

# Ward 7 City Councilor Nomination Form

Response ID:59 Data

## 1. Eligibility for Ward 7 City Councilor

The Salem City Council will appoint a new councilor to fill the vacant position to fulfill the remainder of the term from a list of a recommendations made by the Board and Commissions Committee. The term expires December 31, 2020. If you meet the requirements below, please complete this form and submit it by 11:59 p.m., October 8, 2019.

To be eligible to serve as Ward 7 City Councilor, you must:

Be a registered voter

Not be a current City of Salem employee

Have lived within Ward 7 continuously during the last 12 months

The Salem City Council is composed of one representative from each of Salem's 8 wards and the Mayor. All members of the City Council, including the Mayor, are unpaid volunteer positions. In addition to twice monthly City Council meetings, members of the Council may participate in many community activities and meetings, including workshops, neighborhood association meetings, committee meetings, and other events.

Any information submitted may be subject to disclosure under Oregon Public Record's Law ORS 192.314.

## 2. Your contact information

### 1. Your contact information

**First Name**

Vanessa

**Last Name**

Nordyke

**Email Address**

[REDACTED]

**Home Address**

[REDACTED]

**Apt/Suite/Office**

None

**City**

Salem

**State**

OR

**Zip**

97302

**Primary Phone**

Day Phone (Optional)

Evening Phone (Optional)

2. Do you live in Ward 7? If unsure, you can use [this map](#) to find out. (Link opens in new window.)

Yes

### 3. About you

3. Which neighborhood associations represent your ward?

SouthWest Association of Neighbors

### 4. (untitled)

4. Are you registered to vote?

Yes

### 5. About you

5. Please describe your background and experience as it relates to city affairs. Please be specific if your experience relates to any volunteer or paid positions which interface with a city government.

I am a third-generation Salem lawyer and a Senior Assistant Attorney General at the Oregon Department of Justice. My dedication to Salem started in my teens, with work on issues like homelessness, veterans, domestic violence, mental health and substance abuse over the years. I have served on a quartet of City of Salem boards: the City of Salem Youth Advisory Commission, Social Services Advisory Board, Community Police Review Board, and the Citizen Budget Committee. I helped found the Marion County Veterans Treatment Court, a treatment court for military veterans. I co-captained a mock trial team of Latinx students through the Salem-Keizer Coalition for Equality, using my proficiency in Spanish and legal training to build oral advocacy skills and self-esteem for the next generation.

My commitment to local community service forms the foundation of my understanding of issues facing our city and the intersections between business, government, community partners, and the people of Salem. I am member of the Salem Family YMCA Board of Directors; the Rotary Club of Salem; and KMUZ Community Radio's Advisory Council. I have done "ridealongs" with Salem Police and Marion County Sheriff, and have served on the Marion County Sheriffs Office Citizens Advisory Committee, all of which increases my awareness of public safety issues. I am the President of the Willamette Valley American Inn of Court, a group of Marion and Polk County lawyers and judges.

I graduated from South Salem High School in 1998, then later graduated with honors from Georgetown University School of Foreign Service with a Bachelors of Science in International Political Economy in 2002. After graduating from University of Oregon School of Law in 2008, I was admitted to the Honors Attorney Program with the Oregon Department of Justice, where I have made my career as a lawyer. I am the recipient of Oregon DOJ's Excellence in Justice Award, the Marion County Bar Association's Government Lawyer of the Year, and the University of Oregon School of Law's Outstanding Young Alumnus Award.

I would be humbled and honored to join City Council. I look forward to opportunities to collaborate, build consensus, and work together with all Councilors and the Mayor.

6. City Councilors have many responsibilities and serve in a volunteer capacity. Please discuss your availability and

**commitment to meet the needs of the community in this role. How much time do you have to give?**

As someone who has built in time for countless hours of unpaid community service over the last decade, I am accustomed to balancing work and volunteerism. Community service is part of my identity and a permanent fixture in my life. I am available for regularly scheduled Council meetings and a variety of other meeting times.

**7. Describe your interest in the role. What would you look forward to?**

As previously stated, i look forward to collaborating with all City Council members on matters that we all care about—public safety, our City's financial health, parks, the safety of our water supply, housing, partnerships with business and community organizations—for the betterment of everyone who calls Salem home.

**8. What do you think are some of the most important issues facing the city today? What are your views on those issues?**

Salem is expected to have another 60,000 people moving here by 2035. How we grow matters, and decisions made by Council in the next several years will impact city growth. Questions I would have for city staff as a new councilor would include: Do we have a permitting process that works, or do we have a process that adds months to construction time and development costs? How can we incentivize renewable energy, green spaces, tree canopy, walkable neighborhoods and affordable housing while still being fiscally responsible with taxpayer dollars? Are we incentivizing employers to allow one-day-a-week telecommuting, as some states do, to reduce traffic and greenhouse gas emissions? What are we doing to engage our non-English speaking communities? How can we increase civic participation from folks who, due to work, family, or other obligations, cannot regularly attend and speak at City Council meetings? With the recent shooting at the Goodwill, do families feel safe? With the increase in large housing developments for seniors, will the response time for fire and emergency responders be short enough to save lives?

And, given the number of recent suicides amongst young people, is there something the City can do to support youth engagement and development, such as renewing the Salem Youth Advisory Commission? With mental health issues surfacing across demographic lines, what can the City do to enhance wellness for the people of Salem? As someone advocates for and conducts trainings on mental health, the City can increase awareness and destigmatize the need for folks to get mental health care and treatment when they need it. There is so much we can do, if we focus on positivity and consensus-building.

**6. References**

**9. Reference #1**

**First Name**

████

**Last Name**

████

**Email Address**

████████████████████

**Phone Number**

██████████

**Relationship to you**

Served on two boards with me

**Reference #2**

**First Name**

██████

**Last Name**

██████

**Email Address**

████████████████████

**Phone Number**

██████████

**Relationship to you**

Coworker

**Reference #3**

**First Name**

██████

**Last Name**

██████

**Email Address**

██████████████████

**Phone Number**

██████████

**Relationship to you**

Served on a board together

**7. Thank you!**

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Thank you for your interest in serving as City Councilor for Salem's Ward 7.

To be eligible to serve as Ward 7 City Councilor, you must:

**Be a registered voter**

**Not be a current City of Salem employee**

**Have lived within Ward 7 continuously during the last 12 months**

The Boards and Commissions Committee will review applications and provide recommendations to City Council in early October. The City Council will consider the Committee's recommendation and may conduct interviews on October 21, 2019. Council is expected to fill the vacancy at the October 28, 2019, City Council meeting.

**8. Thank you!**

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