

CANDIDATE - A

From: Jotform  
To: City Clerk  
Subject: Re: Application for City Councilmember Position #6 - Mical Meldahl  
Date: Tuesday, January 20, 2026 3:41:36 AM

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Application for City Councilmember Position #6

Name	Mical Meldahl
Complete Home Mailing Address	[REDACTED], Walla Walla, WA, 99362
Home Phone	[REDACTED]
Email	[REDACTED]
Occupation (if retired, please indicate former occupation)	Host
Business Address	1604 Plaza Way, Walla Walla, WA, 99362
Educational Background	Currently pursuing a Business degree at WWCC, Class of 2010-Mount Vernon High School
1. Are you a registered voter in the City of Walla Walla?	Yes
2. Have you continuously resided within the city limits of the City of Walla Walla for a year or more? (State law requires a councilmember to be a resident of Walla Walla for at least a year prior to appointment, and to be a registered voter at the time of application.)	Yes
3. Have you ever been convicted for anything other than a minor traffic violation?	No

5. Do you or your spouse, or any immediate family member (spouse, children, siblings, parents) have a financial interest in, or are you an employee or officer of any business or agency which does business with the City of Walla Walla?

No

6. Is any member of your immediate family currently employed, either full time or part time, by the City of Walla Walla, or currently perform any volunteer work for the City of Walla Walla?

No

7. Would your appointment create a conflict of interest or an appearance of a conflict of interest?

No

8. Please include your past employment history for the past ten years by attaching a resume (no longer than 3 pages).

[REDACTED]

9. Please list the professional affiliations, clubs, social, or fraternal organizations to which you belong or hold office (this can be included in your resume).

None

11. Have you ever attended a meeting of the Walla Walla City Council?

No

12. Appointment to the City Council will require your attendance at regularly scheduled and special meetings, which generally occur on Monday and Wednesday evenings. Councilmembers are also expected to represent the City of Walla Walla by serving on other committees and as a liaison representative to the city's boards and commissions. Are you able to commit your time and energy to participate fully as a member of the Walla

Yes

13. References: Please list name, address and phone number:

	Name	Address	Phone number
1.	Theresa Heitstuman		
2.	Kayla Watkins		
3.	Jose Vasquez		

14. Supplemental Questions (can be submitted as a separate attachment)

I want to answer the supplemental questions on this form.

A. Why are you interested in serving as a City of Walla Walla Councilmember?

I decided to put myself out there for this position because I have alot of great ideas to revitalize the city and bring more tourists (which in turn boosts revenue), but also making it citizen friendly! I think the city looks a little run down with all the empty storefronts. I also think younger energy would be good for the council. Sometimes, bringing in that next generation is good for the mindset and goals, that the older generation may not see.

B. What strengths would you bring to the City Council?

As I said above, I think just a younger energy. Influencing that younger next generation of voters, and citizens.

C. What do you consider the primary role(s) of a member of the City Council?

Heading committees, voting for those committees, listening to concerns and comments of citizens and business owners in the city obviously is a very important part of this too!

D. As a Councilmember, your only legal authority is the ability to cast one of seven votes. What is your philosophy of how to build consensus or majority support for a project, service, or regulations?

I think that if the projects and services benefit the public, and are not all about raising taxes, but finding sources of revenue internally, that the citizens would be more apt to be on board with things. I have several projects and services in mind, and would enjoy educating the community on those things.

E. What do you see as the issues facing the community and how do you believe they should be

I think the biggest issue right now, plaguing our community is the homeless population. Something has to be done. I dont even feel safe at night walking through downtown because every block theres people sleeping in doorways and benches. Rooks Park needs to be revitalized, and the homeless camp up there needs to pack up and move. We have a beautiful trail along the creek up there, but we can't use it due to being fearful of the homeless inhabitants!

Secondly, the taxes are already really high here, and it's pushing families out. We need to bring more people in, not push them away!

addressed?

The chalk downtown is unacceptable! I know the city charged and fined the responsible parties for that, but we have to realize that said party is never going to be able to pay the fine. So really, nothing is being done.

We need to pump some revenue into our fair, and other events, to make them a little more inviting. The fair has gotten out of control with pricing, and that makes people not want to go! But it's a huge revenue draw for our city.

I certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington, that the foregoing is true and correct.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. G. L.', written in a cursive style.

Date

01-20-2026

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**Mical A. Meldahl**  
**Phone Number:** [REDACTED]

**Work Experience:**

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**Famous Footwear**  
**Jan 2026-present**  
**Sales Associate**

**Applebees**  
**Dec 2024-present**  
**Host**

**Safeway**  
**2019-2024**  
**Self Checkout Manager and Cashier**

**Amavi Cellars**  
**Feb 2019-Apr 2019**  
**Tasting Room Associate**

**Safeway**  
**May 2012 to Sep 2017**  
**Deli Clerk, Cashier, and Courtesy Clerk**

# CANDIDATE - B

**From:** [Jotform](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Application for City Councilmember Position #6 - Jeff Strickler  
**Date:** Thursday, January 22, 2026 5:17:07 PM

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## Application for City Councilmember Position #6

Name	Jeff Strickler
Complete Home Mailing Address	[REDACTED], Walla Walla, WA, 99362
Home Phone	[REDACTED]
Email	[REDACTED]
Occupation (if retired, please indicate former occupation)	Realtor
Educational Background	BA, Luther College, Computer Science and Business Management
1. Are you a registered voter in the City of Walla Walla?	Yes
2. Have you continuously resided within the city limits of the City of Walla Walla for a year or more? (State law requires a councilmember to be a resident of Walla Walla for at least a year prior to appointment, and to be a registered voter at the time of application.)	Yes
3. Have you ever been convicted for anything other than a minor traffic violation?	No
5. Do you or your spouse,	

or any immediate family member (spouse, children, siblings, parents) have a financial interest in, or are you an employee or officer of any business or agency which does business with the City of Walla Walla?

No

6. Is any member of your immediate family currently employed, either full time or part time, by the City of Walla Walla, or currently perform any volunteer work for the City of Walla Walla?

No

7. Would your appointment create a conflict of interest or an appearance of a conflict of interest?

No

8. Please include your past employment history for the past ten years by attaching a resume (no longer than 3 pages).



9. Please list the professional affiliations, clubs, social, or fraternal organizations to which you belong or hold office (this can be included in your resume).

Walla Walla Noon Rotary

10. Please list your volunteer experience, and include any volunteer or paid positions held on any governmental board, committee or commission:

	Experience	From when?	To when?
1.	City of Walla Walla Planning Commission	January 2024	Present
2.	City of Walla Walla Water and Wastewater Advisory Committee	July 2024	Present
3.	Walla Walla Valley Association of Realtors Board	January 2025	Present
	Washington		

4.	Realtors, Legislative Steering Committee	January 2024	Present
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11. Have you ever attended a meeting of the Walla Walla City Council?

Yes

12. Appointment to the City Council will require your attendance at regularly scheduled and special meetings, which generally occur on Monday and Wednesday evenings. Councilmembers are also expected to represent the City of Walla Walla by serving on other committees and as a liaison representative to the city's boards and commissions. Are you able to commit your time and energy to participate fully as a member of the Walla Walla City Council.

Yes

13. References: Please list name, address and phone number:

	Name	Address	Phone number
1.	Amy Schwab	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
2.	Alayna Brinton	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
3.	Everett Maroon	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

14. Supplemental Questions (can be submitted as a separate attachment)

I want to answer the supplemental questions on this form.

A. Why are you interested in serving as a City of Walla Walla Councilmember?

Eleanor Roosevelt stated "Government exists for one purpose: to make things better for all people." On my father's desk as he served his community in elected office, there was a plaque that read "Leave the world better than you found it." These two statements together represent my interest in this role. Having lived in Walla Walla since 2010 and having familiarity with this community stretching back to the 1980s, I'm invested in making Walla Walla a place where all people can make a home and thrive. Over the course of my time here, I've grown increasingly concerned about the state of

our economy and the way residents are feeling left behind or leaving our community altogether because of housing costs and a lack of economic opportunities. As a business owner, father, homeowner, volunteer, and civically-engaged person, I want to offer my skills in service to our community.

B. What strengths would you bring to the City Council?

As someone with a background in business, working for the past 6 years in real estate, I have first-hand experience with the most pressing issues facing our city. For many years I was in the technology world supporting early stage and growing ventures and understand the needs of entrepreneurs. I'm a connector who seeks to bring people and groups together to solve problems. I've worked on committees at the local and state level that have given me background and relationships that I can leverage for our community. I've formed relationships across our local business community, with civic and elected leaders, where I will be able to build coalitions and bring people together around issues like housing, jobs, and attracting additional health care and child care services. Above all, I'm a person of great compassion who seeks to understand the human condition and wants to take action to see the members of our community thrive.

C. What do you consider the primary role(s) of a member of the City Council?

The primary role of the council is to act as a steward of public resources. From Annexations to Zoning, the council must thoughtfully consider the impact of its decisions on the pocketbooks of our residents, their quality of life, and to the future of this community. It is the responsibility of each member to rise above one's personal beliefs or philosophy and direct those resources - financial, personnel, or otherwise - in the best long-term benefit of the community. Especially as we enter a time of economic uncertainty and potential austerity, it is important to have members of the council skilled in economic development, able to keep us on track with providing basic services.

D. As a Councilmember, your only legal authority is the ability to cast one of seven votes. What is your philosophy of how to build consensus or majority support for a project, service, or regulations?

Council members should think in terms of being connectors, advocates, and relationship-builders. For example, council can partner with staff to forge intergovernmental connections with the county, port, other municipalities, and can advocate on behalf of the city with the legislature and federal government — all areas where I have already built relationships. Council can act as ambassadors for the city with private industry, for example in business recruitment. Building ties across the community and advocating on behalf of constituents with other council members is key in forming consensus. Legislative bodies like the council function best when each member is proactively seeking collaboration with other members and continuous feedback from constituents.

E. What do you see as the issues facing the community and how do

Every issue radiates from our lack of economic diversity. Want more affordable housing? We need to recruit more builders not only for new construction but also for rehabilitation and infill. Want to attract more health care workers and options? We must demonstrate viability as a community so that they want to come here to practice. Dislike our retail options? New businesses and retail opportunities will only come if they see sufficient community support, regulatory support, and growth to support their ventures. The city must work in partnership with private enterprise, local

you believe they should be addressed?

non-profits, and with other government agencies to recruit and support business growth in our community so that we can augment the success we've established as a tourist economy. An Economic Development Commission, continued work on regulations including expedited permitting, and a focus on new business recruitment will create new employment and entrepreneurial opportunities for our residents and a pathway to the prosperity needed to secure our city's future.

F. Is there anything else you would like to add that would assist in the review of your application?

This position is for only a partial term, which means the person filling it must come up to speed quickly to be a productive member of the body. Having forged relationships with city staff and across the community and state, served on city committees, attended the majority of council meetings and work sessions over the past year, I've done the preparation to be a successful member of this council.

I certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington, that the foregoing is true and correct.



Date

01-22-2026

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You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.

## Real Estate Experience

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### Cascadian Real Estate

Title: Washington Designated Broker, Oregon Principal Broker

November 2023 to Present

- Real estate professional operating in Washington and Oregon
- Experience with residential, commercial, and land transactions
- Experience with commercial leasing
- Broker for a small team of agents

### EXP and Sotheby's

January 2020-November 2023

- Self-employed licensed real estate broker in Washington and Oregon

## Technical and Executive Experience

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### Mercenary Technologies LLC

May 2005 to December 2019

Title: Principal Consultant / Owner

Mercenary is a boutique technical consulting firm offering:

- Stand-in CTO services
- Site reliability consulting
- Application performance management expertise
- Software architecture and development
- Technical training
- Project management

### J9 Technologies, Inc. - Seattle, WA

March 2008 - August 2012

Title: Vice-President, Products - August 2011 - August 2012

Title: Vice-President, Products and Delivery - March 2008 to August 2011

Responsibilities:

- Managed a team of 30 consultants spread throughout the US.
- Acted in a sales engineer and account management role on customer accounts.
- Created curriculum and led classroom and virtual training sessions.
- Conducted high-visibility performance analyses of mission-critical software applications.
- Site reliability consulting
- Consulted with customers in the US, Canada, Germany, Turkey, and Indonesia.
- Demonstrated expertise in ITSM, APM, and ITIL.
- Hands-on expertise with New Relic, SolarWinds, MicroFocus, CA, Dynatrace, Quest, and VMWare products.
- Designed, built, and launched CloudRunner, an automated software testing service.
- Developed protocols and integrations for multiple HP products.

### Real Networks – Seattle, WA

August 2004 - May 2006

Title: Program Manager – September 2005 to May 2006.

Responsibilities: Project management and commerce team operational support. Responsible for the commerce features in the Rhapsody subscription music service. Experience included coordinating offshore teams in Japan and India.

Lead Software Development Engineer – August 2004 to September 2005

Responsibilities: Lead developer for the Real SuperPass product, a \$60 million digital media subscription service.

Responsibilities include management of a small team, architectural oversight, and technical development of the product. Work appeared in conjunction with television program Big Brother 6.

# Jeff Strickler

**Expeditors International** – Seattle, WA

September 2003 to August 2004

Title: Software Developer

Responsibilities: Maintenance of e.dms, a distribution management system written in Smalltalk

**Group Health Cooperative** – Seattle, WA

March 2001 - September 2003

Title: Technical Project Manager – March 2002 to September 2003

Responsibilities: Coordination of a 40+ person technical team to develop, test, and release four customer-facing portals under a strict regulatory and market-driven timeline.

Title: Application Systems Analyst Programmer III – March 2001 to March 2002

Responsibilities: Design and implementation of a secure messaging and scheduling system that provided a key differentiator in the regional market and was one of the first of its kind in the country.

**Walt Disney Internet Group** – Seattle, WA

May 2000 to February 2001

Title: Software Development Engineer

Responsibilities: Design and implementation of a content brokering system for news syndication that cut development of new content feeds by weeks and contributed directly to the business goals of the site. Maintained core publishing applications for abcnews.com.

## Education

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Bachelor of Arts, Computer Science and Business Management. Luther College, Decorah, Iowa.

- One semester at the Universität Münster, Münster, Germany.
- One month in China and Australia studying international business practices.

## Civic Engagement

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- Planning Commission, City of Walla Walla
- Water / Wastewater Advisory Board, City of Walla Walla
- Legislative Steering Committee Member, Washington Realtors
- Board Member, Walla Walla Valley Association of Realtors
- Government Affairs Committee Member, Tri-Cities Association of Realtors
- Rotary Club of Walla Walla
- Chair, Washington 16th LD Democratic Party
- Member, Executive Committee, Washington State Democratic Party
- Co-Chair, Rural Engagement Committee, Washington State Democratic Party
- Co-Chair, Platform Drafting Committee, Washington State Democratic Party





CANDIDATE - C

**CITY OF WALLA WALLA**

15 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue  
Walla Walla, WA 99362  
509-524-4348

**APPLICATION FOR CITY COUNCIL MEMBER POSITION # 6**

Thank you for your interest in serving the Walla Walla community as a member of the Walla Walla City Council.

To be considered, applications must be completed, signed, and received by the City Clerk **no later than 4:00 p.m., Friday, February 6, 2026 (late arrivals will not be accepted)**. Applications can be submitted using the online form, downloading the fillable PDF and emailed to the City Clerk at [cityclerk@wallawallawa.gov](mailto:cityclerk@wallawallawa.gov) or mailed/hand delivered at 15 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue Walla Walla, WA 99362 Attention: City Clerk.

Name: Lizabeth (Liz) Jessee

Complete Home Mailing Address (you must have resided within the city limits for at least a year):

██████████ Walla Walla, WA 99262

Home Phone: n/a

Business Phone: n/a

Cell: ██████████

E-mail: ██████████

Occupation (if retired, please indicate former occupation): Emergency Management Director

Business Address: c/o Walla Walla County Commissioners, 314 W Main, Walla Walla, WA 99362

Educational Background:

1. Are you a registered voter in the City of Walla Walla? ☒ Yes ☐ No
2. Have you continuously resided within the city limits of the City of Walla Walla for a year or more? (State law requires a councilmember to be a resident of Walla Walla for at least a year prior to appointment, and to be a registered voter at the time of application.) ☒ Yes ☐ No
3. Have you ever been convicted for anything other than a minor traffic violation? ☐ Yes ☒ No

A WONDERFUL PLACE TO **LIVE WORK PLAY**

4. If you answered "YES" to #3 above, please explain:

5. Do you or your spouse, or any immediate family member (spouse, children, siblings, parents) have a financial interest in, or are you an employee or officer of any business or agency which does business with the City of Walla Walla? YES ☐ NO ☒

If yes, please explain:

6. Is any member of your immediate family currently employed, either full time or part time, by the City of Walla Walla, or currently perform any volunteer work for the City of Walla Walla? YES ☐ NO ☒

If yes, please explain:

7. Would your appointment create a conflict of interest or an appearance of a conflict of interest? YES ☐ NO ☒

If yes, please explain:

8. Please include your past employment history for the past ten years by attaching a resume (no longer than 3 pages).

9. Please list the professional affiliations, clubs, social, or fraternal organizations to which you belong or hold office (this can be included in your resume).

10. Please list your volunteer experience, and include any volunteer or paid positions held on any governmental board, committee or commission:

Emergency Management Communications Advisory Committee	FROM: 06/2015	TO: 12/2023
EMS and Trauma Care Council	FROM: 6/2015	TO: 12/2023
Walla Walla Area Crimewatch Board	FROM: 9/2025	TO: present
	FROM: _____	TO: _____

11. Have you ever attended a meeting of the Walla Walla City Council? ☒ YES ☐ NO

12. Appointment to the City Council will require your attendance at regularly scheduled and special meetings, which generally occur on Monday and Wednesday evenings. Councilmembers are also expected to represent the City of Walla Walla by serving on other committees and as a liaison representative to the city's boards and commissions. Are you able to commit your time and energy to participate fully as a member of the Walla Walla City Council. ☒ YES ☐ NO

13. References: Please list name, address and phone number:

1. Norma Hernandez, [REDACTED], Walla Walla, WA, [REDACTED]

2. Mike Rizzitiello, [REDACTED], Richland, WA 99352, [REDACTED]

3. Todd Kimball, [REDACTED], Walla Walla, WA, [REDACTED]

14. Supplemental Questions (can be submitted as a separate attachment)

A. Why are you interested in serving as a City of Walla Walla Councilmember?

B. What strengths would you bring to the City Council?

C. What do you consider the primary role(s) of a member of the City Council?

D. As a Councilmember, your only legal authority is the ability to cast one of seven votes. What is your philosophy of how to build consensus or majority support for a project, service, or regulations?

E. What do you see as the issues facing the community and how do you believe they should be addressed?

F. Is there anything else you would like to add that would assist in the review of your application?

Once submitted, applications and related materials become a public record subject to public disclosure and will appear in the Council agenda packet. Interviews are tentatively scheduled for February 23, 2026 at the regular work session from 4-6pm. Selected applicants will be notified of the exact date and time of the interview once all applications have been received and whether to hold interviews is determined by Council. Final action appointing a candidate to elective office will take place in an open public meeting. No City elected officer shall hold any other office or employment within the Walla Walla City government.

I certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington, that the foregoing is true and correct.

Signature: **Lizabeth Jessee**  Digitally signed by Lizabeth Jessee  
Date: 2026.01.22 18:45:50 -08'00' Date: 1/22/25

# Lizabeth (Liz) Jessee

## Emergency Management Director (retired)

### Contact

[REDACTED]  
Walla Walla, WA  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

### Objective

Retired Walla Walla County Emergency Management Director with experience in public safety, intergovernmental coordination, emergency preparedness, and community resilience. Proven leader with a strong understanding of local government operations, budgeting, policy development, and collaborative decision-making. Committed to thoughtful, transparent governance and serving the residents of Walla Walla.

### Key Skills

Collaboration  
Planning  
Fiscal Management  
Communication

### Experience

*June 2015 – December 2023*  
Walla Walla County Emergency Management Director  
C/o Walla Walla County Commissioners  
314 W. Main Street  
Walla Walla, WA 99362

Directed the planning, organization, and administration of the system wide emergency management program for Walla Walla County and the incorporated cities within Walla Walla County. Provided careful stewardship of public funds, prioritization of limited resources, and compliance with state and federal requirements.

Collaborated with stakeholders to develop and align coordinated response plans essential for community resilience. Stakeholders included Walla Walla County, the Cities of Walla Walla, College Place, Waitsburg, and Prescott, fire districts, non-profit and faith-based organizations, volunteer agencies, healthcare organizations, and the residents of Walla Walla County.

Oversaw and controlled the department's budget to reliably sustain daily operations.

Obtained grant funding necessary to sustain the county's emergency management program. Secured post-disaster FEMA funding, including \$2.5 million for recovery from the 2020 Mill Creek flood event. Funding for this event required detailed documentation to justify a presidential disaster declaration.

Participated in countywide response to the COVID-19 pandemic in collaboration with local, state, and federal partners. The Emergency Management office distributed over two million pieces of personal protective equipment to the healthcare sector, coordinated Washington National Guard food bank support, facilitated use of the County Fairgrounds for immunizations, and served as public information officer for the county. Performed background checks of 2,000+ individuals to volunteer under the Washington State Emergency Worker Program, thereby providing indemnity to Walla Walla County.

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## Previous Experience

*September 2001 – May 2015*

Walla Walla County Emergency Management Coordinator

*June 1986 – September 2001*

Quality Management Coordinator

Walla Walla General Hospital

*June 1976 – March 1986*

Investor Reporting Supervisor

Meridian Mortgage Corporation

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## Education

Walla Walla High School Graduate

FEMA Professional Development Series

Multiple FEMA and state emergency management certifications and courses

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## Volunteer

Board Member of Walla Walla Area Crimewatch

Charter Member of Blue Mountain Evening Rotary

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## References

Norma Hernandez, City of College Place Mayor

[REDACTED]

Walla Walla, WA 99362

[REDACTED]

Mike Rizzitiello, City of College Place Administrator (former)

[REDACTED]

Richland, WA 99352

[REDACTED]

Todd Kimball, Walla Walla County Commissioner

[REDACTED]

Walla Walla, WA 99362

[REDACTED]

Steven R. Ruley, WESCOM Manager (retired)

[REDACTED]

Walla Walla, WA 99362

[REDACTED]

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# Supplemental Questions for the Application for City of Walla Walla Council Position

## 14. Supplemental Questions

### A. Why are you interested in serving as a City of Walla Walla Councilmember?

*After a career in emergency management, I want to continue serving my community in a role where experience, judgment, and collaboration matter. I've spent decades working with local governments, public safety agencies, and the public to solve complex problems, manage risk, and make decisions under pressure. Serving on the city council allows me to bring that practical experience, a long-term perspective, and a strong commitment to public service to help guide the city forward.*

### B. What strengths would you bring to the City Council?

*The greatest strength I will bring is a simple desire to continue serving and caring for my neighbors. I bring strong and confident leadership, collaboration, and decision-making skills developed through years of public service. My background in emergency management equips me with experience in risk assessment, crisis response, budgeting, and long-term planning, as well as the ability to work effectively with elected officials, staff, and the public. I am skilled at listening, building consensus, and making thoughtful decisions under pressure, always with a focus on public safety, fiscal responsibility, and the long-term well-being of the community.*

*Furthermore, I offer impartiality. I will not bring prior ideas or obligations of personal, professional benefits, or political ambitions in mind when I vote. I will be an independent thinker, carefully listening to staff recommendations and considering what is best for the future of Walla Walla as a whole.*

### C. What do you consider the primary role(s) of a member of the City Council?

*A city council member serves as a bridge between the community and local government, with a responsibility that goes beyond votes and ordinances. The role requires listening carefully to residents, especially those who feel overlooked or unheard, and ensuring their concerns are taken seriously in public decision-making. Effective council members seek out diverse perspectives, ask hard questions, and work collaboratively with fellow councilmembers, staff, and community partners to find practical, balanced solutions. By building trust, encouraging respectful dialogue, and focusing on the long-term well-being of the city, a council member helps shape policies that reflect shared values and serve the entire community, not just the loudest voices.*

- D. As a Councilmember, your only legal authority is the ability to cast one of seven votes. What is your philosophy of how to build consensus or majority support for a project, service, or regulations?

*My philosophy for building consensus starts with listening first to understand concerns, values, and impacts. I ask questions, respect different viewpoints, and use clear information to explain options and tradeoffs. When people feel heard and understand the reasons behind a decision, it's much easier to build majority support and move projects forward.*

- E. What do you see as the issues facing the community and how do you believe they should be addressed?

### **Housing Affordability & Development**

*There's a shortage of affordable housing and workforce housing, which makes it hard for employers to attract and retain workers and can push young families out of the community.*

*I would support zoning and development policies that encourage a wider range of housing types (duplexes, ADUs, affordable units). I believe that the City of Walla Walla should partner with non-profit developers and leverage state/federal housing funds. I believe that housing should be prioritized in the city's Comprehensive Plan.*

### **Budget & Cost Management**

*The City of Walla Walla is facing budget challenges due to a combination of factors. Revenues such as property tax, sales tax, and permits have fallen short of predictions. Inflation and rising operating expenses have made delivering services more expensive. Firefighters, police, streets, parks and other community services cost more to run than in past years.*

*The decline in sales tax can be attributed in part to fewer people drinking wine and fewer people traveling to Walla Walla. The city should partner with tourism organizations in Walla Walla to promote Walla Walla as a destination. Alternatives to wine drinking as the incentive to visit should be encouraged. Wineries should be urged to provide alcohol-free alternatives.*

*The city recently adopted a service fee for credit and debit cards payment to recoup the losses attributable to credit card fees. In 2023 the city paid over \$900,000 in credit card fees. The revenue from implementing credit and debit card service fees needs to be monitored, and adjusted as needed, to ensure that it is effectively offsetting costs. Residents enrolling in autopayment for payment of their utility bill should be encouraged to provide bank information in lieu of a credit or debit card to further reduce costs.*



*In summary, I would address budget challenges by prioritizing essential services, finding efficiencies, and reducing unnecessary costs. I support long-term financial planning, smart infrastructure investments, pursuing grants or partnerships and engaging with community partners. I would also engage the community in transparent decision-making on revenue and service priorities to ensure the city's resources are used effectively.*

### **Homelessness**

*Homelessness in Walla Walla is a visible and growing challenge driven by housing affordability gaps, limited behavioral health services, substance use disorders, and economic instability. While our city benefits from strong nonprofits and community partners, the demand for shelter, treatment, and permanent housing continues to outpace available resources, impacting public safety, neighborhood livability, and the dignity of those experiencing homelessness.*

*As a city council member, I would support a balanced, solutions-oriented approach: expanding affordable and supportive housing, strengthening partnerships with service providers, and improving access to mental health and addiction treatment. I have personally experienced the impact of homelessness within my own family. My son has a debilitating mental health diagnosis. I have seen him fall through the cracks despite my best efforts. He has been homeless, living under a bridge in Portland. Upon his return to Walla Walla, he was able to secure Section 8 housing but lacked the basic skills to take care of himself. He couldn't shop, cook, clean or take care of himself. Drug use and his declining mental health made his situation increasingly dire. I was faced with multiple obstacles to getting him the help he needed. What is clear is that that housing is not enough.*

*Long-term success depends on prevention, regional collaboration, and data-driven investments that help people transition from crisis to stability. Long-range planning should be incorporated into the Comprehensive Plan.*

### **Capital Improvement Planning and Infrastructure Funding**

*Maintaining and upgrading critical infrastructure (e.g., vehicles, landfill, wastewater treatment, stormwater systems) remains a priority and a cost challenge. Maintaining and upgrading Walla Walla's infrastructure is a priority because streets, utilities, and public facilities are aging and directly affect public safety and quality of life. At the same time, rising construction costs, regulatory requirements, and years of deferred maintenance have made these projects increasingly expensive, while city revenues have not kept pace. This creates an ongoing challenge to fund and prioritize critical improvements responsibly.*

*I support the City's Infrastructure Repair and Replacement Plan (IRRP) which provides a systematic approach to replace the City's three failing critical infrastructure systems: water, sewer, and streets. Phasing infrastructure upgrades over time allows for careful planning and minimizes disruption while aligning expenditures with the city's financial capacity. The City of Walla Walla should leverage a variety of funding sources, including state and federal grants, to support infrastructure projects.*

*Equally important is responsible rate-setting. By thoughtfully establishing utility rates and associated fees, the city can maintain reliable infrastructure and services without placing an undue burden on taxpayers. This balanced strategy will ensure long-term infrastructure reliability, fiscal responsibility, and continued service to the Walla Walla community*

- F. Is there anything else you would like to add that would assist in the review of your application?

*I want to emphasize that I approach public service with a deep sense of responsibility, curiosity, and respect for the community. I believe effective local government is based on listening first, asking thoughtful questions, and making decisions grounded in both data and lived experience.*

*If appointed, I would commit to being accessible, prepared, and collaborative, taking the time to understand the history behind current issues while also looking ahead to sustainable, inclusive solutions. I am motivated to ensure that voices that are often underrepresented feel heard in city decision-making and that city policies reflect fairness, fiscal responsibility, and long-term community well-being.*

*I understand that this role requires not only vision, but consistency and follow-through. I am ready and excited to do the work between meetings, engage respectfully with differing viewpoints, and represent the city with integrity and professionalism. I would be honored to earn the council's trust and contribute meaningfully to the city's continued growth and success.*

*I would like to thank the City of Walla Walla for this rare and exciting opportunity to apply for a position on the City Council. I appreciate your consideration and look forward to answering any questions you may have.*

# CANDIDATE - D

**From:** [Jotform](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Application for City Councilmember Position #6 - Christopher Jay  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 28, 2026 11:19:28 AM

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## Application for City Councilmember Position #6

Name	Christopher Jay
Complete Home Mailing Address	[REDACTED], Walla Walla, WA, 99362
Home Phone	[REDACTED]
Cell	[REDACTED]
Email	[REDACTED]
Occupation (if retired, please indicate former occupation)	Financial Advisor
Business Address	3601 C Street, 14th Floor, Anchorage, AK, 99503
	Lewis and Clark College Portland, OR 1972 BS Degree--Political Science
	University of Nevada, Reno Reno, NV 1975 MA--Political Science
Educational Background	TA--Teaching Assistant to tenured faculty
	Additional Education through employer Harvard University--one week course University of Chicago--one week course
	various other such sessions at other schools and at firm's headquarters (Princeton, NJ and New York City)
1. Are you a registered voter in the City of Walla Walla?	Yes
2. Have you continuously	

resided within the city limits of the City of Walla Walla for a year or more? (State law requires a councilmember to be a resident of Walla Walla for at least a year prior to appointment, and to be a registered voter at the time of application.)

Yes

3. Have you ever been convicted for anything other than a minor traffic violation?

No

5. Do you or your spouse, or any immediate family member (spouse, children, siblings, parents) have a financial interest in, or are you an employee or officer of any business or agency which does business with the City of Walla Walla?

No

6. Is any member of your immediate family currently employed, either full time or part time, by the City of Walla Walla, or currently perform any volunteer work for the City of Walla Walla?

No

7. Would your appointment create a conflict of interest or an appearance of a conflict of interest?

No

8. Please include your past employment history for the past ten years by attaching a resume (no longer than 3 pages).



9. Please list the professional affiliations, clubs, social, or fraternal organizations to which you belong or hold office (this can be included in your resume).

Walla Walla Noon Rotary Club--served on board  
Sigma Alpha Epsilon  
Pi Sigma Alpha--national Political Science Honorary  
Walla Walla Presbyterian Church

	Experience	From when?	To when?
1.	Blue Mountain Community	2021	present

10. Please list your volunteer experience, and include any volunteer or paid positions held on any governmental board, committee or commission:

Foundation			
2.	Lewis and Clark College Board of Trustees	July 1, 1988	2020
3.	Life Trustee, Lewis and Clark College	2020	present
4.	Providence Hospital Foundation - Anchorage, Ak	1990's	

11. Have you ever attended a meeting of the Walla Walla City Council? **No**

12. Appointment to the City Council will require your attendance at regularly scheduled and special meetings, which generally occur on Monday and Wednesday evenings. Councilmembers are also expected to represent the City of Walla Walla by serving on other committees and as a liaison representative to the city's boards and commissions. Are you able to commit your time and energy to participate fully as a member of the Walla Walla City Council? **Yes**

13. References: Please list name, address and phone number:

	Name	Address	Phone number
1.	Jerry Cummins	[REDACTED] Avenue, Walla Walla, WA 99362	[REDACTED]
2.	Kol Medina	[REDACTED] Walla	[REDACTED]

		Walla, WA	
3.	Albert Gillin	Walla Walla, WA 99362	

14. Supplemental Questions (can be submitted as a separate attachment)

I want to answer the supplemental questions on this form.

I grew up here in this valley, and I want to give back to the area that formed me as person. I want to see this city grow and expand in such a way that all sectors of the community will benefit.

A. Why are you interested in serving as a City of Walla Walla Councilmember?

Growing up in Milton-Freewater, going to "town"--Walla Walla--was a big deal that the whole family looked forward to. I want kids today to have that same feeling of excitement for this community. The City of Walla Walla serves a geographic area that goes over a wide area of two states. I want to reclaim some of that importance with businesses and medical faculties that we can all be proud of. We should also embrace those educational institutions that contribute so much to the betterment of the area.

I want the children of this area to have the ability to stay and prosper if they so want, and not have to move out of the community to seek their careers and opportunities.

I would also be interested in working with the congressional delegation from Washington State to bolster the VA hospital needs and the Corps of Engineers. These are facilities that we need to be very concerned about for their long term needs and importance to this city and region.

B. What strengths would you bring to the City Council?

First of all, I love this place. I have a financial background that I think would help out during budgetary discussions. I also have served successfully on various boards and committees, so I know how to work with a group and staff.

C. What do you consider the primary role(s) of a member of the City Council?

I think the primary role is to listen, to consider the various concerns of the citizens who make up this community. I also think it is important to be able to make decisions that may at times not be popular with everyone, but will benefit the vast majority of the community.

D. As a Councilmember, your only legal authority is the ability to cast one of seven votes. What is your philosophy of how to build consensus or majority support for a project, service, or regulations?

Again, I think listening is a paramount to achieving consensus. I also believe in being prepared and informed on the issues at hand makes a huge difference to any discussion. I am not one who demands to get my way, I enjoy and the ebb and flow of discussion going over the issue before the council.

Overall, the need for economic growth that is sustained and benefits everyone. I think as well the ability to seek out the

E. What do you see as the issues facing the community and how do you believe they should be addressed?

concerns of the people you represent. I would also like to understand better how the working relationship is with the Port of Walla Walla and the County Commission; and, to see how our shared interests and needs are addressed. I would also want to get a better understanding of how the issues of crime and addiction are being handled. I want a healthy downtown environment, and also realize other areas like Eastgate need attention too.

Bottom line is enlarging our economic base for more options for people to make an adequate living to afford a home and other necessities to keep them here and prosperous.

F. Is there anything else you would like to add that would assist in the review of your application?

I understand that I am in for a learning curve, and I enthusiastically look forward to that challenge and opportunity. I want Walla Walla to be a place of hope and promise and safety for all who call it home.

I certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington, that the foregoing is true and correct.



Date

01-28-2026

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You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.

# Christopher Jay

## FINANCIAL ADVISOR

### Education

1968-1972

**Lewis and Clark College**  
Portland, OR  
BS Degree—Political Science

1973-1975

**University of Nevada, Reno**  
Reno, NV  
MA—Political Science  
TA—Teaching Assistant to tenured faculty

#### **Additional Education through employer**

Harvard University Business School—one week course  
University of Chicago Booth School of Business—one week course

Various other such sessions at other schools and at firm's headquarters (Princeton, NJ and New York City)

### Work Experience

Dec 1975 – Feb 2020  
Merrill Lynch & Co.  
3601 C St., 14th Floor  
Anchorage, AK 99503

**First Vice President**  
Financial Advisor

**Top 1,000 Financial Advisors**  
Barron's Magazine  
various years of recognition

**Registered Representative**  
National trade magazine for the financial community  
Top Broker Award

1972-1973

**Staff Member**  
U.S. Representative Edith Green  
Third Congressional District, Oregon



# CANDIDATE - E

**From:** [Jotform](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Application for City Councilmember Position #6 - Roger Esparza  
**Date:** Friday, January 30, 2026 12:15:36 PM

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## Application for City Councilmember Position #6

Name	Roger Esparza
Complete Home Mailing Address	[REDACTED] Walla Walla, WA, 99362
Home Phone	[REDACTED]
Business Phone	[REDACTED]
Email	[REDACTED]
Occupation (if retired, please indicate former occupation)	Real Estate Broker
Business Address	38 E Main St #206, Walla Walla, WA, 99362
Educational Background	Walla Walla High School Graduate
1. Are you a registered voter in the City of Walla Walla?	Yes
2. Have you continuously resided within the city limits of the City of Walla Walla for a year or more? (State law requires a councilmember to be a resident of Walla Walla for at least a year prior to appointment, and to be a registered voter at the time of application.)	Yes
3. Have you ever been convicted for anything	No

other than a minor traffic violation?

5. Do you or your spouse, or any immediate family member (spouse, children, siblings, parents) have a financial interest in, or are you an employee or officer of any business or agency which does business with the City of Walla Walla?

No

6. Is any member of your immediate family currently employed, either full time or part time, by the City of Walla Walla, or currently perform any volunteer work for the City of Walla Walla?

No

7. Would your appointment create a conflict of interest or an appearance of a conflict of interest?

No

8. Please include your past employment history for the past ten years by attaching a resume (no longer than 3 pages).



9. Please list the professional affiliations, clubs, social, or fraternal organizations to which you belong or hold office (this can be included in your resume).

Milton Freewater Rotary Board

10. Please list your volunteer experience, and include any volunteer or paid positions held on any governmental board, committee or commission:

	Experience	From when?	To when?
1.	Milton Freewater Rotary Board	June 2025	present
2.	Friends of Children Board	2017	2023
3.	Chamber of Commerce Board	2014	2020
	Walla		

4.	Walla Association of Realtors Board	2015	2018
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11. Have you ever attended a meeting of the Walla Walla City Council?

Yes

12. Appointment to the City Council will require your attendance at regularly scheduled and special meetings, which generally occur on Monday and Wednesday evenings. Councilmembers are also expected to represent the City of Walla Walla by serving on other committees and as a liaison representative to the city's boards and commissions. Are you able to commit your time and energy to participate fully as a member of the Walla Walla City Council.

Yes

	Name	Address	Phone number
1.	Tom Scribner	Walla Walla, WA	
13. References: Please list name, address and phone number:	2.	Mary Campbell	Walla Walla, WA 99362
	3.	Cruz Castillo	Walla Walla, WA 99362

14. Supplemental Questions (can be submitted as a separate attachment)

I want to answer the supplemental questions in a separate attachment.

Please attach a file with your answers to the supplemental questions.

I certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington, that the foregoing is true and correct.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "RG Cut". The signature is stylized with a large "R" and "G" followed by "Cut".

Date

01-30-2026

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You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.

**Roger Esparza**

[REDACTED], Walla Walla, WA 99362  
[REDACTED]

**Professional Summary**

Experienced Real Estate Broker with over 15 years of success representing buyers and sellers across Washington and Oregon. Proven expertise in negotiation, client advocacy, transaction management, and strategic marketing. Highly respected community leader with extensive board service and volunteer involvement.

**Core Competencies**

Residential & Commercial Real Estate Transactions  
Buyer & Seller Representation  
Contract Negotiation & Mediation  
Client Relationship Management  
Real Estate Marketing & Branding  
Transaction Coordination & Compliance

**Professional Experience****Real Estate Broker – The Provost Team**

March 2010 – Present | Washington & Oregon

- Represent buyers and sellers in residential and commercial real estate transactions
- Develop and execute comprehensive marketing strategies
- Negotiate contracts, repairs, and concessions on behalf of clients
- Provide consulting and mediation to facilitate successful closings
- Maintain consistent long-term client follow-up

**Leadership & Community Involvement**

Milton-Freewater Rotary Board (2025–Present)

Friends of Children of Walla Walla – Board Member & Mentor (2017–2023)

Walla Walla Valley Chamber of Commerce – Board Member (2014–2020), Chair (2018)

Walla Walla Realtor Association – Board Member (2015–2018)

Community Council – Board Chair (2015–2018)

Junior Achievement – Volunteer Instructor (2018–2019)

Habitat for Humanity – Construction Volunteer (2017)

Port of Walla Walla – Public Forum Facilitator (2019)

**Professional Development**

Sherwood Leadership Trust – Graduate (2006)

Washington Student Leadership (WSL) (1998)

## **City of Walla Walla Councilmember Application – Responses**

**Applicant:** Roger Esparza

**City:** Walla Walla, Washington

### **A. Why are you interested in serving as a City of Walla Walla Councilmember?**

I am interested in serving as a City of Walla Walla Councilmember because my heart tells me it is time to serve this community in a broader way. Walla Walla has given me so much, and I feel a strong responsibility to give back through thoughtful, engaged public service. I believe I bring a perspective that has not been consistently represented on the City Council—one grounded in real-world experience, community involvement, and collaboration. My goal is to listen, bridge differences, and help guide decisions that support a strong, inclusive, and forward-looking Walla Walla.

### **B. What strengths would you bring to the City Council?**

I bring a strong background in civic involvement and community engagement, with experience working alongside people from all walks of life. I am approachable, accessible, and a clear communicator. I value listening first, asking thoughtful questions, and helping connect residents, staff, and elected officials in a respectful and productive way.

### **C. What do you consider the primary role(s) of a member of the City Council?**

I believe the primary role of a City Councilmember is to listen to the community and represent their interests thoughtfully and responsibly. This includes working collaboratively with fellow councilmembers, understanding the city budget, and gaining a working knowledge of city departments and how they function. It also means collaborating with partners such as Walla Walla County, the Port of Walla Walla, the State of Washington, and neighbors like College Place when appropriate.

### **D. As a Councilmember, your only legal authority is the ability to cast one of seven votes. What is your philosophy on building consensus or majority support?**

My philosophy is rooted in preparation, respect, and collaboration. I believe it is essential to do thorough research before forming opinions, to understand the facts, and to consider the perspectives of fellow councilmembers. Building consensus starts with listening, being open to different viewpoints, and working toward solutions that serve the broader community rather than individual interests.

### **E. What do you see as the issues facing the community, and how should they be addressed?**

Communities across the country are experiencing division, and Walla Walla is not immune. I believe we need leaders who can help bring people together, encourage respectful dialogue, and focus on shared goals. Affordability is also a growing challenge for many residents. Addressing these issues will require thoughtful planning, collaboration, and policies that balance growth with quality of life.

### **F. Is there anything else you would like to add to assist in the review of your application?**

I would be honored to serve the City of Walla Walla in this capacity and to work alongside the dedicated councilmembers currently serving. I am committed to leading with integrity, treating others with respect, and living by the Golden Rule in all decisions and interactions.

# CANDIDATE - F

**From:** [Jotform](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Application for City Councilmember Position #6 - CAROLYN KNOWLES  
**Date:** Friday, January 30, 2026 8:37:34 PM

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## Application for City Councilmember Position #6

Name	CAROLYN KNOWLES
Complete Home Mailing Address	[REDACTED], Walla Walla, WA, 99362
Home Phone	[REDACTED]
Business Phone	[REDACTED]
Cell	[REDACTED]
Email	[REDACTED]
Occupation (if retired, please indicate former occupation)	Bookkeeper, Wine Specialist
Business Address	[REDACTED], Walla Walla, WA, 99362
Educational Background	Bachelor's Degree Political Science Specialist in Latin American Studies and Economics, University of Washington M.A. course work in Education, Teaching Asst & Scholarship, Southern Oregon University, Ashland Oregon M.A course work in Profession Writing and Editing, Emerson College, Boston MA CSW. Certified Wine Educator, Society of Wine Educators
1. Are you a registered voter in the City of Walla Walla?	Yes
2. Have you continuously resided within the city limits of the City of Walla Walla for a year or more? (State law requires a	

councilmember to be a resident of Walla Walla for at least a year prior to appointment, and to be a registered voter at the time of application.)

Yes

3. Have you ever been convicted for anything other than a minor traffic violation?

No

5. Do you or your spouse, or any immediate family member (spouse, children, siblings, parents) have a financial interest in, or are you an employee or officer of any business or agency which does business with the City of Walla Walla?

No

6. Is any member of your immediate family currently employed, either full time or part time, by the City of Walla Walla, or currently perform any volunteer work for the City of Walla Walla?

No

7. Would your appointment create a conflict of interest or an appearance of a conflict of interest?

No

8. Please include your past employment history for the past ten years by attaching a resume (no longer than 3 pages).



9. Please list the professional affiliations, clubs, social, or fraternal organizations to which you belong or hold office (this can be included in your resume).

Please see on resume'.

	Experience	From when?	To when?
1.	Associated Students of the University of Washington (ASUW)	1970	1974



10. Please list your volunteer experience, and include any volunteer or paid positions held on any governmental board, committee or commission:

2.	ASUW Minority Affairs Commission	1972	1974
3.	Associated Students of Southern Oregon University (ASSOU)	1976	1977
4.	Ashland OR School District Parent Teacher Organization	1985	1989

11. Have you ever attended a meeting of the Walla Walla City Council? **Yes**

12. Appointment to the City Council will require your attendance at regularly scheduled and special meetings, which generally occur on Monday and Wednesday evenings. Councilmembers are also expected to represent the City of Walla Walla by serving on other committees and as a liaison representative to the city's boards and commissions. Are you able to commit your time and energy to participate fully as a member of the Walla Walla City Council. **Yes**

13. References: Please list name, address and phone number:

	Name	Address	Phone number
1.	John Patterson	Walla Walla WA	
2.	Mara Palumbo	Walla Walla	
3.	Paula Buck Nichols	Walla	

14. Supplemental Questions (can be submitted as a separate attachment)

I want to answer the supplemental questions in a separate attachment.

Please attach a file with your answers to the supplemental questions.



I certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington, that the foregoing is true and correct.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carolyn Knowles". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Date

01-30-2026

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You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.

## **Carolyn Knowles**

Walla Walla, WA 99362

### **EMPLOYMENT**

#### **Wine Industry Background, Sales and Marketing**

Patterson Cellars, Walla Walla WA

August 2023 – Present

Tasting Room Associate

Thomas Cellars, Portland OR

June 2016 – Present

Manager Accounts Receivable

L'Ecole # 41 Wine Cellars , Walla Walla WA

May 2021 – August 2023

Tasting Room Associate Walla Walla, WA

Knomad Wine Group, Portland OR

April 2009 to 2016

Owner and CEO

Watermill Winery & Blue Mountain Hard Cider Milton-Freewater, Oregon

March 2008-2010

National Sales Manager, with office in Portland Oregon

Kendall -Jackson Wines

October 2006 to 2008

Regional On Premise Fine Wine Account Manager

Young's Columbia Distributing Co. Portland, Oregon

January 2002- October 2006

On Premise Fine Wines Key Account Specialist

Young's Columbia Distributing Co. Portland, Oregon

September 1999 - January 2002

Wines Sales Account Manager

#### **Hospitality Industry**

It's A Moveable Feast, Ashland, OR

Caterers and Bed & Breakfast Management

Owner

1986-1998

Harry & David's Corp, Medford OR

Fall 1995-1999

Retail and Food and Beverage Manager

Medford Clinic, Medford OR

Spring 1991-1995

Café Manager

Rogue Valley Medical Center, Medford OR  
1987-1991  
Café Manager

Nendell's Hotel Chain, Medford OR  
1985-1987  
Director of Catering Sales

Westin Hotel, Boston MA  
1983-1985  
Front End Manager Turner Fisheries Fine Dining

### **Education**

Dorchester House, Boston, MA  
1979-1983  
Boston Public Schools  
Swimming Pool Mgr. and Instruction Director

### **Forestry**

U.S. Forest Service  
1974-1982 Seasonal  
Fire and Aviation  
Fire Crew  
Fire Lookout  
Aerial Observer

### **Professional affiliations, clubs, social or fraternal organizations**

Alpha Lambda Delta National Scholastic Honor Society  
University of Washington Student Association  
University Southern Oregon University Graduate Student Association  
American Association of University Women  
League of Women Voters  
Ashland Oregon Schools Parent Teacher Association  
Common Cause Oregon, Lobbyist.  
Society of Wine Educators  
Women for WineSense , Instructor

### **Education**

Bachelor's Degree Political Science Specialist in Latin American Studies and Economics, University of Washington  
M.A. course work in Education, Teaching Asst & Scholarship, Southern Oregon University, Ashland Oregon  
M.A course work in Profession Writing and Editing, Emerson College, Boston MA  
CSW. Certified Wine Educator, Society of Wine Educators

## **Questions on the City Council App**

### **Why are you interested in serving**

A healthy community must have people with a broad spectrum of lifestyles, beliefs and histories held together by mutual respect and the knowledge that it will take the goodwill of every member to confront the challenges we must meet in the coming years. Our democracy was never meant to be a closed club. I would strive to be an independent, people-powered leader, because communities deserve representatives who answer to them, not to parties or special interests I want Walla Walla to be a vibrant and sustainable city, now, and for my grandchildren.

### **What strengths would you bring to the City Council**

I bring to this endeavor a unique perspective. I know my community; My family has roots here in Walla Walla that go back to the 1850's. I worked harvest in the summers and spent 7 years in fire management with the Forest Service. I put myself through the University of Washington working at the UofW Law School Library under Marion Gallaher so I can read briefs and understand legal terminology. I have been a part of the growth of the wine industry in Walla Walla, in all aspects, for over 20 years. This gives me an extensive knowledge base that will be vital as we confront the issues.

As a business manager I discovered that the most successful teams know they are partners in decision making, are being heard, and their concerns and solutions are taken into consideration. I bring the communication skills needed to engage families, young people, educators, and the broader Valley community—including farmers, property owners, and the wine industry—so their voices are heard and their priorities are represented at the Council table.

A strong economy is the foundation of the City's Comprehensive Plan, and achieving it requires leaders who can work across differences to get things done. I bring a collaborative, bipartisan approach that brings together business owners, educators, families, and community leaders to focus on practical solutions—not politics. By working together to attract new businesses and create good-paying jobs, we can build the economic stability that draws young families to our community and strengthens our local economy. When we put our community first, we all win

### **What do you consider the primary role of a member of the City Council**

A city council member's core role is to balance representing community interests with governing responsibilities—ensuring local laws, budgets, and policies reflect the needs and values of the people they serve while promoting effective, transparent governance. It means putting people over politics, finding common ground, providing strong oversight of city operations, and ensuring that growth, fiscal responsibility, and quality of life remain top priorities.

### **As a Councilmember, your only legal authority is the ability to cast one of seven votes. What is your philosophy of how to build consensus or majority support for a project, service or regulations.**

My philosophy is that leadership in a legislative body is not about winning arguments — it's about building bridges. I would use my vote as the culmination of a process centered on dialogue, respect, evidence, and shared community purpose. Through that process, majority support isn't just a procedural milestone — it's a reflection of a community thinking and deciding together.

## **What do you see as the issues facing the community and how do you believe they should be addressed**

1. Walla Walla is not thriving as it should be, as are many small communities across the country. If we do nothing, we risk losing our schools, our hospital, and the unique lifestyle that living in a beautiful rural city offers. To protect our future, we must grow. We need more business opportunities and good-paying jobs that allow current residents—and future generations—to live and thrive here. With that awareness also comes the responsibility to foster sustainable growth. Walla Walla has a unique, historical small-town vibe. That is why people move here and it is critical that we maintain that sense of place. We don't want to look like the Tri Cities we need to rebuild and renew our core area housing and workplaces, before we look at growing outside of our current boundaries.
2. Our water, energy, and agricultural resources are essential to our city's safety, economic strength, and long-term sustainability, but they will only secure our future if we lead with responsibility, innovation, and vision. I am committed to supporting infrastructure improvements, and responsible resource management that balance development with environmental stewardship. By investing wisely and planning strategically, we can strengthen resilience, expand economic opportunities, and protect vital services for all residents.
3. We must also stop the hollowing out of our downtown core. Empty buildings are more than an eyesore; they are unsafe and attract mold, mildew, rodents, and other health hazards. As downtown loses vitality, problems that would be minimized in a vibrant commercial district become larger and harder to manage. When absentee owners fail to maintain these properties, they become costly liabilities for the city and taxpayers. Vacabuildings generate significant public expense while contributing little in return. We are losing millions of dollars annually in unrealized property tax revenue that would exist if these spaces were occupied and productive. While property owners share responsibility, the city must also take an active role in creating solutions. One option is implementing a vacancy tax on abandoned buildings. Revenue from this could be reinvested into incentives that encourage new businesses and support redevelopment. The city could also explore converting unused second floors into housing, helping address both vacancies and housing shortages. Additionally, streamlining the permitting process and offering engineering or technical assistance to help bring older buildings up to code would remove barriers to redevelopment.

Revitalizing downtown is not just about buildings—it is about preserving our community, strengthening our economy, and securing Walla Walla's future.

## **Is there anything else you would like to add that would assist in the review of your application?**

As many of you know, I ran for the #3 position on City Council this fall. I returned to Walla Walla in 2020 after spending 28 years in Portland, a large city where I often felt my ability to influence local government was limited. Coming home changed that. My children are grown, I am economically secure, and I care deeply about this valley and the people who call it home.

Running for City Council was my way of giving back—of trying to make a difference and using my unique background in business management and the wine and hospitality industry to serve our community. It was one of the best experiences of my life. I believe a healthy democracy depends on real choices. Every candidate deserves a challenger — it strengthens accountability, improves leadership, and pushes all of us to serve our community better.

I am deeply committed to being successful as a city council person, and to mentoring and ensuring that the next generation of leaders and engaged citizens has both a voice and the tools to use it, most of my campaign committee and "kitchen cabinet" were much younger than I am. They organized meet-and-greets and events and brought tremendous energy and perspective to the campaign. And together, we earned nearly 35% of the vote. I truly believe that a healthy democracy requires real choices.



CANDIDATE - G

## CITY OF WALLA WALLA

15 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue  
Walla Walla, WA 99362  
509-524-4348

### APPLICATION FOR CITY COUNCIL MEMBER POSITION # 6

Thank you for your interest in serving the Walla Walla community as a member of the Walla Walla City Council.

To be considered, applications must be completed, signed, and received by the City Clerk **no later than 4:00 p.m., Friday, February 6, 2026 (late arrivals will not be accepted)**. Applications can be submitted using the online form, downloading the fillable PDF and emailed to the City Clerk at [cityclerk@wallawallawa.gov](mailto:cityclerk@wallawallawa.gov) or mailed/hand delivered at 15 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue Walla Walla, WA 99362 Attention: City Clerk.

Name: Emily Brown

Complete Home Mailing Address (you must have resided within the city limits for at least a year):

[REDACTED] Walla Walla, WA 99362

Home Phone: [REDACTED]

Business Phone: NA

Cell: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Occupation (if retired, please indicate former occupation): Policy Director for Blue Zones (remote)

Business Address: [REDACTED] Walla Walla, WA 99362 (I work remotely)

Educational Background:

Master of Community and Regional Planning from University of Oregon; Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Science from Willamette University

1. Are you a registered voter in the City of Walla Walla? ☒ Yes ☐ No
2. Have you continuously resided within the city limits of the City of Walla Walla for a year or more? (State law requires a councilmember to be a resident of Walla Walla for at least a year prior to appointment, and to be a registered voter at the time of application.) ☒ Yes ☐ No
3. Have you ever been convicted for anything other than a minor traffic violation? ☐ Yes ☒ No

A WONDERFUL PLACE TO **LIVE WORK PLAY**

4. If you answered "YES" to #3 above, please explain:  
NA

5. Do you or your spouse, or any immediate family member (spouse, children, siblings, parents) have a financial interest in, or are you an employee or officer of any business or agency which does business with the City of Walla Walla? YES ☐ NO ☒

If yes, please explain:  
NA

6. Is any member of your immediate family currently employed, either full time or part time, by the City of Walla Walla, or currently perform any volunteer work for the City of Walla Walla? YES ☐ NO ☒

If yes, please explain:  
NA

7. Would your appointment create a conflict of interest or an appearance of a conflict of interest?  
YES ☐ NO ☒

If yes, please explain:

8. Please include your past employment history for the past ten years by attaching a resume (no longer than 3 pages).  
See resume attached

9. Please list the professional affiliations, clubs, social, or fraternal organizations to which you belong or hold office (this can be included in your resume).  
Inland Northwest Musicians Orchestra  
Walla Walla Pride

10. Please list your volunteer experience, and include any volunteer or paid positions held on any governmental board, committee or commission:

City of Walla Walla Planning Commission	FROM: 2022	TO: Present
Walla Walla Pride Event Planning Committee	FROM: 2025	TO: Present
Walla Walla Immigrant Rights Coalition	FROM: 2025	TO: Present
Walla Walla Climate Policy Advisory Team	FROM: 2025	TO: 2025

11. Have you ever attended a meeting of the Walla Walla City Council? ☒ YES ☐ NO



12. Appointment to the City Council will require your attendance at regularly scheduled and special meetings, which generally occur on Monday and Wednesday evenings. Councilmembers are also expected to represent the City of Walla Walla by serving on other committees and as a liaison representative to the city's boards and commissions. Are you able to commit your time and energy to participate fully as a member of the Walla Walla City Council. ☒ YES ☐ NO

13. References: Please list name, address and phone number:

1. Katie DePonty, [REDACTED] Walla Walla, WA 99362, [REDACTED]
2. Jim Williams, [REDACTED], Walla Walla, WA 99362, [REDACTED]
3. Kol Medina, [REDACTED], [REDACTED] Walla Walla, WA 99362 [REDACTED]

14. Supplemental Questions (can be submitted as a separate attachment)

A. Why are you interested in serving as a City of Walla Walla Councilmember?

See attachment

B. What strengths would you bring to the City Council?

See attachment

C. What do you consider the primary role(s) of a member of the City Council?

See attachment

D. As a Councilmember, your only legal authority is the ability to cast one of seven votes. What is your philosophy of how to build consensus or majority support for a project, service, or regulations?

See attachment


E. What do you see as the issues facing the community and how do you believe they should be addressed?

See attachment

F. Is there anything else you would like to add that would assist in the review of your application?

Once submitted, applications and related materials become a public record subject to public disclosure and will appear in the Council agenda packet. Interviews are tentatively scheduled for February 23, 2026 at the regular work session from 4-6pm. Selected applicants will be notified of the exact date and time of the interview once all applications have been received and whether to hold interviews is determined by Council. Final action appointing a candidate to elective office will take place in an open public meeting. No City elected officer shall hold any other office or employment within the Walla Walla City government.

I certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington, that the foregoing is true and correct.

Signature: **Emily Brown**  Digitally signed by Emily Brown  
Date: 2026.01.31 17:02:25 -08'00' Date: 1/31/2026

# EMILY R.M. BROWN

Walla Walla, WA 99362

## EDUCATION

**Master of Community and Regional Planning**, University of Oregon **2016**  
**B.A. Environmental Science**, *cum laude*, Willamette University **2012**  
*Minors in Political Science and Spanish*

## RELEVANT SKILLS

Policy Analysis & Development	Facilitation & Public Engagement	Community Planning
Program Management	Budget Management	Consensus Building
Collaboration	Conversational Spanish	Problem Solving

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**Blue Zones**  
**Director of Policy & Transformation** **2024 - Present**

- Oversee the implementation of evidence-based policy, systems, and environmental changes in 17 Blue Zones communities across the United States.
- Manage an annual budget of over \$1.6 million, allocating funds to advance policy strategies through contractor/consultant engagement, equipment purchases, and legal agreements.
- Track national trends and build partnerships with nationally-recognized policy experts.

**Blue Zones**  
**Policy Advocate - Blue Zones Project Walla Walla Valley** **2020 - 2024**

- Convened and empowered a diverse coalition of resident advocates, city staff, and nonprofit partner organizations to advance policy, systems, and environmental changes.
- Researched, developed, and presented policy solutions in the areas of built environment, food systems and substance use to address barriers to well-being in the Walla Walla Valley.

**North Dakota Department of Commerce** **2018 - 2020**  
**Community Engagement Manager**

- Designed and implemented a statewide Main Street Initiative in partnership with the Governor’s office, including facilitating community site visits and asset-based discussions.
- Empowered community leaders to achieve local goals through one-on-one support, statewide webinars and conferences, and resource development.
- Built local capacity to ensure impactful and sustainable community transformation resulting in enhanced quality of life, improved well-being, and economic diversification.

**USDA Rural Development, North Dakota** **2016 - 2018**  
**Community Planning & Development Specialist**

- Led the implementation of a federal Promise Zones initiative in partnership with two Tribal Nations, serving as liaison between local, state, tribal, and federal partners.
- Streamlined resource access and delivered technical assistance to support community planning and economic development projects, and grow rural prosperity.
- Developed and implemented the North Dakota Livable Community planning program focusing on building thriving, vibrant communities.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

# EMILY R.M. BROWN

Walla Walla, WA 99362

## University of Oregon Institute for Policy Research and Engagement Project Manager; Planning Associate

2015 - 2016

- Defined project scopes, developed implementation plans, and completed economic development and community planning projects for client municipalities across Oregon.
- Facilitated public forums, delivered presentations, and conducted research.
- Delegated tasks, monitored project timelines, and coordinated client relationships.

## Association of Oregon Counties, Salem, OR Research Associate

May - August, 2016

- Analyzed housing-related challenges and opportunities for Oregon communities.
- Researched evidence-based interventions and affordable housing best practices.
- Developed policy recommendations and presented findings to leadership.

## National Housing Conference, Washington, D.C. Policy Intern

June - August, 2015

- Monitored housing legislation, researched and wrote policy briefs for members and clients.
- Delivered trainings for local housing organizations highlighting policy best practices and legislative updates; represented NHC at Congressional hearings.

## OPAL Environmental Justice Oregon, Portland, OR Community Organizer

2013 - 2014

- Engaged transit riders and community members with low incomes through one-on-one organizing and events to collectively advance environmental/transportation justice goals.
- Designed and facilitated workshops to empower residents to deliver public testimony.

## LEADERSHIP & AFFILIATIONS

**City of Walla Walla Planning Commission** (Chair: 2024-2026)

2022 - Present

**North Dakota Commission on the Status of Women**

2018 - 2020

**BisMarket Farmers Market Board of Directors** (Co-Chair)

2017 - 2020

**BisMan Community Food Cooperative Board of Directors**

2017 - 2019

## CONFERENCES & SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

**Washington State Public Health Association**

2022

*"Public Private Partnership: Filling the Gaps for Effective Tobacco Policy Work in Rural Communities"*

**AARP Rural Livability Conference**

2019

*"Engaging Youth in North Dakota"*

**International Society of Community and Regional Planners Conference**

2017

*"The Unpaved Road to Housing Affordability: What Role Does Technology Play?"*

**Oregon American Planning Association (OAPA) Conference**

2015

*"Providing for the Unhoused: A Review of Transitional Housing Strategies."*

**Emily Brown**  
**City Council Application Supplemental Questions**

**14a. Why are you interested in serving as a City of Walla Walla Councilmember?**

This is a challenging time for our community, nation, and world. Successfully navigating these issues will require leaders who are willing to approach old challenges in innovative ways and strengthen non-traditional partnerships. I don't think that I have all of the answers, but I believe I have the creativity and determination to contribute to the collective problem solving that the Council undertakes.

I love this community and feel lucky to have returned to live my adult life here. I have lived in a number of other communities and deeply appreciate the elements of Walla Walla that make this a wonderful place to live. I also understand that large portions of our community face significant barriers to experiencing the high quality of life we all deserve. I am driven to work hard to protect the things that are working for our community and to implement solutions that can help Walla Walla be an even better place for everyone.

During the last five years I've enjoyed serving the community through my roles on the City of Walla Walla's Planning Commission, as the Policy Advocate for Blue Zones Project, and as a community volunteer. I have had the opportunity to partner with city staff in a variety of departments, and I believe my combination of educational training, professional experiences, and community ties will allow me to serve my community effectively as a City Councilmember.

Finally, I want to be a voice for community members whose identities I feel are underrepresented on the current Council. Perspectives from all backgrounds strengthen our collective decision making.

**14b. What strengths would you bring to the City Council?**

One strength I would bring to the City Council is my familiarity with the City's current planning process, policy framework, and priorities. While serving on the City's Planning Commission (including two years as Chair), I've worked with staff to update City plans and policies to advance local priorities. I have also held public hearings and facilitated conversations with members of the public and fellow Commissioners about complex policy situations.

Other important strengths and skills that I would bring to this role include:

- The ability to draft and critically review ordinances, resolutions, and code amendments.
- Experience presenting to elected leadership and convening conversations with partner organizations about policy priorities.
- Strong relationships with the organizations who play essential roles in our community.
- An ability to listen deeply, find common ground, and respectfully navigate challenging discussions across differences; facilitation and de-escalation skills.
- Conversational Spanish language skills.
- Over 10 years of experience working with local, state, and federal policies and programs.
- The ability to change my mind when presented with new information and to acknowledge when I am wrong or was misinformed.

**Emily Brown**

**City Council Application Supplemental Questions**

- As a woman and young professional, I hold identities and experiences currently underrepresented on the City Council.

Finally, I understand that sustainable policy change is slow but residents and interest groups often want quick drastic change. Finding the right balance between the two approaches is essential for being responsive to changing circumstances while still achieving a sustainable, long-term vision.

**14c. What do you consider the primary role(s) of a member of the City Council?**

- Help set priorities for the community and advance policies that are equitable, financially feasible, legal/constitutional, and impactful.
- Weigh all sides of an issue before making decisions, including listening carefully to the voices of those who speak for and against any given issue.
- Always act in the long-term best interest of the community as a whole (including future generations).
- Empower and trust the expertise of City staff; advance decisions different from their recommendations only when necessary.
- Engage community members in envisioning a stronger, vibrant community that serves everyone.
- Listen to and understand the opinions and ideas of community members the Council represents; serve and represent all constituents.
- Understand the legal implications of Council decisions, including upholding the laws that govern Council operations.
- Support fiscally responsible management of the City.
- Carefully navigate and prioritize among the competing interests inherent in the topics of preservation and growth, environmental justice, economic and community development, housing, public safety, privacy, community well-being, and infrastructure development and maintenance.

**14d. As a Councilmember, your only legal authority is the ability to cast one of seven votes. What is your philosophy of how to build consensus or majority support for a project, service, or regulations?**

To build consensus or majority support for a decision, the conversation has to start with respectfully listening to understand different points of view. It requires acknowledging that there is often more than one “right” way to do something, that seemingly contradictory ideas can all be true, and that complicated decisions will usually require compromise. I believe there are a few specific ways to achieve this:

- Have respectful one-to-one conversations in order to understand the values underlying someone’s approach to a situation - we usually share values even when we don’t have a shared vision of an outcome.
- Seek to find common ground based on these shared values and identify where each side may be willing to compromise in order to meet closer to the middle.

**Emily Brown**

**City Council Application Supplemental Questions**

- Accept that we likely won't agree on everything and understand that different perspectives strengthen group decision making.

Ultimately no decision will make everyone happy, and there will always have to be tradeoffs. The goal of collaborative decision making is to find a workable solution that achieves the best overall outcome for the most people.

**14e. What do you see as the issues facing the community and how do you believe they should be addressed?**

Many of the issues facing the Walla Walla Valley are not new and leaders have navigated these challenges for decades. There are also some new issues arising that will require innovation and adaptability. For the most part, I don't personally have a solution to many of these challenges that is different from what the City is either currently doing or has already tried. That said, I believe that my combined understanding of these challenges and the creative options available to us can contribute to addressing these challenges. Some priority challenges include:

- Population trends that will challenge our ability to have a tax base that can fund the services community members want and need.
- The availability and cost of childcare which forces families to make tough decisions about employment, family size, housing, and community of residence.
- Housing diversity, availability, quality, and affordability; a housing market that has been skewed by investment properties and vacation rentals.
- Mental health and substance use challenges, particularly among youth, and access to care.
- A population of young people who don't feel empowered to proactively contribute to change in the community.
- Monopoly of commercial land ownership; vacant residential and commercial spaces.
- The need to continue diversifying our economy, currently reliant on tourism and wine sales.
- Community apprehension about growth and change during a time that is requiring both of these things.
- Balancing interests with regard to watershed management and protection; adapting to a rapidly changing climate.
- Political polarization and a declining ability to discuss contentious issues with respect.
- Funding investments in public facilities and infrastructure like roads and sidewalks.
- Changes to federal programs that may impact the financial viability of operating a hospital in Walla Walla.
- A cost of living that has outpaced wage growth, particularly for care professions and the service industry; growing wealth and income inequality.
- Perceived lack of economic opportunities for young people and new professionals.
- Overreliance on sales and property tax to fund essential programs and services.

Some approaches to addressing these challenges include:

- Continue and enhance collaboration with neighboring jurisdictions.

**Emily Brown**

**City Council Application Supplemental Questions**

- Strengthen partnerships with major employers to find ways to build workforce housing.
- Maintain strong collaboration with community organizations; seek out new partnerships with nontraditional organizations.
- Empower young people through more direct engagement with City leaders and by establishing a youth council.
- Model respectful disagreement among leadership; serve as a unified voice who believes in the future of our community.
- Continue advancing innovative policy strategies to encourage more housing types while still maintaining certain standards.
- Consider establishing a vacant property registry with an annual fee for vacant commercial and residential buildings and land.
- Find more ways to support artists and entrepreneurs; encourage economic development partners to invest in local small-scale agriculture.

Regardless of the issue, I believe that increased communication and transparency about these challenges and related decisions will benefit relationships between City leadership and community members.

**14f. Is there anything else you would like to add that would assist in the review of your application?**



# CANDIDATE - H

From: [Jotform](#)  
To: [City Clerk](#)  
Subject: Re: Application for City Councilmember Position #6 - Michael Beatty  
Date: Sunday, February 1, 2026 7:57:26 PM

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.



## Application for City Councilmember Position #6

Name	Michael Beatty
Complete Home Mailing Address	[REDACTED], Walla Walla, WA, 99362
Home Phone	[REDACTED]
Business Phone	[REDACTED]
Cell	[REDACTED]
Email	[REDACTED]
Occupation (if retired, please indicate former occupation)	Construction Management
Business Address	5702 Industrial Way #102, Pasco, WA, 99301
Educational Background	Master's Degree in Civil Engineering - University of Washington, 2011
1. Are you a registered voter in the City of Walla Walla?	Yes
2. Have you continuously resided within the city limits of the City of Walla Walla for a year or more? (State law requires a councilmember to be a resident of Walla Walla for at least a year prior to appointment, and to be a registered voter at the time of application.)	Yes

3. Have you ever been convicted for anything other than a minor traffic violation?

Yes

4. If you answered "Yes" to #3 above, please explain.

Negligent Driving with Alcohol - 2002

5. Do you or your spouse, or any immediate family member (spouse, children, siblings, parents) have a financial interest in, or are you an employee or officer of any business or agency which does business with the City of Walla Walla?

Yes

If yes, please explain.

My company, McKinstry, is a commercial HVAC and Plumbing company. Though I am not positive, I do not believe we have ever done work with the City of Walla Walla, but we have possibly done work for the County. In the future, we could potentially bid for work for the city.

6. Is any member of your immediate family currently employed, either full time or part time, by the City of Walla Walla, or currently perform any volunteer work for the City of Walla Walla?

Yes

If yes, please explain.

I volunteer on the Parks, Recreation, and Urban Forestry Advisory Board. I also have, and still plan to, volunteer as a coach for Parks and Recs sports teams.

7. Would your appointment create a conflict of interest or an appearance of a conflict of interest?

Yes

If yes, please explain.

If Ministry was to bid work for the city of Walla Walla this could appear to be a conflict of interest. I would make a point of abstaining from any bids (at work) or votes (city council) that would have a conflict of interest.

8. Please include your past employment history for the past ten years by attaching a resume (no longer than 3 pages).

[REDACTED]

9. Please list the professional affiliations, clubs, social, or fraternal organizations to which you belong or hold office (this can be included in your

See attached

resume).

10. Please list your volunteer experience, and include any volunteer or paid positions held on any governmental board, committee or commission:

	Experience	From when?	To when?
1.	Parks, Rec, & Urban Forestry Advisory Board	January 2025	Present
2.	Coaching WW Valley Youth Football	March 2023	Present
3.	Coaching Parks and Recs, sports teams	September 2022	Present
4.	Intown Ventures Christmas Dinner Giveaway	December 2022	Present

11. Have you ever attended a meeting of the Walla Walla City Council? Yes

12. Appointment to the City Council will require your attendance at regularly scheduled and special meetings, which generally occur on Monday and Wednesday evenings. Councilmembers are also expected to represent the City of Walla Walla by serving on other committees and as a liaison representative to the city's boards and commissions. Are you able to commit your time and energy to participate fully as a member of the Walla Walla City Council. Yes

	Name	Address	Phone number
	Luke	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

13. References: Please list name, address and phone number:

1.	Watson	College Place WA 99324	[REDACTED]
2.	Andy Coleman	[REDACTED] Walla Walla WA 99362	[REDACTED]
3.	Allen Pomraning	[REDACTED] Walla Walla WA 99362	[REDACTED]

14. Supplemental Questions (can be submitted as a separate attachment)

I want to answer the supplemental questions in a separate attachment.

Please attach a file with your answers to the supplemental questions.

[REDACTED]

I certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington, that the foregoing is true and correct.

*Mike Bentley*

Date

02-01-2026

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.

# MICHAEL BEATTY

Walla Walla WA 99362

## SKILLS & CERTS

Member of Parks, Recreation, and Urban Forestry Advisory board for the City of Walla Walla.

Master's Degree in Civil Engineering.

LEED GA Certified.

Life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

OSHA 30 Trained.

## WORK EXPERIENCE

### **PROJECT MANAGER & ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE – MCKINSTRY – SEATTLE/PASCO** SEPT 2019 – PRESENT

In 6 years managed 46 projects for a total volume of \$19M. Responsible for the creation, coordination, and installation of mechanical and plumbing systems. This includes managing all stages of design, permitting, acquisition of equipment, construction and installation, commissioning, and closeout. Also maintained submittal schedules, RFI logs, cost tracking, negotiating change orders, and resolving field issues.

### **SUPERINTENDENT AND ENGINEER – AECOM - U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS** JUNE 2018 – MARCH 2019

Responsible for the delivery, sequencing, and assembly of 29 modular school classrooms and 1 steel framed structure on a remote U.S. Virgin Island. Guided and controlled all phases of field operations including clearing and grading, underground utilities, concrete, data/communications, quality control, safety, scheduling, and punch-list.

### **PROJECT MANAGER – GERDAU REINFORCING STEEL – AUBURN/SEATTLE WA** FEBRUARY 2015 – JUNE 2018

In 3.4 years, 79 independent projects managed in the coordination of: fabricating, supplying, and installing reinforcing steel for a net volume of \$21 million. Responsibilities included managing detailers and field personnel in the supply of shop drawings, ordering, and placing rebar.

### **CONCRETE AND COST ENGINEER - TURNER CONSTRUCTION – SEATTLE WA** OCTOBER 2011 – JANUARY 2015

Managed a \$10.7 mil GC self-performed concrete package. Included subcontract and supplier buyout, change order management, RFI and submittal processing, and productivity and cost tracking. Assisted project teams in tracking and forecasting over \$100 million in construction expenses as well as performing contract review for risk analysis

## EDUCATION

### **MASTERS OF SCIENCE IN CIVIL ENGINEERING - UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON** SEPTEMBER 2006 – SEPTEMBER 2011

## MILITARY

### **U.S. ARMY – INFANTRYMAN, BRADLEY GUNNER, AND RECRUITER** AUGUST 2002- AUGUST 2006

#### **Awards**

- Combat Infantryman's Badge – Earned by engaging enemy combatants.
- Army Commendation Medal – Successful completing all combat missions in Iraq.
- Expert Infantryman's Badge – Completed over 50 attention-to-detail challenges.
- Gold Recruiting Badge – Consistently met recruiting goals at challenging times.

**A. Why are you interested in serving as a City of Walla Walla Councilmember?**

I strongly believe in building community. I was born and raised in Walla Walla and I returned after being gone for nearly 20 years to raise my own family in the valley. I want to see this town grow and thrive, and I believe I have a unique perspective on how to do that due to my time in the military, and my years in construction managing both projects and auditing budgets.

**B. What strengths would you bring to the City Council?**

As a native, born and raised, of Walla Walla I know the town and its people very well. At the same time, I've gained a lot of experience by leaving and seeing the world which included the Army, 2 years in Germany, 1 year in Iraq, and 1 year in Pendleton Oregon. I attended college at the University of Washington where I received a Master's degree in Civil Engineering and I have 14 years of construction management experience in the Seattle, Tri-cities, and Hermiston Oregon regions.

**C. What do you consider the primary role(s) of a member of the City Council?**

I believe the primary role of a city council member is to listen to the community and represent their voice. To have their best interests at heart for both current situations and the future with my vote matching accordingly. I also believe it's a council member's job to hire and hold high level city officials accountable and to ensure a level of trust and transparency when it comes to all city financial matters.

**D. As a Councilmember, your only legal authority is the ability to cast one of seven votes. What is your philosophy of how to build consensus or majority support for a project, service, or regulations?**

I believe the way to build consensus support for a project requires both an online and in real life approach of listening and understanding the people's and other councilmembers issues and needs, give the facts in the clear and concise manner, be informed to answer questions and to express my individual viewpoint when needed and mostly be open to others opinions and be willing to look into them. I am capable of being in the community fielding questions as well as able to perform at public speaking events to spread information on any proposal needed.

**E. What do you see as the issues facing the community and how do you believe they should be addressed?**

I believe the biggest issue facing Walla Walla is affordable housing, childcare costs and bringing employment to town. To help solve this I would investigate removing barriers and offering incentives to developers and citizens looking to build new homes. I would like to explore avenues to convert unused commercial space located above ground floor shops into apartments or condos. I would also include asking for and understanding the needs of the towns wineries and farmers, understanding small business's struggles to initially, and remain, open. Talk with the colleges on how to encourage enrollment and staff, and last look into providing a liaison to larger companies like Amazon and Sabey to see if they would be interested in building data centers outside of town potentially bringing billions in construction as well as potentially 100's of permanent jobs to town, this would be similar to what has happened in Umatilla, Hermiston, and Boardman Oregon.

## CANDIDATE - I

**From:** [Jotform](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Application for City Councilmember Position #6 - Tracii Hickman  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 3, 2026 8:34:58 AM

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.



### Application for City Councilmember Position #6

Name	Tracii Hickman
Complete Home Mailing Address	[REDACTED], Walla Walla, Washington, 99362
Home Phone	[REDACTED]
Cell	[REDACTED]
Email	[REDACTED]
Occupation (if retired, please indicate former occupation)	Fisheries Biologist, U.S. Forest Service
Business Address	72510 Coyote Road, Pendleton, OR, 97801
Educational Background	Ridgefield High School 1978 BA Biology 1983, Lewis and Clark College, Portland OR Graduate Classwork for Fisheries Biologist, Oregon State University 1986-1987 (did not finish Master's thesis)
1. Are you a registered voter in the City of Walla Walla?	Yes
2. Have you continuously resided within the city limits of the City of Walla Walla for a year or more? (State law requires a councilmember to be a resident of Walla Walla for at least a year prior to appointment, and to be a registered voter at the time of application.)	Yes

3. Have you ever been convicted for anything other than a minor traffic violation?

No

5. Do you or your spouse, or any immediate family member (spouse, children, siblings, parents) have a financial interest in, or are you an employee or officer of any business or agency which does business with the City of Walla Walla?

No

6. Is any member of your immediate family currently employed, either full time or part time, by the City of Walla Walla, or currently perform any volunteer work for the City of Walla Walla?

No

7. Would your appointment create a conflict of interest or an appearance of a conflict of interest?

No

8. Please include your past employment history for the past ten years by attaching a resume (no longer than 3 pages).

[REDACTED]

9. Please list the professional affiliations, clubs, social, or fraternal organizations to which you belong or hold office (this can be included in your resume).

American Association Of University Women - Walla Walla; currently co-chair of Women in Trades project at Walla Walla Community College; member of academic scholarship grant committee; many other previous positions including President \* Tri-State Steelheaders Board Member; currently Secretary \* Walla Walla Swim Club Board Member, Secretary (2009 - 2014)

10. Please list your volunteer experience, and include any volunteer or paid positions held on any governmental board, committee or commission:

	Experience	From when?	To when?
1.	City of Walla Walla Ward Boundary Committee	2017	2017
2.	Rebuild Memorial Pool Bond Committee	2013	2015
	see resume for		



3.	other volunteer positions
4.	

11. Have you ever attended a meeting of the Walla Walla City Council?

Yes

12. Appointment to the City Council will require your attendance at regularly scheduled and special meetings, which generally occur on Monday and Wednesday evenings. Councilmembers are also expected to represent the City of Walla Walla by serving on other committees and as a liaison representative to the city's boards and commissions. Are you able to commit your time and energy to participate fully as a member of the Walla Walla City Council.

Yes

13. References: Please list name, address and phone number:

	Name	Address	Phone number
1.	Kris Margart, WW Community College	Way, WW	
2.	Robin Cosani, Sweetwater Paper	WW	
3.	Brian Burns, Tri-State Steelheaders	Ave, WW	

14. Supplemental Questions (can be submitted as a separate attachment)

I want to answer the supplemental questions on this form.

I've always been interested in government. I follow the news, I'm an informed voter, I occasionally get involved in political campaigns, and spent my career as a federal government employee. My two occasions to be actively involved in city of Walla Walla government was volunteering on the Rebuild Memorial Pool Committee when the bond was successfully

passed, and the Ward Boundary Committee.

A. Why are you interested in serving as a City of Walla Walla Councilmember?

My interest was really piqued this past summer and fall during City Council discussions of the Forest Service Tiger-Mill project. I attended and spoke at several meetings. I was one of a few voices in support of the project, but felt it was important to present information that was factual and not based on emotion-driven statements. I knew some of the public that spoke against the project, it was interesting and a little uncomfortable to take a public stand in that environment. That experience re-enforced my belief that you can never over-communicate on a controversial project.

I am interested in the City Council position because I will bring an informed, reasoned position to the issues facing the City of Walla Walla. In my career as a federal employee, I felt a responsibility to do my best to manage the national forests that belong to the American people. The City Council has a similar responsibility to the citizens and tax payers of Walla Walla through sound fiscal management and wise use of limited financial resources. I have much to learn, will listen and respect my fellow City Council members, and to the best of my ability will represent with the best interests of the citizens of Walla Walla in my votes and actions.

B. What strengths would you bring to the City Council?

One of my strengths is a proven ability to work on a team and help the team be successful. My last job with the Umatilla National Forest before retirement was compliance with the Endangered Species Act. I worked with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, livestock ranchers, conservation organizations, wildland fire fighters, small claims miners and many others interested in activities on the Umatilla National Forest. My approach with all these individuals and organizations was to be sure to understand their position and needs through active listening and collaboration, and generally was able to guide all of us to a successful outcome.

I am proud of my ability to see a need and find a way to be fair in resolving that need. As an example, I am part of a team that has developed a program at Walla Walla Community College to support Women in Trades through the American Association of University Women. We've established a scholarship to pay for tuition, and this past month launched a fund to buy personal protective equipment.

I am a good listener. When you are talking, you aren't listening. I have professional training as a facilitator, and have observed over and over during meeting facilitation how important a good listener is to moving a discussion forward and understanding others viewpoints.

C. What do you consider the primary role(s) of a member of the City

The facts: the City of Walla Walla operates under a Council-Manager form of government. The City Council is the legislative governing body for the city. The City Council sets policies, adopts ordinances and the annual budget, levies taxes, approves contracts and appoints city advisory boards, commissions and committees; and hires the professional City Manager and City Attorney. The City Manager acts as the chief executive officer to oversee all city operations. This provides separation between policy-making (Council) and

Council?

administration (Manager).

It is the role of a City Council member to support an effective city government while also representing constituents. Not many citizens attend city council meetings, so representing our diverse citizens, including those less engaged, is important.

D. As a Councilmember, your only legal authority is the ability to cast one of seven votes. What is your philosophy of how to build consensus or majority support for a project, service, or regulations?

Similar to my earlier response, the ability to be a good listener is the first step to building consensus or majority support. I found during my career when a discussion was based on a common understanding of facts, differences were more easily resolved. Understanding the facts of a situation, knowing the strengths and weaknesses of different approaches to resolve a conflict or difference has served me well.

If there was a project or service where I differed from the majority I would articulate my reasons and basis for that difference, and then support the decision of the majority.

Emergency Services – First and foremost, citizens want to feel safe and protected. Adequately funding WWPd and other emergency response departments is a priority. An associated issue is the Mill Creek watershed. Reducing risk of catastrophic wildfire to our municipal water supply and risks to our firefighters is paramount, and I support actions the City Council has taken up to now.

E. What do you see as the issues facing the community and how do you believe they should be addressed?

Long term economic sustainability and housing affordability – the Union-Bulletin recently highlighted the long-term financial challenges if Walla Walla growth stagnates or stalls.

Economic growth and stability affect all branches of city government.

It would be a priority of mine to work with the City Council, City manager and others to explore solutions and long-term effective strategies. Housing costs in Walla Walla are high, and lower-income citizens have additional challenges. The health of our city government relies on facing this challenge headfirst. I have much to learn, but I know continuing to tackle this fundamental problem is imperative.

Business Friendly Environment – Long term economic sustainability depends on a business-friendly environment with commercial development that creates jobs and provides tax revenue. I recognize these are complex issues that city employees continue to explore and develop strategies to address.

Cost of Childcare – The ability of parents with young children to work because they have safe and affordable childcare is a current challenge and part of a business-friendly environment. Many organizations and non-profits in Walla Walla and the greater community are tackling this problem. The City Council has role to stay informed and participate in solutions where appropriate.

F. Is there anything else you would like to add that would assist in the review

I recognize the economic challenges facing Walla Walla. Developing a personal, strong working relationship with the Port of Walla Walla and Walla Walla County Commissioners to explore additional ways to collaborate would be a priority.

of your application?

An example would be completion of the Highway 12 project.

I certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington, that the foregoing is true and correct.

Traci Hickman

Date

02-03-2026

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You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.

# Tracii L. Hickman

WALLA WALLA, WA 99362  
CELL [REDACTED] EMAIL [REDACTED]

BORN: COEUR D'ALENE, ID USA  
HIGHEST FEDERAL GRADE: GS-12

## EMPLOYMENT

### **Fish Biologist Tiger-Mill Fuels Reduction Project Contractor (20 hours per week) 2024 - 2025**

FOREST SERVICE RETIREE WORK FORCE SOLUTIONS

As a contractor I wrote the Biological Evaluation and Assessment for Endangered Species Act Section 7 consultation for the Tiger-Mill Fuels Reduction Project.

### **Booth 60 / Antique Mall of Walla Walla 2019 – present**

Through a small business sell vintage goods through consignment at a rented booth at the Antique Mall.

### **Fish Biologist Forest Resiliency Project (GS-482-12) (40 hours per week) 2016 - 2019**

UMATILLA NATIONAL FOREST

PENDLETON, OR

SUPERVISOR DAVID HATFIELD 541-215-9590

I served as an Interdisciplinary Team Member for a four National Forest project reducing catastrophic wildfire risk. I served as a fisheries biologist, and also assisted in facilitation and meeting management.

### **ESA Consultation Biologist (GS-482-12) (30 hours per week) 2009 - 2016**

UMATILLA NATIONAL FOREST

PENDLETON, OR

SUPERVISOR DAVID HATFIELD 541-278-3875

I managed Section 7 Endangered Species Act (ESA) consultation for the Umatilla National Forest. I served on the Level 1 streamlining consultation team; and wrote, edited and review Biological Evaluations and Assessments, write take permit applications (Section 4(d) and Section 10), and all other functions for ESA consultation. I assisted with other land management projects and roles as needed, such as serving on environmental document teams, assisting in stream habitat restoration and other projects.

### **Assistant Forest Fish Biologist (GS-482-11) (20 hours per week) 1999 - 2009**

MT. HOOD NATIONAL FOREST

SANDY, OR

SUPERVISOR DAN SHIVELY 503-231-2270

I managed Section 7 ESA fisheries consultation for the Mt. Hood National Forest. I provided all aspects of ESA consultation. I managed accomplishment reporting, including inputs to national databases, annual fisheries accomplishment reports and the Forest Plan monitoring report. I prepared other information as needed, such as PowerPoint presentations, grants, and materials for educational projects.

### **District Fish Biologist (GS-482-11) (40 hours per week) 1988-1998**

CLACKAMAS RIVER RANGER DISTRICT

ESTACADA, OR

FLOOD REPAIR PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION COORDINATOR (1996-1998)

WATERSHED ANALYSIS TEAM LEADER (1995-1995)

DISTRICT FISH BIOLOGIST (1989-1995)

### **Fisheries Technician (GS-406-7) (40 hours per week) 1983-1988**

FORESTRY SCIENCES RESEARCH LABORATORY

JUNEAU, ALASKA AND CORVALLIS, OREGON

I assisted Forest Service Research Fisheries Biologists studying habitat needs of juvenile salmonids in locations throughout Southeast Alaska, and Oregon and Washington. I managed field crews, data collection and computer input and data analysis. I also completed coursework for a Master's in Fisheries Biology.

## EDUCATION

### **High School Diploma**

RIDGEFIELD HIGH SCHOOL

1978

RIDGEFIELD, WA

### **Bachelor of Arts, Biology**

LEWIS AND CLARK COLLEGE

1983

PORTLAND, OR

### **Post-Graduate Study, Fisheries Biology**

OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY

1986-88

CORVALLIS, OR

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## OTHER ACTIVITIES

- BOARD MEMBER TRI-STATE STEELHEADERS (2020 – PRESENT)
- MEMBER OF THE WALLA WALLA REBUILD MEMORIAL POOL COMMITTEE (2013 – 2016)
- MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN, WALLA WALLA CHAPTER (12 YEARS)  
CURRENT AAUW WOMEN IN TRADES COMMITTEE AND BOARD MEMBER
- WEBSITE DESIGNER FOR LOCAL SPORTS TEAMS (WALLA WALLA 2 YEARS)
- SECRETARY, WALLA WALLA SWIM CLUB (2 YEARS)
- SWEET HOME COMMUNITY FOUNDATION, BOARD MEMBER AND LEAD GRANT WRITER (6 YEARS)
- VICE-PRESIDENT, OAK HEIGHTS ELEMENTARY PARENT TEACHERS CLUB (5 YEARS)
- VOLUNTEER, PUBLIC RELATIONS, SWEET HOME SWIM CLUB (5 YEARS)
- INTERNAL DIRECTOR, VICE-PRESIDENT, OREGON CHAPTER AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY (2 YEARS)
- PRESIDENT, RIVERMASTERS TOASTMASTERS CLUB (2 YEARS)

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## REFERENCES

### KRIS MARGART

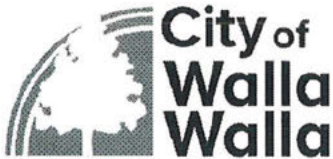
CHAIR, INDUSTRIAL MANUFACTURING  
WALLA WALLA COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
[REDACTED]

### ROBIN COSANI

OWNER  
SWEETWATER PAPER GOODS  
[REDACTED]

### BRIAN BURNS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
TRI-STATE STEELHEADERS  
[REDACTED]



CANDIDATE - J

CITY OF WALLA WALLA

15 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue  
Walla Walla, WA 99362  
509-524-4348

APPLICATION FOR CITY COUNCIL MEMBER POSITION # 6

Thank you for your interest in serving the Walla Walla community as a member of the Walla Walla City Council.

To be considered, applications must be completed, signed, and received by the City Clerk **no later than 4:00 p.m., Friday, February 6, 2026 (late arrivals will not be accepted)**. Applications can be submitted using the online form, downloading the fillable PDF and emailed to the City Clerk at [cityclerk@wallawallawa.gov](mailto:cityclerk@wallawallawa.gov) or mailed/hand delivered at 15 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue Walla Walla, WA 99362 Attention: City Clerk.

Name: *Frances C. Chvatal*

Complete Home Mailing Address (you must have resided within the city limits for at least a year):

*Walla Walla. Wa 99362*

Home Phone:

Business Phone: *Na*

Cell:

E-mail:

Occupation (if retired, please indicate former occupation): *Retired registered nurse.*

Business Address: *Na*

Educational Background: *See Resume*

1. Are you a registered voter in the City of Walla Walla? ☒ Yes ☐ No
2. Have you continuously resided within the city limits of the City of Walla Walla for a year or more? (State law requires a councilmember to be a resident of Walla Walla for at least a year prior to appointment, and to be a registered voter at the time of application.) ☒ Yes ☐ No
3. Have you ever been convicted for anything other than a minor traffic violation? ☐ Yes ☒ No

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4. If you answered "YES" to #3 above, please explain:

5. Do you or your spouse, or any immediate family member (spouse, children, siblings, parents) have a financial interest in, or are you an employee or officer of any business or agency which does business with the City of Walla Walla? YES ☐ NO ☒

If yes, please explain:

6. Is any member of your immediate family currently employed, either full time or part time, by the City of Walla Walla, or currently perform any volunteer work for the City of Walla Walla? YES ☐ NO ☒

If yes, please explain:

7. Would your appointment create a conflict of interest or an appearance of a conflict of interest? YES ☐ NO ☒

If yes, please explain:

8. Please include your past employment history for the past ten years by attaching a resume (no longer than 3 pages).

*See Resume*

9. Please list the professional affiliations, clubs, social, or fraternal organizations to which you belong or hold office (this can be included in your resume).

*See Resume*

10. Please list your volunteer experience, and include any volunteer or paid positions held on any governmental board, committee or commission:

*See Resume, Community activities* FROM: \_\_\_\_\_ TO: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
FROM: \_\_\_\_\_ TO: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
FROM: \_\_\_\_\_ TO: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
FROM: \_\_\_\_\_ TO: \_\_\_\_\_

11. Have you ever attended a meeting of the Walla Walla City Council? ☒ YES ☐ NO



12. Appointment to the City Council will require your attendance at regularly scheduled and special meetings, which generally occur on Monday and Wednesday evenings. Councilmembers are also expected to represent the City of Walla Walla by serving on other committees and as a liaison representative to the city's boards and commissions. Are you able to commit your time and energy to participate fully as a member of the Walla Walla City Council. ☒ YES ☐ NO

13. References: Please list name, address and phone number:

1.

2.

*See attached*

3.

14. Supplemental Questions (can be submitted as a separate attachment) *See attached.*

A. Why are you interested in serving as a City of Walla Walla Councilmember?

B. What strengths would you bring to the City Council?

C. What do you consider the primary role(s) of a member of the City Council?

D. As a Councilmember, your only legal authority is the ability to cast one of seven votes. What is your philosophy of how to build consensus or majority support for a project, service, or regulations?

E. What do you see as the issues facing the community and how do you believe they should be addressed?

F. Is there anything else you would like to add that would assist in the review of your application?

Once submitted, applications and related materials become a public record subject to public disclosure and will appear in the Council agenda packet. Interviews are tentatively scheduled for February 23, 2026 at the regular work session from 4-6pm. Selected applicants will be notified of the exact date and time of the interview once all applications have been received and whether to hold interviews is determined by Council. Final action appointing a candidate to elective office will take place in an open public meeting. No City elected officer shall hold any other office or employment within the Walla Walla City government.

I certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington, that the foregoing is true and correct.

Signature:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "James Chratal". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Date:

1/30/2026

## Frances C Chvatal

Walla Walla, WA 99362

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2020 - 2022     **Walla Walla County Department of Community Health**  
Public Health Nurse  
Temporary position to fill for RN on maternity leave  
Covid investigation, testing, and vaccination effort  
Communicable disease investigation and follow up
- 1993 - 2020     **Providence Health and Services St. Mary Medical Center**  
1993 - 1994     Assistant Nurse Manager – Same Day Surgery (SDS)  
-Provided direct pre/post-operative patient care.  
-Directed staff activity including; creative staff scheduling, established predictable communication processes and timely completion of performance reviews.  
-Enhanced patient flow by facilitating room remodel and strengthening pre admission testing protocols.
- 1994 – 2015     Director Surgical Service Line  
-Areas of responsibility: Operating Room, Post Anesthesia Care Unit, Outpatient Procedure Center (SDS), GI services, Pre Admission Testing, Central Processing Department, Out Patient Infusion Services, Acute Surgical Care Unit (3 East) and clinical responsibility for Inpatient Rehabilitative Services.  
-Organized and supported all clinical and technical staff. Directed up to 130 employees including 4 mid-level supervisors. Reported to the Chief Nursing Officer. Structured and adjusted work standards and staffing levels to meet or exceed clinical and quality expectations **and** annual productivity goals.  
-Interim assignments: Chief Nursing Officer and Director Women's Services, each for 6 months to support staff and providers during recruitment processes.  
-Cheerful participation in regulatory and accrediting surveys: State Department of Health – Licensing and Trauma Care survey, The Joint Commission, Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities CARF, and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to assist in the organization's continued success.  
-Safely executed construction projects, while maintaining all clinical services; new construction: Out Patient Procedure Center, GI Services, and Post Anesthesia Care Unit and remodel: all Operating Rooms, 3 East, and Central Processing Department. Projects required coordination and cooperation with Engineering, contractors, Infection Control Committee and consistent communication with clinical staff, providers, and the entire organization.  
-Executed and managed labor and operating annual budgets to meet the financial targets. Strategized growth opportunities and enthusiastically participated in capital budget planning to maintain cutting edge market share advantage.
- 2015 - 2020     Quality Department  
-Quality utilization review analyst and medical staff office special projects.
- 1989 – 1992     **University of Washington – Harborview Medical Center**  
**Seattle, WA**  
Adult Burn Intensive Care Unit – 12 bed, staff nurse.
- 1987 – 1989     **Johns Hopkins Hospital**  
**Baltimore, MD**  
Adult Neuro-Critical Care Unit – 8 beds, staff nurse.

1984 – 1987    **St. Alphonsus Regional Medical Center**  
**Boise, ID**  
Adult acute neuro medical / surgical unit – 33 beds, staff nurse.

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#### **EDUCATION**

1983            **Washington State University**  
**Pullman, WA**  
Bachelor of Science Nursing

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#### **SKILLS AND CERTIFICATIONS**

Washington State RN license 00079682, inactive

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#### **OTHER COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES**

2015 - 2024    Providence St. Mary Medical Center  
Community Ministry Board of Directors, Chair 2 years  
2016 - 2019    City of Walla Walla Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Council, Chair 2019  
2017 , 2018    Staffed winter warming center

Member of the Walla Walla Progressives  
Member of the Walla Walla County Democrats



City of Walla Walla

Application for city council member position # 6

Applicant: Frances Chvatal

Date: 1/30/2026

Page 3 of 4

#14, Supplemental Questions

- A. I am curious about city government. I have spent my professional nursing career as a helper. Also, my experience in operational leadership and governance are well suited for this type of role. I would like to actively work towards a more liveable, safe and economically healthy city.
- B. Throughout my career as a registered nurse, I have developed and crafted my interpersonal skills. I am an active listener and oftentimes able to diffuse situations. I am able to consider a problem, and, through active listening, work to find compromise and occasionally agreement. I have experience creating, maintaining and working within a budget. I have experience with rules, regulations and other protocols or procedures. While my experience is specific to healthcare, the basic processes to successfully navigate regulatory work would apply to city governance and its rules. During my clinical leadership role at St. Mary, I worked with human resources including a labor union representing RNs in the hospital. The success of any organization depends on how the employees feel seen, heard, respected and fairly compensated. Finally, I support evidence based decision making and the consistent use of 'good' data.
- C. The most important role of a city council member is to listen and respond to the voice of the community. My understanding is also that the city council is responsible for the city budget; operational, labor and capital development. The city council tracks progress through a strategic plan and oversees departmental plans, assuring that municipal codes and state laws are followed. Volunteer advisory committees are maintained to consistently hear from the public.

- D. Consensus building starts with building relationships with peers and staff. I have found that listening is key to this work. I will research an issue and try to understand why a specific issue is important to stakeholders (pro or con). I would ask, how will this issue will impact the people, the environment and the budget? Also, the appropriate rules and regulations pertaining to an issue (state and local) must be considered.
- E. I would defer to the current city council strategic plan, departmental plans and other large scale developed plans (watershed resilience plan, for example) for direction. I do not have an agenda other than to help advance ongoing work. I strongly feel that coordination with other governing bodies and civic organizations and partners (Port of Walla Walla, BMAC, BOCC, Chamber of Commerce) may help to create better decisions and avoid duplication and redundancy.
- F. I have long held the belief that some people have to do more so others can do better. I would like to have the opportunity to do this for my community.

City of Walla Walla

Application for city council member position # 6

Applicant: Frances Chvatal

Date: 1/30/2026

Page 3 of 4

#13, References

Danielle Garbe Reser

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Walla Walla WA 99362

[REDACTED]

Linda Gunshefski, MD

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Kamuela, Hawaii, 96743

[REDACTED]

Kathryn Barron

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Walla Walla, WA 99362

[REDACTED]

# CANDIDATE - K

**From:** [Jotform](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Application for City Councilmember Position #6 - Paul Vandervort  
**Date:** Thursday, February 5, 2026 3:54:37 PM

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.



## Application for City Councilmember Position #6

Name	Paul Vandervort
Complete Home Mailing Address	[REDACTED], Walla Walla, WA, 99362
Home Phone	[REDACTED]
Cell	[REDACTED]
Email	[REDACTED]
Occupation (if retired, please indicate former occupation)	Winery Sales Management
Business Address	18 N 2nd Ave, Walla Walla, WA, 99362
Educational Background	High school graduate with some college experience
1. Are you a registered voter in the City of Walla Walla?	Yes
2. Have you continuously resided within the city limits of the City of Walla Walla for a year or more? (State law requires a councilmember to be a resident of Walla Walla for at least a year prior to appointment, and to be a registered voter at the time of application.)	Yes
3. Have you ever been convicted for anything	No



other than a minor traffic violation?

5. Do you or your spouse, or any immediate family member (spouse, children, siblings, parents) have a financial interest in, or are you an employee or officer of any business or agency which does business with the City of Walla Walla?

No

6. Is any member of your immediate family currently employed, either full time or part time, by the City of Walla Walla, or currently perform any volunteer work for the City of Walla Walla?

No

7. Would your appointment create a conflict of interest or an appearance of a conflict of interest?

No

8. Please include your past employment history for the past ten years by attaching a resume (no longer than 3 pages).



9. Please list the professional affiliations, clubs, social, or fraternal organizations to which you belong or hold office (this can be included in your resume).

The Collective on 2nd

10. Please list your volunteer experience, and include any volunteer or paid positions held on any governmental board, committee or commission:

	Experience	From when?	To when?
1.	Walla Walla Sustainability Committee	07/01/2025	Present
2.			
3.			
4.			

11. Have you ever attended a meeting of the Walla Walla City Council?

Yes

12. Appointment to the City

Council will require your attendance at regularly scheduled and special meetings, which generally occur on Monday and Wednesday evenings. Councilmembers are also expected to represent the City of Walla Walla by serving on other committees and as a liaison representative to the city's boards and commissions. Are you able to commit your time and energy to participate fully as a member of the Walla Walla City Council.

Yes

13. References: Please list name, address and phone number:

	Name	Address	Phone number
1.	Rick Moody	[REDACTED] Walla Walla, WA 99362	[REDACTED]
2.	Evan Heisman	[REDACTED] Walla Walla, WA 99362	[REDACTED]
3.	Richard Holmes	[REDACTED] Federal Way, WA 98003	[REDACTED]

14. Supplemental Questions (can be submitted as a separate attachment)

I want to answer the supplemental questions on this form.

A. Why are you interested in serving as a City of Walla Walla Councilmember?

Communities like Walla Walla currently face a number of challenges borne of a number of social, economic, & political factors. Navigating these challenges requires a council built with a diverse mixture of viewpoints, ideas, & expertise drawn from different segments of the community. I believe that I can help round out our council by helping to provide a unique point-of-view borne from my experience and investment in Walla Walla.

I have lived in a number of different communities in my life, ranging from small timber towns on the Oregon Coast to Army barracks and military towns to cities such Eugene & Portland to here, Walla Walla. While each community has its

B. What strengths would you bring to the City Council?

own unique character and identity, all have one commonality: the need to adapt to changing times while maintaining the core of what makes each community unique. Having observed this in other communities, I believe the interpersonal skills and cooperative experience I acquired during my military service and further refined during my working life in those communities can help to move Walla Walla toward a future that benefits all of our residents, businesses, & guests.

C. What do you consider the primary role(s) of a member of the City Council?

To plan for the future prosperity of Walla Walla while both guarding against unforeseen dilemmas and addressing the needs of our residents and business owners. A councilmember takes responsibility for the social, economic, and political wellbeing of the city.

D. As a Councilmember, your only legal authority is the ability to cast one of seven votes. What is your philosophy of how to build consensus or majority support for a project, service, or regulations?

Consensus is achieved through several steps, starting with gathering information. This requires collecting all the factual data involved and soliciting the opinions of any and all both interested and/or affected by any such project, service, or regulation. An informed decision can only be made when the data and concerns are considered. Then it falls to opening a dialogue with objectors based on the nature of their objection. In the end, it's best to reach an understanding amongst all interested parties. This way, expectations can be both set and achieved with little to no conflict. However, there are some occasions when, in the interest of those a councilmember represents, that a position must be taken and adhered to.

E. What do you see as the issues facing the community and how do you believe they should be addressed?

In the short term, the contractions in the wine industry and the rapid rise in property values are of great concern. A significant portion of our city's economy is tied to the tourism attracted by the wine industry. On a Main Street with tasting rooms closing and left empty we risk the impression of a community in decline when the opposite is quite true. Our downtown (and the city as a whole) has a number of vacant properties that have stood so for years, some as long as a decade or more. Attracting both new residents and tourists depends on not just the fact of growth, but also the perception of growth. An ordinance such as that recently passed in Spokane or more recently in Pendleton that encourages property owners to fill vacant properties rather than let them stand is a solution worth exploring for Walla Walla.

Housing is certainly still a great concern. The middle housing initiative is great start to addressing rising home prices in a market undersupplied for working families. I confess, I have no immediate solution in mind beyond examining every aspect of our housing market to find other ways that we, as a city, can encourage growth.

F. Is there anything else you would like to add that would assist in the review of your application?

In a time where our public discourse is increasingly dominated by emotional extremes, I believe in first examining data before drawing any conclusions. When, for example, data shows crime on the decline while prevailing public opinion is that crime is rising to ever greater highs, how are we to make wise decisions that avoid doing more harm than good? It starts with sharing data and then directly asking why people feel otherwise. Data-based actions are good, but such

actions guided with an eye to the feelings elicited by them are better.

I certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington, that the foregoing is true and correct.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'P. J. ...', written over a horizontal line.

Date

02-05-2026

---

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.

---

# PAUL M. VANDERVORT

FOOD & WINE PROFESSIONAL

## PROFILE

- Over 15 years customer service with strengths in technical trouble-shooting, logistics, and staff training & support
- Extensive experience developing plans, conducting audits, and controlling inventory
- Broad knowledge of PNW wines, specializing in Walla Walla Valley, Red Mountain, Columbia Gorge, & Umpqua Valley AVA's

## ACHIEVEMENTS

- Increased Wine Club enrollment by 80% – *Lagana Cellars*
- Implemented training initiative that engaged employees and increased targeted sales by 5% – *RadioShack*
- Army Achievement Medal for exceptional management & control of unit small arms – *US Army*

---

## CONTACT

██████████  
Walla Walla, WA 99362

T (██████████)

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## SELECTED EXPERIENCE

**CÔTES DE CIEL, WALLA WALLA, WA**  
11/2020 - PRESENT  
DTC (Direct-to-Consumer) Manager

**LOCATI CELLARS, WALLA WALLA, WA**  
12/2018 – 1/2025  
Tasting Room Associate

**LAGANA CELLARS, WALLA WALLA, WA**  
9/2017 – 11/2020  
Tasting Room Associate

**L'ECOLE NO. 41 WINERY, LOWDEN, WA**  
9/2015 – 9/2017  
Tasting Room Educator

**RADIOSHACK, EUGENE, OR**  
6/2010 - 9/2014  
Sales Associate & Assistant Store Manager

**US ARMY, FORT DRUM, NY**  
9/2001 - 9/2006  
Unit Logistics Specialist  
Honorably Discharged

## EDUCATION

**WINE COUNTRY CULINARY INSTITUTE  
WALLA WALLA, WA**  
Menu Development & Cost Control; Food & Beverage Pairing;  
Baking & Patisserie; World Cuisines; Nutritional Cooking

## SKILLS & CERTIFICATIONS

- Food Handler's Permit – Washington
- MAST Class 12 Mixologist Permit – Washington
- MS Office, OrderPort & other POS systems

## LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

- Asst. Store Manager; *RadioShack, Eugene, OR*
- Asst. Conductor & Jazz Band Leader; *WWVB, Walla Walla, WA*
- Librarian; *Eugene Symphonic Band, Eugene, OR*
- Asst. Director; *Oregon Coast Lab Band, North Bend, OR*
- Unit Small Arms Repair Specialist & Instructor; *US Army*

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PAUL M.  
VANDERVORT  
FOOD & WINE PROFESSIONAL

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CONTACT

[REDACTED]  
Walla Walla, WA 99362

T [REDACTED]

E [REDACTED]

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REFERENCES

PROFESSIONAL

RICHARD HOLMES

*CÔTES DE CIEL*

OWNER/WINEMAKER

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

JASON FOX

*LAGANA CELLARS*

OWNER/WINEMAKER

*LOCATI CELLARS*

MANAGER/PRODUCTION WINEMAKER

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

JAY ENTRIKIN

*WINE COUNTRY CULINARY INSTITUTE*

CHEF INSTRUCTOR

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

PERSONAL

RICK MOODY

[REDACTED], Walla Walla, WA 99362

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

EVAN HEISMAN

[REDACTED], Walla Walla, WA 99362

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

# CANDIDATE - L

**From:** [Jotform](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Application for City Councilmember Position #6 - James Wilson  
**Date:** Friday, February 6, 2026 11:01:57 AM

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.



## Application for City Councilmember Position #6

Name	James Wilson
Complete Home Mailing Address	[REDACTED], Walla Walla, WA, 99362
Home Phone	[REDACTED]
Cell	[REDACTED]
Email	[REDACTED]
Occupation (if retired, please indicate former occupation)	Management Consultant
Business Address	N/A - Fully Remote
Educational Background	Bachelor of Science, University of Puget Sound Certified Change Management Practitioner, Prosci
1. Are you a registered voter in the City of Walla Walla?	Yes
2. Have you continuously resided within the city limits of the City of Walla Walla for a year or more? (State law requires a councilmember to be a resident of Walla Walla for at least a year prior to appointment, and to be a registered voter at the time of application.)	Yes
3. Have you ever been	

convicted for anything other than a minor traffic violation?

No

5. Do you or your spouse, or any immediate family member (spouse, children, siblings, parents) have a financial interest in, or are you an employee or officer of any business or agency which does business with the City of Walla Walla?

No

6. Is any member of your immediate family currently employed, either full time or part time, by the City of Walla Walla, or currently perform any volunteer work for the City of Walla Walla?

Yes

If yes, please explain.

I serve on the Citizen Advisory Committee for the Transportation Benefit District (TBD). I am also the Chair and Treasurer of Citizens for Walla Walla Parks, supporting the creation of a new Metropolitan Park District for Walla Walla (WW City Prop. 1).

7. Would your appointment create a conflict of interest or an appearance of a conflict of interest?

No

8. Please include your past employment history for the past ten years by attaching a resume (no longer than 3 pages).



9. Please list the professional affiliations, clubs, social, or fraternal organizations to which you belong or hold office (this can be included in your resume).

Member, National Eagle Scout Association. Member, Beta Theta Pi fraternity (served as chapter president in college). Other volunteer & club affiliations listed on my LinkedIn profile: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/jcwilson>

	Experience	From when?	To when?
1.	Board Member, Community Council	1/2019	12/2025
2.	Singer and former Board	1/2019	present



10. Please list your volunteer experience, and include any volunteer or paid positions held on any governmental board, committee or commission:

	Member, WW Choral Society		
3.	Philanthropy Committee, Providence St. Mary Foundation	2/2021	6/2024
4.	Founding Board Member, current Board Secretary, WW Summer Theater	1/2022	present

11. Have you ever attended a meeting of the Walla Walla City Council? **Yes**

12. Appointment to the City Council will require your attendance at regularly scheduled and special meetings, which generally occur on Monday and Wednesday evenings. Councilmembers are also expected to represent the City of Walla Walla by serving on other committees and as a liaison representative to the city's boards and commissions. Are you able to commit your time and energy to participate fully as a member of the Walla Walla City Council. **Yes**

13. References: Please list name, address and phone number:

	Name	Address	Phone number
1.	Andy Coleman	██████ WW, 99362	██████
2.	Jolene Riggs	██████ ██████, WW, 99362	██████
3.	Norma	██████ ██████ CP,	██████



14. Supplemental Questions (can be submitted as a separate attachment)

I want to answer the supplemental questions on this form.

A. Why are you interested in serving as a City of Walla Walla Councilmember?

I believe that Walla Walla is a very unique and special community, with rich history and traditions and poised to find ways to improve and strengthen. I'm dedicated to learning more about the perspective and expectations of our citizens, and to working hard to ensure we cultivate a thriving community, both economically and culturally.

B. What strengths would you bring to the City Council?

First and foremost, I am a skillful relationship- and coalition-builder. Throughout my career, I have cultivated a depth and breadth of experience in communication, marketing, change management, strategic planning & budgeting, reporting & KPIs. I have served in leadership roles in Tech, Banking & Nonprofit organizations, both large and small, which give me additional perspectives and experience.

C. What do you consider the primary role(s) of a member of the City Council?

A City Council member must be curious and purposefully seek input from a range of perspectives and experiences. In addition, City Council members must apply a disciplined approach to decision-making to balance current needs with thoughtful planning for the future. Each member must abide by the Council's values: Service, Integrity, Collaboration, Equity, Leadership, and Community.

D. As a Councilmember, your only legal authority is the ability to cast one of seven votes. What is your philosophy of how to build consensus or majority support for a project, service, or regulations?

Building consensus relies on establishing clear objectives and measurements up front: what outcome or impact is desired? In addition, we need to have a process to scope and prioritize decisions relative to others. I will approach decisions with an open mind and curiosity to ensure I consider all perspectives.

E. What do you see as the issues facing the community and how do you believe they should be addressed?

Top issues include availability and affordability of housing, childcare, and medical care (including mental health). We must work to strengthen our local economy by attracting and retaining businesses and professionals while maintaining and improving core infrastructure and services. Prioritization and tradeoffs will need to be made within a balanced budget, and with consideration to preserve and honor the history, traditions, culture, and community "feel" that make Walla Walla special.

F. Is there anything else you would like to add that would assist in the review of your application?

I believe my commitment to collaboration, coalition-building, and allyship may be the most important attributes I bring to this position. With four generations of my family living in Walla Walla and my active involvement in wide range of organizations and events, I have a great starting point for understanding the needs of a wide range of constituents. But I remain I'm curious and eager to learn new perspectives and processes that can help make Walla Walla a wonderful place to live for all of our residents.

I certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington, that the foregoing is true and correct.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Wilson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jim" and last name "Wilson" clearly distinguishable.

Date

02-06-2026

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You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.

# JIM WILSON

Walla Walla, WA 99362 |

## Summary

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Experienced business program manager with extensive experience landing new programs, tools, and processes across global organizations. Skilled at building stakeholder alignment, activating champions communities, and crafting executive and internal communications that drive clarity and adoption. Adept at navigating cross-functional teams, managing complex projects, and translating strategy into field-ready execution that delivers measurable impact.

## Professional Experience

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### AG CONSULTING PARTNERS

*Principal Consultant, Change Management | Client: Microsoft*

Leading change management and field landing for offerings and tools for Microsoft's Customer Success Unit, focused on accelerating adoption and business outcomes across the commercial cloud.

**Jun 2024 - Nov 2024 & Feb 2026 - present**

*Bellevue, WA (Remote)*

### AQUENT STUDIOS

*Client Partner, Microsoft*

Recruited to lead new business development and engagement management for projects and outsourced managed services at Microsoft, with an emphasis on marketing and communications.

**Nov 2024 - Aug 2025**

*Boston, MA (Remote)*

### DERFLAN INC.

*Sr. Business Management Consultant | Client: Microsoft*

Managed FY25 planning for Microsoft's Azure + Industry Marketing (AIM) Solution Play team: strategy, budget, headcount, stakeholder communications, content creation, field engagement, and change management.

**Nov 2023 - May 2024**

*Bellevue, WA (Remote)*

### LAUNCH CONSULTING GROUP

*Engagement Manager | LCG Retail & Enterprise Tech Business Units*

Managed offshore, nearshore, and onshore teams to ensure project delivery excellence and business development. Established and strengthened executive stakeholder relationships through KPIs, presentations, and regular communications. Portfolio included more than 100 consultants and over \$25M annual revenue.

**Apr 2021 - Sep 2023**

*Bellevue, WA (Remote)*

*Sr. Marketing Program Manager | Client: Microsoft*

Azure program lead for Microsoft Global Demand Center (GDC) developing content for emails, whitepapers, webinars, and SEM aligned with audience segmentation and customer journeys. Utilized Marketo marketing automation and analytics to measure and optimize content performance.

*Sr. Change Manager | Client: Microsoft*

Change Manager for the MSX Content project, driving and optimizing utilization of the Seismic sales and marketing enablement platform for the Microsoft US subsidiary. Applied the Prosci methodology, tools, and best practices, including executive/sponsor engagement, and recruiting and activating a field "champions" community.

### BAKER BOYER BANK

*AVP | Marketing Director*

Led marketing team for Baker Boyer, including consumer and commercial banking & lending, trust management, and investment services. Responsible for marketing strategies, branding, messaging, and content creation for full funnel marketing, including: design and launch of a new website, introduction of marketing automation and CRM integration, and effective implementation of marketing vehicles including email, SEO/SEM, print & digital advertising, local & national PR, collateral, social media, video & podcast production, community engagement & donations, and both internal and external communications.

**Oct 2017 - Jan 2021**

*Walla Walla, WA*

### MICROSOFT CORPORATION

*Sr. Marketing Program Manager, WW Enterprise Services*

Led worldwide go-to-market strategy and execution for the Premier Fast Start program, using a proof-of-concept approach to initiate and accelerate cloud adoption, consumption, and services revenue. Developed messaging, pitch decks, and other content to drive integration and enablement of global field staff to deliver business results and analytics.

**Jun 2014 - Apr 2017**

*Redmond, WA*

**MICROSOFT CORPORATION***Executive Communications Director, US Marketing & Operations*

Managed integrated marketing communications in alignment with Microsoft's corporate goals across the US subsidiary in support of the CMO/Corporate Vice President of Marketing & Operations. Included internal and external executive communication strategy and execution, demos, keynotes, events, "CMO Roadshow," written and face-to-face communications, social presence, and field engagement plans.

**Sep 2013 - Jun 2014***Redmond, WA***AK GROUP LLC***Executive Communications Director, Microsoft WW Enterprise and Partner Group (WW EPG)*

Responsible for executive messaging and communications for CVP of WW EPG. This included setting the "tone from the top" with internal and external keynote presentations, demos, videos, blog posts, social media, and town hall meetings, and other organizational communications.

**Sep 2012 - Sep 2013***Redmond, WA***AK GROUP LLC***Executive Communications Director, Microsoft U.S. Enterprise and Partner Group (US EPG)*

Responsible for executive messaging and communications for CVP of EPG for the U.S. Subsidiary. This included developing and executing a comprehensive internal messaging and comms calendar, keynote presentations, videos, blog posts, social media, and town hall meetings. Partnered with HR and Leadership Team to manage the cascade of communications for a major field reorg that included role and compensation changes for nearly 6,000 employees.

**Sep 2011 - Sep 2012***Redmond, WA***UNITED WAY OF KING COUNTY***Director of Corporate Philanthropy, Workplace Giving & Employee Engagement*

Introduced "consultative selling" approach to lead a team of 16 full time employees and 35 loaned executives (seasonally) to engage 1300+ companies to set and achieve corporate social responsibility and employee engagement goals through a mix of presentations, events, communications, volunteer projects, employee giving campaigns, and corporate grantmaking. Recruited and managed executive Campaign Cabinet comprised of CXOs from leading local corporations. Directed customization and deployment of Microsoft Dynamics CRM system for donor, company, and grants management to improve performance management, reporting, and analysis.

**Jun 2007 - Jun 2011***Seattle, WA***MANAGEMENT ACTION PROGRAMS, INC.***Executive Consultant*

Training and coaching for executives and senior staff to help drive accountability and results, utilizing DiSC assessments and the MAP Management Development Program, a non-confrontational management system based on "vital factors."

**Nov 2006 - Jun 2007***Sherman Oaks, CA (WA-based territory)***ONE/NORTHWEST (aka Groundwire)***Development Director*

Nearly doubled this nonprofit's revenue in less than three years, from \$630,000 to \$1.1 million. Wrote grant proposals and reports, developed new major donor program, and worked closely with board of directors and program staff. Customized Salesforce.com CRM system for the specific needs of donor and grants management.

**Aug 2004 - Oct 2006***Seattle, WA***MICROSOFT CORPORATION***Account Management, Product/Channel Marketing, Consulting Services*

Cultivated a strong portfolio of sales, marketing, and leadership skills and experience focused primarily on the global enterprise market, professional services, and solution selling. Participated in start-up and initial launch of the Visual Studio developer suite, the Microsoft Solutions Framework (MSF) methodology and training curriculum/certification program, and the first "software as a service" volume licensing program (Select, Open). Built and executed go-to-market strategies and campaigns, branding, messaging, digital and print content, press and analyst relations, global field and partner training & engagement, and performance measurement. Delivered presentations to internal and external audiences at global conferences, trainings, and events. Performed as both individual contributor and people manager.

**Apr 1991 - May 2004***Redmond, WA***FOURGEN SOFTWARE, INC.***Regional Manager, Business Development*

Drove VAR business development for this two-time Inc. 500 "fastest growing software company." Products included a suite of financial modules and a suite of code-generation tools for Informix 4GL & RDBMS.

**Aug 1989 - Apr 1991***Seattle, WA***Education****University of Puget Sound***Bachelor of Science***Certification**

- Prosci Change Management Practitioner



**CITY OF WALLA WALLA**

15 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue  
Walla Walla, WA 99362  
509-524-4348

**APPLICATION FOR CITY COUNCIL MEMBER POSITION # 6**

Thank you for your interest in serving the Walla Walla community as a member of the Walla Walla City Council.

To be considered, applications must be completed, signed, and received by the City Clerk **no later than 4:00 p.m., Friday, February 6, 2026 (late arrivals will not be accepted)**. Applications can be submitted using the online form, downloading the fillable PDF and emailed to the City Clerk at [cityclerk@wallawallawa.gov](mailto:cityclerk@wallawallawa.gov) or mailed/hand delivered at 15 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue Walla Walla, WA 99362 Attention: City Clerk.

Name: Dominick J. Elia

Complete Home Mailing Address (you must have resided within the city limits for at least a year):

██████████ Walla Walla, WA. 99362

Home Phone: ██████████

Business Phone: ██████████

Cell:

E-mail: ██████████

Occupation (if retired, please indicate former occupation): former CEO Snyder-Crecelius Paper Co.

Business Address:

Educational Background:

Bachelor of Science in Accounting from Central Washington University

1. Are you a registered voter in the City of Walla Walla? ☒ Yes ☐ No
2. Have you continuously resided within the city limits of the City of Walla Walla for a year or more? (State law requires a councilmember to be a resident of Walla Walla for at least a year prior to appointment, and to be a registered voter at the time of application.) ☒ Yes ☐ No
3. Have you ever been convicted for anything other than a minor traffic violation? ☐ Yes ☒ No

A WONDERFUL PLACE TO **LIVE WORK PLAY**



4. If you answered "YES" to #3 above, please explain:

5. Do you or your spouse, or any immediate family member (spouse, children, siblings, parents) have a financial interest in, or are you an employee or officer of any business or agency which does business with the City of Walla Walla? YES ☒ NO ☐

If yes, please explain:

sold business in August of 2025. Will receive residuals from retained business including City of WW. Last year would have resulted in approximately \$300. Would abstain from any bill payment to Grapeland Supply. Any questions on this can be directed to the City Attorney who has successfully solved this

6. Is any member of your immediate family currently employed, either full time or part time, by the City of Walla Walla, or currently perform any volunteer work for the City of Walla Walla? YES ☐ NO ☒

If yes, please explain:

7. Would your appointment create a conflict of interest or an appearance of a conflict of interest?

YES ☒ NO ☐

If yes, please explain:

see #5 maybe an appearance to some. I don't believe it is an issue but wanted full disclosure.

8. Please include your past employment history for the past ten years by attaching a resume (no longer than 3 pages).

Snyder- Crecelius Paper Co. 1979-1985 Office Mgr & co-owner  
1985-2018 CEO & co-owner  
2018-2025 CEO & sole owner

9. Please list the professional affiliations, clubs, social, or fraternal organizations to which you belong or hold office (this can be included in your resume).

Italian Heritage Assoc. WW Senior Center Former member of WW Chamber of Commerce  
Downtown WW Foundation

10. Please list your volunteer experience, and include any volunteer or paid positions held on any governmental board, committee or commission:

Walla Walla City Council including	FROM: 1992	TO: 2011
several boards & committees	FROM: _____	TO: _____
Borleske Stadium Association	FROM: 2014	TO: 2023
St. Francis Church Finance Comm.	FROM: 1995	TO: 2024

11. Have you ever attended a meeting of the Walla Walla City Council? ☒ YES ☐ NO

12. Appointment to the City Council will require your attendance at regularly scheduled and special meetings, which generally occur on Monday and Wednesday evenings. Councilmembers are also expected to represent the City of Walla Walla by serving on other committees and as a liaison representative to the city's boards and commissions. Are you able to commit your time and energy to participate fully as a member of the Walla Walla City Council. ☒ YES ☐ NO

13. References: Please list name, address and phone number:

1. Mark Driver [REDACTED] Walla Walla, WA. 99362 [REDACTED]
2. Greg Nass [REDACTED] Walla Walla, WA 99362 [REDACTED]
3. Barbara Clark [REDACTED] Walla Walla, WA. 99362 [REDACTED]

14. Supplemental Questions (can be submitted as a separate attachment)

- A. Why are you interested in serving as a City of Walla Walla Councilmember?

I would like to continue my long history of service to the community. I believe my skill set would be an asset to the Council and the community as a whole.

- B. What strengths would you bring to the City Council?

experience--50 years private sector over 20 years various city of WW activities  
leadership--I have risen to leadership positions in most activities in which I have participated  
financial background--city Finance chair for 14 years--have served as treasurer and  
finance committees for many groups

- C. What do you consider the primary role(s) of a member of the City Council?

To set policies for the city. Also evaluation of City Manager & City Attorney

- D. As a Councilmember, your only legal authority is the ability to cast one of seven votes. What is your philosophy of how to build consensus or majority support for a project, service, or regulations?

The two most important things are being prepared and having a good understanding of the issue. Being prepared requires work and research. A good understanding requires anticipating areas of disagreement in order to move forward

- E. What do you see as the issues facing the community and how do you believe they should be addressed?

There are many issues facing the community. These include public safety (police & fire), infrastructure repair and replacement including streets, housing costs & jobs among others. The issues are how to provide the services people want and need with limited financial resources. The city needs to be an active participant in the groups that work on the issues that are not directly under our purview.

- F. Is there anything else you would like to add that would assist in the review of your application?

As stated at the work session there are many issues on the horizon. Someone who could "hit the ground running" would be valuable to the council, staff and the community at large.



Once submitted, applications and related materials become a public record subject to public disclosure and will appear in the Council agenda packet. Interviews are tentatively scheduled for February 23, 2026 at the regular work session from 4-6pm. Selected applicants will be notified of the exact date and time of the interview once all applications have been received and whether to hold interviews is determined by Council. Final action appointing a candidate to elective office will take place in an open public meeting. No City elected officer shall hold any other office or employment within the Walla Walla City government.

I certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington, that the foregoing is true and correct.

Signature:

Date: 2/5/26

*Dominick J. Elia*

# CANDIDATE - N

**From:** [Jotform](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Application for City Councilmember Position #6 - Julie Balten  
**Date:** Friday, February 6, 2026 4:00:48 PM

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.



## Application for City Councilmember Position #6

Name	Julie Balten
Complete Home Mailing Address	[REDACTED], Walla Walla, WA, 99362
Home Phone	[REDACTED]
Email	[REDACTED]
Occupation (if retired, please indicate former occupation)	Program Manager/Engineer
Business Address	201 North 3rd Ave, Walla Walla , WA, 99362
Educational Background	Please see resume - Three Master of Science Degrees
1. Are you a registered voter in the City of Walla Walla?	Yes
2. Have you continuously resided within the city limits of the City of Walla Walla for a year or more? (State law requires a councilmember to be a resident of Walla Walla for at least a year prior to appointment, and to be a registered voter at the time of application.)	Yes
3. Have you ever been convicted for anything other than a minor traffic violation?	No

5. Do you or your spouse, or any immediate family member (spouse, children, siblings, parents) have a financial interest in, or are you an employee or officer of any business or agency which does business with the City of Walla Walla?

Yes

If yes, please explain.

Husband, Michael Vantzelfden is an Engineer with the City.

6. Is any member of your immediate family currently employed, either full time or part time, by the City of Walla Walla, or currently perform any volunteer work for the City of Walla Walla?

Yes

If yes, please explain.

Husband, Michael Vantzelfden is an Engineer for the City.

7. Would your appointment create a conflict of interest or an appearance of a conflict of interest?

No

8. Please include your past employment history for the past ten years by attaching a resume (no longer than 3 pages).

[REDACTED]

9. Please list the professional affiliations, clubs, social, or fraternal organizations to which you belong or hold office (this can be included in your resume).

Board Member, YMCA, Walla Walla  
Board Member, Army Engineer Association  
Class Officer, USMA Class 1997

10. Please list your volunteer experience, and include any volunteer or paid positions held on any governmental board, committee or commission:

	Experience	From when?	To when?
1.	YMCA Board	June 2025	Present
2.	Army Engineer Association	January 2024	Present
3.	Class Officer, USMA Class 1997	June 2022	Present
4.			




11. Have you ever attended a meeting of the Walla Walla City Council?

No

12. Appointment to the City Council will require your attendance at regularly scheduled and special meetings, which generally occur on Monday and Wednesday evenings. Councilmembers are also expected to represent the City of Walla Walla by serving on other committees and as a liaison representative to the city's boards and commissions. Are you able to commit your time and energy to participate fully as a member of the Walla Walla City Council.

Yes

13. References: Please list name, address and phone number:

	Name	Address	Phone number
1.	Jessica Wright, MG (Ret)		
2.	Richard Stevens, MG (Ret)		
3.	Antoinette Gant, BG		

14. Supplemental Questions (can be submitted as a separate attachment)

I want to answer the supplemental questions on this form.

A. Why are you interested in serving as a City of Walla Walla Councilmember?

I want to make a difference in the community in which I now call home. I think it is important to understand challenges and find solutions to problems that everyone can support.

B. What strengths would you bring to the City Council?

My strengths include transparency and integrity. I think it's important to provide clear understanding of why we do what we do and how we do it. I also think I do that through being an honest and humble person.

C. What do you consider the primary role(s) of a member of the City Council?

Listen to the community, understand the challenges, and find solutions that could be a win-win for all. And if not, communicate the reasons why that is not possible.

D. As a Councilmember, your only legal authority is the ability to cast one of seven votes. What is your philosophy of how to build consensus or majority support for a project, service, or regulations?

Listen to all sides of the discussion/topic, learn the facts, and ask questions while also providing additional context when needed.

E. What do you see as the issues facing the community and how do you believe they should be addressed?

Increasing cost of living, low income housing and others. Wholistic approaches that develop public private partnerships.

F. Is there anything else you would like to add that would assist in the review of your application?

Not at this time.

I certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington, that the foregoing is true and correct.



Date

02-06-2026

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You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.

Julie A. Balten

[REDACTED] Walla Walla WA 99362

Mobile: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

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## Work Experience

Division Chief, Planning, Programs, and Project Management (GS15)

United States Army Corps of Engineers, Walla Walla District

11/2024 – Present

- Senior civilian leader for a 900-employee district, overseeing the Planning, Programs, and Project Management Division.
- Direct and plan non-routine operational and maintenance projects and capital life cycle projects for 8 dams providing hydropower, navigation, flood risk management, environmental stewardship, and recreation in the Snake and Columbia River basins.
- Coordinate and collaborate with Non-federal Partners and Tribal Nations in the study, design, and implementation of Civil Works Programs throughout Eastern Washington and Idaho.

Commander, Colonel (GS-15 equivalent)

United States Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District

07/2020 – 07/2023

- Supervised and managed a workforce of 900 staff across a 225,000 square mile area covering California, Nevada, Utah, and Arizona.
- Managed a \$500 million budget and a \$990 million program encompassing planning, engineering, construction, real estate, regulatory, emergency management, and environmental services for military installations and civil water resources infrastructure.
- Oversaw the operation and maintenance of \$650 million in assets, including seven flood control dams.
- Managed the district's information technology, logistics, human resources, and security operations.
- Optimized the vehicle fleet from 212 to 185, reducing the annual budget from \$1.5M to \$1.2M and introducing hybrid and electric vehicles.

Team Chief, Colonel (GS-15 equivalent)

Department of Defense, Defense Threat Reduction Agency, VA

07/2019 – 06/2020

- Led a multi-disciplined team of 7 specialized subject matter experts in cyber security, general engineering, security operations, and emergency management.
- Conducted world-wide mission assessments of DoD Defense Critical Infrastructure and Installations.

- Evaluated anti-terrorism and defense critical infrastructure programs against DoD and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff guidance.

Deputy Team Chief/Structural Engineer, Lieutenant Colonel (GS-14 equivalent)

Department of Defense, Defense Threat Reduction Agency, VA

07/2018 – 06/2019

- Served as Deputy Team Chief and Structural Engineer on a seven-member team conducting full-spectrum Joint Mission Assurance of Department of Defense Critical and Tiered assets world-wide.

Commander, Lieutenant Colonel (GS-14 equivalent)

United States Army, 249th Engineer Battalion and Commandant of the U.S. Army Prime Power School, VA

07/2015 – 07/2017

- Commanded the Army's only Prime Power Battalion of 500 personnel across five geographically dispersed companies.
- Deployed specialized medium voltage electricians and linemen worldwide for contingency support.
- As Commandant, oversaw training for DoD personnel in prime power assets.
- Deployed over 600 soldiers for the Global War on Terror and FEMA emergency response missions.

Military Assistant, Major/Lieutenant Colonel (GS-13/14 equivalent)

Department of Defense, Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, Pentagon, Washington D.C.

09/2012 – 06/2015

- Military Assistant to the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, supporting a portfolio with 33,000-person staff and a \$57 billion budget.
- Coordinated policy and activities related to Readiness and Force Management, Health Affairs, and National Guard and Reserve Affairs.

Battalion Executive Officer/Deputy, Major (GS-13 equivalent)

United States Army, 15th Engineer Battalion, Forward Deployed Kuwait/Germany

01/2011 – 08/2012

- Deputy Commander of a 670-person Construction Effects Engineer Battalion deployed to Kuwait.
- Supervised the battalion's human resources, maintenance, logistics, contracting, and budget activities.

Chief of Plans and Exercises, Major (GS-13 equivalent)

United States Army Europe, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff Engineer, Germany

01/2010 – 01/2011

- Responsible for the integration of Army engineer planning, operations, and exercise support for the European Command Area of Responsibility.
- Managed a \$1.3 million exercise-related construction program.

Program Manager, Major (GS-13 equivalent)

Multi-National Corps-Iraq, Headquarters, C7 Engineering, Iraq

09/2007 – 11/2008

- Oversaw planning and operations of Coalition facilities, utilities, base master planning, real property, leasing, and construction projects in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.
- Managed over \$150 million in minor military construction and design projects.

Project Manager and Forward Engineer Support Team Leader, Captain/Major (GS-12/13 equivalent)

United States Army Corps of Engineers, Japan Engineer District

01/2006 – 06/2007

- Managed life cycle project management of U.S. and Host Nation funded programs, including a \$70M housing relocation project.
- Led a six-member Forward Engineer Support Team.
- Earned Project Management Professional (PMP) Certification.

Early Career (1998-2004)

- Company Commander, Captain (GS-12 equivalent), United States Army, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Engineer Battalion, South Korea (10/2002 – 05/2004)
- Battalion Adjutant/Human Resources Officer, Captain (GS-13 equivalent), United States Army, 2nd Engineer Battalion, South Korea (02/2002 – 10/2002)
- Battalion Maintenance Officer, Captain (GS-13 equivalent), United States Army, 29th Engineer Battalion, Fort Shafter, HI (12/2000 – 04/2001)
- Executive Officer/Deputy, Lieutenant (GS-11 equivalent), United States Army, 70th Engineer Company, Fort Shafter, HI (06/2000 – 11/2000)
- Battalion Adjutant/Human Resources Officer, Lieutenant (GS 9/11 equivalent), United States Army, 29th Engineer Battalion, Fort Shafter, HI (02/1999 – 06/2000)
- Platoon Leader, Lieutenant (GS-9 equivalent), United States Army, 70th Engineer Company, Fort Shafter, HI (01/1998 – 01/1999)

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Education

- Master of Science, National Resource Strategy, National Defense University, 2018
- Master of Science, Civil Engineering, University of Washington, 2005
- Business Certificate, University of Washington, 2005
- Master of Science, Project Management, Missouri University of Science and Technology, 2002
- Bachelor of Science, Civil Engineering, United States Military Academy, West Point, 1997