate responsible growth for our economy, leveraging small businesses. I will work to enrich our city via expanded riverfront developments, performing arts venues, and through balanced city planning. I have represented the city council on the Planning Committee, Utility Advisory Committee, Tri-Cities Chamber of Commerce, Visit Tri-Cities, and Hanford Communities Governing Board. I feel such experiences afford me great insight and an increased ability to lead our city.

I humbly ask for your vote to continue as a Richland City Councilmember.

Contact

(509) 731-3052; shayne@shayne4richland.com; shayne4richland.com



Gregory Levy

(Nonpartisan)

Elected Experience

Elected Chair of City of Richland Code Enforcement Board

Other Professional Experience

Training Specialist, WRPS; Radiological Control Supervisor, Puget Sound Naval Shipyard; Nuclear Machinist Mate 1st Class, United States Navy

Education

Naval Nuclear Power School

Community Service

Served 5 years on City of Richland Code Enforcement Board, Vice-President of the Board, Rude Mechanicals Theatre Company, 2018-2020, Community Judge, NCFCA Debate Regional Qualifier

Statement

Thirteen years ago I left a job I didn't need to leave to move to Richland. Primary among the reasons for that choice was that Richland felt like a better place to raise a family than the Puget Sound Area. There were large parks we could take the kids to on the weekends and smaller neighborhood parks they could easily walk to for an afternoon of enjoying the sunshine. For me, if my schedule prevented me getting to the mountains, then I could always head to the Amon Basin or Chamna Natural Reserve to relax and not hear cars for a little bit.

Richland remains a good place to raise a family, but it takes active participation by involved citizens to keep it that way. As someone who grew up in the Puget Sound area I saw a lot of towns rapidly become cities in an uncontrolled, unplanned manner, often outgrowing the families that lived there. Growth and development, especially when properly managed, are required for a city to maintain its vitality. I look forward to helping Richland grow, while also staying a great place to raise a family.

Contact

(385) 276-2125; LevyforCouncil@gmail.com

Local Voters' Pamphlet

These statements are printed exactly as submitted with no spelling, grammatical or other corrections made. The candidate or campaign committee is responsible for content.



Kurt H. Maier

(Nonpartisan)

Elected Experience

None.

Other Professional Experience

I've collaborated with people from all walks of life at Google, IBM, the University of Maryland, PNNL, and other organizations, in Nashville, Indianapolis, Baltimore, Kabul, and more. I'm a veteran of the United States Army. I've worked as a telephone repairman, an auto mechanic, a roofer, a chicken farmer, a manager, and a professional cook, but mostly as a supercomputing engineer.

Education

Bachelor's of Science, Middle Tennessee State University. Currently pursuing a Masters of Science in Data Analytics from Western Governors University.

Community Service

Richland Public Library Board of Trustees member from 2017 to 2022. Chair from 2020-2022.

Statement

I believe in living within my means, and I believe in the values that made America the greatest country on Earth. Richland needs a council with a problem-solving mentality. We need housing affordable enough that our families can live here. We need a city code that encourages local businesses, instead of tying them up with red tape. And we certainly don't need to turn the city into a rest stop for out-of-town commuters.

If elected to City Council, I would lead the same way as at my job -- find out directly from the source what people need to succeed, and work hard to make sure they get it. I believe that Richland deserves a city council focused on governing Richland; not on political party games, not on getting elected to higher offices, not on using the office as a platform to tell people what to think or how to run their businesses.

Does the council member you voted for have a lot of absences? If you missed that much work, would you still have a job? Whoever you vote for, hold them accountable! Let them know you expect them to show up. It's literally the least they can do.

Contact

(443) 208-8385; khm@americanimperium.com; <http://americanimperium.com>



Kent Madsen

(Nonpartisan)

Elected Experience

No information submitted

Other Professional Experience

No information submitted

Education

No information submitted

Community Service

I am a Richland native, devoted family man, and accomplished business leader. Happily married to an amazing wife and blessed with 4 children and 14 grandchildren. Successful career spanning top-performing roles with renowned companies like General Electric, Sara Lee Corp and Canon Solutions America. Recognized for sales excellence and business management. Dedicated years of service on the Richland Planning Commission, including four as Chairman. Appointed by City Council for vital projects like the Columbia Park West Master development plan. A committed leader, passionate about fostering growth, safety, and a vibrant community for all Richland residents.

Statement

I'm Kent Madsen, a principled, accessible, and honest candidate for the Richland City Council. I embrace America's core values of Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness. During my previous 14 year tenure on the Planing Commission I diligently prioritized transparency, fairness, responsibility, and Commission excellence. It is with great honor that I present myself as a candidate, seeking your invaluable support through your vote.

I believe in conservative principles, I am steadfast in my commitment to upholding our cherished values. Every decision I make will be guided by fiscal prudence, accountability, public safety for our families and children and a genuine dedication to ethical governance, ensuring the prosperous future of our beloved city.

Accessibility and accountability are the cornerstones of effective representation. I firmly believe that elected officials must be readily accessible to their constituents. Your concerns, ideas, and aspirations will always be given the highest priority, and I promise to be a steadfast advocate for your needs, faithfully representing your interests.

Together, we can shape the trajectory of Richland, embracing a future defined by integrity, honesty, and a resolute commitment to our conservative ideals. I am immensely grateful for your consideration and ask for your trust and support.

Contact

(509) 302-7545; wkmadsen@msn.com

Local Voters' Pamphlet

These statements are printed exactly as submitted with no spelling, grammatical or other corrections made. The candidate or campaign committee is responsible for content.



**Ryan
Whitten**

(Nonpartisan)

Elected Experience

Appointed to City Council in January of 2023

Other Professional Experience

Ryan Whitten served 8 years in the U.S. Navy as an Avionics Technician working on F/A-18 Hornets. He now lives in historic Richland with his wife, where he has continued his career as an instrument tech, working for Hanford and now Energy Northwest.

Education

Associate of Arts from CBC

Community Service

No information submitted

Statement

I care deeply about our community here in Richland and as a public official my main concerns are Economy and Accountability. Richland is growing rapidly, and is very limited in terms of space for outward expansion. Revitalizing older neighborhoods and economic centers while preserving their history and charm should be a priority moving forward. Working towards innovative solutions for traffic problems and pedestrian safety, especially during commute times, is another top priority.

Safety is a major concern across the country. I want Richland to continue to be a place where residents feel comfortable raising their families. I support our Police Department's efforts to protect and serve. I do not support legislation that interferes with reasonable and necessary police procedures.

I support nuclear energy and technology and hope to help Richland become the jewel of safe, affordable, and sustainable energy in the Pacific Northwest.

I'd greatly appreciate your vote so I can fight for Richland, to keep our community thriving and accountable to its citizens!

Contact

electryanwhitten@protonmail.com; electryanwhitten.com



**Joshua
Short**

(Nonpartisan)

Elected Experience

This is my first time running for public office.

Other Professional Experience

I've worked for several local employers, including PNNL, Mid-Columbia Engineering, and SIGN Fracture Care. I'm also the owner of a small business, Short Industries.

Education

I graduated from Kennewick High in 2004 as Valedictorian with a full International Baccalaureate diploma. I studied business administration and applied technology at Illinois Institute of Technology before transferring home to finish a degree in computer science at WSU-TC.

Community Service

Helped launch IIT Entrepreneurship Academy; former board member of Hanford Learning; assisted with Bridging the Digital Divide; volunteered for TEDxRichland; Tres Rios Community Land Trust board member.

Statement

I was born in Richland, and I've lived other places, but this is my chosen home. I'm running because I want to be actively involved in the stewardship of this phenomenal place.

A community is its people -- this council position entails decisions around appointments, budgets, contracts, ordinances, and policies that affect the quality of life of the entire community. It is my desire to carry out the duties of this position in accordance with the values, vision and mission of Richland. I want to ensure a "safe and family-friendly community that welcomes diversity". I want to sustain our "excellence in technology, medicine, education, recreation, tourism, and citizen participation".

As a resident of North Richland, I offer a voice for an under-represented part of our community. I love our parks and public spaces, and I care deeply about the livability and ecological health of our region.

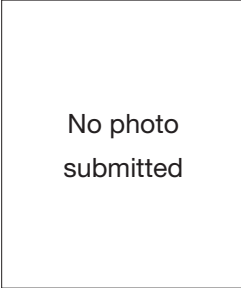
I look forward to the opportunity to serve and to respond to the needs of the community.

Contact

(509) 903-6231; short4richland@gmail.com

Local Voters' Pamphlet

These statements are printed exactly as submitted with no spelling, grammatical or other corrections made. The candidate or campaign committee is responsible for content.



David
Fetto
(Nonpartisan)

Unopposed

No information submitted

Contact

david.fetto@gmail.com

Local Voters' Pamphlet

These statements are printed exactly as submitted with no spelling, grammatical or other corrections made. The candidate or campaign committee is responsible for content.



**Fred
Brink**
(Nonpartisan)

Unopposed

Elected Experience

Councilmember and Mayor pro tem, City of West Richland; Board of Commissioners, Benton County Fire Protection District #4; Board of Directors, Association of Washington Cities

Other Professional Experience

U. S. Navy Surface Warfare Officer; Special Agent-in-Charge, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI); Program Manager, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

Education

Bachelor of Science, United States Naval Academy; Post-Graduate Studies in Public Administration, Rutgers University; FBI Senior Executive Education Program, Kellogg School of Management, Northwestern University

Community Service

Active member of Washington State's Emergency Management Council and Forensic Investigations Council, Benton County Law and Justice Council and several Association of Washington Cities committees

Statement

Fred Brink has more than 40 years of combined military, law enforcement and public service experience as an officer in the U. S. Navy, a senior executive with the FBI, and as an elected or an appointed official at state, county and local levels. He is actively committed to serving our nation, the State of Washington and our local community.

Fred possesses the background and leadership experience to responsibly manage your taxpayer funds, explore new ways to address city issues, and to help ensure the City of West Richland remains a safe, prosperous, family friendly and welcoming community. As a champion of local control, he will continue working closely with officials at the state and county levels, his fellow city councilmembers and community residents to find viable solutions to the challenges faced in housing, public safety and policing, and homelessness. With your support, Fred will be honored to continue serving as your advocate and representative on the West Richland City Council.

Contact

ftbrink@gmail.com

Local Voters' Pamphlet

These statements are printed exactly as submitted with no spelling, grammatical or other corrections made. The candidate or campaign committee is responsible for content.



Kate Moran

(Nonpartisan)

Elected Experience
West Richland City Council 2020-2023

Other Professional Experience
Board member, Benton Franklin Council of Governments; Nuclear Facility Specialist, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory; Navy Combat Veteran

Education
Advanced Certificate of Municipal Leadership, Association of Washington Cities; West Richland Police Department Citizens Academy; B.S in Nuclear Engineering Technology, Excelsior University

Community Service
Past president, West Richland Community Care Foundation; West Richland Planning Commission; Past board member, West Richland Police Department Community Advisory Board; Richland Rotary Club Member; Programming committee, Columbia Basin Badger Club

Statement
Serving on council these last four years has been an honor. We’ve accomplished many of my goals to improve transparency and accountability: posting council meeting videos online, allowing more public comments during meetings, strengthening zoning codes, and sending out surveys for better community input. I ask for your vote so we can face the upcoming challenges together.

West Richland is rapidly expanding to a mid-sized suburban city. Our growth should help us meet our needs without losing what makes West Richland feel like home. I’ll continue to push for fiscally responsible solutions and look for alternative means to fund projects without raising taxes, so our city can meet our needs for a balanced budget, which includes maintaining and building infrastructure like streets and water lines while also preserving and improving our parks and public safety.

We must treat established neighborhoods fairly when building infrastructure. Future growth should include updating streets and sidewalks within these areas. I’ll continue working to build a stronger, resilient West Richland, accountable to all who live here.

West Richland is the best place to live, work, and raise a family! Re-elect me to continue moving forward while preserving what matters. Go to www.KateForWestRichland.com for more information.

Contact
(509) 713-2206; Kateforwestrichland@gmail.com



David Cole

(Nonpartisan)

Elected Experience
Precinct Committee Officer

Other Professional Experience
U.S Navy veteran, Deputy Sheriff (Houston, TX), WA Dept. of Corrections, Vocational Instructor (Peninsula College), Hanford employee (planning) 23 years

Education
Lamar University (Criminal Justice), Texas A&M University (Criminal Justice)

Community Service
Board President – Tri Cities Residential Services, Board Member – You Medical, Constitution Coach – Patriot Academy, Treasurer – Operation Thank You Veterans Golf, Vet Mentor – Benton County Veterans Therapeutic Court, Group Leader – ReEngage Marriage Ministry

Statement
As a non-profit board member, my experience includes policy and budget oversight and working collaboratively to achieve desired outcomes. Our city’s vision statement says we are “a growing city where family values and community responsiveness are important. The city should grow in a balanced way to produce a safe and inviting community having good residential and recreational alternatives and a healthy economic base.” I agree with that vision. Citizens value transparency in city government. I will be responsive to their concerns. We can have growth and keep our small town roots. I will promote a business-friendly climate that enables local businesses to thrive. West Richland has been my home for 17 years. My children and grandchildren live here. I will advance family-friendly policies that strengthen our neighborhoods. As a former sworn law enforcement officer, I support the police officers who protect and serve us. I oppose any efforts to defund or minimize their mission. The impact of substance abuse in our community is visible. I oppose marijuana stores in West Richland. I am endorsed by the Benton County Republican party. I am the conservative choice for West Richland City Council.

Contact
davidcolegforwrcitycouncil@gmail.com

Local Voters' Pamphlet

These statements are printed exactly as submitted with no spelling, grammatical or other corrections made. The candidate or campaign committee is responsible for content.



**Dustin
Petersen**

(Nonpartisan)

Elected Experience

Quincy City Council (2014-2015)

Other Professional Experience

Columbia Ag Consultants

Education

Quincy High School 2005, BYU-Idaho 2013 BA Political Science

Community Service

Boy Scouts of America (Eagle Scout), Youth Football and Baseball Coach

Statement

As the father of three young children, I have a vested interest to ensure our kids get an exceptional education. Regardless of our political beliefs, we all share a common goal: to provide our children with the best education possible. If elected, I pledge to work collaboratively with my fellow board members.

We need to support our teachers, paraprofessionals, and administrators. We should allocate resources back into the classroom, support the teachers in maintaining order, and empower them with the tools they need. Let's focus on real world teaching and civics lessons. I oppose any theories that are critical of any race, because I want all students to feel like they belong.

As board members it is our job to make sure we are providing the right resources to the right schools. With declining school enrollment prevalent statewide, we must be prudent and fiscally responsible with the funds that we have.

Parents matter. I will defend parents' rights and work to expand parental involvement in our schools. Listening to parents is crucial to the success of any school district. Together let us put our differences aside and focus on what truly matters: the future of our children!

Contact

(336) 338-1261; dpetersen45@gmail.com



**Michael
Connors**

(Nonpartisan)

Elected Experience

2019 - Present - Kennewick School Board, 2021-2023 - President Kennewick School Board

Other Professional Experience

Former Chair of Fresh Solutions Network - National Sales and Marketing Organization, Former Board Member Potatoes USA, United Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Leadership Program

Education

BA Communications - Seattle University

Community Service

Past Volunteer FFA State Convention, Former Kennewick National Little League Coach

Statement

The last four years have been exceptionally challenging for our children, parents, and staff. Our district faces complicated times, and we need to approach these times with common sense and fortitude. Fresh faces and perspectives should be welcomed and applauded, but we also need the appropriate experience to address the complexities we face. I have served as President of the Kennewick School Board for the past two years. If re-elected after this election cycle, I would be the only board member with more than two years of experience.

I am a third-generation farmer; all four of my children attended school in KSD with two still enrolled at Southridge High School. I have a vested interest in the education of all our children and want to make sure our kids have the knowledge and skills necessary to find success in life after graduation.

It is imperative we stay focused on what is best for all our students and staff and keep politics and partisanship out of our district. My approach entails listening to all sides and asking thoughtful questions before making decisions. I'm asking for your vote to re-elect me to the KSD Board of Directors.

Information: mike@connorsforSKD.com, website: connors forKSD.com

Contact

michael.connors1@outlook.com

Local Voters' Pamphlet

These statements are printed exactly as submitted with no spelling, grammatical or other corrections made. The candidate or campaign committee is responsible for content.



**Brittany
Gledhill**

(Nonpartisan)

Elected Experience
No elected experience

Other Professional Experience

Community Representative, Community Engagement Board, Kennewick School District; Board Member, Tri City Youth Choir; Sub Committee Chair, Capital Campaign Board, B5 Learning Center; Financial Manager, Gledhill Dental

Education

Bachelor of Science, Brigham Young University, Majoring in Psychology and Spanish; Master of Public Administration, Marriott School of Management, Brigham Young University

Community Service

Classroom Volunteer, Kennewick School District; Adult English Language Learner Teacher, Family Learning Center; Volunteer, Soul Soup; Camp Administrator, Camp Zarahemla; Church youth mentor

Statement

I believe the school board should represent the community it serves. I am a mother of five Kennewick School District students, a local business owner, a community volunteer, and a conscientious taxpayer.

The state serves to provide public schools with necessary funding and academic standards but should avoid controlling school districts in a manner that diminishes parental rights. It is not the place of schools to present social or political beliefs where academics should be the primary objective.

I will advocate for local control and will ensure that KSD focuses on core curricula like math, science, and civics. I will ensure resources are used to enhance educational opportunities for students and will fight to protect the rights of parents to be fully informed.

I have held volunteer administrative positions on four local community boards in the span of twelve years evaluating the effectiveness of different programs, setting funding priorities, and making important decisions regarding costs, proposed benefits, and scope. I will provide beneficial oversight to Kennewick School District.

If you seek an experienced voice of reason that can understand all viewpoints and offer a balanced perspective that leads to effective results, vote for me.

Contact

(509) 731-4027; brittanygledhill@gmail.com; www.brittanygledhill.us



**Aaron Michele
Massey**

(Nonpartisan)

Elected Experience

No information submitted

Other Professional Experience

Current Independent Contractor Process Server

Education

GED, currently attending CBC Fire Science AAS, CBC Applied Business Management - Pre Law Classes, Past Courses IT, DHS Certifications: 101 Critical Infrastructure Protection, Introduction Threat Hunting Teams, Cyber Supply Chain Risk Management, 101 Reverse Engineering, Cyber Risk Management - Technician, Root Cause Analysis, Cyber Fundamentals Law Enforcement Investigations, Advanced PCAP Analysis Signature Development APA, Cyber Security Investigation, Additional Certifications: Cybersecurity 101 Coding, FIRST AID AED CPR, Washington, Oregon Guard Card, FEMA NIMS Certifications, IT TECH 1, OSHA 10

Community Service

Maeson's Veterans, Self-started Fire Camps in Oregon

Statement

Aaron was raised in Tennessee and moved to the Tri-Cities Community five years ago to be closer to family. Before relocating to the Tri-Cities area, Massey spent her time as a military housewife and worked as a Union Member in the Nuclear Power Industry. Once Massey and her two children settled into the Tri-Cities area, she began to see her and her children calling this their home.

Massey understands that when it comes to school board issues many are complicated and a "one solution, fits all", approach is not always best for students, parents, teachers, or staff. We really need to communicate with each other and gather information, in order to come up with solutions that are best everyone. Sometimes this means finding multiple solutions, and not just one.

"I really want to give back to my community. I want what is best not only for my students, but for all students. I also feel that parents, children with disabilities and minorities need a greater voice in our community. My overall goal is to listen and to be that voice for everyone.", stated Massey

The focus should be "Putting Children First and Agendas Last."

Contact

(423) 504-1189; aaron@masseyforksd.org; www.masseyforksd.org

Local Voters' Pamphlet

These statements are printed exactly as submitted with no spelling, grammatical or other corrections made. The candidate or campaign committee is responsible for content.



Josh Miller

(Nonpartisan)

Elected Experience

None

Other Professional Experience

Orthopedic Surgeon at Northwest Orthopedic/Kadlec (current); Clinical Faculty for WSU School of Medicine (Current); NFL/NHL team physician; Admissions committee member, UCLA School of Medicine; Teacher and tutor at Kaplan Test Preparation; Missionary in Colombia.

Education

Brigham Young University, BS in Microbiology and Philosophy, 2003; UCLA Geffen School of Medicine, MD, 2008; UCLA Anderson School of Management, MBA, 2008; University of Tennessee/Campbell Clinic, Orthopedic Surgery Residency, 2013; Washington University in St. Louis, Orthopedic Sports Fellowship, 2014.

Community Service

Volunteer medical coverage at local high school sports events; youth soccer/basketball coach; leader in church adult and youth groups.

Statement

As the son of a school teacher and with 4 children currently attending KSD in elementary, middle and high schools, I am deeply passionate about education. I have had extensive involvement in education through my own schooling as well as working as a tutor, teacher, and currently as an orthopedic surgeon on WSU medical school's clinical faculty.

I believe that it is imperative that as a school district we are focused on our primary goal of educating and preparing our children. We can do this by focusing on three key factors. First, we focus on academic excellence. Whether students are preparing for college or vocational training, they need to be given the academic tools to succeed. School should be focused on academics! Second, we focus on encouraging parental involvement and integrating them into their child's school and education. Students are more successful when teachers and schools collaborate with parents. Third, we focus on fiscal responsibility and transparency. We can't keep asking for more money from taxpayers in levies and taxes. We should be using the money we have more effectively and efficiently.

Join me in helping our schools better educate and prepare our children for their future.

Visit: www.drjoshmiller.org

Contact

drjoshmillerksd@gmail.com; drjoshmiller.org



Lisa Peppard

(Nonpartisan)

Elected Experience

PTO Secretary, Cottonwood Elementary; PTO Secretary, Desert Hills Middle School

Other Professional Experience

Registered Nurse, Kadlec Regional Medical Center; Overload Paraeducator, Cottonwood Elementary; Instructor, Kennewick Community Education; Owner of local small business, Artful Virgo

Education

Bachelor of Science in Nursing, magna cum laude; Seattle University

Community Service

Classroom and PTO Volunteer, Washington Elementary, Kennewick; Classroom, Library, and PTO Volunteer; Cottonwood Elementary, Kennewick; PTO Volunteer; Desert Hills Middle School, Kennewick; Booster Club Volunteer; Academy of Children's Theater, Richland; Speech and Debate Volunteer and Judge; Kamiakin High School, Kennewick

Statement

I'm Lisa Peppard, a resident of Kennewick for nearly 14 years. Both of my children attended Kennewick schools from the time they were in kindergarten and first grade. During that time I volunteered hundreds of hours in their schools. I have been attending school board meetings for over a decade because I care deeply about all children in my community. This makes me uniquely qualified to become the next Kennewick School Board Director in Position 5.

One thing we all agree on is that we want our children to thrive. I will work with civility to find a sensible approach to address the issues facing the students and families of the Kennewick School District. Partisanship has no place in our schools. Decisions should be made using the best data available to serve everyone.

The district has wisely prioritized making students feel safe, known, and valued. The percentage of KSD students reporting that they feel safe continues to fall short of the goal. In order to tackle issues like low graduation rates and performance scores, we must address safety first. My experience as a registered nurse will be a great asset in bringing a compassionate approach to this job.

Contact

(509) 593-0462; electlisapeppard@gmail.com

Local Voters' Pamphlet

These statements are printed exactly as submitted with no spelling, grammatical or other corrections made. The candidate or campaign committee is responsible for content.

No photo
submitted

Krista
Goodall
(Nonpartisan)

Unopposed

No information submitted

Contact

(509) 727-8509; kgoodall733@gmail.com

No photo
submitted

Sarah
Maddox
(Nonpartisan)

Unopposed

No information submitted

Contact

(509) 948-2534

Local Voters' Pamphlet

These statements are printed exactly as submitted with no spelling, grammatical or other corrections made. The candidate or campaign committee is responsible for content.



Taryn Hartley
(Nonpartisan)

Elected Experience

6 years Paterson School Board member.

Other Professional Experience

Owner member Brent Hartley Farms LLC. Local advisory counsel for Ag West. Devoted father.

Education

Paterson Elementary, Prosser High School, Ricks College - Associates in Agronomy.

Community Service

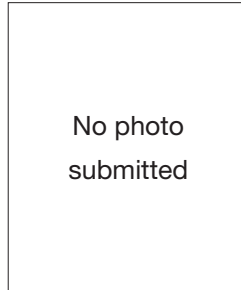
Actively engaged in many youth programs in the community and church. 4H Sponsor. Many years in the Boys Scouts of America program.

Statement

As a lifelong community member Paterson is very important to me. Paterson has always been a special and unique school, and as a board member I would like to keep it that way. I am raising 6 children who have attended with two currently enrolled. I want to continue serving the community members and their children that attend Paterson by helping provide a foundation for lifetime success. I would love your vote so I can continue to work with the other board members in helping our superintendent and staff provide a safe environment, a positive place of learning, a fiscally responsible school, a school that is transparent and includes Paterson families in decision-making. I will continue to stand for what is fair, what is right, and also be humble enough to listen to reason.

Contact

(509) 832-1547; tarynhartley6@gmail.com



Pat Tucker
(Nonpartisan)

Elected Experience

I was a Paterson School Director for 12 years starting in the 90's.

Other Professional Experience

Owner Sandpiper Farms since 1974. I was born and raised in Walla Walla. I have been a Paterson area resident for 49 years. My wife Teri recently retired from teaching special education at Paterson for over 25 years.

Education

Graduate of WSU with a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Economics, class of 1972. Washington State School Directors' Association School Board training.

Community Service

I serve on the finance committee of Hillspring Church. I was appointed to the Benton County Open Space Committee in the 80's and served 10 years.

Statement

I strongly believe that a school director must know his function and to do this he must take the training courses that are offered by WSSDA. I took this training when I was a director previously and will be refreshed if elected.

A director's duties are: Hire a superintendent, make policy and review financials. Within these duties a director must help set a vision for student learning. No director should wield power alone. The only staff that a director should interact with is the superintendent. Let the professionals do what they are trained to do.

I am the only school board member that was on the board for both the previous building projects that added 6 rooms. The bonds are paid off for both these builds. It is time to evaluate what facilities can be upgraded or added to: Security improvements? Preschool room? Full size gym with wood floor? Repurpose the present gym? Science lab? Kitchen/cafeteria?

The assessment of student security needs to be implemented. Nothing is more important than student safety. I am ready to join and contribute to the discussion on bettering the safety of the school and it's students.

Contact

(509) 788-1130; pat@sandpiperfarms.com

Kiona-Benton City School District No. 52 | Director District 1 | 4-year term

This office did not receive any filings which has created a void in candidacy.

Local Voters' Pamphlet

These statements are printed exactly as submitted with no spelling, grammatical or other corrections made. The candidate or campaign committee is responsible for content.



**Gina M.
Warner**

(Nonpartisan)

Unopposed

Elected Experience

Kiona-Benton City High School Junior Class President
2001-2002

Other Professional Experience

18 years in the Construction industry working with Clients, Owners, Subcontractors, and all manner of vendors both on the private level and public works.

Education

Kiona-Benton City High School Graduate
2003*, *3rd Generation 12-year graduate of Ki-Be,
Columbia Bason College 2003-2005

Community Service

Meals on Wheels, Holiday Meal Deliveries, Adopt A Family, 4H Parent, Make a Wish Send a Goat

Statement

Hi, my name is Gina Warner! I have resided in the Tri-City area in the small town of Benton City, WA my entire life. I have worked the majority of my career in some aspect of the construction industry while also living on a small hobby farm raising Nigerian Dwarf Goats, Boer Goats and Commercial Tarentaise Cattle. My biggest hobby is riding horses for pleasure and being involved with my two teen boys in 4H, Soccer, Basketball, Football, and whatever shenanigans they sign up for. I love sharing our little farm, just ask any of my friends and coworkers. As a parent of two children in our district I think it is important to be involved firsthand in our education system. What better way to be an outlet to other parents, and the community by learning by experience. My passion is for our school and students to be successful, stay involved, and strive to always look at the bigger picture knowing there is always room for improvement. I thank you for considering me as a candidate, and I look forward to earning your vote.

Contact

No information submitted

This office did not receive any filings which has created a void in candidacy.

Local Voters' Pamphlet

These statements are printed exactly as submitted with no spelling, grammatical or other corrections made. The candidate or campaign committee is responsible for content.



Dawn

Senger

(Nonpartisan)

Unopposed

Elected Experience

46 years Finley School Board and President

Other Professional Experience

30 years Energy Efficiency and Education Outreach

Education

Finley HS Graduate

Community Service

Finley Booster Club and Community Events

Statement

I have lived in the Finley community for over 35 years, I'm a Finley graduate of the Class of 1985. My husband and I have two sons. Both Sons are graduates of Finley School. I've enjoyed growing up here and raising my two sons in a close-knit community and a small school district.

I'm running for my 3rd term for the Finley School Board because I want to give back to a community that I enjoy living in. We have excellent teachers, coaches and staff who care what happens in our schools. I want to further our safe learning environment and establish our academics as first in the state for a school our size. I would like to further develop our athletics programs, so they are accessible to all who want to play and develop a replacement program to make all aspects of the learning and participating a safe experience.

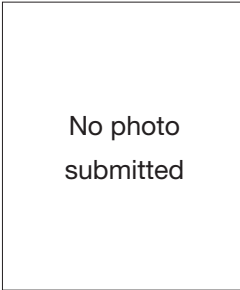
The district may be small, but we have heart along with parents, educators willing to work hard to make going to school a fun learning experience while getting a good education and a safe environment. I'd like to build on that and hope you will support me with your vote.

Contact

No information submitted

Local Voters' Pamphlet

These statements are printed exactly as submitted with no spelling, grammatical or other corrections made. The candidate or campaign committee is responsible for content.



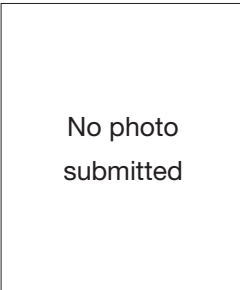
**Julie
Bussell**
(Nonpartisan)

Unopposed

No information submitted

Contact

No information submitted



**Timothy
Goforth**
(Nonpartisan)

Unopposed

No information submitted

Contact

tim_lisa@charter.net

Local Voters' Pamphlet

These statements are printed exactly as submitted with no spelling, grammatical or other corrections made. The candidate or campaign committee is responsible for content.



**Michelle
O'Brien**

(Nonpartisan)

Elected Experience
No Prior elected experience

Other Professional Experience
Senior Budget Analyst for the U.S. General Services Administration, 2005-present; Aspiring Leaders Development Program, 2008-2009; Seattle Federal Executive Board Associate, 2009-2011.

Education
Fairview High School Class of 1997; B.A. in Political Science, Minor in Environmental Studies, University of Colorado, 2003; Masters in Public Administration, The Graduate School of Public Affairs, University of Colorado, 2005. Federal Financial Management Certification, 2007. Lean Six Sigma White Belt Certification, 2008. Government Performance Manager Certification, 2009. Knowledge Management Certification, 2012.

Community Service
Prosser Girl Scouts; First Lego League Robotics Coach-Prosser BossBots; Pond'R'Roza Partners 4-H Parent; School Volunteer

Statement
The children of Prosser deserve a quality education, to be safe and supported by the schools that serve them. Parents, staff, and taxpayers are frustrated with the lack of transparency, poor curriculum, and disruptive classrooms. Amidst declining enrollment, the district must earn back trust.

We want our children to graduate well-equipped and prepared to enter society. This starts with a solid foundation through their formative years. Our region is ripe with opportunity. Increased access to STEAM education can fill jobs, grow the economy, and close opportunity gaps for the next generation. I see space in the budget to shift resources from overhead to directly support academic enrichment.

On average, the percentage of students meeting requirements in math, science, and language arts is less than 30% and yet we are still graduating 84% of them. We are sending kids out into the world ill prepared for success. Our children deserve better. My leadership style is one of collaboration and transparency. I am data-driven and fiscally responsible. I believe hard work can create the change needed. I can assure you that I am committed to putting in the work to make it happen.

I sincerely hope to earn your vote.

Contact
michelleforpsd@gmail.com; @michelleforpsd (Facebook)



**Petra
Atilano**

(Nonpartisan)

Elected Experience
I am running for the Prosser School Board I consider myself to be a positive pulse and a great role model for our children. I have deep roots born and raised in this wonderful community. My parents immigrated to the USA in the 1970's, I can relate to the dynamics that some of our First-Generation families are facing.

Other Professional Experience
17 years Ag West, SVP of Credit

Education
PHS graduate 2000. First-generation college graduate, Bachelors in Accounting CWU.

Community Service
Working mother of four daughters; Graduate of class of 2021, Junior at PHS, and a fifth grader at Heights, active in our community and schools.

Statement
I am an active participant in our schools as a parent and a community member. In my experience as an active Prosser School parent, I have met some outstanding teachers and staff members of our school. I know that the influence they play in our children's lives is irreplaceable, and as a board member I believe we need to help actively engage and recruit those staff members. I have participated in interviewing of staff members for the schools as parent and the strategic planning session with other community members and faculty. I have also presented to our high school students on furthering education and obtaining a career and the benefits of graduation. I understand the challenges that our children face and I believe that our children deserve the best education. Regardless of where or how they grew up, they should be offered the best we have to offer in our school system with our curriculum and teachers.

I've lived in Prosser my entire life and I care very deeply for our community and children. I have chosen to run because I know that I can make a difference and have a positive impact as a School Board Member.

Contact
(509) 840-9731; atilanopetra012@gmail.com

Local Voters' Pamphlet

These statements are printed exactly as submitted with no spelling, grammatical or other corrections made. The candidate or campaign committee is responsible for content.



Frank Ver Mulm

(Nonpartisan)

Elected Experience

Served as president, vice president and magistrate of the Lower Valley Assembly.

Other Professional Experience

I run multiple businesses within Benton County. I have experience with brokering, trucking, farming, budgets, negotiations, hiring, permitting and licensing requirements. I am the father of eleven children, and nine grandchildren. I take the role of parenting and teaching the next generation very serious and see it as my most important task.

Education

Business Management at YVCC, NNU, and Calvin College.

Community Service

Coach with the Prosser Grid Kids football program. I helped launch the Sharehouse afterschool program. I serve as an Elder with the Barn Fellowship.

Statement

Community run schools were created to give children a well-rounded education. The intent was to build upon what is taught at home and broaden the scope of expertise a student can glean and learn from. Curriculum choices must reflect the development of necessary life skills, and remain in the hands of those vested in our students. There is a battle waging for our children's minds, thoughts, and behaviors. Decision making must be maintained at the local level, by those with the most care, concern, involvement, and good will for our students. Many groups are battling for the ability to "educate" our children. That God-given right belongs foremost to parents. Parents should maintain the highest and best standards for a child. When that is not the case, caring and gifted teachers, supported by a caring and vested community, must step in. I believe this model, supported by the Constitution of the United States, needs to be defended and maintained within the Prosser School District. I believe my life experience, local involvement and vested concern for the Prosser Community has prepared me to defend and protect Prosser's students.

Contact

(509) 391-1200; frankvermulm@gmail.com



Monica Burnett

(Nonpartisan)

Elected Experience

This would be my first.

Other Professional Experience

I have worked with the hearing impaired at the John Tracy Clinic, college bound students as a college admission counselor, congressional representatives lobbying for school counseling and financial aid, and with K-8 students as a teacher and administrator.

Education

BA from Gonzaga University, a Masters in Education from Eastern, and a Masters in Educational Leadership from WGU.

Community Service

My volunteer work through my church includes having served on parish council, the religious education board, and taught classes. My work with the Catholic Daughters includes raising money for Mirror Ministries, supporting Jubilee Ministries, and supporting PREPARES.

Statement

I am running for Prosser School Board Director Position No. 2 because I believe educating children is an act of love. Education requires wanting the best for every student we have the privilege of teaching. This is my driving force as a teacher and as a person; loving all people and wanting the best for others.

What I believe is best for the Prosser School District over the next four years includes, but is not limited to, the following four items. First, the school board must choose a new superintendent who will work hard to put the district on a growth track. Second, being open to and listening to ideas and suggestions from our community. Third, being transparent in our actions. Finally, having high expectations of our professional leaders and holding them accountable to raising the educational standard for all students.

I also believe the best work we can do for the PSD staff is supporting them in their work of educating students in a safe, well maintained, and well supplied environment. Providing quality leadership and a supported, qualified staff is the best way of raising the educational standards for our students.

I promise to do my best for PSD.

Contact

(509) 786-4775; burnettmonica4psd@gmail.com

Local Voters' Pamphlet

These statements are printed exactly as submitted with no spelling, grammatical or other corrections made. The candidate or campaign committee is responsible for content.



Rick James

(Nonpartisan)

Elected Experience

Not-for-profit board trustee, business manager

Other Professional Experience

Rick has worked with the public, union organizations and boards for more than 28 years

Education

Bachelor of Science in Speech Communication and Human Relations; additional education in marketing, accounting, office technologies

Community Service

Prosser Rotary; Princess Theatre board of directors, committee chair, participant

Statement

Richard "Rick" James has lived in Prosser 20+ years. He has an open-minded, analytical perspective; a willingness to consider various points of view; an ability to find creative solutions; a desire to be part of a successful team that strives for the greater good for Prosser students. Rick is passionate about education and the opportunities it brings youth to discover their future. Rick wants Prosser schools to return to the prominence they held when he moved here, with families trying to enroll their children here instead of opting for other districts. He thinks this is achievable by moving toward a program that allows students to learn at the rate they are capable of. Rick wants to see more parent/teacher interaction with the school board. Teachers and parents spend most of the student's day with them and have a clearer insight into what students need to succeed. This would also parlay into more student interaction with their own education and challenges. Rick focuses on the bottom line. Education can be done well with the money provided. Tough decisions must be made; Rick is willing and able to take the actions necessary for Prosser schools to be successful and financially responsible.

Contact

RichardAJames05@gmail.com



Brian Weinmann

(Nonpartisan)

Elected Experience

None

Other Professional Experience

I have worked locally in the agriculture industry for over 25 years.

Education

Graduate of Prosser High School. Applied Arts And Science in Irrigation Technology Walla Walla Community College

Community Service

Coached Prosser Youth Football for 8 years, Prosser AAU Basketball for 8 years, currently going into my fifth season as an assistant coach for Prosser High School football team. Helped get Fellowship Of Christian Athletes started in Prosser and with some amazing help at the High School along with students the club launched this spring.

Statement

I'm running for the District 5 school board position. My platform is back-to-basics where the family comes first. I believe parental transparency is crucial and no information should ever be withheld from a parent. Parents should have access to materials and curriculum being taught and informed with any issues with their student. Proven traditional programs and materials should be used to develop students and instill core values that they can carry on when finished at PHS. Being Patriotic shouldn't be something to be ashamed of, students need a balanced view of American history, founding documents and the free market. There needs to be an emphasis on teacher retention and recruiting of new talent to bring into the district. Ongoing expansion of academic offerings should continue at the high school level to keep as many students on campus as possible. Efforts to give teachers more authority for student behavior problems related to apathy, disrespect and absenteeism needs to happen, they currently seem powerless. Prosser School District should continue to review, update, and make any changes regarding the safety protocols for the students, teachers, and administrators to ensure all campuses are secure and safe. Thank you for your consideration and God bless.

Contact

No information submitted

Local Voters' Pamphlet

These statements are printed exactly as submitted with no spelling, grammatical or other corrections made. The candidate or campaign committee is responsible for content.



**Andrea
Arteaga**

(Nonpartisan)

Unopposed

Elected Experience

No information submitted

Other Professional Experience

No information submitted

Education

No information submitted

Community Service

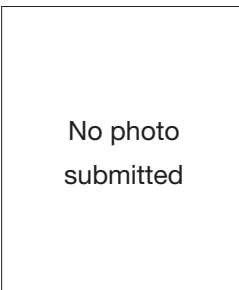
Grandview School District Director; Civil Service
Commissioner for the City of Grandview

Statement

I am Andrea Arteaga and I am running for a seat on the Grandview School Board because I believe that every student deserves access to high-quality education in a safe environment. As a parent to children currently in the district, I know firsthand the challenges that students and teachers face in our system. That is why I am committed to providing teachers and staff with the resources needed to meet educational goals, to address students social and emotional needs, and to address safety issues within our buildings.

Contact

Andrea.artega5@gmail.com



**Heather Garcia
Mendoza**

(Nonpartisan)

Unopposed

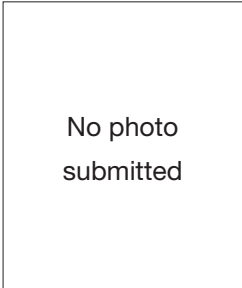
No information submitted

Contact

garciamendozah@gmail.com

Local Voters' Pamphlet

These statements are printed exactly as submitted with no spelling, grammatical or other corrections made. The candidate or campaign committee is responsible for content.



No photo submitted

Javier Rodriguez
(Nonpartisan)

No information submitted

Contact
Javierr0306@gmail.com



Chuck Stegeman
(Nonpartisan)

Elected Experience
Grandview School Board 2021-Present

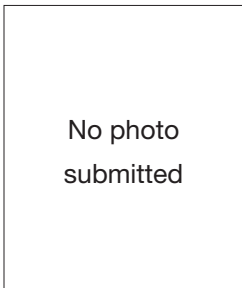
Other Professional Experience
Electrical Contractor 1997-2020

Education
Grandview High School Class of 1977; JM Perry Institute
Electrical Technology Class of 1980

Community Service
Grandview Grid Kids, Grandview Youth Baseball, Grandview
Community Day of Service, Yakima Valley Jr Fair and Rodeo
grounds construction, Knights of Columbus Council 2103

Statement
I have live in Grandview for the past 60 years and belive that you should give back to the community you are a part of. As a member of the Grandview School Board I have wored to make our schools a safe place for students and staff. I have helped provide staff development through proffesional development communities, trainings, and other conferences. In addition I have helped continue the upkeep of our facilities and equipment and reviewed the budget and funds of the district to insure finacial stability for our district.

Contact
cstegem@hotmail.com



No photo submitted

Dan Hall
(Nonpartisan)

Unopposed

No information submitted

Contact
(509) 882-4070; dan@teddybearcornerllc.com

Local Voters' Pamphlet

These statements are printed exactly as submitted with no spelling, grammatical or other corrections made. The candidate or campaign committee is responsible for content.



Chelsie Beck

(Nonpartisan)

Elected Experience

None

Other Professional Experience

Chemist (2012-current)

Education

Ph.D in Chemistry from Washington State University, M.S. in Chemistry from Washington State University, B.S. in Chemistry from University of West Florida

Community Service

Destination Imagination Coach, YMCA baseball coach, Cub Scout Pack Treasurer, White Bluffs Elementary classroom volunteer

Statement

I am running for school board because I believe we have a responsibility to provide our youth with the skills they need to succeed in life. My goal is to return the focus back to education and help prepare our students for the future.

My appreciation for public education started at a young age, watching my mother work hard to move from paraeducator, to Hanford High School teacher, to Special Education administrator. I have two children attending our schools, so the quality of our schools is very important to me and my family. I live in Richland because of the reputation of our school district.

My goal is to work with parents, students, and school staff to understand the needs of all students and work to support them. I will approach this with an open mind and I look forward to learning from you how best to support our students. I understand that there is a limited budget. In my job I have experience managing multi-million-dollar budgets. I will do my best to listen to you, prioritize, and make fiscally responsible decisions.

Please join me in focusing on what is best for our kids.

Contact

(509) 593-3382; Beck4rsd@gmail.com



Nino Kapitula

(Nonpartisan)

Elected Experience

None

Other Professional Experience

Nino is a former insurance professional at State Farm where she gained experience in sales, marketing, communications, conflict resolution, behavioral science, negotiations, and management. In 2013 Nino decided to dedicate herself to family. Nino and her husband have built successful local businesses, where she acquired experience in budgeting and financial planning. Nino serves as director for project development and design for Providence Land LLC. Together they continue to expand their vision and serve the needs of their community.

Education

Pasco High School

Community Service

Co-founder/Board member for Dream Again Hope and a Future Foundation that works with orphanages in third world counties.

Statement

Growing up in a single parent household in the socialist communist country of Moldova, the poorest country in Europe, I stood in bread lines so we could eat. My mother sought a better life for her daughters and brought us to the United States when I was 13. I now have school age children; I care about our schools. My mother showed me how a dream for a better future and hard work leads to success. I will promote schools that are willing to put in the work so our children receive the skills and academics they need for success.

Washington parents are faced with fear for their children's future. We should have the right to know what is being taught in the classroom, fully transparent about teaching and learning materials. We should have the right to speak up when we disagree. I will work to close the gap between parents and teachers to rebuild a broken trust. I know what freedom is, I know how to work hard, and I love this country in all its diversity.

Children are the future! Let us stand united in raising Bright Children for a Bright Future!

Endorsed by Benton County Republican Party

Contact

(509) 610-9211; ninoforrichland@gmail.com; <https://www.ninoforrichland.com/>

Local Voters' Pamphlet

These statements are printed exactly as submitted with no spelling, grammatical or other corrections made. The candidate or campaign committee is responsible for content.



Katrina Waters

(Nonpartisan)

Elected Experience

Washington State Academy of Sciences (2021); Fellow of the

American Association for the Advancement of Science (2023)

Other Professional Experience

Scientist with a large research institution in the area (2004-present); Manager of 200+ person organization (2015-2022); Joint Faculty appointments with University of Washington and Oregon State University; Service on advisory boards for several federal agencies including the Environmental Protection Agency, Food & Drug Administration, and National Institutes of Health.

Education

BA with honors, Chemistry, Biology minor, Ripon College, WI; PhD, Biochemistry, University of Wisconsin at Madison.

Community Service

Scouts BSA leader: Webelos Den Leader, Committee member, Assistant Scoutmaster, Merit badge counselor. Team treasurer for soccer team.

Statement

I am a mother of 3 RSD graduates, a leader in my profession, and a volunteer youth leader. I believe we can find common ground through mutual respect and understanding to increase the Board's effectiveness and direct the district in delivering the best education for our youth. As a Board member, I will work to ensure that RSD meets the needs of all students and staff, ensure fiscal responsibility, lobby for sufficient funding and effective use of taxpayer money. My priorities are supporting our educational mandates including special education, the physical safety and mental health of students and staff, and improving communication and collaboration between stakeholders. I have found success as a leader in a large Richland-based research organization and on advisory boards for multiple federal agencies by confronting unfunded mandates, competing priorities, and mission creep through accountability and collaboration with very diverse sets of perspectives and values. My decade of service to youth programs (Scouts BSA, sports) and personal experience with the school system also prepare me to serve the community through the RSD Board. I am committed to find unity in the Board with accountability and transparency to effectively support our children, our staff and our community.

Contact

(509) 903-5896; waters4rsd@gmail.com;
www.waters4rsd.com



Kari Williams

(Nonpartisan)

Elected Experience

Current Richland School Board Director #4 and Current Richland School Board President.

Other Professional Experience

Elementary School Teacher, Member of the Instructional Materials Committee (IMC) for Richland School District, Co-chair for Richland Citizens for Good Schools during 2013 bond issue campaign, continuing classroom volunteer.

Education

Master of Education (M.Ed.) in Teaching and Learning from the University of Utah, Bachelor of Science in Psychology and Bachelor of Science in Human Development and Family Studies both from the University of Utah, current Washington State Teaching Certificate.

Community Service

Leader within her church's women and youth organizations and actively involved in service opportunities through her church.

Statement

Please join us in reelecting Kari Williams!

Education is Kari Williams' lifelong passion. Kari, the current Richland School Board President, earned her Master's degree in Education while working as a public school teacher. Now a stay-at-home mom of five children who attend elementary, middle, and high schools within the Richland School District, Kari is deeply invested in the success of our schools. Kari's first priority has been and will always be students.

Kari believes parents are vital for student academic success. During the frustrating COVID shutdowns, she was the only board member who gave a voice to families by fighting to open our schools to give our students an in-person learning option. Kari will continue to champion her initiative to overcome COVID learning losses by prioritizing every child reading on grade level. She will also continue to support our community's family values as she pushes the district to keep our classrooms a place where all children feel safe to learn and where the instruction is focused on teaching our children how to think — not what to think.

Support student success by voting for Kari!

Contact

(509) 539-4040; kari4rsd@gmail.com; www.kari4rsd.com

Local Voters' Pamphlet

These statements are printed exactly as submitted with no spelling, grammatical or other corrections made. The candidate or campaign committee is responsible for content.



**Jill
Oldson**

(Nonpartisan)

Elected Experience

Richland School Director June 2018 - Present

Other Professional Experience

Washington School Directors Association (WSSDA) Leadership Cohort 2019, WSSDA Legislative Committee, District Area 11, WSSDA Federal Relations Network Vice President, RSD Board of Directors, serving as Vice President and President, RSD substitute paraeducator, White Bluffs Elementary PTO 2008-12, Hotel Marketing Executive , 1988-1996 (Los Angeles - Seattle), Corporate Account Manager Metropolitan Travel 1996-1998

Education

AA - National College, Rapid City, South Dakota - 1986, BA - Psychology, California State University Fullerton, 1992

Community Service

Community in Schools Benton Franklin County Board of Directors 2018-2020, Boys and Girls Clubs of Benton Franklin County Board of Directors 2020-Present

Statement

I have dedicated the last 18 years of my life to our community schools. I spend time in our schools, talking with teachers, students, and stakeholders to understand their unique needs. As a board member, I have used this information to inform my decisions for ALL students.

I believe the parent/guardian has the ultimate say in their child's education. Students with good parental/guardian involvement are more academically and emotionally successful. The board's responsibility is setting policy and direction to ensure that ALL students are represented to reach their full potential in an environment that meets their specific needs. My core values include mental health, special education, academic success, transparency, accountability, fiscal responsibility, and local control.

My experience, willingness to listen, objectivity, and open-mindedness will help lead the district to set high standards in education for ALL kids. We have the leadership, staff, and community to give our students what they need to be happy, successful contributing members of any community. I am asking for your support in re-electing me to share my passion and commitment to representing ALL students in Richland School District.

Contact: 509-546-1303 Email: Jill4RSD@gmail.com

Contact

(509) 546-1303; Jill4RSD@gmail.com; jill4allstudents.com



**Gene
Nemeth**

(Nonpartisan)

Elected Experience

Homeowners Association Board Member

Other Professional Experience

Gene is a retired 26-year Navy Captain who enlisted and went on to command both a ballistic missile submarine and a submarine support organization. For the past 7 years, Gene has successfully led nuclear facility operations and readiness for a Hanford site contractor. Gene has experience leading change, developing a continuous improvement culture, and understands the impact public education has on a student's future success and the local community.

Education

Penn State University, BS Electrical Engineering; Old Dominion University, MS Engineering Management

Community Service

Benton Franklin County Special Education PTA; RSD Special Education Task Force

Statement

Gene and his wife of 26 years are weary of school board decisions that did not prioritize student outcomes, include parent input, or address lost learning. The district lost focus on student outcomes, resulting in *less than half of today's students being proficient in core subjects.*

Gene's vision to reverse the trend is to *Transform* our district into an *Academic Center of Excellence*. Gene is uniquely qualified because as a parent of four children, all with disabilities, he experienced the decline yet successfully navigated general, special, and gifted programs. 33 years of successful Navy and corporate leadership, demonstrates he can lead this change. Your vote puts Gene in position to establish this vision.

Gene is committed to establishing high expectations for student achievement and special education, advocating for parent rights, implementing measurable goals, spending more time monitoring goals, increasing transparency and accountability by frequently communicating results, listening to educators and what they need to succeed, ensuring all stakeholders, including students, are engaged in the plan to achieve excellence, and tying budget priorities to student outcomes. *Vote for Gene and help Transform* our district into an *Academic Center of Excellence*.

Endorsed by the Benton County Republican Party.

Contact

(509) 593-8986; nemeth4rsd@gmail.com

Local Voters' Pamphlet

These statements are printed exactly as submitted with no spelling, grammatical or other corrections made. The candidate or campaign committee is responsible for content.



**Trevor
Phillips**

(Nonpartisan)

Unopposed

Elected Experience

No information submitted

Other Professional Experience

2012 USFS Wildland Firefighter, 2013 USFS Helitac Wildland Firefighter, 2014-2021 Firefighter (Firefighter/Paramedic 2016/2021), in this position I was able to gain valuable training in special operations, technical rescue, fire suppression, haz mat, strategic planning, rope rescue, and labor relations. I am currently a business owner of a cattle company with my brother as a fourth-generation rancher.

Education

Chemeketa CC : AAOT, BMCC: Associates of Fire Science Degree, Mid Plains CC: Associates of Applied Science Emergency Medical Service.

Community Service

No information submitted

Statement

As Benton County Fire Commissioner, it is important to be an informed, fair, and thoughtful decision maker and leader. After being involved with the fire industry for over ten years, I have gained the experience and knowledge it takes to represent our local fire community and am honored to have the opportunity to do so. The continued growth of the Tri-Cities area means more opportunity to keep our community and firemen safe and equipped to continue to provide life saving services for our county. It is a privilege to serve the people of Benton County and I thank you for your consideration.

Contact

No information submitted

Local Voters' Pamphlet

These statements are printed exactly as submitted with no spelling, grammatical or other corrections made. The candidate or campaign committee is responsible for content.



Jack Derderian

(Nonpartisan)

Elected Experience
None.

Other Professional Experience
30 year’s experience in executive management of multi-million dollar corporations. Current applicable knowledge of industry best practices of the fire service. Working relationships with regional fire service partners. Experience across several Fire Departments and ability to use experience to facilitate responsible growth and expansion.

Education
Bachelor of Science- Graphic Communications, Management. California Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo California

Community Service
Volunteer Firefighter/Emergency Medical Technician 2017-2021. Volunteer Lieutenant/Emergency Medical Technician 2021-Current. Business owner providing local sponsorship to youth. Coordinated with Coalition for a Healthy Benton City facilitating annual drug take back events.

Statement
Benton City is growing. Our Fire District has historically provided service that has gone above and beyond the call of duty. Jack will continue that commitment of excellence, as well as improve our services. Homes are being built, call volumes are increasing, and calls for service are becoming more complex. Our Fire District needs to be proactive in embracing these changes, while still being fiscally responsible to our constituents.

If elected, Jack will work to aggressively manage your tax dollars and use them to provide the most cost effective, efficient and highest level of services possible throughout our Fire District.

Contact
(503) 789-8985; jderderian1@gmail.com



Barry G. Orth

(Nonpartisan)

Elected Experience
20 plus years

Other Professional Experience
Attended Eastern Washington University, Attended Southwest Fire Academy structural and Wildland graduate 1994, Completed Incident Command control of target hazards, Attended Arson Investigation Cause and Determination, Previously Certified Emergency Medical Technician, Attended National Fire Academy 2001,2002 and 2006

Education
Manager at Hanford for 35 years

Community Service
45 years being a volunteer firefighter

Statement
I have been in the fire service for over 45 years. I began my career as a firefighter in 1978 for Benton County Fire District #2. In 1985 I was a Firefighter EMT with Benton County Fire District #1 till 1988, where I moved to the Sunnyside Fire department while taking care of my mom due to the death of my father in a fire at the local propane company where he was the manager. From there in 1990 I transitioned to Benton County Fire District #4 and rose up the ranks from Firefighter EMT to Lieutenant Duty Chief to Captain. I then returned to the Benton County Fire District #2 family in the year 1999, where I began again as a firefighter EMT, then moved to Lieutenant in 2001 and Captain in 2005. I left the Benton 2 family in 2008 but only for a short period until I became a Fire Commissioner in 2009.

My goal as a fire commissioner is to provide responsible and fiscal management for the citizens of Benton County Fire Protection District #2, and ensuring the safety of the firefighters and the community they serve.

Contact
(509) 713-5822; Barryorth@gmail.com

Local Voters' Pamphlet

These statements are printed exactly as submitted with no spelling, grammatical or other corrections made. The candidate or campaign committee is responsible for content.



AJ Hill

(Nonpartisan)

Elected Experience

Benton County Republican Party Precinct Committee Officer; Fire Commissioner Fire District 4; Tri-County Fire Commissioners President

Other Professional Experience

Fire Protection Program Manager, Hanford Vitrification Plant; Emergency Manager; Fire Coordinator; volunteer & career firefighter; EMT; Fire Officer; Chief Engineer

Education

BS, Fire Science Technology, University of New Haven

Community Service

Chairman, Republican Liberty Caucus of Benton Franklin Counties; New Mexico Emergency Medical Service Leader of the Year; Westinghouse Award Recognition of Extraordinary Efforts in Upgrading the Emergency Management Program & Excellence in Support of Emergency Management; West Richland Senior Center; Red Mountain Lions; National Night Out; West Richland Veterans Day Parade; West Richland Chamber of Commerce

Statement

AJ Hill is running for Fire Commissioner to protect you, your family, and our community. Fires, medical emergencies, and natural disasters can have a dramatic impact on lives and property. To protect you, it's important to have a Fire Commissioner with proven leadership, real experience, education, fiscal responsibility, and true compassion. AJ will use his proven leadership, combined with over 40 years of experience and education to accomplish three main goals: 1) Protect you, your family, & friends 2) Reduce government waste and bureaucracy; and 3) Unlike my opponent, keep our fire department focused on protecting our community members, not special interest groups from Washington DC and local fire/EMS unions. With the continuing growth in Benton County Fire Protection District 4, especially the City of West Richland, AJ will work hard to ensure your fire district is led and managed in a cost-effective manner to protect us. AJ is endorsed by the Benton County Republican Party, retired Fire Chief Bill Whealan, Commissioner Leo Bowman, and business owner Luis Ojeda. AJ asks for your vote on November 7th. God Bless America and thank you, in advance, for the opportunity to serve. For information on volunteering or supporting AJ please visit: AJHillForYou.com

Contact

(509) 521-0852; ajhill2010@gmail.com; AJHillForYou.com



Michael Van Beek

(Nonpartisan)

Elected Experience

Current Fire Commissioner for Benton County Fire District 4.

Other Professional Experience

I am currently a Richland Fire Battalion Chief and Paramedic with 22 years experience. I was elected chair of the Mid-Columbia EMS and Trauma Council.

Education

Bachelor's degree in Fire Service Administration from Eastern Oregon University.

Community Service

Program manager of Heart Safe Richland, a nationally recognized community education initiative, teaching hands only CPR. As a Professional Firefighter, I have had the opportunity to raise money for the Leukemia Lymphoma Society through the Firefighter Stair Climb event, raise money for MDA through our Fill-the-Boot campaign, and engage our youth through our firefighter reading program.

Statement

I have had the privilege to represent our community as a current Fire Commissioner for Benton County Fire District 4. When I was elected I made a commitment to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the fire district through a community focused vision and aligning resources to meet community needs and expectations. We have delivered on this commitment by investing in new technology and training to ensure our firefighters and EMS providers have the most current equipment and training. We have also increased staffing to ensure we have the resources needed to meet the rapid growth of the district, improve outcomes on critical medical emergencies, and protect life and property.

As a Fire Commissioner and Firefighter, I am passionate about serving our community and investing my time to enhance the quality of life for my neighbors, citizens, and business community. It is now more critical than ever to have a Fire Commissioner with real experience and authentic leadership. My vision for the fire district remains the same. To be an integral community resource that exceeds customer expectations while producing positive outcomes.

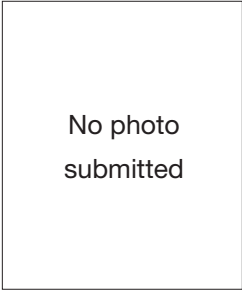
Vote Michael Van Beek for Fire Commissioner!

Contact

(509) 366-9189; mvanbeek509@gmail.com

Local Voters' Pamphlet

These statements are printed exactly as submitted with no spelling, grammatical or other corrections made. The candidate or campaign committee is responsible for content.



**Randy
Mercer**
(Nonpartisan)

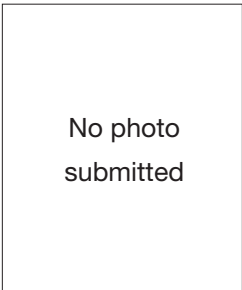
Unopposed

No information submitted

Contact

No information submitted

Fire District #5 Revised | Commissioner Pos. 2 | 2-year unexpired term



**Kody
Hartley**
(Nonpartisan)

Unopposed

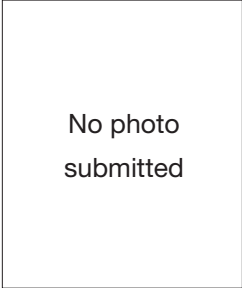
No information submitted

Contact

Khart7676@gmail.com

Local Voters' Pamphlet

These statements are printed exactly as submitted with no spelling, grammatical or other corrections made. The candidate or campaign committee is responsible for content.



Jarrod L.
Boyle
(Nonpartisan)

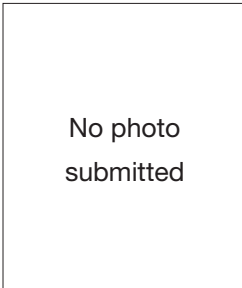
Unopposed

No information submitted

Contact

(509) 832-3497; jarrodb@ancwines.com

West Benton Regional Fire Authority | Comm. Pos. 3 | 6-year term



David
Moon
(Nonpartisan)

Unopposed

No information submitted

Contact

No information submitted

Local Voters' Pamphlet

These statements are printed exactly as submitted with no spelling, grammatical or other corrections made. The candidate or campaign committee is responsible for content.



**Richard
Clizbe**

(Nonpartisan)

Unopposed

Elected Experience

Currently and for the last eight years Fire Commissioner for West Benton Regional Fire Authority, Vice President of the Tri-County Fire Commission association.

Other Professional Experience

Volunteer firefighter for ten years and Deputy Fire Chief for five years with Prosser Fire District #3. Small business owner for five years. Transportation supervisor for eight years where my duties included budgeting, driver training, hiring of drivers, fleet maintenance, logistics, writing personnel policies and operating procedures. Driver/warehouse employee and advisor to management to insure state and federal DOT regulations were met along with safe deliveries of hazardous materials.

Education

No information submitted

Community Service

Former Volunteer Firefighter, Deputy Fire Chief,

Statement

I have the leadership, experience and training to help guide our fire department into the future for the safety and well-being of our firefighters and the citizens of Prosser and Benton County.

In my eight years as commissioner I have assisted in the development and expansion of our fire department adding volunteer firefighters, a resident program, three career Captains and one Deputy Fire Chief to staffing for improved response times, services and safety for our community. I have helped implement a long term apparatus replacement program for the continuous safety of our citizens and fire fighters.

I look forward to serving our citizens for another six years with my experience, high ethical values, honesty and integrity. I am asking for your continued support in serving as your Fire Commissioner, position number 5.

Contact

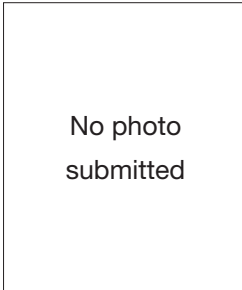
reclizbe@gmail.com

Local Voters' Pamphlet

These statements are printed exactly as submitted with no spelling, grammatical or other corrections made. The candidate or campaign committee is responsible for content.

This office did not receive any filings which has created a void in candidacy.

Plymouth Water District | Commissioner Pos. 1 | 6-year term



Steve C.
Hale
(Nonpartisan)

Unopposed

No information submitted

Contact

No information submitted

Local Voters' Pamphlet

These statements are printed exactly as submitted with no spelling, grammatical or other corrections made. The candidate or campaign committee is responsible for content.



**Brandee
Kandle**

(Nonpartisan)

Unopposed

Elected Experience

Five years as Commissioner Position 1 in Tri-City Estates Water District

Other Professional Experience

No information submitted

Education

BLA from University of Alaska Southeast

Community Service

No information submitted

Statement

I'm running for re-election as Commissioner 1 for Tri-City Estates Water District. I've been a committed member of the board for five years, and represented my community in making numerous decisions and improvements for our district. As your neighbor and a fellow homeowner, I share your stake in the future of our community well, and in the health and safety of our water. I look forward to serving our district and its residents for the next six years.

Contact

(509) 942-8452; brandee.kandle@gmail.com

Local Voters' Pamphlet

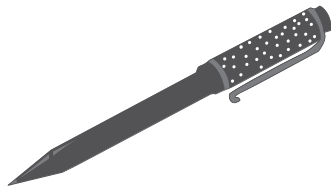
These statements are printed exactly as submitted with no spelling, grammatical or other corrections made. The candidate or campaign committee is responsible for content.

Sometimes signatures change. If that's the case, don't worry! We will send you a form to update your signature. If we have a phone number on file for you, we will also call you to remind you to return your form.

Need a reminder of what signature we have for you? Take a look at your Driver's License. Many people register to vote when they apply/renew their Driver's License, so that is the signature we would have on file for you.

YOUR

Signature



MATTERS

Benton County Elections Division employees are trained in signature verification. They compare your signature on the return envelope to the signature we have on file for you.

If you would like to update your signature for future elections, simply scan the QR Code to print a voter registration form. You can mail the form back to us at the address listed on the form.



BENTON COUNTY WA
Auditor | ELECTIONS

2024 Employment Opportunities

Benton County Auditor, Elections Division, is seeking additional staff for a variety of election duties for the 2024 elections.

Starting Winter 2023, to learn more, please visit the "Job Openings" section on www.co.benton.wa.us

Requirements

- *Must be 18 years of age or older*
- *High school diploma, or G.E.D.*
- *Basic computer skills*
- *A valid Washington State driver's license*
- *Ability to successfully pass all required background investigations*
- *Must acknowledge and sign voting center oath*
- *Provide customer service and assistance to voters with voting equipment and other various questions.*
- *Must remain non-partisan at all times while working for the Elections Division.*



***Benton County
Auditor,
Elections Division***



509-736-3085
elections@co.benton.wa.us