

# Ward 7 City Councilor Nomination Form

## Eligibility for Ward 7 City Councilor

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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

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### 1. Your contact information

**First Name**

Kaellen

**Last Name**

Hessel

**Email Address**

[REDACTED]

**Home Address**

[REDACTED]

**Apt/Suite/Office**

[REDACTED]

**City**

Salem

**State**

OR

**Zip**

97306

**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

## About you

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3. Which neighborhood associations represent your ward?

Faye Wright Neighborhood Association  
South Central Association of Neighbors  
SouthWest Association of Neighbors  
Sunnyslope Neighborhood Association

## (untitled)

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4. Are you registered to vote?

Yes

## About you

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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.

For four years, I worked as a reporter and producer at the Statesman Journal. I covered everything from city politics to nonprofits to crime and courts. I am intimately aware of the opportunities and challenges facing this city. But also of the resources and potential partnerships that we could leverage to our benefit.

As a state worker, I understand how government functions, as well as how it can get creative. I've seen the benefits of partnering with other departments, agencies and nonprofits to better serve our constituents. I've used these partnerships to leverage resources so that we can accomplish more with less. As someone who has reported up to a board, I understand the best ways to work together involve giving staff a clear vision and directions while providing them with the resources and support they need to carry out that vision.

I've served on my church council and the Statesman's editorial board. I am able to respectfully ask my fellow board members challenging questions that enable us to reach better decisions. I've been involved in hiring, budgetary and long-term strategy decision making.

I delight in connecting people with resources and solutions. I'm invigorated by collaborating, innovating and solving puzzles.

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 work a full-time job at the Oregon State Treasury. However, my manager is very supportive of my volunteerism and interest in this position. The nature of my job demands that I work a flexible schedule, and I am able to arrange my work hours around my other commitments. I will be able to serve the amount of time the people of Salem require.

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

I love Salem. I've lived in several different types of cities all over the country. When I moved to Salem seven years ago, I fell in love with it. We have amazing people, a supportive community, wonderful local business, beautiful nature and a thriving downtown. In just the past few years, Salem has changed so much. We're attracting the people, organizations and businesses we need to become the best version of ourselves. But there is still more we can do. I believe my abilities and passion for this work can help our city build on what we've already accomplished.

My favorite part about this city is truly the people. And they are the ones motivating me to serve. I look forward to listening to them, and finding ways to help solve their problems.

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

**Affordable housing and homelessness:** We need to drastically improve the supply of affordable housing in our area. We need to make it easier for new units (that are actually affordable to someone on minimum wage) to be built, whether that be by reevaluating zoning, building codes or tax incentives. We should prioritize incentivizing low-income housing near bus lines, major employers and services. Housing is part of a larger ecosystem; affordable housing isn't enough to keep someone out of homelessness if they have to choose between putting gas in their car so they can go to work or feeding their children.

We need to stop criminalizing homelessness by arresting those on the streets for violating livability crimes when they are just trying to survive. That just worsens their own situation, and that of our city's as a whole. It is inhumane to criminalize these acts until there are enough beds for everyone to sleep in. Research has shown that housing-first programs are the best way to get people housed again. We need to work as a community to continue to fund Salem's program and recruit more partners who can help support it.

**Climate change:** We need to look at ways that the city government can lower its carbon emissions and ways that we can empower citizens to do so on their own. Climate change is a systemic problem. We need to find ways to use our systems to limit the harm we're having on the environment. By changing our systems, we'll be able to help citizens make the climate-friendly choices so many of them crave. We also need to make sure that when we plan for our city's future, we are factoring in the reality of what it will be like to live in a very different climate.

**Fiscal responsibility:** With the city's budget shortfalls, it's imperative that we find innovative ways to deal with the resources that we have. I strongly believe that all of us should be fiscally responsible. At the same time, I believe that it's best to look for efficiencies and redundancies in the services that are already being provided instead of slashing programs. When we talk about the budget, we need to look beyond just what's in the numbers. We should ask questions like "If we change this process or start using a new technology, will that better serve citizens while being good stewards of their funds?"

**Equity:** We need to build a city that gives every resident -- no matter their race, gender, class or orientation -- the opportunity to live the life they've been dreaming of. Salem can, and should, do a better job of this. Our city is segregated by race and class. That leads to our schools being segregated and their funding being inequitable. We should encourage a mixture of housing types in the same neighborhood. We should make sure new housing developments include affordable units. We need to go to the parts of the city that feel forgotten and listen to what the people want and need. We should work with them to solve the problems that are top-of-mind for residents and take pride in the communities and businesses already flourishing there. We cannot solve this problem of inequity alone. We need to work closely with the county, neighborhood associations, major employers, school district, Cherriots and nonprofits. Together we can make this city better for all of us.

**Resilience:** We need to be better prepared for the "Big One," but also wildfires, snow storms and power outages. We need to assess what kind of trauma and stress our infrastructure can handle, and then work to improve that as efficiently as possible. We also need to ensure that we have the proper plans in place so that when the unexpected hits, we can respond as quickly as possible.

As a councilor, I will work on issues to alleviate these problems directly. When seemingly unrelated business comes before council, I will ensure these issues are kept in mind as part of our discussions and decision-making.

## References

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### 9. Reference #1

**First Name**

██████

**Last Name**

██████

**Email Address**

**Phone Number**

[REDACTED]

**Relationship to you**

Boss & former school board member

**Reference #2**

**First Name**

[REDACTED]

**Last Name**

[REDACTED]

**Email Address**

**Phone Number**

[REDACTED]

**Relationship to you**

Former Statesman Journal editorial board editor

**Reference #3**

**First Name**

[REDACTED]

**Last Name**

[REDACTED]

**Email Address**

**Phone Number**

[REDACTED]

**Relationship to you**

Minister

**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!**

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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.