

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

Bonnie

Last Name

Heitsch

Email Address

[REDACTED]

Home Address

[REDACTED]

Apt/Suite/Office

none

City

Salem

State

Oregon

Zip

97302

Primary Phone

[REDACTED]

Day Phone (Optional)

[REDACTED]

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?

South Central 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.

Professionally, I am an attorney with the Oregon Department of Justice and have had the privilege to represent the Oregon Department of Transportation for 20 years, the last nine of which I have served as key contact counsel for the agency and counsel for the OTC. Much of my practice is devoted to work with local communities in developing and maintaining transportation infrastructure, ensuring environmental compliance and land use regulations, addressing issues of homelessness on highway right of way, and working within public processes. Prior to practicing law, I was employed as a planner and addressed housing, transportation, recreation and land use issues. And prior to that I practiced as a landscape architect and was given the opportunity to design and create beautiful spaces for the public.

As a volunteer, I served eight years on the Salem Keizer School Board, (including numerous related task forces and bond committees), eight years on the Salem Parks and Recreation Committee (adopted a revised master plan, worked on a bond measure (that failed) and served on the committee that eventually secured the KROC Center), served on the Salem Planning Commission (task force for the housing inventory and consideration of design standards), and served on a number of ad hoc committees concerning connectivity that led to the redevelopment of the Union Street Bridge and the new Courtney Bridge to Minto Island. I have directed my efforts to improve my neighborhood and city where we saw gaps by writing grants and funding raising for new play grounds, parks and connections. I served on the board for the Women's Crisis Center, (now Center for Hope and Safety) served on the Statewide Commission for Child Care and worked to establish a women's health clinic in Salem.

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?

I am retiring on November 30, 2019. I am looking for ways to volunteer and reengage with my community.

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

I love my community and am proud to see it develop into a increasingly livable and interesting community. My primary concern is providing affordable housing and addressing the increasing incidence of homelessness. Stable housing is essential to raising healthy families. These issues are complex and will require public, private partnerships and solutions. My passion remains with creating beautiful, accessible and well connected public spaces.

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

1. Providing affordable housing and addressing homelessness and food insecurity. This is not a simple problem with a simple solution. I am willing to listen and work to develop strategies that can help address this issue.
2. Continued support for our downtown businesses to create a vibrant community. Our community thrives because of the small businesses and the families that run these businesses and have invested in our community. Our community thrives because of the public commitment to a robust library, our beautiful Riverfront Park and Convention Center and the new housing in our downtown area. Continued support of this gem of a city identity is critical to the well being of our community.
3. Providing transportation alternatives including improved transit and improving walking connections and reconsideration of some land use patterns. I am pleased to see that Salem Transit has restored Saturday and evening bus service with the enactment of the payroll tax. But additional planning actions may be able to support options to walk and bike to essential services and destinations. School children should be able to walk safely to their neighborhood school and parks. And selfishly, as a soon to be Senior citizen, my car may not always be an option for me and I would like to develop the transportation support for me and others for our future.
4. Being mindful of actions and leadership the City can take to reduce energy consumption and slow climate change. The City is not traditionally in the forefront of changing global issues but can take advantage of small incremental possibilities to influence these trends.

References

9. Reference #1

First Name

Sharon

Last Name

Gray

Email Address

[REDACTED]

Phone Number

[REDACTED]

Relationship to you

friend

Reference #2

First Name

[REDACTED]

Last Name

[REDACTED]

Email Address

[REDACTED]

Phone Number

[REDACTED]

Relationship to you

friend

Reference #3

First Name

██████

Last Name

██████

Email Address

████████████████████

Phone Number

██████████

Relationship to you

friend

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.