

Application for Mayoral Appointment to a Board, Commission, or Committee

To Those Interested in Appointment:

The City of Bloomington has opportunities for volunteer service on numerous standing boards and commissions, as well as occasional "ad hoc" committees that are formed for a limited term to consider a specific issue or project.

Appointments to these groups are made by the Mayor, with the advice and consent of the City Council, except where provided otherwise by statute or ordinance. Terms of appointment vary, but are often for three years.

Vacancies occur sporadically and infrequently. Most standing groups have a fixed number of members, and some may have special requirements for membership, such as residence within the City or even in a particular section of the City.

The City strives to appoint members who are interested, well-qualified, and free from bias or conflict of interest. *Appointments are made without discrimination based on race, color, sex, religion, age, national origin, marital status, familial status, sexual orientation, or physical or mental disability unrelated to ability.* Additional standards of selection may include an applicant's expertise and experience in the group's subject matter (including previous service), fresh perspective, communication skills, knowledge of the diverse community, availability, ethical standards, and other relevant factors. The appointment process may include an oral interview, appearance before the City Council, and possibly a background investigation.

The City relies on these groups to provide not only experience and expertise in the subject matter, but also to provide general citizen input into the policy making process. To properly represent our citizens, members of these groups must have ample time to not only attend meetings, but also to research issues and be available and willing to discuss issues with citizens. Members are subject to removal at the Mayor's discretion.

Please print clearly and fill in all blanks. You may attach further sheets or materials as necessary for completeness.

Submit this completed document to the Administration Office of the Mayor at City Hall (tel. 309-434-2210). By fully completing and submitting this application, you are indicating your interest and qualification to serve. This document will be maintained in a pool of applications until appointment or 24 months from the date of submission, whichever is earlier. At that point, resubmission will be required.

1. Full name (first, middle, last):

John Wyatt Danenberger

2. Street address of legal residence (including any unit number):

[REDACTED]

3. Mailing address if different from address of legal residence:

[REDACTED]

4. Home telephone:

[REDACTED]

This number can be shared with media, if necessary

5. Mobile telephone:

[REDACTED]

6. Reliable email address:

[REDACTED]

BOARDS, COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES:

Bloomington Housing Authority
Blm-Nml Airport Authority
Blm-Nml Area Convention & Visitors' Bureau
Blm-Nml Public Transportation System Board
Blm-Nml Sister City Committee (Japan)
Board of Fire & Police Commissioners
Board of Zoning Appeals
Building Board of Appeals
Board of Library Trustees
Citizens' Beautification Committee
Cultural District Commission
Economic Development Council (McLean County)
Evergreen Cemetery Trustees
Fire Pension Board
Historic Preservation Commission
Human Relations Commission
Liquor Commission
Property Maintenance Review Board
Planning Commission (City of Bloomington)
Police Pension Board
Public Building Commission (McLean County)
Public Safety & Community Relations Board
Regional Planning Commission (McLean County)
Transportation Commission
Other:

(Including Ad Hoc Board or Special Project Committee)

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7. Are you a legal resident of the City of Bloomington (place of voting, where income taxes are paid, etc.)?

Yes, I reside in Bloomington precinct number 13 in ward 4.

No, I do not legally reside in the city limits, even though I may have a Bloomington postal address.

8. I have lived within the City of Bloomington for a total of 25 years, most recently for a continuous period of 5 years. I have lived within McLean County, Illinois for a total of 25 years.

9. State the board, commission, or committee that you desire to serve on:

The Historic Preservation Commission, Transportation Commission, Board of Library Trustees

10. List, with dates, government boards on which you have served or currently serve, including those in Bloomington:
While I have served on many boards in the legal arena and higher education, I have never served on a government board. Looking forward to serving if selected.

11. List your education, including degrees, formal training and apprenticeship programs:

B.A. - DePaul University - Chicago, IL 1999

M.A.- University College London - London, UK 2002

J.D. - Loyola University, Chicago, IL 2009

12. List any licenses and professional memberships/designations held:

Illinois State Bar, Texas State Bar, Chartered Property Casualty Underwriter (CPCU), Pro Bono CAVC, United States Army Veteran, NATO Security Clearance, NAMWOLF, DRI, and many other memberships pertaining to trial work, insurance, and public policy.

13. List skills, interests and experiences relevant to your desired board, commission, or committee appointment:

As an attorney with trial, public policy, and in-house experience, I will bring a reasoned, ethical, and legal approach to the challenges facing historical preservation in Bloomington's downtown, Founder's Grove, White Place, and other historic districts.

14. List your current employer(s), work address(es), and describe position(s):

State Farm Insurance, Law Department, 1 State Farm Plaza, Bloomington, IL. I am in-house counsel with State Farm Corporate. Specifically, I serve as Auto Claim Counsel, where my work focuses on policy language, emergent technology, and product innovation.

15. List all previous employers and positions, with dates, within the past ten years:

U.S. Army Judge Advocate General (JAG Corp.) September 2009 - October 2015

Served as Trial Attorney, specialization in crimes against children and later, Claims Attorney in Wiesbaden, Germany.

16. List all current and previous (within the past five years) community volunteer activities:

St. Jude's Ambassador, Pro Bono Legal Services (PSLS), The Promise Council, Friends of the Constitution Trail, WGLT fundraiser, Special Olympics, YMCA Fall Basketball Head Coach, YMCA Winter Basketball Asst. Coach, Guitars Over Guns volunteer booth, Oakland Elementary PTO member, Bruegala Volunteer (Jaycees).

17. Are you currently, or have you ever been, employed by the City of Bloomington? Yes No

If yes, list dates and capacity:

18. Is a relative currently, or has a relative ever been, employed by the City of Bloomington? Yes No

If yes, list name(s) and capacity:

19. Do you or a spouse derive any income directly from, or indirectly through an employer of a contract, with the City of Bloomington? Yes No If yes, list contract or capacity:

20. Do you expect to have the flexibility to attend meetings and perform your duties during both days and evenings?

Yes No If yes, list any limitations:

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21. If you are aware of a potential conflict of interest, please describe. If in doubt, please disclose:

I am not aware of any potential conflict of interest that would challenge or jeopardize my service to the Historical Preservation Commission.

22. Briefly state your reasons for seeking an appointment (use page 4 for more space):

It is my firm belief that having a legal representative on all government boards is essential, and being a strong advocate for historical preservation, in both our downtown and neighborhood districts, is a natural fit for my services. Since moving to Bloomington, I have actively participated in town halls, liquor commission hearings, preservation hearings, and would like to serve in a more direct roll in the future.

23. Briefly state why you personally believe you are qualified to seek this appointment (use page 4 for more space):

I personally believe I am qualified to seek an appointment to the Historical Preservation Commission because of my legal background, my record of service both to our country and community, and my experience abroad where preservation of landmark buildings, bridges and roadways is essential. I am deeply committed to the Bloomington-Normal community, and chose to relocate here because of the opportunities to be involved with civic decision making, to be engaged with government leaders, and to become an integral part of the town fabric. Throughout my academic and legal career, I have proven to be a reasoned, articulate supporter for the greater good, regardless of political persuasion, and promise to lead by example wherever my skill set may be of service to the town of Bloomington, and her many landmarks.

24. Do you have any references/recommendations from city council, city staff, current board/commission/committee Members, employers, or any citizens of Bloomington? If so, list name(s) and contact information:

Lea Cline, Julia Emig, Carlo Robustelli, Scott Black, Rachael Lund. I have also worked exclusively with Catherine Dunlap in the past for permit purposes, and I can assure you it was the time of her life! Karen Fincham at the Old House Society, David Groenemaier of White Place Historic District, Colin Haley (Country), Ben Matthews (Illinois Education Assoc./BAM Design), Scott McCormick (Vera & Buck), and please feel free to contact neighbors, friends, and colleagues of mine.

I hereby certify that the information I have provided on and with this form is true and complete as of the date I have affixed below. I understand that all information herein is available to the public pursuant to "freedom of information" laws. I hereby state my understanding that the City of Bloomington may conduct a background investigation, and give my consent to that process.



December 19, 2019
Date Submitted

This full completed form, together with any supporting documents, must be submitted to the Administration Office at City Hall, PO Box 3157, 109 E. Olive Street, Bloomington, IL 61702, together with an original signature.

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Use this box for additional space to answer questions 1—24. Indicated the questions number(s) you are answering: 22 and 23. In reference to questions 22 and 23, I would only add that my wife and I are deeply committed to Historical Preservation, where appropriate, and have served on various neighborhood committees in Chicago, Berlin, and Austin. In the interest of full disclosure, my wife, Yuki Gottschaldt, is an architect at RATIO in Champaign, where she specializes in sustainability, LEAD certification, and responsible construction. As in any marriage, there is spillover. By default, she can now argue like a defense attorney, and I can speak with some degree of knowledge on the preservation and rehabilitation of historic buildings and roadways. While I promise to be a strong advocate for what I truly believe is in the city's best interest, I do promise never to overstep the legal lane of the commission, nor resort to overzealous, fire and brimstone, partisanship. It is my honest opinion that the City of Bloomington is on the cusp of a dynamic revitalization, and I would consider it an honor and privilege to support growth while preserving our architectural character in the years ahead.