

Rhonda Perkes

80 S 200 E, Bountiful, UT 84010

rhondaperkes@gmail.com

801-897-2467



December, 2025

Bountiful City Council Applicant

1. Why have you submitted your name for consideration:

My past 15 years of professional experience have given me a unique understanding of the importance of local government, public service, and the role of elected officials in municipal, state and federal offices. This experience, which I outline in another portion of this questionnaire, coupled with the 30 years I have lived in and observed the extraordinary city of Bountiful, has culminated in a desire to serve at this time. I am ready to take on this role to be an agent for the constituents of Bountiful City, a place that has brought me joy and provided an exceptional backdrop in which to raise my children. It has been one of the happy coincidences of my life that I have watched all 5 of my children attend the same schools I attended growing up... Go Braves! (i.e: Redhawks.)

I do not have a specific project or agenda as my reason for running other than a desire to serve, and personal traits that I feel are beneficial to public service. I aim to build upon the solid foundation that the current and previous councils have set in place, a foundation that includes conservative fiscal decisions and building a reasonable budget, while keeping needs of the city funded, and an eye to future necessities.

2. What legislative issues/priorities are you most interested in pursuing?

I would prioritize **keeping the role of local, municipal government intact** and mitigating adverse effects on our city created by state or federal legislation. This would

include considering, and when necessary, advocating for or against legislative effects of tax code, public safety, housing regulations, and land use policy. As well-intentioned as the Utah Legislature is (particularly when compared with many other state legislatures across the country), there is a periodic need for municipalities to remind legislators that not all cities are the same, and that local councils must maintain their local authority. It may sound cliche, but the spine required by a city council is the check-and-balance needed to mitigate consistent incremental burdens, and overreach placed on municipalities.

I am also interested in legislative ideas and solutions that would enable young families to pursue homeownership. I recognize that this is a nation-wide issue with seemingly elusive solutions, however, land-use and housing legislation, and planning and zoning decisions play a role. I am not naive to the fact that the residents of Bountiful like where they live, and are often resistant to change. I get it, and I do think that these constituent's feelings are valid and should be valued and considered in decisions. Municipalities must be part of the solution to housing issues and consulted in the statewide housing plan.

3. Please share your past service to the city as a volunteer, community project participant or other capacity:

I strongly support volunteer efforts. I believe that the time we spend creating a sense of belonging and community, particularly for young people, pays back dividends for decades to come. I have been involved in school, church and civic affairs for my entire life. As my children went through elementary, Jr. High and High School here in Bountiful, where I grew up, I dedicated nearly all of my free time to PTA, community councils, and helping in classrooms. After hundreds and hundreds of hours spent volunteering in schools, what I found is that the most memorable school experiences for my children, and their friends, were events and teaching opportunities that were provided by the PTA and volunteer parents. These included before-school math activities, carnivals, chess teams, music programs, volunteer choirs, reading programs, sports and teambuilding activities, and

family-centered events. I can't resist a huge shout out here to Councilman Higginson and the Bountiful Pizza Pie Café (RIP), who donated pizza to school events EVERY SINGLE TIME we asked. Good, good times.

My own children have been fortunate enough to have participated in Bountiful City Youth Councils, where I have helped facilitate their service projects when given the opportunity. This has been an invaluable part of learning about community service for my family over the course of two decades. We have enjoyed working together as a family to patch the youth-council bounce house, gather supplies for the Pumpkin Patch and generally provide what might be needed for youth-council activities. I have also spent time in Bountiful's assisted living facilities, visiting, reading and helping our aging community. We are fortunate to have these well-run services in our city.

Like many religious groups in Bountiful, our congregations have participated in food drives, neighborhood clean-ups, and the Handcart Days booths and activities. I have been appreciative of these organized opportunities and have participated every chance I had.

I value the service opportunities that Bountiful City provides. Several years ago, my mother hosted international performers here for Summerfest. I wanted to support that effort in a meaningful way, and provided meals for these wonderful women. It was a memorable family experience, and one that helped us feel we were adding to a community effort. I am also particularly thankful for the opportunity provided by the Bountiful City Cemetery to my oldest son as he solidified an Eagle Scout project. Raising headstones with our family and friends was an educational and physical challenge, and I'll always be grateful to the cemetery caretakers who facilitated this memorable project for my son.

As a member of the American Legion Auxiliary, I have also been involved in helping with Girls State interviews, as well as the American Legion speech contest as a judge. I have tried to be involved in the Legion, as they subsidized my oldest daughter's Girl's State fees after interviewing her for participation. The Girl's State week was extraordinary for her, and she still talks about the things she learned there, and I've tried to pay it forward for this local-chapter organization.

4. Please discuss your ability to dedicate sufficient time to this position of service.

Although I have considered a run for Bountiful City Council in the past, I did not feel that I could commit to the 4-year term with my job and family. As this current appointment became available, this time I evaluated what my life might look like during the next **6** years, as I would plan to run a full campaign at the end of this partial term. My family is mostly grown, and I am fully committed to the (often long) Tuesday night meetings, as well as council-associated meetings, conferences and other necessary travel. I recognize that a council member's portfolio at any given time may require other committee and advisory or department board meetings as necessary. Although I currently have a full-time job, I am prepared to prioritize the city council position and find different employment, if necessary.

5. What is your fiscal philosophy and under what circumstances would you consider a tax and/or fee increase?

I am a fiscal conservative, and this vein of thinking seems to fit right in with what I've seen from the Bountiful City council. There has NOT been a history of frequent tax increases in Bountiful. To the best of my knowledge, over the last 30 years, Bountiful has only raised taxes for specific, identifiable needs such as necessary FTEs, or ramping up law enforcement budget, directly and positively impacting public safety. The pay-as-you-go, fiscally sound budget-balancing and wise decisions that have brought additional revenue to the city (Bountiful Power being one), have served Bountiful well. I can't imagine that any council member looks forward to a Truth In Taxation meeting, and all that brings with it. I've seen a few of these in various cities, and, as it turns out, when you get between residents and their cash, well....it's a tale as old as the Sons of Liberty and their 342 crates of tea. As a city council member, I would try my very best to avoid tax-increases, and the wrath that comes with them, not because I'm afraid of the wrath, but because constituents are often right about the wrongs of taxation. All of that said, I will not commit to saying I would never

vote for a tax increase. I would *consider* a fee increase to maintain necessary services if those services were absolutely operating consistently over budget. These necessary services may include but are not limited to road and traffic maintenance, clean water, sewer, police and public safety needs. But before I ever voted for a tax increase, I would put in the time and energy for robust due diligence in exhausting all other revenue options and creative budget cuts to meet the needs of the city.

6. List relevant work experience that you believe would help you fill the role of city council member.

Below is a list of relevant work experience, and associated responsibilities and projects, beginning with my most recent position.

Utah Associated Municipal Power Systems (UAMPS)
2024-current

Assistant Manager of Member Relations

- Serve as communications liaison for 50 municipal power members across 7 states; streamline complex technical and regulatory information into clear messaging for public officials, board members, city councils and mayors.
- Prepare and manage public-facing social media content supporting initiatives.
- Lead public outreach strategy for proposed natural gas power plant including messaging coordination, community communication and stakeholder engagement.
- Track municipal and cooperative participation across multiple large-scale energy projects.
- Ensure project boards reflect accurate contracted elections and governance structure.
- Oversee execution and compliance of Power Sales Contracts.
- Participate in efforts to share needs and findings with Federal Delegations in Washington D.C. regarding energy regulatory reform and policy.

Outreach Director- UT Congressional District 2

Congressman Chris Stewart

2014-2023

- Main POC for Congressman Stewart in Utah's District 2.
- Presented at events and meetings on behalf of the Congressman, providing updates and maintaining personal relationships with elected officials and business leaders in the community and state including Councils of Governments, Association of Counties and for all elected-official events.
- Liaison to non-profit organizations, and businesses.
- Coordinated major yearly national security summit with 500 attendees and Presidential Cabinet presenters.
- Wrote congressional briefings, opinion pieces and articles.
- Solved constituent challenges with Federal Agencies.
- Managed all Military Academy application intake, interviews, and nominations for cadet hopefuls to West Point, Annapolis and the air Force Academy. This work has resulted in over 45 graduated military officers from Utah during my tenure.
- Trained and instructed interns.

Congressional Campaign Manager

Celeste Maloy for Congress | 2023

- Executed special-election Congressional campaign for little-known candidate that culminated in Party nomination and election win against much better-funded, well-known candidates.
- Maintained media relationships and answered inquiries.
- Collaborated with fundraisers in Washington D.C. and Utah resulting in \$400K raised in 90 days, abiding by all FEC laws.

- Led a team of mostly volunteers, providing enthusiasm and exceptional experience, ownership in election-night win.

Congressional Campaign Manager

Congressman Chris Stewart

2019-2022

- Directed, strategized and facilitated winning congressional campaign with unique messaging, advertising and outreach to voters while analyzing effectiveness of decisions.

Statement:

Thank you for this opportunity to apply to be a part of the Bountiful City Council. As a former congressional staffer focused on outreach, I spent years attending County Commission meetings, various city council sessions, regional transportation planning meetings, and ULCT conferences and LPC meetings. These experiences have provided me with an education in local government, and its process and procedures.

Through this work, I've built relationships with local officials, regional partners, and stakeholders across the state. I have a broad understanding of how to navigate between different levels of government to solve problems.

Because of my desire to listen and relate, I am adept at engaging people to share perspectives, consider compromise, and disagree with diplomatic intent and respect.

I have a desire to serve in this particular public capacity, and feel that I could be a valuable asset to the Bountiful City Council.

The following two podcasts are ones in which I have been an interviewed guest. If you would like to listen, it provides a overview of some of my work, and highlights a bit of my personal story.

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/rhonda-perkes-hello-2024/id1395704765?i=1000640331852>

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/hard-work-integrity/id1588421225?i=1000646840330>

December 28, 2025

Dear Bountiful City Council and Mayor,

I'd like to express wholehearted recommendation for Rhonda Perkes for an appointed position on the Bountiful City Council. Rhonda is particularly well-suited for public service.

As a former military officer, business CEO, and Member of Congress, I have had the opportunity to work with some of the strongest leaders in our country; general officers, presidents, ambassadors, and others. No one has impressed me more than has Ms. Perkes.

Rhonda worked for me in several capacities throughout the entirety of my time as a Member of Congress. Because of her longevity on my team, she has a broad view of public policy. As my Outreach Director, she took the initiative to develop relationships with local, state and federal officials in my district and was proficient at briefing me on issues that needed attention. She represented me in meetings including state committees, chambers, councils and commissions. In each of these, she was prepared with congressional policy updates, and I was continuously impressed with her ability to listen to my constituents and colleagues and find ways to help with policy and problem solving.

A congressional district office sees an array of visitors each week, including industry representatives, non-profits, international leaders, consulates, and ambassadors. Rhonda was adept at welcoming and putting at ease each of our guests. This was a natural quality that helped me tremendously as a congressman. Rhonda is kind and charismatic. No matter who walked into my office, I had complete confidence that they would get a warm welcome from Rhonda. She is skilled at putting people from all cultures, countries and walks of life at ease. This is a personal talent that is difficult to teach, but comes naturally to Rhonda.

As a member of the Utah Congressional delegation, I held a capstone event in SLC each year—my annual National Security Summit. Rhonda was the point person in the state of Utah for this event, organizing the venue, guest schedules and needs. She also saw to the needs of our dignitaries and program participants including Governors, Presidential Cabinet members, and international leaders.

In 2019 and 2021, I asked Rhonda to serve as my Campaign Manager. In this capacity, she interacted with the media and key dignitaries and developed campaign strategies. Under her leadership, I won the Utah Republican nomination at the 2022 convention with 84% of the delegate vote.

With over 10 years of Congressional experience, and under my personal direction, Rhonda has spent a great deal of time with organizations in the state of Utah, as well as Washington D.C., participating in Congressional hearings and developing relationships with other delegation

members and staff. She is well respected among the Utah delegation, and within many organizations in the state of Utah.

I will end with a personal observation that her top commitment has always been to her family and her personal integrity. It has been a pleasure to interact with her for so many years, and I know you will enjoy working with her as much as I have.

Sincerely,



Chris Stewart
Member of Congress, retired
Principal, Skyline Capitol