

**STATEMENT OF INTEREST**  
**Jefferson City Council – Ward 2 Appointment**

To Whom It May Concern:

I grew up on a farm in Vichy, Missouri. Farm life teaches you a few things early on: the value of hard work, the importance of planning before undertaking major changes, and the need to remain focused on outcomes rather than perception. It also teaches you that complicated problems do not always require complicated solutions—sometimes the simplest solution is the best one. Those lessons have stayed with me throughout my life and continue to shape how I approach both my professional work and my perspective on public service.

I moved to Jefferson City while attending law school and quickly developed a deep appreciation for the community. Jefferson City has a character that is not easily replicated. It cultivates the feeling of a close-knit, small-town community while still offering the amenities and opportunities of a much larger city. Over time, this community became home. I fell in love here, and my significant other and I chose to put down roots here by purchasing a historic home that we are working to restore to its former character.

Restoring an old home teaches patience and perspective. Things worth preserving rarely offer “quick fix” solutions. Careful work, thoughtful planning, and respect for what came before are required if you want to protect something’s character while preparing it for the future. In many ways, those same principles apply to our City.

Jefferson City’s strength lies in its balance. It offers the stability, community connection, and character often referred to as that “small town feel” while still providing the resources, institutions, and opportunities of a capital city. As the City grows and evolves, we should be mindful to preserve that balance. Jefferson City should strive to maintain its neighborly, community focused, character while benefiting from and expanding its larger-city amenities.

Professionally, I am an attorney with Dodson & Waters, LLC, where my practice focuses on serving local families, financial institutions, and businesses. My work regularly involves navigating complex disputes, regulatory frameworks, and practical problem-solving. It requires careful analysis, sound judgment, and the ability to balance competing interests, all skills that translate directly to the thoughtful and responsible decision-making required in municipal government.

Beyond my professional work, I currently serve on the Jefferson City Homelessness Task Force. In that role, I have worked alongside City leaders, service providers, law enforcement, and community stakeholders to develop practical

recommendations aimed at addressing homelessness through improved coordination of services, housing strategies, and accountability measures. That experience has reinforced my belief that the most effective solutions for Jefferson City come from collaboration between government, community partners, and residents.

Jefferson City is a community with tremendous strengths: a stable economy, a strong civic culture, and residents who care deeply about the future of this city. With that in mind, if appointed to the Council, I would focus my efforts on several key priorities.

First, the City should continue working toward practical and coordinated solutions to homelessness and related mental health challenges, improving service coordination while prioritizing accountability and public safety.

Second, responsible economic development must remain a priority. Jefferson City should support local businesses, encourage thoughtful development that strengthens neighborhoods, and ensure that growth occurs in a way that protects the character and livability of our community.

Third, maintaining and improving the City's core infrastructure is essential. Residents expect reliable services and responsible stewardship of public resources, and those expectations should guide our decision-making.

Finally, government functions best when it is responsive and accessible to the people it serves. Ward 2 residents deserve a representative who will listen carefully to their concerns, communicate openly, and approach issues with independence and common sense without generating unnecessary conflict. I believe progress at the municipal level comes from respectful collaboration, thoughtful discussion, and a shared focus on practical solutions.

Jefferson City is my home, and I care deeply about the direction our community takes in the years ahead. I would be grateful for the opportunity to serve Ward 2 and to contribute to preserving and strengthening the character of our city. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,



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