

Application for Mayor of Missoula

*PLEASE NOTE: ALL APPLICATIONS ARE ATTACHED TO THE COUNCIL AGENDA AND ARE PUBLISHED ON THE CITY WEBSITE.

Applications are due August 26, 2022 by 12:00 PM

Please submit your completed application and attachments (resume, etc.) via email: cityclerk@ci.missoula.mt.us, or deliver it in person to the security desk at City Hall, addressed to:

Martha L. Rehbein, CMC, Legislative Services Director/City Clerk
City Clerk Office
435 Ryman
Missoula, MT 59802

The City Clerk office will confirm receipt of applications. Applicants are welcome to contact the City Clerk's office to verify receipt of application: 406-552-6078.

*Late applications will NOT be accepted.

1. APPLICANT INFORMATION	
1.1 Name: Michael "Big Mike" Sowell	1.2 Email: msowell511@me.com
1.3 Daytime Phone: (502) 593-1827	1.4 Alternate phone:
1.5 Street Address: 1022 Wolf Ave Missoula, MT 59802	1.6 Mailing address (if different than street address):
1.7 What ward do you live in? Ward 1	1.8 How long immediately prior to today's date have you been a resident of the City of Missoula? 9 years, 3 months
1.9 What is your current occupation? Wildland firefighter/Paramedic	1.10 Where are you currently employed? Ruby Valley EMS; Wilderness Medics

2. QUALIFICATIONS

2.1 Are you 21 years of age or older? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2.2 Are you a qualified elector registered to vote in Missoula County? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2.3 Have you been a resident for at least 2 years preceding the appointment to office of the City of Missoula or an area that has been annexed by the city? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2.4 Have you resided in the State of Montana for at least 3 years? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

3. QUESTIONS

3.1 Serving as Mayor requires a full time commitment including presiding at Monday night Council meetings and other periodic morning, evening, and weekend appearances. Would you be able to fulfill these obligations? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3.2 State your current and previous organizational affiliations, including political organizations. Food Not Bombs; the Clark Fork Gun Club; Frenchtown Rural Fire District; Wilderness Medical Society; National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians.
3.3 State your relevant activities in the community which would prove useful to serving as Mayor. Feeding the homeless in this city through Food Not Bombs; teaching first aid and self-defense skills to threatened minorities in the region through the Clark Fork Gun Club; risking life, limb and good health on a volunteer basis to respond to medical emergencies and the scenes of traumatic injuries in the community.
3.4 State your relevant work and lived experience which would prove useful to serving as Mayor. As a paramedic, I am often called upon in my duties to provide leadership to diverse groups of people including police, fire, and EMS workers, while under stress and exposed to danger, and to communicate clearly to cohere efforts towards a common goal. I have also been part of the MCCHD COVID response as both a tester and vaccinator, so I am acutely familiar with current evidence-based practices for limiting community spread of SARS-COV-2 (matters relating to public health are one of the responsibilities enumerated to a Mayor in the MCA).
3.5 State your educational background, listing institutions, degrees, certificates, areas of study, and dates received. University of Iowa, BA in English w/Creative Writing focus, 2012. National Medical Education and Training Center, Paramedic Certificate and National Registry Certification, 2020.

3.6 Why do you want to serve as Mayor?

I feel as though the city government of Missoula needs the perspective of someone who has seen the problems the city faces firsthand. Someone who is interested in investing in evidence-based practices interested in actually reducing these problems, not in punishment. Someone with no stake in continuing to "develop" the absolute life out of this place. Someone who sees our struggling neighbors not as an adversary, but as a fellow traveler worthy of our most strident efforts to help in their time of need.

3.7 What is your understanding of the Mayor's general role in leading Missoula?

The Mayor must be someone of clear vision and experienced leadership, unswayed by money or power, willing to resist the siren calls of the rich and instead bend efforts toward the betterment of all within his jurisdiction.

3.8 What is your understanding of the Mayor's legal responsibilities and obligations in leading Missoula?

I will print MCA 7-5-4102, frame it, and place it in my office.

3.9 What is your understanding of the Mayor's cultural and social leadership role in leading Missoula?

The Mayor of Missoula should share the values of the city's working people, and work in their interest first and foremost. Not the wealthy, not corporations, not developers -- workers. A Mayor must show this leadership by engaging in the actual work required; responding to calls for service with the mobile support team, taking shifts at the Johnson St shelter, swinging a hammer to help construct houses for the poor, and in so doing urging other Missoulians to use their spare time to do the same.

3.10 Describe your leadership philosophy and style to lead during a crisis.

My philosophy is that leadership must take place from the front; whether digging fireline or triaging patients, I don't ask people to do anything I won't be doing alongside them. My style is to remain calm and upbeat, and to be conscientious of communicating clearly with my peers and cooperators.

3.11 Explain the taxation structure for local government, listing all main revenue sources and the law that applies to each, and discuss opportunities and limitations on those revenue sources.

I'm sure I'll figure it out when I become Mayor.

3.12 What are the most pressing issues Missoula will face in the next few years? List a total of five, explain why they are of importance, and rank them in order of importance (1 being most important). How would you address these issues?

- 1) Housing. Many of our city's challenges stem from or feed into housing insecurity: homelessness, property crime, stagnant wages, diminishing rights of workers, etc. I'll address housing head-on: tax and limit short-term rentals, and build housing for people.
- 2) Global warming.
- 3) Ending the war on drugs in Missoula immediately and forever. The system of failed policies and bloated law enforcement encompassed in the term "the war on drugs" must be immediately ceased, defunded, and prevented from ever occurring again. We will accomplish this in a single, swift stroke by immediately disarming the Missoula Police Department. Let's see them fight crime with no steel penis.
- 4) Banishing the yuppies who threaten to undermine the naturally surly, insular, rugged culture of the northern Rockies by softening its edges with their money. The moneyed classes represent an existential threat to what is quaintly dubbed the "character" of this town.
- 5) Immigration -- we need more working class new blood in town before it becomes the next Boulder. We are, and should be, proud of the degree to which we have been a soft landing for immigrants new to the US, but we have to do much more before yuppies in their Range Rovers petrify our culture and stagnate our city's journey towards apotheosis.

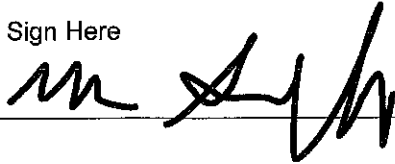
3.13 Who are the leaders of the executive branch of City of Missoula government that report to the Mayor and how would you approach working with these leaders and their staff?

I look forward to meeting them and learning all their names.

4. CERTIFICATION

I certify that the information contained in my application is true and correct in every respect and that I meet all the statutory qualifications to be appointed as the Mayor of the City of Missoula.

Sign Here

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'm. [unclear]', written over a horizontal line.

Date here (use the arrow to drop down calendar)

8/26/20

City Clerk Staff

From: Marty Rehbein
Sent: Friday, August 26, 2022 11:25 AM
To: Michael Sowell; City Clerk Inbound
Subject: RE: Mike Sowell Mayoral Application

Mike,

Thank you for your interest in serving as Mayor. This e-mail is confirmation that we've received your application.

Marty Rehbein | (She/Her)
Legislative Services Director/City Clerk
City Clerk Office
406-552-6078 | rehbeinm@ci.missoula.mt.us



From: Michael Sowell <mbsowell511@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 26, 2022 11:09 AM
To: City Clerk Inbound <CityClerk@ci.missoula.mt.us>
Subject: Mike Sowell Mayoral Application

Hello,

Find attached my application for the mayoral position, as well as my resume.

Thank you,
-Mike

City Clerk Staff

From: Michael Sowell <mbsowell511@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 26, 2022 11:09 AM
To: City Clerk Inbound
Subject: Mike Sowell Mayoral Application
Attachments: Mayor-Application.pdf; MSowell Resume 2021.doc

Hello,

Find attached my application for the mayoral position, as well as my resume.

Thank you,
-Mike

Mike Sowell
Paramedic
(502) 593-1827
MBSowell511@gmail.com
Missoula, MT

Work Experience

St. Patrick Hospital, Missoula, MT

Security Officer/EMT

12/2016-Present

Responsibilities include medical response on the campus, verbally de-escalating agitated patients and visitors, conducting fire drills, generally ensuring the physical safety of patients, visitors, and staff at all times.

Ruby Valley Medical Center, Sheridan, MT

Paramedic

2/2018-Present

911 EMS response, accountability for all medications and inventory in response vehicles, emergency care and transportation of the sick and injured.

Frenchtown Rural Fire District, Frenchtown, MT

12/2016-Present

Volunteer Paramedic/Firefighter (employed on a temp basis 3/21-6/21)

911 EMS and wildland fire response, coordinating agencies on scene, training and mentoring resident volunteers who are new to the fire service.

Wilderness Medics, Hamilton, MT

05/2016-Present

Fireline Paramedic

EMS coverage on complex and dynamic wildland fire incidents, both attached to an ambulance and “spiked-out” near the fireline itself; mentoring and training new employees, accountability for all assets, developing MEDEVAC plans in conjunction with members of other agencies, planning for medical contingencies, responding to medical emergencies.

Grayback Forestry, Missoula, MT

05/2013-05/2016

Wildland Firefighter/EMT, Squad Boss

Providing front-line leadership for a squad of 10 firefighters during wildland fire emergencies; providing medical care for members of the crew for both routine and emergent conditions; assisting in planning and execution of wildland fire tactics and strategies in the field.

Education

BA in English w/focus in Creative Writing, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA 2012

EMT-Basic, Kirkwood Community College, Iowa City, IA 2013

Nationally Registered Paramedic, National Medical Education and Training Center, West Bridgewater, MA 2020

Professional Associations

Member, Wilderness Medical Society

Member, National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians

Skills

Fluent in Microsoft Word, Excel, Powerpoint

Experienced EMT bringing those practical skills to new position as Paramedic.