

Voter turnout is low in the Black Community. We're missing very important voices

**YOURS.**

The voices we REALLY need to hear from are **Black Men.**

We know you're fed up.

We know you feel the system is rigged against you.

We know you don't feel **Your Voice Matters.**

But trust us, if your voice didn't matter, they wouldn't try so hard to keep you out.

We have a seat for you at the table... Consider this Your Invitation.



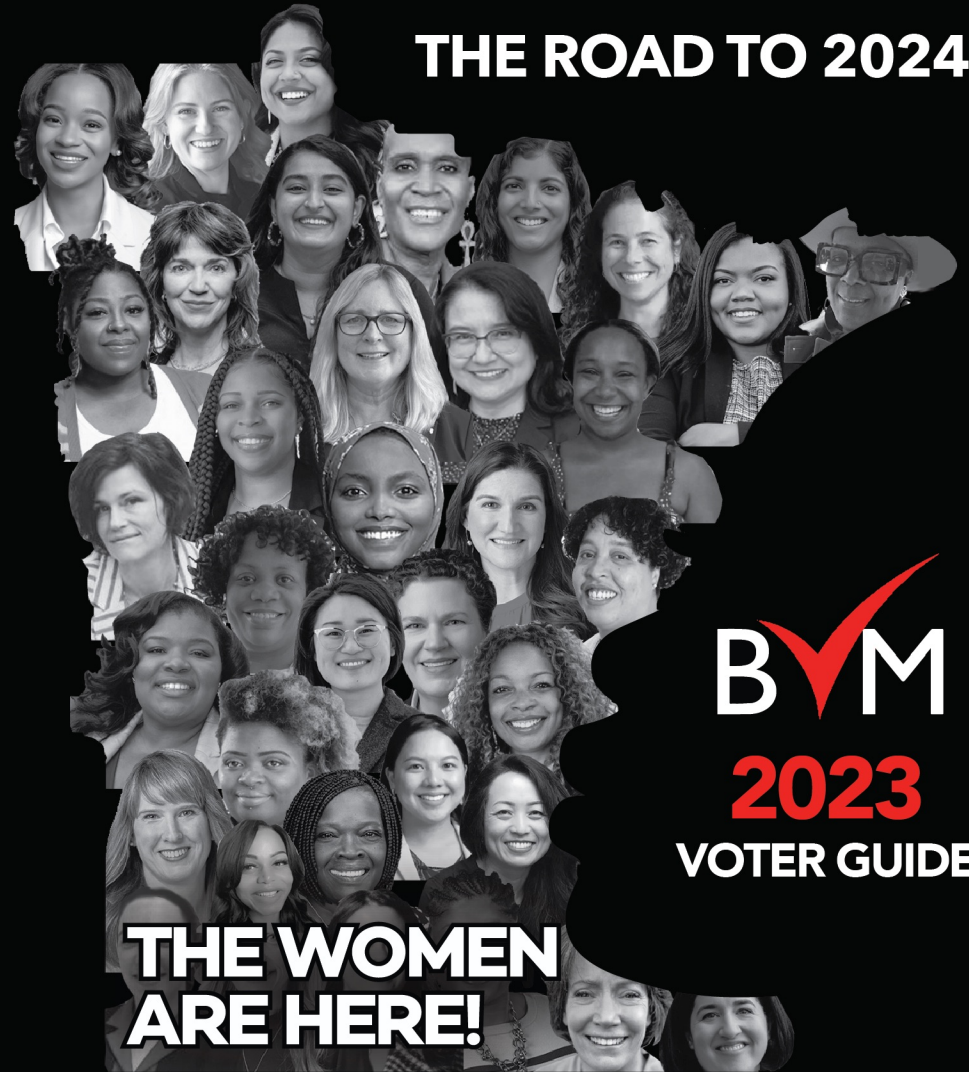
**VOTE.**

**Your Rights Depend On It.**

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**THE ROAD TO 2024**



**BYM**

**2023  
VOTER GUIDE**

**THE WOMEN ARE HERE!**

**'Redistricting: What Changed?'**

[www.blackvotesmattermn.com](http://www.blackvotesmattermn.com)





# A Win for Voting Rights in Minnesota!

**As of June 1, 2023!**

Minnesotans on parole and probation will have their voting rights restored! Those with felony convictions will be eligible to vote as long as they're not currently in a correction facility serving their felony sentence.

Pre-registration for 16 and 17 year-olds will go into effect! Eligible youth will be able to pre-register to vote. Their registration will be pending in county voter systems until they turn 18 and automatically registered to vote at that time..

For more information visit: [mnvotes.org](http://mnvotes.org) & your local county elections office.

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## The Crew

**Guest Editor**  
Deebaa Sirdaa

**Proof Reader**  
Judy Cooper Lyle

**Design & Layout**  
Ndidi Marie,  
NdidiMarie Grafix

**Design Support**  
Carmen Watson

**Publisher & Editor-In-Chief**  
Anika Robbins  
Black Votes Matter, MN

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For more information visit: [www.blackvotesmattermn.com](http://www.blackvotesmattermn.com) or call 612.670.6355

The 2023 Black Votes Matter MN Guide is provided as public service.

The information contained herein is not exhaustive and should not replace your own research.

For more information on candidates and elections, visit: [www.mnvotes.org](http://www.mnvotes.org)

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## The Issues: *Why you should VOTE*

### AFFORDABLE HOUSING

An estimated 8 million Americans were experiencing homelessness before COVID-19. In Minnesota, 10,000 families and individuals mostly African Americans and Youth are unsheltered on any given night. A growing number of Seniors also experience homelessness. Low affordable housing stock, discrimination, and growing income disparities exacerbate the issue. Since COVID-19, over 1 million Americans have filed for unemployment. Despite eviction moratoriums, thousands will still face eviction. More affordable housing, subsidies and/or rent control, are needed."

### AFFORDABLE HEALTHCARE

Over 30 million Americans are uninsured. Disproportionately low-income Latinos, persons under age 35, and undocumented families are least likely to be insured. Currently, multiple groups pay for healthcare including private health insurance companies, employers, and the government, through programs like Medicare and Medicaid. Single-payer systems, similar to models in Canada and the UK, mean taxes would cover health expenses for all. High premiums and prescription drug costs are also a factor.

### THE ENVIRONMENT

Environmental destruction caused by humans is a global, ongoing problem. Earth is our only home. Humans have to be mindful of our impact on the environment including air pollution, water and soil pollution, and explore our consumption and waste management efforts. While large corporations and negligent government regulations (or lack thereof) are often blamed for environmental impacts, humans drive demand through consumption - food, travel, energy usage and more. These things are affecting global warming, reduction of the ozone layer, melting the glaciers and changing the structure of air quality. Environmental Justice has grown since the 1900s with more government agencies, recognizing the need to put systems and protections in place to protect the future sustainability of the planet. Many cities, counties and states are creating Green plans to try to counteract negative impacts, while preparing for future sustainability.

### JUSTICE REFORM

70% of America's jails and juvenile detention centers are disproportionately filled with African American males. Discriminatory policing, sentencing and the bail bond system has left Black families broken and bankrupted. According to the Innocence Project, approximately 10% - 230,000 people - are wrongfully convicted of crimes. That also means they're not voting. In 2018, the initiative exonerated over 340 people - 20 on death row. America has the world's highest number of prisons and prisoners. Advocacy groups call for bail and sentencing reform. Police reform, including the adoption of holistic restorative justice practices; eliminating private prisons and decriminalizing marijuana, are also promoted.

### WOMEN'S REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

Roe v. Wade, 410 U.S. 113 (1973), was a landmark decision of the U.S. Supreme Court in which the Court ruled that the Constitution of the United States conferred the right to have an abortion. On June 24, 2022, the Supreme Court overruled Roe in Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization on the grounds that the substantive right to abortion was not "deeply rooted in this Nation's history or tradition," nor considered a right when the Due Process Clause was ratified in 1868, and was unknown in U.S. law until Roe. This reversal is an impingement of women's right to choose when, and under what circumstances. It intrudes on a Woman's personal agency and self-determination impacting her overall socioeconomic well-being and health. In the Upper Midwest, Illinois and Minnesota Governors have vowed to protect abortion rights, while women seeking abortions in Wisconsin or The Dakotas are forced to travel out of state. This will be a determining factor in the 2022 and 2024 elections, unless efforts are successful in codifying Roe v. Wade into law."

## The Women are HERE! The road to 2024...the short and long of it

Since our inception in 2015, we could see the future...and it was WOMAN! The 2023 races see an unprecedented number of women running for city council and school board - on both sides of the river - and throughout Greater Minnesota. This should come as no surprise what with the gender pay gap, the reversal of Roe v. Wade, Affirmative Action... the attack on a Black Women-led venture capital firm:))

Women and families are still reeling from post-pandemic effects: high food costs, high rents, lack of affordable housing stock. Women and Millennials are also seeking a more flexible work-life balance, affordable healthcare and access to capital. Following the mass exodus during COVID-19, employers are vying for a mass return to the workplace. Even with hiring bonuses, flex time and other enticements, response is met with a slow clap at best. The return to 'normal' is not going quite as planned.

### So here's what's happening...

More than half of all St. Paul city council wards include women candidates. The heated Ward 1 race includes all newcomers, including Anika Bowie and Omar Syed. In a historic twist, there are no incumbents in wards 3, 5 and 7. This could lead to a dramatic shift of power on the council.

In Minneapolis, Ward 8 Incumbent, Andrea Jenkins, faces a few challengers. Wards 12 and 7 are newcomer races, with no incumbent. The Ward 7 race is one to watch as the outgoing council member, Lisa Goodman, has served for 25 years.

Around the state, women - Black Women and Women of Color - are stepping up and in the race! From School board races in Duluth, Hopkins/Minnetonka, St. Paul; to mayoral candidates in the outer ring suburbs of Bloomington, St. Louis Park, Golden Valley and Minnetonka, we expect this to be a trend that becomes the standard going forward.

Tax levies, property tax increases, managing legalized cannabis, ongoing government infrastructure framing, public safety and violence prevention, economic development, opioid crisis management, are just some of what you are voting on this cycle. The results of these local municipal races can, and will, affect you and your family in the immediate. They will certainly inform the 2024 presidential race. Think short and long game before heading to the polls. As always, do your homework, make an informed decision and VOTE.

Anika Robbins,  
Founder & President  
Black Votes Matter MN






Test  Talk  Treat 

# COVID-19 care now comes to you.

Cue Care™

STAY SAFE MN



To find COVID-10 resources and support - including vaccine and testing locations, visit: [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

## COVID-19

### Symptoms

Since the virus that causes COVID-19 can impact many systems of the body in different ways, long COVID symptoms can vary a lot from person to person. People with long COVID may have one or many symptoms, such as different combinations of the following:

- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- Tiredness or fatigue that interferes with daily life
- Difficulty thinking, concentrating, or remembering (sometimes called "brain fog")
- Symptoms that get worse after physical or mental effort
- Cough
- Trouble sleeping
- Headache
- Fever
- Fast, irregular, or pounding heartbeat (also known as heart palpitations)
- Tightness or pain in the chest
- Dizziness or light headedness on standing
- Joint or muscle pain
- Pins-and-needles feeling
- Stomach pain
- Diarrhea
- Skin issues like rash or hair loss
- Mood changes, including depression or anxiety
- Changes in sense of smell or taste
- Changes in menstrual
- Other symptoms reported

### COVID-19 and Pre-existing health conditions

COVID-19 might also trigger or worsen health issues such as diabetes, blood clotting (including stroke), heart disease or heart failure, kidney disease, and other chronic conditions. It is important to note that health conditions other than long COVID can also cause these symptoms and complications. Talk to a health care provider if symptoms are not improving or interfere with daily life. Visit Long COVID Resources and Support for more information.



# CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES

## CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS (WARDS 1-13)



### Elliott Payne

*DFL- Endorsed*

**Occupation and Background:** Current Ward 1 City Council member (2022). Digital Strategist and Business Consultant.

**Accomplishments:** Mechanical Engineering degree and Master of Business Administration degree, University of Minnesota. Four-year consultant in Community Design at City of Minneapolis' Office of Performance and Innovation. Minnesota Change Network and Shannon Leadership Institute alum.

**Housing:** Supported renters' rights protections. Wants to increase deeply affordable and single room occupancy housing. Wants a holistic approach that includes social supports and long-term treatment. Advocated for strong rent stabilization policy that prioritized renters' rights.

**Economic Justice:** Wants to increase workers' protections. Wants a just transition away from fossil fuel-dependent economy to investments in well-paying green jobs that are accessible to marginalized communities.

**Police Accountability and Public Safety:** Led on, and expanded, police response alternatives, known as behavioral crisis responders. Lobbied state for no knock warrants, speedier public release of police body camera footage, and greater transparency in officer disciplinary records. Wants to increase opioid response and addiction prevention investments. Wants medical assisted therapy program in the treatment of opioid addiction. Led probe of police buy back contracts that disproportionately benefits affluent neighborhoods.



### Edwin Fruit,

*Socialist Workers Party*

**Occupation and Background:** Writer for socialist news publication. Union member, social protests for workers' rights, immigrant protections, police accountability, defense of Cuban revolution.

**Economic Justice:** Increase and protect workers' rights. Prioritize farmers, small business owners and workers. Does not believe system of capitalism can produce equitable outcomes for workers or anyone. Wants labor unions to form a workers' party that represents working class people.

**Police Accountability and Public Safety:** Protect constitutional freedoms in all cases. Federal law must protect constitutional rights; police accountability cannot be achieved until this happens and capitalism is intrinsically tied to this intractable issue.





**Robin Wonsley**  
*Opposed Incumbent*  
*Democratic Socialists of America*

**Occupation and Background:** Current Ward 2 City Council member (2022). Nonprofit development. Community Organizing. Black Lives Matter Minneapolis and Twin Cities Justice for Jamar Clark Coalition member.

**Accomplishments:** Carleton College graduate. Mini Master of Business Administration degree, St. Thomas University; PhD program in Gender, Women, and Sexuality Studies at U of MN. Thomas J. Watson Fellow. Board of directors, Restorative Justice Community Action Network. 15 Now MN Fundraising and Outreach Director.

**Housing:** Advocated for strong rent stabilization policy with 3% cap on rent increases with no exceptions, and for tenants' first right for the opportunity to purchase their properties before being publicly listed for sale. Wants city housing investment of long-term, deeply affordable housing only. Wants to expand vacant and boarded registration program to include commercial buildings. Wants to halt encampment evictions. Allocated remaining funding needed to expand fire suppression sprinklers into all Minneapolis Public Housing Authority-owned high-rise buildings.

**Economic Justice:** Wants commercial rent control policy and commercial property trusts. Wants to expand union career pathways for Black and brown communities. Wants to reduce barriers to City contracting opportunities for local, small businesses.

**Police Accountability and Public Safety:** Supported redirecting MPD funding toward unarmed response. Wants to expand investment, including from the State, into victim services, treatment for addiction and fully funded diversionary programs. Advocated for stronger public engagement in police negotiation contracts and wants to end police buy back contracts that

**What seats are on the ballot... *And what do they do?***

OFFICE	WHAT THEY DO	TERM
<b>Mayor</b>	Acts as Head of City and presides at Council meetings. In many Minnesota cities, the Mayor has no more power than a City Council member when it comes to passing legislation, related to local taxes, city ordinances, police-community relationships, and the city budget, etc. .	A Mayoral term depends on the city and can either be a two-year term or a four-year term. No term limits.
<b>City Council Representative</b>	Council members are tasked with representing the needs of their constituents. They make and pass laws and approve the dollars spent by the City, related to local taxes, city ordinances, police-community relationships, health, public works, community development, etc.	A City Council term is a four-year term or two-four year terms every decade.
<b>School Board</b>	The primary role of the School Board is to work with a school district's community (schools, teachers, parents, other elected officials, etc.) to improve student success and district achievement.	School Board Members are elected to four-year terms. There are no term limits.



**Michael Rainville**  
*Incumbent - DFL-Endorsed*

**Occupation and Background:** Current Ward 3 City Council member (2022). Hospitality. Fundraiser for police precinct and officer positions

**Accomplishments:** Degree in Marketing, St. Thomas University. Non-Profit Management certification, Notre Dame University. Chair of the Ritz Theater Foundation and Ballet of the Dolls; lobbied against demolition of Ritz Theater.

**Housing:** Support for private developers to increase affordable housing units, while also increasing market rate housing. Supported increased investment into affordable housing trust fund and the preservation of naturally occurring affordable housing.

**Economic Justice:** Supports skills training, job creation and business and homeownership opportunities for all.

**Police Accountability and Public Safety:** Wants to restore officers and maintain funding to MPD, and fund co-responders and mental health crisis responders. Wants police to lead public safety reforms. Reform through training and use of force policy. Increase beat officers. Offer incentives for officers to live in the city. Established activation of pedestrian-only entertainment warehouse district program on weekends in downtown Minneapolis to increase safety in the area.



**Marcus Mills**  
*Green Party-Endorsed*

**Occupation and Background:** Professional Communications Consultant, Independent Massage Therapist and Environmental Justice Strategist, Political Strategist

**Accomplishments:** Bachelor's degree, Psychology and Philosophy, U of M - Twin Cities. Certification with Honors, Massage Therapy/Therapeutic Massage, Aveda Institute - Minneapolis. Member of Marcy-Holmes Neighborhood Association, Minneapolis Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission, and the Minneapolis Clean Energy Partnership's Energy Vision Advisory Committee. Energy and environmental justice champion.

**Housing:** Supports greater protections for renters' rights. Wants to explore AirBnB and short-term rental policy impacts on rent increases. Supports stronger inclusionary zoning policies and increased housing density. Increase tax incentives for affordable housing units that meet City's energy goals.

**Economic Justice:** Wants to increase technical assistance programming and funding for small businesses. Proponent of participatory budgeting and believes City should mandate inclusion/outreach sessions for community feedback on budget process.

**Police Accountability and Public Safety:** Supports increasing unarmed behavioral crisis responders. Wants community exposure trainings for cadets. Advocate for public health and harm reduction approach and creation of harm reduction centers.





**LaTrisha Vetaw**  
Incumbent - DFL-Endorsed

**Occupation and Background:** Current Ward 4 City Council member (2022). Director of Health Policy and Advocacy, NorthPoint Health & Wellness. Former Minneapolis Park Board commissioner.

**Accomplishments:** First in family to graduate from college. Minneapolis Park Board Commissioner, At Large, served as chair of the Intergovernmental and Legislative Committee. Leader in community health, legislative efforts.

**Housing:** Supported increased investment into affordable housing trust fund and the preservation of naturally occurring affordable housing. Focus on new, deeply affordable housing units.

**Economic Justice:** Wants increased investment for training, capital, and other technical and financial resources for entrepreneurs of color. Invest in food service and grocery businesses. Focus subsidies on vacant building developments.

**Police Accountability and Public Safety:** Wants to change the culture of MPD while investing in alternative emergency response infrastructure. Reform MPD through training and policy. Ensure MPD is funded, focused on community policing. Decriminalize homelessness through co-responder model.



**Marvina Haynes**  
Democratic/DFL

**Occupation and Background:** Certified Nursing Assistant; small business owner; youth empowerment and wellness

**Accomplishments:** Leadership roles include CEO and Executive Director; trained organizer and activist

**Housing:** Wants stable rent and property taxes to ensure fair and equal housing for all.

**Economic Justice:** Invest in small businesses and community infrastructure.

**Police Accountability and Public Safety:** Safety and security for all community members. Advocate for wrongfully convicted people.

**Additional Candidate:**  
Leslie Davis: [https://ballotpedia.org/Leslie\\_Davis](https://ballotpedia.org/Leslie_Davis)



**Angela Williams**  
Republican

**Occupation and Background:** Executive Director, Housing Resource Network. President, YNIIGI, LLC - You Need It, I Got It professional services provider.

**Accomplishments:** Master's degree, training and development, Roosevelt University.

**Housing:** Wants a policy that will protect tenants and provide tax cuts for landlords whose savings are passed through as rent decreases.

**Economic Justice:** Create commissioners in each neighborhood charged with economic development representation in their neighborhoods. Provide leadership and career development through Execute Neighborhood Internship Program with local high schools and local business owners. Advocate for fiscal responsibility and conservatism.

**Police Accountability and Public Safety:** Fully fund police and create public safety groups with neighborhood associations. Create commissioners in each neighborhood charged with public safety representation in their neighborhoods.

**VOTE.**

**Your Rights Depend On It!**

**BVM**



# GENERAL ELECTION DAY IS TUE. NOV 7 . 2023

## 1. Register to **VOTE**

- Must be 18 years old or turning 18 by **November 7th, 2023**
- Must be a U.S. Citizen
- Must register to vote BEFORE you VOTE
- Register online at [www.mnvotes.org](http://www.mnvotes.org)

## 2. Where to **VOTE**

- Look up your location at: [www.pollfinder.sos.ste.mn.us](http://www.pollfinder.sos.ste.mn.us)

## 3. When to **VOTE**

- Election Day is always the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November
- 2023 Election Day: **November 7th, 2023**
- Polls are usually open 7am-8pm
- You can also vote-by-mail aka 'absentee ballot'
- Visit your city or county offices to pickup a ballot
- Or request one to be mailed to you at: [www.mnvotes.org](http://www.mnvotes.org)

## 4. Track the **VOTE**

- Track election results through news staitains or online at:  
[www.mnvotes.org](http://www.mnvotes.org) or [www.blackvotesmattermn.com](http://www.blackvotesmattermn.com)

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# Quality Life Minnesota



# Take Care of Yourself, Sis

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[info@blackvotesmattermn.com](mailto:info@blackvotesmattermn.com)





**Jeremiah Ellison**  
Incumbent - Democratic/DFL

**Occupation and Background:** Current Ward 5 City Council member (2018). Artist.

**Accomplishments:** Teaching artist. Painted prominent, local murals. Organizer. Homeless Youth Counselor.

**Housing:** Co-authored legislation protecting and expanding tenant rights, housing-first policy around inspections, and increased ownership pathways for renters. Co-authored rent stabilization Charter amendment proposal. Expanded anti-displacement policies and investments in affordable housing. Advocated for strong rent stabilization policy with 3% cap on rent increases with no exceptions.

**Economic Justice:** Expanded funding, technical assistance and resources for entrepreneurs, artists, small developers, and worker co-ops. Expanded pathways for small businesses to own their building. Helped secure funding and connect businesses with state and federal funding related to Covid-19 recovery.

**Police Accountability Reform:** Expanded investments and programming in the Office of Violence Prevention. Expanded funding for co-responders city-wide, and a standalone mental health response unit. Address youth violence through public health approach.

**Occupation and Background:** Lead pastor; entrepreneur, author; community organizer

**Accomplishments:** Studied at Bethel University; received Ministry credentials with Assemblies of God; Northside Residential Redevelopment Council (NRRC) member; National Director for an international local non-profit

**Economic Justice:** Wants more employers and all storefronts activated along main corridor. Believes crime must be controlled for small businesses to flourish.

**Police Accountability and Public Safety:** Fully invest in culturally competent peace officers. Include all levels of government and community, from repairs of street lighting and proactive Hennepin County services, to neighbors meeting neighbors.



**Victor Martinez**  
Democratic/DFL

**Additional Candidate:**  
Phillip "OMac" Peterson: [https://ballotpedia.org/Phillip\\_Peterson](https://ballotpedia.org/Phillip_Peterson)



**Jamal Osman**  
Incumbent - Democratic/DFL

**Occupation and Background:** Current Ward 6 City Council member (2020). Mental Health Trainer.

**Accomplishments:** Resident Advocate, Common Bond Communities. Phillips Community Clinic Board member.

**Housing:** Wants greater investment in affordable and safe, healthy public housing. Advocated for strong rent stabilization policy with 3% cap on rent increases with no exceptions. Wants to create a "public developer" to build, acquire and operate 'social housing' throughout the city. Increase affordable homeownership pathways for marginalized communities.

**Economic Justice:** Work collaboratively to advance strong labor standards and livable wages, especially for those in hospitality, retail, and the "gig" economy. Ensure workforce and market is inclusive of immigrants with meaningful partnerships in program development.

**Police Accountability and Public Safety:** Divest funding from MPD to establish alternative approaches to public safety, such as mental health and social service responders. Hire officers who live in the community they serve. Greater oversight in police policy and transparency in disciplinary policy. Improve de-escalation and implicit bias training for officers.

**Occupation and Background:** Formerly an investigator in the Medicaid Fraud Division of the Minnesota Attorney General's Office; correctional officer.

**Accomplishments:** Master's degree, Public Administration, Minnesota State University -Mankato. Bachelor's degree, political science, Ohio State University. Minneapolis Civil Rights Commission member. Served on Redistricting Advisory Committee.

**Housing:** Support increased fines to property owners for code violations. Increase funding for Minneapolis Public Housing Authority. Supports a rent control policy with an exception for inflation and new construction to maintain housing production, including affordable units.

**Police Accountability Reform and Public Safety:** Fund adequate number of police officers. Invest in programs for at-risk youth. Wants police accountability and transparency by removing "coaching" and making all disciplinary actions available to the public. Hire a police force representative of the communities they serve. Focus on Brady list and contract negotiations that better serve communities.



**Kayseh Magan**  
Democratic/DFL

**Additional Candidate:**  
Tiger Worku: [https://ballotpedia.org/Guy\\_Gaskin](https://ballotpedia.org/Guy_Gaskin) & Guy T. Gaskin: [https://ballotpedia.org/Guy\\_Gaskin](https://ballotpedia.org/Guy_Gaskin)





**Kenneth Foxworth**

*Democratic/DFL*

**Occupation and Background:** Former Deputy Chair, Black Caucus; Democratic National Committee; State Representative, Democratic National Committee. Commissioner, African American Men's Project.

**Accomplishments:** Master of Science, Urban Regional Studies, Mankato State University Mankato. Bachelor of Science, Human Services, U of M - Twin Cities. Recognized by President Bill Clinton for raising over \$110,000 in scholarships for minority and students with disabilities at the U of M - Duluth. National recognition for creating empowerment model for disadvantaged youth from President Bill Clinton and the US Department of Education, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis Board of Education, and Hennepin County Board of Commissioners.

**Housing:** Invest in resources to help homeless people. **Economic Justice:** revitalize downtown through greater investment and activation in business and entertainment. Focus on improving live theater district.

**Police Accountability and Public Safety:** Wants safe downtown street; invest in businesses and in housing services for homeless people.



**Scott Graham**

*Democratic/DFL*

**Occupation and Background:** Residential realtor and broker.

**Accomplishments:** DFL leadership roles at all levels

**Housing:** Supports investment in affordable housing and naturally occurring affordable housing. Wants City to provide grants to support maintenance upgrades for property owners and rental assistance to low-income households.

**Economic Justice:** Invest in youth programs, employment training and support for small businesses. Wants state and federal support to prevent downtown property tax burden increases to residential properties.

**Police Accountability and Public Safety:** Wants to fully fund police and invest in alternate responses to nonviolent

\* No Incumbent



**Katie Cashman**

*Democratic/DFL*

**Accomplishments:** Worked at United Nations, helping municipalities, globally, build environmental and social infrastructure. Founded a nonprofit which created a community center and a small business training teachers to bring climate change science into the classroom, including Ward 7 elementary schools.

**Housing:** Continue to invest in affordable housing and greater protections for tenants and legal defense to prevent eviction. Wants to convert vacant downtown buildings into housing, and invest in housing cooperatives and land trusts. Work with Met Council to limit metro growth boundary to limit sprawl. Housing first approach to address homeless encampments.

**Economic Justice:** Wants to work collaboratively to make retail leases affordable and create cooperative and shared business models. Wants greater investments in building exterior maintenance and property ownership funds focused on greater BIPOC businesses.

**Police Accountability and Public Safety:** Fully fund minimally required police force and invest in alternative responses to nonviolent crimes. Focus on crime prevention through investment in upkeep of streets, sidewalks, storefronts, and street lighting.

**Occupation and Background:** Currently a project manager in environmental advocacy. Nonprofit leader. Community organizer. Bachelor of Arts in Geography/Urban Studies, McGill University. Master of Science in Urban Management, Technical University Berlin.



**VOTE.**

**Your Rights Depend On It.**







**Andrea Jenkins**

*Incumbent - DFL*

**Occupation and Background:** Current City Council president, Ward 8 (2018). Author. Poet. Artist.

**Accomplishments:** Master's degree, Community Development, Southern New Hampshire University. Master of Fine Arts, Creative Writing, Hamline University. 12 years as Minneapolis City Council Sr. Policy Aide. 2011 Bush Fellow. Awarded David Bohnett Leaders Fellowship, Harvard Kennedy School's Senior Executives in State and Local Government program. First ever Curator for Transgender Oral History Project, U of M's Jean- Nickolaus Tretter Collection.

**Housing:** Expanded anti-displacement policies. Increase homeownership/small rental property ownership programs for African Americans and other marginalized groups. Wants to legalize and create single room occupancy housing. Secured state funding for large south Minneapolis housing development.

**Economic Justice:** Increased investments, alternative financing, technical assistance, and other resources for small businesses. Led cultural districts policy and expanded development subsidies for BIPOC entrepreneurs. Develop and expand green jobs and training programs. Repurpose unused properties. Led 38th Street Thrive strategic development plan.

**Police Accountability and Public Safety:** Transform public safety into a continuum of services and community-controlled police force. Invest in alternative, separate mental health responders' force. Address economic inequities and lack of affordable housing to increase safety. Led ordinance change in increased oversight function of community commission.

“The criminal justice system needs to be reformed. Black folks are important and need to be viewed and treated as such.”

–Teto Wilson



**Soren Stevenson**

*DFL-Endorsed*

**Occupation and Background:** Policy Associate, MN Justice Coalition. Former housing cooperative and real estate development officer. Volunteer and advocate for anti-police violence organizations.

**Accomplishments:** Master's degree, development practice, U of M's Humphrey School of Public Affairs. Bachelor's of Science degree, applied human biology, Seattle Pacific University. Advocate for racial justice and police violence at the state legislature.

**Housing:** Supports strong rent stabilization policy with a 3% cap on increases, vacancy control, and no exemptions for new buildings. Housing first model to address homelessness. Increase housing production through a development board with support for local developers. Tax vacant property owners. Wants tax assistance for cost-burdened homeowners. Support tenant right to purchase and increase transparency in evictions and nonrenewal of lease proceedings.

**Economic Justice:** Refuse any City contracts opposed by labor unions. Work with labor organizers and increase enforcement against wage theft.

**Police Accountability and Public Safety:** Wants greater investments and training in behavioral crisis response work and violence prevention, including youth programming focused on at-risk youth. Wants greater safety presence on trains and transit. Advocate for overdose prevention centers. Wants greater oversight of use of force policy an audit of human rights decrees. Wants officers to carry own liability insurance.

**Occupation and Background:** Vice President, ITCO Allied Engineering Co. Licensed professional engineer.

**Accomplishments:** Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering, University of Minnesota. U.S. Marine Corps. Worked at Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, 6 years. Treasurer, local Senate District Republicans. 8th Ward Republican chair. State Central Committee delegate. Past Minneapolis election judge.

**Housing:** Does not support rent control ordinance development. Believes landlords should be able to pass along unit tax and other cost increases to tenants. Economic Justice: Believes strong system of law and order will help the city's economy thrive.

**Police Accountability and Public Safety:** Wants more police and restoration of law and order. Wants to keep Minneapolis Police Department. Reform through policy at municipal and state level.



**Bob Sullentrop**

*Republican*

**Additional Candidate:**

Terry White: [https://ballotpedia.org/Terry\\_White\\_\(Minnesota\)](https://ballotpedia.org/Terry_White_(Minnesota))



# PLAN TO VOTE!

## OPTION 1

Vote Early via  
Absentee Ballot

1. Request ballot online [mnvote.org](https://mnvote.org)
2. When it arrives, fill it out, mail back
3. Look up Early Vote Centers near you

## OPTION 2

Vote on  
Election Day

1. Look up your polling location
2. Wear a mask
3. Arrive early

#Black  votesMatterMN  
Vote. Your Rights Depend On It.

LOOK UP WHO'S ON THE BALLOT  
& FIND POLLING LOCATION AT

[www.blackvotesmattermn.com](https://www.blackvotesmattermn.com)



**Jason Chavez**

*Incumbent - DFL-Endorsed*

**Occupation and Background:** Current Ward 9 City Council member (2022). MN State Legislative Aide. Community Organizer.

**Accomplishments:** Bachelor's degree from College of St. Scholastica; Student Body President. President of the Minnesota Young DFL.

**Housing:** Advocated for strong rent stabilization policy with 3% cap on rent increases with no exceptions. Advocate for increased investment in affordable housing trust fund; added youth as a qualifier; worked to get \$1.5M award for Little Earth. Working to create a policy for homeless encampment response. Wants a tiny homes community and increased single room occupancy units in south Minneapolis.

**Economic Justice:** Secured funding for business technical assistance support in cultural districts, focused on Lake Street, and for an employment training center in the ward. Worked with legislature to secure funding for community led indoor urban farm development over City acquisition for water maintenance facility.

**Police Accountability and Public Safety:** Expanded violence prevention based, community safety strategies program to south Minneapolis. Began ongoing meetings with Metro Transit to address public transit safety issues. Secured funding for Lake Street safety center. Divest funding from policing into violence prevention, housing, opioid addiction, youth intervention, and employment for formerly incarcerated residents. Funded auto theft prevention program.

**Occupation and Background:** Computer Scientist. Website programmer; software contractor; website designer; and graphics programmer. High school teacher. Hobby farmer.

**Accomplishments:** Bachelor's degree, Computer Science and Mathematics, Oklahoma State University. PhD and Master's degree, computer science, University of Minnesota.

**Housing:** Opposed to rent control policy. Wants to increase housing supply, including affordable housing, and increase clean, safe shelters. Work together to develop a pro-human approach to homelessness and those struggling with addiction.

**Economic Justice:** Create and support jobs to enforce laws, administer psychological and medical help, and meet the housing needs of the poorest and most marginalized.

**Police Accountability and Public Safety:** Work together to address crime, violence, and addiction.



**Daniel Orban**

*Independent*





**Aisha Chughtai**

*Incumbent - DFL-Endorsed*

**Occupation and Background:** Current Ward 10 City Council member (2022). Political organizer for Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Minnesota State Council. Community Organizer.

**Accomplishments:** Grassroots organizing with neighbors for mutual aid and renter protections;

variety of other campaign work. Political Coordinator, Take Action Minnesota. 2019 DFL Women's Hall of Fame Rising Star. Vice Chair to Congressional District 5 DFL. Co-founded Muslim Caucus of Young Democrats of America. Managed first TCDSA-endorsed campaign for the Minnesota Legislature.

**Housing:** Advocated for strong rent stabilization policy with 3% cap on rent increases with no exceptions. Worked with county and state to open women's shelter in the ward. Wants a humane policy on response to homeless encampments that includes designated zoning, bathroom and handwashing stations, safe needle disposals, and a plan for shelter. Wants a dedicated tax levy to fund affordable public housing.

**Economic Justice:** Wants to pass a fair scheduling policy for workers and increased protections for gig economy workers. Increase investments for enforcement against wage theft and safe and sick time violations. Wants to expand union opportunities for marginalized people and partner with City labor unions for fair contracts.

**Police Accountability and Public Safety:** Wants democratized, community-controlled police force. Wants increased funding for alternative behavioral crisis responders. Work with all levels of government to implement restorative solutions and address root causes of crime. Funded auto theft prevention program.

**Occupation and Background:** Community service officer; training to become a police officer. Soccer coach.

**Housing:** opposed to a rent control policy. Hold landlords accountable. Create pathways for homeownership. Wants a sustainable solution to end homeless encampments. Economic Justice: work with local businesses to create jobs. Revitalize uptown; ensure safety.

**Police Accountability and Public Safety:** improve training for police officers and fully fund force. Safety and security are paramount.



**Nasri Warsame**

*Democratic/DFL*

**Additional candidates:** Bruce Dachis: [www.brucedachis.com](http://www.brucedachis.com) & Greg Kline: [https://ballotpedia.org/Greg\\_Kline](https://ballotpedia.org/Greg_Kline)



**Emily Koski**

*Incumbent - DFL-Endorsed*

**Occupation and Background:** Current Ward 11 City Council member (2022). Small business owner. Client Development Director, Antenna.

**Accomplishments:** Bachelor's degree in Marketing, University of St. Thomas. Established a small business, operated 13 years. Member of Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity Leadership Council, Minneapolis Public Schools Parent Legislative Committee; past service as Board Member of Hale School Site Council, 261 Fearless, Waite Park Community Council, and Waite Park School Site Council.

**Housing:** Work with developers to produce more homeownership and affordable housing developments in the ward. Address homelessness through mental health and up-stream medical service providers. Increase home ownership pathways and program investment.

**Economic Justice:** Wants increased enforcement against wage theft and employers who violate labor standards and policies for workers. Authored legislation to pilot a Payroll and Bookkeeping Project to support small businesses in complying with the City's Labor Standards.

**Police Accountability and Public Safety:** Created a Public Safety Auditor position in the City Auditor's Office to provide objective services that manage risks, improve internal controls, optimize efficiencies, reduce costs, and strengthen accountability. Wants to fully fund police and develop alternatives like co-responders, mental health responders and violence prevention strategies. Reform through recruitment, training, incentives, and policies.

**Housing:** Believes our homelessness and housing crisis is a direct product of a morally bankrupt capitalistic system.

**Economic Justice:** Increase and protect workers' rights. Does not believe system of capitalism can produce equitable outcomes for workers or anyone. Wants workers to organize and unions to demand wages that reflect the rise in inflation rates.

**Police Accountability and Public Safety:** Under capitalism, police will always be accountable to the ruling class and breed anti-social violence within working class communities.



**Gabrielle Prosser**

*Socialist Workers Party*





**Aurin Chowdhury**

*DFL-Endorsed*

**Occupation and Background:** Sr. Policy aide, City of Minneapolis. Legislative aide. Political strategist. Community organizer.

**Accomplishments:** Bachelor's degree, Political Science and Government, University of Minnesota. UMN College of Liberal Arts Leadership Award, University of Minnesota, 2019. Young Women's Initiative Award Recipient 2018 & 2019, Women's Foundation of Minnesota

**Housing:** Wants to increase deeply affordable housing units and renter protections. Expand homeownership opportunities, accessory dwelling units and up-zoning to reduce disparities and increase housing density in the city. Supports a rent stabilization policy with exemptions and greater community input. Wants a standard operations plan in response to homeless encampment that includes bathroom and handwashing stations, and a coordinated plan for shelter.

**Economic Justice:** Wants to make Minnehaha a cultural corridor for access to greater City support for BIPOC business districts which have experienced the most historical harm. Wants to expand business financial and technical assistance programs. Wants greater creative art and placemaking and public realm upkeep investments and programming. Supports city energy efficiency programs to help reduce costs of operation and reduce pollution. Wants a safety ambassador program to help address business safety concerns.

**Police Accountability and Public Safety:** Fully fund minimum requirement of police force while increasing behavioral and crisis and other alternatives to police response for nonviolent crimes. Work together to coordinate violence prevention specialists with block captains. Wants to declare gun violence a public health emergency. Wants greater transparency in disciplinary actions through labor contract modifications and holding the mayor and police chief accountable.



**Luther Ranheim**

*Democratic/DFL*

**Occupation and Background:** Gift Planner, local foundation. Financial services and fundraising. Asst. VP, banking. Member of American Composers Forum and the Westminster Town Hall Forum, chairing the Development Committee.

**Accomplishments:** Bachelor of Science, Geology, Lawrence University. Financial Planning Certificate, MN State University - Mankato. Board member for several arts and cultural, sports and educational organizations.

**Housing:** Wants to incentivize new rental co-ops. Wants to increase affordable housing development and work with state and federal gov't on rental assistance programs for low-income households. Wants city designated spaces where encampments can exist and connect with service providers.

**Economic Justice:** Focus on basic city services and fiscal responsibility. Wants to increase access to small business ownership and consider business relief funds.

**Police Accountability and Public Safety:** Fully fund police and increase alternatives to police response for nonviolent crimes.

**Additional Candidate:**  
Nancy Ford: [www.nancyforward12.com](http://www.nancyforward12.com)

# Quality Life Minnesota

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[www.thequalitylifemn.com](http://www.thequalitylifemn.com)







**Linea Palmisano**

*Incumbent - DFL-Endorsed*

**Occupation and Background:** Current Ward 13 City Council vice president (2014).

**Accomplishments:** Bachelor of Science degree, University of Notre Dame. Master of Business

Administration degree, University of MN. Certificate program for Non-Profit Leadership, University of St. Thomas. Was board chair of Linden Hills Neighborhood Council and Linden Hills Farmers Market board member. Was assistant track coach at Southwest High School. Founded NAVIGATE, an immigrant college access program.

**Housing:** Increased affordable housing investments; required for new construction. Increased tenants' rights protections. Opposes up-zoning to increase density in the city. Working to create city's first housing co-responder program to assist those facing homelessness.

**Economic Justice:** Co-authored legislation around wage theft and worker protections, including freelance and adult entertainment workers. Directed audit of City of Minneapolis' hiring practices, leading to review of retention rates/factors for women and employees of color. Invest in small businesses impacted by Covid-19.

**Police Accountability and Public Safety:** Expanded city audit department's role in investigating MPD operations and policies. Created a workgroup to explore impact of off-duty work on the city and MPD officers, and the effects of privatizing public safety. Fully fund police force and invest in mental health co-responder program. Advocate for state level changes to arbitration policies around disciplinary actions. Co-authored changes to increase community oversight functions.

**Additional Candidate:**

Bob "Again" Carney, Jr.: [https://ballotpedia.org/Bob\\_Carney,\\_Jr.](https://ballotpedia.org/Bob_Carney,_Jr.)



**Zach Metzger**

*Democratic/DFL*

**Occupation and Background:** Civic leader and organizer. Previously, legislative aide at MN House of Representatives. Linden Hills Neighborhood Council board member. Entrepreneur.

**Accomplishments:** Marketing Communications studies, Columbia College Chicago. Non-Profit Project Management. Field organizer, DFL party.

**Housing:** Wants affordable housing mandates and increased production of affordable units. Supports rent control and increased tenant protections. Increased homelessness prevention programs, rapid re-housing initiatives.

**Economic Justice:** Supports creation of green jobs through investments in clean energy industries. Invest in underserved communities and address social determinants of crime, such as poverty, lack of affordable housing, inadequate education, and limited access to healthcare and social services. Prioritize mixed-income communities. Wants homeowner incentives and subsidies for energy efficiency upgrades and features.

**Police Accountability and Public Safety:** Wants evidence-based violence prevention programs, focused on resources for conflict resolution, mentorship, job training, and education. Develop diversion programs, community policing. Improve implicit bias and de-escalation training, and independent oversight and audit functions. Wants community led safety initiatives.

Minnesota Sports Corp; MPR board member and chair of governance committee.



**Kate Mortenson**

*Democratic/DFL*

**Occupation and Background:** Business owner; member of third generation family construction company. Previously, President and CEO,

**Accomplishments:** Bachelor of Science, Broadcast Journalism, Boston University. CEO of the Host Committee for 2019 NCAA Men's Final Four, netting City and State \$22M in tax revenue. Launched community of support for Northside Achievement Zone, lobbying support from State.

**Economic Justice:** Prioritize investment into downtown and uptown business activity; and prioritize parking. Wants an improvement district in uptown for maintenance upkeep. Allow use of pre-tax generated subsidies to spur business development uptown.

**Police Accountability and Public Safety:** Fully fund police force and build out alternative responders for nonviolent crime. Wants a police buyback program, paid for by the City, with off-duty officers able to choose where they will serve. Wants increased patrols and increased benefits for officers. Wants to use camera technology to catch criminals through license plate captured data. independent oversight and audit functions. Wants community led safety initiatives

**Ranked Choice Voting**

Rank Candidates in order of preference. Fill in one circle per candidate and one circle per choice.

	1st CHOICE	2nd CHOICE	3rd CHOICE
<b>CANDIDATE A</b>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>CANDIDATE B</b>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
<b>CANDIDATE C</b>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>





# CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES

CITY OF ST PAUL  
(WARDS 1-7)



**Anika Bowie**

*Democratic/DFL*

**Occupation and Background:** Policy strategist. Community organizer. Social entrepreneur. Creative in the arts for social change. Vice President, NAACP - Minneapolis. Youth advisory board service.

**Accomplishments:** Bachelor's degree, Criminal Justice and Corrections & Social Justice, Hamline University. 12 years' experience of grassroots campaign work. Founded political organization rooted in electoral justice. Through nonprofit commission, designed and published online book inspired by conversations with youth.

**Housing:** Housing first approach. Protect tenants from eviction through right to legal counsel policy. Increase affordable homeownership pathways for marginalized communities. Expand community land trust pilot for greater perpetually affordable housing.

**Economic Justice:** Supports worker unions and a wage theft prevention policy. Wants to invest in the startup, conversion, and expansion of worker cooperatives.

**Police Accountability and Public Safety:** Wants increased investments in violence prevention programs, youth programs, mental health services, and restorative justice programs. Address root causes of crime while building trust between community and police.



**Omar Syed**

*Democratic/DFL*

**Occupation and Background:** Small business owner. Board service for City planning, transportation, and zoning committees. Community advisory board member for neighborhood coalition. St. Paul Somali Caucus member.

**Housing:** Increase affordable housing production by removing zoning restrictions, prioritizing deeply affordable units. Wants a strong rent stabilization policy and increased legal services to protect renters. Increase shelters. Prioritize inclusion of small local developers.

**Police Accountability and Public Safety:** Wants to increase investments in first responders, violence prevention programs. Focus on improving infrastructure and lighting in public parks, streets, community centers and green spaces. Increase safety presence on Green Line trains and stations. Wants regular meetings with residents and police to build trust and understanding.





**Occupation and Background:** Licensed high school counselor. Entrepreneur. Licensed Realtor.

**Accomplishments:** Bachelor's degree, Marketing Communications; Master's degree, Education and School Counseling, University of Wisconsin - River Falls.

**Housing:** Increase affordable housing, homeownership legislation, and stable rents, prioritizing BIPOC communities.

**Economic Justice:** Promote economic growth through support and pathways for BIPOC entrepreneurs and organizations.

**Police Accountability and Public Safety:** Increase public safety presence in homes, schools and public, including improvements to roads and beautification of parks and open spaces.

**James Lo**

*Democratic/DFL*

**Additional Candidates**

Suz Woehrle: <https://wilsonkatasha.wixsite.com/suzforward1>

Jeff Zeitler: <http://jz4ward1.com/>

Yan Chen: <https://www.chen4ward1.com>



# LAST CALL!

## 2023 CANDIDATE FORUM SERIES

# Ward 8

**OCTOBER 24TH : 6PM - 8PM**

Sabathani Community Center  
310 E. 38th Street  
Minneapolis, MN 55409



Presentation on Ranked Choice Voting  
Pick Up copies of the 2023 Voter Guide!



Sabathani Community Center  
The Heart of South Minneapolis

Check for more dates and candidate profiles at:  
[www.blackvotesmattermn.com](http://www.blackvotesmattermn.com)



# VOTE.

## Your Rights Depend On It.





**Rebecca Noecker**  
Incumbent - DFL-Endorsed

**Occupation and Background:** Current Ward 2 City Council member. Non-Profit and Foundation Program Officer. Middle School educator.

**Housing:** Wants increased funding for affordable housing and shelter. Hold developers to longer terms of affordability, and allow alternative housing options such as Accessory Dwelling Units. Add street outreach workers and work with state, county, and other jurisdictions in on a regional strategy to prevent and end homelessness.

**Economic Justice:** Focus on small businesses; worked to streamline permitting processes, ease signage restrictions, and launch award and recognition program focused on minority and women owned businesses. Supports youth employment program investments. Supported policies to increase minimum wage and require earned sick and safe time for workers.

**Police Accountability and Public Safety:** Worked on safe gun storage ordinance, and safety conduct rules in skyway. Supported increased funding to police for additional training academy. Worked with police chief to create a customer feedback survey after interactions with police.



**Noval Noir**  
Democratic/DFL

**Occupation and Background:** Multidisciplinary artist. Advocate. Activist. Digital Designer. Small business owner. Accomplishments: commissioned to create highly visible murals and art projects as part of an artist collaborative. Selected for artist-led social and community revitalization projects.

**Housing:** Wants to strengthen renter protections and create an education and outreach initiative to better inform renters. Partner with non-profit developers to build more affordable housing. Wants community input in development. Leverage private sector for funding affordable housing. Increase financial aid and support services for people experiencing homelessness.

**Economic Justice:** Wants transparency and efficient resource allocation. Collaboration between council members, community groups, and businesses on shared solutions.

**Police Accountability and Public Safety:** Focus on combatting opioid crisis with community groups. Wants greater investment in crime prevention programs, youth activities, and accessible mental health services. Advocate for restorative justice and data driven policies. Increase community input while building a long term, comprehensive public safety plan.



**Peter Butler**  
Nonpartisan

**Occupation and Background:** Financial Data Analyst; process improvements and consensus building.

**Accomplishments:** 30 years in state and local government as in-house management consultant and budget analyst.

**Housing:** Wants to revive boarding houses and lease single room rental process for property owners. Does not support rent control.

**Economic Justice:** Retain downtown employers by increasing public safety downtown. Wants to cut city spending and eliminate staffing in mayor's and non-elected city council positions, plus eliminate office of financial empowerment and program to mitigate emerald ash borer disease impacting homeowners. No to 1% sales tax increase.

**Police Accountability and Public Safety:** Increase investments in safety and police presence downtown, focus on hot spots of crime. Increase safety and maintenance in public infrastructure

**Additional Candidates**

Bill Hosko: [https://ballotpedia.org/Bill\\_Hosko](https://ballotpedia.org/Bill_Hosko)

**Check the Girls!**

**Black Women are encouraged to get a mammogram once per year.**

*Have you had a mammogram in the last month?  
Are you a Black Woman or Man age 35+?  
Do you have a family history of Breast or Cervical Cancer?*

The ANIKA Foundation encourages you to get a mammogram.

**We Can Help!**

**Call 612.670.6355**

*to schedule an appointment or find a provider.*

**\$25 for completed mammograms while available!**

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**Call 612.670.6355**



*to schedule an appointment or find a provider.*

**\$25 for completed mammograms while available!**

[www.thequalitylifemn.com](http://www.thequalitylifemn.com) | [www.theanikafoundation.org](http://www.theanikafoundation.org)

For survivor support visit the African American Breast Cancer Alliance [www.aabcainc.org](http://www.aabcainc.org)





**Saura Jost**  
*Democratic-DFL-Endorsed*

**Occupation and Background:** Civil Engineer. Macalester Groveland Community Council board member. Presidential campaign service.

**Accomplishments:** Master's degree, Civil Engineering, University of Washington.

**Housing:** Supports more mixed-family residential development. Increase affordable housing units, tenant protections and pathways to homeownership for first time homebuyers.

**Economic Justice:** Prioritize local businesses through zoning enhancements for mixed use buildings in neighborhood nodes and commercial nodes accessible by multiple modes of transportation.

**Police Accountability and Public Safety:** Invest in improvements to public spaces to increase safety. Invest in mental health professionals, case managers, police officers, and communitybased organizations to address root causes of crime. Diversify the police force.



**Isaac Russell**  
*Democratic/DFL*

**Occupation and Background:** Policy advocate. Former Highland District Council board member. Legislative aide. Project manager. Neighborhood, nonprofit and civic board service.

**Accomplishments:** Master's degree, Public Policy, U of MN - Humphrey School of Public Affairs. Bachelor's degree, political science, U o W - River Falls.

**Housing:** Invest in affordable housing development incentives and first-time homebuyer assistance and pathways. Protect current rent control exemptions and find new housing construction options. Wants more state subsidies for renters.

**Economic Justice:** Revitalize downtown through investment in housing, retail, and mid-sized companies. Work with business and union leaders on expanding tax base.

**Police Accountability and Public Safety:** Fully fund and hire for law enforcement. Focus on street and public space improvements. Supports mental health, social workers, and housing specialists as responders when appropriate. Invest in gun violence prevention programs.

**Additional Candidate**  
Patricia Hartmann: <https://pattyhartmann.org>



**Troy Barksdale**  
*Nonpartisan*

**Occupation and Background:** Student, creative writing, Macalester. Accomplishments: leader on Macalester football team and in young men of color development organization.

**Housing:** Reconsider exemptions and caps in current rent control ordinance to support new housing development.

**Economic Justice:** Focus on vacant buildings through city acquisition, housing redevelopment and rental programs. Focus on repurposing of vacant commercial buildings to build generational wealth among marginalized communities. Increase investments in community land trusts.

**Police Accountability and Public Safety:** Address root causes of crime by investing in education, mental health & addiction services, job security, domestic stability, housing availability, and community Fellowship. Reduce unnecessary police expenditures and increase in programs that reduce recidivism and support juvenile mental health and violence prevention programs.



#BlackVotesMatterMN  
Vote. Your Rights Depend On It.

**VOTE.**

**Your Rights Depend On It.**





**Mitra Jalali**

*Incumbent - DFL-Endorsed*

**Occupation and Background:** Current Ward 4 City Council member. Former social studies teacher; community organizer; policy aide.

**Accomplishments:** Bachelor's degree, Political Science, U of W - Madison.

**Housing:** Advocate for anti-displacement and tenant protection policies. Led strong rent control ordinance with 3% cap and no exemptions, and advance notice of sale and relocation assistance for renters. Supports zoning changes to increase density. Increase community land trust investments, and deeply affordable housing production through utilizing federal and county funds. Advocate for housing first approach and coordinated response to homeless encampments.

**Economic Justice:** Uphold labor protections and prioritize workers' rights. Explore land value tax. Increase community ownership of commercial buildings and vacant building fees. Wants city revenue generation process for new and emerging cannabis industry.

**Police Accountability and Public Safety:** Led creation of new community safety system. Increase investments in mental health and alternatives to police for nonviolent crimes. Supports programs for victims of gun violence and police brutality, and in violence prevention.



**Robert Bushard**

*Republican, Libertarian*

**Occupation and Background:** Retired from a career working with Fortune 500 corporations in computer field. Vietnam veteran.

**Housing:** Opposes rent control and changes in zoning that create housing density. Wants to preserve zoning that prioritizes single family homes.

**Economic Justice:** Increase business opportunities to expand tax base.

**Police Accountability and Public Safety:** Wants to increase police force and presence, including in schools. Focus on increased enforcement and prosecution of offenders.



**Hwa Jeong Kim**

*DFL-Endorsed*

**Occupation and Background:** Non-Profit Executive Director. Former Legislative Aide; Neighborhood District Council board member. Saint Paul Planning Commission and Zoning Committee board service.

**Accomplishments:** Bachelor's degree, English, Hamline University. Certified Financial Educator, University of Minnesota.

**Housing:** Supports increased density. Focus on housing options for seniors and multigenerational living.

**Economic Justice:** Prioritize mixed use development in neighborhoods for small businesses. Increase workforce training programs for young people.

**Police Accountability and Public Safety:** Decrease crime through investments in neighborhood resources, such as libraries, community centers and youth programs.



**Nate Nins**

*Nonpartisan*

**Occupation and Background:** Government relations manager, tech company. Marine Corps veteran. Former librarian. Civic, neighborhood and educational board member service.

**Accomplishments:** Bachelor's degree, Philosophy and Political Science, Hamline University. U.S. Marine Corps intelligence collector, analyst, and collection manager. Graduate and co-chair of Minnesota Library Association Institute for Leadership Excellence.

**Housing:** Collaborate across sectors to find creative housing options. Ease access to shelters and alternative housing. Wants a one stop community service model. Economic Justice: increase job training programs in schools. Improve awareness in business resources. Increase community-initiated development projects.

**Police Accountability and Public Safety:** Wants to re-establish Neighborhood Youth Corps program. Supports alternatives to police as first responders. More accessible pathway programs for active community members to join police force.

**Additional Candidates**

David Greenwood-Sanchez: <https://votedavidgs.com>

Pam Tollefson: [www.pamtollefsonward5.com](http://www.pamtollefsonward5.com)





**Nelsie Yang**  
DFL- Endorsed

**Occupation and Background:** Current Ward 6 City Council member. Community organizer.

**Accomplishments:** Bachelor's degree, Social Work, Mankato State University. Led progressive issue-based and elected officials' campaigns.

**Housing:** Advocate for strong rent control ordinance. Supported tenant protection policies. Wants to pass a tenant rights ordinance. Increase deeply affordable housing investments. Center community input in development decisions.

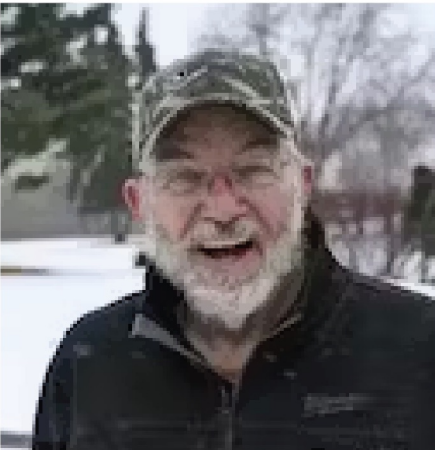
**Economic Justice:** Led workers' rights policies like earned sick and safe time for all. Better connect small businesses with grants and low-income loans. Implement financial, marketing, and technical assistance programs and initiatives.

**Police Accountability and Public Safety:** Supported gun violence prevention programs. Secured funding to renovate neighborhood libraries and community centers. Wants a weapons safe storage ordinance. Prioritize youth development.

**Occupation and Background:** 35 years' experience at large local corporation. Civic board member service. Master Gardener, University of Minnesota.

**Economic Justice:** Opposes 1% sales tax to fund street and park improvements.

**Police Accountability and Public Safety:** Fund law enforcement and focus on curbing crim.



**Gary Unger**  
Democratic/DFL

**GENERAL ELECTION DAY IS**  
**TUE . NOV 7 . 2023**

# Early Detection Saves Lives

*While more White women will be diagnosed with breast cancer, Black and Indigenous Women are more likely to receive late stage diagnosis. In recent years, breast cancer is appearing in younger Black Women, prompting advocates to encourage getting a mammogram earlier than age 40. Early detection saves lives. The ANIKA Foundation is committed to increasing awareness and supporting women in getting screened and making connections to providers and resources.*



Proceeds from today's event benefit the following

## BLACK WOMEN LED BREAST CANCER ADVOCACY GROUPS



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[pinkladiesmn.org](http://pinkladiesmn.org)  
612.296.6201

The Pinked Out Party is a signature breast cancer awareness and education event created by the ANIKA Foundation. It is supported in part by the Minnesota Department of Health - Center for Health Equity, Insight News and generous support from caring people like you!

*Consider Supporting Today!*

[www.theanikafoundation.org](http://www.theanikafoundation.org)

Ask about how you can **WIN \$25.00** with a completed mammogram! 1st 25 women in Minneapolis to submit documentation of a completed mammogram will win!





**Cheniqua Johnson**

*DFL - Endorsed*

**Occupation and Background:** Foundation program officer. Political organizer. Former legislative and educational aide. Civic, arts and cultural, educational, and social committee board service.

**Accomplishments:** Bachelor's degree, Family Social Science, University of Minnesota. Served on police chief selection committee. Founded social-cultural group for women of color.

**Housing:** Increase investments in deeply affordable housing production. Advocate for strong renter protections, including legal defense and housing discrimination prevention policies. Wants increased funding to enforce against negligent landlords and landlord violations. Increase funding for coordinated homeless response team efforts.

**Economic Justice:** Wants to ease permitting and licensing process; prioritize investments in East Side business development. Focus on vacant commercial buildings. Fund neighborhood councils to connect residents to resources. Supports worker protection policies like earned sick and safe time for all.  
**Police Accountability and Public Safety:** Fund alternatives to police as first responders. Focus on no-knock warrant compliance. Increase investments to improve street, infrastructure, and public and community resources.



**Alexander Bourne**

*Democratic/DFL*

**Occupation and Background:** Photographer, Political Strategist, Community Organizer and Philanthropist.

**Accomplishments:** Studied English, Literature, Chemistry, and Biology; at Concordia University – St. Paul; and Xavier University – Louisiana.

**Economic Justice:** Strong supporter of protecting labor rights and unions to ensure prevailing wages.

**Police Accountability and Public Safety:** Prioritize public safety and law enforcement while centering community voice. Supports gun violence prevention initiatives. Advocate for restorative justice programs for youth.

**“We have a vested interest in this country. Voting is the dividend of a stakeholder. As a Black Mother, Wife, and Tax-Paying Business Owner, I understand that I must participate in the selection of leaders and the creation of policies that protect my rights and meet the needs of my community.”**

**-Anika Robbins**  
 Founder, Black Votes Matter MN



**Pa Der Vang**

*Democratic/DFL*

**Occupation and Background:** Associate Professor of Social Work. Social Worker. Adult mental health and youth crisis worker. Author.

**Accomplishments:** Bachelor's degree, Sociology, U of W – Madison. Ph.D. and Master's degree, Social Work, University of Minnesota. Eye movement desensitization and reprocessing certification. Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker – MN. Appointed by governor to MN Board of Social Work.

**Housing:** Invest in affordable housing. Increase green built environment and reduce industrial pollution, especially in East Side.

**Economic Justice:** Prioritize jobs creation, accessible childcare, and quality education.

**Police Accountability and Public Safety:** Wants community safety strategies that includes collaboration among social workers, police officers, youth workers, community organizations, and neighbors.

**Additional Candidates**

Dino Guerin: [https://ballotpedia.org/Dino\\_Guerin](https://ballotpedia.org/Dino_Guerin)  
 Foua-Choua Khang: [https://ballotpedia.org/Foua-Choua\\_Khang](https://ballotpedia.org/Foua-Choua_Khang)  
 Kartumu King: <https://www.facebook.com/Kingfor7>



# ST. LOUIS PARK CITY COUNCIL



**Nadia Mohamed**

*Nonpartisan*

**Occupation and Background:** Current council member (at large B), St. Louis Park. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion specialist. Cultural committee board service and host for community education cultural enrichment class.

**Accomplishments:** Bachelor's degree, Human Resources, Metro State University. Graduate student, Master's program in educational leadership, St. Thomas University. St. Louis Park Human Rights Award, 2018.

**Housing:** Remove barriers to affordable housing. Fund affordable homeownership programs. Advocate for tenant protections, anti-displacement policies, and developer diversity goals.

**Economic Justice:** Prioritize wealth creation and economic opportunities through home and small business ownership programs.

**Police Accountability and Public Safety:** Invest in law enforcement, needed equipment and training to serve community needs. Work on community collaboration and building trust.



**Dale Anderson**

*Nonpartisan*

**Occupation and Background:** Retired banker. Course leader, U of MN College of Continuing & Professional Studies.

**Accomplishments:** Bachelor of Arts degree, St. Cloud State.

**Housing:** Stop incentivizing wealthy, out of state luxury housing investors. Wants to update zoning and building codes to increase and modernize aging housing stock. Create more houses and more affordable and suitable housing units by permitting "Accessory Dwelling Units."

**Economic Justice:** Spend on core city services and needs, not "vanity projects" and wants; help keep taxes low.

**Police Accountability and Public Safety:** Fund fire, police, and infrastructure improvements.

**Additional Candidates**

Dino Guerin: [https://ballotpedia.org/Dino\\_Guerin](https://ballotpedia.org/Dino_Guerin)  
Foua-Choua Khang: [https://ballotpedia.org/Foua-Choua\\_Khang](https://ballotpedia.org/Foua-Choua_Khang)  
Kartumu King: <https://www.facebook.com/Kingfor7/>





**Occupation and Background:** Current Council member (at large A), St. Louis Park. Peer recovery coach. Voter registration organizer.

**Accomplishments:** Certified Nursing Assistant. Initiated Healthy Lifestyle Social Walking Club.

**Housing:** Advocate for affordable, adequate housing.

**Economic Justice:** Focus on inclusive economic development initiatives and connecting businesses with resources they need.

**Police Accountability and Public Safety:** Build police-community relations to uplift shared responsibility and input in public safety policies.

### Yolanda Farris

*Incumbent - Unopposed Race*



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# VOTE.

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# GOLDEN VALLEY

## MAYOR & CITY COUNCIL



### Roslyn Harmon

*Nonpartisan*

**Occupation and Background:** Educator of 20+ years. Nonprofit and school programs leader. Trainer in restorative and mediation practices; youth curriculum development.

**Accomplishments:** Master of Arts degree, Adlerian Counseling and Psychology in Marriage and Family Therapy; Bachelor of Arts degree, Communication Studies, University of Minnesota. Ordained Pastor. Certified Prepare/Enrich Couples Coach. MN Rule 114 Qualified Neutral Mediator. Certified in Advanced Training for Conflict Resolution, and Restorative Training. Member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. Founded racial equity and inclusion community group of practice; contributor of Golden Valley's first equity plan. Outstanding Mentor, Minnesota's Team Women Wavemaker Award. President's Award for Community Partner, Bethel University.

**Housing:** Wants more affordable housing production. Work together to figure out zoning impacts on housing stock and future development.

**Economic Justice:** Enrich highway 55 corridor to showcase culture, businesses, and recreational activities. Wants responsible spending and collaboration with community to build a strong tax base and prevent large tax hikes.

**Police Accountability and Public Safety:** Advocate for challenging traditional punitive model through restorative justice practices to reduce recidivism and promote safety. Support officers in schools to reduce violence and suspensions, address conflicts, and prevent bullying. Need to recruit and hire accountable police officers to build the force back up.



### Gillian Rosenquist

*Nonpartisan - Incumbent*

**Occupation and Background:** Current Golden Valley City Council member. Lawyer. Social and Educational Board member; Service and Community Club member; trained Forum Moderator.

**Accomplishments:** J.D., William Mitchell College of Law. Bachelor of Arts degree, University of Washington - Seattle.

**Housing:** Supports housing choices and renter protections, housing diversity, and lower-income home-buying options.

**Economic Justice:** Wants thoughtful, strategic spending; reduced debt by \$20M.

**Police Accountability and Public Safety:** Wants dedicated public safety staff addressing mental health and social service support needs, quality city facilities, and equipment. Thoughtful budgeting for future public safety hiring.





**Maurice Harris**  
Nonpartisan - Incumbent

**Occupation and Background:** Current Golden Valley City Council member. Research Manager, Commercial Real Estate Firm. Lecturer, U of MN College of Continuing & Professional Studies. Civic and educational board member service.

**Accomplishments:** Master's degree, Public Affairs, University of Missouri - Columbia. Bachelor's degree, political science, Knox College.

**Housing:** Pursue diverse housing options.

**Economic Justice:** Supports fiscal responsibility in order to prevent property tax increases. Pursue local government aid. Develop business spaces to bolster local economy.

**Police Accountability and Public Safety:** Strengthen training, retention, and development in restoring police force; seek innovative approaches that invest their success and foster relationships with residents. Improve pay for fire fighters.



**Sophia Ginis**  
Nonpartisan - Incumbent

**Occupation and Background:** Current Golden Valley City Council member. Engagement professional in area of Transit. Civic board member service.

**Accomplishments:** Master's degree, Public Policy, U of MN - Humphrey School of Public Affairs. Minnesota Young American Leaders Program. Patriot Act Award, Department of Defense.

**Housing:** Wants strategic development that promotes small businesses and provides housing options to people of all ages and income levels.

**Economic Justice:** Supports financially responsible, innovative budget to ensure reasonable property tax levels and address needs.

**Police Accountability and Public Safety:** Wants modern community policing methods.

# Quality Life Minnesota

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*Know your risk*

**Get Tested.  
Find vaccines.  
Take Care of Yourself, Family!**



**Jean Kidd**  
Nonpartisan

**Occupation and Background:** 28 years as a Firefighter, Minneapolis.

**Accomplishments:** Associate's degree, fire science. Computing Technology Industry Association (CompTIA) certification.

**Housing:** Supports keeping current housing stock affordable by preventing property tax increases.

**Economic Justice:** Fiscal responsibility needed to balance budget and needs of community.

**Police Accountability and Public Safety:** Rebuild staffing levels thru hiring and contracting assistance from outside agencies. Support and oversight needed to ensure police administration meets expectations.



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# BLOOMINGTON CITY COUNCIL



**Dwayne A. Lowman**  
*Nonpartisan - Incumbent*

**Occupation and Background:** Current Bloomington District Council Member. Operational Analyst. Civic and Neighborhood board service. Former Political Director, 5th Congressional District.

**Accomplishments:** Bachelor's degree, Metro Regional Urban Studies/Political Science and Government, Augsburg College. Studied at International Business University of Gothenburg, Sweden

**Housing:** Supports zoning changes to allow for greater housing production, reduce minimum parking space requirements, and ease permitting process for building duplexes.

**Economic Justice:** Expressed belief in fiscal responsibility in spending decisions. Supports sales tax increase to help fund community health and wellness, park, and sports facilities.

**Police Accountability and Public Safety:** Support for adding and improving pay and recruitment of fire fighters and hiring more police officers.

**Additional Candidates**  
*At Large*



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**Luqman Abdi**  
Nonpartisan

**Occupation and Background:** Small business owner. Technical, Operations and Analytics Specialist. Community Education programs volunteer.

**Accomplishments:** Studied Management Information Systems, Arizona State University.

**Housing:** Strong advocate for safe and affordable housing; diversity in housing, including seniors. Wants to increase housing stock, regulate rent, incentivize affordable development, protect tenant rights, and encourage homeownership.

**Economic Justice:** Supports initiatives to attract businesses and job growth. Wants to utilize airport to increase revenue stream. Wants to increase mixed use retail development and nontraditional business models.

**Police Accountability and Public Safety:** Wants to deter opioid use among youth; support for evidence-based treatment and counseling services for addicted youth. Supports dedicated community police department that has transparent policies and decorated officers.



**Isaak Rooble**  
Nonpartisan

**Occupation and Background:** Small business owner. Community Organizer. Previously, frontline healthcare worker.

**Accomplishments:** Bachelor of Business Administration degree, Bemidji State University. Bachelor's degree, Laboratory Medicine and Pathology, Mayo School of Health Sciences. Refugee Rights Advocacy, University of Cape Town. Certificate of Conflict Management & Leadership, Peace Studies and Conflict Resolution, United States Institute of Peace.

**Housing:** Housing as a human right. Wants more affordable housing and more housing options. Expand housing programs and incentives.

**Economic Justice:** Prioritize and include small business voice in policy decisions. Wants fiscal responsibility. Supports greater transparency in budget allocations.

**Police Accountability and Public Safety:** Wants to build a community informed approach, inclusive of law enforcement, and community and faith leaders. Invest in improvements to public space and infrastructure.

**Additional candidate**

Victor Rivas: [https://app.campaignhq.com/02FkKb?ref=ab\\_5BoNnXfzuGP5BoNnXfzuGP](https://app.campaignhq.com/02FkKb?ref=ab_5BoNnXfzuGP5BoNnXfzuGP)

STAY SAFE MN

# COVID-19 & MN LGBTQ Community

## COVID-19 Testing

Symptoms of COVID-19:

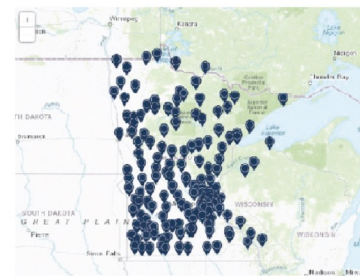
- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath
- Chills
- Headache
- Muscle pain
- Sore throat
- Loss of taste or smell
- Less common symptoms include nausea, diarrhea, and vomiting.



If you have symptoms, you should get tested! The CARES Act requires COVID-19 tests to be covered at no charge to you.

Visit [Minnesota COVID-19 Response](http://www.mn.gov/covid19) <http://www.mn.gov/covid19> to find testing locations near you. Call your testing site ahead of time. You may need to schedule an appointment.

As always, contact your health care provider with any questions about your health.



- [Interactive Map of COVID-19 Testing Sites](http://mn.gov/covid19/for-minnesotans/if-sick/testing-locations/)

## Health Care

Ask your provider about getting care online or over the phone.

- **Family Tree Clinic:** 651-645-0478  
LGBTQ+ health clinic offering telehealth
- **Face to Face:** 651-772-5555  
Youth health clinic offering phone and video medical visits



See if you can get 90-day supplies of your prescriptions delivered to you before you run out.

If you are HIV+, make sure you are taking your medications every day.

- **Minnesota AIDSLine** - 612-373-2437, 800-248-2437, or text "AIDSLine" to 839863
- Some "elective" surgeries are now being offered. Call your health clinic or surgeon to see if they are now offering gender affirming procedures.

You have the right to health care without discrimination.

- **Minnesota COVID-19 Discrimination Helpline:** 833-454-0148
- **Lambda Legal:** 312-663-4413



# MINNETONKA

## CITY COUNCIL



**Kissy Coakley**

*Nonpartisan - Incumbent*

**Occupation and Background:** Current Ward 4 City Council Member. Non-Profit Operator for Victims of Domestic Violence. Small business owner. Civic board service. Political Organizer.

**Accomplishments:** Bachelor's degree, Criminal Justice, Metropolitan State University.

**Housing:** Led on loan program to assist new homebuyers and creation of affordable housing trust fund to help people buy and remain in their homes. Advocate for homeownership as wealth building.

**Economic Justice:** Helped businesses improve wages through allocation of state funding. Center and uplift input and voice of small business. Created diversity, equity, and inclusion commission.

**Police Accountability and Public Safety:** Advocate for restorative justice and rehabilitation. Invest in street and infrastructure improvements.



**Ted Nearman**

*Nonpartisan*

**Occupation and Background:** Finance; 30 years' experienced accountant. Volunteer Reserve Police Officer for Minnetonka. Professional and civic board service.

**Accomplishments:** Bachelor of Science degree, Accounting.

**Economic Justice:** Advocate for fiscal conservatism.

**Police Accountability and Public Safety:** Supportive of current police department.



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# SCHOOL BOARD

ST PAUL  
HOPKINS  
BLOOMINGTON



**Chauntyll Allen**

*Nonpartisan - Incumbent*

**Occupation and Background:** Current School Board member. Director, Criminal Justice and Activism Foundation. Community Organizer. Educator. Youth Activist. Basketball Coach.

**Accomplishments:** African American Studies and Psychology, Metro State University. Founded Love First Community Engagement. Leader of Black Lives Matter - Twin Cities.

**Educational Platform:** Boost literacy through increased funding, targeted teacher training and culturally relevant curriculum. Fund technical education. Wants to create targeted programming for youth exiting punishment programs and recruit and retain more educators of color. Wants universal pre-k, accessible to all. Focus on affirmative, culturally appropriate, and trauma-informed mental health approaches and policies. Encourage innovation among students at all levels.



**Zuki Ellis**

*Nonpartisan - Incumbent*

**Occupation and Background:** Current School Board member. Educational board service. Leader in Policy and Legislative educational initiatives.

**Educational Platform:** Advocate for school safety without armed officers; need community leaders, healing, and acknowledgment of collective harm and repair work. Wants ongoing, dedicated state funding for school. Wants improved and consistent special education programming. Focus on socio-emotional learning to help students recover from isolation during the Covid-19 pandemic. Prioritize closing achievement gaps through constant evaluation, strategic plan, and evaluation of superintendent. Focus on racial equity and inclusivity policies.

GENERAL ELECTION DAY IS  
**TUE . NOV 7 . 2023**



**Occupation and Background:** Senior Analyst, financial company. Former Educational Enrollment manager.

**Accomplishments:** Master's degree, History, California State University East Bay. Selected to serve as Interim Director on the St. Paul Public Schools Board of Education

**Educational Platform:** Led community inclusivity and engagement around school closings/mergers and student relocations. Advocate for greater accountability and transparency. Center and uplift student voices. Wants greater community input.

**Yusef Carrillo**  
Nonpartisan



**Occupation and Background:** Youth Engagement & Training Manager, City of St. Paul. Neighborhood and Educational board service. Political organizer.

**Accomplishments:** Bachelor's Degree, Child Psychology and Leadership, University of Minnesota Twin Cities. High School valedictorian. Human Rights and Equal Economic Opportunity Commissioner, City of St Paul.

**Educational Platform:** Foster and increase community input in decision making. Center student voice and engagement. Wants greater investment in wraparound support services for students and professional development opportunities for all educators, licensed and unlicensed. Wants increased investment in English Language Learning programs. Support recruitment and retention of more Indigenous and educators of color. Prioritize STEAM based curriculum. Invest in culturally affirming programs, and experiential and out of classroom learning. Restore arts and athletics investments.

**Carlo Franco**  
Nonpartisan



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HIV, STD/STI. . . Get Tested!



**Occupation and Background:** Youth Engagement & Training Manager, City of St. Paul. Neighborhood and Educational board service. Political organizer.

**Accomplishments:** Bachelor's Degree, Child Psychology and Leadership, University of Minnesota Twin Cities. High School valedictorian. Human Rights and Equal Economic Opportunity Commissioner, City of Saint Paul

**Educational Platform:** Foster and increase community input in decision making. Center student voice and engagement. Wants greater investment in wraparound support services for students and professional development opportunities for all educators, licensed and unlicensed. Wants increased investment in English Language Learning programs. Support recruitment and retention of more Indigenous and educators of color. Prioritize STEAM based curriculum. Invest in culturally affirming programs, and experiential and out of classroom learning. Restore arts and athletics investments.

**Erica Valliant**  
Nonpartisan

**Additional Candidate**  
Gita Zeitler & Abdi Omer





**Occupation and Background:** Communications consultant. Advocate for special needs families. Educational and social service board service.

**Accomplishments:** Master's degree, journalism, Syracuse University. Bachelor of Arts degree, theatre, Gustavus Adolphus College.

**Educational Platform:** Wants schools to work well for all student learners to have personalized educational opportunities; advocate for special education and art programs, support services, and accelerated learning programs. Advance legislative priorities to improve resources and funding. Work closely with special needs families, gather input.

**Shannon Andreson**

*Nonpartisan - Incumbent*



**Occupation and Background:** Pharmacist. Ski and basketball coach.

**Accomplishments:** Master of Business Administration degree, U of MN – Carlson School of Management. Bachelor's degree, biology, St. Olaf College. PharmD, Pharmacy, U of MN – College of Pharmacy.

**Educational Platform:** Restore enrollment and funding by prioritizing academic proficiency; focus on improving basic reading, math, and science, and improving MCA testing; advocate for resources directed at student learning. Wants to revisit removing school resource officers and explore data driven approach.

**Kaj Thompson**

*Nonpartisan*



**Occupation and Background:** Executive administration. Social entrepreneur. Youth leadership across sectors.

**Accomplishments:** Master of Education degree, youth development and leadership, University of Minnesota. Bachelor of Applied Science degree, criminal justice, Mankato State University. Study abroad, urban planning in Ghana.

**Educational Platform:** Diversifying administration, reinforcing best practices, addressing inequities, and allocating resources wisely. Advocated and secured funding for electric school buses. Advocate for funding to invest in free and accessible pre-k and after-school options. Advance racial and social equity by supporting the integration of anti-bias programs, resources, and culturally responsive curricula. Keep schools safe from violence through community partnerships around conflict resolution, anti-bullying initiatives, and mental health resources.

**Brooke Roper**

*Nonpartisan*



**Occupation and Background:** Information security officer, bank. Former IT audit manager.

**Accomplishments:** Bachelor's degree, economics, Carleton College. Masters in Business Administration degree, University of Minnesota. Certified Information Systems Security Professional. Certified Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agent.

**Educational Platform:** Accountability through monitoring of operational and academic metrics. Supportive of a racial equity plan.

**Zhiming Zhao**

*Nonpartisan*



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**GENERAL ELECTION DAY IS  
TUE . NOV 7 . 2023**





**Heather Starks**  
Nonpartisan - Incumbent

**Occupation and Background:** Current school board chair, Bloomington. Former Social Studies and English teacher; early childhood family education teacher. Reserve teacher.

**Accomplishments:** Bachelor's degree, Secondary Education, University of St. Thomas. Middle School Certificate, Hamline University. Advanced Education Policy Leadership, Institute for Educational Leadership, Washington, D.C.

**Educational Platform:** Legislative advocate for full funding of public schools. Advocate for family and community engagement, mental health resources. Improve support for students and families. Supports multiple pathways and individualized learning programs. Opposed to banning books. Support policy and practice that affirms inclusivity, especially for LGBTQIA+ students.



**Nelly Korman**  
Nonpartisan - Incumbent

**Occupation and Background:** Current school board member, Bloomington. K-12 licensed Minnesota educator, St. Louis Park High School. Academic coordinator.

**Accomplishments:** Master of Arts degree, Educational Leadership, Saint Mary's University, MN. Second Licensure certificate, Hamline University. Bachelor of Arts degree, foreign and second language instruction, Universidad del Valle, Colombia. Doctoral student, Education Leadership and Learning, University of Saint Thomas.

**Educational Platform:** Advocate for college and career readiness programs. Collaborative decision-making process with community and families. Leads legislative priorities to improve resources and funding. Support innovation and technology curricula. Advocate for special education, early childhood, English Learning program, and mental health services in schools. Focus on policies and issues to improve enrollment.



**Mia Olson**  
Nonpartisan

**Occupation and Background:** Current school board member, Bloomington. Substitute teacher, Bloomington. Internship at The Bridge for Runaway Youth.

**Accomplishments:** Degrees in Child Psychology and Early Childhood Development, University of Minnesota. Degree in Elementary Education, St. Catherine University. Minnesota School Boards Association 2022 Directors' Awardee.

**Educational Platform:** Advanced legislative priorities and testified at the state. Advocate for professional development and innovation. Implement a new strategic development plan. Continuously monitor student achievement for best outcomes.

## Election 2023... Your VOTE. Your Count!



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**Langa Oriho**

*Nonpartisan*

**Occupation and Background:** Data Cloud Engineer. Educational and cultural board service.

**Accomplishments:** Bachelor's degree, Computer Science, from Sudan.

**Educational Platform:** Wants an inclusive environment where diversity is embraced. Uplift voice and engage migrant communities for input. Center student and family voice. Fiscal responsibility in spending. Support policies that promote high quality education. Ensure staff have the training needed to support special education needs, behavior management, and the development of school policies.



**Ric Olivia**

*Nonpartisan*

**Occupation and Background:** Data Engineering Specialist, software company. Adjunct Music Instructor. Author. Musician. Guitar Instructor. Previous School Board Chair, Bloomington. Educational and Arts and Culture board service.

**Accomplishments:** Master's degree, Music Education, Boston University. Bachelor's degree, Berklee College of Music. Opened a music school.

**Educational Platform:** Advocate for personalized educational programs and student choice. Expand focus on community involvement and post-secondary plans. Promote diversity of thought. Increase funding for schools.

**Additional Candidate**

*Sandra Johnson: [www.sandrajohnsonforschoolboard.com](http://www.sandrajohnsonforschoolboard.com)*

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## Redistricting and the 'Kahn Rule'

Due to a change in state statute over a decade ago, which was further solidified by Minneapolis voters via referendum in the 2020 General Election, Minneapolis City Council Member term lengths changed from regular four-year terms to irregular two-year and four-year terms. The change in statute is commonly referred to as the "Kahn Rule." That is because former Minnesota State Representative Phyllis Kahn, in 2010, introduced legislation aimed at elections in Minneapolis though also has implications for St. Paul.

This legislative change, which was overwhelmingly approved in both the MN House and Senate, effectively decoupled the city council election from the mayoral election on the ballot thus elections are held more often in Minneapolis. City council members served a two-year term in 2021 and will serve another two-year term following the election on November 7, 2023 (with the official new term beginning in the new year 2024) The city council and mayor will be rejoined on the ballot for voters in the 2025 election. The results will determine who is elected to serve as mayor and city council in Minneapolis over the next four years together.

The intention behind the 'Kahn Rule' was to improve the electoral process as it relates to redistricting. Redistricting is a mandatory process of redrawing the boundaries of election districts to ensure equal population density after population change. Redistricting is based on data from the decennial Census count, which was last held in 2020. The process of the census count and redistricting ensued over the next two years, and while the new boundaries took effect in March of 2022, voters will have the opportunity to elect their city council representative in their newly drawn districts in this year's General Election. Election Day is November 7, 2023, but early voting in Minneapolis commenced on September 22 nd.

Had the 'Kahn Rule' not been in place, voters would have had to wait until 2025 to vote in their newly drawn districts. Consequently, some voters, whose ward or district boundaries changed, would have been displaced from the previous electoral process that resulted in their current elected official for an additional two years.

Key takeaway from redistricting: congressional, state, city, and park districts, as well as precincts and voting poll locations, may have changed. Know your voting poll location before you show up!

Learn where to vote, and who and what is on your ballot, by visiting [www.mnvotes.org](http://www.mnvotes.org).



St. Paul city council members will serve another four-year term. St. Paul elections were already staggered between the council and mayor. The change in statute, known as the 'Kahn Rule,' doesn't appear to impact St. Paul elections until after the 2030 Census. Be prepared to vote more often!

J Deebaa Sirdar  
Guest Editor  
Black Votes Matter

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## Spotlight on DULUTH:

*Classie Dudley,  
President of the NAACP - Duluth*



Duluth is a beautiful, idyllic port town that sits on Lake Superior. Top employers in the region include Essentia Health, Target and AGCO, an agricultural machinery manufacturing company. The 2020 Census puts Duluth's population at 86,372, with 4.8% representing 2 or more races, and 2.6% African American, or, 2,057.

The ghosts of Duluth's past hang over the city. The Clayton - Jackson - McGhie Memorial - steps from an emergent financial and social district - is an ominous reminder of the atrocious lynching of 3 Black circus

workers in 1920. Today, racially-motivated crimes against Blacks are reported on a fairly consistent basis - even as recent as September 2023. A Black woman was severely beaten by 2 white men. Many more Black and Indigenous women are reported missing.

**"Race is an indicator of all issues, implicitly or explicitly."** Says Classie, who wants to have a safe place for Duluth's Black community.

Classie Dudley was born and raised in Duluth. She is the President of the Duluth chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) - the largest chapter in Minnesota boasting a membership of roughly one thousand. Having grown up in Duluth, Classie faced the issues, firsthand, alongside her peers and community. It's what inspired her to lead the organization today: to truly be a part of change.

While Classie believes political leaders should come to the community to hear their concerns, she also believes the Black community needs to hold those leaders accountable. She believes the city council can do a lot more.

**"City Council often says it's about equity, (but) with no backing."**

Wasting no time in her new role as President, they developed a strategic plan, instituted committees around criminal justice, health and environment, education, and economics. Classie is seeing the same data in Duluth as in Minneapolis, North Dakota, South Dakota, and around the nation. **"Disparities are still there."**

For example, the NAACP found that, despite Black students making up less than six percent of the student body, they received more than one third of tickets issued by school resource officers (SROs). 90 tickets were given at a predominantly Black school. Classie and her partners took action and made policy changes. This year, that number dropped to 28 tickets given at that same school.

**"The school board race is important,"** she continues. **"There are currently 3 - 4 open school board seats right now. It's imperative that we get people in those seats. We need better leaders."**

Learn more about Classie Dudley, the NAACP, and the Black community in Duluth at [www.blackvotesmattermn.com](http://www.blackvotesmattermn.com)



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*The Spot*  
**Wellness Retreat**  
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