

FOCUSED ON THE ROAD AHEAD



Laura Thayer

District 2 Candidate

Member/Owner
since 1999

Education: Graduate Degree

Employment:
Eastern Washington University

Candidate statement:

As a member of our community who has dedicated my professional life to serving our region through service in not-for-profit organizations, I am committed to contributing my skills to serve and contribute to the continued success of Inland Power & Light as a premier member-owned energy cooperative committed to safe, reliable service for its members. I look forward to the possibility of working collaboratively with the board and staff to navigate the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead so that the cooperative continues to provide excellent value to members and contribute to the health and prosperity of our region.

Why do you want to serve on the board of trustees?

Effective leadership on the Inland Power & Light Board is crucial for ensuring a sustainable and reliable energy future for our member community. I am eager to collaborate with fellow board members, Inland professional staff and community stakeholders to implement forward-thinking policies and initiatives that address our energy needs while prioritizing competitive rates, great member engagement and experiences, environmental responsibility and community well-being.

What strengths would you bring to the board of trustees?

My leadership experience, communication skills and long tenure in organizations that receive regulatory direction from federal, state and local government prepares me to make informed and thoughtful contributions to the board. I am dedicated to fostering transparent communication, making informed decisions, and advocating for the best interests of our cooperative's members and growing and sustaining Inland Power services.

The utility industry faces many challenges. Where would you focus your attention?

The electric power generation industry faces layered challenges that require thoughtful consideration and proactive solutions that span technological, environmental, and socio-economic dimensions. I am particularly interested in how technological evolution can enhance the efficiency and value of the abundant hydropower present in our region. Striking the right balance between traditional and emerging technologies is essential to ensure a reliable, secure, resilient and sustainable power infrastructure for our growing communities.

What else would you like the membership to know about you as a candidate?

I grew up on a Lincoln County wheat farm and heard stories from family members about what it felt like to receive life-changing electrical power for the first time thanks to Grand Coulee Dam and rural electrification during the 1930s. Now as an Inland member myself I appreciate the economical, reliable service and responsiveness during power outages. My career-long experience in policy development, project management, strategic planning, leadership, business communication and community engagement gives me and equips me with a practical framework to address the challenges and opportunities facing our community and an appreciation for the role that member-owned power cooperatives play in our region's prosperity and security.