

**From:** [noreply@civicplus.com](mailto:noreply@civicplus.com)  
**To:** [City Clerk Inbound](#)  
**Subject:** Online Form Submittal: Application Form--Planning Board  
**Date:** Monday, March 29, 2021 3:27:11 PM

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## Application Form--Planning Board

### Information for Applicants

Thanks for your interest!

Applications are due Friday April 9, 2021 by 5 p.m. **Confirmed no changes 10/21/21**

Please note: All applications are included in City Council packets and published on the City website.

### Position

Which position(s) are you applying for? Regular member or Alternate member(votes in the absence of a regular City appointee)

### Contact Information

Name: Elizabeth Costello

Email: costello.liz@gmail.com

Daytime Phone: 4063963656

Alternate Contact Phone: *Field not completed.*

Street Address: 1220 S 4th St. W

City, State: Missoula

Zip: 59801

Is your street address the same as your mailing address? Yes

### Background

Do you live within City limits? Yes

How long have you been a city resident? Since 2010

In which ward do you 3

reside?

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Are you a U.S. citizen? Yes

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Are you registered to vote? Yes

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Current Occupation: Tasting Room Manager

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Current Employer: Western Cider

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If you'd like, you can attach a resume or other document for the City Council to consider. [Elizabeth Costello Resume 3\\_2021.rtf.pdf](#)

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Briefly describe your educational background: I completed my Bachelor of Arts degree at the University of Virginia in 2008 in Modern Studies of English and Music and moved to Montana in 2009 as a recent graduate. In 2015, I completed my Master of Science degree at the University of Montana in Environmental Studies with a focus on Sustainable Food Systems.

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List of community service experience: Volunteer Prenatal Yoga Teacher - Host free outdoor yoga sessions for expecting mothers unable to attend regular classes due to covid-19 (2020)  
Missoula Urban Demonstration Project: Executive Director (2015 -2018)  
Forward Montana Phone Bank Volunteer (2016)  
AERO (Alternative Energy Resources Organization): Board Member & Board Secretary (2014 - 2015)  
Garden City Lady Arm Wrestlers (GCLAW) Founder & Organizer - Organized theatrical arm wrestling competitions to raise money for community nonprofits (2012 - 2017)  
Garden City Harvest Peas Farm Caretaker (2013-2015)  
AmeriCorps Volunteer: Montana Conservation Corps Crew Leader (2010)  
AmeriCorps VISTA Volunteer: CASA Advocated for Kids (2009)

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What is your interest in serving on this board, commission, or committee? I want to serve on the Planning Board because I believe that thoughtful development and conscientious community design will lead to a healthy community that supports all its members. I love Missoula and want to see it thriving at every level - within individuals and families, local businesses, community nonprofits, environmental health, and the tourist economy.

While serving as the Executive Director for the MUD Project, I became acutely aware of the housing challenges in Missoula. I worked with colleagues in the Office of Neighborhoods and attended Neighborhood Meetings that broadened my awareness

of the processes for community growth. At that time, the Missoula Invest Health (MIH) project was sharing its study findings and launching into the next phase of project implementation. By engaging with the MIH findings, as well as working in tandem with partners at ClimateSmart Missoula, Neighborworks, and Home ReSource, I began to understand how much zoning and community planning impacts the nature of our community. From the sidewalks we walk on, to the way that people shop, to recreation access, to affordable housing, to business opportunities- community planning shapes how we live. I would like to serve my community and assist in shaping a healthy future for Missoulians by serving on the Planning Board.

My interest in serving on this board also stems from the developing business sector of Missoula. Offices for tech-based companies are emerging as major employers in Missoula, which overall seems like a tremendous asset to our community growth. It would be wonderful to additionally shape our community with companies that have local buy-in and that could provide job opportunities for individuals without college or secondary degrees to round out access to opportunity for all Missoulians.

I moved to Missoula over a decade ago and know that the fast pace of change in our community is only accelerating into the future. Serving on the Planning Board would provide me further insight to the ways planning & development shape Missoula and also the ability to provide thoughtful review for that growth based on our community Growth Policy. In my public-facing work at Western Cider, I am now starting to say goodbye to regular patrons who are moving to more affordable cities since the rapid rise in housing costs over 2020. Finding it unaffordable to live and work in Missoula's middle class and also have the family they'd planned for, or no longer being competitive in the housing market, is forcing these professionals out. I do have concerns for both an increase in homelessness and also the loss of the middle class that seems imminent if housing continues to outpace wages. Contributing my time as a volunteer on the planning board, I hope to be considerate of our growth policy while supporting community health as best we can at every economic level.

Finally, I participated in the county land use map planning as a part of the Agricultural Stakeholders Sub-Committee in 2018. This process sparked interest in me to both gain further understanding of our community growth policy and also becoming further engaged. Thank you for your consideration in my pursuit of this interest by becoming a part of the City-County Consolidated Planning Board.

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Do you have any special knowledge,

Over the past decade, I have been a part of many different facets of Missoula's community. I am currently in the business sector,

interest, or experience that would qualify you for a position on this board, commission, or committee?

working as the Tasting Room Manager at Western Cider and operating my own small-business Black Bear Soups & Produce. I understand the struggle to grow and thrive as a locally owned Missoula business and the important role that the tourist economy plays in supporting much of Missoula's industry. I have also seen, particularly through the current pandemic, how important regionality and a Montana signature brand is for many businesses to be resilient.

I have a background in the nonprofit sector, having worked for a number of Missoula's longtime nonprofits. Most recently, I served as the Executive Director for the MUD Project (2015-2018), but have previously worked for Garden City Harvest, Montana Conservation Corps, CASA Advocates for Kids, and the Zootown Arts Community Center. Some of my past experience includes working on projects to support housing solutions, which is a continued interest of mine. For example, being a partner in the Manufactured Homes Resource Fair with Neighborworks, Home ReSource, ClimateSmart Missoula, and Homeword in 2018. I have been a part of the collaborative approaches to providing services to low-income members of our community. Partnerships between the nonprofit sector, business sector, the city, and the county are a vital part of our community health and I understand the need to listen and evaluate future development with many perspectives in mind.

I attended graduate school at the University of Montana, where I completed my M.S. in 2015. The University is a major factor in the shape of our community and also provides resources and opportunity for excellence in growth planning. Professors and students can be a resource to assist in study implementation, or to provide examples of new design and planning considerations from other communities when it's appropriate to take those factors into account. During my graduate work, I conducted assessments of our regional food systems, considering factors like land access and affordability for producers, distribution logistics, and customer access points through retail and direct sales. My graduate work gave me experience with systems analysis that will translate well to considerations on the planning board.

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## References

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Please provide two references.

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Reference 1

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Name:

[REDACTED]

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Phone:

[REDACTED]

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## Reference 2

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Name:

[REDACTED]

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Phone:

[REDACTED]

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If you'd prefer, you can mail or deliver your completed application and attachments to:

City Clerk Office

435 Ryman St.

Missoula, MT 59802

\*Please note the City Clerk Office is currently closed to the public. There is a drop box located at the Ryman Street entrance where you can place your materials.

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