

RECEIVED

AUG 28 2023

CITY OF ST. HELENS

1:30pm

Application for City Council Appointment

This application is for Council appointment, not for Elections.

If you would like to run for office during a General Election, please contact the City Elections Official at (503) 366-8217.

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT

Applicant Name: Diana Wiener

Home Address: 135 S 3rd Street

City, Zip: St. Helens, OR 97051

Phone: 971-221-7159 ☒ Mobile ☒ Home

Email: diana.wiener@gmail.com

Mailing Address: 135 S 3rd St

City, Zip: St. Helens, OR 97051

How long have you resided in the city limits of St. Helens? 5 Years 10 Months

Applicants must have resided inside the city limits of St. Helens for at least 12 months prior to appointment, per Charter¹.

Are you a Qualified Elector as defined in the Oregon Constitution²? (see page 2) ☒ Yes ☐ No

Civic Activities (offices held, honors, etc.):

Volunteer, St. Helens Public Library Board May 2021 - present
Secretary, St. Helens Main Street Alliance, September 2021 - present
Member, Lewis & Clark College Philanthropy Council, February 2020 - present
Member, Board of Directors, Bitch Media (501c3 media non-profit), 2011-2012
Team Member, Lewis & Clark College Sexual Assault Response Team, 2006-2012

List names, addresses, and phone numbers of three references not related to you:

* Erin Salisbury, 330 S. 1st St. #A, St. Helens OR 97051, ecs@erincolette.com, 971-570-8844 (local resident and business owner)
* Ty Bailey, 33796 NE Erin Dr., Scappoose OR 97056, scappoose@local106.com, phone: 970-210-0058 (Columbia County resident, active in Scappoose government, former boss, known 10+ years)
* Kate Larson, Licensed MSW, 2704 Ezell Rd., Nashville, TN 37211, kplarson@gmail.com, phone: 971-219-8049 (former coworker, known 20+ years),

Briefly summarize educational background:

2004 Bachelor of Arts, History and Gender Studies, Lewis & Clark College, Portland, OR
2009 Juris Doctorate, Lewis & Clark Law School, Portland, OR

Present Employer Name: Acquia Phone: (888) 922-7842

Present Employer Address: 53 State St, Boston, MA 02109

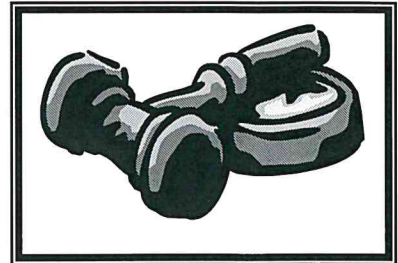
Title of Position Held: Senior Director, Customer Operations and Communications

Why do you want to be appointed to the City Council?

Please see Attached.

What do you hope to accomplish during your time on the City Council?

Please see Attached.



Additional information you would like us to consider:

Please see Attached.

I hereby certify that I am a "qualified elector" as defined in Article II of the Oregon Constitution² and I have resided inside the city limits of St. Helens for at least 12 months prior to an appointment¹. I further certify that this form is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Signature _____

Date: 28 AUG 2022

DEADLINE TO SUBMIT: Wednesday, August 30, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. *Completed applications must be received by this deadline; postmarks will not be accepted. If sending by email, applicant is responsible to make sure their application was received by the deadline.*

Please return by mail or drop-off to: City of St. Helens
Attn: Kathy Payne
265 Strand Street
St. Helens, OR 97051

Or by email to: kpayne@sthelensoregon.gov

PROCESS: The City Council will interview all applicants at a Special Session on Thursday, September 14, 2023, beginning at 5:15 p.m. via Zoom. Please mark your calendars. The agenda with the Zoom link will be posted by 5:00 p.m. on September 11, 2023.

If you have any questions, please contact City Recorder Kathy Payne at (503) 366-8217.

**¹ St. Helens Charter
Chapter VI Elections
Section 27. Qualifications.**

- (a) The mayor and each councilor must be a qualified elector under state law, and reside within the city for at least one year immediately before election or appointment to office.
- (b) No person may be a candidate at a single election for more than one city office.
- (c) Neither the mayor nor a councilor may be employed by the city.
- (d) The council is the final judge of election and qualifications of its members.

² Oregon Constitution, Article II

Section 2. Qualifications of electors.

- (1) Every citizen of the United States is entitled to vote in all elections not otherwise provided for by this Constitution if such citizen:

- (a) Is 18 years of age or older;
- (b) Has resided in this state during the six months immediately preceding the election, except that provision may be made by law to permit a person who has resided in this state less than 30 days immediately preceding the election, but who is otherwise qualified under this subsection, to vote in the election for candidates for nomination or election for President or Vice President of the United States or elector of President and Vice President of the United States; and
- (c) Is registered not less than 20 calendar days immediately preceding any election in the manner provided by law.
- (2) Provision may be made by law to require that persons who vote upon questions of levying special taxes or issuing public bonds shall be taxpayers.

Why do you want to be appointed to the City Council?

Communities are strongest when they are led by engaged, active members who share ties with their neighbors and are invested in the future not only of themselves, but everyone around them. While I have only been a resident of St. Helens for 5.5 years, I am committed to living the rest of my life in our community. When planning to buy our first and forever home, my husband, David, and I chose this community with great care and spent several years working to purchase a property we loved in a place where we would spend the rest of our lives. Oregonians since 2000, we came to St. Helens for the same reason people have been coming here for generations: the beautiful and lush landscape, the unparalleled access to the water, and friendly, welcoming residents. But what we found was so much more.

In the time I've lived in St. Helens, I've come to love this community more than I ever imagined. I love that I know my neighbors and that when we or they have needed something – a jar opened, a borrowed water hose, a tutor for their child – we have been able to be there for them. I love that when I go out to eat or go shopping, I know the owners and staff and they know me. I love that the community embraces its unique features and interests, from our own little Sand Island in the Columbia to our history as a filming location to our world-famous Dancing Witches and our local ukelele choir.

Both my husband and I have experience attending and working on small college campuses, communities even smaller than St. Helens. Through those experiences, we've come to know the truth of Margaret Mead's adage: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." We experienced that first-hand in St. Helens when our house caught fire on 4 July 2022. This community came out in response to that tragedy, offering us help in ways we didn't even know to ask for. In the time I've lived here, I could tell you dozens of stories like mine: local people helping local people. That is the heart of St. Helens, and it is something I never want to change.

I believe my combined experience in law, education, business, and communications along with my passion for this city make me uniquely qualified for the position of City Councilor. I am committed to the long-term success of St. Helens, and I am willing to work hard and use all the resources, knowledge, and expertise I possess ensure that City Council is a positive representative of the people and protects the future of our community as it changes and grows.

We deserve an active City Council that is dedicated to its constituents, proud of its successes, and friendly and collaborative with one another and its citizens. While we might not always agree, St. Helens is lucky to have a vocal, engaged populace that deserves to be heard and understood. Our job as Councilors is to ensure that our citizens are equally informed of our decisions, responsibilities, goals, and progress, so that they might become more active stakeholders and champions for themselves and their neighbors. Being part of the City Council will allow me to continue to serve this community to the best of my abilities and provide guidance, help, and support for my neighbors in a way I feel capable and qualified to do.

What do you hope to accomplish during your time on the City Council?

Should I be selected to serve on St. Helens City Council, I will be focused on three priorities:

- 1. Managed Growth for Our Future** – St. Helens is at a crossroads and strong leadership has never been more necessary. We are a community of neighbors, small business owners, and working families. We are a community with incredible potential on the road to economic recovery after losing its historic income base. It is paramount that our leaders prioritize maintaining the culture that generations of St. Helens residents have cultivated. Change is part of life, and St. Helens has the opportunity to manage that growth responsibly. That means balancing the needs of the local community that has been here for many years with the desire for more business and better opportunities. It also means maintaining the unique and special character of our community. We need a balanced approach to commerce and tourism that is sustainable year-round and serves the residents and local merchants.

During my term, I will support the waterfront development, local businesses and their events, and all local and regional non-profit efforts to support, promote, and protect our local businesses. I will also work with my fellow Council members to attract new business to the area that will help St. Helens grow without creating reliance on a single business for our economic base. I will also make myself a visible presence at Hallorentown to ensure that locals can see that it is open to them for enjoyment as well as tourists and do my best to support city tourism efforts.

- 2. Maximizing Our Natural Resources** – One of St. Helens' most appealing attributes is its waterfront and green spaces. This positive proximity to unique features and desirable geography has influenced our past and will continue to help determine our future. We must ensure our growth includes plans to preserve and protect these places and promote our local agricultural community. Being a self-sustaining community means taking care of ourselves in the worst times and celebrating all our community has to offer in the best times.

During my term, I will help support the waterfront development to ensure that while we are bringing in new business and residential space, we are also supporting maintaining access to our green spaces for the community. I love that the plan for the new development includes additional kayak and canoe launches, ADA accessible pathways, and a new event space for everyone to enjoy. As we continue to think about the kinds of businesses and development we want to attract, we need to be very choosy about our options because a great waterfront and healthy wetlands, once destroyed, we would never be able to get it back. I would like to be part of the group that not only makes those decisions, but who makes sure that we are engaging the local community around them

and communicating effectively about why we are making our decisions.

- 3. Increasing Transparency and Accountability** – Our local government works hard for us, but most residents aren't fully able to access that hard work. We should leverage technology to promote and celebrate our successes as well as increase the accessibility the citizens have to their local government. By making board meetings, topics of interest, development plans, and budgets more available to the public, we can increase constituent involvement and government accountability.

During my term, I would work with the communications staff in the City to update our social media presence (e.g. we no longer need a twitter account, etc.) I would also work to engage local print media like The Chronicle and The Navigator to add a regular column that would keep residents apprised of the City's work. I also believe we should take advantage of local media resources like Setting The Record Straight with Melinda Bernert to get our message out, and perhaps think of starting a podcast or video presence of our own. We could also leverage the city's YouTube account to greater efficiency, and in doing so, perhaps attract more viewers to the meetings and work sessions posted there. I would also commit to attending every local event or meeting I could fit into my schedule to ensure people knew who I was and felt I was an accessible resource to the community.

Additional Information You Would Like Us To Consider:

As a resident who has been observing the City Council for several years now, I make this promise to you: no matter what happens, what I am accused of, how I am spoken to, or how we might disagree, I will always treat my fellow Council members and all of our citizens, even the onery ones, with the respect and civility they deserve. I want to use my role as a Councilor to show our local youth how best to conduct themselves in the workplace and as citizens, and I am committed to being a positive force for good should I be selected.

I am also interested in bringing additional training resources, learning, and connections to the City Council. That could look like a local book club about city planning and community building, a free civics course for local teens to engage them in the democratic process, and visits to/from other municipalities around Oregon to gather ideas, information, and a strong network of allies. I'd like to explore working together with other local city governments to cross promote our efforts and attractions. As part of my tenure with St. Helens Main Street Alliance, I have been cultivating connections volunteers and officials in places like Astoria, Scappoose, and with the Chamber of Commerce in Forks, Washington, which is willing to work with us to cross-promote Twilight oriented events and locations. I would like to work more closely with the Oregon Film Trail to grow our resources and visibility for our community. By leveraging relationships and collaborations like these, I think we can increase interest in our events without having to spend taxpayer dollars.