

## City Clerk Staff

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**From:** Sierra Farmer <sierrabreeburmeister@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 19, 2022 5:57 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Inbound  
**Subject:** City Council Ward 2 Application  
**Attachments:** APPLICATION FOR CITY COUNCIL\_SIERRA FARMER.pdf; Sierra Farmer-Resume-City Council-Final.pdf

Dear Martha and the Missoula City Council,

Attached you will find my application for the vacant Ward 2 City Council position along with my resume. I look forward to discussing with all of you why I'm interested in filling this vacant position and working alongside you to help make a difference in the city of Missoula. Please let me know if I can supply any additional information.

Sincerely,

Sierra Farmer

406-360-1438

1115 Sherwood St

Missoula, MT 59802

## City Clerk Staff

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**From:** Marty Rehbein  
**Sent:** Monday, September 19, 2022 6:31 PM  
**To:** Sierra Farmer  
**Cc:** City Clerk Inbound  
**Subject:** Re: City Council Ward 2 Application  
**Attachments:** APPLICATION FOR CITY COUNCIL\_SIERRA FARMER.pdf; Sierra Farmer-Resume-City Council-Final.pdf

Thanks for submitting your application and for your interest in serving residents in Ward 2.

Marty Rehbein

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 19, 2022, at 5:57 PM, Sierra Farmer <sierrabreeburmeister@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Martha and the Missoula City Council,  
Attached you will find my application for the vacant Ward 2 City Council position along with my resume. I look forward to discussing with all of you why I'm interested in filling this vacant position and working alongside you to help make a difference in the city of Missoula. Please let me know if I can supply any additional information.

Sincerely,  
Sierra Farmer  
406-360-1438  
1115 Sherwood St  
Missoula, MT 59802



**Application for City Council Ward 2 of Missoula**

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

Applications are due September 22, 2022 by 12:00 PM

Please submit your completed application and attachments (resume, etc.) via email: [cityclerk@ci.missoula.mt.us](mailto: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: Sierra Farmer	1.2 Email: sierrabreeburmeister@gmail.com
1.3 Daytime Phone: 406-360-1438	1.4 Alternate phone:
1.5 Street Address: 1115 Sherwood St, Missoula, MT 59802	1.6 Mailing address (if different than street address):
1.7 How long have you resided in Ward 2? 13 Years	1.8 How long immediately prior to today's date have you been a resident of the City of Missoula? 25 years (37 years in Missoula County)
1.9 What is your current occupation? Trust Lands Program Manager	1.10 Where are you currently employed? State of Montana, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation

## 2. QUALIFICATIONS

<p>2.1 Are you 18 years of age or older? (click on yes/no box)</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p>2.2 Are you a qualified elector registered to vote in Missoula County? (click on yes/no box)</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>2.3 If you are selected, will you have resided in Ward 2 for at least 60 days prior to being appointed? (click on yes/no box)</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p>2.4 Are you a citizen of the U.S. and the State of Montana? (click on yes/no box)</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>

## 3. QUESTIONS

<p>3.1 Briefly describe your educational background.</p> <p>I have a Bachelor's degree in Business Marketing and a Master's degree in Public Administration, both from the University of Montana.</p>
<p>3.2 Please list your community service experience.</p> <p>I currently volunteer on the Lowell School PTA, and I volunteer as the city alternate member on the City/County Planning Board. In the past I've volunteered with the Missoula Downtown Association, Clark Fork Coalition River clean-up days, and the Missoula Avalanche Center.</p>
<p>3.3 What is your interest in serving on the City Council as a representative of Ward 2?</p> <p>I was born in Missoula and have chosen to continue living here and raise my children in this city that I love and appreciate. I want to be on the city council so that I can contribute and give back to my community. I want to help make the tough decisions that will ensure Missoula grows in a meaningful and inclusive way. I admire the work the city council members do and I know it's not always easy. You're making a sacrifice to be away from your families, to make hard decisions that will make our community better and stronger. I want to be a part of those efforts to ensure Missoula continues to be equitable, diverse, and inclusive. As Missoula grows at a rapid rate, I don't want to look back and wish I had done more to ensure our growth was strategic and purposeful. I want to make city government more accessible to all Missoula citizens and make participation easy. I think the role of the city council is to help make complex decisions more understandable for all citizens and to listen to the community. I appreciate this opportunity to apply for the open Ward 2 seat and I'm up for the hard task at hand.</p>
<p>3.4 Do you have any special knowledge, interest, related experience or training that the City Council should be aware of as they consider your application for this position?</p> <p>I have a strong policy background and have worked extensively in writing and editing administrative rules. I was the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) planner for DNRC's Forest Management program for two years. I'm an excellent strategic planner and enjoy working on creating flexible and strong policies. In my short time with the City/County Planning Board, I've come to understand some of our complex policies and the issues city and county staff are facing. I attended the inaugural Government Citizens Academy in 2019 and gained an understanding of the complexities of our city</p>

and county. As a lifelong Missoula County citizen, I think I offer a unique perspective on the changes that I've seen in Missoula and can continue to help Missoula grow and change in a positive direction. (I'm also a very average skier and a professional appreciator of local music.)

3.5 Have you thought about any legislation you are interested in seeing the City Council enact, repeal or revise? If so, what is it? What would you propose?

I would like to see legislation that would replace HB464, which repealed the 2-cent local excise tax on gas purchases. I would work with other city council members and the county commissioners to coordinate a new bill during the upcoming legislative session and ask our state representatives to sponsor a bill to help cities and counties find alternative funding sources outside of property taxes.

3.6 The City's ability to increase property taxes is limited to half the rate of inflation by the state legislature. How would you address the continued provision of city services given these constraints?

Currently the city relies heavily on property taxes to pay for city services and I would like to explore ways to offset those taxes. As major industries such as agriculture and timber have declined in Missoula, we will need to look to other industries such as the growing tourism sector to bridge the gap. I would like to explore tax reform at the legislative level to help find alternative revenue sources.

3.7 How do you see the relationship between Missoula's economy and growth management? How would you facilitate that?

Forming the Missoula Economic Partnership was a positive decision for Missoula and I think it will continue to help facilitate Missoula's economic growth. Missoula will need to continue investing in an educated workforce, encourage entrepreneurship, and maintain our amazing quality of life so that we will attract businesses that want to invest in our city. I support working with local businesses to expand their infrastructure, develop their workforces, and encourage innovative business improvements. The growth policy, housing policy, and long-range transportation plan will continue to guide Missoula's growth, and as a city councilor I would help implement those plans.

3.8 How do you view our city's responsibility to our most vulnerable populations?

Being married to a city fire fighter, I see this issue firsthand. Often our first responders are tasked with helping folks who need longer term assistance beyond their immediate emergency; that's why I support the Mobile Support Team (MST), the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT), and other shelter solutions. I'm happy to see the city is continuing to support these initiatives and I would be happy to investigate how the city can continue financially supporting these services as ARPA funding expires. With resources such as the MST and the CIT, I think we'll see progress made to help our citizens get the long-term support and resources they need.

3.9 How should Missoula, as a community, address people with active addictions to drugs and alcohol who lack housing?

Housing is a basic human need, and I don't believe we can expect people struggling with addiction to seek help until their most basic human needs are met. The collaborative efforts between the city and county to ensure emergency housing is available is an important project and we should continue to make improvements to the shelter programs. I think the community can support local shelters and partner with community organizations to help improve Missoula's behavioral health crisis response system. By collaborating with the county and the community as a whole I believe Missoula's 10-year plan to end homelessness is achievable.

3.10 As Missoula grows, the cost of housing continues to rise. What role should the City Council play in making housing more attainable?

I've seen many Missoula citizens struggle to live here due to the rising cost of housing, and this is an issue that must be addressed immediately. The city housing programs and the Affordable Housing Trust Fund are a good start to help move Missoula in the right direction. I would like to see the city continue to explore land banking opportunities and partnerships with affordable housing developers. I'm hopeful the new building permit process will help expedite additional housing in Missoula. The city council can continue to support grant opportunities and funding that will help make housing more attainable.

3.11 The City of Missoula is in the process of code reform. Do you support this effort? Why or why not?

I support this effort because the building codes in the city need to be updated to fit the current development and housing demands to allow for more diversity and densities of neighborhoods. The building codes need to align with the current growth policy and be in one comprehensive document. I hope at the end of the two-year contract Missoula has a less complicated and more streamlined building code resource that all stakeholders can implement. I would encourage collaboration with all interested parties to help inform how to move this project forward and find ways to alleviate the burden on the planning department. I would like to see extensive public participation in this process to help improve communication between departments and our community.

3.12 What do you see as transportation issues in Ward 2 and how would you address them?

Roadway extensions and adding connectivity for the Scott Street Development Area will be an important project to alleviate the increasing traffic that will flow in and out of Ward 2. I'm encouraged to see improvements to the safety of several intersections, such as Mary Jane and Flynn. The transportation plan for Mullan is long overdue and will be a huge improvement. Moving forward, exploring a new I-90 interchange and continuing to improve several intersections within the Westside neighborhood will be important for Ward 2. I would look to the Long-Range Transportation Plan and advocate for transportation solutions that meet the needs of Ward 2.

3.13 What are your thoughts on the City of Missoula's role in addressing climate change? Should the city be taking additional action, and if so, what specifically?

Even though climate change is a global issue, we have a responsibility to find solutions at the local level. With the 2019 clean energy resolution and adopting the Climate Ready Missoula Plan I see Missoula making improvements to reducing our carbon footprint and I applaud our efforts. I think the city can continue looking at ways to make alternative transportation more accessible and user friendly by increasing electric transportation resources and improving city streets and sidewalks. The city will also need to explore how to balance competing water needs as we grow and find ways to enhance storage opportunities. City buildings can be made more efficient with solutions such as solar energy to reduce our carbon footprint. We can also explore additional reforestation projects that will help with the long-term climate change issues.

#### 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 to the office of City Council, Ward 2 of the City of Missoula. To sign electronically, double click by the "x" and follow instructions.

Signature:

Date: 9/19/2022

*Suzanne*

# SIERRA FARMER

406-360-1438 | sierrabreeburmeister@gmail.com | Missoula, MT

Strong leader and communicator with a passion for people, local government, and solving complex problems to make a positive impact on my community. Organized manager with strong project management and problem-solving abilities. Seeking the vacant Ward 2 City Council seat in which to apply the following skills:

<b>Strategic Planning</b>	<b>Team &amp; Relationship Building</b>	<b>Group Facilitation &amp; Training</b>
<b>Program &amp; Personnel Development</b>	<b>Project Management</b>	<b>Inclusive Leadership</b>
<b>Conflict Mitigation &amp; Resolution</b>	<b>Business Analytics &amp; Reporting</b>	<b>Policy Analysis &amp; Creation</b>
<b>Contract Procurement Management</b>	<b>Technology Advancement</b>	<b>Expediting Projects</b>
<b>Program Budgeting</b>	<b>Decision Making &amp; Problem Solving</b>	<b>Public Speaking &amp; Administration</b>

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### Trust Lands Program Manager

Montana DNRC – Southwestern Land Office, Missoula, MT, 2021–Present

- ✦ Manage four Trust Lands programs within the southwestern region of the state: Forest Management, Agriculture & Grazing, Real Estate Management, and Minerals Management.
- ✦ Coordinate resources between the unit offices and develop business analytics to help inform program decisions and focus resources, including budgets and personnel.
- ✦ Manage complex projects and coordinate with partners and stakeholders to ensure strong communication and collaboration.
- ✦ Help shape the learning and leadership environment of the entire land office while improving programs and expediting projects.

### Environmental Planner

Montana DNRC – Forest Management Bureau, Missoula, MT, 2019–2021

- ✦ Supported statewide sustainable timber harvests and sales by teaching and facilitating MEPA courses for foresters and specialists through effective project management, program development, and policy analysis.
- ✦ Efficiently managed Forest Management document development and technical review, including environmental impact documents, policy guidance memos, monitoring reports, and public information documents.
- ✦ Oversaw the Forest Management Program’s application and compliance with MEPA and other applicable state laws and administrative rules affecting management activities on forested state trust lands.
- ✦ Successfully built relationships with Forest Management Program field staff to ensure policy compliance and efficient implementation of complex projects.
- ✦ Developed strategic project management and public participation plans for high profile and/or contentious Forest Management projects and executed those plans using professionalism and clear communication.

### Business Manager (Incident Business Advisor during fire season)

Montana DNRC – Southwestern Land Office, Missoula, MT, 2014–2019

- ✦ Developed area-wide business practices and policies and communicated policy guidelines to unit offices; served on the area leadership team and commercial real estate team.
- ✦ Managed construction contracts and procurement; oversaw land office operating and personal service budgets.
- ✦ Created cost-share agreements using expenditure analysis and supervised the area buying team.
- ✦ Oversaw the area-wide asset management program and monitored policy implementation.

### Customer Service Manager

Rocky Mountain School of Photography, Missoula, MT, 2010–2014

- ✦ Planned small and large events and efficiently negotiated logistics for 40+ annual trainings.
- ✦ Used professional judgment to manage operations and coordinate housing and financial applications.
- ✦ Coordinated student housing and financial aid services for incoming students.

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## **EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

**University of Montana**

*MPA Master of Public Administration, 2020 | BS, Business Administration – Marketing, 2009*

Member of City/County Planning Board | Leadership Missoula 34 | Leadership DNRC | 2019 Government Citizens Academy  
PDC Effective Management Series | Bleiker Consent Building Training | Mutual Learning Leadership Training  
S-481 Incident Business Advisor | S-260 Interagency Incident Business Management | M-410 Facilitative Instructor