

Application Form

Introduction

Applications will remain on file for a **one-year period**. You are welcome to re-apply at that time if you are still interested and have not been appointed to serve.

Please Agree with the Following Statement

I hereby acknowledge that the information I provide in this application is subject to disclosure pursuant to the North Carolina Public Records Laws, and that I provide the information contained in this application freely and voluntarily, and that I consent to such disclosure pursuant to the North Carolina Public Records Laws, and that I waive, release and discharge the City of Raleigh, its agents, employees and elected and appointed officials, from any liability related to disclosure of any information provided herein.

I Agree

Profile

Prefix
 First Name
 Middle Initial
 Last Name
 Suffix

Email Address

Primary Phone

Home Address
 Suite or Apt
 City
 State
 Postal Code

Employer
 Job Title

If uncertain about your Council District, visit the RaleighNC.gov and search by your address in the "**Find Your Services by Address**" section. Your council district will be displayed directly below the picture of your Council Member.

What district do you live in? *

E

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Centennial Authority: On Agenda

John A Hardin

How did you hear about this application processes?

Friend or family member

Interests & Experiences

Please tell us about yourself and why you want to serve.

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

I have lived in Raleigh since May of 2007. Since that time, I've watched our city grow, become more diverse, and face both challenges and opportunities that many couldn't have anticipated. My wife, Rachel, and I, along with our two children, love Raleigh and have fully immersed ourselves in the community. What excites us about Raleigh is the ever growing number of opportunities. To me, the work the Centennial Authority is doing exemplifies, in so many ways, the incredibly unique opportunities Raleigh has to continue growing and flourish. I am a lawyer and lobbyist. And for 14 years, I've represented clients in front of the Executive Branch and the North Carolina General Assembly. I've watched with a careful eye as the city, county, and state have coordinated on transformational projects -- such as what lies ahead at the Lenovo Center and beyond. For years, I've served on boards around Raleigh. I've deliberately gotten involved with organizations in which I feel confident that I can add value. The Centennial Authority board is no different. I currently represent roughly 60 clients in my practice -- including Fortune 500 companies, small non profits, the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians and others. On a daily and weekly basis, I'm charged with navigating the political dynamics our state and city face with a divided government. Most of my clients require that I work with Democrats, Republicans, the North Carolina General Assembly, and the Executive Branch. It can often be challenging, but understanding how to message priorities with all stakeholders and policy makers is the key to my job and, I believe, an important attribute for anyone serving on this board. The Centennial Authority is an important part of the ever growing ecosystem of our region. And in order for the city, county, and state to work together to ensure the success of this project and future projects, it will take individuals with the experience of navigating complex problems and the complex power dynamics. It would be an absolute honor to be a part of this organization and to be a part of one of the most exciting opportunities our city faces.

Please describe your work, education and volunteer experience in the following sections or optionally upload a resume.

Work Experience

January 2025 - Present: President and Co-Founder; The Raleigh Group September 2012 - December 2025 - Attorney and Partner; Manning Fulton & Skinner May 2007 - August 2009 - Special Assistant to State Treasurer Richard H. Moore In January of this year, after 14 years at Manning Fulton & Skinner, I started my own firm that exclusively focuses on lobbying. Our firm currently represents roughly 60 clients -- ranging from Fortune 500 companies to small non profits. Every year since 2020, I have been recognized by policy makers around the state as one of the top ten most effective lobbyists in the state. Only three other lobbyists in the state have received that recognition every single year. I am incredibly proud to work with a team that zealously advocates for our clients positions and works well with members of the legislature and the executive branch. I genuinely believe that my professional experience will be an asset to this board.

Education

Campbell University School of Law (2009-2012) University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (2003-2007); BA Journalism and Mass Communication

Volunteer Experience

Arise Collective Board of Directors (2023 - Present) University of North Carolina Board of Visitors (2023 - Present) Friends of the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences (2018-2024); Executive Committee (2018-2024) North Carolina Professional Lobbyists Association Board of Directors (2020-2024; President 2022-2023) Raleigh Racquet Club Board of Directors (President 2024 - Present) YMCA of the Triangle We Build People Campaign (2010 - Present)

[John Hardin - Resume.docx](#)

Upload a Resume

Upload any additional documentation

Demographics

Demographics - Voluntary - Not Required

Disclaimer: This Demographics Section of the Application is **not required** and by completing it, I do so **voluntarily** and acknowledge that the information I provide in this application is subject to disclosure pursuant to the **North Carolina Public Records Laws**, and that I provide the information contained in this application **freely and voluntarily**, and that **I consent** to such disclosure pursuant to the **North Carolina Public Records Laws**, and that **I waive, release and discharge** the City of Raleigh, its officers, officials (elected and appointed), employees and agents, from any liability related to disclosure of any information provided herein.

Purpose: Raleigh City Council Resolution No. 302(1986) establishes a policy that City Boards and Commissions be representative of the City's residents. The following **voluntary** questions are asked with the goal of meeting this policy and ensure diverse representation on City Boards and Commissions.

Which age group describes you?

31 - 40

Gender:

Male

Ethnicity:

No, not Hispanic, Latino or Spanish origin

Sexual Orientation:

Heterosexual

For the following question, how would you define your race?
Please consider the following sub-groupings for race:

- Asian: (Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippine Islands, Thailand, and Vietnam)
- Black or African American: (Haitian, Jamaican, Nigerian, Somali)
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander: (person having origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands)
- White: (Irish, German, English)

You may select more than one.

Race *

White

Marginalized communities include those who have been [historically excluded](#) from involvement in our cities, as well as those continuing to face other barriers to civic participation. This includes those marginalized by factors like race, wealth, immigration status, and sexual orientation.

For the following question, do you identify as part of a marginalized group? If so please list and consider the following examples for marginalized groups:

- veterans
- seniors
- hearing, visually, and physically challenged persons
- women and girls
- formerly incarcerated people

Marginalized Group

Board Specific Criteria

Accurate and Complete

Please Agree with the Following Statement

I hereby certify and affirm that all of the information provided by me in this application (or any other accompanying or required documents) is correct, accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the falsification, misrepresentation or omission of any facts in said documents may be cause for disqualification of my application or my immediate removal from a board or commission.

I Agree

John Hardin

[REDACTED] | (910) 988-3373 | john@theraleighgroupnc.com |

Experience

PRESIDENT | THE RALEIGH GROUP | JANUARY 2025 - PRESENT

- Represents roughly 60 clients in front of the North Carolina General Assembly and the Executive Branch. Clients include Fortune 500 companies as well as small non profits. The Raleigh Group is widely recognized as one of the most effective and comprehensive lobbying firms in the state.
- Leads strategic advocacy and consulting services for clients, focusing on public policy, government contracting and economic development.
- Consistently ranked as one of the ten most effective lobbyists in the state of North Carolina.

ATTORNEY & PARTNER | MANNING FULTON & SKINNER | SEPTEMBER 2012 - DECEMBER 2024

- Served as a member of both the government relations and litigation practice groups.
- Grew the government relations section of the firm from 14 clients in 2019 to 60 clients by the end of 2024.
- Served on the firm's management committee, personnel committee, and chaired the firms technology committee.

Education

B.A. JOURNALISM AND MASS COMMUNICATION | MAY 2007| UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA - CHAPEL HILL

J.D. | MAY 2012 | CAMPBELL UNIVERSITY

Community Involvement

- Friends of the Museum of Natural Sciences (2018-2024)
- Arise Collective Board of Directors (2023 - Present)
- University of North Carolina Board of Visitors (2023 - Present)
- North Carolina Professional Lobbyists Association (President 2022-2023)
- Raleigh Racquet Club Board of Directors (President 2024 - Present)
- YMCA of the Triangle - We Build People Campaign (2010 - Present)