

Exhibit 9—We Love Minneapolis Podcast Interview

On March 12, 2025, We Love Minneapolis founder Andrea Corbin conducted a podcast interview with blogger Terry White.

<https://www.betterminneapolis.com/p/interview-we-love-minneapolis>

Through out the interview, Corbin repeatedly states that We Love Minneapolis is expressly advocating for the defeat or election of certain Minneapolis City Council candidates, that this political activity has been ongoing for some time and that We Love Minneapolis is a “PAC”:

14:01 – Andrea Corbin: “I mean, we've been doing a lot of canvassing under a 501c4, and we just transitioned into a PAC so that we could... talk about, you know, candidates that we support. There's a few wards that we're actually supporting multiple candidates in.”

15:12 – Terry White: “I'm sorry, is it two groups now? It's the 401c and the PAC, or they're just a PAC now?”

Andrea Corbin: “501c4 and the PAC. Yeah. So they kind of work in tandem, and they have different functions. And the money is spent differently in both organizations. So it's just, yeah, it's a vehicle to...”

32:33 – Terry White: “So is it safe to say then that your group is hoping to find and support council candidates that are open to listening to business and getting more of their feedback than has happened in the past?”

Andrea Corbin: “Yes”



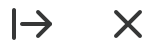
Interview: We Love Minneapolis

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0:11 Great. Hello. Today I'm speaking with Andrea Corbin. I asked her to join me because I've heard a lot of great things about a new organization that she started called We Love Minneapolis. So welcome.

0:27 Thank you.

0:27 Yeah. So maybe you could start by just telling us what is We Love Minneapolis. And yeah. Yeah.

0:36 Yeah, well, We Love Minneapolis is a grassroots organization electrifying the voter base, getting people to turn out for caucus and convention, and educating



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people on the process. A lot of people think about our elections in November, but there's a contest way ahead of time that happens in April and May, caucus and convention,

0:59 that determines 95% of the outcome of the elections. Mm-hmm.

1:05 So explain that to me a little bit. A lot of people may not even be familiar with the caucus process. So we love Minneapolis. Would you say that the main goal of it is to get people out to caucus for candidates? Is that right?

1:22 Yes, yes, to participate in the process, right? And find people that share our vision, you know, want to see a safer Minneapolis, don't like the trajectory that we're headed on and want to see a change. So we want to get people involved in the democracy that we have in the process.

1:46 And the caucus and convention is an extremely critical part of it. And most people aren't even aware that it's taking place.

1:54 And why is that? Why do you think that, you know, if it's such a fundamental part of city politics, why do people not know that caucusing happens and that these conventions happen? Is that something that DFL is not promoting well? Yeah.

2:13 Well, I mean, Terry, I think I am to blame in this whole thing, too, because a year and



Terry White

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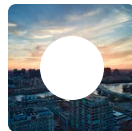
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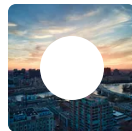
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- a half ago, I had no clue about what my city council person did. I had no clue how much control they have over the city and the purse strings and all the things that they're responsible for.
- 2:33 I had no idea. And so if I had no idea, I feel like a lot of other people just aren't involved in the political process, period. Maybe you'll hear about an election happening and you'll go vote. But to really do a deep dive in how all these political processes work, I think for most people, they're just busy.
- 2:54 They're busy living their lives, raising their families, going to work, and they just don't have time to do a deep dive in politics. And I think the biggest disconnect is that we don't understand what our city council person does. And I think if we did, more people would pay attention. But I think that's the biggest disconnect.
- 3:15 It would be great if we could build a little more awareness around what our city council is responsible for and how it affects us. but you know terry most people don't pay attention when the city's you know going pretty good right i mean for the most part you got your garbage picked up you got
- 3:31 you feel somewhat safe sure you've got crime but i think a lot more people start paying attention when things aren't

- the status quo and that's what we've been seeing right that's definitely my story where you go oh my gosh something's different about the city and i gotta find out why
- 3:47 Yeah, let's talk about that a little bit more. So what exactly was there one specific event that triggered you to start this? Or is it just a series of events? Or, you know, what made you kind of want to get off the... the sidelines, if you will, and have an impact on this election this year?
- 4:10 Well, I opened a little flower shop on 27th and Lindale, and the subway two doors next to me got held up at gunpoint four times last summer. And I started really going, my gosh, this isn't normal. This doesn't feel normal. Something isn't right. There was a reconstruction on Hennepin Avenue,
- 4:31 and then we had the reconstruction on Lindale coming up. down the pike. And a lot of the process with that, too, I didn't feel was very fair and very democratic. Felt like it was very rigged and there was a kind of a predetermined path that everybody was headed on. So it felt it felt awkward.
- 4:54 I didn't feel like we really had a voice. And so I did a deep dive on, you know, who's responsible for our roadway designs, who's responsible for the public safety, and all roads led back to city council.

- So I said, okay, well, how do I get involved? How do these people get elected?
- 5:12 Right? So something you mentioned there, it was funny, you said preordained construction. I've heard other people say that on big projects like this, that they feel like they're preordained. What do you mean by that? Is it the city staff have already decided or a certain group of city counselors? What does that mean? Because we've seen projects,
- 5:42 and Hennepin might be one of them, but certainly George Floyd Square, where community input is The majority is ignored. Right. But there's, you know, maybe a 30 or 40 percent that they seem to be heard more. Yeah.
- 6:01 Yeah.
- 6:01 So what do you mean when you say preordained?
- 6:04 Well, long story.
- 6:07 We got some time. We got a little time. Yeah.
- 6:10 So I asked Josh Potter, who is a senior Hennepin County engineer, at the first public engagement meeting that I went to. There was maybe three businesses in that meeting, and the room was full of what was obviously a coalition, right? They had matching buttons, matching... And it was a bicycle coalition.
- 6:31 And I had no clue that we had a coalition in the city. And so I asked Josh Potter, I said, is there an advocacy group or a

- coalition of sorts that advocates for, you know, bike lanes? He goes, yes, yes, there are. And he said, they're very powerful and they're very loud.
- 6:51 And if you want any chance to keep parking on Lindale, then you better get organized. And so I went home and I did a lot of research. And I found out that there is a group who gets government funds. The group is called Our Streets. And they work in tandem with Move Minnesota.
- 7:17 And they get grants based on the Safe Streets program. So it's Vision Zero, and they'll get a grant to analyze roadways. So maybe it's \$800,000 or \$1.2. It's not small sums of money. So they get this grant to analyze roadways. And of course, you know, they want to analyze the most dangerous roadways.
- 7:39 And so, of course, it's our busiest roadways. There are commercial roadways that are most dangerous that would most likely qualify for this Vision Zero grant, right, to make the streets... quote unquote safer. And so they'll get a federal grant and then they'll use that money to further their initiative. So they have what's called Action Network.
- 8:02 It's an online platform that they can send out hundreds of thousands of emails at once and get all their activists to send in letters and They

- do, you know, organizing sessions. They do door knocking sessions. One of the individuals on our street actually got an email from our street saying that they were door knocking with DSA.
- 8:23 So they're working in tandem with the DSA and other groups.
- 8:29 So I just want to clarify, what's DSA? DSA?
- 8:33 Democrat Socialists of America.
- 8:35 Right. And I think there's probably a lot of people that don't understand that they're not an official party in the city the way the DFO is, but they really are essentially another political party. But it's this weird thing where they get to... Because they're not a real party, they can kind of show up at the caucuses.
- 8:59 Absolutely. There's a very deliberate reason why they're not a political party, because the DFL rules state that no other political party can join and be a part of the caucuses. And so if they were a political party, then they wouldn't be able to participate. That's something that's very important to note.
- 9:20 that they made it deliberate that they weren't a political party so that they could participate in the DFL caucuses and essentially hijack the brand. And that's exactly what's happened. There's 2 percent. Actually,

- what we found out is 1.2 percent of the demographics in the city actually show up and participate in caucus and conventions.
- 9:42 And so it's a very clever way for a very small group to get a big stronghold and powerful hold on a big city, right? I mean, they're not addressing or going into smaller towns because it's a lot harder to hide. They're going into bigger cities where they can infiltrate and nobody knows the wiser, right?
- 10:02 There's 70 or 80 people in their precinct caucus.
- 10:06 Yeah. So I just want to, I think you explained it well, but I want to just highlight that. So The number of people, I think you said, that go to the caucuses is 5,200, right? And there's 13 different caucuses.
- 10:21 It's actually a lot less because that's the total number of delegates that are allowed to participate citywide. So it rounds up to about 400 delegates per ward.
- 10:36 Okay.
- 10:37 So of that, maybe 200 or 300 people will show up to that caucus and convention. That's the max that you can have. So it's actually a lot less. Okay. But yes, it's a number of people that show up at caucus, and I really had a hard time understanding it until somebody explained it to me like this. Andrea,
- 10:56 if you and I were running in Ward 10, and we were both

- running as DFLers, right, and I organized 70 people to show up to caucus, and you organized 30 people to show up to caucus, and let's say in that ward there's 10 allowable delegates, right? I would get seven of those delegates and you would get three.
- 11:21 So it is a numbers game. It is all about who shows up.
- 11:27 So that's something I wasn't quite aware of. So then the 70 people in your example. So let's say there's 100 people at the caucus. Yeah.
- 11:41 Yeah.
- 11:42 That's not the number of delegates that go to the convention. You get, say, 10 people?
- 11:47 An allocation, yeah, which is about 400 delegates per ward. But then it gets even more complicated, and it's splintered off. And this is where you go, why don't more people know about this? Because who takes the time to really study and understand this? Most people, they're just like, yeah, I'll participate, I'll show up.
- 12:07 And they've showed up for years and still don't understand how it works. So there's a certain amount of delegates that can show up to each precinct too. So that's also based on the last two cycles. So if there's a big flood, if there was a big showing of people in XYZ precinct,

- 12:28 then there's more delegates that would be allowed to go through in the next cycle.
- 12:34 so getting getting back to we love minneapolis so your group then is uh hosting like house meetings, making phone calls, helping to educate people in the city about this, you know, kind of archaic process to try and motivate more people to participate.
- 12:57 It's critically important. Ten years ago, caucus and convention used to be a sleeping animal. You could maybe organize 150 delegates and you had a really good chance of winning the DFL endorsement. But because the caucus process has been so hyper focused by these activist groups, you have to organize about 300 people to win the endorsement.
- 13:21 Now, it's a big number. And so with people that are, you know, not showing up. not showing up, and then you get the activists that show up. It's no wonder who we have elected in our city. 95% of the individuals that get the DFL endorsement end up winning their seat. So it's a very clever plan. I mean,
- 13:42 the DSA knew what they needed to do to get the endorsement, which then in turn, you know, wins the election for them.
- 13:51 But your group's not associated with any specific

- candidate, right? It's just sort of a get-out-the-vote-almost sort of campaign.
- 14:01 It is. Yeah. I mean, we've been doing a lot of canvassing under a 501c4, and we just transitioned into a PAC so that we could... talk about, you know, candidates that we support. There's a few wards that we're actually supporting multiple candidates in. But we want to make sure that, you know,
- 14:21 people understand the difference between the policies of these individuals that are running. And that was my issue too in the last year and a half. When I first started getting involved in politics, I would open their websites and look at these people and I wouldn't be able to tell, right?
- 14:37 Because I feel like the DSA runs a very vanilla campaign and then you know the moderates are kind of worried they're not gonna they're gonna say or do the wrong thing and so it all looks just vanilla and so it's hard for you really cipher through what the actual policies of these
- 14:53 individuals are so um yeah our group i think we really want to dive into a lot more of those policies and get people aware of what their platforms really are and how they're voting so
- 15:04 So what are some of the policies that your group is

- promoting?
- 15:11 Yeah.
- 15:12 And is it, I'm sorry, is it two groups now? It's the 401c and the PAC, or they're just a PAC now?
- 15:21 501c4 and the PAC. Yeah. So they kind of work in tandem, and they have different functions.
- 15:27 Right.
- 15:28 And the money is spent differently in both organizations. So it's just, yeah, it's a vehicle to...
- 15:35 So what are some of the policies? What would you say are the top three policies that when you talk to someone that you think will motivate them to get out and go to the caucus?
- 15:48 Yeah. I mean, really, we're looking for a vibrant city. I mean, the bottom line is when our city suffers, our most vulnerable suffer. Yeah. Watching our most vulnerable using drugs on the street and having a hard time not being able to get into housing is just heartbreaking. And it affects business. It affects residents.
- 16:11 Every single resident in Minneapolis is seeing a hike in their insurance rates. They're seeing a hike in their auto insurance rates. They're seeing a hike in their rents because property insurance is going up and vandalism is going up, which hikes the apartment owner's insurance

- rates. So this doesn't benefit anybody.
- 16:30 And that's I feel the big lie that the DSA is really taunting and sharing with everybody. It's like, oh, we care about all these people. Well, no. In the name of caring, they're not. In the name of justice, it's a huge injustice to our entire city, and it's affecting our most vulnerable.
- 16:49 This doesn't affect somebody that's got a six-figure income as much as it does somebody who's working a minimum wage job, and every dollar counts. I was a single mom. I raised four kids, and I can remember when McDonald's was an extremely tough decision for me. Should I take the kids to McDonald's today?
- 17:09 This is a \$20 bill for me. Back then, I had four, and they maybe both shared a Happy Meal together. But it's like I remember those days when every dollar counted. And so if we really take a look at that, people that are – That are just everyday citizens, people who own businesses,
- 17:31 people who don't own businesses should stand up and really fight for everyone in the city right now. Because it's affecting everyone. This whole notion of, you know, corporate greed and this and that and... You know, businesses are bad. Demonizing businesses, demonizing, you know, our

- police officers and public safety is just crazy to me.
- 17:54 The only thing that separates us from a third world country is public safety. If you think about it, there's a lot of countries where the wealthiest people hire people. Security guards, and they're protected. And guess who suffers the most? It's, you know, people that can't afford the security, that can't afford the gated community.
- 18:15 Those are the ones that are being affected the most. So I really believe that when our community thrives, everybody thrives. Everybody has opportunity. When you can open the doors to entrepreneur workshops for young kids that maybe want to have the opportunity to own a business someday, that's an exciting thing, right?
- 18:34 We need to get excited about the possibility of opportunity again because this message of opportunity. You know, corporations are horrible and bad and everything's just going down the tank. So we may as well all be socialists. Right. Let's just throw in the towel and move into a socialist or communist agenda. It just doesn't make any sense.
- 18:56 It is a transference of power is really all it is.
- 19:00 So one of the things that you organized that I attended, maybe you could just talk to people a little bit about that,

- the tour of Uptown that you did with the mayor. What was the goal of that? And do you think it was effective?
- 19:20 I think it was very effective. Yes. I mean, so we printed out posters that said vacant or closed and we put them on all the buildings that were closed or vacant. And it was a staggering number. It was a lot. I mean, we walked past a lot of garbage. We walked past, you know, some people that were.
- 19:41 down and out and living on the street. And it was just a really, really depressing walk. And it was freezing cold, too. And I reminded Mayor Frye that Nowood Mall is only seven minutes away. You know, people don't realize that other people have options. You know, and everybody wants to be in an inspiring,
- 20:04 beautiful environment that gets them up in the morning. You know, nobody wants to go and look at a depressed environment with vacant buildings and garbage everywhere. I mean, it's just it's not the environment people want to shop in. So when people have options, they go somewhere else. And that's what's happening with our city.
- 20:27 I feel really positive about change. I think we need to do it together. It can't be just, you know, onesie, twosie businesses coming here or there opening up. I think we

- need to come in in a flood.
But businesses are not going to come into the area until we have a city council
- 20:45 that is supportive of those businesses and give them an environment they need to succeed. Right. A lot of people ask me, what's the secret of small business? What do you need? You need more regulation? You need more help? You need more funding? What is it? And the bottom line is we need a good environment.
- 21:04 That is the biggest thing that the city officials can give us is a good environment to do business in.
- 21:12 And by that, what makes a good environment? It sounds like, you know, obviously public safety is part of that. Is it more than that? I think you mentioned, like, trash needing to be picked up. There's been some candidates that have talked about supporting a business improvement district for Uptown,
- 21:35 which is the – I don't know if that's one of the things your group supports or, like, how – Other than just public safety, what is it that the city council could do to create a better environment?
- 21:53 I'm a huge supporter of the BID, and I don't want to speak for the group, but I can definitely speak for myself personally that the BID is going to be a game changer

- for Uptown, especially because the city doesn't have a lot of funding right now to provide services
- 22:09 extra services to the uptown area, I think this would be a huge benefit. We would be able to hire an individual to pick up garbage, hire an individual to, you know, shovel all the sidewalks, somebody to paint graffiti full time. Under the special services districts that we have just a couple in the area, we have one
- 22:34 in the Lynn Lake area and we have another one on Hennepin the city has a list of menu items that you can pick from and the you know graffiti painting and some of these other a la carte things that we want to bring into the area that was really
- 22:47 going to benefit the city doesn't offer those things and so the city also manages and runs the money in the special services district and so they hire out uh individuals from their kind of platform if you will right they've got a city individual that does all the plowing for the special services districts
- 23:08 and so you couldn't hire a private entity to come in and plow right you'd have to use the city services so There's a lot of cost savings that could be generated there, but we're looking to expand the area, too, all the way down Lindale, all the way down Hennepin.

- 23:26 So you're looking to expand the special services district?
- 23:32 BID. Okay.
- 23:33 But just to be clear, it doesn't exist yet, right?
- 23:35 No.
- 23:36 It's one of the things you kind of like the policies that you support.
- 23:40 Yeah, and it's actually pretty easy to do. You need the support of 25% of the value of the properties in the designated area in order to do it. And you need to have a board of directors, a fiduciary agent, which is somebody to handle the money.
- 23:59 It's great to have an executive director, somebody that can really run and manage it. But there's some ordinances that need to be changed to the city on the city level that needs to match the state. But I mean, for the most part, I see a very easy path.
- 24:19 It's just, you know, rolling up our sleeves and getting the work done. But I think once it's in place, it's going to be a huge relief for a lot of businesses. I mean, I spend a lot of time picking up garbage and painting over the graffiti in the summer. Mm hmm.
- 24:33 I had a brick smashed in through my my window. And it's just the loitering and the extra, you know, mental health issues that we're seeing with the homelessness and the extra garbage pickup. It's just it's a compounding

- burden on the businesses in the area to try to even.
- 24:52 And so do you think when Mayor Fry came to the walk through uptown that he heard that message that these are some of the things that businesses are struggling with?
- 25:03 He absolutely did. I think what's really frustrating for Mayor Frye is that he does not have a council that supports his mission. And so time after time, you know, he's vetoed something. They don't uphold the veto. He doesn't have any power or he wants something passed. The city council doesn't approve it.
- 25:24 And, you know, it doesn't go anywhere. People don't understand that Mayor Frye, yes, he... he is responsible for the departments that he supervises. But the ways and means of that is determined by the city council. Meaning, if they put an ordinance that says you can't clear encampments, it doesn't matter if the mayor tells his staff,
- 25:48 go clear them, they can't clear them. Because the city council is setting regulation against that. It's the same thing with our budget dollars. You know, Mayor Fry wants to, you know, have some money for more recruitment and the city council votes that down. You know, maybe he supports

- ShotSpotter, which Katie Cashman voted against.
- 26:12 he saw a different vision for the Labor Standards Board. And the city council, you know, wanted a very aggressive, you know, panel of individuals that were very, it was a very one-sided approach.
- 26:28 So is something like the Labor Standards Board, is that part of We Love Minneapolis? Do they take a position on that?
- 26:36 No, we're not deep diving into all the different issues. There's just so many that we could pick. No, so public safety is a big one. We want everybody in, nobody out approach. We believe that we need people. A wonderful, fully staffed, accountable police department. We need our violence interrupters. We need our mental health programs.
- 26:58 We need our fire department. And everybody should be working together for the common goal of public safety.
- 27:05 Right.
- 27:06 Yeah, the other thing is... So...
- 27:10 Can I just ask, I know one of the things I think that maybe was motivational for you to get started and you touched on it was the construction of Long Lindale. I think everyone saw what happened to businesses with Hennepin. And it wasn't just Hennepin, you know, we talked about,

- 27:32 but it was Hennepin and Lake at the same time. They were both under construction and it really hurt businesses in that neighborhood. You know, it was kind of like the final straw, I think, for a lot of businesses that were already struggling. Very much so. So when I first learned about your work,
- 27:52 it was because you felt like someone had to do something about Lindale to try and make sure that businesses could stay open when they start construction. Could you just talk a little bit about that and your position on Lindale? Yeah.
- 28:10 Yeah, well, you know, Lindale looks a lot different than Hennepin does. And Hennepin has a few lot parking lots. Right. But still, it doesn't supply a parking lot for every single business. Right. I think that the biggest thing for the businesses on Lindale,
- 28:33 and one thing that was interesting when I went door to door to every single business, and I did this with Sayed that owns World Street Kitchen, we went door to door to every business right after that first public engagement meeting. And I wasn't sure what I would find, right? Yeah.
- 28:48 Do my fellow business owners feel the same way I do? You know, do they want the same vision for Lindale? I don't

- know. Maybe they were supportive of, you know, bike lanes and the removal of parking. Maybe they didn't think they needed it. But when I went door to door and talked to every single business owner,
- 29:05 I got a resounding feeling. unified front on exactly how we felt about the street and what we wanted. And we actually were very supportive of the four to three conversion, which, um, you know, slowed down traffic and can you explain,
- 29:23 For people who don't know what that means.
- 29:26 Yeah. So it used to be two lanes one way, two lanes the other way. And we didn't have a turn lane in the middle. Now we have a turn lane in the middle and it's one one lane of traffic on both sides. And that's called a four, three, four to three conversion. OK. Yeah.
- 29:42 So it's a middle turn lane. Yes.
- 29:44 Now three.
- 29:45 Yes. Yeah.
- 29:46 Thank you.
- 29:47 Yeah, so the crosswalks that they installed, I thought, really worked nicely, especially in the summertime when you've got a lot of pedestrian traffic and people want to feel safe to be able to go to my shop. And then maybe they walk across the street and go get some ice cream and frequent a

- 30:07 few other stores on the other side of the street. So I felt like it really made it more of a boulevard, main street, if you will. Mm-hmm. Uh, but I don't know a main street in the entire state that doesn't have parking. You know,
- 30:20 it's like everybody needs to be able to park in front of a business and be able to frequent it, especially in the really cold winter months that we have.
- 30:30 And so what's, what's happened? They haven't, um, the four to three conversion happened on Lindale.
- 30:36 Yeah.
- 30:37 But you're more concerned about what's coming. Is that right? And I think it's 20, is it 2026 they're going to tear up?
- 30:46 I think we're sneaking into 2027. Yeah. I mean, I just personally, I'm really concerned about all the traffic that's being pounded into the uptown area in a short period of time. And this goes back to the Vision Zero because these groups analyze the roadway and then they get federal dollars.
- 31:07 It triggers federal dollars to come in and give a percentage of the roadway project. And then Hennepin County and the city step in and they say, great, we have... you know, 10 million or 15 million that's going to go towards the construction of the street doesn't fall on the

- burden of the city. Let's do the project.
- 31:28 And then you lose it or you use the funds or you lose it. And so it triggers this time frame, which, you know, if you think about it, nobody's going to these groups like our streets and saying, wait a minute, time out. You can't analyze the all these different busy corridors that, yes,
- 31:46 might qualify for Vision Zero funds when it's going to put the entire city's commercial corridors under construction at the same time. Nobody's doing that. Nobody's going, you know what, maybe this isn't a good idea. An individual that used to run the bicycle coalition that Lisa Bender formed now is the transportation department head in the city of Minneapolis.
- 32:12 Is that right?
- 32:12 And again, the city of Minneapolis transportation department is appointed by the city council, by the mayor some, and by the city council. So who we elect in office matters.
- 32:26 Right.
- 32:27 Because they choose all their people to run these different departments. Right.
- 32:33 So you mentioned walking around and talking to businesses. So is it safe to say then that your group is hoping to find and support council candidates that are open to listening to business

- and getting more of their feedback than has happened in the past?
- 32:56 Yes.
- 32:56 Is that safe to say that?
- 32:57 Yes.
- 32:58 Okay, good. Well, this has been a really interesting conversation. I want to jump back to just the logistics again of the caucus. You mentioned, because the numbers are confusing, but if anything, you're wanting to get Are you trying to get all 5,200 people out for the caucuses?
- 33:23 We are trying to get way more than that.
- 33:25 Okay.
- 33:26 All right. And you know what? We're going to shoot for the stars and hopefully hit the ceiling. I mean, as you know, you can invite 200 people to a dinner or... you know, an engagement and maybe 50 people or RSVP and then 30 people show up. Right.
- 33:45 So the goal is to get as many people involved and show up in the process. If people realized, you know, if I told you that I could change, you and I could change the trajectory of the city, the future of Minneapolis by taking one night on April 8th for a couple hours of your time and a Saturday,
- 34:06 would you do it? Yes, you would. But people don't understand how powerful the caucus process is in that there's a direct correlation

- between people who get elected and people who get the endorsement. So just by you showing up, everybody thinks, oh, well, you know, the DFL caucus process, it's where the DFL vets their people. No, it's not.
- 34:31 It's about who in the community shows up to support a specific candidate. If they get 60% of the showing of people that came there for them, they win the endorsement.
- 34:45 At the caucus?
- 34:46 At the caucus.
- 34:47 So then what's the convention?
- 34:49 The convention is where the delegates go vote. So it's just... You know, if you show up to caucus and you have 60% of the people at caucus will support the candidate you want to win, when they go to the convention, you get 60% of the delegates, and those are the people that vote.
- 35:11 And that's what the threshold is, right? Your candidate needs to have 60% to win. So I think in 2023, there were several races, or at least one, where they had the A weird thing happened where like people rushed the stage or something.
- 35:30 There was a lot of confusion over the rules and like they kind of canceled the caucus.
- 35:34 Yeah.
- 35:34 And no one got the endorsement. And I think

- there was a couple of other maybe races were no endorsement. What what happens in that? I mean, let's say your candidate only gets 58%.
- 35:47 Then you block the endorsement and no endorsement happens. So I think it's 40%, right? You have to have more than 40%. So, I mean, what happened in that scenario that you're talking about is that there wasn't an interpreter in the room, and I think that was a big miss.
- 36:08 There was a lot of persons in there that supported a specific candidate that did not speak English. And so when Ayesha Chukhtai came on the stage, all of, I think, were Sami supporters were, thought that she was announcing a win and it made them really upset and so nobody
- 36:28 was there to really explain the process and tell them what was going on and and that's what happened i mean it's not very typical that you have a scenario like that right um and i don't see that being an issue um in this cycle but i mean obviously you know there's a first time for everything but
- 36:47 The biggest thing is to get, you know, people who care about the city to show up. That's the best thing that you can do. If you care about public safety and you want to see change in your city, this is

- the biggest thing that you can do for the city.
- 37:00 If you just take two days out of your schedule, mark those days, do not miss them, make it a really, really important thing for you to go.
- 37:09 And do you have to be registered to go to the caucus? No.
- 37:13 You do not. You have to live in the ward and you have to live in the precinct that you're in. So once you arrive on caucus night, they're going to send you to your classroom, which is the separate precincts in all the different areas.
- 37:29 I guarantee you nobody knows their precinct. I'm not even sure I know mine.
- 37:33 Yeah, I mean, really, it's just a desert.
- 37:36 They'll tell you, right?
- 37:38 Yeah, if you take a map of Ward 10 and just put circles around it, it's basically a geographical area splitting up the ward into subgroups,
- 37:48 right? So I think that might be like an 8-8.
- 37:52 Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. So, I mean, the most important thing is just showing up. You'll go to your classroom and then, you know, you'll all vote in that classroom for, you know, who's going to be the delegates. So if you have a majority in the room,
- 38:08 that majority in the room is going to vote for their people to go on to be delegates. It's

- a real simple thing. It's a majority vote. It's not the DFL vetting the candidate and making sure their policies align with DFL policies. That's not what this is. This is a democratic thing that everybody can participate in.
- 38:31 And if activists are the ones showing up to the caucus, that's who goes on to the convention to vote these people and to get the DFL endorsement. It's that simple.
- 38:44 So great. If listeners are interested in finding out more about your group or contacting you, what should they do? Is there a website, a phone number, email?
- 38:55 Yes, there is. You can go to weloveminneapolis.org, and it's MPLS. It's not the full. And then you can sign up to show up to caucus.com. um we would encourage you to to look up the candidates in your ward and you can call them directly and tell them that you want to be a delegate for them um that's
- 39:18 a really good idea too and the best thing that you can do to support the candidate that you want to win is to caucus for them okay and can they is there information
- 39:27 about different candidates on the website or they just go to the candidate website
- 39:31 We're going to be putting up some of the candidates on our website shortly. We don't have them up yet. But, yeah, I mean, a lot of the individuals

that are running their
websites are already up.

39:41 Great. Is there anything else
that we missed that you
wanted to talk about before
we close out here?

39:48 I think we covered a lot.

39:50 We did. We did.

39:51 Thank you. Thanks for having
me.

39:53 You're welcome. Thank you.

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2025 Minneapolis Candidate Questionnaire

This questionnaire was created with input from community members to better understand the positions of City Council candidates on a variety of issues facing our city. We Love Minneapolis, a 501(c)(4) focused on voter education and engagement, will publish the complete questionnaire on their website and Minneapolis Times will also cover candidate responses in future publications. These two organizations may excerpt answers for brevity or topical specificity, but questions and answers will not be edited. The goal of this questionnaire is to educate voters about the candidates running for office in their ward and to make responses available to as many voters as early as possible this election cycle.

Please record your responses on this questionnaire by midnight on March 17th. Publication will begin immediately afterward.

lmielke7@gmail.com [Switch account](#)



Not shared

* Indicates required question

Basic Information

NOTE: Only name and ward from this section will be shared beyond the survey team.

Name *

Your answer

Ward *

Your answer

Phone *

Your answer



Email *

Your answer

Campaign manager/contact: phone/email

Your answer

Endorsements - Do you plan on seeking the endorsement of any political parties, groups, or organizations? *

Your answer

Money raised in 2025 *

Your answer

Political Affiliation

NOTE: All answers below may be publicly shared.

To what political parties and/or organizations do you belong (Ex: DFL, GOP, DSA, Green, Independent)? Please list all that apply: *

Your answer

On a scale of 1-10, with 1 being most progressive and 10 being the most conservative, how would you rate yourself on the scale? *

Choose ▼

If elected, what will be your top three priorities? (500 characters) *

Your answer

City Governance

Questions below deal with current Minneapolis issues including public transit, land use, and property taxes.

Current Property Taxes in Minneapolis: *

- Are too high and should be reduced
- At the right level
- Can be raised further for additional city expenses

The City has committed to transforming George Floyd Square in a way that honors community values and vision for the future. What option do you support for this transformation? *

- A Flexible Open-Street concept that would support development at the People's Way.
- A Pedestrian Plaza permanently closing the area to all vehicles and transit.

What concept do you support for 3000 Minnehaha Ave, the site of the former Third Police Precinct? *

- Election and Voter Services/Democracy center plus community space
- Black Cultural Center
- Other community space as yet to be determined
- Additional community engagement needed in order to decide

Do you support the City of Minneapolis moving forward a Boycott, Divestment and Sanction policy against Israel where possible? *

- Yes
- No

Do you support the removal of I-94 through Minneapolis and replacement with a boulevard and/or public transit? *

- Yes
- No

The City of Minneapolis has a Separation Ordinance in place preventing city employees from asking about immigration status - do you support this ordinance? *

- Yes
- No

What should the City do to generate missing revenue as downtown building values fall? *

Your answer

What is the appropriate role of the City Council in developing policy and providing services under the 'Executive Mayor' system? *

Your answer

Economic Vitality

Questions in this section deal with city budgets, tax revenue, business and Labor issues.

What would you prioritize in immediate future city budgets? *

- Expansion of municipal functions into areas like social services, financial services, and other areas like municipal banking, sidewalk shoveling, and municipal grocery stores.
- Focus more on core functions for which the city is currently primarily responsible like police, fire, and road maintenance.

Should a Labor Standards Board be revisited, its composition should be: *

- Business has more representation than Labor
- Business and Labor have equal representation
- Labor has more representation than business
- Something else (please explain below)

If you answered "something else" in the previous question, please explain here:

Your answer

Increased vibrancy and activity downtown is important for: *

- Everyone in Minneapolis
- Only people who live or work there
- Not a priority

Minneapolis small and local business owners receive: *

- Too much support from the City Council
- Too little support from the City Council
- The right amount of support from the City Council

How important is economic health and the business environment in Minneapolis? *

- One of the top three most important issues facing our city
- One of the top ten, but not three, most important issues facing our city
- Not one of the most important issues facing our city

Do you believe that Minneapolis currently has a hospitable business climate? *

- Yes
- No

I believe that perception of crime: *

- Has a real impact on local businesses and should be taken seriously by city policymakers
- Is mostly overblown by media and does not have a large impact on business

What should the City Government do to support small and local businesses? *

Your answer

Housing

Questions in this section address housing policy.

Would you support the implementation of a strict rent control policy with rents capped at 3% annual increases, such as was passed in Saint Paul in 2021? *

- Yes
- No

If yes, do you support exemptions for new construction?

- Yes
- No

Are you open to supporting a different version of rent control than a strict 3% cap? *

- Yes
- No

In general, what effect do you believe the production of market-rate housing have on other units in the area? *

- Increases rent through gentrification
- Decreases rent through increasing supply

Do you support the Revised Affordable Housing Right of First Refusal Ordinance? *
(<https://lims.minneapolismn.gov/Download/FileV2/47200/Affordable-Housing-Right-of-First-Refusal-Ordinance.pdf>)

Yes

No

Do you think we need additional renter protections? *

Yes

No

If yes, what protections would you support?

Your answer

The existence of homeless encampments is (can answer more than one): *

A public health and safety emergency

Necessary for some who are unhoused

Harmful to those living in and near encampments

Should encampment closures be halted? *

Yes

No

What is an immediate and urgent solution to our Encampment situation in Mpls? *

Your answer

Public Safety

This section deals with core public safety issues.

Do you support the minimum police officer mandate of 1.7 per 1,000 residents? *

- Yes, and I believe the City should continue working to fulfill it.
- No, I don't believe the Charter should include a mandate.
- No, I don't believe the Charter should include a mandate, but I support returning to 2020 staffing levels (~900 officers).

As a city council member, would you support increasing funding for recruitment, hiring, and retention of officers as the mayor proposed and City Council majority rejected in their 2024 and 2025 budgets? *

- Yes
- No

Do you support the Office of Community Safety Department of Neighborhood Safety's (DNS) RFP process awarding contracts to organizations through a basic competitive bidding process with expert-informed "best practices" proposal evaluations? *

- Yes
- No

Do you support the Department of Neighborhood Safety requiring data-driven accountability and reporting by violence interruption/prevention groups? *

- Yes
- No

With regard to public safety do you feel like the city's more pressing issue currently is police accountability or staffing levels? *

- Police accountability
- Staffing levels

The City reached a federal consent decree with President Biden's Department of Justice. Despite President Trump's administration indicating it may abandon efforts to finalize the decree, Mayor Frey has stated he will support the city and the MPD complying with the agreement even if it's not enforced by the federal courts. Do you agree? *

- Yes
- No

Do you believe Shotspotter is a valuable tool? *

- Yes
- No

Should ShotSpotter be expanded to include additional high-crime areas? *

Yes

No

What role should the City Council have in improving public safety? *

Your answer

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