

Voters Guide 2022

North Branch City Council (Elect 2)

Nadia Broome

Why are you a candidate to be council member for North Branch? “I am running to serve our community. I hope to be proactive in the growth and development. I desire to be a voice and representative of



Nadia Broome

the residents in decisions, eliminating personal agendas and providing a positive, thriving, and sustaining community.”

What is the biggest issue facing a North Branch council member? “I believe there are a few issues facing council members. The first, having the community understand the political process and procedures that must be followed. The second is bringing in corporate companies that can employ, and help fund future endeavors. We currently have 200 acres of undeveloped land waiting to be incorporated. I hope to work collectively with other committees in having this land developed. In this development I would like to initiate a long-term plan for a multi-purpose complex in which the city could expand the police station, possibly build a recreation center and other parks/recreation and other municipalities for community use.”

Travis Miles

Why are you a candidate to be council member for North Branch? “Earlier this year, during a council meeting, a council member motioned to table an item until they could hear from the citizens. The motion to table failed. I wondered why the other council members didn’t second the motion to hear from the residents. With two four-year council seats, one two-year council seat, and a mayor seat up for election, I decided this was the year where we could get a team on the council that wants to hear from our residents and

show we represent all the citizens of North Branch.

What is the biggest issue facing a North Branch council member? “A council member’s most significant issue is building trust and relationships with our residents. I hear from residents that past councils have tried to pass matters quickly. To build trust



Travis Miles

back, we need to listen to our citizens. The council meeting agenda is published by Friday before the council meeting. If there is an agenda item citizens want to talk about at the meeting, they can’t unless the council votes to have an open forum on that topic. During public comments, residents are only allotted three minutes to talk. Three minutes is not enough time to fully present concerns, ideas, and solutions. We need to lengthen the time allowed for public comment and let that time be open for agenda items. Listening to our residents will help rebuild their trust.”

Peter Schaps

Why are you a candidate to be council member for North Branch? “I have been living with my wife Diane in North Branch for the past 21 years. In 2012 I first became interested in the management of our city’s financial business plan due to the downgrades of the city’s municipal bond rating. As I am retired from the municipal bond business, and in that business we offered for sale bonds of cities much like North Branch from all over Minnesota. For this type of borrowing we measure a city’s health by evaluating how well the city manages its financial business plan along with its operations for any business enterprises under the control of city council. I determined that it was the North Branch Water & Light that was creating the insecurity at bond rating agencies, that

resulted in bond rating downgrades and making future borrowing more expensive for our city. I was first appointed to the city’s Water and Light commission in December of 2016.”

What is the biggest issue facing a North Branch council member? “I see the biggest issues for this future city council member as continuing to improve the quality and efficiencies of our water & light’s utility delivery systems. Currently the utility commission has entered into an agreement with ECE, our electric service delivery associate, to sell our electric utility infrastructure within the 1 sq mile urban service area to ECE for 5.3 million dollars in cash. The proceeds of this transaction will allow our city to pay off all outstanding electric municipal debt earlier than anticipated, and provide the Water & Light commission funds to continue its important work upgrading and modernizing its old and failing infrastructures. If we are to build our jobs and tax base by attracting business and industry to our communities industrial business parks and other areas available for new development we must make the utilities we have to offer the very best around, as we are in competition with our neighbors for these opportunities.”



Peter Schaps

Robert P. Canada is running unopposed in a special election for North Branch Council.

Pete Stauber

Do you think our elections are secure and fair? Why? “One of the most sacred rights in America is the right to vote and the belief that our elections are secure and fair. We must ensure we trust the elections



Pete Stauber

throughout our state. Election integrity matters. In Congress, I strongly opposed Nancy Pelosi’s attempt to federalize elections by voting against her government takeover of elections that would have allowed convicted felons to vote, weaken the security of our elections, and give taxpayer dollars to political campaigns. I also led the charge by signing an Amicus Brief to the U.S. Supreme Court calling to prohibit secretaries of state like Steve Simon from changing election laws without the consent of their state legislatures. State legislatures have a role to play and no office holder should be able to run around that fundamental role. We need to work together to ensure every legal vote counts, but nobody cheats.”

How will you help rein in inflation and what is the root cause? “Washington is spending money we don’t have. Inflation is skyrocketing. Energy prices are through the roof. Working families from every industry are feeling enormous pain at the pump every time they fill their tank. As Minnesotans struggle with gas prices and the worst inflation in 40 years, Washington is needlessly waging a war on American energy. Joe Biden recklessly canceled more oil and gas leases. Rather than increase our energy dependence on foreign countries, Biden should be implementing commonsense policies that promote domestic production creating more American jobs and making energy prices affordable once again. Single party control in Washington has led to reckless spending of trillions and trillions of taxpayer dollars which is leading to record high inflation and an increased cost of living that Minnesota families can’t afford. Rather than provide a blank check, Congress must provide checks and balances to Joe Biden’s failed economic and energy policies.

Legislative gridlock has become more prevalent. Specifically, how would you fix it? “From playing hockey all my life to my two-plus decades of committed public service in law enforcement, I am a problem solver. In Congress, I work with Republicans and Democrats to get things done. Like so many Minnesotans, I grew up on the rink. After high school, I was the team captain for Lake Superior State University where we won the national championship. My wife, Jodi, is an Iraq war veteran who retired from the 148th Fighter Wing as the first female Command Chief in the history of the unit. Jodi and I have five children and a foster baby and they are one of the reasons I am running for reelection to Congress. We have to do all we can to ensure the American dream is within reach for generations to come. I believe our best days are ahead because I believe it’s you, not the federal government, that makes America great.”

Jen Schultz

Do you think our elections are secure and fair? Why? “Yes. Voting is a fundamental right of our democracy and those that are trying to make it harder for us to vote are attacking our freedom. Minnesota has been a leader in election integrity, consistently having one of the highest voter turnouts in the country and our election laws have been a blueprint for other states. Our elections are secure and fair, but we can do more to



Jen Schultz

make voting more easily accessible, like automatic voter registration, same day registration, and eliminating antiquated voter ID laws.

How will you help rein in inflation and what is the root cause? “We need to investigate market consolidation and market concentration which impacts the ability to charge high prices. It would be prudent for voters to send an economist to Congress to help mitigate the effects of inflation and any potential future recession on our communities and families. We need to bring good jobs with good benefits to the district to diversify job opportunities. We should be leveraging the incentives in the Defense Production Act and the Inflation Reduction Act to bring manufacturing to our district.”

Legislative gridlock has become more prevalent. Specifically, how would you fix it? “For the past eight years that I’ve been a state representative, I’ve only worked in a divided legislature and have been able to work across the aisle with my colleagues to pass good, meaningful legislation for my district and the people of Minnesota. This year when many investment bills did not get Senate support, I was able to pass two large health and human services bills investing in mental health and human services. I did that by having integrity, building relationships, and prioritizing the people I represent over everything else. When I’m elected to Congress, I will continue to operate the same way, building relationships across the aisle and prioritizing the people of the Eighth District.”