

Ward 7 City Councilor Nomination Form

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 Records Law ORS 192.314.

Your contact information

1. Your contact information

First Name

Warren

Last Name

Bednarz

Email Address

[REDACTED]

Home Address

[REDACTED]

Apt/Suite/Office

Home

City

Salem

State

OR

Zip

97308

Primary Phone

[REDACTED]

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

About you

3. Which neighborhood associations represent your ward?

SouthWest Association of Neighbors

(untitled)

4. Are you registered to vote?

Yes

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 held Ward 7 position for 4 years, from 2013-2016. During that time, I was on the Boards and Commissions Committee, a member of the Water/Wastewater Taskforce, Salem Housing Needs (HNA) and Economic Opportunities Analysis (EOA) Advisory Committee. I attended all the neighborhood associations meetings for Ward 7 on a regular basis. Out of concern for our community, I served on the Homeless Initiative Task Force, not the current one started by Mayor Bennett, but one that was comprised of County Commissioners, community resource advisors, the Mayors of Salem and Keizer, and others. I'm currently on the Judicial Compensation Committee for the City of Salem.

Prior to coming onto Council, I held many positions, which were appointments by the City Council. These included Downtown Advisory Board, West Salem Redevelopment Advisory Board (Chair), Salem River Crossing Taskforce, EID Taskforce for Downtown (Chair), Downtown Parking Taskforce, Salem Downtown Development Advisory Board (combined with DAB), West Salem Gateway Committee. Salem Strategic Steering Committee (Chair). At the time, there was about 6 housing units in downtown and we worked on finding solutions to increase the vitality of our downtown and to increase housing in the downtown area. I also was President of the Salem Downtown Association.

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?

In the 4 years I was on Council, I think I only missed 3 Council meetings. I take the responsibility of showing up seriously. I am self-employed and have a flexible schedule. I've attended many events when others could not, for example, when the Chamber has Leadership Salem come and testify before a mock Council meeting. I've also attended the Marion County Public Safety Coordination Council in place of our Mayor.

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

The policy making. I think I am a pragmatic, strategic thinker, a good listener, and a good leader. I like using those skills. I often observe myself moving to the 30,000 foot view while others are still lost in the woods. I have had a deep commitment to our community for many years. I want to continue to give back to our community not only because it is my home, but it is the home of a growing population and we are experiencing growing pains. I am a lifelong resident of Salem and have a deep knowledge of our history over my life, which brings an understanding to the complexities of our housing needs, neighborhoods, community, social concerns, and economic development.

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

I see several critical issues that the Council needs to deal with. Homelessness comes to the top of the list. Not just helping those who are homeless, but also helping the community deal with the impact that homeless have on our community's livability. The City doesn't provide direct services to help the homeless, but it does give aid to agencies and groups who do, such as Community Action Agency, and Marion Polk Food Share. In addition, City Council members also serve as the Board of Commissioners for Salem Housing Authority and therefore have a key role in helping those who are housing insecure and could be on the streets without support.

The second most important item in my mind is dealing with growth in our community. The good quality of life in Salem has brought many people here and with that is more traffic, and more housing needs. Maintaining livability in our neighborhoods while accommodating this growth is an important challenge.

The next item I see is dealing with the increased needs of City resources, with never enough funds to cover those needs. Primary services such as police and fire protection take a good portion of the City's budget. People come to expect these services and the Council has to decide budgetary priorities. This means that the Council has to make decisions as to how much funds are put towards these services while also recognizing that the City has to provide basic services such as maintain Salem's roads, sidewalks, water and sewer system, and many other things.

References

9. Reference #1

First Name

████

Last Name

████

Email Address

██

Phone Number

██████████

Relationship to you

CEO of Marion Polk Food Share, a Board which I serve on for the past 10 years

Reference #2

First Name

████

Last Name

████

Email Address

████████████████████

Phone Number

██████████

Relationship to you

Former City Manager while I was on Council

Reference #3

First Name

████

Last Name

████

Email Address

████████████████████

Phone Number

██████████

Relationship to you

Fellow City Councilor

This is the last page of the application. By selecting “Submit” or the “Next” arrow, you agree that your application is complete and are formally submitting your application.

Thank you!

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.