



COMPLETED AND SIGNED APPLICATION MUST BE FILED WITH THE CITY CLERK BY:
DECEMBER 18, 2019, AT 5:00 P.M.

APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE SANTA ROSA CITY COUNCIL

This application is to fill a vacancy on the Santa Rosa City Council expiring in December 2020. This application is a public document. It may be reviewed by any member of the public upon request after the close of the application period. Only Santa Rosa registered voters who have submitted a complete application packet by the deadline will be considered for appointment.

Name: RICHARD ALLEN DOWD

Residence Address: [REDACTED] SANTA ROSA, CA 95403

Mailing Address (if different): SAME

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Home Phone: [REDACTED] Daytime Phone: [REDACTED]

Are you currently a registered voter and a resident of the City of Santa Rosa? YES

Years of Residence in the City: 44 YEARS

Resident of City Council District No: 4

Please answer the following questions on a separate sheet(s) of paper as they relate to the Council seat you are seeking.

Part I:

1. Please describe your background as it relates to your application for appointment to the Council.
2. Please describe your qualifications for appointment to the Council.
3. Please state why you wish to be appointed to the Council.

Part II:

1. What particular skills do you bring to the Council?
2. Why do you think you should be appointed to the City Council?

3. How much time do you have available to serve?
4. In your opinion, what are the top two pressing issues facing the City of Santa Rosa and why?
5. How have you remained current and informed on City Issues?
6. Please summarize your experiences in community activities or issues affecting the City of Santa Rosa. Give specific examples of your personal involvement.
7. Do you have any specialized training or other qualifications that would be important for the Council to consider?
8. Serving on the Council requires you to annually file a Statement of Economic Interests (FPPC Form 700), a public document in which you disclose your financial interests. Rules of law and ethics prohibit members from participating in and voting on matters in which they may have a direct/indirect financial interest. Are you aware of any potential conflicts of interest which may develop from your occupation or other financial interests in relation to your responsibilities as a member of the Council? If yes, please describe any potential conflicts.

To be appointed to the Council you must be a registered voter residing in the City of Santa Rosa at the time of submitting this application and must remain an elector of the City while serving on the Council.

To be considered for appointment you must submit in person:

1. The application with any supplemental sheets attached;
2. The FPPC Form 700 (Statement of Economic Interests); and
3. The Nomination Paper with no fewer than 20 signatures, with names and addresses of Santa Rosa registered voters to:

City Clerk's Office,
City Hall, Room 10,
100 Santa Rosa Avenue,
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

FILING DEADLINE: DECEMBER 18, 2019, AT 5:00 P.M. PLEASE NOTE THAT ROOM 10 IS CLOSED ON FRIDAYS. TO SUBMIT APPLICATION/NOMINATION PAPERS ON A FRIDAY, PLEASE CALL 707-543-3015 TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT.

I RICHARD ALLEN DOWD swear/affirm that the foregoing information is true and correct.

Applicant's Signature



Date

12/14/19

TO: The City Council of the City of Santa Rosa

FROM: Richard Allen Dowd

DATE: 12/14/2019

SUBJECT: Application for Appointment to the Santa Rosa Council

QUESTIONS:

Part I:

1. Please describe your background as it relates to your application for appointment to the Council.

At the end of this past November, I reached serving the City of Santa Rosa on its Board of Public Utilities for 25 years (16 of those were as its Chairman). I also was elected to the Bennett Valley Union School District Board of Trustees in 1991 where I served for 4 years. These experiences have taught me how to handle the responsibilities of these positions – namely, to prepare for every meeting and to treat the general public, staff, and consultants with respect while listening to their comments.

2. Please describe your qualifications for appointment.

I hold a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering (1966) and a Master of Science degree in Civil Engineering (1970), both from San Jose State University. I have been a licensed Professional Engineering Contractor, Class A and B, as well as a licensed Professional Engineer – Civil, both in the State of CA, for over 40 years. Those licenses are no longer active due to my retirement from those activities where I served in many capacities including Chief Executive Officer of a large General Engineering Construction company and a Land Development/Home Building Company. I have also served in many capacities, including President in some, in business and environmental related entities including the North Coast Builders Exchange, Sonoma County Alliance, Northern CA Engineering Contractors Association, the SR Metro Chamber of Commerce, Sonoma County Habitat for Humanity, Leadership Institute for Ecology and the Environment, and The Climate Center. I have also served as a Chairman of one of the advisory committees (Ratepayers, Business, and Community Advisory) of the Sonoma Clean Power Authority.

3. Please state why you wish to be appointed to the Council.

Due to the wildfires which have severely impacted our region, we have a funding, housing, and infrastructure crisis. I believe that I can be helpful, with my background, as a member of the Council, and the City as a whole, in finding solutions to these issues.

Part II:

1. What particular skills do you bring?

I believe that much of this has been addressed above in Part 1, but, succinctly, I would state that my technical background in public infrastructure such as streets, sewer, water, and stormwater systems along with my background in land development/home building would be helpful to fulfilling the needs of our community. In addition, my experience in participating, and chairing, public meetings should also be helpful.

2. Why do you think you should be appointed to the City Council?

As I look at the current makeup of the City Council, I see many valuable, as well as different, assets included. I believe my skills and experience bring additional ones.

3. How much time do you have available to serve?

I currently am engaged as a volunteer with Sonoma Clean Power as its Chairman of the Community Advisory Committee, with the City of Santa Rosa as a Member of the Board of Public Utilities (BPU), and with the Sonoma County Alliance as a Member of its Board of Directors, Executive Committee, and Political Action Committee. Also, my CA Form 700 Schedule C, which is included in this application for the vacant City Council position, indicates that I receive income from AltaPacific Bank as a Director, which I did from its formation in 2005, but the bank was sold to Banner Bank of Walla Walla, Washington effective on October 31st of this year, so I no longer have that responsibility. The end result of this is that I spend about one (1) day per month with each of the volunteer organizations, and if I were to receive this appointment to the City Council I would be required to resign from the BPU, so I would serve about two (2) days per month and no regularly scheduled meetings conflict with the City Council schedule. I am, therefore, quite open to fulfill my obligation as a member of the City Council.

4. In your opinion, what are the top two issues facing the City of Santa Rosa and why?

The first, and foremost, issue is the homeless crisis which we are experiencing in our community. It is a very complex issue caused by many things including loss of jobs, loss of living accommodations, drug and alcohol addiction, mental health, and the cost of housing all of which cannot be solved by a singular solution. This is why the City Council needs to include people with varied background and experience coupled with a willingness to listen to others on the Council as well as the Community at large in order to maximize the results of the solutions selected.

The second is the rebuilding of our community due to the Tubbs Fire in 2017. I served as the Chairman of The Rebuild Sonoma County Working Group (RSCWG) which was a volunteer group of experienced professionals, such as attorneys, architects, insurance brokers, builders, mortgage lenders, engineers, and industry association executives, who donated their time for approximately 18 months after the fire to assist local government agencies such as the City of Santa Rosa and the County of Sonoma to streamline the permitting process. This was very successful as anyone can see by driving around the areas which are now being rebuilt as a result of the efforts of the RSCWG and the collaborative nature of the government entities. The next step in this process will be to rebuild the public infrastructure (streets, sidewalks, sewers, water mains, storm drains, etc.) which were damaged by the fire or the rebuilding itself.

5. How have you remained current and informed on City issues?

My participation in community and industry groups as well as my membership on the City of Santa Rosa BPU, as described previously, has allowed (or, should I say "forced") me to remain current. In any case, I have enjoyed immensely my involvement in these issues.

6. Please summarize your experiences in community activities or issues affecting the City of Santa Rosa. Give specific examples of your personal involvement.

After 25 years on the BPU, there are many examples, but the most obvious one is being the Chairman of the BPU when the City was attempting to remove the Cease and Desist order from the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (NCRWQCB) caused by the raw sewage spill at the Laguna Wastewater Treatment Plant in the winter of 1984-85. After many, many hours of public meetings, the BPU recommended to the City Council in approximately 1998 that the Subregional System (which includes Santa Rosa, Sebastopol, Rohnert Park, South Park, and Cotati) build the Geysers pipeline, and the City Council approved it. The system consisted of about 41 miles of pipeline, pumps, Russian River under crossings, etc. and cost about \$225,000,000, but the good news was that it has been spectacularly successful since it went operational in about 2003 with very few maintenance issues, reduced discharges of treated wastewater into the Russian River, the approximately 15 mgd (million gallons per day) of treated wastewater going to the Geysers has maintained and increased the electrical production of the steamfield which provides clean green electrical energy to the region while also providing jobs and economic stimulus to the region.

7. Do you have any specialized training or other qualifications that would be important for the Council to consider?

I believe that I have adequately described those qualifications in previous questions which include such things as me being a Registered Professional Engineer – Civil as well as a Licensed General Contractor- Category A & B, both in California, for approximately 40 years. Also, I see my tenure of 25 years (16 as Chairman) of the BPU and 7 years as a Chairman of one of the advisory committees of the Sonoma Clean Power Authority as assets.

8. Serving on the Council requires you to annually file a Statement of Economic Interests (FPPC Form 700), a public document in which you disclose your financial interests. Rules of law and ethics prohibit members from participating in and voting on matters in which they may have a direct/indirect financial interest. Are you aware of any potential conflicts of interest which may develop from your occupation or other financial interests in relation to your responsibilities as a member of the Council? If yes, please describe any potential conflicts.

I am quite familiar with the FPPC Form 700 since I have filed one for each of the 25 years that I have served on the BPU and for each of the 7 years that I have served on the advisory committees of the Sonoma Clean Power Authority. I do not believe that I have any conflicts.