

# Application to Fill City Auditor Vacancy

Submitted on	21 April 2026, 10:35pm
Receipt number	5
Related form version	8

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First name	Jacquelin
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Last name	Lewis
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Pronouns	she/her/hers
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Address matching your voter registration	689 Stanley Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43206
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Phone number	614-218-2411
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Email address	jlewis@bricker.com
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I am a registered voter in the City of Columbus, I reside in the City, and understand I will have to reside in Columbus for the duration of my time in this role.	Yes
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I am ready to begin to serve full-time as City Auditor starting the week of May 4, 2026.	Yes
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To enable that, I am prepared to collaborate with the city's ethics counsel to remove myself promptly from other employment, prohibited board service or personal financial interests that constitute fiduciary responsibility for myself or anyone in my household, or other conflicts of interest, should I be selected.	Yes
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I am available to attend the April 27, 2026 City Council meeting at 5 p.m. in City Hall.	Yes
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Upload resume	<a href="#">Resume - Jacquelin Lewis 4.21.2026.pdf</a>
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Attached a cover letter (up to 2 pages) outlining your interest in the role of City Auditor, with an emphasis on past experiences in government financial management and municipal bond markets.	<a href="#">Cover Letter - Jacquelin Lewis 4.21.2026.pdf</a>
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The Ohio Revised Code and City Code require the City Auditor to hold a bond to faithfully perform the duties. Please disclose any past criminal or civil legal history, personal or professional financial or credit challenges, or other circumstances (like those that would emerge in a traditional background check or a legal "character and fitness" review) that would keep you from holding a bond. Note: This form does generate public records, so anything you disclose here may become public.

None of which I am aware.

April 21, 2026

Columbus City Council  
City of Columbus

Dear Members of Columbus City Council,

I write to express my strong interest in serving as the next City Auditor for the City of Columbus and to share the experience and perspective I would bring to this role. I am grateful for the encouragement I have received to pursue this opportunity and welcome the responsibility of continuing the City's tradition of strong financial leadership.

### **Role of the Auditor's Office**

The Columbus City Auditor's Office serves as the City's central financial authority, bringing together responsibilities that, in many municipalities, are distributed across multiple agencies. It is a role that requires not only technical expertise, but sound judgment, steady leadership, and the ability to operate at the center of government. My career has been built in exactly that environment.

### **Public Sector and Political Experience**

For my entire career, I have worked at the intersection of public policy, finance, and government. I began as a legislative aide in both chambers of the Ohio General Assembly and later served as a liaison to the Ohio Treasurer of State and the Ohio Attorney General. I then served as Director of Public Affairs for the Ohio Association of Community Colleges. These roles have prepared me politically for this position – equipping me to navigate complex environments, build consensus, and advance priorities with discipline. Having spent my career in and around government, I understand the realities of politics – but I am grounded in the principle that integrity and sound decision-making must lead. In short, my legislative and political experiences, combined with my legal and financial background, have converged in a way that I believe uniquely positions me for this role.

### **Experience in Municipal Finance and Capital Markets**

As a public finance attorney, I have advised political subdivisions across Ohio on financings totaling billions of dollars, including and most notably the City of Columbus. Having served as the City of Columbus' bond counsel for over a decade, I bring to this role a working understanding of the City's capital program, debt portfolio, and financing strategy, as well as the capital markets in which the City operates.

A central responsibility of the Auditor's Office is leading the City's presence in the capital markets – structuring debt, maintaining investor confidence, and preserving Columbus' AAA/Aaa/AAA credit rating. I have done this work directly. For a decade, I have partnered closely with the Auditor's Office and the Mayor's finance team to execute transactions, develop disclosures, and ensure compliance with federal securities laws. Just as importantly, I have helped translate the City's financial and operating story into clear communications for investors. I have also supported rating agency presentations and discussions, helping articulate the City's strengths, strategy, and long-term outlook. Through this work, I understand how Columbus is evaluated in the market – where it is strong, and where continued discipline is required to maintain its position.

Across my broader work in municipal finance – including general obligation, revenue, and lease-purchase financings – I bring to this role a strong understanding of debt strategy, market timing, and regulatory requirements. Having worked side-by-side with the City in these areas, I bring not only experience, but continuity.

### **Economic Development and Strategic Finance**

Beyond traditional municipal finance, I also bring experience structuring and negotiating complex economic development projects. Today's projects require more than a single funding source – they require aligning public and private capital, leveraging federal and state programs, and structuring deals that can move from concept to execution. This is the work I do. I have structured and negotiated economic development incentives as part of complex capital stacks, using tools such as tax increment financing (TIF), community reinvestment areas (CRA), and new community authorities (NCA), and aligning them with debt financing and other public-sector resources.

## **Infrastructure and Long-Term Financial Stewardship**

Columbus is entering a period of sustained growth, and the demands on its infrastructure will only grow with it, from water and sewer systems to broader community investment. National rating agencies, including Moody's, S&P Global, and Fitch Ratings, have recognized the region's above-average growth and the corresponding pressure it places on the City's capital needs, making this an area of immediate focus.

I have worked extensively with complex infrastructure and utility systems, including projects supported by the Ohio Water Development Authority and other federal and state funding sources. I understand how capital planning, financing strategies, and operational priorities must come together. Ensuring that Columbus continues to invest strategically – while maintaining financial strength and flexibility – will be critical to sustaining the region's momentum.

## **Collaborative Decision-Making**

The City's financial operations underpin every service, investment, and policy decision. The Auditor's Office sits at the center of this system, ensuring that financial information is accurate, reliable, and aligned with the City's priorities. At this level, the role is not about managing systems, it is about driving decisions. I am known professionally as collaborative, collegial, and capable – a tactician and problem-solver who can work through complex issues and build common ground.

As an attorney, I bring rigor and discipline: I will present facts clearly and honestly, even when difficult, while remaining firmly guided by the City Charter, Columbus City Code and Ohio Revised Code, and respecting the boundaries of the Auditor's role.

## **Leadership and Public Service Experience**

In addition to my professional work, I have also served in leadership roles across key public and civic institutions in the Columbus region, including as Treasurer of the Franklin County Convention Facilities Authority, Governance Chair of the Affordable Housing Trust for Columbus and Franklin County, and as a Board Member of the Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority. These roles have placed me at the center of governance environments where financial oversight, strategic decision-making, and public accountability are paramount. I have been directly responsible for evaluating investments, overseeing financial performance, and helping guide organizations critical to the region's housing, infrastructure, and economic development landscape.

I am also engaged in national public finance networks, including the Government Finance Officers Association and Women in Public Finance, and have developed relationships with financial leaders and advisors across the country.

## **Readiness to Lead**

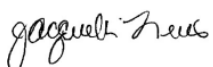
The scale and complexity of the Columbus City Auditor's Office require a leader who can step in immediately – with the experience, judgment, and credibility to lead a highly specialized organization and serve as a trusted partner to City leadership. I am prepared to do that. My career has been built in the environments this role demands – at the intersection of capital markets, public policy, and operational leadership.

## **Commitment to Columbus**

Columbus has set a high standard for financial leadership and innovation under Auditor Kilgore's tenure. The opportunity ahead is to build on that foundation – continuing to modernize the City's financial systems, strengthen its position in the capital markets, and ensure its financial infrastructure supports the next phase of growth. I am committed to carrying this work forward with discipline and a focus on long-term financial resilience – ensuring Columbus remains well-positioned to meet the opportunities ahead while navigating its challenges.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my candidacy. I would welcome the opportunity to serve.

Sincerely,

  
Jacquelin R. Lewis

## SUMMARY

Public Finance Attorney with over a decade of experience advising Ohio political subdivisions on complex municipal bond transactions. Specialist in lease-purchase, revenue, and general obligation financings, including comprehensive guidance on continuing disclosure requirements. Combines deep technical legal expertise with practical governmental insight gained through state-level experience and active service as a fiduciary on public boards.

## EDUCATION

The Ohio State University Michael E. Moritz College of Law, Columbus, Ohio

*Juris Doctor, May 2014*

- Porter Wright Leadership Scholarship
- Clerk, Moot Court Governing Board
- Vice President, Black Law Students Association
- Extern, Former Ohio Supreme Court Justice Yvette McGee Brown
- Marketing Director, Entrepreneurial Business Law Journal

The Ohio State University John Glenn School of Public Affairs, Columbus, Ohio

*Master of Arts in Public Policy and Management, May 2014*

The Ohio State University, College of Arts and Sciences, Columbus, Ohio

*Bachelor of Arts, International Relations & French, cum laude, June 2004*

Center of Applied Linguistics, Besancon, France

*Certificate of Completion, Intensive Study Abroad Program, May 2003*

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Bricker Graydon Wyatt LLP (formerly Bricker & Eckler, LLP), Columbus, Ohio

*Partner, January 2023 to Present*

*Senior Associate, July 2019 to January 2023*

*Associate, September 2014 to July 2019*

- Provide general counsel assistance to political subdivisions on public finance and public law matters.
- Draft and negotiate transaction documents for general obligation, revenue and lease-purchase financings.
- Counsel public and private clients on economic development incentives and special purpose districts.
- Advise clients on land use matters.

NiSource, Inc., Columbus, Ohio

*Legal Intern, January 2013 to May 2013, July 2013 to October 2013*

- Researched and drafted legal memoranda on energy, public utilities and real estate issues.

Bricker & Eckler, LLP, Columbus, Ohio

*Law Clerk, May 2012 to August 2012, May 2013 to July 2013*

- Researched and drafted legal memoranda on public utility and financial regulations, trusts and class action lawsuits.
- Drafted oil/gas leases and researched and analyzed legislation and administrative laws impacting political subdivisions.

Ohio Association of Community Colleges (the "OACC"), Columbus, Ohio

*Director of Public Affairs, March 2011 to August 2011*

- Provided legislative services, including issue analysis, public policy advocacy, marketing, and public relations planning, with an emphasis on higher education issues.
- Advised Ohio's 23 community colleges on state budget and proposed legislation impacting higher education.

Ohio Attorney General, Columbus, Ohio

*Legislative Liaison, January 2009 to January 2011*

- Provided government relations services in regulatory and legislative research, analysis and drafting, and public policy advocacy, with an emphasis on consumer protection and human rights issues.
- Collaborated with senior staff on development of state and federal budget appropriations and grant applications.

Ohio Treasurer of State, Columbus, Ohio

*Legislative Liaison, January 2007 to July 2008, November 2008 to January 2009*

- Provided government relations services in legislative research, analysis and drafting, and public policy advocacy, with an emphasis on consumer protection issues.
- Consulted elected officials and business leaders on financial, legislative, and regulatory matters.

Ohio General Assembly, Columbus, Ohio

*Legislative Aide, December 2005 to January 2007*

- Managed legislative and budgetary research and analysis for select members of the Ohio General Assembly.
- Handled constituent inquiries and correspondence including speechwriting and district newsletters.

**CIVIC & COMMUNITY SERVICE**

Affordable Housing Trust for Columbus and Franklin County

*Board Member; Governance Chair, April 2018 to Present*

Franklin County Convention Facilities Authority

*Board Member; Treasurer, August 2020 to Present*

Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority

*Board of Commissioners, January 2023 to Present*