



DECLARATION OF CANDIDACY CITY COUNCIL VACANCY

Declaration must be signed in the presence of a Notary Public or Justice of the Peace. **The filing period opens at 8:00 am on Wednesday, August 21, 2019 and continues through 5:00 pm on Tuesday, September 10, 2019.** Any declarations that are received through the mail shall be acknowledged as being received at 5:00 pm on that day.

Please check off the position you are filing for:

Include the appropriate filing fee, \$5.00 for Mayor and \$2.00 for all other positions.

Mayor - 2 Year Term		Ward Moderator - 2 Year Term	
Councilor-At-Large - 2 Year Term		Ward Clerk - 2 Year Term	
Ward Councilor - 4 Year Term	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ward Selectman - 2 Year Term	
Ward Four Councilor - 2 Year Term		Ward Checklist Supervisor - 2 Year Term	

I, Gladys Johnsen, declare that I am domiciled in the City of Keene at 417 Pako Avenue and that I am a duly qualified voter in ward 4. I am a candidate for the office of Councilor-Ward 4 yr. term and I hereby request that my name be printed as Gladys Johnsen on the official ballot of the City of Keene for the

Primary Election on Tuesday, October 8, 2019.

Signed: Gladys Johnsen Phone: 603-313-9290

Email: johnsengladys@email.com Social Media Handles: _____

State of New Hampshire
County of Cheshire

The above named Gladys Johnsen personally known to me or satisfactorily proven appeared and subscribed to the above statement.

Colleen H. Kolasienski
Justice of the Peace/Notary Public

Candidates may submit background information or a brief biography to accompany this declaration. This information will be provided to the City Council and posted to the public website. Please indicate below if you intend to provide additional information about yourself.

Yes, I will provide additional information about myself No, I prefer not

Date Received: 8/22/19 Time Received: 2:40

Voter Status Verified: City Charter Ward Map Charter Description _____ Voter Checklist Database _____

Any information provided on this document is a matter of public record. By signing above, candidate agrees to allow the City of Keene to share their contact information/social media handles/biographical information with members of the public.

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

NAME: Gladys Johnsen

AGE: 76

LIVED IN KEENE: Over 25 Years

FAMILY: My household in Keene includes my adult daughter, her two children (ages 14 and 24) and me. Other family members who live throughout the United States include three more adult children, two Stepchildren, eight grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

EDUCATION:

Bachelor of Science in K-12 Music Education, Masters of Science In Music in K-12 Music Education and Teacher Education, a Doctor of Philosophy in Teacher Education, Administration, and Philosophy, completed two Music Certifications: Four levels of Kodaly and Three Levels of Orff-Schulewerk Pedagogies.

OCCUPATION:

Retired Keene State College Professor Emerita in Music and Women's Studies, Retired Four-Term NH State Representative, for Keene, Ward Four, Cheshire County, and a Retired Church Musician: United Church of Christ and Universalist Unitarian Church.

ORGANIZATIONS TO WHICH YOU HAVE/DO BELONG

While at Keene State College I chaired the College Senate for six years. I was the Alto soloist and section leader in The United Church of Christ Choir in Keene, and was the choral director at the Unitarian Universalist, my husband and I were former members of the Keene Monadnock Squares, I belong to various professional Music Organizations, and have been a member of NEA (National Education Association) for almost 40 years.

PUBLIC /GOVERNMENT SERVICE:

Served eight years as a NH State Representative where I sat on the Transportation Committee, attended and voted as a Cheshire County Representative, served two terms (four years) on the Maplewood Task Force, and was a Church Musician for 16 years.

Questions:

1. Why are you running for a Ward Seat on the City Council?

As a retired professor of music teaching/student-teacher supervision I have a good taught students os all ages, including K-Adult. I have been in almost all of the public schools in Keene and throughout the State. As a State Representative for eight years I sat on the Transportation Committee, attended and voted regularly and was apprised of national and state issues that would

affect our Keene citizens. I believe that my teaching career and State House experiences give me skills that will enable me to give back to my Community as a City Councilor.

2. What's an issue of particular importance to residents of your Ward, more than to the city in general and how would you address it?

When I was going door-to-door in my neighborhood, the first comments that I heard from my constituents was their love for the Pumpkin Fest. Many have pre-k and elementary children who are in school, and they see the Festival as a good family experience. They appreciate that is being re-instated and they want it to continue. Other questions they asked were what the City is going to do with the airport in Swanzey, what specific Climate Change issues were discussed, and is there still a plan to approve the dog park.

3. What should the Council's role be in trying to make the City more attractive for business.

I attended the September 19th City Council Meeting and was impressed to hear of the many accomplishments completed over the past few years. For example, but not limited to, the Walldog Keene paintings, the nearly 400 people who attended the Naturally Rural conference, and the newly refurbished City Library. I believe however, that the Council needs to continue to support an increase in the minimum wage, so that our citizens can afford to generally support their families. I also want to see the Council continue the work that has been done with internships between our businesses and our high school and college students.

4. What issue doesn't get enough attention by city leaders.

When I was a State Representative I attended the meeting in which the discussion and vote was made to eliminate any discrimination of LGBTQ Community members. It was at that meeting that I knew I wanted to eventually run for the City Council. The candor and compassion which our Mayor and Committee Members demonstrated was an example of Keene's openness and affirmation of all our citizens.

Thirteen years ago our family lost a loved one from an accidental drug overdose. One of the reasons that I became a state representative was to see what I could do so that other families wouldn't have to go through that same pain. We are living with a national epidemic, primarily because Fentanyl is now mixed with the other opioids. This drug was only to be used by anesthesiologists during surgeries. First responders lives are also risk, when treating someone who has overdosed with the drug. While I was a State Representative I presented a bill to decriminalize Opioid users when they called the authorities for help. The bill didn't pass the House and Senate at that time, but Former Senator Molly Kelly revised and resubmitted a similar bill and it was passed and signed by the House, the Senate and then, Governor Maggie Hassan.