

AMENDMENT: Extra money to be used for teachers’ salaries

FROM PAGE I

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.

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>

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)

Chamber of Commerce to host local candidate forum

The North 65 Chamber of Commerce invites local residents to attend the 2026 Candidate Forum on Tuesday, September 29, 2026, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Anoka-Ramsey Community College, Room G202 (Auditorium), 300 Spirit River Drive South, Cambridge. The event is free and open to the public.

As Election Day approaches, the Candidate Forum will provide voters with a unique opportunity to hear directly from individuals seeking local office and learn where they stand on issues affecting

area businesses, residents, and communities.

The forum will feature candidates in the following races, appearing in this order:

- Isanti County Commissioner District 5 (approximately 6:00 p.m.)
- City of Isanti Mayor (approximately 6:30 p.m.)
- City of Isanti City Council (approximately 7:00 p.m.)
- City of Cambridge Mayor (approximately 7:40 p.m.)
- City of Cambridge City Council (approximately 8:00 p.m.)

*Candidates for local offices

with unopposed or uncontested elections will not participate in the forum.

Designed to encourage civic engagement and provide voters with reliable, nonpartisan information prior to casting their ballots, community members will have the opportunity to hear candidates discuss topics important to the future of Cambridge, Isanti, and the surrounding area during the question-and-answer style forum.

Residents are encouraged to participate by submitting questions for consideration

prior to the event. Questions must be submitted online by September 27 and will help guide the discussion on issues that matter most to local voters.

A live-stream link will be posted on the Chamber’s website closer to the event date, allowing residents who cannot attend in person to watch the forum remotely.

For additional information, forum guidelines, and question submission details, visit North65Chamber.com - The North 65 Chamber of Commerce

MAX GLENNA

— STATE SENATE • DISTRICT 28 —

LOWER PROPERTY TAXES.
FIX SCHOOL FUNDING.



State funding to our schools hasn’t kept up with inflation, and I’m going to fix that so we can lower our property taxes.

I’m an engineer, born and raised in Shafer. I’ve spent my career working with people on hard problems, and I’ll use that to bring real solutions back to you.

Early voting starts September 18th

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Jim Godfrey

For Mayor of Cambridge

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✓ Economic Growth

✓ Public Safety

✓ Jobs & Families

✓ Housing & Investment Value



“By nurturing an environment rich with economic development, decent jobs and safe streets, we will firmly establish Cambridge as Minnesota’s Opportunity Community.”

SAFETY • STABILITY • FAIRNESS

● Vote Jim Godfrey on November 3rd ●

CAMBRIDGE MAYOR



JIM GODFREY

City of residence: Cambridge

Why are you running for election?
I seek re-election to build on our strong momentum, to maintain fiscal responsibility, and to continue dropping the local tax rate. My forward-looking vision focuses on tackling the housing valuation crisis, smart community growth. I will work to keep Cambridge a safe, thriving, and welcoming place to raise a family. By bringing steady, optimistic, and non-partisan leadership, I remain dedicated to listening to

our residents and ensuring our city remains a place where former Bluejackets return to raise their own families.
Besides taxes, If you were only allowed to focus on one topic during your term as mayor, what would that topic be and why?
Public safety remains our highest priority. According to the Isanti County Sheriff, our county proudly ranks in the 95th percentile for safety nationwide—meaning we are in the top 5% of the safest places in the entire United States. We’ve invested directly in personnel and in modern tools for our police and fire departments. It is my priority to ensure faster response times and proactive, community-focused coverage.
At the same time, our Public Works department secures our infrastructure daily, maintaining clean drinking water and keeping winter streets clear. By combining these efforts with fair local zoning and consistent building inspections, we ensure Cambridge remains a safe, wonderful place to raise a

family. I believe that much of our population growth is driven by Cambridge’s reputation as a safe place to raise a family.
What process will you take for deciding how to vote on agenda topics, especially ones that are of greater public interest?
I remain thoughtful, respectful, and collaborative. Every vote impacts real people, so I approach each decision with the attention, thoughtfulness, and fairness it deserves.
I listen carefully to all perspectives without judging or dividing our community into “angels and demons.” We all want what is best for our city, even when we disagree on the path to get there.
My process relies on thoroughly studying the data, gathering broad public input from our citizens and businesses, and weighing long-term outcomes to ensure financial and civic stability for our entire community.



JEREMIAH SEDLER

City of residence: Cambridge

Why are you running for election?
I’m running because Cambridge is home, and I care about this city. Some of my earliest memories are here, and now Becca and I are raising our five children in this community. As Cambridge grows, I want residents to have a voice in the decisions that

affect them. My work as a financial advisor and my time on the Isanti County Planning Commission have taught me to listen carefully and plan ahead. I want to put that experience to work for Cambridge and strengthen the connection between residents and city leadership.
Besides taxes, If you were only allowed to focus on one topic during your term as mayor, what would that topic be and why?
Long-term planning. Cambridge is growing, and too many decisions get made one project at a time without a clear picture of what comes next. Before the city commits to a major project, we should know what it will cost to build, what it will cost to maintain, how we will pay for it, and where it falls among the city’s other priorities. Repairs and unexpected expenses will always come up, but thoughtful preparation gives

us more options when they do. I want our long-range planning to drive the decisions we make today so Cambridge is better prepared for the years ahead.
What process will you take for deciding how to vote on agenda topics, especially ones that are of greater public interest?
I start with the agenda packet, do my own research, and ask questions before the meeting. For items with broad public interest, I would go further. That means making sure residents know well ahead of time when and how they can weigh in, and going out to hear from the people most affected rather than waiting for them to come to us. Residents will not always agree with my vote, but they should know their concerns were heard and understand the reasons behind my decision.

CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL (ELECT TWO)



AARON BERG

City of residence: Cambridge

How do you propose to balance the continued rise in people wanting to move into the area/housing needs with current residents’ desire to maintain a “small town” environment?

Cambridge is going to continue to grow, and my approach has been to make sure that growth is responsible and makes sense for our community. We need a variety of housing options for people at different stages of life, including young families, working adults, and seniors who want to remain in Cambridge. However, we must also consider whether our roads, utilities, public safety, and other services can keep up. I will continue supporting well-planned growth while protecting our neighborhoods, parks, local businesses, and the sense of community that makes Cambridge feel like a small town.
How do you propose to balance the desire for less government oversight (ordinances) versus keeping the peace between neighbors?

I don’t believe government needs a rule for everything. People should have the freedom to use and enjoy their property, while respecting their neighbors. Before supporting a new ordinance, I want to know: Is there a real problem? Do we already have a way to address it? What are we hearing from residents? And will a new rule actually solve the problem? Community feedback should be part of that process. My approach is to use common sense, protect property rights, keep the peace between neighbors, and involve government only when it’s truly necessary.



TOM SCHIBILLA

City of residence: Cambridge

How do you propose to balance the continued rise in people wanting to move into the area/housing needs with current residents’ desire to maintain a “small town” environment?

ronment?
I think the “small town” environment really comes down to the people living here. Cambridge is a welcoming community with people who genuinely care about each other. Many residents are second and third generations of families, including myself, which also helps keep the small town feel that people value.
I believe in the free market. The area will develop as residents demand and career opportunities arise. The Council members need to listen to what the taxpayers want in our community and work to make that happen.
How do you propose to balance the desire for less government oversight (ordinances) versus keeping the peace

between neighbors?
The Cambridge City Council should begin by reviewing current City ordinances. Are any applied unjustly, with one property being excused while another isn’t? If so, perhaps the ordinance should be modified. It isn’t necessarily the job of the Council to “keep peace” between neighbors. They should, of course, take immediate action if a property is hazardous or dangerous. Residents should be encouraged to bring their concerns to the Council for discussion and review if they feel an ordinance isn’t being followed.



RONDA SZLAVICH

City of residence: Cambridge

How do you propose to balance the continued rise in people wanting to move into the area/housing needs with current residents’ desire to maintain a “small town” environment?
As Cambridge continues to grow, we need to find

the right balance between meeting housing needs and protecting the small-town atmosphere residents love.
I support thoughtful, responsible growth with a healthy mix of housing and commercial development. New development should fit the character of our community, while protecting our parks and making sure our roads, utilities, and other infrastructure can keep up.
Growth is coming. We cannot ignore it, but we can be thoughtful about how we manage it. My goal is to listen to residents and ensure Cambridge grows without losing the hometown feel that makes it special.
How do you propose to balance the desire for less government oversight (ordinances) versus keeping the peace between neighbors?
I believe we can keep the peace without regulating

every part of our lives. Many residents are frustrated by large fees for a few backyard chickens, needing neighbor approval, restrictions on play structures, and not being able to use golf carts in their neighborhoods.
We need reasonable rules for real safety and property concerns, but not government involvement in every minor disagreement between neighbors. When possible, neighbors should be encouraged to communicate and work things out.
Less government does not mean no rules. It means common sense. Do you want your city government solving real problems, or regulating how you live in your own backyard?

Cambridge City Council candidate Bob Shogren did not return answers

ISANTI MAYOR



LUKE MERRILL

City of residence: Isanti

Why are you running for election?

I am running for re-election to keep Isanti affordable and thriving! Our past four years yielded incredible success, with many long-term plans finally coming to fruition. The most important: a 23% tax rate reduction, the highest published reduction in Minnesota. Most cities spend more and get less. We went the opposite direction with intentional planning, efficient

cy improvements, and policy changes that work for Isanti’s residents and businesses. We started a park fundraising group that has been awesome. Between 2025 and 2027, over \$1,100,000 of park upgrades will be completed, with \$0 city taxpayer costs. My #1 goal will always be fiscal efficiency & value.

Besides taxes, If you were only allowed to focus on one topic during your term as mayor, what would that topic be and why?

Community involvement & trust. Across Minnesota, residents and business owners have lost faith in leadership due to fraud and skyrocketing costs. This creates a painful gap between citizens and government. In Isanti, I have worked relentlessly to bridge that gap. As your current Mayor, I remain highly transparent and accessible. Over the last four years, we aggressively pushed for transparency and our city’s digital media presence surged nearly 3,000%. We also expanded community events and relationship

building opportunities. Government works for “We the People”. When residents can trust their leadership, we can actively build a stronger Isanti, together.

What process will you take for deciding how to vote on agenda topics, especially ones that are of greater public interest?

To accurately represent Isanti, I treat the mayor’s position as a full-time job. We have introduced meeting livestreams, park surveys, and interactive social media outreach to garner community input. I also spend most of my day directly answering up to 100 resident messages, emails, or calls. Having lived in Isanti all 34 years of my life and growing up in a low-income, blue-collar home, I understand the struggles of most Isanti families. Before voting, I combine this lifelong local perspective with active daily community input. Our community’s primary goals, and tax efficiency, are always reflected in my vote!

Isanti Mayor candidate Christopher Brooks did not return answers

ISANTI CITY COUNCIL (ELECT TWO)



NICHOLAS PEDERSEN

City of residence: Isanti

Why are you running for election?

This is a great question, because I’m not naturally someone who seeks the spotlight or positions of power. However, I feel an obligation of duty, to run because I care deeply about this city and I want to make

sure it continues to be a great place to live, work, and grow a family. We have lived here for 8 years, work in the area, our church, and my in-laws are in the area as well. So I feel a strong personal attachment to the success of our city. Professionally, I also bring unique skills to this role, especially with my ability to handle high stress, complicated documents, high-figure budgets, and communication with all types of people. I do not think I am an expert in much, but I do have a high ability to process large amounts of information or processes to gain a high degree of understanding in a short time.

Besides taxes, If you were only allowed to focus on one topic during your term as mayor, what would that topic be and why?

I would like to remove barriers to information between the city, businesses, and residents, along

with increasing transparency so we can receive more community feedback and engagement.

What process will you take for deciding how to vote on agenda topics, especially ones that are of greater public interest?

First and foremost, I consider all the facts and data at hand. I am someone who can easily remove emotion and opinions first when analyzing agenda items. I also like hearing and seeing all sides of the story, and remaining neutral when gathering facts. Secondly, I consider the preference of our residents and what their struggles and desires are for our town. Then lastly, I think about the future of Isanti and whether this is a good long term decision. Many of us are raising children here and I want to make sure we’re not setting them up for failure.



ERIKA ZDON

City of residence: Isanti

Why are you running for election?

I believe many of our residents deserve a stronger voice on our current council. As a woman, a local educator, and a longtime member of this communi-

ty, I believe I can bring a thoughtful and inclusive perspective to the table. I am committed to listening to our residence, understanding their concerns, and representing people with a variety of viewpoints.

Besides taxes, If you were only allowed to focus on one topic during your term as mayor, what would that topic be and why?

Outside of taxes, I believe the topic that needs our attention most is the infrastructure of our city. We need to focus on preparing for the significant growth that’s anticipated over the next five years. As our population increases, we must ensure that we have adequate water resources and treatment facilities to meet future demand. Our schools and educational facilities will need to accommodate more students, while our

public works and police force must have the staffing, resources and facilities necessary to maintain safety and effectively serve our growing community.

What process will you take for deciding how to vote on agenda topics, especially ones that are of greater public interest?

As an elected official, I will use multiple resources before making an important decision. I will listen to public input along with staff recommendations and expert information. Factors like cost and long term consequences will also be considered. All decisions from city council should be based on what best serves the interest of our entire community.

Isanti City Council candidate Theodore Knudson did not return answers

NORTH BRANCH MAYOR



KEVIN SCHIEBER

City of residence: North Branch

Why are you running for election?

I am running for re-election because we have created an incredible community team that supports each other and simply wants to see North Branch be the best place to live, work and enjoy. There was a time when community leaders were not in sync with each other; that changed in a very positive way over the past couple of years. Whether we are focusing on

parks and trails, public safety, or economic development; we all are committed to making sure we have mutual support to reach our goals. I have spoken with many people, from all aspects of our great community, who want to see this positive momentum continue. They inspired me to want to stay in this role as mayor and keep our continuity of good leaders working together!

Besides taxes, If you were only allowed to focus on one topic during your term as mayor, what would that topic be and why?

Our #1 focus should be commercial and industrial development. Residential housing growth has been strong for several years and is a natural progression of the robust Twin Cities growth that has now reached the North Branch area. Focusing on the retention of our current businesses, in addition to the recruitment of new businesses, is crucial for the city of North Branch. Businesses not only provide jobs for

our residents, but also help stabilize the balance between city operational expenses and the property tax revenue needed to support those services. We have made good strides in the past few years, but we now need GREAT strides.

What process will you take for deciding how to vote on agenda topics, especially ones that are of greater public interest?

I have publicly listed my phone number for the past four years to encourage conversations with fellow residents and business owners. I have had many phone and email conversations, as well as in-person meetings with fellow residents. I have also made ‘public comment’ at our council meetings easier, more friendly. My decision-making approach is to encourage open dialogue for the most amount of public feedback.

North Branch Mayor candidate Shawn Williams did not return answers



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MINNESOTA REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 28A



TIM DUMMER

DFL

City of residence: Cambridge

Why are you running for election?

I'm running to serve as your District 28A Representative because it's time to put people over politics. I want to bring people together and find solutions that really work for our state and for our district, and I know many folks here feel similarly. I have lived and

served in this community for decades, as a Cambridge-Isanti and overseas military base elementary teacher, a youth firearms safety instructor with the DNR, and with my church. As your Representative, I will be part of building a brighter future for ALL of us in this community.

Besides taxes, If you were only allowed to focus on one topic during your term as mayor, what would that topic be and why?

Affordability. Costs are rising, and I understand from talking to so many people in 28A that they are struggling. Our neighbors shouldn't have to choose between paying for groceries, housing, healthcare, monthly utilities and filling their gas tank. I'll make sure the full value of our state tax dollars are brought back here to invest locally in the things our community needs – like protecting our local clinics and

making sure our community has healthcare options right here.

What process will you take for deciding how to vote on agenda topics, especially ones that are of greater public interest?

People tell me I am a good listener, that I am a natural connector. My superpower is building relationships. I'll use these skills to seek out and hear our whole community's feedback. Not just from my strong supporters. It's time to focus on our common values, work across party lines and across the state's urban-rural divide to find the cause of our state's challenges. I will bring common sense and decency to drive constructive solutions, not throw money or mandates at them.



JIMMY GORDON

REPUBLICAN

City of residence: Isanti

Why are you running for election?

It is hard for me to describe how much I have enjoyed the job so far. It has been an honor to represent the residents of District 28A in the Minnesota House

the past two years. My first year all the wise advice I received was to put a focus on reading the bills. Really digging into them and developing a skill for understanding what each bill does is important. The next year I put a lot of effort on trying to get my bills passed. With a 67-67 tied House I was realistic in the goals I set and chose bills that had a higher chance of gaining bipartisan support so I could practice going through the process. I had a lot of success in that effort. I'm running because I'm excited for a potential Republican Trifecta. If that happens, I'll have the knowledge and experience to put the petal down when the time is right on the issues we care about most like Fighting Fraud, Education Choice, Term limits and Lowering Taxes.

Besides taxes, If you were only allowed to focus on one topic during your term as mayor, what would that topic be and why?

Limiting the size and scope of state government because less government equals more freedom

What process will you take for deciding how to vote on agenda topics, especially ones that are of greater public interest?

Principles matter. You think it would be all black and white but there's a lot of gray area in politics I believe you start from your principles and apply them as best you can to every vote you make.

MINNESOTA REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 28B



MAX RYMER

REPUBLICAN

City of residence: North Branch

Why are you running for election?

I'm running for re-election because Chisago County deserves a strong voice in St. Paul, and the fight for

common sense is far from over. In my first term, I helped deliver tax relief, reduce spending, strengthen fraud oversight, defend parental rights and the Second Amendment, and secure critical local infrastructure funding. I'm running again to fight for fiscal sanity, safer communities, local control, freedom, life, liberty, and opportunity - and to keep the American Dream possible in Minnesota.

Besides taxes, If you were only allowed to focus on one topic during your term as mayor, what would that topic be and why?

We need to dramatically reduce the unfunded mandates passed by the DFL trifecta. Those mandates are helping drive up property taxes, close businesses,

strain local governments, and make Minnesota less competitive. We need major reform in this area so small businesses and communities can thrive again.

What process will you take for deciding how to vote on agenda topics, especially ones that are of greater public interest?

I listen to feedback, study the merits of each issue, and weigh the pros and cons, especially on contentious topics. Ultimately, I promised to reduce the size and scope of government so my constituents have more room to flourish and keep more of their own money.



DANIEL SCHMIDT

DFL

City of residence: Chisago City

Why are you running for election?

I am running because I want to serve the people of Chisago County and the State of Minnesota. I studied economics and philosophy in college because I wanted to learn how we can reduce the amount of poverty in our society. As legislator, I am committed to balancing the state budget while also preserving

important programs. That means eliminating fraud, improving the public school funding formula, making healthcare more affordable, protecting workers' rights, and reducing property taxes. I am also committed to protecting our precious natural resources, including the beautiful lakes and rivers in Chisago County.

Besides taxes, If you were only allowed to focus on one topic during your term as mayor, what would that topic be and why?

I would focus on making healthcare more affordable. According to a report of the MN Department of Health, 1,700,000 Minnesotans have anxiety over the rise of healthcare costs. And we have the right to be: since the start of 2025, healthcare premium costs have gone up 20%. The state has to step in to make prescription drugs less expensive, ensure that essential health care is not denied by insurance

companies, and that health costs are more transparent. Healthcare is one of the most expensive items for families and for employers. By bringing down the cost of healthcare, we will improve our quality of life, and improve the economy in Minnesota.

What process will you take for deciding how to vote on agenda topics, especially ones that are of greater public interest?

I believe that one cannot represent their constituents from sitting at their desk. I am committed to spending time in the community. That includes hosting open office hours, going to community events, and participating in local government meetings. I will be available to the people of Chisago County from day one. I think the best decisions always come as a collaborative process of listening to the people who are affected daily by the impacts of policy.

MINNESOTA SENATE DISTRICT 28



MAX GLENNA

DFL

City of residence: Shafer

Why are you running for election?

I believe we can do better than the division we're seeing in politics today. I want to bring a more reasonable, collaborative focus back to our state government. That's how I was raised here, and that's

how we all grew up here. Playing in sports, participating in 4-H, volunteering at church, helping out a neighbor. Agreeing with our neighbors on everything has never been the point. Showing up for them is. I want to deliver real solutions to our area. All in all, I'm running to bring connection back in this divided time, and to make life easier for you and me.

Besides taxes, If you were only allowed to focus on one topic during your term as mayor, what would that topic be and why?

It would be protecting our privacy. Starting with Flock cameras. Flock cameras don't belong in Minnesota. A private company keeping a searchable log of where every one of us drives isn't public safety, it's surveillance, and it shouldn't come down to which town you live in. Some of our towns have already got-

ten rid of them, which is great. But you still get logged the minute you drive to the next town over or down a county road.

What process will you take for deciding how to vote on agenda topics, especially ones that are of greater public interest?

Listening to the voters comes first. I'm here to represent you, so on anything that matters to this district I'm going to find out where you're at on it. When a decision has to be made fast, I'll fall back on what I know from living here and the principles we grew up with in this area. As we've seen from the division lately, there are too many people in politics who vote the party line. We need more elected officials who actually listen to their voters, and I'd be honored to be that for you.

Minnesota Senate District 28 candidate Mark Koran (R) did not return answers

ISANTI COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 5



KRISTI LAROWE

City of residence: Cambridge

How do you propose to balance the continued rise in people wanting to move into the area/housing needs with current residents’ desire to maintain a “small town” environment?

During my four years as an Isanti County commis-

sioner, I have learned that growth and rural character do not have to be competing goals.

I welcome new families and recognize the need for additional housing and businesses that serve our residents. At the same time, we must protect Isanti County’s agricultural heritage and respect the freedom and liberty that come with property ownership.

Our approach should honor landowners’ rights, and encourage responsible development. We have to allow economics to lead the way in decision making, if we want to support a growing community with strong local businesses, and good jobs.

With careful planning, we can welcome new neighbors, expand opportunities, and strengthen our local economy while preserving the close-knit, small-town rural character that makes Isanti County special.

How do you propose to balance the desire for less government oversight (ordinances) versus keeping the peace between neighbors?

I believe government should respect property owners and give people as much freedom as possible to use and enjoy the land they own. Most disagreements between neighbors are best resolved through respectful, direct communication—not additional ordinances or unnecessary government involvement.

The county should step in only when a situation creates a genuine threat to public health, safety, or another person’s property rights. Government’s role should be limited, fair, and consistent, allowing neighbors to find reasonable solutions together whenever possible.

Isanti County Commissioner District 5 candidate Joseph Fischer did not return answers

CHISAGO COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 2



CHRIS DUBOSE

City of residence: Center City

How do you propose to balance the continued rise in people wanting to move into the area/housing needs with current residents’ desire to maintain a “small town” environment?

Residential growth will happen on its own and should NOT be subsidized with tax incentives such as TIF, Abatement, or grants. An exception would be affordable housing for veterans. Our County has a very

low Commercial/Industrial tax base and that is one of the reasons our taxes are so high and nearly 80% of our residents are forced to commute to the cities for work. We need to concentrate on supporting business, especially small business that has been very restricted in the past so that it can grow and prosper and create more local jobs to reduce the commuting, which in turn will help local retail and further encourage businesses. The County only controls the zoning in the Township areas so those areas should be kept rural to help preserve the small town atmosphere and rural character of the area.

How do you propose to balance the desire for less government oversight (ordinances) versus keeping the peace between neighbors?

I believe people should be able to use their land the way they want to within reason. I’ve been on City and the County Planning Commissions for many years and have helped craft our new Zoning Ordinance

which attempts to balance property rights with the rights of neighbors to quietly enjoy their properties without being disturbed. Solar is a great example. Local farmers have a difficult time keep their land as farmland and need the extra income that solar provides to make continued farming financially feasible. I support that but the neighbors should not have to look at a solar field out their living room window. I’ve been a leader on Planning to amend the solar ordinance 3 different times to provide for better screening, increased setbacks, and other restrictions that still allow our farmers to preserve farming on their land but still make the solar fields less intrusive. I have also led efforts to allow home businesses to grow and thrive by eliminating over restrictive ordinances.



RICK GREENE

City of residence: North Branch

How do you propose to balance the continued rise in people wanting to move into the area/housing needs

with current residents’ desire to maintain a “small town” environment?

Chisago County’s lakes, parks, trails and excellent public and private schools make it a wonderful place to live and raise a family either rural or urban. While directing residential growth toward cities where homes are close to businesses, services, and schools and families can shop locally. Focusing development in cities will also continue to help farmers preserve open space and maintain the county’s rural character.

How do you propose to balance the desire for less government oversight (ordinances) versus keeping the peace

between neighbors?

Most Chisago County residents choose to respect their neighbors, communicate regularly, and resolve concerns without conflict. However, because there are those as in all communities that choose to ignore good manners, the county needs ordinances that set minimum standards of conduct and are enforced fairly and consistently. This approach puts our American and Minnesota values of rights, freedoms, and responsibilities into practice in Chisago County.

CHISAGO COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 3



CYLE CRAMER

City of residence: Chisago City

Why are you running for election?

I am running for election as a way to serve my community and offer an experienced negotiator to the board. When I was 17 years old I enlisted in the Army National Guard and served a six year enlistment. I spent the next few years going to law school in order

to gain a better understanding of the laws and regulations that make communities thrive. I learned that the best communities are the ones that can offer the best and most efficient services all while maintaining the lowest tax burdens possible. As an attorney I’ve negotiated against some of the biggest businesses in the country and helped come to an acceptable result for all parties, all while not taking anything personal. With the labor negotiations that failed and continued to fail for what became nearly 120 days, I knew I could offer a strong, reasoned, and measured approach.

Besides taxes, If you were only allowed to focus on one topic during your term as mayor, what would that topic be and why?

As a county commissioner I would dedicate a great deal of time and effort in finding ways to obtain grants from the state or national level to strengthen

our community, and as a result reduce the tax burdens on people.

What process will you take for deciding how to vote on agenda topics, especially ones that are of greater public interest?

My approach decision-making is based on being transparent and available. I want to hear from the community and consider as many viewpoints as possible. Additionally, I want to make sure the community is aware of what’s going on. So often change happens and people are unaware of how and when that decision was made. I will work on making sure the community is more aware of the decisions in front of the commissioners and how they can participate in that decision-making.



MARLYS DUNNE

City of residence: Chisago City

Why are you running for election?

I currently serve as County Commissioner for District 3 and am in my sixth year of service. I have been able to utilize my education and experience in finance and business management to assist in controlling our budgets and tax levies. I have strong analytical skills that bring new questions, challenges, and ideas to our

board for improved decision making. I have genuinely enjoyed the knowledge, relationships and experience I have gained over the past 6 years working in our local government. I have an excellent working relationship with key staff and the board, and I would be honored to continue to serve our citizens for another 4 years. I enjoy being able to share information with taxpayers and answer questions. I often tackle issues and questions residents bring to me which is extremely rewarding when that leads to resolving issues and helping residents

Besides taxes, If you were only allowed to focus on one topic during your term as mayor, what would that topic be and why?

I would focus on long term strategy and policies. Both have a direct impact on taxes and our communities. Our board makes decisions that impact our communities for generations to come, so it is important to

have a unified strategy and vision for who we want to be today and in the future.

What process will you take for deciding how to vote on agenda topics, especially ones that are of greater public interest?

I will continue to do what I have always done and that is to ‘do my homework’ and come prepared to every board meeting. That starts by reading and analyzing every board packet and asking questions. I often reach out to staff to ask questions and ask for clarity when needed, especially as it relates to our board authority, legal rights, and existing ordinances. I also reach out to residents when I can, take tours when needed and simply do whatever I can to engage in the issues so I can make the best educated decision possible.