

Fire Districts



Fire protection districts are formed under Revised Code of Washington Title 52 for the provision of fire prevention services, fire suppression, emergency medical services, and for the protection of life and property. Because fire protection districts are political subdivisions of the state and municipal corporations, the only authority for administrative operations are decisions made by the elected Board of Fire Commissioners.

Fire districts have the usual powers of a corporation for public purpose. They also have specific powers which allow them to carry out the purposes of the fire protection district. The fire commissioners have authority to hire and appoint employees, such as the chief, secretary, fire fighters, emergency medical technicians, etc. They have full responsibility and authority for all other aspects of the district. The Fire Commissioners are required to hold regular monthly meetings and must comply with the Open Public Meetings Act and the public records statutes.

The district, being a special purpose district, levies regular property taxes to provide services to the public. Additionally, with voter approval, the Board may issue bonds and impose excess levies for specific purposes.

Central Kitsap Fire and Rescue – Commissioner Position 2 6 Year Term



David Fergus (Nonpartisan)

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What background and experience do you bring to this office?

As a current fire commissioner for CKFR, I have a comprehensive understanding of the district's operations. In my professional life, I advise fire districts throughout the state on their capital projects, long-range planning, and community issues. Consequently, I bring fire service knowledge from both inside and outside of this organization. Additionally, I bring a business owner's perspective to the district in finance, human resources, staff development, and customer service.

If elected, what will be your top two priorities, and how will you accomplish them?

The citizens of this community deserve the finest fire and emergency medical services that their tax dollars can afford. To that end, implementing what the voters approved in September 2006 – adding firefighters, replacing outdated fire trucks, and upgrading our aging fire stations – must be carried out as planned, on schedule and on budget. This is a top priority. Prevention and training are also priorities. Concerted prevention will reduce the overall number of emergencies in our community. Well trained first responders will be less likely to become injured when responding to someone else's emergency. The safety of our community and the safety of our personnel go hand-in-hand. Accomplishing these priorities will require strong leadership, clear communication, creative thinking, and sound decision making. I'm ready to serve.

Central Kitsap Fire and Rescue – Commissioner Position 4 6 Year Term



Dennis L. Sheline (Nonpartisan)

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What background and experience do you bring to this office?

I have 20 years of public service experience, and currently work as a professional firefighter for the federal government. As a resident of Central Kitsap for the past 26 years and having graduated from Central Kitsap High School, I am familiar with the history and local issues that affect our citizens.

If elected, what will be your top two priorities, and how will you accomplish them?

Provide the best possible service to our citizens, regardless of mergers or other changes within the department, while maintaining the highest possible fiscal responsibility. Work to improve safety for the members of Central Kitsap Fire and Rescue, as well as the citizens they serve, through improved staffing levels, reduced response times and increased resources.

My background and experience have provided a good skill set for assessing fire service equipment, personnel and issues. I would use those skills to explore opportunities for Central Kitsap Fire and Rescue to achieve better services per tax dollar such as: joint interagency purchasing, consolidation of services or mergers with adjacent districts.



Ken Erickson (Nonpartisan)

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What background and experience do you bring to this office?

I am serving my eighth year as a fire commissioner – first with Kitsap #12 (Chico) and since the merger, with Central Kitsap Fire & Rescue. I have been a resident of Kitsap County for 41 years. After retiring as a metallurgical engineer I am employed as an adjunct professor at Olympic College. I served ten years on Kitsap's Solid Waste Advisory Committee. My wife and I are currently foster parents of three teenage boys.

I feel I have a good working relationship with the other commissioners and am proud of the work accomplished in my present term. I have been a consistent advocate for the citizens of Central Kitsap. I serve as vice chairman of the Board of Commissioners and am a member of the Risk Management Board for the local fire districts.

If elected, what will be your top two priorities, and how will you accomplish them?

Encourage effective communication between our Fire District and citizens, so they can be assured that fire service meets expectations. I will continue to work at balancing staffing, apparatus/equipment and facilities with the tax revenue while supporting our technical committees.

Insure citizens receive the highest quality emergency services for their tax dollars while making sure their safety of citizens and that of the firefighters is not compromised.

Bainbridge Island Fire Department – Commissioner Position 1 2 Year Unexpired Term



Scott Isenman (Nonpartisan)

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What background and experience do you bring to this office?

The Fire Commissioner provides the community interface and oversight of our fire district. My Bachelors in Industrial Technology and MBA in Management will allow me to understand and guide the department in guiding current processes and adopting new ones. Further, my experience in Emergency Services in both search and rescue with Civil Air Patrol and the past 6 years as a volunteer EMT with Bainbridge Island Ambulance enables me to provide perspective and guidance without

the potential conflict of interest of having been a member of the BI Fire Department. I was appointed in March by the current commissioners to fill the seat vacated by Earl Johnson. I now ask for your vote to complete the remaining 2 years of that term.

If elected, what will be your top two priorities, and how will you accomplish them?

1. Continued Fiscal Responsibility – Our most recent levy lid lift was designated specifically for vehicles. We need to find ways to expand and extend the use of our aging facilities where possible to respond to our rising call volumes in the most cost effective way. 2. Providing the appropriate level of Fire and EMS services to the citizens of Bainbridge Island while providing a safe and supportive working environment for our professional and volunteer responders and staff.

Bainbridge Island Fire Department – Commissioner Position 2 6 Year Term



Paul Bang-Knudsen (Nonpartisan)

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What background and experience do you bring to this office?

I have lived most of my life on Bainbridge Island and have hands-on experience with BIFD and Ambulance Service, since I first served as a volunteer in high school. I served my country as a Marine Corps Special Forces operator, and received a Purple Heart Medal for my combat experience overseas. My Marine Corps leadership skills combined with firsthand experience helping others in crisis as an Emergency Medical Technician allows me to understand the specific needs of our island. I am anxious to serve our community and to utilize the unique experience and

insight my emergency services background and my military training have given me.

If elected, what will be your top two priorities, and how will you accomplish them?

Supporting the new Fire Chief in implementing a course of action that will make Bainbridge Island emergency services the best is my priority. My experience in leadership will help in attaining this goal. I strongly support the reserve volunteer program, our greatest resource, because of Bainbridge Island's rural geography and limited access. It is a priority to include Homeland Security readiness and elder care outreach during power outages and storms. I will work to direct budgeting and resources appropriately to enhance our current system and protect our Homeland Security in the future.



Paul Topper (Nonpartisan)

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What background and experience do you bring to this office?

A person seeking the position of commissioner for Bainbridge Island Fire Department faces a multitude of challenges. The position requires that the needs of the community are recognized and met in an environment that supports and sustains the fire department's operational requirements. It demands a person with a diverse set of skills and a passion for the unique activities of the organization.

I believe I am that person. I bring leadership, knowledge and skills developed over 30 years of successfully managing operations, planning,

and financial services in a variety of settings. My knowledge of the complexities of public sector management has been enhanced through appointments by the Kitsap County Commissioners, and work on citizen's advisory boards. I have gained invaluable experience as a community volunteer, CPR/AED instructor, EMT and accident prevention instructor for the fire department and ambulance association. Collectively, these provide me with a well balanced perspective for addressing the challenges the fire commissioner position presents.

If elected, what will be your top two priorities, and how will you accomplish them?

With limited resources and an ever growing demand for services, Bainbridge Island will be facing significant challenges sustaining and improving emergency services. My focus will be to insure that the community's needs are identified and addressed in an ethical and financially responsible matter.

Bainbridge Island Fire Department – Commissioner Position 4 Short and 6 Year Term

Candidate did not submit a photograph

Maureen Halligan (Nonpartisan)

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What background and experience do you bring to this office?

I have spent the last nine months as a Commissioner for BIFD, having been appointed at the beginning of 2007. Over the course of my twenty year career in business administration, I have developed expertise in budget planning, analysis and strategic planning. I was recently and for five years, a volunteer firefighter and EMT for BIFD.

If elected, what will be your top two priorities, and how will you accomplish them?

My priorities as a Board member will be service levels to the citizens of Bainbridge Island and fiscal responsibility. The island's citizens count on the fire and life safety services that the department brings to them in times of emergency. The department counts on the community to support them with equipment, facilities and training. All services come at a financial cost to the community and citizens, and it is the Board's responsibility to guide, evaluate, control and monitor the cost of this important and necessary service. I am excited to continue my role with the Board, and will perform my responsibilities to the best of my ability for the island's citizens.

South Kitsap Fire and Rescue – Commissioner Position 1 2 Year Unexpired Term



Gerald Preuss (Nonpartisan)

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If elected, what will be your top two priorities, and how will you accomplish them?

To work with the other commissioners in removing any roadblocks keeping the district from maintaining the high level of service they offer to the district of South Kitsap County. I also would continue working toward obtaining a stable funding program.

What background and experience do you bring to this office?

Retired from U.S. West having served 16 years as a manager. While residing in Vancouver, WA. I worked on several volunteer committees for the Hazel Dell Fire District. I have been involved with the SKFD for several years and was appointed as commissioner 18 months ago, during which time I served on the budget review committee and attended many conferences pertaining to fire district management.

South Kitsap Fire and Rescue – Commissioner Position 2 6 Year Term

Candidate did not submit a photograph

Dusty Wiley (Nonpartisan)

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Candidate did not submit a statement.

South Kitsap Fire and Rescue – Commissioner Position 5 6 Year Term



Paul Golnik (Nonpartisan)

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College and Western Oregon University taking courses in Fire Command and Administration. I have over twenty-six years experience as a private business owner and General Contractor. Communication and customer service have always been very important to me both as a Fire Service Professional and as a business owner. Because of the experience and education I have gained over the years as a business owner, landowner/ taxpayer and in the fire service I feel qualified for this position.

What background and experience do you bring to this office?

I have lived in South Kitsap for fifty years and as a property owner/ taxpayer for thirty-six years. I was appointed to the vacant Commissioner position #5 on March 10, 2005. I feel I have developed a good working relationship with the other Commissioners as well as the Fire Chief and staff. I served as a Volunteer Fire Fighter for SKF&R for thirteen years. I have over thirty-seven years experience as a Professional Fire Fighter with the City of Bremerton. I've attended Olympic College, Pierce

If elected, what will be your top two priorities, and how will you accomplish them?

My top two priorities are to encourage effective communication between the Fire District and the taxpayers and to gain their confidence that tax dollars are spent wisely. I will accomplish this by staying involved and being available to the public.

North Kitsap Fire & Rescue – Commissioner Position 2 Short and 6 Year Term



Patrick Pearson (Nonpartisan)

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If elected, what will be your top two priorities, and how will you accomplish them?

Continue to improve service to the citizens of North Kitsap and keep up with our excellent community outreach programs. Ensure we keep our strong financial position.

What background and experience do you bring to this office?

This is my 31st year as a teacher in the public schools. I've lived permanently in the Kingston area for 19 years, I have vast experience with budgets and labor relations. I'm excited about the growth this Fire District has accomplished. Since I was appointed 18 months ago, my understanding of the District has grown immensely and I wish to continue working with the fine men and women of this organization.

The growth in population dictates we also grow to maintain the level of service our community expects. Continued community support of our levies is essential. Our community outreach program demonstrates to the public what it is we do and how we can help the ordinary citizen to be safe in their own homes. Our excellent firefighter academies help us to train the future members of this organization. All these components need to be maintained so North Kitsap residents understand how their tax dollars are used.

Kitsap County Fire District No. 18 – Commissioner Position 2 Short and 6 Year Term



Conrad Green (Nonpartisan)

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What background and experience do you bring to this office?

Kitsap County Fire District No. 18 resident for 42 years. Service to Kitsap County has included: Kitsap County lawyer in private practice for 35 years; professional mediator, arbitrator, conflict coach; volunteer and officer of a variety of organizations and service clubs; membership on Boards of Directors for non-profit corporations, municipal corporations and my church; member of Board of Commissioners of the Poulsbo Fire Department (Fire District 18) since September, 2006.

If elected, what will be your top two priorities, and how will you accomplish them?

Balancing Resources. It is a challenge to balance the three elements of emergency services: adequate personnel; facilities for personnel, administrative and emergency services operations; and apparatus and equipment acquisition, housing and maintenance. I pursue the right balance through review of history and resources, demands for services, strategic placement and consultation of career professionals with Commissioners.

Emergency Response. Timely and effective, responses are best achieved by wise use of revenues, resources and careful revenue management.

Kitsap County Fire District No. 18 – Commissioner Position 5 6 Year Term



Darryl Milton (Nonpartisan)

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What background and experience do you bring to this office?

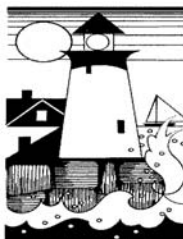
I have lived in Poulsbo area all my life and have been involved with the Poulsbo Fire Department since 1968 as a Volunteer, retiring as a Volunteer Assistant Chief in 2001 and elected to Commissioner that same year. I have watched the Department grow from all Volunteers, responding to only fire calls to having paid and volunteer personnel respond to approximately 4000 EMS, fire and other calls in 2006.

If elected, what will be your top two priorities, and how will you accomplish them?

One of my priorities will be to continue working on updating the strategic plan to insure that the goals set forth are attainable and funded to meet the expectations of the citizens as to assure that the money so graciously voted by the people in the recent lid lift is spent wisely, and to increase manning as the call volume dictates.

Another priority would be to develop strategies to help pass the upcoming EMS levy, which is due to expire at the end of 2008. Without the levy, the district will lose approximately 1.75 million dollars per year that can only be made up by slashing personnel which increases response times.

Port Districts



The 1911 Washington State Legislature enacted laws that allowed citizens to establish port districts and elect commissioners to administer the districts and oversee their development and operation. These public districts are organized under Revised Code of Washington Title 53 and are authorized to provide maritime shipping facilities and rail and water transfer facilities, to build and operate airports, to establish industrial development districts, to develop trade centers, to develop economic development programs, and to promote tourism. In Kitsap County the port districts regulate a variety of public piers, docks, waterfront areas and the airport.

The Port Commissioners Board is the legislative authority elected by the constituents of each port district. They set the objectives, policies, and overall direction for the port district, and approve the port district's budget and operating plan. They rely on a professional staff to put policies into effect.

Port Commissioners may exercise the right of eminent domain and may levy and collect assessments upon property within the district without voter approval to provide services to the public. Additionally, the Board may also issue bonds and impose excess levies for specific purposes.

Port of Bremerton District No. 1 – Commissioner District 2 6 Year Term



Larry Stokes (Nonpartisan)

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What background and experience do you bring to this office?

I feel that I am well qualified for the position of Port Commissioner. I served 20 years in the Navy as a deep sea diver, 25 years running my own business in Kitsap County, 10 years as a Bremerton Port Commissioner from 1979 to 1989, and 36 years paying property taxes in Kitsap County. I feel common sense will go a long way.

If elected, what will be your top two priorities, and how will you accomplish them?

If I am elected my top priorities will be to do what I can to bring the Port of Bremerton property taxes under control. Even though I will be only one vote of three, with the taxpayer's help I feel I can stop a lot. All elected officials should do what they can to help the economy. Webster's definition of economy is "wise expenditure of money...careful use of materials...careful management of the resources of a community."

I believe in growth and economical development but it should be self-supporting. There is no free lunch in life and the user should pay.

Candidate statements for this position continued on the next page.