

Brent Alfred Butler

REDACTED

Seattle City Council
600 Fourth Avenue
Seattle, WA, 98104

July 9, 2025

RE: Seattle City Council Position Number 5

Honorable Chair and Members of the Seattle City Councilors:

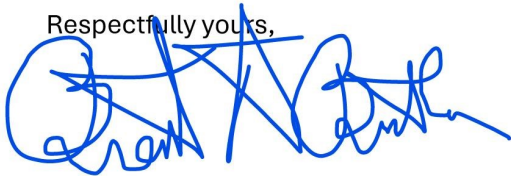
With enthusiasm and a keen interest in supporting the City's initiatives, I share my passion for public service and excitement in the opportunity to work with you for the betterment of Seattle for residents and visitors, both now and for many years to come.

Through WashPIRG's **Save the Salmon** campaign in the 1990s, I walked door to door collecting donations from North Seattleites and learned about the neighborhoods' diversity. Later, living in my purse seine skipper's Ballard home while attending graduate school at the University of Washington, I learned about the delicate balance between protection and extraction. Land use decisions damming rivers, creeks, streams and local actions removing trees and shrubs from riverbanks increased the water's temperatures, and eliminated or reduced salmon runs, and the livelihoods integrally connected to the resource. Later, I learned about the delicate balance between development and housing preservation through the Seattle Convention Center's expansion. Observing the predicament faced by my First Hill neighbors, many of whom were too afraid to participate in a process that had already excluded them, I penned a letter to Jim Ellis, then a partner of Preston, Gates and Ellis, PLC., and Chairman of the Convention Center. In the letter, I shared their concerns and a desire to preserve in-city housing while also supporting Seattle's brick and mortar-based businesses. This 1990s experience engendered my passion for planning and application to graduate school for a master's in urban planning. Now, after leading four planning teams over a twenty-year career, I see the Seattle City Council position as an exciting opportunity.

Earlier this year, I was unexpectedly thrust into the painstaking question of how a city balances the rights of people experiencing housing insecurity with those of its Seattle's residents. In January 2025, I leased a north Seattle home with an option to purchase it and moved in this past February. After finding the backyard occupied by squatters soon after my friend's death, and the house broken into several times once I signed the lease, I was alarmed by the intrusions and the boldness and resourcefulness of those perpetrating these acts. The Seattle Police Department was both respectful and professional but nonetheless, each time I left - once for New Orleans' Mardi Gras, another time to Portland to see my new godson - these intruders would re-enter. Sensing a need for equal parts creativity, compassion and firmness to address this issue encourages me to apply.

As such, I respectfully submit this cover letter, my resume and financial information for consideration of an appointment to Seattle City Council position number 5.

Respectfully yours,



Brent A. Butler

EXPERIENCE:

Jefferson County, Community Development Department, City of Port Townsend, WA
Chief Strategy Officer, June 2023 – June 30, 2025 (*primarily remote*)
Director, Fire Marshal, Chief Building Official, Floodplain Administrator, 2021 - 2023
Lead, Associate, Assistant Long-Range Planner, 2005 - 2007
Implemented Board of County Commissioners' strategic projects on affordable housing, infrastructure and other strategic initiatives. Administered planning, permitting and building divisions; managed finance and grants; retained and recruited employees.

City of Seattle, Human Services Department, Seattle, WA
Strategic Advisor/Age Friendly Seattle Manager, April 2018 to July 2021
Coordinated and communicated programs and policies through public private partnerships and interdepartmental activities advancing Age Friendly Seattle's focus on Universal Design, Age-in-Place, DEI and Medicaid with a vaccine hesitancy emphasis.

Thurston County, Resource Stewardship Department, Olympia, WA
Director and Fire Marshal, May 2016 to October 2017
Managed \$30,000,000 biennial departmental budget and land use through divisions responsible for comprehensive planning through subordinate managers administering Water Resources, Long Range Planning, Land Use and Environmental Review, Finance, Administration, Thurston County Fairgrounds and Office of the Fire Marshal.

City of East Palo Alto, Community Development Department, East Palo Alto, CA
Planning and Housing Manager, Acting Director 2009-2016
Managed General Plan, Zoning Ordinance. Partnered with NGOs on affordable, emergency and below market rate housing, active transportation and land use programs. Designed or implemented City's first Climate Action, Bicycle Transportation, Flood, 'health focused' comprehensive and crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED) plans.

City of Bainbridge Island, Community Development Department, Bainbridge Island, WA
Senior Planner, July 2007 to March 2009
Drafted and administered ordinances, programs and policies on affordable housing, transferable development rights, trusts and Comprehensive Planning under direction of the senior management team and the city council.

City of Port Townsend, Port Townsend, WA
City Council Member (Non-partisan), January 2007 to April 2009
Advanced economic development, housing and community development as chair of the City Council's Community Development and Land Use Committee. Co-founded community land trust focused on housing affordability.

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University of Washington and Harvard University, Seattle, WA and Cambridge, MA
Seattle, Washington and Cambridge MA

TRANSNOW Fellow, US Department of Transportation, Advanced Studies, 1999 to 2004

Assisted review of Seattle's five revitalization areas; collaborated with NGOs on redesigned streetscapes, e.g., Interim Community Development Association (ICDA), DKS Associates' emergency transportation re-routing/ light link routing plans and GSD's competitions.

DEGREES:

University of Washington, Seattle, WA

Master of Urban Planning, 2004 - Received American Planning Association Award

Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

Master in Design Studies (Environment and Design), 2003

Received Faculty Commendation

Williams College, Williamstown, MA

Bachelor of Arts: Chemistry Major / Organic Chemistry Tutor

MEMBERSHIPS AND SPECIAL PROJECTS

Washington State Department of Commerce, Senate House Bill 1220 Advisory Body

Bay Area Planning Directors Association, Steering Committee Member, San Francisco, CA

City of East Palo Alto Management Employees Association, Founding Secretary, CA

Safe Routes to Transit, Grant Review Committee, Oakland, CA

Metropolitan Transportation Commission, Equity Working Group,

City of Palo Alto, Infrastructure Blue Ribbon Commission, Palo Alto, CA

Real Estate Development Program, USC and Bay Area Council, San Francisco

Mayor's Conference on Biological Diversity, ICLEI, Bonn, Germany

APEX Limited Equity COOP, Seattle, WA

Floodplain Management, Emergency Management Institute, MD

PRIOR EXPERIENCE:

Finance, Real Estate and Energy, including work with Jennings, Blanton and Lorig leasing of the Historic Queen Anne High School and Dijon Real Estate's cogeneration of heat and electricity in multifamily housing located in Brooklyn, New, where I was raised.

PERSONAL:

Enjoy swimming, sailing, and studying foreign languages.



City of Seattle

FINANCIAL INTEREST STATEMENT AND ADDRESS VERIFICATION CANDIDATES FOR COUNCIL DISTRICT 5

All City of Seattle officials and employees are subject to the provisions of Seattle Municipal Code (SMC), Chapter 4.16, (the "Ethics Code"). The purpose of the Ethics Code is to ensure that no public office is used for personal gain; and that the public have confidence in the integrity of its government. An individual with certain financial interests may be prohibited from participating in City business, as specified in the Ethics Code. Please click [HERE](#) to see SMC 4.16.070, a list of prohibited conduct.

The City Council is interested in knowing whether you have any financial interests that could be an issue with your service on the Council. Please answer the following questions to the best of your ability. Answering "Yes" does not necessarily disqualify you from consideration:

1. Do you, or any member of your family, **receive compensation** from any person or entity that engaged in any transactions or activities with Seattle City government in the past five years? ☒ No ☐ Yes, please complete item 1 on page 2.
2. Do you, or any member of your family, have a **direct financial interest** in any person or entity that engaged in any transactions or activities with Seattle City government in the past five years? ☒ No ☐ Yes, please complete item 2 on page 2.
3. Have you, or any member of your family, served in the past five years as an officer, director, trustee, or employee of an entity that engaged in any transactions or activities with Seattle City government? ☒ No ☐ Yes, please complete item 3 on page 2.
4. After referencing SMC 4.16.070, do you have any other relationships, employment history or financial interests that you feel could be an issue with your service on the Council under the Ethics Code? ☒ No ☐ Yes, please complete item 4 on page 3.

In order to be eligible for appointment to Council Position 5, you must be a resident of District 5 for at least 120 days (City Charter Article IV, Sec. 2; Article XIX). Please confirm your eligibility by clearly printing your current residential address and affirming the length of your residency at that address:

Street Address: REDACTED
Zip Code: REDACTED
Resident at this address since: January 1, 2025

Name of Candidate (as registered with King County Elections): Brent Butler

I certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that the information provided on this page and on page 2 and on all attached sheets is true and correct and that I have made reasonable inquiry to determine the truth, accuracy, and completeness of my responses.

Signature: 

Signed at Seeheim-Jugendheim, Hessen
Germany - on Vacation
(City or other location must be filled in.)

Date: July 9, 2025

Note: If you are appointed to the City Council, you will be required to complete a "Personal Financial Affairs Statement" on a form provided by the Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission (SEEC). You can see SEEC Form F1 by clicking [HERE](#).