



## MEDIA ADVISORY

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# Poulsbo Marks Leadership Transition with Outgoing and Incoming Mayors

*Longest serving Mayor in Poulsbo history steps down*

**Poulsbo, WA** — Following the November election, the City of Poulsbo is marking a leadership transition after more than 16 years of continuous mayoral leadership, as Mayor Becky Erickson concludes her tenure and Mayor-Elect Ed Stern prepares to take office.

Transition activities are unfolding in December, starting last week with Mayor Erickson's final City Council meeting, December 17, where a reception was held in her honor. Mayor-Elect Stern's term will officially begin on January 1, 2026. A ceremonial swearing-in will take place at the beginning of the first regular City Council meeting of the year on Wednesday, January 7, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. City Council meetings are held in their Chambers at City Hall.

The oath of office will be administered by the Honorable Jeff L. Tolman, the longest-serving judge in the history of the Poulsbo Municipal Court.

Mayor Erickson concludes 18 years of service to the City of Poulsbo, including 16 as mayor, with a tenure characterized by careful assessment of complex issues and early attention to emerging practices in local governance.

Mayor-Elect Stern brings 28 years of public service on the Poulsbo City Council, including two years as the City's Deputy Mayor. His experience provides familiarity with the City's policies, operations, and collaborative governance structure as the new term begins.

City operations and services will continue uninterrupted throughout the transition period.

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Interview availability: via request to the media contact

Photo Assets: Headshots of each mayor available, or upon request

## About the City of Poulsbo

The City of Poulsbo is a waterfront community in North Kitsap County, Washington, incorporated in 1908 and home to approximately 13,110 residents. Known for its historic downtown, strong civic engagement, and thoughtful approach to growth and governance, Poulsbo provides a full range of municipal services, including public safety, utilities, parks, planning, and public works. The city operates under a mayor-council form of government, with a professional city administrator responsible for the day-to-day operations of the municipality. Poulsbo is committed to transparent, responsive local governance.

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