



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 in contested races on the General election ballot were sent a questionnaire and given a

deadline of 5 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 16, to submit their answers. Any candidates not making that deadline were emailed a reminder and given an extended, final deadline of noon on Monday, Sept. 19. Candidates who were part of the primary election were given two additional questions from those asked for our Primary Election Guide. Please refer to our Primary Election Guide published in the

July 28 edition for their answers to those questions. You can also directly access our Primary Election Guide by scanning the QR code to the right of this intro.

Out of the 43 candidates, all but four candidates — Dan Collison and Daniel Hinnenkamp for Isanti City Council, and Jesse LaValla and Shane O'Connor for North Branch School Board, returned answers.

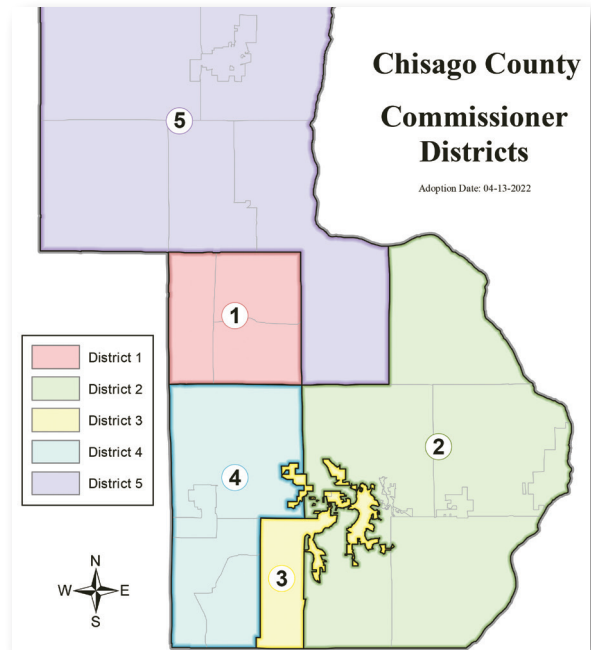
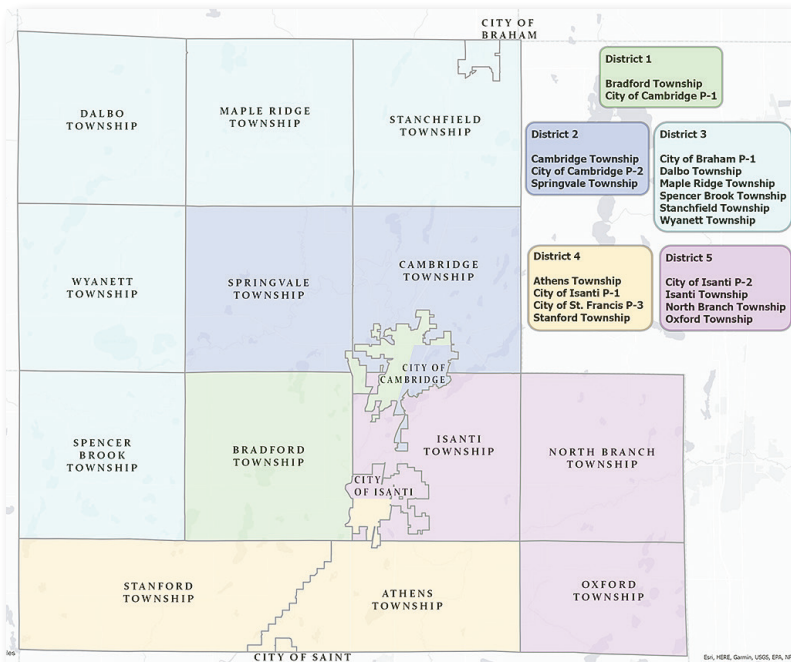
Voters face major changes in county commissioner districts

BY BILL STICKELS III
EDITOR@COUNTYSTAR.COM

Oftentimes it is confusing enough remembering the choices of who voters are able to vote for. Between precinct borders to official city limits and school district borders, voters can't be blamed for scratching their heads trying to figure out the names behind the ovals on the ballot. This year, however, that confusion has been magnified as both the state senate and representative districts, plus the county commissioner districts have all been adjusted to compensate for changes in population. This redistricting takes place every ten years following the census being updated.

For the state legislature redistricting, this area saw minimal changes, aside from the changing of the district numbers. Almost all voters in the Star's circulation area are still in the same State Senate district, which is currently held by Mark Koran. However, the number of the district has changed to District 28.

There were a couple changes for the area's State Representatives. The district currently held by Brian Johnson was expanded by approximately a



half-mile to the east in North Branch, with the border shifting from Interstate 35 to County Road 30. That district is now labeled as District 28A. Because of that change, voters in North Branch between I35 and County Road 30 were moved from Precinct C or Precinct B to Precinct A. The other area district,

which is currently served by Anne Neu Brindley, is now District 28B. The other significant change has voters in Rush City moving to District 11B.

The county commissioner redistricting, however, turned out to be much more complicated, with both Isanti and Chisago Counties making signifi-

cant changes to their boundaries. The easiest change to explain is in Chisago County, where the entire city of North Branch is now in a district of its own. For all other changes, however, its best to simply take a look at the above maps.

How to early and absentee vote in Isanti and Chisago County

BY STACY VERDICK CASE
NEWS@COUNTYSTAR.COM

The Nov. 8, 2022 elections are fast approaching, but you don't need to wait until election day to vote. You can vote early with an absentee ballot. The process is less complicated than you might think.

There are two ways to cast your early vote in person and by mail. Both are available for voters from Sept. 23 to Nov. 7, 2022, and both require you to apply to have an absentee ballot mailed to you. You do not need to be registered to apply.

To vote early in person you would need to go to your local election office, complete an absentee ballot application and then cast your vote.

For Chisago County you would go to the Chisago County Government Center at 313 N Main Street, Center City, MN, and go to room 271, during business

hours, to get your absentee ballot application. For more information or to have an application for an absentee ballot sent to you contact Bridgitte Konrad at 651-213-8500 or elections@chisagocountymn.gov.

For Isanti County you would go to the Isanti County Auditor's Office, 555 18th Avenue SW, Cambridge, MN, during business hours, to get your absentee ballot application. For more information or to have an application for an absentee ballot sent to you contact Chad Struss at 763-689-1644 or elections@co.isanti.mn.us.

For both locations, if you're registered to vote in that county, you do not need to bring identification. If you're not yet registered to vote you can do so when requesting your ballot application by bringing a photo ID with your current address, or if your photo ID doesn't have your current address on it you would need to bring your ID along with another proof of resi-

dence such as a bank statement, utility bill, etc. What constitutes a valid proof of residence can be found on the Secretary of State's website www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/register-to-vote/.

Alternatively, you can request an absentee ballot for the 2022 elections, using the Secretary of State's online absentee application or by downloading a mail-in application. Both are available on the Secretary of State's website at www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/other-ways-to-vote/vote-early-by-mail/.

All absentee ballots must be witnessed by either a registered Minnesota voter or a notary. The witness must sign the signature envelope and list their address.

The most important thing to remember when filling out the ballot application is to read the instructions carefully. If you do not complete all the forms correctly your ballot will not be counted.

UNCONTESTED, FEDERAL, STATE RACES

The following races are being run uncontested, and therefore these candidates were not sent questionnaires.

ISANTI COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 4
Mike Warring (Incumbent)

ISANTI COUNTY ATTORNEY
Jeff Edblad (Incumbent)

ISANTI COUNTY SOIL AND WATER SUPERVISOR
Tom Anderson (District 2)
David Medvecky (District 5)

CAMBRIDGE MAYOR
Jim Godfrey (Incumbent)

NORTH BRANCH CITY COUNCIL (SPECIAL ELECTION)
Robert Canada (Incumbent, Appointed)

NORTH BRANCH SCHOOL BOARD (SPECIAL ELECTION)
Shelly Johnson

CHISAGO COUNTY SHERIFF
Brandon Thyen (Incumbent)

CHISAGO COUNTY ATTORNEY
Janet Reiter (Incumbent)

CHISAGO COUNTY SOIL AND WATER SUPERVISOR
Lance Petersen (District 1)
David W. Tollberg (District 3)

The following candidates are running for election for state and federal offices to represent this area. Due to the large number of candidates for local elections, these candidates also were not sent questionnaires.

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 8
Pete Stauber (Republican, Incumbent)
Jen Schultz (Democrat)

STATE SENATE DISTRICT 28
Mark Koran (Republican, Incumbent)
Victoria Ann Bird (Democrat)

STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 27B
Kurt Daudt (Republican, Incumbent)
Brad Brown (Democrat)

STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 28A
Brian Johnson (Republican, Incumbent)
Erik Johnson (Democrat)

STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 28B
Anne Neu Brindley (Republican, Incumbent)
Katie Malchow (Democrat)

STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 11B
Nathan Nelson (Republican)
Eric Olson (Democrat)

ISANTI MAYOR



JEFF JOHNSON

City of residence:
Isanti
Occupation: Current Mayor, transportation and logistics manager

the city to be a fun and safe environment for them and for your families.

We will continue to focus on things that are important to the Isanti residents like low city tax rate, crime, schools, reining in the budget, transparency, and making our city a hub for innovation and new businesses.

We have a chance to continue to enhance our foundation of living when we all vote November 8, 2022. It's time to continue practicing strong leadership for safer, more prosperous Isanti.

I believe I have the right attitude, education, and experience to continue to succeed in this very demanding position. I look forward to meeting each one of you in the coming months. Isanti deserves to continue its positive path!

What is your reason for running?

I'm running for re-election for the simple fact that we have created a great foundation together since you elected me in the city we have grown and continue to love.

I will continue to strive everyday to provide the quality of life we have come to expect from our great and progressive city.

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

I plan to raise my family in Isanti for the next 15-20 years and want



JIMMY GORDON

City of residence:
Isanti
Occupation: Owner - Jimmy's Pizza

are well funded. After that we need to be aggressive about lowering the tax rate. It's your money and I think it's wrong for the city to take any more of it than it needs to. I believe you're the best person to decide how to invest in your future, not five people on the city council.

How would you balance residents' requests for providing services/amenities with lowering or keeping taxes as low as possible?

I want to Build a Strong Community. There's something special about living in a small town and getting to know your neighbors. As the city continues to grow, I'd like to add more activities that we can enjoy together. On the city council I've introduced the idea for the new archery park, which is now open and I voted in favor of things like the sledding hill, street dances and fireworks. All of which are inexpensive, low maintenance and tons of fun.

What is your reason for running?

I believe that on a local level there are core principles we can all agree on, no matter which political party you belong to. I've done my best to make this campaign about articulating what I believe those principles are: Protect Property Rights, Build a Strong Community, Lower Taxes and Cut Red Tape.

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

Lower Taxes. I want to focus our spending on the basic responsibilities of city government. We need to make sure things like police, fire and infrastructure

NORTH BRANCH CITY COUNCIL (VOTE FOR UP TO TWO)



TRAVIS MILES

City of residence:
North Branch
Occupation: Director of Training and Professional Development

What is your reason for running?

I realized with three council seats and the mayor seat open for the election that this year will be pivotal for North Branch and shape the city's future. I wanted to ensure that there was a voice that could speak up for preserving our history while guiding its growth and ensure the residents feel welcome to attend council meetings and voice their opinion.

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

My top priority is to reduce the amount of traffic on 95 and increase safety for pedestrians. The major road for North Branch residents, industry traffic, police, fire, and EMS is 95. I'll work with the city, county, and state officials to get an interchange at 400th Street. The highway interchange will result in industrial traffic having better access to the industrial park and quicker access to I-35 for EMS crews. I will also work to get crosswalks painted on the corners of Central Park and better lighting at the intersection of 95 and 7th Avenue.

How would you balance residents' requests for providing services/amenities with lowering or keeping taxes as low as possible?

Serving as a chair of a 220-unit homeowner's association, I have the experience of reviewing the request and determining if it is a necessity or a "nice to have." If the item is necessary, the next question is, do we currently have the reserves? If we don't have resources for it, can it wait for next year's budget? If it's nice to have, we have to ask what the effect is on all the residents. For example, a group of residents might make an amenity request. But to pay for it, property taxes would need to increase. That group might support a higher property tax for the amenity, but we must consider other residents that a significant tax increase may negatively impact. We should ask, will the "nice to have" pay for itself? To limit impacts on taxes for necessities and "nice to have," we also need to pursue available federal and state grants.



PETER SCHAPS

City of residence:
North Branch
Occupation: Retired - Municipal bond business

What is your reason for running?

I first became interested in assisting my local municipal government about 12 years ago and despite opposition by some, I prevailed in the legal process, and was appointed to serve upon our city's North Branch Municipal Water and Light commission in early 2018.

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

As your trusted water & light commissioner I have been able to coordinate support on the commission for initiatives and efficiencies in order to reorganize and improve the operational management of the water and light's business plan. Soon after my appointment it was clear to understand that something dynamic had to be accomplished in order to preserve a new form of our utility enterprise. In late 2019 we moved the commission meetings to the city hall in order to provide greater transparency and oversight for the citizens of North Branch. In 2020

our initiative to increase the size of our commission from 3 to 5 commissioners was advanced by the North Branch city council to the Minnesota legislature and soon after our request was approved by the legislature, the city council appointed 3 additional citizens to serve on our new 5 member commission, the work of this commission has resulted in a reduction of water rates by over 26%. In 2021 our new commission of 5 advanced some strategic changes in the utility business plan that resulted in structuring a sale of electric utility assets to our neighboring electric utility provider East Central Energy. This transaction is in review by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission and the commission anticipates closing this transaction in December 2022.

The sale of our electric utility assets will allow the commission to pay off its electric revenue bond debt sooner than scheduled, and provide additional capital for continuing the work of infrastructure and maintenance upgrades currently being addressed within the city's aging water system.

If I am elected to serve you on the city council, I will be a steadfast advocate for continuing to improve and grow the city's water delivery system at an affordable cost.

Fellow citizens you deserve proven competent coordinated leadership. Together our team reorganized the citizen owned North Branch Municipal Water & Light utility enterprise and reduced your water rates by over 26%, I can and will contribute more.



EVELYN BROOME

City of residence:
North Branch
Occupation: None listed

What is your reason for running?

I am running to represent the people in the city of North Branch.

There are a few agendas that I would like to focus on:

- Bringing companies to North Branch. This will employ residents and can possibly help fund the community.

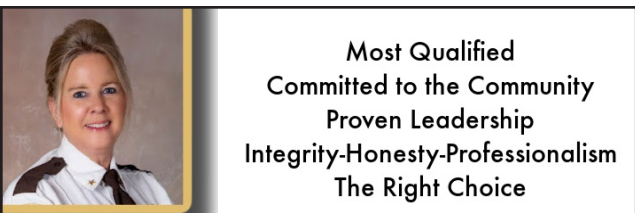
- Look into water/sewer rates.
- Remedy the desire of a stoplight on west 95 near Holiday and Tanger Outlet entrance.

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

My top priority is to make knowledgeable decisions with integrity and transparency. This will allow growth and improvement for North Branch.

How would you balance residents' requests for providing services/amenities with lowering or keeping taxes as low as possible?

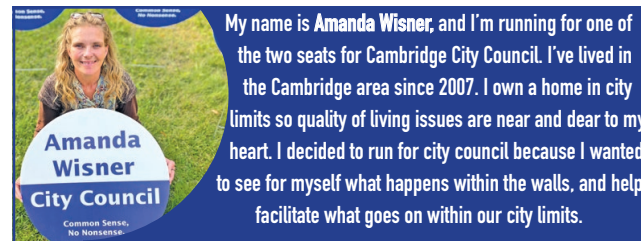
One way to providing services/amenities is funding. I'm hoping we can bring businesses into the community that will not only employ residents but can also donate funding.



Most Qualified
Committed to the Community
Proven Leadership
Integrity-Honesty-Professionalism
The Right Choice



JOE MORLEY
for
ISANTI COUNTY COMMISSIONER in
District 1: Bradford Township and West Cambridge
— COMMON SENSE —
— FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE — LOCAL —
VOTEJOEMORLEY.COM | Facebook.com/VoteJoeMorley
Paid for by Joe Morley



My name is Amanda Wisner, and I'm running for one of the two seats for Cambridge City Council. I've lived in the Cambridge area since 2007. I own a home in city limits so quality of living issues are near and dear to my heart. I decided to run for city council because I wanted to see for myself what happens within the walls, and help facilitate what goes on within our city limits.

I believe in small government. I believe in keeping our city beautiful. Let's look ahead to the future, but let us not forget the right here, right now.

I am excited to serve the residents of our community and to work with our other council members to find areas where the city budget can be maximized to lower our taxes without sacrificing essentials.

Cambridge is a great place to live, raise a family, and earn a living, and I want to help preserve that for generations to come.

Together, let's build a city that promotes life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

ISANTI COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 1

ALAN DUFF



City of residence:
Bradford Township
Occupation: Re-tired Army Major

or services where there is no measurable return on investment. I have a proven track record of fighting against higher taxes in Isanti County and will continue to serve constituents with that viewpoint.

What would you do to accelerate providing residents with high-speed internet?

As with any problem-solving challenge, I would first clearly define the need and the gap in providing this service. With increased telework and students working from home, high-speed internet is undoubtedly a growing component of our overall infrastructure. Addressing this problem needs to take place as a collaborative effort with cities, townships, and other stakeholders, where meetings are set to determine the scope, cost, and schedule of several viable options. We would then choose the best course of action, present it to the public for their input, and identify the best course of action. Expanding broadband capacity is certainly a vital issue to thoroughly assess for the future of Isanti County.

How would you balance residents' requests for providing services/amenities with lowering or keeping taxes as low as possible?

Most citizens are frustrated paying significantly higher taxes over the past several years. I would only support new programs that our constituents request. For example, I would not have supported the Orange Frog program, which is highly unpopular by most people I have spoken with this year. By focusing on the fundamental basics of solid governance with an emphasis on public health, safety, and infrastructure, we can live within our means in providing essential public services in ways that thoroughly respect limited family budgets. Minimizing spending on unwanted programs is more valued than being forced to pay for items most will not use or programs

JOE MORLEY



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

In our modern world, high-speed internet is a must for our constituents and for Isanti County to remain a great place to live, work, and raise a family. It's crucial for small businesses, farmers, children doing homework, and so much more.

As a Director on the Board of East Central Energy, I have been working tirelessly to seek and find "un- and under-served" pockets throughout our service territory. As your County Commissioner I will direct funds in the most efficient manner possible to build out and deploy broadband throughout our County.

And fortunately, we don't need to spend more and more County taxpayer dollars to do so. We have existing federal and state dollars we can utilize. Just like running a business, we can optimize these resources to improve our broadband access and therefore our quality of life without making it more expensive.

I am the only candidate in the race with forty years of experience making ends meet as a small business owner, paying taxes here, and working to deploy broadband. I would appreciate your vote and look forward to representing you as your County Commissioner in Bradford and West Cambridge.

How would you balance residents' requests for providing services/amenities with lowering or keeping taxes as low as possible?

I have forty years of experience in small business and financial planning where it's necessary to stretch a dollar as far as possible without reducing quality.

When running a business you account for every single penny, otherwise the business won't survive. And that means making sure input costs stay down, rooting out unnecessary or wasteful expenses, and providing a high-quality product to the consumer.

I firmly believe that the government that governs closest to home governs best. I will make sure our constituents' hard-earned taxpayer dollars are used efficiently, used thoughtfully, and provide the necessary services that improve our lives throughout Isanti County.

What would you do to accelerate providing residents with high-speed internet?

ISANTI COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 2

BILL BERG



City of residence:
Cambridge Township
Occupation: Founding & Senior Pastor - New Hope Community Church

What is your reason for running?

I love Isanti County. The people here are hard-working, generous, family oriented, and community minded. Our county has great safety and rescue, businesses, strong schools, non-profit organizations, churches, many parks, rivers, and lakes to enjoy. There are many activities to draw us together, to appreciate each other, encourage each other, and learn from each other. We are better together and go further together. I've been here for 30 years, raised my family here, and have been actively involved in many aspects of the community from schools, coaching, businesses, nonprofits, parks, and churches. When elected I would like to focus on:

- Strengthening Small Businesses
- Attracting New Businesses and Industry
- Childcare Availability/Affordability
- Mental Health Concerns
- Health Care Access
- Affordable Housing
- Substance use among Children and Youth
- Strong Parks and Recreation
- Fair Taxes as the County Grows

There is much to focus on and this is why I want to continue to serve and strengthen our county by working with and for the people. I am not running because I have an "axe to grind" on any issue, or a secret agenda once I am elected. Nor am I running to represent the agenda of any specific political ideology. I am not interested in being a "politician" but look forward to being a "public servant."

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

We all recognize the growth that Isanti County has experienced over the last few years. With growth comes additional pressure on public services such as safety and emergency, court systems, mental health needs, affordable childcare, housing, etc. My desire is to attract new businesses and industry to offset a tax base that currently puts the burden on homeowners

How would you balance residents' requests for providing services/amenities with lowering or keeping taxes as low as possible?

We all know parks, roads, waste management, libraries, safety, emergency, and many other amenities that make life enjoyable for county residents costs money. How much tax and what for, should always be under review and at a fair cost. To maintain taxes at a fair cost we as leaders need to judge wisely what amenities are necessary for the county and broaden our tax base by attracting more economic development through businesses and industry. In doing so we will help off-set taxes that fall on homeowners. We all are better together.

TODD MOOS



City of residence:
Springvale Township
Occupation: Owner of landscaping company

What is your reason for running?

I am running to guarantee that YOU have a voice in Isanti County government! As I have attended several Commissioner meetings, I've noticed a disconnect between your current commissioners and their constituents. As a business owner, I understand that without transparent, intentional communication it is difficult to maintain trust with my clients. I intend to earn that trust as your commissioner. I will be available to you and WELCOME your conversations and concerns. I will do the research necessary to bring common sense solutions that reflect our community. Isanti County has been our home for the past 29 years, and we absolutely love it here!

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

My priorities as County Commissioner include

standing firmly for ALL your constitutional rights, especially the first and second amendment. These rights have been hard fought for and should not be disregarded. Isanti County Government must be fiscally responsible and operating effectively. We need to do all we can to ensure the residents of Isanti County are safe, their property is secure, and the drug and mental health issues are effectively addressed.

How would you balance residents' requests for providing services/amenities with lowering or keeping taxes as low as possible?

As a business owner, I am consistently balancing customer requests for services with providing fair pricing. This applies to our County as well. A healthy balance of services and taxes will come through transparency and communication with you, the residents of Isanti County. I will reach out and actively connect with you, advocate for one of our public meetings be moved to the evening to make it easier for the community to attend, and I will encourage conversations so Isanti County represents you! I want to give the community every opportunity to be well informed so we can work together. Working together, we can better decide where our community needs the most help and how best to address these issues. A more informed and engaged community is a happier community!

ISANTI CITY COUNCIL (VOTE FOR UP TO TWO)

LUKE MERRILL



City of residence:
Isanti
Occupation: Hotrod builder, social media influencer

What is your reason for running?

Being a friend, neighbor, leader & advocate for the community is important to me; which is why I am running for city council. I am a lifelong resident of Isanti. I want to keep Isanti an enjoyable, safe & affordable place to live. Spending 30 years here has taught me a lot about how the residents of Isanti like to live. Being an Economic Development Commissioner and a Park Board Commissioner the past 5 years has also taught me the skills necessary to be an effective council member.

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

My top priority is to cut frivolous, unnecessary government spending; we already pay enough taxes. Just because the city has the money available in the taxbase, doesn't mean it has to be spent. Roll it over. Save the taxpayers money. It's very simple.

My second priority is lessening government overreach. Want to keep a trailer, camper or boat on your

property? Do it. Want to build a pole barn or garage over 1000 sq. ft.? Do it. It's your land. You own it. No one in government should tell you what you can't have on your property. Obviously, there are extreme cases that need addressing, but we are a small town far enough away from the cities for that type of overregulation. The vast majority of us don't want to live that way, if we did, we would live in Edina or Minnetonka, not Isanti.

How would you balance residents' requests for providing services/amenities with lowering or keeping taxes as low as possible?

This is a hugely important question, but on a city level it is vastly unconsidered. The city/council spends millions of dollars of taxpayer money every year, yet they have never once sent out a survey or collected any sort of data to validate or quantify how money is spent. If there is a \$300,000 project, wouldn't you think it would be worth gathering actual statistical information to see if residents (the taxpayers) would even want/use the amenity before spending the money? The amphitheater is a prime example of this. It was a huge cost to the city: it is relatively unused and unnecessary. Although the amphitheater is cool and beneficial to some, was it really worth the \$50 that it cost every taxpayer to build? As a county park commissioner, we use surveys and statistical data to allocate the taxpayer funding to the most desired amenities. I'd like to see the city do that. Every dollar spent is a dollar that has to be taxed. Use it wisely.

Dan Collison and Daniel Hinnenkamp did not return answers

ISANTI COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 3



TERRY TURNQUIST

City of residence:
Braham
Occupation: Owner - Braham
Barber Stylist

What is your reason for running?

I love my community as a lifelong resident of Isanti County. I have always felt a desire to try to contribute to its well-being. I served for 13 years as Braham's Mayor, I am a retired volunteer firefighter, a long-time member of Braham Area Chamber of Commerce and a member of Grandy Lions. I also serve as Vice Chair of the Braham Area Education Foundation and a longtime member of Braham Evangelical Lutheran Church. I believe that local government shouldn't be

based on politics but rather on common sense. My philosophy is to treat people how you would want to be treated and do what is right for the residents and businesses of Isanti County. I work well with others and I am a good listener.

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

For the past eight years I have had the privilege of serving as your Commissioner and I would like to continue on with the good work that we have been doing at the County. Public Safety has been a top priority for me and the rest of the board. I have supported the Sheriff's Department by adding officers and adding a new headquarters with a significant upgrade to the dispatch center. We are currently doing a remodel and upgrade to the County Jail. We have added more snowplow drivers, trucks and routes to help residents safely navigate the winter roads. We worked to improve the health of our youth by being one of the first Counties in Minnesota to pass the T-21 Ordinance.

How would you balance residents' requests for providing services/amenities with lowering or keeping taxes as low as possible?

Budgeting is one of the challenges facing any governing board. Just as you and I struggle to maintain a budget at home or your business, the County has the same problems of rising costs due to inflation. One major step we took in the past year was to undergo a major reorganization of the County Services division. We went from 13 plus department heads to 4 division leaders. Our goal is to provide better customer service while trying to maintain a reasonable levy. We are in the initial stages of this reorganization and our County Treasurer/Auditor has determined that the county will achieve a savings of \$765,000 over a 3-year period. We used our Federal COVID aid to provide over \$1.8 Million in Small Business aid, mental health support and aid to the schools. The 30-year historic County tax levy is around 6%. During that time as your Commissioner, we have managed to stay under that percentage.



STEVE WESTERBERG

City of residence:
Stanchfield
Occupation: Painter

What is your reason for running?

Dennis Prager once said, "the bigger the government the smaller the citizen." I'm running because I believe we need bigger citizens and smaller government.

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

Recently, the commissioners spent \$650,000 on the Orange Frog Initiative, a program to help people feel happier. It's not the government's job to fund happiness. Will this program reduce crime? Will fewer people use illegal drugs? Will fewer children be put into foster care? There's no way to know. This program was voted in after the community made it clear they did not want it. The commissioners have lost touch with their constituents.

The current county commissioners believe the County Auditor should be a hired position. I'm afraid I have to disagree. The person in charge of auditing finances and counting votes should not be beholden to those they are auditing. If change were needed, it should have been put on the ballot for the citizens to decide. I'm running for commissioner to create a smaller government with more input from the citi-

zens.

How would you balance residents' requests for providing services/amenities with lowering or keeping taxes as low as possible?

My top priority is to lower taxes. The taxes in our county have gone up and are going up amid a recession. Do we really need to spend millions of dollars to remodel the Isanti County Government Center? No. We must take a hard look at how every dollar is spent and responsibly align our budget with the county's needs.

How would I balance wants and needs while seeking to lower taxes? First, I would seek to bring balance. At the moment our county is out of balance. Our taxes need to be brought under control, and the services we offer our community need to be in alignment with what our community truly needs.

ISANTI COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 5



SUSAN MORRIS

City of residence:
Cambridge
Occupation: Current
County Commissioner

How would you balance residents' requests for providing services/amenities with lowering or keeping taxes as low as possible?

I am always looking for ways to save residents money and make our service delivery more efficient, I have been doing this for years. I knew that our current structure was inefficient and was costing taxpayers

a lot of money.

In 2020 we hired a consultant to look at county processes. He reviewed the structure and delivery of services and interviewed our employees. The outcome was we were able to reduce our departments from 17 to 5, with a cost savings of over \$750,000.

Another result of these changes is improved customer service. Prior to this restructuring, our customers would have to go to three different Departments to do property transactions. They now need to visit just one.

We also have to look for outside funding sources. For example, our Division Director has secured \$750,000 in Legacy funds for the next build out of Anderson Park, and has a grant for \$350,000 in the works for Springvale Park. Grants are also very important for bringing down the cost to local taxpayers.

What would you do to accelerate providing residents with**high-speed internet?**

My family lives this every day, my husband is a Software Engineer and our daughter is a school teacher who both have worked from home.

We have to work with our partners to fix this.

Isanti County is currently looking at opportunities with both East Central Electric and Midco. Midco is currently expanding their fiber network in Isanti county; East Central Electric is exploring similar opportunities. In order to leverage these developments, Isanti county has committed our America Rescue Plan (ARPA) funds to get fiber to every home. When I found out about the ARPA funds, I lobbied Congressman Stauber and both Senators Smith and Klobuchar to make upgrading Broadband an allowable use for these funds. I work hard at every level of government to get you better service.



KRISTI LAROWE

City of residence:
Cambridge
Occupation: Farming
family

How would you balance residents' requests for providing services/amenities with lowering or keeping taxes as low as possible?

In talking with my constituents, they have indicated that taxes are the number one issue for them. We need to be fiscally responsible and put a freeze on spending as we are entering into a rescission.

Freezing spending should include such things as the millions of dollars that are being planned to be spent on renovating the Government Center. We need to spend within our means.

I will work to lighten the burden on the taxpayer by lowering the mill rate from 1.1 to 1.0 percent. This one change could be saving families up to \$400 a year.

We are the sixteenth highest-taxed county in Minnesota we could do better than this. For about 2 years now we have had a surplus in the State budget. Minnesota should benefit from this. It is very evident we are paying too much in taxes.

We need to welcome industry and give small businesses incentives to come to Isanti County.

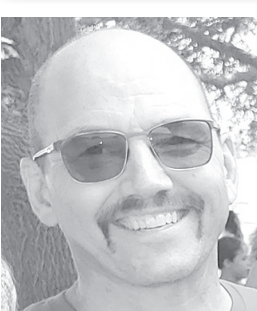
I will explore the private sector for work that would need to be done or projects that can be contracted out if it is cheaper.

What would you do to accelerate providing residents with**high-speed internet?**

People are disappointed with the wasteful spending of \$650,000 on the orange frog Initiative. We don't need the Government to foster our happiness. I believe this money could have been used in more practical ways such as addressing our high-speed internet issues. At least that way we would be able to experience a calculable return on investment.

I will encourage townships to continue to find ways to work together concerning their internet needs that would be beneficial to us all. Thus meeting the people's needs more completely. Working together with my constituents to get a better understanding of their needs and helping them to meet those needs is my greatest desire and will be my greatest impetus as a servant leader.

CHISAGO COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 5



DAN DAHLBERG

City of residence:
Rush City
Occupation: Sales and
delivery driver, Mayor,
farmer, entrepreneur

How would you balance residents' requests for providing services/amenities with lowering or keeping taxes as low as possible?

It's important that we are diligent about how our

money is being used – it's not about taking more money, it's about smart spending. We have to focus on what is needed to help our communities sustain – for example providing safe road conditions for our entire district – and then focus on growing and building the infrastructure to flourish. My goal is to serve as county commissioner like I have as the Rush City Mayor – by listening to the needs of the people, educating myself and being involved so we can make the best decisions possible in partnership with other local officials.

What would you do to accelerate providing residents with high-speed internet?

We need to partner with companies to make this happen. The county needs to assist companies in the

rural areas where the infrastructure is more expensive and revenue is lower to make it desirable for companies to invest in those areas. Everyone needs access to quality internet services and the county should be part of supporting the upgrade for internet infrastructure. The past couple of years has proven that quality and stable internet is nearly as important as roads. We need reliable service for work-from-home employment and our education services. As people continue working from home, reliable service can offer opportunities for businesses to capitalize on residents that no longer travel outside the area every day.

NORTH BRANCH SCHOOL BOARD (VOTE FOR UP TO THREE)



SARAH GROVENDER

City of residence:
North Branch
Occupation: Teacher in
C-1 School District

What is your reason for running?

I have had the honor of serving as a member of the North Branch School Board for the last six years. During this period of time, I have learned so much and would love the opportunity to continue to serve in this role. Education is a passion of mine, which is my driving reason that I am running to serve on the North Branch School Board. I currently hold a

Specialist's Degree in Educational Leadership and a Master's Degree in Special Education. This fall I started my nineteenth school year, teaching in Cambridge. My profession gives me many unique insights into the educational system along with extensive knowledge regarding students with special educational needs. My husband and I have four children, two of whom are North Branch Area High School graduates. My other two children are currently enrolled in the North Branch Area School District, attending North Branch Middle School and North Branch Area High School.

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

As a resident of North Branch, I truly believe that strong schools and a strong community go hand in hand. My goal as a member of the North Branch School Board will be to ensure that every student has access to the same high quality of education, regard-

less of grade level or educational need. I believe all children should be afforded the same excellent opportunities in education.

How do you plan on maintaining the district's budget considering the continued lack of state funding?

There have been many changes in education since the last time that I was elected. Of course, funding remains a hurdle for most school districts, including North Branch. It is my priority to set policy that will provide opportunities for quality education. I will continue to seek creative solutions to the obstacles that school districts are facing. I participate in Leading for the Future, which is a group collaborating for creative solutions for the future of education. Along with this work, I have realized how important it is that our schools are evolving to meet the needs of the future generations.



ADAM TRAMPE

City of residence:
North Branch
Occupation: Attorney

What is your reason for running?

As a North Branch alum, resident, and parent, I have a vested interest in the success of our schools and students. I think it's important that schools have good oversight and that they're well-managed, both as it relates to wise stewardship of taxpayer funds, as well as to allocating resources to create the most val-

ue and provide the best support for all our students. In short, I'm running because I want our district to do the very best it can for our kids, and I can help support that cause.

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

Student support. And by that, I'm referring to the things that have the closest and most direct impacts on improving the day-to-day in-school experience for kids. The more individualized and differentiated attention a student gets and the more stable, caring, and welcoming the school environment is, the more opportunity for that student to learn, to grow socially and emotionally, and to be successful on whatever path he or she chooses. So things like class sizes, teacher support, school safety – these are all key issues for me. Addressing these priorities comes down to funding allocation and strategic focus: the

Board needs to be vocal and clear about its priorities, and to expect accountability for those priorities being reflected in funding and strategic decisions..

How do you plan on maintaining the district's budget considering the continued lack of state funding?

While better state-level funding is needed, that's not the hand we're currently dealt. Responding to that requires clear priorities and alignment on needs versus "nice-to-haves." As I noted earlier, to me the top "needs" are to maintain funding in areas that offer the most bang-for-the-buck at the student academic level. I don't believe, for example, that cutting staff and increasing class sizes should be the knee-jerk response to tight school budgets. And while I'm not opposed to assessing opportunities for greater funding at the local level, for me that assessment must be similarly informed by a student-focused value proposition.

Jesse LaValla and Shane O'Connor did not return answers

**CHISAGO COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 5
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4B**



CINDY ERICKSON

City of residence:
Fish Lake Township
Occupation: Retired
from finance dept. of
Hazelden Betty Ford
Foundation

How would you balance residents' requests for providing services/amenities with lowering or keeping taxes as low as possible?

If your family is like mine, we have to budget our spending based on how much money we have. Our Government should also live within its means. As your Commissioner, you can count on me to keep a close eye on the budget. We have to be fiscally smart and plan well on how to use the budget wisely. Needs must come before wants, and the health and safety of our citizens should be a top priority.

I will work tirelessly to fight for necessary road projects, work to attract new businesses into the County, and make sure the Sheriff's Department is adequately funded.

I will listen to the needs of our residents, study issues, and make rational, logical and responsible decisions on, not only budget issues, but all the

issues facing our County.

What would you do to accelerate providing residents with high-speed internet?

There are new innovations happening regularly in how to create access to high-speed internet quickly. North Branch just implemented a system where towers transmit and receive signals over long distances which negates the need to bury cables over miles of rural landscape, making internet accessibility much quicker.

It is estimated that, due to the rural nature of our state, Minnesota will receive \$650,000,000 for the buildout of broadband infrastructure. Chisago County has a task force working on the possibilities, and coordinating with our communities to make sure we get the best bang for our buck. With the work they are doing proactively, when those funds are released to the counties, we will have a solid plan that can be implemented right away.

We do have communities in our district like Fish Lake and Nessel Townships that bonded for internet infrastructure and have completed their projects already. It appears that communities like these will be receiving an equitable reimbursement for their financial outlay.

"Hey North Branch, isn't it time to get rid of the longstanding drama and elect leaders who will bring respectability back to our community?"

Kevin Schieber **for** NORTH BRANCH **Mayor**



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CHISAGO COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 1



JIM SWENSON

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

How would you balance residents' requests for providing services/amenities with lowering or keeping taxes as low as possible?

Firstly, the county needs to create a strategic plan so that short, middle and long-term goals can be realized. Residents' requests for services/amenities will

have to be weighed against whether they fit within the strategic plan. I do not make decisions that are driven by the "squeaky wheel", but that are data-driven, that fit within our strategic plan and are what's best for the MAJORITY of our citizens.

Secondly, I want to determine the essential services of the county, then prioritize those services, and "right size" those services to match the needs of our county. The budget allocated for each department's services should be the amount needed to efficiently and cost effectively provide those services. This entire process will then drive our budgeting, support our strategic plan, and force us to be good stewards of taxpayers' money and result in a lower tax rate.

What would you do to accelerate providing residents with high-speed internet?

I would like the county to follow the model that

North Branch has created. I led the efforts to bring point-to-point wireless internet access to every home and business in North Branch in spring 2021. To have our entire city internet-accessible cost only \$487,000. To contrast the expense of fiber, a local township of about 25 houses received a grant for fiber at a cost of \$5,000/house. Our North Branch model cost 1/10 that per house! Private companies will never run fiber in rural areas where houses are great distances apart as this is too cost prohibitive for them. The most cost-effective way to get 21st century technology infrastructure to ALL of Chisago County's residents and business owners in a timely manner is the North Branch model. Fiber can come later when the federal government wants to pony up the funds and/or grants become available. Our citizens can NOT wait any longer!



TIM MACMILLAN

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

How would you balance residents' requests for providing services/amenities with lowering or keeping taxes as low as possible?

My role is listen to residents, business owners, and municipalities regarding what amenities and services are needed, how these requests affect the tax base, and to figure out the best way to pay for them with-

out it affecting an increase in the tax levy. We can't forget about the other requests that have tax impacts on the use of county tax dollars. We all have needs and wants, work hard for the dollars we earn, but we know we must have a plan for how we spend our dollars. How we spend county dollars, your tax dollars, should be no different. We have to have a strategic plan to stay accountable to the spending. My role is to balance those needs versus wants and to figure out a way to pay for them. This takes collaboration, relationship building, and creative thinking to find fiscal resources to help pay for the needs and if there is extra, to cover the wants. We need to think big picture, provide services that are needed, and raise accountability for programs and dollars spent in the county as a whole. It is my goal to increase community engagement and to listen to what our district

needs. My role would be to represent sound community ideas that support our local businesses, schools, parks, public safety, and roads and control spending by having a plan and priorities for the spending of our tax dollars. My intent would be to develop a vision for our district, set goals, monitor progress, and collaborate with constituents.

What would you do to accelerate providing residents with high-speed internet?

As Commissioner, I would work with local private providers to establish ongoing services by incentivizing providers to provide this service or expand it to all. This collaboration has already been a model initiated by our local elected Senator, Mark Koran, and our State Representatives, and we should build on that model to expand it to all.

ISANTI COUNTY SHERIFF



WAYNE SEIBERLICH

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

How do you plan on at least maintaining, if not improving law enforcement's image within the community?

This will take complete transparency. I will implement a Citizen Advisory Board consisting of a member from each township and city. These members will serve as liaisons between the Sheriff's Office and the community and can learn law enforcement proce-

dures and provide comments and advice as we work.

The Sheriff's Office needs to become an active member within the community again. You'll see the return of the sheriff's office booth to the county fair, participation at community events, a presence in our schools displaying a positive image to our youth, and improved outreaches to our senior citizens as we educate our senior population of targeted crimes against them. We will enhance our response to mental health crises with continued training and the implementation of a therapy dog program to our existing K9 program.

An improvement in the Sheriff's Office social media page will inform and connect us with the community over the public platform. We will provide not only crime alerts and notifications of events in our county, but will update the public with the day-to-day activities of your officers allowing additional transparency

into the profession.

How do you plan on trying to decrease crime in our area?

I have seen what crimes are being committed, how they're committed, why and who the victims are. I know that the key to crime reduction is a proactive approach. I understand undercover operations which can be used in addressing our drug crimes and property crimes.

I will be direct. If you commit a crime, expect a police response. We will actively investigate crimes and pursue those committing them. It will be my responsibility to work with prosecutors and judges to form a comprehensive plan to address individuals victimizing the citizens. I will implement systematic, targeted patrols in high-crime areas and areas of suspected drug activity. We will follow up with and respond to citizen complaints and calls of suspicious activity.



LISA LOVERING

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

How do you plan on at least maintaining, if not improving law enforcement's image within the community?

As I stated in my filing statement, I plan to implement a community advisory committee. This committee would be made up of members of our

community. We would talk about issues that they feel are important to them and come up with solutions together. I also would discuss with the committee and other members of the community on law enforcement topics such as use of force or policies so that they understand why something happened the way it did. I want to make sure that we also hold all of our staff to the highest standards with our policies and will be transparent with the community so that we are accountable to the public we serve. I am very thankful for the residents of Isanti County and the support they have given to all of law enforcement. The majority are generally thankful for law enforcement.

How do you plan on trying to decrease crime in our area?

Several years ago, Sheriff Caulk implemented rural patrol for our deputies. The deputies will patrol a

township for one hour of every shift checking all the back roads and making sure that everyone sees them out there. This has had a positive impact on our crime rate. I will continue with the rural patrols to make sure that we are very visible in our community so the criminals know we are out there.

Mental health is the number one issue that those committing crimes deal with. We have to provide more resources and programs to get these people the help they need so they can get off of the drugs and stay out of the jails. I am working on partnering with other community groups so that we have people that we can refer them to. We do not have that now and it is greatly needed.

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- Past commissioner, Isanti County Parks and Recreation

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BRING IN MORE BUSINESSES TO KEEP IMPROVING OUR TAX BASE

CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL (VOTE FOR UP TO TWO)



AARON BERG

City of residence:
Cambridge
Occupation: City Planner

How would you balance residents' requests for providing services/amenities with lowering or keeping taxes as low as possible?

Cambridge has invested in a long-term strategic planning process which identified a number of goals and core strategies to achieve not only community success but responsibly manage city finances. I will evaluate resident requests to determine how each request fits into the city's strategic plan. Determining how projects, plans, or service could be phased into development, in alignment with strategic goals, can aid in minimizing the tax impact. Investing resources into attracting new business and industry partners to our available shovel ready industrial parks is critical. Aiding our existing businesses in growth or expansion is another priority that will assist in lowering the citizens' tax burden. It is important to me to explore ways the city can help facilitate apprenticeship or internship opportunities with local business and industry partners and C-I Schools to provide future employees opportunities to develop job skills prior to entering the workforce.

Revitalizing downtown Cambridge has become a top priority of the current council. What ideas would you bring to the council on this subject?

I would encourage staff to continue involving citizens in discussion and promoting the use of a redevelopment fund and revolving loan program. I would encourage free design assistance, create an expedited permit review process, create recognition programs, and work with State and Regional Development groups to leverage all available incentives to enhance our downtown.

Abraham Lincoln said, "the best way to predict the future is to create it yourself." Successful communities have a vision for the future and build plans to enhance existing assets, while paying attention to aesthetics. The enhancement of existing unique character has a greater chance of attracting visitors and residents alike. What attracts visitors to a location? If downtown Cambridge looked like every other middle American downtown there would be no reason to visit. No one community development project holds greater value than another.

All development, done with careful consideration and public input has the potential to be successful and have a positive impact.



BOB SHOGRIN

City of residence:
Cambridge
Occupation: 911 Coordinator/telecommunicator

How would you balance residents' requests for providing services/amenities with lowering or keeping taxes as low as possible?

Core services like public works, public safety, economic development, etc must be funded first. Without these, the city ceases to function. Once the budget for

these necessities is set, the council must take a look at the results of long-range planning and prioritize which projects get funded by balancing the wishes of the residents with the overall benefit to the city and the increase to the tax levy.

Revitalizing downtown Cambridge has become a top priority of the current council. What ideas would you bring to the council on this subject?

Since downtown Cambridge is the businesses located there, the city council must listen to and consult with downtown business owners to determine their needs and work with them to provide ways to improve their properties through the city's revolving loan fund and other available tools. By keeping up the appearance of the downtown corridor, the city can do its part to make it attractive and inviting to potential shoppers.



JOE MORIN

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

How would you balance residents' requests for providing services/amenities with lowering or keeping taxes as low as possible?

The council receives requests for services all the time. When considering those, the council needs to view the city as a whole and not just as pieces. The council's priority must focus on their long-range plan and long-range budget. Right now I understand the long-range budget goes out 10 years. When the plan and budget are followed, it will provide lower taxes for

everyone. So basically the city needs to stick to their budget. Within that, the core services must remain first priority (Police, Fire, Public works and city functions). The city just cannot afford to do everything for everyone.

Revitalizing downtown Cambridge has become a top priority of the current council. What ideas would you bring to the council on this subject?

Downtown is a great place to do business! The first thing needed is for store owners to remain open after 5 pm. Most people shop after they are done with work. During the daytime it's a hopping place. We need to keep that momentum going in the evening. We also really need to pursue business owners to invest in opening up in the store fronts that are vacant and to make low interest loans or grants available to the current owners to spruce up their spots. Plus we need to look outside the box and consider hiring a PR firm to promote downtown.



AMANDA WISNER

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

How would you balance residents' requests for providing services/amenities with lowering or keeping taxes as low as possible?

Prioritizing what services/amenities are currently in the works and determining which are further ahead than others; determining what services/amenities are needed versus "wouldn't this be nice to have". Having constituents vote on choices and focusing on

the main ones or those of majority vote and dealing with others as time/funds allow. Encouraging the community to engage in community decisions.

Revitalizing downtown Cambridge has become a top priority of the current council. What ideas would you bring to the council on this subject?

I would encourage the revitalization of empty store fronts using funds allocated or gained by grants or saved for "future" projects, for "right now" projects. Prioritizing projects on a timed schedule and adjusting them to "now," "in so many years" or "someday, as time and funds permit."

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Isanti County Commissioner District 1
November 8

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VOTE BILL BERG FOR DISTRICT 2

Who is Bill Berg?
Isanti County has been home for me, my wife Cherie, and our four daughters since 1992. Since then I have served as Rotary Club President, on the Foundation Board for Cambridge Medical Center, been a volunteer Sheriff Chaplain, helped start the New Pathways program, coached many sports and provided crisis counseling in the schools, and other community involvement. I started New Hope Community Church in 2004 and serve as its Senior Pastor. My wife has been a speech therapist in the schools for 15 years.

Why am I running?
There is a lot to do, but I would like to highlight:

- Substance use among children and youth
- Childcare availability
- Strengthening small businesses
- Strong parks and recreation
- Mental health concerns
- Affordable housing
- Fair taxes

Contact me: bberg4icc@gmail.com
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We have a lot to protect!

Vote early beginning September 23 at the Isanti County Courthouse, or at your usual polling location on Election Day.

Kristi LaRowe
FOR COUNTY COMMISSIONER

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NORTH BRANCH MAYOR



KELLY NEIDER

City of residence: North Branch
Occupation: Business owner - Personal trainer Fit Now, LLC

collective understanding and involvement from the council and our city staff. We have remained fiscally responsible of our resident's tax dollars. We have received two upgrades in our credit rating in the past two years by Moody's. We have purchased two new fire trucks. We have

been able to add additional police and staff back as needed. One of the best things we have accomplished is to lower our water rates by 26% and reduce the service fee by \$5. We have moved the water and light operations over to the city's public works department saving over \$300,000.00 a year. By doing this we now have effective leadership, and much needed office efficiencies and oversight. We have been working diligently with ECE on the sale of our electric business. This will bring 5.3 million dollars into our city; it will offset debt and allow us to upgrade our neglected infrastructure.

It would be my honor to serve the next 2 years as your mayor. I have what it takes to continue moving us forward in the right direction. I have the heart and passion to serve this community and bring effective concentrated growth, change and leadership.

C P R: Community - Progress - Results; I am community driven; we have experienced a ton of progress and most definitely have seen superior results over the past 6 years.



KEVIN SCHIEBER

City of residence: North Branch
Occupation: Engineering Technician/Project Manager

What is your reason for running?

The #1 issue I continue to hear about from so many of my fellow citizens is the mistrust they feel with some of our key city leaders. At the top, we need city council members who truly understand they were elected to represent the voice of our fellow citizens. Like many of you, I want our elected leaders to listen, be honest, and earnestly work to manage our community resources for the benefit of all of us. There should be no hidden personal agendas by our city leaders, only community focused actions that are clearly transparent to our citizens. I chose to run for mayor because it's time to change the culture of our city council into one that wants to work as a team, values trust and respect with its citizens, and will work proactively with our business community as our city grows and develops.

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

My first step is to unify our city council as willing teammates. We need to start with creating a mindset and environment that we welcome our citizen involvement, and that we welcome our businesses to grow and prosper here

in North Branch. I have heard from many businesses in town that they feel unwelcome by our city leaders. That relationship needs to improve into one where our businesses feel like we are all on the same team.

One of our key challenges right now is the lack of business development in our city owned 250 acre industrial park. I will

work to get the city council more proactive in creating a workable plan in place, but we need all hands on deck, which includes empowering our EDA to lead the way. We can no longer just say we want to do it...we must take productive steps.

How would you balance residents' requests for providing services/amenities with lowering or keeping taxes as low as possible?

First, we as leaders need to better inform our citizens on the pros and cons of our services, and the costs associated with them. For example, many citizens are asking for some type of community center for their families, and I think the city should explore different possibilities, along with estimated costs to taxpayers. Be upfront with citizens and let them decide if the cost is a good value to them. Our residential housing development has been strong, increasing tax revenue, which helps offset costs for services/amenities. If we better synchronize the growth of our business sector, we can further enhance the financial strength of North Branch.



LORRAINE MOELLER

City of residence: North Branch
Occupation: Owner - Blue Sky Travel, Inc.

tax dollars. We have made this land shovel ready, added rail spurs, and is classified an Opportunity Zone which makes the space ideal for new business. We need to work with prospective companies and not limit our outreach. There is absolutely no reason this land has not been sold, generating tax dollars for the infrastructure as well as our

cities economic health and growth. All you have to do is travel Interstate 35. Business development stops at North Branch. I will be the voice to advocate for North Branch residents to encourage existing businesses in the community and potential consideration of cutting edge new business growth not only in the industrial park but city wide.

How would you balance residents' requests for providing services/amenities with lowering or keeping taxes as low as possible?

I will lead and encourage council and staff to move forward using economic development our number one priority doing everything we can to encourage and engage new business to expand/start in our great city. There are no excuses for not getting the job done.



MARK SCHLOER

City of residence: North Branch
Occupation: Supply Chain Director

What is your reason for running?

I believe I can help make positive change, I want transparency and accountability on the council. And we need to attract new businesses and families to North Branch and offer reliable and affordable utilities and have a safe and encouraging environment for both Families and Business

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

As Mayor, I want to be able to help the EDA attract manufacturers, larger retailers and distributors to North Branch

I have been involved with both small and global companies for over 30 years, and I know what it takes to run those businesses. So I have some pretty good insight and can leverage

that when entertaining potential new businesses that are interested in North Branch .

We desperately need more higher paying jobs in the community and more tax base to improve our tax rates to our citizens.

How would you balance residents' requests for providing services/amenities with lowering or keeping taxes as low as possible?

As a public servant, I believe it's our duty to listen to and address the concerns of the citizens, we need to take those concerns and bring them to the table and discuss them , and make informed, data driven choices that benefit both the citizens and the city. Not just for the short term. But for decades to come ,

Meaning we have to plan for future growth and have things in place to support that growth, including infrastructure, police/ fire etc. while keeping taxes in check. That also ties into increasing our tax base with new businesses and new families.

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Jimmy's Principles

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- Lower Taxes
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JIMMY IS A ...

LONGTIME RESIDENT

Jimmy has lived nearly twelve years in the Isanti area. He is married with 3 kids and has one more on the way.

VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER

He has been with Isanti Fire District since 2018.



LOCAL BUSINESS OWNER

Jimmy and his wife, Megan, currently own the Jimmy's Pizza locations in Isanti, North Branch & New Town, ND

CITY COUNCILMAN

He has served on the Isanti City Council since 2019.



CAMBRIDGE-ISANTI SCHOOL BOARD (VOTE FOR UP TO FOUR)



ALEXIS TREICHEL

City of residence:
Cambridge Township
Occupation: Owner -
Treichel Creative LLC

What is your reason for running?

After working with teenagers for the better part of the last 10 years, I realized the role I can play in affecting positive change in my community and the enthusiasm I hold for advocating for students. I've seen the impact students can make in their own

communities when provided with the right resources and guidance, and see a great opportunity for the Cambridge-Isanti School District. I think it is important to consider as many opinions and experiences as possible when making district-wide decisions, and believe I will bring a unique and fresh perspective to the table in that way.

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

My top priorities go hand-in-hand - equity and accessibility. I believe that through student and community involvement, proper allocation of resources, and research-backed solutions, we can improve the education experience for every student while also providing an accessible and equitable learning environment. Connecting students, their families, and their education team with the proper resources to ensure their continued success on all levels is vital to prepar-

ing students for what comes after - whether they enter a trade, go to college, start a business, take care of a family, or something else.

How do you plan on maintaining the district's budget considering the continued lack of state funding?

Thinking outside the box and making money stretch further are skills from my personal life that I will bring to the table, and I believe they will be incredibly useful in maintaining the district's budget. There is always more than one solution to every problem. I look forward to examining each solution from as many perspectives as possible and proposing new solutions that can expand funding. It is vital to look at what is working and what's not, and it is equally as important to be honest and transparent about the best way forward with the current budget.



DEETTA MOOS

City of residence:
Springvale Township
Occupation: Co-owner
with husband of landscaping business

What is your reason for running?

Two years ago, I quickly recognized the extraordinary pressures coming against our school's students and teachers during a year of disrupted learning. As a teacher, I became concerned about the potential learning loss, and because I regularly advocate for children and wanted to be sure that, even in the midst of such unprecedented times, C/I Schools would continue to provide a strong academic education. I began regularly attending school board meetings, reviewing some of their core curriculum, and asking the tough

questions that I and the community desired to understand. I then volunteered to serve on the Strategic Planning Committee. We worked to draft our school district's objectives, goals and mission. Through these experiences, I've gained a broad understanding of the complex issues facing our students, parents, teachers and staff. I would like to come alongside this mission and continue advocating for a strong academic education as a school board member.

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

My top priority is to ensure our schools offer our students a high quality education that our community approves of and endorses. We can do this through continued use of academically challenging curriculum and retention of our well-trained teachers. We also need to challenge our students to set high goals. We should work to remove any unnecessary barriers for teachers and students alike, so teaching and learning is prioritized. Lastly, we need to continually grow community partnerships. Last year, I searched for and found a wonderful retired Math teacher, who was

willing to help students shore up any concepts missed during the previous year of interrupted learning. We have a generous community, who is willing to help when the need is made known to them! I plan to help make those connections. With a lifetime of experience working with families and children and our strong connections with our surrounding community, I plan to use these skills to guide policy and resources, in partnership with our community.

How do you plan on maintaining the district's budget considering the continued lack of state funding?

As a public school, we should continually work to earn and maintain broad-based community trust and support. To do this, it is vital we work within a budget that is both transparent and reasonable. We must keep as much money as possible tied to the classroom and ensure we have great value for every dollar. As a mother and small business owner, I recognize our children are our future. Let's do all we can to equip them to be successful!



KEVIN GROSS

City of residence:
Springvale Township
Occupation: Police
officer/School Resource
Officer

What is your reason for running?

Through my occupation as a police officer, I have the pleasure of working as a school resource officer.

I feel this gives me a unique perspective inside the schools and allows me to see how things work. As I work with staff and the students I am able to see what our schools are in need of and can advocate for our student body. As a member of the community I am passionate about supporting the youth and families.

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

Obviously school safety is important to me. I would like to continue to take more proactive measures to keep our school safe, I believe I have the knowledge and abilities to move this forward. When I am elected to the school board I will continue to fight for the needs and safety of our students and staff.

How do you plan on maintaining the district's budget

considering the continued lack of state funding?

Our district is hurting financially and I believe that the current administrative team is working hard to make every penny work for us. I will vote in a fiscally conservative way while also helping our district to give our kids great opportunities. I will strive to fight for what will benefit our students the most, yet make sure we are not wasteful with the taxpayers money. I believe that through teamwork with the district and its constituents, we can be assertive and make our voices heard at the state level. I know not everyone was in favor of the referendum but I believe we are moving in the right direction and having the right conversations and I hope to lend my voice and ear in those conversations in every way.



WADE THUNSTROM

City of residence:
Isanti
Occupation: Electrical
Contractor/Finance

What is your reason for running?

The reason I am running for school board is I would rather be part of the solution instead of just an arm chair participant. I have grown up in this district my entire life and have raised my children within this district.

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

My top priority is funding of course and fiscal responsibility with the taxpayers money. I don't see my other priorities as second or down the list, they are all just as important, that being said. My most important priorities are excellence in education. In talking to state representatives, I have found that more spending does not equal better education, so I would like to make sure that issue is addressed for two reasons, fiscal responsibility and our responsibility to make sure our children are prepared for the world with the education they receive from this district. My next priority would be teacher/staff morale, performance, safety. In talking to people in the district there is an underlying tone that some of the staff does not feel properly represented. I would like to see first hand what that may or may not be.

How do you plan on maintaining the district's budget considering the continued lack of state funding?

The final question we are asked to answer is not an

easy or uncomplicated one. I won't know how to even approach fixing that without firsthand knowledge of the budget constraints. Honestly, I have sat through some school board meetings regarding budgets and there really is a large amount of information and dynamics to sort through, so any snap answers will not be properly addressing the problem. I have been an accountant for some large companies, (Upsher-Smith Laboratores, Coca-Cola enterprises), and have seen how budgets are run and maintained and without digging in no one really knows all of it, especially people with no financial background. I have run my own business for almost 4 years now and it is painfully obvious, taxation is a big question on peoples minds. Just so I'm clear, there is no progress with compromise. We are in this together now and in the future, we need to work together for all our sakes.



TIM HITCHINGS

City of residence:
Isanti
Occupation: Current C-I
School Board Chair

What is your reason for running?

My business experience includes accounting, budgeting, and profit and loss responsibility. I have brought that experience into my work in the school district. Under my leadership, we have developed and

implemented budget and finance tools that accurately report the cost of personnel for District operations, which is critical to budgeting and future planning.

I will continue to be a voice of reason in discussions, work to do what is best for our students and staff and bring fiscal responsibility to every decision. Together, we will work to provide the best education possible for our students.

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

If re-elected to the School Board, my top priority will be to continue to include community members, parents, students and staff in our committees and decisions affecting our schools. I believe that we need to have this involvement, so there are no misconceptions about where we are headed and what we teach

in our schools. We have a collective responsibility for maintaining strong public schools.

How do you plan on maintaining the district's budget considering the continued lack of state funding?

As a Board member, I will work to maintain a balanced budget and positive fund balance. I will work with our local legislators to advocate for fair state funding to support our Cambridge-Isanti School district, benefitting our community and our students. I will continue to be a constructive part of the leadership team in asking questions and being accountable to the community. I will continue to be accessible to anyone who wants information about our District at any time.

CAMBRIDGE-ISANTI SCHOOL BOARD (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9B)



NICK IZZO

City of residence:
Isanti
Occupation: Business
Development & Process
Improvement Manage-
ment

growth. I have decided to run for our school board so that I can protect what my family has experienced the last 20 years. My involvement, efforts, and success in our district have proven my commitment to keep this district a force for good and growth for all learners... today and into the future!

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

Is there ever just one top priority for a school district when needing to address such a variety of critical topics facing our schools, students, and teachers today? To be collaborative yet courageous, visionary yet accountable, without a specific agenda in mind, has been my approach in partnering with our district over the past 15 years in such areas as our Community Education Advisory Council, the Strategic Planning Task Force, our District's Finance Committee, while taking a leadership role in our community-based outreach committee "StepUp for C-I Education". I will continue to be a listening ear and a strong voice for our community in addressing a variety of priorities such as funding, mental health,

curriculum, and community outreach as a board member.

How do you plan on maintaining the district's budget considering the continued lack of state funding?

Serving on our District's Finance Committee the last two years has helped me gain a proficient understanding of Education Finance (which is a completely different language than business finance). With time and effort dedicated to gaining this knowledge, I have been able to ask the hard questions sitting at the table with our Superintendent and Director of Finance. My active participation has contributed to a district that has stayed within its budget, been able to increase our fund balance (i.e. operational savings account), and come in under-budget with many of our major capital (building) projects. As a board member, I plan to continue to ensure our financial books remain open and transparent, that the hard questions continue to be asked, and to keep our administration accountable for protecting both state and tax payer's funding dollars.

What is your reason for running?

I'm proud to live in the Cambridge-Isanti School District, where my wife and I continue to raise our children and take a passionate interest and active role in our community and in our schools. Almost 20 years ago we moved to Isanti with a young toddler and pregnant with our second. We had high hopes of raising our children in a community which would allow them vast opportunities to learn and grow, to expand their minds and increase their social aptitudes. Our district has been a great catalyst for this



NICOLE JOHNSON

City of residence:
Cambridge
Occupation: Finance
Coordinator - Eden
Prairie Schools

Cambridge, where we still reside, and raised our 2 daughters. My eight years in school finance and my four years of director experience will continue to be an asset to the board. My most significant value to the school board is that I was raised in a home that truly values education. My father was a C-I District employee for 31 years; teacher for 24, Athletic Director for 7 and coach for all 31. I saw firsthand the importance of his job and the impact that he had on students. Since my skills did not lead me into teaching, the best way I can contribute is by being a board member to truly support staff members that make a positive difference in students' lives.

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

This question was asked of me as a candidate in 2018. My answer was "to ensure that all decisions, policies and actions of school administration are truly for the benefit of our community, staff and students". Reflecting on that answer, this is still my priority. A board member's role is not in "day-to-day" decision

making but creating proper policies and procedures for those who do make them. The most important issues to our citizens involve quality of education for students, safety of students and staff and fiscal responsibility. Proper long-term planning, good leadership and quality decision making are essential to guarantee that these goals can be accomplished.

How do you plan on maintaining the district's budget considering the continued lack of state funding?

Unfortunately, there is no easy answer to this question. The C-I administration has worked tirelessly to gain some financial health in a system that has many inequities in funding throughout the state. Thankfully, our community came together to vote in an operating referendum that is a start in the right direction to help the district's budget. But the school board must continue to advocate for equal funding with our state lawmakers, partner with our community members and monitor the district's annual budget and budget decisions.

What is your reason for running?

I believe in the importance of public education. I have been so fortunate to be a director on the Cambridge-Isanti school board the past four years and would be honored to continue to serve the next four. My experience, education and background make me a quality candidate. I was born and raised in Cambridge, graduating as valedictorian of the Class of 1995. In 1999, after earning my degree from SCSU, my husband and I married, purchased a home in



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CAMBRIDGE-ISANTI SCHOOL BOARD (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10B)



MARK SOLBERG

City of residence:
Cambridge
Occupation: Recently retired as C-I Activities Director

What is your reason for running?

I would like to continue to make a difference for the students, families, public, taxpayers, administration, teachers, and educational support personnel. After having the great honor and privilege of being an educator for the past 41 years, I want to give back to our communities as a school board member. Our four sons received outstanding educational experiences as Bluejackets, and it would my goal as a school board member, to have all students receive a tremendous education, as all students are important, cared for, and loved.

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

As a potential school board member, I want to help make our students, families, public, taxpayers, administrators, teachers, and support personnel feel appreciated, cared for, motivated, supported, and encouraged. In the spring of 2010, at the graduation of Matt and his wife Sarah at Augsburg College, Governor Tim Pawlenty gave a powerful graduation speech. He told the graduates and families that leaders show up for significant events; leaders look for the good in people; and leaders help make their families, communities, schools, place of employment, and churches better by being encouraging, motivating, positive, caring, and supportive. Over the years I have spoken at, attended, supervised, or coached in tens of thousands of student celebrations, parent/guardian teacher conferences, band and choir concerts, fine arts and athletics contests, school board meetings, graduations, graduation open houses, and school committee events. If elected, I will be very visible in our schools, and very supportive of our students, families, taxpayers, administrators, teachers., coaches, advisors,

directors, and educational support personnel.

How do you plan on maintaining the district's budget considering the continued lack of state funding?

Special thanks to our Cambridge-Isanti Schools residents and taxpayers for passing our levy referendum last fall. This levy will benefit our students with an additional \$3.6 million per year for 10 years. \$500,000 of state money comes from the state by our successful vote. I was very proud to serve on the levy referendum committee, along with many community and school members. As a school board member, when the state has \$9 billion in the bank, it would be very important to work with our legislators to increase school funding for the betterment of our Bluejackets. When the present inflation rate is around 8% and school funding was increased by 2% it becomes difficult to balance budgets. Sadly in my 23 years as AD, we reduced school budgets many times, including prior to this year, we cut \$8.5 million over 3 years. These cuts were so difficult as our students deserve the best educational experiences possible.



TOM HEINEN

City of residence:
Athens Township
Occupation: Corporate Director/Plant manager

What is your reason for running?

I am at a point in my life when I feel a calling, a need to be involved in guiding the policies surrounding our children's education. I believe the school board should consist of people with differing backgrounds and diverse ideas. We tend to elect many board members with an educational background, not suggesting that is harmful, I simply believe the board should be more diverse to foster new ideas and

discussions. If elected I will lead with an open mind, a desire to understand, a questioning attitude and a commitment to be fair and transparent.

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

I will ensure curriculum is focused on academics like reading, writing, mathematics and history. I do not believe every student inspires to, or needs to, go to college. I will ensure the curriculum continues to include industrial art, automotive, and agricultural options. We also need to address the sharp drop in MCA test scores caused by COVID and figure out how we get this group of students back on track to meet their goals and achieve their dreams. I recognize that teachers and support staff need to be supported by the administration/school board and I will commit to listening to concerns and ideas. I will work with all staff to ensure district policies remain supportive. The draft Strategic Plan sets a solid foundation for the future of our educational system; however, we

need a well define understanding of the strategy and the details defining how the district will execute this strategy. In my career as a business leader, I have developed and executed many strategic plans and if elected I look forward to the opportunity to finalizing and executing the districts new Strategic Plan.

How do you plan on maintaining the district's budget considering the continued lack of state funding?

I will apply my experience gained through many years of managing a cost center and will identify spending that does not add value in educating our children. I understand this will not be an easy task and it may lead to some difficult decisions. I'm not talking about simply cutting cost, I'm referring to a thorough review of spending, in all areas, with a fresh set of eyes and a different view. I will also engage our local Representative in discussions about State education funding, policy and potential ideas to address the gaps.

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