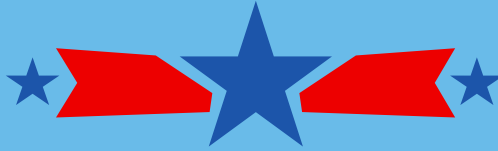




VOTING



GUIDE

• 2022 •

YOUR GUIDE TO STATE, COUNTY & LOCAL
ELECTIONS IN THE BRAINERD LAKES AREA



PEQUOT LAKES

— Chamber of Commerce —



**BRAINERD
LAKES**

— Chamber of Commerce —



CROSSLAKE

— Chamber of Commerce —

**EARLY VOTING
SEPTEMBER 23**

**Remember
to vote!**

**ELECTION DAY
NOVEMBER 8**



What's on my ballot? What district am I in? Where can I vote?

**Find answers to frequently asked questions at
BrainerdLakesChamber.com/Vote
or scan the QR code below.**



**THESE SPONSORS SUPPORT THE CHAMBER'S 2022
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS & VOTER EDUCATION ACTIVITIES.**



WIDSETH



AVANTECH



Dear Chamber Members & Friends,

As Brainerd Lakes Area business men and women, we have another opportunity to positively influence the future of our communities by voting in the 2022 election.

On behalf of our Board of Directors, Government Affairs Committee and Business Champion Sponsors, we're proud to deliver this year's Business Voting Guide. Please take a few minutes to research the candidates by reading through this guide and attending our candidate forums.

Although we strongly advocate for policies that support small business, the Chamber does not endorse candidates or political parties. Special thanks to all the candidates who took time to respond to our questionnaire as they strive to serve in public office.

Sincerely yours,



MATT KILIAN, PRESIDENT

Brainerd Lakes Chamber of Commerce
(218) 822-7111 | Matt@BrainerdLakesChamber.com

2022 Brainerd Lakes Chamber GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Nate Grotzke

Close~Converse
Commercial &
Preferred Properties

Jim Haakonson

CliftonLarsonAllen

Deb Holthaus

Benefit Innovations

Val Knudsen

Advantage Seamless
Gutters

Ginny Knudson

Borden,
Steinbauer,
Krueger and
Knudson

Mark Osendorf

Xcel Energy

Chris Quisberg

Cub Foods

Tim Ramerth

Widseth

Matt Seymour

Tudor Properties

Tim Swanson

Peer 360
Facilitator

Bart Taylor

RiverWood Bank

Angel Zierden

Brainerd
Lakes
Holdings

• 2022 • ELECTIONS

All of the listed candidates were contacted by the Brainerd Lakes Chamber of Commerce for participation in this Voting Guide. Responses received from our questionnaire are listed herein.

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- U.S. Representative District 8, Jen Schultz
- U.S. Representative District 8, Pete Stauber

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- Governor, James McCaskel*
- Governor, Steve Patterson
- Governor, Scott Jensen*
- Governor, Tim Walz
- State Senator District 5, A. John Peters
- State Senator District 5, Paul Utke
- State Senator District 6, Steve Samuelson
- State Senator District 6, Justin Eichorn
- State Senator District 10, Suzanne Cekalla
- State Senator District 10, Nathan Wesenberg*
- State Representative District 5A, Brian M. Hobson
- State Representative District 5A, Krista Knudsen
- State Representative District 5B, Gregg Hendrickson
- State Representative District 5B, Mike Wiener
- State Representative District 6A, Richard (Rick) Blake

- State Representative District 6A, Ben Davis
- State Representative District 6B, Sally Boos
- State Representative District 6B, Josh Heintzeman
- State Representative District 10A, Ron Kresha *

Cass County, Page N/A

- County Commissioner District 1, Neal Gaalswyk*
- County Commissioner District 4, Scott D Bruns*
- County Commissioner District 4, Steve Erickson*

Crow Wing County, Page 24

- County Commissioner District 2, Jon Lubke
- County Commissioner District 2, Robin Sylvester
- County Commissioner District 3, Steve Barrows
- County Commissioner District 3, Tad Erickson
- County Commissioner District 4, Rosemary Franzen

- County Commissioner District 4, Troy Sheffler
- Sheriff, Scott Goddard
- Sheriff, Erick Klang

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- Council Member, Amy Bogart
- Council Member, Connie Lyscio
- Council Member, Zach Tabatt

Brainerd, Page 35

- Brainerd Mayor, Dave Badeaux*
- Brainerd Council Member at Large, Jeff Czezok
- Brainerd Council Member at Large, Justin Grecula
- Council Member - Special Election Ward 1, Leonard D Skillings
- Council Member - Special Election Ward 1, Kara Terry
- Brainerd Council Member Ward 2, Kelly Bevans
- Brainerd Council Member Ward 4, Gabe Johnson
- Brainerd Council Member Ward 4, Emily LeClaire

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- Council Member,
Tom Lillehei
- Council Member,
Michael Moroni
- Council Member,
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Bainbridge
- Mayor, Donald
Andre Chouinard
- Mayor, David Nevin
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Sandra (Sandy) L.
Farder
- Council Member,
Stephen Hanning
- Council Member,
Jayme A Knapp
- Council Member,
Jackson Purfeerst

Nisswa, Page 54

- Mayor, John Ryan*
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Cameron Dorion
- Council Member,
Mark Froehle
- Council Member,
Jesse Zahn
- Council Member
Special Election,
Joseph Hall*

Pequot Lakes, Page 57

- Mayor, Tyler Gardner*
- Council Member,
Dan Ronning
- Council Member,
Cheri Seils**

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- School Board,
DJ Dondelinger
- School Board, Randy
(RJ) Heidmann
- School Board,
Elisa Korentaver
- School Board,
Charles Black Lance
- School Board,
Derek Owen
- School Board,
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- School Board,
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- School Board
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- School Board
Special Election,
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- School Board
Special Election,
Jessica Lynn Forsberg

- School Board
Special Election,
Trevor Mulholland
- School Board Special
Election, Mike Stanek
- School Board
Special Election,
David R. Stimac
- School Board Special
Election, John Ward
- School Board Special
Election, Brent Yaunick

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- School Board,
Jake Cameron
- School Board,
Brian Hankins
- School Board,
Bryan Held
- School Board,
Mariah Hines
- School Board,
Pamela J Johnson
- School Board,
Dena Moody
- School Board,
Craig Polchow
- School Board,
Tracy Wallin

Pillager School Board, Page 83

- Pillager School
Board, Rebecca
(Becky) Bennett
- Pillager School
Board, Sara Nagel
- Pillager School
Board, Sarah Smith



*Please note that candidates marked with * did not respond.
Please note that candidates marked with ** chose not to participate.*

**For voting information visit the Minnesota Secretary of State website:
www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting**

2022 Brainerd Lakes Area Candidate Forums

Your opportunity to meet our future leaders and make
an informed choice at the polls!



***All Candidate Forums will be streamed live on Facebook.
For more information or to RSVP,
visit BrainerdLakesChamber.com/Forums.***

Crosslake City Council and Mayor

Thursday, September 8th | 6:30 p.m.
The Gathering Event Center

Brainerd and Baxter City Councils

Monday, September 12th | 6:00 p.m.
Brainerd Police Station

Crow Wing County Commissioner and Sheriff

Tuesday, September 13 | 6:00 p.m.
Crow Wing County Land Services Building

Nisswa City Council and Mayor

Thursday, September 15 | 6:30 p.m.
Nisswa Community Center

Brainerd School Board

Tuesday, September 20 | 6:00 p.m.
Forestview Middle School

Breezy Point City Council and Pequot Lakes School Board

Thursday, October 6 | 6:00 p.m.
Eagle View Elementary School

US Congressional Debate (Pete Stauber & Jennifer Schultz)

Monday, October 24 | 6:30 p.m.
Madden's On Gull Lake

Candidate Forums Presented By



Federal: U.S. Representative District 8____



Name Jen Schultz
Public Office US Representative
Political Party DFL
Family Married, two children
Occupation Economist & Professor
Contact info@JenSchultzForCongress.com

Why are you running for public office?

I'm running to advance the Minnesota values we all share—hard work, decency, fairness and helping one another. I'll prioritize getting things done, solving problems, and fighting for fair policies.

What sets you apart as the best candidate?

I have 8 years of experience as a legislator working across the aisle bringing jobs and development to northeast Minnesota. As an economist I'm able to help families and businesses.

What are your priorities to support business and economic development?

I'll be diversifying our economy, securing investments for growth, and attracting jobs. I will fight for fair taxes, freedom, and opportunities for rural communities. We need to invest in infrastructure, broadband, education, health care, childcare and housing. As a daughter of a Vietnam veteran, I'll be helping our veterans too.

What changes, if any, would you make to existing laws or government operations?

I am not accepting corporate PAC money. My priority is serving those I represent, not corporate interests. I will use my knowledge, experience, and work ethic to improve our lives. I will make positive changes for our state. We do not need a representative who uses disinformation to divide us.

How would you engage local businesses as you weigh your decisions?

I will consult and regularly communicate with local businesses. The people of the 8th deserve better representation focused on your needs. I'm running for Congress because I believe when we invest in people, we all do better. I look forward to earning your support and working for you. JenSchultzForCongress.com

Federal: U.S. Representative District 8__



Name Pete Stauber
Public Office US Representative
Political Party Republican
Age 56
Family Married to wife, Jodi; five children and one foster child
Occupation 23-year police officer (retired)
Contact Pete@stauberforcongress.com
(218) 461-8683

Why are you running for public office?

From playing professional hockey to serving in law enforcement, I am a problem solver. I believe our best days are ahead. It's you, not the government, that makes America great.

What sets you apart as the best candidate?

I am running for re-election because I am passionate, now more than ever, about fighting for our way of life and being Crow Wing County's greatest voice in Congress.

What are your priorities to support business and economic development?

Washington is recklessly spending money we don't have. Inflation is skyrocketing. Energy prices are through the roof. Businesses and working families are bearing the brunt of Biden's broken promises. I support pro-growth policies that encourage job growth and promote the American spirit so small businesses and working families can prosper.

What changes, if any, would you make to existing laws or government operations?

As a member of the Small Business Committee, I am committed to cutting red tape and eliminating burdensome regulations. In just two years, Biden has added an additional \$200 billion in new regulatory expenses on small businesses. I reject these irresponsible policies and am committed to stopping the reckless spending.

How would you engage local businesses as you weigh your decisions?

As a former small business owner I understand the important role local businesses play in our economy and community. Small businesses are the engine to our economy and I am constantly visiting local restaurants, manufacturers, and retailers to ensure their voices get heard and we return common sense to Washington.

State: Governor_____



Name Steve Patterson
Public Office Governor of Minnesota
Political Party Grassroots-Legalize Cannabis
Age 33
Family Single
Occupation Owner at Lansing Corners
Bar and Grill

Why are you running for public office?

To stand up for and represent small business owners who were negatively affected by Tim Walz response to Covid-19.

What sets you apart as the best candidate?

I want to make MN a castle Doctrine state. I want to eliminate state income tax after 40 hours per week. Pro-weed, Pro-guns, Pro-Choice.

What are your priorities to support business and economic development?

Prioritize keeping small businesses open. Help people who are welfare work themselves out of the poverty cycle by eliminating the cap of hours they can work. Currently if people on welfare make too much money they lose government assistance.

What changes, if any, would you make to existing laws or government operations?

Decriminalization and legalization of recreational marijuana. Turn MN into a Castle Doctrine State.

How would you engage local businesses as you weigh your decisions?

Assure local businesses that as a business owner I will prioritize keeping small businesses open as we deal with the rising labor and supply costs. I will focus on keeping minimum wage the same by lowering the costs of good and therefore increasing purchasing power for all citizens.

State: Governor_____



Name Tim Walz
Public Office Governor
Political Party DFL
Age 58
Family Wife-Gwen, Daughter-Hope, Son-Gus
Occupation Currently the governor of Minnesota. I previously served as a congressman and in the National Guard for 24 years. I was a social studies teacher and football coach at Mankato West High School.
Contact info@walzforgovernor.org

Why are you running for public office?

Minnesotans have been through tough times. But we’ve worked together to invest in communities, grow our economy, and fund public schools. I’m running to move Minnesota forward.

What sets you apart as the best candidate?

I will continue Minnesota’s historic economic growth, fully fund public education, and make child care, health care, and prescription drugs affordable in every corner of our state

What are your priorities to support business and economic development?

I have cut taxes for small businesses and working families I while balancing the budget, but I know there is more to be done. I am focused on more support for small businesses, growing clean energy jobs, and making sure people have the training and education they need to succeed.

What changes, if any, would you make to existing laws or government operations?

I support rebate checks for tax filers to help working families handle inflation, \$300 million in funds to local police departments to help with officer recruitment and hiring, and fully funding our public schools to ensure students and teachers have what they need.

How would you engage local businesses as you weigh your decisions?

Local businesses are experts on their communities. I will continue to ensure that our business leaders have a seat at the table and that we are continuing to do all that we can to ensure they have all the resources that they need to grow and better serve their community.

State: Senator District 5_____



Name A. John Peters
Public Office State Senate
Political Party DFL
Occupation Computer Shop Business Owner,
Trying, repair and Setup
Contact ajpeters@outlook.com
(612) 419-4033

Why are you running for public office?

Insure: Funding for Public Education, Heath Care support, public safety for all, support for family farms and small businesses, support for infrastructure including internet for all.

What sets you apart as the best candidate?

Belief that public school must be funded at a higher level than currently set. As a scientist, former educator, manager, and business owner I understand technology and won't be bamboozled.

What are your priorities to support business and economic development?

Promote high speed internet availability for all. Find ways to reduce property tax without reducing services. Provide safe and useful infrastructure. Provide training for new jobs. Increase affordable homes so people can move to greater MN. work on new clean energy jobs in great MN. Create new markets for farmers.

What changes, if any, would you make to existing laws or government operations?

I would like to see better more efficient funding from the state for education and infrastructure to reduce property taxes. I would also like the responsibility for heath insurance move from small businesses and moved to the state.

How would you engage local businesses as you weigh your decisions?

As a member of the Long Prairie Chamber, I am in contact with the businesses in my area. I would have regular listen session with other area Chamber members and other business owners to find out their needs and gripes.

State: Senator District 5_____



Name Paul Utke
Public Office State Senate District 5
Political Party Republican
Age 65
Family Married and two adult daughters
Occupation Commercial Property Landlord,
Legal Videographer, Licensed
Insurance Agent

Why are you running for public office?

I am the incumbent and I have served six years in the Senate. I have reached a time where I have a lot to offer this district and the state.

What sets you apart as the best candidate?

Experience. I currently chair the Health and Human Services Committee. I bring common sense leadership to the table each and every day.

What are your priorities to support business and economic development?

We have to reduce the overregulation and high tax structure that our businesses currently operate under. We lose too many businesses to our neighboring states, and it is taxes and regulations that drive them out. We must make Minnesota a better place to live and work.

What changes, if any, would you make to existing laws or government operations?

We must make our government “user friendly” to work with. Government should be there to assist businesses so they can succeed and not be feared. We have people wanting to open a new business or expand their business and the state sometimes makes the process too complicated or costly.

How would you engage local businesses as you weigh your decisions?

I have been a business owner since 1993 so I have many friends and contacts across the state and throughout the country that I can talk with about any situation. I enjoy working with business owners whether it involves a new project or just needing help with a state agency.

State: Senator District 6_____



Name Steve Samuelson
Public Office State Senate
Political Party DFL
Age 69
Family My father, Don Samuelson;
two sisters, one stepson,
one girlfriend and a dog (Rosie)
Occupation retired-presently family care-giver
Contact ssamuelson53@gmail.com
(218) 820-9508

Why are you running for public office?

I am unhappy with the status quo of current politics. I believe in putting people over a party. I plan to bring civility, humility, and selflessness back to public service.

What sets you apart as the best candidate?

I am locally grown, born and raised in Brainerd. I know the people and issues of Crow-Wing County. Since 1972, our Senator has been from the Brainerd Lakes Area.

What are your priorities to support business and economic development?

I want to continue the work of my father to create jobs, businesses, and industries in this District. He did more for business in Crow Wing County than any other politician (saving the BIR, creating small cities grant programs like Clow Stamping, Paul Bunyan Trail, Brainerd Senior High Rise.

What changes, if any, would you make to existing laws or government operations?

Restructure the tax code to be more fair and balanced for small businesses. The State Education System needs to be fully funded and sustainable. Term Limits for all elected and appointed political figures. Affordable, accessible health care and prescription drug prices. Every citizen deserves food, family care, and affordable housing.

How would you engage local businesses as you weigh your decisions?

I will always be available to meet with and consult local business leaders on issues and concerns. I will be home in Brainerd when not in session. My telephone number is posted and I will always respond to constituents.

State: Senator District 6_____



Name..... Sen. Justin Eichorn
Public Office State Senate
Political Party..... Republican
Age..... 38
Family Wife Brittany and 4 Children
Occupation..... Entrepreneur, State Senator
Contact..... justinforsenate@gmail.com
 (218) 259-5334

Why are you running for public office?

Because the next generation deserves better than what they have received from government. As a father of four, I see every day what and who I am fighting for.

What sets you apart as the best candidate?

Having served in the legislature for two terms, I listened and learned what our Northern Minnesota communities need and I will continue to carry OUR Greater Minnesota voice to St. Paul.

What are your priorities to support business and economic development?

Workforce development including showing students there are more options than only attending college, rolling back erroneous rules and regulations that make it hard for business to do operate and a tax climate that actually allows people to succeed and able to stay in business in Minnesota.

What changes, if any, would you make to existing laws or government operations?

Government is too heavy handed and bloated. Bureaucrats have taken their roles too far in making rules that carry the weight of law with little concern for how it affects the average individual. All rulemaking authority should be returned to the legislature so that elected officials can be held accountable.

How would you engage local businesses as you weigh your decisions?

Speaking directly with business owners and the area Chamber members. If a bill comes up that affects a certain industry, I talk to the stakeholders in that field. As a small business owner, I understand the burdens government can place on us and want to see more free market principles.

State: Senator District 10_____



Name Suzanne Cekalla
Public Office State Senate, District 10
Political Party DFL
Occupation Former nurse, hospital chaplain,
and business owner
Contact suzanne@cekllaforsenate.com
(320) 200-4420

Why are you running for public office?

Central Minnesotans deserve someone who will fight for their fair share in St. Paul. It's easy to be partisan, much harder to bring jobs and opportunities home to our communities.

What sets you apart as the best candidate?

I lived here all my life, serving as a pastor and nurse, but also building a small business and co-founding the Rice Chamber of Commerce. I know what business needs.

What are your priorities to support business and economic development?

Reliable, affordable broadband is essential to new business. I support revenue-neutral low-interest loans to Electricity Cooperatives that want to provide broadband, as well as to farmers and local business owners who want to make capital investments. I also support tax credits and wage subsidies for businesses who build infrastructure here.

What changes, if any, would you make to existing laws or government operations?

The “omnibus” approach adopted in the State Legislature in recent years is a terrible way to make a \$50 billion budget. This is how you end up with a budget surplus that doesn't make it back to the people it belongs to. It encourages partisanship and tarnishes the state's reputation.

How would you engage local businesses as you weigh your decisions?

Through area Chambers! I believe a Senator's role is to hear the voices of constituents, and when we founded the Rice Chamber we did it so that local businesses would have a voice in community decisions. If I am not accountable to my constituents then I don't deserve the job.

State: Representative District 5A_____



Name Brian Hobson
Public Office Minnesota House of Representatives
District 5A
Political Party DFL
Age 42
Occupation Teacher - 3rd grade
Contact brian@hobsonforhouse5a.com
(218) 252-8085

Why are you running for public office?

I think we have a responsibility to try to solve problems and try to improve people's lives. Together we can do that.

What sets you apart as the best candidate?

As a teacher for almost 20 years, I have learned to be a creative and practical problem solver. I will bring these skills to the Minnesota House of Representatives.

What are your priorities to support business and economic development?

As a person who is not naturally entrepreneurial, listening to and learning from responsible small business operators in Rural Minnesota is my priority.

What changes, if any, would you make to existing laws or government operations?

I think we should reconsider the funding mechanisms for building, maintaining and operating schools across Minnesota because of the unfairness of using property taxes. To support meaningful, dignified work for folks, I think we need to begin to consider the supports available for working families, childcare, family leave, healthcare.

How would you engage local businesses as you weigh your decisions?

I am a listener and a learner. In every issue and policy there are many concerns from folks who might be affected. Finding good and workable solutions that improve the lives of workers and allow businesses to succeed in our small towns is important.

State: Representative District 5A_____



Name Krista Knudsen
Public Office Minnesota House District 5A
Political Party Republican
Family Married to Kevin Knudsen &
Four Beautiful Children!
Occupation Mother, Owner of Cowboy's
Restaurant in Lake Shore &
Mayor of Lake Shore
Contact kristaknudsenforhouse@gmail.com

Why are you running for public office?

To protect our constitutional rights & freedoms! As a business owner and mother, I am extra passionate about fighting for small businesses, parent's rights in schools & school choice.

What sets you apart as the best candidate?

I am driven by life experience. When I see a need, I rise to the challenge. Right now, there is a need for us to defend our rights & freedoms.

What are your priorities to support business and economic development?

I will work effortlessly to address Main Street's biggest issues, including our statewide labor shortage, over-taxation, over-regulation, supply chain issues and inflation. I will be an outspoken and consistent advocate for small business owners because as a small business owner myself, I know the issues they face.

What changes, if any, would you make to existing laws or government operations?

Government has grown too big, too far-reaching. We need to de-regulate most factions of our business sector and incentivize business growth & development. We need to cut our state income tax and eliminate the tax on Social Security benefits. All working Minnesotans should keep more of the money they earn.

How would you engage local businesses as you weigh your decisions?

Open and frequent communication! Whether it's individual conversations or larger town halls, I will listen to local business owners. They hold the answers because they know the issues firsthand.

State: Representative District 5B_____



Name Gregg Hendrickson
Public Office House 5B
Political Party Independence-Alliance
Family 3 Children, 2 grand children
Occupation Sales/marketing
Contact gregg7461@gmail.com

Why are you running for public office?

I'm Veteran, I'm not happy. For the last 25 years in District 5B, we have been electing the same party to represent us. We are not any better now.

What sets you apart as the best candidate?

My education, years in business. Independent will be a swing voter for both parties and I'll be able to get things for District 5B. I don't vote party agendas.

What are your priorities to support business and economic development?

The property taxes and infrastructure needs to be fixed. We are losing business and young families, which are our labor pool because of high taxes and lack of infrastructure like broad band. Simple fixes that our elected rep's didn't want to get done for us. Again, they vote party agendas.

What changes, if any, would you make to existing laws or government operations?

Government over reach. We should never let our government tell us that we should close our business, tell us that we should take a vaccine, tell us what we should do with our bodies. We all deserve to live free, and be respected for the way we feel.

How would you engage local businesses as you weigh your decisions?

Being in Business myself for decades, I've always had my thumb on the local needs in the area from other business owners. I will always be there for them, I will always answer e-mails and phone calls that we don't have now.

State: Representative District 5B_____



Name Mike Wiener
Public Office House of Representatives District 5B
Political Party Republican
Age 46
Family Married with 9 children
Occupation Business owner
Contact mwiener4house@gmail.com
(320) 360-6477

Why are you running for public office?

I’m running to help make sure future generations have the freedoms and opportunities to thrive and prosper.

What sets you apart as the best candidate?

I’m not a politician, I have a business mind set, I look at things through the lens of why are things done a certain way and how can we improve.

What are your priorities to support business and economic development?

As a business owner I’ve seen how government can encourage an environment were business grow and are successful. Growth of an existing business is important, as well as startups.

What changes, if any, would you make to existing laws or government operations?

Government has the potential to hinder business through over regulation. Its also not the governments role to pick winners and losers in business.

How would you engage local businesses as you weigh your decisions?

Communication is the key. Having discussions with local business people about the issues they have can be as simple as scheduling times at a local cafe where people can meet.

State: Representative District 6A_____



Name Rick Blake
Public Office Minnesota House District 6A
Political Party DFL
Age 74
Family Kathleen is spouse, married 52 years, four children.
Occupation Retired Electrical Engineer, Current City Councilor
Contact BlakeForRep@gmail.com (218) 301-3545

Why are you running for public office?

We deserve effective representation, someone who works well with others to solve problems and get things done. My goal will be reducing divisiveness and animosity in politics.

What sets you apart as the best candidate?

I have experience getting things done on non-partisan boards and commissions: Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities, Grand Rapids City Council, Grand Rapids Economic Development Authority, Grand Rapids Public Utilities Commission.

What are your priorities to support business and economic development?

Work with the Minnesota Chamber and the Greater Minnesota Partnership to develop policies and programs that increase access to affordable workforce housing, affordable childcare, economic development incentives, workforce expansion and development, and more transportation funding. I also support increased funding for DEED's infrastructure grants and business improvement loans.

What changes, if any, would you make to existing laws or government operations?

I will work to simplify the tax code's effect on businesses. I will support increasing the business property tax exemption. I will support reallocating the State portion of business property taxes to local governments. I will support legislation that provides adequate, permanent funding of our transportation infrastructure.

How would you engage local businesses as you weigh your decisions?

Reach out to Chambers and encourage their members to provide feedback on proposals that affect them. I will meet with Chamber members and ask for ideas how to improve the local business climate. I will provide periodic updates on legislation that affects business and solicit feedback from business sectors affected.

State: Representative District 6A_____



Name Ben Davis
Public Office Minnesota House of Representatives
Political Party Republican
Age 45
Family Married with 6 children
Occupation Pastor
Contact ben@bendavismn.com

Why are you running for public office?

I am concerned about the direction our country is headed. I want to ensure the blessings of liberty for generations to come.

What sets you apart as the best candidate?

I'm the candidate who will fight for and protect our rights declared by the Constitution. I am the candidate who will protect and honor the sacredness of We the People.

What are your priorities to support business and economic development?

Major permanent tax cuts and reducing government restrictions will greatly benefit businesses and economic development. Minnesotans know how to spend and invest their own money better than the government does. We also need to make sure government can never shut down our businesses again. One man has too much power.

What changes, if any, would you make to existing laws or government operations?

I would like to make changes to the governor's emergency powers. One man was allowed to make a decision to shut down our businesses, churches, and schools. That is not right. That is not American and that is not Minnesotan. Government overreach needs to end. All businesses are essential.

How would you engage local businesses as you weigh your decisions?

Businesses are the backbone of our nation. They should be listened to. I would engage them with my ears and not my mouth. I will listen with understanding, knowing that they are in business not only to provide for their families, but to provide quality services and products for others.

State: Representative District 6B_____



Name..... Sally Boos
Public Office MN House 6B
Political Party DFL
Occupation..... Retired teacher
Contact..... sallyboosformn@gmail.com
 (218) 270-5008

Why are you running for public office?

I'm running for the legislature as I do not feel as if the majority of residents of this area have been represented in the MN House.

What sets you apart as the best candidate?

I listen to others and am willing to find common ground on issues.

What are your priorities to support business and economic development?

We must fully fund our public schools and reinstate some of the programs we have lost in the last years due to lack of funding. This will encourage businesses to locate here and retain workers.

What changes, if any, would you make to existing laws or government operations?

The Legislature needs to use its time more efficiently so that they don't run out of time and leave the job undone.

How would you engage local businesses as you weigh your decisions?

I would seek input from all who have an interest in the issue and listen to their concerns and suggestions.

State: Representative District 6B_____



Name Josh Heintzeman
Public Office State Representative
Political Party Republican
Age 44
Family Wife & Six children
Occupation Up Country property management
Contact rep.josh.heintzeman@house.mn
(651) 296-4333

Why are you running for public office?

Now more than ever, I'm better positioned to represent the Brainerd Lakes Area, and I look forward to another opportunity to continue to serve my constituents.

What sets you apart as the best candidate?

Not only are my values aligned with District 6B, but my party affiliation will support me as I work to deliver on the issues my constituents consider most important.

What are your priorities to support business and economic development?

Lower taxes, less burdensome regulation, and support for communities that work with industry to create opportunity. That, along with an end to the potential for political lockdowns, is key for Minnesota business to succeed.

What changes, if any, would you make to existing laws or government operations?

I have supported, and will continue to author and co-author, legislation that targets key subject areas that businesses constantly struggle with, unfair and burdensome tax code, preemption for statewide uniformity, and agency reforms designed to first support proven technology as opposed to policies that look to penalize before they educate.

How would you engage local businesses as you weigh your decisions?

My office belongs to the people of Crow Wing County. I'm always looking for opportunities to make myself available to the business community and to fight for their rights when agencies go rogue. It's critical that a state representative listen to constituent's concerns and promote their position on the issues.

Crow Wing County:

County Commissioner District 2_____



Name..... Jon Lubke
Public Office Crow Wing County Commissioner
District 2
Age..... 67
Family Married with 6 grown children and 8
grandkids
Occupation..... Retired small business owner,
Currently Mayor of Jenkins
Contact..... (218) 232-2124

Why are you running for public office?

I am a servant-leader at heart. I have managed a service business for 30 years and have served the citizens of Jenkins as Mayor for the last 15 years.

What sets you apart as the best candidate?

I am passionate about the community I serve. This is shown through owning a small business, raising my family here, and being a leader in my church and local organizations.

What are your priorities to support business and economic development?

Small businesses are the backbone of our communities. I will actively respond to their needs and ensure that they have the support they need to thrive. We are currently facing critical child care, housing, and workforce shortages. Together we need to tackle these economic issues and strengthen our local economy.

What changes, if any, would you make to existing laws or government operations?

As a fiscal conservative, I would work to ensure that our taxpayer dollars are being effectively used. Further, I believe that it is important to have ongoing conversations with our state and federal legislators so that they understand how the decisions made in St. Paul and D.C directly impact us locally.

How would you engage local businesses as you weigh your decisions?

I would actively engage with our local businesses to ensure there is an ongoing stream of communications so that any of their concerns can be proactively addressed. I believe that all of our communities are stronger together, and that through collaboration, we can tackle our County's toughest issues.

Crow Wing County:

County Commissioner District 2_____



Name Robin Sylvester
Public Office Crow Wing County Commissioner - District 2
Occupation Minnesota Department of Transportation Controller/Office of Financial Management Director
Contact robin4crowwingcounty2@gmail.com

Why are you running for public office?

I am passionate about our local government officials leading through the lens of the Constitution, Bill of Rights, and making decisions that are their responsibility and authority.

What sets you apart as the best candidate?

I have 25 years of government leadership experience. Key service areas include: Health and Human Services, Transportation, Public Safety, Higher Ed, Military Affairs, Technology, Capital Investments, Operations and Financial management.

What are your priorities to support business and economic development?

My priority will be protecting business from government overreach. Providing opportunities and resources for small business growth. Connecting communities to local resources and reducing transporation, access and service delivery barriers.

What changes, if any, would you make to existing laws or government operations?

I will work citizens, local government, and state elected officials to repeal obsolete unnessary laws and governance structures that only exist because “this is the way we’ve always done it”.

How would you engage local businesses as you weigh your decisions?

Transparency and engagement with subject matter experts, impacted constituents, and other stakeholders is vitally important to successful decision making. Understanding the facts, variables and impacts are important to making key decision. The methods of engagement may include but limited to: taskforce teams, surveys, and meetings.

Crow Wing County:

County Commissioner District 3_____



Name..... Steve Barrows
Public Office Crow Wing County Commissioner
Family Married
Occupation..... Incumbent Commissioner
Contact..... (218) 820-8199

Why are you running for public office?

I feel I have the experience, as the incumbent, to provide the leadership necessary to represent issues that are important to the residents of District 3 .

What sets you apart as the best candidate?

I have experience with large budgets (DHS), 4 years as a City Councilman, and 4 years as a County Commissioner. In addition years of life experiences and understanding.

What are your priorities to support business and economic development?

First is to determine the workforce needs from an inclusive perspective. Secondly, address the housing (affordable) and childcare needs that support the workforce. Third, to continually assess the county's land use ordinance to ensure it provides opportunity for business development. Lastly, work closely with Blaedc to attract business's.

What changes, if any, would you make to existing laws or government operations?

Currently County Government operates effectively with the Federal and State governments being the authority to change and/or make laws.

How would you engage local businesses as you weigh your decisions?

I feel it is imperative when decisions that will affect current business's or future business development that a group of business owners be consulted. These are the experts and with their input the best outcome is more likely to be achieved.

Crow Wing County:

County Commissioner District 3_____



Name..... Tad Erickson
Public Office Crow Wing County Commissioner,
District 3
Age..... 37
Family Happily married with three children
Occupation..... Transportation Planner (R5DC),
Owner/Operator of Adventure To Go,
and part time Food Service Industry
Driver.
Contact..... VoteCommissionerTad@gmail.com
(218) 820-9281

Why are you running for public office?

Families, Businesses, Workers and Seniors are being hammered by high costs brought on by inflationary policies. I want to bring tax relief to Crow Wing County business and residents.

What sets you apart as the best candidate?

I'm uniquely positioned with experience as staff in local government and elected to city council. But also as a small business owner and as a worker in the service industry

What are your priorities to support business and economic development?

Tax Relief. Less job killing regulation. Developing a more streamlined, more flexible regulatory environment. Finding innovative solutions for workforce development.

What changes, if any, would you make to existing laws or government operations?

I was part of re-writing the City of Brainerd's Zoning Ordinance in order to reduce the regulatory burden on businesses and new development while maintaining reasonable rules that support and protect local values and assets. Id bring the same approach to Crow Wing County.

How would you engage local businesses as you weigh your decisions?

I will actively seek business owners input directly, on matters pertaining to them. I'll seek input from the BLA Chamber of Commerce more generally and I welcome unsolicited input from business owners at anytime.

Crow Wing County:

County Commissioner District 4_____



Name Rosemary Franzen
Public Office Crow Wing County Commissioner
Contact mrfranzen69@gmail.com
(218) 820-7640

Why are you running for public office?

It's been an honor to represent District 4 on the County Board; I'm proud of what I've helped accomplish, but I'm not done yet! I humbly ask for your vote.

What sets you apart as the best candidate?

My experience and my sound judgment. I listen to everyone and treat everyone with respect. I know how to make tough choices without offending those who I disagree with.

What are your priorities to support business and economic development?

We sent out \$4 million in federal CARES grants to help local small businesses survive during COVID. We waived liquor license fees during the same time. When the chips were down, county government was there. When the economy is better, government helps improve the infrastructure needed for businesses to succeed.

What changes, if any, would you make to existing laws or government operations?

Unfunded mandates from the federal and state governments. If they require the county to provide a program, it should be a requisite that they pay and not leave that responsibility to the county! It's especially frustrating to add to local residents property taxes for the increased costs of these services.

How would you engage local businesses as you weigh your decisions?

The same as I do for everyone. I listen well and build relationships. I make time to understand the local scene, who's here and how things happen. I'm always approachable. I follow through on what I say. We'll work together and use our collective power to create a better world.

Crow Wing County:

County Commissioner District 4_____



Name Troy Scheffler
Public Office Crow Wing County Commissioner
District 4
Age 46
Family We all are a family and we're gonna
start acting like it.
Occupation Legal
Contact troyscheffler@protonmail.com
(763) 225-7702

Why are you running for public office?

Because the current board has been playing a budgetary implosion shell game. My contender, a *16* year incumbent, disingenuously brags the 8 year no-levy increase was a positive achievement.

What sets you apart as the best candidate?

I engage with the community and have no issues with being open and objective. Just compare our Facebook accounts and her current refusal to answer the League of Women Voters.

What are your priorities to support business and economic development?

I would like to see a revitalization of Brainerd as an entertainment and manufacturing district without encroaching on Baxter's retail market. Also, restructure this budgetary mess to genuinely reduce taxes. Then handle the housing market with starter homes for productive people; not government subsidized slums for quick grant cash.

What changes, if any, would you make to existing laws or government operations?

Engage the Sheriff's Office to obliterate the growing criminal element in the county. Actively and personally oppose the county ever again participating in hysterically closing small businesses while hypocritically allowing billion dollar corporations to remain open. If businesses take care of my constituents, I will take care of businesses.

How would you engage local businesses as you weigh your decisions?

First, with an open phone-line. Second, with a personal on-site discussion. Third, with adding their voice to the board agenda at a public hearing. If all else fails, we will engage over a Coors Light. I am pro-business because they make the jobs that employ my constituents who employ me.

Crow Wing County: Sheriff_____



Name..... Scott Goddard
Public Office Crow Wing County Sheriff
Age..... 52
Family Wife, Carla Children Jordan
USAF Paxton PL High School
Occupation..... Crow Wing County Sheriff
Contact..... scottandcarla96@gmail.com
(218) 851-3014

Why are you running for public office?

I have lived in Crow Wing County my entire life and care deeply for our residents, visitors and businesses. I love being a cop and love being your Sheriff!

What sets you apart as the best candidate?

- Current Crow Wing County Sheriff
- Experience as a Police Officer, Deputy Sheriff, Patrol Sergeant, Lieutenant and Captain
- 28 years of service with a strong partnership with our community

What are your priorities to support business and economic development?

- Keep our communities safe and remain a destination for our visitors
- Continue and expand our partnership with business owners throughout our area by providing insight into crime trends, tips and training
- Remain a vital resource for ideas, concerns and comments on what our office can do to help our citizens

What changes, if any, would you make to existing laws or government operations?

- Strengthen education standards in our schools
- Provide more technical/hands on options to our high school students
- Increase funding and penalties for online predators
- Vastly expand mental health facilities and boarding
- Repeal taxes on social security checks
- Repeal recreational marijuana laws
- Provide mandated incentives for public safety personnel in small communities

How would you engage local businesses as you weigh your decisions?

Everyone is aware of the staffing issues we face. Along with rising costs for food, homes and wages, this is an all hands on deck problem we must meet head on with solutions and a path to ensure that our generation is able to live and prosper here.

Crow Wing County: Sheriff_____



Name Eric Klang
Public Office Sheriff
Family Annette and four boys
Occupation Chief of Police
Contact klangforsheriff@gmail.com
(218) 851-3019

Why are you running for public office?

The Sheriff’s Office is in critical condition and needs a proven leader to fix it. As your sheriff, I have the experience, education, and training to lead this complex agency.

What sets you apart as the best candidate?

The next sheriff that leads this agency should have the qualities of being capable, competent, socially astute, emotionally stable, and have the leadership ability to bridge partnerships.

What are your priorities to support business and economic development?

There are two questions that people always ask when moving to a new area, How safe is the community, and how good are the schools? We want to work together with our business community in making our communities safe and welcoming, by listening and responding to their needs.

What changes, if any, would you make to existing laws or government operations?

- Providing true leadership
- Respecting and valuing employees
- Rebuilding the public’s trust in the CWCSO management
- Rebuilding relationships with our LE partners and other County departments
- Building on recruitment and retention
- Reopening the two jail pods

How would you engage local businesses as you weigh your decisions?

As sheriff, I will work with, not against local business owners. Goddard reported businesses to MDH creating a big legal battle for some. I would leave it up to the individual business to decide whether they should stay open or not. Our business owners know best! #klangforsheriff Nov 8th

Baxter: Council Member_____



Name Amy Bogart
Public Office Baxter City Council Member
Family I am a 16 year resident of Baxter with my husband of 19 years and 2 kids, 7 & 14.
Occupation Small business owner
Contact (218) 330-3299

Why are you running for public office?

I see a need for better balance in attracting businesses, maintaining our beautiful city and being mindful of the financial investment of our residents, especially in our current economic climate.

What sets you apart as the best candidate?

As a resident with family owned businesses in Baxter, I offer both a resident and business owner perspective. I've also earned a BA in Business and Economics from Hamline University.

What are your priorities to support business and economic development?

I have three key priorities; 1. Keeping regulations reasonable, allowing for businesses to grow and adjust to meet their customer/client needs. 2. Zoning and planning play a pivotal role in business success and attracting families to Baxter. 3. Wise spending, maintaining our city while keeping more in our residents pockets.

What changes, if any, would you make to existing laws or government operations?

I will work with city employees, professionals and board members to meet the priorities I listed. Areas that will likely require change in order to meet those goals are our permitting process and regulations as well as the tax code.

How would you engage local businesses as you weigh your decisions?

Gaining the involvement of businesses and residents is critical. Not only would I encourage them to reach out to me, but I will be intentional in building and maintaining relationships with community members, and asking for input as often as possible.

Baxter: Council Member_____



Name Connie Lyscio
Public Office Baxter City Council
Age 63
Family Married to husband, Todd for 33 years. Mom to married, adult sons, Tom (Mariah), Michael (Lexi) and thrilled grandma to granddaughters Lucy and Nora. Lucy and Nora.
Occupation Retired ISD181 Physical Education Teacher, currently a licensed agent with Positive Realty and staff member at Birgits Jewelry.
Contact cmlyscio@gmail.com

Why are you running for public office?

My life and chosen careers have always involved “making a difference.” This opportunity to serve is a vehicle to keep doing so. I am running because I care about Baxter.

What sets you apart as the best candidate?

My responsiveness to constituents’ questions/concerns and my understanding of balancing budgets while considering the Long Range Plans for the city make me an ideal candidate for a council seat.

What are your priorities to support business and economic development?

Baxter’s commercial and industrial development are a source of pride for the city. These past four years have shown that businesses WANT to be here. My priorities are to continue to support the growth by showing a willingness to listen to developers and if necessary consider changes to city policies.

What changes, if any, would you make to existing laws or government operations?

I believe this needs to be a fluid and ongoing discussion, one that is entirely dependent on emerging needs and priorities. If I have learned anything the past four years it is “never say never”. Effective implementation of ever evolving technology and removing real or perceived communication roadblocks is vital.

How would you engage local businesses as you weigh your decisions?

I am a frequent visitor to many Baxter businesses and often engage in conversations with owners and listening to their concerns. My decisions are based on those discussions as well as factual input from Baxter’s City Planner and the City Administrator as well as Department Heads.

Baxter: Council Member_____



Name Zach Tabatt
Public Office Baxter City Council Member
Family Wife: Jessica, Daughters: Andi and Elle
Occupation Program Officer at Initiative Foundation
Contact (320) 630-8024

Why are you running for public office?

I'm running for re-election to continue the progress we have made in adding businesses, residents, and new opportunities in Baxter over the past four years.

What sets you apart as the best candidate?

I have broad experience across law enforcement, business, in public service and nonprofit work. I will always come to the table considering many views and possible outcomes.

What are your priorities to support business and economic development?

Our city needs creative development that supports a vibrant business community, a variety of housing options, and an atmosphere where people know they can succeed. I am always working to clarify and streamline ordinances to create a safe, welcoming city where the standards are clear, concise, and reasonable.

What changes, if any, would you make to existing laws or government operations?

I am actively encouraging streamlined processes and improved technology at the city. I want to continuously improve the way government interacts with residents and businesses so Baxter can thrive into the future. I also support the city being more active in encouraging new and creative development.

How would you engage local businesses as you weigh your decisions?

When I initially decided to run for office, the first organizations I contacted were the Chamber and BLAEDC. I am always happy to work with the business community and listen to their ideas. I'm happy to meet with anyone who wants to create new economic opportunities for our community.

Brainerd: Council Member Member at Large



Name Jeff Czczok
Public Office Brainerd City Council At Large
Age 59
Family I am the youngest son of Joseph and Stella Czczok who had 6 boys, Donald, John, James, Joseph and Thomas. We moved to Brainerd from East St. Paul in 1971. I have become a son of God. God is my Father.

Occupation Participating in local government is my occupation. I began serving on the Brainerd Transportation Committee in 1996 and currently serve as chair. I was appointed to the Brainerd Lakes Regional Airport Commission in 2012 and currently serve as chair. I was appointed 6 years ago to the Charter Commission and also currently serve as Chair. I've also served on the Walkable Bikable Committee for 2 years and the City of Brainerd's Facilities Committee.

Contact bubbajustice@charter.net | (218) 828-8476

Why are you running for public office?

Many years ago I got involved and publicly partnered with local government. I challenge, offer solutions and I've done a good job so being on the city council makes sense.

What sets you apart as the best candidate?

Serving over 25 years on appointed commissions while closely following many other issues provides me a broad spectrum of knowledge and understanding, resulting in my unique historical background.

What are your priorities to support business and economic development?

Prioritizing business employment needs should be paramount. Developing specific educational programs at local schools to partner with businesses in order to achieve a continual qualified workforce should be investigated. Most of the educational investment we make in local students leaves with them as they seek better employment opportunities elsewhere.

What changes, if any, would you make to existing laws or government operations?

Moving out of the way where government requirements interfere with business progress. For example, certain inspection requirements should be considered to make residential building improvements less intrusive. Digital images are widely used elsewhere and prove very effective in lieu of having onsite inspections for some elements of inspection requirements.

How would you engage local businesses as you weigh your decisions?

I am open to listening and discussing all sides of an issue. I would seek businesses input when questions arise and do my best to assure the business community they can contact me with their concerns. I appreciate opportunities to work out differences while maintaining respect for other opinions.

Brainerd: Council Member Member at Large



Name Justin Grecula
Public Office Brainerd City Council At Large
Family Married with 2 adolescent children
Occupation Mortgage Processor

Why are you running for public office?

To help build a safer, better community.

What sets you apart as the best candidate?

I try to listen to and understand all sides of an issue. I'm not afraid to dive deep into learning about any subject.

What are your priorities to support business and economic development?

Support biking/walking infrastructure as they have been proven to increase economic activity. Continue to remove zoning barriers to smart local development. Support the downtown business district and encourage its development/expansion. Encourage throughput on our major roads where many businesses are located.

What changes, if any, would you make to existing laws or government operations?

Continue to update the zoning code to allow smart local development. Work with city departments to enhance interdepartmental cooperation.

How would you engage local businesses as you weigh your decisions?

I believe all stakeholders in a decision should have their opinions voiced and considered prior to any decision being made.

Brainerd: Council Member

Special Election Ward 1 _____



Name Leonard Skillings
Public Office Council Member-special election
Age 62
Family Christene Skillings Spouse
Occupation Management Analyst II State of Minnesota
Contact skip_per@charter.net
(218) 232-6688

Why are you running for public office?

To represent the Ward I have lived in for 30 years. I believe I know the area and issues well. I can bring the them forward as I listen well.

What sets you apart as the best candidate?

Knowledge of the area, ability to listen to the constituents. Also believe as former Councilman did that there are always two sides to the story.

What are your priorities to support business and economic development?

Look carefully at the needs of our town, listen to the people and research the impact for our future. Then discern what is the best decision to make.

What changes, if any, would you make to existing laws or government operations?

I have one major issue that I believe can be improved on, that is education and accountability for Motorized and non-motorized bicylces.
I also believe that our city government can do better with management of supplies, furniture and vehicle usage.

How would you engage local businesses as you weigh your decisions?

Look for the best quality and or quantity to match the need area. Lowest price does not always equal the best. Highest price does not always mean the best quality either. Evaluation of the process is also important.

Brainerd: Council Member Special Election Ward 1 _____



Name Kara Terry
Public Office Council Member-special election
Contact karaterry01@gmail.com
(763) 244-6804

Why are you running for public office?

I know I can do a good job for both my constituents and the City of Brainerd. I am a servant leader and will listen to the people I represent.

What sets you apart as the best candidate?

I have experience and knowledge of city/county government that is beneficial and insightful. I am committed to the City's betterment and to supporting our business community.

What are your priorities to support business and economic development?

The City Council has done a good job in rebuilding our downtown. I will continue on that path by supporting small businesses, through the further development of social media, encouraging people to shop local, and shopping local myself. I will also check in with small business owners and employees.

What changes, if any, would you make to existing laws or government operations?

While I will be working in the smaller confines of the city council, I can have a larger impact in lobbying on behalf of constituents at the state level. I will look to them to help direct me on important topics and areas of improvement.

How would you engage local businesses as you weigh your decisions?

I will meet with local business owners and their staff to understand what they see, their needs, and how best they feel I can support them. I will also work with our local EDA committee, our chamber, and BLAEDC to ensure I am on the right track.

Brainerd: Council Member Ward 2____



Name Kelly Bevans
Public Office Brainerd City Council
Age 62
Family Sue (wife)
Occupation Business Owner

Why are you running for public office?

I think I can provide sound, balanced, direction for our City.

What sets you apart as the best candidate?

I have a lot of experience in City Government.

What are your priorities to support business and economic development?

We seem to be doing better as a City than in the last few years. We need to continue to encourage growth in our existing businesses, new start ups, & educate buyers what a fantastic place Brainerd is to spend money.

What changes, if any, would you make to existing laws or government operations?

Maybe we have too many rules. Keep it simple. We need a limited number of rules we can follow, and enforce. The new, smaller, City Code may help with this.

How would you engage local businesses as you weigh your decisions?

As a small business owner in Brainerd for over 30 years I'm in the trenches with local business. I've had hundreds of employees in my decades of service to the Brainerd Community. These people are only one of the rewards of small business ownership.

Brainerd: Council Member Ward 4____



Name Gabe Johnson
Public Office Brainerd City Council - Ward 4
Age 39
Family Mary (wife), Tegan, Joe and Jackson (children)
Occupation Digital marketing consultant
Contact gjohnson@ci.brainerd.mn.us
(218) 831-3623

Why are you running for public office?

I am running for re-election because I believe in active citizenship and representative government. I want to continue effecting positive change in the city's fiscal management and improving our neighborhoods.

What sets you apart as the best candidate?

Experience. I have held leadership roles on the city council, its finance committee, the EDA and the HRA. I bring a wealth of expertise to community, economic and business development.

What are your priorities to support business and economic development?

I want to explore financial incentives to support business development like the city does in the River-to-Rail Corridor; to continue working with a variety of subject matter experts through the EDA to support current businesses and future opportunities; and to continue working with the Brainerd HRA to develop workforce housing.

What changes, if any, would you make to existing laws or government operations?

I always have looked for ways to make the government more efficient and to better serve its taxpayers and I will continue to do so.

How would you engage local businesses as you weigh your decisions?

I love hearing from constituents and local businesses at council meetings, public information meetings, or via phone calls.

Brainerd: Council Member Ward 4____



Name Emily LeClaire
Public Office City Council, Ward 4
Age 32
Family 4 children: Jude, Lucy, Prudence, and Michelle
Occupation Children's Ministry
Campus Coordinator
Contact voteleclaireward4@gmail.com

Why are you running for public office?

I'm running for office to better represent the people in my ward who are currently underrepresented. I want to amplify the voices of those voters in our community.

What sets you apart as the best candidate?

I have experience representing others at the county and state level within the Head Start programs, as well as experience in building relationships with those representing neighboring communities.

What are your priorities to support business and economic development?

I have always loved the unique blend of businesses our area supports. My priority with businesses would be to grow relationships with owners and staff to better understand their individual needs and circumstances. I believe our businesses, in particular our small businesses, make our city a great place to live.

What changes, if any, would you make to existing laws or government operations?

I think it's a council's job to reflect the needs and desires of the people we represent. That said, my biggest change would simply be to spend time with constituents and keep them informed and up to date on pertinent information.

How would you engage local businesses as you weigh your decisions?

I think that any decisions that would impact our businesses need to be discussed with those businesses, the same way decisions should be discussed with constituents prior to enacting a formal decision. Obviously, this may not be possible for smaller issues, but it's necessary for those that are most impactful.

Breezy Point: Mayor_____



Name..... Angel Zierden
Public Office Mayor
Age..... 35
Family Husband- Teddy Zierden Children
(Lily, Liam and Luka)
Occupation Real Estate Investment
Contact angelzierden@gmail.com
(612) 269-0054

Why are you running for public office?

It has been a dream of mine since I was a child. I always knew that I would run for office at the right time in life.

What sets you apart as the best candidate?

I believe anything is possible with the right leadership and team. I have big plans for Breezy Point, and will make sure we achieve our goals.

What are your priorities to support business and economic

Investing in our city and people leads to economic growth and sustainability. My priorities include commercial and residential development, childcare expansion, connecting Breezy Point Resort to the Paul Bunyan Trail, and lowering taxes. I will also focus on increasing community engagement through events and activities that strengthen and build relationships.

What changes, if any, would you make to existing laws or government operations?

Local government operations are more successful when trusted relationships are established between the city, county and residents. I will work with all three to change outdated ordinances, update zoning, streamline the process for building and land development, establish and enforce reasonable rental ordinances, and resolve issues with tax forfeited land.

How would you engage local businesses as you weigh your decisions?

I have been meeting with Breezy Point business owners for the last few months to understand their needs and goals for the future. It is essential that we continue to support local businesses and provide resources to continue commercial growth.

Breezy Point:

Council Member Special Election_____



Name Steve Jensen
Public Office Breezy Point City Council
Age 65
Family My wife Robbin and two sons,
Matt, Drew (deceased)
Occupation Retired

Why are you running for public office?

I feel change is needed.

What sets you apart as the best candidate?

The City of Breezy Point updated the Comprehensive Plan in 2020. Progress has not been monitored and implementation strategies shared with residents. This needs to be a priority.

What are your priorities to support business and economic development?

Currently meeting with local business leaders getting their feedback on how the city can help commercial/retail business grow and expand. This issue was survey participants highest priority for the future in the City of Breezy Point Comprehensive Plan Update 2020.

What changes, if any, would you make to existing laws or government operations?

The Breezy Point City Code of Ordinances need to be reviewed and updated.

How would you engage local businesses as you weigh your decisions?

The City of Breezy Point should be a member of the Brainerd Lakes Chamber of Commerce northern chambers. City Council should meet semiannually with local businesses.

Breezy Point: Council Member _____



Name Tom Lillehei
Public Office Breezy Point City Council
Age 75
Family Widowed, 2 children, 5 grandchildren
Occupation Retired Electrical Engineer
Contact TLillehei@aol.com | (612) 414-0923

Why are you running for public office?

I love the City of Breezy Point and have been serving in some capacity for over 14 years. I wish to continue that service.

What sets you apart as the best candidate?

Experience. Four years on Planning and Zoning Commission (2 as chairman); 4 years on City Council; 6 years as Mayor and 1-1/2 years appointed to City Council.

What are your priorities to support business and economic development?

Continued controlled growth of the city with maintaining a favorable tax structure, increasing population base, maintaining excellent services (e.g., public works, police and fire). Being responsive to the business needs for new development and/or expansion of existing businesses. Providing incentives to businesses as appropriate (TIF, tax abatement, etc.) facilitating growth.

What changes, if any, would you make to existing laws or government operations?

Review Code of Ordinances periodically to eliminate overly restrictive or outdated regulations that potentially would inhibit growth. Re-establish the EDA to promote and/or recommend changes or facilitate various tax incentives to encourage growth and promote the City of Breezy Point.

How would you engage local businesses as you weigh your decisions?

Communicate early and often with local businesses when major changes are being proposed to regulations that could potentially impact existing operations. Work closely with new developers as early as possible to facilitate approval of a project and/or make appropriate design changes to meet city requirements.

Breezy Point: Council Member _____



Name Michael Moroni
Public Office City Council
Age 38
Family Wife, Jessica of 18 years, daughter, Bella (13) and son, Braylen (9)
Occupation Implementation Specialist III - CTC (14 years)
Contact mmoroni@cityofbreezypointmn.us (218) 330-8978

Why are you running for public office?

To continue to be involved in the operation of the city that I live in. I have served the city for 9 years in council, and many more before Council.

What sets you apart as the best candidate?

I always look at the larger picture, and know there is multiple ways to approach something. The object is to select which way is best, and move forward.

What are your priorities to support business and economic development?

To continue to review each project independently. Over the 9 years, we have seen developments within the city. We have utilized resources when appropriate. We have to review each project carefully.

What changes, if any, would you make to existing laws or government operations?

The city continues to review policies as items come up.

How would you engage local businesses as you weigh your decisions?

I have always promoted that local business's can reach out to me at anytime to discuss city practices or rules or regulations.

Breezy Point: Council Member _____



Name Brad Scott
Public Office City Council, City of Breezy Point
Age 52
Family Wife Tricia, Daughter Sydney,
Son Tyler
Occupation Administrative Resource Manager,
MN Department of Transportation
Contact bradbscott@charter.net
(612) 554-3989

Why are you running for public office?

I believe in public service and putting others before myself. I find it an honor to serve those in the community which I live.

What sets you apart as the best candidate?

25 years public management experience. Unique life experiences including 12 years in the military and a Persian Gulf War Veteran. Supporting relationships as a way to make taxpayer funded decisions.

What are your priorities to support business and economic development?

Working toward a plan with the City Council that among other things would go to reduce taxes. Consistently increasing taxes is a definite barrier to economic growth. Holding listening sessions to hear what the residents and business community see as needs would also be an important step.

What changes, if any, would you make to existing laws or government operations?

If elected, time would tell as to the need for making specific changes to laws/ordinances. City Hall has to be a welcoming place for the community to come and be heard. I see a need for changing how the public as a whole is engaged and listened too.

How would you engage local businesses as you weigh your decisions?

I would favor establishing a business council to help advise the City Council as certain decisions are made that impact the local business community. Breezy Point has an existing wide range of business interests- they should be at the table to have a voice in guiding the community.

Crosslake: Mayor _____



Name Carla Bainbridge
Public Office Crosslake Mayor
Age 58
Family Husband, Michael Rutt,
daughter Taylor Salentine, and
son Loren Underwood
Occupation Business owner
Contact cbainbridge@predictivetalent.com
(612) 802-0437

Why are you running for public office?

To give back to our community, by using my leadership skills and experience to facilitate responsible progress.

What sets you apart as the best candidate?

I have a proven track record of running businesses and organizations to reach their goals and objectives. Also, my family has lived in this community for three generations.

What are your priorities to support business and economic development?

The needs of the City of Crosslake will be ever changing as this community continues to grow, so a constant pulse on the voice of all residences is imperative, to understand the changing needs of the city. To facilitate business growth and bring more commerce to our city.

What changes, if any, would you make to existing laws or government operations?

- Address the public works issues such as our roads, bridges, buildings
- Addressing the labor shortage
- Attract a larger and more diverse business community
- Public safety - we need more police and fire
- Affordable housing
- Address level of assessments happening
- Short term rentals

How would you engage local businesses as you weigh your decisions?

Listen up and fully engage local businesses for their input through surveys, town hall meetings and in person conversations. I am simply a representative of the people and businesses in this community and their interests.
carla4mayor.com

Crosslake: Mayor _____



Name Donald Andre Chouinard
Public Office Crosslake Mayor
Age 50
Family Wife Julie of 25 years. 2 sons
Dylan 22 and Logan 17
Occupation Business Owner
Contact chouinard2000@yahoo.com

Why are you running for public office?

I want to serve our community and be a positive influence in the future of Crosslake.

What sets you apart as the best candidate?

I am a business owner and family man that is experienced in making hard decisions. I am a very direct and honest person and love the challenge of community building.

What are your priorities to support business and economic development?

I plan on working closely with the businesses in Crosslake to help grow their bottom line as they are the life of our community.

What changes, if any, would you make to existing laws or government operations?

I will review the timeline and plans for future infrastructure projects to help coordinate dates and times for both business and private parties to maximize the benefits for all.

How would you engage local businesses as you weigh your decisions?

I plan on utilizing townhall meetings in an open forum to hear from businesses so they can express their challenges, concerns and goals to assist in their continued success.

Crosslake: Mayor _____



Name David Nevin
Public Office Crosslake Mayor
Age 60+
Occupation Construction
Contact nevconst@crosslake.net
(218) 820-3568

Why are you running for public office?

I believe a long standing, working member of the community should be a part of the decision-making team.

What sets you apart as the best candidate?

I have lived in Crosslake full-time for 32 years. I have been on the council for 2 years and the mayor for the past four years. I have experience.

What are your priorities to support business and economic development?

One of my highest priorities is to have more entry level housing available in Crosslake. I have a proposal I would like to present to provide affordable housing which would encourage young families to stay in or relocate to Crosslake. This in itself would support the businesses in town.

What changes, if any, would you make to existing laws or government operations?

I believe strongly in property owner rights. If I am able to build a supportive team on the council, we can make Crosslake a friendly place for both individuals and businesses to reside.

How would you engage local businesses as you weigh your decisions?

I will continue to have Town Hall meetings to allow business owners and community members a chance to talk about city issues in an informal setting. I will also continue to be available for conversation with all residents to discuss options about upcoming projects.

Crosslake: Council Member _____



Name Sandy Farder
Public Office City Council Seat
Family I am married and have two children.
Our daughter is married, has two children, aged 2 and 3, and lives in Switzerland. Our son is just recently married and lives in Minneapolis.
Occupation Licensed English teacher
Contact dsfarder@comcast.net

Why are you running for public office?

I have the desire to contribute to my community of Crosslake. I want to keep it as charming and vital as it is now.

What sets you apart as the best candidate?

Having taught students from countries all around the world, I can relate to just about any issue. I am respected as a problem solver and someone who gets things done.

What are your priorities to support business and economic development?

I think the city council should be receptive to new ideas and businesses while maintaining transparency and fiscal responsibility. I believe it is important to respectfully listen to the concerns and suggestions of our residents and our local businesses.

What changes, if any, would you make to existing laws or government operations?

While I have enjoyed visiting Crosslake for decades, I've only been a full time resident for two years. I'm still learning about the way our local government works and I plan to become more knowledgeable and contribute my considerable life experience and common sense to serving this community.

How would you engage local businesses as you weigh your decisions?

I would sincerely value their input, suggestions and concerns. The many fun, flourishing businesses and restaurants we have here contribute so much to the unique appeal of Crosslake. My goal would be to help all businesses continue to thrive while maintaining a safe and healthy environment.

Crosslake: Council Member _____



Name Stephen Hanning
Public Office City Council
Age 49
Occupation Business owner/operator
and manager

Why are you running for public office?

In light of recent developments, I think it's time to see how decisions are made in this town.

What sets you apart as the best candidate?

Not sure anything sets me apart, but I love this community and want to see it preserved and see it prosper in every sense of the word.

What are your priorities to support business and economic development?

The main priority should be to make sure that economic development actually supports all businesses in our community. I want to see all of our members thrive, but not at the expense of others. I have no interest in the business of picking winners and losers.

What changes, if any, would you make to existing laws or government operations?

At this time, I see no laws or operations that necessarily need changing, but if I see that some of those things do need tweaking or abolition I would be happy to address them as I become aware of them.

How would you engage local businesses as you weigh your decisions?

I will do my best to be out in the community and available for any discussion, provided it does not interfere with my business or employers. I'd be happy to explore and engage with any other avenues suggested or available to me.

Crosslake: Council Member _____



Name Jayme Knapp
Public Office Crosslake City Council
Age 51
Family Married 24 Years to Angie (Hoag),
Children - Kailen (23) & Braeden (19)
Occupation Sr. Business Intelligence Analyst
Contact jknapp320@gmail.com
(320) 250-9001

Why are you running for public office?

I care about Crosslake! We need a fresh perspective on our City Council. We need greater transparency, more communication and a higher level of accountability and those are my values.

What sets you apart as the best candidate?

I served 5 years on the Cold Spring council, I'm experienced with budgets, administration, assessments, public safety, and sewer operations. I will listen to the people & businesses of Crosslake.

What are your priorities to support business and economic development?

There is a need for market rate housing/apartments in Crosslake. Many of our businesses have struggled hiring employees, due to limited availability. We also need to look at our ordinances and policies that restrict businesses from expanding due to parking challenges. I will also explore using unused land in Crosslake.

What changes, if any, would you make to existing laws or government operations?

I would engage in open dialog with the Mayor, Council, and administration about the following: Golf carts on public streets, parking, speed control, safe crosswalks, road improvement assessments, and business/residential zoning. Additionally I would seek both internal and public comments on how well our city is being run.

How would you engage local businesses as you weigh your decisions?

I would stop in, visit them, ask questions and gather information. I would also engage in town hall meetings. We need to identify all sides and all perspectives before any decision is made and open communication is critical in that process. I would want to challenge the status quo.

Crosslake: Council Member _____



Name Jackson Purfeerst
Public Office Crosslake City Council
Age 22
Family 3
Occupation Working/ in school
Contact jmppp10@gmail.com
(815) 904-9665

Why are you running for public office?

I grew up in Crosslake, we have a family-owned business in Crosslake, it is important for our community to be successful and I want to be a part of that.

What sets you apart as the best candidate?

I bring a wide variety of experience to this position, serving on local, county, and state organizations and boards. Living, attending school, and working here, I have a local perspective.

What are your priorities to support business and economic development?

We need to ensure fiscal responsibility so that the business community can thrive, environmental responsibility so that we keep our area vital for residents and tourists alike, and responsible growth to ensure the next generations can stay, work, raise a family, and be successful in our city of Crosslake.

What changes, if any, would you make to existing laws or government operations?

I do not have a specific law or operation identified that needs changing, but as a new council member, my responsibility would include listening and learning what the residents want and how to best facilitate their needs. It is not my agenda, but the residents' agenda that is important.

How would you engage local businesses as you weigh your decisions?

There are many ways to engage with my local business and residents. That would include listening sessions, email, social media, community events, and the old school, "grab a cup of coffee". I intend to be available to my constituents in a wide variety of ways. YOU are most important.

Nisswa: Council Member _____



Name Cameron Dorion
Public Office Nisswa City Council

Why are you running for public office?

To ensure fiscal responsibility, transparency and emergency services support in the city of Nisswa and to ensure all departments have what they need to succeed.

What sets you apart as the best candidate?

I am a business owner in Nisswa. I understand the business vs. financial aspect and also understand how taxpayers feel when their voices seem to fall on deaf ears.

What are your priorities to support business and economic development?

Nisswa is a growing community. A long range plan has recently been implemented. My priorities are to make sure existing businesses are not forgotten about, our emergency services keeps up with growth and make sure we don't get ahead of ourselves.

What changes, if any, would you make to existing laws or government operations?

I really don't have any concerns at this time with laws. As the state becomes more clear on the laws and regulations with the passing of legalizing THC, there may things the council has to deal with then.

How would you engage local businesses as you weigh your decisions?

I believe what the people want is most important. They are the taxpayers that fund the city. Nisswa uses surveys to find out what the citizens want and would continue to do so. I would encourage all businesses to attend meetings or contact council members.

Nisswa: Council Member _____



Name Mark Froehle
Public Office Nisswa City Council
Family Married with two adult children
Occupation Retired
Contact markafroehle@gmail.com
(218) 214-6888

Why are you running for public office?

I have been on the Nisswa City Council since February 2021 and I would like to continue to guide the departments as Nisswa grows.

What sets you apart as the best candidate?

I have been on the council since February 2021, I want to see Nisswa grow as not to take away from our small town feel.

What are your priorities to support business and economic development?

Currently Nisswa Council has been looking at the need for water for future development. I have been backing the Administrators cooperation with our Chamber and enjoy the newly implemented Town hall meetings.

What changes, if any, would you make to existing laws or government operations?

I will be monitoring Crow Wing county as they look into restrictions on boardwalk's and docking on our lakes. Our staff have been working on our ordinances to insure they are updated and I know this will help when people inquire about our ordinances.

How would you engage local businesses as you weigh your decisions?

I have reached out to many of the local business owners to listen to their concerns and from these conversations the city staff is looking into off property signage, concerns about our recycling center, dangerous intersections onto HWY 371 and the need for water.

Nisswa: Council Member _____



Name Jesse Zahn
Public Office Nisswa City Council
Age 29
Family Single
Occupation Owner - Zahn Energy Group
Contact jzahn@ci.nisswa.mn.us

Why are you running for public office?

To continue serving my hometown of Nisswa as councilman and continue seeing this city thrive.

What sets you apart as the best candidate?

My comprehensive business experience, broad understanding of micro/macro economic circumstances, and practical personnel skills have been critical in being on Nisswa City Council thus far.

What are your priorities to support business and economic development?

Strategic development of a bustling town with an 18.96 square mile radius with very limited city land is no light task. Utilizing a logical approach to development on all fronts, I intend to continue to be as creative as possible to support this city's growth.

What changes, if any, would you make to existing laws or government operations?

The political climate is ever-changing. However, that does not mean that we have to upend policy that has always made this town great. Sticking to the roots of what makes Nisswa so desirable is it's commitment to family. Continuing to support those ideals, we will continue to thrive.

How would you engage local businesses as you weigh your decisions?

Thorough input is always critical in any decision. I pride myself on listening before speaking, taking as many opinions in consideration as possible before weighing final decision. I relate to local businesses as I co-own my families business, Zahn Energy Group, and am conscious to the effects of change.

Pequot Lakes: Council Member _____



Name Dan Ronning
Public Office City Council (Pequot Lakes)
Age 68
Family Wife (Mary) & 3 adult daughters
Occupation Retired, but my retirement job is driving a school bus for the Pequot Lakes school dist.

Why are you running for public office?

I have been proud and honored to serve the community of Pequot Lakes. I'm running to help do my share to help our community to grow and prosper.

What sets you apart as the best candidate?

I have 44 years of business experience. I pride myself in being a good listener and being empathetic to business and residents concerns.

What are your priorities to support business and economic development?

I believe there is a significant need for affordable housing in our community. With affordable housing comes lower property tax rates and more residents to support and entice local business.

What changes, if any, would you make to existing laws or government operations?

I believe it's important to encourage builders with less regulation and more incentives to help grow our community. I believe we need to continue to drop our property tax rate with thoughtful budgeting.

How would you engage local businesses as you weigh your decisions?

I would encourage local businesses to voice their thoughts and opinions to local city leaders through town meetings and attending city council meetings. We all need to realize that most all good ideas come from business people and residents. We need to listen and then make wise decisions.

Brainerd: School Board_____



Name DJ Dondelinger
Public Office School Board
Age 56 years old
Family Wife Kris, Son Max (29), and
Daughter Mackenzie (26)
Occupation Dondelinger Chevrolet-Hyundai,
Abra Auto Body, Dondelinger Ford
(Grand Rapids, MN), Dondelinger
Dodge (Grand Rapids, MN)
Contact djforschoolboard@gmail.com
(218) 820-5197

Why are you running for public office?

BHS was once among the best schools in the state. With teachers and students now leaving at an alarming rate, I want to help return Brainerd to its former glory.

What sets you apart as the best candidate?

As a lifelong businessman, I know what it takes to run a successful operation. I have the skills, time, and interest to get District 181 back on top.

What are your priorities to support business and economic development?

Smarter kids in our schools lead to future leaders. Better schools lead to easier recruiting for businesses in the community. It is time to re-install rural Minnesota values in our schools, not woke propaganda. It is also important we focus on all areas of education – vocational and academic.

What changes, if any, would you make to existing laws or government operations?

We need more support for teachers in the classroom. I have met with several teachers and heard the issues they're facing due to existing rules not being enforced. We need to have a healthy environment for teachers to do their jobs so our children aren't learning in a circus environment.

How would you engage local businesses as you weigh your decisions?

Owning several businesses in the area, I'm open to any suggestions or help that business people would offer. While I may not have all the answers, I do have the time, interest, and energy to make sure our district is the place for children to go to school.

Brainerd: School Board_____



Name Randy “RJ” Heidmann
Public Office Brainerd School Board
Age 71
Family Wife: Lorna Children: Zachary and Taylor
Occupation Retired Retirement Plan Consultant
Contact randyheidmann@gmail.com
(218) 839-6470

Why are you running for public office?

To create an environment so that every student is on a path to graduate and be educationally equipped to lead a productive and successful life.

What sets you apart as the best candidate?

My 45 years of working with IRS tax laws and my ability to simplify complex issues in regard to those laws so that it is understandable to the general public.

What are your priorities to support business and economic development?

We need to maintain and improve ISD 181 to have a best-in-class school district in order to retain and attract new businesses and families. These increases can help ISD 181 become more sustainable; the performing arts center can be an asset for business meetings, entertainment, and other revenue generating events.

What changes, if any, would you make to existing laws or government operations?

- 1) I would change the “School Choice” parameters to also include some or all of the tax dollars to follow that student to a private or religious school.
- 2) Allow School Districts to control their subject matter within the state required disciplines; I would ban CRT & progressive ideals.

How would you engage local businesses as you weigh your decisions?

To positively impact local economy, I would work with our AD to bring in more competitive activity events throughout the year. I would also work with local youth associations to support their tournaments. In the class, I want to continue the pursuit of trade classes and expand as needed.

Brainerd: School Board_____



Name Elisa Korentayer
Public Office School Board Member
Age 47
Family Husband, Chris Klein, and two sons ages 6 and 8.
Occupation Parent, singer-songwriter, author, and public speaker
Contact info@elisa181.com | (218) 270-8974

Why are you running for public office?

I moved to Brainerd to educate my sons here. I am running to ensure our schools provide the best education possible for them and for every student in this community.

What sets you apart as the best candidate?

I am thoughtful, reasonable, and no-nonsense. I communicate for a living and have experience leading nonprofits and businesses. I am passionate about seeing differences as opportunities for connection.

What are your priorities to support business and economic development?

Our community and its businesses depend on the citizens that we educate through our public schools. My priority is to educate our students with the broad range of skills necessary to lead and service the businesses in our region, continuing to build Brainerd into an economic hub.

What changes, if any, would you make to existing laws or government operations?

I have no changes to suggest at this time.

How would you engage local businesses as you weigh your decisions?

Local businesses, their leaders, and their employees are key stakeholders to the decisions made by the school board. I would set up meetings with business leaders and schedule listening sessions where the public could provide input.

Brainerd: School Board_____



Name Charles Black Lance
Public Office Brainerd Board of Education
Age 50
Family Olivia - 15 years old, Bethany - 13 years old and Chayton - 11 years old.
Occupation Director of TRIO Programs at Central Lakes College

Why are you running for public office?

I want to continue serving our students, staff and community. I am motivated to continue contributing to a school district that effectively educates young people in a fiscally responsible manner.

What sets you apart as the best candidate?

I am a current school board member. I have 3 children within ISD 181. I understand the challenges ISD 181 faces. I have demonstrated the ability to make informed decisions.

What are your priorities to support business and economic development?

ISD 181 must pursue and apply input from area businesses and their employees to better understand educational needs and effectively meet workforce needs through career focused options for students. A successful school district will attract individuals and families to our community while retaining those that currently live within ISD 181.

What changes, if any, would you make to existing laws or government operations?

The state transportation funding formula for school districts is based on student enrollment, not the miles traveled to get a student to school. This hurts rural schools like Brainerd by having to spend dollars on transportation instead of providing other services to students. Minnesota transportation funding formula must be adjusted.

How would you engage local businesses as you weigh your decisions?

ISD 181 must be more accessible to local businesses and their employees. Their input is valuable to all aspects of our school district. There must be a clear process for sharing information with and hearing feedback or guidance from local businesses and their employees. This communication must also be transparent.

Brainerd: School Board_____



Name Derek Owen
Public Office Brainerd Public School Board
Member (4 year seat)
Age 42
Family Wife and two kids
Occupation General Manager of the
Northern Pacific Center
Contact derek.npc1871@gmail.com

Why are you running for public office?

I chose to run for the Brainerd School Board to have the opportunity to give our students the best experience possible both academically and in extra curriculars.

What sets you apart as the best candidate?

I coach two sports, have two kids and a wife who teaches in ISD181. I have first hand knowledge and experience with what our kids and schools need!

What are your priorities to support business and economic development?

The business community is huge in supporting our schools. We need to communicate with them more in the happenings of the district. They need to know that we support them as much as they do us. If we do that together, we will both see growth together!

What changes, if any, would you make to existing laws or government operations?

When it comes to our school district, we need to keep politics and government out of the classroom. Let our teachers take control of their classrooms and support all of our staff. We need to hold each other accountable from the board of directors down to our students.

How would you engage local businesses as you weigh your decisions?

Communication with our local businesses is important. Pick up the phone and get to know our business owners and the people that run our area businesses. Set up meeting times to brainstorm ideas or send out surveys when needed. Feedback from our community should help shape our community.

Brainerd: School Board_____



Name Lowell Smith
Public Office ISD 181 School Board
Age 61
Family wife, 4 children, 6 grandchildren
Occupation Tenured Program Director /
Faculty MN State College and
University System
Contact smith4isd181@gmail.com

Why are you running for public office?

I want to ensure parents voices are heard, transparency of curriculum / finances, focus on academic success of our students & return to Warrior traditions.

What sets you apart as the best candidate?

I am a college educator who is finishing my EdD in Educational Leadership. I also have 42 years of public safety experience. Which will translate toward student safety.

What are your priorities to support business and economic development?

This question does not fit well with a school board candidate but ISD 181 needs to support our local stakeholders and work cooperatively in supplying the next generation of workers to our business leaders. From college to trades we need to ensure competent professionals to fulfill needed future roles.

What changes, if any, would you make to existing laws or government operations?

Abide consistently to the 181 policies in place. This would allow for a lot of the well publicized distractions in the system to be removed. Next, any policy that does not focus first on the academic success of our students needs to be changed. Our students need education not indoctrination.

How would you engage local businesses as you weigh your decisions?

All educational stakeholders, (parents, teachers, administrators, students & business), needs to be a part of the process. By providing a cooperative environment, we will be able to make decisions that best represent our families, communities and district. Public education is a bipartisan effort to improve the lives of our children.

Brainerd: School Board_____



Name Sarah Speer
Public Office ISD 181 Brainerd School Board
Age 47
Family Husband, Erik and two children, Macy (18) and Attly (13)
Occupation Marketing and Public Relations Leader
Contact sarah.joy.speer@gmail.com (218) 820-9248

Why are you running for public office?

Community health and vibrancy starts with how we educate and care for our children. I am passionate about education and the success of our youngest community members.

What sets you apart as the best candidate?

I am an accessible and connected representative with a commonsense approach. My experiences as a parent, professional, former educator, and community member offer a well-rounded perspective at the board table.

What are your priorities to support business and economic development?

The partnership between the community and the district is mutually beneficial. Successful schools attract talent to the community. Developing a workforce with skills valuable to local employers helps businesses thrive. Our community invested in education spaces matched to local workforce needs. Our work now is to keep pushing continued collaboration.

What changes, if any, would you make to existing laws or government operations?

As a school board, our impact is through district policy. That said, I will continue to be vocal about needed changes to school funding formulas at the state level to streamline long-term budgeting and planning, which is challenging under current mechanisms and imperative to our district health and success.

How would you engage local businesses as you weigh your decisions?

Our chamber has a large, engaged membership. I enjoy personal and professional connections to this group and call on these relationships often to take a pulse on community perspectives. I am present and approachable in the community. I realize the gravity of my voice at the table representing many.

Brainerd: School Board Special Election_____



Name Anthony Bonsante
Public Office School Board
Age 51
Family Yes
Occupation Truck driver

Why are you running for public office?

I am in it for the students. I believe we need an environment that benefits our students.

What sets you apart as the best candidate?

I have no personal or political agenda. I will show transparency, common sense and accountability. I will speak for the students and our taxpayers

What are your priorities to support business and economic development?

I believe we need to partner with businesses for internships. I believe we need to train our student for life after high school when they choose not to go to college.

What changes, if any, would you make to existing laws or government operations?

I would not mandate wearing masks. I would like to talk with custodians about the rumor of furries in our schools.

How would you engage local businesses as you weigh your decisions?

It's not so much engaging our local businesses, because I see them doing their part. I would like to see more parent involvement in our students achievement. I would like to see more respect in our schools. Maybe we need to bring in local businesses to see interaction in classrooms.

Brainerd: School Board Special Election_____



Name..... Michelle Brekken
Public Office ISD #181 School Board
Family Married to Bob Brekken, 5 children,
5 grandchildren
Occupation..... Retired School Social Worker
Contact..... mbrekkenfor181@gmail.com
(218) 851-2732

Why are you running for public office?

Membership on the School Board allows me to have a voice in ensuring students have access to compassionate, inclusive educational opportunities while strengthening trust between the schools and the community.

What sets you apart as the best candidate?

For 32 years as a school social worker, I was privileged to work closely with administrators, teachers, support staff, community organizations and families, in the shared goal of supporting students.

What are your priorities to support business and economic development?

An important issue facing business and economic growth is developing a strong workforce. I support initiatives such as Bridges Career Academies which is a collaboration between ISD 181, Central Lakes College and local businesses. Promoting workforce development is essential to the vitality and economic growth of the Brainerd Lakes area.

What changes, if any, would you make to existing laws or government operations?

It is imperative that any legislative changes impacting ISD#181 would need to ensure adequate school funding to further student achievement and student success.

How would you engage local businesses as you weigh your decisions?

I would be responsive to community voices in public education in an effort to strengthen the relationship between the school district and the community. I believe our city, our neighborhoods, and our schools are stronger and safer when the citizens of the community work together to support our youngest learners.

Brainerd: School Board Special Election_____



Name Tris Cluever
Public Office District #181 School Board 2 you seat
Family John clever Jr husband,
3 kids, 9 grandkids
Occupation Child care
Contact heylady37@msn.com

Why are you running for public office?

We need more transparency and accountability. Iam very involved with many kids who are desperately looking for change and safety. All children deserve a education.

What sets you apart as the best candidate?

I have been involved in many different categories of Brainerd school district. I am very up front on many issues. I will ask for answers until I can find one.

What are your priorities to support business and economic development?

Education and work force can achieve together. Expansion and retention. Technology has a large part in education Our strengths should be with our children, to help them move on after high school.

What changes, if any, would you make to existing laws or government operations?

Having parents involved in their child's education is important. More voices being heard from patents, teachers and students. More involvement in decision making at school board level not federal level.

How would you engage local businesses as you weigh your decisions?

Having a good relationship with out of school business as a school board, can give you a little in sight as to the job market after kids graduate from high school. Work study credits, after school working, to help kids get involved and have a good work ethic.

Brainerd: School Board Special Election_____



Name..... Jessica Lynn Forsberg
Public Office School District 181
Age..... 44
Family Forsberg
Occupation..... Disabled Chemical Engineer
Contact..... jlforsberg43@msn.com
(612) 730-1127

Why are you running for public office?

I have kids by marriage coming & I simply care about kids. I'm the longest running Vacation Bible School Teacher at my church.

What sets you apart as the best candidate?

I'm was the treasure of the MN Government Engineering Council + more!

What are your priorities to support business and economic development?

Kids are first. I'll make sure to improve the budget. I've always been a successful treasurer my whole life. It's natural. I think tutoring is key, plus someone kids love and trust. Therapy available.

What changes, if any, would you make to existing laws or government operations?

Not sure because I'm new to this area but I'm doing my due diligence and research. Already plans forming but need more information.

How would you engage local businesses as you weigh your decisions?

Why would that come into play with our kids? Fundraising. Everybody loves me.

Brainerd: School Board Special Election_____



Name Trevor Mulholland
Public Office ISD 181 School Board 2 year seat
Family Wife Katie and 3 Daughters
Occupation Business Manager
Contact trevormulholland@gmail.com

Why are you running for public office?

I am running to help make a difference in our schools. I want to focus on making ISD 181 the best experience for all students.

What sets you apart as the best candidate?

I was born and raised in the Brainerd Lakes area and a 1999 BHS Graduate. With children in the district I have first hand knowledge of the day to day.

What are your priorities to support business and economic development?

I believe we need programs in place to help our children with real world scenarios that would help them be better prepared for employment opportunities in our community.

What changes, if any, would you make to existing laws or government operations?

N/A

How would you engage local businesses as you weigh your decisions?

I think local businesses should be looked at as valuable partners in the school district. If it was not for them we would not have the great community that we have now.

Brainerd: School Board Special Election_____



Name..... Mike Stanek
Public Office ISD 181 School Board, 2 Year Seat
Age..... 40
Family Elsie (Spouse), Everett (Son-9), Ervin (Son-8), and Johonna (Daughter-6)
Occupation..... Minnesota Army National Guard
Contact..... mike.stanek181@gmail.com

Why are you running for public office?

To focus on a policy-driven, moderate approach of getting back to the basic fundamentals of the educational system, all the while advocating for ALL students in an equally-equitable learning atmosphere.

What sets you apart as the best candidate?

I have been a non-partisan collaborator with the current board and worked extensively with them to understand the future hurdles we must overcome to ensure a successful future for ISD181!

What are your priorities to support business and economic development?

I want to ensure there is deliberate engagement between the school district and local community for shared marketing opportunities. Our community, local businesses, as well as, school district have a lot to offer outside entities looking to relocate the Brainerd Lakes Area!

What changes, if any, would you make to existing laws or government operations?

As a school board member, we do not pass laws, but rather set district policies. I want to continue to work on transparent communication to the district shareholders and to make current policies the focal point when making decisions for the Students, Educators, and Parents of ISD 181.

How would you engage local businesses as you weigh your decisions?

I would directly utilize my collaborative mindset to bring all parties together, ask for thoughtful insight, and collect as much information to educate myself prior to making any critical decision. Our community, local businesses, and school district need to be a collaborative effort in bringing in new resources.

Brainerd: School Board Special Election_____



Name..... David Stimac
Public Office District 181 School Board 2 year seat
Age..... 56
Family Wife Christy, daughter Annabelle,
and son Jonathon
Occupation..... Retired Air Force Colonel;
Substitute Teacher and Coach
Contact..... david.stimac@yahoo.com
(218) 270-2254

Why are you running for public office?

I want to support our schools; set policies, manage the budget, and advise the superintendent to enable our teachers and staff to provide the best educational opportunities for ALL students.

What sets you apart as the best candidate?

My leadership experience as a retired US Air Force Colonel along with my experience as a substitute teacher, coach, and volunteer will bring a unique perspective to the school board.

What are your priorities to support business and economic development?

Hire highly qualified teachers and staff and ensure they have the support needed to provide the best educational opportunities for our students. Our curriculum must remain relevant and challenging to best prepare our students for success after high school whether entering the work force, learning a trade, or attending college.

What changes, if any, would you make to existing laws or government operations?

I'm not running for the school board with an agenda to make changes to existing laws or operations. I'm running for the school board because I can be objective and will critically weigh both sides of the issues before making decisions that will support the best interests of our community.

How would you engage local businesses as you weigh your decisions?

A strong public education system is critical to the future of our community and local businesses. As a school board member I would seek input from businesses on decisions that could impact them and seek feedback on how our schools can better prepare students for the workforce.

Brainerd: School Board Special Election_____



Name..... John Ward
Public Office Brainerd school Board Member,
2 Year Term
Age..... 72
Family Wife - Sally, Children - Amy, Eric
Ryan, and Shannon and their
significant others and 11 grandchildren.
Occupation..... Retired teacher/coach/advisor, MN
Licensed Insurance Agent and State
Legislator
Contact..... jewardjr68@gmail.com | (218) 838-7335

Why are you running for public office?

To utilize my years of educational experiences, knowledge and passion while using my skills in communicating, building teams, problem solving, while being fiscally responsible and prioritizing students, staff and community.

What sets you apart as the best candidate?

I spent 34 years in a classroom, developing and implementing many unique, innovative and highly successful programs for school districts. I also served on educational committees as a state legislator.

What are your priorities to support business and economic development?

Partnerships between local businesses and schools are important and greatly needed. We need to buy local and use local services local businesses services. We need to reach out and listen to local economic development agencies and businesses for their needs and suggestions to tie our educational opportunities to our students.

What changes, if any, would you make to existing laws or government operations?

Board members should focus on local school policy district policy, using research, communication, problem solving, compromise and fact finding making the best decisions for students and businesses. Members should know how to effectively lobby our legislative delegations for good public educational policy that will not negatively impact schools or businesses.

How would you engage local businesses as you weigh your decisions?

It is imperative that our school district has excellent relationships and partnerships with our local businesses and local services. I started a highly successful class for ISD 181 called Service Learning. This provided students and local businesses a hands-on experience to check out careers while volunteering daily at businesses.

Brainerd: School Board Special Election_____



Name Brent Yaunick
Public Office Brainerd ISD 181 School Board
2 year term
Age 38
Occupation Electrician
Contact byaunick@live.com

Why are you running for public office?

To represent the parents, students and community with transparency from input and feedback I receive and to also increase community involvement and support in the process.

What sets you apart as the best candidate?

I will base my decision making on input I receive from the community and be open to ideas to make my decisions and explain reason for those decisions

What are your priorities to support business and economic development?

To increase involvement of and listen to our area businesses with their needs from the school district. Invest in opportunities to prepare our students to be successful within our businesses or to be successful in the own.

What changes, if any, would you make to existing laws or government operations?

I am unsure of any specific laws or operations I would change as of today.

How would you engage local businesses as you weigh your decisions?

By asking for their input and involvement in the process and based on feedback and response make decisions and explain why the decision was made.

Pequot Lakes: School Board_____



Name Erik Bresnahan
Public Office Pequot Lakes School Board
Age 44
Family Married with 2 children,
11 and 8 years old
Occupation Farmer
Contact bresnahan24@msn.com

Why are you running for public office?

I am running to make our schools and community the best places they can be. Being a public servant at this level is the most effective way to help.

What sets you apart as the best candidate?

I am able look at situations from all sides. If there is a good idea based on it's merit, I stand up for it.

What are your priorities to support business and economic development?

In regard to our education system, we need to continue to ensure that we are teaching our children to cope with present day life at every level. This means we need to ensure adequate yet efficient funding for our programs, technology and staff with an eye towards the future.

What changes, if any, would you make to existing laws or government operations?

I am coming into this process with a fresh set of eyes, I have no preconceived notions as to any changes that have to be made. The purpose of being on the board is to work with administration and the community to ensure a quality education system for our children.

How would you engage local businesses as you weigh your decisions?

Engagement with our community is important. We all need to work together to thrive as a district. We can work together respectfully and responsibly and our students will benefit from seeing that. I think the Eagle View motto has it right; Respectful, Responsible and Safe. Our children are our future!

Pequot Lakes: School Board_____



Name Jake Cameron
Public Office Pequot Lakes School Board
Age 40
Family Married w/three children
Occupation Insurance Agent/Owner

Why are you running for public office?

As a lifelong resident of Pequot Lakes and graduate of PLHS, I think it's important that we continue to keep a fresh perspective in all aspects of education.

What sets you apart as the best candidate?

I will never consider myself to be the best at anything; there are always new things to learn, even from those we've yet to meet. This is how we grow.

What are your priorities to support business and economic development?

Community involvement should be a top priority, including businesses whenever possible. Having a strong school district should attract new community members, and in turn, this should help support local business.

What changes, if any, would you make to existing laws or government operations?

I personally do not have a specific agenda, but I think a solid working relationship between the school board and local government will always help in creating a better environment for our students and the community.

How would you engage local businesses as you weigh your decisions?

Again, feedback and opinions from everyone in the community, including businesses, is very important. The school board should represent the community to the best of their ability; and trust both ways, should be a reflection of their ability to work together reasonably.

Pequot Lakes: School Board_____



Name Brian Hankins
Public Office Pequot Lakes School Board Member
Family Married with 2 sons
Occupation..... Retired Financial Services Risk Management Executive
Contact..... (218) 820-7407

Why are you running for public office?

This is a Great opportunity to contribute to Pequot Lakes’ students, teachers and administration success. My governance, financial and regulatory experience will allow meaningfully contribution as a School Board Member.

What sets you apart as the best candidate?

With 27 years experience on more than 20 Committees and Boards, collectively, including process oversight, I have obtained the skill set to govern and communicate in this ever changing environment.

What are your priorities to support business and economic development?

As a Board Member my priorities will be to better understand the key initiatives driving success of our Pequot Lakes students, teachers and administration. Then, what support is needed to enable that continued success. Successful and engaged students will drive business and economic development.

What changes, if any, would you make to existing laws or government operations?

This Board’s role is more about understanding the confines of laws and/ or government that enable or inhibit the success and engagement of the students and teachers. Experience with multiple regulatory bodies has taught me how to engage and support when influencing positive change.

How would you engage local businesses as you weigh your decisions?

As a School Board Member, I will always have an “open door” policy with a listening ear. Engaging in conversation to get ideas and facts will be key to supporting the success and engagement of students, teachers and administration.

Pequot Lakes: School Board_____



Name Bryan Held
Public Office Pequot Lakes School Board
Age 52
Family Emily Dru & Andie Joy - Daughters
Occupation Sales Consultant & Fishing Guide
Contact heldsguideservice@yahoo.com

Why are you running for public office?

I am running for School Board to support our educators in their endeavors personally, financially, and professionally. Furthermore, I wish to assist our students and help insure academic success.

What sets you apart as the best candidate?

As a father, I wish to cultivate an environment that not only enables my daughters success, but their peers as well.

What are your priorities to support business and economic development?

Foster business-first practices to support our local businesses both on- and off-season.

What changes, if any, would you make to existing laws or government operations?

I would like to change the allocation of lottery winnings to have a higher percentage of money set aside for educational use rather than on invasive species prevention at our boat landings.

How would you engage local businesses as you weigh your decisions?

As an active member in the community, I know the needs of the business owners and their operations. That being said, on the school board, I can be a voice on the board that can speak for local businesses.

Pequot Lakes: School Board_____



Name Mariah Hines
Public Office Pequot Lakes School Board
Occupation Substitute

Why are you running for public office?

I want to be a voice in our school district for parents and students, to insure that the actions of our administration reflect our community's values. Let's put academics first!

What sets you apart as the best candidate?

I am already heavily involved in the community and the schools. I volunteer on the PTA, and as a mom anything passed by the school board directly affects my family.

What are your priorities to support business and economic development?

Pequot Lakes is a great community businesses often donate to PTA events that support our schools and in return as part of the school board I would fight for hiring locally only. We support each other in this small town and that means buying and hiring locally.

What changes, if any, would you make to existing laws or government operations?

I would like to focus on academics. We have seen district policies in the last 5 years veer away from academics and focus more on social emotional learning. I would fight for our schools focus to be academics and prepare our kids for a bright future.

How would you engage local businesses as you weigh your decisions?

We have a great community and our community wants to be involved in the education of its youth. I want to make that happen. Business owners are parents or grandparents and I want to hear from them on issues their children are facing in the schools. I won't disregard community concerns.

Pequot Lakes: School Board_____



Name Pamela Johnson
Public Office ISD186 School Board
Age 44
Family Married (Kent Johnson) 4 Kids: 23, 13, 11, and 8 and one Angel in Heaven
Occupation Director of Coaching (Business Consulting)
Contact pamelajohnson4PL@gmail.com (218) 316-1822

Why are you running for public office?

To bring my experience to ISD186 school board so that as a whole community (teachers, administrators, children, parents, businesses and residents) we can ensure a rewarding future for our kids.

What sets you apart as the best candidate?

- *Have served on a non-profit board
- *I excel at strategic planning/possibility thinking through challenges.
- *I served in the United States Army.
- *Life Experiences that I'm happy to discuss further

What are your priorities to support business and economic development?

Ensuring that our students' academic success is a priority. That we provide healthy challenges and expectations for our students so they can move on from ISD186 with strong skills for continuing their education or moving into the workforce. After academics I am excited to work on facilities & safety planning.

What changes, if any, would you make to existing laws or government operations?

I would like to see decisions remain at the local level in regards to most school related items. As we saw over the past several years, regulations and laws for one area don't always meet the needs or best serve other areas.

How would you engage local businesses as you weigh your decisions?

As a local business owner I believe that our students are our major asset. I hope to see more engagement with business owners and opportunities for learning within work environments. I know many area businesses are actively engaged and ready to do more in regards to working with the district.

Pequot Lakes: School Board_____



Name Dena Moody
Public Office ISD 186 School Board
Occupation Semi Retired Teacher

Why are you running for public office?

I believe serving on the school board is a vital and worthwhile way to give back to my community. This is the best way to invest my time and talents.

What sets you apart as the best candidate?

My entire career has been spent as an educator in Minnesota schools. I believe that my experience “in the field” provides valuable insights and a unique perspective to the board.

What are your priorities to support business and economic development?

Our schools must provide the work and life skills for our young people in order for them to become productive members of society. Our communities' economic growth and development is dependent on local businesses providing career and housing options that will keep these young people in our communities.

What changes, if any, would you make to existing laws or government operations?

Simplify, simplify, simplify! Present laws often only serve to complicate the process of educating our children. I would ask our local, state, and federal elected officials to lobby for and support more funding, and a fair distribution of it, to our schools, making education a top priority on their agendas.

How would you engage local businesses as you weigh your decisions?

I would encourage local businesses to offer more internships and work-study opportunities for our students to participate in. I would ask local businesses to participate in career days in our schools so our young people become aware of the local job market and the education and skills they will need.

Pequot Lakes: School Board_____



Name Craig Polchow
Public Office School Board ISD 186
Age 43
Family Married - 3 girls
Contact cpolchow@outlook.com

Why are you running for public office?

To be a voice for the children of our school district, we need someone on the board that is strong and willing to stand up for what is right

What sets you apart as the best candidate?

I'm a no b.s. person, no gray area. I get to the pont, fix what is broke and move onto the next issue that is upcoming.

What are your priorities to support business and economic development?

I would like to give the kids back their morals, respect, and work ethic. I would like to work with local business to have kids come to their establishments and teach them old fashioned work ethic, respecting their patrons, and show good morals. Therefore, teaching new and upcoming employees

What changes, if any, would you make to existing laws or government operations?

I think all of our biggest goals is to get this rederic out of the school system and start teaching kids how to be kids, good old fashion academics.

How would you engage local businesses as you weigh your decisions?

Our local businesses owners are the parents of the kids in our school district. Local businesses, parents, guardians, should have a big say in our decisions/ votes. Afterall the school board is the voice to stand up for what is right for our kids. The change starts here.

Pequot Lakes: School Board_____



Name Tracy Wallin
Public Office Pequot Lakes School Board
Family Husband, Rick, and two boys:
Logan (19) and Braden (14)
Occupation Bookkeeper, Graphic Designer
Contact twallin@isd186.org

Why are you running for public office?

I support giving back to our community and this is my way of filling that role. As an incumbent, I look forward to continuing to serve the residents of ISD186.

What sets you apart as the best candidate?

I am reliable, genuine, honest, kind and a good listener and thoughtfully consider all sides of an issue before making a decision.

What are your priorities to support business and economic development?

Our area businesses have a lot to offer our students. As a parent and board member I have seen and appreciated the generosity of businesses contributing time and resources to benefit student success. Internships, mentoring and financial contributions have provided opportunities that otherwise may not have been possible.

What changes, if any, would you make to existing laws or government operations?

Schools are constantly on a shoe-string budget and it would benefit everyone to increase funding to school systems. Today’s students truly are our future and we need to invest in them and continue to ensure access to opportunities and resources to make them successful citizens, leaders and employees.

How would you engage local businesses as you weigh your decisions?

Every decision a school board makes must balance the best way to provide for the students and staff of the district while also being fiscally responsible with our taxpayer dollars - a benefit to both businesses and residents. Decisions must also take into consideration short- and long-term benefits and costs.

Pillager: School Board_____



Name Rebecca (Becky) Bennett
Public Office School Board ISD 116
Family Husband-Greg, 2 daughters
Occupation Physician Assistant
Contact becky.bennett@isd116.org

Why are you running for public office?

I am running for Pillager School Board as I hope to continue to represent my community to impact our kids positively by providing an education that meets each student's needs.

What sets you apart as the best candidate?

I am dedicated to providing a happy and healthy community as I serve on Pillager School Board and as I work as a Physician Assistant in Pillager.

What are your priorities to support business and economic development?

I promote partnerships between Pillager School and businesses to bring opportunities to youth and the community. I advocate to have our students graduate and be ready for the workforce and/or ready for further education. I believe investing in our kids helps our community be successful and sustainable.

What changes, if any, would you make to existing laws or government operations?

I continue to follow and carry out policies and procedures set forth by MN and Minnesota School Board Association.

How would you engage local businesses as you weigh your decisions?

I would reach out and communicate with businesses to know their needs and hopes for their future. There may be relationships that can be built to help meet their needs and those of our future workers.

Pillager: School Board_____



Name Sara Nagel
Public Office Pillager School Board
Contact sara.nagel@isd116.org

Why are you running for public office?

I want to give our kids the best education we can while using our tax dollars in the most fiscally responsible way.

What sets you apart as the best candidate?

I love to talk to community members about our school. I'm happy to listen to your concerns and either look into it or explain the why of the decision.

What are your priorities to support business and economic development?

Running for school school board, I don't think this question applies to my office. The best thing a school can do for business and economic development is to have kids coming out of school ready to take the next step in life.

What changes, if any, would you make to existing laws or government operations?

I would love if the local school boards had more control over some of their decisions, instead of the state and federal mandates.

How would you engage local businesses as you weigh your decisions?

I would love to see more businesses participating with school. Kids need to know what jobs are out there and if businesses partner with the school for internship, job shadowing or just coming in to talk to a class about their job, it could open opportunities for both.

Pillager: School Board_____



Name Sarah Smith
Public Office Pillager ISD 116 School Board
Family Husband Shawn, children Ally, Joshua, Madelyn & Dylan
Occupation..... Marketing & Event Director, Confidence Learning Center
Contact..... sarah@confidencelearningcenter.org

Why are you running for public office?

To continue to be an active leader within the community in which we live and raise our family.

What sets you apart as the best candidate?

I have the passion to be active as our young children grow in the school system and take on a role that can help shape them.

What are your priorities to support business and economic development?

Using a hands on approach that will always put our children, school & community on a path to continued success that will not waiver on academic achievements, safe & hands on learning environments, teacher retention & success.

What changes, if any, would you make to existing laws or government operations?

N/A

How would you engage local businesses as you weigh your decisions?

Engaging local businesses within the school is essential to continue the growth of our school. Engagement through community functions within the school, partnership opportunities and communication.



BUSINESS


VOTING GUIDE •2022•

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