



Received 12/18/23, 1:30 p.m.  
Voter registration confirmed 12/19/23

# City of Tukwila

## City Council

### Application for Vacancy by Appointment Tukwila City Council Position #3

#### Applicant Information

Full Name	John Ryan Polston
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		JOHN R. POLSTON
Date	12/12/2023	

#### Additional Information

Are you a registered voter in King County, 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? 15 yrs

How long have you lived at your current address? 15 yrs

*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.

### 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 want to have a more proactive or "hands on" approach to giving back to the community and do what i can to bring my Generatiuons face and voice to an aging government.

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

President of my Neighborhood Watch and I'm part of a group that gets together weekly to pick up trash and drug paraphernalia from our city's parks and green spaces.

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

I believe the aging infrastructure and updating right of ways will become more pressing as the next few years roll on.

Police reform is another passion project of mine. Making sure we patrol and respond in an effective and efficient manner will both greatly improve our rising crime stats but it will also create a better narrative when we can be more visible in everyone's neighborhoods.

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

Obviously, in our extremely diverse community, the best way to work together is to "bridge" whatever gaps exist in communication and oversight from our citizenry. Once the citizens of any governing body feel they can trust the elected officials to work in their best interest while enacting policy and laws. Having a larger municipality like the City of Seattle or King County as a whole involved in crafting those policies and laws, people in general feel like the governments of their region can work as a team to achieve Federal, State, and local law provisions to help the community thrive to its highest potential.

Summarize your experiences working collaboratively with others from different backgrounds.

As a now retired home healthcare Aide, I had the unique opportunity to expand my wheelhouse. On many occasions, I had to coordinate care for my patient through German health aides to take over while I got my time off and personal/professional shopping out of the way. I felt that gave me, at the very least, perspective on how working in a community where the citizenry may or may not be First World, English as a 1st language experts can impose challenges that might directly apply.

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

I was involved in Student Government throughout High School and College. Have been politically active since 18 and serve every opportunity I get from any organization I'm affiliated with, Top to Bottom. At the very least I believe that gives me the right footing to further my prowess, in an albeit interim fashion, for the City and potentially gives the necessary experience for a full term bid come election time.

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

I'm a very motivated, competent Citizen. In September I recently became widowed from my Husband of 15yrs. I believe that has freed up my time and civically motivated me to pour my passion into bettering the community that embraced my Husband for 60yrs and me for the last 15. Please give me this chance.

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

**Laurel Humphrey**

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**From:** [REDACTED] t  
**Sent:** Monday, January 1, 2024 6:07 PM  
**To:** Laurel Humphrey  
**Subject:** Cover Letter

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is *John R. Polston*. I am a recently widowed 15year resident of Tukwila and a lifelong Washingtonian. My 10year long marriage to 55year Tukwila resident Kenneth William Ehrenberg has made me more invested in civics and community of any and all kinds. I am very excited for this opportunity to fill in a needed spot on the council.

My civic interests started early in life when I was elected 2002 Senior Class Treasurer at Lynnwood High School, where I was completing my 4 year High School Diploma. I hadn't sought out the office, I was nominated by fellow students. However, once I began functioning as the office holder, I realized I'd found my niche.

During my first 3 months in office, I had nearly doubled our class "war-chest," or fund if you will. It seems the ambition of the previous 3 years of Treasurers had been lacking in the Fund raising aspect of the job. Spending and increasing the deficit didn't seem to be a problem though. My unencumbered drive to increase that total and and willingness to steer clear of some of the financial pitfalls of the prior administrations, provided an impressive turn around.

During that final year at Lynnwood High School we set district records for fund raising and gained Statewide Recognition for our unique and successful methods for fund raising. Thus benefiting not only our graduating class, but many graduating classes following ours. Since my first experiences with holding office in any democratic way, I have found volunteer positions to fill my civic drive to participate and give back.

I've been President of my Neighborhood Watch for the last 8yrs running and I've led a small, motivated group of citizens on a bi-weekly trek around Tukwila cleaning up drug paraphenalia and other unmentionables from our city parks. This opportunity to potentially fill this spot is both motivating and rewarding all in the same package!

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to your response and hopefully working together to make Tukwila a better place for us all to work and live.

Faithfully yours,

**John Ryan Polston**



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