



BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL CITY OF MERCER ISLAND

AB 6704
June 3, 2025
Regular Business

AGENDA BILL INFORMATION

TITLE:	AB 6704: City Council Position No. 7 Candidate Interviews and Appointment	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	Conduct candidate interviews and appoint a candidate to City Council Position No. 7.	

DEPARTMENT:	City Manager
STAFF:	Jessi Bon, City Manager Ali Spietz, Chief of Administration Andrea Larson, City Clerk
COUNCIL LIAISON:	n/a
EXHIBITS:	1. City Council Rules of Procedure Appendix C 2. Candidate Application Packets
CITY COUNCIL PRIORITY:	n/a

AMOUNT OF EXPENDITURE	\$ n/a
AMOUNT BUDGETED	\$ n/a
APPROPRIATION REQUIRED	\$ n/a

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this agenda item is to interview and appoint a candidate to vacant Position No. 7 on the Mercer Island City Council.

BACKGROUND

Councilmember Jake Jacobson passed away on March 30, 2025, leaving Position No. 7 vacant. Staff notified King County Elections of Mr. Jacobson's passing on March 31, 2025.

When a City Council vacancy occurs, Washington State law outlines the conditions under which the position must appear on the General Election ballot. Key factors include the timing of the vacancy and whether the position was already scheduled for election that year.

State law requires that if, prior to the first day of the regular candidate filing period, a vacancy occurs in an office that is not scheduled to appear on the general election ballot, valid declarations of candidacy for that office will be accepted during the regular candidate filing period (see [RCW 42.12.040\(1\)](#)). King County Elections will give notice of the vacancy, and the notice will include the date, time and place for filing

declarations of candidacy. Since the vacancy occurred before the first day of the regular candidate filing period, Position No. 7 will appear on the November 2025 General Election ballot.

The City of Mercer Island will have four positions on the November 2025 General Election ballot: Positions 2, 4, 6, 7. The individual elected to Position No. 7 will serve the remainder of the term, which ends in December 2027.

APPOINTMENT PROCESS

In the interim, the City Council must appoint a registered Mercer Island voter to fill the vacant position. The appointment must be made within 90 days of the vacancy occurring, giving the Council until June 29, 2025 to make the appointment. If no one is appointed within 90 days, the King County Council will make the appointment per [RCW 42.12.070\(4\)](#). The appointed person will serve until the certification of the November 2025 General Election in late November 2025, when the candidate elected for position No. 7 will take office (see [RCW 42.12.070\(6\)](#)).

[The City Council Rules of Procedure Appendix C](#) (Exhibit 1) describe the process to fill a Mercer Island City Council vacancy.

At the May 6, 2025 City Council Meeting City Council approved the process and timeline for filling Position No. 7 directed the City Manager to initiate the recruitment process ([AB 6673](#)).

RECRUITMENT PROCESS

The vacancy was advertised through the Mercer Island Reporter, the City's website, and social media channels. Information was also shared with the City Council agenda distribution list and all board and commission members. The Recruitment was open from Wednesday, May 7, 2025 – Wednesday, May 28, 2025 at 5:00 pm.

In response to outreach efforts, three applications were received by the May 28, 2025 deadline. The candidates are (listed alphabetically): Daniel Becker, Zachary MacLean, and Adam Ragheb (see Exhibit 2).

ISSUE/DISCUSSION

At the June 3 City Council Meeting, the City Council will interview each candidate and make an appointment to fill the vacancy per the City Council Rules of Procedure Appendix C (Exhibit 1). Candidates will be given up to five minutes to speak to the City Council, after which City Council will have the opportunity to ask additional questions. Upon completion of the interviews, and as provided in state law (see [RCW 42.30.110\(1\)\(h\)](#)), the City Council may convene into executive session to evaluate the qualifications of the applicants. However, all interviews and final action appointing a person to fill the vacancy shall be in a meeting open to the public.

CANDIDATE SPEECHES/INTERVIEWS

Pursuant to the City Council Rules of Procedure Appendix C (Exhibit 1), Mayor Nice will ask each candidate to speak for no more than five minutes addressing the four areas outlined in the application materials:

1. Why do you want to serve on the City Council?
2. What experiences, talents or skills do you bring to the Council and community that you would like to highlight?

3. Are there any regional issues or forums in which you have a particular interest or expertise? (e.g. transportation, water supply, human services, water quality, fiscal management, solid waste, parks & open space, etc.)
4. Do you want to serve on the City Council because of a particular local issue on which you want to work or are your interests more broadly distributed?

Councilmembers may ask additional questions of the candidates. The time will be kept by the City Clerk and candidates will be able to monitor the progress of time with the timer on the screen. Mayor Nice will randomly select the names of candidates to determine the order in which they will speak.

COUNCIL APPOINTMENT

As outlined in City Council Rules of Procedure Appendix C (Exhibit 1) upon completion of the interviews, and as provided in state law (see [RCW 42.30.110\(1\)\(h\)](#)), the City Council may convene into executive session to evaluate the qualifications of the applicants. However, all interviews and final action appointing a person to fill the vacancy shall be in a meeting open to the public.

In open session, the Mayor will ask for nominations from the Councilmembers. No second to the motion is needed. Nominations are closed by a motion, a second and a majority vote of the City Council. The Mayor may poll the City Council to ascertain that Councilmembers are prepared to vote. If so, the City Clerk shall proceed with a roll-call vote.

Nominations and voting will continue until a nominee receives a majority vote of the remaining Councilmembers. At any time during the election process, the City Council may postpone elections until another open meeting if a majority vote has not been received, or if one of the remaining Councilmembers is not able to participate in a particular meeting.

The Mayor shall declare the nominee receiving the majority vote of all the remaining Councilmembers as the new Councilmember who shall be sworn into office at the earliest opportunity, or no later than the next regularly scheduled City Council Meeting.

NEXT STEPS

The appointee will be sworn in by the City Clerk on June 4 or as soon thereafter as possible.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Conduct candidate interviews and appoint a candidate to City Council Position No. 7.