



2026 Primary Voter's Guide

The Primary Election will be held Aug. 11, 2026

Mayor of Isanti: Christopher Brooks

Please tell us about yourself and explain why you are the best candidate for Mayor of Isanti.

My name is Christopher Brooks. I am an Army veteran, husband, father of five, and a Logistics Planner at 3M. My family and I chose to make Isanti our home because we believe in the values that make small-town communities special: service, accountability, and looking out for your neighbors.

My military career taught me how to lead under pressure, manage budgets and resources, solve complex problems, and put the mission before myself. Those same principles guide me today in both my professional career and my commitment to our community.

If elected, please highlight your top priorities that will directly benefit the citizens of Isanti.

My top priority is responsible financial leadership. Families are feeling the impact of rising costs, and the city has a responsibility to spend taxpayer dollars wisely while maintaining the high-quality services residents expect.

Public safety will remain a priority by ensuring our police, fire, and emergency services have the resources they need to protect our community.

I also want to encourage smart, sustainable economic development by attracting businesses that create quality jobs and strengthen our tax base without changing the character of Isanti. Growth should be planned and benefit current residents, not simply happen for the sake of expansion.

Transparency and communication are

equally important. Residents deserve to understand how decisions are made and how their tax dollars are being spent. I will work to make city government more accessible and encourage greater community involvement.

The Isanti Mayor position is a nonpartisan seat. Will you be able to set aside your own, personal political beliefs to vote in the best interest of the city of Isanti and its citizens?

Absolutely.

I've been clear throughout my campaign that the office of Mayor is a nonpartisan position. While I have my own personal beliefs, my responsibility as Mayor would be to represent every resident of Isanti not just those who agree with me.

Local government isn't about national politics. It's about fixing roads, supporting public safety, managing budgets responsibly, maintaining infrastructure, encouraging thoughtful economic development, and ensuring city services meet the needs of our community.

Every decision I make will be based on facts, fiscal responsibility, and what is in the best interest of Isanti as a whole. I will listen to residents with different viewpoints, respect civil discussion, and work collaboratively with the City Council, city staff, businesses, and community members.

Leadership means putting service before self. That's a value I learned during my military career and one I continue to live by today.



Christopher Brooks

Mayor of Isanti: Jeff Johnson

Please tell us about yourself and explain why you are the best candidate for Mayor of Isanti.

I am running for Mayor of Isanti because I believe strong local leadership is built on integrity, transparency, and a commitment to serving the community. As a dedicated resident, I understand the importance of making thoughtful decisions that balance responsible growth, fiscal stewardship, and the quality of life our residents value.

My approach to leadership is collaborative and solutions-oriented. I believe in listening to residents, working respectfully with city staff and fellow elected officials, and making decisions based on careful analysis and the long-term interests of our community. My priorities include maintaining exceptional public safety, investing strategically in infrastructure, supporting sustainable economic development, and ensuring taxpayer dollars are managed responsibly and efficiently.

What distinguishes me as a candidate is my commitment to accessible, accountable leadership. I will be present, engaged, and responsive to the concerns of our residents while focusing on practical solutions rather than politics. As Mayor, I will work to strengthen public trust, encourage open communication, and help ensure

Isanti remains a safe, prosperous, and welcoming community for current residents and future generations.

If elected, please highlight your top priorities that will directly benefit the citizens of Isanti.

If elected, my highest priority will be providing principled, transparent leadership that delivers measurable results for the residents of Isanti. Every decision should reflect responsible stewardship of taxpayer dollars while preserving the high quality of life that makes our community a great place to live, work, and raise a family.

I will focus on maintaining exceptional public safety, investing strategically in streets, utilities, and other critical infrastructure, and planning for sustainable growth that strengthens our community without compromising its character. Supporting responsible economic development is also essential to expanding our tax base, attracting quality employers, and creating opportunities for local businesses while reducing the financial burden on homeowners.

Equally important is restoring and maintaining public trust through



Jeff Johnson

See **JOHNSON** | PAGE 19

Mayor of Isanti: Luke Merrill (Current Mayor)

Please tell us about yourself and explain why you are the best candidate for Mayor of Isanti.

My name is Luke Merrill. I'm a 34-year lifelong resident and the current Mayor of the City of Isanti. I enjoy spending time with family, working on cars, fishing, financial consulting, shooting guns and just about anything else outdoors. I have always been very involved & have dedicated most of my life to serving my community and my family. I have a BAS in Economics and a BA in Psychology from the University of Minnesota. I'm a small business owner with nearly a decade of experience in both the public and private sectors.

Since elected to City Council in 2022, and then to mayor in 2025, I have put significant effort into finding ways to save taxpayer's money. This has been slow and methodical. I am happy to report that since being elected, the City of Isanti has accomplished the largest published tax rate reduction in the state of Minnesota, over 23%. We have done this, while also adding more money to public safety (Police & Fire) as well as our roads and critical water infrastructure.

These are the core functions of government and they should be a focus. We have also added many park amenities, with zero taxpayer costs.

If elected, please highlight your top priorities that will directly benefit the citizens of Isanti.

My top priorities have remained the same through multiple campaigns and in multiple positions: Taxpayer efficiency, smaller government that works for "We the People" & more transparency. We have accomplished all of these things and continue working towards more.

Tax Efficiency: 23% tax rate reduction. This is not an accident. We have been very intentional in eliminating and avoiding debt & planning 40 years out for our infrastructure and capital needs. We have consistently made the wise fiscal decisions when it comes to using less of your money to fund more essential projects.

Smaller Government: We cut the over-regulations and red tape on business rights,



Luke Merrill

making Isanti more desirable to small businesses. We have improved residential zoning so you can use your property how you want. We have also implemented technology to increase production of our employees, which helps us keep smaller staffing levels.

Transparency: You deserve to know what's happening & where your money is being spent. We added live streaming of our meetings. We have increased our social media reach and interactions intentionally to provide more transparency — resulting in nearly 3000% increase in social interactions. I am consistently working on newspaper write-ups and announcements. Let's keep going!

The Isanti Mayor position is a nonpartisan seat. Will you be able to set aside your own, personal political beliefs to vote in the best interest of the city of Isanti and its citizens?

While a mayor seat may be considered "Non-partisan", taxpayers deserve to know who they are electing. Minnesota is suffering because of poor liberal leadership the last 16 years. It's time for change. I am very

honest and transparent about who I am and my stances on issues. I have & will stand strong when it comes to protecting the values that the majority of this community holds dear.

When it comes to actual money decisions, I vote whichever way makes the most sense and provides the most value for the most residents, regardless of political affiliation. I have stood tall & never wavered on protecting EVERYONE'S taxpayer dollars for the last 4 years. That will not change.

However, with that being said, the majority of this community is conservative. I am the only formally endorsed conservative candidate in this race; the other candidates all declined that endorsement. We can't afford more-of-the-same weak leadership in Minnesota. Vote for the candidate that will stand on being honest, transparent, and fight to protect your family's pocketbook; Vote Merrill for Mayor on August 11th & November 3rd! Contact: www.LukeJMerrill.com, 763-516-5082, or Luke Merrill Isanti Mayor on Facebook



2026 Primary Voter's Guide

Cambridge City Council: Aaron Berg (Current Council Member)

Please tell us about yourself and explain why you are the best candidate for Cambridge City Council.

I have proudly called Cambridge home since 2014. During that time, I have had the privilege of serving our community on the Cambridge Planning Commission, the Cambridge-Isanti School Board, and now the Cambridge City Council. My professional background in law enforcement, education, local government, and public administration, including earning a Master of Public Administration, has given me experience solving complex problems, managing budgets, and working collaboratively to serve the public.

Serving on the Planning Commission, School Board, and now City Council has given me firsthand experience with land use, budgeting, long-range planning, and the day-to-day responsibilities of local government. Serving on the Cambridge City Council has reinforced my belief that every decision should be guided by facts, fiscal responsibility, and the long-term interests of our community. I believe public service is about listening, being prepared, and making thoughtful, data-driven decisions that put Cambridge first.

To me, Public Service with Purpose means showing up prepared, listening before deciding, respecting every taxpayer dollar, and making decisions based on facts, not politics or emotion.

I care deeply about this community because it is my home. I believe my experience, proven record of service, and commitment to Cambridge make me the right choice to continue serving our community when I am re-elected.

If elected, please highlight your top priorities that will directly benefit the citizens of Cambridge.

When re-elected, my top priorities will continue to be public safety, responsible financial stewardship, infrastructure, and managing growth in a way that protects the quality of life our residents value.

Public safety will always come first. I will continue supporting our police, fire, and emergency services while ensuring they have the resources necessary to serve our community effectively.

Taxpayers deserve responsible management of every dollar. I will continue

carefully evaluating projects, controlling costs, and making investments that provide lasting value while keeping Cambridge financially strong.

As Cambridge grows, we must improve streets, utilities, parks, and other infrastructure while attracting quality businesses that strengthen our local economy and broaden our tax base, helping reduce the tax burden on homeowners. Growth should occur at a pace our roads, utilities, public safety services, and taxpayers can responsibly support while preserving the character that makes Cambridge a great place to live.

I will also continue advocating for transparent government and open communication so Cambridge residents understand the decisions being made and have meaningful opportunities to be heard.

Cambridge City Council members are elected to nonpartisan seats. Will you be able to set aside your own, personal political beliefs to vote in the best interest of the city of Cambridge and its citizens?

Yes. Local government works best when decisions are based on facts, sound judgment, and what is in the best interest of the community. City government is not St. Paul or Washington, D.C. It is about solving local problems, delivering quality services, and making decisions that improve everyday life for the people of Cambridge.

Throughout my service on the Planning Commission, School Board, and City Council, I have approached every issue by studying the information, listening to residents, asking questions, and considering the long-term impact on our community.

My responsibility is to represent every resident, regardless of political affiliation or personal viewpoints. While people may not always agree with every decision I make, they can expect those decisions to be thoughtful, transparent, well-informed, and made with the best interests of Cambridge in mind.

Residents deserve practical leadership, not political theater. That has been my approach throughout my public service, and it will continue to be my approach when I am re-elected.



Aaron Berg

Cambridge City Council: Tom Schibilla

Please tell us about yourself and explain why you are the best candidate for Cambridge City Council.

My name is Tom Schibilla and I am running for Cambridge City Council. I have lived in Isanti County for most of my life and in Cambridge for over 20 years. I raised my family here and am proud to be from Cambridge. I am currently serving on both Isanti County and Cambridge Parks and Recreation boards.

As your neighbor and active member of the community, I am committed to ensuring that every voice is heard. I believe Council members should listen more and talk less. I feel I excel in this area. I believe citizens should be allowed to speak at all meetings, whether an item is on the agenda or not. The Council should actively serve the people and encourage conversation.

I am also committed to full transparency in government. I have attended all meetings for more than 2 ½ years. During this time, I have found that information presented is not always easy for the layperson to understand. When questioning specific items, such as why the City's savings account currently holds more than 16 million dollars, the Mayor advised to speak privately to the Finance Director rather than answering for himself. Why present a pie chart with statistics and not have anyone at the meeting be able to explain them? Full transparency is key.

If elected, please highlight your top priorities that will directly benefit the citizens of Cambridge.

I will prioritize keeping the City of

Cambridge accountable for all decisions. I am willing to put in the time to make informed decisions on all issues. I have been reading all the City Council packets, which tend to be about 200 pages. I not only read them, I submit requests for additional information when I have questions. I spent hours learning about TIF districts prior to the recent meeting. Are people aware there are already 8 housing TIF districts in Cambridge with some expiring as late as the year 2050? Again, I will do the research.

I am excited to be able to talk with people about any suggestions or concerns they have regarding the City of Cambridge. I encourage everyone to make their voices heard, either by speaking at meetings or contacting any of the City Council members. I especially think this is important regarding how your tax dollars are spent.

Cambridge City Council members are elected to nonpartisan seats. Will you be able to set aside your own, personal political beliefs to vote in the best interest of the city of Cambridge and its citizens?

I believe it will be easy for me to set aside my personal political beliefs while serving on the City Council. I recognize we don't all hold the same beliefs, but we can find common ground. It is the job of Council members to listen to all taxpayers and make decisions based on their input.



Tom Schibilla

The responses for Cambridge City Council candidates Bob Shogren and Ronda Szlavich can be found on page 20.

Candidates William Dordal, Andrew Maher and Joe Morin did not respond to the questionnaire.

Johnson/From Page 18

open communication, fiscal accountability, and collaboration. Residents deserve a city government that is accessible, responsive, and committed to thoughtful, long-term decision-making rather than short-term politics.

My commitment is to lead with integrity, listen to the community, build consensus, and make decisions that ensure Isanti remains a safe, financially strong, and

vibrant city for current residents and future generations.

The Isanti Mayor position is a nonpartisan seat. Will you be able to set aside your own, personal political beliefs to vote in the best interest of the city of Isanti and its citizens?

Yes. The office of Mayor is a nonpartisan position, and I believe local government functions best when decisions are guided by facts, sound judgment, and the needs of the community—not partisan politics.

If elected, my responsibility will be to represent all residents of Isanti, regardless of their political affiliation or personal viewpoints. Every issue that comes before the City should be evaluated on its own merits, with careful consideration of its impact on public safety, fiscal responsibility, economic vitality, and the long-term well-being of our community.

I am committed to listening to residents, respecting differing perspectives, and working collaboratively with City Council

members, staff, and community partners to reach practical, well-informed solutions. While everyone brings personal values and experiences to public service, effective leadership requires setting aside partisan interests to focus on what is best for the City as a whole.

My commitment is to serve with integrity, fairness, transparency, and accountability, always putting the interests of the citizens of Isanti first.

VOTE

2026 Primary Voter's Guide

Cambridge City Council: Bob Shogren (Current Council Member)

Please tell us about yourself and explain why you are the best candidate for Cambridge City Council.

I am married to Shannon. I am father to four children and Papa to four grandchildren. I work for the Isanti County Sheriff's Office as a communications sergeant, supervising eight 9-1-1 Telecommunicators' daily operations.

I've lived in Cambridge for 25 years and served on the city council for more than twenty. I am the best candidate primarily because of longevity — I know how it all works. We run a very lean operation and have been lean every year I've served on the city council. I believe the residents of the city come first — all my votes prove it.

If elected, please highlight your top priorities that will directly benefit the citizens of Cambridge.

I will continue to work with city staff and the rest of the city council to keep property taxes in check. Contrary to claims from some candidates, the city of Cambridge has not had a levy increase in "double digits" while I've served as councilman, and I would not vote in a way that would require such a levy. The direct benefit to all of us in Cambridge is to grow our tax base, and I think we will grow it if we maintain our current strategy.

Cambridge City Council members are elected to non-partisan seats. Will you be able to set aside your own, personal political beliefs to vote in the best interest of the city of Cambridge and its citizens?

The short answer is yes because I've done just that for over 20 years. We've witnessed the failures of partisan governing all over the state of Minnesota. One party wins a majority and attempts to legislate its platform to the detriment of sound leadership. Whether it's a zero per cent levy or a double-digit increase, reality always prevails and forces an increase to play catch-up or reveals an unnecessary surplus (that rarely gets returned to the taxpayer). There is always a cost to provide basic services. Cambridge's budget is very lean. We spend money on infrastructure, public safety, public works, and economic development. That's not partisan politics. It's sound governmental leadership.



Bob Shogren

Cambridge City Council: Ronda Szlavich

Please tell us about yourself and explain why you are the best candidate for Cambridge City Council.

I am the best candidate for City Council because I am deeply invested in Cambridge's future. Married to my husband, Les, for 35 years, our family's journey is rooted in freedom, beginning when his family escaped communism in Hungary and came to Minnesota. Today, we are blessed with 9 children, many grandchildren, and a lifelong commitment to this community.

As a retiree, a former successful small-business owner for 14 years, and a former lead church photographer, I blend practical financial discipline with deep community roots. I know how inflation squeezes budgets, and I will use my business background to push back against projected double-digit tax levy increases to protect families and seniors.

In my free time, I love thrifting for hidden treasures and listening to neighbors. I have no personal agenda. Unlike current leadership, I will listen to you first, ensuring transparent communication and smart growth that halts unchecked housing developments. I am running to preserve the safe, tight-knit, small-town character that makes Cambridge our forever home.

I bring business experience, fiscal responsibility, and genuine representation to City Hall. I would be honored to earn your vote.

If elected, please highlight your top priorities that will directly benefit the citizens of Cambridge.

If elected, my top priorities will center on putting the citizens of Cambridge first through three direct benefits:

First, I will fight for fiscal responsibility by working to prevent the double-digit property tax levy increases currently projected for our city's future. Relying on one-time revenues to temporarily artificially lower the levy only punishes us down the road. As a retiree, I know how inflation squeezes household budgets. We must address core operational costs, like rising staff insurance premiums, through strict budget discipline so seniors on fixed incomes aren't forced from their homes.

Second, I will advocate for transparent communication. I believe city council decisions should be

shaped by the community, not personal agendas. I will ensure your voices, ideas, and concerns are actively heard and considered before any major policies, developments, or projects are finalized.

Third, I will focus on smart growth and safety. We must preserve the tight-knit, small-town character that makes Cambridge our forever home. This means ensuring our local public safety teams are fully supported and our infrastructure is upgraded efficiently as our city grows.

I will bring common-sense leadership, financial discipline, and a commitment to listening to city hall.

Cambridge City Council members are elected to nonpartisan seats. Will you be able to set aside your own, personal political beliefs to vote in the best interest of the city of Cambridge and its citizens?

Yes, absolutely. Local government is about solving real, everyday problems, not fighting national political battles. Potholes, rising property taxes, public safety, and neighborhood development do not have a political party.

My commitment is strictly to the citizens of Cambridge. As a representative, my job is to listen to your needs, analyze the data, and make common-sense decisions that directly benefit our community. My personal political beliefs will never take priority over the well-being of our residents.

My background as a small business owner, church photographer, and mother has taught me that the best leadership comes from listening first and finding practical solutions. When evaluating city policies, housing developments, or budget line items, my criteria will always be simple: Is this fiscally responsible? Does it keep our community safe? Does it preserve our tight-knit, small-town character? And most importantly, is this what the people of Cambridge actually want?

I am running with no personal agenda and no partisan strings attached. I will bring independent, transparent, and collaborative leadership to the city council, ensuring that your voice is the only one that guides my vote.



Ronda Szlavich

Isanti County Commissioner District 5: Kristi LaRowe (Incumbent)

Please tell us about yourself and explain why you are the best candidate for Isanti County Commissioner District 5.

What have I accomplished since being elected:

- Approved ECE Fiber Optic expansion to better serve the residents in my District and add choices.

- Abolished the Orange Frog Program.
- Gave you back the right to vote for County Auditor/Treasurer.

- County budget maintained and found efficiencies, resulting in only a 1.33% annual adjustment (3yr avg), which is the lowest levy rate in Minnesota Counties for the past three years.

I serve on:

- Lakes and Pines Board of Directors.
- Lakes and Pines Fundraising Committee member.
- Central MN Council on Aging.

- Library Board.
- HHS Board.

If elected, please highlight your top priorities that will directly benefit the citizens of Isanti County.

What is my focus:

Taking great pride in respecting our tax dollars, and promoting conservative spending.

As a County Commissioner, we work on the budget each year. We have been able to show budgetary restraints, and shift reserves to our County needs more efficiently. We categorize the greatest needs of each department. With the Department Heads and the Board working together, there has been a huge success!

Realistic Fundraising: How can Residents Get Involved?



Kristi LaRowe

With Lakes and Pines on the forefront of the community, they have an understanding of the importance of building a reserve and also involving the community. Their first Gala was a success with different businesses and community involvement making it an enjoyable evening and good fundraiser. Being on the Fundraising Board helped me to become more engaged and understanding of the needs of the community.

The Library Board also has started to look into ways the Community can fundraise. What a great opportunity for residents and businesses to participate! The Library Director is open to have community involvement and supports the efforts in fundraising. Please contact Carla Lydon, Executive Director, at: www.ecrlib.org or call the Cambridge Library.

The Isanti County Commissioner position is a nonpartisan seat. Will you be able

to set aside your own, personal political beliefs to vote in the best interest of Isanti County and its citizens?

Ongoing Dialogue:

With Isanti County being one of the fastest growing counties in MN, it's good to have dialogue because it strengthens community ties and reinforces civic engagement and participation. I have a commitment to engage residents, and I am committed to working with you for the future of Isanti County. I welcome input from residents as we pursue practical solutions that affect families, workers, and local businesses.

Join me in building a stronger Isanti County ... This campaign is about building a better future together! Thank you for your support and trust.



2026 Primary Voter's Guide

Isanti County Commissioner District 5: Stephanie Aronson

Please tell us about yourself and explain why you are the best candidate for Isanti County Commissioner District 5.

I bring a wide mix of experience, education and perspective to this race. I am a local small business owner (Vixen Defense), national firearms instructor, and hold Master's degrees in both Business Administration and Criminal Justice. I grew up in Isanti County and returned as an adult to build my life and career in my community.

My background in business gives me firsthand experience managing budgets, solving problems and making decisions with long-term consequences. My training background and criminal justice education help me understand the importance and complexity of public safety, constitutional rights and strong community partnerships. Years spent building a business focused on self-defense gave me insight into cracks in the system that can be hard to see from the inside.

I believe county government needs to be practical, accountable and focused on their responsibilities to the residents: maintaining public safety, infrastructure, responsible budgeting and adequate support for local families and local businesses. I am running because District 5 deserves a commissioner who listens, asks hard questions, is prepared to make tough decisions and represent citizens with common sense. I will work to protect what makes Isanti County a great place to live while planning responsibly for the future.

If elected, please highlight your top priorities that will directly benefit the citizens of Isanti County.

My top priorities include responsible budgeting for infrastructure and expansion, and advancing the quality of life in Isanti County at all levels. The people deserve county government that spends the tax dollars wisely, getting the most bang for our buck, strengthens and protects core services to the residents and responsibly prepares for the future instead of constantly scrambling to keep up.

Public safety is a top responsibility, including strong backing for emergency services and programs to support victims and protection of constitutional rights.

Flock cameras and other governmental overreach must be ruthlessly defended against. Roads, drainage and most importantly maintenance need constant attention so residents, businesses, emergency personnel and commuters can move safely and efficiently.

I also want to greatly increase the local economic opportunity by making Isanti County a place where small businesses can grow, families can afford to stay and young people can see a future here and build from the ground up. That means investing in education, trades, healthcare, housing. That means asking hard questions about how money is being spent and making decisions that are practical, transparent and hold local government accountable.

The Isanti County Commissioner position is a nonpartisan seat. Will you be able to set aside your own, personal political beliefs to vote in the best interest of Isanti County and its citizens?

Yes.

The primary reason I am running is because I believe the County Board needs to be more focused on core responsibilities: roads and infrastructure, economic advancement, land use and property rights, public safety, budgeting and the daily work of running the county well. Residents deserve a board that spends its time (and the taxpayer's dime) solving real problems, addressing real grievances and making decisions based on facts, not political theater or symbolic disputes.

I, like everyone else, have personal and political convictions. But one of those beliefs is that county government should be focused on serving residents and doing the practical work of the people, not advancing partisan agendas. My responsibility is to listen to the people, respect diverse opinions and viewpoints and vote for policies that protect taxpayers, strengthen local services and serve the long-term interests of the people. My decisions as commissioner would be guided by what is lawful, practical, financially responsible and in the best interests of the citizens of Isanti County.



Stephanie Aronson

Isanti County Commissioner District 5: Joseph Fischer

Please tell us about yourself and explain why you are the best candidate for Isanti County Commissioner District 5.

I've lived in Isanti County most of my life with roots here in farming and the trades. Professionally, I've spent over 15 years as a Systems Administrator and am currently finishing a Master's in Cyber Operations. I also served as a volunteer Reserve Deputy with the Isanti County Sheriff's Office, which has given me a close look at how county government actually functions day to day. I'm running because I've seen time and again how outdated zoning and building compliance rules hurt residents trying to do the right thing. New building materials and methods come out every year, but our codes haven't kept pace. We need a modern zoning department that embraces new technology and helps residents navigate complex codes rather than just enforcing them. My background in systems, process, and problem-solving is exactly what District 5 needs: someone who digs into the details, modernizes outdated systems, and puts residents first.

If elected, please highlight your top priorities that will directly benefit the citizens of Isanti County.

My top priorities are fiscal stability, transparency, and cutting red tape for residents.

First, we need to stabilize the budget. Isanti County currently has no reserve fund, so any unexpected expense gets passed straight to taxpayers through the levy. I want to rebuild that reserve and move toward a proactive, multi-year capital improvement plan instead of reacting year to year. Second, transparency. Residents deserve to know why the board makes the decisions it does, not just that it made them. I'll push to keep the public updated on board decisions and invite more public input before votes, not just at the end. Third, I want to create a

zoning subcommittee to review building application rejections before residents face legal action giving people a fair chance to fix an issue instead of being punished for it. Finally, I support modernizing our zoning code and updating the accessory dwelling unit ordinance and other housing types, so residents have more flexibility in how they use their property.

The Isanti County Commissioner position is a nonpartisan seat. Will you be able to set aside your own, personal political beliefs to vote in the best interest of Isanti County and its citizens?

Yes. I'm running as an independent specifically because I believe this seat shouldn't be filtered through party politics. Isanti County's core work roads, budgets, zoning, public safety isn't a red or blue issue, it's about doing right by the people who live here. Being independent means I'm not beholden to a party platform or expected to vote a certain way on county matters. I can evaluate each issue on its own merits and vote based on what actually serves our residents, not what serves a party line. I've watched party politics divide communities before people even start talking. The moment someone hears Republican or Democrat they stop hearing the person. Running independently lets me sit down, discuss the issues, and earn your trust through that conversation instead of a label.

At the end of the day, we're all neighbors, and county government works best when we're looking out for each other instead of scoring political points. That's the mindset I'll bring to every vote on the board. My website is JosephFischer.Vote where you can find more information on my campaign and a way to reach me.



Joseph Fischer

Remember to Vote in the Primary Election on Aug. 11, 2026.

Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

To see what is on your ballot or to find your polling location, visit sos.mn.gov



2026 Primary Voter's Guide

Chisago County Commissioner District 2: Chris DuBose

Please tell us about yourself and explain why you are the best candidate for Chisago County Commissioner District 2.

I moved to the Chisago Lakes area in 1996 and have been active in the community since then. An Air Traffic Controller for 25 years before retiring and I am now a Real Estate Broker/Agent with my office in Lindstrom. I've lived in Chisago City, Chisago Lake Township and now in Center City and have 3 boys, 2 daughters in law, and a gorgeous granddaughter. I got involved in local politics by accident in 1998 and have been County Commissioner, City Councilman, Mayor, and even the LAPD Commissioner when we joined the departments. I have been very active in the community participating in County and City Planning Commissions, Park Boards, St Croix watershed, Police, Budget and Finance, Personnel, CL Restoration, Lakes Improvement, Economic Development, Sewer, Library, Roads and Bridges, State Invasive Species Advisory Board, and many other committees and boards. I'm also active in The CL Rotary, Good Neighbors Club, CL Foundation and youth coaching. I enjoy spending time on the water, traveling, camping, hiking, ATVing, Snowmobiling, and spending time with friends and family.

If elected, please highlight your top priorities that will directly benefit the citizens of Chisago County.

One of my highest priorities is to preserve the rural lifestyle and small-town atmosphere that we enjoy here. We can have modest growth but make sure it is carefully planned and is something that contributes to our local residents not just the developers. We also have a tax burden here that is one of the highest in the state. One of the reasons is a lack of businesses. This hurts us because the tax burden is carried by the homeowners. For 30 years we've been talking about this but I am one of the few that has been doing something about it and will continue to

make progress by reforming zoning ordinances and creating areas for these businesses to locate. We should encourage small farms and businesses so that they can grow and prosper like

Kendall Howard who started in a garage and eventually grew to one of the largest employers and taxpayers. We need to create intermediate steps to give businesses a path to success. I also want to complete the Swedish Immigrant bike trail, connect the lakes and adhere to stricter budgeting to reduce spending.

The Chisago County Commissioner position is a nonpartisan seat. Will you be able to set aside your own, personal political beliefs to vote in the best interest of Chisago County and its citizens?

99% of what we do as County Commissioners is non-partisan. I am a proud conservative voice on financial matters and will remain so, holding staff accountable for spending and budgeting. I am a planner who likes to look at the big picture and plan ahead for sensible and controlled growth. I am sensitive to the need to pay employees a fair and competitive wage while still being responsible to our taxpayers to keep taxes under control. I have a record of protecting 2A rights. I believe landowners and farmers should be free to utilize their land in sensible ways that allows them to enjoy their properties but not be disruptive and disturbing to the neighbors. I have a lot of experience in the County and a long track record of standing up for residents and being able to make tough and difficult votes to further the best interests of Chisago County. I will bring my leadership, energy, enthusiasm, transparency, communication, and integrity back to the Chisago County Commissioner District 2 position. We can do better!



Chris DuBose

Chisago County Commissioner District 2: Rick Greene (Incumbent)

Please tell us about yourself and explain why you are the best candidate for Chisago County Commissioner District 2.

I live in Amador Township and am seeking re-election as Chisago County Commissioner for District 2, representing Center City, Shafer, Taylors Falls, and Amador, Chisago Lake, Franconia, and Shafer townships.

A lifelong Chisago County resident, I am one of 14 siblings raised on a dairy farm in Franconia Township. Growing up in such a large family gave me lasting experience in negotiation and compromise. After graduating from Taylors Falls High School and Dunwoody Institute, I built a 40-year career in agribusiness at my father's John Deere dealership in Osceola, Wisconsin, retiring in 2009. I am a lifelong member of my church and a member of the Farm Bureau.

My wife and I raised three children on our farm, all graduates of North Branch public schools. Running a successful farming operation for 49 years has given me the management skills our county needs.

I previously served on the Amador Township Board. My experience as a township supervisor and county commissioner has given me a strong understanding of government funding.

On the County Board, I have prioritized fiscal responsibility and helped maintain careful control of levy increases, even in challenging years. This sound financial management helped limit the levy increase this year.

If elected, please highlight your top priorities that will directly benefit the citizens of Chisago County.

I will work hard to continue to accomplish the following:

- Seek and promote commercial and industrial growth in appropriate locations to lower our residential tax rates.

- Work with the Minnesota Legislature to help border counties like Chisago County compete with Wisconsin's lower commercial and industrial property tax rates, which will attract more commercial development interest here.

- Support major road improvements throughout District 2.

- Maintain county reserve-fund levels and keep our strong AA+ bond rating.

- Seek state and federal funding for Highway 8 improvements and to complete the Shafer roundabout.

- Support state funding for the Swedish Immigrant Trail from Center City to Shafer.

The Chisago County Commissioner position is a nonpartisan seat. Will you be able to set aside your own, personal political beliefs to vote in the best interest of Chisago County and its citizens?

Our County Commissioners try to work for the benefit of our entire county. I do not recall ever when our County Board did something, or declined to do something, based on partisan positions. I will work hard to continue working together with everyone in our county to improve government services and quality of life for everyone in our beautiful Chisago County.



Rick Greene

Chisago County Commissioner District 2 candidate Paula Hanson did not respond to the questionnaire.



Steve Fields
Minnesota Attorney



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