

**From:** [noreply@civicplus.com](mailto:noreply@civicplus.com)  
**To:** [Kelly Passauer](#)  
**Subject:** Online Form Submittal: Board Application  
**Date:** Monday, August 12, 2019 12:37:24 PM

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## Board Application

Board Applying For: Economic Development Advisory Board

Name Rachel Lyon

Date 8/12/2019

Address

Email Address

Phone Number 620-719-0395

Educational Background:

High School Name and Location Independence Senior High

Graduated/Degree GED

College Name and Location Pittsburg State University

Graduated/Degree Bachelor of Science

Major Biology

Other Education Name and Location University of Kansas Public Management Center

Graduated/Degree Certified Public Manager

Emphasis *Field not completed.*

Do you reside inside the corporate limits of the City of Independence? Yes

If no, do you reside within 3 miles of the corporate limits of the City of Independence? *Field not completed.*

What experiences have you had that you feel would assist you as a board member?

In my experience, the general public and those who work in the private sector lack any fundamental understanding of how the public sector needs to operate. I feel the years I spent navigating those waters as a City employee tempered my own frustrations with what can be arduous procedures. I would use that experience to help bridge any gaps between committee members who may struggle with methodologies very different from their own. Also in that time, I was affiliated with several boards and have seen why some were highly effective and others weren't. I know how to make reasoned decisions, stand by them, and see a project through to fruition.

Why do you want to become a member of the board?

I love my home town. I live here, I own a small business here, I work here. And while I fundamentally disagree with those who say we are dying on the vine or that there is nothing worthwhile to keep them here, I understand why they say it. Our local economy has taken several huge hits in the last decade and folks are scared. I see Independence as having expended enormous effort to become stable again but there are many who view that stability as stagnation. Young people who are entering the workforce or looking for a great place to raise a family want to see diverse opportunities for both work and play. I think it is vitally important to understand that the values held dear by Baby Boomers are vastly different from those who have come after them and to keep that in mind when working to spur economic growth. We need broad vision. I have been a creative problem solver my entire life and I had the opportunity to flex those muscles on a daily basis when I worked for the City. Complex problems require the ability to see it from as many perspectives as possible to find the best solution. I would love to use my hard-earned experience to help Independence get her spark back.

Do you feel that there are any issues needing immediate attention by the board? If so, please explain.

I think this board needs to hit the ground running with clear leadership and vision. We need to be as transparent as possible and adhere to established procedures but should not allow ourselves to get bogged down with unnecessary red tape or clashes in egos. Opportunities have already passed us by. We need to act.

Other comments:

*Field not completed.*

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