

Why is There a Vacancy on the Seattle City Council?

On September 13, 2017 Mayor Ed Murray resigned from office. Pursuant to [the City Charter Article XIX](#), Council President Harrell was sworn in as Mayor of Seattle on September 13, 2017 and had five days to decline the Office of Mayor. On Friday, September 15, Mayor Harrell announced his declination.

On September 18, 2017 the Council elected Councilmember Tim Burgess as Mayor. Mayor Burgess will remain in office until November 28th, 2017 when the general election results are certified. Thereafter, the newly elected Mayor will immediately take office.

Councilmember Burgess' former citywide seat on the City Council is now vacant and must be filled. The City Charter gives the City Council 20 days to fill a vacant Council position, starting September 18, 2017. In the event the Council fails to fill the vacant position by the end of that 20-day period (October 8, 2017,) the Council must meet every business day thereafter until the vacancy is filled.

Process for Filling the Council Vacancy

The Council will follow the process outlined below:

1. Application Period:

Opens: Monday, September 25, 2017

Closes: Sunday, October 1, 2017 at 5:00 p.m.

Applicants must submit a resume, cover letter, and completed financial interest statement form to the City Clerk by 5:00 p.m. on October 1. Up to three references (optional) may be submitted along with a signed reference authorization form. The City Charter requires applicants be a citizen of the United States and a registered voter of the City of Seattle. **Applicants are encouraged to address prior experience with both the budget and in government, in their cover letter or reflected elsewhere in their materials as submitted.** [Application information is below.](#)

2. City Clerk Transmission of List of Applicants: Monday, October 2, 2017

The City Clerk will provide Councilmembers with the names of all candidates who submitted application materials by the October 1 5:00 p.m. deadline.

3. City Clerk Transmission of Applications to Councilmembers: Tuesday, October 3, 2017

The City Clerk will provide to each Councilmember a notebook that includes all the applications received by the October 1, 5:00 p.m. deadline. The City Clerk will also post all applications on their website, giving the public opportunity to review the applications and submit comments to council@seattle.gov.

4. Community Forum: Tuesday, October 3, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. in Bertha Knight Landes Room at City Hall (format to be determined)

This process may be facilitated by interested Councilmembers and is intended to be led by community groups. The purpose is to allow community members to meet and ask questions of the applicants. Council expects applicants to attend the forum and Special Full Council Meeting on Wednesday, October 4 at 5:00 p.m.

5. Special Full Council Meeting: Wednesday, October 4, 5:00 p.m.

Applicants for the vacant Council seat may address the Council and the public followed by a public comment period for community members.

6. Councilmember conferences (optional): Week of Monday, October 2 to Thursday, October 5, 2017.

At Councilmembers' discretion, they may meet and confer with any and all candidates of their choice in order to make an informed decision within the 20-day deadline.

7. City Council Executive Session to Discuss Qualifications: Thursday, October 5, 2017 at 9:30 a.m.

As permitted by the Open Public Meetings Act, the Council will meet in executive session to discuss the qualifications of candidates.

8. City Council Appointment at Special Full Council Meeting Friday, October 6, 2017 at 2:00 p.m.

The Council will vote to fill the vacancy at the Special Full Council meeting.

The City Charter gives the City Council 20 days to fill a vacant Council position. This period began September 18, 2017. In the event the Council fails to fill the vacant position by the end of that 20-day period, the Council must meet every business day thereafter until the vacancy is filled.

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