

VOTERS' GUIDE 2025

CIRCLE PINES MAYOR

Matt Percy

City of residence: Circle Pines
Occupation: System Application Specialist, RBC Capital Markets
List 3 most recent civic involvement roles:

- Circle Pines City Council
- Centennial Fire District Steering Committee
- Adult leader, Scouts BSA Pack and Troop 65

Q. Why do you want to serve on the City Council?
A. I have lived in Circle Pines for twenty-two years and I see that our city has special attributes that attract people. These include: a sense of general safety, a fantastic school district, well-maintained streets and a crazy-high number of parks,

trails and open spaces. Our city contributes in all those areas and its biggest challenge is to keep providing those high levels of service while at the same time not breaking the bank for our homeowners. We do this in two ways: 1) We take big expenses and break them down into smaller, manageable chunks over time, like what we did with our street rehabilitation project. 2) We look for ways to improve efficiency, like our recent decision to contract fire services with the Spring Lake Park/Blaine/Mounds View Fire Department, which will both increase our coverage and decrease our costs.

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

- Public safety: Keep collaborating with our neighboring towns of Lexington and Centerville to help the Centennial Lakes Police Department bring security to us all. Also support our new fire contract with the Spring Lake Park/Blaine/Mounds

- View fire department to give rapid emergency response to our citizens.
- Infrastructure: Invest in our streets and parks to keep them in top shape. This includes securing state funding to complete the Rice Creek North Regional Corridor trail.
 - Circle Pines tax rate: Keep it steady and predictable.

Q. If elected, how would you involve the public in making major decisions?
A. One of Circle Pines' many strong suits is its ability reach out directly to our people. We do this through standard mechanisms, like open hearings and forums, but also directly: through our mailers, email lists and surveys. The best input is gathered in person, and you will often find me soliciting feedback at our local events like the recent 25th anniversary celebration, the Golden Lake Park Easter egg hunt, or even at your doorstep!

CIRCLE PINES CITY COUNCIL (ELECT 2)

John Burns

City of Residence: Circle Pines (35 years)
Occupation: Area Supervisor Signature Retail Services and Substitute School Teacher
List 3 most recent civic involvement roles:

- N.E. Lions International member, vision and hearing screening.
- Vice President, Edison Community & Sports Foundation, Scholarship program.
- American Legion Post 566-member, volunteer Blue Heron Days Parade.

Q. Why do you want to serve on the City Council?
A. I want to serve on the Circle Pines City Council because I believe in servant leadership – putting the needs of our

residents first and making decisions that strengthen our community. Our city has always been known for its sense of community. I believe that I can continue building that tradition with thoughtful leadership, fiscal responsibility and a focus on quality of life for every resident.

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

- Ensuring public safety by strengthening our partnerships with police and fire teams to deliver top tier but cost-effective services.
- Parks and trails infrastructure, refreshing our parks and trail while proactively maintaining our roads and utilities so our infrastructure continues to serve us well.
- Fiscal responsibility and tax predictability, safeguarding fiscal responsibility, holding the line on taxes through smart budgeting and efficient partnerships.

Q. If elected, how would you involve the public in making major decisions?
A.

- Ensure public input at Council Meetings: Form community committees to provide public feedback on major decisions.
- Use surveys, newsletters and notifications to gather Feedback: Expand and deepen public outreach by regularly including quick polls or voice your opinion survey links on key community topics.
- Organize issue-focused public hearing and workshops: Host themed town hall sessions where residents can actively participate before key decisions are made.
- Establish a resident advisory panel or task force: Invite local volunteers or civic-minded residents to participate, offering diverse perspectives and real-time feedback. Keep the participants and public informed on how the councils plans to act demonstrating transparency and accountability.

Meagan Bachmayer

City of residence: Circle Pines
Occupation: Co-founder and Executive Director, Minnesota Winds
List 3 most recent civic involvement roles:

- Circle Pines City Council
- Circle Pines Environmental Stewardship Advisory Committee
- Circle Pines Park Board

Q. Why do you want to serve on the City Council?
A. I love serving on our City Council because of all the wonderful things happening here in Circle Pines: our beautiful parks and trails, strong infrastructure, great schools, and the safe, welcoming environment that makes this such a special place to raise a family. It's a privilege to work alongside my council colleagues, our city staff, and our police and fire departments to take care of the community we all share.

I am grateful that we have a City Council where everyone shows up with different perspectives, but one shared goal—do our best to serve our neighbors. To me that means being a good steward of our tax dollars and shared community resources, helping neighbors connect with one another and their city government, and building on our strong foundation by finding and seizing opportunities to make our community even better for everyone.

Q. What are your top three priorities for the city?
A. If I have the honor of continuing to serve as your councilmember, my goals for our city will include the following:

- Keep local government affordable.

Let's continue to live within our means and plan for a sustainable future by maintaining a “Goldilocks” budget—not too big, not too small, just right.

- Invest in community.

Let's create more opportunities to come together across neighborhoods, because a connected community is a welcoming, safe, and rewarding place to live.

- Punch above our weight
- We might be a small town of just over 5,000 people, but we have and can continue to deliver big city services to our community through creative, innovative partnerships.

Q. If elected, how would you involve the public in making major decisions?
A. I believe the most important part of making good decisions is listening. I will make it a priority to connect with residents early—by attending community events, sharing surveys, or simply being available to talk at your door or over email. I also want to make information about City Council issues easier to find and understand so people feel empowered to participate. If you'd like to receive my occasional newsletter with updates, please email me at meagan4circlepines@gmail.com. My goals are to keep residents informed so that we can make decisions that reflect the values and priorities of the entire community. In a city our size, neighbors should feel connected to their local government and confident that their voices are being heard.

Nici Dorner

City of residence: Circle Pines
Occupation: Teller at American National Bank
List 3 most recent civic involvement roles:

- Circle Pines City Council Member
- CLPD Police Governing Board
- North Metro TV Cable Commission

Q. Why do you want to serve on the City Council?
A. My city is important to me, I love where I live and it's important to me to keep it a safe and vibrant community for my kids and for my neighbors.

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

- Public safety
- Parks and trails
- Community engagement

Q. If elected, how would you involve the public in making major decisions?
A. Having open and accessible government is very important to me. I want our citizens to know that I am one of you. I too have a utility bill, I use our streets, our parks and I rely on our police and emergency responders. I will connect with you at council meetings, community events and your doorstep. I want you to know that if you see me, I am approachable. I am always happy to answer questions. If I don't know the answer, I will find out!

It would be wonderful if everything in a city was as easy as this lake entrance and as calm as the lake

As a restaurant and sales manager, I have gained crucial negotiating skills through respecting and compromising with individuals who have different perspectives and personalities

As a lino lakes city council member, I would strive to leave this city as the wonderful place I moved into in 1987

Paid for by: Teresa O'Connell

8/2/25

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Please email your best shot to quadnews@presspubs.com. Please include information about when and where it was taken and who is in the photo.



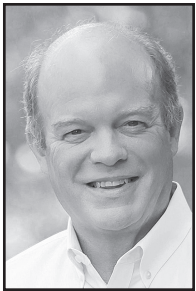
VOTERS' GUIDE 2025

LINO LAKES MAYOR (ELECT 1)

Rob Rafferty

City Residence: Lino Lakes
Occupation: Self-Employed
List 3 most recent civic involvement roles:

- City of Lino Lakes - City Council 2010-2019 / Mayor
- VLAWMO - Board of Directors, Secretary/Treasurer
- American Legion SAL- Adjutant / Membership Coordinator



Q. Why do you want to serve on the City Council?

A. I want to continue working with our Police and Fire Departments to ensure continued Council support to achieve the Lino Lakes model for the highest standards as the employer of choice. This is designed around the excellence and integrity of every defined position and roll.
I want to remain committed to collaborating with the Council to advance a shovel-ready approach to commercial development. This strategy is the most progressive way to address the city's

evolving needs of commercial growth by extending city sewer and water services, unlocking new growth opportunities, and strengthening the city's tax base.
Looking ahead, my focus is on completing and activating the Water Treatment Facility in 2026. Finalize all design elements of our new Public Works facility for construction to begin. These investments are essential in supporting current and future facility needs.
Above all, continue to create and guide Lino Lakes on the healthiest path forward.

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

A. Roads are the city's arteries, covering over 110 linear miles. Each requires ongoing care and investment. The city uses a 5-year grading review process that identifies the strongest and weakest roads. This grading process allows us to prioritize projects in efforts to maximize cost-efficiency while using an aggressive approach for those projects.
Parks are products of some new developments, with all contributing to a park dedication fee. Once established, the city does the ongoing maintenance and upkeep of the property. As equipment needs change with age, reinvestment becomes

essential not only for safety but also to meet evolving ADA standards and modernize the equipment.
Trails are our walking lifeline to good health. They connect us to other neighborhoods, while also showcasing the natural beauty in Lino Lake on a quiet walk through the woods. We must continue to create new segments to allow all neighborhoods similar opportunities.

Q. If elected, how would you involve the public in making major decisions?

A. All conversations are opportunities to listen and learn from others.
I believe in clarity over assumptions, and that is why I will continue to ask the questions. I do this to make an informed decision, educating not only myself but also helping to educate and engage others in the process. I will remain fiscally conservative in evaluating carefully the benefits of gains versus those of risks. I am here to represent you, and I do work to protect those rights, for taxes come from each of our pockets, not mine alone.

Catherine Decker

City of residence: Lino Lakes
Occupation: Independent Mortgage Broker
List 3 most recent civic involvement roles:

- Regular participant at Lino Lakes City Council meetings - actively listening, asking questions and speaking up on issues affecting residents.
- Advocate for transparency and responsible development - consistently raising concerns about growth, taxes and environmental impact on behalf of neighbors.
- Community engagement on local issues - collaborating with residents to understand their concerns and bring their voices forward to city leadership.



Q. Why do you want to serve on the City Council?

A. I hold a MBA from Carlson School of Management and previously served as VP HR before launching my own consulting firm. Today, I run Pure Home Lending, a mortgage company committed to helping families achieve affordable homeownership.
A Minnesota native, I've lived in Lino Lakes since 2007. I value the rural character and natural beauty of our

community, which become more precious with every acre lost to development. For years, I've regularly attended City Council meetings—listening, asking questions and speaking up for residents.
My commitment to service runs deep: my ancestor signed the Declaration of Independence, and the Pledge of Allegiance reminds me to lead with liberty, justice, fairness and transparency.
Lino Lakes is growing, and growth must be balanced with fiscal responsibility. Our current mayor is an architect; architects often go over budget. With my business background, I'll bring financial discipline, curb unnecessary spending and preserve our community's character.

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

A.
1. Preserving our small-town character and natural spaces. Development should enhance, not diminish, our quality of life. I will advocate for slower, more thoughtful growth that protects the rural character, open spaces, and natural beauty that make Lino Lakes special.
2. Ensuring transparency and accountability. Residents deserve complete and accurate information about city policies, such as sewer and water conversion, and they deserve rules applied consistently. Too often residents are denied reasonable requests while the city overlooks its own errors. Leaders must hold

themselves to the same standards they expect of citizens.
3. Promoting fiscal responsibility and fair taxation. Every household already pays stormwater taxes to the Rice Creek Watershed District, yet the city adds a duplicative stormwater utility tax. I will work to end unfair double charges, control spending and bring honesty and clarity to the budget process.

Q. If elected, how would you involve the public in making major decisions?

A. If elected, I will make sure residents have a real voice in shaping the future of Lino Lakes. Too often, major decisions are made without giving citizens the full picture or a genuine opportunity to weigh in. That must change.
I would expand opportunities for public input beyond the traditional three minutes at the microphone. This includes town hall meetings, listening sessions, and open forums where residents can ask questions and receive clear answers. I would also ensure information about proposals - such as development projects, tax changes, or sewer and water expansion - is communicated in plain language, easily accessible online, not hidden in technical reports.
Accountability also matters. When mistakes are made, they should be acknowledged and corrected, not ignored. By involving residents early and honestly, we can build trust, make better decisions, and keep Lino Lakes a community where government serves the people - not the other way around.

LINO LAKES CITY COUNCIL (ELECT 2)

Christopher Stowe

City of residence: Lino Lakes
Occupation: Plumber
List 3 most recent civic involvement roles:

- Consistent attendee at Lino Lakes City Council meetings — observing closely, asking questions and voicing concerns on behalf of residents and myself.
- Strong supporter of open government and balanced growth — regularly highlighting the impacts of development, taxation and environmental changes to ensure accountability.
- Active partner with the community — connecting with neighbors to hear their perspectives and making sure their input is represented before city leaders.



Q. Why do you want to serve on the City Council?

A. I want to serve on the City Council to ensure residents have a strong voice in shaping the future of Lino Lakes. Too often, decisions are made that prioritize high-density growth over the wishes of the community. This kind of development has already led to higher taxes, more traffic and added strain on schools, police and fire services—costs that ultimately fall on

residents. Meanwhile, our natural spaces are disappearing, and Lino Lakes risks losing the unique character that sets it apart from cities like Blaine. Over the past five years, residents have faced property tax increases year after year, without seeing a corresponding improvement in quality of life. I believe the Council needs someone committed to transparency, fiscal responsibility, and thoughtful growth that preserves the nature, space, and rural lifestyle we value. I want to represent the residents, not special interests, keeping Lino Lakes a community we're proud of.

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

A. My top three priorities for the city are honesty, transparency and common sense—qualities I believe are severely lacking in Lino today. A clear example is the sewer and water project north of Bill's Gas Station. Residents were told it would cost about \$30,000 per household and that they could keep their wells. As a licensed plumber, I knew that once sewer and water are available, connection is required by law. The true cost was closer to \$50,000 per household, plus plumbing expenses. Taxpayers also paid approximately \$3.5 million—about \$175,000 per home—for roadwork and piping, while a nearby developer benefitted without covering those costs. Residents endured ripped-up roads, heavy noise, and broken promises about restoration.

Many say they would've voted differently if given the full truth. This is why transparency, fiscal responsibility, and respect for residents' voices will be my top priorities as councilman. Math should math.

Q. If elected, how would you involve the public in making major decisions?

A. If elected, I will make sure residents are given full, accurate information and a genuine chance to weigh in before major decisions are made. Too often, the city has not been transparent, leaving people misinformed about the true costs and impacts of projects. I would ensure that proposals—such as new developments, tax changes, or sewer and water expansion—are explained in plain language and made accessible online and in city communications so residents clearly understand what is being decided. I also believe public comment should be treated with respect. Residents who take the time to attend meetings or share concerns deserve to be heard and considered, not dismissed. Accountability is key: if mistakes are made, they must be acknowledged and corrected. By ensuring honesty, openness, and respect for residents' voices, I will help restore trust in city government and keep decisions aligned with the best interests of our community.

Quick Links:

View the elections home at *mnvotes.gov*

Register to vote or update your registration at *mnvotes.gov/register*

Request an absentee ballot at *mnvotes.gov/absentee*

View a sample ballot at *mnvotes.gov/myballot*

Find your polling place at *mnvotes.gov/pollfinder*

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LINO LAKES CITY COUNCIL (ELECT 2)

Dale Stoesz

City of residence: Lino Lakes
Occupation: Purchase Administrator for a family-run manufacturing business with under 100 employees
List 3 most recent civic involvement roles:

- Lino Lakes City Council (2012-2015, 2018-Current), Planning and Zoning (2016-2017) for a total of 14 years of civic involvement.
- North Metro TV Vice-Chair – provides public access content for school sports, elections and local news.
- Statewide Emergency Communication Board (SECB) – provides leadership to set the vision, priorities, and technical roadmap for interoperable public safety communications, alerts and warnings across the state.

Q. Why do you want to serve on the City Council?
A. My desire to serve on the Lino Lakes City Council today is rooted in the same values that inspired me in 2012. I want to help shape a city that future generations are proud to inherit—and where lifelong residents feel the strength of what we’ve built

together. That means fostering a safe, vibrant community with modern infrastructure, abundant parks and trails, and fiscally responsible tax policies that hold real value for residents. Today, we face pressure from outside influences seeking to reshape our city to fit their vision. But Lino Lakes should be shaped by the people who live here. While we must operate within federal, state, and Met Council regulations, our city charter gives us meaningful authority to make decisions that reflect our community’s values. Let’s use that authority to ensure Lino Lakes remains a city built by its citizens.

Q. What are your top three priorities for the city?
A. I support our updated public safety model led by Chief Boehm, Chief L’Allier and City Administrator Anderson. Public safety is the largest budget item, and I remain committed to keeping it a priority. I don’t believe a city-run cannabis storefront aligns with our community values. Cannabis is a statewide issue, and we should separate regulation and enforcement from retail operations. We’re investing in a water treatment plant to ensure clean water for generations. I was the only council member to oppose the \$48 stormwater fee, which I view as a hidden tax not reflected in the Truth-in-Taxation Notice. This is one example of

how I stay transparent and advocate for responsible budgeting that protects residents. While developers may benefit from projects without living here, growth should reflect the long-term vision of Lino Lakes residents. I support landowner rights and believe development must align with our city’s comprehensive plan.

Q. If elected, how would you involve the public in making major decisions?
A. In “The Speed of Trust,” Stephen M.R. Covey reminds us that trust is painstakingly built over time yet can vanish in a moment—underscoring the need for leaders to lead with consistency, transparency, and integrity. Transparency is essential to building and maintaining trust, especially in local government. I believe residents deserve clear, consistent communication about what’s happening in our city—and I’ve made that a priority. Social media has been a key tool in that effort. Since July 28, 2015, I’ve maintained the page “Lino Lakes City Happenings Dale Stoesz,” on Facebook which has received over 75,000 views in the past 90 days. I also make myself accessible by listing my cell number on the official Lino Lakes city page, because open communication matters.

Julia Nelson

City of residence: Lino Lakes
Occupation: Townhome Association Manager
List 3 most recent civic involvement roles:

- Current member of Lino Lakes Environmental Board
- Wargo Nature Center Earth Day Volunteer
- Annual Heron Nest Count Volunteer

Q. Why do you want to serve on the City Council?
A. I would like to serve on the city council to ensure the voices of Lino Lakes citizens are heard. There are currently three competing priorities within our city: a) outside forces such as the MET Council, b) all pro-development leadership that is heavily influenced by business interests and c) current citizens of Lino Lakes who would prefer for us to remain a peaceful place to live. Many are alarmed at the rapid pace of development seemingly without concern for rising traffic levels,

and the subsequent noise and pollution in neighborhoods. It is not necessary to build four gas stations within a mile along Lake Drive, pave over gardens to build a fast-food joint and eminent domain land from citizens to re-route dense traffic. If you are lucky enough to not be impacted yet, I would suggest that, under the pro dense building philosophy that we have become used to, everyone will be affected.

Q. What are your top three priorities for the city?
A. 1. Public safety and emergency response is the utmost priority. If we do not feel safe or cannot be helped in an emergency, then nothing else matters. I will honor the requests of our first responders. They are experts and know best what is needed to keep our city safe. 2. My second priority is to protect wildlife. Lino is lucky to be one of the remaining bastions for abundant wildlife, including some endangered species. It is possible to allow development while requiring the preserving of mature trees and the corridors of land that provide important habitat. 3. My third priority is to implement a long-term strategy to handle water needs. As population density grows, access to

water will continue to be an issue. It is imperative we plan for water restrictions and let residents know the outcome of current court cases that may require limited water use. This will require citizenship participation because plans made now will affect our children’s and grandchildren’s futures.

Q. If elected, how would you involve the public in making major decisions?
A. Public input is important to shaping a city. The city council works for the public and not itself. We are tasked with implementing the desires of citizens before anything else and good communication is key. We must be a city council that encourages citizen input, and we must act on it. Too many of us feel as though our council listens politely but then, they proceed to do what they had planned to do all along. I would like to see our city council gain a reputation for development based on citizen desires and not developer ambitions. I’m sure that most of us are familiar with the “Mapping Northwest” process that was done over the last year. This is a good example of inviting citizen involvement in a major project. If elected to council, I intend to listen to all concerns, whether for a large or small project.

Randy Rennaker

City of residence: Lino Lakes
Occupation: Project Manager/Account Executive
List 3 most recent civic involvement roles:

- Current member of Lino Lakes Economic Development Advisory Committee
- Current youth baseball coach
- Former youth soccer coach

Q. Why do you want to serve on the City Council?
A. As a 45-year resident of this community I have experienced and enjoyed many changes in the area. I appreciate the fact that my family and I can see a major league baseball game or attend an event in either downtown within a 25-minute drive from home yet take a walk or bike ride 5 minutes from home and still experience cattle grazing in a pasture. If you were to poll each

of our 22,000 residents, I would venture to say that less than 1% would declare that they love our city for its opportunity to have high-density housing and multi-story apartment buildings. Most residents love Lino Lakes for our lakes, trails and natural beauty. While I will always support landowner rights 100%, I favor smart and measured growth, while retaining our small-town charm. As a councilmember, I will always strive to retain this.

Q. What are your top three priorities for the city?
A. I believe that all commercial and residential development must be planned thoughtfully. We must always consider the perspective of current residents while planning for the future. Reduce the tax burden on homeowners by increasing our commercial tax base in our business districts and supporting business-friendly policies. Expand our commercial opportunities to dynamic businesses that residents are longing for. Lead with transparency, integrity, kindness and an open mind. We can learn a lot by listening to one another and considering

the unique perspective that each of us brings to a conversation. In my business life I gladly answer and respond to pleasant and unpleasant phone calls each day; it’s important that residents’ voices are heard and appreciated.

Q. If elected, how would you involve the public in making major decisions?
A. As a project manager, I’m often tasked with bringing multiple parties together to create solutions for unique and costly issues. I pride myself in being able to research a topic and understand various viewpoints before delivering a solution. I’m a strong proponent of “Town Hall” type meetings when working on projects that can involve or disrupt neighborhoods or private properties. My approach would involve bringing all parties to the table for questions, answers and dialogue. I wholeheartedly believe in managing the city’s pocketbook in the same manner that I manage my own, for my family. I will always consider the value in each cent that we as a city spend. I will respectfully listen and respond to any resident concern or question that is brought forward.

Teresa O’Connell

City of residence: Lino Lakes
Occupation: Retired North Regional sales manager for Minnesota Salad Company
List 3 most recent civic involvement roles:

- SHEP – Stream Health Evaluation Program – Co-lead of Team 1
- Rice Creek Watershed Citizen Advisory committee since 2023
- Lino Lakes Environmental Board

Q. Why do you want to serve on the City Council?
A. My volunteer, city board experience and other life experiences make me open to all Lino Lakes citizens. Patience and persistence have always helped me in my personal and professional life. I have heard, watched and experienced many different things in Lino Lakes, since my

husband and I bought our home in 1987. The Joni Mitchel song “You don’t know what you have until it is gone” is my philosophy in life. Development is happening in Lino Lakes and has been for years but how we respect the current and future residents along with our natural environment is in the hands of city staff, appointed board members and city council. I have always successfully worked simultaneously with individuals with different personalities and perspectives, that is why I was liaison manager in the restaurant business and would be good on the city council.

Q. What are your top three priorities for the city?
A. My main priority as member of the city council is to leave Lino Lakes in as best possible shape for the next generation. We are fortunate to have 35W and 35E in our city. This allows us to have a community feel to our city. When I canvased in the past people wanted slower traffic in front of their home. This comment came from people on county roads, collector streets and dead ends.

People live in Lino Lakes because of what we offer. We have water and somewhat dark skies. I believe every development needs to be designed to enhance what we are offering with as little disruption to current residents. We are one city not North or South, we are in numerous school district and zip codes, but we are all paying for the water treatment facility, lighting, development of roads and other infrastructure. It would be nice to have a better connection by trails.

Q. If elected, how would you involve the public in making major decisions?
A. I believe the citizens are electing city council members in hopes they do not have to watch what the city council and its boards are doing. I have discovered that the Press catches someone’s attention like mine and then I do some research and put it in an email in nextdoor.com.