

CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL (ELECT 2)



TOM SCHIBILLA

City of residence: Cambridge

Current job title? Retired.
Direct family? Most of my family live in Isanti County. My son and his family went to school in Cambridge and still live in Isanti County
What pets did you have growing up and/or currently own? I have a spoiled poodle named Albus.
Favorite leisure time activity? I enjoy yoga at Willow-bridge and golf at the Hawk.!
Where is your go-to vacation destination? I love to travel and have been all over the world. My most recent trips included Norway and the North Shore/Duluth.



RONDA SZLAVICH

City of residence: Cambridge

Current job title? I’m the executive vice president of family operations.
Direct family? my husband Les and I have been married 35 years. We have 9 children between us. 19 grandchildren, and 5 great-grandchildren
What pets did you have growing up and/or currently own? Cats and dogs
Favorite leisure time activity? Photography, thrifting, going out with our friends.
Where is your go-to vacation destination? We go out to Washington and Oregon every summer. I’d love to go back to Israel.



BOB SHOGREN

City of residence: Cambridge

Current job title? Communications Sergeant (Isanti County Sheriff’s Office(9-1-1)
Direct family? Wife Is Shannon, Son Carnell Johnson, Daughter one Erin Prins, Daughter two Ashley Shogren and Daughter three Abigail Shogren. Four Grand children: Kadaj, Kyree, Naomi and Titus
What pets did you have growing up and/or currently own? One cat, Bob
Favorite leisure time activity? Going on day trip.
Where is your go-to vacation destination? No answer provided.



AARON BERG

City of residence: Cambridge

Current job title? Assistant City Administrator, City of Columbus t.
Direct family? My wife, Jenna, and my adult children, Meghan, Matthew, Chad, Abbey and Brayden, with Matthew and Abbey forever in our hearts.
What pets did you have growing up and/or currently own? Our French Bulldog, Sir Vincent Noir et Tan (Vinny), and two cats, Joe Meower and Luna.
Favorite leisure time activity? Competitive bearding for charity.
Where is your go-to vacation destination? Detroit Lakes, Minnesota

CAMBRIDGE MAYOR



JIM GODFREY

City of residence: Cambridge

Current job title? I am a Work Experience teacher at Cambridge-Isanti High School helping students get a head start on their career path.
Direct family? Trina and I have been married over 34 years. We chose to raise our kids, Lew and Lydia, right here in Cambridge.
What pets did you have growing up and/or currently own? We have had many different kinds of pets over the years. Right now, we have a 15 year old lab/ border collie mix named Luna and a 17 year old cat named Echo.
Favorite leisure time activity? For extended leisure time (which doesn’t happen much lately) I enjoy travel and in the meantime, I enjoy playing games with family and friends.
Where is your go-to vacation destination? We are true Minnesotans. Since Covid, we have stayed in Minnesota to enjoy the lakes around Alexandria and the North Shore around Duluth. Before Covid, I led many student groups to Europe (especially the D-Day beaches of Normandy).



JEREMIAH SEDLER

City of residence: Cambridge

Current job title? Financial advisor and small business owner.
Direct family? My wife, Becca, and our five children.
What pets did you have growing up and/or currently own? I’ve had three cats over the course of my life and love animals, but we don’t have any right now.
Favorite leisure time activity? Biking with my family.
Where is your go-to vacation destination? Camping on the North Shore with my family.

WHERE TO GO TO VOTE ON NOV. 5

Polling places are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Voters standing in line at 8 p.m. will still be allowed to vote. Voters who aren’t sure where they go to vote can go to the Minnesota Secretary of State’s polling place finder at pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us. Addresses for each polling place can be found at co.isanti.mn.us, and then clicking on “community” and “cities and townships,” or chisagocounty.us/142/polling-places.

ISANTI COUNTY

Athens Township: Athens Township Hall
Bradford Township: Bradford Township Hall
Cambridge Township: Isanti County Historical Society Community Room - Isanti County Fairgrounds
City of Braham: Braham City Hall
City of Cambridge (2 precincts): Cambridge City Hall (both precincts)
Dalbo Township: Dalbo Township Hall
City of Isanti: (2 precincts): Isanti City Hall (Precinct 1), Isanti Community Center (Precinct 2) *see cityofisanti.us/elections for a precinct map
Isanti Township: Isanti Town Hall
Maple Ridge Township: Maple Ridge Town Hall
North Branch Township: North Branch Town Hall
Oxford Township: Oxford Town Hall
Spencer Brook Township: Spencer Brook Town Hall
Springvale Township: Springvale Town Hall
Stanchfield Township: Stanchfield Town Hall
Stanford Township: Stanford Town Hall
Wyanett Township: Wyanett Town Hall

CHISAGO COUNTY

Fish Lake Township: Fish Lake Town Hall
City of Harris: Harris City Hall
Nessel Township: Nessel Town Hall
City of North Branch (3 precincts): Access Church (precinct A), Main Street Church (Precinct B), North Branch Fire Hall (Precinct C - New location) *see ci.north-branch.mn.us for a precinct map
City of Rush City: Rush City Fire Hall
Rushseba Township: Rushseba Town Hall
Sunrise Township: Royal Wilcox Community Center (formerly known as Sunrise School House)

ISANTI MAYOR



CHRIS BROOKS

City of residence: Isanti

Current job title? Budget and Logistics Planner at 3M.
Direct family? I’m married to my wife, Charity, and we have five children: Haven, Maximus, Bentley, Eden, and Dallas.
What pets did you have growing up and/or currently own? Growing up, we had a bloodhound named Roscoe. Today, our family has a cockapoo named Mel.
Favorite leisure time activity? Spending time with my family. I also enjoy coaching youth sports and taking the kids fishing.
Where is your go-to vacation destination? Gulf Shores, Alabama. I was born and raised in Alabama, so it’s always special to go back home and spend time with family while enjoying the beach.



LUKE MERRILL

City of residence: Isanti

Current job title? Mayor & Volunteer (40 hours per week), Social media influencer & small business owner (15 hours per week), Investor/Consultant (5 hours per week)
Direct family? Family is, and always has been, very important to me. After graduating from University of Minnesota (Economics BAS & Psychology BA), I came back home to take care of my disabled dad for 10 years, until he recently passed away. Fiancée, Mother, two nephews and a niece who are like my own children, cousins, aunts, uncles, etc.
What pets did you have growing up and/or currently own? Dogs, cat, betta fish, turtles, guinea pig, hamster, ant farm.
Favorite leisure time activity? Camping, fishing, riding ATVs, spending time with family, working on cars/trucks, studying economics, concerts & tattoos
Where is your go-to vacation destination? The most eye-opening traveling experience was the slums of Peru; it made me appreciate living in the greatest country in the world. Camping in the Superior National Forest is my go-to, budget vacation.

UNCONTESTED RACES

The following races are being run uncontested. These candidates were not sent questionnaires.

ISANTI COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 2

Bill Berg (Incumbent)

ISANTI COUNTY AUDITOR - TREASURER

Kara Eastlund

ISANTI COUNTY SHERIFF

Wayne Seiberlich (Incumbent)

ISANTI COUNTY ATTORNEY

Jeff Edblad (Incumbent)

CHISAGO COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 1

Tim MacMillan

CHISAGO COUNTY SHERIFF

Brandon Thyen (Incumbent)

CHISAGO COUNTY ATTORNEY

Janet Reiter (Incumbent)

NORTH BRANCH CITY COUNCIL (ELECT TWO)

Jim Ibinger (Incumbent)
Pete Johnson

CAMBRIDGE-ISANTI SCHOOL BOARD (ELECT FOUR)

Kevin Gross (Incumbent)
Nikki Johnson (Incumbent)
Keith Koehler
DeEtta Moos (Incumbent)

NORTH BRANCH SCHOOL BOARD (ELECT THREE)

Sarah Grovender (Incumbent)
Jesse LaValla (Incumbent)
Adam Trampe (Incumbent)

NORTH BRANCH MAYOR



KEVIN SCHIEBER

City of residence: North Branch

Current job title? My current job is an Engineering Technician position (civilian) with a Minnesota Air Force Reserve unit.

Direct family? I have a blended family with my wife, Licia, and includes a combined 7 children and 9 grandchildren. Licia and I have been partners for 17 years, and residents of North Branch for 15 of those years.

What pets did you have growing up and/or currently own? We have had 2 Husky dogs for the past 15 years, with our female Husky (Nala) passing away this past summer. We now have a young puppy (Darla), keeping our aging male Husky (Koda) company as he nears his end of life. For us, our dogs have been a second wave of “kids” and bring us so much joy!

Favorite leisure time activity? I like relaxing at home, doing yard work, and tending to our many flowers. We have a cozy, beautiful yard filled with nature, so sitting on our deck and enjoying the shade of our big oak trees gives me a lot of satisfaction, especially at the end of a long day!

Where is your go-to vacation destination? Our go-to vacation destination is the gulf coast of central Florida. We enjoy the relaxed pace, the beaches, the sunshine, the energy of a warm climate on a winter get-away!



SHAWN WILLIAMS

City of residence: North Branch

Current job title? I am a Business Agent who works with dozens of municipalities and counties to negotiate and maintain contracts..

Direct family? I have called this community home for over 40 years. Several relatives still live in the area.

What pets did you have growing up and/or currently own? Growing up, I was fortunate to have a variety of pets, including beloved dogs and cats, as well as chickens and goats.

Favorite leisure time activity? I enjoy spending my free time caring for my lawn and tending to my flower gardens. There is a real sense of satisfaction in maintaining a neat, well-kept yard and seeing the gardens come to life throughout the seasons.

When I'm not working around the house, I enjoy riding my motorcycle through the community and surrounding areas. It gives me a chance to take in the scenery, see what's happening in neighboring communities, and appreciate the places and people that make this area home.

Where is your go-to vacation destination? I love Mardi Gras in Louisiana for its energy, traditions, beautiful decorations, and strong sense of community. I find many of those same qualities right here in North Branch. What stands out to me most is the pride our community takes in coming together.

From the flowers and streetscaping that help make our downtown welcoming, to the care and upkeep of our parks and public spaces, there is a real effort to make North Branch a place people are proud to call home. Together, they create a community that feels inviting and cared for.

I also appreciate how North Branch celebrates its traditions and brings people together through local celebrations and activities that give our community its own character. There is something special about seeing residents coming together and honoring their traditions.

***Candidates Joseph Fischer and Kristi LaRowe (Isanti County Commissioner District 5), Theodore Knudson (Isanti City Council), and Mark Koran (State Senator District 28) did not return answers to these questions. State Senator District 28 candidate Max Glenna withdrew from the race after ballots were already printed.**

ISANTI CITY COUNCIL (ELECT 2)



NICHOLAS PEDERSEN

City of residence: Isanti

Current job title? I am a CNC Machinist at a manufacturing company in the area. We use machines that are controlled by computers and use automation to produce consistent parts and maintain quality through inspection processes to insure that they meet the needs of the customer by conforming to their blueprints and specifications

Direct family? I have a wife of thirteen years, along with five (soon to be six) children, all eight and under.

What pets did you have growing up and/or currently own? I did not have pets growing up, but I would love to have another German Shorthair Pointer or lab in the future for pheasant hunting, they also make wonderful family pets

Favorite leisure time activity? My favorite pastime is just about every shooting sport and I have a passion for teaching and practicing defensive shooting skills/tactics. As a family, I love taking my kids to new parks to play disc golf or find geocaches

Where is your go-to vacation destination? Well it's hard to find vacations where we can take all our kids, so Wisconsin Dells comes to mind. However, a multi-state roadtrip out west with them would be great when they're older.



ERIKA ZDON

City of residence: Isanti

Current job title? teacher at Isanti Primary.

Direct family? My husband Aaron Zdon and our kids Dylan, Kenzie, Ethan, Liam and Morgan

What pets did you have growing up and/or currently own? As a child, I always had a dog or two in the house. I begged for years for a hamster too.

Now, we have a 100 pound lazy dog named Rigs.

Favorite leisure time activity? I love traveling, reading, time with family and friends, being outdoors and gardening

Where is your go-to vacation destination? If we are staying in the state, anywhere in the North Shore. If we are headed out of state, I love Alabama! But Roatan is hands down the most beautiful place I have ever vacationed!!

CHISAGO COUNTY COMMISSIONER DIST. 2



RICK GREENE

City of residence: North Branch

Current job title? Chisago County Commissioner and farmer raising beef cattle and grains.

Direct family? My family consists of my wife of 50 years Randi, and 3 adult children Morgan, Elizabeth and Charles

What pets did you have growing up and/or currently own? We have many outdoor farm cats and and a beautiful German Shepherd who truly believes he herds and guards the family and farm.

Favorite leisure time activity? I greatly enjoy time with family and visiting with friends. I enjoy spending time at home and working with Randi in the gardens and in the fall helping with the canning.

Where is your go-to vacation destination? These days I prefer local or staycations such as attending local festivities such as Almelund Threshing Show throughout the county. I enjoyed past visits to Washington DC, and visiting with family outstate.

CHISAGO COUNTY COMMISSIONER DIST. 2



CHRIS DUBOSE

City of residence: Center City

Current job title? I am a retired Traffic Controller and now have a small local Real Estate Office in Downtown Lindstrom.

Direct family? I have 3 sons. My oldest is 34, married. My middle son is 30, married, and lives in Hawaii. My “caboose” is almost 14 and has already outgrown me.

What pets did you have growing up and/or currently own? We've always had pets and had many exotic ones as well as cats and dogs. We've raised everything from a squirrel to snapping turtles. Right now I have my best dog ever, Pedro, who is a golden doodle and 13 years old.

Favorite leisure time activity? I love being on the water whether it be swimming, boating, fishing, or just cruising on the pontoon. Ive been very active in my lake association, Lake Improvement District, working to help connect the lakes, helped establish the Lower St Croix Watershed which has gotten millions in state and federal grants for local water quality projects. I also love motorcycling, snowmobiling, hunting, hiking, and building projects.

Where is your go-to vacation destination? Love to go visit my mom in Texas as well as spending time on the water such as a beach in the winter or area lakes in the summer. Ive been to all 50 states. I want to visit my middle son in Hawaii this winter.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 28A



JIMMY GORDON

City of residence: Isanti

Current job title? State Representative, Restaurant Owner & Volunteer Firefighter.

Direct family? My wife of 14 years Megan and my kids Violet (9), James (8), Remi (5) and Layla (4).

What pets did you have growing up and/or currently own? We currently have chickens; a black lab named Deisel and a cat named Winston. The kids also collect things like gold fish, tadpoles, frogs, turtles (have to race your turtle at the rodeo weekend kids' day in Isanti you know), caterpillars and fireflies.

Favorite leisure time activity? Going to concerts. Recently I've seen Tyler Childers, Stephen Wilson Jr. and at the state fair this year AJR.

Where is your go-to vacation destination? Depends on the kind of vacation. If it's hunting, I'm going to Mohall, North Dakota for ducks or Leadville, Colorado for Elk if I'm lucky enough to draw a tag. If it is lounging around on the beach Anna Maria Island, Florida. We have family in Bradenton so always nice to see them too.



TIM DUMMER

City of residence: Cambridge

Current job title? Devoted husband, father and Papa; steadfast friend; retired, but always the teacher.

Direct family? My wife Colleen and I have been married for 37 years. We live in Cambridge and raised our two sons here. Now, we live for our two young grand-kids.

What pets did you have growing up and/or currently own? We had Golden Retrievers when I was a kid, then my own family has had two black labs, Brisk and Little Ann, plus a blue parakeet.

Favorite leisure time activity? Anything active outdoors! Especially working with my boys and partners on wildlife management and hunting land.

Where is your go-to vacation destination? The North Shore for cross-country skiing, hiking, and bringing family guests.

CHISAGO COUNTY COMMISSIONER DIST. 3



MARLYS DUNNE

City of residence: Chisago City

Current job title? I am currently Vice President of Park Manufacturing in Cambridge, MN. I have been employed there since February 2019. In my role, I oversee Finance, Human Resources, Materials Management and Production Operations.

Direct family? I grew up in a large catholic family on a dairy farm in Thief River Falls, MN. My husband, Shawn, and I have been married for 32 years, and we have two sons, Michael and David. My siblings all live in northern Minnesota, but we are a close family and enjoying family gatherings.

What pets did you have growing up and/or currently own? Growing up on a dairy farm, we had lots of animals and pets, but my favorite was the first horse that I bought. He was a 3-year-old, green broke Arabian. I was crazy about horses and have so many wonderful memories of riding the farmlands.!

Favorite leisure time activity? Spending time with family on the lakes. I enjoy both the summer and winter activities our local lakes provide.

Where is your go-to vacation destination? We usually take 2-3 short vacations a year and try to find unfamiliar places every time. Finding new destinations and off the beaten path locations is part of the fun and adventure. One of our most cherished trips was an ATV trip to Utah where we camped in the desert and explored so many beautiful trails.



CYLE CRAMER

City of residence: Chisago City

Current job title? Associate Attorney in labor and employment litigation.

Direct family? My wife Gina and two daughters, ages 1 and 3.

What pets did you have growing up and/or currently own? I had a few cats and dogs growing up. Currently have 2 dogs (a chocolate lab from a litter from my wife's family and a mixed breed large dog from Northwoods Humane Society.

Favorite leisure time activity? My favorite leisure activity is reading fiction and non-fiction.

Where is your go-to vacation destination? The only thing that could count as a vacation I've done in the last few years is that my wife's family has a small cottage in Tripoli, WI we make it to once or twice a summer.

***For up-to-date election results as they become available after the polls close at 8 p.m. on Nov. 3, go to www.isanti-chisagocountystar.com or follow our Facebook page.**

STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 28B



MAX RYMER

City of residence: North Branch

Current job title? Partner/Co-Owner of Platform Marketing

Direct family? Wife — Elsie, married 12 years; Son — Harvey, 9; Son — Tommy, 7; Daughter — Lucy, 4

What pets did you have growing up and/or currently own? We don't currently have pets. I'm the lone holdout in the house, and it's a battle I'm pretty sure I'll eventually lose.

Favorite leisure time activity? There's not much leisure time between owning a business, being a decent dad, and serving as a legislator. When I find a quiet moment, you'll usually find me enjoying the sweet solace of a nap on the couch.

Where is your go-to vacation destination? Our go-to getaway spot is literally Nordic Harbor in Center City.



DANIEL SCHMIDT

City of residence: Chisago City

Current job title? I am a finance consultant and writer.

Direct family? I live with my life-partner who I met in college.

What pets did you have growing up and/or currently own? We have two dogs, a cat, five chickens and two sheep. We are excited to get a couple of horses soon to ride the trails in the area.

Favorite leisure time activity? Hiking and camping in the state parks and going fishing

Where is your go-to vacation destination? I go to New England to see my grandma. We have a cabin in Maine, and I love spending time on the Atlantic ocean, sailing, fishing, and cooking on the campfire

Voters to decide increase in school funding without raising taxes

BY BILL STICKELS III
EDITOR@COUNTYSTAR.COM

Seemingly buried under all the attention towards candidates running for governor, U.S. Senate, and all the local elections, there is a state-wide, Minnesota Constitutional amendment question that hasn't been talked about as much but has generated a fair amount of confusion among those who have heard about it.

Labeled as the "Permanent School Fund," the ballot question asks, "Shall the Minnesota Constitution be amended to increase the funding going to all school districts from the permanent school fund, which is a fund that supports school districts without raising individual income or property taxes, effective July 1, 2027?"

Long story short, the permanent school fund was established back in 1858 in order to create a constant funding source for all schools across the state that didn't involve state or local taxes. The fund uses proceeds from designated public land sales and use. It was set up as an endowment so it could continue to grow beyond the original principal — essentially making it a "never-ending" school funding source.

Since its inception, the same formula has been used to determine how much money is distributed to all the schools yearly. That formula is based on 2% to 2.5% of the interest and dividends only. The end result has been that the fund has not only been maintained for the past 168 years, but it has grown from about \$675 million in 2010 to a whopping \$2.3 billion today.

This has prompted the keepers of the fund to take a long look at how additional money could be distributed to schools without a gradual depletion of the fund. The end result was a proposal to change the formula to an estimated 4.5% annual distribution that includes the full market value, but takes into

account that value over the past three years. According to the Minnesota School Board Association, this change would increase the average distribution to schools from around \$68 per pupil to an estimated \$101 per pupil.

However, there are other factors involved with the formula that determines the exact increase each district would receive. According to Cambridge-Isanti Schools Finance Director Chris Kampa, initial estimates indicate the district would receive approximately \$130,000 to \$140,000 in additional money, which equates to approximately \$25 per pupil.

According to Director of Community Education & Engagement Christina Thayer Anderson, money from the permanent school fund must be placed in the district's general fund, and can only be used for operating expenses. It cannot be used for such things as facilities maintenance. Anderson said if the amendment passes, the district will primarily use the extra funds to help pay for teachers' salaries.

WHY ARE WE VOTING ON THIS?

When the fund was originally created, it was codified within the Minnesota Constitution. This means how the money is distributed cannot be altered unilaterally by representative organizations of school districts such as the Minnesota School Board Association or Minnesota Education Association, or even by the state legislature. The state legislature can only call for a ballot question be placed during a general election.

Additionally, the question must be approved via a majority of voters marking "yes." If a voter leaves the question blank, it counts as a "no" vote.

For extended information about the permanent school fund and the Constitutional amendment, go to <https://www.mnpsfamendment.org> or <https://mnmsba.org>

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What do
these busy
people have
in common?



They all got tested for
colorectal cancer.

If they have time, so do you.
Screening saves lives. If you're over 50, take
time to see your doctor and get screened.

