

Nilu Jenks

REDACTED

July 8, 2025

The Honorable City Council Members
Seattle City Council
600 4th Ave
Seattle, WA 98104
CouncilVacancy@seattle.gov

Dear Council President Nelson and Esteemed City Council Members:

I am writing to express my interest in the appointment to Seattle City Council, District 5. As a former candidate for this position in 2023, whose campaign knocked on over 11,000 doors, I have built deep relationships and gained a strong understanding of my district's needs and priorities.

Seattle faces serious challenges, and I do not believe we will solve them with ideological solutions. What we need are thoughtful, constructive conversations that lead to innovative, long-term solutions — especially on public safety, housing, homelessness, and affordability. My commitment to public service and focus on systemic, results-oriented solutions position me to contribute meaningfully to the Council's work.

Everyone deserves to feel safe in their neighborhood and to afford to live in the city they call home. Seattle has an opportunity, and responsibility, to deliver a more affordable, connected, and secure future for all of us. Moreover, the very solutions that improve public safety and lower the cost of living — like abundant housing near transit and parks, safe streets for walking and biking, and clean, efficient public transportation — also help us meet our climate goals. We can take action on these intersecting challenges while ensuring a just transition by working with labor and business to expand apprenticeship programs and job training for the economy of the future.

I would be honored to help build a city where every 10-year-old can walk to school safely — in a city that protects their path forward and extends that care to every neighbor along the way.

Everyone deserves to be heard and represented. I am a first generation Iranian-American and former ELL student. I understand the refugee and immigrant

experience firsthand, and at a time when these communities are under attack by federal policy and rhetoric, I believe it is essential that someone on Council can speak from personal experience.

I have worked consistently to serve and uplift my community: volunteering in our public schools across the city and in various capacities, organizing with my neighbors to establish a memorial public park in response to a random spree shooting just outside my home, and bringing my neighbors together with city officials after cars repeatedly crashed into our homes and yards on Sand Point Way. These experiences have deepened my belief in the importance of responsive local government and my own commitment to building safe, connected, and caring communities across Seattle.

Everyone deserves a healthy local democracy – one that empowers participation, builds trust, and drives real progress. Over the past two years, I have partnered with community organizations and legislators statewide to advance pro-democracy reforms, particularly ranked choice voting, an electoral reform proven to reduce negative campaigning and increase constructive civic engagement. I know both firsthand and through my work that voters are exhausted by political division and want to see their representatives working on shared values and goals, which I know we have. Seattle voters have already approved implementing ranked choice voting for city positions by 2027, and I want to help our city implement this electoral reform. I would welcome the opportunity to use my professional experience to enable this voter-mandated change by supporting thoughtful voter, media, and candidate education, so we can build a more hopeful and connected civic culture. Overall, I would appreciate the opportunity to work on the problems facing our city collaboratively, especially across policy differences, because I know that is what our communities want from their leaders.

I share your commitment to making Seattle a city where every resident feels seen, safe, and supported. I am eager to continue Councilmember Moore's work in District 5 and to help strengthen our district's evolving identity within a citywide context, and it would be a privilege to bring my experience, perspective, and collaborative spirit to the Council.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I have attached my resume for your review and would appreciate the opportunity to discuss my qualifications further.

Sincerely,

Nilu Jenks

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Experienced civic leader, policy strategist, and community organizer with a proven track record in advancing legislation, coalition building, and community service. Committed to strengthening democracy, climate advocacy, housing and childcare affordability, and public safety through systemic, collaborative solutions.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Political and Partnerships Director

Sep 2023 – Present

FairVote Washington, Bothell, WA

- Advanced the WA VOICES Act (HB 1448) through key House committees despite a challenging budget and political climate. Significantly reduced fiscal note in collaboration with partner organizations.
- Grew and strengthened community partnerships; helped make the WA VOICES Act a priority bill for three coalitions this year.
- Serve on the Democracy Voucher Levy Renewal Steering Committee.

Executive Committee Board Member

Nov 2021 – Present

Roosevelt Alumni for Racial Equity (RARE), Seattle, WA

- Co-developed the Connections Program that advances belonging in Garfield and Roosevelt High Schools in partnership with the Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle.
- Co-established an evaluation strategy through a UW capstone project partnership.

Seattle City Council Primary Candidate

Mar – Aug 2023

Seattle City Council District 5, Seattle, WA

- Earned 18.8% of vote in a competitive ten-person primary race.
- Knocked on 11,000+ doors to directly connect with voters in District 5.
- Qualified for Democracy Voucher program in 5 days and led in Democracy Vouchers throughout campaign due to strong community support.

Learning Coach

Dec 2020 – Jun 2021

Seattle Parks and Recreation (Mercer Middle School), Seattle, WA

- Supported English Language Learner students struggling during the pandemic through weekly academic and community-building sessions.
- Engaged families and collaborated with school staff on support strategies.

Program Coordinator and Social Media Manager

Nov 2016 – Jan 2019

Healthy Cities Tutoring, San Carlos, CA

- Managed volunteer tutor placements and logistics in response to teacher requests across five K-8 schools.
- Supported volunteer recruitment, donor outreach, and communication.

Co-Founder

Feb – Dec 2018

Citizens for a San Mateo County Gun Buyback, San Carlos, CA

- Raised \$140,000 from individuals and city councils to support a county-wide, community-based gun buyback initiative in partnership with the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office.
- Led communications and survey analysis to measure impact and build public support.
- Program has continued as an established county-level program.

Program Director

Sep 2007 – Sep 2008

Wildland Adventures, Lake Forest Park, WA

- Sold international travel to the Middle East, Patagonia, and Antarctica; worked with suppliers to book tour-related services.

Senior Educational Tour Consultant

Jan 2003 – Sep 2007

EF Educational Tours, Cambridge, MA

Distinctions: Most Valuable Tour Consultant (Jun 2003); President's Club (Aug 2004 and 2005)

- Managed 200+ accounts and 2,200 participants in teacher-led international tours while also selling for the following year; met or exceeded goals every year.
- Spearheaded Puerto Rico initiative to create Spanish language team.

Financial Analyst

Jul – Dec 2001

Enron Corporation, Houston, TX

Distinctions: Enron Power Player Award for Excellence (Aug 2001)

- Analyzed energy market data, used financial models for regional energy pricing, and provided support for energy contract sales.

CIVIC & COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

Leadership Tomorrow Graduate, 2024-25 Cohort

Seattle Public Library Foundation, Joint Advocacy Committee Member (Current)

WA State Wellesley College Alumnae Club Book Club Chair (Current)

Seattle Iranian Choir (2022-2024)

Wellesley College Class Alumnae Treasurer (June 2016 - Jan 2024)

John Rogers Elementary PTA Advocacy Chair (Jan 2019 - June 2021)

PTA Golden Acorn Award Recipient (June 2021)

San Carlos, CA Citizen's Academy Graduate (Fall 2017)

Roots of Empathy Volunteer at TOPS K-8 School (2011-2012)

Program for Early Parent Support (PEPS) Group Leader (2011)

EDUCATION

Wellesley College, Wellesley, MA - B.A. in Economics & Spanish, 2001

Universidad Nacional de Costa Rica, Heredia, Costa Rica, Fall 1999



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: 1/5/2019

Name of Candidate (as registered with King County Elections): Neeloofar Haghighat Jenks

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: Neeloofar Haghighat Jenks

Signed at Seattle, Washington

Date: 7/7/2025

(City or other location must be filled in.)

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: FairVote Washington

Address:

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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: Nilu Jenks

Position held with entity: Political Director

Entity name: FairVote Washington

Entity address:

REDACTED

Nilu Jenks

Member of Steering Committee

DVP Levy Prop 1 Campaign

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