

## Application Form

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### Profile

Sarah C Bishop  
First Name Middle Initial Last Name

Email Address

Home Address  Suite or Apt

Salem OR 97302  
City State Postal Code

### What Ward do you live in? \*

☒ Ward 7

Primary Phone  Alternate Phone

Willamette University Associate Professor of Russian Professor  
Employer Job Title Occupation

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### Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Salem Public Library Advisory Board: Submitted

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### Which of the following City of Salem Board or Commission meetings have you attended? \*

☒ None

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### Interests & Experiences

#### What do you feel you can contribute as a board or commission member?

I am a true believer in public libraries. They are a great equalizer in our society which is growing more and more divided, both economically and socially. I can bring decades of experience as an educator to the Salem Public Library Advisory Board, and I am eager to advocate for increased public support of the library.

Upload a Resume

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#### What prompted your interest in applying to serve as a board or commission member?

The COVID-19 pandemic is putting incredible stresses on our public services, and I want to help make sure that one of our most important community resources, the Salem Public Library, continues to thrive.

**Please explain how your education, professional, personal, or volunteer experience and knowledge qualify you to serve on the board(s) or commission(s) for which you are applying.**

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I am a lifelong learner, a college professor who has benefitted from libraries since my early childhood. I understand the central role that the library plays in Salem, not simply as a repository of books and other materials, but as a safe gathering and learning space for all members of the community, particularly those who are traditionally underserved. I have experience with fundraising at Willamette University (soliciting colleagues to contribute to our annual fund) and would be happy to support fundraising efforts on behalf of the library.

**List any experience you have with volunteering for the City of Salem or other organizations.**

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I have volunteered as a Russian language teacher at the Oregon State Correctional Institution (OSCI) on a biweekly basis since December of 2018. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, I have not been able to visit the prison since early this spring, but I remain in contact with my students and have sent them CDs with Russian-language recordings. I look forward to getting back to this work as soon as possible. When my children were younger, I volunteered in classrooms at Candalaria Elementary School.

**Briefly explain any experience you have working with your neighborhood association or other public bodies or committees.**

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I attended the Salem/Keizer public school system redistricting meetings and spoke in favor of increased equity and inclusion for our marginalized communities. Since the pandemic began, I have been attending Salem/Keizer School Board Meetings via Zoom. I supported my neighborhood association's renovation of the Nelson Park playground.

**Can you commit to attending a minimum of 75 percent of scheduled meetings? (Please refer to the City's website for the meeting schedule. Failure to meet the attendance requirement may result in removal from office.)**

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☒ Yes ☐ No

**Please list up to three (3) references whom we could contact to learn more about your qualifications (name/email address or phone number/relationship).**

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William Smaldone, Professor of history/colleague at Willamette University, active community member,  
Ron Borden, chaplain at OSCI--oversees my volunteer work,  
Joni Roberts, librarian/colleague at Willamette University,

**When did you last visit the Salem Public Library? Tell us about your experience during that visit.**

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I used the curbside pickup on June 25th (and I'll be back tomorrow for a new pickup). I was delighted to see this service added amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. The online sign-up system was clear, and my requested book was ready and waiting for me. I have also recently used the online library services, downloading audiobooks as recently as yesterday (7/15) and seeking book recommendations from librarians via the library's Facebook page last month.

**In your opinion, what role does the Salem Public Library play in making Salem a livable community?**

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The Salem Public Library is an essential community service. My family and I are regular users; we visited once a week on average before the pandemic. We are avid readers and appreciate being able to borrow rather than purchase books. Losing that access because of the pandemic has been difficult, and I am delighted that the library is expanding its services with curbside pickup. We also, of course, greatly appreciate the online services and resources the library provides. In addition to accessing books, videos, music, etc., we regularly take advantage of library programming, for ex. summer reading programs and public events. My son, Max Bishop, is a member of the Teen Advisory Board; he has found a wonderful community of peers there, and Sonia Somerville provides excellent mentorship. We have attended many a community event at Loucks auditorium, including our children's music recitals and their friends' CET performances. The library also provides several meeting areas and gathering spaces for all sorts of community organizations, reading groups, and study sessions. These are just a few of the services that make our very privileged family's life more livable. For underserved members of the community, the library is even more essential. It provides a safe, comfortable space to access computers and internet services, and a place to sit and escape the summer heat and the winter rain. While I am very glad that the library is receiving necessary renovations, I know that it's temporary closure is a great loss to many members of our community--even more so now that the temporary location has had to severely limit services due to the pandemic. I imagine that its services will be even more important in the future.

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## **Demographics**

Some boards and commissions require membership to be racially, politically or geographically proportionate to the general public. The following information helps track our recruitment and diversity efforts.

### **Ethnicity**

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☒ Caucasian/Non-Hispanic

### **Gender**

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☒ Female