

Laurel Humphrey

From: Kate Kruller
Sent: Friday, December 22, 2023 4:53 PM
To: Council@tukwilawa.gov
Cc: Laurel Humphrey
Subject: Kate Kruller - Application for Appointment to City Council Position 3
Attachments: Kate Kruller - Application For Council Vacancy Position 3 2023.pdf; 2023 Kate Kruller Biographical Summary.pdf

Dear 2024 City Council/Laurel: Please find attached my application for appointment to the Tukwila City Council open seat Position 3 on the 2024 Tukwila City Council to complete a term for 2 years.

With regards,

Kate Kruller
City Councilmember
Tukwila City Council
206.678.7885
Kate.Kruller@TukwilaWA.gov

Please be aware that e-mail communication with City of Tukwila Council Members is a public record and is subject to disclosure upon request. Public documents and records are available to the public as provided under the Washington State Public Records Act (Chapter 42.56 RCW).



City of Tukwila

City Council

Application for Vacancy by Appointment Tukwila City Council Position #3

Applicant Information

Full Name	Katherine Susan Grace Kruller
Street Address	[REDACTED]
City, State, Zip	Tukwila, WA 98168
Phone	[REDACTED]
E-Mail Address	[REDACTED]

Eligibility Requirements, Notification and Signature

I understand that Councilmembers for the City of Tukwila must be registered voters in King County, Washington and must have lived in the City of Tukwila for 12 consecutive months prior to being appointed to office.

I understand that as an applicant for appointment to public office, the information provided on this application will be available to the public.

Signature	
Date	12-20-2023

Additional Information

Are you a registered voter in King County, WA?	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Are you a resident of the City of Tukwila?	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
How long have you been a resident of the City of Tukwila?	32 years	
How long have you lived at your current address?	32 years	
<i>If you have lived at your current address for less than 12 months, please list your previous address.</i>		
Previous address and length of time at address.		
Do you or any family member residing in your household, have a financial interest in, or are you an employee or officer of any business or agency which conducts business with the City of Tukwila?		
		YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
If yes, please explain.		
1) I am currently an employee at King County Information Technology. I follow City Attorney advice on when to recuse myself on any vote concerning King County.		
2) I am a Professional Stagehand under the dispatch of IATSE Local #15. I have never been dispatched to work in Tukwila. It is possible, but I have no knowledge of IATSE Local #15 conducting business in Tukwila		
3) I am an officer of a dormant management consulting company, E-Ticket Communications, LLC. It has not been in operation or conducted business since 2004 (specifically, never while I have been a City Councilmember)		

Time Commitment

Appointment to the City Council will require your attendance at a number of regularly scheduled and special meetings, which occur at various times including evenings and weekends.

Councilmembers also serve on Council committees, regional boards and commissions, and represent the City Council at various community functions.

Council activities generally require a minimum time commitment of 10 to 15 hours per week. Are you able to commit this amount of time and can you commit to arrange your schedule to participate fully as a member of the Tukwila City Council?

YES

NO

Have you ever attended a Tukwila City Council meeting?

YES

NO

If yes, please estimate how many Council meetings you have attended in the past year. All, except when one in March while representing the City of Tukwila at the National League of Cities in Washington D.C.

Supplemental Questions

Please respond to the following questions regarding your interest in the position of appointed Councilmember for the City of Tukwila.

Why are you interested in serving as a Tukwila City Councilmember?

Based upon the support and encouragement from many of my neighbors, businesses, friends and Tukwila residents that I have known across 32 years, I am applying to continue serving as a Tukwila City Councilmember.

Everyone knows I put people first and actively serve my community - to solve problems, help feed or house people, find jobs or improve work conditions, provide a brighter future for our youth, support our senior citizens and veterans, protect renters and help businesses thrive. I've also served on Tukwila City Council for 12 years - bringing context, breadth /depth of knowledge and experience that should serve as asset in decision-making. I am fresh from talking directly with nearly 3,000 Tukwila voters, along with Tukwila businesses and Labor Unions, and I would like to carry their voice to table at Council.

I can provide management and leadership experience, mentorship, a strong sense of community's vision for Tukwila's future and will work hard as our city continues to rebuild and grow. I will use my 30 years of budgeting, business management and government leadership skills to add value to our fiscal decisions. I'll continue amplify Tukwila's voice, from local to national levels, to help build Tukwila's economic strength and keep Tukwila competitive. I pledge to continue to serve with integrity, hard work, and common sense.

Describe your background in community service, including any volunteer work you have done in or around Tukwila.

I have volunteered and served community all my life - serving with community groups, being a community organizer and being a part of positive change where I live, work and wherever I go. For your convenience, please see the attachment provided with a list of what I've done to serve Tukwila as a Councilmember, where I've volunteered in our community and how I advocate for the people of Tukwila.

I am grateful for any opportunity to help people solve problems, create opportunities for community to come together and celebrate who we are by incorporating the magnificent variety of cultural perspectives we have in Tukwila. I work hard on removing barriers to access and eliminating systemic racism embedded in local government, public services, hiring processes, and policy decisions made that impact previously harmed, priority populations. I represent everyone as if they live right next door to me and act to make life here better for them.

I believe in building community by staying actively involved with neighborhood groups, seniors, students, veterans, people with disabilities and businesses. As a priority, I make informed decisions based on community feedback. I am devoted to representing what the people who live in Tukwila want, and what makes sense for us. That is why I want to continue serving in Tukwila as City Councilmember.

What do you think are the most important issues facing Tukwila in the next 2-4 years?

1. Affordable Housing is THE challenge right now. Most housing stock in Tukwila is taken up with little or no development mitigating the growing population. Many in Tukwila are people living in apartments who cannot afford rising rents. Some are already homeless.
2. Public Safety is of high concern to people that live and work in our community. Police ranks diminished through attrition. We are experiencing a lift in the crime rates in our neighborhoods and at the mall and small businesses. The boldness of criminals has increased in the face of policing limits.
3. Infrastructure and transportation. The 42nd Ave. South Bridge Replacement, rerouting congested semi truck traffic headed to the rail yard and providing access to transportation - Allentown is a focus and is where our Tukwila Community Center is located. We also need to keep improving all our streets to be safer for all.
4. Tukwila needs to get its financial house in order. This is the biennial budget year. Unless the state legislature increases the municipal limits from 1% property tax after 20 years, the task at hand will be difficult. Taxpayers are exhausted with the increased cost of everything. Priority budgeting should be foremost before raising taxes.

Describe your understanding of the importance of regional collaboration and partnership in city government.

It is vital. The first thing I did when I became a City Councilmember was get involved with in a couple of amazing regional and statewide organizations: Sound Cities Association (SCA) and the Association of Washington Cities (AWC). SCA immediately placed me on a committee that had one representative, with equal voice and vote, from all 28 cities in King County (except Seattle). From there, I learned how different forms of city governments work and how they interrelate with one another, saw examples of how leaders working together make great change, and the power of SCA's ability to put representatives from cities like Tukwila at the table beside Seattle and King County councilmembers with an equal voice and vote on committees critical to federal and regional policymaking, decisions that impact us and project selection for funding distribution occurs regarding everyone they represent.

AWC offered more expansive connections statewide - where 281 cities and towns took our priorities to state legislators in Olympia where state laws on city authority and state funding for cities are made. It's also where I received a certificate in critical training in five competency areas through its Fundamental and Advanced Certificate of Municipal Leadership Programs. I highly recommend both to any city councilmember.

AWC is the Municipal League for our state at the National League of Cities (NLC), where you get voice and vote on federal advocacy committees - which provides direct federal access and representing 3000 cities as we meet with our U.S. Congressional Delegates, White House Administration, Department Secretaries and Administrators, pushing for federal policies that help cities and seeking federal funding for cities.

Summarize your experiences working collaboratively with others from different backgrounds.

This is why I chose to live in Tukwila and enjoy working with diverse cultures and groups here in my community. My entire career involved working on very diverse teams. I worked at Boeing for 11 years in communications technology - ending up at their Customer Service Center - training air crews and aircraft mechanics from all over the world in classrooms and simulators. After that, I was able to experience a unique opportunity to live and work in the world community - as Air Crew on ORBIS International, the "Flying Eye Hospital," I spent over a year traveling on ORBIS to China, Sudan, Myanmar (Burma), Kyrgyzstan, India, Jordan, Syria, and Mongolia as a media relations emissary working to improve eye care in developing countries.

Upon my return, I wanted to immerse myself globally again through the international business and trade space under the auspices of the Washington Council on International Trade (hosting APEC/WTO conferences). I worked with trade representatives and their support staff from over 164 countries to provide them with communications technology and media relations support.

I took what I learned back to work in the public sector - learning about implicit bias, joined the Race and Social Justice Change Committee at the City of Seattle IT Department and continue in this capacity volunteering at King County on the IT ESJ Team, as a member of the ESJ Lean Greenbelt Team and member of the King County Disability Network. I also work collaboratively through interlocal, regional, statewide and national organizations.

Discuss your qualifications relevant to the position of Tukwila City Councilmember.

I am honored to say that I have served the people of Tukwila for 12 years on the Tukwila City Council. For your convenience, please see the attachment provided with a list of ways I worked to serve Tukwila in that capacity.

I am an experienced city leader that knows how to navigate legislative processes (locally, regionally, statewide and nationally), offering strong political networks at the same levels, listening to what Tukwila people want and being action-oriented to what is possible.

I finished my most recent term serving as the Tukwila City Council Finance and Governance Committee Chair and member of the Transportation Infrastructure Services Committee. At the same time, I served on 16 additional boards and committees from regional to national levels. I kept in touch with community by immersing myself serving on neighborhood groups, environmental teams and human services committees.

When many people won't run for office at all or decide to walk away from it for one reason or another, I still feel a strong call to serve in the "Government Closest to the People," and am passionate about making it work out the best for all concerned. I simply don't know how to do or offer more than that.

Please provide any additional information or comments you believe will assist the City Council in considering your application.

My family has called this region home for five generations. I plan to stay here for a long time. I am a good person, with a good heart, who works hard to leave the world a little more just, less violent and a little more kind than I found it. I literally thrive on understanding the challenges people have and acting to help them find a path forward. Serving on the Tukwila City Council helps me to do that in ways I cannot otherwise. Although as anyone, I come with many of the flaws that make us human, my focus remains solidly on a few fundamentals: Put people first. Be transparent. Make your processes understandable. Welcome new ideas. Show everyone that what and how we're doing together that will make Tukwila a better place to live.

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

Kate Kruller
Political/Volunteer Biographical Summary

Term of office: Third Term - January 1, 2020, to December 31, 2023

Time on the Council: 12 years. Elected in November 2011.

Service in addition to Tukwila Council duties:

Tukwila City Council President - 2015 and 2021

Tukwila Pool Metropolitan Park District Commission President – 2015 / Commissioner 2012-2015

Lodging Tax Advisory Committee (LTAC) Chair 2015 and 2021

Tukwila Finance and Governance Committee Chair/Fireman’s Pension Board/State Auditor’s Office Entrance/Exit Conference Attendance 2023

National League of Cities (NLC) Board of Directors 2023

NLC Board Federal Advocacy Committee member 2023

NLC Transportation and Infrastructure Services Federal Advocacy Committee Chair 2023 / Vice Chair 2019

NLC General Assembly Voting Delegate (representing Tukwila/AWC) 2013-2023

Association of Washington Cities (AWC) Federal Advocacy Committee Chair 2019-2022/Member 2013-2023

Puget Sound Partners/Ecosystem Coordination Board of Directors (representing AWC and all state cities)

Association of Washington Cities Legislative Committee member 2014 – Present / *Chair 2019-2022*

AWC Bilateral Infrastructure Legislation (BIL) Transportation Funding Opportunities Panel Moderator – Summer Conference 2022

Puget Sound Regional Fire Authority Annexation Oversight Committee member and PSRFA Advisory Board Alternate 2023

Cascade Water Alliance Alternate (meeting attendance in preparation for the proxy required)

Sound Cities Association (SCA) – Public Issues Committee Member (representing Tukwila) 2013 – Present / Alternate 2011-2012

Puget Sound Regional Council (PRSC) – Transportation Policy Board of Directors (representing SCA and other cities in King County) 2017 – 2023/Alternate 2014, 2016 *SCA Caucus Chair 2016/ Caucus Vice Chair 2020-2023*

SCA Nominating Committee 2023

Tukwila Member - King County Cities Climate Collaboration (K4C) Tukwila representative 2016-2023

Intergovernmental Taskforce on Asylum Seekers (local public officials) Tukwila Councilmember - 2023

Leadership Advisory Committee for King County & Seattle Regional Gun Violence Program – Tukwila Representative 2021-2023

Sound Cities Association Representative to the Regional Law, Safety and Justice Committee 2013-2023 Chair 2016 / Vice Chair 2015

Tukwila City Council Transportation Committee 2011-Present / Chair 2014, 2017, 2022

South King County Transportation Board 2011-2014

Sound Cities Association Representative to the King Conservation District Panel 2012-2014

King Conservation District Taskforce member (transformed & streamlined all processes) 2014-2016

King County Agriculture Roundtable member & subcommittee member 2012-2014

Caring Community Schools (CSC) Work Group– supporting Tukwila School District 2014

Tukwila School District Bond Development Committee (for the 2016 Capital Improvement Bond) – Council Representative 2015

Chamber of Commerce member 2012-2023

Community Service:

Riverton Park Village Community Advisory Committee (Tiny House governance) 2022-Present

Tukwila Pantry Food Bank Board 2011-2019/Ongoing contributor

Friends of the Hill (Duwamish Hill Preserve Conservation) /Green Tukwila participant 2012-Present

Allentown Advocates supporter 2021-Present

Maverick Cares Community event volunteer (holidays/back-to-school/and summer break) 2019-Present

Friends of Tukwila Library 2021-2023
Foster High School Civics classes, Black Student Union meeting, Teens for Tukwila meetings 2012-2023
Tukwila School District Levies and Capital Projects Bond Measures Campaign team member 2015-Present
Tukwila Children's Foundation Board of Directors (Council Liaison/Ex-Officio) 2018-Present
Tukwila Fire Department Mobile Vaccine Effort Volunteer 2019-2020
Puget Sound Regional Fire Authority Annexation Campaign support 2023
Salvation Army Back-to-School Shopping Event 2022-2023
SeaTac/Tukwila Rotary Club (previously Rotary Club of Duwamish Southside) 2011-2013, 2023
Tukwila Police Department Shop-With-A-Cop volunteer 2021
King County Point In Time/One Night Count volunteer 2016-2019
Seattle Police Department Polar Plunge team and Beds For Kids Program volunteer 2018-2019
Seattle Police Foundation volunteer/contributor 2018-2019
Tukwila Emergency Communications Committee 2012-Present
Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) 2012-Present
Tukwila Historical Society 2011 – Present
Save & Sustain Tukwila Pool Campaign 2011
Tukwila Village Now 2011-2018
Tukwila International Boulevard Action Committee 2010 – 2021 (action w/o meetings from March 2019)
Puget Sound Access Board (Channel 77 for Auburn, Burien, Kent Renton, SeaTac and Tukwila) 2008-2017
Project Management Institute –Puget Sound Chapter, Education/Credentials Committee member/instructor
1997-Present

Over the past 20 years, actively volunteered in a number of capacities individually and in organizational leadership, promoted citizenship, registered voters and distributed helpful information to voters in our community about elections, ballot issues and significant activities (such as the 2010 and 2020 Censuses, King County charter updates, voter re-districting, etc.). Previous to that, experience volunteering on committees for chamber of commerce, community sports and recreation organizations, college alumni organizations, non-profit community contribution programs, community media boards, and regional government relations groups on transportation.

Profession and Education:

Kate Kruller works for King County in Information Technology Management. Ms. Kruller manages core competency systems efforts in information technology - providing support to through new development, COTS implementations and upgrades of the applications that support case management and other automation. Current efforts include managing the King County Sheriff's Office (KCSO) body-worn camera/in-car video implementation and KCSO's 911 CAD System Replacement planning.

Prior to her current position, she served in various professional capacities for over 20 years, including 11 years with the Boeing Company, then fighting preventable blindness as a media technology professional and Air Crew aboard Orbis International the "Flying Eye Hospital." Kruller managed digital communications and large systems installations under the auspices of the Washington Council on International Trade as the Media and Public Relations Director for the World Trade Organization-Seattle Host Organization Executive Committee, then she oversaw the buildout of the largest streaming media center in the free world at Activate.net, worked at both King County Department of Transportation – Director's Office and King County Executive Services – Finance Department, as well as the Washington State Department of Transportation (Washington State Ferries and WSDOT Headquarters). As a part of the judicial branch of government – often referred to as "Washington Courts," Ms. Kruller worked on statewide judicial information system implementations at Washington State Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), then at City of Seattle's Information Technology Department and at Seattle Municipal Court as Court Technology Director.

Ms. Kruller holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications, a Master of Business Administration degree in Engineering/Technology Management and a Project Management Professional (PMP) credential from the Project Management Institute.