

METRO COUNCIL VACANCY APPLICATION FORM

KRS 67C.103(6) provides that a person must satisfy the following criteria) to serve as a member of Metro Council:

No person shall be eligible to serve as a member of a consolidated local government council unless he or she is at least eighteen (18) years old, a qualified voter, and a resident within the territory of the consolidated local government and the district that he or she seeks to represent for at least one (1) year immediately prior to the person's election. A council member shall continue to reside within the district from which he or she was elected throughout the term of office.

Please provide the following information:

Full Legal Name: John David Gonder
(First, middle and last names)

Date of birth: 

Current residential address: 1000 Swan St. Louisville Ky 40204

Length of residence at current address: 5 years

By submitting this form, I hereby certify that the above information is true and correct, and I meet all the statutory and constitutional qualifications for the vacant office for which I am applying.

John D Gonder Jan 14, 2023
(Applicant signature and date)

John Gonder
1000 Swan Street
Louisville, Kentucky 40204

January 11, 2023

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am submitting my resume as a candidate to fill the vacancy for the Sixth District seat on the Louisville Metro Council. Because much of the experience detailed on my resume was gained in New Albany, Indiana, a cursory reading might suggest I am still a resident of Indiana. In fact I, along with my wife, have owned a business in Louisville for twenty four years, and we became full-time residents of Louisville in August, 2017.

I've had a lifelong interest in public affairs and politics. I aged out of the Young Democrats into the Democratic Party of Floyd County, Indiana. One of the first things we did upon moving to Louisville was register to vote. I don't believe I have failed to vote in a single election, primary or general, since coming of voting age in 1972. I have volunteered as a poll worker and otherwise assisted in election-day logistics and functioning.

While my significant experience in New Albany government is in a different state, it is not in a different universe. Governance in a democracy transcends geographic boundaries and requires participation from those who are committed to its success. Having retired from private sector employment, I now have more time to devote to my interest in public affairs. I am a committed environmentalist, and would welcome the opportunity to serve on the Metro Council to help advance Mayor Greenberg's agenda on the environment, as he specified in his campaign. Clearly, it is the mayor who steers the policy for Louisville, but I would consider it a great honor to be part of a body having a collective hand on the wheel, along with the mayor, steering our city into the future. And, I believe my past experience would be a worthwhile addition to the Louisville Metro Council; an addition that would help make Louisville, and the Sixth District, a better place to live.

Sincerely,



John D. Gonder

John Gonder
1000 Swan Street
Louisville, Kentucky 40204

RESUME

Government Experience

2003-2008 New Albany Plan Commission—Reviewed plans for development submitted to the Plan Commission

2007 Elected as one of three at-Large members of the nine member New Albany City Council for 2008. The Council is composed of six geographically defined districts, while the at-large members represent the entire citizenry. Served two terms until January 2016. Wrote nearly all legislation introduced under my name, including a “No Tolls” resolution for the New Albany Council, which was adopted verbatim by the Louisville Metro Council in 2010.

2010 Council President—working with other members and the mayor to bring issues before the City Council. During presidency, led Council to pass significant sewer rate increase to comply with an EPA Consent Decree. The rate increase in 2010, allowed New Albany, over ten years, to invest \$40 million in sewer improvements, which in turn finally allowed the City to be released from the consent decree’s ban on new sewer hook ups in July, 2021.

2011-2013 Council Vice-president—serve as Council President in the absence of the sitting President. In 2012, authored, introduced, and passed legislation bringing metal detectors to the entrance of the City-County building for the protection of workers and citizens.

2012-2014 Council representative to New Albany Redevelopment Commission—review citizen proposals seeking disbursement of State and Federal funds, as well as reviewing initiatives deploying such funds submitted by the mayor.

2008-2012 Council representative to Horseshoe/Caesar Foundation Board of Directors—the casino charter mandates sharing of casino profits with New Albany/Floyd County. The Board of Directors on its own initiative, and in response to appeals, disburses funds from that pool at monthly meetings, often addressing community needs beyond the scope of local government.

2008-2016 -- served on various standing committees of the City Council.

Community Experience

1989-2005 -- Founding member of Trash Force, a citizen group which was the precursor of curb-side recycling for the City of New Albany, and an advocacy group for environmental issues facing the community.

2010-present -- member of German Paristown Neighborhood Association, currently serving as president of the association.

Private Sector Employment

1983-1988 -- Stock broker, Dean Witter -- retail financial sales

1988-1991 -- Stock broker, Stifel Nicolaus -- retail financial sales

1991-1992 -- Bank investment counselor, PNC Bank -- retail financial sales

1993-2010 -- Buyer, Smurfit Recycling-- bought and managed purchase of recyclables for company and trade mills

2010-2019 -- Buyer for QRS Recycling -- bought and managed purchase of recyclables

Self-Employment

1999-present

My wife and I own and manage Hope Worsted Mills, an 87,000 square foot historic building in the Germantown neighborhood, built in 1904. This property had just one tenant when we purchased it in 1999. The building required years of rehabilitation to make it a desirable place for work and creativity. We have worked continuously to keep the building functional and vital, and today we have forty tenants in a building that is fully paid off, and contributing to this important neighborhood's revitalization. Through the years, the building has earned a reputation as a haven for artists, craftsmen and entrepreneurs. It is also home to one of the largest art galleries in Louisville, if not the state of Kentucky. Our work on this building is the very definition of a labor of love.

Education

Indiana University, Bachelor's Degree, 1976, double major: Journalism and Political Science