

Commissioners

VACANT – District 1

Russell E. Olsen – District 2

Chris Stearns – District 3



Providing safe, reliable, affordable, and sustainable service.

APPLICATION – PUD No. 1 of Thurston County Commissioner District 1 (Thurston PUD)

The Commissioners of Public Utility District No. 1 of Thurston County (Thurston PUD) are accepting applications for the District No. 1 Commissioner position. The appointee will serve for approximately fourteen (14) months, until the November 2026 General Election results are certified.

Authorized Public Utility District Functions

Public utility districts (PUDs) in Washington State are authorized under Title 54 of the Revised Code of Washington (RCW) to provide water service, electricity (with a vote of the people), sewer services (with a vote of the people), and telecommunications service. In addition, PUDs are authorized to produce and distribute renewable hydrogen and renewable natural gas. Thurston PUD provides water utility service only, has a staff of 32 employees, an operating budget of over \$10 million, and a capital budget of over \$30 million.

Over the years, Thurston PUD has sought to assist other jurisdictions within the County, including but not limited to:

- The PUD served as the water certified operator for the City of Bucoda until they were able to get their own operator certified.
- During the City of Lacey's water service moratorium that began in 2006, Thurston PUD provided interim water service for the service areas where WinCo Foods and Great Floors are located until Lacey was able to serve those areas. These service areas were turned over to the City of Lacey.
- PUD staff performed water safety testing on the Artesian Well for the City of Olympia while the city was determining how to best serve the community.
- The PUD transferred the Lathrup water system to the City of Tumwater, so that the City had a water system on the other side of the freeway within their City's urban growth area.
- For several years, Thurston PUD sponsored a Thurston County Water Purveyors Group for all water systems with thirty or more water connections.
- The PUD served as the certified water operator for the Thurston County Public Works Department exempt well for several years under a satellite management agency contract.
- Since 2008, Thurston PUD has assisted, advised, and acquired several water systems that were experiencing operational challenges to help ensure they did not become water systems that went into receivership for Thurston County.

Commissioner Position Description

An Interim appointed PUD Commissioner operates under the authority and duties established by Title 54 of the Revised Code of Washington. The primary duties of a Commissioner are to establish and oversee policy for the PUD, adopt by resolution the rules governing the transaction of District business, pass an annual budget, approve utility rates, bonds and other financing such as Public Works Trust Fund loans and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund loans, and to appoint and remove the General Manager. The Commissioner may be actively involved in attending various meetings with organizations like the Washington PUD Association, Thurston Regional Planning Council, water basin technical water quality groups, or water resource inventory groups.

1230 Ruddell Road SE, Lacey, WA 98503

Toll-Free (866) 357-8783 • Fax (360) 357-1172 • www.thurstonpud.org

Applicant Information

Application for PUD No. 1 of Thurston County Commissioner District No. 1 Position

Application Deadline: Thursday, August 21, 2025, 4:30 p.m.

To be considered for appointment as the District No. 1 Commissioner, applications must include all required attachments, be completed, signed, and received at the PUD Office addressed to the PUD's General Manager at Thurston PUD Headquarters, located at 1230 Ruddell Road SE, Lacey, WA 98503, **no later than 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, August 21, 2025**. Email submissions will not be accepted.

The required items listed below must be included with your signed application:

- Cover letter indicating your interest and general qualifications for the position
- Proof of voter registration, such as a copy of your voter registration card or online voter registration record
- PUD District 1 map with your residence clearly marked (maps can be found at www.co.thurston.wa.us/apps/auditor-election-maps/countywide/auditor_countywide_public_utility_districts.pdf)
- Answers to the supplemental questions – no more than six (6) pages total
- Resume including your education and employment history for the past ten (10) years
- A signed Release and Wavier form authorizing the PUD to perform a background and criminal background check on you

The PUD Commissioners will review applications and decide on the selection process. The Commissioners have tentatively reserved **September 2, 2025** for applicant interviews. For further information or to request reasonable accommodations, please contact the PUD's General Manager, John Weidenfeller, at (360) 763-5838 or by email at jweidenfeller@thurstonpud.org.

Correspondence should be addressed to:

PUD No. 1 of Thurston County Commissioners
Attn: General Manager
1230 Ruddell Rd SE
Lacey, WA 98503

-NOTICE-

Residency and other minimum requirements apply to this position.

PUD Commissioner salaries are set by the Washington State Legislature. The current annual salary for Commissioner District No. 1 position is \$28,068, paid in monthly increments on the 5th of the following month. Meeting per diem is set at \$161 per day and capped at \$22,540 annually. PUD Commissioners are eligible to participate in the District's medical/dental/vision health insurance program, are eligible for the WA State Retirement system, and are enrolled the same \$40,000 term life insurance policy as PUD employees.

Once this application is filed with the District, it becomes a public record and may be subject to disclosure under the Washington State Public Records Act, RCW 42.56. The application form, resume, and supplemental answers received from all candidates who meet the minimum requirements of state law may be posted on the PUD's website for public viewing.

PUD No. 1 of Thurston County is committed to the non-discriminatory treatment of all persons in employment and the delivery of services and resources.

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Application Deadline: Thursday, August 21, 2025, 4:30 p.m.

(Please type or print)

Applicant Name: _____

Residence Address: _____

Residence Zip Code: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Applicant's Signature: _____

Date Signed: _____

To be appointed as a Commissioner of PUD No. 1 of Thurston County, an individual must reside within the limits of Commissioner District No. 1, be a registered voter at the time of application, and not be a PUD employee at the time of appointment. These are the same minimum requirements that apply per state law to elected PUD Commissioners (RCW 54.12.010(5) and RCW 42.12.080).

- a. Are you a registered voter of Thurston County? (Please attach proof of voter registration)

Yes

No

- b. Are you willing to sign the release and wavier form authorizing the PUD to conduct a criminal background check following a determination that you are selected as a finalist.

Yes

No

- c. Are you a resident of PUD Commission District No. 1? (On the map (link provided on page 5) or an online map such as Google Maps, please clearly mark the location of your residence)

Yes

No

- d. How long have you been a resident of District No. 1?

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- e. How long have you lived at your current address?

- f. If you have lived at your current address less than one year, please list your previous address and state how long you lived at that address:

- g. Appointment to the PUD Commission will require your attendance at numerous regularly scheduled and special meetings that occur in the evening and during the weekday. PUD Commission meetings are usually held semi-monthly on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays beginning at 5:00 p.m. From time to time, there are also special meetings to attend. Commissioners also serve on WA State PUD Association committees, on regional planning and watershed committees, and on other committees where they represent the Commission. Commissioner activity to include review of materials and packet often requires 90 hours per month.

Are you able to commit this amount of time and arrange your schedule to fully participate as a member of the PUD Commission?

Yes

No

Supplemental Questions

Please respond to the following supplemental questions regarding your interest in the position of Commissioner for Public Utility District No. 1 of Thurston County using no more than six (6) pages total with a minimum 11 pt size font (12 pt or larger preferred).

1. Why are you interested in serving as a Public Utility District Commissioner?
2. What are the three (3) highest priorities you believe Thurston PUD needs to address? How would you propose to address these issues?
3. Please list your past community involvement (such as organizations, boards, commissions, and volunteerism), your role, and the dates of service. Address the relevance of your community involvement to the position of a PUD Commissioner.
4. Provide your assessment of the strengths of the Commission of Thurston PUD and describe the strengths you would add if appointed.
5. The PUD seeks to keep utility rates down in these challenging financial times; however, we often face inadequate funding for major capital items that must be completed in the future. How would you propose to address this challenging future?

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6. This appointment is effective for approximately 14 months. If appointed, do you intend to file in May 2026 to run for your position in the 2026 elections?

To be considered, applications must include all required attachments, be completed and signed by the applicant, and received by the PUD's General Manager at Thurston PUD's Office, 1230 Ruddell Road SE, Lacey, WA 98503 **no later than 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, August 21, 2025** (must be received at PUD Office).

The required items listed below must be included with your signed application:

- Cover letter indicating your interest and general qualifications for the position
- Proof of voter registration, such as a copy of your voter registration card or online voter registration record
- PUD District 1 map with your residence clearly marked (maps can be found at www.co.thurston.wa.us/apps/auditor-election-maps/countywide/auditor_countywide_public_utility_districts.pdf)
- Answers to the supplemental questions – no more than six (6) pages total
- Resume including your education, and employment history for the past ten (10) years
- A signed Release and Wavier form authorizing the PUD to perform a background and criminal background check on you

Once this application is filed with the District, it becomes a public record and may be subject to disclosure under the Washington State Public Records Act, RCW 42.56. The application form, resume, and supplemental answers received from all candidates who meet the minimum requirements of state law may be posted on the PUD's website for public viewing.

Attachment: Release and Waiver Form



RELEASE AND WAIVER FORM

Public Utility District No. 1 of Thurston County

1230 Ruddell Rd SE

Lacey, WA 98503

Main: (360) 357-8783 or Toll-Free: (866) 357-8783

Email: HR@thurstonpud.org

Please provide the following information, and write and legibly as possible.

Name: _____
Last First Middle

Alias/Maiden Names: _____

Social Security No. _____ Date of Birth: _____

Address: _____
Street City State Zip

Driver's License No. _____ State Where Issued: _____

Driver's License Expiration Date: _____ Primary Phone No. _____

During the last ten years, have you been convicted of any of the following crimes? (Please check all that apply.)

"Convictions" include judge or jury verdicts, guilty pleas, "Alford" pleas, pleas of "nolo contendere," convictions arising from military service, or criminal offenses resulting in deferred or suspended sentences.

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Extortion (any degree) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Fraud (any degree) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Forgery (any degree) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Malicious harassment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Reckless driving |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Negligent driving |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Driving with a suspended or invalidated license |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Unlawful destruction of public records |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Unlawful disclosure of confidential information |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Aggravated, first or second degree murder |

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | First or second degree manslaughter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Vehicular homicide |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | First or second degree kidnapping |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | First, second, or third degree assault |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | First, second, or third degree sexual assault |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Felony indecent exposure |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Robbery (any degree) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Burglary (any degree) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Theft (any degree) |

If you've checked any of the items above, please explain below and include the state or jurisdiction where the conviction was entered.

Please read carefully and sign below.

Current employers, prior employers, and references will only be contacted after an applicant has been notified that he/she is one of the finalists.

I certify that the information given by me to Public Utility District No. 1 of Thurston County is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that falsification of any information provided on this form will be grounds for elimination from further consideration.

I further certify that I am not engaged in any outside activity or business that could be considered in conflict with Public Utility District No. 1 of Thurston County's interest or those of its clients, nor will I become engaged in such activity or business if appointed.

I, the undersigned applicant for appointment as Commissioner for Public Utility District No. 1 of Thurston County, in consideration of the review of my application, do authorize Public Utility District No. 1 of Thurston County to solicit information regarding my character, general reputation, previous employment, criminal background, and similar background information, and to contact any and all references I have given on my application. I hereby release all parties and persons connected with any such request for information from all claims, liabilities, and damages for any reason arising out of the furnishing of such information. If employed, I release Public Utility District No. 1 of Thurston County from any liability for future references it may provide regarding my work history at Public Utility District No. 1 of Thurston County.

Upon an offer of appointment by the Public Utility District No. 1 of Thurston County Board of Commissioners, I authorize Public Utility District No. 1 of Thurston County to obtain a Criminal Conviction History Record as well as an Abstract of Driving Record for me.

It is my intention that any copy of this authorization be as effective as the original.

Signature

Date

Printed Name