

Leslie Peterson, MPAcc

August 18, 2026

City of Lake Forest Park
17425 Ballinger Way N.E.
Lake Forest Park, WA 98155

Dear Hiring Committee:

I am very interested in the Finance Director position with the City of Lake Forest Park. I am currently in the process of relocating to the Lynnwood/Everett/Marysville area and am seeking an opportunity to continue my career in Washington local government finance. With more than ten years of governmental finance leadership experience, a recently completed Master of Professional Accounting, and eligibility to sit for the CPA examination, I believe my background is particularly well suited to this position.

I currently serve as the elected Treasurer for Stevens County, where I am responsible for the stewardship of public funds, countywide treasury operations, cash management, banking relationships, and an investment portfolio of approximately \$120 million. I oversee treasury activity across more than 100 governmental funds and regularly work with elected officials, department leaders, auditors, financial institutions, and staff on financial issues and long-term fiscal decisions.

My experience extends beyond the traditional treasury functions and includes countywide budgeting, revenue and expenditure analysis, financial forecasting, internal controls, financial reporting, audit preparation, and process improvement. Most recently, I was heavily involved in identifying and addressing structural budget issues and developing a balanced 2025 and 2026 County budgets after several years of misalignment between ongoing revenues and expenditures. For many years, I was also jointly responsible for preparing and coordinating the County's Annual Financial Report submitted to the Washington State Auditor's Office.

I also have experience leading payroll and IT teams in often complex projects and have worked with organizations such as MRSC and AWC for advice and as a resource for complicated government activities.

This is what particularly interests me about Lake Forest Park position of the Finance Director position, it combines the finance pieces of treasury and investment management, budgeting and long-range financial planning, accounting, financial reporting, debt management, internal controls, and advising elected and administrative leadership while partnering IT functions. This closely reflects the areas in which I have spent much of my career. I enjoy working through complex financial issues, improving processes, and providing decision-makers with financial information that is accurate, understandable, and useful.

I am also drawn to the opportunity to be part of the City's leadership team and to work collaboratively with the City Administrator, Mayor, City Council, department leadership, and Finance staff. Throughout my career in public service, I have learned that strong financial leadership requires both technical knowledge and the ability to build productive working relationships, communicate difficult financial issues clearly, and maintain public trust.

As I relocate to the area, I would welcome the opportunity to work on behalf of the leadership to the City of Lake Forest Park. Thank you for considering my application. I would appreciate the opportunity to discuss my background and interest in the position with you.

Sincerely,
Leslie Peterson, MPAcc
CPA Exam Eligible