



2026 General Election Voter's Guide

Cambridge City Council - Elect up to 2

Aaron Berg (Incumbent)

Please tell us about yourself and why you are the best candidate for the position.

Cambridge has been my home since 2014, and I have been fortunate to serve our community on the Cambridge Planning Commission, Cambridge-Isanti School Board, and Cambridge City Council. Professionally, I have worked in law enforcement, education, and local government, giving me a broad perspective on public service. I hold a bachelor's degree in Business, Career and Technical Education and a Master of Public Administration. I am seeking re-election because I believe experience, preparation, and listening matter. I do my homework, ask questions, consider the long-term impact of our decisions, and work to ensure residents have a strong voice in Cambridge.

If elected, what would be your top priorities that would directly benefit the residents of the city of Cambridge?

My priorities are the responsible use of taxpayer dollars, strong public safety, thoughtful growth, and maintaining the quality city services residents rely on every day.

As Cambridge continues to grow, we need to balance the needs of today with



Aaron Berg

the long-term impact of our decisions. That means carefully managing taxpayer dollars, maintaining our streets and infrastructure, supporting our police and fire departments, and planning

ahead for housing and business growth. We also need to recognize the impact that property taxes and rising costs have on residents and make sure we are getting good value for every tax dollar spent.

I believe economic development should strengthen our tax base, create opportunities, and benefit the community. Growth should be thoughtful and preserve the quality of life that makes Cambridge a great place to live, work, and raise a family.

Residents also deserve a local government that listens and communicates. I will continue asking questions, looking at the facts, and listening to residents before making decisions. My goal is to provide strong core services while planning responsibly for Cambridge's future. Every decision should consider not only what Cambridge needs today, but what will best serve our community for years to come.

Bob Shogren (Incumbent)

Please tell us about yourself and why you are the best candidate for the position.

I am most qualified to serve on council because I served as a Cambridge City Council Member from 2001 to 2012. My experience has given me an excellent understanding of what a city council does, and what it should and should not do. I understand what the city needs to function, and I know what the residents have come to expect.

If elected, what would be your top priority as a member of the Cambridge City Council that would directly benefit the citizens?

Keep Property taxes in check and reduce them if possible.

The economic picture has changed drastically over the past ten years. Although there are some signs of improvement, there are still families I know who are struggling to keep their bills paid and live within their means. Cambridge, too, has ridden this roller coaster of economic downturn and upswing and must continue to function



Bob Shogren

within its means. Every vote I cast will be in light of my duty to ensure Cambridge manages our tax money in the most efficient, economically responsible way possible.

Cambridge is only one of three taxing entities. Taxes in Cambridge are high mostly due to property valuation changes determined by Isanti County and because of decisions made by the other two taxing entities. We can reduce spending by eliminating the duplication of services throughout our area. We can work with neighboring municipalities and other local governments by combining some of our government services.

Attracting new business into our area is a great way to reduce residential property taxes. Commercial properties pay a higher percentage of the total tax burden than residential properties. I will work with the rest of the council to aggressively attract new business to Cambridge.

Tom Schibilla

Please tell us about yourself and why you are the best candidate for the position.

My name is Tom Schibilla and I am running for Cambridge City Council. I have lived in Isanti County 60 years 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 the Isanti County and City of Cambridge Parks and Recreation Boards. I have 40 years of experience working for Isanti County and managing a large budget.

I am retired, and I have the time, experience and passion that is necessary for this position. I know how local government works and am eager for this new role.

If elected, what would be your top priorities that would directly benefit the residents of the city of Cambridge?

I will prioritize keeping the City of Cambridge accountable for all



Tom Schibilla

decisions. I am willing to put in the time to make informed decisions on all issues. I will read the City Council packets and get additional information when necessary. I will

do the research needed to see all sides of the issue and make the best decisions for the people of Cambridge. I believe setting and managing the budget is a top priority. Keeping the budget at a minimum would obviously benefit the taxpayers. Full transparency is key so that taxpayers are aware of exactly where their money is going and what it is used for.

My second priority is to allow people to speak at all meetings, whether an item is on the agenda or not. The Council should actively serve the people and encourage conversation before making decisions.

Ronda Szlavich

Please tell us about yourself and why you are the best candidate for the position.

As a Cambridge resident since 2021, my background as a wife, nana, and 14-year small-business owner shapes my fiscal discipline. Attending city council meetings, I have heard the untruths and listened to neighbors who feel completely unheard.

I am running to close the gap between residents and city hall by putting listening before leading. I will ensure transparent communication, halt unchecked housing developments, and fight double-digit tax levy increases to protect families and seniors. I have no personal agenda. My focus is entirely on providing genuine representation to serve all of Cambridge and preserve our safe, small-town character.

If elected, what would be your top priorities that would directly benefit the residents of the city of Cambridge?

My focus is entirely on serving you through three main pillars designed to directly benefit the residents of Cambridge:

Open, Transparent Communication: Transparency is huge for everyone. I will bridge the gap between



Ronda Szlavich

residents and city hall by prioritizing listening, researching, and communicating. I will advocate for live streaming all city council meetings so you can easily stay informed.

Your ideas, questions, and concerns should directly shape city policy before final decisions are made.

Fiscal Responsibility and Modernization: I will work tirelessly to push back against double digit tax levy increases to protect families and seniors on fixed incomes. I will also review city ordinances that have not been looked at in years to ensure our local laws make sense, protect property rights, and benefit our community today.

Smart, Balanced Growth: I am committed to preserving our safe, tight knit, small town character and unique local identity as we navigate future growth. This means halting unchecked housing developments that strain our resources.

If elected, I bring no personal agenda. I will listen first, ensuring your needs always come before city hall politics.

2026 General Election Voter's Guide

Cambridge Mayor - Elect 1

Jim Godfrey (Incumbent)

Please tell us about yourself and why you are the best candidate for the position.

I am Jim Godfrey, the current Mayor of Cambridge, a high school educator, and a dedicated member of this community. I am deeply committed to our city's ongoing success. My background spans decades of public service and classroom leadership, and this taught me the essential values of listening, accountability, and practical problem-solving. As the next mayor, I'll continue providing steady, dependable leadership that balances smart economic growth with strict fiscal responsibility. Having deep care for our community, I appreciate the real-world needs of Cambridge families and I'll work tirelessly to protect our quality of life, maintain open governance, and ensure our city remains a wonderful place to call home.

If elected, what would be your top priorities that would directly benefit the residents of the city of Cambridge?

If re-elected, my top priorities will focus on enhancing the everyday quality of life, economic stability, and security for Cambridge residents. I remain dedicated to fiscal responsibility, transparency, and continuous community engagement. Having lowered our city tax



Jim Godfrey

rate by 30% during my time on the council, I will persist in lowering it further, maintaining conservative budgets that keep property taxes predictable. I will continue building upon our strong safety record by ensuring our police and fire departments are fully equipped, well-trained, and strongly supported to keep our neighborhoods safe.

Also, I will continue to prioritize investing in our public works infrastructure, maintaining dependable streets, utilities, and core city services which supports daily life and long-term community resilience. I champion controlled economic growth by welcoming responsible commercial development to expand our tax base, create local jobs, and provide more shopping and dining conveniences without overburdening taxpayers.

I am committed to tackling the current valuation crisis and housing shortages by actively fostering smart, balanced residential development that expands housing options for families, first-time buyers, and seniors. Finally, I will continue ensuring excellent public service and listening to every citizen in order to provide stable, non-partisan, and fair local governance.

Jeremiah Sedler

Please tell us about yourself and why you are the best candidate for the position.

I was born in Cambridge, raised here, and chose to make Cambridge home. I'm a husband, father of five, financial advisor, and longtime community volunteer. My experience serving on the Isanti County Planning Commission, including as chair, and as a Rotary president has taught me how to evaluate complex issues, manage competing priorities, listen to diverse perspectives, and build consensus. As a financial advisor, I understand the importance of responsible financial decisions and planning for the future. I believe those experiences translate directly to the responsibilities of mayor: providing thoughtful leadership, managing resources responsibly, and bringing people together to move Cambridge forward.

If elected, what would be your top priorities that would directly benefit the residents of the city of Cambridge?

My priorities would be to lead responsibly, listen to residents, and protect what matters to Cambridge.

Lead: I would focus on responsible financial management, clear priorities,



Jeremiah Sedler

and accountability for how taxpayer dollars are spent. Residents deserve to understand where their money is going and how today's decisions affect the city's long-term financial health.

Listen: I would work to make City Hall more accessible and responsive. Residents should have opportunities to ask questions, share concerns, and be heard before important decisions are made. Good leadership means listening, even when there are differing opinions.

Protect: I would prioritize public safety and support the police, fire department, and other first responders who serve our community. I would also work to protect our infrastructure, neighborhoods, services, and taxpayers by considering the long-term impact of the decisions we make today.

Above all, I would lead with transparency and be accountable to the people of Cambridge. Residents deserve leadership that listens, explains its decisions, and follows through on its commitments.

Isanti Mayor - Elect 1

Luke Merrill (Incumbent)

Please tell us about yourself and why you are the best candidate for the position.

I'm a 34-year lifelong resident and the current Mayor of the City of Isanti. Since elected to City Council in 2022, and then to mayor in 2025, we have put significant effort into finding ways to save taxpayer's money. I'm happy to report that since elected, the City of Isanti has accomplished the largest published tax rate reduction in Minnesota, at 23%. We have done this, while keeping all services & also adding more funding to public safety (Police & Fire), our roads and critical water infrastructure. These are the core functions of government; they should be leadership's focus.

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



Luke Merrill

methodical in eliminating and avoiding debt, planning & budgeting 40 years of infrastructure and fundraising to cover park expenses. We have consistently made wise fiscal decisions- using less of your money to fund more of the essential projects.

Smaller Government: We cut the overregulations and red tape on businesses, making Isanti more desirable to small businesses, which has paid dividends. We have improved residential zoning so you can use your property how you want. We have also implemented technology to increase production of city employees, which helps keep lower 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, videos and announcements. Let's keep going!

Christopher Brooks

Please tell us about yourself and why you are the best candidate for the position.

I'm a husband, father of five, Army veteran, homeowner and Isanti taxpayer. I currently work as a budget and logistics planner at 3M, where I deal with budgets, planning, and finding ways to reduce costs. My military service taught me the importance of leadership, accountability, and putting others before myself. I want to bring those same values to City Hall and serve the people of Isanti with honesty, respect, and common sense.

If elected, what would be your top priorities that would directly benefit the residents of the city of Isanti?

My biggest priority would be making sure we are good stewards of the taxpayers' money. I want to take a close look at our budget, ask tough questions, and make sure we are spending



Christopher Brooks

money wisely before asking residents to pay more.

I also want to focus on maintaining our roads, water and sewer systems, and

other infrastructure as our community continues to grow. We need to plan ahead instead of waiting until problems become more expensive.

Public safety will also be important to me. Our police officers, firefighters, and other first responders need the resources they need to keep our community safe.

Finally, I want City Hall to be more transparent and accessible. Residents should know where their money is going and have a voice in decisions that affect their families, neighborhoods, and the future of Isanti.

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Isanti City Council - Elect up to 2

Nick Pedersen

(Appointed January 2025)

Erika Zdon

(Appointed March 2026)

Please tell us about yourself and why you are the best candidate for the position.

I believe I'm the right person for City Council because I care deeply about our community and the people who call it home. I'm data-driven and believe decisions should be based on facts, thoughtful research, and what will best serve our residents, not politics or personal agendas. I especially care about families and individuals who are struggling to keep up with rising costs and pay their bills. Government should be responsible with every taxpayer dollar and should only step in where it is truly necessary. My goal is simple: listen to residents, make practical decisions, protect taxpayers, and keep our community a great place to live.

If elected, what would be your top priorities that would directly benefit the residents of the city of Isanti?

I would like to see our tax rate remain



Nick Pedersen

one of the lowest in the state while staying on track with our loan payoff plan. Doing so will help ensure long-term financial stability and continued affordability for our residents.

Beyond keeping taxes low, I'd like to see some of our smaller parks, such as Isanti Hills, updated so they can better serve our growing neighborhoods. I'm also looking forward to the opening of Woodland Park and would love to see another park developed on the other end of town.

Ultimately, I believe government should be limited and only step in when necessary. Whenever possible, I'd like us to look first to volunteer efforts, community donations, and partnerships with local businesses to accomplish projects without unnecessarily increasing the burden on taxpayers.

Please tell us about yourself and why you are the best candidate for the position.

I believe a strong city council needs people who listen, ask questions, consider different perspectives, and respectfully disagree when they believe there may be a better path forward.

For 25 years, Isanti has been where I work, volunteer, spend time with friends, and where my husband and I have raised our five children. I'm an educator at Isanti Primary School and was recently recognized as one of the area's outstanding elementary teachers.

Community involvement has always been important to me. When I see something that could be better, I want to be part of the solution. I'm running to bring another thoughtful, community-focused perspective to our city



Erika Zdon

council.

If elected, what would be your top priorities that would directly benefit the residents of the city of Isanti?

My top priority for our city is making sure our infrastructure is prepared for the rapid growth projected over the next five years. Our wastewater facility is approaching capacity, and I believe we need to be proactive rather than wait until we are at a crisis point.

I believe we can keep taxes responsible while still making the investments necessary to keep our community safe and sustainable. Clean water, reliable wastewater services, and infrastructure that can support responsible growth are my top priorities.

Isanti City Council candidate Theodore Knudson did not respond to the questionnaire.



1-800-862-0175

College students

Local Jobs

Clinic Appointments

Fuel bought locally

There's more riding on **ARROWHEAD** TRANSIT than just people.

The General Election is Tuesday, November 3, 2026

Annual Fall Harvest Festival

Joy Lutheran Church

NEW ADDRESS 33525 Jefferson St. NE, Cambridge (Take Moon Lake Road to Jefferson St. NE)

Friday, October 9th

11 am - 1:30 pm and 5 - 7 pm

Enjoy Homemade Soups, Breads & Bars.

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Minnesota Attorney

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