

**Name:** Richard Saunders

**Are you a registered voter?:** Yes

**Are you a resident of Lake Forest Park?:** Yes

**Length of residence in Lake Forest Park?:** 50

**1. List your educational background.:** Western Washington University  
BA in Business / Computer Science (1982-1987)

**2. Please state your occupational background, beginning with your current occupation and employer.:** Current Position: Product Director, Exponent Partners (January 2019-Present) Lead product strategy and development for B Corp specializing in nonprofit technology solutions on the Salesforce platform. Manage product development and customer success teams. Responsible for product design and delivery and involved in business alignment, go-to-market strategy, and product innovation initiatives for software that helps nonprofits understand results and create impact through better programs and services.

Previous Positions at Exponent Partners:  
Director of Software Innovation (January 2018-January 2019): Led software innovation team delivering custom software solutions.

Product Manager & Solution Architect (March 2014-January 2018): Developed Exponent Case Management for human services agencies implementing case, program, and outcomes management

CRM Consultant/Technical Architect (October 2010-March 2014): Built custom solutions for human services agencies, linking data across organizations to understand impact in programs, fundraising, and operations

Independent Consultant:  
CRM Implementor and Force.com Developer, Gaia ICT, LLC (2006-October 2010): Technical project management, systems analysis, solution design and implementation for CRM and constituent relationship management systems

Microsoft Corporation (September 1987-July 2004, 16+ years total):  
Program Manager (September 1995-July 2004): Senior program manager in Windows Digital Media division product development

Senior Software Test Engineer (September 1987-September 1995): Lead Software Development Engineer in Test/QA on Windows Operating System product development

**3. Describe your community activities and volunteer work.:** Lake Forest Park Tree

Board (October 2024-Present) Current Commissioner working with other members providing policy advice to City Council on tree-related regulations, organizing community tree planting events and educational outreach, and coordinating with Urban Forest Planner on urban forest management initiatives

Northshore Emergency Management Coalition (NEMCo) Community Emergency Response Training Certificate (May 2024 - Present)  
CERT Program Trainee (Volunteer). Completed course and earned certificate.

Lake Forest Park Planning Commission (January 2011-February 2022, 11+ years) Commissioner, Vice Chair, and Chair. Participated directly in municipal planning initiatives including the Southern Gateway Subarea Plan (2011-2013), Town Center Vision implementation and ordinance development (2019-2021), and 2015 Comprehensive Plan update. Chaired multi-year public processes involving community engagement, consultant coordination, and policy development. Participated in the development of multiple city ordinances including tree regulations, ADU/DADU housing options, and updates to ordinances for clearing and grading, chickens, bees, and more.

Lake Forest Park Stewardship Foundation (January 2006-Present) Active volunteer participating in habitat restoration work parties at local parks and leading environmental improvements to Five Acre Woods. Support environmental education and conservation initiatives throughout the city. Have also participated in Grace Cole volunteer efforts.

Urban Forest Task Force (2009-2010) Member of task force that produced the 2010 City of Lake Forest Park Community Forest Management Plan, establishing foundational policies for long-term urban canopy preservation and environmental stewardship.

**4. Describe your special qualifications applicable to the City Council.: Municipal Government Experience:** Over 11 years of Planning Commission service provides strong understanding of city operations, municipal code development, public hearing processes, and land use law. Knowledge of Lake Forest Park's policies, procedures, and decision-making processes enables contribution with smaller learning curve.

**Policy Development Involvement:** Participated in development of multiple city ordinances balancing community character with growth management requirements. Experience includes Growth Management Act compliance, SEPA environmental review processes, regional coordination with neighboring jurisdictions, and Sound Transit planning coordination.

**Complex Project Participation:** Participated in multi-year public processes including the Southern Gateway Subarea Plan and Town Center Vision implementation. Demonstrated ability to coordinate between city staff, legal counsel, professional consultants, and diverse community stakeholders while maintaining project timelines and public engagement.

**Collaborative Approach:** Ability to facilitate productive dialogue and move conversations toward constructive conclusions. Strong preference in building consensus among diverse viewpoints while advancing complex policy decisions. Professional experience managing technical teams translates directly to collaborative governance.

**Strategic Planning Background:** Over 35 years of technology experience in product development, strategic planning, and business alignment. Current role managing product development and customer success teams demonstrates skills in stakeholder management, resource allocation, and long-term planning that directly apply to municipal governance.

**Environmental Stewardship Involvement:** Current Tree Board service and extensive volunteer work with environmental organizations provides understanding of Lake Forest Park's natural systems and sustainability challenges. This experience is relevant for addressing climate action, urban forestry, and environmental protection issues facing the city.

**Community Connection:** Multi-generational family commitment to Lake Forest Park spanning 60+ years, with extensive knowledge of community values, concerns, and aspirations gained through decades of civic engagement and public service.

**5. Why do you want to serve on the Lake Forest Park City Council?:** My family's connection to Lake Forest Park runs deep. My mother and father moved here in the mid-1960s. As a doctor and a nurse, they instilled in my three brothers and me the idea of appreciating, participating in, and giving back to the community. I have lived here as an adult since 1990, raising my three children who are now all adults. Two of my three brothers are long-time residents, raising their families in LFP. My mother still lives in LFP in a senior living facility. My brother Mike is a doctor at the University of Washington, as was my Dad. My brother Brian is on the Climate Action Committee, is a leader with the LFP Stream Keepers, and a member of the LFP Stewardship board. His wife Ellyn, my sister-in-law is a current member of the LFP City Council. To me this demonstrates a multi-generational family commitment to our community, deeply rooted in public service, and I see this appointment as an opportunity to give back to the place that has given so much to my family.

Lake Forest Park faces critical decisions in the coming months. I understand that the city needs someone to step in who can contribute immediately without a lengthy learning curve. My 11+ years on the Planning Commission have given me a strong understanding of municipal operations, from ordinance development to budget processes. I've worked directly with city staff, legal counsel, and community stakeholders on complex issues that have significant impact on the city.

This interim appointment aligns well with my current availability and intentions. I am not seeking long-term council service, but I am highly motivated to help fill this crucial need during a transitional period. I believe my experience positions me to participate constructively in important decisions facing the council over the next several months.

I believe I can provide service to the City that combines institutional knowledge with commitment to environmental stewardship and community service. My goal would be to serve in a way that honors Councilmember Lori Bodi. Her environmental advocacy and dedicated public service were truly inspirational. She exemplified the spirit of community service that Lake Forest Park needs, and I hope to continue that legacy of environmental stewardship and thoughtful governance while helping our city navigate important decisions and preserving what makes our community special.

**6. Specify any activities that might create a conflict of interest if you should be appointed to the City Council.:** I do not currently have any activities or interests that would create a conflict of interest with my duties as a City Councilmember. I have carefully reviewed my personal, professional, and financial circumstances and identified the following potential consideration:

My sister-in-law, Ellyn Saunders, currently serves on the City Council. While this represents a family relationship with a fellow councilmember, it does not create a financial or personal conflict that would compromise my ability to make independent decisions in the best interest of Lake Forest Park residents. I am committed to evaluating all matters based on their merits and the public good, regardless of how other councilmembers, including my sister-in-law, may vote.

**7. Briefly explain what you believe are the most important issues facing the Lake Forest Park community and the City Council's role in addressing each issue.:** As a municipality within the Puget Sound Growth Area, Lake Forest Park faces the ongoing challenge of preserving what makes our community unique—our stream-fed landscape with critical environmental areas, our highly engaged residents who are deeply committed to community building and local government participation, and our distinctive character that comes from decades of history and evolution—while managing the pressures of regional urban growth.

**Budget Management and Fiscal Responsibility:** With city expenses rapidly outpacing revenue, the Council faces difficult decisions about maintaining service levels while working within limited revenue options. The Council's role is to prioritize essential services, explore cost efficiencies, and make strategic investments that support long-term fiscal health.

**Transportation and Sound Transit Coordination:** As Sound Transit implements its regional transit expansion, the Council must actively advocate for Lake Forest Park residents while supporting voter-approved regional transportation goals. This requires ongoing engagement with Sound Transit to minimize environmental and quality-of-life impacts on our community.

**Climate Action and Environmental Preservation:** With the Climate Policy Advisory Team making important updates to the Climate Action Plan, the Council will need to review and adopt policies that address climate change through practical local actions. This

could include supporting improved transportation options, thoughtful density planning, pedestrian and bicycle safety improvements, and continued protection of our tree canopy and parks system that preserves our unique environmental character.

I believe these are the most pressing issues requiring immediate Council attention. However, I recognize that the Council must also maintain its ongoing commitment to infrastructure maintenance, public safety and emergency preparedness, and community engagement and transparency—foundational responsibilities that require consistent attention regardless of other priorities

**Professional Reference 1** - Name, Relationship, Phone, Email:: Amy Miesen, colleague at Exponent Partners-Director of Client Services,

**Professional Reference 2** – Name, Relationship, Phone, Email:: Rem Hoffmann, my manager at Exponent Partners-Chief Executive Officer,

**Letters of Recommendation (optional): You may attach up to two letters of recommendation to this application.:** Recommendation for Richard Saunders re Interim Council Position.pdf

**I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that the information provided herein is true and correct.:** Richard W. Saunders