

# VOTE FOR BUSINESS



## 2023 VOTERS' GUIDE

BE INFORMED ABOUT THIS YEAR'S UPCOMING ELECTIONS





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## WHAT TO EXPECT

### **The Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber's Vote for Business: 2023 Voters' Guide is filled with valuable information regarding this year's election.**

This year's Voters' Guide includes races, ranging from state to local, all from the Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber's service area. Only contested races where at least one candidate responded are featured.

Each question has a 500 character limit communicated to candidates in advance. Within these limits, the responses are uncensored and unedited. The candidates are presented alphabetically by last name within their race and numerically by position number within their council or commission. Those candidates who failed or refused to respond are so noted.

If you would like to become more involved in the Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber's government affairs and political work, please contact us at [info@tacomachamber.org](mailto:info@tacomachamber.org) or (253) 627-2175

To locate your legislative and congressional district, visit:

<https://app.leg.wa.gov/districtfinder/>

To view Washington State's official voters' guide, visit:

[www.sos.wa.gov/elections/](http://www.sos.wa.gov/elections/)

To view Pierce County's official voters' pamphlet:

<https://www.piercecountywa.gov/6549/Read-the-State-and-Local-Voters-Pamphlet>

To find out more about the Chamber's advocacy work, visit:

<https://www.tacomachamber.org/advocacy.html>

The financial information that is included about each candidate comes from

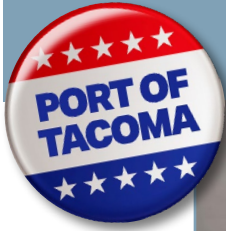
<https://www.pdc.wa.gov>

### **Remember to Vote For Business in the Upcoming General Election**

#### **Return your ballot by**

- **Dropping it in a designated Ballot Drop Box by 8:00PM on November 7, 2023, or**
- **Mailing it in through the USPS - Ballots must be postmarked by November 7, 2023**

## PORT OF TACOMA COMMISSIONER - POSITION 3



**Deanna Keller**

[www.deannakeller.com/about](http://www.deannakeller.com/about)

**Financial Disclosure As of November 1, 2023**

Contributions: \$24,028.00

Expenses: \$11,997.81

### **What experience do you have that makes you the best candidate for Port Commissioner?**

Port of Tacoma Commission President, manufacturing business owner, commercial property owner, USMC veteran, retired educator

### **What are your top three economic development objectives for the Port of Tacoma?**

Bringing back international trade that was lost during the ILWU/PMA negotiations to the East Coast, working on our infrastructure (roads, bridges, etc.) to ensure better truck turn times as well as reducing congestion in and around the Port of Tacoma, making our terminals more efficient to return confidence especially to our

### **What role should the Port of Tacoma have in drafting the Tideflats Subarea Plan and what do you hope the plan will achieve?**

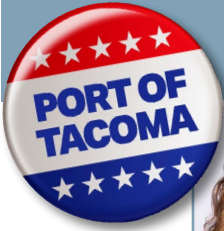
The Port of Tacoma, as a public business enterprise, serves to be a leader in the Subarea Plan as well as the RCW Container Port Element protects the businesses in the MIC surrounding it. A constant reminder that the law requires the Port of Tacoma's MIC needs to be upheld is crucial.

### **Since 2015 the Port of Tacoma and Port of Seattle have managed the Northwest Seaport Alliance together. What policies would achieve an equitable distribution of funding between the ports and the alliance?**

There is already an equitable distribution of funding. The NWSA has a 50-50 net distributable cash requirement (revenue minus expenses) in its Charter. Our voting as commissioners approve/disapprove leases, customers and capital expenditures to ensure equity, not always equality at all times. These are operating decisions not policy decisions. This is a joint venture partnership.

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## PORT OF TACOMA COMMISSIONER - POSITION 3



**Jeannette Twitty**

[www.twittyforportcommissioner.com/](http://www.twittyforportcommissioner.com/)

Financial Disclosure As of November 1, 2023

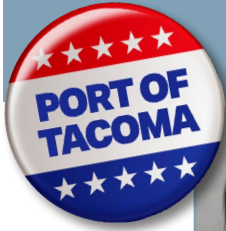
Contributions: \$9,036.00

Expenses: \$3,664.50

**ANSWERS NOT SUBMITTED**

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## PORT OF TACOMA COMMISSIONER POS. 5



**Kristin Ang**

[www.kristinforport.com](http://www.kristinforport.com)

**Financial Disclosure As of November 1, 2023**

Contributions: \$28,800.65

Expenses: \$31,168.01

### **What experience do you have that makes you the best candidate for Port Commissioner?**

Our Port is in a stronger position now than it was four years ago, when I was first elected. I bring my experience as a current commissioner to this role, as well as my extensive professional and community service experience. During my term, we decreased the port tax levy rate, decreased port debt, and increased investments to expand port capacity and modernize terminals. I have built trust and relationships in our community and with our customers and trading partners around the world.

### **What are your top three economic development objectives for the Port of Tacoma?**

Increasing our Port's competitiveness by modernizing and expanding port infrastructure, improving efficiency, and offering new services and support. Clean Energy Transition: make the Port a hub for green economic opportunities and address sea-level rise. Land Development: Maritime 253 Campus including a maritime skills center, port admin building, and public access opportunities. Collaborating with the Puyallup Tribe of Indians on a new terminal. Master plan for Early Business Center.

### **What role should the Port of Tacoma have in drafting the Tideflats Subarea Plan and what do you hope the plan will achieve?**

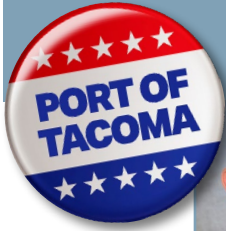
We need to protect the viability of our working waterfront, and the Port of Tacoma needs to be a leader in drafting the Tideflats Subarea Plan to help ensure a positive impact on our economy, employment, and environment. The Port should serve as a representative of the maritime and industrial interests in our area and ensure that the plan aligns with the port's long-term goals and operations. My vision for the plan is one which advances both environmental and economic improvements.

### **Since 2015 the Port of Tacoma and Port of Seattle have managed the Northwest Seaport Alliance together. What policies would achieve an equitable distribution of funding between the ports and the alliance?**

As Vice President of the Northwest Seaport Alliance, I am proud of our strong collaboration to benefit the Puget Sound region. To ensure fairness, the Port of Tacoma must develop a real estate and investment strategy that aligns with our own strategic goals while remaining a supportive member of the Alliance. We must carefully assess future property additions and subtractions in the Alliance, as well as investment opportunities, focusing on maximizing returns and creating new job opportunities.

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## PORT OF TACOMA COMMISSIONER - POSITION 5



**Dave Bryant**

[www.facebook.com/DaveBryant4Port](https://www.facebook.com/DaveBryant4Port)

**Financial Disclosure As of November 1, 2023**

Contributions: \$9,215.01

Expenses: \$10,656.13

### **What experience do you have that makes you the best candidate for Port Commissioner?**

As Captain of the aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt and logistics ship, USS Supply, I have extensive experience operating deep draft ships in US and ports around the world. As Director of Advanced Broadband Networks in The Boeing Company, I know import/export businesses need a strong port and efficient port services. I uniquely understand the support the ship owners and operators need in our port – critical to making our port more competitive.

### **What are your top three economic development objectives for the Port of Tacoma?**

1. Improved Services: We attract new customers to our port with best in industry services.
2. Safe and expeditious cargo offload/onload: Transportation investments to ensure the heavy load of trucks and rail minimizes disruption of traffic to area businesses and residential areas.
3. Environmental protection: Port businesses and operations growth are going to be judged against and limited by their environmental impact to the Tideflats and surrounding properties.

### **What role should the Port of Tacoma have in drafting the Tideflats Subarea Plan and what do you hope the plan will achieve?**

1. The Port of Tacoma has been the primary user of the Tideflats and should be an integral part of the Tideflats Subarea Plan.
2. The Port of Tacoma has been actively investing in clean-up efforts from historical misuse of Tideflats lands. The Port has many successes in these efforts but this is not anywhere close to complete.
3. The Port of Tacoma businesses and operations rely on local transportation as an integral part of Port operations.

### **Since 2015 the Port of Tacoma and Port of Seattle have managed the Northwest Seaport Alliance together. What policies would achieve an equitable distribution of funding between the Ports and the Alliance?**

The concept of NSWA as a larger joint port to compete with other west coast ports remains a worthy goal. In 2015 the value of capital properties and their potential for revenue that each of the two ports would contribute was evaluated. To maintain a joint operation that provides costs and return that is fair to each counties' taxpayers, there should be a bi-annual independent audit followed by a re-balancing of assets contributed by each Port to the Northwest Seaport Alliance.

## TACOMA CITY COUNCIL - POSITION 1



**John Hines**

[www.hinesfortacoma.org](http://www.hinesfortacoma.org)

**Financial Disclosure As of November 1, 2023**

Contributions: \$38,506.87

Expenses: \$28,384.69

### **How do you plan to partner with the business community including organizations like the Chamber?**

I plan to continue to work with businesses by fostering open lines of communication and actively seeking their input on policies and initiatives. I want to support the city's efforts to build stronger relationships with our businesses, through understanding their needs, and creating an environment that supports economic growth and entrepreneurship. It is critical to have policies in place to ensure Tacoma is a city where it is easy to start and grow a business, adding employees and encouraging further investment in our community.

### **The City has been working on a Tideflats/Port subarea plan since 2017, including passing new development regulations in 2021. What is your view of the role of the Port/Tideflats in Tacoma and beyond?**

It is important that our policies continue to support our port's ability to compete and support our local economy. The Port of Tacoma generates employment opportunities, attracts direct investment, and is a hub of innovation in the maritime industry. It serves as a gateway for imports and exports, enabling many of our local businesses to expand their markets and attract investment globally. It also has a multiplier effect, benefiting sectors such as logistics and transportation, along with being vital to our efforts for the city's Green Economy Development Plan.

### **Initiative 2023-01 is expected to be on the ballot this fall. This measure limits a landlord's ability to set rents, charge fees, and remove tenants. Why do you support or oppose this measure?**

The critical issue facing Tacoma is a lack of housing and we have too many people with too few options that they can afford. The state of Washington and the city of Tacoma have already adopted robust renter protections over the past 5 years, and I want to focus on how we get more housing built in our city and to fill in the gaps when people cannot pay their rent. I am concerned that the initiative may have a chilling effect on development and investment during our ongoing housing crisis, leading to fewer critically needed housing units being built and making it harder for our residents to find housing.

### **2022 saw Tacoma set a record high for the number of homicides with 2023 on pace to be the second highest year ever. How should the City improve the safety of residents, employees, and businesses?**

The city needs to continue to fill our open positions in our police department, so that we have the officers needed to respond to and investigate crimes committed in Tacoma. This will also allow partnerships with community groups, businesses, and neighborhoods to address the impact of criminal activity on them. Beyond the police department, we need to examine how all departments of our city can work to improve the appearance of public spaces and address safety issues proactively. To attract businesses and residents to our city, we need to ensure sure Tacoma is clean, healthy and inviting.

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## TACOMA CITY COUNCIL - POSITION 3



**Jamika Scott**

[www.jamikafortacoma.com](http://www.jamikafortacoma.com)

Financial Disclosure As of November 1, 2023

Contributions: \$58,395.53

Expenses: \$40,813.55

**ANSWERS NOT SUBMITTED**

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**Chris Van Vechten**

[www.vv4d3.com](http://www.vv4d3.com)

**Financial Disclosure As of November 1, 2023**

Contributions: \$49,576.78

Expenses: \$46,531.43

## **How do you plan to partner with the business community including organizations like the Chamber?**

As a Tacoma business owner who somehow survived 2020. I'm invested in our collective success. I've attended Chamber events for years, and my wife Jen, Director of Business Development for Cascade Park Communities, and I listen to the "Making it in the South Sound" podcast. Mentors helped shape my success as an entrepreneur, and I'll continue to rely on experienced job creators to shape policy on the council.

## **The City has been working on a Tideflats/Port subarea plan since 2017, including passing new development regulations in 2021. What is your view of the role of the Port/Tideflats in Tacoma and beyond?**

Recent global events have emphasized the need for a dual commitment: engaging in international commerce while establishing infrastructure for industrial and agricultural independence. The Port of Tacoma, with its unique assets, can contribute significantly to both aspects. However, it is crucial to acknowledge the historical environmental injustices faced by the people of Tacoma due to governmental and industrial failures, and to work to ensure they are not furthered on another generation.

## **Initiative 2023-01 is expected to be on the ballot this fall. This measure limits a landlord's ability to set rents, charge fees, and remove tenants. Why do you support or oppose this measure?**

This initiative prohibits evictions for failure to pay rent during the entirety of the school year for tenants with children. Lacking compensation or a real civil remedy, property owners will pressure prosecutors to criminally prosecute defendants to force an eviction – as Arkansas routinely does. As a public defender, I don't want families facing eviction to also face theft allegations. I have represented tenants facing eviction, and believe this will do more harm than good.

## **2022 saw Tacoma set a record high for the number of homicides with 2023 on pace to be the second highest year ever. How should the City improve the safety of residents, employees, and businesses?**

As the only candidate in this race with experience as a prosecutor AND public defender, I believe long term Tacoma needs to shift focus away from crime fighting to crime prevention. This entails investing in our marginalized youth and rebuilding community/social participation lost during the pandemic. But short term, Tacoma needs more police, more corrections officers, and misdemeanor enforcement.

## TACOMA CITY COUNCIL - POSITION 7 AT LARGE



**Olgy Diaz**

[www.votediaz.org](http://www.votediaz.org)

**Financial Disclosure As of November 1, 2023**

Contributions: \$111,929.50

Expenses: \$71,380.57

### **How do you plan to partner with the business community including organizations like the Chamber?**

I'm a committed supporter of our small and local businesses - our city is at its best when our business community is able to expand, innovate, create good paying jobs, and take care of workers. I plan to keep an open door and collaborative approach to working with the Chamber and our Tacoma business community. I intend to reach out with the latest policy proposals that will directly impact Tacoma businesses and welcome direct feedback when folks see policies that may impact them.

### **The City has been working on a Tideflats/Port subarea plan since 2017, including passing new development regulations in 2021. What is your view of the role of the Port/Tideflats in Tacoma and beyond?**

I am enthusiastic that the Tideflats Subarea Plan will be completed soon to provide Port businesses with certainty about the future of their investments and possible future opportunities to expand or evolve. I am particularly excited about the opportunities for collaboration and industry innovation available in the Green Economic Development Strategy. This is a first of its kind plan for how we keep our maritime and industrial areas working while planning for the health and prosperity of future Tacomans.

### **Initiative 2023-01 is expected to be on the ballot this fall. This measure limits a landlord's ability to set rents, charge fees, and remove tenants. Why do you support or oppose this measure?**

I am committed to helping our city solve the deep-rooted problem of people being only one missed paycheck or unforeseen medical expense away from losing their home by addressing the root causes - like lack of access to rental assistance, social services, and affordable housing. I aim to bring solutions and support for tenants like relocation assistance and eviction protections. I do not support Prop 1 because it does not approach these policies in a way that I find actionable within Tacoma and may have unintended consequences for landlords and tenants alike.

### **2022 saw Tacoma set a record high for the number of homicides with 2023 on pace to be the second highest year ever. How should the City improve the safety of residents, employees, and businesses?**

We all deserve to feel safe in and proud of our city. Enhancing Tacoma's public safety and police accountability is at the core of why I sought appointment to the Council. I'm proud to have voted to fund our police department and alternate response models in the latest biennial budget. We have funded both retention and lateral hire bonuses to fully staff TPD. I believe safety of residents and businesses will continue to improve as we implement more transparency and police alternatives to free up officers to solve serious crimes.

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## TACOMA CITY COUNCIL - POSITION 7 AT LARGE



**Kristen Wynne**

[www.wynnefortacoma.com](http://www.wynnefortacoma.com)

**Financial Disclosure As of November 1, 2023**

Contributions: \$152,296.15

Expenses: \$131,852.39

### **How do you plan to partner with the business community including organizations like the Chamber?**

I understand the importance of a thriving business community to Tacoma. I will engage in listening sessions to ensure I am aware of the challenges the business community faces. Because development must work smoothly for a thriving city, I will convene a meeting of developers, architects and builders to understand issues with Tacoma's permitting process. Finally, I want Tacoma to expand economic opportunities for all its citizens. We need to convene a taskforce of the Chamber, the EDB, private employers, the Port and JBLM to determine how to grow existing businesses and attract new ones.

### **The City has been working on a Tideflats/Port subarea plan since 2017, including passing new development regulations in 2021. What is your view of the role of the Port/Tideflats in Tacoma and beyond?**

The Port and Tide flats are of critical importance to Tacoma, Pierce County and the region. The Port is one of the key economic engines of our region. According to the Port's website, more than 42,000 jobs and nearly \$3 billion in economic activity in Pierce County depend on the Port. The tide flats are also very important as salmon and marine animal habitat and as the ancestral home of the Puyallup Tribe. The Subarea plan must allow for maintenance and growth of the Port, and the many industries located in the area while also protecting our natural resources.

### **Initiative 2023-01 is expected to be on the ballot this fall. This measure limits a landlord's ability to set rents, charge fees, and remove tenants. Why do you support or oppose this measure?**

While the initiative has laudable goals, I oppose it because it is likely to decrease the number of rental units here, drive up the cost of rent and destabilize the rental market. The provisions banning an eviction during the school year and mandating payment of "relocation fees" would both be extremely expensive and likely would result in much higher rents as the costs would be passed on to renters or because many smaller housing providers will get out of the market entirely. That would be a terrible unintended consequence for which Tacoma renters would end up being the ones who pay the price.

### **2022 saw Tacoma set a record high for the number of homicides with 2023 on pace to be the second highest year ever. How should the City improve the safety of residents, employees, and businesses?**

Making Tacoma safer for everyone is my top priority. My focus will be on expanding our police force to the right size for Tacoma. Currently, we are woefully understaffed. I also support investing in social workers and health care providers as co-responders so that those in crisis get the care they need. I would support funding for proven technologies that can help our limited police staff work more efficiently to address crime. And, given that data shows that a small number of offenders commit a large percentage of the crime, we must start focusing on repeat offenders immediately.

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## TACOMA CITY COUNCIL - POSITION 8 AT LARGE



**Todd Briske**

[www.toddbriske.com](http://www.toddbriske.com)

Financial Disclosure As of November 1, 2023

Contributions: \$0

Expenses: \$0

### **How do you plan to partner with the business community including organizations like the Chamber?**

My top priority will always be to the residents of Tacoma. I want to hear from business or industry that seeks to make Tacoma stronger and more resilient or increase the quality of life for all Tacomans. I believe that mistakes were made with covid-19 mitigation strategies, mistakes that put an undue burden on smaller businesses and forced them to close. I would want local business input, both in emergency situations like that, as well as the everyday bureaucratic annoyances.

### **The City has been working on a Tideflats/Port subarea plan since 2017, including passing new development regulations in 2021. What is your view of the role of the Port/Tideflats in Tacoma and beyond?**

The covid-19 pandemic showed me just how much our supply chains are relied on, taken for granted, and just how fragile they can be. We will be feeling the reverberations of those disruptions for a long time, and I want to strengthen our supply lines and manufacturing to mitigate future risks. I am of course concerned about water and soil pollution, but we must find a way to have clean water, while not sacrificing industry. I want Tacoma to be as strong and self-reliant as possible.

### **Initiative 2023-01 is expected to be on the ballot this fall. This measure limits a landlord's ability to set rents, charge fees, and remove tenants. Why do you support or oppose this measure?**

I do not support: Eviction moratoriums. Relocation assistance fees because of rent increases. \$10 late fee limits. 25% of one month's rent pet damage fee limits. 180-day rent increase notifications. I think first and last month's rent is reasonable to expect for move-in, but it looks like 2023-01 seeks to limit that to just first month's rent. I support a distinction between large landlords and local "Mom & Pop" landlords, but "same site" with "four or fewer" units is too strict of a rule.

### **2022 saw Tacoma set a record high for the number of homicides with 2023 on pace to be the second highest year ever. How should the City improve the safety of residents, employees, and businesses?**

In Tacoma, for 2022, our average police response time for priority 1 calls was 10 minutes. For priority 4 ("routine") calls, the average response time was 2 hours. It is not sufficient to only staff 3-5 patrol officers per quadrant. Getting these response times down is one of my top priorities. Our homicide detectives now have a caseload of 3 or more, rather than the past standard of 1 or maybe 2. We need more detectives, to lower their caseloads, and insure each case gets the time it requires.

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## TACOMA CITY COUNCIL - POSITION 8 AT LARGE



**Kristina Walker**

[www.walker4tacoma.com](http://www.walker4tacoma.com)

**Financial Disclosure As of November 1, 2023**

Contributions: \$68,155.41

Expenses: \$68,811.10

### **How do you plan to partner with the business community including organizations like the Chamber?**

As a councilmember for the past three and a half years, we've done better work when business has been at the table. As a proven bridge-builder, I am committed to working with our community on all issues that affect business. From supporting small businesses through our small business grant and loan programs during the pandemic, to working with businesses to develop the Tideflats Subarea plan, I look forward to continuing to build on my relationship with the Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber and Tacoma's businesses.

### **The City has been working on a Tideflats/Port subarea plan since 2017, including passing new development regulations in 2021. What is your view of the role of the Port/Tideflats in Tacoma and beyond?**

Getting the Tideflats Subarea Plan right is vital to the City of Tacoma's growth. Predictability and transparency is key to the process and to any policy that we pass. The development regulations passed in 2021 are an example of that work. As we continue to work through the proposed options, it is vital that we make decisions based on the best possible data and that key stakeholders, our staff teams, and our elected leadership group finalize a plan that we can all be proud of.

### **Initiative 2023-01 is expected to be on the ballot this fall. This measure limits a landlord's ability to set rents, charge fees, and remove tenants. Why do you support or oppose this measure?**

Initiative 2023-01 goes too far and if it becomes law would put our existing housing stock at risk by forcing many housing providers to leave Tacoma, worsening our housing crisis. Through reasonable and researched updates, we can protect tenants from unsafe and harmful conditions without impacting the supply side of our rental market. Ordinance 28894, the city's ordinance on rental housing code changes, will update our rental housing code in a way that doesn't negatively impact our housing providers.

### **2022 saw Tacoma set a record high for the number of homicides with 2023 on pace to be the second highest year ever. How should the City improve the safety of residents, employees, and businesses?**

Crime rates in Tacoma are unacceptably high. As Deputy Mayor I am committed to implementing the Chief's Violent Crime Plan, developing a city-wide community safety plan, and ensuring our police department is fully staffed to keep response times low (including our new community safety officers to ensure efficient utilization of our resources). At the same time, I am committed to supporting our funded Alternative Response Team and investing in programs that divert, especially young people, out of our criminal legal system.

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## TACOMA SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 10 DIRECTOR - POSITION 5



**Elizabeth Bonbright**

[www.elizabethbonbright.com](http://www.elizabethbonbright.com)

**Financial Disclosure As of November 1, 2023**

Contributions: \$8,127.00

Expenses: \$4,240.72

### **What is the top issue facing the school district and how would you address it?**

Addressing the mental health crisis among our students and staff while operating within the underfunded apportionment for counseling and related mental health services.

TPS embraces the Whole Child Initiative, which places critical importance on social emotional learning, restorative justice, and mindfulness. The full solution is multi-layered and involves developing more diverse community partnerships able to support our students, families and staff with mental health resources.

### **How can Tacoma Public Schools further partnerships to improve workforce readiness of students?**

TPS's is continually building relationships with community businesses and creating opportunities for our students to earn industry recognized certifications (IRC) and to participate in apprenticeship training starting in middle school. During the 2021-2022 school year, 86.7% of all high school students had earned transferable dual credit by passing a CTE course. In our current school year, 100% of our 7th-12th grade students enrolled in at least one CTE course eligible for dual college credit.

### **4. What should the school district do to address the COVID learning loss?**

COVID impacts were both academic and social emotional. TPS employs holistic individualized case management with data tracking on key indicators, individual intervention plans, credit retrieval opportunities, summer school, free on-line tutoring, and consistent communication among principals, teachers, the student's family and the student. With students back in-person, we expect that the immature behaviors will evolve with time and exposure to regular age-appropriate peer interactions.

### **5. Tacoma Public Schools is looking at a bond measure. What are the district's greatest capital needs and how should they be addressed?**

The last two bond measures were part of a long-term, multi-year plan for rebuilding our aging school buildings, athletic facilities and security infrastructure. We have made progress in replacing old buildings with more environmentally appropriate structures that are better suited to student learning. But we are not done. In addition, the next bond measure will include capital resources for the design and building of the new Maritime Skills Center, open to all students in the South Sound.



## TACOMA SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 10 DIRECTOR - POSITION 5



**Brian'na Wolk**

No website provided

Financial Disclosure As of November 1, 2023

Contributions: \$0

Expenses: \$0

**ANSWERS NOT SUBMITTED**

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## METRO PARKS TACOMA COMMISSION - POSITION 5



**Tony Anderson**

[www.tonyanderson.org](http://www.tonyanderson.org)

**Financial Disclosure As of November 1, 2023**

Contributions: \$7,261.00

Expenses: \$2,927.77

### **What experience do you have that makes you the best candidate for Parks Commissioner?**

I have been involved in the greater Tacoma area for more than 36 plus years. I was involved with our Sister Cities International programs representing our community all over the USA & internationally as well. I served on the SCI Board of Directors and now I'm a Honorary I believe with my longtime commitment to our community shows that I have the vision and leadership skills to serve when elected.

### **What is the top issue facing Metro Parks and how would you address it?**

I believe we have three, Safety, continue funding & maintenance. I would work as a team member to address these issues.

### **Metro Parks Tacoma is looking at a bond measure. What are the park district's greatest capital needs and how should they be addressed?**

Maintaining all 85 parks, especially Point Defiance, NW Trek and all of our spray parks. After this is completed we can look at development of our other needs that will best serve the community.

### **What is the role of Metro Parks in supporting economic development?**

If we keep our Parks maintained and beautiful, especially Point Defiance and NW Trek people will continue to visit our community and put heads in beds. By maintaining the Parks our staff will be employed and spending their dollars in our community.



## METRO PARKS TACOMA COMMISSION - POSITION 5



**Matt Mauer**

[www.electmattmauer.com](http://www.electmattmauer.com)

**Financial Disclosure As of November 1, 2023**

Contributions: \$27,203.91

Expenses: \$25,821.28

### **What experience do you have that makes you the best candidate for Parks Commissioner?**

I have the experience to work collaboratively and effectively on the Metro Parks board. I have a Master of Public Administration from Seattle University, and have experience in government, the military, non-profits, and the private sector. My diverse work experience has helped me become a strong collaborator and supporter of good government. As a father, I can also bring a fresh perspective to the Metro Parks board as I would be the only commissioner with a child under the age of 18.

### **What is the top issue facing Metro Parks and how would you address it?**

I believe that safety is one of the top issues facing Metro Parks today. Last year Metro Parks Tacoma successfully passed Proposition 1, which includes funding for a new park ranger program. With this program in place, unarmed park rangers would be on hand across the Metro Parks system to de-escalate situations that would otherwise lead to police involvement. I fully support initiatives like the park ranger program and will work to fully fund it.

### **Metro Parks Tacoma is looking at a bond measure. What are the park district's greatest capital needs and how should they be addressed?**

There are parks in the Metro Parks system that have an accessibility issue where the roads leading to these parks do not have clearly defined crosswalks, ramps, and bike lanes. To fix this, I would support a partnership between Metro Parks and the City of Tacoma. The goal of this partnership would be to capitalize on the Vision Zero program to build and fund infrastructure for roads that are unsafe and close to parks. Increasing accessibility in this way will help keep all parks users safe.

### **What is the role of Metro Parks in supporting economic development?**

Metro Parks' event programming has proved itself to be a big tourist draw for folks from all over. Those events help spur the local economy and establish Tacoma as a destination for recreation. Metro Parks also provides affordable space to entrepreneurs at many of those events. I believe that we should build on those great things and move to activate more of their properties outside of the traditional spaces like Point Defiance – helping to spur economic growth throughout the city.

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