

★★★ 2024 PRIMARY VOTER'S GUIDE ★★★

Isanti City Council Candidates (For for Up to Two)

George Hemen

Current Council Member

Tell us about yourself and why you feel you are the best candidate?

Throughout my life in Isanti I have consistently fought to ensure that the government serves the people, not the other way around.

For decades, I have been a steadfast advocate for the rights and voices of our community, standing up against the overreach of government authority. My commitment to representing the will of the people has been unwavering.



George Hemen

Time and again, I have taken a stand on major issues where government policies threatened to infringe upon our freedoms and values. Whether it was advocating for lower taxes, defending property rights, or promoting transparency in governance I have always been driven by a belief in accountability and responsiveness to the needs of our community.

Since February 2023 when appointed to the city council I have worked hard to ensure that city policies reflect the interests and desires of our community.

My record speaks for itself in championing policies that empower individuals and protect our liberties.

Now as a city council member, I bring with me a wealth of experience in advocating for effective, accountable government. I am dedicated to continuing to fight for our community's best interests and ensuring that Isanti remains a place where every voice is heard and respected.

If elected, what would be your top two priorities that you feel would best help the residents of the city of Isanti?

1. Protecting your hard earned money. I will fight against any new taxes or rate increases. Instead of taking the simple way out we need to focus on making our existing resources work harder for us, eliminating wasteful spending, and ensuring that taxpayer dollars are used efficiently and effectively. Our community deserves a government that respects their hard-earned money and strives to provide high-quality services without placing additional financial burdens on its residents.

2. I will do my best to ensure we plan right for the future. The decisions we make today can affect our children's future. I don't want to 'Kick the can down the road.' I will work hard to make sure our city's comprehensive plan is solid and fact based.

We need to keep Isanti competitive with surrounding communities to help draw more business. Hopefully some more restaurants too.

I love the small town feel of Isanti and the feeling of safety I have living here. I want this for all our future residents.

I humbly ask for your vote in the upcoming election on Aug. 13. Let's work together to create a brighter future for all of us.

Zach Launderville

Tell us about yourself and why you feel you are the best candidate?

My name is Zach Launderville and I'm running for Isanti City Council. I have been married for 13 years. Together we have two children and two on the way! We enjoy raising our children in the community and attend Grace Gospel Church in Stanchfield. I love to spend time outdoors and enjoy an array of hobbies, some of which include hunting, fishing, and golfing. I am a lifelong resident of Minnesota and have lived in Isanti since 2016. The past nine years I have worked for RMS company as a programmer in their laser and turning departments. My political experience is minimal. Becoming a state delegate during the last Governor's election, and getting involved in my local precinct. Before this I have just been trying to make a living to raise my family and enjoy our life. We love the small town feel and enjoy the outdoors. In office I will make wise decisions based on truth and facts. Transparency will be critical. I will listen to the people and community so please reach out.



Zach Launderville

If elected, what would be your top two priorities that you feel would best help the residents of the city of Isanti?

There are no specific priorities I have. I understand that in this position I will have the ability to keep the amenities in this town affordable and budget wisely to keep the cost of living as low as possible. I am running to keep Isanti a town people feel comfortable to live in and enjoyable no matter your lifestyle. To keep it safe for all ages. I will strive to help people live as free as possible and keep government out of our personal lives. Continuing to support the local law enforcement and fire department is crucial. Let's keep this city ours.

Taylor Lundeen

Tell us about yourself and why you feel you are the best candidate?

If you don't know who I am, I am a local resident of Isanti, mother of two little girls, Vice Chair on the Isanti Park and Recreation Board, licensed family child care provider. My name is Taylor Lundeen.



Taylor Lundeen

I am running for Isanti City Council because our children need us as a parent, influencer, and a guider. We need to lower taxes for all residents. We need to recycle buildings, properties, objects around Isanti instead of building new. Our community is growing, we need to acknowledge that.

If elected, what would be your top two priorities that you feel would best help the residents of the city of Isanti?

- Lower resident and commercial taxes.
- Bring downtown Isanti life.

Travis Linder

Tell us about yourself and why you feel you are the best candidate?

I have lived in Isanti for about three years now, but I lived in Cambridge and on the Isanti/St. Francis border before. I enjoy the small town feel of Isanti while being close enough to go to the cities, if the need arises. My wife and I live across the street from one of the friendliest neighbors I have ever met and he reminds me why I love this town so much. I am running for City Council because I want to keep the small town feel in Isanti, while allowing it to grow at a steady and consistent pace, without raising or introducing any new residential taxes.

If elected, what would be your top two priorities that you feel would best help the residents of the city of Isanti?

My main priorities are to bring safety to the forefront of our outlook and to work with our Economic Development Authority to help ensure steady growth for our city. I feel safety in our city needs to be addressed, as we have our current growth around Whiskey Road and Heritage Boulevard and both are county controlled, we will need to work with the county commissioners to bring about possibly reconstructing the roadway with more safety in mind (ie, roundabouts, crossing signage, speed changes, etc.) I would love to see the city continue to grow at a slow but consistent rate, part of that growth will be commercial, which I would like to work with our EDA to plan out best locations and not ruling out rezoning if needed.

Steven Lundeen

Current Council Member

Tell us about yourself and why you feel you are the best candidate?

I have been on the city council for 14 years. I have and always have been able to keep the residents and city's best interests at hand with plan and simple common sense. I know everyone wants lower or stable taxes and the growth of the city with business and industrial companies, and with that comes more residents, which helps offset tax increases.



Steven Lundeen

If elected, what would be your top two priorities that you feel would best help the residents of the city of Isanti?

As for the best two things for our residents is as follows: the biggest is that their voices are heard and not falling on deaf ears. And next is to get them the amenities they ask for to make the city as the one to want to be lived in and to want to be in. I know there are things that some would want changed, which I don't disagree with some of those issues, and it's hard to do when the city isn't in control of. I would greatly appreciate the support of our residents.

Isanti City Council candidate Jared Berger did not respond to the questionnaire.

Isanti City Council candidate Dana Martin's responses can be found on page 13.

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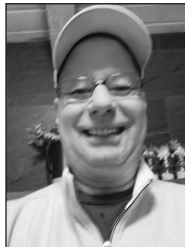
Isanti City Council Candidates Continued

Dana Martin

Tell us about yourself and why you feel you are the best candidate?

I think I am the best candidate for city council because your little city needs a fresh start and new look at things being done in our town.

I have been here for just over a year now and have noticed a few things that caught my attention, so I attended a council meeting to observe and learn more about what transpires in one. Don't get me wrong, nice guys, but I think some of the council members were just going through the grind trying to get the night's agenda done. That's why you need me in there to shake things up and not be complacent (I'm not a politician, I'm your neighbor and friend). All I want is four years to help us make your issues/wants and needs met.



Dana Martin

If elected, what would be your top two priorities that you feel would best help the residents of the city of Isanti?

My priorities are about public safety for our young children playing outside and our elderly citizens well-being, no matter what time of day it is.

To put it briefly, a lot of vehicle traffic in our neighborhood is traveling way to fast to stop in time for a elderly person crossing the street, or a small child chasing a ball that ended in the street.

The last thing we need to here from someone driving a vehicle is that I had no time to stop, or I didn't even see them. Remember we can make our town even safer so that everyone young and old can enjoy it without injuries or death.

Key Election Dates

- Primary Election, Aug. 13, 2024
- General Election, Nov. 5, 2024

For Election information, such as candidate filings or to see what is on your ballot, visit the Minnesota Secretary of State's website:

www.sos.state.mn.us

State Representative District 28A (Vote for One)

James "Jimmy" Gordon Republican

Tell us about yourself and why you feel you are the best candidate?

I'm conservative, principled, guided by faith and grounded by family! As a business owner, mayor, volunteer firefighter and the only endorsed Republican in this race, I have the experience and leadership skills necessary to move our state in the right direction. I'm running because the soul of our state is up for grabs. We're in a battle of good vs. evil, and if I stand on the sidelines when the stakes are this high, I wouldn't be able to face the man in the mirror. I appreciate my opponent's many years of service, but we're in a different season of state politics. We need a fresh perspective, new ideas and a different skill set during this time.

I have served on the Isanti City Council since 2019 and was elected mayor in 2022. During this time, I have fought to protect and expand property rights, lower taxes, and cut wasteful spending. Other council members have called me the Financial Watch Dog of the council; a title I am proud to have earned. As your state representative I will fight for Limited Government, Pro Life and Pro Family causes and an improved approach to education, the economy, health care and crime.

If elected, what would be your top two priorities that you feel would best help the residents of State Representative District 28A?

First and foremost, we need less government and more freedom! I will apply that principle to every situation we deal with.

There are 16 states in the US that have some form of term limits on their legislative bodies and we should be next. I plan to draft legislation to accomplish this goal. Some states do eight years for a particular office and then you are done. Other states do eight years, a two-year break and another eight years. Either option would be better than what we have now. I know it will be a hard sell but I would work to get this passed by grandfathering in all current legislators so that term limits wouldn't apply to them but would apply to new members coming in.

When it comes to our education system instead of a top-down approach we need to take power from the state and give more power to parents and local school boards to decide what's being taught in their schools. We need to protect students from Progressive ideologies regarding sexuality, gender and Critical Race Theory. Let's encourage school choice through education tax credits or a carefully structured school voucher program.

Let's Make Minnesota Nice Again!



James "Jimmy" Gordon

Brian Johnson

Republican (Incumbent)

Please tell us about yourself and why are you the best candidate?

Republican Representative Brian Johnson has dedicated his adult life to serving our community. He spent 27 years in law enforcement as a Braham Police Officer and an Isanti County Deputy Sheriff. In addition, he served 10 years as a volunteer firefighter and an E.M.T.



Brian Johnson

After his law enforcement career ended, Brian was elected to serve as our State Representative. In his time in office, he has championed our way of life.

Family budgets always come first. Brian has consistently fought against DFL tax increases and out of control government spending.

Brian stands up for our rights in St. Paul. He has been recognized for his work defending our 2nd Amendment Rights by the NRA. Rep. Brian Johnson is the only candidate in the Republican Primary to be endorsed by the NRA and given him their highest A+ rating.

When the Governor was abusing his emergency powers, Brian voted every time to end them. He opposed mandates and vaccine passports.

Brian's solid conservative record speaks for itself. He is a dedicated public servant putting America first, ready on day one to continue fighting for our rights and shared conservative Republican values.

If elected, what would be your top two priorities that you feel would best help the residents of State Representative District 28A?

Republican Representative Brian Johnson's only priority is to continue working to make Minnesota better for all of us. He is a dedicated public servant putting America first.

High inflation is harming all of our family budgets. Brian will continue to put family budgets first by supporting lower taxes on hard working families and opposing needless regulations that hinder the creation of good jobs. He will continue to oppose bloated state budgets and policies.

Brian will always stand for our constitutional rights. He will continue to oppose all efforts to encroach on our 2nd Amendment rights and take away firearms from law-abiding gun owners. Brian also believes that your right to vote is critical and has proposed legislation to require Voter ID.

Please re-elect Republican Brian Johnson in the Aug. 13 Primary.

The last edition election letters will be printed that support Primary candidates will be in our Aug. 1 edition.

Letters can be emailed to:
editor.countynews@apgecm.com

Letters must be received by noon on Monday, July 29.

