

IMPORTANT NOTICE: The City Council may consider applicant qualifications for the Council vacancy in executive sessions which are closed to the public, and then make the appointment in a public meeting. You have the right, however, to have your application considered in a public meeting by providing a written request to the City Clerk.

**CITY OF FLAGSTAFF
APPLICATION TO SERVE ON THE CITY COUNCIL**

RETURN TO: CITY CLERK VIA EMAIL AT STACY.SALTZBURG@FLAGSTAFFAZ.GOV

DEADLINE TO SUBMIT APPLICATION: MONDAY, OCTOBER 12 AT 5:00 P.M.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS INFORMATION IS PUBLIC INFORMATION
(personal identifying information will not be released)

DATE: 10/05/2026

YOUR NAME: Drew Brockner Stanley

HOME ADDRESS: [REDACTED]

ZIP: 86005

EMPLOYER: Arizona Students' Association

JOB TITLE: Northern Regional Director

E-MAIL: [REDACTED]

PHONE NUMBER: [REDACTED]

LENGTH OF RESIDENCY IN FLAGSTAFF: 4.5 Years

Using additional pages, please answer the following questions in 250 words or less, per question:

1. What makes a good Councilmember?
2. What do you think is the biggest issue facing Flagstaff? Give specifics and ideas for addressing the issue.
3. What are your top three priorities for being a City Councilmember and why?
4. What method do you expect to use to make a decision when you believe that there is a segment of the Flagstaff population not being heard on a particular issue?
5. Please give an example of when you were in a position of responsibility and others disagreed with you on how an important matter should be handled. How did you help resolve the issue?
6. What is your leadership style, please provide an example of your style in use.
7. What is your understanding, awareness, and familiarity with the Flagstaff Zoning Code?
8. A key role of the Flagstaff City Council is to adopt the city's budget; how would you balance the seven key community priorities and the realities of the city's financial position with the Council's role of policy development?

I certify that I meet the statutory requirements of living within the corporate limits of the City of Flagstaff for at least one year, that I am over the age of 18 years, that I am a registered voter of the City of Flagstaff, ***and that I have read and understand the right to have my application considered in a public meeting by providing a written request to the City Clerk.***



Applicant Signature

Drew Stanley

██████████
Flagstaff, AZ 86005
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██████████

5th October 2026

Stacy Saltzburg and Flagstaff City Council

Dear Flagstaff City Council,

I write today to state my intent and interest in filling the vacant position available on Flagstaff City Council. As many of you know, I was recently a candidate for said office, and in this year's election managed to advance in the primary held in July, the first such contest in a decade.

Unfortunately, due to pressing circumstances I felt it was in the best interest of myself and my family to withdraw from the election and focus for a time on supporting us, as my wife and I welcomed our first child earlier in the year.

I felt that the strain of campaigning, particularly in a heavily contested general election, as well as financially supporting ourselves and being present for the opening months of my child's life, were too much to try and manage while also honoring my commitments as a candidate.

However, I would like to say that never in that process have I wavered in my desire to serve Flagstaff in whatever manner I can, whether as a public official, community advocate, or just as a plain old private citizen expressing his opinion.

I have spent the last several years in a variety of roles that have allowed me to work with the State Legislature, Arizona Board of Regents, County Offices, and the City Council. As a result, I feel that I can offer a unique perspective on the experiences of people in this city: for the student, for the young working family, and for those for whom public policy strikes particularly close to home.

I humbly ask for your consideration for this appointment in the hope that collaboration, good sense, and empathetic decision making continue to guide this city in the direction we all want it to go.

Sincerely,
Drew B. Stanley

1. A good Councilmember, in my mind, is one who is able to contribute to council discussions without attempting to impose their will on the rest. Council is a collaborative process with the councilors, the public, and city staff all working together to create policy that benefits as many people as possible. A good councilmember must be able to balance the concerns of all parties involved while still seeking out the answer that aligns with their values. The ability to work with and function with their fellow councilors is essential for this process, and while that doesn't mean there will always be total agreement, it is still important to seek out common ground as a first option. This should be the process in every discussion, whether inside the council chambers or out amongst the community. A Councilmember should also be available, as much as practicable, with community members, so that they can be in tune with the needs of the people. A common frustration I have heard from voters in general is how distant their elected officials can seem, and how they only seem to appear around election time. It can be uncomfortable, of course, to speak directly to voters, especially if they have an opinion that you don't feel is fair or strikes a little too close to home, but it is a responsibility I feel any politician, regardless of how high their office, is obligated to.
2. I feel that the biggest issue facing Flagstaff is long term housing stability and affordability. While it is certainly true that Flagstaff has a limited ability to expand due to surrounding land restrictions, as well as an imperative to protecting Flagstaff's natural environment and character, I do believe that the city can still make great progress in bringing housing affordability to more attainable levels. The ability of private developers to more easily build housing in the city of Flagstaff should continue to be a priority, as outlined in the city's Code Analysis Project of the previous year. Another avenue that I believe should continue to be explored would be city-owned housing developments, in the model of Clark Homes, that provide long term affordable housing units for residents, and allow the city and locals to have a greater degree of control over what kind of housing gets built. I also hope that this policy could be combined with employer based housing initiatives, and serve as an effective proof of concept for future developments. I also wonder if there are ways to promote greater collaboration across the region, in a similar manner that Metroplan does with transportation, in the building and planning of housing in Flagstaff and across Coconino County.
3. In regards to policy priorities, housing, as I previously outlined, is a major concern for residents and thankfully is treated as such by this council. I also have a great deal of interest in transportation and public infrastructure in this city. I am excited, for instance, to hear of the upcoming federal grant for Flagstaff Airport to expand its services. I also look forward to the eventual completion of the Rio De Flag Flood control project and the subsequent Downtown Mile Project with great anticipation. I believe in the effectiveness and efficacy of public transportation, and would be an active proponent of the Mountain Line Bus System. Its ability to expand its services and improve route times and bus stops are things that I would follow regardless of whether or not I was in public office. Another topic I have been involved in for some months has been the issue of drink spiking on college campuses and off campus bars. In my work with the Arizona Students' Association, we have worked on legislation that

has been passed in Tempe that required drink covers and drink testing kits to be available at places where alcohol was served, providing tax credits to help cover the cost. It is my hope that a similar law can be passed here in Flagstaff.

4. It's important to be able to approach people and groups directly if there are concerns they have. Public comment is valuable and is an indispensable part of the policy making process. However, I have experienced firsthand that it is not always easy, or even possible, to be able to attend City Council's public comment sessions, even when there are important issues that affect you directly. At the end of the day, it is only a small group of people that get to be heard by council on a day-to-day basis, and it's important that a councilor recognizes that there are people to consider outside of the chamber that they preside over, and to seek out those people if necessary on issues that allow for extended thought. It is not enough at times just to speak with the people who seek you out. A Councilmember must be *of* the community, not just among them, and recognize the complexities of every issue before them.
5. In my role as Northern Regional Director for the Arizona Students' Association, I have had numerous instances in which differences of opinion have arisen on how to execute aspects of canvassing operations, lobbying strategies, endorsements, etc. What I have found is that reasoned and honest debate often straightens out these sorts of issues. In particular, I recall a recent event in which disagreement arose on when we should end our organization's collection of voter registration forms to pivot to our canvassing operations. I was able to argue in favor of extending our time of collecting voter forms while simultaneously switching over to canvassing, slowly reassigning canvassers from VR to doorknocking as the weeks went on. I am a big believer in third options, and a disbeliever in no-win scenarios. I think that a lot of issues can be solved by careful personal investigation and creative problem solving. Public policy in general is an excellent arena for this type of thinking.
6. I have been fortunate to have been entrusted with positions of leadership at multiple points in my life. Part of what allowed me to advance in the Arizona Students' Association was my ability to manage canvassers, manage the hiring process, and design and assign precincts for said canvassers. I was entrusted with this because of my prior experience as a rank and file canvasser, wherein I worked my way up as a shift leader. I was selected for this because of my work ethic, and the fact that I led by example in what numbers, responses, and style for canvassing should be. I trained canvassers by showing firsthand how best to operate, and it is by that show of example that I try to lead at all times. I believe in putting forth that extra effort in all pursuits, political or otherwise. Personal responsibility is at the forefront of any good leadership style. Failures in any organization ultimately reside with those in positions of leadership, and it is up to those people to rectify them when they arise.
7. Most of my personal experience with the Flagstaff Zoning Code comes from participating in a number of presentations regarding the Code Analysis Project, and from limited attendance to a number of Flagstaff Strong Towns meetings. As a result, what familiarity I have pertains

mainly to housing related codes. In the process of learning about the Code Analysis Project, I became familiar with many of what the City considers bottlenecks in our zoning process, and of the need to reform or eliminate certain provisions so as to make the development process more efficient. Parking minimums in particular, I felt, were an onerous requirement for developments and I was happy to see the city take their elimination under consideration already. I have also sat in on Council meetings in which the City was considering developments, and witnessed the subsequent staff presentations and council considerations of each group, as the Council decided whether or not to approve them. In that time, I became more familiar with the terminology that the city uses when considering aspects of the Zoning Code, and the process that developments undergo when they are considered. As for other aspects of the code I am unfamiliar with, I am very confident that if appointed I will continue to develop a deeper understanding very quickly, and would be happy to sit in on the planning and zoning commission meetings whether I was assigned as their council liaison or not.

8. I believe that each of the City's Seven Community Priorities play an important role in shaping our City's policy development. The City has done an excellent job so far in balancing them whilst ensuring that our long term financial health remains in good shape. I do think that we could be doing more to ensure our economic resilience by diversifying areas of our economy away from strictly tourism. I understand, of course, that the City can not simply do this with a policy enactment, and that it takes many factors to either entice an employer to the city or to develop one organically here—but I do hope that initiatives like employer based housing might be able to help accomplish this. I also understand the need to balance ambitious policy proposals with the baseline commitment that the City holds to core services. City inspections, infrastructure maintenance, fire fighting, and law enforcement are all areas in which the council must fulfill its obligations before it can move to other areas. The work in particular that is accomplished by city staff is impressive, with our very own city clerk being recognized as the best in the state, and in my time doorknocking in this election, I encountered numerous city staff members. I was continually impressed by their depth of knowledge on their subjects, and as a result came away from the electoral process with a much deeper understanding of City operations.

Drew Stanley

Drew Stanley

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Flagstaff, AZ 86005

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Skills

Political Organizing, Volunteer/Canvasser Recruitment, Office Work, Effective Communication (written and verbal), Management Experience, Community Canvassing, Labor Organizing

Experience

Arizona Students Association/ Northern Regional Director

August 2026-Present

Manage operations in the Northern Region of Arizona, oversee regional voter registration and canvassing, NAU campus organizing and operations, community engagement and effective advocacy with state and regional authorities.

Arizona Students Association/ Campus Organizer

June 2025-January 2026

Managed operations on NAU campus and led youth fellowship for college students.

Arizona Students Association/ Doorknocking coordinator

May 2024-May 2025 Flagstaff

Tabled at events and knocked doors for the purpose of voter registration, signature collection, ballot education, and more.

Northern Arizona Interfaith Council

March 2024-December 2025 Flagstaff

Conducted Interviews with Flagstaff City Council Candidates in 2024, worked on Climate Action Committee, helped organize 2024 Accountability Session.

Arizona Students Association/ Lobbyist

March 2024 State Capitol, Phoenix

Lobbied State Legislators on behalf of Northern Arizona Students.

Industrial Workers of the World, member and organizer

February 2025-January 2026

Amazon Delivery Driver

January 2026-August 2026

Food for the Hungry / Intern

May 2023 - August 2023, Phoenix

Sponsorship Marketing and Communications

Education

Northern Arizona University / History

August 2022 - December 2025, Flagstaff

Boulder Creek High School / Diploma

September 2018 - May 2022, Anthem AZ

Honor Roll Student

Member of BCHS marching band - Trumpet

D&D Club

Varsity / Academic Decathlon

Christa McAuliffe Space center

June 2021 and June 2022, Provo Utah

Volunteer. Assisted with the simulators, acted various roles, and assisted participants, including children from 10-16, as well as older participants.

References

Haley Creighton, Northern Director of Save Our Schools Arizona [REDACTED]

Kyle Nitschke, campaign manager for the Mae and Jamescita Peshlakai campaign for the AZ legislature .
[REDACTED]

James McDermott

Delegate for IWW Flagstaff
[REDACTED]