



Amy Cell Talent News Release

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Finalists Selected for the Traverse City City Manager Search

After a thorough review of 88 applicants, 5 candidates have been selected as finalists in the search for the new City Manager for the City of Traverse City. The City Commission will interview the candidates on Thursday, September 7, 2023. A reception for the candidates will be held at 5:00 p.m. Residents are welcome to attend the interviews and the reception which will take place at the Governmental Center located at 400 Boardman Avenue, Traverse City.

Commission Interview schedule:

10:45: Elizabeth Vogel

11:30: Benjamin Marenette

1:00: Christian Wuerth

1:45: Jessica Kinser

2:30: Christopher Forsyth

Candidate Bios and Background

Benjamin Marentette



Benjamin Marentette has been serving as the City Clerk for the City of Traverse City since 2011, where he strategizes on organizational and public policy and direction, exercises financial oversight of over \$150 million annually in financial disbursements, serves as Chief Election Officer, and analyzes the legal landscape and operational risk, among other duties. Prior to his time as the City Clerk, Marentette served as the Recreational Authority Executive Director for the City of Traverse City and Charter Township of Garfield, as well as the Deputy City Clerk for the City of Traverse City.

Marentette is a graduate of Spring Arbor University and has a Master of Business Administration from Lawrence Technological University. He also has a Public Leadership Credential from Harvard University, Kennedy School of Government.

He is currently a member of the Election Policy Working Group, is a Trustee and Treasurer for Rotary Charities of Traverse City, and is an advisor on the national election administration 2023 with the Pew Charitable Trusts Election Trust Initiative.

Christian Wuerth



Christian Wuerth has been serving as the Village Manager for the Village of Milford, Michigan since 2014, where he manages daily operations, capital and long-range planning, resource management, and labor relations, and provides administrative leadership for a community of 6,520 with a \$16.8 million total budget. Prior to his time as the Village Manager, Wuerth served as Assistant to the City Manager for the City of Birmingham, Michigan, as well as a Management Analyst for the City of Birmingham.

Wuerth is a graduate of Wayne State University with a Bachelor of Public Affairs and also has completed graduate coursework in Public Administration.

Wuerth is currently a member of the International City/County Management Association, President-Elect of the Michigan Municipal Executives, Transportation, Infrastructure, and Technology Policy Committee member for the Michigan Municipal League, Board Member for the Carls Family YMCA, Board Member/Village of Milford Representative for the Huron Valley Chamber of Commerce, and Board Member for the Huron Valley Community Coalition.

Elizabeth Vogel



Elizabeth Vogel has been serving as the Administrator and Chief Financial Officer for Missaukee County since 2021, where she oversees the preparation of the annual County budget, creates and annually updates the six-year capital improvement plan, supervises nine County Departments, is responsible for determining the strategy for the bargaining and administration of all labor agreements, among many other duties. Prior to that, Vogel served as the Deputy Supervisor for Clinton Township.

Vogel is a graduate of Albion College and has a Master of Arts from Loyola University, as well as a Master of Business Administration from Baker College. She is also an International City/County Management Association Credentialed Manager.

Vogel is a member of the Grosse Pointe Rotary Club.

Jessica Kinser



Jessica Kinser most recently served as the City Administrator for the City of Marshalltown Iowa, where she worked with the Mayor and seven City Council members to develop and implement the City's Strategic Plan, managed seven departments, developed the five-year Capital Improvement Plan, worked collaboratively in the community with multiple organizations to achieve common goals

and objectives, among many other responsibilities. Prior to that Kinser served as the City Administrator for the City of Clinton, Iowa, the Finance Director/Assistant City Administrator for Clinton, and as the City Administrator for the City of Griswold, Iowa.

Kinser is a graduate of Iowa State University and has a Master of Public Administration from Iowa State University.

Kinser is a member of several organizations, including the Marshalltown Rotary Club, the International City/County Management Association, the Iowa State University Alumni Association, is a board member of the Iowa Communities Assurance Pool, and is a Committee Member on the Professional Development Committee for the Iowa City/County Management Association.

Christopher Forsyth



Christopher Forsyth has been serving as the Deputy County Administrator for Grand Traverse County since 2018, where he is responsible for reviewing and drafting a wide range of policies, rules, resolutions, ordinances, ballot proposals, and agenda action items, leads special projects including leading the County's efforts to best use \$4.6 million settlement funds from the National Opioid Litigation. He works on community development initiatives including guided issuance of \$44 million in Economic Development Corporation revenue bonds to support a senior living and affordable housing complex in Garfield Township, among many other responsibilities. Prior to that, he served as Deputy Civil Counsel for Grand Traverse County.

Forsyth is a graduate of the University of Michigan and obtained his Juris Doctor from Wayne State University.

Forsyth is a member of the Local Government Advisory Team for the Michigan Department of Treasury, is a Government Law Section Officer for the Governing Council, and is a Past Chair for the Municipal Law Section of the Oakland County Bar Association.