

Laurel Humphrey

From: Verna Seal [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 21, 2025 12:50 PM
To: CityCouncil
Subject: Application for City Council Vacancy
Attachments: V. Seal Council Appointment Application 2025.pdf

Dear City Council,

I am submitting my application for Tukwila City Council Position Number 7, to serve for the remainder of the current term. Please find my application attached.

Kindly confirm receipt of this email.

If you have any questions or need further information, feel free to reach out.

Best regards,

Verna Seal

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the City of Tukwila network. Please **DO NOT** open attachments or click links from an unknown or suspicious origin.

Verna Seal

Tukwila, WA 98168

February 21, 2025

VIA EMAIL

City Council
City of Tukwila
6200 Southcenter Blvd
Tukwila, WA 98188

Dear Members of the City Council:

I am writing to express my interest in being considered for the appointment to fill the vacant Tukwila City Council Position #7 until the council member is elected. As a long-time resident of Tukwila, with nearly 30 years of experience living and volunteering within this vibrant community, I am passionate about contributing to the future of our city. My diverse professional background, including over 30 years of experience in immigration law and 25 years in corporate law, equips me with the skills needed to serve effectively as a council member.

During my time as a city council member in the past, I gained invaluable experience in local governance, navigating complex issues, and advocating for the interests of our community. This prior service, coupled with my understanding of the diverse needs of Tukwila's residents, positions me to hit the ground running and contribute to the council's work without delay.

I believe that my background in immigration law gives me a unique perspective on the challenges and opportunities faced by diverse communities. I am particularly committed to ensuring inclusivity and fairness in the city's policies and services, making sure all voices are heard and represented. Additionally, my experience in corporate law has provided me with the ability to approach decision-making strategically, analyze budgets, and make well-informed, responsible choices for the city's future.


As a council member, I would focus on ensuring that Tukwila continues to grow in a sustainable and equitable manner, while fostering strong relationships with all residents. I am dedicated to serving with integrity, transparency, and a commitment to the well-being of all those who live and work in Tukwila.

Thank you for considering my application for this important role. I am excited about the opportunity to serve once again on the Tukwila City Council and contribute to the ongoing

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February 21, 2025
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progress of our community. Please feel free to contact me if you need further information or have any questions regarding my background or qualifications.

Sincerely,



Verna Seal



Application for Vacancy by Appointment
Tukwila City Council Position #7

Applicant Information

Full Name	Verna Seal
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	2-21-2025

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?	29 years	
How long have you lived at your current address?	6 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 type="checkbox"/>	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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. **15+**

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?

As a former city council member, I am uniquely positioned to step in and help navigate the remainder of Position #7's term. Having served previously, I have a deep understanding of the inner workings of our city government, its policies, and the critical issues facing our community. My experience gives me the ability to quickly get up to speed, collaborate effectively with other council members, and bring a sense of stability and continuity to the council during this transition period.

I am committed to working together with my colleagues to move forward on important initiatives, bridge any gaps, and ensure that the council remains productive and focused on the needs of the community. My goal is to use my experience and knowledge to support the council through the end of the year, ensuring that we leave a lasting, positive impact on our city's growth and development.

By drawing on my experience in local government, I believe I can contribute in a meaningful way, bringing a balanced approach to decision-making and fostering collaboration among the council members to maintain a unified direction.

Additionally, since I do not plan to run for the open seat in the upcoming election, my focus will remain entirely on serving the city's best interests and addressing critical issues without the distraction of campaigning. I see this as an opportunity to work solely for the good of the city, offering leadership in a time when it is needed most, and help

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

Please see the attachment to this application.

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

Please see the attachment to this application.

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

Regional collaboration and partnerships in city government are crucial because many of the challenges that cities face are interconnected and often extend beyond city boundaries. Issues such as transportation, housing, environmental sustainability, public health, and economic development require a coordinated approach that involves neighboring cities, counties, and regional organizations.

By working together, local governments can pool resources, share expertise, and leverage economies of scale to address these challenges more effectively. Regional collaboration also helps to create a unified voice when advocating for state or federal resources and policies, ensuring that the needs of the region as a whole are heard and addressed.

Additionally, partnerships allow for the sharing of best practices and innovative solutions that can be implemented across multiple communities. This not only improves service delivery but also fosters a sense of regional solidarity and collective responsibility. Ultimately, regional collaboration leads to more sustainable and resilient communities, as it encourages a long-term, holistic approach to governance that benefits everyone in the region.

Summarize your experiences working collaboratively with others from different backgrounds.

For the past 30 years, I have worked in the field of immigration law, assisting individuals from diverse countries and backgrounds on a daily basis. This experience has provided me with a deep understanding of the challenges and rewards of collaborating with people from various walks of life.

Additionally, my time serving as a Tukwila City Council member reinforced the importance of working together with individuals from different cultural and economic backgrounds. It has shown me how different perspectives can lead to better decision-making and foster a sense of inclusivity within the community.

For example, collaborating with individuals from various cultural and economic backgrounds has helped me understand the unique needs of different groups, enabling me to advocate for policies that are more equitable. Additionally, these experiences have taught me the value of open communication and the need for empathy in addressing the concerns of all residents.

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

I am highly qualified for the position of Tukwila City Councilmember, with 16 years of experience as a former council member and a strong track record of leadership across various organizations.

Over nearly 30 years of living in Tukwila, I've had the privilege of serving on numerous boards and commissions, where I've worked alongside community leaders and residents to address the needs and concerns of our diverse city. My leadership roles have allowed me to develop a deep understanding of the issues facing Tukwila, from economic development to community safety, and have honed my ability to collaborate and drive positive change. My long-standing commitment to the city, combined with my experience in local governance, positions me to continue serving Tukwila with dedication, insight, and a focus on building a stronger, more inclusive community.

My 30 years of experience in immigration law have given me a unique perspective on the challenges faced by individuals from diverse backgrounds, which is crucial for serving a community as diverse as ours. I understand the importance of advocating for inclusivity, fairness, and access to resources, ensuring that all members of the community are represented. Additionally, my 25 years in corporate law have equipped me with the skills necessary to navigate complex issues, analyze budgets, and collaborate effectively to make sound, strategic decisions. Together, these experiences make me well-qualified to serve as a city council member, addressing the needs of our diverse population while ensuring the city's growth and sustainability.

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

Having previously served for 16 years as a Tukwila City Council Member, I bring firsthand experience and a deep understanding of the role. In addition to my prior service, I can offer insights into the challenges and opportunities facing the council and community. I am well-acquainted with the city's goals, priorities, and the importance of continuity in leadership during this transitional period. I would be happy to provide any further information or details that may assist the council in considering my application to fill the vacancy until the next council member is elected.

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

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

Applicant: Verna Seal

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

I've been a resident of Tukwila for nearly 30 years and have actively volunteered in various capacities throughout that time. Below is a list some of the volunteer work I've been involved in, both past and ongoing, that I believe has a direct impact on the Tukwila community and surrounding areas:

- Tukwila Equity and Diversity Commission (Now called the Equity and Social Justice Commission) from 1999 through 2007.
- Tukwila Elementary School PTA President and Site Council President while my children attended Tukwila Elementary School
- Girl Scout Leader and Service Unit Manager for the Girl Scouts of Western Washington for 13 years.
- Tukwila Children's Foundation – Founding Member and Board Member – 1999- 2018
- Hometown Mentor Program with Foster High School – served as a mentor to three students - 2004 to 2007
- Tukwila Food Pantry Board Member – 2005 to 2007
- Tukwila Community Schools Collaboration – 2005 to 2007
- Tukwila City Council Member – Elected and served 16 years / four consecutive terms through 2021. While a council member, served on numerous local, county, and regional committees.
- National League of Cities Council on Youth, Education and Families – 2007 – 2021
- Action Tukwila through planning and execution of the "Come Sit at Our Table" Pot Luck held on Tukwila International Boulevard in August 2016
- Tukwila Library Advisory Board – 2017 to present
- Tukwila Arts Commission - 2022 to Present
- King County Library System Board of Trustees – Appointed by King County Council in 2023 serving a five-year term

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

I believe the most urgent and critical issue in the near future is related to the city's budget. It's essential for the city to continuously assess and develop a sustainable budget moving forward. Changes at the federal level could significantly impact both current and future budgets. For instance, if federal funding that was promised is reduced or withdrawn, it could lead to negative consequences for Tukwila's financial outlook. In my opinion, here are some of the most significant potential impacts:

Attachment to Application for Vacancy by Appointment
Tukwila City Council Position #7

Applicant: Verna Seal

- **Budget Reallocation:** The budget may need to be reworked to prioritize essential functions. This could lead to cuts in areas that could impact the overall appeal and livability of our city.
- **Cutback in Services:** As you are aware, local governments rely on federal funding to support essential services such construction projects, transportation, and public safety. Without this funding, the city may be forced to cut back on these services, which can lead to increased hardships our residents who depend on them.
- **Staff Reductions:** Federal funding often helps pay for government workers in key sectors. I know the city has received federal funding to assist with police officers in the past. If such funding would be reduced or eliminated, it will have a very negative impact on the budget.
- **Delayed or Cancelled Projects:** Many infrastructure projects rely on federal grants. Without the promised funding, these projects may be delayed or canceled, affecting long-term growth and quality of life in Tukwila.

Other issues that I feel are important that are facing the city of Tukwila, and the region are:

1. **Affordable Housing and Homelessness:** Housing that everyone can afford is an immediate and pressing issue. The demand is only continuing to rise, and the city needs to have a plan to meet housing targets. Also, tackling homelessness and ensuring access to housing options should be a priority to maintain the city's inclusivity and ensure all residents have stable living conditions.
2. **Equity and Social Justice:** Fostering a more equitable community must remain a top issue, ensuring that all residents—regardless of their background—have access to the same opportunities and services.
3. **Economic Development and Job Creation:** Supporting local businesses and attracting new industries is essential to creating job opportunities and enhancing Tukwila's economic vitality. This includes focusing on revitalizing certain areas and building on Tukwila's proximity in the region.
4. **Public Safety and Community Policing:** Ensuring the safety of all Tukwila residents remains critical. Strengthening community policing, ensuring the police force is well-trained and diverse, and improving community relations will be key to building trust and enhancing safety.
5. **Transportation and Infrastructure:** As Tukwila continues to grow, addressing transportation needs—including expanding public transit options and improving traffic flow—will be vital for connecting neighborhoods and reducing congestion.
6. **Environmental Sustainability and Green Space:** Balancing development with environmental preservation will be increasingly important. Ensuring that Tukwila has continued access to green spaces, parks, and resources that support environmental sustainability will be essential for the well-being of our residents.

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Tukwila City Council Position #7

Applicant: Verna Seal

These issues, while interconnected, will require a strategic approach and strong community engagement to address effectively in the years ahead.

Contact

Top Skills

Legal Research

Litigation

Civil Litigation

Honors-Awards

Dallaire Public Service Award

Verna Seal

Immigration Paralegal at Ryan Swanson & Cleveland PLLC
Seattle, Washington, United States

Summary

Experienced Senior Immigration Paralegal with a demonstrated history of working in the law practice industry. Skilled in Immigration Law, Business and Family-based immigration, Legal Writing, Legal Research and Corporate Law. Strong legal professional with an Advanced Paralegal Certificate from Northeastern University School of Law.

Experience

Ryan, Swanson & Cleveland, PLLC

Immigration Paralegal

February 2022 - Present (3 years 1 month)

Seattle

Immigration Paralegal working on diverse range of employment-based matters such as: Intracompany Transferees (L-1), Treaty Trader/Investor (E-1/E-2), Specialty Occupation (H-1B/E-3 including cap-except employers), NAFTA Professionals (TN), PERM, Immigrant Petitions for Alien Workers (I-140), Adjustments of Status. In addition, extensive experience with family-based matters such as K-1, I-130/I-485, Re-Entry Permits, and Applications for Naturalization.

Perkins Coie LLP

Senior Immigration Paralegal

June 2020 - March 2022 (1 year 10 months)

Seattle, Washington, United States

Senior Immigration Paralegal working on diverse range of employment-based matters such as: Intracompany Transferees (L-1), Treaty Trader/Investor (E-1/E-2), Specialty Occupation (H-1B/E-3 including cap-except employers), NAFTA Professionals (TN), PERM, Immigrant Petitions for Alien Workers (I-140), Adjustments of Status. In addition, extensive experience with family-based matters such as K-1, I-130/I-485, Re-Entry Permits, and Applications for Naturalization. Prepared numerous Humanitarian Parole Applications.

City of Tukwila
City Council Member
January 2006 - December 2021 (16 years)
Elected official.

Foster Garvey PC (formerly Garvey Schubert Barer)
Senior Immigration Paralegal
January 1995 - June 2020 (25 years 6 months)
Seattle

Senior Immigration Paralegal working on diverse range of employment-based matters such as: Intracompany Transferees (L-1), Treaty Trader/Investor (E-1/E-2), Specialty Occupation (H-1B/E-3 including cap-except employers), J-1 Waiver (Conrad), Extraordinary Ability and Internationally Recognized Individuals (O-1 / P-1), NAFTA Professionals (TN), PERM, Immigrant Petitions for Alien Workers (I-140), National Interest Waivers, Adjustments of Status. In addition, extensive experience with family-based matters such as K-1, I-130/ I-485, Re-Entry Permits, and Applications for Naturalization. Have prepared numerous I-360 VAWA cases and U and T visa applications.

Strasburger & Price, LLP
Legal Assistant
July 1994 - January 1995 (7 months)
Dallas/Fort Worth Area

Rider Bennett Egan & Arundel
Legal Assistant
June 1991 - May 1994 (3 years)
Greater Minneapolis-St. Paul Area

Cummings & Lockwood LLC
Legal Assistant
August 1989 - April 1991 (1 year 9 months)
Greenwich, CT

Lane & Altman Law Practice
Paralegal
September 1987 - July 1989 (1 year 11 months)
Greater Boston Area

Education

Northeastern University School of Law

Advanced Paralegal Certificate, International Law and Legal
Studies · (1987 - 1988)

California State University, Fullerton

Bachelor's degree, Political Science - Public Administration · (1980 - 1986)