

MAHTOMEDI CITY COUNCIL (ELECT 2)

Lilly Melander

City of residence: Mahtomedi
Occupation: Biotech Lobbyist
List 3 most recent civic involvement roles:

- Participated in the Mahtomedi Environment Commission Meeting, focusing on sustainability and environmental priorities for the city.
- Served on the Minnesota State Suicide Prevention Taskforce, contributing to statewide discussions on mental health and community well-being.
- Collaborated with City Council colleagues and community members on the turnback of Highway 244 to the city of Mahtomedi, engaging residents in shaping the future design of our city’s streets.



Q. Why do you want to serve on the City Council?
A. I want to serve because I care deeply about Mahtomedi and the people who call it home. This is a town where you know your neighbor, and where we look out for each other. I believe in preserving that small-town feel while making thoughtful, responsible decisions to keep our community safe, strong, and welcoming. Serving on the City Council gives me the opportunity to listen, to lead, and to ensure that Mahtomedi remains the kind of place we are all proud to live.

Q. What are your top three priorities for the city?
A.

- Public Safety & Infrastructure – We’re in need of a new fire station to provide our first responders with a safe, modern, and workable space to serve residents.
- Fiscal Responsibility – Using taxpayer dollars wisely, ensuring city investments reflect community needs without losing sight of long-term sustainability.

- Community Character – Protecting Mahtomedi’s small-town feel by supporting our neighborhoods, parks, and local businesses while carefully planning for the future.

Q. If elected, how would you involve the public in making major decisions?
A. Transparency, communication and trust are essential. I would involve the public by encouraging participation at council meetings and using surveys or other tools to gather input before major decisions are made. I want neighbors to feel heard, respected, and confident that their voices are part of the process. Decisions should reflect the values and priorities of our community—not just the council.

Luke Schlegel

City of residence: Mahtomedi
Occupation: Co-President of Collective Measures |Media & Analytics
List 3 most recent civic involvement roles:

- Mahtomedi City Council, 2022-Present
- Mahtomedi Finance Commission 2017-2022
- Mahtomedi School District Community Education Advisory Council 2022-Present



Q. Why do you want to serve on the City Council?
A. I want to continue my work on the City Council to ensure that the city continues on its current path as the city is in a healthy financial state and residents are satisfied (based on our recently-completed survey). There are a number of major infrastructure projects facing the city in the coming years (Mahtomedi Avenue turnback/ reconstruction and the Highway 120 turnback) and I want to see those projects through to completion.

Q. What are your top three priorities for the city?
A.

- Effective and efficient use of resources; only raising taxes when necessary to provide the services residents desire

- Continue planning for infrastructure investments and long term maintenance
- Continue to protect and expand our park and trail system

Q. If elected, how would you involve the public in making major decisions?
A. Mahtomedi has a great history of encouraging the public to participate in our regular city council meetings. I would like to see this continue. I regularly attend community events and communicate with residents and other stakeholders via in person conversations, email and phone calls. I also make it a priority to attend any public open houses or information sessions for major projects to be informed about the project and to hear residents’ feedback firsthand.

WHITE BEAR LAKE CITY COUNCIL (WARD 2)

Ellen Gurrola

City of residence: White Bear Lake
Occupation: Higher Education Sustainability Coordinator and Former Educator
List 3 most recent civic involvement roles:

- White Bear Lake Environmental Advisory Commission (2024-Present)
- Ramsey County Waste Reduction Advisory Committee (2024)
- White Bear Lake Welcoming and Inclusive Community Task Force (2021-2022)



experiences have given me a deep understanding of the diverse needs of our residents. As a former public school teacher of ten years, and with a spouse who is both a firefighter and Marine veteran, my family and I understand the value of service and the importance of supporting the public good. I look forward to the opportunity to serve and support our community.

Q. What are your top three priorities for the city?
A. My priorities are improving sustainability efforts, supporting first responders, and helping improve access to mutual aid. I support sustainability initiatives that are both practical and cost-effective. It is important to me that future generations have access to clean air and water so they can also experience the beautiful nature and outdoor opportunities our city provides. As a fire family, I understand the importance of first responders in our community. I would continue to support educational and community-building events. I am committed to ensuring our first responders have what they need to best serve our community, including continued access to mental health support. Regarding mutual aid, my family has firsthand experience living paycheck to paycheck, and I’ve seen the generosity of White Bear Lake neighbors. If elected, I will work to

expand opportunities and improve communications to better support the mutual aid efforts of nonprofits and grassroots organizations in our community.

Q. If elected, how would you involve the public in making major decisions?
A. As a White Bear Lake resident, I have actively participated in public input opportunities—whether speaking at council meetings, joining task forces, or serving on a commission. I think our city provides many opportunities for engagement. However, I recently completed a 16-week cohort with the National Recreation and Park Association, which focused on ways cities and community members can collaborate to improve our shared environment. One key lesson emphasized was the importance of not only asking for public input but also showing that we listen and respond to it. I also understand that formal settings aren’t always comfortable for everyone, which is why I hope to create more informal opportunities—whether over coffee, during playdates at parks, or at community events. My goal is for people to find me relatable and approachable in all settings.

WHITE BEAR LAKE CITY COUNCIL (WARD 4)

Kevin L. Edberg

City of residence: White Bear Lake
Occupation: Nonprofit executive working in community economic development
List 3 most recent civic involvement roles:

- White Bear Lake City Council member: 2010-present (16 years)
- White Bear Lake Area School Board: 1979-1988, 1991-2001 (19.5 years)
- Volunteer and lay leader in my congregation, Redeemer Lutheran Church



and graduating from Mariner High School (Class of ’76). This community provided me with an exceptional education and has been a wonderful place to live. Contributing my skills for listening and policy making is a way to serve the community that has given so much to me.

Q. What are your top three priorities for the city?
A.

- Seek sustainable financing solutions to maintain city buildings and physical assets while continuing to exercise frugality in public expenditures.
- Foster relationships with the White Bear Lake Area School District, White Bear Township and other cities, and use cooperative approaches to issues in our region such as groundwater management, affordable housing and public safety.

- Address the decline of our urban forest through a plan to remove dead trees (especially ash) and invasive species (buckthorn), and support replanting of diverse tree species on both public and private lands.

Q. If elected, how would you involve the public in making major decisions?
A. I have spoken publicly about the need for the council to change its practices regarding the scheduling, publication and hosting of public hearings on important city issues such as adoption of new ordinances and other major policies. We should facilitate more public input on these issues prior to discussion and adoption. I am also the only council member who periodically has held town hall meetings for discussion of city issues; I intend to continue that practice.

Where to vote on Election Day

- Ward 1: City Hall, 4701 Highway 61
- Ward 2: Ramsey County White Bear Lake Library, 2150 Second St.
- Ward 3: Parkview United Church of Christ, 3737 Bellaire Ave.
- Ward 4: Redeemer Lutheran Church, 3770 Bellaire Ave.
- Ward 5: St. Stephen Lutheran Church, 1965 County Road E East