



# CITY COUNCILMEMBER APPLICATION

Application is due by 11:59 p.m. March 4, 2026

Name: AARON D LANA

Are you a registered voter? YES

Are you a resident of the City of Stevenson? YES

Length of residence in Stevenson? 1 YEAR 3 MONTHS

**1. List your educational background (or attach resume).**

SEE RESUME

**2. Please state your occupational background, beginning with your current occupation and employer (or attach resume).**

SEE RESUME

**3. Describe your community activities and volunteer work (or attach resume).**

a. Eight years as a Boy Scout Assistant Scoutmaster

b. Member of Stevenson **Fraternal Order of Eagles (Aerie 1744)** for two years, recently accepted role as a Trustee

**4. Describe your special qualifications applicable to City Council.**

My 28-year career as a U.S. Navy Officer and 10-year career at Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) has equipped me with a robust suite of leadership and administrative skills directly applicable to the governance of Stevenson. These qualifications include:

- **Strategic Program & Budget Management:** I have extensive experience overseeing large-scale program management, which translates to the City Council's responsibility for fiscal oversight, long-term capital improvement projects, and municipal budget balancing.
- **Key Leader Engagement & Interagency Collaboration:** My background in "Key Leader" engagement is vital for a city like Stevenson, which must navigate complex relationships with federal, state, and regional entities. My 10 years at the BPA further provides me with a deep understanding of the diverse organizations within the Columbia River Gorge basin that compete for and share vital resources.
- **Personnel Management & Organizational Leadership:** I have managed significant numbers of personnel across various operational environments. This experience ensures I can effectively support city staff and contribute to a productive, professional environment within the city's executive and legislative branches.
- **Objective Decision-Making:** Military service requires the ability to remain "levelheaded," analyze all aspects of a complex topic, and reach conclusions that

prioritize the welfare of the entire organization or community. I am adept at making high-stakes decisions that are balanced, fair, and favorable for all stakeholders involved.

- **Operational Planning & Infrastructure Oversight:** My tenure at BPA has given me unique insight into the technical and logistical needs of the region's power and water systems, which is directly relevant to Stevenson's current focus on modernizing aging water and sewer infrastructure.

#### **5. Why do you want to serve on the Stevenson City Council?**

My desire to serve on the Stevenson City Council stems from a lifelong commitment to public service and a deep-rooted connection to this community. While I have been a resident of Stevenson for just over a year, my ties to the area and its people extend much further back. As my family and I have integrated into the local fabric—through my involvement as a Trustee with the Stevenson Eagles 1744 and my past mentorship with the Boy Scouts, my dedication to the future of this city has only intensified.

I view an appointment to the City Council as a natural extension of my 28-year career as a U.S. Navy Officer. I have always believed that acts of service are the most meaningful way to give back to the community I love. My professional background has instilled in me a levelheaded, analytical approach to problem-solving. I pride myself on the ability to objectively evaluate all facets of a complex issue to reach balanced conclusions that serve the best interests of all stakeholders.

While I had originally considered seeking a council seat in the future, the current vacancy presents an immediate opportunity to apply my leadership experience toward Stevenson's most pressing challenges. I am eager to demonstrate to my fellow residents that I will work tirelessly to advocate for our shared values and improve our community every day.

#### **6. Specify any activities that might create a conflict of interest if you should be appointed to the City Council.**

As a current Federal Civilian employee of the BPA, I am acutely aware of the ethical requirements regarding conflicts of interest. Should the City Council engage in actions, negotiations, or policy decisions directly involving BPA or other federal agencies where my professional role creates a nexus, I will proactively recuse myself from those specific proceedings.

Additionally, to ensure complete transparency and maintain public trust, I wish to disclose the following local affiliations:

- **Fraternal Order of Eagles (Aerie 1744):** I currently serve as a Trustee for this organization. If matters regarding the Eagles' property, permits, or specific localized interests come before the Council, I would evaluate the need for recusal on a case-by-case basis.

In all matters, I am committed to adhering to the Washington State Code of Ethics for Municipal Officers (RCW 42.23) and will seek guidance from the City Attorney whenever a potential conflict arises.

**7. Briefly explain what you believe are the most important issues facing the Stevenson community at this time and the role the City Council can play in addressing each issue.**

**a. Utility Rates and Infrastructure Funding**

A major priority is the Prop 1 (Transportation Benefit District) initiative. Residents are concerned about rising water and sewer rates. The city is working to use a small sales tax increase to offset these utility costs while funding essential street repairs and snow plowing.

**b. Affordable and "Middle" Housing**

Like much of Washington, Stevenson is facing a housing crunch. The concern is two-fold: a lack of affordable options for the local workforce and the need for "middle housing" (duplexes, townhomes) to prevent residents from being priced out of their own community.

**c. Aging Water and Sewer Systems**

The city is managing significant upgrades to its wastewater treatment and water delivery systems. High-profile issues like major water line breaks and the need for new pumper fire trucks highlight the urgency of modernizing 20th-century infrastructure.

**d. Preserving "Small Town" Identity**

There is a recurring community dialogue about intentional growth. Locals are concerned that becoming a "tourism-only" town will erode the character of Stevenson. The goal is to ensure downtown remains usable and comfortable for residents, not just visitors.

**e. EMS and First Responder Sustainability**

Ensuring consistent staffing and fair pay for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) is a top-tier concern. High turnover in rural EMS districts has led to a push for better compensation to ensure prompt emergency responses.

**f. Mental Health and Crisis Support**

Community health reports indicate a high demand for integrated mental health services. There is a strong local push to expand community paramedicine programs to address chronic and mental health issues without relying solely on law enforcement or ER visits.

**g. Tourism Balance and Funding**

While tourism drives the economy, there is a shift toward scaling back certain tourism grants to ensure the long-term stability of local funds. The community is looking for "clearer expectations" on how tourism tax dollars are reinvested into local amenities.

**h. Workforce Development**

There is a noted "labor gap" for small businesses. Community leaders are focused on strengthening the local workforce through schools and supporting trades-based entrepreneurship so working families can afford to stay in the area.

**i. Pedestrian Safety and Connectivity**

The "Safe Routes to School" and "Spruce Up Stevenson" initiatives reflect a concern for walkability. Improving sidewalk connections and downtown accessibility remains a frequent topic in city planning sessions.

**j. Economic Diversity**

Residents and leaders are concerned about a lack of economic diversity. There is an active effort to move beyond a service-based economy by encouraging light industry and professional services that provide year-round, high-paying jobs.

# Aaron D Lana

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## Relevant Work Experience

### **Supervisory Physical Scientist** | Bonneville Power Administration | Portland, OR

10/2022 - Present | Hours per week: 40

- Provide administrative supervision, budget oversight, and technical guidance to a diverse team of 15 federal positions, ensuring 24/7/365 real-time power scheduling, hydraulic operations, and technical support for the Federal Columbia River Power System (FCRPS).
- Responsible for FCRPS operations and managing daily power generation scheduling changes.
- Develop and maintain new methodologies and tools to improve scheduling operations.
- Recommend and implement changes to meet Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), National Energy Regulatory Commission (NERC), and Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC) guidelines.
- Direct planning, development, and administration of programs and systems for Generation Scheduling and Generation Supply.
- Led Grid Modernization to improve operations and technology, preparing the agency for evolving energy markets, collaborating with internal and external entities.
- Support Power Generation Implementation and Agency Initiatives for Day-Ahead-Market (DAM) and other priorities (Western Resource Adequacy Program (WRAP), Provider of Choice), delivering hydro scheduling input and assessing specific tools/processes.
- Ensure my entire team trains for WRAP requirements, providing input for environmental support, and engagement on transition from Slice energy to Provider of Choice contracts.
- Accountable for ensuring hourly baseload work meets non-power objectives, with spill variances under 1% due to human error and no reportable NERC/WECC violations.
- Lead a safe, inclusive, compliant, and high-performing work environment, including safety leadership, emergency preparedness, financial stewardship, Contract Officer Representative (COR) oversight, and Equal Employment Opportunity implementation.

### **Physical Scientist** | Bonneville Power Administration | Portland, OR

02/2016 - 10/2022 | Hours per week: 40

- Served as a Hydro Duty Scheduler for real-time operations, managing Columbia River Operations across 30+ federal projects.
- Applied extensive hydrological knowledge to balance energy generation, fish habitat, tribal treaties, dissolved gas, and flood control, coordinating with external agencies.

- Provided daily communication with weather forecasters, predicting precipitation impacts and energy consumption effects.
- Proficient in internal BPA software (HERMES, Slice DUI) for predictive analysis and energy contract modeling.
- Routinely interacted with diverse stakeholders within and outside the Federal Government.
- Volunteered as a BPA Ambassador and completed the Portland State University course, Governance of the Columbia River Basin.

**Typhoon Duty Officer** | Joint Typhoon Warning Center | Pearl Harbor, HI

09/2008 - 02/2016 | Hours per week: 40

- Served as a senior forecaster, providing operational decision-making to a global audience under time-sensitive schedules.
- Directed a 4-person team for 6-hourly forecasts across Pacific and Indian Ocean basins, providing training and guidance to junior forecasters.
- Lectured on El Nino impacts at the 2012 Tropical Cyclone Conference in Tokyo.
- Managed human resources, stakeholder relations, and provided leadership in a high-pressure environment.

**United States Navy Officer (Multiple Leadership Roles)** | Global Assignments

06/1998 - Present | Hours per week: Varies (10-70)

- **Leadership & Management:** Directed work objectives for teams of up to 60 personnel (military/civilian), optimizing asset management and ensuring application of oceanographic/meteorological principles. Managed disciplinary actions, procurement, budgeting, and operational decisions.
- **Operational Oversight:** Led METOC product delivery, emergency response, and aviation unit operations. Oversaw critical forecasts for naval vessels and coordinated critical information flow. Served as COR for an \$11M annual contract with 50 contractors.
- **Strategic Communication:** Briefed Flag/General Officers, including an Executive Assistant role to a Lieutenant General. Coordinated with Department of Defense, Department of State, and foreign militaries, managing complex stakeholder relationships.
- **Problem-Solving:** Developed risk mitigation plans, investigated equipment malfunctions, and made time-sensitive operational decisions in high-stakes environments.
- **Mentorship & Training:** Guided junior officers/enlisted personnel, including annual training in Sexual Assault Prevention and Response, Equal Opportunity, and Suicide Prevention. Developed training plans for reservists.
- **Specialized Roles:** Served as Techniques Development Officer, leading a team to improve forecasting efficiency and representing JTWC at international campaigns. Acted as Best Track Officer, ensuring data correctness and creating Annual Tropical Cyclone Reports.

## Education, Certifications, or Licenses

Naval Postgraduate School | Monterey, CA

Master's degree | GPA: 3.69 | Major: Meteorology and Physical Oceanography

University of Washington | Seattle, WA

Bachelor's degree | GPA: 3.2 | Major: Physical Oceanography

## Job-related Training

- **Additional Training:** American Heart Association Heartsaver AED (Adult/Child CPR with Mask and Choking, Adult/Child AED), Boy Scouts of America Assistant Scout Leader.
- **FEMA Certifications:** ICS-100, 139, 200, 230, 235, 240, 241, 242, 244, 275, 700, and 800.

## Additional Information

- **Clearance:** TOP SECRET SCI clearance.
- **Awards:** Defense Meritorious Service Medal (U.S. Central Command, Sept 2011; U.S. Special Operations Command, Sept 2014 - Oct 2015), Joint Service Commendation Medal (US Pacific Command for forecasting 150+ tropical cyclones).
- **Computer Software Proficiencies:** Microsoft Office Suite (Expert), Matlab (Intermediate), UNIX-based systems (Working knowledge), Automated Tropical Cyclone Forecasting (ATCF) System (Expert), Programming Languages (html, BAT, C++, Basic).