

# Gary Eaton

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Larry Coppola  
Port of Allyn  
P.O. Box 1  
Allyn, WA 98524

**Greetings Mr. Coppola,**

I am applying for the Port of Allyn District 3 Commissioner position. It is my understanding that this position requires extensive analytical skills, strong financial acumen, public outreach experience, and regular attendance at commission meetings. My work experience, volunteer experience, and education would be of value to this position, which is highlighted below and detailed further in my resume. In addition, my passion for improving my community, especially one that provided so many memories during my childhood, makes me an excellent candidate for this position.

My work experience and education have allowed me to continuously build upon the necessary skillsets to analyze and communicate economic and socioeconomic data. In my experience, I have been responsible for conducting and summarizing surveys, analyzing large datasets, building fiscal impact models, and integrating public interviews/testimonials. My progression has allowed me to develop sound research techniques, professional and technical writing skills, and the ability to communicate my work to various audiences. As a consultant, I had the opportunity to perform unbiased research and analysis that was often used to inform the United States public, and decision makers, about the successes and/or failures of various programs.

I completed an undergraduate degree at Western Washington University in 2010, majoring in finance and economics. In addition, I completed a Masters of Science in Resource and Applied Economics from the University of Alaska Fairbanks in 2015. Both my undergraduate and graduate-level coursework were highly quantitative.

Prior to completing graduate school, I worked with Costco Wholesale at various Western Washington locations. While employed at Costco, I filled several key management positions that required professional member service skills while simultaneously completing department goals, including: the development of staff, creating and maintaining budgets, managing inventory, and providing direction to accomplish objectives. My experience at Costco was very successful, as I developed valuable leadership skills. It was through this experience that I came to understand my innate ability and desire to connect with people and promote an environment that facilitates strong teamwork.

In addition to my education and current work experience, I also enjoy volunteering in my community. After moving to Alaska in 2010, I volunteered more than 500 hours at Challenge Alaska's Ski and Snowboard School helping individuals with disabilities learn to ski, while promoting health and independence. In addition, I spent one year as a volunteer tax and loan preparer with Alaska Business Development Center where I led a team of preparers to several small Alaskan communities to help prepare Federal income taxes.

Over the course of the past eight years, I have pursued my passion for providing scientifically sound analysis for decision makers and stakeholders. I continue to gain valuable experience in this field and possess the passion and dedication to continue providing meaningful insights from data analysis. My wife and I have recently relocated back to our great home state of Washington with our new family, and it would be an honor to use my experience to help achieve the Port of Allyn's mission to promote economic development.

Thank you for your consideration.

**Sincerely,**

**Gary Eaton**

**1. Why are you interested in becoming a Port Commissioner?**

The Port of Allyn encompasses some of the most beautiful coastland and uplands Washington has to offer. I grew up on the shores of the Hood Canal and would embrace the opportunity to enhance our community through economic development.

**2. What do you think about the Port's Mission Statement?**

The Port of Allyn's mission statement gets right to the point in making its communities the driving point. By promoting economic development through business retention, supporting tourism, and developing infrastructure, the Port of Allyn facilitates a strong business base within those communities. And bringing greater wealth to our communities increases our quality of life.

**3. What do you think you could contribute to the Port Commission?**

My combination of education and experience in economics would be very useful at the Port of Allyn. After receiving a Master of Science in economics from the University of Alaska in 2015, I was employed by a private economic consulting firm in Anchorage that specialized in natural resources and economic development. While working for the firm, I contributed to several comprehensive plans for various ports around the State of Alaska. Other work included comprehensive transportation plans, renewable energy, municipality annexation/taxation, and fisheries management. With almost all projects, the economic and socioeconomic impacts were discussed to fully understand a project's potential.

**4. Are you familiar with the purpose and power of Port Districts in the State of Washington? If yes, please explain or provide examples.**

I understand that port districts in Washington State are created by law as "municipal corporations" of the State and that the Port of Allyn is a limited purpose corporation—meaning the Port doesn't necessarily possess general government authority. However, in Washington State, the unique and relatively broad spectrum of powers allows ports to bear a closer resemblance to general purpose corporations.

Some of the powers resembling general purpose corporations include eminent domain, the power to levy taxes and special local improvement assessments, to create incidental park and recreation facilities (with certain limitations), to adopt and enforce regulations relating to moorage and toll facilities, and to cooperate with counties and cities to apply general police and traffic regulations to port properties and operations.

Port districts are authorized powers to implement their basic purposes, as defined by the Legislature, through numerous statutes of the Revised Code of Washington.

**5. Are you a board member of other commissions, boards, organizations or the like? If so, please list.**

Yes. I am a division director for the Lynch Cove Homeowners Association

**6. Please explain, in broad terms, your view of the Commissioner's role as a board member on the Port of Allyn Commission.**

The commissioner's role is a complex one. A commissioner must be the voice of the community they represent, while simultaneously pursuing the Port's mission through policy and regulation. The commissioner's position on the board must balance the interests of different stakeholders, ensure fiscal responsibility, and fulfill the Port's mission using a transparent process.

- 7. Please provide any other comments you believe would be helpful in the Commission's evaluation of you as a Port Commissioner at the Port of Allyn.**