

VOTER GUIDE: Ogilvie City Council (Elect 2)



Dave Leonhard
(Incumbent)

TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF

My name is Dave Leonhard and I have lived in the community for the last 16 years. I purchased a home in town in 2006. I have been married to my wife, Loralie, for three years. We have two energetic children, Aurora 11 going on 16 and David who is 19 months. In 2010 I became a firefighter for the Ogilvie Fire Department. I have worked for a small, family-run business in Mora for the last 18 years.

WHY ARE YOU RUNNING FOR OGILVIE CITY COUNCIL? WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES?

I am seeking re-election because I feel that the taxpayers' money needs to be used responsibly. I think of myself as a conservative person and I think that's how money should be used, conservatively. I also believe the best way to make an impact is on a local level. I am a big believer in the old saying, "If you want a job done right you have to do it yourself."

THE CITY OF OGILVIE HAS SEEN A 30 PERCENT DROP IN POPULATION IN THE LAST 25 YEARS. WHY DO YOU THINK THIS IS AND WHAT CAN OGILVIE DO TO ATTRACT NEW FAMILIES WHILE RETAINING CURRENT RESIDENTS?

The drop in population in recent years is directly connected to the drop in local business. We see it time and time again in small town main streets across the country. I believe we need to come up with creative solutions to the problems while working with what we currently have.

In the last year the city of Ogilvie has worked with two small businesses that moved their business into town. This was possible from a slight change in zoning, allowing these businesses to operate as specified. In addition, another small business is building a new building on the old school site. All of these create employment for local people. With more employment opportunities in the community, this would potentially lead to a need for housing and getting our population moving in the right direction again.

In the short time I have served on city council, I think we have accomplished quite a few good things. The sewer pipes have all been relined. Main Street is getting cleaned up. Some streets in town are in the process of much needed repair. Small business is coming back to town. The Tower Bar received a face-lift and an excellent grill addition. Our little town is making good progress. I look forward to have the opportunity to serve you for another term.



Kenneth Taylor
(Incumbent)

TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF

My name is Kenneth Taylor and I am a life-long resident of Ogilvie. My town and community mean the world to me. I am an active member of the Ogilvie Lions Club, volunteer fire department and Ogilvie First Responders. I am a father of a 5-year-old daughter who is the apple of my eye. I want her to have all the opportunities that a small town can offer not only to her but the entire community.

WHY ARE YOU RUNNING FOR OGILVIE CITY COUNCIL? WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES?

I am running for office as I would like to see our town grow, prosper and offer opportunity to our residents. Bringing in new businesses will make the town appealing to live, work and raise a family. We offer a wonderful school district and if we all work together success will come and can be achieved.

THE CITY OF OGILVIE HAS SEEN A 30 PERCENT DROP IN POPULATION IN THE LAST 25 YEARS. WHY DO YOU THINK THIS IS AND WHAT CAN OGILVIE DO TO ATTRACT NEW FAMILIES WHILE RETAINING CURRENT RESIDENTS?

Population dropped 30 percent in the past 25 years - this is a true statement and I believe it has to do with the fact that we have lost many businesses over the past years. Yes, we all enjoy the benefits of a superstore but it cuts into the small town growth.

I believe once Dakota Steel gets up and running it will bring jobs, revenue and growth to our town. This is promising to our community and residents.

HOW CAN THE CITY OF OGILVIE RETAIN AND ATTRACT NEW BUSINESSES?

This is a tough question as we need to make our town appealing to businesses by conveying it as a great town and they will have opportunity to grow and prosper.

WHAT OTHER CHALLENGES DO YOU SEE FOR OGILVIE AND HOW WOULD YOU ADDRESS THEM?

City growth, getting business in town, bringing in new jobs and residents are challenges that face Ogilvie.

We as a community will need to embrace the challenges and stay motivated to keep moving forward. As challenges come up it is important to stay engaged and follow up as well as follow through to ensure the challenges are addressed. I look forward to your support and vote on Nov. 8.

Candidates Charlie Strickland Jr. and Garrison Story did not respond to the Times' attempts to contact them.



Charlie Strickland Jr.



Garrison Story

Support your Republican team on November 8!



ANDREW Mathews
STATE SENATE



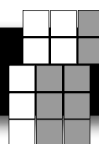
Sondra Erickson
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

A vote for Andrew Mathews for State Senate and Sondra Erickson for State Representative guarantees leadership on these State Capitol initiatives:

- ✓ MIDDLE CLASS TAX RELIEF
- ✓ FISCAL RESTRAINT
- ✓ SAVING LAKE MILLE LACS
- ✓ PRO-LIFE PRIORITIES
- ✓ LOWERING HEALTH CARE COSTS
- ✓ LIMITED GOVERNMENT
- ✓ PRIVATE SECTOR JOB GROWTH
- ✓ 2ND AMENDMENT RIGHTS

Elect those who want to serve you, listen to your concerns, and stand up for Constitutional values.

Vote Andrew Mathews for State Senate and Sondra Erickson for State Representative On November 8!



VOTER GUIDE: Minnesota State Representative District 11B (Elect 1)



Tom Jones (D)

BACKGROUND & QUALIFICATIONS

I was born and raised in Kanabec County. My wife and I have enjoyed raising our family in rural Minnesota. I am a carpenter and building contractor, and I was an elected township officer and a Township

Zoning Administrator and building official. I am currently a member of my township and county planning commissions.

I enjoy fishing local lakes, making maple syrup, hiking in the woods and gardening. I am the proud product of small town Minnesota and I care deeply about the issues facing our district.

WHY ARE YOU RUNNING & WHAT IS YOUR TOP PRIORITY?

I believe that government can be a force for good, but politics is so polarized that the average citizen has become disillusioned. The role of the public servant is to serve the public, not corporate interests, big government or knee-jerk partisanship. My top priority is economic development. I will work to rebuild the promise of the Minnesota Investment Fund and the Job Creation Fund and support the growth of jobs and prosperity for our district.

WHAT CAN BE DONE AT THE LEGISLATURE TO HELP RURAL MINNESOTA OFFER ADEQUATE HOUSING AND HEALTHCARE SERVICES FOR SENIORS? OR ARE CURRENT EFFORTS SUFFICIENT?

The number of seniors in Minnesota will double in the next 20 years. Seniors are one of the populations hardest hit by the current housing shortage. Last

year, they were the group that saw the largest increase in homelessness, and twice as many homeless seniors live in rural areas than live in urban areas. Our current response is dangerously insufficient. We are all stakeholders in this crisis. The Legislature must address the housing, safety and healthcare needs of Minnesota's seniors and the healthcare workers that care for them.

WHAT SHOULD THE LEGISLATURE'S ROLE BE IN MAKING SURE MINNESOTANS HAVE ADEQUATE MENTAL HEALTH CARE?

In 2014, our community mental health center abruptly closed due to inadequate funding and thousands of citizens were stranded without support. When mental health funding is insufficient, the cost shifts to our schools, jails and emergency rooms. Families are forced to care for loved ones without adequate services. Rural Minnesota's lack of mental health providers creates long waits and travel times for necessary appointments. I will advocate for local mental health services that equal physical healthcare.

MANY EMPLOYERS REMAIN FRUSTRATED IN THEIR ABILITY TO FIND QUALIFIED WORKERS FOR THE AVAILABLE JOBS. WHAT ROLE DOES THE MINNESOTA EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM PLAY IN ADDRESSING THIS PROBLEM?

Job readiness should begin in high school. Businesses and schools can partner to introduce students to local careers, shorten the time to gainful employment and lower student debt. Minnesota ranks dead last in the number of counselors and the academic support staff that guide students to success. We need the funding and community partnerships that will prepare our graduates for the workforce and create a local pool of ready employees for our businesses.



Jason Rarick (R) (Incumbent)

BACKGROUND & QUALIFICATIONS

I am a lifelong resident of Pine County, a self-employed electrician, father and a volunteer in many organizations. I have listened to the needs of the people of this district, and have committed

my time and energy to address those needs.

WHY ARE YOU RUNNING & WHAT IS YOUR TOP PRIORITY?

My top priority will be to get transportation funding figured out. Transportation is the key issue we will face, and new funding is needed. Both sides must be willing to compromise, so I think we should look at dedicating taxes from automobile uses to roads and consider a gas tax at the pump.

I ran for this position two years ago because several people from this area thought I would be a good representative for this area and asked me to consider it. I am running again because I believe I bring a perspective to the Legislature that few there have and one that represents this district well.

WHAT CAN BE DONE AT THE LEGISLATURE TO HELP RURAL MINNESOTA OFFER ADEQUATE HOUSING AND HEALTHCARE SERVICES FOR SENIORS? OR ARE CURRENT EFFORTS SUFFICIENT?

There is an ever-growing need across Minnesota for care and housing for seniors. The best way to address both is to find ways to provide services while keeping people in their own homes. Increasing bus services, better funding for home health care and controlling their income and property taxes will all help.

WHAT SHOULD THE LEGISLATURE'S ROLE BE IN MAKING SURE MINNESOTANS HAVE ADEQUATE MENTAL HEALTH CARE?

Minnesota has been going backward when it comes to dealing with mental health issues. Facilities have been closing causing families to have to travel farther for care. Burdens on our schools and law enforcement have stressed their budgets.

Like so many other areas of our state spending, we must identify wasteful spending so that resources can be put where they are needed most without increasing taxes on Minnesotans whose budgets are also stressed.

MANY EMPLOYERS REMAIN FRUSTRATED IN THEIR ABILITY TO FIND QUALIFIED WORKERS FOR THE AVAILABLE JOBS. WHAT ROLE DOES THE MINNESOTA EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM PLAY IN ADDRESSING THIS PROBLEM?

This is a topic that has been one that I have become very involved in. I carried a bill to help fund a grant to get building trade groups into schools to help promote the construction industry and to make people aware of the demand for skilled workers.

So many of our young people are told to go to a four-year college, even though we keep hearing about how many come out with huge debt and no job. If we can get more people going to two-year vocational programs, or apprenticeship programs, fewer will have student debt, they will be filling market needs, earning a good livable wage that can support a family and they will be helping diversify our workforce.

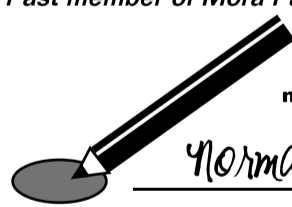
Our education system, employers and the state need to do a better job of working together so they can inform people where the demands in the workforce are and where to go to get the training needed to fill those jobs.

PLEASE VOTE NOVEMBER 8 for...

Norma
HEGGERNES

WRITE-IN candidate for Mora City Council

- Mora resident since 1981
- Retired after 33 years as a teacher in the Mora School District
- Past member of Mora Park Board



You must write in the name and fill in the oval next to the name for your write-in vote to count.

Norma Heggernes

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★ ★ ★ RE-ELECT ★ ★ ★



ETHAN ELVEHJEM
for
Mora School Board

- ★ Graduate of Mora High School
- ★ Resident of District 332 for 41 years
- ★ Business and property owner in Mora area
- ★ Three children, one current sophomore student attending Mora schools and two graduates
- ★ Able and willing to work with others to find solutions and set goals
- ★ Believe in well-rounded education of academics, arts and activities

"Seeking the best opportunities for our students and our community"

I would appreciate your vote on Tuesday, November 8th

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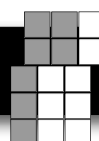
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VOTER GUIDE: Minnesota State Representative District 15A (Elect 1)



Sondra Erickson (R)
(Incumbent)

BACKGROUND & QUALIFICATIONS

Widow of 30 years, mother of 45-year-old-son who is married and has one child. College majors in English, German and journalism. Retired high school English/journalism teacher, former newspaper editor and former news director at local radio station, former co-owner with late husband of small business. Lived in Princeton area for over 50 years and active in church and community.

WHY ARE YOU RUNNING & WHAT IS YOUR TOP PRIORITY?

Deep knowledge of the needs of the district and a strong commitment to serve. Countless hours listening and responding to the people, even making house calls and I fight against status quo. As chair of the Education Innovation Policy, I am fair yet decisive, manage time well and am organized. I travel the district and state to help our citizens solve problems.

Top priorities: set budget and repeal MNsure (or at least transition to the federal exchange); lower costs by reducing the MNsure tax by half, seek waivers on federal tax penalties for buying non-qualifying plans, end surprise billing to ensure transparency in pricing and grant flexibility to the Department of Commerce to allow a waiver of the five-year waiting period for companies to re-enter the individual market.

Save Lake Mille Lacs area through audits and change in DNR state policy.

WHAT CAN BE DONE AT THE LEGISLATURE TO HELP RURAL MINNESOTA OFFER ADEQUATE HOUSING AND HEALTHCARE SERVICES FOR SENIORS? OR ARE CURRENT EFFORTS SUFFICIENT?

Enable the private sector to offer more independent living for singles and cou-

ples as they transition from home or farm and that offer services that accommodate the needs of the residents.

Lift the estate liens for healthcare costs imposed by present law, those other than for long-term care.

Work with the congressional delegation to ensure that Social Security benefits are honored.

WHAT SHOULD THE LEGISLATURE'S ROLE BE IN MAKING SURE MINNESOTANS HAVE ADEQUATE MENTAL HEALTH CARE?

Present successes in law: Respite care grants, better goals to achieve success during care, increased funding for school-linked services, increased funding for school support personnel and for Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS), a task force to look at the Pupil Fair Dismissal Act and student discipline issue in the education bill.

I will continue to get to the root of the reason for so much mental illness as we plan for the future.

MANY EMPLOYERS REMAIN FRUSTRATED IN THEIR ABILITY TO FIND QUALIFIED WORKERS FOR THE AVAILABLE JOBS. WHAT ROLE DOES THE MINNESOTA EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM PLAY IN ADDRESSING THIS PROBLEM?

Well-rounded basic education is essential for all of our students and I think schools are doing a much better job to prepare our students in essential skills and knowledge since the legislature stopped making changes to academic standards and reduced testing.

Just as important: already in law are opportunities for school districts to form partnerships with industry and manufacturing in the community to let students participate in on-the-job training and with area colleges to give students a chance to take courses to earn credit in career and technical areas. I will emphasize creating even more policies to provide for career and technical education courses in our middle and high schools to prepare students for the workplace and work to improve the teacher pool to teach these courses.



Kent Lestrud (D)

BACKGROUND & QUALIFICATIONS

I am a life-long resident of Minnesota. My wife and I have four children who range in age from 11 to 29. We live in rural Mille Lacs County. I

am a military veteran and a member of the American Legion. I teach middle school math. I am a member of a local hunting club and of the Sons of Norway.

I have held leadership positions in the military and in my local union. Some of those leadership positions are platoon leader, detachment commander, union negotiator and union president.

WHY ARE YOU RUNNING & WHAT IS YOUR TOP PRIORITY?

I am running for office because I see our area falling behind the rest of Minnesota.

My top priority is to end the gridlock in the legislature and to get things done for the people of Minnesota.

My other priorities include: Education: Equalize state education funding. There is no reason why schools in the Metro area get thousands of more dollars per student than schools in our area. Our children are just as valuable as their children. We need to reduce testing requirements to only what is required by the federal government.

Internet: Our area is in awful shape when it comes to high-speed affordable internet. We need to get caught up with the rest of the world in internet access. Businesses, families and students are at a severe disadvantage without quality internet access.

Taxes: We need to bring our tax dollars back to this area. For too long we pay our state taxes and the money is used in the Twin Cities. It's time to

return those dollars to our area where they can be spent on what we need here.

Health Care: Insurance and medical costs are out of control. It's time to create a system that focuses on quality medical care and not on the profits of insurance, medical and drug companies.

Transportation: We have bridges and roads in our area that are falling apart are not as safe as they should be. We need to fix them before the situation gets worse.

Higher education: Make education affordable. No one should be so far in debt after getting a technical or a college education that it significantly impacts the rest of their life.

WHAT CAN BE DONE AT THE LEGISLATURE TO HELP RURAL MINNESOTA OFFER ADEQUATE HOUSING AND HEALTHCARE SERVICES FOR SENIORS? OR ARE CURRENT EFFORTS SUFFICIENT?


We need to keep the cost of living affordable for seniors. Quality, affordable elder care is a top priority. The state needs to ensure that our seniors are able to live their golden years without worrying about how they're going to pay their everyday expenses.

WHAT SHOULD THE LEGISLATURE'S ROLE BE IN MAKING SURE MINNESOTANS HAVE ADEQUATE MENTAL HEALTH CARE?

Minnesota needs to make sure that mental health care is available to everyone when it is needed. It can be a matter of life or death if we don't help people who desperately need it.

MANY EMPLOYERS REMAIN FRUSTRATED IN THEIR ABILITY TO FIND QUALIFIED WORKERS FOR THE AVAILABLE JOBS. WHAT ROLE DOES THE MINNESOTA EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM PLAY IN ADDRESSING THIS PROBLEM?

We need to provide people with an education that will help them in the modern workforce. Everyone is better off with an educated population, whether it's learning a trade or getting a college education. Education is often the key to success.



RE-ELECT

KAREN KIRSCHNER

Mora Schools Board of Education

*A vote for Karen is a vote for:
Continued leadership and service
to the community and students
of the Mora School District.*

I would appreciate your support Tuesday, November 8.

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IF YOU ARE IN IMMINENT DANGER:
Call 911

If you are being abused you can...

- stay in the relationship.
- file a police report.
- seek an Order for Protection which is a temporary restraining order that gives you legal protection from your abuser.
- attend support groups with persons who are in a similar situation.
- seek temporary safety with friends, relatives or in a safe home/shelter.


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VOTE for

JODY ANDERSON

November 8 for Mora City Council



Prepared & Paid for by Jody Anderson, 600 Mclean St., Mora, MN 55051

RE-ELECT

GENE ANDERSON

DISTRICT 2 COUNTY COMMISSIONER

Thanks for giving me the privilege of representing you, the residents of the City of Mora, on the Kanabec County Board for the past 5 1/2 years. I am asking for your vote on November 8 to serve another term.

Prepared and Paid for by Gene Anderson on my own behalf.
101 Locust St. Mora, MN 55051



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VOTER GUIDE: Minnesota State Senate District 15 (Elect 1)



Chilah Brown (D)

BACKGROUND & QUALIFICATIONS

I am an Isle resident as my family has resided in the Mille Lacs region for many generations. I am Anishinabe, an enrolled member of the Mille Lacs Ojibwe. I recently graduated with my masters from the University of Minnesota-Duluth. I have worked as a legislative aid, compliance assistant as well as the Statewide Health Improvement Program (SHIP) coordinator (statewide program that invests in local solutions for better health).

WHY ARE YOU RUNNING & WHAT IS YOUR TOP PRIORITY?

Growing up in Isle, I have seen the impact of how 20 years of our communities and townships have been struggling to provide jobs, education, housing, economic development, transportation, childcare services and/or emergency services for the benefits of the people of District 15.

My focus for running for Senate is to bridge the gap within our communities so we can address the peoples' issues. As a state senator I am interested in public policies that will make our communities stronger. I will support proven economic development initiatives, including the Minnesota Investment Fund and the Job Creation Fund, to bring good-paying jobs to communities.

I will support all efforts to fully fund broadband access to all corners of the state as businesses need access to high-speed internet to be able to compete. I will support programs to help working families, housing, early education and childcare. From lowering the cost of childcare to assisting parents balancing work and family, there is so much that can be done to help workers struggling to make ends meet. The residents of Senate District 15 will always be my top priority in my work at the State Capital.

WHAT SHOULD THE LEGISLATURE'S ROLE BE IN MAKING SURE MINNESOTANS HAVE ADEQUATE MENTAL HEALTH CARE?

As a legislature, steps need to be taken toward enforcing mental health and substance use priority laws. I will support and implement mental health parity. There must be coordinated efforts between state agencies, mental health advocates and health plans.

If elected, I will work to expand Medicaid coverage, expand access to mental and behavioral health services, hospitals and through the public and private partnerships.



Andrew Mathews (R)

BACKGROUND & QUALIFICATIONS

My background is in law and in constituent services, which will greatly benefit my service to you as a senator. I grew up on my family farm, working on family businesses, and have graduated from both Bible school and law school. I currently serve veterans working as a federal veterans caseworker.

WHY ARE YOU RUNNING & WHAT IS YOUR TOP PRIORITY?

I am running for office because the current Senate majority isn't listening to the people of Minnesota. At the end of last session, the Senate killed the bonding bill which contained lots of needed projects for road and bridges in rural Minnesota, including roads in our district. My top priorities will include our roads and transportation, our farmers and our jobs. Government needs to stop adding endless regulations that are harming our small business and our farmers. That's why I'm glad my endorsements include ones from the MN Farm Bureau and the MN Chamber of Commerce.

WHAT CAN BE DONE AT THE LEGISLATURE TO HELP RURAL MINNESOTA OFFER ADEQUATE HOUSING AND HEALTHCARE SERVICES FOR SENIORS? OR ARE CURRENT EFFORTS SUFFICIENT?

With an aging population, it is important to me that we make sure that our seniors are properly cared for. It's also crucial to support and promote personal responsibility and long-term planning, like our own family recently went through with my grandfather. We also need to support the care workers that are providing for them. The current efforts have been

a good start, and we'll keep addressing the needs of our seniors moving forward.

WHAT SHOULD THE LEGISLATURE'S ROLE BE IN MAKING SURE MINNESOTANS HAVE ADEQUATE MENTAL HEALTH CARE?

The current state of our care and resources for mental health issues is an adequate start and I will continue to listen for what our communities need. Education is vital in our schools and communities to help us respond, treat; and sometimes even prevent, these issues. In addition, our government needs to help promote community outreach and involvement to reach out to those suffering with mental illness, since not everything can be solved by just creating a new program or writing a government check. Sometimes people need a hand up, not just a hand out and we need to keep encouraging our communities in our churches, faith communities, schools and neighborhoods to reach out and address mental illness.

MANY EMPLOYERS REMAIN FRUSTRATED IN THEIR ABILITY TO FIND QUALIFIED WORKERS FOR THE AVAILABLE JOBS. WHAT ROLE DOES THE MINNESOTA EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM PLAY IN ADDRESSING THIS PROBLEM?

I'm very concerned about how our education system is not adequately training our young people for today's job market. Too many students today go through college and come out saddled with lots of student debt, a degree they don't use and still needing to get re-trained by employers when starting their careers. I support an educational system that teaches to what the job qualifications are, that gives more credit for real-life experience or apprenticeship opportunities and loosening state mandates to allow experts in various fields to teach classes about their trade without having to go through an unwieldy teacher license program. I look forward to working on improving education for today's job market.

ATTENTION VOTERS!!!

It has come to our attention that Kanabec County residents may not be as aware of an upcoming ballot issue as we would like.

On November 8, 2016, along with the election of individuals for various offices from President to State representative to county commissioner there will be a major procedural change for you to decide upon.

Ballot question!

The County Board is asking that you, the Kanabec County Voter, decide upon an important question:

Should the positions of Auditor/Treasurer and Recorder become appointed in the future?

Currently these two positions are elected offices. That means that anyone can plunk down \$50.00 and fill out paperwork to run for either office. We believe that these two positions require more knowledge and experience than this. If a candidate was elected who had little to no knowledge of the position, the future of the county could be affected negatively. As appointed positions, these positions would have a job description and be part of the County system of Compensation therefore being more reflective of the qualifications now required for Assessors, County Engineer, Surveyor and the two elected officials Attorney and Sheriff all of whom mandate certain qualifications to hold their respective offices.

The ballot question will appear on your ballot and we encourage you to cast an educated vote !!

In fact no matter how you feel about the issue, please vote on the question as a blank ballot on this question will be counted as a negative vote.

Please vote on this important issue for the future of Kanabec County.

If you need more information or just have questions please contact one of us!!!!

Here is how the question will show up on your ballot:

May the statute that allows for the appointment of the County Recorder and County Auditor/Treasurer Positions in Kanabec County be implemented by the Kanabec County Board?

YES

NO

By Voting "Yes" on this ballot question, you are voting to make the County Recorder and County Auditor/Treasurer Positions Appointed. If left blank you are voting no.

Thank you,
The Kanabec County Board of Commissioners

VOTER GUIDE: Minnesota State Senate District 11 (Elect 1)



BACKGROUND & QUALIFICATIONS

My wife Marla and I live on the small family farm in Kerrick where we raised our three children. Our farm is right around the corner from the farm I grew up on. Before serving in the Senate, I spent nine years on the Kerrick Township board. For the past 10 years it has been an honor and a true privilege to represent our region in the Minnesota State Senate.

Tony Lourey (D)
(Incumbent)

WHY ARE YOU RUNNING & WHAT IS YOUR TOP PRIORITY?

I am running for office because I have seen the good that can come from a responsible government and I'm optimistic about the progress we can make together. (See mental health question regarding priority.)

WHAT CAN BE DONE AT THE LEGISLATURE TO HELP RURAL MINNESOTA OFFER ADEQUATE HOUSING AND HEALTHCARE SERVICES FOR SENIORS? OR ARE CURRENT EFFORTS SUFFICIENT?

Senior care has been a priority of mine since I entered the legislature. Over the last four years we have made significant strides in making sure our seniors are taken care of. One of the major initiatives I championed was creating a new cost-based reimbursement system for nursing homes with a strong quality component built in. This resulted in significant increases in nursing home rates to improve quality and provide livable wages to the dedicated employees caring for our seniors. Providers have been asking for this change for many years and I am very proud we were able to accomplish this. I've also been a strong supporter of additional investment in more senior housing options.

WHAT SHOULD THE LEGISLATURE'S ROLE BE IN MAKING SURE MINNESOTANS HAVE ADEQUATE MENTAL HEALTH CARE?

My number one priority for 2017 is addressing Minnesota's mental health crisis. Too many people suffering from mental illness are in jails or emergency rooms instead of receiving proper treatment. This creates a serious drain on local resources, as well as being incredibly unfair to people suffering. We need to invest in proven early identification and treatment programs and streamline the process for these folks to get the right help at the right time. We need to expand crisis intervention programs, so those suffering a mental health episode get help before causing harm to themselves or others. We also must address the bottlenecks in our inpatient mental health system so people suffering can be served in proper treatment environments, with trained staff, rather than emergency rooms or jails. This focus on mental health can help reduce the tremendous burden on local hospitals and law enforcement. The state must step up and do our part in addressing this growing problem

MANY EMPLOYERS REMAIN FRUSTRATED IN THEIR ABILITY TO FIND QUALIFIED WORKERS FOR THE AVAILABLE JOBS. WHAT ROLE DOES THE MINNESOTA EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM PLAY IN ADDRESSING THIS PROBLEM?

Minnesota is known for its excellent education system and I know most Minnesotans recognize and value a good education. We need to find ways to give students of all ages the ability to afford and pursue educational opportunities to improve their lives. This means coordinating better between career and technical schools and high schools and better connect employers with schools. One of the initiatives that the senate passed a couple of years ago allowed students to intern at local businesses who in turn paid for the student's education. This allowed college students to receive hands-on training in their field and allowed the businesses to gain a well-trained employee. These sort of outside-the-box-solutions are going to be needed in the 21st century economy.



Michael Cummins (R)

BACKGROUND & QUALIFICATIONS

I am a business owner, contractor and Realtor. I have been self-employed for 30 years and understand what a budget looks like and how to prioritize tasks in order

to meet a deadline.

I attend the Baptist church in Quamba, I've been married for 32 years with three wonderful children and two grandchildren.

I also am at the Capitol attending meetings on veterans and small business issues.

WHY ARE YOU RUNNING & WHAT IS YOUR TOP PRIORITY?

I'm running for office because I find our current senator's values out of line with my values. He supported the \$90-million-dollar senate office building, he supported gay marriage and is pro-choice. Ask yourself, what has he done in support of our district that has made a difference on main street?

He is the chief author of MNsure which has been called by our governor no longer affordable. He even supports his party's position against mining and timber. What's next, farming?

He does not share my rural Minnesota values.

My priority for 2017 is District 11. I would like to serve on Veterans Affairs, AG and education committees.

WHAT CAN BE DONE AT THE LEGISLATURE TO HELP RURAL MINNESOTA OFFER ADEQUATE HOUSING AND HEALTHCARE SERVICES FOR SENIORS? OR ARE CURRENT EFFORTS SUFFICIENT?

This is a complicated issue and

frankly, I don't have the answer. My mom just passed away from Alzheimer's and before she died she had to go into a memory care facility. This was expensive and we were fortunate to find a bed. This has to be a priority and one that I will not ignore. Our families have to be taken care of.

WHAT SHOULD THE LEGISLATURE'S ROLE BE IN MAKING SURE MINNESOTANS HAVE ADEQUATE MENTAL HEALTH CARE?

This also is a complicated issue. We have 22 veterans a day that we lose to suicide and many could have been saved if we would have done a better job of identifying the issue. For many it's just not seeking help because they don't want a mental health tag put on them. Veterans want to be strong but what they have done or seen is more than they can handle. We need to help our law enforcement do a better job of seeing this at first contact so they know what is happening. Our family members have to be taken care of.

MANY EMPLOYERS REMAIN FRUSTRATED IN THEIR ABILITY TO FIND QUALIFIED WORKERS FOR THE AVAILABLE JOBS. WHAT ROLE DOES THE MINNESOTA EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM PLAY IN ADDRESSING THIS PROBLEM?

We need to do what I've done; create apprentice programs allowing the employer to train the employee. I have been working with veterans to train and then equip them to go out on their own. I pay them good and I provide hands-on opportunities on a wide variety of projects. Far too many find sitting in a classroom hard so let's train, employ and equip our future workforce.

Everything I do today is what I learned on the job through mentorship. I have two years of vocational training and a lot of hands-on experience. That model has to be explored.

College is great but does not need to be the only thing our employers consider. Quality of the individual and ability to learn on the job has to be the new normal.



VOTE KATHI ELLIS

4th District County Commissioner

Representing: Whited, Comfort, Knife Lake and City of Quamba

Paid Advertisement. Prepared and paid for by Kathi Ellis, on her own behalf, Mora, MN 55051

Knowledgeable
Advocate
Thoughtful
Honest
Idea Oriented

Leadership we can trust.

"It is an honor to serve as your State Senator in the Minnesota Legislature. I will continue to fight for the needs of our region and build coalitions to make Minnesota an even better place to live, work, and raise a family."

Tony

DFL/Labor Endorsed

Tony Lourey

for State Senate

Prepared and paid for by Tony Lourey for Senate, PO Box 22, Bruno, MN 55712

VOTE

Christopher A. Nissen, ABD

For Mora School District 332 School Board

- Resident property owner in Knife Lake Township
- Property owner in City of Mora
- Family: Debbie; Miranda - University of Wuhan, China; Andreas - United States Marine Corps; Laura Lynne - Mora High School

Experience Highlights:

- Curriculum Development, Review, Implementation and Oversight
- Multi-Million Dollar Contract Management
- Facilities Design, Review and Oversight
- Emergency Management, Response and Recovery

Philosophy:

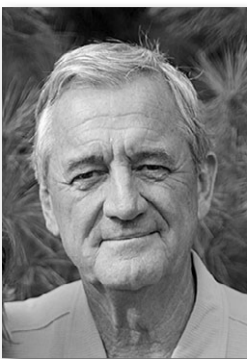
- Education is paramount to the success of each individual and community
- Recruitment and retention of motivated and talented teachers is critical to student success
- Government must be transparent and reflect the values of the community served
- Elected officials must effectively and clearly present issues and decisions to the community
- Grants, funds and contract opportunities must be proactively sought to augment resources

Education:

- ABD Education Leadership, Northcentral University
- MA Education: Leadership & Changing Technology, George Washington University
- BA Sociology: Winona State University
- Cert Emergency Medical Technician, 916 AVTI
- Cert Minnesota Police Officer Standards and Training Alexandria AVTI
- HS Grace Christian School

Paid Advertisement. Prepared and paid for by the candidate: Christopher A. Nissen, Mora, MN 55051.

VOTER GUIDE: US Representative District 8 (Elect 1)



Rick Nolan (D)
(Incumbent)

WHAT IS YOUR TOP PRIORITY FOR THE 2017 CONGRESS? WHY ARE YOU RUNNING FOR OFFICE?

It has been an honor to serve as the congressman for Minnesota's 8th Congressional District over the last four years, where I have effectively fought to protect and expand the middle class. There is more work to do, as too many Americans still feel as though the system is rigged against them and sadly, they are often right. My ongoing mission has been to fix this system and make government work for families and not Wall Street millionaires and billionaires.

I ask that voters send me back to Washington to continue this fight against the rigged system and to protect pensions and programs like Social Security and Medicare, to secure living wages, to improve programs assisting our veterans and to get more of the products we use every day made right here in America by strengthening our mining, forestry, energy, manufacturing and tourism industries.

IS THE UNITED STATES TOUGH ENOUGH IN ITS FOREIGN POLICY WITH REGARD TO ITS RESPONSE TO TERRORISM? ARE ADDITIONAL MEASURES WARRANTED? BE SPECIFIC.

Here at home, we must leave no stone unturned to keep the American people safe and protect ourselves and our borders from ISIS-trained terrorists. To be sure, we must be strong, tough and unwavering in defending our country and protecting our people from the threat of terrorism. To that extent, we must constantly be examining our intelligence-gathering capabilities and making improvements wherever necessary. Everyone who enters the United States from another nation must be carefully screened, regardless of the time or the inconvenience involved.

With respect to our response to terrorism abroad, I am opposed to further U.S. military intervention in the Middle East - we have no friends in this conflict and America stands to become a target of every single one of the warring factions in the region. We must stop these wars of choice and this so-called nation-building abroad, and instead use those monies here at home, rebuilding our nation's infrastructure and creating good paying middle class jobs in the process.

HEALTH CARE COSTS HAVE INCREASED UNDER THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT, AND IT REMAINS UNPOPULAR WITH MANY AMERICANS. WOULD YOU VOTE TO ABOLISH THE ACT? BARRING THAT, ARE THERE SPECIFIC REFORMS YOU WOULD SUPPORT?

I strongly believe that the federal government should do more to ensure that every American has health coverage for themselves and their families and would not vote to repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA). We need to come together and fix and improve the ACA, and stop adding to the tally of over 60 purely partisan and failed attempts to repeal or weaken the law. I have called on the Republicans to stop wasting time and begin working with us to find common sense solutions to ensure that every American has good health care coverage they can afford.

It should be a thing of the past that someone should face bankruptcy to pay a medical bill, or be forced to choose between medical treatment and the basic necessities of life,

which is why I support a universal, single-payer system that covers everyone, reins in administrative costs, negotiates fairer prices for the American people and provides better results. This approach has proved successful for many democratic nations, and that's what I intend to keep fighting for.

Meanwhile, I will keep fighting against dangerous Republican policies that would return us to an era where 46 million uninsured people were using emergency rooms for care, and a time when people who needed care were denied coverage for a pre-existing condition. The same era where women were charged more than men for the same treatment. That's no solution and I am committed to making sure that all Americans have access to affordable health care.

WHAT STEPS DO YOU SUPPORT TO STIMULATE THE GROWTH OF JOBS?

I believe the best way to grow the economy is from the bottom up and the middle out. History shows that "trickle-down" economics - tax breaks for the super wealthy - doesn't work. I've worked on reforming our tax policies to reward the middle class for working hard, and make the millionaires and billionaires pay their fair share. Above all, we need to secure living wages, because no one should have to work two to three jobs just to make a living. Unlike my opponent, who has said he thinks the federal minimum wage is unconstitutional, I will continue to fight for a minimum wage that is a living wage. We know the majority of income received by minimum wage earners is immediately put back into our main street economy, so one way to stimulate business is by paying a living wage.

AGRICULTURAL LEADERS FEAR THAT THE U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY WILL USE PERCEIVED AUTHORITY UNDER THE CLEAN WATER ACT PROVISION 'WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES' TO INVOKE PRACTICES AND REQUIREMENTS ON PRIVATE FARM LAND, WHICH COULD ALTER FUTURE CROP PRODUCTION PRACTICES AND LIVESTOCK GRAZING. DO YOU SUPPORT THE PROVISION? WHY OR WHY NOT?

Clean water defines our region of Northern Minnesota; it's essential to our health, our quality of life and our recreation and tourism economy. Opponents of this proposal have portrayed EPA's effort as an attempt to regulate birdbaths, farm ponds, puddles and driveways. This is nonsense; the Clean Water Act doesn't apply to these sorts of things in the first place. EPA's proposal would ensure that waters and wetlands that provide hundreds of millions of Americans with drinking water, provide vital protection to our towns and communities and provide valuable habitat to our native fish and wildlife are protected.

DO AMERICA'S IMMIGRATION LAWS NEED TO BE CHANGED? WHAT SHOULD BE THE TENETS OF ANY IMMIGRATION REFORM LEGISLATION?

I believe we must have comprehensive immigration reform in this country - it is an issue of both justice and economics. House Republicans continue to block legislation that would create a true pathway to citizenship. I do not support immigration proposals that would create a second class of citizens by not allowing undocumented immigrants to change their status. Fines, penalties and touchback requirements that would divide families or force undocumented children to leave the only home they've ever known do not address the root causes of immigration and are not what this country was founded on.



Stewart Mills (R)

WHAT IS YOUR TOP PRIORITY FOR THE 2017 CONGRESS? WHY ARE YOU RUNNING FOR OFFICE?

I have heard far too many stories from Minnesotans on how sluggish economic conditions are hurting them. We have the right raw materials here in Minnesota. Whether it's our main street entrepreneurs, the iron and copper in our ground, the timber in our forests or the grit and determination of the men and women who've lived here for generations - we have the ingredients for an economic boom in greater Minnesota, but we have leaders in Washington who would rather watch this region wither and die on the vine. I remain committed to taking every possible step to spur job creation and get our economy back on track so Minnesota families in our part of the state can flourish and Americans can do what they do best: create, invent and lead.

IS THE UNITED STATES TOUGH ENOUGH IN ITS FOREIGN POLICY WITH REGARD TO ITS RESPONSE TO TERRORISM? ARE ADDITIONAL MEASURES WARRANTED? BE SPECIFIC.

The world's a much different and dangerous place than it was when Congressman Nolan first went to Washington in the 1970s so it's not surprising that folks in the 8th District want a change. Congressman Nolan continues to support the dangerous Iran nuclear deal - which during a Sept. 19, debate he called a "victory for diplomacy" - that puts Iran, the world's largest sponsor of terror, on a glide path to a nuclear weapon. Nolan continues to demand the U.S. admit 100,000 Syrian refugees into the U.S. by the end of this year even though intelligence and homeland security communities say there is no proper vetting system in place to accommodate such a demand. Nolan once again voted recently for a reckless plan to close Gitmo and transfer some of the world's most dangerous terrorists to American soil. In Congress, I will put America first and provide our troops with the resources necessary to root out Islamist terrorists wherever they hide and ensure we do all we can to keep America safe.

HEALTH CARE COSTS HAVE INCREASED UNDER THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT, AND IT REMAINS UNPOPULAR WITH MANY AMERICANS. WOULD YOU VOTE TO ABOLISH THE ACT? BARRING THAT, ARE THERE SPECIFIC REFORMS YOU WOULD SUPPORT?

The failed rollout, across the country and in Minnesota with MNsure and skyrocketing premiums are what happens when Washington bureaucracy gets in the way. While 300,000 Minnesotans are bracing for "massive proposed premium increases" due to ObamaCare, Congressman Nolan is doubling down on his support for ObamaCare and said in our debate on Sept. 19, that he "favored a single-payer, universal system." By all accounts, ObamaCare has been a series of lies. Access to affordable care has gone down, especially in our part of the state. In Congress, I will work with members of both parties to pass reforms that reduce the cost of health care in a way that makes sense like I did when I administered the health plan for 6,000 workers at Fleet Farm. By increasing interstate competition, sensible regulations to protect consumers and transparency in pricing, we can begin to solve our health care crisis without federal bureaucrats taking control of more than one-sixth of our economy and interfering with the sacred relationship between a patient and doctor.

WHAT STEPS DO YOU SUPPORT TO STIMULATE THE GROWTH OF JOBS?

While we are told unemployment nationally has been reduced, the reality is labor participation is at its weakest since the 1970s when Congressman Nolan

first went to Washington. Time and time again, Congressman Nolan has supported policies based on the belief that the federal government creates jobs. Do we want a career politician who's been in and out of Washington for 40 years, or a person like me with real-life, private sector experience who has been creating jobs and serving Minnesotans my whole life? For three decades I worked at my family's businesses, Mills Fleet Farm and Mills Automotive Group, where I learned the meaning of hard work and what it takes to grow jobs and successfully maintain a main-street oriented business. I've spent my entire adult life here in this part of Minnesota creating jobs. My grandfather and my great-great-grandfather worked in the timber industry. Nobody understands job creation more than I do. With the simplified tax reform, the correct regulatory policies and new leadership, we can unleash a new economic boom in Minnesota and across the nation.

AGRICULTURAL LEADERS FEAR THAT THE U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY WILL USE PERCEIVED AUTHORITY UNDER THE CLEAN WATER ACT PROVISION 'WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES' TO INVOKE PRACTICES AND REQUIREMENTS ON PRIVATE FARM LAND, WHICH COULD ALTER FUTURE CROP PRODUCTION PRACTICES AND LIVESTOCK GRAZING. DO YOU SUPPORT THE PROVISION? WHY OR WHY NOT?

Whenever I visit with Minnesota farmers, they share their frustration with Washington's ever-growing overreach into their lives and the senseless government regulations and bureaucratic hurdles that threaten new investment, expansion and job creation. Under the administration's rule redefining waters of the U.S., if ditches and large puddles in pastures are under federal jurisdiction, many routine farming and other activities will be prohibited without a permit. These permitting processes require substantial paperwork and reporting obligations which can take months, or even years. In 2014, Congress voted on The Waters of the United States Regulatory Overreach Protection Act (H.R. 5078), bipartisan legislation that would provide farmers a needed reprieve from excessive government regulations. Minnesota Democrats Tim Walz and Collin Peterson supported the bipartisan legislation. Congressman Nolan - who believes the EPA "creates jobs" - stood with Barack Obama and Nancy Pelosi rather than with Minnesota farmers by voting against this bill. In Congress, I will never vote for legislation that puts unnecessary rules and regulations on our farmers and I will stand up to the EPA and push back against the government's anti-farm, over-reaching mandates.

DO AMERICA'S IMMIGRATION LAWS NEED TO BE CHANGED? WHAT SHOULD BE THE TENETS OF ANY IMMIGRATION REFORM LEGISLATION?

The American people are rightfully distrustful of a political system that has dithered for years while our border stands mostly unprotected. It's an economic and national security issue and it will be one of my top priorities in Washington. We must gain credibility on our borders. Consider the Syrian refugee crisis: while some may have misunderstood Congressman Nolan's cynical positioning and political posturing on demanding President Obama accept 100,000 Syrian refugees to the U.S. by Dec. 31, of this year - the facts speak for themselves: even FBI Director Comey said it would be impossible to properly vet them given the lack of information from war-torn Syria. Nolan's demands were once again proven ineffective when the Administration announced recently that the 12,000th Syrian refugee was admitted to the U.S. That only 12 percent of Nolan's demand came to fruition is concrete proof it's simply not possible to properly vet that many in such a short time and his lack of recognition on such a serious issue so fundamental to our national security is concerning.

VOTER GUIDE: ISD #332 Board Of Education (Elect 3)



**Ethan Elvehjem
(Incumbent)**

TELL ABOUT YOURSELF

I am a nearly life-long resident of Kanabec County and graduate of Mora High School. I have a vested interest in the school district as a taxpayer, business owner and parent.

My two daughters have graduated from the Mora School District and my son is currently a sophomore. I have served as a school board member for the past eight years and am currently the vice chair and treasurer.

I have been active in church for most of my life, including committees, youth groups, choir and as a lector, greeter and usher.

I was active in MAYRA as a soccer, T-ball, softball, baseball and football coach for 13 years. I've coached traveling girls basketball, JO volleyball and boys summer baseball for 13 years. I have served on the board of two homeowners associations over the past 15 years.

My work experience ranges from lawn mowing and farm labor as a teen, to many aspects of construction and real estate development as an adult. I have worked in business management and administration for the past 16 years for my current employer in Mora. I have been initially under-qualified for most of these endeavors but learned by experience that dedication, perseverance, a willingness to listen and learn and a good dose of common sense can compensate for much.

WHY ARE YOU RUNNING FOR A SEAT ON THE MORA SCHOOL BOARD? WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES?

I have always believed that our children are our future and they deserve my time as well as my tax investments. I believe school board members should value public education, be willing and able to lead in new directions, be responsible with taxpayer dollars and care about our kids.

WHAT CHALLENGES DO YOU SEE FOR THE SCHOOL DISTRICT AND HOW WOULD YOU ADDRESS THEM?

The greatest strength of our school system is our staff of caring, qualified employees. We are blessed in this district with good people in all aspects of our system. We must continue to hire and retain quality people. One challenge we face is the age and condition of our high school building. Our community has recently supported replacing the Fairview Elementary building at the Trailview site. I am looking forward to developing a similar long-term solution for our high school that can be widely supported.

WHAT IS YOUR GOAL FOR MORA STUDENTS?

In today's world of change, we are currently preparing our students for jobs that might not even exist today. I believe it is the responsibility of the school board to provide the proper infrastructure and equipment needed to educate and keep our students competitive in an uncertain job market. I am also an advocate for the many extracurricular activities we offer every student. I would like those opportunities to remain for future generations.

HOW WOULD YOU BALANCE DECISIONS WITH THE INPUT OF PARENTS, TEACHERS & VOTERS?

A former board member helped me with this early in my first term on the board. We were facing a large budget cut and I was struggling with being positioned between the two things people value most...their money and their kids. My peer suggested that before making any decisions, I should ask myself "What is best for the kids in our district?" That advice has served me well. My answer to that question generally drives my decisions.



Christopher Nissen

TELL ABOUT YOURSELF

I am married (Debbie), with three children (Miranda, 21, University of Wuhan, China; Andreas, 18 U.S. Marine Corps; Laura Lynne, 16, Mora High School).

I was raised in the Forest Lake school district and recently returned to Minnesota after retiring from federal service in Washington D.C. During my career 27 years of service, I was assigned to multiple domestic and international duty stations. I chose to retire in Mora where I have owned a home for over 20 years and have family and friends.

My education is diverse and includes advanced degrees in education, leadership and changing technology (ABD and MA), sociology (BA) and numerous specialized programs at, Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, DHS Emergency Management, FBI Academy, IRS Contracting Officers Representative, Federal Air Marshals and U.S. Secret Service

WHY ARE YOU RUNNING FOR A SEAT ON THE MORA SCHOOL BOARD? WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES?

My career allowed me to experience numerous public sector activities and observe how they operate, actions that helped them succeed, stall or fail. This experience has taught me to ask questions, consider ideas outside of the normal paradigm and seek novel ways to accomplish goals.

WHAT CHALLENGES DO YOU SEE FOR THE SCHOOL DISTRICT AND HOW WOULD YOU ADDRESS THEM?

Facilities: The recent decision of the community to vote down a new high school remains contentious. The school board conducted extensive research before making their recommendation to the community. I would re-address the proposal and attempt to ask questions and options that were not previously considered. If the recommendation goes to the voters again I would seek to ensure that everyone understands the proposal in a transparent and open manner.

Revenue: Mora struggles more than some with its tax base to support schools. I will work with my peers, the community, educators and students to seek creative funding avenues including public and private grants that augment and synergize limited resources available.

Teacher recruitment and retention: Despite the efforts of dedicated leaders in the education system, Mora schools can struggle with retention and recruitment of quality teachers. I believe it critical that our schools develop a reputation as a place for teachers to be challenged, to establish challenges for students and be a great place to raise their own families.

We should seek to retain quality teachers, and to also be a transition/training job for new teachers. Such a mix brings new and changing ideas into the school and combines them with mature skills with proven methods to the benefit of all.

WHAT IS YOUR GOAL FOR MORA STUDENTS?

Our students should have the education and skill to pursue any path they choose. Not one of them should find themselves in the future believing that their lot in life would be better if their schools had done a better job.

Our children should seek to give a helping hand before seeking a hand-out.

HOW WOULD YOU BALANCE DECISIONS WITH THE INPUT OF PARENTS, TEACHERS & VOTERS?

My voice is and should be only one of those in the choir. To develop community harmony we need to listen and adjust our own pitch to those around us. It is this type of harmony that I have always sought to establish in my own public service and which I would strive to continue in the future.



**Karen Kirschner
(Incumbent)**

TELL ABOUT YOURSELF

I am a 20-year Mora resident and in my 16th year on the Mora School Board, currently serving as chair. I have a degree in elementary education from St. Cloud State University, am a local business owner

and substitute teacher. I am married to Jim; have two sons, both graduates of Mora schools; a daughter-in-law and two grandchildren. I am active in Zion Lutheran Church, where I am the organist. I enjoy walking, working out and relaxing at our cabin.

WHY ARE YOU RUNNING FOR A SEAT ON THE MORA SCHOOL BOARD? WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES?

I am running for re-election for every student and to continue building community and promoting education among the stakeholders of the school district. I believe there is an undeniable connection between quality schools and a thriving community.

One of my priorities is to provide educational opportunities that meet individual needs of students in a safe, caring environment. Students deserve every chance to be successful when they leave Mora schools. Every student is also required to meet goals for student achievement. Accountability is a good thing, and it is the responsibility of the board of education to create a vision and strategic plan that support teaching and learning. I am pleased to say the school district has just updated its long-range strategic plan, including a vision and goals that will guide us into the future.

Another priority is continuing to communicate with residents who are not as connected to the schools. Our taxpayers should know what is happening within the schools and feel welcome to come into the buildings. Information must flow from the school district out to the community.

WHAT CHALLENGES DO YOU SEE FOR THE SCHOOL DISTRICT AND HOW WOULD YOU ADDRESS THEM?

As we strive for excellence, ensuring student achievement is a challenge. It requires adequate facilities and staffing; a curriculum that includes both college level and career and technical education courses; ongoing assessment; and other resources in order for every student to meet performance goals across all grade levels.

Educating students today looks a lot different than it did 10 or 20 years ago. Students come from increasingly diverse circumstances and this reality must be addressed before learning can take place. Another challenge is school funding. Because of our reliance on state aid, we must leverage all available sources of revenue as efficiently as possible to minimize the impact on local taxpayers of funding education.

WHAT IS YOUR GOAL FOR MORA STUDENTS?

The ultimate goal I have for every student in Mora schools is to graduate. I also want our students to feel they belong and to have access to the most rigorous educational opportunities available in any school around. Finally, every family walking through the doors of our schools will want to choose Mora schools for their children.

HOW WOULD YOU BALANCE DECISIONS WITH THE INPUT OF PARENTS, TEACHERS & VOTERS?

When issues come before the board, the question I most ask myself is, "Is this good for kids?" That said, input from parents, teachers and voters is absolutely important and valuable. Decisions are best made after gathering information and doing a lot of listening. I believe I am able to consider all sides of an issue and, in the end, do what is best for our students.



**Scott Moe
(Incumbent)**

TELL ABOUT YOURSELF

I am married to Caroline, four kids Annelise (11), Erik (15), Martha (25) and Kari (27). I earned a master's degree in education and business administration from the University of

Minnesota, bachelor's degree in international relations and political science/statistics from Concordia College, Moorhead.

I am actively involved in our community through Calvary Lutheran Church, Paradise Community Theatre, Mora Schools, Chamber of Commerce, Lions Club, Sons of Norway and Mora Area Community Theater.

WHY ARE YOU RUNNING FOR A SEAT ON THE MORA SCHOOL BOARD? WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES?

I am running for re-election to the Mora school board so as to be able to continue providing quality education for our community. My priorities are simply stated and always begin with the question: is this what is best for the students? My top three priorities are high quality teaching, challenging curriculum and coursework for all students, facilities to suit 21st century education.

WHAT CHALLENGES DO YOU SEE FOR THE SCHOOL DISTRICT AND HOW WOULD YOU ADDRESS THEM?

Living in rural Minnesota provides us with challenges and opportunities. The top challenge I see for Mora schools is how to continue to provide excellent and challenging experiences for all of our students, no matter what direction they want to continue in after high school, while dealing with a limited budget.

One opportunity available to help achieve this is to expand our "hands on" learning courses into even more areas by partnering and collaborating with neighboring schools and businesses. Utilizing the resources of Pine Technical College, Anoka Ramsey Community College and St. Cloud State University to assist our students to get started in advanced education is a high priority challenge/opportunity as well.

WHAT IS YOUR GOAL FOR MORA STUDENTS?

My goal is to have every student reach their own full educational potential and to provide a love of lifelong learning whereby a student is able to see the world as being one full of possibilities. A place in which they are able to pursue their dreams, using the skills, knowledge and relationships they developed in their hometown of Mora.

HOW WOULD YOU BALANCE DECISIONS WITH THE INPUT OF PARENTS, TEACHERS & VOTERS?

By taking the time to study all of our opportunities and challenges, and by asking lots of questions; and most importantly, listening, I believe that I do take into account the many levels of community involvement.

Most often on the school board and in life, there can only be one decision made at a time, though there may be many possible ones that need to be considered. At those times, I go back to the initial question I stated above, is this what is best for students?

VOTER GUIDE: Kanabec County Board of Commissioners District 4 (Knife Lake, Whited & Comfort townships)



BACKGROUND & QUALIFICATIONS

I am a committed Christian and a fiscal conservative. I am a resident of Whited Township, where my wife Sherrie and I have lived for 38 years. We have two children and one grandchild.

I was born in Mora and grew up on the family dairy farm, in Comfort Township. Learned to work at an early age and will work hard to serve you as your county commissioner.

I graduated from high school in Mora.

Went on to St. Cloud Voc Tech, graduating from the electrical course.

In 1971 I entered the U.S. Army and served there for two years.

In 1974 I entered apprenticeship training with a local electrical contractor, eventually earning a master electrician license.

In 1984 I started business as an electrical contractor and worked as a contractor for almost 30 years.

In those years I learned how to make wise business decisions and all of the other things that it takes to run a small business in Minnesota.

I have been on numerous church boards and building committees in the past. I am currently serving as the properties chair at Emmanuel Baptist in Mora.

Today I am an independent contractor with the state of Minnesota, performing electrical inspections in Kanabec and southern Pine counties.

WHY ARE YOU RUNNING & WHAT IS YOUR TOP PRIORITY?

If elected as a commissioner I will work hard to bring more business and industry to Kanabec County. This is important for our area as we need more jobs and a larger tax base. The Mora Industrial Park has seven vacant lots where more business could be located. More business would help to pay more of the county levy.

The Kanabec County levy rate is one of the highest in the state. I will work with the other commissioners and attempt to lower the levy. For example, a \$250,000 home in Aitkin would be taxed at \$1,225 in Mora \$2,658 no school taxes included in these numbers.

I have a good relationship with our currently elected representatives to the MN State House and pledge to work closely with them for the betterment of our local area.

Illegal drugs are a threat to our community and I will encourage the Sheriff's Office to do the best job possible to rid our youth and our community of the people who victimize our youth just to make a buck.

I have seen first-hand what damage drugs do to an individual. We must rid our schools of these drugs. I will work to get federal and state funds to help us in this battle. This is a battle we must win for the sake of the future of this great community.

Some of our strengths are having a close knit community, a ready work force and good education system. A community that puts forth the great effort to hold events like the Vasaloppet, Snake River Canoe Race, and the Mora Classic Series is one you can be proud of.

Great things can happen here.



BACKGROUND & QUALIFICATIONS

I am Kathi Ellis. I have lived in Kanabec County for 35 years. I came here to be a veterinarian and have practiced that profession ever since. For the first 20 years as a member of the staff of East Central Veterinarians and the last 15 as an independent. Since 2001 I have been the county commissioner for District No. 4 and have served on many county committees. Over my time in Kanabec County I have been involved in community activities including the Kanabec County Agricultural Society, ISD 332 and Mora Civic Center.

Kathi Ellis (Incumbent)

WHY ARE YOU RUNNING & WHAT IS YOUR TOP PRIORITY?

I have always liked helping people solve problems and the position of County Commissioner gives me the opportunity to use some of my personal strengths for the benefit of our community.

My priority as a commissioner is to make our area the best place to live, learn and enjoy recreation. I would like to see border-to-border broadband so that businesses could use it to make jobs more available. We need to consider developing recreation opportunities to encourage people from other places to stop here and have fun.

WHAT DO YOU SEE AS KANABEC COUNTY'S GREATEST WEAKNESSES IN ATTRACTING NEW PEOPLE AND BUSINESSES TO THE COMMUNITY; WHAT ARE ITS STRENGTHS?

I feel that the lack of living wage jobs and certain types of housing are the biggest weaknesses Kanabec County has. Infrastructure like broadband and roads also present issues of access for people and businesses.

Kanabec County's strengths are it's involved citizens and organizations, like FirstLight Health System and the Vasaloppet, with their willingness to work hard to improve life here. Our location is excellent, close to large metropolitan areas and the north woods.

WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE IS THE BEST STRATEGY FOR HIRING AND RETAINING QUALITY COUNTY EMPLOYEES, PARTICULARLY THOSE WHO WORK IN PUBLIC HEALTH AND THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE?

All county departments need quality employees to do the work of serving people. Depending on the year there are many jobs that have high turnover and turnover costs money.

We need to keep in mind that Kanabec County is a low income, high unemployment area. Though county employees have challenging jobs that take education and knowledge, we need to balance wages and benefits so that we don't fall too far outside the overall market. We need to continue to make county employment supportive of professional development and family needs.

WOULD YOU SUPPORT HIGHER TAXES TO MAINTAIN CURRENT LEVELS OF SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE COUNTY? WHY OR WHY NOT?

I support a budget that supports the services we actually need. I believe that the State government should support local government to the level they originally promised when they mandated activities be done by the county. For instance, if they want the county to support mental health locally, the state needs to provide funding to make that possible. We shouldn't deal with mental health once the person is in jail. Finding inventive ways to fund services is an ongoing effort here in Kanabec County and it needs to continue. Though we may need more to do more there are creative ways to find money to support services we need.

Uncontested Candidates

Mora City Council (Elect 3):
Jody Anderson
Alan Skramstad (Incumbent)
Sara Treiber (Incumbent)

Kanabec County Board of Commissioners District 2:
Gene Anderson (Incumbent)

Kanabec Soil & Water Conservation District:
District 1: Kevin C Belkholm (Incumbent)
District 2: No Candidates Filed
District 3: Paul Hoppe (Incumbent)
District 5: No Candidates Filed

Quamba Mayor:
Gordon Gullixon (Incumbent)

Quamba City Council (Elect 2):
Dionne Durham (Incumbent)
Terri Huro-Torgerson

Ogilvie Mayor:
Mark Nilson (Incumbent)

Braham Mayor:
Patricia Carlson (Incumbent)

Hillman Township:
Clerk: Karen Felger (Incumbent)
Board Seat 2: Dereke Voge

Braham City Council (Elect 2):
Shawn Sullivan
Jeremy Kunshier (Incumbent)

Ford Township:
Clerk: No Candidates Filed
Seat 2: Carl Swaningson

Grasston Mayor:
Jeremy Miller (Incumbent)

Brunswick Township:
Town Clerk: Brenda Wolff
Seat B: Rick Kawalek (Incumbent)
Seat C: Craig Peterson (Incumbent)

Grasston City Council (Elect 2):
Darlene Derheim
Marcy Squires

Ballot Questions

REMOVE LAWMAKERS' POWER TO SET THEIR OWN PAY

Failure to vote on a constitutional amendment will have the same effect as voting no on the amendment.

Shall the Minnesota Constitution be amended to remove state lawmakers' power to set their own salaries and instead, establish an independent, citizens-only council to prescribe salaries of lawmakers?
Yes or No

If this proposed constitutional amendment is passed, article IV, section 9 of the Minnesota Constitution will be amended to read:

"The salary of senators and representatives shall be prescribed by a council consisting of the following members: one person who is not a judge from each congressional district appointed by the chief justice of the Supreme Court, and one member from each congressional district appointed by the governor. If Minnesota has an odd number of congressional districts, the governor and the chief justice must each appoint an at-large member in addition to a member from each congressional district. One half of the members appointed by the governor and one half of the members appointed by the chief justice must belong to the political party that has the most members in the legislature. One half of the members appointed by the governor and one half of the members appointed by the chief justice must belong to the political party that has the second-most members in the legislature. None of the members of the council may be current or former legislators or the spouse of a current legislator. None of the members of the council may be current or former lobbyists registered under Minnesota law. None of the members of the council may be a current employee of the legislature. None of the members of the council may be a current or former judge. None of the members of the council may be a current or former governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general, secretary of state or state auditor. None of the members of the council may be a current employee of an entity in the executive or judicial branch. Membership terms, removal and compensation of members shall be as provided by law. The council must prescribe salaries by March 31 of each odd-numbered year, taking into account any other legislative compensation provided to legislators by the state of Minnesota, with any changes in salary to take effect on July 1, of that year. Any salary increase for legislators authorized in law by the legislature after Jan. 5, 2015, is repealed."

COUNTY OFFICE APPOINTMENT QUESTION

The Kanabec County Board of Commissioners has proposed making the County Recorder and Auditor/Treasurer positions appointed positions instead of elected positions. The proposed appointments would be applicable starting in January of 2019. May the statute that allows for the appointment of the County Recorder and County Auditor/Treasurer positions in Kanabec County be implemented by the Kanabec County Board? By Voting "Yes" on this ballot question, you are voting to make the County Recorder and County Auditor/Treasurer positions appointed. If left blank you are voting no.

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