

Wednesday, October 9, 2024



City of Olympia Boards and Commissions Committee Application

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION SUBMISSION

Friday, December 13th at 5:00 PM PST

Advisory committees are a structured way for individual community members to share their opinions and perspectives, study issues, and develop recommendations in a focused small group. Their primary purpose is to provide judicious advice, from a community member's perspective, to the Olympia City Council.

Committee activities may include study of critical issues, hearing public testimony, independent research, and reviewing staff reports and recommendations - all of which is intended so that the committee is prepared to discuss, formulate, and forward well-developed, thoughtful recommendations to the City Council in a timely manner.

The City of Olympia values participation from all perspectives and life experiences and looks for equity and inclusion in advisory board appointments.

To reduce barriers to community member participation, the City offers stipends of \$25 per meeting attended to Advisory Committee members. Those members who certify as low income are eligible to receive stipends of \$50 per meeting attended. Advisory Committee members may waive the stipend upon request.

The Olympia City Council's Community Livability and Public Safety Committee recommends appointments to the full Council. Recommendations are made following review of applications and interviews of qualified candidates.

All of this careful consideration takes time, please be aware that you will not be notified until February of 2025 of any next steps in the process.

The City of Olympia is committed to the non-discriminatory treatment of all persons in employment and the delivery of services and resources. Questions? Contact Dawn Carvalho, Executive Services Assistant, 360.753.8065, dcarvalh@ci.olympia.wa.us

If you saved or submitted an application and did not receive a confirmation, please check your spam folder. When filed with the City, your application and attachment documents are public records and may be subject to public release.

Name	Jeremy Ruse
Email	[REDACTED]
Primary Phone Number	[REDACTED]
Alternate Phone Number	[REDACTED]
Address	[REDACTED]

Some appointments require that applicants reside within Olympia city limits. Even though your mailing address may be Olympia, you may reside in the County or another jurisdiction. Are you a resident of the City of Olympia?

Yes

Select your residential area (Olympia residency is not required; however, it is a primary consideration.)

Westside

Which Boards and Commissions would you like to apply for?

Social Justice and Equity Commission

Interests & Experiences

Please keep answers concise and informative. You are introducing yourself to the Olympia City Council and sharing with them why you are interested in being considered for appointment. You may attach a resume.

Briefly describe why you wish to serve on this/these Advisory Committee(s).

As a long time resident of Thurston county, I recognize the diversity of our community and the importance of creating a welcome environment for everyone. I believe we would benefit greatly by focusing on youth programs that would engage, mentor, and develop strong community values for our future. I also believe we need to further develop community programs that bring people together, provide safe environments to focus less on differences, more on our lifes experiences.

Describe your experience, qualifications, and/or skills which would benefit the advisory committee(s) you are applying to.

I am a local business owner, in our company we work with a broad range of customers from the PNW region, this provides me a great opportunity to hear and understand others perspectives. I'm a great communicator and problem solver, I take a common sense approach to challenges, I believe in creating solutions and refining them as they evolve. I've been in leadership the past 22 years, I take a lot of pride in my ability to build up those around me.

Share the ways you've been involved or have volunteered in the community.

I've volunteered on the boards of the Black Hills Football Club and Olympia Cycling Club, I own/Operate a local business, thru our business we are actively involved in the Olympia Toy Run and try to support as many youth programs thru our philanthropy

List your educational and/or professional background and area of study.

I have a technical degree from SPSCC, I've attended Management training programs with Harley-Davidson and General Motors, I've developed business operations for new businesses and consulted for existing businesses to improve operational procedures and budget control.

Appointment to an advisory committee will require your attendance at evening meetings, and undertake other work (reading, meeting preparation etc.). How many hours per month are you willing to commit as a volunteer?

8-10

Question Applies to the Social Justice and Equity Commission: What is your understanding of, or experience in, issues related to social justice, human rights, racial and/or other forms of discrimination?

I grew up on the heels of the Civil Rights and Womens rights movements, in my lifetime I believed we were

making progress to reduce racism and bigotry, but unfortunately, the past few years have seen a decay in that progress. I don't support extremism, I believe that most citizens share the same challenges, I think we live in a society that would benefit from less sensationalism, a greater sense of community can reduce the division that we see.

Question Applies to the Social Justice and Equity Commission: What lived experiences or skill sets would you bring to the Commission?

I grew up as a military kid, I've lived around the country in diverse ethnic communities that were predominantly poor. My family is racially diverse, my life's experiences have enabled me to be successful because of the values I took from my family and the mentors I've had in my life. I believe I have the life skills and perspective to contribute, I've been blessed in life and it's very important to me that I give back to our community, I have a strong work ethic and would take that approach with this

Question Applies to the Social Justice and Equity Commission: Describe a time when you experienced a personal bias and how you worked through that bias; or describe a time when you worked with someone with different viewpoints than yours and how you worked through those differences?

My Grandfather was a Southern Baptist Minister and extremely racist, as a child of latino descent, it was difficult for me during my teen years to understand his perspectives. As I've grown older, I've realized to appreciate life experiences, I believe that very few people are truly hateful, I think we all are reflections of our environments. I've found that finding common ground and Listening to hear, instead of waiting to speak, carries a huge amount of importance in life if you expect growth and progression.

Question Applies to the Social Justice and Equity Commission: Describe what a "just and equitable Olympia for all people" looks or feels like to you and how would you include all marginalized people into this vision.

I believe too much emphasis is put into isolating groups and identifying those in need, if we can build a stronger sense of community that provides opportunities that are inclusive, we can organically grow past a lot of the challenges that we face. Too many people harbor ill will because of ignorance or a sense of exclusion, we need to focus on the community as a whole, people will naturally grow together if provided the opportunity, they simply need guidance

If you are not appointed to a Board or Commission at this time:

Do you wish to be considered for appointment to another Board or Commission?

No

Do you wish to be considered for future appointment to your preferred Board or Commission?

Yes

Thank you for your interest in serving on a City of Olympia Advisory Committee!

Please hit the "submit" button below when you have completed your application .