

# 2026-2027 Walker County Leadership Initiative Application

**DEADLINE: JULY 20, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.**

APPLICANT NAME \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

HOME (Mailing) ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

BUSINESS (Mailing) ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Driver's License # \_\_\_\_\_

Length of Residency in Walker County \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_ CELL # \_\_\_\_\_ WORK # \_\_\_\_\_

If selected, my name tag should read:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Associated Business: \_\_\_\_\_

(Note: Please answer all questions directly on this application; if additional pages are necessary, please attach them to this original.)

The selection committee will review each application. Acceptance into the program is based on a scoring system; the make-up of each *Walker County Leadership Initiative* class is carefully considered to ensure that it is broad based, representing a variety of economic, professional, social, and ethnic backgrounds.

I wish to receive information about a scholarship to attend WCLI. Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

The scholarship application must be turned in by July 20, 2026, to be processed for consideration. Scholarships given are based on need and number that apply.

## 2026-27 Schedule

Please review these dates and make sure they will not conflict with prior commitments. The attendance policy is defined on the last page of this application.

- ◆ July 20-Applications Due
- ◆ August 25 - Orientation; 5:15 p.m.- **Mandatory**
- ◆ September 14 & 15 Retreat Overnight – 2 FULL DAY/OVERNIGHT **Mandatory**
- ◆ October 20
- ◆ November 17
- ◆ December 15
- ◆ January 19
- ◆ February 16
- ◆ March 16
- ◆ April 20
- ◆ May 18
- ◆ Graduation – June 3



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## IV. HONORS/RECOGNITION

List any special honors or recognition you have received from any group or organization.

GROUP/ORGANIZATION	AWARD/RECOGNITION	DATE

## V. COMMITMENT

1) Why do you want to be a participant in the Walker County Leadership Initiative?

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2) What do you feel you can contribute to this community upon completion of Walker County Leadership Initiative?

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3) What do you think is the greatest challenge facing our community in the next 3-5 years?

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VI. **ATTENDANCE POLICY** - Every participant in the Walker County Leadership Initiative is required to attend all sessions. **THE ORIENTATION AND TWO-DAY OVERNIGHT RETREAT ARE MANDATORY.**

The program is designed so that each subject adds to a well-rounded foundation for any future leadership roles.

During each session, the **entire class day** is part of the WCLI experience. Once the session begins, you are expected to remain with the class. Breaks, meals, and transportation as a group are important to the process of the program and are considered part of the session.

Program participants may not miss the orientation, retreat session, nor accrue more than ten combined hours of missed absences from program hours. **Participants that accrue more than 10 hours of absence may appeal to the WCLI Board to continue program participation; all requests will be considered, but such absences could result in removal from the program with no refund of tuition. If a participant has accrued more than 8 hours of absences, his/her employer will be notified. A 15-minute late arrival may result in a 1-hour absence deduction.**

**Due to restrictions on our criminal justice day please indicate:**

**I have been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor**       Yes       No

## VII. COMMITMENT & REQUIREMENTS

- I wish to participate in THE WALKER COUNTY LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE.
- I have my company's/organization's support for my participation (see below).
- I will be able to attend the orientation, retreat and the eight monthly day-long sessions. **7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.**
- **I am aware of the attendance policy and agree to adhere to that policy.**
- I will participate as a team member in the **class project** and do my part to make it successful and worthwhile for the community. I understand that there may be fundraising or extra cost and/or time for this task. I understand that the project will be decided upon as a collective effort by the class at the retreat.
- I understand that most sessions require a great deal of walking – *if you have physical limitations, please contact the chamber for clarification.*
- I will volunteer at least 4 hours at an approved **chamber sponsored event** such as:
  - Fair on the Square, Saturday, October 3, 2026
  - Annual Chamber Gala, Saturday, December 12, 2026
  - Diva Night, April 2027
  - Chamber Clay Classic, March 2027
- I will attend one school board meeting (school must be in Walker County) and one City Council or Walker County Commissioners Court meeting during the year.
- I will pay tuition (\$900.00) **in full prior to the retreat** or make financial arrangements with the Chamber upon selection. This includes a WCLI Chamber Polo shirt to be worn at all sessions, **these will be in ladies and men sizes. Shirts are fitted and run small.**  
Please indicate size: Men's \_\_\_\_\_ Women's \_\_\_\_\_
- I understand that the Chamber is not responsible for any injuries or damages incurred during WCLI.
- **If I fail to adhere to the attendance policy, I may not graduate and my employer will be notified of my absence.**

**Code of Conduct: I understand that as a WCLI participant, I represent the organization I work for, as well as the Walker County Chamber and the Walker County Leadership Initiative. Therefore, I will conduct myself in a professional manner and be respectful of the speakers and fellow classmates throughout the entire class day. The WCLI Committee reserves the right to review any misconduct or complaints and to implement disciplinary action up to and including termination of WCLI Class participation.**

Applicant's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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## **VIII. EMPLOYER COMMITMENT (To be completed by your current supervisor)**

I am aware of the time requirements of Walker County Leadership Initiative and the commitment that this applicant will make if she/he is selected. As her/his supervisor, I support this program and approve time away from employment to attend all sessions.

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Employer's Signature

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Printed Name

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Date

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Phone Number

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E-mail Address