

Jefferson County

Voters' Guide for Democratic Precinct Committee Officers (PCOs)



August 2, 2022, Primary Election

Published by the Jefferson County Democrats

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For more information about the August 2 primary election

See the Elections page of the Jefferson County Auditor at <http://www.co.jefferson.wa.us/1266/Elections>. There, you'll find Voter Resources that include Jefferson County's Official Local Voter's Pamphlet (PDF) and an Online Voters' Guide. They both contain information about other candidates in federal, state, and Jefferson County elections.

JCD Voters' Guide for Democratic PCOs

Candidate statements by Democratic and Republican PCO candidates are not included in the official voters' guides for Jefferson County and Washington state.

But the Jefferson County Democrats are doing the next best thing: We invited all Democratic PCO candidates in contested and uncontested races to submit statements, biographies, and photographs for posting in this voters' guide.

Candidate participation was voluntary. JCD received statements and biographies from 13 of the 33 candidates.

Candidate statements are formatted for consistency, but the contents are published as submitted with no editing for factual or grammatical accuracy.

JCD reserved the responsibility to reject/remove candidate information, statements, or photos that it considers obscene or potentially libelous or advocate racial, religious, or any other type of intolerance. No changes were necessary.

Voting for Precinct Committee Officer candidates

From the Jefferson County Auditor's Office:

For this office only: To vote for a precinct committee officer, a partisan office, you must affirm that you are a Democrat or a Republican and may vote only for one candidate from the party you select. Your vote for a candidate affirms your affiliation with the same party as the candidate. This preference is private and will not be matched to your name or shared.

Precinct Committee Officers (PCOs) are elected in the Primary election. Only contested PCO races for each party, if applicable, will appear on the Primary ballot, and the candidate with the most votes for each party, if applicable, is elected.

New precincts countywide

Jefferson County recently reconfigured all precincts based on the 2020 census, giving all precincts roughly similar populations. You can find maps of the new precincts at www.co.jefferson.wa.us/1277/Maps---District-Precinct.

33 candidates for Jefferson County Democratic PCO; only six candidates in contested races

Thirty-three Democrats filed in May 2022 as candidates for Democratic precinct committee officer in 30 of Jefferson County's 37 newly drawn precincts. Thank you to them all!

Of those candidates, six are in contested races. Only the six candidates below will appear on the August 2 primary election ballot. And only residents of these precincts can vote for the candidates:

- Precinct 1108 Port Townsend -- Cynthia Koan, Teri Nomura
- Precinct 1110 Port Townsend -- Emily Gohn, Otto Smith
- Precinct 2302 Kala Point -- Linda Brewster, Roger McMillen

With no opponents for PCO in 27 other precincts, candidates in those uncontested races are "deemed elected."

Two-year terms for all the newly elected PCOs begin December 1, 2022. Seven PCO positions had no candidates and will remain vacant until a PCO is appointed to fill the vacancy after the new term begins.

What does a PCO do?

Here's how the Washington State Democrats describe the volunteer work of PCOs:

- PCOs are the main point of information and contact for voters in your neighborhood and within the Democratic Party.
- PCOs are also a central part of their local Democratic organization. They elect party leadership and help fill vacancies in elected offices.
- Becoming a PCO is one of the most important roles in helping Democrats win up and down the ballot in your area.

Lori Bernstein, Precinct 1102 Port Townsend

Candidate Statement

The Washington State Democratic Party Platform asserts **"healthcare is a basic human right"** and calls for the establishment of "a universal single payer healthcare system for Washington residents, regardless of immigration status, until such time as a single-payer system is enacted nationally." Although legislation has been introduced at **both** the national and state levels to provide universal healthcare, our legislators here in Washington have failed to support it. My goal is to help gather the necessary signatures to put universal healthcare on the ballot.



Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said, **"Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health care is the most shocking and inhumane."** Healthcare is a critical issue across the country, our state, **and** here in Jefferson County. It's where I devote much of my energy.

We're facing multiple crises as a people and a planet. Yet I've found activism to be the antidote to despair. Phone banking, canvassing, gathering signatures, and meeting with our elected representatives are ways I connect with others to create positive change.

Civil rights leader Marian Wright Edelman says, "Democracy is not a spectator sport." I'm finishing up my current term as PCO and running for another 2 year term.

Candidate Biography

Political Experience:

2020-present	Precinct Committee Officer
2020	Ran for delegate
2016	Delegate at the WA-6 CD and WA State Democratic Conventions

Professional Experience:

Rose Theatre Manager
 Craftsperson/small business owner (Froggy Bottoms Pottery)
 Over 15 years experience teaching, including in the Chimacum and Port Townsend School Districts.

Education:

MA, Human Development, Pacific Oaks College, Seattle, WA
 Teacher Certification Program, Pacific Oaks College, Seattle, WA
 BA, UC Berkeley, CA

Community Service:

Jefferson Community Conservation Corps
Children's Art Festival
Community Bowl Project
Whole Washington Volunteer
National Nurses United Volunteer
Progressive Democrats of America, Liaison Team

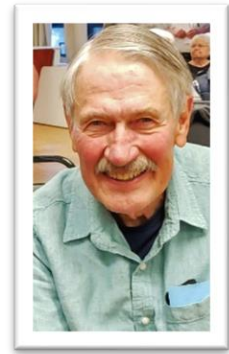
Contact Information

froggybottoms20@gmail.com

John Collins, Precinct 1103 Port Townsend

Candidate Statement

I look forward to serving as Democratic PCO in precinct 1103. This new precinct encompasses part of the former precinct 107. Precinct 1103 runs roughly from Hastings on the east, San Juan on the north, a line not defined by a road on the west running roughly just west of 37th, and on the south a line extending Elmira to the east.



PCOs for Democrats serve as a main point of information and contact for Democratic votes in their precinct. Collectively all 39 PCOs in Jefferson County elect the chair and vice chair of the Jefferson County Democratic party and constitute the governing body for our county party.

As a native of Washington state, I am proud of the work over the years by democrats to advance progressive policies for our state. I am committed to work to advance progressive policies for our county and state.

Candidate Biography

I have resided in Port Townsend since 2004, several years after retiring from university teaching in Seattle, with an academic background in political science. I have been active in the Jeff Dems as PCO and within the community as Port Commissioner and as an officer in several local non-profit organizations.

Contact Information

collinsj37@gmail.com

Pat Teal, Precinct 1105 Port Townsend

Candidate Statement

I am a lifelong feminist and Democrat. I am deeply offended by discrimination of any kind. For most of my life, I have been active in the fight to end sexism, racism, and classism and to support LGBTQ rights across the board.



I moved to Port Townsend to run the DV/SA program and will always stand up for the rights of abused women and children. For the last couple of decades, I have been active in making Jefferson County as inclusive and barrier free as possible for people with disabilities.

As a low income person with disabilities, I understand housing insecurity on a visceral level. I am doing all I can to expand affordable housing opportunities.

Our best bet to make further headway in any of these areas is to elect Democrats up and down the ballot. I will work in any and all ways that I can to make that happen. My neighbors know I keep up with the issues and candidates and come to me for information. I will reach out and be a resource for all in my precinct.

Candidate Biography

Political Experience:

I have been a PCO in Snohomish County, run phone banks for the Mondale campaign and state Democrats, attended County and State Conventions, doorbelled, and worked to get out the vote.

Professional Experience:

I have worked in Vocational Rehabilitation and Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault services.

Education:

I have a BA in Sociology and Psychology and a graduate degree as a School Psychologist.

Community Service:

I am currently President of DASH, Disability Awareness Starts Here; a member of the County's Accessible Community Advisory Board; and Chair of the Board for the Peninsula Housing Authority.

Contact Information

patteal@cablespeed.com
360 385 1790

Bruce Cowan, Precinct 1106 Port Townsend

Candidate Statement

Jefferson County turned reliably BLUE because local Democrats worked hard. I am glad to be carrying on the work of my mentors in the Jefferson County Democrats. I served as Chair of the Jefferson County Democrats from 2014-2016. In 2018 and 2020, I was elected PCO and Chair of the 24th Legislative District Democrats.



I follow the news, and my involvement with Indivisible Port Townsend helped me get engaged in issues and campaigns across the country. I'm also interested in all the wonky rules and laws regarding governments, elections, the Public Disclosure Commission, and party organizations.

I am motivated by the ideal of social, racial, and economic justice. Everyone should have the advantages in life that I have had.

As a PCO and party official I know that Democrats must work to build a strong coalition, consensus on our values and platform, and a wide base of support in the voting public. During elections, we must recruit qualified candidates, help them form successful campaigns, and turn out our voters. I am dedicated to engaging as many people as possible in a Democratic Party that is welcoming, civil, empowering, and effective.

Candidate Biography

I grew up south of Seattle and went to college in Bellingham, where I chose to become a teacher. I taught in Chicago before coming to Port Townsend, where I taught primary grades classrooms (30 years) and then middle school music. Outside the classroom I was a union leader, musician, and Centrum volunteer. After retiring in 2013, I taught music lessons. I also became deeply involved in political campaigns, activism, and the work of the Democratic party. My wife Deborah Pedersen is also immersed in this work.

Contact Information

mrbrucecowan@gmail.com

Gary B. Larson, Precinct 1107 Port Townsend

Candidate Statement

With no opponent in this election, I will be serving a third term as the Democratic PCO for my Port Townsend precinct. As a political activist for 50 years, I have campaigned for Democratic candidates and supported liberal/progressive causes.



I will continue working as a PCO to help our party Get Out the Vote for Democrats. We must defeat Republicans and keep our Democratic majorities in county, state, and national elected positions!

I also will support the party by advocating for propositions and programs in its platforms. My major interests are environmental protection, foreign policy, economic justice, civil and human rights, and our freedoms of expression.

Candidate Biography

Political Experience:

Jefferson County and King County Democrats — PCO; JeffCo Democrats — District 1 representative, communications and political action chairs, 2016 convention alternate; Clark County Democrats — newsletter editor; two Washington State Democrats conventions — delegate; Washington Sierra Club, Physicians for Social Responsibility, Nuclear Weapons Freeze Campaign, Common Cause.

Professional Experience:

Retired. King County transit, wastewater treatment — publications, media relations, website, marketing; United Way, Portland — communications; Tri-Cities and Langley newspapers — editor, reporter, photographer; Seattle Central Community College — journalism instructor.

Education:

Central Washington University — bachelor's degree, political science, journalism; University of Washington — graduate study, communications.

Community Service:

Port Townsend — Friends of Fort Worden, Centrum, Skillmation.

Contact Information

360-344-2989
garbltoo@gmail.com

Teri Nomura, Precinct 1108 Port Townsend

Candidate Statement

I am Teri Nomura running for Precinct Committee Officer (PCO) in Precinct 1108 in Port Townsend. PCOs represent their neighborhood to the local party, and work with the party to elect Democratic candidates. I have been a lifelong Democrat and lived in Jefferson County since 1984. I served on the JeffCo Dems Board as Chair for two terms, and as Secretary one term. During the last 20 years I have worked on many campaigns for local candidates, regional leaders and significant ballot measures. I will continue to work on affordable housing and emergency preparedness and support local businesses and non-profits. I raised my family here and want people of all ages to flourish in our community.



Candidate Biography

Political Experience:

2005-2008, 2010-2012 Chair of the JeffCo Dems, attended State and regional conferences.

2008-2010 Secretary of the JeffCo Dems

2003-present Led or helped with many political campaigns: County Commissioner, District Court Judge, Fire District Annexation, Prop 1 for the County, Homes Now, Library- City and County, Auditor, LD24 representatives and senator candidates and numerous federal campaigns.

Professional Experience:

1995 to present Real Estate Agent with Windermere Port Townsend, helping many people buy and sell homes, land and commercial properties. I understand many City of PT and County permitting processes and requirements.

1985-present Built six homes in Jefferson County or Port Townsend from scratch.

Contact Information

nomura@windermere.com

Otto Smith, Precinct 1110 Port Townsend

Candidate Statement

The problems today which threaten our very existence are atmospheric carbon dioxide driven climate change and the possibility of nuclear annihilation. We need radical change. We need to rethink everything. Our military, economic development, our education and welfare systems, our concept of progress.



We support universal healthcare, control over our own bodies, gun control, black lives matter, LGBTQ rights, reduced military spending, a depoliticized expanded supreme court, free education, ranked choice voting etc. but everything we do to achieve these goals becomes irrelevant if the human species dies.

Similar to nationally, the JCD executive board frequently offers single status-quo candidates for endorsement who have an advantage in opportunity to address members of the party, and if endorsed, financial support or other resources. The JCD should not endorse democrats against each other.

Locally we face the housing crises, rising sea levels, increased storms, hotter drier summers, more smoke, wetter winters, an influx of refugees from fires and drought in California and the South-West. My involvement in the JCD has been as an outsider and volunteer. The only way to change the party is bottom up. Give me the opportunity to make good trouble from the inside.

Candidate Biography

Political Experience:

Volunteer JCD committees. JCD platform committee. Document has aged well. Active in Jefferson County Progressives. Arrested protesting trident submarines. Support Bernie Sanders, AOC, Pramila Jayapal, Whole Washington. Would replace milk toast dems with progressives

Professional Experience:

CEO and partner 7seas software (mathematics visualization). Green enterprises: Software engineer 123Phase and Smith & Sun. SERI grant leader Ecotope

Education:

Honors degree in "Systems and Information" (computer science mathematics) Cal State Chico. Graduate work at WSU.

Community Service:

Donate music: Centrum, Farmers Market, Marine Science Center, Uganda Benefit etc. Volunteer: Wooden boat, R2AK, Underwater Robotics club, PI program tech class. etc.

Contact Information

otto4pco.com

Emily Gohn, Precinct 1110 Port Townsend

Candidate Statement

I am running to be your Democratic PCO in Precinct 1110 because I'm deeply invested in the health and sustainability of our Port Townsend community. I'm a native of this area, life-long educator, and working single mom.



From founding a progressive public school in inner-city New York, to running an international support group for domestic violence survivors, to successfully leading a local school through Covid-19, experience has taught me that facing challenges together takes strength, diligent communication, and finding unity and shared purpose within diverse needs and perspectives.

As Jefferson County emerges from the social and political divides of the last few years, we face local, national and global crises. I am running for PCO because I believe that only together can we successfully move beyond the difficulties that we've survived to address the challenges still facing us in the years to come.

My passion is for building, connecting, and supporting equitable and interdependent communities. Heading my priority list: creating housing solutions, supporting small local businesses, and addressing climate change. However, as your PCO I am most looking forward to working directly with you, my neighbors, to listen to your concerns and ensure representation and impactful local political action.

Candidate Biography

Political Experience:

No information submitted

Professional Experience:

25 years as a certified educator including:
10 years in NYC public schools in the South Bronx and East Harlem,
Director of Education: serving incarcerated mothers and children in foster care,
Director: Early Childhood Center, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center,
Head of School/full-time teacher in Port Townsend

Education:

HS diploma - Chimacum High School
BA & MS Ed - Sarah Lawrence College

Community Service:

Administrator for international secular support group for domestic violence survivors

Board of Directors (and one of the original popcorn slingers) of the Rose Theatre
30 years of volunteering and board service with education, equity, and environmental causes

Contact Information

emilygohn@gmail.com

Ron Hayes, Precinct 1104 Four Corners

Candidate Statement

I am a life-long Democrat and believe in the Democratic party platform. I currently serve on Jefferson County Dems board as the District 2 representative. I am running unopposed for Precinct Committee Officer (PCO) 307. I have served on numerous committees and was the party Treasurer for 4 years. I continue to participate in Get out the Vote (GOTV).



Candidate Biography

Political experience:

I have supported candidates with letters to the editor and by attending political forums. Also canvassing and placing political signs for the benefit of candidates I support.

Professional experience:

50 years' experience in small to medium sized businesses. The last 15 years, prior to my retirement, I managed my own accounting & business development company – Redfern Consultants.

Education:

University of Washington, major: Accounting. Golden Gate University, MBA

Community Service:

Volunteered with a number of Non-Profit Organizations, providing accounting services and tax expertise, setting up 501C3 organizations for non-tax status.

Contact Information

(360) 390-8296

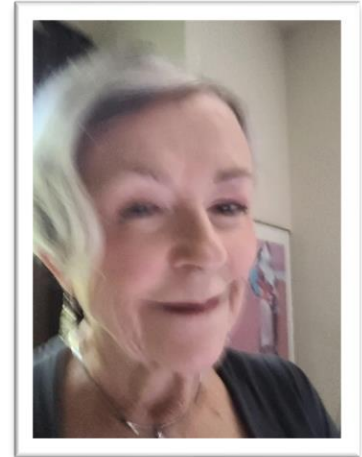
ron@redfernconsultants.com

Linda Brewster, Precinct 2302 Kala Point

Candidate Statement

I am privileged to be the **current** elected Jefferson County Democrats Precinct Committee Officer (PCO) for **Kala Point 2302**.

Since becoming an American citizen 22 years ago, I have been committed to working for a **democracy and policies that reflect the will of the people and not the power of money**. I became involved with the Democratic Party, first in Arizona and then in Jefferson County. Specifically, I believe in healthcare as a human right, human rights over corporate rights and public funding of elections. I was campaign chair for the successful initiative campaign I-735 to Get Big Money out of Elections. These are all issues that boil down to caring for and prioritizing people and the planet.



The current pandemic, the environmental crisis and today's political climate highlight both the major flaws in our democracy and the price of prioritizing corporate wishes and profits. I believe that the time for major change is now.

I bring perspective, willingness to work hard and respectful listening skills to any position I hold.

Candidate Biography

Political experience:

PCO (2003-2005) (2016 – present) and **State Committee Woman** Phoenix, AZ 2005

MoveOn Organizer then Regional Organizer 2007-2013

WAmend Initiative 735 (Get Big Money out of Elections) Signature Gatherer 2014 & 2015. Steering Committee member and campaign chair 2012-2016

Fix Democracy First (Board Member and President) 2016-present

Jefferson County Move to Amend 2012-present

Whole Washington Universal Healthcare volunteer signature gatherer 2021, 2022

Professional Experience:

Clinical psychologist in private practice 1978 -2005 and Biodyne 1985-1992

Divorce Mediator 1992-2003

Education:

Ph.D. Clinical Psychology York University

Community Service:

Working Image (now **New Image**) volunteer 2008 – present

Centrum volunteer 2008-2014

Kala Point Owner's Association Tree committee member 2007 – 2015

Contact Information

I encourage you to contact me at lindajbrewster@msn.com or by phone 360 379-4023 with questions or concerns or simply to chat.

Roger McMillen, Precinct 2302 Kala Point

Candidate Statement

I believe that all citizens should have an equal voice in their community. I am committed to protecting the environment, to providing equity in access to healthcare services, and to finding solutions for affordable housing for all. I will work to build a more civil discourse among everyone in our community. I will listen to your concerns and recommendations for the future of our community, of Port Townsend, and our 24th Democratic District. I ask for your vote for Precinct Committee Officer of Kala Point, and I look forward to serving and supporting Jefferson County and our 24th District Democrats' mission.



Candidate Biography

I am a retired Boeing Aerospace Engineer and union member. My wife is an immigrant, and we have two internationally adopted children, who both attend UW, Seattle. I have a strong commitment to environmental rehabilitation, frequently participating in restoration of salmon habitats around the state. In the 2020 election cycle, I supported the Georgia democratic senate races by hand-writing over 2000 post cards to combat voter suppression. I also campaigned in Montana for the Democratic US Senator candidate in the hope of flipping the senate. I am a lifelong Democrat looking toward strengthening our democracy.

Contact Information

Please feel free to contact me via email (roger.mcmillen@gmail.com) at any time.

Martin Ivers, Precinct 2401 Nordland

Candidate Statement

Currently serve as elected Treasurer and member of the Executive Board of Jefferson County Democrats. Have served as Treasurer since 2017.

Member of Jefferson County Democrats since 2012 and member of Executive Board in 2013. PCO 2013 - 2020. Caucus chair 2016.



Candidate Biography

Director, Information Systems, Veterans Administration, West Coast and Pacific Region. Chaired council of Directors managing development and implementation of VA healthcare information system.

President, DI*Star Medical Systems. Partnered to win largest healthcare information systems contract with DoD, and lead software development.

Vice President and Chief Scientist, Science Applications International. Lead software development team, and systems engineering for implementation of healthcare information system for DoD hospitals and clinics.

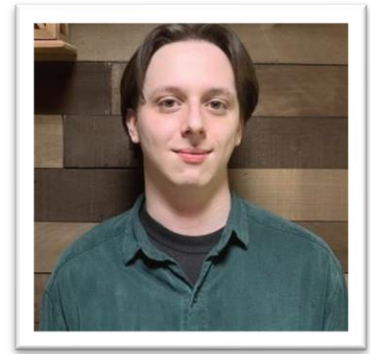
Graduate Education:

MA Psychology, MPH Hospital Administration, DrPH Health Services Administration.

Contact Information

Martin Ivers, alamo76@pacbell.net

Thomas Kuykendall, Precinct 2305 Port Hadlock



Candidate Statement

Hello, my name is Thomas Kuykendall. I am a 25 year old LGBTQ+ candidate. I was born and raised in Washington State, and I am running for PCO in the **2305 Precinct of Jefferson County**. I am running on behalf of many young voters like myself who struggle with the cost of food, housing, and medical care and with earning a fair living wage.

I support **better local internet access, LGBTQ+ rights, better paying jobs, the BLM** fight for civil rights and **more affordable housing**. We need more people in politics who will fight for our future, for our environment, our health, and our civil rights. We need more people who will take action and help keep voters informed. I believe I can inspire, be a voice for, and represent my community.

Thank you for your time.

Candidate Biography

Political Experience:

I have worked canvassing and phone banking for progressive democratic candidates. I was a State and National Delegate for Bernie Sanders in 2020. I am a current PCO and am member of The Jefferson County Democratic Executive Board.

Professional Experience:

I am a progressive activist who works in local issues and does work with the YMCA in getting food to families in need.

Education:

I am a high school graduate and plan to study Political Science.

Community Service:

I worked in The Mandala Center for Change's Poetic Justice Theatre Ensemble, learning Theatre of the Oppressed and doing various fundraisers for charities.

Contact Information

(360)-550-3953

dazkoztk@gmail.com

Facebook: Thomas Kuykendall