

## Application Form

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### Profile

Prefix Abe First Name J Middle Initial Shearer Last Name Suffix

shearer.abe@gmail.com  
Email Address

907 Ridgewood Road  
Home Address Suite or Apt

Harrisonburg City VA State 22801 Postal Code

### How many years have you been a resident of Harrisonburg?

34

Mobile: (540) 810-7470  
Primary Phone Alternate Phone

Strategent Financial, LLC Employer Partner / Investment Advisor Job Title

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**Demographics** - *(Submission of this information if voluntary and will not subject you to any adverse treatment should you chose to not complete)*

### Ethnicity

Caucasian/Non-Hispanic

### Gender

Male

### What is your age?

30-40 years old

### Are you reapplying for a current position you hold? \*

No

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### Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Harrisonburg Electric Commission (HEC): Submitted

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### Interests & Experiences

Abe J Shearer

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

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

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Some of my greatest life experiences stems from the 4 years I served on Harrisonburg City Council (2012-2016). From the individual relationships formed with city officials, to all of the residents met and represented, plus the involvement with the various partner entities (like HEC); it was a special opportunity, and I continue to desire to be involved with the city I love. HEC is an organization I especially enjoyed working with as a council member, and would be quite honored to be involved with now. Recently I applied to the HEC Friendly City Solar Program to offset some of my electric consumption with renewable energy. This new program, and the installation of the solar field on Acorn Drive, represents a forward-looking way of providing renewable energy to many, rather than a few; without large barriers to entry individuals may otherwise experience, and possibly be deterred by. A very innovative way of providing affordable renewable energy to our community.

### **What other interests or concerns do you have regarding the community?**

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Community \*interests and concerns\* should focus on the impacts we have on people. Our residents, our schools and other institutions, our local businesses, and more. Making sure our city is positioned well with favorable and supportive environments for all these communities and institutions to thrive and be successful should be of foremost concern. Decisions have impacts, with positive and negative considerations to weigh. This is an important exercise I think for any decision maker to be prepared to genuinely contemplate. HEC and city leaders alike are faced with this on an ongoing basis, and continually strive to weigh those options and outcomes, making informed decisions in the interests of the most citizens. We also need to be prepared to evaluate decisions through an evolving lens, without losing sight of the background reasons why things are currently done in a certain manner. As new ideas emerge, we should consider thoroughly and objectively, contemplating this as a balancing act which I think is critical for prudent public decision making. I have no doubt HEC will continue to evolve, supporting our community as the world progresses, just as HEC has done for over 60 years. The interdependent relationship between HEC and the city is truly special, which most other communities just don't have the good fortune of having.

### **What relevant experience or education do you have to this board or commission?**

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My knowledge of and experience with HEC stems primarily from my time on City Council. HEC has long served a unique and very important role for Harrisonburg. Residents are served well by HEC for a number of reasons, many which I am familiar with from my experience in city government. We are fortunate to have affordable and reliable electricity, and as tax payers, have traditionally seen substantial financial support from HEC through the city's budget, fulfilling many ongoing public needs (i.e. public education, infrastructure, etc). HEC is also critical to the current and future economic development of the city. I am a forward thinking individual, with a healthy balance of pragmatism. The way HEC and the City co-exist today is based on many years of coordination and strong partnerships. There are many new ideas and initiatives that are worthy of consideration, and this will only increasingly be the case in the future. As is so often the case, finding the proper balance is important, and that is something I genuinely appreciate and understand. Serving as a voice and advocate for both, and the symbiotic relationship between the two, is a natural fit for me.

### **Please list any past or present community involvement e.g. City Council, Boards and Commissions, Citizen Academy, etc. in Harrisonburg or elsewhere:**

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Current: Bridgewater Retirement Community, Vice-Chair Your Economic Success (YES), Past-Chair Past: Harrisonburg City Council (2012-2016) Central Shenandoah Valley Planning District Commission Harrisonburg-Rockingham Social Services Advisory Board City of Harrisonburg Parks and Recreation City of Harrisonburg Finance Committee VML Finance Policy Committee Big Brothers Big Sisters Harrisonburg-Rockingham Massanutten Regional Library Board Harrisonburg Citizen Academy Harrisonburg Police Academy

Upload a Resume

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**EPSAC Applicants only**

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**Bike/Pedestrian Subcommittee Applicants only**