

Mayor and Council Vacancy Application

ROBERT J. WRIGHT

Relevant experience and background

I moved to Rockville 39 years ago to further my career with the federal government. In 2016, having served 40 years with the government, I retired from the Department of Energy as a Senior Advisor. Throughout my career I held various management and staff positions and represented the Department on domestic and international bodies. As an expert in both the energy and environmental fields, I served details on Capitol Hill to a Congressman and a U.S. Senator.

My work required frequent travel, both domestic and international. The love and experience of visiting new places and learning new things has carried over in my retirement, as my wife and I continue to travel. I believe travel gives you a valuable perspective about where you live and why it's important to participate in your community and government. My most recent trip was off the coast of Northern Norway, several hundred miles above the Arctic circle. I visited several small coastal towns, all with populations less than Rockville's. They want to attract people and businesses to their communities and are doing so by establishing university communities with different specialties.

My wife, Stephanie, is a Nurse Practitioner and retired after a career in academia. She volunteers one day a week in the Kaseman Health Clinic in Rockville Town Center. We raised our three children in Rockville, and all three graduated from Wootton High School. They benefited greatly from Montgomery County Public Schools, as they excelled in college. All three are married and we have six grandchildren.

Throughout my life, I have valued the importance of being an active member of my community and was able to balance pursuing a career and raising a family toward that end. I've served as a Cub Master, Scoutmaster, and swim team president for the Rockshire Sharks. I was elected treasurer and president of the Rockshire Homeowners Association. Other volunteer activity included working as a coach of an MSI girls soccer team, as a founder of a WAGS girls soccer team, as the treasurer and president of Peerless Rockville, and as a director on the board of Rockville Sister City Corporation.

Today, I remain active in both community and government affairs. I was a co-founder and leader of Concerned Citizens for Rockshire Center Redevelopment. I currently serve as the Chair of the Rockville Financial Advisory Board. This past August I was appointed to the Maryland Air Quality Control Advisory Council for a term of 5 years.

In 1995 I was elected to the Rockville City Council and served three terms as a Councilmember. While on the Council, I served on the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee, including one year as chair, as chair of the Montgomery County Chapter of the Maryland Municipal League, and as a board member of the Maryland Municipal League, including one year on the Executive Committee. I believe this experience alone uniquely qualifies me to fill the vacancy, and for all practical purposes, I could quickly be up to speed. I understand the legislative role and responsibilities of the Mayor and Council, as well as the organizational structure and role of City staff.

I am retired; therefore, I can give my full attention to the responsibilities of the office of Councilmember. People in the Rockville neighborhoods, community organizations and

businesses know my prior service to the City - I am a known to them. They would be comfortable with my selection.

I was active in campaigns for several County offices and know personally many of the elected officials. I believe having these relationships is an advantage for Rockville.

I will be an independent voice on Mayor and Council. I value my past relationships with the current members of Mayor and Council, but they are secondary to serving the residents of Rockville. I intend to make the best decisions I can for the residents. Residents can approach me with their concerns and hopes. Yes, there might be dilemmas, conflicts, and differences of opinion. I intend to make my own decisions - decisions that benefit our residents, current and future, in the best way possible.

Priorities and vision

I do not intend to seek election to Mayor and Council in November 2019. I would serve the residents of Rockville for 9 months until the winners of the election in November 2019 are sworn-in. This is fair as the election (selection) of an applicant to Council now, who would stand for election in November 2019, gives him/her an advantage over others who plan to run for office in November 2019. I offer this option to Mayor and Council in order for them to have an alternative for election (selection) of a Councilmember.

A simply expressed vision I have for Rockville is for residents to say, "I am proud to live in Rockville." I agree with the vision expressed by this Mayor and Council and the associated "critical success factors—*Efficient and effective City service delivery, good governance, safe and livable neighborhoods, fiscal responsible [sic], planning and preservation, informed and engaged residents, economic development and stewardship of infrastructure.*" When these success factors are met then one can sincerely say, "I am proud to live in Rockville."

I promise to focus on municipal issues that affect our lives today. In the nine months I would serve I have the following primary priorities:

1. Adopt a fiscally sustainable budget.
2. Implement vote by mail as flawlessly as possible.
3. Work with REDI to develop a strategy to help owners of commercial properties find tenants with public appeal and staying power, e.g., Town Center, Research Row and King Farm.
4. Work with neighborhoods and City staff to repurpose underutilized and defunct spaces, e.g., King Farm Farmstead and Rockshire Village Center.

It would be an honor to serve again the residents of Rockville.