



Brandon Monson

REDACTED

07/02/2025

Seattle City Council
c/o Office of the City Clerk
600 Fourth Ave, Floor 3
PO Box 94728
Seattle, WA 98124-4728

Dear Members of the Seattle City Council,

I am writing to express my strong interest in the appointment to the vacant Seattle City Council seat. My name is Brandon Monson, and I am a lifelong public servant, policy strategist, and neighbor in North Seattle with lived experience of the very issues our city must tackle head-on: housing insecurity, income inequality, and community disenfranchisement.

I grew up in a working-class family. My father was a landscaper, and my mother was a bartender. We stretched every paycheck to cover rent and groceries. We relied on SNAP benefits, and I eventually used Pell Grants and student loans to put myself through college and attain a master's in public policy with a focus on urban leadership. At times, I experienced homelessness, sleeping in cars or on couches. Those years shaped me into someone who not only understands hardship but also refuses to accept it as inevitable. My professional and civic life has since been dedicated to ensuring no one else is forced to navigate the system the way I had to, alone and unseen.

Seattle is at a crossroads. We are rich in innovation, culture, and resilience, but too many of our neighbors are priced out, left behind, or shut out. Throughout my career, I have worked to center equity in every policy conversation, from passing legislation banning source of income discrimination in housing, to fighting for Altadena to get their fair share of disaster relief after the devastating wildfires in Los Angeles. But policy isn't just about ordinances and amendments, it's about people. I've led disaster response for FEMA, overhauled community food access programs, advocated for tenants' rights, and managed

large-scale public service programs because I believe in government and I believe government must show up not only in times of crisis, but in the daily lives of its people.

I am committed to representing the entire city, but I have a deep and personal stake in the future of North Seattle. The Aurora corridor, Bitter Lake, and Lake City are vibrant, diverse, and sadly underserved. These neighborhoods deserve the same targeted investment, care, and representation seen elsewhere in the city. I've met with small business owners and hundreds of neighbors over the last two weeks, and I will bring both vision and urgency to this work to find solutions to the very real issues that I have heard raised while door knocking.

If selected, I will bring a grounded, empathetic, and equity-driven and evidence-based policy voice to the council. My priorities will center housing justice, public safety rooted in prevention and care, economic dignity for working people, and a government that acts with transparency, speed, integrity, and humility. Our residents don't just want promises and slogans. They want action, compassion, and a representative who knows how to navigate both public policy and neighborhood streets.

Thank you for your consideration. For more information about my policy platform please visit www.brandonmonson.com. I would be honored to serve Seattle in this critical moment and help shape a future where every resident, regardless of ZIP code, can thrive.

Thank you,

Brandon Monson



Brandon Monson

REDACTED

SUMMARY

Experienced advisor to politicians, senior leaders, and managers, skilled in solving complex problems, delivering creative solutions, and identifying strategic opportunities. A cross-functional leader with a focus on empathy, stakeholder engagement, and strategic planning to drive organizational goals.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

City of Kirkland – Special Projects Coordinator

2025 – Present

- Advise the City Manager and City Council on policy development, research, and emerging issues.
- Manage the City’s volunteer program, including program strategy, equity-centered recruitment, and interdepartmental coordination.
- Lead multi-stakeholder projects including the transition to electric-powered leaf blowers, citywide sustainability planning, and implementation of Kirkland’s Health Through Housing site with King County.
- Coordinate internal organizational development projects such as the City’s leadership development program.
- Develop public-facing communications and facilitate community engagement strategies.
- Represent the City Manager’s Office in interdepartmental meetings and with external partners.

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) – Congressional Affairs Manager

2023 – 2025

- Manage all communications between FEMA and Senate/Congressional offices in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Alaska.
- Led the response to Hurricane Helene in Tennessee and the wildfire response in Los Angeles County.
- Serve as the primary point of contact for 450 FEMA regional staff regarding congressional and intergovernmental external relations, including meeting facilitation, town halls, and site tours.
- Advise regional External Affairs Director and Regional Administrator on strategies and tactics impacting local elected officials.
- Maintain and grow relationships with elected officials and their staff.

- Provide information and recommendations to senior leadership regarding trends affecting the organization and key stakeholders.
- Manage multiple long- and short-term projects, ensuring successful execution.
- Draft and edit various communication materials for internal and external stakeholders, including press releases, talking points, speeches, briefing packets, and media advisories.

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) – Intergovernmental Affairs Specialist
2022 – 2023

- Facilitated in-person and virtual briefings for elected officials, staff, and FEMA senior leadership.
- Developed and coordinated strategic communications products, including External Affairs Guidance and embargoed documents.
- Established and maintained effective working relationships with leadership, advising on outreach and engagement efforts.
- Determined effective communication approaches to reach target audiences, tracking and evaluating outcomes for continuous improvement.

The Just One Project – Director of Outreach
2021 – 2022

- Managed 16 monthly pop-up food delivery events, serving an average of 12,000 people.
- Created and implemented permanent community markets in high schools and grocery stores in food desert areas.
- Worked with legislators to secure funding and expand service areas.
- Partnered with local businesses to increase volunteer participation and strengthen relationships.
- Led innovative initiatives to expand the organization’s reach and impact.

Nevada Homeless Alliance – Consultant
2021

- Developed policy infographics to brief state legislators.
- Provided consultation on policy construction and implementation.
- Assisted in coordinating vaccine distribution events for individuals experiencing homelessness.

Clark County Commissioner Justin Jones – District Director
2020 – 2021

- Conducted policy research, drafted legislation, speeches, and talking points, including leading the effort to ban source of income discrimination in housing.
- Managed constituent services, preventing 50+ evictions by coordinating social service grants.
- Led multiple policies and events, including affordable housing initiatives and community outreach.

- Organized the county's first vaccine clinic for the homeless population and facilitated federal grant applications, securing a \$12 million grant for Red Rock National Park.

Congresswoman Jacky Rosen – Intern/District Representative

2018

- Provided policy guidance to leadership, developed legislative policies, and assisted in resolving key constituent issues related to USPS, Veterans Affairs, and USCIS.

Hakkasan Group – Security Specialist Manager

2013 – 2020

- Managed a team of 15+ employees, coordinating VIP entry, attendance, and security at casinos and nightclubs for high-profile guests.

EDUCATION

University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Master of Arts, Public Policy & Urban Leadership (2018 – 2020)

- Mapped Nevada food deserts and developed public-private partnerships to deploy sustainable solutions.

Bachelor of Arts, Political Science (Graduated with Honors, 2016 – 2018)

University of London

Candidate for Master of Arts, Refugee Protection & Forced Migration Studies (2023 – Current)

AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

- Advisory Board, UNLV Graduate Professional Development
- Winner, UNLV Student Learning and Leadership Impact Award
- Fellow, Ronald Reagan Foundation, Washington, D.C.
- Fellow, The Fund for American Studies, Washington, D.C.
- Recipient, UNLV Political Science Department Scholarship
- Finalist, Harry S. Truman Scholarship, Phoenix, AZ
- FEMA Core Value Award

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP & IMPACT

- My Brother's Keeper Education and Equity Task Force
- 46th District Democrats Board Member
- Public Policy and Leadership Board, UNLV Graduate & Professional Student Association
- Mentor, UNLV Graduate & Professional Student Association
- Mentor, Northwest Education Access
- Mentor, CSN Promise Scholarship
- Program Assistant, HOPE Scholars
- Homelessness and Hunger Coordinator, UNLVolunteers
- Outreach Coordinator, UNLV Young Democrats
- President, Student Sustainability Council & Rebel Green Team
- Leadership Training Program, Climate Reality Project



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: 2023

Name of Candidate (as registered with King County Elections): Brandon Monson

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: Brandon Monson

Signed at Seattle, Washington

(City or other location must be filled in.)

Date: 07/02/2025

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](#).

EXPLANATIONS FOR RESPONSES ON PAGE 1: *(Use additional sheets if necessary. For assistance, please call the Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission at 206-684-8500.)*

1. Please provide the name and address of each person or entity for which you answered Yes on page 1

Name: _____

Address: _____

2. Please provide the name and address of each entity for which you answered Yes on page 1.

Name: _____

Address: _____

3. Please indicate (i) the name of the person holding the position (you or an immediate family member); (ii) the title of the office, directorship, trusteeship or employment held; and (iii) the name and address of the entity.

Person holding the position: _____

Position held with entity: _____

Entity name: _____

Entity address: _____

4. Please describe the relationships, employment history or financial interests for which you answered YES on page 1.