

## City Clerk Staff

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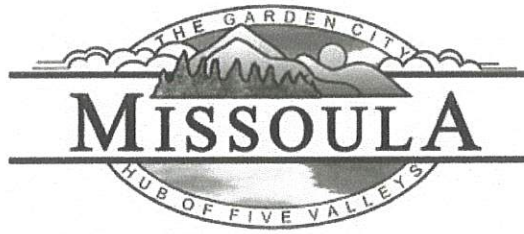
**From:** Marty Rehbein  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 22, 2022 10:35 AM  
**To:** coldwaterjournal@yahoo.com  
**Cc:** City Clerk Inbound  
**Subject:** Thanks for applying for Ward 2

John,

This e-mail is confirmation that we've received your Ward 2 application. Thank you for your interest in serving our community! MR

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





**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.

<b>1 APPLICANT INFORMATION</b>	
1.1 Name: John T Rowan	1.2 Email: coldwaterjournal@yahoo.com
1.3 Daytime Phone: 406-880-9844	1.4 Alternate phone: Same
1.5 Street Address: 1624 Howell Street, Missoula, MT 59802	1.6 Mailing address (if different than street address): Same
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? 28 years
1.9 What is your current occupation? Chaplain	1.10 Where are you currently employed? Partners In Home Care, Hospice

*Received 9/21/22 @ 4:15 pm  
MLT*

## 2 QUALIFICATIONS

2.1 Are you 18 years of age or older? (click on yes/no box)

Yes

No

2.2 Are you a qualified elector registered to vote in Missoula County? (click on yes/no box)

Yes

No

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)

Yes

No

2.4 Are you a citizen of the U.S. and the State of Montana? (click on yes/no box)

Yes

No

## 3. QUESTIONS

3.1 Briefly describe your educational background.

BA – Secondary Education, 1989 University of Arizona; MA – Cultural Anthropology, 1997, University of Montana; MDiv – Pastoral Care, Peace and Justice Studies, 2019, Earlham School of Religion

3.2 Please list your community service experience.

Board of Directors, North Missoula Community Development Corporation, 8/2013 – 2/2020 (BOD President for 4 years)

Commissioner Appointed Representative, Missoula County Elections Advisory Committee, 1/2014 – 8/2015

Board of Directors, Missoula Food Cooperative (Grocery), 11/2006 – 10/2013 (BOD President for 2 years)

Board of Directors, Missoula Urban Demonstration Project, 8/2002 – 10/2004 (BOD President for 18 months)

Faith Community Representative (Missoula Friends Meeting), Missoula Family Promise, 2/2012 - 6/2016

3.3 What is your interest in serving on the City Council as a representative of Ward 2?

I have been a resident of Missoula for 28 years and lived in Missoula's Historic Westside Neighborhood for 13 years. I have been involved in numerous community-oriented non-profits, projects, and events. I possess a deep understanding of issues important to an array of Missoulians, particularly the residents of Ward 2. I previously owned and operated a small business, often interacting with various City departments. I can speak for common concerns, frustrations, and appreciations Missoulians hold toward our City. I possess a long history of working with and advocating for diverse segments of the Missoula populace through my years managing Home ReSource, serving on several Boards of Directors, and serving as a Polling Place Manager and Representative to the Missoula County Election Advisory Committee. I am able to connect with and give voice to divergent points of view while maintaining personal integrity. I am deeply committed to advocating policies and ordinances to address permanently affordable housing, expansion of urban transportation, preparation for long term climate change impacts, and inclusion initiatives for Missoula populations historically and currently marginalized and/or expressing disenfranchisement-based ambivalence.

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?

I ran for election to the Missoula City Council, Ward 2, in 2015. I moved forward through a Primary election to the General. I lost the General election contest by 152 votes out of 2291 votes cast. I have presented public testimony before the City Council on many occasions over the past 28 years. My years of community engagement and non-profit organizing/leadership have all focused upon issues of concern for the Missoula community.

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 believe the loss of agricultural land into housing poses a significant risk to our long-term community stability in light of volatile international economic trends and changing climatic conditions. I seek to support and explore policies and legislation that facilitates affordable, entry-level homes by accentuating existing City policies/programs and enacting new, reasonable measures to encourage the development of our urban core. I also seek to work with Missoula County



regarding initiatives to conserve our existing agricultural lands and infrastructure. I intend to support resident-owned and land trust housing projects as viable means to retain and create safe, healthy, and attractive housing that empowers ownership at the low end of our economic spectrum and fosters an integrated community able to access local, quality food sources.

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?

The City of Missoula has pursued a period of dramatic expansion in services and infrastructure over the past 20 years. State legislation is subject to change, especially as new relationships are built. The current context which significantly limits property tax increases (and eliminated local option alternatives) dictates that the City Council must explore additional partnerships (building, public safety, etc.) and incentive programs (such as conservation of resources and lands) to reduce impacts on and costs to maintain the infrastructure and services to which we are currently committed.

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

I intend to research, explore, and promote policies that foster a healthy economy for Missoula. Growth (whether it be the City's footprint, participation in market trends, or openness to technologies) is one indicator of economic health but for too long has been the dominant means by which we measure, plan/envision, and manage for the economy. Missoula needs diversified and integrated economic engines that foster our own and regional resources rather than continued emphasis on national and international markets and resources which tend to place our local economy in a subservient role. I recognize Missoula must engage with national and international elements; yet I support policies that promote engagement from a position of local strength. I believe the same is true with regard to the City's geographic footprint. I support policies to strengthen and diversify Missoula's current core rather than rapid expansion into outlying areas. The City has a strong, healthy relationship with our County Commissioners and County agencies, which are entrusted with managing the economic interests and needs of local communities beyond Missoula's borders.

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

Individuals and families experiencing homelessness, at risk of homelessness, or currently and historically marginalized because of their economic background, ethnicity, nationality, sexuality, gender identity, physical ability, or immigration status are equal members of our community. They do not ask more from this community than any other member. They seek and have every right to expect equal access and equal opportunity to be safe, to participate, and to be recognized for what they offer. The City of Missoula is entrusted with securing and maintaining the public sphere in which all members of our community explore and realize their basic rights and potential. I fully support the City of Missoula's recent efforts toward this challenging yet fundamental responsibility.

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

I am encouraged by efforts from the City and community partners to secure more housing sources and more diverse venues for "wet housing." The need has and will continue to grow more acute with the lingering impacts of the pandemic. I recognize the city purchase of former motels and designation of camp sites as venues for wet housing are controversial and are not complete solutions; however, they are meaningful options, especially while other venues (now stalled by pandemic-driven market forces) are delayed and/or reimagined. The Missoula community must accept this challenge will not go away, is likely to deepen, and the City is the entity best positioned to initiate and/or facilitate additional viable solutions.

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 believe a socially and economically integrated community is inherently more stable and healthier than a segregated/stratified society. I support the City's existing efforts to allocate Federal grant funds and provide incentives for private parties and civic entities expanding Missoula's catalog of affordable housing. Yet I believe more needs to be done, particularly to foster a greater supply of affordable homes rather than relying on affordable rental units. I hope to explore additional incentives and possible legislation to ensure permanently affordable housing is a design component of every multi-person housing development and subdivision review. Currently, the City enforces regulations regarding park lands, transportation infrastructure, and numerous other elements. Affordable housing should be an equal review element. Too often we perpetuate dense pockets of exclusively affordable or market-rate housing, while acquiescing to practiced rationales explaining why affordable units were not incorporated into market-rate developments.

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

I fully support the City's efforts to review and enact code reforms, with specific aims to reduce incongruities, increase predictability for builders, and expedite timely plan reviews. At the same time, our current experiences (numerous stalled major home and commercial building projects) highlight how global market supplies and a very different employment market are even more significant elements in determining the completion of building projects. Code reform must expand to

enable our ability to foster an economically and socially integrated community with concentrated resources and infrastructure to increase energy efficiency and reduce reliance upon cheap fuels and a workforce displaced to outlying communities because they cannot afford to live within the urban core.

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

A significant portion of Missoula's workforce housing exists in the corridor between North Reserve – West Broadway – Interstate 90 – Airway Boulevard, yet the only Mountain Line route in the area travels West Broadway to the Missoula Airport without any designated stops for these neighborhoods. The proliferation of new housing developments in the Mullan Road/Flynn Lane neighborhoods (as well as Scott Street to North Reserve in Ward 1) will further challenge Mountain Line's ability to provide sustainable transportation services to the neighborhoods that present the most affordable housing opportunities. I intend to work with Mountain Line regarding the possibility of additional transfer hubs serviced by short-route vans/shuttles to these neighborhoods at peak hours.

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?

The City of Missoula has initiated several notable projects and made commitments to address climate change in terms of pollutant emissions and waste diversion; however, more specific targets and incentive programs are needed for waste diversion as the municipal landfill ages and approaches capacity. We also must establish initiatives and policies to prepare for extended drought conditions and manage for a fire-wise urban tree canopy and weeds on unmanaged lots. Additional financing and incentives for transportation mode alternatives to single-occupant gas automobiles will not only help reduce emissions but also reduce our vulnerability to global fuel supplies and market disruptions.

#### 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: ~~9/20/2022~~C

9/21/2022

X

