

Nicolas Dunning, Thurston County Commissioner, Position 5, 2026 Olympia Indivisible Candidate Report

Thurston County's Board of County Commissioners is the county's legislative authority. The five commissioners are elected to four-year terms and serve as the chief administrators for several important county operations, including oversight of the county's budget.

Background and Qualifications:

Born and raised in Oregon, Nicolas Dunning is a military combat veteran with 10 years of service in the Marine Corps and the Washington National Guard. He volunteered for the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, and received the Combat Action Ribbon, Volunteer Service Medal, and Presidential Unit Citation. He holds a B.A. in Politics, Philosophy, and Economics (minor in Environmental Studies) from the University of Washington, Tacoma. Following his military service, Nicolas opened West Coast Fitness Lacey in 2017 as the owner and operator. Public Disclosure Commission statements also list him as the 100% owner of Total Nutrition Lacey on Galaxy Drive.

Nicolas was elected to the Lacey City Council, Position 3, in 2023. He did not list a party affiliation during his 2023 campaign. He is now running for Thurston County Commissioner as a Moderate Democrat with "Other" selected on the PDC. As a Lacey City Council member, Nicolas serves on three intergovernmental boards: Regional Housing Council, Olympia-Lacey-Tumwater Visitor and Convention Bureau, and Law Enforcement Officers and Firefighters (LEOFF). In the past, he has served on the boards for the Olympic Region Clean Air Agency (ORCAA) and Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC).

Campaign Funding (Source: [Public Disclosure Commission](#), as of 06/09/2026)

Financial Overview

\$0.00 Starting balance	+	\$22,382.73 Contributions	+	\$0.00 Loans	=	\$22,382.73 Total raised
\$10,325.50 Total spent		\$0.00 Pledges		\$0.00 Debt		
\$0.00 Independent expenditures for				\$0.00 Independent expenditures against		

Nicolas Dunning has raised just over \$22,000 for his campaign. Including the self-funded amount of \$15,000, he has raised a little more than Emily Clouse and much more than Michelle Gipson.

Made to candidate for 2026

Contributions

See who has contributed cash and in-kind (non-monetary) contributions to the campaign.

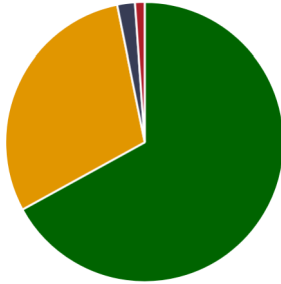
Contributions made to candidate for 2026

Self
\$15,000.00

Individual
\$6,672.73

Other
\$460.00

Business
\$250.00



Endorsements:

On Dunning's campaign website he lists 600 endorsements, which appear to be individual residents from all over Thurston County.

Controversies:

- In 2023, PDC staff issued a formal written warning to Nicolas Dunning for accepting overlimit contributions in violation of RCW 42.17A.405. He was informed that the Commission will consider the formal written warning in deciding on further Commission action if there are future violations of PDC laws and rules.
- In 2025, Nicolas Dunning spoke at the Charlie Kirk Memorial in Olympia, WA. Kirk advocated for a range of conservative positions, including opposition to abortion, gun control, DEI programs, and LGBTQIA+ rights.
- Nicolas Dunning kept West Coast Fitness Lacey and Total Nutrition Lacey open during the COVID-19 pandemic emergency orders.

Platform:

Nicolas Dunning has shared that he is running to address the Thurston County budget deficit, improve city / county government communication, bring business experience to the Board of County Commissioners, and create a better community for families.

Campaign Viability:

- Name recognition from running local businesses and serving on Lacey City Council
- Mainly self-funded
- Appears to be running with no support from either political party

Candidate Website: <https://www.electnicdunning.com/>

Candidate FB page: <https://www.facebook.com/electnicdunningforthurstoncounty>