

Candidates were asked to respond to the following questions in 200 words or less.

1. If elected, will you work to remove the affordable housing exemption in our city's Rent Stabilization Ordinance? If NO, why? If YES, how?

- **Peter Butler:** *did not complete MNYC's questionnaire and does not have a website to view stances or policies.*
- **Bill Hosko:** *did not complete MNYC's questionnaire and does not have a website to view stances or policies.*
- **Rebecca Noecker:** Rent stabilization is one of many tools that Saint Paul can use to ensure that our residents are able to find and afford quality housing and that they aren't subject to predatory rent spikes. At the same time, we need to ensure that housing - and especially affordable housing - continues to be built in St. Paul. Under the original rent stabilization ordinance, building in St. Paul was slowing compared to neighboring areas. I worked with my colleagues and community stakeholders to craft an amenable compromise that protects renters from unfair rent increases and ensures new housing gets built. As part of this process, I spoke with many developers of affordable housing who urged us to keep the affordable housing exemption in place. Affordable housing is already subject to rent increase limits from the federal government and any further regulation would make it harder for affordable housing developers to operate in St. Paul. I will continue to be open to data on whether our rent stabilization ordinance is working and to making amendments as necessary.
- **Noval Noir:** *did not complete MNYC's questionnaire and does not have a website to view stances or policies.*

2. If elected, would you work to reduce the length of the new construction exemption; remove its retroactive application; and ensure it no longer applies to subsidized affordable housing? If NO, why? If YES, how?

- **PB:** *did not complete MNYC's questionnaire and does not have a website to view stances or policies.*
- **BH:** *did not complete MNYC's questionnaire and does not have a website to view stances or policies.*
- **RN:** As described above, the new construction exemption was put in place to encourage development of housing in St. Paul. Every other rent stabilization in the country includes an exemption for new construction for this reason. Applying the exemption retroactively is important to ensure that developers and financiers who have already built in our market feel confident continuing to do so, knowing that the rules won't change on them mid-stream. As mentioned above, I will continue to be open to data on how our rent stabilization ordinance is working and to consider amendments that will help achieve our twin goals of housing choice and affordability.
- **NN:** *did not complete MNYC's questionnaire and does not have a website to view stances or policies.*

3. **What is your perspective on the enforcement of our city's Rent Stabilization Ordinance? What are your ideas for how it could be improved?**
- **PB:** *did not complete MNYC's questionnaire and does not have a website to view stances or policies.*
 - **BH:** *did not complete MNYC's questionnaire and does not have a website to view stances or policies.*
 - **RN:** I am very concerned that we are not enforcing rent stabilization effectively. Currently, we rely on tenants themselves to supply the bulk of the necessary information to make a criminal case, when landlords aren't cooperative. This is an undue burden on tenants. I have met with our City Attorney's Office and our rent stabilization enforcement team several times to discuss my concerns on this matter. It appears that a key tool to enable us to enforce rent stabilization is administrative citations, punitive fines that the City currently does not have authority to use. I'm hopeful that our new City Council will pass a charter change allowing us to use administrative citations as a much more effective tool.
 - **NN:** *did not complete MNYC's questionnaire and does not have a website to view stances or policies.*
4. **The City of St. Paul has long discussed the need for administrative citations as a tool to ensure compliance with city ordinances such as Minimum Wage; Earned Sick and Safe Time; and now, our Rent Stabilization Ordinance. Do you support the implementation of administrative citations in our city? Why or why not?**
- **PB:** *did not complete MNYC's questionnaire and does not have a website to view stances or policies.*
 - **BH:** *did not complete MNYC's questionnaire and does not have a website to view stances or policies.*
 - **RN:** Absolutely. Our city needs a strong, effective tool to enforce our ordinances and I fully support the use of administrative citations.
 - **NN:** *did not complete MNYC's questionnaire and does not have a website to view stances or policies.*

5. **This election, St. Paul voters get to decide if we will increase our city’s sales tax by 1% over the next 20 years in order to make an unprecedented investment in our roads and parks. Will you be voting in favor of or against this proposal in November? Why? If you will not vote in favor, what are your ideas for how we can improve the city’s roads and parks?**
- **PB:** *did not complete MNYC’s questionnaire and does not have a website to view stances or policies.*
 - **BH:** *did not complete MNYC’s questionnaire and does not have a website to view stances or policies.*
 - **RN:** Yes. I support the sales tax increase proposed by Mayor Carter that will help us fill our massive budget gap on road maintenance. Saint Paul roads are in serious need of repair after decades of deferred maintenance, and an added sales tax is our best tool for fixing them long term. A sales tax also allows those who use St. Paul roads but don’t live in St. Paul to help cover the cost of street maintenance, keeping property taxes lower for residents.
 - **NN:** *did not complete MNYC’s questionnaire and does not have a website to view stances or policies.*
6. **More than ever before, people are grappling with isolation and loneliness. How will you use your role to foster connection and a sense of place in St. Paul? How do you plan to protect and invest in public spaces?**
- **PB:** *did not complete MNYC’s questionnaire and does not have a website to view stances or policies.*
 - **BH:** *did not complete MNYC’s questionnaire and does not have a website to view stances or policies.*
 - **RN:** St. Paul’s best asset is our social capital – the thick networks of relationships that connect us and make us feel like we live in a “small town-big city”. Those ties have suffered since the COVID-19 pandemic and we need to do all we can to rebuild them. We can do this by investing in public spaces like libraries, rec centers and parks. I’m proud to be advocating for a massive new investment in our libraries as Library Board Chair, and I have secured funding for new parks and playgrounds at Cherokee Park, Pedro Park, Parque Castillo, Wacouta Park, Rice Park and Palace Rec Center. We also need to support community-driven efforts to get together, like National Night Out, community gardens and neighborhood businesses. I have provided grants to businesses and nonprofits that have created welcoming spaces for public connection and I make an effort to attend and support neighborhood events.
 - **NN:** *did not complete MNYC’s questionnaire and does not have a website to view stances or policies.*

7. If elected, what would your approach to public safety look like?

- **PB:** *did not complete MNYC's questionnaire and does not have a website to view stances or policies.*
- **BH:** *did not complete MNYC's questionnaire and does not have a website to view stances or policies.*
- **RN:** I believe public safety begins long before an individual comes into contact with a law enforcement officer. Safety means stable housing, quality child care and early learning, great schools, bike lanes and crosswalks and lower speed limits, commercial corridors full of businesses so there are constant “eyes on the street” and so on. Public safety means sending the right individual to each call - we’ve reformed our 911 system so that we can dispatch a mental health counselor, a crisis-intervention-trained officer, or a Street Team member depending on the need. Public safety means a police department that has at its foundation a commitment to trusted service with respect, and that’s held accountable through a civilian review commission and public feedback on each officer interaction. Public safety means a fully staffed police department, which is why I’ve supported funding for an additional police academy each year. Public safety means using proven methods like Group Violence Intervention (GVI) and gun regulations, like the safe storage ordinance I authored to prevent the theft of guns from cars and to keep guns out of children’s hands. I look forward to continuing this work in a third term.
- **NN:** *did not complete MNYC's questionnaire and does not have a website to view stances or policies*

8. This summer, the Twin Cities has experienced record levels of poor air quality. We know that St. Paul has the opportunity — and the responsibility — to be a leader on climate change solutions across our state. How will you show up to make St. Paul a carbon-neutral city by 2050, per our Climate Action & Resilience Plan?

- **PB:** *did not complete MNYC's questionnaire and does not have a website to view stances or policies.*
- **BH:** *did not complete MNYC's questionnaire and does not have a website to view stances or policies.*
- **RN:** I support multiple efforts to become more climate resilient. This includes our green building program, our energy benchmarking program which requires companies to disclose how much energy they use and our new EV car sharing program. I helped fund the first multi-family building in the state that is certified as a “Passive House”, providing affordable housing in a building that is 90% more energy-efficient than standard apartment buildings. I am working on a tree preservation policy which will require that trees removed for public construction projects be replaced on site or at another location. Preserving our tree canopy is critical to keeping temperatures cool and absorbing greenhouse gasses. I am a strong supporter of expanding Saint Paul’s bike network, including a critical loop in downtown called the Capital City Bikeway. The CCB

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will make it safer and easier for downtown workers and residents to commute, as well as to connect to other trails around the city. I'm always looking for ways, big and small, to use resources available in local government to have an impact. We still have much to do and I am continuing to work to live up to our promise to be a carbon-neutral city by 2050.

- **NN:** *did not complete MNYC's questionnaire and does not have a website to view stances or policies*

9. Creating opportunities for St. Paulites to choose between different modes of transportation is critical for a more sustainable future. How will you invest in our public transportation system?

- **PB:** *did not complete MNYC's questionnaire and does not have a website to view stances or policies.*
- **BH:** *did not complete MNYC's questionnaire and does not have a website to view stances or policies.*
- **RN:** We must continue to invest in a diverse range of transportation options for our community members. While in office, I have been an avid supporter of Riverview Street Car Corridor line and the expansion of Arterial Bus Rapid Transit (A-BRT). I've also strongly supported the Capital City Bikeway and have been advocating for its completion since the first leg was opened on Jackson Street in 2017. I support Metro Transit's fare elimination pilot and I look forward to learning from its results about where it makes sense to expand fare elimination to other routes. Making transportation free encourages ridership which in turn makes transit safer and encourages more ridership - a virtuous cycle. I've supported arterial bus rapid transit in the City, and I also coauthored and passed a resolution lowering speed limits on portions of Cesar Chavez and Wabasha Streets. We worked with MnDOT and Public Works to install bump-outs on Robert and W. 7th Streets and new sidewalks along Cesar Chavez and Annapolis. These changes make it easier for pedestrians to safely cross these busy roads and promote foot traffic. I have continuously supported investing in transportation systems that encourage alternatives to cars for residents.
- **NN:** *did not complete MNYC's questionnaire and does not have a website to view stances or policies*

10. We know that local governments — including the City of St. Paul — need increased revenue to meet the needs of residents. What ways will you explore generating revenue so that we have the resources we need to build a city that works for all of us?

- **PB:** *did not complete MNYC's questionnaire and does not have a website to view stances or policies.*
- **BH:** *did not complete MNYC's questionnaire and does not have a website to view stances or policies.*
- **RN:** I am very concerned that our tax base is not sufficient to continue to deliver outstanding public services. The pandemic and subsequent recovery has caused

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economic and social rifts from which we're still recovering. To increase our tax base, we need to attract more commercial and industrial enterprises since they pay more in revenue than they use in services. This can be partly done through policy change, such as expanding business incentive programs to cover more small businesses, giving priority to those businesses that pay a living wage. I'm pleased that we are about to launch St. Paul's answer to the B-TAP program in Minneapolis to provide better service and outreach to small businesses. We also need to pay diligent attention to where vacancies exist and recruit businesses that provide those services to fill the gaps. I am also interested in finding new revenue sources that can cover our city's needs. Our new local sales tax is a good first step but we need to identify additional revenue sources, whether at the local, state or federal levels.

- **NN:** *did not complete MNYC's questionnaire and does not have a website to view stances or policies*

11. Local government is often the place where people can feel the impact of policy decisions, as well as their own power. How will you use your platform and power to build a more participatory, multiracial democracy in our majority BIPOC city?

- **PB:** *did not complete MNYC's questionnaire and does not have a website to view stances or policies.*
- **BH:** *did not complete MNYC's questionnaire and does not have a website to view stances or policies.*
- **RN:** Elected officials at the municipal level need to be fully aware that our policy choices often have the biggest impact of any level of government. During my time on the city council, I have worked to make our government more transparent and focused on outreach across the district, not just the well-connected areas. I'm working to make Council meetings more accessible, by creating easy-to-understand videos that welcome a diverse and younger audience to City Hall. I continue to hold regular community conversations in each neighborhood throughout the ward so that constituents have access to me and can share their perspectives/needs. When I found that these conversations were primarily attended by white, higher-income homeowners, I began holding them in public housing developments, homeless shelters and laundromats, going where my constituents already are. I'm also a strong advocate for engaging young people in politics and governance. I regularly take time to speak to high school and college classes, and this fall I'm reaching out to every public high school in my ward to speak with their students about public service. My campaign is also prioritizing youth engagement by hiring a youth outreach director and creating a paid youth fellowship program.
- **NN:** *did not complete MNYC's questionnaire and does not have a website to view stances or policies*

12. We believe in working in strong partnership with allied councilmembers. How will you relate to the Minnesota Youth Collective so that we can govern and strategize together, to make progress toward a shared agenda?

- *PB: did not complete MNYC's questionnaire and does not have a website to view stances or policies.*
- *BH: did not complete MNYC's questionnaire and does not have a website to view stances or policies.*
- *RN: I constantly keep in mind that elected officials are here to serve and that we work together with our constituents to solve important issues within our communities. That means continuing to have an open door to the people who are affected by city policy. I always welcome input and feedback from my constituents and other stakeholders throughout the community and I'm committed to partnering with organizations like the Minnesota Youth Collective to further our shared agenda. I look forward to keeping this conversation going throughout the next four years, not just at election time.*
- *NN: did not complete MNYC's questionnaire and does not have a website to view stances or policies*

13. Young people need ferocious, risk-taking champions to build the futures they deserve. Tell us about a time in your public leadership when you took a risk. What was the risk? How did it go?

- *PB: did not complete MNYC's questionnaire and does not have a website to view stances or policies.*
- *BH: did not complete MNYC's questionnaire and does not have a website to view stances or policies.*
- *RN: For the last seven years, I have been leading a collaborative effort to make child care more affordable for families. This was a big risk - no Minnesota city has ever made such an effort. I had no idea how it would go and I knew I would be putting a lot of time into something truly novel - but I knew it mattered to St. Paul kids and families. Our coalition encountered numerous challenges along the way - from convincing leaders that child care matters, to finding a local funding stream that could work and keeping a coalition of parents, providers and community members together throughout a long journey. Finally, we passed a resolution putting this issue on the ballot in 2024 - but the resolution was vetoed. Once again, we took a risk and fought to override the veto, which we successfully did on Aug. 16 - the first time a veto has been overridden since 2004. There's still lots of work ahead to make sure St. Paul voters are informed about this issue and why child care matters if we want to have an equitable city - but I'm proud of the work we've done and the risks we've taken so far.*
- *NN: did not complete MNYC's questionnaire and does not have a website to view stances or policies*