

For Office Use ONLY

Council District: 19

This application is a: New Appointment

Reappointment

Attendance Record: _____

GREENVILLE COUNTY BOARD AND COMMISSION APPLICATION for County-wide Boards

Name of Board or Commission to which you are applying:

Greenville County Library Board of Trustees

An individual may only apply to serve on one board or commission during any election cycle.

Mr Mrs.

Ms. Dr.

Name: Robert Asher Watson

Home Address: 2 Boucher St. City: Greenville Zip: 29617

Occupation: Lawyer Employer: Watson Fowler, LLC

Employer Address:

416 E. North St., 2nd Floor

Greenville, SC 29601

School attended: Christ Church Episcopal School; College of Charleston (magna cum laude);
Charleston School of Law (cum laude)

Highest degree earned: Juris Doctor Field of Study: Law

Volunteer Experience (Please list and describe):

I have been a member of the Greenville Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, aka "GACDL" (www.gacdl.com), since July 2017, when I entered private practice after serving as an assistant solicitor in Greenville for five years. From January 2018, to May 2021, I served as the GACDL treasurer. Since then, I have served (and continue to serve) as the organization's General Sessions Liaison. Like treasurer, it is an executive position. As Liaison, I represent the private bar at regular meetings with the Chief Administrative Judge for Greenville County, the elected 13th Circuit Solicitor, the Chief Public Defender, the elected Clerk of Court, and their designees to address broad, pressing, and oftentimes essential issues affecting entire criminal justice system in Greenville County, where we discuss and craft policy to address these issues.

I previously served for a four-year term with the CCES Alumni Board from May 2018, to August, 2022. There I served on fundraising and event committees, reviewed budgets, voted on matters, among other things.

Describe your understanding of the position for which you are applying.

Most importantly, I understand that this Board serves at the behest of Greenville County Council and, above all, the citizens of Greenville County.

I have carefully reviewed the legislation that enables and governs the powers and duties of the Board. All of the points bulleted on the relevant link on the Greenville County website (<https://www.greenvillecounty.org/apps/countycouncilboard/countywideboards.aspx#Library%20Board%20of%20Trustees>) are integral to the operation and governance of the Greenville County Library System. They govern the management, sale, acquisition, and use of real and personal property under the custody and control of the library system; budgeting; reporting relevant actions to the County Council (and where necessary, gaining approval therefrom); cooperating or entering into contracts and agreements with other agencies (negotiating these contracts is no doubt involved); among other things. It would not be useful to provide an exhaustive list here, and I do not pretend to say that the points catalogued above are more important than ones not mentioned here. If given the privilege of an appointment to the board, all my duties and powers will be undertaken with the most care.

What specific skills do you believe you could contribute as a member of this board or commission?

If appointed, I will bring my experience as an organizational/board member and executive and skill as a lawyer to the service of the Greenville County Library Board of Trustees. Particularly as a lawyer, I cut to the heart of the matter. At its core, a good legal training allows someone to identify issues that hurt productivity, create risk, and threaten the proper order of things as they should be. My experience as a trial lawyer over the past ten years and, more recently, as a strong voice in Greenville County's criminal justice system has sharpened these skills; I am confident they would be of use to the Board.

I am a voracious reader and have a passion for libraries. In college and law school, most of my waking hours not spent in class or eating were spent in the Addlestone Library in Charleston. Since beginning law practice, I have mostly purchased my own books to amass a collection of my own. However, I would like to give back in service to the library of the county that I was born and raised using my professional skills and experience.

How many hours per week are you able to commit to this board or commission? 8

Have you ever attended a meeting of this board or commission? Yes No

Are you available to meet at the regularly scheduled date and time of the board or commission meetings? Yes No

Do you, any member of your immediate family, or a business with which you or a family member is associated, provide goods and/or services to this board for payment? Yes No

If yes, please explain: _____

Do you or any member of your immediate family receive direct services from this board? Yes No

If yes, please explain: _____

Have you ever been convicted of a crime other than a minor traffic violation? Yes No

If yes, please give details. _____

Do you currently hold any elected or appointed office or commission? Yes No

If yes, please list To be clear, only GACDL at the moment (see above), but not for the County

Have you previously held any elected or appointed office or commission? Yes No

If yes, please list CCES Alumni Board (see above)

Have you ever been fined for an ethics violation? Yes No

If yes, please explain: _____

Have you ever been subject to penalty relating to a violation of State ethics standards? Yes No

If yes, please explain: _____

Are you current in payment of your Greenville County property taxes? Yes No

If applying for the **Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee**
the **Construction Board of Appeals** or the **Historic Preservation Commission**
please check the box that applies to your field of employment or expertise:

Accommodations Tax Comm.

- Tourism Industry
- Cultural / Arts
- Restaurant
- Hotel Management

Historic Preservation Comm.

- Archeologist
- Historian
- Architect
- Member of Historic Preservation Group

Construction Board of Appeals

- Architectural
- Fire Protection Engineer /Contractor
- Electrical Engineer /Contractor
- Design/Architectural /Professional Contractor
- Structural Engineer /Contractor
- Mechanical Engineer /Contractor
- Plumbing Engineer /Contractor

Statement of Agreement and Understanding

By my signature, I attest all information contained in this application is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge;

I understand it is my responsibility to insure my application is submitted within the application period and that it has been received by the County Council office;

I understand my appointment to the board for which I am applying will not result in me receiving any compensation for my service;

I understand my lack of attendance resulting in three consecutive meetings or 25% of all meetings within a year may result in my removal from the board.

Signature



Date

1/30/23

Please return completed form by mail, fax or email to:

**Greenville County Council
301 University Ridge, Suite 2400
Greenville, SC 29601-3665**

Fax: (864) 467-7358

rmccaskill@greenvillecounty.org

If you have questions, please call 467-7115 or check the www.greenvillecounty.org website.