

Application Form**Profile**

If you have any questions or difficulty submitting this application, please reach out to Alex Guzhnay at aguzhnay@newhavenct.gov or call 203-946-7670.

Jamie

First Name

E

Middle
Initial

Watson

Last Name

betsy.j.watson@gmail.com

Email Address

110 Bellevue Rd

Home Address

Suite or Apt

New Haven

City

CT

State

06511

Postal Code

What ward do you live in (optional - please select ward if you know)?☒ Ward 28

Home: (828) 962-2425

Primary Phone

Alternate Phone

Are any of the above number a cell phone number?☒ Yes ☐ No**If so, which? Also, is it okay to send a text message?**

Yes

Are you currently employed by the City of New Haven or the New Haven Public School System?☐ Yes ☒ No

Retired/disabled

Employer

US Army, retired

Job Title

To see our list of Boards and Commissions please click here: <https://newhaven-ct.granicus.com/boards/w/976a34cad711af7c/boards>

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Advisory Board for the Q-House: Not Submitted
Commission on Disabilities: Submitted
Homeless Advisory Commission: Not Submitted
Youth Commission: Not Submitted

Is this an appointment or reappointment request? *

☒ Appointment

Interests & Experiences

Please tell us about yourself and why you want to serve. Please attach any of the follow:

Resume, Curriculum Vitae (CV), Professional Bio, or a Statement of Interest.

Upload a Resume

If not submitting a Resume or CV, please submit a ~150 word Statement of Interest as to why you are interested in serving on your selected boards/commissions. If you have uploaded a resume, you can write n/a.

I want to serve on the New Haven Disability Commission because I believe our city should be a place where people of all abilities can participate fully and equally. As a disabled member of this community, I know firsthand how public spaces, systems, and services can either open doors or create barriers. My own experiences navigating those barriers—and advocating for change—have shown me the value of having people with lived experience at the table when decisions are made. I bring both personal insight and a commitment to finding practical, collaborative solutions. This role would give me the opportunity to help ensure that accessibility is considered from the start in city planning and policy, not added as an afterthought. I want to work toward a New Haven where inclusion is built into everything we do, and where people with disabilities can thrive, lead, and feel fully at home.

Question applies to Advisory Board for the Q-House

What position on the Q-House Advisory Board are you applying for or have experience in? Please provide a resume, if possible, if you are applying for a position that requires experience/skills in a specific area. *

None Selected

Question applies to Youth Commission, Peace Commission

Are you under 18 or over 18? If under 18, please provide your DOB. If over 18, you can write n/a

Why are you interested in serving on a board or commission?

I'm interested in serving because I believe the Disability Commission plays an important role in making sure New Haven is inclusive for everyone. As someone who lives with a disability, I see where things work well and where changes are needed. I want to help make those changes happen by sharing my perspective and working with others who care about accessibility and equity.

Why do you believe you would be a good fit for your selected board and commission(s)?

I would be a good fit because I bring both lived experience and a solutions-focused mindset. I understand the challenges that can arise when accessibility is overlooked, and I know how to help find ways forward that work for everyone. I'm used to listening to different perspectives, working as part of a team, and turning ideas into action. I care deeply about making New Haven a place where people with disabilities can fully participate in all parts of life.

Do you have any time commitments that would prevent you from participating in board/commission meetings? Meeting times can be found by visiting newhavenct.gov/boards, but most are usually once a month for 1-2 hours.

None

Demographics

Some boards and commissions require membership to be politically proportionate, per State Statute on minority party representation (CGS § 9-167a). What is your political affiliation on your voter registration?

Democrat

In order to stay compliant with our city's charter, are you registered to vote in New Haven?

☒ Yes ☐ No

We strive to maintain diversity in all of our Boards and Commissions. These questions are optional and if you volunteer the information we will only use it to ensure that our boards and commissions are diverse.

Ethnicity

☒ Caucasian/Non-Hispanic

Gender

☒ Female

How did you hear about serving on our Boards & Commissions?

The alder for my ward, Gary Hogan