



Meeting Agenda

City Council

City Hall
601 4th Avenue E
Olympia, WA 98501

Information: 360.753.8244

Tuesday, January 5, 2021

5:30 PM

Online and via phone

Special Meeting

Attend: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84342197591>

1. ROLL CALL

1.A ANNOUNCEMENTS

2. BUSINESS ITEMS

2.A [21-0030](#) Overview and Approval of Ranked Choice Voting Process for the Purpose of Appointing a Councilmember to Fill the Unexpired Term of Position 2

2.B [21-0022](#) Interview Candidates, Conduct a Ranked Choice Voting Process and Appoint a Councilmember to Fill the Unexpired Term of Position 2

Attachments: [Applications](#)

3. ADJOURNMENT

The City of Olympia is committed to the non-discriminatory treatment of all persons in employment and the delivery of services and resources. If you require accommodation for your attendance at the City Council meeting, please contact the Council's Executive Assistant at 360.753.8244 at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting. For hearing impaired, please contact us by dialing the Washington State Relay Service at 7-1-1 or 1.800.833.6384.



City Council

Overview and Approval of Ranked Choice Voting Process for the Purpose of Appointing a Councilmember to Fill the Unexpired Term of Position 2

Agenda Date: 1/5/2021
Agenda Item Number: 2.A
File Number:21-0030

Type: decision **Version:** 1 **Status:** Other Business

Title

Overview and Approval of Ranked Choice Voting Process for the Purpose of Appointing a Councilmember to Fill the Unexpired Term of Position 2

Recommended Action

Committee Recommendation:

Not referred to a committee.

City Manager Recommendation:

Receive an overview of, and move to accept, the process of Ranked Choice voting for the purpose of appointing a Councilmember to fill the City Council Position 2 vacancy.

Report

Issue:

Whether to receive an overview of, and move to accept, the process of Ranked Choice voting for the purpose of appointing a Councilmember to fill the City Council Position 2 vacancy.

Staff Contact:

Susan Grisham, Executive Assistant, 360.753.8244

Presenter(s):

Mary Hall, Thurston County Auditor

Background and Analysis:

In October 2020, Councilmembers passed a resolution expressing support for Ranked Choice voting. When planning began to fill the Council Position 2 vacancy, several Councilmembers expressed interest in using Ranked Choice voting to assist with the process of appointing a new Councilmember.

What is Ranked-Choice voting? The voter ranks the candidates in the order preferred to them: First choice, Second choice, Third choice, and so on. If the voters top pick cannot win, their vote counts

for their next choice.

How are the ballots counted?

- If a candidate receives a majority (more than half) of the first-choice votes, that candidate wins, just like any other election.
- If there is no majority winner after counting first choices, then the candidate with the fewest votes is eliminated. Any voter who picked the eliminated candidate as their “number one” will have their vote count for their next choice.
- The process continues until one candidate receives a majority of votes in the final round.

If approved by the City Council and at the conclusion of interviews of seven candidates, the selection process will be administered by Thurston County Auditor Mary Hall and Chris Mason of FairVote Washington. Lisa Ayrault, Executive Director of FairVote Washington will also be present.

The ballot, designed by County Auditor Hall, will contain the name of each candidate in alphabetical order by last name. There will be space for each Councilmember to write their name and sign their ballot.

Mayor Selby will open the voting, and each Councilmember, while on camera, will rank all the candidates in the order of their preference, 1 - 7, by filling in a circle on the ballot. After the Councilmembers have completed their ballots, Mayor Selby will announce that voting has closed. Councilmembers, who will each be stationed in a separate room within City Hall to adhere to social distancing guidelines, will return their ballot using the envelope provided and one by one place it in the blue drop box that will be located in the Council Chambers. Once all the ballots have been placed in the ballot box, Mayor Selby will close the voting.

County Auditor Hall will then open ballots and verify signatures against the signature in the County's voter registration database. Tabulation will be conducted and narrated by Chris Mason and displayed on screen. The tally will be manual using an excel spreadsheet.

Once the tabulation has been completed, County Auditor Hall will announce a winner, and Council would need to move to accept and appoint the winner to Council Position 2.

Ranked-Choice Voting Rules for Tabulation:

1. If a candidate receives a majority (more than half) of the first-choice votes, that candidate wins.
2. If no candidate receives a majority of votes in a given round of counting, then the candidate with the fewest votes is eliminated.
3. A Councilmember's vote will be counted for the candidate that they ranked highest who has not been eliminated.
4. Tabulation will continue in rounds until a candidate receives a majority of votes in that round.

Tiebreaking:

Because small group elections are prone to ties, some additional rules will be used for this election.

1. We will use the Average Ranking to break ties.
 - The Average Ranking for each candidate is the sum of the rankings given to that

candidate by each voter, divided by the number of voters.

- All voters must rank all 7 candidates in order to have the correct Average Rankings
2. If there is a tie for which candidate to eliminate, the candidate with the largest Average Ranking (lowest overall preference) will be eliminated.
 3. If the Average Ranking values are also the same for tied candidates, then the candidate to eliminate is selected by lot.
 4. Elimination by Lot will be determined by using a six-sided die.

Neighborhood/Community Interests (if known):

The community has an interest in who will fill vacant Council Position 2.

Options:

1. Receive the briefing and move to accept the Ranked Choice voting process to determine a candidate to fill Council Position 2.
2. Receive the briefing and use a different process to determine a candidate to full Position 2.
3. Do not receive the briefing and do not determine a candidate to fill Council Position 2.

Financial Impact:

N/A

Attachments:

None



City Council

Interview Candidates, Conduct a Ranked Choice Voting Process and Appoint a Councilmember to Fill the Unexpired Term of Position 2

Agenda Date: 1/5/2021
Agenda Item Number: 2.B
File Number: 21-0022

Type: decision **Version:** 1 **Status:** Other Business

Title

Interview Candidates, Conduct a Ranked Choice Voting Process and Appoint a Councilmember to Fill the Unexpired Term of Position 2

Recommended Action

Committee Recommendation:

Not referred to committee

City Manager Recommendation:

Conduct interviews of candidates, conduct a ranked choice voting process and move to appoint a Councilmember to fill the unexpired term of Council Position 2.

Report

Issue:

Whether to select a new Councilmember to fill the unexpired term of Position 2, which was vacated by Jessica Bateman after her election to the State Legislature during the November General Election. Per State law, the City Council has 90 days to fill the vacancy.

Staff Contact:

Kellie Purce Braseth, Strategic Communications Director, Executive, 360.753.8361

Background and Analysis:

Mayor Pro Tem Jessica Bateman vacated Council Position 2 on December 31, 2020, following her election to the State Legislature in the November General Elections. Per State law, the City Council has 90 days to fill the vacancy.

Nearly 30 applications were received for the vacancy. Following a screening process, Council approved seven applicants to be interviewed in a panel format. The applicants are:

- Kento Azegami
- Tracey Carlos
- Holly Davies

- Yen Huynh
- Robbi Kesler
- Dontae Payne
- Maria Siguenza

Neighborhood/Community Interests (If Known):

The large number of applications received for the vacancy reflects a robust interest in the community about the selection of the new Councilmember.

Options:

1. Conduct interviews of candidates, conduct a ranked choice voting process and move to appoint a Councilmember to fill the unexpired term of Council position 2.
2. Conduct interviews of candidates and do not select a Councilmember from the group of applicants. This would create a delay in filling the vacancy would be delayed. Staff would need guidance on next steps.
3. Do not conduct interviews to select a Councilmember for Council Position 2. This would create a delay in filling the vacancy. Per statute, the City Council has 90 days to fill the vacancy or the responsibility to appoint moves to the Thurston County Commission.

Financial Impact:

N/A

Attachments:

Applications

Application for City of Olympia Council Position #2

About the position

The Olympia City Council is accepting applications for Councilmember Position #2. The term for Position #2 ends December 31, 2023. The appointee will serve, until the November 2021 General Election results are certified.

To serve out the remainder of the term, the appointee will have to be elected to the position in the General Election.

The current annual stipend for Olympia Council Position #2 is \$21,918, paid semi-monthly on the 5th and 20th.

Residency and other minimum requirements apply.

How to apply

In support of Governor Inslee's current COVID restrictions, Olympia City Hall is closed to the public. All application materials must be submitted electronically.

To be considered, this online application must be completed and submitted, along with all required attachments, **no later than 4 p.m. on Friday, December 11, 2020.**

Required attachments:

- Cover letter indicating your interest and general qualifications for the position
- Proof of voter registration, such as a copy of your voter registration card or online voter registration record
- City limits map with your residence clearly marked
- Resumé

On December 15, 2020, the City Council will review applications and finalize the selection process, including interview dates. Councilmembers have tentatively reserved Tuesday, January 5, 2021, and Wednesday January 6, 2021, for applicant interviews.

The appointee is expected to participate in the City Council's annual goal-setting retreat on January 8-9, 2021.

Need help?

For further information or if you have special needs, please contact the Council's Executive Assistant, Susan Grisham at sgrisham@ci.olympia.wa.us or 360.753.8447.

Notice

Once this application is filed with the City, it is a public record. The application form, resumé and supplemental answers received from all candidates who meet the minimum requirements of State law will be posted on the City of Olympia website for public viewing.

To be appointed to the Olympia City Council, an individual must have resided within the Olympia City limits for a minimum of one year at the time of assuming office, be a registered voter at the time of application, be 18 years of age or over, and not be a City of Olympia employee at the time of appointment. These are the same minimum requirements that apply per State law to elected Councilmembers (RCW 35A.12.030).

State law prohibits anyone convicted of a felony from holding elective public office. The City will conduct a criminal background check on all candidates.

Applicants will be considered regardless of race, color, creed, national origin, ancestry, sex, marital status, disability, religious or political affiliation, age, gender, sexual orientation, medical condition, or pregnancy. The City encourages individuals of all backgrounds to apply, including people of color, immigrants, refugees, women, LGBTQ, people with disabilities, veterans, and those with diverse life experiences, etc.

Applicant Information

Name Kento Azegami

Residence Address
Olympia, WA, 98501

Phone Number

Email

Are you a registered voter of the City of Olympia? (You must attach proof of voter registration) ☒ Yes

Are you a resident of the City of Olympia? (You must attach a City limits map with your residence clearly marked) ☒ Yes

How long have you been a resident of the City of Olympia? 7 years

How long have you lived at your current address? 1 year

Responsibilities

Appointment to the Olympia City Council will require your attendance at numerous regularly scheduled and special meetings that occur in the evening, on weekends, and during the weekday. City Council meetings are usually held weekly on Tuesday evenings, often from 7-10 p.m. or later. During the Governor's Stay Home, Stay Healthy Order, the Council meetings begin at 5:30 on the Zoom platform.

Councilmembers also serve on Council Committees, represent the Council on numerous regional and intergovernmental boards and commissions, and attend various community functions.

Councilmember activity usually requires a minimum of 15-20 hours per week per person, sometimes more.

Are you able to commit this amount of time and arrange your schedule to fully participate as a member of the Olympia City Council?

Yes

Supplemental Questions

Why are you interested in serving as an Olympia City Councilmember?

First and foremost, I want to be a strong voice for Downtown. Most all civic conversations we have lately involve in one way or another my neighborhood - but those conversations continue to be dominated by people who go home to their neighborhoods at the end of the day. As a Downtown resident, homeowner, employee, small business owner, and pedestrian, I have a vested interest and fierce desire to speak out for my neighborhood and what it needs.

Olympians deserve to see themselves in government. Unfortunately, too many Olympians don't, and I want to change that. As conversations unfolded in 2020 over racial justice and representation, I hope to join that discussion as the first Indigenous member of the City Council. With too many of our residents affected by rising rents, I look forward to representing them by serving as the only member of the City Council with roommates.

With the limited term length and immediate appearance on the ballot, it will be important that the next City Councilmember be able to hit the ground running. On the Planning Commission, I've built extensive experience in reviewing ordinances and capital facilities plans. Having been in the rooms where conversations have started, I'll be able to smoothly join them as the newest member of the City Council.

By profession, I'm a marketer. I know the importance of telling a good story, in order to get people on board and bring them together. We're at a very exciting time in our city, where we've built so much and are primed to create even more Olympia. However, City government right now seems to struggle to tell these stories. I want to help. I want to put my skills to use for my City. There's so much to talk about, and I can't wait to get started.

The pandemic has been a rollercoaster for small businesses, to say the least. As a Downtown small business owner, I've been directly dealing with the challenges the private sector is facing. The people who are facing a problem are the best experts on how to solve that problem. I want to make sure this perspective isn't lost as we work to bring people back to Downtown.

What are the three highest priorities you believe the City needs to address? How would you propose to address these issues?

The highest priority the City can address is homelessness. In my current job at a homeless social service nonprofit, I've seen how the system works and what it can be. It's true that without significant regional partnerships, or federal action like fully funding Section 8, we won't be able to fully and completely end homelessness as we know it. That's not an excuse to throw up our hands and wait for those things to come. Even though this is a county-level responsibility, there are actions we can take at the City that will have tangible and immediate effects. We can bond out Home Fund money to increase how much is available for construction of permanent supportive housing. We can leverage provisions of the Home Fund to offer short-term rental assistance to Olympians experiencing homelessness, partnering with local nonprofits and giving them the support they deserve.

We won't address homelessness without progress on housing affordability. As a long time renter here, I've watched first hand what it's like when rent gets out of hand. As Olympia artificially reduced the number of homes being constructed below natural demand, rent and home purchase prices started skyrocketing in the mid-2010s. While we've begun to reverse the tide through new construction and important changes to zoning, we'll need to accelerate the rate of construction in order to get ahead of the curve. The next steps here include ending minimum parking requirements and reimagining impact fees. We can also take a more active role by acquiring blighted properties such as the former Capital City Studios building on 4th Avenue, and reselling them with covenants to build either subsidized or unsubsidized homes.

To address climate change, we need to reimagine our transportation system. Walkability has been a priority for years to improve the livability of our town. We'll need to take different actions in different parts of town to make this happen. In Downtown, we should continue the conversation about building a municipal parking garage. This lets us remove on-street parking, opening room for sidewalks to be widened on 4th Avenue and other streets. Outside of Downtown, we must reopen and seriously commit building out Neighborhood Retail. Regardless of the width or number of shade trees, a neighborhood is not walkable if there's no destination to walk to. We can't reasonably expect people to walk 5 miles to a grocery store. We should adopt policies to encourage more neighborhoods to become 15 minute neighborhoods, with an end goal that by 2040 75% of Olympia residents can walk no more than 15 minutes to a grocery store, a restaurant, and one other distinctive neighborhood business. We're going to take the first step with the draft Transportation Management Plan, and I'm excited to continue that journey.

Please list your past community involvement (such as organizations, boards, commissions, and volunteerism), your role, and the dates of service. Address the relevance of your community involvement to the position of Olympia City Councilmember.

My most relevant experience comes from my service on the Olympia Planning Commission. Beginning service in 2018, I served as Vice-Chair in 2019 and Finance Subcommittee Chair in 2020. On the Planning Commission, I learned how to face difficult community conversations, ensure everyone is meaningfully heard, and make tough decisions. My service there has shown me firsthand how City processes work, which will let me hit the ground running as a new City Councilmember.

I'm most proud about my service as President of the Downtown Neighborhood Association, where I served from January of 2018 to January of 2020. One of the most important things a City Councilmember can do is stay connected to the people they represent, and that's what I did as President. In my term, we tripled neighborhood involvement through effective outreach, and collaboratively built a coherent agenda that we advocated for to the City Council. This helped more people become familiar with City processes and outcomes, improving civic life in our town.

To that end, I'm also proud of my leadership with the Thurston County Young Democrats, where I served as Chair in 2017 and 2020. In this, I led a diverse group of youth under 36 to find common cause and enact significant change. I worked on drafting bylaws and governance procedures and introduced more people to the significance of local politics. I don't think anyone can serve on the City Council without a firm belief in the importance and primacy of local government, and in the Young Democrats I've shown my belief in that every day.

What are your impressions of Olympia's Comprehensive Plan and/or other City-wide policy document and their goals and policies?

I'm really excited by the draft Transportation Management Plan, and look forward to being a part of its adoption. Uniquely, compared to most other cities' transportation plans, this Plan evaluates itself on moving people instead of automobiles. It recognizes that past transportation infrastructure has been almost entirely built around cars. The goals and projects in the draft Plan will begin to end car dependency and return us to a more traditional form of development.

While the Comprehensive Plan can seem schizophrenic at times, in reading and rereading it I've come to appreciate its ability to capture Olympia's hopes and fears. While we know the steps we want to take, spoken to by the Plan's call to improve walkability, such as Transportation 2.8's call for bulb-outs at pedestrian crossings, it also speaks to our fears about what change can bring, such as Land Use 20.1's directive to make new development match existing nearby buildings. As exasperating as it can be sometimes, I think that it's important to make sure all of these voices are heard so that everyone can feel like they contributed to the conversation.

I think that the Comprehensive Plan, though, can and should clarify and solidify a single vision for our city. Conversations and disagreements are important, but the Plan is a governing document. We place roadblocks in front of ourselves when we put competing priorities in the same document, such as Land Use 20.1 and Land Use 16.4, dispersing low income housing across the city. Although it will be hard, I think that the next Comprehensive Plan must make those hard choices to get to a coherent vision for our City.

Describe a time you saw a problem in the community. What was your approach to addressing the problem? How did you implement your approach and what was the outcome?

In 2019, Downtown residents began bringing their concerns about Airbnb to me as President of the Downtown Neighborhood Association (DNA). Specifically, they complained about apartments in 123 4th being redirected to Airbnb. I found this outrageous, given that there are already two hotels Downtown and we have a severe housing shortage in Olympia. At our Winter 2019 meeting, I opened a space for Downtown residents to share their stories and talk about what they wanted to have happen. The biggest takeaway was that 123 4th residents wanted to make sure that only people who lived there had access to their building, not tourists. We also resolved that we should find tangible and substantial ways to stop Airbnb in 123 4th and prevent it in the future. From this direction, I researched and found that 123 4th benefited from the Multifamily Property Tax Exemption. I proposed that the City cancel 123 4th's participation in the MFTE, and the DNA agreed. From this direction, I authored and the DNA authorized the Fourth and Columbia Demand, calling on the City Council to act. While it began with outrage at big corporations, I helped focus our neighborhood will into immediate and effective action. This turned out to be the right approach. Within two months of our Demand, City staff came back with their expertise and concluded that what we were reporting was already illegal, and moved to informal enforcement. Today, to my knowledge no more apartments in 123 4th are on Airbnb.

In the midst of the pandemic and economic crisis, issues of race and social justice have risen to the forefront nationwide and in the Olympia community. What do you see as the challenges for our community in addressing these issues and how would you propose to address them?

Racial reconciliation and social justice begin with sustained intergroup interaction. Unfortunately, zoning decisions in Olympia have blocked too many historically disadvantaged people from moving into our small city. It is not a historical accident that Lacey's neighborhoods and schools are more racially diverse than Olympia's are. While we can pass a myriad of resolutions and ordinances until the cows come home, we will not be able to fundamentally make progress until we make room for people of color to move in. In our small city, we started with racial housing covenants. We followed this up in the '80s with removing the R-D zone and introducing the predecessor to the R-4-8 zone, which artificially inflated the minimum lot size, putting homeownership and neighborhood residence out of the reach of more people across most of the land in Olympia. While the Housing Options Code Amendments have started to move the needle, we will not be able to make significant progress until we adopt Obama Administration HUD recommendations such as eliminating parking minimums and establishing by right zoning. On the City Council, I look forward to advocating for these proposals and more.

This appointment is effective for about 10 months. What do you wish to accomplish during this appointed term as an Olympia City Councilmember?

In 2018, I led the Thurston County Young Democrats to throw our collective will and force behind the Home Fund, a modest sales tax increase to build permanent supportive housing. We did this because we believed in the promise to voters we were making via the Home Fund. Two years later, it feels like we're still making baby steps towards realizing that promise. I hope in this term to identify and

advocate to remove inefficient processes that slow the building of permanent supportive housing.

I also look forward to expanding the number of pre-approved building plans. The City of Lacey has advanced this conversation first by adopting pre-approved ADU plans. I look forward to working with Community Planning and Development staff, the Planning Commission, the Design Review Board, the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee, and builders to adopt similar pre-approved plans for more kinds of homes.

Required Attachments

Cover Letter



cover letter - cc.pdf

Resumé



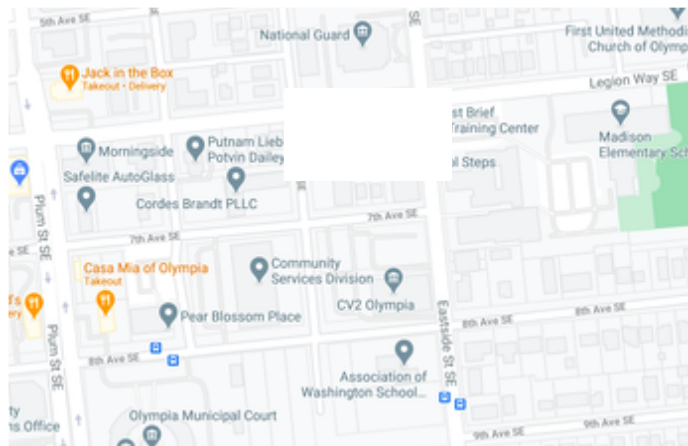
Resume.pdf

Proof of Voter Registration



Registration Details.pdf

Residence Map



Sign and Submit

Signature

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kent A. 38'.

Date Signed

Thursday, December 10, 2020

December 10th, 2020

Dear Olympia City Councilmembers,

It is with great excitement and hope for the future that I apply to be appointed to the Olympia City Council. My breadth of experience, drive to represent Downtown, desire to serve, and pride in our City and our future make me a uniquely qualified candidate for this important position.

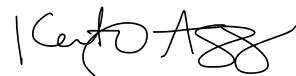
I honestly cannot think of any other position I want to serve in besides City Councilmember. While many people find issues such as sewers and sidewalks incredibly boring, I find inspiration and excitement. They are important to take care of precisely because most people think of them in the background - when nobody's complaining, you're doing a good job. Land use is one of the biggest ways that people's lives can be changed, through access to housing and all the other things people need to get to for their daily lives. On the Planning Commission, I saw firsthand just how important these things are to our town, and I will keep that in mind on the City Council.

We've got so much to be proud of here. While it's faced challenges, I can't imagine living in any other neighborhood besides Downtown Olympia. I'm incredibly lucky that most all of my life can be had in this one wonderful neighborhood. We've got so many people moving in, and I want to make sure that Downtown residents new and old have a voice that will speak out for them.

Although we've come so far, there's work to be done, and I'm ready to roll up my sleeves and get to work. Too many of my neighbors continue to experience homelessness. I've spent the past couple of my years working in homeless social services, and I want to bring that knowledge to the City Council to make further progress in ending homelessness as we know it. Within a regional partnership, Olympia can and should lead the way - and I look forward to being a part of that.

Thank you for your consideration. I hope to be granted the opportunity to serve this City I love and the people I get to share it with.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kento Azegami', with a stylized, cursive script.

Kento Azegami

Kento Azegami

Olympia, Washington 98501

1

Employment

Olympia Gear Exchange / Owner

2020—present

Directed marketing for a small Downtown Olympia business.

SideWalk / Development Director

2018—present

Directed fundraising, marketing, and volunteer recruitment at a small nonprofit social service agency. Increased fundraising by 38% in one year. Strengthened social media presence to achieve success in crowdfunding campaigns.

Office of Governor Jay Inslee / Caseworker, Constituent Services

2017—2018

Responded to constituent email and telephone calls for an executive elected official. Handled complex situations with grace and empathy. Routed constituent concerns to the appropriate agency and oversaw official response.

Jay Inslee for Washington / Field Organizer

2016

While self-directed, organized a volunteer-driven campaign over a 3,000 sq. mile area as part of a statewide election campaign. Supervised a political campaign field office.

Macy's / Beauty Sales Advisor

2008—2016, Olympia, Wash; Bloomington and Minneapolis, Minn.

Customer service and sales to a diverse clientele at a national department store. Built and maintained customer-client relationships to drive sales. Over 5 years, sold over \$1.1 million worth of cosmetics. Assigned to train new hires in sales techniques and product knowledge.

Volunteer Work

Thurston County Young Democrats / Chair

2017, 2020

Rebuilt a local chapter of the Young Democrats of Washington. Successfully quadrupled meeting attendance. Organized core members to become volunteer field staff to a city council race and a ballot initiative.

Olympia Planning Commission / Vice-Chair, Finance Chair

2018—present

Collaborated with others to examine proposed ordinances related to land use and capital budgets and advise the Olympia City Council accordingly .

Olympia Downtown Neighborhood Association / President

2017—2019

Organized an urban neighborhood association to become a center for activism. Led two campaigns that successfully changed city policy in housing and land use.

Stonewall DFL / At-Large Director

2009, Minneapolis, Minn.

Served on the board of directors of the LGBTQ caucus of the Minnesota Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party.

College Democrats of Portland State University / President

2006—2007, Portland, Ore.

Strengthened a local chapter of the Oregon Federation of College Democrats. Developed voter engagement programs to boost voter turnout in civic and student elections at a large commuter university.

Education

The Evergreen State College / Bachelors of Arts, Liberal Arts

2013—2017

Minneapolis Community and Technical College

2010—2013, Minneapolis, Minn.

Portland State University

2004—2008, Portland, Ore.

West Anchorage High School / High School Diploma

2000—2004, Anchorage, Alaska.

Current Election ▼

Voters' Guide

Voting Centers

My Ballot ▼

Online Ballot

Ballot Status

Voter Registration

My Elected Officials

My Notices

Voting History

Logout

Voter Registration Details

Personal Information

KENTO GILES AZEGAMI

Residential Address

OLYMPIA, WA 98501

Mailing Address

OLYMPIA, WA 98501

Registration Date

09/30/2013

Registration Status

Active

County

Thurston

Precinct Name

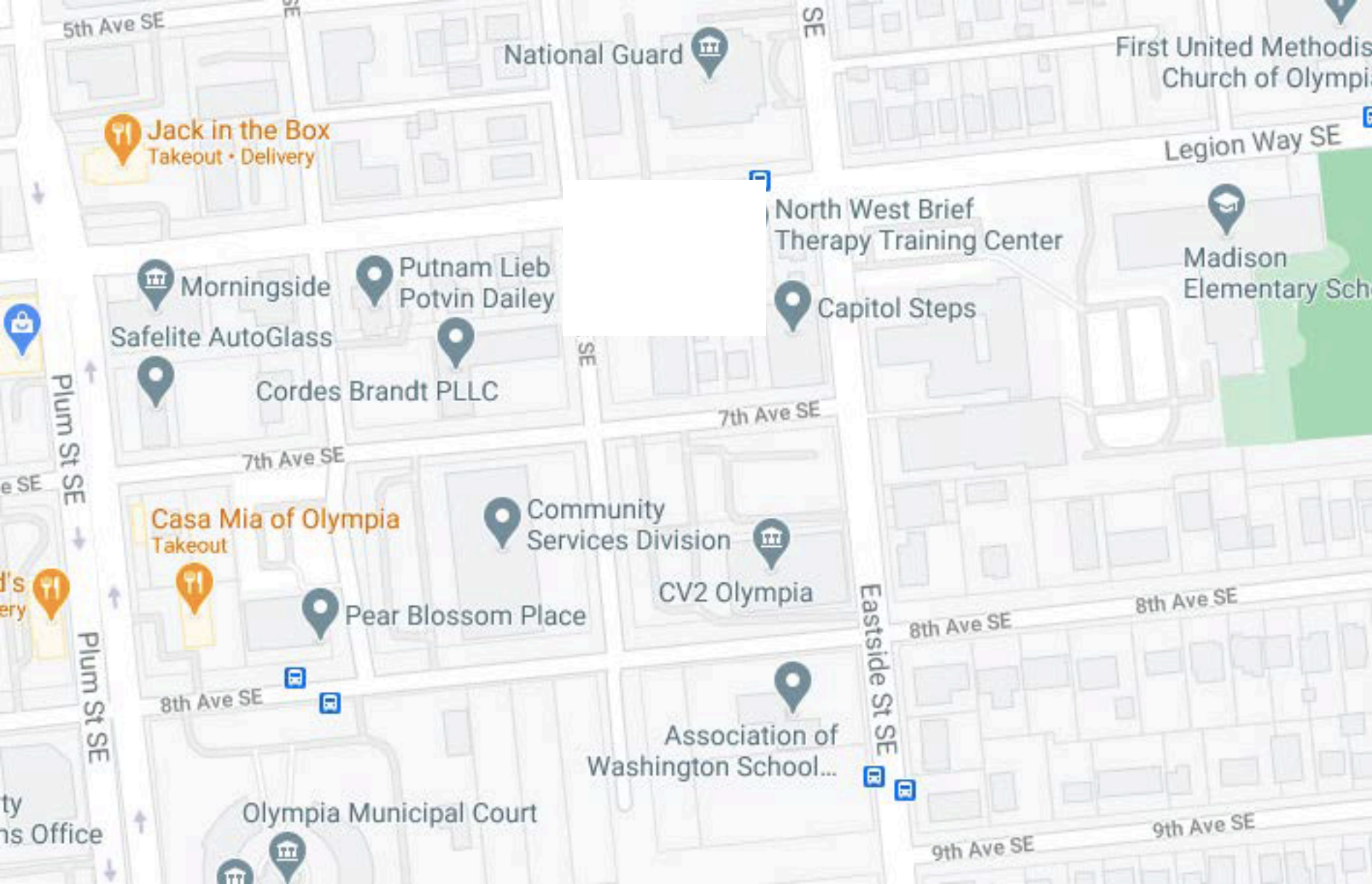
Olympia 15 (0215.0)

County Information

Thurston County Elections

360-786-5408

elections@co.thurston.wa.us<http://thurstonvotes.org>[Update my name or address](#)[This is not me](#)



5th Ave SE

National Guard

First United Methodist
Church of Olympi

Jack in the Box
Takeout • Delivery

Legion Way SE

North West Brief
Therapy Training Center

Madison
Elementary Sch

Morningside

Putnam Lieb
Potvin Dailey

Capitol Steps

Safelite AutoGlass

Cordes Brandt PLLC

7th Ave SE

7th Ave SE

Casa Mia of Olympia
Takeout

Community
Services Division

CV2 Olympia

Pear Blossom Place

8th Ave SE

8th Ave SE

8th Ave SE

Association of
Washington School...

Eastside St SE

9th Ave SE

9th Ave SE

Olympia Municipal Court

Application for City of Olympia Council Position #2

About the position

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To be appointed to the Olympia City Council, an individual must have resided within the Olympia City limits for a minimum of one year at the time of assuming office, be a registered voter at the time of application, be 18 years of age or over, and not be a City of Olympia employee at the time of appointment. These are the same minimum requirements that apply per State law to elected Councilmembers (RCW 35A.12.030).

State law prohibits anyone convicted of a felony from holding elective public office. The City will conduct a criminal background check on all candidates.

Applicants will be considered regardless of race, color, creed, national origin, ancestry, sex, marital status, disability, religious or political affiliation, age, gender, sexual orientation, medical condition, or pregnancy. The City encourages individuals of all backgrounds to apply, including people of color, immigrants, refugees, women, LGBTQ, people with disabilities, veterans, and those with diverse life experiences, etc.

Applicant Information

Name Tracey Carlos

Residence Address
Olympia, Wa, 98506

Phone Number

Email

Are you a registered voter of the City of Olympia? (You must attach proof of voter registration) ☒ Yes

Are you a resident of the City of Olympia? (You must attach a City limits map with your residence clearly marked) ☒ Yes

How long have you been a resident of the City of Olympia? 10 years 9 months

How long have you lived at your current address? 10 years 9 months

Responsibilities

Appointment to the Olympia City Council will require your attendance at numerous regularly scheduled and special meetings that occur in the evening, on weekends, and during the weekday. City Council meetings are usually held weekly on Tuesday evenings, often from 7-10 p.m. or later. During the Governor's Stay Home, Stay Healthy Order, the Council meetings begin at 5:30 on the Zoom platform.

Councilmembers also serve on Council Committees, represent the Council on numerous regional and intergovernmental boards and commissions, and attend various community functions.

Councilmember activity usually requires a minimum of 15-20 hours per week per person, sometimes more.

Are you able to commit this amount of time and arrange your schedule to fully participate as a member of the Olympia City Council?

Yes

Supplemental Questions

Why are you interested in serving as an Olympia City Councilmember?

I moved to Olympia because my, now ex-wife, and I were looking for a safe place to live. She is transgender and where we live it was not safe for her to transition to living as her authentic self. We researched Olympia online and concluded we could safely build a life here. I fell in love with this community at our first event, Procession of the Species, just a couple short weeks after we arrived.

I want to help keep the magic I felt when we moved here and make it even better. I want BIPOC and LGBTQ+ people to all feel the magic of feeling like they have found a safe harbor. I also want to help with the also vital big picture issues that most take for granted that make that feeling like expanding on the intercity transit improvements, parks, the downtown businesses and art. As someone who has lived in several different parts of the country I can understand and appreciate these things.

What are the three highest priorities you believe the City needs to address? How would you propose to address these issues?

The three biggest concerns, in my mind, are climate change, houselessness, and community division. All three are national issues that need some focus at the local level as well.

For climate change I would like to focus on lowering carbon creation and dealing with the rising sea level here in Olympia. There has been a lot of new construction of apartments, and encouragement of building ADUs and I would like to find ways to incentivize green buildings with no natural gas usage, solar panel roofs and other improvements.

Houselessness needs to be a regional issue. With the concentration of the houseless community in Olympia's downtown an environment has developed that is unsafe for both those that are street dependent and those wanting to go to our downtown businesses. We need both short-term and long-term solutions including mitigation sites throughout Thurston County along our bus lines, near where services are. The community on Ensign Rd is the perfect example of the houseless community finding their own solutions for making sure they have access to their doctors near a bus line so they can get to other community services as well.

I think, in some ways, community division will be the hardest thing to tackle. There are fewer obvious solutions to this problem, but it is, in some ways, the most dangerous problem of all. We see it in the violent clashes like the one that occurred on December 5th but also in the rising tensions and fear in our community. We hear it in the public comments at city council meetings. Events that we have not been able to partake in this past year can go a long way toward bridging the divide. We need to find common ground again. I would like to see us try to have online social/learning events or outdoor socially distant opportunities/games, weather permitting, until COVID has passed then start adding events back onto our calendar that bring our community together.

Please list your past community involvement (such as organizations, boards, commissions, and volunteerism), your role, and the dates of service. Address the relevance of your community involvement to the position of Olympia City Councilmember.

Partners in Prevention Education (PiPE) – August 2017-Present

As the Secretary of the Executive Board for PiPE I have learned a great deal about the issues facing our houseless community. This knowledge will help me on council to empathize with those that are houseless and/or street dependent. It has shown me the variety of issues the houseless community faces which can help in understanding which types of services might help get people into homes or at least more stable lives.

Thurston County Democrats (TCD) August 2016-Present

The local Democratic party discusses community issues and writes resolutions that they bring to the state party as well as our legislature. It has taught me how to organize, how our local and state government functions and who to go to for different issues. Through my volunteering with TCD I have gotten to know many community leaders and learn about many other community volunteer organizations.

WFSE Local 443 – 2016-Present

I have been a member of my union for 10 years but only became active with them in 2016 thanks to the encouragement of TCD members that were involved. Through my union I have learned more about labor history and the importance of working together towards the goals that will protect our members. I have been a member of the Political Action Committee as well as participating in lobby day and phone banking events with AFCME Council 28. Through AFCME, I have taken classes on how to follow bills to help them get passed (or not).

Rainbow Alliance & Inclusion Network (RAIN) LGBTQ+ Business Resource Group – January 2017-Present

RAIN works on best practices for state employees and our customers. We also have worked on the Safe Place program, helping get it used on the Capitol Campus and Tumwater Police Department. I assisted with writing the original organization charter as well as the election process for our group leadership. As RAIN got more into the work a subgroup was created for communications. In April 2018 I was made chair of this subgroup and we created a quarterly newsletter. We also scheduled monthly guest speakers and ice breakers for our meetings. Communications was combined with the Outreach subgroup and as the work grew, we got a co-chair as well. This past August I stepped down as co-chair so that I had fewer meetings to attend and am focused on editing and publishing the quarterly newsletter. This was due to an expansion of work responsibilities on my day-to-day job as all of this is during normal business hours. RAIN has helped me learn how to be a leader and better delegate work. It has also helped me learn more about DEI issues and organizations that help the LGBTQ+ community throughout our state. As being part of the LGBTQ+ community is intersectional with other marginalized groups I have also had the privilege to work with some other business resource groups to better understand how we can better serve our customers and our own needs.

What are your impressions of Olympia's Comprehensive Plan and/or other City-wide policy document and their goals and policies?

Reviewing the Olympia Comprehensive Plan, I did not note any particular surprises. I was happy to see that much that was in there went along with what I see the city already doing. I did note a need to address equity issues as the city grows. If we are going to fix the mistakes in the past brought by redlining and other segregation issues we need to look at each section of the plan to see where we have failed to address diversity. Zoning laws, climate plans, parks, public health, the economy and public serves all need to be reviewed with an equity lens. One simple change would be to remove coded phrasing like character of a neighborhood from the plan.

I think the planned diversity commission would be a great group to review the comprehensive plan as well as other city policy documents for coded phrases and issues that cause the community to be less welcoming to marginalized groups. My experience with RAIN, mentioned above, shows that setting up a Best Practices group can help look at what is working in other communities and see what, of those things, might work here in Olympia.

Describe a time you saw a problem in the community. What was your approach to addressing

the problem? How did you implement your approach and what was the outcome?

As a LGBTQ+ activist I have seen the damage that misgendering a person can cause. Through RAIN, we have worked to normalize introducing ourselves at meetings with our name and pronouns as well as using it in our signature line for emails and letters.

A few years ago I went to a hearing at the capitol about laws in our state about bathroom usage. I was horrified by the number of people bused in from around the state to advocate against this law. When I heard that the Department of Licensing was planning hearings for allowing Gender X on driver's licenses I feared the same kind of negative response from the state. With that I used my social media presence to advertise the hearing at all three locations around the state and set up a Facebook event inviting members of the community to the hearing here in Olympia. I invited many leaders in the LGBTQ+ community to the hearing to give testimony. I was gratified to see dozens of people show up, including State Representative Beth Doglio. Representative Doglio gave testimony in favor of the change and submitted a letter to the committee from the LGBTQ+ Legislative Caucus as well. In her testimony she credited my advertising the event with bringing this issue to her attention as she had been unaware of the hearing. In the end we did get the change made to driver's licenses here in Washington to allow the Gender X designation. With the normalizing of this designation, I hope to make that possible on all city government documents as well, if it is not already in place.

In the midst of the pandemic and economic crisis, issues of race and social justice have risen to the forefront nationwide and in the Olympia community. What do you see as the challenges for our community in addressing these issues and how would you propose to address them?

Olympia, being the state capital, is filled with the activist spirit. This has caused people on both sides of the social justice and race issues to speak out. We know that there is a lack of racial diversity here in Olympia, which leads to even more marginalization of the relatively small non-white identifying population living here. The council has already taken the first steps in creating a commission to address diversity issues and also addressed zoning laws that was keeping many lower income, often marginalized, people from owning their own homes. I would like to see the commission review city policies and the comprehensive plan for equity issues and make recommendations. The commission can also look at other cities that have tackled these problems and where it was addressed best and make recommendations to the Olympia City Council.

This appointment is effective for about 10 months. What do you wish to accomplish during this appointed term as an Olympia City Councilmember?

My goal is to be appointed to the City Council so that can springboard from the knowledge I gain to run for running to retain the position. I would like to learn how best to be effective, help get the new commission started in a good direction, focused on the city as a whole and not just the criminal justice issues that I know have been the public's focus. I would like to help with bringing back the economy in the face of COVID-19 as well as find ways to bring the community together to heal some of the division that has been magnified by the pandemic.

Required Attachments

Cover Letter



OCC letter of interest - Tracey Carlos.docx

Resumé



Resume for OCC - Tracey Carlos.docx

Proof of Voter Registration



Proof of Voter Registration Tracey Carlos.docx

Residence Map



Olympia Map Tracey Carlos home noted.docx

Sign and Submit

Signature

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tracey Carlos'.

Date Signed

Thursday, December 10, 2020

Tracey Carlos

December 9, 2020

Olympia, WA 98506

Olympia City Council
601 4th Ave E
Olympia, WA 98501

Dear Mayor Selby and Councilmembers;

My name is Tracey Carlos and this correspondence is to inform you of my interest in being appointed to the Olympia City Council, position 2. I am an active member of the community including sitting on the board of Partners in Prevention Education as board secretary for the last three years, being a precinct committee officer helping with elections and campaigns. I have also worked on diversity, equity and inclusion through my work with the state as well as founding the Thurston County Queer Democrats and board secretary for the Washington State Stonewall Democratic Caucus.

In my work with the Rainbow Alliance and Inclusion Network LGBTQ+ Business Resource Group (RAIN) I was the co-chair of the Outreach and Communications Committee for over 2 years. I created and now organize, edit and help write the quarterly newsletter and oversaw the team's handling of networking activities, organizing guest speakers and pride events.

I have advocated for several issues here in Olympia as well as both at the state legislature and nationally. I am passionate about working to make sure things are equitable and want to protect the rights of all people in Olympia. City council can be about huge issues like this as well as homelessness and climate change, but it can also be about other vital community issues like sidewalks, roads and parks. In my work as a state employee, I have found I enjoy working on both types of issues.

I look forward to meeting with you to discuss this opportunity further as I know I would be perfect for this position.

Sincerely,
Tracey Carlos

Tracey E Carlos
Olympia, WA 98506

Objective

My goal is to help my community thrive through becoming a Olympia City Council Member.

Volunteer Work

December 2016-present

Vice Chair of Democrat LD 22

December 2018-December 2020

Review and edit bylaws, write resolutions, report out to membership and photographer for various political events around Thurston County, actively worked on several campaigns phone banking, door belling, sign waving and any other volunteer efforts needed for endorsed candidates

Volunteer Coordinator - Renata Rollins's campaign June 2017-October 2017

Recruited volunteers, maintained database of potential volunteers, encouraged people to continue volunteering

Secretary- Partners in Prevention Education

August 2017-Present

Write agendas and minutes, review bylaws and policies, vote on board issues, help develop strategic plan, schedule meetings

WFSE Local 443 member

October 2010-Present

Have worked actively on the Political Action Committee for the last 2 years and sat on the Thurston-Mason-Lewis Central Labor Council

Founding Chair - Thurston County Queer Democrats November 2019-Present

Organizing and running monthly meetings including writing bylaws, agendas, minutes, facilitating meetings and endorsement elections

Advisor Rory Summerson's Campaign

November 2019 – August 2020

Reviewed campaign platforms, assisted with writing speeches and social media

Secretary of the Board for WA Stonewall Caucus

February 2020-Present

Taking minutes, helping monitor social media page, voting on issues brought before the board

Project

Member Rainbow Alliance & Inclusion Network (RAIN) LGBTQ Business Resource Group January 2016 to Present

April 2017-August 2020 Co-Chair of Outreach and Communications Committee and Chair of Elections Committee

Formerly member of temporary Charter Committee, worked on team that wrote the founding charter

Coordinate the writing, editing, formatting and distribution of the quarterly newsletter (still doing just had to adjust due to extra daily work I have as my unit heads COVID worker's compensation), developed election process for RAIN leadership positions as well as overseeing elections, assist in finding guest speakers for monthly meetings

Member of Advisory Committee – strategic planning, agenda building

Skills

Social Media Communication

Type 47 wpm

Internet and Intranet applications

Newsletter Editor and Publisher

Multi-line telephone systems

Microsoft Office

Official Trainings Completed:

Train the Trainer

L & I Coaching for Performance

Basic Unemployment Insurance

Advanced Cash Handling

Diffusing an Angry Customer

General Customer Service

Basic Emergency Unemployment Compensation

Basic Accounts Receivable/Payable bookkeeping

Worker's Compensation Adjudication level 2 training including: time management, understanding and interpreting RCW's, WAC's, Case Laws, medical terminology, wage calculations, basic pharmacology, vocational services, basic injuries, professional writing, phone etiquette

Education

University of Central Florida
Bachelors in Arts – History

Orlando, FL

Valencia Community College
Associate in Arts

Orlando, FL

Employment Experience

Claims Processor

November 2016-Present

Department of Labor and Industries

As a claims processor I assist claim managers with their claims by making phone calls, reviewing mail in their work lists, send out correspondence requesting information as needed and responding to secure messages. Also, as part of Unit 3 I help track Medicare/Medicaid issues, review monthly social security reports, assist with vehicle modification requests, review RCWs, track down COVID-19 test results and payment out of policy requests. I also cover for our Office Assistant when she is out, handling mail, transcribing voicemails, word processing and returned mail.

Office Assistant Lead (non-permanent appointment)

August 2015-January 2016

Department of Labor and Industries

Assist with on the job training. Work in CentreVu and, with supervisor, put out daily and monthly status reports. Monitor workflow in Orion, Work fiche, phone queue, set up new hire work stations, assist with voicemail schedule and project time management. Assist as key operator for various office equipment including stapler, label makers, phones, headsets. Take calls, coordinate travel for injured workers needing, hotels, taxis, meal vouchers or flights, pass out morning mail, assist with morning email message to support unit and mail coverage as needed, communicate with trainers on in unit training concerns, mentor/coach office assistance. Help with leading discussion at team meetings regarding different procedures.

Office Assistant 3

December 2013-July 2015 and January 2016-November 2016

Department of Labor and Industries

Assists in training newly hired office assistants, have created and facilitated class for claims processors, assist customers in understanding worker's compensation laws and policies and how to navigate their claim, assist in handling upset and/or confused customers, create a working relationship with frequent customers including attorney's offices and provider's offices, quality check other office assistant's work, assists claims managers with attorney requests, obtaining prior medical information on claims, reminding injured workers of upcoming appointments, Employment Security Department records requests, claim records requests, re-mailing letters and orders and updating injured worker's contact information

Worker's Compensation Adjudicator 2 Apprentice

February 2013-December 2013

Department of Labor and Industries

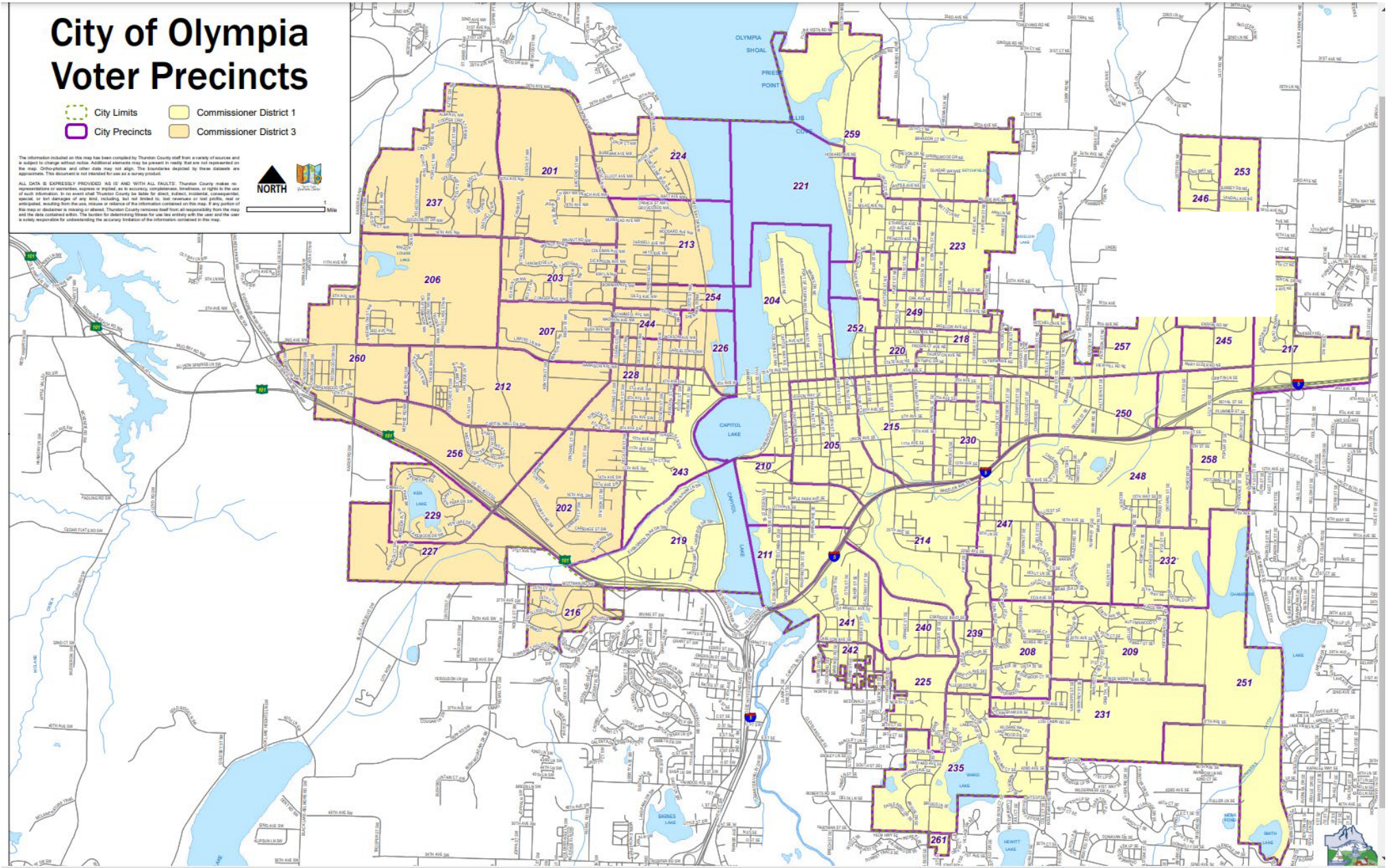
Adjudicated worker's compensation claims, determined eligibility for benefits, including time-loss, medical and vocational assistance, managed benefit distribution for claimants on case load, answered phones, wrote letters and orders, understand and uphold state laws in regards to worker's compensation, coordinated care and return-to-work services between employer, injured worker, medical provider, vocational counselor and department personnel

City of Olympia Voter Precincts

- City Limits
- City Precincts
- Commissioner District 1
- Commissioner District 2
- Commissioner District 3

The information included on this map has been compiled by Thurston County staff from a variety of sources and is subject to change without notice. Additional elements may be present in reality that are not represented on the map. Orthorectified and other data may not align. The boundaries depicted by these districts are approximate. This document is intended for use as a survey product.

ALL DATA IS EXPRESSED/PROVIDED AS IS AND WITH ALL FAULTS. Thurston County makes no representation or warranty, express or implied, as to accuracy, completeness, timeliness, or right to the use of such information. In no event shall Thurston County be liable for direct, indirect, incidental, consequential, special, or lost damages of any kind, including, but not limited to, lost revenue or lost profits, real or anticipated, resulting from the use, reliance, or reference of the information contained on this map. If any portion of this map or document is missing or altered, Thurston County reserves itself from all responsibility from the map and the data contained within. The burden for determining those to use the entirety with the care and the user is solely responsible for understanding the accuracy limitation of the information contained in this map.



Current Election ▾

Voters' Guide

Voting Centers

My Ballot ▾

Online Ballot

Ballot Status

Voter Registration

My Elected Officials

My Notices

Voting History

Logout

Voter Registration Details

Personal Information

TRACEY E CARLOS

Registration Date

06/28/2018

Registration Status

Active

County

Thurston

Precinct Name

Olympia 46 (0246.0)

County Information

Thurston County Elections

360-786-5408

elections@co.thurston.wa.us<http://thurstonvotes.org>

Residential Address

OLYMPIA, WA 98506

Mailing Address

OLYMPIA, WA 98506

References for Tracey Carlos

Reference Type	Professional
Name	Leatta Dahlhoff
Profession	Environmental Specialist 4, HWTR & Tumwater City Council
Email	

Reference Type	Professional
Name	Mike Yestramski Jr
Profession	President of AFCSME Council 28
Phone	
Email	

Reference Type	Professional
Name	Kati Thompson
Profession	Political Action Chair WFSE Local 443
Phone	
Email	

Application for City of Olympia Council Position #2

About the position

The Olympia City Council is accepting applications for Councilmember Position #2. The term for Position #2 ends December 31, 2023. The appointee will serve, until the November 2021 General Election results are certified.

To serve out the remainder of the term, the appointee will have to be elected to the position in the General Election.

The current annual stipend for Olympia Council Position #2 is \$21,918, paid semi-monthly on the 5th and 20th.

Residency and other minimum requirements apply.

How to apply

In support of Governor Inslee's current COVID restrictions, Olympia City Hall is closed to the public. All application materials must be submitted electronically.

To be considered, this online application must be completed and submitted, along with all required attachments, **no later than 4 p.m. on Friday, December 11, 2020.**

Required attachments:

- Cover letter indicating your interest and general qualifications for the position
- Proof of voter registration, such as a copy of your voter registration card or online voter registration record
- City limits map with your residence clearly marked
- Resumé

On December 15, 2020, the City Council will review applications and finalize the selection process, including interview dates. Councilmembers have tentatively reserved Tuesday, January 5, 2021, and Wednesday January 6, 2021, for applicant interviews.

The appointee is expected to participate in the City Council's annual goal-setting retreat on January 8-9, 2021.

Need help?

For further information or if you have special needs, please contact the Council's Executive Assistant, Susan Grisham at sgrisham@ci.olympia.wa.us or 360.753.8447.

Notice

Once this application is filed with the City, it is a public record. The application form, resumé and supplemental answers received from all candidates who meet the minimum requirements of State law will be posted on the City of Olympia website for public viewing.

To be appointed to the Olympia City Council, an individual must have resided within the Olympia City limits for a minimum of one year at the time of assuming office, be a registered voter at the time of application, be 18 years of age or over, and not be a City of Olympia employee at the time of appointment. These are the same minimum requirements that apply per State law to elected Councilmembers (RCW 35A.12.030).

State law prohibits anyone convicted of a felony from holding elective public office. The City will conduct a criminal background check on all candidates.

Applicants will be considered regardless of race, color, creed, national origin, ancestry, sex, marital status, disability, religious or political affiliation, age, gender, sexual orientation, medical condition, or pregnancy. The City encourages individuals of all backgrounds to apply, including people of color, immigrants, refugees, women, LGBTQ, people with disabilities, veterans, and those with diverse life experiences, etc.

Applicant Information

Name Holly Davies

Residence Address
Olympia, WA, 98501

Phone Number

Email

Are you a registered voter of the City of Olympia? (You must attach proof of voter registration) ☒ Yes

Are you a resident of the City of Olympia? (You must attach a City limits map with your residence clearly marked) ☒ Yes

How long have you been a resident of the City of Olympia? 16 years

How long have you lived at your current address? 15 years

Responsibilities

Appointment to the Olympia City Council will require your attendance at numerous regularly scheduled and special meetings that occur in the evening, on weekends, and during the weekday. City Council meetings are usually held weekly on Tuesday evenings, often from 7-10 p.m. or later. During the Governor's Stay Home, Stay Healthy Order, the Council meetings begin at 5:30 on the Zoom platform.

Councilmembers also serve on Council Committees, represent the Council on numerous regional and intergovernmental boards and commissions, and attend various community functions.

Councilmember activity usually requires a minimum of 15-20 hours per week per person, sometimes more.

Are you able to commit this amount of time and arrange your schedule to fully participate as a member of the Olympia City Council?

Yes

Supplemental Questions

Why are you interested in serving as an Olympia City Councilmember?

My values include helping to make people's lives better and giving back to the community. It's why I went into biology, why I work for the state Department of Health, and why I volunteer for the city. I've enjoyed being on the Heritage Commission and look forward to being involved in a different capacity. The Heritage Commission brings together many interests including housing, sustainability, and history and gives me the opportunity to learn about more aspects of the city, such as parks, the comp plan, downtown, and parks. I look forward to being involved in more of the city.

What are the three highest priorities you believe the City needs to address? How would you propose to address these issues?

Our highest priorities are housing/homelessness, public safety/police, and sustainability.

The city has a good strategy to address homelessness, including a coordinator position and regional collaboration. One Community Plan was developed over the past year with community input. The plan considers people who are unhoused in addition to other residents and the environment.

I am also interested in welcoming the 20,000 people who we expect to move here over the next 20 years. We need more housing for these future residents. Growth should be designed for people and sustainable for the environment for a vibrant city. We need to continue identifying barriers to sustainable housing and easing the barriers under the city's control, such as the new housing ordinance and the discussion of appropriate fire safety in ADUs.

Public safety is important to everyone in Olympia and should go beyond our current Police Department. Some people avoid downtown because they are afraid of potential crime. Some residents feel they have not been treated well by our Police and don't feel safe. Some residents feel the Police are not paying attention to their issues. The plan to re-imagine public safety is a good start for both public safety and racial equity. It is an opportunity for the Council and its committees to be involved with staff, commission members, and community members to hear people's experiences and barriers before we can look at solutions. The selection of a new police chief is important for participating in this re-imagining and then working towards our communities' goals.

A lot of my professional work and my volunteer work for the Heritage Commission is about sustainability. As a toxicologist, I evaluate information to support policy decisions to prevent exposures to toxic chemicals and avoid the health effects and costs that come after releases and exposures. One goal of historic preservation is to conserve materials and reduce carbon emissions by using existing buildings. The greenest house is an existing house. Olympia includes sustainability throughout our programs, such as storm water management. Olympia has been working to address climate change and will continue to lead in this role.

These issues are interrelated with each other and other issues. Some people avoid downtown because they see unhoused people and are afraid of potential crime. I haven't mentioned small businesses and

the economy, but addressing homelessness and public safety will also improve the environment for our downtown businesses. If not carefully planned, more people moving to Olympia can harm the environment, including with more carbon emissions from transportation. Equity needs to be considered throughout all of our actions. In all of these I see a promising trend in Olympia of moving upstream towards to root causes.

Please list your past community involvement (such as organizations, boards, commissions, and volunteerism), your role, and the dates of service. Address the relevance of your community involvement to the position of Olympia City Councilmember.

My community involvement that is most relevant to the position of Olympia City Councilmember includes being elected to the Town Council in Harpers Ferry, WV, volunteering for the Olympia Heritage Commission, Olympian Editorial Board, Olympia School District Science Task Force, the Lincoln Community Council, and Olympians for People Oriented Places (OPOP).

I was elected to the Town Council in Harpers Ferry, WV in July 2003 and served until we moved to Olympia in Sept. 2004. I was elected to the position of Recorder, which is a voting member of the Council in addition to being Mayor Pro-Tem and responsible for official town records and elections. As the Recorder I set the agenda by reaching out to the Mayor, Councilmembers, Commission Chairs, and residents. I also prepared and submitted reports to the regional and national government. With the Mayor and Councilmembers, I oversaw the Harpers Ferry police, fire department, and water company. Before joining the Council, I was on the Landmarks Commission.

In 2007 I served as The Olympian Editorial Board Community Member.

In 2007-2011 I served on the Olympia School District Science Task Force as a parent representative. We focused on where we are as a district in science education, where we would like to be, the research that supports best practices in science education, and the development of a set of belief statements and recommendations for moving forward. Our work included standards, tests, and professional development.

I joined the Olympia Heritage Commission (OHC) in 2008. I am the current Chair and have been Chair for most of the years since 2009. OHC advises the City Council on matters related to the recognition and continued use of buildings, districts and objects of historical significance. Specific tasks include reviewing permits for alterations for historic buildings and historic districts, recommendations to the Council on special tax valuations and additions to the Historic Register, advising on changes to City Ordinances, and outreach to the community. I work to make sure each Commissioner's voice is heard and we get input from the community, so we can come to agreement.

I have been active in Olympians for People Oriented Progress (OPOP) since it was started in 2015. OPOP is a group of people who promote land use that stimulates vibrant economies and creates sustainable communities. In the 2020 legislative session I testified to the legislature as a member of OPOP in support of bills for ADUs and housing options like those in the Missing Middle. Both of these are key to affordable housing options. These housing types are also compatible in scale with the buildings that are in our historic districts. They allow more housing without demolishing existing buildings. Affordable housing is important to build communities where people can live near where they work, go to school, shop, pursue their hobbies and where multiple generations can live in the same neighborhood.

What are your impressions of Olympia's Comprehensive Plan and/or other City-wide policy document and their goals and policies?

The comp plan is a large, interconnect document that is the result of substantial staff work and public process. Of course, it meets state and local requirements. The document is flexible to accommodate different goals. We've been able to point to the comp plan in discussions on housing for the expected 20,000 people who may move here over the next 20 years. People often don't want change next to where they live, and it is useful to have the overall goals for the city. For example, when a multi-family

home is proposed near transit, this is supported by the goals in our comp plan. In the Heritage Commission we look to the comp plan for where to focus preservation efforts. The update to the comp plan is a good opportunity to incorporate racial equity into our goals.

Describe a time you saw a problem in the community. What was your approach to addressing the problem? How did you implement your approach and what was the outcome?

A recent example is when a solar company reached out to the Heritage Commission about solar panels on historic buildings, specifically on the front of a house. Best practices for historic preservation would be to put solar panels on an elevation that is not seen, on another building, or freestanding. We had a sample guideline from the National Association of Preservation Commissions and I wanted to know what similar jurisdictions do in this situation. I reached out to the state Department of Archeology and Historic Preservation and got about a dozen policies from other cities that I reviewed to bring suggestions to the Heritage Review Committee. The Heritage Review Committee is a subcommittee of the Heritage Commission and one of its tasks is to review permits for alternations of historic structures and made recommendations to the building inspector. Staff wrote the first draft of the guidance after a meeting of the Heritage Review Committee. In revisions I made sure that several key points were included, such as our strong support for sustainability and its compatibility with preservation, and what we would consider in reviewing a permit for solar panels on a historic building in light of the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. We've asked for comments from a solar company and the draft guidance will be brought to the full commission before being finalized. The guidance will make it more clear to building owners that we support solar energy and what's needed for review in Olympia.

In the midst of the pandemic and economic crisis, issues of race and social justice have risen to the forefront nationwide and in the Olympia community. What do you see as the challenges for our community in addressing these issues and how would you propose to address them?

There are many barriers to addressing race and social justice in Olympia, including the lack of understanding on the structural racism throughout our city, building trust among community groups and the city, and committing resources.

I have grown on the issues of race and social justice. Race does not have a biological basis and I am a biologist, but I've realized how impactful racism is and the need to address it clearly. Through my work for the state and King County I've worked to reduce racial disparities in exposures to hazardous chemicals. When I was at King Co Hazardous Waste Program, I learned to use our racial equity tool for all of my projects. It's important to talk to communities about their concerns and their priorities for reducing exposures to toxic chemicals and to find solutions that work for them. One great part of our program was that we were able to reimburse community members for their participation, such as for a survey on household cleaners. We didn't expect their knowledge and assistance to come for free. All of this applies to everything Olympia does for its residents.

I've spoken to the Heritage Commission on adapting King County's racial equity tool for our use and I've asked staff to bring us demographic data. We don't know how historic building owners and residents of historic districts compare to others in Olympia in terms of race, income, language, age, owner occupation, etc. Once we have more information, we can work on learning about barriers to different communities and how to overcome them. We've been working with tribes on issues, such as the ordinance for archeological finds. We need to go beyond projects such as a walking tour for historic sites in our Chinese Community. If I had funds, I would create a program to assist people, especially those in vulnerable populations, who own older homes with repairs and maintenance. The changes would need to follow the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation, but not require the house to be on our historic register.

The establishment of the Social Justice & Equity Advisory Commission is a good step for Olympia along with the plan to re-imagine public safety. The plan to re-imagine public safety is an opportunity for the Council and its committees to be involved with staff, commission members, and community members in developing a greater understanding of justice and racial equity in Olympia before looking

at actions. We need to listen to people’s experiences and barriers people face before we can suggest solutions. Equity costs money and we’ll have to invest in our community. Meetings must be available to people. For example, one meeting I participated in for lead reduction in communities was at a community center on a Saturday, with interpreters, food, and with children welcome.

This appointment is effective for about 10 months. What do you wish to accomplish during this appointed term as an Olympia City Councilmember?

First, I want to recognize that 10 months is not a lot of time. I expect to work with city staff and the rest of the Council to ask important questions and move existing projects forward, including the work on homeless, housing, sustainability, and re-imaging public safety. I am interested in the work for the new Social Justice and Equity Commission and other ways to promote equity.

One smaller topic I am interested in the city’s commitment to purchasing fewer products that contain toxic chemicals. This is included in the Comp Plan and in a 2006 resolution. I would ask about the status of this project and ask for staff to bring forward more ideas for making progress. For example, if we’re buying new gear for our firefighters, we should buy gear that does not contain PFAS. In ten months, we could do something like setting up a purchasing preference, perhaps for specific products, based on other jurisdictions such as San Francisco, Washington State, or King County.

Required Attachments

Cover Letter



letter of interest.docx

Resumé



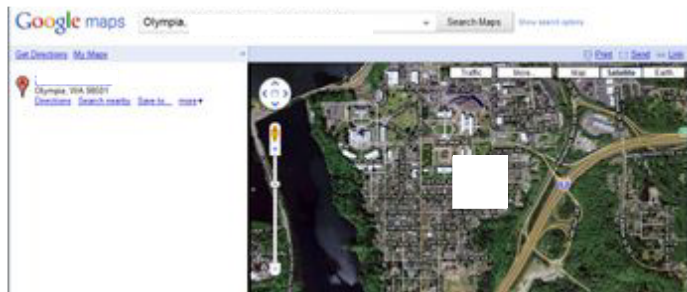
Davies resume for Council.docx

Proof of Voter Registration



Voter Registration.docx

Residence Map



Sign and Submit

Signature

Holly Davis

Date Signed

Friday, December 11, 2020

I am writing to express my interest in the opening on the Olympia City Council. I am a toxicologist at the state Department of Health and Chair of the Olympia Heritage Commission with experience as an elected official on the Town Council in Harpers Ferry, WV. Since I moved to Olympia in 2004, I've also volunteered for the Olympian Editorial Board, Olympia School District Science Task Force, the Lincoln Community Council, and Olympians for People Oriented Places (OPOP).

I was elected to the Town Council in Harpers Ferry, WV in July 2003 and served until we moved to Olympia in Sept. 2004. I was elected to the position of Recorder, which is a voting member of the Council in addition to being Mayor Pro-Tem and responsible for Council agendas, official town records, and elections. With the Mayor and Councilmembers, I oversaw the Harpers Ferry police, fire department, and water company.

I've enjoyed volunteering for the Heritage Commission since 2008. The Heritage Commission brings together many interests including housing, sustainability, and history. One thing I like about the Heritage Commission is the opportunity to learn about more aspects of the city, such as parks, the comp plan, downtown, and parks. I look forward to being involved in more of the city.

In my professional work as a scientist, I have experience working collaboratively with businesses, government (local, state, federal, and tribal), and non-profit advocacy organizations, including community groups. My projects include bringing together diverse groups of stakeholders for information and policy recommendations that need to be made with incomplete, unclear, and contradictory information.

Through my work for the state and King County I've worked to reduce racial disparities in exposures to hazardous chemicals. This includes the use of a racial equity tool for projects. We've started this conversation on equity within the Heritage Commission. It's important to talk to communities about their concerns and their priorities and to find solutions that work for them.

The Council and city staff have been doing excellent work and I'd like the opportunity to join your efforts. I don't expect to accomplish major items in less than a year, but I can ask important questions and add to the ongoing work on justice and racial equity, homelessness, housing, public safety, sustainability, and other issues. I am open to new ideas and other people's experiences.

/s/ Holly Davies

Holly Davies, PhD

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Genetics 2000
University of Washington, Seattle WA

B.S. in Biology, concentration in genetics and development 1993
Cornell University, Ithaca, NY

MUNICIPAL EXPERIENCE

City of Olympia, WA

Olympia Heritage Commissioner since 2006 and Chair/Vice Chair 2009-present

- Advise the City Council on matters related to the recognition, enhancement and continued use of buildings, sites, districts and objects of historical significance within the City and to serve as the City's primary resource in matters of historic preservation.
- Applied for and received a grant from DAHP for the city to inventory mid-century properties
- Compliance with federal, state, and local regulations on listing new properties on the Historic Register, eligibility of historic properties for local tax credits, and granting permits to alter historic structures and for new construction within historic districts.
- As Chair, oversee development of our annual work plan and approval by the City Council.
- Oversaw the process of changing Olympia Municipal Code in regard to laws on historic preservation.

Town of Harpers Ferry, WV

Elected Recorder and Mayor Pro-Tem, 7/2003-9/2004

- Liaison among Mayor, Town Council and citizens of Harpers Ferry.
- Supervised Harpers Ferry including the Police Department and the Water Company.
- Administered a total annual budget of \$850,000.
- Prepared and submitted reports to regional and national offices.
- Responsible for official records of Harpers Ferry, including agendas and minutes for Town Council meetings.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Washington State Department of Health

Senior Toxicologist 4/2019-present

- Evaluate scientific studies and other information to support policy decisions in Environmental Public Health, including flame retardants, highly fluorinated chemicals, and harmful algal blooms.

- Effective outreach and interaction with external stakeholders for information and policy decisions, including businesses, government (local, state, federal, and tribal), and non-profit advocacy groups.
- Lead the PFAS Workgroup for the Interstate Chemicals Clearinghouse, an organization of state and local governments.

Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County (LHWMP)

Environmental Scientist III 11/2017- 4/2019

- Developed a Safer Alternatives Strategy to advance a consistent method that meets the needs of the program and is scientifically up-to-date, transparent, and consistent with local and national practitioners.
- Designed an Issue Development Framework to provide a single, systematic, cohesive approach for identifying, tracking, prioritizing, and preparing hazardous materials issues for LHWMP action.
- Led projects to collaborate with strategic partners in King County, both inside and outside of LHWMP, local and national technical partners, and community groups to prevent exposure to hazardous chemicals, especially through identifying safer alternatives and promoting their adoption. This includes work with other states, community groups, and local users on substitutes to per-and polyfluorinated alkyl substances (PFAS) fire firefighting foam, food contact paper, and carpets.
- Evaluated the scientific literature and other information to support ongoing LHWMP projects and consult with staff on multi-agency teams as needed for lead in homes, safer cleaning, autobody paints, and janitorial cleaning projects.
- Effectively represented LHWMP on statewide committees, at scientific conferences, with community groups and other strategic partners.
- Improved the health of historically underserved individuals and communities through a racial equity lens is integrated throughout my work.

Washington State Department of Health

Regulatory Analyst 2 8/2017- 10/2017

- Worked with subject matter experts in Offices on rule development for food safety, radiation, and drinking water
- Advised the Drinking Water Office on public health responses based on the most recent science in advance of testing for lead in drinking water in schools.

Washington State Department of Ecology

Senior Toxicologist 4/2007-7/2017

- Served as the policy lead for the Reducing Toxic Threats Strategic Initiative, including advising Ecology leadership and developing the agency's strategy to reduce toxic threats in consideration of activities in Washington, other states, and at the federal level.
- Evaluated scientific studies and other information to support policy decisions for the agency's initiative to reduce and prevent toxic threats, including recovery of Puget Sound, individual chemical bans, disclosure under the Children's Safe Products Act, and our state Green Chemistry Roadmap.
- Led a multi-agency team of ten people to develop Chemical Action Plans to identify, characterize and evaluate all uses and releases of a specific chemical or group of chemicals and recommend

actions to protect human health and the environment. Secured support for the recommendations inside and outside the agency.

- Effective outreach and interaction with external stakeholders for information and policy decisions, including businesses, government (local, state, federal, and tribal), and non-profit advocacy groups.
- Represented the agency to the state legislature and on statewide advisory committees.
- Legislative bill drafting, analysis, and testimony, including for the governor's toxics reduction bill, flame retardants, and laws containing restrictions on lead wheel weights, coal tar sealants, BPA in baby bottles and other products, and avoiding PCBs in state purchasing.

Tacoma and South Puget Sound Community Colleges

Adjunct Professor 6/2006-6/2007

Taught lecture and laboratory for Cell Biology, Environmental Science, and Nutrition

University of Puget Sound

Visiting Assistant Professor 7/2005-6/2006

Taught three upper level courses: Genetics lecture and laboratory, Molecular Biology lecture and laboratory, Biological Determinism and Human Freedom (co-taught with a religion professor).

National Institutes of Health (NIH), National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK), Lab of Cellular and Development Biology

Research Fellow 5/2000-9/2004

Supervisor: Dr. Jurrien Dean

Discovery and characterization of genes expressed in the newborn ovary of normal and FIG alpha null mice by serial analysis of gene expression (SAGE). Used bioinformatics, genetics, and molecular biology and successfully introduced new techniques into the laboratory. Developed and organized the first annual fellows scientific retreat as a member of postdoc work group in the NIDDK Office of Fellow Recruitment and Career Development.

University of Washington Department of Genetics

Graduate research assistant 9/1994-3/2000

Supervisor: Dr. Robert Braun

Dissertation: *MSY4, A sequence-specific RNA binding protein expressed during mouse spermatogenesis*. Cloning and characterization of the RNA-binding protein MSY4, and its role in mouse spermatogenesis.

COMMITTEES AND PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

US EPA Science Advisory Committee on Chemicals

Association for the Advancement of Alternatives Assessment

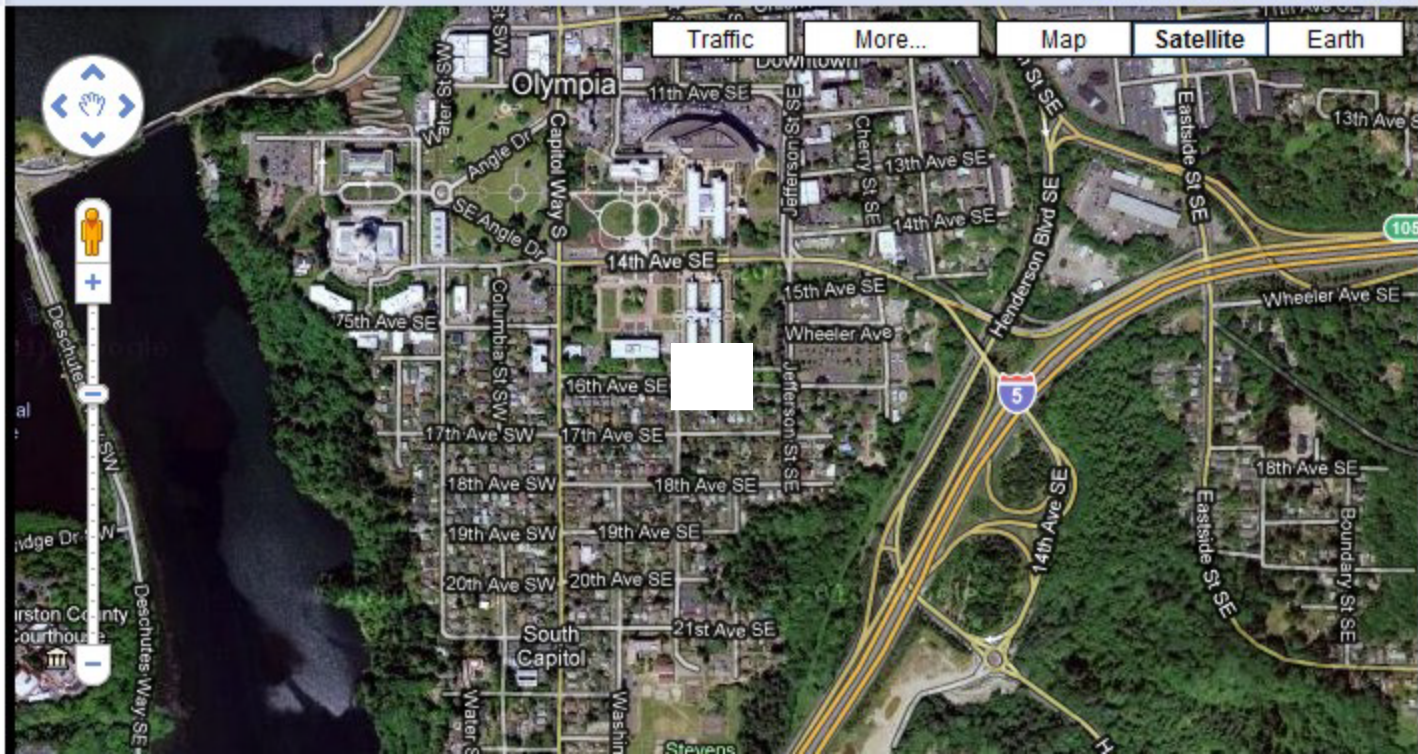
Childhood Lead Screening Expert Panel

Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry and (SETAC)

Children's Environmental Health Working Group within the Washington chapter of the Collaborative on Health and the Environment

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Olympia, WA 98501

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Current Election ▼

Voters' Guide

Voting Centers

My Ballot ▼

Online Ballot

Welcome

HOLLY G DAVIES

Registration Status

Active

Date of Birth

Residential Address

County

Thurston

Application for City of Olympia Council Position #2

About the position

The Olympia City Council is accepting applications for Councilmember Position #2. The term for Position #2 ends December 31, 2023. The appointee will serve, until the November 2021 General Election results are certified.

To serve out the remainder of the term, the appointee will have to be elected to the position in the General Election.

The current annual stipend for Olympia Council Position #2 is \$21,918, paid semi-monthly on the 5th and 20th.

Residency and other minimum requirements apply.

How to apply

In support of Governor Inslee's current COVID restrictions, Olympia City Hall is closed to the public. All application materials must be submitted electronically.

To be considered, this online application must be completed and submitted, along with all required attachments, **no later than 4 p.m. on Friday, December 11, 2020.**

Required attachments:

- Cover letter indicating your interest and general qualifications for the position
- Proof of voter registration, such as a copy of your voter registration card or online voter registration record
- City limits map with your residence clearly marked
- Resumé

On December 15, 2020, the City Council will review applications and finalize the selection process, including interview dates. Councilmembers have tentatively reserved Tuesday, January 5, 2021, and Wednesday January 6, 2021, for applicant interviews.

The appointee is expected to participate in the City Council's annual goal-setting retreat on January 8-9, 2021.

Need help?

For further information or if you have special needs, please contact the Council's Executive Assistant, Susan Grisham at sgrisham@ci.olympia.wa.us or 360.753.8447.

Notice

Once this application is filed with the City, it is a public record. The application form, resumé and supplemental answers received from all candidates who meet the minimum requirements of State law will be posted on the City of Olympia website for public viewing.

To be appointed to the Olympia City Council, an individual must have resided within the Olympia City limits for a minimum of one year at the time of assuming office, be a registered voter at the time of application, be 18 years of age or over, and not be a City of Olympia employee at the time of appointment. These are the same minimum requirements that apply per State law to elected Councilmembers (RCW 35A.12.030).

State law prohibits anyone convicted of a felony from holding elective public office. The City will conduct a criminal background check on all candidates.

Applicants will be considered regardless of race, color, creed, national origin, ancestry, sex, marital status, disability, religious or political affiliation, age, gender, sexual orientation, medical condition, or pregnancy. The City encourages individuals of all backgrounds to apply, including people of color, immigrants, refugees, women, LGBTQ, people with disabilities, veterans, and those with diverse life experiences, etc.

Applicant Information

Name Yen Huynh

Residence Address Olympia, WA, 98501

Phone Number

Email

Are you a registered voter of the City of Olympia? (You must attach proof of voter registration) ☒ Yes

Are you a resident of the City of Olympia? (You must attach a City limits map with your residence clearly marked) ☒ Yes

How long have you been a resident of the City of Olympia? 9

How long have you lived at your current address? Less than 1 year. I lived at my previous address for 6 years. Previous address: 115 1/2 Quince St NE Olympia, WA 98506

Responsibilities

Appointment to the Olympia City Council will require your attendance at numerous regularly scheduled and special meetings that occur in the evening, on weekends, and during the weekday. City Council meetings are usually held weekly on Tuesday evenings, often from 7-10 p.m. or later. During the Governor's Stay Home, Stay Healthy Order, the Council meetings begin at 5:30 on the Zoom platform.

Councilmembers also serve on Council Committees, represent the Council on numerous regional and intergovernmental boards and commissions, and attend various community functions.

Councilmember activity usually requires a minimum of 15-20 hours per week per person, sometimes more.

Are you able to commit this amount of time and arrange your schedule to fully participate as a member of the Olympia City Council?

Yes

Supplemental Questions

Why are you interested in serving as an Olympia City Councilmember?

I am a longtime Olympian and I have strong ties to this community. I was raised in this area, graduated from South Puget Sound Community College and The Evergreen State College (BA and MPA). My family owns a small business in downtown Olympia. I am active in local organizations and have lived and worked in many different spaces in Olympia. I work here in Olympia for the Washington State Office of Minority & Women's Business Enterprises as a Supplier Diversity Program Specialist and I live in downtown.

I care deeply about the future of our City -- the land and its residents. I believe wholeheartedly that government at the local level has the most impact on peoples' daily lives and I feel a genuine civic responsibility to contribute my skills and experiences to Olympia's long-term growth and success. I enjoy my service on the Planning Commission, representing the voices of our community, learning about land use planning, diving into community issues, and formulating recommendations to the Olympia City Council. Transitioning to the Council would allow me to work on these important policies on a broader scale with a more immediate impact.

As a young woman of color and the daughter of Vietnamese refugees, I would add a world view to the Council that is currently under-represented and needed. As a first-generation college student, I understand the impact that a lack of accessibility and resources has on a person's ability to navigate complex systems. As a renter, I experience first-hand the challenges of rising housing costs surpassing wages, making dreams of home ownership become a more distant reality. People who come from backgrounds like mine are often told by society to keep their heads down, be grateful for what they have, work hard, not to make any waves and rarely see ourselves represented in public office. I would like to help change this narrative, address these barriers at the city level, and govern with empathy for Olympians of all backgrounds.

My multicultural upbringing has helped me to understand the importance of recognizing, welcoming, and celebrating differences. I would bring an equity lens and a human centered approach to city hall. Providing more diversity within the Council should encourage more robust conversations, creative solutions, and more informed decision making.

What are the three highest priorities you believe the City needs to address? How would you propose to address these issues?

I believe the three highest priorities for Olympians are:

- (1) public health & safety,
- (2) economic recovery, and
- (3) climate justice.

I arrived at these priorities through my own experiences and meeting with community members and identifying trends.

I identify public health & safety as the top priority because of (a) concerns raised about police accountability (b) the wellbeing of our houseless community, and (c) the current COVID-19 pandemic with its heightened impact on low income communities and communities of color. I believe we can address this by shifting city resources toward proven programs like community policing and increased social worker or minimally armed resource officers for non-violent calls.

A critical second priority is economic recovery as people feel vulnerable and scared about job loss, temporary business closures eviscerating bottom lines, and ability to pay home or business rent/mortgage payments. The city can and should stay vigilant of needs and move quickly on opportunities to leverage state or federal aid programs for Olympians.

The clear third priority that arose in conversations with the community is climate justice. It was a recurring theme as people reflected on the intersection of the pandemic, the environment, the economy, and climate change. The pandemic is undoubtedly going to continue to have long term detrimental impacts on our environment, our economy, and our society. In Olympia we must do our small part in the global community to address climate change through environmentally just policies and practices.

While there is not one magic formula to solve these large issues, I do have an eagerness to dive into addressing these priorities through an open mind and creative approaches. To tackle high priority issues in Olympia, I will work to propose solutions that prioritize diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI), small businesses, and the arts. There are so many opportunities to lead with DEI to ensure that all voices are heard and included in decision making processes and to truly build equity in all policies.

Small businesses are the backbone of our economy and we must support them through the course of this pandemic. Olympia's small businesses are part of what makes our city delightfully unique. They are a source of employment for many, enjoyment and convenience for residents, and they help keep money circulating in the community.

I am interested in working with our many arts organizations and local artists to explore how art can be more extensively used to bring us together, advance social justice, help heal our community, and achieve creative solutions to community challenges. I see a future where Olympia has thriving small businesses and transformative art, in a diverse community that is accessible and welcoming for all to enjoy.

Please list your past community involvement (such as organizations, boards, commissions, and volunteerism), your role, and the dates of service. Address the relevance of your community involvement to the position of Olympia City Councilmember.

Olympia Planning Commission: Commissioner, 2020-present. I represent the voice of the community through careful review of proposals brought before the commission, listening to public comments, studying land use issues, evaluating whether policies are consistent with the City's comprehensive plan, & advising the City Council on the long-range growth and development of Olympia. Relevance: Representing the public interest in City government, engaging with the comprehensive plan, learning the workings of City government, & helping to plan Olympia's future.

Alene Moris National Education for Women's Leadership Institute – 2019 Class Chair & Alumna, 2019 to present. This is a program that brings together college & university students in Washington State from across the political spectrum to discuss the roles of women in leadership & politics. In this program, I joined a network of powerful women & learned skills such as parliamentary procedure, how to be an effective board member, & the importance of women in public office. As 2019 Class Chair, I serve as the liaison between the 2019 Cohort & the University of Washington Women's Center & serve on the planning committee for program curriculum and re-engagement events. Relevance: Developing my leadership & collaboration skills

National Women's Political Caucus, WA State Chapter: Member, 2020 to present. Relevance: Continue

to learn more about government, our political processes, & to network with others with compatible interests.

Olympia Area Chinese Association: Member, 2018 to present. Relevance: I am connected to an important constituency in the City, who should be well-represented.

Thurston County Young Democrats – Member, 2018 to present. Relevance: I am tapped into local politics, familiar with candidates running for office, & knowledgeable about what younger people in the community are working & hoping for.

Institute for a Democratic Future - Fellowship Recipient & Alumna, 2020. Relevance: I travelled to many areas of our state to learn about a wide range of policy issues including agriculture, homelessness, transportation, education, energy, & the environment. I have developed valuable knowledge of issues, lessons learned, & successful practices in other areas of the state that I can bring to Olympia.

Real Change Organizing & Advocacy (RESULTS) - Fellowship Recipient & Alumna, 2018 to 2019. Relevance: Provided me with valuable experience working within the system to advocate for those with less power.

Olympia Film Society – Volunteer, 2012 to 2016. Relevance: I experienced firsthand how art can help build community and bridge differences as well as developing a deeper appreciation of the importance of preserving Olympia's heritage.

What are your impressions of Olympia's Comprehensive Plan and/or other City-wide policy document and their goals and policies?

I am familiar with Olympia's Comprehensive Plan and have experience with the revision process through my service on the Olympia Planning Commission. The plan serves as the foundation for planning the direction of our City, measured against the demands and objectives of the Growth Management Act. The plan is a guiding document, produced with extensive public input, that outlines how we want to evolve as a City over time.

The plan is composed of two parts. The first portion covers a wide range of interrelated planning elements from community vision, community values, and public participation to transportation, environmental considerations, and land use goals. The second portion contains the capital facilities plan. All together the plan outlines the goals and policies that inform the City's budget, development guidelines, and other considerations for capital improvements.

Due to the competing priorities, a constant challenge for the comprehensive plan is to remain consistent and present a unified vision. In order to stay relevant to our ever growing community needs, the plan is amended annually and is updated every eight years. Current core opportunities outlined in the plan include: increasing sustainability, revitalizing downtown, addressing climate change, integrating the Shoreline Management Program, and long-term funding.

Practically, the Comprehensive Plan will be crucial to navigating some of Olympia's biggest challenges over the next 20 years. During the next two decades, Olympia's population is expected to grow by 20,000 people while simultaneously facing significant sea level rise due to climate change. The Comprehensive Plan is key to ensuring that Olympians are able to maintain and improve our environment and standard of living while accommodating population growth and responding to environmental challenges.

I am interested in contributing an equity lens to the Comprehensive Plan and highlighting where there might be opportunities to structure the goals to include the diversity of our ever-growing community. I would also like to address coded language used in the plan such as the term "character of the neighborhood" and the word "citizen", which are vehicles for exclusion and perpetuation of classism and racism.

Describe a time you saw a problem in the community. What was your approach to addressing the problem? How did you implement your approach and what was the outcome?

During my Real Change Organizing & Advocacy Fellowship to Fight Poverty, I wanted to bring the perspectives of those in poverty to our state and federal lawmakers, while recognizing a clear access and power issue.

The problem at hand was that recipients of the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) were facing a potential change in policy that would impose harsh work requirements together with outsize cuts to benefits, taking food off the table of many families in our community and across the country.

I typed up prompts and outlines for the policy issues and brought them to a local hygiene bank. There, I stationed myself in the waiting room and asked individuals if they would like to participate in a letter writing campaign. The prompts and outlines I had prepared helped people to better understand the issues and helped them to more easily compose letters to their Congressional Representatives advocating for their interests. Stationing myself in the waiting room of the hygiene bank was a way to engage directly with people affected by potential cuts to SNAP benefits, meeting them where they were at and not taking up any additional time or resources from them to further the cause. The outcome was that my efforts contributed substantially to the success in getting our state's federal lawmakers to sign on/vote to not impose harsh work requirements or large benefit cuts to SNAP recipients.

Overall, I approach issues holistically and consider the long-term benefits when deciding how to address problems. My initial instinct is to learn more about the problem, understand how it came to be, why it is a problem, and who/what is being impacted. I then seek ways to address the problem, weighing the options to determine what actions would yield the best long-term outcome. Some ways I go about long-term problem solving include getting involved in community organizations, donating time or other resources to solutions I believe in (such as donating blood at the blood bank), and acting on my values in my day-to-day life (spending money at local businesses, for example).

In the midst of the pandemic and economic crisis, issues of race and social justice have risen to the forefront nationwide and in the Olympia community. What do you see as the challenges for our community in addressing these issues and how would you propose to address them?

I would propose strengthening community connection, including diverse perspectives, and creating long-term plans for continuing this work. Even as race and social justice issues leave the forefront of people's minds, I see many challenges arising and increasing if these actions are not executed thoughtfully.

This past year has brought more awareness to issues of race and social justice, public health, economic hardship, and it has also created increasingly divided communities. At a time when people cannot physically gather, greater effort must be put into finding creative ways to connect with the community and bring people together. Converting public meetings to a virtual platform has already helped with accessibility. The City must explore more ways to improve transparency and community participation.

Diverse perspectives will help create more informed plans, policies, and processes. Olympia needs to be thoughtful about the way people are being included and elevate diverse voices early on, before decisions are made. It is important to recognize that we have a lack of diverse representation in positions of leadership throughout our City, creating uneven power dynamics and making it challenging and uncomfortable for people to share their perspectives. Steps must be taken towards inclusion and diverse representation at all levels of City government. Everyone must be empowered to share their experiences and leaders should be vigilant about not burdening Black/Indigenous/people of color to do all the emotional labor in these situations. White people must also educate themselves and their peers on these topics. We need to promote appreciation of the need to become comfortable with being uncomfortable, having humility, embracing learning opportunities, and truly welcoming diversity and dissenting voices as essential to maintaining forward progress.

The Participatory Leadership Model in the City’s One Community Plan is an example of innovative problem solving, allowing solutions to come from the community rather than a panel of experts or city staff.

The City has already begun this work by hosting the Racial Justice Town Hall series, inviting diverse experts with lived experiences to share their perspectives. Council members turning off their computer cameras while these experts spoke to elevate their voices, was a simple act that displayed allyship and support.

The work must continue. Race and social justice issues are a response to historically exclusive and institutionally racist systems. Incremental progress should be celebrated while remaining cognizant of the bigger picture to reforming these systems. Long lasting change will not happen quickly or easily. This work must be embedded into the City’s long-term strategic plan. We must keep engaging and learning more about our limitations and biases. It is only through a sustained and deliberate effort that we will ever see forward movement on issues so deeply entrenched in our society.

This appointment is effective for about 10 months. What do you wish to accomplish during this appointed term as an Olympia City Councilmember?

I understand there will be a significant learning curve for the appointed Councilmember. During the appointed term, I wish to gain a deeper understanding of the Council’s processes, be an active participant on my committee assignments, make progress on plans formed at the Council’s retreats, build effective working relationships with Council members and community partners, and contribute meaningfully to the work being done. I wish to learn about and honor the ongoing work of the Council while still finding ways to contribute through my perspective and problem-solving skills as outlined above.

After the 10-month appointment, I would hope to have undergone a significant amount of growth as a Councilmember and to have built trust among my colleagues.

It is my intention to run for election to the seat next fall. Should I be elected, the strengths I will have gained in these areas will be crucial to being an effective member of the Council during the next term of office.

Required Attachments

Cover Letter



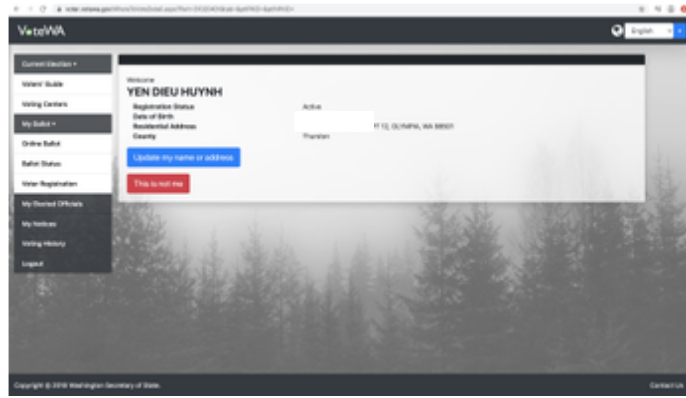
Cover Letter YH.pdf

Resumé

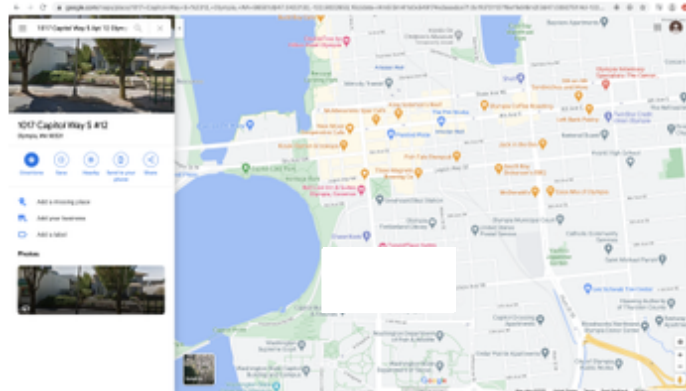


Resume YH.pdf

Proof of Voter Registration



Residence Map



Sign and Submit

Signature

Yên Huỳnh

Date Signed

Thursday, December 10, 2020

December 10, 2020
Olympia City Council
PO Box 1967
Olympia, WA 98507-1967

Dear Mayor Selby and Councilmembers Bateman, Cooper, Gilman, Madrone, Parshley, and Rollins:

It gives me great pleasure to apply for City Council Position 2 at the City of Olympia. My distinct experience as a woman of color and daughter of refugees with deep roots in the Olympia community, and my demonstrated equity and business acumen, make me a strong candidate for this City Council vacancy. I am currently a Planning Commissioner for the City of Olympia and I have five years of experience working in advocacy and equity work with historically marginalized communities. I am a Certified Diversity Executive candidate, I hold a Master's degree in Public Administration with an emphasis in Public Policy, a Bachelor's degree in Entrepreneurship and Business Management, and I am proficient in Vietnamese.

My education, work, and volunteer experience show my ability to contribute meaningfully to equity in government and community. In my role at the Washington State Office of Minority & Women's Business Enterprises, I have excelled in fostering collaboration and in building strong stakeholder relationships. I lead statewide inclusion planning consultations with 63 state agencies, three higher education institutions, and other political subdivisions. A major component of my professional consultations is identifying the challenges and barriers facing equity in public spending. I offer tools and resources and find ways to collaborate and partner with stakeholders. The relationships I have built in this role have afforded me the opportunity to serve on selection panels for business diversity related positions, evaluate statewide contract bids, and have given me a broad network of professional peers across the state. I have gained facilitation, project management, and policy writing experience through leading various action teams under the Governor's Business Diversity Subcabinet. Action teams I have led produce statewide model policies, procedures, and task outliners to increase utilization of small, minority, women, and veteran owned businesses. As a City of Olympia Planning Commissioner, I advise the City Council on the long-range growth and development of the City, including changes to the City's comprehensive land use plan and zoning ordinance.

Serving as a member of the City Council would give me the opportunity to work collaboratively towards a more equitable and inclusive future for Olympia, where all members of the public can feel safe, where economic recovery is realized for our small businesses and residents, and where more sustainable solutions for climate justice are put into practice. I am encouraged by the City of Olympia's progress towards prioritizing equity as evidenced by the racial justice town hall series, creation of the new equity and inclusion coordinator position, formation of the human rights commission, and the nature of the application questions for this appointment. I wish to use my professional experience, education, and unique perspective to contribute to and build upon the council's existing work and diversity of ideas and representation.

Finally, my passion for the community, strong interpersonal skills, cultural competency, and understanding of the holistic impacts of the office, would be an asset to the Olympia City Council and the people of Olympia. I would approach problems by elevating underrepresented voices, prioritizing the success of our small businesses, and seeking pathways to incorporate the arts in our solutions, an approach I believe deeply resonates across our communities.

I have included my résumé, containing additional information on my specific skills and qualifications, and my responses to the application questions. I appreciate your time and consideration, and hope to speak with you personally about this exciting opportunity in the near future. Please reach out to me at any time via mobile, or by email at

Sincerely,
Yến Huỳnh

YẾN HUỲNH, MPA

 Olympia, WA



 [LinkedIn](#)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Supplier Diversity Program Specialist | Jun 2018 – Present

Washington State Office of Minority & Women's Business Enterprises

Started as a Graduate Research Intern & through demonstrated hard work was promoted to Supplier Diversity Coordinator & later Supplier Diversity Program Specialist where I currently:

- Lead statewide inclusion planning consultations with 63 state agencies, three higher education institutions, & other political subdivisions
- Facilitate action teams on the Governor's Business Diversity Subcabinet
- Write policies, procedures, & task outliners to increase equity in public spending
- Serve on selection panels for business diversity related positions & contract bid evaluations
- Speak at public contracting workshops on "How to Be More Inclusive in Your Contracts"

Student Ambassador | Sep 2018 – Jun 2019

Master of Public Administration (MPA) Program

The Evergreen State College

- Advised MPA program on recruitment & marketing decisions
- Planned, solicited, & implemented social media campaigns & outreach events
- Recruited prospective students & supported them throughout the application process
- Interviewed MPA alums & wrote articles for the College's website

Real Change Organizing & Advocacy Fellow to Fight Poverty | Jun 2018 – Jun 2019

Results Educational Fund

- Conducted media advocacy through published op-eds & letters to the editor
- Lobbied state & federal members of Congress to fight domestic & global poverty issues
- Recruited for & led grassroots movements to expand vital anti-poverty programs

Retrospective Rating Program Coordinator | Jun 2017 – May 2018

Washington Hospitality Association

- Served as liaison to the Washington State Department of Labor & Industries
- Provided technical assistance to industry stakeholders
- Created & published detailed newsletters highlighting industry happenings
- Processed department's billing & maintained accounting records

Education Advocate | Sep 2015 – May 2017

Capital Region Educational Service District 113

Started as an Academic Coach & through demonstrated hard work was promoted to an Office Technician II & later an Education Advocate where I:

- Managed a caseload of 25 incarcerated youth from a variety of socioeconomic backgrounds

- Developed & coordinated a success plan for students receiving services through the program, in partnership with school personnel, family members, & community service providers
- Reviewed student academic performance & intervened when issues were identified, with the goal of providing support for students to stay in school & graduate
- Managed database for data reporting accuracy among five field sites
- Monitored program documentation for compliance with financial & legal requirements
- Substituted as a certified instructor, instructional assistant, & case manager
- Worked with at-risk youth to achieve their GEDs, pursue employment, & achieve college readiness

EDUCATION

**Master of Public
Administration | 2019**
The Evergreen State College
MPA Merit Scholar

**Bachelors in Entrepreneurship &
Business Management | 2015**
The Evergreen State College

CERTIFICATIONS

**Certified Diversity Executive
Candidate | 2020 – Present**
Institute for Diversity Certification
Successful candidates learn how to manage large scale
diversity initiatives & revolutionize organizational equity &
inclusive excellence

**Statistical Thinking for Data Science
& Analytics Certificate | 2016**
Columbia University

AFFILIATIONS

Member | 2020 – Present
National Women's Political Caucus
Dedicated to increasing the number
of women in elected & appointed
offices throughout all levels of
government

Member | 2018 – Present
Thurston County Young Democrats

Member | 2018 – Present
Olympia Area Chinese Association
Preserving Chinese cultural traditions
& promoting cultural exchanges
between the local Chinese
community & the greater Olympia
area community

Alumna | 2020
Institute for a Democratic Future
Developing & promoting emerging
civic leaders in Washington

LEADERSHIP & VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

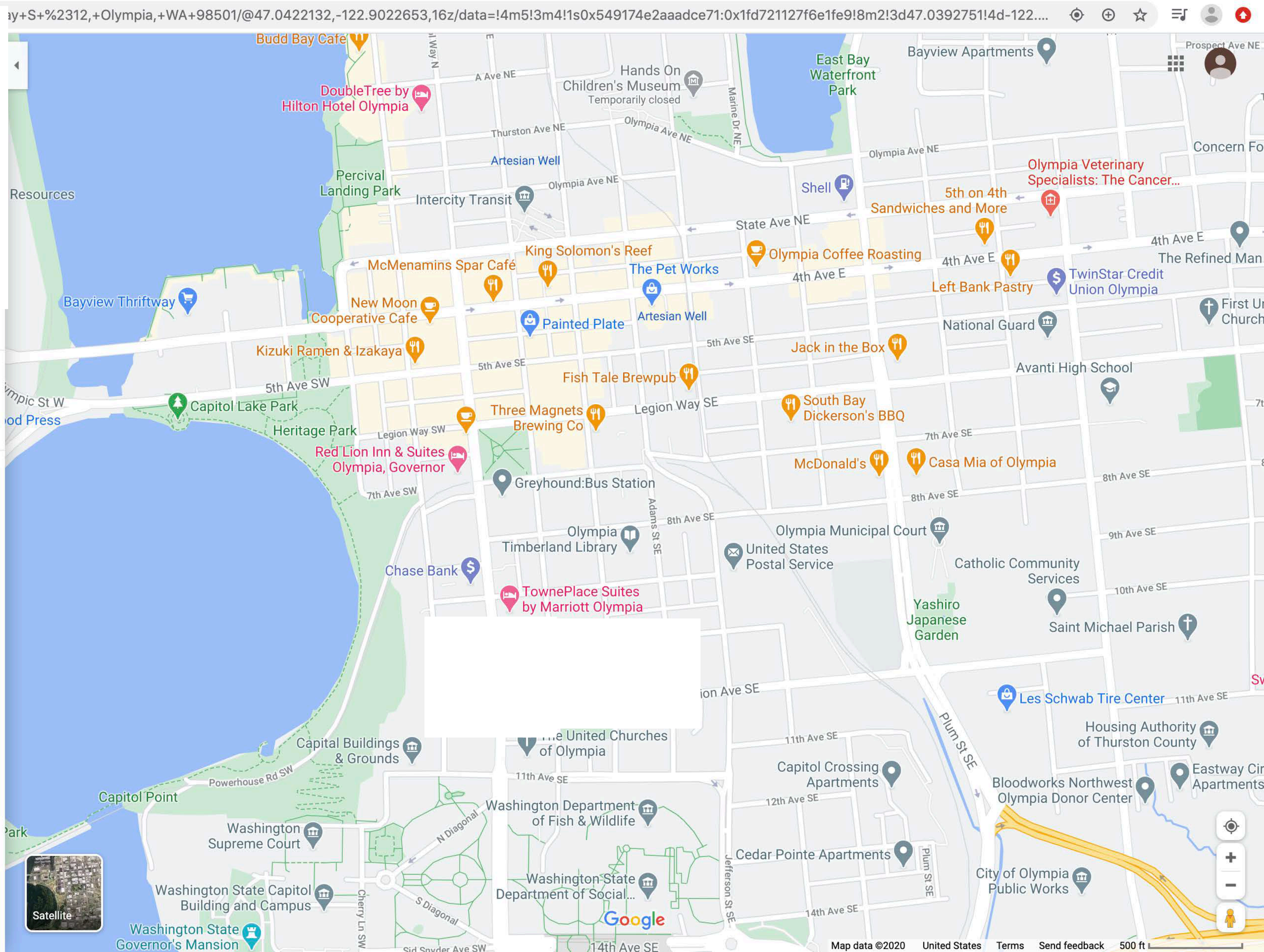
Planning Commissioner | Mar 2020 – Present
City of Olympia

- Advises City Council on the long-range growth & development of Olympia, including changes to the City's comprehensive land use plan & zoning ordinance
- Represents the voice of the community through careful review of public comments, studying issues, & analyzing policy proposals brought before the commission






Class Chair | 2019 – 2021
**Alene Moris National Education
for Women's Leadership Institute**




- Serves on the planning committee for program curriculum & reengagement events
- Liaison to the 2019 cohort & the University of Washington Women's Center

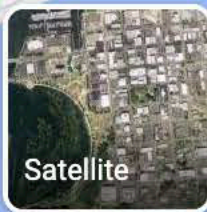
Volunteer | 2012 – 2016
Olympia Film Society
Supported the mission to present film, music, & art that
engages our community, encourages volunteerism, &
ensures preservation of the Capitol Theater



Olympia, WA 98501

-  Directions
-  Save
-  Nearby
-  Send to your phone
-  Share

-  Add a missing place
-  Add your business
-  Add a label



- Current Election ▼
- Voters' Guide
- Voting Centers
- My Ballot ▼
- Online Ballot
- Ballot Status
- Voter Registration
- My Elected Officials
- My Notices
- Voting History
- Logout

Welcome

YEN DIEU HUYNH

Registration Status

Active

Date of Birth

Residential Address

County

Thurston

OLYMPIA, WA 98501

Update my name or address

This is not me

Application for City of Olympia Council Position #2

About the position

The Olympia City Council is accepting applications for Councilmember Position #2. The term for Position #2 ends December 31, 2023. The appointee will serve, until the November 2021 General Election results are certified.

To serve out the remainder of the term, the appointee will have to be elected to the position in the General Election.

The current annual stipend for Olympia Council Position #2 is \$21,918, paid semi-monthly on the 5th and 20th.

Residency and other minimum requirements apply.

How to apply

In support of Governor Inslee's current COVID restrictions, Olympia City Hall is closed to the public. All application materials must be submitted electronically.

To be considered, this online application must be completed and submitted, along with all required attachments, **no later than 4 p.m. on Friday, December 11, 2020.**

Required attachments:

- Cover letter indicating your interest and general qualifications for the position
- Proof of voter registration, such as a copy of your voter registration card or online voter registration record
- City limits map with your residence clearly marked
- Resumé

On December 15, 2020, the City Council will review applications and finalize the selection process, including interview dates. Councilmembers have tentatively reserved Tuesday, January 5, 2021, and Wednesday January 6, 2021, for applicant interviews.

The appointee is expected to participate in the City Council's annual goal-setting retreat on January 8-9, 2021.

Need help?

For further information or if you have special needs, please contact the Council's Executive Assistant, Susan Grisham at sgrisham@ci.olympia.wa.us or 360.753.8447.

Notice

Once this application is filed with the City, it is a public record. The application form, resumé and supplemental answers received from all candidates who meet the minimum requirements of State law will be posted on the City of Olympia website for public viewing.

To be appointed to the Olympia City Council, an individual must have resided within the Olympia City limits for a minimum of one year at the time of assuming office, be a registered voter at the time of application, be 18 years of age or over, and not be a City of Olympia employee at the time of appointment. These are the same minimum requirements that apply per State law to elected Councilmembers (RCW 35A.12.030).

State law prohibits anyone convicted of a felony from holding elective public office. The City will conduct a criminal background check on all candidates.

Applicants will be considered regardless of race, color, creed, national origin, ancestry, sex, marital status, disability, religious or political affiliation, age, gender, sexual orientation, medical condition, or pregnancy. The City encourages individuals of all backgrounds to apply, including people of color, immigrants, refugees, women, LGBTQ, people with disabilities, veterans, and those with diverse life experiences, etc.

Applicant Information

Name Robbi Kesler

Residence Address Olympia, WA, 98502

Phone Number

Email

Are you a registered voter of the City of Olympia? (You must attach proof of voter registration) ☒ Yes

Are you a resident of the City of Olympia? (You must attach a City limits map with your residence clearly marked) ☒ Yes

How long have you been a resident of the City of Olympia? 6 years

How long have you lived at your current address? since June, 2014

Responsibilities

Appointment to the Olympia City Council will require your attendance at numerous regularly scheduled and special meetings that occur in the evening, on weekends, and during the weekday. City Council meetings are usually held weekly on Tuesday evenings, often from 7-10 p.m. or later. During the Governor's Stay Home, Stay Healthy Order, the Council meetings begin at 5:30 on the Zoom platform.

Councilmembers also serve on Council Committees, represent the Council on numerous regional and intergovernmental boards and commissions, and attend various community functions.

Councilmember activity usually requires a minimum of 15-20 hours per week per person, sometimes more.

Are you able to commit this amount of time and arrange your schedule to fully participate as a member of the Olympia City Council?

Yes

Supplemental Questions

Why are you interested in serving as an Olympia City Councilmember?

I am interested in the City Council position because of my desire for Olympia to be an optimal city. My education, professional background, and life experiences make me an ideal person to lead.

My family is from the South Sound. I am a member of the Skokomish Indian Tribe and grew up in Mason County. I attended a dance studio in Olympia, had my first job in high school at a restaurant in Olympia, and made frequent trips to Olympia for shopping, entertainment, and recreation—I have first-hand knowledge of Olympia's past.

I left the area to attend college and law school. I returned after passing the Washington State Bar Exam. I commuted south for a time as an attorney employed by the Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation. I served as the Tribe's general counsel. I was a department manager overseeing a budget and I worked with other departments to accomplish tasks approved by the Tribe's Business Committee. I also advised the Business Committee.

I have two young children. Raising a family was a reason I left the Tribe for a job in Olympia. I eventually became a non-partisan committee counsel for the House of Representatives. As committee counsel I drafted bills and analyzed the effect of a potential bill on other laws.

My combination of law school and professional experience makes me uniquely qualified to be an effective council member. I know how to work with department managers. I know what the role of the Council is versus the role of department managers and other city employees. I know how policies become law, how laws should be written, how laws interact, and the importance of the budget.

I also know from my experience as a Tribal member and Tribal employee about the long-term impacts of social inequality. Some Tribes in Washington have done well recently, but generations of racism, poverty, and lack of opportunities have caused Native Americans to disproportionately experience health issues and other hardships. I will do what I can as a council member to address racism and social injustice in Olympia within the confines of the position.

Additionally, my experience of raising children in Olympia, owning a residence in Olympia, living in a household that depends on my husband's income from a business he co-owns in Olympia (a business that in large part depends on the success of other area businesses), and being involved with various local organizations has supplemented my views. My combined personal experiences provide me with perspective on a broad range of issues.

I am interested in serving on the City Council because Olympia will benefit from having a voice on the current Council that is a minority, has a law degree, has legal experience directly related to governance, owns property in Olympia, is raising a family in Olympia, and has a personal history in Olympia spanning almost forty years. I am interested in serving as a councilmember because I know I can help—I have been trained for this position.

What are the three highest priorities you believe the City needs to address? How would you propose to address these issues?

Three goals I have are as follows: (1) implement a better system to hold council members accountable; (2) enter a compact with area governments to address public health issues associated with existing encampments of homeless persons, including a plan to remove trespassers from private property; and (3) increase the availability of affordable housing. There are many other worthy goals I plan to support including, but not limited to: bringing more diversity to city government and promoting social equity (there are currently no council members that I am aware of who are a minority class, but as a Native American I would represent a minority group with a presence in the local community); increasing funding for law enforcement; working with other area governments on environmental issues related to Capitol Lake; supporting the Parks Department in adding parks and services (e.g. walking and exercise trail on the west side and near Capitol Mall, etc.); and working with other area governments (e.g. County and Port) to promote tourism and hospitality services as a way to increase revenue.

The City has action plans as part of the overall comprehensive plan, but there are inadequate monitoring/progress reports on the action plans. Current grading of the City's plans is limited to subjective feedback, which is generally people who strongly disagree or strongly agree—there should be an objective measurement criterion. The City of Bend, Oregon is an example that has developed objective grades for action plans and produces effective public communications. I would work to develop a system to hold officials accountable.

One of the issues most talked about in Olympia is homelessness. This is a problem on many levels—for example, can the City help reduce the prevalence of homelessness, and can the City decrease the impact of homelessness? The public health issue is seemingly overlooked.

Allowing hundreds of people to live in close quarters without proper sanitation is detrimental to the homeless population and clearly detrimental to the environment. The City should not permit the congregation of so many campsites near each other and close to critical environmental and/or cultural areas. The solution is to work with other area governments to develop a plan to move the homeless population to government approved public sites. It is unfair to make private property owners, including local businesses, deal with the homeless problem. Ideally the government can provide an area for people to live without fear of persecution but in a space that is sanitary, safe, and close to services.

Affordable housing options may alleviate homelessness problems and also needs to be a priority given population growth in the city and surrounding communities. I would support laws that make it easier to permit alternative dwelling units, multi-unit housing, and approved areas of tiny-houses and RVs/trailers.

Please list your past community involvement (such as organizations, boards, commissions, and volunteerism), your role, and the dates of service. Address the relevance of your community involvement to the position of Olympia City Councilmember.

I joined Junior League of Olympia ("JLO") after law school. My role in JLO grew and I was President in 2014-15. JLO provides training that focuses on community involvement and leadership. Junior League is an international women's organization with a local chapter. They had training and networking opportunities nationally, which I participated in and completed.

The Chehalis Tribe enrolled me in Leadership Thurston County in 2013-14 and I am a graduate of that program. The curriculum of Leadership Thurston County was designed to educate participants about community issues while simultaneously providing networking opportunities and exploring leadership opportunities. The relationships I developed in Leadership Thurston County and JLO combined with the training I received has positioned me well for a seat on the Olympia City Council.

My oldest of two children started public school in Olympia in 2015 and our family was picked for a spot in the Montessori program at Olympia Regional Learning Academy ("ORLA"). In the first year my son attended ORLA there was no before-and-after-school-care. I joined the PTA and advocated for

childcare, which helped bring Y-Care to ORLA. I was eventually a member of the PTA Board and responsible creating their first fundraising program. I planned several events, including a dinner/silent auction which raised money to support ORLA activities. We were able to bring direct financial support to the classrooms and subsidize extracurricular programs for the students, such as a theater program. My children later enrolled in their local school—Garfield—and we continue to be involved and support the various efforts to provide funding and community support for the school.

I have two children currently ages of five and ten. I volunteer in the parent roles of chaperoning field trips, watching kids backstage during ballet practice, and keeping score at youth sporting events. My role as a wife and mother also means my time is divided while my spouse gives his time and energy to various local causes—it is a team effort. My spouse has coached youth basketball and baseball teams, volunteers for Thurston County Volunteer Legal Services, serves as Treasurer of the West Olympia Rotary Board, and is on the Board of the Thurston County Bar Association.

My spouse and I have each also served on the Board of our condominium's Homeowner's Association. We also donate to multiple local causes—in the past we have donated time and money to the Thurston County Food Bank, Bridge Music Project, Community Youth Services, SPSCC, and many other local organizations.

A final experience of note is my involvement in the Washington State Bar Association's Committee for Diversity. Early in my law career I was a member of this Committee, which addressed the need for diversity and inclusion within the legal community. As a Native American woman I believe my background and experiences would be unique and beneficial to the Olympia City Council.

What are your impressions of Olympia's Comprehensive Plan and/or other City-wide policy document and their goals and policies?

My impression of the comprehensive plan is that it is a wish list. Wish lists can be a good tool for setting goals in this case, but it needs to be clear decisions made by the city government have consequences—i.e. there are limited resources and as hard as we may try to find cross-policy benefits to decisions there will often be cases where a decision to promote one goal will come at the expense of another goal. Sometimes a decision to support one goal will simply mean lack of resources to support a different goal. Other times supporting one goal will directly conflict with another goal. Many of the City's goals identified in the comprehensive plan are not simultaneously achievable considering current policies.

Impact fees and other development requirements have their place and improvements in an area need to start somewhere. But I would like to see a plan that is more business friendly. Businesses bring jobs. Jobs bring money that is spent in the local economy. Money in the local economy increases business revenue, which leads to tax revenue for the City and sustainable expansion/building permit fees.

In conjunction with friendlier business policies the ease on housing policies to allow higher density will allow potential employees to afford to live near their jobs. This all has a domino effect that will benefit local businesses even more as the employees who eat and shop near their work in the daytime will eat and shop with their families in the evening. These activities also increase public safety as it brings more people out to frequent businesses, recreate at local parks and on local trails, and attend local events.

My impression of the comprehensive plan is that it is a good roadmap to the future, but there will still be several hard decisions that need to be made in order to meet some of those goals. There needs to be less restriction on businesses to increase development.

This does not mean cutting corners on environmental issues—we cannot allow development in critical areas, for example—but it does mean allowing variances on building height restrictions, certain types of offices in residential areas, and generally greater flexibility in allowing development. Solving problems requires revenue. Revenue requires growth and robust businesses. Growth requires change.

It is not realistic to address problems of homelessness, increase parks revenue, revitalize downtown, and bring jobs to the City without transforming. It is a challenge we can meet, but there must be compromise.

Describe a time you saw a problem in the community. What was your approach to addressing the problem? How did you implement your approach and what was the outcome?

Olympia is amazing for families. Schools are wonderful, parks and park services are exceptional, and there are numerous organizations that provide care and activities for children. Every option for childcare and children's enrichment has been developed by entrepreneurs, charitable organizations, government agencies, and/or concerned citizens.

I have personal experience in this area related to advocating for before and after school care at the relatively new Olympia Regional Learning Academy ("ORLA") building to support ORLA's public Montessori School program.

My son was one of the first students to attend school at the new ORLA building on Boulevard Road. However, no space had been allotted for before and/or after school care for the students when the building opened in 2015. The students who attended the Montessori program at ORLA either needed an adult to drop them off and pick them up at times during the day that were incompatible with working families, or they had to endure long bus rides from other area schools. There was an obvious unmet need for childcare at the ORLA building that prevented some families from being able to attend this great program.

I and other parents formed a group to investigate the options and advocate for onsite childcare. I took an active role in this group and personally communicated with ORLA administration, the Superintendent of the Olympia School District and other District staff, local YMCA management, and Educational Service District staff. There were many meetings and initially both the school and YMCA believed onsite childcare was not feasible, even though the same care was offered at every other elementary school in the district. The parent group was persistent and eventually onsite care was available to ORLA students at the beginning of the 2016-17 school year.

The issue surrounding childcare at ORLA involved collaborating with other parents who had similar goals and problem solving with the school and YMCA. The parent group had to analyze problems and identify solutions. The issues included financial considerations, space concerns, and competing interests by other groups on the resources of the school.

I also assisted ORLA in fundraising. I was a board member of the PTA and organized a charitable dinner and silent auction. The event was a success and raised several thousands of dollars for the PTA. The PTA was able to use the money raised from the event to provide enrichment activities and direct support for classroom books and materials. Planning the event required soliciting donations from area businesses, arranging an event space and appropriate permits, marketing the event to people who would attend and support the PTA's cause, and working with other PTA members. My son moved to Garfield Elementary during 4th grade and my family has continued to support local schools, including participation in Garfield fundraisers and West Olympia Rotary fundraisers that benefit Garfield.

In the midst of the pandemic and economic crisis, issues of race and social justice have risen to the forefront nationwide and in the Olympia community. What do you see as the challenges for our community in addressing these issues and how would you propose to address them?

Almost every decision the City Council makes going forward needs to be viewed through a lens that thinks critically about the goal of equity within the community. Past decisions made by government bodies at all levels have too often supported systematic and institutionalized racist policies and actions that have created the disparities we see today. I will continue to listen and learn about challenges faced by people in our community of all types. I will work to ensure everyone has a voice in the governing process. I look forward to working with community stakeholders and will pay special attention to the continued work of the Social Justice and Equity Advisory Commission. I would like to

see continued efforts towards communication and engagement in order to keep the community informed of ongoing information gathering efforts. Olympia has a large number of residents, business owners, students, volunteers, and activists who all have contributions to make. One of the challenges in addressing issues of social equity is communicating with all of the various groups in a way that leads to cooperation and a sense of optimism. We cannot ignore negatives and must face the facts, but at the same time must communicate a message of hope to keep people engaged.

I have experience working with diverse populations, and specific experience in organizing and community engagement. A required measurable outcome for my first position at the Chehalis Tribe was to engage the Tribal community to learn more about community priorities related to law and governance. I will use the skills and experience gained from that work to engage the citizens of Olympia to learn more about their own priorities, goals, and vision for social equity in ways that are intended to bring more people to the table. Examples may include more inclusive meeting times and formats, utilize all formats of communication to keep the public informed, and better understanding how to engage members of the public that have not previously participated.

It should be our goal to ensure the city's future is just and fair for everyone and gives rise to a society in which all can participate, prosper, and reach their full potential. Unlike equality, which connotes sameness, equity is responsive to difference; equitable policies actively mitigate the disproportionate harm faced by certain communities. I know from my experience as a Tribal member and Tribal employee about the long-term impacts of social inequality to Indigenous populations. I will do what I can as a council member to address racism and social injustice in Olympia within the confines of the position.

This appointment is effective for about 10 months. What do you wish to accomplish during this appointed term as an Olympia City Councilmember?

In my first ten months on the Council I will provide input on budgets and plans proposed by the various departments. I am familiar with the city's leaders and will spend time to familiarize myself more with personnel, become more knowledgeable about the goals of different departments, research opportunities for collaboration, and analyze the financial resources available to accomplish the city's goals.

My education and experience will enable me to have an immediate impact. Additionally, I have prepared for the position by watching past Council meetings and watching other group meetings. I am familiar with several issues on a personal level and am very involved in the community. I will obviously devote a significant amount of my time in the future to working on issues that come before the Council—if I am selected to the Council I have already decided to make it my primary professional focus in the beginning of 2021.

I will continue to develop relationships between other local governments, area business leaders, and the city's citizens as I believe a collaborative approach is the only way to solve many of the problems facing our community, which include problems dealing with race and social inequality. In preparation of serving on the City Council I have talked to numerous property managers, landowners, and business owners. I have talked to City department managers. I have talked to homelessness advocates and reviewed homelessness reports. I have talked to Tribal leaders. I have talked to current and former City council members. And I have talked to other community leaders, including making my intent to serve known to various elected officials in the county and surrounding government jurisdictions. I have received good feedback, which I know based on my relationships with members in the community is an indication that I have a broad base of support of business leaders, local officials, Tribal leaders, and others who will work with me.

Olympia is well positioned to be successful, but there are issues to be addressed—not the least of which are homelessness, environmental concerns regarding Deschutes River and climate change planning, a new courthouse in the County Seat, and growth. These are issues that must be continually addressed and do not have fixed solutions in the next ten months. My goal is to keep an open mind

and advocate for policies that will allow Olympia the flexibility to meet needs in the years to come.

Required Attachments

Sign and Submit

Signature

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roszi Kessler". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped 'R' and a distinct 'K'.

Date Signed

Thursday, December 10, 2020

Olympia, WA 98502

December 9, 2020

Olympia City Council
P.O. Box 1967
Olympia, WA 98507

Sent Via Website Upload

Re: Open position on the City Council

Dear City Council Members,

I would be pleased to serve with you on the Olympia City Council. The details of the position are a good match for my interests and skill set.

I have experience working with governing bodies at multiple levels of government. I have experience drafting laws, budgeting, and working with government officials. I am a licensed attorney in the State of Washington with a broad base of legal training and specific professional experience that is relevant to serving on the City Council. My professional background, education, and personal experiences make me well suited for a position on the Council.

I have worked for the State of Washington House of Representatives as an attorney advising the local government committee. I was general counsel for the Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation and advised the Tribe's Business Committee. I have direct knowledge of Olympia's past spanning almost forty years as I was born in this area and am an enrolled member of a nearby Indian Tribe. I have lived and worked in Olympia for several years and am raising two children in Olympia. I have specifically selected Olympia to be my home and have a strong desire to make Olympia an optimal city.

My professional experience as an attorney and public servant plus my personal experience make me ideally suited to perform the functions of a city councilmember. Please review my resume and answers to application questions. I would appreciate the opportunity to discuss how I can contribute effectively to the community as a councilmember. I am available to interview at the designated City Council meeting and can be contacted via email or telephone .

Yours very truly,

/s/

Robbi M. Kesler

ROBBI M. KESLER

• Olympia, WA • 98502

EDUCATION

Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ

J.D., December 2006

American Indian Graduate Center Fellow, 2004-2006

Native American Law Student Association, Secretary 2005-2006

University of Washington, Seattle, Washington

B.A. in Sociology, minor in American Indian Studies, June 2004

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2016 – 2020 – State of Washington House of Representatives, Olympia, WA

Non-partisan counsel, Office of Program Research

Counsel to the House Consumer Protection & Business Committee, Local Government Committee, and Joint Administrative Rules Review Committee.

2015 – 2016 – State of Washington Department of Revenue, Olympia, WA

Tax Policy Specialist, Interpretations and Technical Advice Division

Provided internal legal and policy advice for a wide variety of complex tax areas.

2007 – 2015 – Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation, Oakville, WA

General Counsel, Office of Tribal Attorney

Prior job titles: Environmental Code Writer and Staff Attorney. Provided legal and policy advice to the Tribal Government and Tribal enterprises. Practice included contract review, litigation, regulatory, and Tribal legislative matters, legal research, representation on civil litigation in Tribal Court and other jurisdictions. Responsible managing the in-house legal department and working cooperatively with other Government departments.

Spring 2006 - Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law, Tempe, AZ

Student Attorney, Indian Legal Clinic

Represented Tribal members in both civil and criminal matters in State and Tribal Courts, under the supervision of an attorney.

Summer 2003 - United States Senate, Office of Patty Murray, Washington DC

Intern

Assisted the Senator's Legislative Aid in topics concerning Tribal and Environmental issues. Researched and wrote letters to concerned constituents. Attended congressional hearings, concluded the hearings into a brief, and presented topics as needed.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Junior League of Olympia, Past President and Board Member

ORLA PTA, member and Fundraising Chair

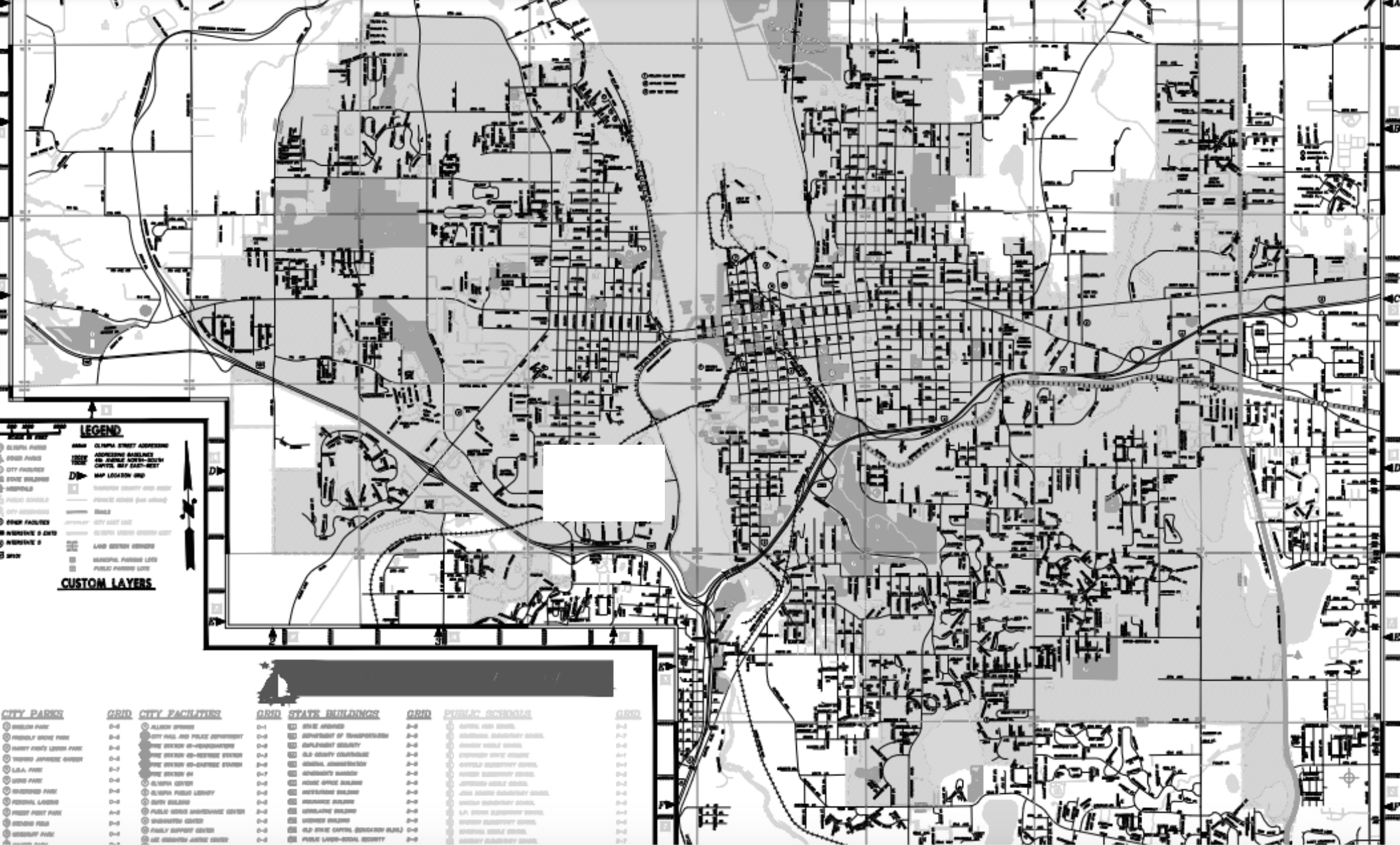
Leadership Thurston County Graduate

Washington State Judicial Diversity Program

Washington State Bar Association's Committee for Diversity, Board Member

Thurston County Bar Association, member

Skokomish Indian Tribe, enrolled member

[illegible]

Voter Registration Details

Personal Information

ROBBI MICHELLE KESLER

Residential Address

OLYMPIA, WA 98502

Mailing Address

OLYMPIA, WA 98502

Registration Date

01/02/2009

Registration Status

Active

County

Thurston

Precinct Name

Olympia 19 (0219.0)

County Information

Thurston County Elections

360-786-5408

elections@co.thurston.wa.us

<http://thurstonvotes.org>

Application for City of Olympia Council Position #2

About the position

The Olympia City Council is accepting applications for Councilmember Position #2. The term for Position #2 ends December 31, 2023. The appointee will serve, until the November 2021 General Election results are certified.

To serve out the remainder of the term, the appointee will have to be elected to the position in the General Election.

The current annual stipend for Olympia Council Position #2 is \$21,918, paid semi-monthly on the 5th and 20th.

Residency and other minimum requirements apply.

How to apply

In support of Governor Inslee's current COVID restrictions, Olympia City Hall is closed to the public. All application materials must be submitted electronically.

To be considered, this online application must be completed and submitted, along with all required attachments, **no later than 4 p.m. on Friday, December 11, 2020.**

Required attachments:

- Cover letter indicating your interest and general qualifications for the position
- Proof of voter registration, such as a copy of your voter registration card or online voter registration record
- City limits map with your residence clearly marked
- Resumé

On December 15, 2020, the City Council will review applications and finalize the selection process, including interview dates. Councilmembers have tentatively reserved Tuesday, January 5, 2021, and Wednesday January 6, 2021, for applicant interviews.

The appointee is expected to participate in the City Council's annual goal-setting retreat on January 8-9, 2021.

Need help?

For further information or if you have special needs, please contact the Council's Executive Assistant, Susan Grisham at sgrisham@ci.olympia.wa.us or 360.753.8447.

Notice

Once this application is filed with the City, it is a public record. The application form, resumé and supplemental answers received from all candidates who meet the minimum requirements of State law will be posted on the City of Olympia website for public viewing.

To be appointed to the Olympia City Council, an individual must have resided within the Olympia City limits for a minimum of one year at the time of assuming office, be a registered voter at the time of application, be 18 years of age or over, and not be a City of Olympia employee at the time of appointment. These are the same minimum requirements that apply per State law to elected Councilmembers (RCW 35A.12.030).

State law prohibits anyone convicted of a felony from holding elective public office. The City will conduct a criminal background check on all candidates.

Applicants will be considered regardless of race, color, creed, national origin, ancestry, sex, marital status, disability, religious or political affiliation, age, gender, sexual orientation, medical condition, or pregnancy. The City encourages individuals of all backgrounds to apply, including people of color, immigrants, refugees, women, LGBTQ, people with disabilities, veterans, and those with diverse life experiences, etc.

Applicant Information

Name Dontae Payne

Residence Address
OLYMPIA, WA, 98502

Phone Number

Email

Are you a registered voter of the City of Olympia? (You must attach proof of voter registration) ☒ Yes

Are you a resident of the City of Olympia? (You must attach a City limits map with your residence clearly marked) ☒ Yes

How long have you been a resident of the City of Olympia? 5 years

How long have you lived at your current address? 5 years

Responsibilities

Appointment to the Olympia City Council will require your attendance at numerous regularly scheduled and special meetings that occur in the evening, on weekends, and during the weekday. City Council meetings are usually held weekly on Tuesday evenings, often from 7-10 p.m. or later. During the Governor's Stay Home, Stay Healthy Order, the Council meetings begin at 5:30 on the Zoom platform.

Councilmembers also serve on Council Committees, represent the Council on numerous regional and intergovernmental boards and commissions, and attend various community functions.

Councilmember activity usually requires a minimum of 15-20 hours per week per person, sometimes more.

Are you able to commit this amount of time and arrange your schedule to fully participate as a member of the Olympia City Council?

Yes

Supplemental Questions

Why are you interested in serving as an Olympia City Councilmember?

Olympia is a wonderful place to live as an individual and to raise a family. I moved to Washington State and to Thurston County in 2014 after serving in the U.S. Army for six years. In 2015, my family and I moved to Olympia and became first time homeowners in this community. We immediately noticed the City's character and potential for Olympia to be even better to do business, work, and raise a family. With that being said, I'm aware that there are many people in our community that feel left behind. Poverty, rising rents, and cost of living are increasing, which is contributing to our homeless and houseless issue, especially since the start of pandemic response. I know there are several other factors that contribute to this issue, but it is a significant contribution. My experience with local government officials and stakeholders is relevant to the work of the Council. Reporting the concerns of local government officials informs my understanding of local issues such as housing and homelessness. I've toured homes provided by organizations such as Homes First and visited encampments and "tent cities" to see the various ways local governments make advances on our state's housing/homelessness crisis.

Over half of our residents are renters and I've heard from many residents that it is getting more expensive to live here. My story does not begin with my life in Olympia as a homeowner. I am a first generation four year college graduate from Philadelphia, PA. I come from a family of renters who occasionally relied on public assistance to get through difficult times. This experience provides the appropriate perspective to empathize with the struggles of all of our residents. If appointed, I'll work to provide more access to stable housing, provide much needed economic relief, and work to implement our public safety responsibilities to all residents.

What are the three highest priorities you believe the City needs to address? How would you propose to address these issues?

Housing / Homelessness- The COVID-19 pandemic has caused significant economic hardship for many people in Olympia. Allowing for diverse housing options is essential to meet the needs of current residents and to accommodate the expected growth within our community in the next decade. Additionally, we must address the cost of living within the City of Olympia. To begin making significant advances for the population of unhoused individuals in our community, we'll need to monitor the pace of home rental rates while also continuing advocacy for permanent supportive housing. According to the Thurston County Regional Planning Council (TRPC), the Olympia area's cost of living is nearly 10% higher than the national average with housing at 4% higher in the first quarter of 2020. If not carefully monitored, these numbers could increase substantially. I propose that the Council continue its pursuit of "missing middle" housing through the legal process and amend any existing barriers, such as zoning and restrictions ordinances to take steps toward housing diversity.

Public Safety- The recent events that have occurred around parts of the City and our downtown area concerns many members of our community. There is much concern for the safety and well-being of Olympia's residents. The community desires to have significant reform within the Olympia Police

Department to ensure all residents are treated fairly, particularly for people of color. I support the efforts to implement the Social Justice & Equity Advisory Commission to improve Olympia's standing on issues of justice, equity, and fairness. I'd accomplish this by analyzing the disparities and reports of the Commission to make informed decisions on policy. Additionally, mental health and social services need to be expanded in our community. I'd support an expansion of the City's Crisis Response Unit in order to address the needs of our residents struggling from complications with their mental health. This often makes a significant difference in who responds and how based on the training and expertise of crisis response professionals. I have witnessed the work of these professionals on our capitol campus. They have de-escalated several situations and many times prevent further action by law enforcement officers.

Environment/Climate Change - If there's anything we've learned from the COVID-19 pandemic, it's how critical it is to have early intervention and prevention. The same is true for the issue of climate change. It is incumbent upon our local government to prepare for one of the most threatening disasters to our downtown area, sea-level rise. We cannot risk major flooding in our city's center. It would have profound economic and public health impacts on our community. The City of Olympia has monitored this activity since the 1990's. As a council member, I'll continue our climate advocacy efforts with urban density promotion and sustainable development.

Please list your past community involvement (such as organizations, boards, commissions, and volunteerism), your role, and the dates of service. Address the relevance of your community involvement to the position of Olympia City Councilmember.

Since moving to Olympia in 2015, I've spent my time separating from the military, returning to college, attending graduate school, starting a family, assisting my spouse with opening a new business in Olympia, and working full time. Despite all these things, I managed to find time to be an executive board member for Thurston County Young Democrats (TCYD).

From January 2019-January 2020, I volunteered to serve as Treasurer of TCYD to help elect candidates that several members of the community desired to lead it. During this time, I met more people in the community and engaged with both constituents and officials on the issues in Olympia and Thurston County.

I recognize that my community involvement is not as extensive as some others, but I do not want that to be misunderstood as a lack of commitment to this community. Although significantly smaller than a local government budget, managing TCYD's budget provided some basic aspects to balancing a budget and voting how and when to spend dollars, which is relevant to the work of a councilmember. I understand that a budget should reflect the values of community members while also considering the professional expertise of government staff as a matter of practicality and efficiency.

What are your impressions of Olympia's Comprehensive Plan and/or other City-wide policy document and their goals and policies?

The Comprehensive Plan is crucial to the future growth and development of the City of Olympia. I do believe the Comprehensive Plan's most important contribution is guiding the Council's business as it produces policies for a variety of issues. This contribution is significant because the plan provides a vision for the City. The Council can use it as a guide for enacting policies that will achieve the goals outlined in the plan, aligning with the desires of our community members. However, the topics of equity, inclusion, and the issue of systemic racism is not woven into any parts of the Comprehensive Plan. When proposing and enacting policies we must consider the issue of racism using an equity lens in order to address the systemic problems that exist as barriers for various members of the

community. Using an equity lens means being intentional and deliberately seeking for the areas where disproportionate impacts harm marginalized individuals and communities in order to disrupt the affliction of harmful and neglectful policies.

Additionally, the issues of homelessness and income inequality are absent in the Comprehensive Plan. It should also acknowledge that systemic racism is ingrained in many zoning ordinances and that a diverse field of housing options in Olympia is crucial to addressing the needs of current and future members of our community. Providing a vision to address this major issue in Olympia with options for housing would guide our local government's business to work towards these goals.

Describe a time you saw a problem in the community. What was your approach to addressing the problem? How did you implement your approach and what was the outcome?

The year 2017 was a very troubling year for The Evergreen State College. Many protests and demonstrations occurred on the campus due to accusations of racism, who many students and even employees believed to be perpetuated by faculty and other staff at the college. Shortly after, threats were made to students and staff at the college. These incidents resulted in the cancellation of on-campus instruction and the annual commencement was moved off campus for the first time in college's history. Soon after, a noticeable enrollment decline persisted. It was clear to me that the problem was how many people on campus felt racial tension and simultaneously concerned for the future of the college. I was personally impacted by these incidents not only as a Black male, but as a student of the college and a resident of Olympia. Following these events, I began to participate in meetings and discussions to study the occurrences of what happened on campus and to develop ways to repair the damage to the institution's reputation. I felt that this was important because The Evergreen State College is a major pillar in our community. I participated in visual publications that would promote the college to offer a positive vision of the institution to those in and outside of Olympia.

Most recently, I met with a panel of alumni for the college to advise members of the Presidential Search Advisory Committee. I know that many discussions were had amongst many groups across campus regarding race relations, which I believe were pivotal in order to move forward as an institution and a community. I often spoke of my own experiences in these discussions and my desire to see the college rise to the challenge of bringing people together for open dialogue. These meetings and discussions will prove to be beneficial as Evergreen looks to the future and moves beyond the occurrences in 2017. The outcome and full impacts of my efforts and the efforts of many others remains to be seen as The Evergreen State College moves forward. My abilities to build coalitions, establish trust, and facilitate discussions on difficult topics are useful skills for a member of the City Council.

In the midst of the pandemic and economic crisis, issues of race and social justice have risen to the forefront nationwide and in the Olympia community. What do you see as the challenges for our community in addressing these issues and how would you propose to address them?

The challenges regarding racism and inequality are not new to this community or in others. What is new, is the multitude of people from various backgrounds calling for racial justice and the dismantling of white supremacy and systemic racism in all levels of government. We have seen numerous peaceful demonstrations in our community calling for us to evolve ourselves as people and as neighbors for the sake of our shared humanity.

However, we have also witnessed violence and destruction within our community to the detriment of our downtown businesses and sense of safety for residents. The most obvious challenge is the increase of extremists groups whose only purpose is to wreak havoc in our community. These groups are not only damaging physical property, but they're also hijacking the message of the Black Lives Matter movement. It is necessary for our local government to draw a clear distinction between these fringe groups and those who strategically seek racial harmony and justice in our community. The challenges we face regarding racism can only be addressed with bold action and a commitment to

systemic transformation, starting with our local government. We cannot only make anti-racist statements, but we must produce anti-racist policy. As a council member, I will ask the hard questions and I will listen and learn from those of different backgrounds. Then I will seek out the areas in local government in need of transformation, such as representation within our city's boards, commissions, and advisory groups.

Systemic change means we need to fundamentally change some aspects of the organizational structure. The change begins with physical diversity and diversity of thought. In local government, law enforcement and the courts is where we see the most racial disparities. I will also ensure that we produce policies that implement accountability & transparency in law enforcement. The Olympia Police Department needs body cameras. These cameras benefit the residents and officers in the department. I realize that this is largely a fiscal issue and a capacity issue. However, if there's a window of opportunity, I would work with my colleagues and state government officials for funding these devices, especially if it became mandated by state law. Our issues with housing are also part of systemic injustice. I will continue to review our ordinances on zoning and density. Many older policies have had lasting effects on our community, resulting in racial discrimination and we must amend these policies to reverse any intentional or unintentional damages.

This appointment is effective for about 10 months. What do you wish to accomplish during this appointed term as an Olympia City Councilmember?

I wish to join the Council to do work on COVID-19 recovery efforts to return our city to the vibrant community we love with our annual community events and businesses thriving. I'd like to move us forward and continue increasing our efforts to connect with members of our community in order to reflect the changes they want to see here. My story is forever woven into Olympia's story. I wish to create opportunities and access to essential services for all residents so they too can live securely and stably.

Required Attachments

Cover Letter



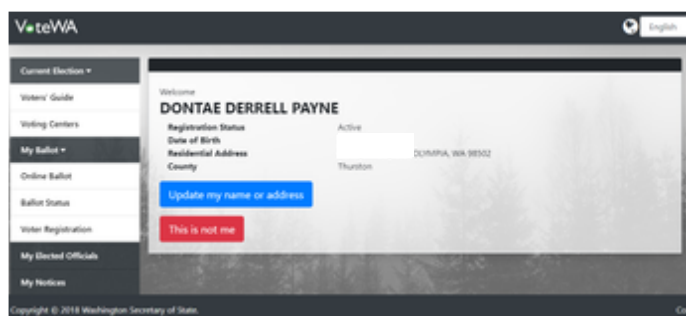
Payne_Cover Letter.pdf

Resumé




Payne_Resume.pdf

Proof of Voter Registration



Residence Map



City Limits Map- Payne Residence.pdf

Sign and Submit

Signature



Date Signed

Friday, December 11, 2020

Dontae Payne
Olympia, WA 98502

December 10, 2020

Olympia City Council
P.O. Box 1967
Olympia, WA 98507-1967

Mayor Selby and members of the Olympia City Council,

This letter is to express my interest in the appointment to the Olympia City Council, Position 2. My resume provides information concerning my overall employment background, skills, education and volunteer experience. As South Puget Sound Regional Representative in the Office of the Governor and as the former treasurer of a local political organization, I have worked on a variety of issues throughout our region of the state. Eagerly, I have worked to ensure the values of our community members are reflected in its elected officials.

I've served in a leadership position for a variety of organizations and I have experience interacting with government officials, stakeholders, and engaging constituents. These skills have helped me build relationships with several community members in and outside of our local, state, and federal government.

Due to my experience in a changing and fast-paced environment, I understand the various complexities that come with working with elected officials and external agencies; which I know would be an asset to Olympia City Council. Additionally, my current position requires me to monitor and track issues important to state and local governments, including Olympia.

As a resident with experience on the executive board of a local political organization, I have an understanding of the issues that matter to Olympia's residents, but I know there is much more to learn. Olympia is a beautiful community with lots of challenges, but has the potential to solve many of them. I would appreciate the opportunity to serve with you to continue improving the community we all love and serve. Thank you for your time and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,
Dontae Payne
Dontae Payne

Summary

Government relations professional with leadership experience and understanding of local, state, and federal government operations. Possesses strong written and verbal skills to effectively communicate and maintain relationships with elected officials, stakeholders, staff, and community members. Experience with stressful situations while upholding confidentiality of sensitive information. Additional experience problem solving and improving processes in a fast-paced legislative environment and managing projects. Previous employment in a variety of organizations with diverse groups and individuals.

Employment History

Regional Outreach Representative

Office of the Governor • Olympia, Washington
03/2019 - Present

Serves as the primary liaison between the Governor's Office, local communities and tribal governments regionally. Develops strategic relationships and provides assistance to community organizations, elected officials, and citizens on regional and statewide issues.

Responsibilities:

- Liaison between the Office, the South Sound, and Olympic Peninsula (7 counties) in Washington State
- Establish and maintain relationships with a diverse set of stakeholders. Manages constituencies and coalitions
- Collaborates with policy and communications staff to convey important concepts and develop and interpret policies for staff and external partners
- Staffs the governor for events and appearances
- Prepares briefing memorandums and talking points
- Handles multiple priorities and meets established deadlines
- Works well and creatively under tight timelines, in a team environment and independently

Executive Correspondence Manager and Caseworker

Office of the Governor • Olympia, Washington
05/2018 - 02/2019

The Executive Correspondence Manager works in the Constituent Services Unit and is a member of the Communications team. This position coordinates the tracking, referral and distribution of all incoming executive correspondence and coordinates, drafts and edits outgoing executive correspondence.

Responsibilities:

- Drafts/edits and coordinates the approval and signature process for outgoing executive correspondence for the governor's signature. This position is responsible for recognizing potential problems and working closely with policy advisors and agency staff to address any issues with draft materials
- Responsible for monitoring shared inboxes and queues, processing internal requests and completing associated data entry
- Trains new staff and provides back-up support to the Director of Constituent Services

Homeless Census & Research Intern

City of Olympia, Community Planning & Development • Olympia, WA

04/2018 - 06/2018

- Conduct focus groups with Downtown Business Owners
- Data Entry
- Assist with production of the annual Homeless Census Report

Legislative Policy Intern

Washington State Legislature / House of Representatives • Olympia, Washington

01/2018 - 03/2018

Full time administrative work in the legislative offices of Speaker Frank Chopp, Representative Pat Sullivan, and Representative Vandana Slatter during the 2018 session. Observing and participating in the development of public policy in the legislative arena. Engaged in legislative education classes on respectful workplace ethics, legislative writing, state budget, and computer programs.

Responsibilities:

- Legislative research/Constituent Casework
- Bill tracking
- Project Management
- Drafting constituent responses
- Constituent phone calls and contact tracking
- Frequent outreach and interaction with constituents, stakeholders, and state government leaders

Security Technician (Lead Technician)

G4S Secure Solutions, Inc. • Olympia, Washington

09/2016 - 05/2018

State contracted Security Officer performing observation and reporting of activity on assigned location at State Data Center in Olympia, Washington.

Responsibilities:

- Observation of all activity on premises
- Reporting suspicious or unusual activity
- Maintaining daily shift reports using computer applications and issuing them to appropriate authorities

Supply Chain Associate & Supervisor

United States Army • Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington

04/2010 - 06/2016

United States military veteran with 6 years' military experience maintaining accounting records for property and personnel. Provided effective leadership and guidance for a team of 5 employees within a multi-cultural diverse environment.

Responsibilities:

- Data entry, establish and maintain stock records and other documents such as inventory, material control, accounting and supply reports
- Unload, unpack, visually inspect, count, segregate, palletize and store incoming supplies and equipment
- Ensure the safety of staff when loading and unloading supplies and repair parts
- Operate material handling equipment such as pallet jacks, forklifts, hand trucks, and light trucks
- Operate military vehicles with appropriate licensure

Thurston County Young Democrats (TCYD)

Treasurer 2019–2020

Oversees the financial and accounting aspects of the organization.

Responsibilities:

- Serves as a member of the executive board for the TCYD
- Monitors all contributions, maintains financial records, and is responsible for tracking expenditures approved by the body
- Assists in the preparation and monitoring of the budget
- Plan and organize social events with board members

Education

Master of Public Administration (MPA)

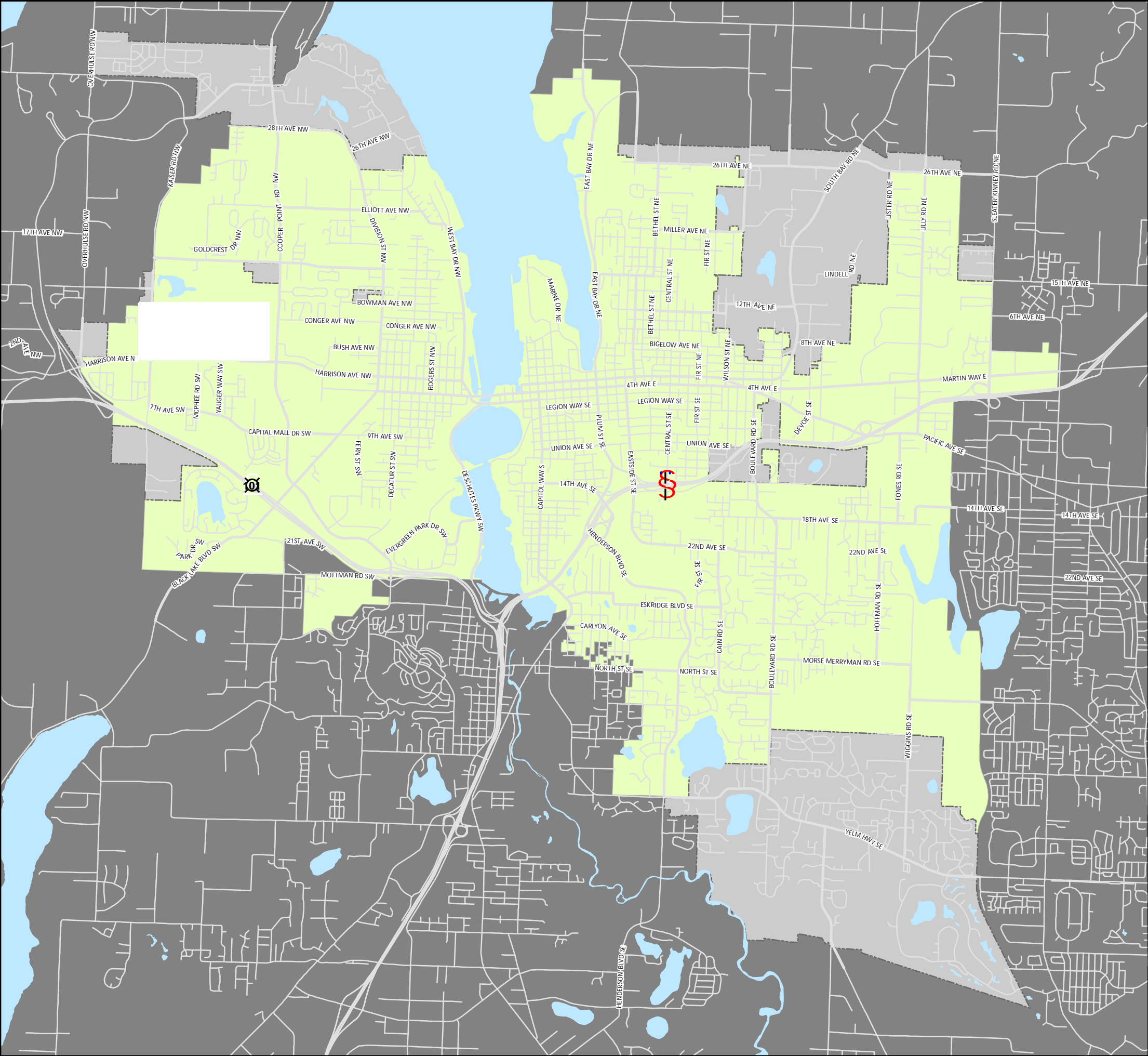
The Evergreen State College • Olympia, WA

Public Policy Concentration

Bachelor of Arts- Political Science

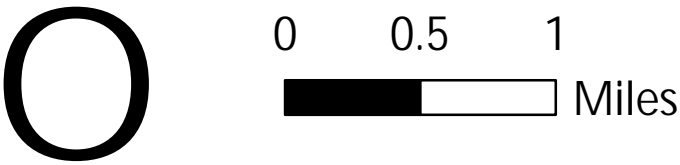
The Evergreen State College • Olympia, WA

Variety of liberal arts (interdisciplinary) undergraduate courses completed such as education, emergency medicine, political science, and economics.



City Limits and Urban Growth Area

- Urban Growth Area
- City Limits



The City of Olympia and its personnel cannot assure the accuracy, completeness, reliability, or suitability of this information for any particular purpose. The parcels, right-of-ways, utilities and structures depicted hereon are based on record information and aerial photos only. It is recommended the recipient and or user field verify all information prior to use. The use of this data for purposes other than those for which they were created may yield inaccurate or misleading results. The recipient may not assert any proprietary rights to this information. The City of Olympia and its personnel neither accept or assume liability or responsibility, whatsoever, for any activity involving this information with respect to lost profits, lost savings or any other consequential damages.

Current Election ▾

Voters' Guide

Voting Centers

My Ballot ▾

Online Ballot

Ballot Status

Voter Registration

My Elected Officials

My Notices

Welcome

DONTAE DERRELL PAYNE**Registration Status**

Active

Date of Birth

[REDACTED]

Residential Address

[REDACTED] OLYMPIA, WA 98502

County

Thurston

[Update my name or address](#)[This is not me](#)

Application for City of Olympia Council Position #2

About the position

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Residency and other minimum requirements apply.

How to apply

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To be considered, this online application must be completed and submitted, along with all required attachments, **no later than 4 p.m. on Friday, December 11, 2020.**

Required attachments:

- Cover letter indicating your interest and general qualifications for the position
- Proof of voter registration, such as a copy of your voter registration card or online voter registration record
- City limits map with your residence clearly marked
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Need help?

For further information or if you have special needs, please contact the Council's Executive Assistant, Susan Grisham at sgrisham@ci.olympia.wa.us or 360.753.8447.

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Applicants will be considered regardless of race, color, creed, national origin, ancestry, sex, marital status, disability, religious or political affiliation, age, gender, sexual orientation, medical condition, or pregnancy. The City encourages individuals of all backgrounds to apply, including people of color, immigrants, refugees, women, LGBTQ, people with disabilities, veterans, and those with diverse life experiences, etc.

Applicant Information

Name Maria Siguenza

Residence Address Olympia, Washington, 98506

Phone Number

Email

Are you a registered voter of the City of Olympia? (You must attach proof of voter registration) ☒ Yes

Are you a resident of the City of Olympia? (You must attach a City limits map with your residence clearly marked) ☒ Yes

How long have you been a resident of the City of Olympia? 8 years 6 months

How long have you lived at your current address? 6 years 8 months

Responsibilities

Appointment to the Olympia City Council will require your attendance at numerous regularly scheduled and special meetings that occur in the evening, on weekends, and during the weekday. City Council meetings are usually held weekly on Tuesday evenings, often from 7-10 p.m. or later. During the Governor's Stay Home, Stay Healthy Order, the Council meetings begin at 5:30 on the Zoom platform.

Councilmembers also serve on Council Committees, represent the Council on numerous regional and intergovernmental boards and commissions, and attend various community functions.

Councilmember activity usually requires a minimum of 15-20 hours per week per person, sometimes more.

Are you able to commit this amount of time and arrange your schedule to fully participate as a member of the Olympia City Council?

Yes

Supplemental Questions

Why are you interested in serving as an Olympia City Councilmember?

The city of Olympia is the first place I have truly felt at home. I grew up in various areas in the state: my first few years of my life were in Wenatchee, then I spent the majority of my life in the beautiful Skagit Valley. Bellingham was where I did a lot of growing up as I was finding my way at Western Washington University. However, I have to thank Olympia for the opportunities that its vested in me. Olympia is the place where I became myself; invested in a home; and grew in my career. The City of Olympia is a welcoming place full of opportunity; I want Olympians to be able to thrive as I have. Ultimately, I want to invest my time, skills, and talents into a city that has given me so much.

What are the three highest priorities you believe the City needs to address? How would you propose to address these issues?

I walk through the myriad streets that Olympia has. I live in the Bigelow neighborhood; work on Capitol Campus; and regularly enjoy Olympia's downtown. My life story takes place in the 1-mile radius around Capitol and 4th. From my vantage point I see three issues:

- Housing Fairness and Access (thank you to the work of the council for passing some new zoning rules!)
- Dispersed communities cannot thrive. We can encourage community and an environmentally friendly place by providing housing for people that allows them to live where its beneficial to them; close to work and services they need.
- Ensure that housing stock is accessible to working families and individuals
- Change zoning codes to include diverse housing options in the places people need them
- Homelessness
- We need to be able to create programs or that focus on behavioral Health to include substance use disorder aid and mental health access.
- Economic Development
- There is a lot of open space in our downtown core. With the current crisis we are experiencing with COVID-19, I've seen my beloved restaurants, coffee shops, small businesses, and bars hold on by a string, or worse, close. A revamped small business incentivization program could be helpful in this area; any future programs need to be easy to access and be held in various languages to be as inclusive as possible.
- Ensure the city is exhausting all possible granting opportunities available through the state and federal governments.
- Police Accountability
- The events that have taken place over the summer at a national level has broken trust between residents and their police in the deepest way. We need:
- Center marginalized residents of Olympia in this work
- An in-depth review of City of Olympia Police practices. We need to assess their practice against the most current practices being adopted in the state and elsewhere
- Assess our police composition: does the police look like its constituency?
- Understand where constituents' core issues lie and why
- Make changes in tandem with our community members

Please list your past community involvement (such as organizations, boards, commissions, and volunteerism), your role, and the dates of service. Address the relevance of your community involvement to the position of Olympia City Councilmember.

07/01/2019-now; Board Director

-I have been a board director for Centro Integral Educativo Latino de Olympia (CIELO), an organization that is an anchor for the Latino community in the south Sound. CIELO provides educational empowerment, mental health, and crime victim support services in Thurston, Mason, and Clark counties.

Relevance: The Latino population, while smaller in Olympia than the state average, is an integral part of our community. I have an intimate knowledge of access issues that our community faces while living in this region. This is an opportunity to make Olympia even more inclusive than it already is.

09/01/2019 – Junior League of Olympia

Member at large. This organization provides leadership opportunities for women in Olympia. This chapter focuses on foster children; we raise funds and provide opportunities for foster kids and their families to connect.

Relevancy: This group of women are local leaders that I can lean on for expertise on current issues in the foster care arena.

What are your impressions of Olympia's Comprehensive Plan and/or other City-wide policy document and their goals and policies?

At first glance, this document is well rounded and provides a comprehensive set of policies that affect Olympia's residents in a holistic way (from their health, to their environment, to their ability to enjoy the physical aspects of our city are a few examples).

I find the language to be soft in some key areas. For example, PP2.1 indicates that information and outreach should be available through a variety of means. In my experience, these plans need to be a little more specific so that staff can adequately implement such a rule. I suggest specifying the means through which communication should be improved or relayed. Another example is found in PP2.3: the words Evaluate and Pursue can be stronger actionable words to gauge the council's vision for desired action or we can add another actionable word to complement the two; and example change could be to add the word "implement".

As a naturalized citizen of the USA, I also found the use of the word "citizen" exclusive. It's a word that is used in our day-to-day lives as leaders in the city, county, or state; but it is time we understand its exclusionary context. I would like to see this document refer to Olympians as residents. Citizens or not, our residents contribute and enrich our city just the same.

Describe a time you saw a problem in the community. What was your approach to addressing the problem? How did you implement your approach and what was the outcome?

An issue that I have seen in the community is the lack of access that those with language barriers face. This, to a large part, is a systemic issue that needs to be addressed at the local and state level, however, in order to create the most impact I decided to get involved with CIELO. I started in CIELO as a volunteer helping individuals learn and study to gain their education degree. I then applied and earned a seat as a Board Director. I ensure that we are providing the best service we can to the Latino population, and other immigrant populations. Empowering our community members is one way that we can make change in an impactful way.

In the midst of the pandemic and economic crisis, issues of race and social justice have risen to the forefront nationwide and in the Olympia community. What do you see as the challenges for our community in addressing these issues and how would you propose to address them?

I see three major issues facing our community's ability to address race and social justice issues: power, systems, and polarization.

I propose to start off in this way:

Balance Power: in order to even start a conversation, we need to understand the power dynamics that

lie in our community. We need to revolve our outreach and communication with the community in a way that empowers community. We empower community by listening and acting accordingly. Systems: the systems we find ourselves in are working just the way they are designed. When we are in a place of power, and the systems work for us, we are blind to where the barriers exist. We need to provide a way in which the most marginalized community members are able to convey their pain points. We need to listen and act accordingly. Polarization: while we cannot change people's beliefs, we can make sure that the way in which we conduct outreach and solicit feedback are safe for everyone. Again, we listen and act accordingly.

This appointment is effective for about 10 months. What do you wish to accomplish during this appointed term as an Olympia City Councilmember?

Ten months gives me plenty of time to propose solutions to the economic crisis and issues of race and social justice. It is my goal, if I earn this seat, to be a partner to the council in bringing forth holistic solutions that address root-cause systemic issues. I will not plan to run to keep this seat, however. My partner and I will be moving early 2023 to a property we will own just out of city limits.

Required Attachments

Cover Letter



SiguenzaCoverLetterCoO.pdf

Resumé



Siguenza Resume.pdf

Proof of Voter Registration



Voter Registration Siguenza.pdf

Residence Map



City Limits Map Siguenza.pdf

Sign and Submit

Signature

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'RS' or similar, written in a cursive style.

Date Signed

Friday, December 11, 2020

María Sigüenza

Olympia, WA 98506

December 11, 2020

Dear Council,

Every application turned in begs the question ‘*Why does this person want to do this position?*’ For me, an experience I had as an interpreter perfectly captures my motivation. A woman was rushed into the birthing center of the hospital where I interpreted, complaining of extreme pain. Assuming it was a standard labor, the nurse who always turned away interpreters because she thought she was fluent in Spanish having lived abroad for six months, didn’t call me. After one hour in labor, the mother was rushed to an emergency C-section and the obstetrician insisted the nurse call an interpreter. The nurse’s Spanish was so bad, the mother did not know she was being rushed into surgery until I told her as she was being wheeled, on all fours, to the operating room. Her baby was stillborn. Fifteen minutes of CPR revived the child, but the child only lived for one more day. Had the nurse not violated the patient’s rights, the nurse would have known the patient’s history, and could have saved the child’s life. The work of leading a city and creating strong relationships and partnerships with our community is about more than doing the right thing, creating better policies, and providing adequate services. It has important consequences.

These kinds of occurrences, while many may not have the grave outcome of my anecdote, happen every day, leading to break trust with residents. Throughout my career, I have found that building relationships by collaborating with communities, seeking feedback on how I and the organization I represent can do better, and creating and implementing policies and action plans is the best way to keep those I work for (the people) at the forefront of the work.

Aside from my passion for equal access and collaboration, I have a diverse professional background. I have a combination of program and agency management; policy and strategy implementation and development; stakeholder management, and direct patient and client service experience that will make me a great candidate for this open City Council position.

- My experience with the Language Testing and Certification Program with the Department of Social and Health Services has fine-tuned my policy skills through the design and implementation of the newly adopted Washington Administration Codes overseeing requirements for interpreter quality control.
- I have strong facilitation and leadership skills used in various settings from diversity, inclusion, and equity workshops and statewide stakeholder meetings.
- I have a working background that ranges from accounting, to interpreting, to developing and implementing internal diversity, inclusion, and equity and supplier diversity strategies for various agencies.
- I have been providing safe, ethical, and excellent customer service through interpretation, program and agency management, in multiple settings including hospitals, community health clinics, and state agencies for the last 10 years.
- I hold a Certified Diversity Professional certificate from The Institute for Diversity Certification.

In me you’ll discover a detail-oriented, motivated, and extremely hard-working candidate. I welcome the opportunity to further discuss this position with you.

Sincerely,

María Sigüenza

MARIA A SIGUENZA

A SERVANT LEADER EMPLOYING AND PERPETUALLY LEARNING
EQUITY, ACCESS, AND SOCIAL JUSTICE PRINCIPLES

EXPERIENCE

COMMISSION ON HISPANIC AFFAIRS

AUGUST 2018 -

DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING

MARCH 2018 - JULY 2018

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

DECEMBER 2016 - MARCH 2018

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

MAY 2014 - NOVEMBER 2016

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ►

Responsible for a small-cabinet level agency under the purview of Governor Inslee. Provide strategic direction to agency staff and 11 governor-appointed commissioners. Cultivate relationships with state agencies, legislators, the Governor and his office staff; and community.

EQUITY, DIVERSITY, & INCLUSION MANAGER ►

Provide agency-wide direction and leadership on holistic equity, diversity, and inclusion initiatives. Collaborate closely with staff at all levels, and external partners to include state agencies and community organizations. Provide support on bilingual outreach and engagement activities.

BUSINESS DIVERSITY & LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM MANAGER ►

Influence the inclusion of small, micro, mini, small, minority-, women-, and veteran-owned businesses in purchasing practices. Provide broad-based expert consultation in legislative matters to division directors.

INTERPRETER QUALITY ASSURANCE COORDINATOR ►

Develop systems, methods, procedures, and policies to certify DSHS bilingual employees and testing applicants. Provide consultation to the department in establishing DSHS policies regarding the quality of language services to LEP clients.

EDUCATION

WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

SEPTEMBER 2005 - MARCH 2010

BACHELOR OF ARTS HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES ►

Majored in Research Psychology. Minor in Sociology with an emphasis in gender, race, and ethnic studies. First two years of school were heavily concentrated in calculus, biology, and chemistry, following a math and science degree pathway.


SKILLS

Policy Development	<div></div>
Teambuilding	<div></div>
Strategic Planning	<div></div>
External Relations	<div></div>
Lean Six Sigma	<div></div>
Change Management	<div></div>
Microsoft Office	<div></div>
Government Relations	<div></div>
Budgeting	<div></div>

INTERESTS





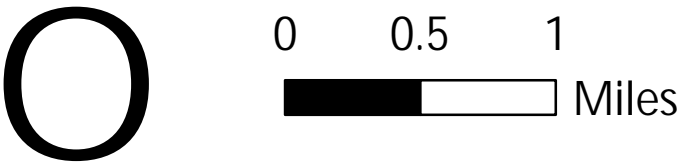
CONTACT

 Olympia, WA 98506



City Limits and Urban Growth Area

- Urban Growth Area
- City Limits



The City of Olympia and its personnel cannot assure the accuracy, completeness, reliability, or suitability of this information for any particular purpose. The parcels, right-of-ways, utilities and structures depicted hereon are based on record information and aerial photos only. It is recommended the recipient and or user field verify all information prior to use. The use of this data for purposes other than those for which they were created may yield inaccurate or misleading results. The recipient may not assert any proprietary rights to this information. The City of Olympia and its personnel neither accept or assume liability or responsibility, whatsoever, for any activity involving this information with respect to lost profits, lost savings or any other consequential damages.

Current Election ▾

Voters' Guide

Voting Centers

My Ballot ▾

Online Ballot

Welcome

MARIA DE LOS ANGELES SIGUENZA LOPEZ

Registration Status

Active

Date of Birth

Residential Address

OLYMPIA, WA 98506

County

Thurston