

Note: This list is a starting point and not exhaustive of every local Black leader in the South Sound

- **Justice G. Helen Whitener**, First Black Woman on Washington Supreme Court, [appointed in 2020](#)
- **Jamila Thomas**, Chief of Staff to Governor Jay Inslee, was [appointed in 2020](#)
- **John Batiste**, Chief of the Washington State Patrol, [appointed in 2005](#)
- **Xavier T. Brunson**, I-Corps Commanding General, [appointed in 2021](#)
- **T'wina Nobles**, First Black Washington State Senator in 10 years – 28th LD, [elected in 2020](#)
- **Melanie Morgan**, Washington State Representative – 29th LD, [elected in 2019](#)
- **April Sims**, First Black Woman President for Washington State Labor Council (WSLC), [elected in 2022](#)
- **Cherika Carter**, Secretary-Treasurer for WSLC, [elected in 2022](#)
- **Judge TaTeasha Davis**, Pierce County Superior Court Judge, [appointed in 2022](#)
- **Judge Sabrina Ahrens**, Pierce County Superior Court Judge, [appointed in 2019](#)
- **Judge Joseph Evans**, Pierce County Superior Court Judge, [appointed in 2021](#)
- **Judge Clarence Henderson**, Pierce County Superior Court Judge, [appointed in 2020](#)
- **Judge Dwayne Christopher**, Pierce County District Court, [appointed in 2022](#)
- **Judge Karl Williams**, Pierce County District Court, [appointed in 2018](#)
- **Victoria Woodards**, Mayor of Tacoma, [elected in 2018](#)
- **Keith Blocker**, Tacoma City Council (Position 3), [elected in 2015](#)
- **Kiara Daniels**, Tacoma City Council (At-Large, Position 6), [elected in 2021](#)
- **Avery Moore**, Second Black Tacoma Police Chief, [appointed in 2021](#)
- **Toryono Green**, Tacoma Fire Chief, [appointed in 2019](#)
- **Aaron Pointer**, Metro Parks Commissioner, [since 2000](#)
- **Carla Santorno**, Former Tacoma School District Superintendent, [elected in 2012](#)
- **Korey Strozier**, Tacoma Public Schools Board of Directors (Vice President, Position 3), [appointed in 2020](#)
- **Chelsea McElroy**, Tacoma Public Schools Board of Directors (Position 4), [elected in 2021](#)
- **Bernadette Ray**, Principal of Silas High School, [began in 2018](#)
- **Ron Banner**, Clover Park School District Superintendent, [since 2019](#)
- **Nikki Bufford**, Fircrest City Council (Position 6), [elected in 2021](#)
- **Kent Keel**, University Place City Council (Position 2), [elected in 2021](#)
- **Mary Moss**, Lakewood Deputy Mayor, [elected in 2010](#)
- **Patrick Smith**, Lakewood Police Chief, [appointed in 2023](#)
- **Dee-Dee Gethers**, Fife City Council (Deputy Mayor, Position 2), [appointed in 2011](#)
- **Maame Bassaw**, DuPont City Council (Position 1), [elected in 2021](#)
- **Judge Sharonda Amamilo**, First Black Judge for Thurston County Superior Court, [appointed in 2020](#)
- **Derek Sanders**, First Black Thurston County Sheriff, [elected in 2023](#)
- **Malcolm Miller**, Lacey Deputy Mayor, [elected in 2020](#)
- **Dontae Payne**, First Black Man on Olympia City Council (Position 6), [elected in 2021](#)
- **Angela Jefferson**, Tumwater City Council (Position 2), [elected in 2021](#)
- **Peter Agabi**, Tumwater City Council (Position 6), [elected in 2022](#)
- **Dr. Sheila Edwards Lange**, Chancellor of the University of Washington – Tacoma, [appointed in 2021](#)
- **Dr. Isiaah Crawford**, First Black President of the University of Puget Sound, [appointed in 2016](#)
- **Dr. Ivan Harrell**, President of Tacoma Community College, [appointed in 2018](#)
- **Tara Lisa Perry**, CEO National Court Appointed Special Advocate, [elected in 2013](#)
- **Dona Ponepinto**, President and CEO of United Way of Pierce County, [joined in 2014](#)