

Respondent Name
Libby Wennstrom, David Faber, and Owen Rowe
Complainant Name
Crystal Cox
Complaint Description
<p>Reverendcrystalcox reported via the portal (Wed, 23 Jul 2025 at 4:03 AM)</p> <p>3 Port Townsend, WA Council Members, Libby Wennstrom, David Faber, and Owen Rowe, all democrats, endorsed a local candidate for the upcoming city council race. They did not do this in their personal capacity. The news headline says Mayor and Council Members endorse Quayle. The attached emails show that a city resource, a city email account and their city official title was used in this endorsement.</p> <p>This is a conflict of interest and unfair to the public voting for what they believe to be a bipartisan city council. This endorsement prejudices other candidates and take away from the public a neutral right to choose.</p> <p>Many fear if they do not vote the way the current council wants that they will retaliate and their family, livelihood and businesses will suffer.</p> <p>This endorsement give an unfair advantage to one particular candidate over the others and in this endorsement by a sitting Mayor and Council Members, it gave them a front page headline, this is akin to Campaign Finance Donations and advertising for ONE candidate, thereby prejudicing the other candidates.</p>
What impact does the alleged violation(s) have on the public?
It is a Partisan Endorsement by sitting council members, and sways the public vote. People will not want them to retaliate so they will vote for who they endorse. It is a matter of public interest, as 3 local council members endorsed one local candidate for city council.
List of attant evidence or contact information where evidence may be found
Local News Headline, Public Record emails from sitting Port Townsend Counsel Members using the city resource of city email
List of potential witnesses with contact information to reach them
It is of public record. Other witnesses would be Mallory Kruml, a Port Townsend Leader newspaper journalist and publisher Lloyd Mullen
Certification (Complainant)
I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that information provided with this complaint is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.



Mayor, city council members endorse first-time candidate

Days before the Wednesday, July 16,
forum featuring three candidates
seeking a seat on Port Townsend City
Council, several sitting

councilmembers have endorsed Dylan Quarles.
Quarles, a ...

Mayor, city council members endorse first-time candidate



Dylan Quarles



Posted Wednesday, July 16, 2025 3:00 am



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councilmembers have endorsed Dylan Quarles.

Quarles, a ...

By Mallory Kruml

Days before the Wednesday, July 16, forum featuring three candidates seeking a seat on Port Townsend City Council, several sitting councilmembers have endorsed Dylan Quarles.

Quarles, a first-time candidate born and raised in Port Townsend, said he is running to represent working people and families — something that resonates with Mayor David Faber.

“I have no doubt that the other candidate would be able to rise to the occasion if elected, but Dylan is already out proving he’s ready, able and eager to serve,” Faber wrote, mentioning Quarles has quickly become versed in city happenings by attending public meetings and reaching out to city staff and council members. “I’m also particularly drawn to Dylan’s candidacy because he — like me — is raising a young child here.”

Council members Libby Wennstrom and Owen Rowe also support Quarles, each mentioning they want someone who’s focused on the future of Port Townsend, rather than the past.

“I raised my own family in PT, and I want to see PT remain a place that still works for working families,” Wennstrom wrote. “I think Dylan is the best candidate to bring that important perspective to the city council, and I look forward to working with him.”

The Leader

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EVANS VISTA
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CIRCUS
RASTELLI
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City council race heats up; master plan takes form

Mayor, city council members endorse first-time candidate

BY MALLORY KRUML

Days before the Wednesday, July 16, forum featuring three candidates seeking a seat on Port Townsend City Council, several sitting councilmembers have endorsed

Dylan Quarles.

Quarles, a first-time candidate born and raised in Port Townsend, said he is running to represent working people and families — something that resonates with Mayor David Faber.

"I have no doubt that the other candidate would be able to rise to the occasion if elected, but Dylan is already out proving he's ready, able and eager to serve," Faber wrote, mentioning Quarles

see **ENDORSEMENT**, page A20

Affordable housing likely main issue in race

BY MALLORY KRUML

Port Townsend's city council sits poised to make sweeping changes to its Comprehensive Plan that would, among other things, justify a development on the golf course.

Establishing the city's priorities and direction for the next 20 years, city staff and council members have and will continue to meet throughout the year to finalize each element of the plan.

Housing — one of many

see **HOUSING**, page A12

On Sun, Jul 13, 2025 at 9:38 PM Owen Rowe <orowe@cityofpt.us> wrote:

Hi Mallory,

I'm endorsing Dylan Quarles. Here's the statement I wrote:

"Dylan Quarles brings plenty of ideas as a voice for working people and families in Port Townsend. But he recognizes that community leadership is collaborative work, so he listens to others' concerns and perspectives too—learning, adjusting, and adapting to find an approach that's best for everyone. He's already putting in the time to forge working relationships with council, staff, and many diverse groups in our community. We don't need someone who's stuck fighting old battles. We need someone who's curious, collaborative, and committed to helping guide Port Townsend in responding to the challenges and opportunities of the future, and I think Dylan fits the bill."

Thanks

Owen

Owen Rowe | Council Member



City of Port Townsend | <http://www.cityofpt.us/> | orowe@cityofpt.us

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From: DFaber@cityofpt.us
To: mkruml@ptleader.com
Subject: Re: PT Leader Media Request - Council candidates
Date: Thursday, July 10, 2025 8:03:50 PM

Hi Mallory,

Thank you for the long lead time!

I didn't originally plan on endorsing in the open Port Townsend city council seat race, but Dylan Quarles has impressed me. Dylan has thrown himself into the work of learning about City Council, reaching out to council and staff to ask questions, and regularly attending our public meetings. I have not seen that level of commitment from the other candidates. I have no doubt that the other candidates would be able to rise to the occasion if elected, but Dylan is already out proving he's ready, able, and eager to serve.

I'm also particularly drawn to Dylan's candidacy because he—like me—is raising a young child here. While I do not at all think having young children should be a pre-requisite for public office, I do think it is an important perspective when making difficult decisions that will impact our little city for decades to come. We have age, gender, and socio-economic diversity on council, but not enough representation of those raising the next generation of community members, so I intend to support Dylan Quarles for City Council Position #1.

Thank you.

Best,
David J. Faber
Mayor, City of Port Townsend