

# ELECTION GUIDE

## 2022 PRIMARY

JULY 28, 2022

countystar.com

ISANTI-CHISAGO COUNTY STAR 9

### ISANTI COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 5



#### MICHELLE BLOCK

**City of residence:**  
North Branch Town-  
ship  
**Occupation:** Attor-  
ney

##### What is your reason for running?

Last year, I had no intention of running for Commissioner. I was preparing for the arrival of my sixth baby and working as a corporate litigator. But God convicted me to say no to medical mandates, and I was fired for non-compliance in November 2021. Since then, I have become more familiar with the nuances of local government. Unfortunately, I have found things are awry in Isanti County.

Commissioners have a substantial job. They wield both legislative and executive powers. Commissioners are responsible for contract negotiations, passing ordinances, and managing taxpayer money. Commissioners are responsible for setting local taxes and charged with using those taxes effectively.

Isanti County citizens need Commissioners that recognize the government’s true purpose: securing the blessings of liberty and protecting individuals’ rights. Isanti County citizens need servant-leaders who recognize that government should work for them, government should be limited, and government must be transparent. I would be honored to serve Isanti County.

##### What is your top priority and how do you plan on addressing it if elected?

My top priority is to give Isanti County citizens the trust they deserve--the trust to keep more of their money; the trust to give them the right to vote for county management positions; the trust to inform them and encourage input; and the trust to let them lead their lives according to their conscience.

As Commissioner, I will be dedicated to removing and reducing every unnecessary tax and fee, working to give the right to vote back to the people, advocating for more accessible meeting times, and following the principles laid out by our founders.

##### What are the biggest challenges facing your constituents?

From speaking with my constituents, the first question almost universally asked is: “what does a county commissioner do?” For many years, local government has operated with little transparency and accountability. My campaign is focused on educating citizens on the county commissioners’ role. Once the citizens of Isanti County understand this role, citizens can begin to hold commissioners accountable for their actions.

Many constituents also express frustration with taxes and fees, internet accessibility, and government spending. I will use my skill as a corporate litigator to uncover and remove unnecessary taxes and fees and ensure every option for internet is assessed. I will also diligently follow this principle: the more government spends, the more freedom is lost.



#### KRISTI LAROWE

**City of residence:**  
Cambridge  
**Occupation:** Farming  
family

##### What is your reason for running?

I was compelled to run in this election, by my love and respect for the people of Isanti County. I could no longer sit back, and trust that my opponent had the best interest of every citizen at heart. My mission is to put transparency, common sense, and trustworthiness back into our local government.

##### What is your top priority and how do you plan on addressing it if elected?

One very important issue, to me, is the fact that my opponent voted for - and succeeded in - making the County Auditor and Recorder appointed positions. This means that the Commissioners harshly took away the right of all residents to vote for their choice, and the position is now filled by the board.

What is the job for an Auditor you ask? This office serves as the chief election official for the county, conducting all Federal County and State elections including the responsibilities of voter registration, ballot layout and absentee voting. They are also responsible for financials, and reporting fraudulent activities within the county. This was an abuse of power by our Commissioners. This position should never be appointed - it should be chosen by the people and for the people.

##### What are the biggest challenges facing your constituents?

My top priority is to see Isanti County thrive, and giving every single resident a chance to be involved in a transparent and trustworthy local government.

Here are some improvements that I will strive for:

1. I would advocate for having all major capital projects and tax increases to be brought to the voters.
2. Find better and more efficient ways to communicate to my constituents about pressing issues. Everyone who wants to be involved, should have the chance to be informed.
3. I believe that having more accessible Commissioner meetings, such as daytime and evening hours, would open up the door for more people being able to be involved.
4. Seek input from every resident, and govern with the will of the people. Being a public servant is important to me.

The people of Isanti County deserve to be informed on issues, and be able to state their opinions, or prepare for the outcome of a vote. There is no transparency when people are not informed.

As a commissioner, I will prioritize serving you with a local government that is accountable, accessible, and as transparent.

#### From the editor:

The *Isanti-Chisago County Star* understands how important election guides are to voters in helping them make an educated decision on who they want to represent them.

All local candidates appearing on the Primary ballot were sent a

questionnaire and given a deadline of 5 p.m. on Monday, July 25, to submit their answers.

Out of the 21 candidates, all but two candidates — Brandon Harapat for Cambridge city council and John Sutcliffe for Chisago County District 5 Commissioner, returned answers.

### AUGUST 9 PRIMARY CANDIDATES

#### CAMBRIDGE COUNCIL (VOTE FOR UP TO TWO)

**Aaron Berg**, Cambridge  
**Brandon Harapat**, Cambridge  
**Joe Morin**, Cambridge  
**Bob Shogren**, Cambridge (Incumbent)  
**Amanda Wisner**, Cambridge

#### ISANTI COUNTY COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 1

**Alan Duff**, Isanti  
**Gary Lantz**, Cambridge  
**Joe Morley**, Cambridge

#### ISANTI COUNTY COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 5

**Michelle Block**, North Branch  
**Clark Johnson**, Isanti  
**Kristi LaRowe**, Cambridge  
**Susan Morris**, Cambridge (Incumbent)

#### ISANTI COUNTY SHERIFF

**Michael Longbehn**, Isanti  
**Lisa Lovering**,  
**Wayne Seiberlich**, Stanchfield

#### CHISAGO COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 1

**Richard Cedergren**, North Branch  
**Tim MacMillan**, North Branch  
**Jim Swenson**, North Branch

#### CHISAGO COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 5

**Dan Dahlberg**, Rush City  
**Cindy Erickson**, Harris  
**John Sutcliffe**, Stanchfield



#### CLARK JOHNSON

**City of residence:**  
Isanti  
**Occupation:** Indepen-  
dent insurance agent

##### What is your reason for running?

I Don’t have a personal agenda. My agenda is to be a “Common Sense Servant.” This opportunity is NOT about my agenda, but about SERVING THE PEOPLE OF MY District 5. This what we have done for 44+ years in our business. Our Motto is “We Work for You!” We work to provide the best Insurance Coverage for the best prices with over 50+ Companies.

I plan to continue this Servant attitude for the voters, if I am fortunate be elected to represent the people of District 5 in November!



#### SUSAN MORRIS

**City of residence:**  
Cambridge  
**Occupation:** Current Coun-  
ty Commissioner

##### What is your reason for running?

My passion is service. I care deeply about our county and it’s residents. I grew up on our Century Farm; my values are family, community and hard work.

To the Taxpayer- I am always looking for efficiencies and ways to make our services faster, cheaper and better.

To the Senior- create ways for you to age in place and make sure you have the services you need to live independently. Because of an initiative that I started, we now have an ADU (Accessory Dwelling Unit) ordinance that provides more options for housing.

To the Families- accessible child care, parks for you and your children to enjoy nature, and activities for your children, such as 4-H, that promote leadership skills and help build our community.

To the Veterans- An easily accessible Veterans Service Office. I helped as we built a safety net - the Isanti County Beyond the Yellow Ribbon, to assist veterans and their families, and to make sure their needs are taken care of. (I am the founder.)

##### What is your top priority and how do you plan on addressing it if elected?

I will continue our hard work to streamline our county services and eliminate duplication, thereby saving our taxpayers money by keeping the levles low.

We are 1/3 of the way through a consolidation of county government, reducing the number of departments from 17 to 5. This is not an easy task; it takes trust and true leadership to do a total reorganization of 300 employees. We have already saved you over \$500,000, with more to come. I am committed to finish the job and set Isanti County up for success!

##### What are the biggest challenges facing your constituents?

The economy! Our personal budgets are being stretched by inflation; the cost of living is going up. This hits seniors on fixed incomes, and families with children the hardest.

Access to dependable, high speed broadband. Isanti County has been partnering with East Central Energy as they modernize their infrastructure to provide this level of service.


Crime is increasing, I have always been a big supporter of our Sheriff’s Department and Public Safety. I will continue to advocate for them so they have the resources they need to keep us all safe.

Many of our residents work outside of the county, and are unable to access the Government Center between 8 and 4:30. More functions that can be done virtually need to be made available online, for your convenience.

If you prefer to come to the Government Center in person, that will always be available.



ISANTI COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 1



**ALAN DUFF**


**City of residence:**  
Bradford Township  
**Occupation:** Retired  
Army Major

**What is your reason for running?**  
I believe America is the greatest country ever designed by humankind. We're not perfect, but we have been a beacon of light for freedom, liberty, and prosperity for over 200 years. It was an honor to serve 23 years in military leadership, where I learned just how critical the values of honor, courage, and integrity were to lead any successful organization. Throughout my public service career, it has been a privilege to protect cherished values embodied in our Constitution, 1st and 2nd Amendments, and recognize that our inalienable rights are given to us by God, not the government. Those are the values that will guide my service as Isanti County Commissioner.

**What is your top priority and how do you plan on addressing it if elected?**  
The number one challenge facing Isanti County residents is managing tight family budgets caused by higher gas prices, food prices, and taxes. We need a change in direction for Isanti County, where respecting limited family budgets is foremost in any budget decisions. My top priority is ensuring no more tax increases during this economic uncertainty. I will do this just like I did in my six years of previous elected office, by respecting the limited resources of the citizens we represent more than increasing taxes for new programs like the orange frog experiment.

**What are the biggest challenges facing your constituents?**  
In addition to out-of-control taxation, citizens feel like they are losing their rights and sense of community belonging due to a lack of transparency and an over-reaching government that took away their right to vote for County Auditor and Recorder. Citizens want a say in their government. When politicians take away this treasured right to vote, we lose a sense of identity in our community and grow frustrated over being ruled rather than served by politicians. Many citizens who voiced concerns over their voting rights being taken away, another 7%+ tax increase, and initiating an orange frog program to "make people happy" are frustrated that their concerns were not considered in the voting process.

Citizens are frustrated, and it is encouraging to see nine new candidates run for four Commissioner positions to make the changes necessary to regain the public's trust. This new board can regain the public trust through genuine transparency, listening to public input, and making public decisions that recognize the financial uncertainties of our time.



**GARY LANTZ**

**City of residence:**  
Cambridge  
**Occupation:** Retired

**What is your reason for running?**  
Over the past year I have attended nearly all the County Commissioner board meetings and have come to realize that there are several things that need changing in our current governance operation, implementation, agenda, and attitude. Therefore, I have chosen to run to be given the privilege to serve Isanti County by working to make these changes.


**What is your top priority and how do you plan on addressing it if elected?**  
It is my heart's desire to return us to the Constitutional establishment of "government of the people, by the people, and for the people." The citizens of this county have a God-given right to be represented and served by officials who they vote for and who actually listen to them. Half of the board meetings should be in the evening when most constituents are able to attend. I will set up public townhall work sessions to get a better handle on the public's needs and concerns. These meetings will provide us the knowledge and wisdom as to where and how to move forward toward meeting the people's needs and desires...not that of the commissioners.

**What are the biggest challenges facing your constituents?**  
The challenges that we all face today are many and varied. There is no satisfactory way of prioritizing them. The world in which we live affects us physically, mentally, and spiritually. The things that are concerning to one are quite different for another. That being said, there are two arenas here in Isanti County that are particularly disturbing to me. They are the mental health crisis that we face, and the lack of fiscal transparency and responsibility.

In this post-pandemic time, we are just beginning to realize the deep emotional and spiritual impact of the isolation thrust upon us... sometimes necessarily and sometimes needlessly. As a result, the rates of depression, drug use, death by drug overdose, and suicide have skyrocketed. We must begin to use available funds to provide more individual counselling and mentoring programs that have a historically true success rate rather than things like the pie-in-the-sky, self-talk program the Orange Frog/Happiness Advantage, that is hyped up and highly promoted for huge financial gains.

Then there is the area of fiscal responsibility. Isanti County's property taxes are higher than 82% of Minnesota counties. Although we have a lot to be grateful for in this county, I cannot but believe that a good hard look at our spending practices would reveal possible cost-cutting measures which could lead to lower taxes.

We need commonsense leadership in these uncommon times.



**JOE MORLEY**

**City of residence:**  
Cambridge  
**Occupation:** Small business owner/financial advisor

**What is your reason for running?**  
It's a tough time in the country right now, and Isanti County is no exception. Daily purchases like gas and groceries are at all-time highs and nobody is immune to these skyrocketing price increases. Before I was approached to run, these were already the everyday conversations with neighbors and clients.

**What is your top priority and how do you plan on addressing it if elected?**  
Isanti ranks 81 of 87 Minnesota counties in access to reliable and affordable internet. Kids can't get their homework done. Seniors struggle with telemedicine. As a longtime resident, this lack of internet access, a need in our modern world, is unacceptable.

And crime is surging. The Twin Cities metro area continues to move north, making public safety an issue in our home like never before.

I'm running for Isanti County Commission in District 1, as the only candidate in the race with a unique and successful career managing family budgets as a financial advisor on Main Street Cambridge, or owning and operating hardware stores. I'm not a career politician. I've just lived here my entire adult life, I've raised three kids through our school system and played in our neighborhoods, and I participate in our community.

**What are the biggest challenges facing your constituents?**  
The economy is difficult for all of us right now. Just like I have in hard times in the past, whether it be at home or at work, the County needs to tighten its belt and ensure there is no waste of a single taxpayer penny. Just like everyone else, as your Commissioner I would take a long, hard look at what programs are working and what can be streamlined.

To ensure broadband access, we need to build on the current High Speed Internet Task Force's successes and evaluate where it can improve. I would also leverage all possible federal and state funds, while ensuring recipients building out infrastructure are transparent to the public.

We must FUND the police. I am a former 24-year Cambridge firefighter, so I know our officers in blue are heroes in our community. As your Commissioner, our Sheriff's Department will have the funding, the support, and the resources it needs to keep Isanti County safe.

Therefore, as a candidate, I bring that 40-year career in business, and life experience living in the community, growing in the community, and taking pride in the community with me.

On the County Commission, what faces my community faces me, meaning the high cost of living, lack of internet access, and public safety.

<b>QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE</b>	<b>COLLABORATION WITH STATE AND FEDERAL AGENCIES, INCLUDING FBI, HOMELAND SECURITY AND MN BUREAU OF CRIMINAL APPREHENSION.</b>
20 YEARS WITH ISANTI COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT	
OFFICER OF THE YEAR IN 2016 AND 2021	
9 YEARS NARCOTICS INVESTIGATION, 6 YEARS UNDERCOVER	B.A., LAW ENFORCEMENT, ALEXANDRIA TECHNICAL & COMMUNITY COLLEGE, AND METRO STATE UNIVERSITY
9 YEARS ISANTI COUNTY SPECIAL RESPONSE TEAM	RESIDENT OF ISANTI COUNTY FOR OVER 30 YEARS
3 YEARS FRAUD & FORGERY INVESTIGATION	PRESIDENT, GRANDY LIONS

PAID ADVERTISEMENT



*Seiberlich*  
For Sheriff

**DEDICATED TO PUBLIC SAFETY**

**WAYNE SEIBERLICH - VISION FOR ISANTI COUNTY**

My goal is to create an environment where the Sheriff's office not only protects the county but is seen as a true member of the community, gaining your trust as we work together towards our common goal of Public Safety. After all, the Sheriff's department is YOUR department.

I will ensure we are working together with you, our community, to understand your concerns and build crime prevention strategies that include your input. I will also make sure we update people who report crimes so that they are aware of the actions we are taking and, most importantly, the results. - Wayne Seiberlich

<b>PROACTIVE POLICING</b>	<b>DRUGS</b>
Expanded Undercover Theft Investigation	Better Patrol Coverage For Outlying Areas
More Systematic Patrolling In Rural Areas	Support for Implementation of Drug Courts
More Thorough Updates & Direct Follow Up	Preventive Education For Youth
<b>SENIOR CITIZENS</b>	
Target Fraudulent Financial Scammers	Increased Participation In Triad and Other Senior Safety Focused Groups


[www.wayne4sheriff.com](http://www.wayne4sheriff.com)

**Please Vote!**  
Primary - Aug 9  
General - Nov 8

Prepared and Paid for by Wayne4Sheriff.  
37297 Xeon Street NW, Stanchfield, MN 55080.



ISANTI COUNTY SHERIFF



LISA LOVERING

City of residence:  
Wyanett Township  
Occupation: Isanti  
County Sheriff's Chief  
Deputy


**What is your reason for running?**  
I have been employed with the Isanti County Sheriff's Office for over 30 years. Starting as a part-time dispatcher, and being promoted through the ranks to include serving as a deputy sheriff, investigator, and patrol sergeant. As a respected member of the staff, in 2015 Sheriff Caulk appointed me as the Chief Deputy. As second in command, I run the day-to-day operations and oversee patrol, investigations, dispatch, jail and volunteers. I also serve as the deputy emergency management director as well as acting sheriff in his absence. I assist in managing the budget as well as all grants and fundraising. We have implemented many programs including Triad, assigning personnel to rural areas to patrol and assigning deputies to townships to be more visible in our community. I want to continue to work with our residents and partner on projects important to them that make our community safer.

**What is your top priority and how do you plan on addressing it if elected?**  
My first priority would be to work on mental health programs. So many of our residents have been affected by those suffering with mental health. People suffering cannot get the help they need or in a timely fashion. We respond to many calls for help each day and we do not have the resources to help everyone. We need to be creative in ways to help those in crisis. There are untapped resources including our faith community, social services and veteran resources as well as mental health professionals that we should explore partnering with.

In 2021, I started a mental health program for our staff. We need to take care of our first responders as well so that they can also help and understand those that rely on us for help.

**What are the biggest challenges facing your constituents?**  
It is that of the perception of what a law enforcement officer is and does. I am thankful for all the support our community continues to give us. However, we need to continue to show our professionalism, transparency and partnerships in order to continue our positive relationships. We also need to work to come up with creative recruiting ideas so that we can continue to hire qualified candidates.. I will continue to partner with all elected officials including those at the state level to make sure that our voices are heard and that we continue to provide a high level of law enforcement service to our residents.

I want Isanti County to continue to be a safe place to work and live.



WAYNE SEIBERLICH

City of residence:  
Springvale Township  
Occupation: Investigator - Isanti County  
Sheriffs Office

**What is your top priority and how do you plan on addressing it if elected?**  
Top priorities include proactive policing as we target our theft and drug concerns in Isanti County. This will be addressed with expanded undercover theft and narcotics investigations, systematic patrol in our rural areas, and more thorough updates and direct follow up with the public. Our senior citizens are still targets in financial fraud and scams, and we have lost our connection with youth and preventative education. I will continue to evaluate and improve these efforts as the community and Sheriff's Office work together in our common goal of Public Safety.

**What are the biggest challenges facing your constituents?**  
One of the biggest challenges I have seen is the community's faith in our ability to serve them. As an investigator, I have heard directly from many members of the community who admit that they have experienced crimes that went unreported. This has been due to a belief that reporting the crime won't matter. Please take a moment and ask yourself if you or someone you know has had a crime happen that went unreported and then ask yourself why it wasn't reported. The most common response I've heard would be something to effect of "well, it wouldn't matter anyways" or "you can't do anything about it anyway." When we lose the trust of the community, we've failed the community. If we continue to sit back and not acknowledge our shortcomings, nothing will change and we will continue to fail you. If elected, I will acknowledge our faults and immediately begin efforts to restore public trust and cooperation.

I would like to see an advisory board created which will include a representative from each township who will be liaisons between that township and the Sheriff's Office. The Sheriff's Office needs to be seen as a member of the community and our relationship with the community needs to be stronger if we want to see improved Public Safety.

Reports of crimes help us to investigate and proactively respond. Though it's true we will unfortunately not catch every suspect or solve every crime, we need the information and data of what's being done, where it's being done, what time of day and how it's being done to prevent the crimes from continuing. One person's loss can help in preventing the next person's loss, but without trust in the sheriff's office, we cannot work together to make that difference.

No photo  
provided

MICHAEL LONGBEHN

City of residence:  
Bradford Township  
Occupation: Police  
officer

**What is your reason for running?**  
I decided to enter the race to become The Sheriff of Isanti County for numerous reasons. My vision for Isanti County is to provide the absolute most safe environment for the residents and visitors of Isanti County. I believe that my thirty-five years of experience as a licensed peace officer will help me return to, and maintain a community of law, order, and common sense. From the criminals victimizing the innocent victims, to the crazy driving behaviors we witness on a daily basis. My promise to the voters is that I will work diligently each and every day to combat the evils that pervade our society. It seems that in some ways common sense is a rare commodity these days.

**What is your top priority and how do you plan on addressing it if elected?**  
My top priority will be the safety of all of the residents of Isanti County. Senior citizens being scammed, children being victimized and bullied, crazy drivers putting everyone at risk will be my focus. I intend to be actively involved in promoting a teamwork approach to addressing these issues. My hope is to be a leader who leads by example. My team members will be my deputies, the community, and partnerships with government aid and our civic groups. I endeavor to keep a close eye on the budget of my office and pinch every penny possible. With hard work and diligence, I truly believe these ideas are achievable without creating a financial burden on my constituents.

**What are the biggest challenges facing your constituents?**  
I believe that our biggest challenge today is the rising crime rate that is everywhere. Stealing from stores, stealing catalytic convertors, phone scams targeting everyone, especially our senior citizens. I firmly believe that many of these crimes originate with a drug problem that permeates our society today. I will do everything in my ability to combat this problem. I will be visible and available to everyone to listen, learn, and serve.

★ ★ Elect ★ ★

Clark Johnson

County Commissioner  
Isanti County

Married to Catherine Johnson. Celebrated 34 years of Marriage on July 9th. My first wife passed away after 12 years.

Parents of 3 great adult children, 2 grandchildren.

Residence on Highway 65 City of Isanti P-2

Occupation: I have been an Independent Insurance Agent since January 1977

I Don't have a personal agenda. My agenda is to be a "Common Sense Servant". This opportunity is NOT about my agenda, but about SERVING THE PEOPLE OF MY District 5. This what we have done for 44+ years in our business. Our Motto is "We Work for You!" We work to provide the best Insurance Coverage for the best prices with over 50+ Companies. I plan to continue this Servant attitude for the voters, if I am fortunate be elected to represent the people of District 5 (City of Isanti P-2, Isanti Twp, North Branch Twp, Oxford Twp) in November!

Paid Advertisement. Prepared and Paid for by Clark Johnson. 1545 1st Ave E, Cambridge, MN 55008





Get informed,  
get your local paper today!

ISANTI-CHISAGO  
COUNTY STAR



CHISAGO COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 1



JIM SWENSON

**City of residence:**  
North Branch  
**Occupation:** Mayor of North Branch, retired union electrician

**What is your reason for running?**  
I have been energized by the incredible work that I have been a part of the last six years as your mayor and council member. For example, we have city-wide broadband access, increased public safety services, a variety of housing opportunities that didn't exist before—for veterans, for seniors, apartments, income-based, twin homes, HOAs. However, without a seat on the county board, North Branch misses out on access to financial investments from the county and other incentives that could be part of our city's economic development plan. I have intimate knowledge of what North Branch NEEDS and I have a passion for advocating for our residents.

**What is your top priority and how do you plan on addressing it if elected?**  
My top priority as District 1 Commissioner is to advocate for my constituents-the residents of North Branch. I will be a strong voice for the residents of our city at the county level, bringing a new era of advocacy to the County Board. Whatever challenges or needs North Branch faces, I

will continue on the same path of not backing down. I want that seat on the County Board so I can continue to be a strong voice and advocate for North Branch residents' needs and concerns, to be able to put items on the agenda, and to have a VOTE for our residents. I pledge to always put our residents first!

**What are the biggest challenges facing your constituents?**  
High county property taxes coupled with cost-of-living increases

The most often heard complaint of North Branch residents regarding the county continues to be the high county property taxes. Lowering county taxes would make our county more attractive to new businesses and more affordable for all of its residents. I have six years' worth of vast experiences as your mayor and councilor, so I know finance, budgeting and taxation inside and out. I pledge to bring a fiscally conservative approach to these processes. During my tenure, I have led North Branch into its most prosperous years of economic growth and development; it is imperative that we create a better plan for economic development at the county level to lure manufacturing and businesses into the entire county. We need to create a strategic plan at the county level to drive budgeting, economic development, and policy making so we can plan for our county's future needs and in doing so we will become better stewards of taxpayers' dollars. In sum, I want to create a more fiscally attractive climate for all of our residents and business owners.



RICHARD CEDERGREN

**City of residence:**  
North Branch  
**Occupation:** IT Administrator/ small farmer

**What is your reason for running?**  
I am seeking public office for three reasons:

- Bring new lifeblood to the Board of Commissioners – I would like to serve my community while I am still young-ish and energetic enough to do so before passing the torch to the next generation.
- Provide a greater choice to the voters of District 1 – redistricting has offered North Branch a long overdue opportunity to be represented at the county level with a unified voice, and residents deserve diversity in the candidate field.
- Model an expanded understanding of civic responsibility to my fellow citizens – I still believe that citizenship extends beyond simply voting; we should all strive to more fully engage in the democratic process and serve our communities to the best of our abilities.

**What is your top priority and how do you plan on addressing it if elected?**  
I believe the highest priority for any elected official should always be improving the quality of life for constituents and, no matter the issue at hand, this work begins with a few foundational principles:

- Understanding differing perspectives
- Collaborating with colleagues and counterparts from other counties to find innovative solutions to any given issue
- Openness to discussion to the merits of competing solutions
- Dedicated workforce and leadership that operates with efficiency, integrity, and transparency
- Proactive attitude that works to identify and address potential issues

The list of challenges facing any governmental organization changes over time, but never goes away. And while every solution will not please every citizen, leadership that can clearly articulate their decision-making process and justify outcomes will get my vote every time. Over the past few weeks, I have been meeting with county staff and leadership and have seen the dedication and passion they have for the work they do every day. It is clear to me that Chisago County has many of the right pieces in place to tackle the challenges ahead, and I would appreciate your support to help in that effort as District 1 Commissioner.

**What are the biggest challenges facing your constituents?**  
Like people across the country, many Chisago County residents struggle with mental and physical healthcare access and affordability, food security, safe and reliable housing, improving education, and unemployment/underemployment. In addition, residents deal with a disproportionate property tax burden due to a lack of commercial investment, reliable and affordable internet access, and outdated infrastructure. These are all issues that require creative thinking, planning, and long-term solutions to address, but I believe in our residents and the county workers who work hard every day to move us in the right direction.



TIM MACMILLAN

**City of residence:**  
North Branch  
**Occupation:** Director, Isanti County Probation

**What is your reason for running?**  
Our community of District #1 should have all the same amenities that other districts have in our county, and we should have a strong person on the County Board who raises accountability for programs and dollars spent in the County as a whole. It is my goal to increase community engagement as your District #1 commissioner and listen to what our district needs from the constituents. My role would be to represent sound community ideas that support our local businesses, schools, parks, public safety, and roads and control wasteful spending and the raising of our county taxes. My intent would be to develop a vision for our district, set goals, monitor progress, and collaborate with District 1 constit-

uents. I am passionate about public service and currently Chair the North Branch School Board and have accomplished many great initiatives as your North Branch School Board member, but it is time for a new challenge and time for some changes for District #1 and what the County can do in North Branch, District 1.

**What is your top priority and how do you plan on addressing it if elected?**  
My top priority would be to get out and build relationships and listen to leaders and citizens in our district and hear what they have to say about new change with County Government within the district and what is working well and what is not! I would hold listening sessions and invite people to share their voice.

**What are the biggest challenges facing your constituents?**  
We need a plan to address all the challenges that may come with growth in our district and taxes play a big part in that growth, we need a solid plan on how to address the growth that is happening in our district and what the County role is in that growth and future growth. We need to work together and lead.

Paid Advertisement



# TODD Moos

★ ★ ★ ★ ★  
for County Commissioner

## Todd's Priorities

✓ Honesty in government

✓ Accessibility

✓ Engage community involvement

# Common Sense, Conservative Solutions. Vote Todd Moos!

Prepared and paid for by Todd Moos for County Commissioner, PO Box 225, Cambridge, MN 55008









CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13



BOB SHOGREN

City of residence: Cambridge  
Occupation: 911 Coordinator/tele-communicator

What is your reason for running?

Cambridge is experiencing some of the most exciting growth in years, thanks in large part to the City Council’s mission of keeping our community prosperous, attracting new businesses, and providing opportunities for responsible growth. My plan is to continue to cast my vote in a way that furthers the mission while representing all the citizens of Cambridge.

What is your top priority and how do you plan on addressing it if elected?

My top priority is to keep property taxes in check without cutting core government services including public

works, public safety, and community development. Public works and public safety provide essential and emergency services to all of us and contribute to our quiet enjoyment of life. A strong community development department is necessary to attract new businesses and help existing businesses expand. Business properties not only provide local jobs but also help keep the tax burden low for city residents. If re-elected, I will continue my mission with the council to keep core services effective and provide more resources to attract businesses that create high value, in-demand jobs.

What are the biggest challenges facing your constituents?

Our greatest challenges are economic. No one needs to tell you that inflation is out of control. You feel it every time you fill up at the pump or buy the week’s groceries. A city government feels the same economic pressure as its citizenry. The challenge is to continue providing the services we all expect without adding undue burden to the property owners/tax payers. As a council member, I will work with the rest of the council and staff to maintain a reasonable budget while still providing the services that make life enjoyable and convenient.



AMANDA WISNER

City of residence: Cambridge  
Occupation: PTF city carrier with the United States Postal Service

What is your reason for running?

To be a voice for the people and represent the everyday folks that live here.

What is your top priority and how do you plan on addressing it if elected?

I would like to see our city become more family orientated and self sufficient. I would like to see for myself where our tax dollars are being used and if there’s any room for improvement in their allocation.

I would also like to revisit the chicken ordinance and remove the Interim Use Permit (IUP) stipulation. If you do not know what an IUP is, read up on that.

What are the biggest challenges facing your constituents?

The taxes in our city are a big talking point and we need clarity of where our money is going. Yes, we need to main-

tain the required levels of necessity, but we need to look at areas that we can cut away fluff.

We are living in an age where inflation is at a 40-year high. The dollar is worth less today than it has been in decades. If we as families need to be strategic with what we spend our money on, shouldn’t the governing entity we rest under do the same?

What good is it to bring in all these big beautiful rentals if we can’t fix the run down buildings we already have? If the target is bringing in people to live here from out of our area and not focusing on the folks that all ready live here, then that’s half the problem. What about our single parents? What about our neighbors living on fixed incomes? Can they afford to “move up” into these higher rent rates?

The USDA rural development program is a great asset to help families get into homes and we are fortunate to have one right here in our own city!

What about the vacant storefronts and buildings? What is being done to draw folks to utilize them for businesses instead of building new?

If Cambridge wants to reach the goals they have established, they have to help us reach our goals as families. After all, what would a city be, if there’s nobody able to live here to pursue our own life, liberty, and happiness?

This is our city. We live here because we want to. It’s time to have our voices heard.



JOE MORIN

City of residence: Cambridge  
Occupation: Former business owner, former security officer, now retired

What is your top priority and how do you plan on addressing it if elected?

Taxes are high in Cambridge; let’s not kid ourselves, but we have a great city government and we are the hot-spot in East Central Minnesota. The city has a budget, and a plan, and we need to stick to it. We also need to lower our tax rate as fast as we can. That means Cambridge cannot be all things for all the people. Sometimes we have to say

no. Cambridge is a great place to live and I have had the opportunity to spend 13 wonderful past years on the council and each of those years we lowered the tax rate. I would like the opportunity to try accomplishing that again.

What are the biggest challenges facing your constituents?

People forget that we all live here together, and we need to be civil with one another. Yes, we can discuss, even disagree, but in the end we all want what’s best for Cambridge. We need to lower taxes and do it without sacrificing our public services or our standard of living. That means thinking outside the box. The city has had a full-time grant writer and I think it’s time we have one again. That way we can do things with others contributing. We also need to aggressively promote how great the area is for companies to come here - which lowers taxes because they are spread out more evenly. There are other ways to lower taxes as well that I would pursue if elected.

WHERE TO GO TO VOTE ON AUG. 9

The following is a list of precincts that are open on Primary election day for in-person voting. 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: Cambridge Township Hall - 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)

For updated election results on Aug. 9, go to our website at [countystar.com](http://countystar.com), or on our Facebook page or Twitter feed @CountyStar\_news

Alan Duff will Represent Constituents with Integrity, Transparency & Accountability

Leadership Credentials for Alan Duff

- ❖ Public Speaker/Author on Freedom & Liberty ([www.MajorDuff.com](http://www.MajorDuff.com))
- ❖ Military, Retired Army Major (23 years)
- ❖ County Commissioner & City Councilmember (6 years)
- ❖ Small Business Owner (12 years)

Vote Alan Duff

Isanti County Commissioner District 1

August 9<sup>th</sup> Primary

