



APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO YPSILANTI CITY COUNCIL WARD #2 POSITION

Applicant Information

(Please type or print)

Applicant Name Jason Keech

Residence Address 965 W Cross Street, Ypsilanti MI 48197

Home Phone [REDACTED]

Work Phone [REDACTED]

E-Mail [REDACTED]

Cover Letter & Resume

Please attach a one page cover letter and a resume of no more than two pages to this application.

Supplemental Questions

Please respond to the following questions regarding your interest in the position of Councilmember for the City of Ypsilanti on separate pages using no more than 3 pages total:

1. Why are you interested in serving as an Ypsilanti City Councilmember?
2. What strength would you bring to the Council?
3. What are the three highest priorities and/or issues you believe the City needs to address? How would you propose to address these issues?
4. Explain your current and past community involvement and/or service on city, nonprofit, or public boards, committees, task forces, or commissions and how this has contributed to the Ypsilanti community. Address its relevance to the position of Ypsilanti City Councilmember.
5. What do you wish to accomplish during this appointed term as an Ypsilanti City Councilmember?
6. What is your vision for our City and community?
7. Is there anything else that you may wish to add that would help us get to know you a little better?

Please return (*in person*) this form, your cover letter, resume, and answers to the supplemental questions to the City Clerk, at Ypsilanti City Hall (1 S. Huron St.) **no later than 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 4, 2024.**

Applications received after 4:00 p.m. will not be accepted.

The application and any correspondence should be addressed to:

Aaron Smith, Interim City Clerk
City of Ypsilanti
One South Huron Street
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Jason Keech



January 3, 2023

To Mayor Brown and Council Members,

It is with great excitement that I submit this application for the Ward 2 vacancy for City Council. I have reviewed the Ypsilanti City Charter and the Duties & Responsibilities of Elected Officials, and I believe I would bring a broad skillset and passion for service to Council if selected to represent Ward 2.

I moved to Ypsilanti with my spouse in 2005, and we were so grateful to discover an incredibly friendly, diverse, and welcoming community. In the years since, we have worked to build on that pride in our community by supporting organizations and hosting events that bring our neighbors together.

In my professional life I work in healthcare fundraising, helping people support research and programs to address cancer and other life-threatening diseases. I understand the importance of working for the greater good, and have over two decades of experience managing projects, staff, and volunteers.

Thank you for your service to our city and for considering my application. I hope for the chance to discuss my candidacy and answer your questions at the interviews scheduled on January 18.

Sincerely,
Jason Keech

Jason Keech



Qualifications:

- Ypsilanti ward 2 resident for more than 18 years, with a passion for service and community building.

Career History:

Associate Director of Development

Michigan Medicine

Ann Arbor, Michigan – January 2017 to Present

- Advocate for the mission and fundraising priorities of the Departments of Anesthesiology, Pathology, Radiology, Urology, and the University at large to individuals, groups, and foundations, with a focus on advancing long term relationships and financial support.
- Manage a portfolio of major gift and planned gift donors, and assist with the development of key events, stewardship, annual solicitations, and communication initiatives.

Associate Director, Events

Michigan Medicine

Ann Arbor, Michigan - November 2014 to January 2017

- Managed three direct reports responsible for large-scale fundraising and ceremonial events at Michigan Medicine.
- Built partnerships with faculty, staff, and volunteer boards to plan and execute annual fundraising events benefitting C.S. Mott Children's Hospital, the Mary H. Weiser Food Allergy Center, and the A. Alfred Taubman Medical Research Institute.
- Oversaw the Community Fundraising program, managing relationships with donors nationwide that organize fundraising events benefitting all areas of Michigan Medicine, generating over \$1.3 million annually.

Assistant Director, Fundraising Events

Michigan Medicine

Ann Arbor, Michigan - August 2013 to November 2014

- Provided guidance and support to volunteers nationwide that organize fundraising events for the University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center, raising over \$775,000 in FY14.
- Successfully managed volunteer executive committee and event logistics for The Event on Main, a fundraiser that generated nearly \$300,000 for C.S. Mott Children's Hospital.
- Partnered with leaders at the Translational Oncology Program to develop the inaugural One Day Closer event, an educational day highlighting cancer research programs at the University of Michigan.

Associate Director

American Cancer Society

Southfield, Michigan - June 2011 to April 2013

Ann Arbor, Michigan - September 2007 to June 2011

- Managed the operations of sixteen Relay For Life events through five direct reports that raised over \$1.6 million.
- Consistently achieved income targets that exceeded organization goals.
- Selected for the American Cancer Society "Top Coach" award in 2012.

Community Development Director

American Cancer Society

Ann Arbor, Michigan - November 2004 to September 2007

- Managed all aspects of annual fundraising events including volunteer committee management, sponsor solicitation, recruitment, event logistics, and constituent communications.

Internship

Human Synergetics International

Plymouth, Michigan - January 2001 to May 2001

- Administered, analyzed, and provided feedback on results of assessment tests to improve workplace culture.

Direct Care Worker

Kadima Mental Health Services

Southfield, Michigan - March 1999 to November 1999

- Counseled clients with severe mental health issues (schizophrenia, bipolar disorder) in a supported independence program.
- Resolved medical and psychiatric crisis situations.

Soldier

U.S. Army, Infantry

Fort Stewart, Georgia - November 1994 to October 1996

Fort Benning, Georgia – June 1994 to November 1994

- Performed a variety of roles within a mechanized infantry squad, earning battalion "top squad" honors, Expert Infantry Badge, Soldier of the Month, Soldier of the Quarter, and various honorary medals of commendation and achievement.

Education:

Bachelor of Arts, Psychology

University of Michigan – Dearborn April 2001

Coursework in management, industrial psychology, and data analysis.

Supplemental Questions

1. Why are you interested in serving as an Ypsilanti City Councilmember?

I have been a resident of the Normal Park neighborhood in Ypsilanti for 18 years, and I am incredibly proud to call Ypsilanti my home. With much encouragement from friends and neighbors to apply to fill the vacancy in Ward 2, I am excited for the chance to serve my city and help Council tackle today's challenges and tomorrow's opportunities.

2. What strength would you bring to the Council?

I believe the Council would benefit from the skills that I could bring to the team. I consider myself to be a detail-oriented and logical decision-maker. I conduct myself with integrity, and bring a servant leadership style that would focus on the needs of our citizens. I am a pragmatist that believes in bringing people together, finding common ground, and making decisions that have a measurable impact to benefit our community.

3. What are the three highest priorities and/or issues you believe the City needs to address? How would you propose to address these issues?

Infrastructure - As a city that just celebrated our bicentennial, we have to deal with aging infrastructure before it reaches the point of failure. We've made some progress in recent years, but continued collaboration with MDOT and Washtenaw County is needed.

Housing Affordability - Although this challenge is not unique to Ypsilanti, we can be a leading voice for Washtenaw County and Southeast Michigan. The Dorsey Estates and Clark Road developments are innovative models for increasing the affordable housing supply that could be replicated in other parts of the city.

Economic Development - We've lost a number of downtown businesses in the last year, and it will be important to put these properties back into productive use to create jobs, raise incomes, and diversify and grow our local economy.

4. Explain your current and past community involvement and/or service on city, nonprofit, or public boards, committees, task forces, or commissions and how this has contributed to the Ypsilanti community. Address its relevance to the position of Ypsilanti City Councilmember.

My entire professional career has been based on nonprofit service, and the impact that can be achieved when dedicated volunteers and staff partner together.

In my personal time, I've been involved in and supported a variety of local organizations including the Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation's historic home tour, the Student Advocacy Center's Telling Tales fundraiser, campaigns for local political candidates, annual events hosted by the Normal Park

Neighborhood Association to bring neighbors together, and fundraisers for the Friends of Rutherford Pool, Ypsilanti Meals on Wheels, and Ypsilanti District Library. I believe all of these experiences are relevant to the position of Ypsilanti City Councilmember. Strong partnerships between volunteers and our local government have been crucial to maintaining community assets and social safety nets.

5. What do you wish to accomplish during this appointed term as an Ypsilanti City Councilmember?

Although the remaining time for this appointment is relatively brief, I would like to work with fellow Councilmembers to draft and approve an FY25 budget that reflects the spending priorities of our citizens, provides quality city services, and maintains a responsible rainy-day fund. I think it's also important that we work closely with the newly-hired City Manager to set them up for success, and the Economic Development staff to support and grow our downtown business districts.

6. What is your vision for our City and community?

I envision Ypsilanti as a city that welcomes and cares for everyone, where unique businesses can thrive, where diverse backgrounds and ideas are celebrated for creating a more vibrant community, and for Ypsilanti to be the best place to live in Washtenaw County.

7. Is there anything else that you may wish to add that would help us get to know you a little better?

I am very focused on relationship building, and I enjoy bringing a bit of fun and humor to the teams that I work with. In my free time I enjoy working on my 102 year-old home in Normal Park, and finding new adventures to go on with my spouse of 22 years, our 15 and 11 year-old daughters, and our two Bernese Mountain Dogs.