

2022 Voters Guide

Isanti Mayor

Jimmy Gordon

What are your qualifications for the job? “I’ve lived in Isanti for the last 12 years. I’ve been on the Fire Department since 2018 and I’ve been on City Council since 2019. I’ve earned the nickname of ‘The Watch Dog’ of the council. My wife and I are local business owners: We own the Jimmy’s Pizza [shops] in Isanti, North Branch and in New Town, North Dakota.”



Jimmy Gordon

What is the most important issue facing the city of Isanti? “I would say the most important thing is taxes. We spent \$230,000 on an amphitheater last year, and that’s a prime example of projects that we don’t need to spend money on.”

How would you work with the Chamber of Commerce and local businesses? “I’ve talked about cutting red tape. An example in Isanti is the Highway 65 overlay, and businesses like Isanti Ready-Mix and Knife River can’t expand their current operation because they’re in the 65 overlay. I understand that we want future development, but I don’t think it’s right to limit the businesses that are already there. I’d like to loosen things up.”

Jeff Johnson

What are your qualifications for the job? “I have lived in the city of Isanti for six years, and I have been the mayor of Isanti for four of those years. I’d like to make the city a safe place for your kids as well as for mine. I ran for four years because I felt we in of- fice, and I what was the city of Isanti.”



Jeff Johnson

What is the most important issue facing the city of Isanti? “Tax rate is very important. I’ve heard that the tax rate is too high, but [the real problem] is that property values has gone through the roof, which has taken the taxes through the roof. We’re going in the right direction with the tax rate; government doesn’t move fast like we want it to. It takes times, but we’re heading in the right direction.”

How would you work with the Chamber of Commerce and local businesses? “In the past four years, I think the Chamber’s relationship with the city has gotten better. ... As far as other businesses go, I think the council has been much more business-friendly than it was in the previous 10.”

Isanti City Council

Daniel Hinnenkamp

What are your qualifications for the job? “My wife and I moved to Isanti in 2020 from Duluth, where at age 22 I was voted the president of the community club. I held that post for four years. Also I started a community festival from the ground up; it is called the Far West Fest. Last July I was appointed to the Parks board. My dad always taught me to be of service.”



Daniel Hinnenkamp

What is the most important issue facing Isanti City Council? “Public safety is the one thing we want; we want good response times, and we want to be able to move about. We want to make sure we’re policed at the level of our growth; as Isanti grows, we want the police and fire to grow to be ready to accommodate that growth.”

What do you hope to accomplish on City Council? “I think Isanti is poised for tremendous growth, so it’s really important to plan responsibly for that growth. You want to make sure residential and commercial areas are zoned right, and that decision you make all make sense 10 years, 20 years down the road. We should try to envision what that will look like.”

Luke Merrill

What are your qualifications for the job? “I’ve lived in Isanti my entire life. I got two bachelor’s degrees from UMD, and I’ve already tried to be a leader.



Luke Merrill

After I graduated, I came back home. I started seeing some weird things at the city level, so I started going to meetings and combing everything with a fine-tooth comb. I was on the Planning Commission until the former mayor bullied me out of that seat. Now I’m on the Isanti County Park Board, and I want to keep being involved to help the community I love.”

What is the most important issue facing Isanti City Council? “I want to expand on the small-town feel. The economy is scary for a lot of us, so I just want Isanti to be a place that’s affordable. I see a lot of economic precursors that are scary; if we limit the amount the city spends on unnecessary items, that’s important.”

What do you hope to accomplish on City Council? “This is important to me, because I don’t think City Council collects enough data to find out what people really want. In college we did surveys to make decisions based on real data; right now the city does zero surveys and has zero data. I don’t think Council puts enough effort to get data to make informed decisions on what people really want.”

Council candidate Dan Collison was not able to attend the Candidate Forum.

Chisago County candidate forums

The League of Women Voters of Chisago County, in conjunction with North Branch Area Community Education, has recorded four candidate forums for public viewing.

- The forums include:
 - * City of North Branch mayoral and council candidates,
 - * School board candidates for ISD #138 North Branch Area Public Schools,
 - * Chisago County Commissioner candidates for District 1, 2 and 5 (Districts 3 and 4 have candidates who are unopposed),
 - and,
 - * Senate District 28 and State Legislative Districts 28A and 28B.
- These forums can be accessed at the North Branch Area School District website, which is www.isd138.org. Click on “Departments” and choose “Communitied Education.” School down to “What’s New” and click on “Learn More.”
- The forums also can be accessed at www.LWVMN.org. Click on 2022 Candidate Forum and scroll down to Chisago County.

START YOUR MOTOR RUNNING

Check us out!

www.countynewsreview.com

TRUGREEN

Save now with **50% OFF*** Your First Application

TRUGREEN GUARANTEE AMERICA'S #1 LAWN CARE COMPANY

Get the most out of your lawn this summer.

SCHEDULE YOUR APPOINTMENT TODAY!

1-855-887-1868

*Requires purchase of annual plan. Special price is for first Lawn application only. Requires purchase of annual plan, for new residential EasyPay or PrePay customers only. Valid at participating TruGreen locations. Availability of services may vary by geography. Not to be combined with any other offer or discount. Additional restrictions may apply. Consumer responsible for all sales tax. †Purchase of annual lawn plan required for Healthy Lawn Analysis, which is performed at the first visit.*Guarantee applies to annual plan customers only. BBB accredited since 07/01/2012. ©2022 TruGreen Limited Partnership. All rights reserved. In Connecticut, B-0153, B-1380, B-0127, B-0200, B-0151.