

Bruce Dachis and Nasri Warsame failed to fill out our questionnaire. To inform voters as best we can, MNYC brought in relevant information from candidates' websites when possible

1. In 2021 the majority of Minneapolis residents voted to grant City Council the ability to enact rent stabilization policies. As rent continues to rise, and landlords continue to profit, how will you work with community members, to respond to immediate needs and create policy change?

Aisha Chughtai : As a renter, someone who has experienced housing instability, and Councilmember to a 80% renter community, I support rent stabilization. I authored the rent stabilization ordinance this year based on the City's Rent Stabilization Work Group's recommendations: a strong rent control policy with a 3% cap on yearly rent increases, vacancy control, no carve outs for new development, strong mechanisms for the City to ensure compliance with the policy, and an exemption for capital improvements and deferred maintenance. While the policy failed this year, I'll continue leading this fight with a new Council in 2024. Rent stabilization is one of the strongest tools to keep people in their homes and the communities they love. We must also advance other tenant protection policies like Tenant Opportunity to Purchase (which I'm co-authoring alongside Councilmember Ellison), Just Cause eviction protection, and expanding renter relocation assistance to ensure tenants have a safety net when they're forced to temporarily or permanently move out of their home.

Bruce Dachis (from website): Affordable Housing:

I understand the concerns of those who support rent control as it aims to make housing more affordable and accessible for everyone. However, I believe it's important to consider the broader economic implications, such as potential hindrances to construction and economic growth in our city. I also believe balancing rent control with other economic factors, such as taxes and expenses, is essential for a comprehensive solution

Nasri Warsame (from website): I believe that rent control can pose significant challenges for our community. Instead of rent control, I advocate for holding abusive landlords accountable, and importantly, creating avenues to allow more people to own homes.

2. What is your perspective on the proposal from the city's Rent Stabilization Work Group? What are your ideas for how it could be improved or implemented?

Aisha Chughtai : I led the fight to amend the City's Rent Stabilization Work Group to double renter representation, include renter advocacy organizations, include deeply affordable housing providers, remove predatory landlords from the Work Group, and ensure the process was as transparent to the public as possible. After months of deliberating on the components of a rent control policy, the Rent Stabilization Work Group voted to recommend a strong rent control policy to the City Council: a 3% cap on yearly increases of rent cost, no vacancy

decontrol, no carve outs for new development, mechanisms for the City to ensure compliance with the policy, and an exemption for capital improvements that includes oversight mechanisms to ensure the exemption isn't misused by landlords. I trust the experts who gave us this recommendation and I'll continue to champion this strong policy.

Bruce Dachis: *Did not answer this on his website*

Nasri Warsame: *Did not answer this on his website*

3. 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 Minneapolis? How do you plan to protect and invest in public spaces?

Aisha Chughtai : Whether it's isolation and loneliness, or the impact on property values and sales tax revenue, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic is going to be felt by residents for years to come. This is true for young people, too, especially as it relates to social, emotional, and mental health. We need to invest in free public spaces. These not only improve livability, but they are also good for business, especially locally-owned and BIPOC- and immigrant-owned small businesses. We also need to prioritize programs that bring people together like Open Streets to ensure we continue building community among residents. Isolation has particularly impacted young people, that's why it's essential that we invest in free, low barrier access programs for youth. Finally, we must use opportunities like the redevelopment of the former Kmart site, which is located entirely in Ward 10, to build public assets. I'm committed to ensuring adequate greenspace is a part of the plan, prioritizing low-barrier, accessible public spaces like a community center and public bathrooms, and including new public art in the vision.

Bruce Dachis: *Did not answer this on his website*

Nasri Warsame: *Did not answer this on his website*

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

Aisha Chughtai : I support the effort to establish community control over the Minneapolis Police Department to give residents democratic power in oversight of the MPD. This would establish an elected board that oversees all decision-making of the Police Department, including the power to hire and fire the Chief of Police, set and review the MPD budget, determine hiring and training practices for the MPD, and set and enforce the discipline matrix. I support using dollars allocated for MPD to instead invest in crucial social services and City programs with preventative methodologies. Protecting people from over-policing and criminalization starts with a holistic approach to issues like mental and public health, housing, and addiction. We should further expand successful non-police response programs, like the Behavioral Crisis Response team, which allows mental health

professionals to answer calls for service for those who need it. I've proudly worked alongside Councilmembers in expanding these services throughout my time on the Council. A recent staffing study of the MPD found that nearly 20% of 911 calls can be responded to by someone other than a licensed police officer—I'm committed to ensuring Minneapolis explores, pilots, and implements programs that ensure appropriate responders show up when residents call 911.

Bruce Dachis (from website): Public Safety:

Public safety is the foundation of any thriving city. Unsafe communities not only hurt residents, but businesses as well. I believe all residents in Ward 10 and throughout Minneapolis must feel safe and secure in their homes and on our streets if we wish to retain our quality of life. That is why I will never vote to defund the police as your City Council representative. I support recruiting more police officers to get the MPD back to full staffing. I will also work tirelessly to ensure all police officers are well-trained to deal with an ever-changing landscape, while also holding police accountable.

Nasri Warsame (from website): One of the main pillars of my campaign is public safety. As someone on the path to becoming a police officer myself, I understand the importance of a well-funded, well-trained, and well-equipped police department in maintaining order and safety.

5. Earlier this year the City signed the consent decree, confirming community experiences, that Minneapolis Police Department practices racial discrimination, and requires the police department to make 'transformational' changes. How will you ensure your neighbors/future constituents are brought into the consent decree's process of community input, as it relates to those able to monitor for progress?

Aisha Chughtai : The Minnesota Department of Human Rights and consent decree and the findings from the US Department of Justice are a confirmation of the horrifying, inhumane experiences residents, especially marginalized residents, have had for decades. My office held a community meeting on this and the required changes right after the approval of the Minnesota Department of Human Rights consent decree because we know how important community is to this process. We're the only office that has done this. A part of the reason I voted for the consent decree is the extensive stipulations on community engagement. Community has a role in selecting the independent monitor who has an enforceable role in ensuring the agreement is properly implemented. The independent monitor is required to give regular reports to the community and hold community meetings, and the monitor is tasked with ensuring proper community engagement on MPD policy changes are actually honored. I'm committed to making sure these stipulations around community input and engagement are followed.

Bruce Dachis: *Did not answer this on his website*

Nasri Warsame: *Did not answer this on his website*

6. This summer, the Twin Cities has experienced record levels of poor air quality. Minneapolis has the opportunity to be a leader on climate change solutions across our state, and the responsibility to prioritize community members. How will you show up to make Minneapolis a carbon-neutral city by 2050, and prioritize diverse residents per our Climate Equity Plan?

Aisha Chughtai : Local governments are the last line of defense in urgently meeting our climate crisis with bold, innovative, and transformative solutions. I've been leading the fight on the City Council to tackle this existential issue. I've authored an ordinance that ensures Minneapolis will be investing a historic \$8-10 million in the City's climate initiatives, tripling the resources the City has ever spent on this work. This money is coming directly from increased fines on Xcel and CenterPoint, the corporations that have a monopoly on providing gas and electricity to Minneapolis users. In the coming years, we must weatherize all Minneapolis homes, starting with communities that have been harmed by environmental injustice. We must ensure Minneapolis residents benefit from a unionized green workforce. I authored legislation on temporary emergency shelter in public space during severe weather events. We must invest in extreme weather preparedness, ensuring warming, cooling, and properly ventilated spaces are open to the public when we experience extreme temperatures and poor air quality.

Bruce Dachis: *Did not answer this on his website*

Nasri Warsame: *Did not answer this on his website*

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

Aisha Chughtai : Everyone in Minneapolis should be able to safely, affordably, and effectively move through the city by walking, biking, rolling, taking public transit, or driving. We must reconnect communities, improve transportation solutions, expand light rail and streetcar infrastructure, and address the disproportionate impact our transportation systems have on marginalized communities, many of which include poor and working class people, renters, BIPOC, and LGBTQIA+ people. We must ensure that our Complete Streets Policy is implemented equally in low-wealth communities across Ward 10 and the city. We must also dedicate city funds and work with Metro Transit on improving transit stops, and advocate for expanded zero-fare programs within Metro Transit. We must also ensure accessibility by having the city clear sidewalks. This is why I worked to co-write legislation that requires city staff to analyze

and create potential City-led sidewalk snow and ice removal programs that could be fully implemented by winter of 2027. As the Council works to finalize the budget this fall and winter, I'll work alongside Councilmembers to fund some of the recommended pilot programs to begin implementing this vision.

Bruce Dachis: *Did not answer this question on his website*

Nasri Warsame: *Did not answer this on his website*

8. 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 city?

Aisha Chughtai : I support implementing a participatory budgeting process in the City of Minneapolis. This is an important form of community-led governance, and giving agency to the residents of Minneapolis in how our money is spent to serve them. For an example of how participatory budgeting can positively impact a city, I look to Milwaukee. In 2019, the LiberateMKE campaign fought for and won a \$900,000 reduction in the police department's budget, which was then allocated to housing justice, public health, and other programs that the community asked for in a participatory budgeting process. In 2020, they won a further \$2.1 million reduction in the police department's budget, as well as a reduction of 120 police office positions. The money was reallocated to programs supporting housing justice work and public health-based community safety programs. I believe that the community knows best what investments would actually make that happen. Minneapolis needs a participatory budgeting process.

Bruce Dachis: *Did not answer this question on his website*

Nasri Warsame: *Did not answer this on his website*

9. 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?

Aisha Chughtai : Young people are hungry for transformational change, and for leaders who will fight to make it happen. I look forward to continuing to partner with the Minnesota Youth Collective to make change in a strategic manner.

As the youngest member of the Minneapolis City Council, and as the Councilmember for one of the youngest communities in the city, I am a standard-bearer for that change. It is incredibly

important to me that the young people of this city see a space for themselves in my campaign and in the governing of this city. I'm running for re-election to grow our space.

Just like in my last campaign, I'm building innovative strategies to allow young people to participate and to meet them where they're at by engaging with renters in apartment buildings and students through a relational organizing program.

Bruce Dachis: *Did not answer this question on his website*

Nasri Warsame: *Did not answer this on his website*

10. 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?

Aisha Chughtai : To build a future where every resident has what they need to thrive, Minneapolis needs to take bold risks. The current approach the City of Minneapolis has toward encampments of unsheltered residents is vile and inhumane. Throughout my time at City Hall, I have worked to take steps towards a holistic, humane, and public health centered encampment response. Following a series of brutal encampment evictions last winter, Councilmembers Chavez, Payne, and I brought a package of common-sense reforms to a vote, which included a temporary moratorium on encampment evictions. Every measure that passed was vetoed by Mayor Frey.

We will continue to take risks and fight for a city where resources aren't used to evict encampments. We'll keep fighting for the city to provide encampments with public health services like bathroom facilities, hand-washing stations, and safe needle disposal. And we will keep building a city that works with partners across jurisdictions to increase the availability of low-barrier, service-rich housing options.

Bruce Dachis: *Did not answer this question on his website*

Nasri Warsame: *Did not answer this on his website*