

**Laurel Humphrey**

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**From:** Peggy McCarthy [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 21, 2025 4:59 PM  
**To:** CityCouncil  
**Subject:** Application for City Council Position No. 7 - Peggy Ives McCarthy  
**Attachments:** Council Application 2025.pdf

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February 21, 2025,

Tukwila City Council  
6200 Southcenter Blvd  
Tukwila, WA 98188

Thank you for the opportunity to apply for the open City of Tukwila Council Position, No. 7.

My history with the City both as a resident and employee and the skills and the knowledge I've acquired over decades serving as a finance professional, uniquely positions me to serve as a Tukwila City Councilmember.

**Personal History.** The house where I live was my grandmother's. It's two-doors down from my parents' house where I grew up, one block east of the house in which my father was born and raised and three blocks west of the house in which my grandfather was born and my great grandfather had his Kassner Brothers blacksmith shop.

Foster High School graduated not only me (as salutatorian), but also my husband, our four children, my parents, grandparents and many other relatives. At Washington State University, I was a member of the women's gymnastics team and graduated Summa Cum Laude with a degree in Business Administration with an accounting emphasis.

**Professional.** My career began as an auditor for an international accounting firm. After serving as the Director of Internal Control for a Fortune 500 company, I entered a professional hiatus. I undertook some contract work but primarily was at home to raise our four children. During this time, I was the Riverton Coop Preschool treasurer, helped in the elementary school classrooms, was active in PTA as president and member, coached T-Ball and volunteered in many other ways.

I reentered the workforce full-time in 1999 at the King County Housing Authority, first as senior accountant, then quickly advancing to Financial Reporting Manager. I successfully developed a reporting system that met HUD guidelines and facilitated management oversight, used creativity to maximize public housing subsidies and managed the accounting for a multi-million dollar Hope VI project.

In 2008, the beginning of the great recession, I joined the City's finance department as Deputy Finance Director. Revenues plummeted. To sustain the city, the Administration and Council worked collaboratively to develop a "three-legged stool" approach to sustain the City; one that added new revenues, cut costs and reduced staffing.

In 2012, I was appointed Finance Director after serving as Interim Director for several months. In addition to daily departmental responsibilities, a focus was budgeting, long-

term projections, financial reporting and management – all of which improved under my leadership. I retired from the City in the spring of 2019.

**In Summary.** My appreciation for the City of Tukwila extends not only to its natural beauty and my affection for the community, but also to its political history. My father was a planning commissioner for several years and a two-term council member – City business was frequently a dinner table topic.

My background, financial expertise and enthusiasm for the City position me well to help guide the City as a councilmember.

Again, thank you for this opportunity.

Respectfully,

  
Peggy Ives McCarthy



**Application for Vacancy by Appointment  
Tukwila City Council Position #7**

**Applicant Information**

Full Name PEGGY IVES MCCARTHY  
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 *Peggy Ives McCarthy*  
Date 2.21.25

**Additional Information**

Are you a registered voter in Tukwila, WA? YES  NO   
Are you a resident of the City of Tukwila? YES  NO   
How long have you been a resident of the City of Tukwila? 64 years  
How long have you lived at your current address? 34 years  
*If you have lived at your current address for less than 12 months, please list your previous address.*  
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  NO

If yes, please explain.

### 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. 10

### 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?

I am concerned about the financial health of the City and I believe my skills and background will help the Council plan and make decisions that promote financial sustainability, manage challenges and achieve goals.

As a long-time, involved resident, I care deeply about the City. My wish is for the City to be successful in creating a safe, vibrant, forward-looking community within the constraints of sound financial policies and budgeting.

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

Tukwila has a rich and varied history. I now serve as the Tukwila Historical Society president having helped restore the organization in 2024 after a multi-year hiatus.

Pride in being a Foster High School Bulldog is profound as evidenced by the 50-year longevity of the annual Foster High School All Class Reunion and Picnic. I am the lead organizer of the event and, in 2024 through the guidance and support of many, I successfully moved the venue from a park outside the City to the Tukwila Community Center - thereby, showcasing this beautiful facility and its grounds.

I also served as Tukwila Children's Foundation board member and treasurer for a short time and, for several years, as assistant to the Foster High School Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) advisor, as a member of the Foster High School Career and Technical Education Advisory Committee, as a Snack Pack volunteer delivering meals to Tukwila Elementary School students, as a doorbeller in support of Tukwila School District levies and in many other volunteer capacities.

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

Three important issues facing the City are 1) financial sustainability, 2) public safety and 3) growth management/housing.

Realizing City goals is dependent on creating and following a financially feasible plan - proactive, with sound financial projections, realistic timelines, taking into consideration all options, stress testing each major decision, focusing on priorities, engaging in compromise.

Public Safety remains a concern. The cost and efficacy of the City's Police Department will continue to be a priority to ensure all options are considered and current practices are achieving results in a cost effective manner.

The City has the potential to become considerably more dense as a result of recent State legislation. Suggestions for complying with the legislation include reducing minimum lot size, increasing the number and type of housing units allowed on each lot, smaller set-backs. Increased density will effect future Council decisions relative to traffic, city services, parks and open spaces.

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

Regional collaboration is necessary and desired for issues that cross jurisdictional boundaries or require resources behind the budgets of local jurisdictions. The City faces many challenges that come from and extend beyond the City's boundaries - challenges such as public safety, housing, transit and social services. To develop a cohesive approach and an effective response to these challenges, in alignment with the City's interests, it is imperative that the City work together with neighboring jurisdictions on policy development and oversight and on budgeting /resource allocation.

A few examples ...

The City partnered with other south King County cities to build, then operate, SCORE jail when jail services were needed and, similarly, when public safety dispatch services were needed, partnered to build and operate the Valley Communication Center. The City collaborates with King Count on transit, growth management, animal control, social service assistance and in many other ways.

Summarize your experiences working collaboratively with others from different backgrounds.

I've worked collaboratively with others from different backgrounds in several situations.

Many Tukwila School District students and parents come from diverse backgrounds. I worked collaboratively with both as a volunteer in the classroom, as PTA president and fellow TSD parent, and through my involvement with the Foster High School Future Business Leaders of America Club.

My first hire at the King County Housing Authority was born in China and grew up during the Cultural Revolution - a fascinating personal story. Many of my teammates also hailed from other countries and backgrounds.

At the City of Tukwila, I worked collaboratively with many City staff who had backgrounds different from my own - including the three Interns I hired from Foster High School to help in the Finance Department.

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

Commitment - As a long time, involved resident and former employee, I've demonstrated my dedication and commitment to the City through my volunteer work, leadership roles and contributions as Finance Director.

Knowledge and Experience - My expertise in budgeting and financial management, especially as it pertains to the City, would be an asset in creating a sustainable financial model. As the City's Finance Director for 7 years, I prepared or managed the preparation of the City's biennial budgets. I'm familiar with the fund structure, expenditure types, revenue sources and know where to look for information and which questions to ask. Analysis is a strength of mine. As a City leader, I contributed to the vetting and resolution of a variety of issues. My familiarity with City operations is high.

I also know the City from the standpoint of a resident. Having lived here for many years, I've seen the City grow and change, community events come and go - (Tukwila Days, the Back Yard Wild Life Fair, etc) yet, Tukwila retains its neighborly, small town character.

Judgment - Historical knowledge adds context and strengthens judgement and decision-making. My history with the City as a resident and former Finance Director is a benefit. I've engaged in priority setting and problem solving; I've faced the trade-off dilemmas of budgeting and made the hard decisions to keep the City financially sound.

Collaboration - I value others opinions, listen with an open mind and treat others with respect.

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

Dedication, institutional and historical knowledge, financial expertise, operational familiarity, a collaborative spirit - this is what I will bring to the Tukwila City Council if appointed.

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