

Application Form

Profile

Tami

First Name

M

Middle Initial

Ruf

Last Name

Home Address

City

Email Address

Suite or Apt

State

Postal Code

Retired Teacher / Librarian

Employer

Primary Phone

Job Title

Alternate Phone

How long have you lived in your area of Washoe County? *

☒ 30+ years

Question applies to multiple boards

Are you registered to vote in Washoe County?

☒ Yes ☐ No

What district do you live in? *

☒ District 1 - Commissioner Hill

Find your Commissioner District [HERE](#).

Interests & Experiences

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Washoe County Library Board of Trustees: Submitted

Please tell us about yourself

Why are you interested in being part of this board, commission, or academy?

I am currently a Trustee on the Library Board and will complete the final year of what was Frank Perez's Trustee appointment in June 2025. I would like to be considered for a full term reappointment. I believe I have been an excellent contributing member of the board and have been instrumental in helping the board resolve numerous contentious issues. I was elected Vice-Chair in June 2024 and I have been working closely with the Chair, Ann Silver, in updating Library Policies and in taking a deep dive into the Library Budget. Additionally, we have worked diligently with the Washoe County HR Department to develop a new qualitative and quantitative evaluation of the Library Director. The evaluation and its outcome are vital to the continued success of our Library System and I am hopeful you will see the importance of retaining me on the board as we are in the midst of that evaluation as I submit this application. I remain a committed user of and advocate for the Washoe County Library System and still feel that my expertise as a retired Librarian helps the board be more responsive to the needs of the entire community.

How do you feel you are qualified to serve on this board? Include any past experience, as well as serving on other board/commissions.

Serving on the Library Board of Trustees requires an individual to possess a variety of skills: active listening, excellent communication, library knowledge, and being fiscally responsive. The greatest commonality in serving on a board is the ability of the individual members to actively listen to the needs of all stakeholders. By actively listening, being able to summarize and restate what is heard, board members can confirm the understanding of stakeholder desires (library patrons, library staff and administration, volunteers, and county staff), avoid misunderstandings, and allow trust to develop. Developing trust avoids conflicts and ensures a more productive outcome. Effective communication requires a variety of skills beginning with listening to what others have to say and responding with appropriate tone and word choice. Communication is about expressing knowledge, our thoughts or opinions and it's essential to speak / write with clarity and purpose to, again, develop trust and have a productive outcome. Libraries are fabulous places that help our community to be stronger together! Library services enable access to the greater world than might be available to everyone. There is equity and equality within its doors and as a retired librarian I know this first hand. Libraries are much more complex than is seemingly evident. I have six years of Librarian experience, and one year as a Trustee, a strong foundation, to help further the mission of the board and the library program to reach the greatest number of patrons. With regard to past financial experience, the past year has given me experience in understanding the budget process and I'm willing to "roll up my sleeves" to see where we can affect some positive outcomes. I would like to continue the work I've been doing for the past year and I welcome the opportunity to serve a full term on the Library Board of Trustees. Finally, I wanted to leave you with a book recommendation: StrengthsFinder 2.0 by Tom Rath. This book uses the Clifton Strengths Assessment created by Don Clifton to help individuals uncover their unique ranking of 34 strength themes. The assessment report includes your top 5 themes, a description of each, and how each theme is uniquely you. My top 5 themes are: Consistency, Achiever, Responsibility, Context, and Intellection. Happy Reading!

Do you currently serve on any boards/committees or volunteer?

☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please list the boards/committees or volunteer programs.

Washoe County Library Board of Trustees

[Resume_Tami_Ruf.doc](#)

Upload a Resume

[Tami_Ruf_rec.docx](#)

Please attach a letter of recommendation.

Please Agree with the Following Statement

I certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the information I have provided in this application is true and correct. If the information provided is false or incomplete, it shall be sufficient cause for disqualification or removal.

☒ I Agree

Demographic Information

The purpose of collecting demographic information is to gain a comprehensive insight into the applicant pool. It is important to note that none of the demographic questions will affect the selection process for a position, ensuring that everyone has an equal opportunity to be considered.

What is your age range? *

What gender do you identify as? *

Which race/ethnicity best describes you? *

What is your highest level of school completed? If enrolled, highest degree received? *

What is your employment status? *

What is your total household income? *

Current or Past Washoe County Leadership Academy (WCLA) participant?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Nepotism

Are you a current employee of or related to anyone employed by Washoe County by blood or marriage?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, list the names and relationship of all persons you are related to. If you are an employee, list "Washoe County Employee" below:

Please note that after submitting your application, it becomes part of the public record and is available for public viewing. Personal information is redacted.



Objective

Trustee, Washoe County Board of Trustees

Profile

I am a retired educator with the Washoe County School District having spent 26 years teaching in local Reno and Sparks schools. For my first 20 years as an educator, I was an award-winning classroom Social Studies teacher with both Middle School and High School teaching experience. After earning my Library Media Specialist Credential, I spent the remaining 6 years of my career as a High School Teacher Librarian where I continued to teach lessons within the library while simultaneously administering the library with the highest circulation statistics in the school district.

Professional Experience

High School Teaching Librarian

North Valleys High School Reno, NV

August 2014 to July 2019

- Development and implementation of library program and goals
- Responsible for the selection, acquisition, processing, and cataloging of library materials
- Maintained the Library's collection and management system (Destiny) efficiently
- Prepared financial and statistical reports regarding library budget and collection age
- Procured library supplies, equipment, and materials from a variety of approved vendors.
- Recruited and trained adult and student library staff
- Supervised 2 adult library staff assistants and 12 student library aids
- Implemented a Library Committee to provide input into library program and goals
- Represented the Library on a variety of school wide committees (Technology, GRIT, Scholarship, Department Leader / Administrative Team)
- Taught a variety of lessons regarding database research, internet research, and book selection.

High School Social Studies Teacher

Reed High School Sparks, NV

August 2001 to July 2014

- Around the Globe, sophomore level Interdisciplinary Geography/English team. I taught World Geography with an English department colleague who taught sophomore English.
- World Studies, sophomore level Interdisciplinary World History/English team. I created this interdisciplinary team with an English department colleague and have maintained teaching two of these teams for the past 7 years.
- U.S. History, junior level American History.

Middle School Social Studies Teacher

Sparks Middle School Sparks, NV

August 1991 – August 2001 (Two year leave of absence August 1997- August 1999)

- 7th and 8th grades social studies teacher.
- Social Studies department coordinator for several years.

Awards

December 2008

- Excellence in Education, Teacher of the Month (News 4)

Education

University of Nevada, Reno

- Bachelor of Science in Geography, 1989

Graduate Special

University of Nevada, Reno

- History minor for Nevada Teaching Certification

Special Training

- Master's Equivalency earned through the Washoe County School District negotiated agreement. Finalized in February 2009.
- Student Learning Facilitator Training, 2 year program, Graduated May 2010.

Involvement with Student Groups

Reno High School

Parent Band Booster Club 2009-2015

- Coordinator of Food Committee

North Valleys High School

- Taught a semester long class called “#adulthood” to Senior students

Reed High School

- Class Advisor 2001 – 2003
- Judicial Board 2003-2009
- Scrapbooking Club 2009-2010

Sparks Middle School

- Volunteered with library inventory.
- Announced wrestling meets, Embroidery club, Academic Olympics.

Professional Organizations

Nevada Library Association, active.

August 3, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

It is with complete confidence and abundant enthusiasm I recommend Ms. Tami M. Ruf to serve on the Washoe County Library Board of Trustees. As a professional educator and avid patron of libraries, I know she would make an excellent public servant in this capacity.

While teaching English at Edward C. Reed High School in Sparks, I had the pleasure of working directly with Tami for a decade. We cooperated across departments, on faculty committees, and as co-teachers of World Studies where we shared a room with 70 students and collaborated daily. Tami was the teacher you'd want your own children to have: thoughtful, detail-oriented, compassionate, professional. She is a warm and supportive colleague, adept at listening and taking action. Her work ethic is the strongest I've encountered in my 27 years as a teacher. Her professional and personal integrity is unassailable.

We frequently spoke about literacy, education, and libraries as Tami pursued her Media Specialist credential. Tami is absolutely dedicated to books, reading, and engagement with libraries. Since she left Reed, we've continued our collegial conversations. I consider coffee with Tami to be an important part of my ongoing professional development: she is a great source for book recommendations and for understanding the nuances of library use. Her curiosity is contagious; her openness is delightful.

With her scope of experiences and relevant qualifications, I know that Tami Ruf will be a vital addition to the board. Please afford her every consideration, as she will be the kind of colleague you will be glad to have.

Warmly,

Terry DeBarger, M.A.
National Board Certified Teacher