



WCMA
Washington City/County
Management Association
A State Affiliate of **ICMA**

WCMA Nominations

2024-2025 Officers and Board of Directors

Nominees for Vice President

Katrina Knutson, City Administrator, City of Gig Harbor

Nominees for Board Member

Heidi Behrends Cerniwey, City Manager, City of Ellensburg

Amy Buckler, Deputy City Manager, City of Centralia

Elizabeth Chamberlain, City Manager, City of Walla Walla

Tyler Christian, City Administrator, City of Sultan

Bristol Ellington, City Manager, City of Shoreline

Denice Kulseth, Town Administrator, Town of Friday Harbor

Scott MacColl, City Manager, City of Sammamish

Matthew "Selby", City Administrator, City of Leavenworth

NOMINEE FOR VICE PRESIDENT

KATRINA KNUTSON



STATEMENT OF INTEREST:

It would be my honor to serve as the Vice President of the Washington City/County Management Association (WCMA) as I am committed to advancing the city management profession and contributing to the betterment of our communities. Having been a public servant for over 19-years, most recently as City Administrator of Gig Harbor, I have witnessed firsthand the challenges and opportunities that arise in our rapidly evolving cities. By serving as Vice President, I would aim to leverage my experience and expertise to foster collaboration, innovation, and best practices among city management across Washington. I believe that by working together, we can effectively address common issues, share valuable insights, and develop strategies that promote efficient and sustainable urban development. Through my active involvement on the board, I aspire to contribute to the professional growth of local government managers (and myself!), elevate the standards of our field, and ultimately enhance the quality of life for the residents we serve.

BIO:

Katrina has been in local government for over 19-years, having served both in city and county capacities. Her experience includes over 8-years in city leadership roles and she currently serves as the City Administrator with the City of Gig Harbor. She holds a Bachelor Degree from the University of Washington – Seattle in Community and Environmental Planning and an Executive Master of Public Administration from the University of South Dakota. Katrina is a current board member of the WCMA and serves on the AWC Legislative Committee. Katrina is a certified planner by the American Planning Association and is currently seeking City Manager credentialing with ICMA. Katrina has a passion for community engagement, crucial conversations, and leadership development. When she is not working, she can be found traveling, camping, or boating with her husband Lars and 12-year old son Dane.

NOMINEES FOR THE WCMA BOARD

HEIDI BEHREND S CERNIWEY



STATEMENT OF INTEREST:

I am passionate about local government service and understand the importance of the professional administrator’s role in good governance, quality communities, and responsive public services. I also understand the challenges inherent in this role. Since my first exposure to the city management profession in 2006—I have focused on learning, building my personal and professional toolbox, and advancing my career to be in a better position to give back. Along the way, I have maintained a strong commitment to growing people through modeling, mentorship, and stretch opportunities; and exposing others (students, employees, and community members) to the services, functions, and career opportunities in local government. My life mission revolves around service and my primary concentration has been family, organization, and local community. I am prepared to serve on the WCMA board, as I’m finally settled in my new community and have the capacity to give sufficient time and attention to a broader role that supports and elevates our professional association and aids more Washington cities.

BIO:

Heidi Behrends Cerniwey, ICMA-CM, joined the City of Ellensburg as City Manager in May 2021. She has over eighteen years of experience in local government service, including two rapidly growing full-service cities in Washington—the City of Tumwater (2012-2021) and Lacey (2006-2012)—with prior experience in private and nonprofit leadership. She attended the University of Minnesota and holds a B.A. from Metropolitan State University in St. Paul, MN, a Master of Public Administration from The Evergreen State College in Olympia, WA, and completed the Senior Executives in State and Local Government program at the Harvard Kennedy School, in Cambridge, MA. Heidi is committed to maintaining a well-managed city with a strong team to deliver high-quality public services and resilient infrastructure systems and building successful community partnerships to address the complex challenges that face the Ellensburg community and Central Washington region.

AMY BUCKLER



STATEMENT OF INTEREST:

Over 20 years ago I chose to pursue a career in local government because I am passionate about improving quality of life in our communities. Sometimes I check myself on whether I made the right decision, and even if its midnight after a long council meeting I always answer with a resounding yes!

Serving on the board is a great opportunity to network with fellow professionals, grow as a leader and influence decisions that will shape the future of city management in Washington. WCMA plays a vital role in educating, informing and supporting both seasoned and up-and-coming leaders. I'm excited to contribute to that mission. I also enjoy spending time with others in the city management profession and learning together so the board position sounds really fun.

Serving on the board is also an opportunity to give back to WCMA. Seventeen years ago when I was an intern I received a scholarship from WCMA, which provided me with a mentor who planted a seed for the profession. In 2022, I graduated from the Northwest Women's Leadership Academy which prepared me to step into my current role as Deputy City Manager for the City of Centralia. WCMA has had a positive impact on my life and career. I'm excited for this opportunity to help other people grow to serve our cities and counties with expertise and integrity.

BIO:

Amy Buckler is the Deputy City Manager and current interim City Manager for the City of Centralia. She loves working with elected officials, colleagues and community members to problem solve tough issues and leverage big opportunities.

Amy started her local government career working for the Parks and Recreation Department in Seward, Alaska. Realizing how important city programs were for the public during the long, cold winters ignited a life-long passion for local government. She went on to pursue a Master of Public Administration degree at the Evergreen State College, graduating in 2007.

For sixteen years, Amy worked for the City of Olympia, starting as a Management Assistant Intern, then a short and long-range planner and strategic projects manager in community planning and development. During her tenor, she worked on several complex and high-profile projects related to downtown, housing, homelessness and economic development. Amy loves engaging with the public and has a special place in her heart for planning commissions, who volunteer countless hours and play an important role in framing key policy issues.

Amy is excited to be serving in Centralia, Washington. The Hub City has an incredible vision and momentum. She also loves living in the Pacific Northwest, hiking in the mountains, birdwatching, gardening and learning how to sail with her partner Grant.

ELIZABETH CHAMBERLAIN



STATEMENT OF INTEREST:

Thank you for the board nomination and I'm expressing my interest in serving on the WCMA Board of Directors. Throughout my years of local government experience, including working for jurisdictions on the west and east sides of the state, provides me with a broad understanding of the issues facing our communities. My professional journey has equipped me with a robust skill set, including strategic planning, budget preparation, economic development, land use planning, and community engagement. Having served on other boards for organizations such as Rotary and the Transportation Improvement Board, I bring a collaborative approach in working with other board members. The City of

Walla Walla's core values align with WCMA's core values and modeling the way is a component of servant leadership.

I am enthusiastic about serving the WCMA organization and hopefully on the board of directors.

BIO:

Elizabeth is the City Manager for the City of Walla Walla. She joined the City nine years ago as the Development Services Director, transitioned Deputy City Manager, July 2020, and appointed City Manager December 2022.

Elizabeth and her team completed a major update to the City's comprehensive plan, Walla Walla 2040, adopted by the City Council June 2018. Implementation of the Comprehensive Plan led to eliminating single family zoning, the first City in Washington State to do so, and allowing a variety of housing types with the goal of making housing diverse again. Walla Walla has been a leader in the state on missing middle housing.

Addressing the housing crisis is a key focus of Elizabeth's work with the City of Walla Walla. She led the Regional Housing Action Plan project, funded with a state grant, partnering with the cities of College Place, Waitsburg, and Dayton. The plan was adopted August 2021 and the City has transitioned into implementation of the recommended policies.

She graduated from the University of Washington in 2001, earning a degree in geography with a focus in urban planning and GIS. Elizabeth worked for several jurisdictions in the Puget Sound region before moving to the City of Walla Walla.

Outside of work, Elizabeth enjoys book club (aka wine club), skiing, cycling, traveling, and cooking as well as spending time with family especially her niece and nephew.

TYLER CHRISTIAN



STATEMENT OF INTEREST:

I am currently an Associate Member of the Washington City/County Management Association. Having recently accepted my first City Administrator position, I'm running this year to join the board as a Full Member. With a steadfast commitment to transparency, inclusivity, and continuous improvement, I look forward to working closely with the board for many years to come to ensure a prosperous and harmonious future for WCMA.

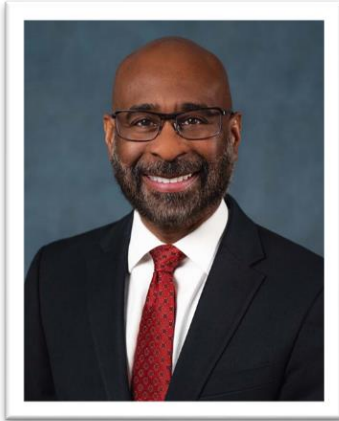
BIO:

As the City Administrator of Sultan, I am dedicated to enriching the lives of residents, fostering strong community bonds, and promoting sustainable and responsible succession planning for the future of our profession. With extensive experience in various local government roles, I bring valuable insight and expertise at all levels of local organizations. I am proud to call the Pacific Northwest my lifelong home.

In addition to the WCMA Board, I actively engage with several professional organizations, including serving on a national young professionals board for the American Public Works Association. My involvement in these associations has allowed me to build a nationwide network of talented and dedicated professionals.

Believing that strong leadership goes beyond administrative responsibilities, I am committed to fostering a sense of belonging and pride in the local government profession

BRISTOL ELLINGTON



STATEMENT OF INTEREST:

My name is Bristol Ellington and I'm excited to be considered to serve as a WCMA Board of Directors. I've been a public servant my entire career, starting as a planner for the Town of Hilton Head Island, SC in 1986. I moved into city management in 2017 as an Assistant City Manager for the City of Henderson, NV. In November of 2023, I was fortunate to become the City Manager for the City of Shoreline. I've been an active member of ICMA for 35 years and a Credentialed Manager since 2014. It would be my honor to give back to the profession.

BIO:

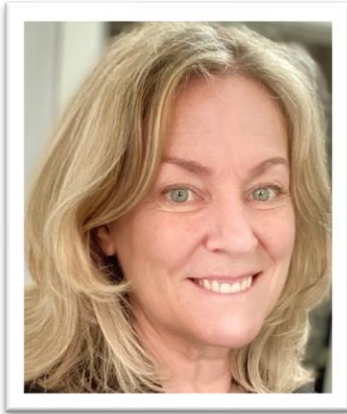
Bristol S. Ellington, AICP, ICMA-CM, was hired as Shoreline's City Manager in November 2022.

Bristol previously served as the Chief Operating Officer/Deputy City Manager for the City of Henderson, Nevada since July 2018. He was appointed Assistant City Manager in 2007 and had engaged with every city department on key operational issues and initiatives. From July 2005 to November 2007, he served as Director of Community Development for the City of Henderson. He previously served as the Assistant Director of Community Development from August 1996 to November 2007.

Prior to his time in Nevada, Bristol served as the Principal Planner in the Current Planning division for the City of Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, and a current planner for the City of Gainesville, Florida and the Town of Hilton Head Island, South Carolina.

Bristol received his master's degree in public administration from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, a master's degree in urban planning from the University of Michigan and a bachelor's degree in Geography from the University of Wisconsin. In 1995, Bristol was admitted to the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) and received the Credentialed Manager designation from the International City/County Management Association in 2013.

DENICE KULSETH



STATEMENT OF INTEREST:

I am very interested in serving on the Board of the Washington City/County Management Association. I am currently the Town Administrator for the Town of Friday Harbor, WA. While I have only been in this position for a little more than two years, I have spent almost two decades in state and local government as an attorney. I am passionate about public service, and find educating the public on how government works deeply rewarding.

I would look forward to serving on the WCMA Board to share my work experiences with my colleagues, and to learn from them as well. I am eager to help promote City/County Management as a career choice for professionals who might not otherwise be aware of this opportunity to serve their communities. I have found my position, while challenging, also deeply rewarding, and I would work to promote the WCMA organization as a helpful tool for bringing together the best minds in local government.

BIO:

I received B.A.s in Economics and Spanish before heading off to law school at Syracuse University as a Graduate Fellow. I transferred midway through law school to West Virginia University where I served on Law Review and completed my J.D.

My first legal job was with a firm in Charleston, WV, concentrating on securities fraud and banking. I moved out west to Santa Fe, NM, where I stumbled into a position in government and have never looked back. I was a civil litigator for the New Mexico Attorney General's Office, defending the State Police and other state agencies, then moved into Environmental Enforcement where I prosecuted environmental crimes and wrote legislation to overhaul the state's subdivision laws. From there I moved to the Santa Fe County Attorney's Office, where ultimately I was promoted to County Attorney.

After a move to the Pacific Northwest, and a stint as a stay-at-home mom to twins, I reentered the job market as a contract attorney for the San Juan County Prosecuting Attorney's Office. Eventually, I made my way back into work full time as a Management Analyst working directly for the San Juan County Manager. After a few years with San Juan County, I moved across the street to become the Town Administrator for Friday Harbor, WA.

SCOTT MACCOLL



STATEMENT OF INTEREST:

I'm interested in joining the WCMA board to continue to learn from my colleagues around the state, build relationships, and foster positive working relationships among managers of all sized cities. As the issues we face continue to be more complex and the average term for councilmembers shrink, it puts more pressure on managers to provide continuity among elected leadership, and to mentor and develop newly elected officials. The more support and resources we can provide managers, the better service we provide our communities. I'd like to continue to provide real world training and workshops to foster and encourage frank conversations for how to deal with challenging situations.

BIO:

Scott MacColl has worked in the public sector for over 20 years, primarily focused on issues at the municipal level. He originally joined the City of Sammamish as Deputy City Manager in May 2021. Beginning in April 2022, he served as interim City Manager for nine months, and in January 2023, the City Council appointed him permanent City Manager.

Prior to joining the City of Sammamish, Scott owned a local government relations practice. There, he worked on behalf of cities on local and federal issues. Before that, he served as Government Relations Manager at the City of Shoreline. He worked for the Seattle City Council on their professional policy staff. He also spent time in Olympia working in the legislature on its non-partisan professional policy committee.

Born and raised in the Pacific Northwest, Scott holds a Master of Public Administration (Evans School) and Bachelor of Arts from the University of Washington. He is a proud Husky.

MATTHEW "SELBY"



STATEMENT OF INTEREST:

I first heard of WCMA on my first day as Leavenworth's newest City Administrator in August 2022. I received a call from Will Ibershof, City Administrator for Sultan at the time. Will was a WCMA Board member and encouraged me to join the organization.

I joined the ICMA that fall and attended my first ICMA conference in Columbus, Ohio. I later joined WCMA and attended the August 2023 Annual Conference. I had such a positive experience I knew I wanted to become more involved in the organization.

My career in public service began nearly 20 years ago. Shortly after working in local government, I determined that being a Chief Administrative Official was my next career goal. Now that this goal has been achieved, I strive to be the best City Administrator I can possibly be. One of the best ways to do this is to learn from the experience of others in my field, as well as mentoring those who are just beginning their careers in municipal government.

WCMA is a valuable catalyst for professional development. I am sincerely interested in filling an open seat on the Board and supporting its mission.

BIO:

Matthew "Selby" was born in Massachusetts, spent his formative years in Kentucky, and attended college in Minnesota before moving to Boston after graduation. Selby's first career was in the public relations field, which took him to Henley-on-Thames, England for three years. A year after moving back to Boston, he took his public relations career freelance while earning a MS degree in Resource Management and Administration. Selby's first municipal job was as the Conservation Agent in Ashland, a town of 15,000 located 20 miles west of Boston. It was in Ashland that Selby developed his love for municipal government, setting himself a goal to become a Town/City Manager. After a decade of growth and learning in Ashland, he became the first Land Use and Economic Development Director in Acton, another suburban community 20 miles west of Boston. The opportunity to work as Interim Assistant City Manager of Yakima brought Selby to Washington in 2021. In his last week at Yakima, he learned of the opening for the City Administrator position in Leavenworth. After accepting the job offer, Selby managed to sell his house, pack up his belongings, and relocate to Leavenworth in just six weeks. He currently lives in Leavenworth with his fiancée, Christine. When not working to help make Leavenworth's Bavarian Village the best it can be, he can be found whitewater kayaking, paddle boarding, cross-country skiing, or snowboarding.