

Candidate Name	John Persak	
Position Sought	Port of Seattle Commission Pos. #4 (open)	
Home Legislative District	11th LD	
Are you a Democrat? Are you known as a Democrat?	Yes	
Campaign Name	Persak for Port	
Campaign Contact Information	Mailing address: POB 84355 Seattle WA 98134	Phone: 206-291-5411 (cand. #) Fax:
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Campaign manager or point of contact	John Persak	
Consultant(s)	John Wyble	

Part I – Candidate Background

Please briefly describe your qualifications, education, employment, community and civic activity, union affiliation, and other relevant experience. Attach a resume with more complete history.

I am the only candidate for Seattle Port Commissioner (Position 4) that has been continuously engaged in Port issues and policy work in recent years. I have worked to protect maritime jobs, including my service on the Port's Energy and Sustainability Committee, and have been a strong advocate for many years to conserve industrial lands and improve the efficiency of freight mobility in King County. I have testified at and attended Port Commission meetings on behalf of the working men and women of our labor unions, and have achieved positive, amicable resolutions to issues such as reducing the Port's carbon footprint, promoting an alternate location for a new arena, and helping the Port resolve disagreements with union security workers at SeaTac Airport. My experience as a progressive labor leader derives from a decade of advocacy, organizing and hard work. I excel in policy making, collaborative leadership, stakeholder engagement and navigating institutional dynamics.

Over the past 10 years, I have served in the following leadership positions:

Current President of ILWU's statewide political organization, Puget Sound District Council, 5-year delegate.

Current Vice President, ILWU Local 19 since Jan 2015.

Current member, Industrial Land Use Advisory Panel, City of Seattle.

Current member, Port of Seattle Energy and Sustainability Committee.

Represented Georgetown neighborhood on City of Seattle's Freight Mobility Plan Advisory Committee.

Duwamish River Opportunity Fund Stakeholder Group, 2014

Waterfront Federal Credit Union Board of Directors (3 years).

Waterfront Federal Credit Union Board of Directors supervisory committee (5 years).

Please see attached resume for additional professional experience and leadership.

Describe your history of involvement in Washington state politics. What offices have you previously sought election or appointment to? What campaigns have you worked on?

I have served as President of the Puget Sound District Council, the ILWU's WA state political organization. In that leadership position, I have worked with our lobbyist over several years to advance our legislative agenda at the state level to ensure living wages jobs for our working families. I chair the ILWU's local political action fund and engage the City of Seattle and the Port on many issues, notably opposition to the SoDo arena to protect our working waterfront. I ran for Seattle City Council in 2015 in a crowded race against a tough incumbent that gave me the experience necessary to take on the campaign for Port Commission. My previous campaign work includes volunteering for the campaigns of Congresswoman Pramilla Jayapal, State Representative Gael Tarleton, Seattle Port Commissioner Fred Felleman, and Presidential candidate and United States Senator Bernie Sanders.

What prompted you to run for this office? What priorities are you seeking to address with your campaign?

I am running to ensure that the Port of Seattle remains the people's port, and that public decisions prioritize living wages and the need for a livable planet and communities. As Seattle's new Port Commissioner, I will be accountable and accessible to ensure the Port of Seattle supports our working waterfront, our fishing community, and our airport communities by creating good paying jobs for our families and prioritizing environmental stewardship.

My election to the Seattle Port Commission will carry on the years of my work in the labor movement and advocacy for the public interest to maintain regional benefits of our Port. My campaign is focusing on four key areas: Transparency and Accountability, Economic Development, Equity, and Environmental Sustainability. The maritime, tourism, and aviation industries play a central role in the economy of King County, and I will highlight career and technical education, apprenticeships, advancement of green technologies that support family wage jobs, and protecting our maritime and manufacturing land base for a sustainable and growing economy. I will continue my leadership role to protect our urban industrial lands, and ensure the clean and efficient movement of freight. And I will continue to build on the success of the Northwest Seaport Alliance by leveraging this strategic alliance to secure good tenants at our deep water ports.

I will work to increase public confidence in the Port through policy action, community involvement, and high ethical standards. I want to develop and implement Ethics and Fairness policies with support of community members, particularly for financial integrity, and report out quarterly to the public. I will work to enhance partnerships between the Port and environmentally impacted communities, including by building on Century Agenda goals through an aggressive carbon-neutral strategy for Port operations that lessens air and noise pollution impacts to these communities. Critical to my role as a Commissioner will be recognizing and supporting communities that are not seeing enough of the benefits of the Port's economic engine. I will address Port impacts to communities so that I can facilitate community-centered and community-led solutions.

List the notable endorsements you have received to date. Who are you planning to ask for an endorsement?

As of May 2nd, my endorsements include:
34th Democratic Legislative District [sole endorsement]
State Representative Mia Gregerson (D-33rd)
Inlandboatmans' Union
ILWU 19
Sailors Union of the Pacific
Masters Mates and Pilots
Terri Mast (Nat'l Sec/Tres. IBU)
Peter Goldman, environmental attorney
Eugene Wasserman, President of the North Seattle Industrial Association
Marcee Stone-Vekich, former Chair 34th LD Democrats
Vince O'Halloran, Sec/Tres Puget Sound Ports Maritime Trades Dept., AFL/CIO
Gordon Baxter, Principal, Count Consulting
John Lockwood, Rear Admiral USCG, retired
Mark Gleason, Gleason & Associates
Larry Reid, chair of Georgetown Merchants
David Gering, ED of the Manufacturing Industrial Council
Paul Bigman, Labor activist
Mike Andrew, activist for labor retirees and LGBTQ community
others see: <https://persakforport.nationbuilder.com/endorsements>

Describe the progress of your campaign and campaign goals. For instance, how many doors have you knocked on? What earned media has your campaign received? How much money have you raised?

Our campaign is off to a strong start, including our list of endorsements, our fundraising, and public excitement. In the first 30?? days, we have raised \$25k?? of our \$100k goal for the primary. We intend to raise \$175k through November. We will engage all media outlets, including social media, utilize direct mail & yard signs, aggressively seek endorsements and contributions, and targeted direct voter outreach.

Have you ever been a member of any other political party? If so, what party? Have you ever given money to a candidate from another party in a partisan race? If so, to whom and when?

I was a member of the (post Nader) Green Party 15 years ago. Our household gave a small amount of money to Bernie Sanders. Otherwise I have been known as a Democrat for well over a decade.

Please answer the following questions.		Yes*	No
1	Have you ever failed to pay any taxes or court ordered judgments?	X	
2	Have you ever been found in violation of a Public Disclosure Commission, Federal Election Commission or Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission regulation?		X

* If you answered "Yes" to any of the above, please explain your answer:

Defaulted on speeding tickets and related FTAs in the 1990s due to low income, later paid in full.
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Part II – Port Issues

#	Question	Yes	No	Qualify your response
1	Do you support amending the U.S. Constitution to lessen the influence of money in politics, and declare that corporations do not have the rights of natural persons?	X		
2	Do you support the right of public workers, excluding military, to bargain and strike?	X		
3	Do you support full implementation of SeaTac Good Jobs Proposition #1 (2013) within the Port of Seattle's jurisdiction?	X		
4	Should the Port promote a clean drayage truck program?	X		Needs review for possible improvement
5	Should the Port promote dockside rail connections to minimize truck traffic congestion, and diesel emissions?	X		The modernization of Terminal 5 near West Seattle includes on dock rail.
6	Do you support replacing trees on or off site lost during development to protect our cities' urban tree canopy?	X		
7	Should the Port make "Cold Iron" electrical power available to shippers to minimize diesel generator exhaust air pollution?	X		I support cold ironing as part of the modernization of Terminal 5 near West Seattle
8	Do you support the Port's "Century Agenda" (Our Vision: 100,000 new jobs)?	X		As long as these are family wage jobs with fair treatment

9	Do you support allowing coal or oil to be exported from Washington State's ports?		X	"Just Transition" for workers who are displaced, e.g. investment in sustainable energy for import/export activities, retraining, scholarships, & bridge benefits.
10	Do you support the Davis-Bacon Act?	X		Also, CWAs and maximum Apprenticeship Utilization
11	Do you support Chris Hansen's proposal to build a new basketball arena in SoDo now that it is fully privately funded and there are added dollars for mitigation of freight mobility issues?		X	No, and I fully support the Key Arena location with proper PLAs, union protections, and expanded union jurisdiction.
12	Do you support the efforts of SeaTac Airport workers to collectively bargain for better pay and better working conditions?	X		I also support Port policies that preserve union protections for concessionaire contracts and taxi industry drivers
13	Do you support the repeal Tim Eyman's I-747, which artificially limits property tax increases to 1% per year, regardless of population growth, inflation, and need?		X	Yes and for many years I have been a supporter of NPIs work around Eyman's regressive policies.

Part III – Free Response Questions

Please review the 2016 King County Democratic Platform, approved by the delegates to the King County Convention and available from KCDCC's website. List which planks, if any, you disagree with, and why.

I agree with all of the 2016 King County Democratic Platform.

What role should the Port Commission play in approving small value contracts or short-term tenant leases, such as the recent Foss Maritime/Shell Oil lease?

The Commission needs to review and update its Commission governance policy and resolutions relating to leases that have major impacts to the public. In general, Commission governance policies have not been comprehensively updated since 2009, and citizens are more engaged and concerned about issues in the fossil fuel industry. The public must be provided honest, transparent information in a timely manner and allowed to provide public comment prior to any final Commission decision or vote.

At current growth rates, Seattle-Tacoma International Airport is likely to reach its passenger capacity within a decade, what have you done or will do to deal with the growth at the airport, while being a better neighbor to people living near the airport?

The City of SeaTac has a residential population of 28,000 people, but handles a traveling population of roughly 6 times that size at peak travel during the day. The Port needs to provide more financial support to that particular community in terms of infrastructure, impacts and services. Additionally, impacts to surrounding communities due to increased flight traffic need to be mitigated with home soundproofing, air quality monitoring, and noise monitoring. One idea I'd like to see considered is the Port funding an enhanced tree canopy for the affected communities to both attenuate noise and improve air quality. As a Port Commissioner, I would meet with affected communities to engage them about their ideas for addressing these issues, as I believe that community-led solutions in this type of situation are very important.

Do you feel the Northwest Seaport Alliance between the Ports of Seattle and Tacoma has been successful so far, and what if any changes to the Alliance are needed?

The Northwest Seaport Alliance (NWSA) has led the way in attracting container volumes back to the Puget Sound Region (Seattle/Tacoma, or "North Harbor/South Harbor") and is on the right track. As shipping carriers consolidate, this NWSA's strategic partnership is the right approach to stay competitive and keep our natural deep water port thriving. With the public agencies of the Seattle and Tacoma Ports working together, more public involvement can occur to address increased truck emissions and Port congestion, reform the Harbor Maintenance Tax in order to fund local improvements in infrastructure, and make sure family wage jobs stay in our region. The NWSA should explore and highlight the promotion of sustainable trade between the Pacific Northwest and Alaska, such our fishing industry and increasing goods shipped to Alaskans. Finally, I would like to see the NWSA incentivize efforts to lower ship noise to prevent any impact or harm to our great diversity of marine mammals, and particularly the endangered Orcas, and to invest in cleaner, greener marine technologies.

What will you do or have you done to support the selection of women and minority-owned businesses in contracting with the Port of Seattle?

I am excited to currently work within my the ILWU union that champions the rights of people of color and women to ensure fairness and equality in the workplace. I would carry this strong policy of equity with me to the Port. Currently, women make 78 cents on the dollar compared to men, and that is simply unacceptable.

What important state and local issues have you worked on (or taken an interest in) that you feel aren't getting enough attention from elected leaders and the media?

I have been a champion of labor union values and living wages for working families my entire life. I believe we need to do more to level the playing field for working families in America in order to retain the middle class. We have allowed too much power to corporations while neglecting the interests of regular people. I am excited to bring the perspective of middle class workers to the Port of Seattle.

I affirm that all the information provided in response to this questionnaire is true, complete and correct, to the best of my ability, and that no relevant matter has been omitted.

Signature		
Printed Name	John Persak	5-12-17

John Persak

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Tel: 206.291.5411 e-mail John.M.Persak@gmail.com

PROFILE

A dedicated, detail oriented, and collaborative leader with over 20 years of combined professional level experience in media relations, political advocacy, policy work, board governance, and community engagement. I have recently finished policy work on the Port of Seattle's Energy and Sustainability Committee and Seattle's Freight Mobility Plan Advisory Board, and currently sit on Seattle's Industrial Lands Advisory Panel. I live in the Georgetown neighborhood of Seattle with my wife and son.

EXPERIENCE

Currently: Political, Policy, and Media advocacy, ILWU Local 19, Seattle WA **2011-present**

I work in political advocacy at the local and State level, advancing the common interests of the organization on land use, freight transportation, Port policy, environment, and workers' health and welfare. I am currently the union's state political director (Puget Sound District Council President), Vice President of Local 19, and Executive Board member. I represent the ILWU on the City of Seattle's Industrial Land Use Advisory Panel, and I serve as an alternate on the Puget Sound Regional Council's Transpiration Policy Committee.

Longshore worker (full time), ILWU/PMA, Seattle WA **2004-present**

My first involvement in marine logistics and longshoring dates to 1998. I am familiar with container and cruise ship operations, related work practices, and use of various equipment. I have worked at Terminals 2, 5, 18, 30, 46, 86, 90, and 91 over many years. I have occasionally worked in the Port of Tacoma.

Seattle Freight Master Plan Advisory Board, City of Seattle/SDOT, Seattle WA **2014-2017**

My role in representing Georgetown's neighborhood residents and businesses, located next to the Duwamish MIC, required attention to planning impacts on and knowledge about the community, and its relationship with land use, freight mobility, and the maritime/manufacturing industry. In working with city staff and consultants, I enhanced my comprehensive understanding of freight systems and impacts, especially in relation to Port operations and impacts on residents, and worked with stakeholders to develop solutions for long term planning and growth. The Freight Master Plan is now complete.

Waterfront Federal Credit Union Board/Supervisory Committee, Seattle WA **2006-2011**

My role as chair of the Credit Union supervisory committee and subsequent service on the Board of Directors required attention to detail concerning regulatory compliance, labor relations (staff and CEO), budgeting, and financial controls for the entire \$50m institution.

Other Experience:

In 2015 I was a candidate for Seattle City Council, Position #8. I served on the stakeholder panel for the Duwamish River Opportunity fund in 2014. I was a Central Co-op member elected trustee for two years from 2001-03. I served in negotiations and as a shop steward in UFCW 1105 in 2000-2002. I have volunteered for various causes and campaigns throughout the years. I was the initiator for Livable Workable Georgetown, a community survey and self assessment, funded by the Seattle Department of Neighborhoods (2014-15).

SKILLS

Writing and composition, research, policy development, media communications, budget and finance, community engagement planning, collaboration with peers, social media, press conferences, news releases, working independently, computer and social media literacy, fast and intuitive learning, understanding of maritime industry and economic/political challenges, managing risk. Special areas of knowledge: labor relations and collective bargaining, global and local politics, economics, political science, movement politics, history, psychology.

References available upon request.