TOWN OF BLACK MOUNTAIN
APPLICATION TO FILL VACANT TOWN COUNCIL SEAT

Appointment Period: Through December 2026

Application Deadline: Wednesday, May 6, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.

Appointment Date: May 11, 2026 Regular Monthly Council Meeting*

Applicant Information

Legal First Name: JOHN Legal Last Name: RICHARDSON

Residential Address: 111 CHURCH ST.

City: BLACK MTN State: NC Zip Code: 28711

Mailing Address (if different): _____

Primary Phone: 828 · 337 · 7377

Other Phone: _____

Email Address: jrr828@gmail.com

Eligibility (Check Yes or No)

1. Are you a registered voter in Buncombe County? ☑ Yes ☐ No
2. Do you live within the municipal limits of Black Mountain? ☑ Yes ☐ No
3. Are you 21 years of age or older? ☑ Yes ☐ No

Application Questions

1. What motivates you to serve as a member of the Black Mountain Town Council?

DOWNTOWN BUSINESS OWNER, PARENT, & LOVER OF THIS TOWN WHERE I'VE SPENT THE MAJORITY OF MY LIFE. I FEEL LIKE THE TOWN COUNCIL COULD REALLY BENEFIT FROM A DOWNTOWN BUSINESS OWNER'S EXPERIENCE & PERSPECTIVE.

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2. Describe any relevant experience you may have and why you should be selected to fill this vacancy?

20+ YEARS LIVING & WORKING IN THE AREA. I'M RAISING MY FAMILY HERE. WHAT MAKES OUR TOWN DIFFERENT THAN OLD FORT OR SWANNANOA IS OUR DOWN TOWN. WE HAVE SUCH AN AMAZING OPPORTUNITY TO BRING OUR TOWN TOGETHER!

3. Describe your understanding of the Council-Manager form of government.

THE COUNCIL HIRES & GUIDES THE MANAGER, PROVIDING DIRECTION & OVERSIGHT.

4. What are the most important elements in developing a municipal budget?

OPERATIONAL REALITIES PAIRED WITH COMMUNITY PRIORITIES.

5. How would you ensure all voices in the community are represented?

I WOULD BE THE SAME TYPE OF PERSON I AM AS A BUSINESS OWNER— EVERYONE IS WELCOME & INVITED TO BE A PART OF THE PARTY. I'VE BEEN LIVING THIS REALITY IN THIS TOWN FOR OVER 20 YEARS!

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Certification

I certify that the information provided is true and complete. I further understand that if appointed, I will abide by the local governing board's code of ethics and rules of procedure, https://tinyurl.com/tobmethics, which is pursuant to N.C.G.S. §160A-86.

Signature: John Ritchie **Date:** 5/6/2026

Submission Information

Submit applications to Town Clerk Wesley Barker by 5:00 pm on Wednesday, May 6th, 2026 in the following ways:

1) In person at Town Hall, 160 Midland Ave., Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

2) Via email: wesley.barker@tobm.org and/or town.clerk@tobm.org

3) Via USPS: Town of Black Mountain, Attn: Town Clerk, 160 Midland Ave., Black Mountain, NC 28711

Contact Information for Questions:

Wesley M. Barker, Town Clerk
160 Midland Ave., Black Mountain, NC 28711
(828) 419-9310
wesley.barker@tobm.org, or town.clerk@tobm.org

**Town Council will review the applications and will vote via ballot method at the beginning of the May 11th, 2026 regular monthly Town Council meeting, which will be held at 6:00 p.m. at Black Mountain Town Hall. At that time, following the ballot voting, the Council will formally vote to appoint the member to the Council, and they will subsequently be sworn in and participate in that meeting, if in attendance.*