

## Minneapolis City Council Ward 8 Candidate Q & A, October 2023

This document was compiled by the **Kingfield Neighborhood Association (KFNA)** to educate voters about the four Ward 8 City Council Candidates and their ideas and experience towards issues related to housing, safety, budgeting, and governance. All candidates were offered the opportunity to answer all questions; if a question has been left blank, it is because a candidate chose to not answer it. If a candidate's answer is truncated, it is because they went over the 150 per question word allotment. This election will be held with ranked choice voting; you can vote for up to three City Council candidates: <https://vote.minneapolismn.gov/ranked-choice-voting/>

**Read the Ward 8 candidate responses here:**

<https://kingfield.org/gotv/>



KFNA is a nonprofit, non-partisan neighborhood-based, community-led organization. We encourage all neighbors to exercise their right to vote and believe in the process of democratic elections and the value of civil debate. To learn even more about each candidate, please visit their websites and also read other Q&A's produced by local organizations which you can access through the links or QR codes below.

### **Star and Tribune:**

<https://www.startribune.com/2023-city-election-minneapolis-city-council-mayor-jacob-frey-ward-mpls-candidates/600305882/>



### **MinnPost:**

<https://www.minnpost.com/elections/2023/09/whos-running-for-city-council-in-minneapolis-and-st-paul-in-2023/>



### **Candidates:**

Andrea Jenkins, incumbent, Democratic-Farmer-Labor	<a href="https://www.andrea-jenkins.com">https://www.andrea-jenkins.com</a>
Soren Stevenson, Democratic-Farmer-Labor	<a href="https://sorenstevenson.org">https://sorenstevenson.org</a>
Bob Sullentrop, Republican	<a href="https://bobsullentropforcouncil.com/">https://bobsullentropforcouncil.com/</a>
Terry White, Democratic-Farmer-Labor	<a href="https://betterminneapolis.com">https://betterminneapolis.com</a>



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## City of Minneapolis Ward 8 Candidate Questionnaire: *Andrea Jenkins*

### Public Safety

- **Violent crime has declined in Minneapolis but remains higher than it was before 2020. What policies do you advocate to protect citizens and make Minneapolis safer? How can city leaders reduce gun violence?**

The City of Minneapolis has created the Office of Community Safety that I support. This office combines MD, MFD, The office of Neighborhood Safety, 911 and Emergency Management. This is a comprehensive approach to public safety. It includes our Behavioral Crisis Response team to deploy unarmed social workers to address neighbors experiencing mental crisis. It also includes violence interrupters, to de-escalate violence before it happens. To date we have invested \$14 million dollars in these efforts.

I authored the creation of the Community Commission on Police Oversight that has a majority of community members, to ensure accountability for egregious officer behavior. We need to re-institute gun buyback programs in our community, increase rewards for people who report crimes, and have more beat cops in communities.

Ensuring public safety is one of the most important things that cities must do. There are far too many guns in America and in Minneapolis ,...

- **Minneapolis police staffing levels are at historic lows at about 585 sworn officers. Do you support recruiting additional officers? If so, what is a good target number for the city? How would you propose the city recruit and retain officers?**

The City of Minneapolis is currently under an enforceable agreement with the Minnesota Department of Human Rights and a subsequent consent decree with the Department of Justice. These require an increase in funding to MPD. I am committed to transforming our public safety continuum to be accountable, constitutionally sound and respectful in our approach to keeping our communities safe. That said, I have always supported investments in communities, for housing supports, education, job training and after school activities.

- **A two-year Behavioral Crisis Response pilot program tasked with responding to mental health crises in Minneapolis ended earlier this year. Do you believe that program was successful? Do you support continuing it or expanding it? If so, how much would you spend and where would the funding come from?**

I have been and continue to be a strong supporter of our Behavioral Crisis Response team, this is not a pilot, nor did it end. We just entered into a two year contract with the service providers (Canopy Mental Health Services). We invested in two new vans, so to be clear this is an ongoing project, not a pilot. Funding will come from the General Fund.

This project has been and continues to be very successful and well received by MPD and the broader community.

- **Where should the Third Precinct station be located? If the Council can't agree on a location, who should decide?**

I support keeping the Third Precinct state in that police precinct. As a community right now, we are divided on where in that precinct the police station should go. As a compromise, I suggested a temporary solution that was rejected by the city council. The only proposal we have on the table now is one from the Mayor to build the new precinct at 2600 Minnehaha. I support doing additional community engagement to gauge public support for this option, as well as what should happen at that location. If we can get the public support for this option, I would be supportive of this location. As city leaders, we are elected to make tough decisions and collectively the City Council and the Mayor with input from the community will need to make a decision that is in the best interest of the community and the most cost effective.

### **Housing**

- **Do you support a rent control cap of 3%? What exemptions would you allow, if any? How would you determine if that policy was effective or not?**

I want to first of all acknowledge that there is a significant crisis of affordable housing for many of our neighbors and residents in Minneapolis. I believe there needs to be a multi-pronged approach to addressing the issue. A rent control cap can certainly and should be a part of that strategy. But we also need to continue our aggressive approach to housing production, which is helping to keep average rent increases at or below 2%. We know, however, that production alone won't solve the issue. We need rental subsidies for most vulnerable families identified in the CURA report: single moms of color in zip codes 55411, 12 and 06. We need a cap on multi-national corporations, excluding small mom & pop, new construction.

- **Should the city incentivize additional housing development in Ward 8? If so, what kind of housing and city incentives do you support?**

Yes, the city must continue to incentivize affordable housing in Ward 8. We just leveraged federal and state funds for this housing as well as continue to offer tax incentives to developers of color and builders for more green deeply affordable housing at 30% of AMI to be accessible for low income families. I am a strong advocate for multi-unit family housing that also includes green spaces.

- **When homeless encampments arise in Minneapolis, how should the city respond? If encampment residents refuse services, what should the city do?**

Homeless encampments are one of the most vexing and heartbreaking aspects of modern American life. It is plaguing communities all throughout the country, and not many communities have solved the problem. There are many reasons why they exist, including a rampant fentanyl epidemic, some folks suffering from mental health issues, and corporations not paying folks enough to pay for safe, affordable, well maintained homes.

We start with the premise that everyone deserves access to housing. That means a housing first strategy that includes harm reduction, mental health services, and life skills support. We need a coordinated approach that is activated as soon as encampments materialize, that respects folks' humanity and dignity, but also recognizes and addresses the real concerns that surrounding communities experience.

### **Business Support and Access**

- **Ward 8 is currently planning for and building over 700 units of housing and the nearby Kmart development could bring in up to 1000 more. How do you see supporting business development along Nicollet Avenue, Lake Street, and Grand to serve so many additional residents in what the city envisions as a car-free/ parking minimalist future?**

Currently the city has programs to help and benefit women and people of color small business owners. There are programs in our Community Planning and Economic Development department to help entrepreneurs develop their ideas, in fact the 3030 Nicollet development includes spaces for small businesses specifically aimed at Somali and other immigrant communities.

We must listen to the community about the types of businesses they would like to see in the community and then help recruit and support locating those businesses in this area. In addition, we need to ensure that residents in this area have access to grocery stores, healthcare, and other necessities that are walkable. The housing development in this area must be multi-use.

### **Budget and Public Services**

- **Mayor Frey has proposed a 6.2% property tax levy increase for 2024, meaning a median priced Minneapolis home of \$331,000 would pay about an additional \$150 next year. Should the tax levy increase be higher or lower? If so, how much and why?**

I believe this is an appropriate levy for the moment, anything more creates significant burdens for some of our most vulnerable homeowners (seniors and those on fixed incomes). Anything less and we will be unable to address the critical needs of our community. Some of the challenges are that commercial buildings in downtown Minneapolis are partially to completely vacant because many workers are now working from home. This lowers the amount of property taxes that those commercial buildings pay, putting an increased burden on residential properties.

- **Do you support having the city shovel sidewalks city-wide? If so, why and how much would this cost?**

I support doing a pilot to determine the effectiveness of such a program. It is very difficult to estimate how much a program like this will cost, because the amount of snow is unpredictable. That said, based on what we budget for snow removal on the streets, the cost would be significant. Which means we need to raise property taxes that again makes living in the city less affordable. I will say this that folks complain about the streets not being cleared properly, so I

could imagine we would hear similar complaints about the sidewalks. I also think that some of the main concerns that folks have are about the snow piles at intersections and along boulevards, we could institute a program to directly address those concerns. We could also determine who in community needs assistance i.e., disabled and elderly home owners and offer assistance to them.

### Climate

- **What specific budgetary and policy tools should the city of Minneapolis use to combat and adapt to climate change?**

I am proud to be a co-author of the Climate Legacy Action Plan. Which will use franchise fees to raise over \$10 million dollars a year ongoing. The City also has several other initiatives in the works for the next two years to meet its renewable energy goals. These include:

- Continuing to weatherize homes, specifically prioritizing homes in the Green Zones
- Planting twice as many trees in Minneapolis on an annual basis
- Supporting the expansion of rapid transit across the city, including on Lake St., Chicago Avenue, and in North Minneapolis
- Adding more infrastructure for electric vehicles around the city

Over the past decade, the City has made extensive progress in addressing climate change and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The City had already reached 100% of its renewable energy goals for city-owned buildings. Since 2018, the City has saved \$120 million in energy costs through climate work ,...

### Why You

- **Describe a time you worked with someone you disagreed with to accomplish something significant for your community.**
  
- **If elected, what will you prioritize during your term that would be different than your opponents? What specific goals should Ward 8 residents use to judge your effectiveness?**

I am seeking re-election to continue to address the critical issues of the affordable housing crisis, building out a comprehensive public safety continuum and to close the racial equity gap. Additionally, we must rebuild George Floyd Square to reflect the global importance of the events that transpired there. We must create a community owned Center for Social Justice and Racial Healing. We must build up the economic development in the area through equitable development strategies that invests in Black, POC and Women owned businesses. I have multiple concerns beyond public safety, I discussed my deep concern about our housing crisis, that it is having its most deleterious impacts on single moms of color. Which is why my top concern is equity. We must address the systemic racism that maintains the status quo. We have to understand that equality (rent control, across the board, no exceptions) leaves ...

## City of Minneapolis Ward 8 Candidate Questionnaire: Soren Stevenson

### Public Safety

– **Violent crime has declined in Minneapolis but remains higher than it was before 2020. What policies do you advocate to protect citizens and make Minneapolis safer? How can city leaders reduce gun violence?**

Establishing a comprehensive public health approach to public safety is my top priority. Safety is one of our most basic needs. Everyone deserves to be safe no matter who they are or where they live. Our current approach to public safety has failed. Two consent decrees and \$111 Million in settlements for victims of police violence prove it. It's time for us to transform our approach to keeping folks safe by expanding our options for safety and centering racial justice. I believe that we can do this by investing in violence prevention, mental health co-responders, and addiction services. By being proactive to address the basic needs that people have we can prevent crime and build a safer city. We can do better than the current system.

– **Minneapolis police staffing levels are at historic lows at about 585 sworn officers. Do you support recruiting additional officers? If so, what is a good target number for the city? How would you propose the city recruit and retain officers?**

I support increasing spending on public safety, but I do not support giving more money to MPD or solely focusing on recruiting more officers. We already devote a large percentage of our budget to MPD. And that's not counting the tens of millions of dollars we spend annually on settlements and other payments to victims of police violence and misconduct. I believe that our public safety dollars and advocacy would be better spent on mental health responders, addiction treatment providers, youth programming, as well as job and housing support. I will also work to ensure that non-police public safety workers have the same benefits as police officers, in order to attract and retain more non-police public safety workers. Real public safety requires proactive policies that address the root causes of crime. We can increase public safety by investing in communities.

– **A two-year Behavioral Crisis Response pilot program tasked with responding to mental health crises in Minneapolis ended earlier this year. Do you believe that program was successful? Do you support continuing it or expanding it? If so, how much would you spend and where would the funding come from?**

Non-police responses to instances of mental health crises are critical to expanding our options for public safety and keeping our communities truly safe. The Behavioral Crisis Response program was an excellent start to the variety of approaches that I believe we need for a comprehensive public safety system. However, to be effective, this program needs more funding and to be expanded. On the council, I will work towards fully funding and expanding the Behavioral Crisis Response program so that when you call 911 the right person, with the right training, responds at the right time.

– **Where should the Third Precinct station be located? If the Council can't agree on a location, who should decide?**

My first concern concerning the location of the precinct is response times. As of yet, there is no evidence that response times are worse in the third precinct due to the lack of a third precinct building. At the same time, our communities are still traumatized by the violence and brutality that we experienced in 2020. Given that, we should not rush the rebuilding of Third Precinct station. I participated in several of the City's engagement sessions to determine the location of the new building. It was clear from these sessions that residents rejected the false binary choice that was presented by the City, and that the original location was unsuitable entirely. I don't believe we can move forward with rebuilding the station without more honest community engagement. Going forward, we should explore a substation model so that the services that people need are closer to their neighborhoods.

### **Housing**

– **Do you support a rent control cap of 3%? What exemptions would you allow, if any? How would you determine if that policy was effective or not?**

**Nothing is more important for healthy people, families, and communities than safe and stable housing. When rent increases push people and families out of their homes there are huge hidden costs that are especially burdensome for the most vulnerable among us. Displacing people from their neighborhoods ruptures their support networks, which we know is bad for families, especially kids.**

**That's why we have to prioritize rent stabilization without carve-outs like vacancy decontrol. I support the working group's recommendations of rent stabilization with a 3% cap. I'm realistic about the possibility of winning rent stabilization and recognize that it will likely take compromise. I'm willing to explore good-faith policies that prioritize stable housing for everyone over profits for the few.**

– **Should the city incentivize additional housing development in Ward 8? If so, what kind of housing and city incentives do you support?**

The Minneapolis my neighbors and I want to build is a Minneapolis in which everyone—no matter what they look like, what language they speak, or how much money they have—has access to safe and stable housing. Increasing the supply of housing is a crucial part of achieving this vision. To adequately address the scale of the crisis, we will need to take a multifaceted approach. I support creating a development board to explore strategies to increase housing production like regulatory and zoning changes to make the process more straightforward. I will work towards funding for staff to help guide local developers through the City process. I support exploring options like loan loss reserves to incentivize banks to invest in Minneapolis or a developer fee guarantee to incentivize developers to build in Minneapolis. Finally, I support a Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act to increase permanently affordable, community-owned housing.

- **When homeless encampments arise in Minneapolis, how should the city respond? If encampment residents refuse services, what should the city do?**

There's no single time frame that will work for every encampment. If we're serious about ending encampments, then we have to be able to provide safe, supportive, and long-term housing to people living in encampments. We need wraparound services for unsheltered folks and overdose prevention centers.

So far, the solutions offered by city leadership have not been serious. They clear encampments knowing the people there have no place to go. Shelters are full. There are onerous rules about pets, limits on possessions, requirements to leave during the day, and previous experiences of trauma and violence in shelters make them impossible options for some. To solve the problem of encampments we need new, dedicated resources for public housing and supportive housing options for our most vulnerable neighbors. Respectfully, the majority of residents in encampments do not refuse services. It is our responsibility to provide dedicated, comprehensive resources to our unsheltered neighbors.

#### **Business Support and Access**

- **Ward 8 is currently planning for and building over 700 units of housing and the nearby Kmart development could bring in up to 1000 more. How do you see supporting business development along Nicollet Avenue, Lake Street, and Grand to serve so many additional residents in what the city envisions as a car-free/ parking minimalist future?**

We're lucky to live in the city that is the cultural and economic engine of this state. Our neighborhoods are vibrant communities that people want to live in. There are already more people who want to live here than we have housing for (as our dangerously low vacancy rates show). We know there's going to be even higher demand for housing in Minneapolis over the next few decades as climate change pushes people into our region. We need significantly more housing than we have currently, which means we must grow. And the best way to grow is to build transit-oriented development near major transit stops. Transit-oriented development allows us to welcome more neighbors into our neighborhoods while alleviating traffic and parking difficulties. We need to be building more homes throughout the city so everyone who wants to make their home here can be welcome into our community.

#### **Budget and Public Services**

- **Mayor Frey has proposed a 6.2% property tax levy increase for 2024, meaning a median priced Minneapolis home of \$331,000 would pay about an additional \$150 next year. Should the tax levy increase be higher or lower? If so, how much and why?**

**I strongly support reviving the levy to fund public housing, and passing it in full. We're experiencing a housing crisis in Minneapolis. We need solutions that match the scale of the problem. That means deep, sustained investment in building new public housing and maintaining public housing properties that already exist. For years, we've relied only on**



**market-based approaches to increase the housing stock in Minneapolis. As a result, we've added thousands of luxury apartments and almost nothing that's within reach for low-income folks. Building more public housing is a necessary part of the solutions we need to address our housing crisis.**

- **Do you support having the city shovel sidewalks city-wide? If so, why and how much would this cost?**

A municipal sidewalk clearing program is the right thing to do for all our neighbors. Currently, we depend on property owners to clear sidewalks and it is not working. Absentee landlords leave sidewalks full of snow and ice, endangering pedestrians and making sidewalks unusable for folks with mobility challenges. Many homeowners want to be good neighbors and clear their sidewalks, but work schedules, illness, disability, or other obstacles prevent them from doing so. Sidewalks are public infrastructure we all depend on. We need a public program to ensure we all have access to safe and clear sidewalks. I strongly support utilizing the neighborhood associations in this process.

### **Climate**

- **What specific budgetary and policy tools should the city of Minneapolis use to combat and adapt to climate change?**

New federal funding for the transition to clean energy via the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) provides unprecedented opportunities that the City should fully take advantage of. I believe the City should use IRA funding to support the goals of The People's Climate and Equity Plan. This would make IRA funding accessible to all residents and the City. By doing so, Minneapolis could access crucial funding to meet climate goals in a timely manner while at the same time addressing serious racial injustice in our city. If elected, I would work with organizations and community leaders that have developed The People's Climate and Equity Plan to apply for IRA funding in order to support the specific goals of the plan. I will also work to ensure that City funding is distributed in a way that centers racial justice and combating the City's legacy and ongoing practices of environmental racism.

### **Why You**

- **Describe a time you worked with someone you disagreed with to accomplish something significant for your community.**

I used to work for a non-profit that helped create housing cooperatives. As a part of this work, I would often have to work with land and property owners whose values were very different from mine. At times, it was challenging to collaborate with people who did not share my understanding of housing as a human right. However, I knew that I had to prioritize creating permanent, affordable, community-owned housing first and foremost. I knew that I could not compromise the resident's ability to have stability in their homes. Given that outcomes-focused motivation, I was able to successfully approach my work with integrity and professionalism and work across many differences to be successful. If elected, I plan to hold my community's shared

vision at the front of my mind at all times, and will always work with others with respect and integrity, even when we disagree.

– **If elected, what will you prioritize during your term that would be different than your opponents? What specific goals should Ward 8 residents use to judge your effectiveness?**

I am running for City Council in Ward 8 to create a kinder, safer Minneapolis. I believe it's important for my neighbors to see their values reflected at city hall. There's remarkable consensus in our ward about what we value and what we want our city to be. We're a progressive ward. We want transformative action on housing, climate change, and public safety. Unfortunately, our shared values aren't being represented right now. Our voices are not being heard.

My experience as a survivor of police violence is another difference. During the uprising, my neighbors organized themselves and kept each other safe. While we were looking out for each other, we saw MPD shooting rubber bullets and mace into crowds of peaceful protesters. This experience confirmed for us that we need to transform our approach to public safety to be comprehensive and grounded in care, effectiveness, and violence prevention.

## City of Minneapolis Ward 8 Candidate Questionnaire: Terry White

### Public Safety

– **Violent crime has declined in Minneapolis but remains higher than it was before 2020. What policies do you advocate to protect citizens and make Minneapolis safer? How can city leaders reduce gun violence?**

To address the persistent but decreased violent crime rates in Minneapolis, a multifaceted approach is essential.

- First, community-based policing initiatives should be promoted, fostering trust between law enforcement and residents. This involves officers engaging with communities, de-escalation training, and adopting non-lethal tactics.
- Second, investing in education and youth programs is crucial to break the cycle of violence. Allocating resources to provide accessible after-school activities, mentorship, and job opportunities can help steer young individuals away from criminal activities.
- Third, addressing the root causes of crime through social services is vital. Increasing access to mental health support, substance abuse treatment, and affordable housing can reduce crime rates.
- Fourth, frequent gun buyback programs to get as many guns off the streets and out of homes as possible.

These policies collectively work towards a safer Minneapolis by addressing both the symptoms and underlying causes of violent crime.

– **Minneapolis police staffing levels are at historic lows at about 585 sworn officers. Do you support recruiting additional officers? If so, what is a good target number for the city? How would you propose the city recruit and retain officers?**

Yes, I do support recruiting additional officers for the Minneapolis Police Department. While it's essential to address police reform and accountability, ensuring public safety remains a top priority. The city should comply with the charter requirements and bring the police force up to at least 731 officers. Currently, the city spends over \$14 million in officer overtime, which is a sign that more police officers are needed.

To recruit and retain officers effectively, Minneapolis should focus on several key strategies:

- **Community Policing:** Emphasizing community-oriented policing to build trust and collaboration between officers and residents.
- **Diverse Recruitment:** Actively recruiting individuals from diverse backgrounds to better represent the community they serve.

- Training and Mental Health Support: Providing ongoing training, including de-escalation and mental health crisis intervention.
- Accountability and Transparency: Implementing strong oversight mechanisms and transparency measures to maintain public trust.

– **A two-year Behavioral Crisis Response pilot program tasked with responding to mental health crises in Minneapolis ended earlier this year. Do you believe that program was successful? Do you support continuing it or expanding it? If so, how much would you spend and where would the funding come from?**

The two-year Minneapolis Behavioral Crisis Response pilot program has shown promise in responding to mental health crises effectively and reducing the burden on law enforcement. Its success in diverting individuals in crisis towards appropriate care and support should be acknowledged. I support not only continuing but expanding this program to better serve the community.

To determine the appropriate funding, it's crucial to conduct a thorough cost-benefit analysis. Allocating resources from the existing budget, such as reallocating funds from traditional law enforcement functions towards community-based crisis response teams, can be a viable option. Additionally, seeking state and federal grants earmarked for mental health crisis response initiatives is advisable.

The investment in expanding such programs is justified not only by improving public safety but also by addressing the mental health needs of Minneapolis residents more holistically. This approach can lead to safer communities and better mental health outcomes for individuals in crisis.

– **Where should the Third Precinct station be located? If the Council can't agree on a location, who should decide?**

In a poll commissioned by the city, 66% of residents want to rebuild the 3rd Precinct Police Station on the current site. I support that decision.

The current city council led by Andrea Jenkins, has failed to decide on the location of the 3rd Precinct Police Station for over 3 years. The city council can acknowledge the trauma and pain the site represents to some and find ways to construct a building that seeks to reconcile the past with our future.

Rebuilding at the current site is the most cost-effective solution and is supported by the majority of residents. We can change the site so that it represents a vision of justice and fairness. Indecision by the council delays the healing process.

If the council cannot reach a decision, they should allocate a budget for the Mayor. He would then decide how to best utilize the funds.

## **Housing**

- **Do you support a rent control cap of 3%? What exemptions would you allow, if any? How would you determine if that policy was effective or not?**

While some people advocate for a 3% rent control ordinance as a solution to control rent increases, I do not support it for several reasons:

- a. While it may cap rents, it has the unintended effect of allowing rents to be raised 3% in an already high-rent market. Landlords may exploit this by raising rents and cutting spending on maintenance. They may also introduce new fees, such as utilities charges, that they aren't currently imposing.
- b. This approach discourages landlords from rewarding stable tenants by keeping their rent steady.
- c. Rent control has the potential to discourage new development and push it outside of Minneapolis. To increase the vacancy rate, which is good for renters, more rental properties are required.

- **Should the city incentivize additional housing development in Ward 8? If so, what kind of housing and city incentives do you support?**

The issue of affordable housing is complex, and I encourage residents to visit [betterminneapolis.com](http://betterminneapolis.com) for the details supporting my position.

While there are many existing programs in place that I support, Minneapolis has fewer affordable housing units today than it did 15 years ago, despite these programs.

I believe implementing a luxury tax on above-market-rate rentals has the potential to support ongoing housing production while funding programs for those in need of affordable housing. Here's how it could work:

If the median rent for a one-bedroom apartment is \$1,472 per month, rents exceeding that amount would be subject to an 8.25% luxury tax. For example, if you are a landlord charging \$1,900 for a one-bedroom unit, \$428 would be subject to the luxury tax. Each month, you would contribute \$35.31 to the housing fund. This money would be used to support emergency shelters, provide comprehensive services, and offer rental assistance.

- **When homeless encampments arise in Minneapolis, how should the city respond? If encampment residents refuse services, what should the city do?**

As we debate policy, it's vital to remember that residents of encampments form a diverse community with unique needs – they are mothers, fathers, siblings, and children, with a majority being BIPOC. Many grapple with mental health, addiction, and other health challenges,

requiring specialized services. With over 1,000 people unsheltered nightly, each has a unique story of homelessness.

The city has not prioritized sheltering the homeless, but I will. I propose creating a \$30 million fund to establish emergency shelters. Immediate action is necessary to address the crisis, as waiting for more affordable housing could take years.

The Emergency Shelter funds would be allocated for:

- Tiny home villages and safe camping sites
- Portable bathrooms
- Pallet shelters
- Mental health and addiction support services

Micro-community locations will be determined with community input. These micro-villages will enable caseworkers to stay connected and assist residents in transitioning from homelessness.

### **Business Support and Access**

- **Ward 8 is currently planning for and building over 700 units of housing and the nearby Kmart development could bring in up to 1000 more. How do you see supporting business development along Nicollet Avenue, Lake Street, and Grand to serve so many additional residents in what the city envisions as a car-free/ parking minimalist future?**

To support business development in a car-free/parking minimalist future while accommodating the influx of 1000 residents, several strategies can be implemented to create a vibrant, sustainable urban environment:

- **Enhanced Public Transportation:** Investing in efficient and accessible public transportation systems, including buses, light rail, and bike lanes, can encourage residents to rely less on cars, reducing the need for parking spaces.
- **Mixed-Use Zoning:** Promoting mixed-use zoning allows for the development of residential units above commercial spaces, will reduce the demand for parking.
- **Pedestrian and Bicycle Infrastructure:** Creating pedestrian-friendly streets can attract foot traffic and cyclists, making it easier for residents to access businesses without cars.
- **Local Business Support:** Offering incentives, grants, or tax breaks to locally-owned businesses, particularly for the BIPOC community, can help them thrive.
- **Community Engagement:** Involving residents and business owners in the planning process to ensure their needs and preferences are considered.

### **Budget and Public Services**

– **Mayor Frey has proposed a 6.2% property tax levy increase for 2024, meaning a median priced Minneapolis home of \$331,000 would pay about an additional \$150 next year. Should the tax levy increase be higher or lower? If so, how much and why?**

A progressive property tax system, where homes below the median pay less and those above it pay more, can offer several benefits for Minneapolis. First and foremost, it promotes fairness by ensuring that those with higher-valued properties, typically indicating greater wealth, contribute a larger share of property taxes. This approach eases the burden on lower-income households, helping them stay in their homes and maintain financial stability.

Regarding Mayor Frey's proposed 6.2% property tax levy increase for 2024, it's essential to strike a balance. While the increase can help fund essential city services and initiatives, consideration should be given to minimizing its impact on middle and lower-income homeowners. If possible, exploring ways to mitigate the burden on median-priced homes, such as through targeted exemptions or rebates, can be a viable approach.

Ultimately, the tax levy increase should be carefully calibrated to maintain the city's fiscal health while ensuring that it doesn't ...

– **Do you support having the city shovel sidewalks city-wide? If so, why and how much would this cost?**

Supporting neighborhood associations in snow removal efforts could be a beneficial approach to supplement existing snow removal services without putting them out of business. Priority should be given to high-traffic areas and those utilized by the elderly.

The main advantage of involving neighborhood associations is their local knowledge. They can engage residents and tailor snow removal efforts to specific neighborhood needs. However, the city should provide support, including equipment, training, and coordination, to ensure efficiency and equity.

The cost of city-wide sidewalk snow removal would vary greatly depending on factors like the frequency of snowfall and the extent of sidewalk coverage. It's essential to conduct a cost-benefit analysis and explore innovative funding sources, such as partnerships with businesses or utilizing existing city resources.

Ultimately, a collaborative approach that involves neighborhood associations can enhance snow removal services while preserving existing businesses and addressing the unique challenges of each neighborhood.

## Climate

– **What specific budgetary and policy tools should the city of Minneapolis use to combat and adapt to climate change?**

To combat and adapt to climate change effectively, the city of Minneapolis will need to fund and implement the Climate Equity Plan. One possible way of generating funds is imposing a fee on utility bills. However, for maximum impact and equity, this fee should be designed to be greater for those consuming the most energy. This progressive fee structure incentivizes energy conservation and encourages residents and businesses to adopt more energy-efficient practices.

Minneapolis should allocate resources to:

- **Public Transportation:** Expand public transportation networks and promote affordable, eco-friendly alternatives to personal vehicles.
- **Green Building Codes:** Enforce and incentivize green building standards to promote energy-efficient construction and retrofitting.
- **Tree Planting and Green Spaces:** Allocate funds for urban forestry and green spaces to mitigate urban heat islands and enhance natural carbon sequestration.
- **Weatherizing older homes:** There are over 85,000 homes in Minneapolis that were built prior to 1940.

## Why You

– **Describe a time you worked with someone you disagreed with to accomplish something significant for your community.**

My involvement in various activities, including the Minneapolis Alpine Ski Club, high school baseball, coaching Little League, and practicing meditation, has profoundly shaped my perspective and leadership approach. These experiences have fostered my core values of empathy, active listening, and problem-focused thinking.

With two teenagers in the Minneapolis Alpine Ski Club, I encourage teamwork, discipline, and resilience while navigating challenging terrains. High school baseball provides an example of collaboration, sportsmanship, and the value of constructive criticism. Coaching Little League allowed me to mentor and guide young athletes, emphasizing the importance of patience and encouragement.

Incorporating meditation into my routine has further enhanced my ability to remain calm, centered, and focused on problem-solving rather than resorting to personal judgments. These diverse experiences have collectively taught me the value of empathetic listening and a



problem-centered approach in building effective relationships and addressing challenges, skills I aim to apply in my commitment to ...

– **If elected, what will you prioritize during your term that would be different than your opponents? What specific goals should Ward 8 residents use to judge your effectiveness?**

My priorities differ from my opponents in several ways.

First, I support a luxury tax on above-market-rate rentals to generate revenue for affordable housing initiatives. This forward-thinking approach holds the potential to alleviate barriers hindering access to affordable housing. Neither of my opponents is championing a regulated system of emergency shelters. They lack a comprehensive plan for addressing a potential increase. If, by 2024, we face the prospect of not 40 but 60 encampments, it's imperative that the city have a well-defined strategy.

Secondly, I support hiring more police officers while simultaneously advocating for police reform and community policing strategies to ensure a balanced approach. Until there are fewer guns on the street, we will need a fully staffed police force.

My effectiveness should be judged by tangible progress in reducing unregulated encampments and measurable improvements in public safety through practices that prioritize community trust and police accountability.