



APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO CITY COUNCIL

Applicant Information	
Name:	Randall Peterson
Address:	[REDACTED]
Email:	[REDACTED]
Home Phone:	[REDACTED]
Cell Phone:	[REDACTED]
Occupation:	[REDACTED]
Employer:	[REDACTED]

Skills/Abilities/Interests
List your skills, abilities, related volunteer community service and interests relevant to the City Council position.
<p>I have been fortunate to have had a diverse professional background in education, law, and public policy. These experiences have provided skills that will serve Ward 1, the Council as a whole, and the larger Northglenn community.</p> <p>As a licensed attorney in good standing with the Colorado Bar Association (license number 43570), I have a deep understanding of the diverse issues and duties faced by the Council including municipal code, state and federal statutes, budgets, business development and licensing issues, along with zoning and land use. As a secondary teacher and college instructor, I know how strong schools lead to a strong workforce, which leads to a strong community, which further supports even stronger schools. In public policy, I have argued for ballot initiatives in front of the State Title Board navigating TABOR and single-subject rule challenges, and have written policy papers and led seminars on education policy and other issues for leaders across the state.</p> <p>However, it is the latent skills in my career that have best prepared me to serve on City Council.</p> <p>First and foremost is that education access and excellence is one of my deepest civic passions. I have worked for sixteen years as a secondary social studies teacher, nine of which in Adams 12, including Northglenn High School, from which I am an alumni. As a result, I know so many of the issues that face our families and how hard they work so to give their children opportunities that they might not have had. I also teach college Business Law and American History, and have direct experiences seeing what colleges and businesses need for an ever-changing global economy. My career as a teacher is predicated on the same principle as my desire to be on City Council, and that is simply a desire to serve and a life-long commitment to making a difference.</p> <p>I have always been motivated by intellectual curiosity, a strong work-ethic, and a sense of justice. It was this intellectual curiosity that led me to pursue studying the Constitution as a James Madison Fellow in graduate school, and prompted my own desire later in life, to learn more about the law. I went to law school in the evenings while I taught full-time in the day. Like teaching, the law is, ironically, ultimately about people. I know from experience that conflicts can often be solved by reason, honest dialogue, and strong communication of the principles you stand for.</p>

My interests for Ward 1 are diverse and varied, and include investing in business, preserving open space and sustainability (which are not mutually exclusive), creating good government, and helping people be a part of a true community.

If selected to City Council, you will have a member that communicates with and advocates for Ward 1, thinks about issues from multiple perspectives, is open to the ideas of others, will practice personal and professional integrity, will consider the long-term interests of the City, and will be an informed and engaged public servant.

Questionnaire

Have you lived in the City of Northglenn for at least 12 months? Yes No

Are you a registered voter? Yes No

Did you vote in the 2019 election? Yes No Prefer not to answer

Will you be able to attend meetings of the City Council? Yes No

Are you related to any employee, appointee, or elected official of the City? Yes No

If yes, please list: _____

Why do you want to be appointed to the City Council?

I want to be appointed to the Northglenn City Council because I want to give back that which I have been fortunate to have received. There is no higher calling with a greater responsibility than public service and I want to serve the community that has given me the life and opportunities I have been given.

I grew up and was raised in Northglenn by Danahy Park off of Huron and Naiad. I graduated from Northglenn High School and later taught there. I chose to live in Northglenn because this is an outstanding, dynamic, and diverse community that provides a quality of life for businesses and families to thrive. When I was a young boy and involved in scouting (later achieving Eagle Scout) we would engage in an activity after camping trips where we would walk in a line through the campsite and pick up any leftover trash. I asked my dad why we had to pick up trash that wasn't ours and he answered simply "to leave the place better than when you found it." That maxim has stayed with me and has been a guiding principle through all I do in my life. Simply put, I want to help make Northglenn better than I found it, and give back all that this community has given to me.

We live in an environment where there is an inherent distrust of government, and our citizens see gridlock and frustration at the federal level. I am an inherent optimist that this need not be the rule in local government. I am a fervent believer in good government and making government work for the people we serve. As a member of City Council, there is a very real opportunity to improve the daily and immediate lives of our constituents. Whether that be connecting City (and likely County) services to people in need, promoting opportunities for new and existing businesses, or fostering a community for families, the work of City Council is paramount to making a difference. It is the essence of everything I have done in my life both personally and professionally, and that is why I wish to be appointed to City Council.

How will your education, training, experience, and knowledge of the community make you a suitable candidate to serve as a member of the City Council?

As an attorney, I have a deep awareness of the issues that face City Council, and know the interplay between local, state, and federal laws in establishing policy. Most recently, my legal practice has been based on serving the needs of low-income clients in all aspects of civil and business law, a large part of which has been finding solutions outside of the law by connecting vulnerable populations to local and state services. As a result, I have a deep understanding and practical experience in the issues that face Northglenn in 2020 including: eminent domain; land use, zoning, and planning along with environmental regulations and conservation; code enforcement and municipal courts; the legal and ethical requirements of government contracting and oversight; as well as home-rule city governance and fiscal planning including revenue bonds, mill levy's, and licensing.

Beyond my legal experience, my greatest passion is working to educate and empower tomorrow's generation. Nine of my sixteen years as a public school teacher have been spent in Adams 12, including Northglenn High School from where I graduated. Therefore, I have an intimate knowledge of the leaders, families, people, history, and values of our community. For Northglenn communities to thrive, our schools must thrive, and this is work that is not done alone but in a symbiotic relationship with the larger Northglenn civic and business community. For example, the ongoing need for school resource officers in our schools requires the Council to recognize the need, appropriate the funds, and work with the district to evaluate and improve the results. Not surprisingly, when our schools and communities thrive, then so too do our local businesses. My experience in education is one that knows, values, and invests in this cycle of upward mobility.

I have recently returned to teaching history, government, and economics in the International Baccalaureate program in the Mapleton Public Schools. I also teach American History and Business Law courses at Front Range Community College, where I am state certified in Career and Technical Education in Business. Thus, I have direct experience bridging the skills and experiences our businesses and colleges expect from our graduates as well as helping schools network and collaborate with local businesses and non-profits like the Public Education and Business Coalition (PEBC) to make sure students are both college and career ready so to take advantage of our current level of low unemployment.

In my work in project management and public policy, I have solicited and managed numerous grants and external funding opportunities and overseen corresponding budgets. I have worked directly with representatives in government, community development, and non-profits whom the City works directly or indirectly with including the General Assembly, the Colorado Municipal League, SCFD, the Metro North Chamber of Commerce, RTD, and Adams 12 Schools.

The diversity of my experiences allow me to hit the ground running with the knowledge of the issues that face our community, the legal precedents and standards governing them, and most importantly, having lived the experience to know the pulse, values, and culture of Northglenn.

In your opinion, what are the most important issues facing the City and how would you propose they be addressed?

While traffic, completion of the FasTracks North Metro line, open space and recreation opportunities are crucial, the issues of housing and business development are emerging as some of the most important issues facing Northglenn in the immediate future.

In the 2019 Residents Survey, only 42% of respondents felt that Northglenn had an availability of affordable low-cost housing. While this problem is not unique to Northglenn but is endemic to the larger Denver Metro area, affordable housing is an issue that affects the entire community. As the City Council works with developers and zoning for housing, new housing developments should be done with an eye towards creating

housing for all stages of a person's life and ensure that residential units take into account the economic diversity of our community. Sadly, with many working families subject to being one pay check or illness away from homelessness, the City needs to proactively devote intellectual capital in partnering with Adams County to develop a unified plan to proactively assist our most vulnerable populations.

For far too long, we have seen parts of Northglenn lay dormant. I remember shopping at Albertson's and seeing it as an empty big box. I shopped at the Northglenn Mall and watched it slowly succumb to its competitor in Westminster. Then, with the help of eminent domain, the Northglenn Marketplace offered the promise of mixed-use retail and a sense of community. But larger economic factors like the bankruptcy of Borders and Bennigan's were felt here in Northglenn. As a result, a vital economic revitalization program with maximum funding is an ongoing priority of mine to allow for more opportunities for residents to shop in the city and for public/private partnerships to work to bring in and retain new businesses.

With more than 1000 businesses of all types in Northglenn, I believe that expanding jobs and retail services can be best served by boldly continuing on the path already undertaken. I believe Northglenn is leading the way in the metro area with urban renewal predicated on business support, microloans, discount billboard advertising, capital and employment grants (Business Utility Assistance Grant, Business Improvement Grant), and enterprise zones. These efforts are seen in what used to be the vacant Albertson's, but is now the Huron Center Redevelopment Project. The Business Retention and Expansion (BRE) efforts deserve a high degree of funding. If appointed to City Council, I would be very interested in furthering efforts undertaken to publicize these efforts in the Northglenn community. Furthermore, the Council could support the Economic Development Office by targeted outreach to some of the business departments of local colleges. As a professor of Business Law, I see many opportunities to connect start-ups and entrepreneurs seeking microloans in communities like Northglenn that are committed to developing new businesses.

What vision do you have for the City of Northglenn?

As Northglenn celebrates its first 50 years, its hard to imagine our community 50 years later in 2069. While the specifics might be impossible to predict, it is essential to be looking to the future with planning, foresight, and optimism. My vision for the future of Northglenn starts with the 2023 Strategic Plan addressing the eight strategic priority areas including community engagement, diversity, business development, and sustainability.

But my vision also includes those intangibles that make a town into a community. I envision a Northglenn where people choose to live here because of its reputation rather than simply being in the north metro area. I want Northglenn to be a place where you see friends and neighbors at Pirate Fest or Noel Northglenn. I want Northglenn to be a place where our Anythink libraries are fully funded and expanding to be partners in community development and life-long learning. Economically, I want Northglenn to be a place where we not only live but can shop and eat locally rather than have our tax dollars go to places like the Orchards. I want to see new growth and businesses that we can be excited about and participate in. More than anything, I think what makes Northglenn special is that we are a community that values our diversity, our history, and our culture. We are a hometown more than just a suburb. My vision is that we balance growth with sustainability and identity, while always guarding against stagnation. Ultimately, I want Northglenn to always be a place where individuals, families, and businesses from all walks of life can call home.

In reviewing the City's 2020 Budget, what are you most excited about and why?

There are many things to be excited about in the 2020 budget. The item I am most excited about is, on the surface, not as exciting as the \$51 million development of the Harkin Theater in the Northglenn Marketplace, although this new development without a tax increase built with aid from the Northglenn Urban Renewal Authority under a public/private partnership is certainly an innovative development and project that deserves to be replicated.

I am most excited about the Northglenn Underground project as a matter of pragmatic need for the safety and well-being of our residents. Specifically, one of the most important 2020 expenditures is the \$3,000,000 allocated to replace the pump at Lift Section A and the Forcemain replacement (the bulk of the spending is \$25,000,000 for construction in 2021). This is important to me not because Lift Section A is in Ward 1, and not because the Council made it its number one goal in its public works allocation in the 2020 budget. Rather, it is exciting to me because it is an example of proactive thinking and responsible government. It is exciting to me because of the lessons of Flint, Michigan in 2014.

While there are notable differences between the Flint crisis and the Northglenn Underground, the concepts are similar. Flint decided to fully switch their water supply to the Flint River, which had various degrees of contaminants resulting from years of industrialization and shrinking city budgets for oversight and maintenance. Along with toxic water, it was corroded pipes that allowed lead to leach into the water supply. The result was 12 deaths, thousands of children subject to lead poisoning, and an estimated \$400 million in social costs resulting from the contamination. While Lift Station A and the Forcemain deal with wastewater and not drinking water, Flint ignored the problem of corrosive pipes and looked for a short-term solution on the cheap, which was not a solution at all. In Northglenn, it is the pre-stressed concrete cylinder pipe that exports the wastewater nine miles north that is over 30 years old and cannot be repaired but needs to be replaced. My excitement is based on the fact that Northglenn is spending a great deal of money on the front-end to prevent a wastewater catastrophe on the back-end.

Local government has an absolute and unequivocal duty to get the big things right. When I talk to constituents in Ward 1 about the utility rate increase in the wastewater fund of 6% over five years, I can tell them with confidence that their dollars are in response to a civic necessity, and one that I am excited about because it is the right thing to do.

Of course, an annual budget of \$120,000,000 with no tax increases is not only a cause for celebration but a model of fiscal responsibility that I will strive to emulate if selected to City Council.

If the Council is debating an item that is, for you, a particularly strong emotional issue, how would you maintain your objectivity?

Service on the City Council is exactly that---service. The issues that come before the Council are those that affect countless people, businesses, and our larger community. It is not about me.

If appointed, I will serve completely and exclusively as a representative of the people's will and the interests of Ward 1. Any representative in government may have a strong emotional connection to an issue, but if so, this must be wholly subservient to the best interests and voices of his/her constituents.

This is even more important in the current situation where the Council seat will be by appointment rather than election. The new member did not have to present his/her ideas to the voters of Ward 1 in the election, and more importantly, the people of Ward 1 did not get the opportunity to learn about or vet through democratic inquiry the platform of any particular candidate. Thus, it is imperative that this new member is without question an advocate for his/her constituents and who recognizes that the Northglenn City Council is a deliberative body for the people; deserving of the highest degree of professionalism, dignity, and decorum, and is not a forum for individual, personal passions.

Thus, if an issue has particular emotional significance for me, I will maintain my objectivity by embodying the fundamental truth of democratic government, which is that the City Council works to serve and represent the needs and issues of their constituents, without exception.

Supplemental Information

Please provide any additional information or statements that may assist the City Council in giving your application the fullest consideration. You may also attach a resume, letter of interest, or other supplemental information. ***Please note that a resume, letter of interest, or other supplemental information is strongly encouraged, but is not required.***

Letter of interest and resume attached.

Please note: Relatives of elected and appointed City officials are not eligible for regular full-time employment with the City. In the event that an employee's relative is elected or appointed to Council, the employee will cease to be eligible for City employment during the term of office of the relative. After the term of office for the relative has ended, the employee may re-apply for City employment as vacancies occur. Relatives include spouse, children, parents, grandparents and siblings, as well as members of step-families, foster families, adoptive families, and in-laws. This regulation also applies to other relatives living in the same household.

Please contact the Northglenn City Clerk's Office if you need assistance with language access resources or other accommodations.

December 11, 2019

Dear Northglenn City Council and Ward 1 Appointment Committee:

Hello, my name is Randall Peterson. My career experiences in education, public policy, and the law have all been predicated on empowering individual citizens and working to make a difference in our society. I am passionately committed to ensuring that the residents of Ward 1 have a City Council member that works tirelessly on their behalf and fully represents their access to and interests in City Council. As a result, I would like to serve the City of Northglenn as a City Councilmember from Ward 1.

I began my career in the Colorado General Assembly, which prompted me to later work as a policy analyst where I drafted white papers on issues such as TABOR, school innovation, and education funding for education advocates. I am presently in my sixteenth year of teaching secondary social studies, the majority of which has been in Adams 12, where I have the opportunity to engage young people in their community and government on a daily basis, which has been the privilege of a lifetime. As an attorney, I have worked in civil litigation advising businesses and low-income individuals on issues including land use, zoning, municipal code, contracts, and licensing. In policy and project management I have led numerous workshops and seminar programs across the state for professionals on trends in educational policy including educator effectiveness (SB 10-191), ESSA, and accessing external funding including Title I and Title IIA dollars.

However, I will be able to best represent Ward 1 because of the leadership skills required to serve my local community. As a leader, I am able to set large goals, use practical tactics to achieve them, and evaluate both the results and the process. Leadership requires teamwork, collaboration, self-sacrifice, a sense of humor, and humility. Thus, I know how to manage and evaluate programs, resources, budgets, and know how to facilitate buy-in and ownership of shared goals, recognizing that different parts of Northglenn operations cannot operate in a vacuum but are interrelated and need to be mutually supportive.

I believe in the lost art of listening as a fundamental part of communication. My communication skills are based on building, forging, and cultivating relationships. I have achieved success for my students, clients, and organizations I have served because of zealous advocacy, strong and convincing communication, using open and honest dialogue, and most important, knowing how to listen to people. I strongly believe that civility is never a sign of weakness because especially in government service, successful communication begins and ends with credibility born of integrity.

Ultimately, I am a problem solver, a collaborator, and a strategic thinker who is able to anticipate developing issues before they become problems which allows me to be proactive rather than reactive in finding solutions and fulfilling a vision.

I was raised in Northglenn and chose to live here because this is a true community in its people, its history, and its diversity. To have the honor to serve the city I treasure as a member of City Council is an honor that will receive nothing short of my personal and professional best.

Sincerely,

Randall Peterson

EDUCATION:

Legal Education

- **Licensed Member of Colorado Bar, October, 2011, Colorado Attorney #43570**
- University of Denver Sturm College of Law, J.D., 12/10, GPA 3.3, top 23% of class.
- Recipient, Arthur X. Erickson JD '13 Endowed Memorial Scholarship "for students who have attained high academic performance and demonstrate community service," 2010-2011.
- Recipient, Charles F. Brannan LLB '29 Endowed Memorial Scholarship "for students who show potential to become exemplary lawyers," 2008-2009.
- Member, Phi Delta Phi Honor Society, 04/09-12/10.

Graduate Education

- University of New Mexico, M.A. in Social Studies Education, constitutional history emphasis, 12/01.
- Recipient, James Madison Fellowship, national award for a M.A. specialization in constitutional history, awarded to one person per state, 04/99.

Undergraduate Education

- Metropolitan State College of Denver, B.A. in History, Summa Cum Laude, 4.00 GPA, 12/96.
- Winner, *The President's Award*, highest student achievement given to top graduate, 12/96.
- President's Honor Roll, 1995-1996; President of Golden Key National Honor Society, 11/95-12/96; Winner of Colorado Scholars Award/Scholarship, 11/95; History Honor Society, 12/95-12/96.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

College Adjunct Instructor and Scholarship, 2018-Present, 2014-2016, 2007, 2005, Denver, CO

- Publication of "In Search of a Statesman," *The Docket*, December/January 2019/2020.
- Adjunct Professor of Business Law, *Business Law I and II*, Front Range Community College, 08/18-present.
- Adjunct Professor of History, *American History I*, Front Range Community College, 08/18-05/19.
- Adjunct Professor of History, *American History II*, Front Range Community College, 08/18-05/19.
- Adjunct Professor of History, *Western Civilization II*, Front Range Community College, 01/07-05/07.
- Adjunct Professor of Education, *Processes of Education in Multi-Cultural Urban Schools*, Metropolitan State College of Denver, 08/05-12/05.
- Concurrent Enrollment, Career Technical Education, and online instruction trained/certified, 12/18.
- Various cultural exchange and study programs include Latin American Revolutions (Havana, Cuba, 2016), Ottoman Empire and the Rise of Modern Turkey (Istanbul, Turkey, 2014), Jefferson and the Enlightenment (Edinburgh, Scotland, 2015), and Origins of the American Revolution (Boston, MA.).

History Instructor, 08/2019-Present

- International Baccalaureate Program, Global Leadership Academy

Civil Litigation Attorney, Riggs Abney, 01/2018-07/2019

- Engaged in numerous legal issues for clients in all fields of civil litigation.
- Duties include working with clients in client advocacy, legal drafting and research.
- Fields of practice include constitutional, government and administrative, business, employment, family, employment, real estate and contract law.

Civil Litigation Attorney, Private Practice, 02/2017-01/2018

- Engaged in numerous legal issues for clients in all fields of civil litigation.
- Fields of practice primarily in free speech, constitutional, employment, defamation, and family law.

Director of Professional Practice, Colorado Education Association (CEA), 02/2016-02/2017

- CEA designee for state implementation of Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA): manage a team of professionals, budget, and objectives related to ESSA implementation at state and local district level, engaged in research,

outreach, and lead state-wide compliance workshops on assessments, standards, accountability, and licensure under ESSA.

- Drafting state ESSA plan as member of CDE ESSA Effective Instruction and Leadership Committee and School Improvement Committee.
- CEA liaison to State Board of Education, responsible for lobbying, monitoring, and testifying to State Board of Education, Colorado Commission of Higher Education, and other government entities on education law and policy issues.
- Lead trainings to local districts and administrators on all fields in professional development.
- Research and draft legal memos on education policy within state agencies and C.R.S.
- Solicit grant funding and oversee implementation of educator programs including fellowships for instructional, association, and policy leadership.
- Authored and published numerous articles on education law, policy, and practices for CEA.

Secondary Social Studies Teacher, Adams 12 Five Star Schools (majority of career) 08/2013-02/2016, 08/1998-08/2011

- Norse Choice Award, top teacher selected by students, 05/15.
- One of 50 teachers chosen nationally by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History to study *Jefferson and the Enlightenment*, University of Edinburgh, Scotland, 07/15.
- One of 50 teachers chosen nationally by the National Endowment of Humanities, to study *The Origins of the American Revolution*, Boston, 07/15.
- One of 50 teachers chosen nationally by the Turkish Cultural Foundation and World Affairs Councils for *Spotlight on Turkey*, to study Turkish culture and history, Istanbul, 07/14.
- Initiated and developed Character Scholarship at Legacy High School, 04/12.
- Boettcher Foundation Recipient for Most Inspirational Teacher Award, 08/11.
- Director for Alternatives-to-Suspension Program, a twice weekly motivational seminar and workshop for at-risk students; achieved 75% reduction of student suspensions during first year of program inception, 12/04-12/07.
- Albuquerque Public Schools, 08/98-08/01, Prince William County Schools Virginia, 08/01-08/04, Adams Five Star Schools, 08/04-08/11, Jefferson County Schools, 08/13-08/14, Adams 12 Five Star Schools 08/14-02/16.

Litigation Associate Attorney, Burg Simpson, 08/2011-03/2013

- Involved in all aspects of plaintiff's litigation firm in personal injury and commercial claims including administrative licensing and regulatory affairs, employment and labor litigation, breach of contract, premises liability, insurance disputes, negligence, toxic torts, environmental nuisance, civil fraud, construction defects, severe personal injury, and auto litigation.
- Duties include managing all aspects of case management including the drafting of pleadings, discovery, motions to the court, settlement demands, and research memorandums. Engaged in settlement negotiations, depositions, court appearances, and correspondence to opposing counsel and clients for successful results.
- Settled numerous cases for high dollar values.
- Produced and implemented \$10,000 scholarship program for high school students to study importance of civil jury system.

Political Policy Analyst, 2004, 2006, Capital Consulting LLC, Denver, CO

- Established political consulting company, Capital Consulting LLC, marketed to political candidates and elected members of Colorado General Assembly; researched and produced seventeen policy papers for members of Colorado General Assembly and political candidates on state budget, health care, land management, conservation, energy, and education.

PRO BONO & COMMUNITY SERVICE

- Represented Colorado education non-profit organization before State Title Board; successfully secured title for four ballot initiatives against TABOR and single-subject rule challenges.
- Represented Iraq war veteran with a traumatic brain injury with successful breach of contract claim against local business engaged in prejudicial business practices against injured veterans.
- Colorado Lawyers Committee Education Task Force, volunteer for pro bono work for underserved populations.
- Eagle Scout, 1989.