

Nancy Ford and Luther Ranheim 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?

Aurin Chowdhury: I am the only candidate supporting rent stabilization and bringing a policy before the people of Minneapolis. We need a policy to put a stop to predatory rent hikes that displace our community members and leave them without stable housing. This does occur in our city every year and The effects of predatory rent hikes disproportionately impact Black, Brown, Indigenous, and undocumented community members who are often already rent-burdened.

This pushes people out of Minneapolis, causes a loss of connection to the community and resources, increases the chances of falling into homelessness, and makes it even more difficult to build wealth.

I have worked on housing justice efforts from organizing Know Your Tenant Rights training with public housing residents and students, and pushing for inclusionary zoning policy that ensured that we build affordable housing units in the University neighborhood, I have been a part of efforts to call for an eviction moratorium during COVID-19.

When it comes to the percentage and details of the policy, I am interested in learning more about the impacts of different percentages, how different exemptions, and other aspects of a rent stabilization policy can be adjusted to best meet the intended goals of rent stabilization while ensuring economic growth and success. I want to keep the dialogue open with Ward 12 residents on this policy.

Nancy Ford (from website): Affordable Housing

While I believe that the 2040 Plan was very well intentioned in terms of increasing the supply of affordable housing, I am concerned that the long term result will not be more affordable housing in the city. We need to recognize that many of the units being build are part of investment portfolios. I believe in home ownership so strongly because it builds equity and long term wealth. Racial and socioeconomic discrepancies in home ownership are concerning meaning that as the rental population goes up, this opportunity gap only widens. I want Minneapolis to support cooperative ownership of higher density properties to allow owners of smaller units to still own their homes just like the owners of single family homes do. That being said, we do need a strong supply of affordable rental units.

Luther Ranheim (from website): Building more affordable & deeply affordable housing

We must ensure that every resident of Minneapolis can afford to provide shelter for themselves and their family. We need to look within and outside of Minneapolis to identify innovative ways to develop and construct housing that is affordable. At the same time, we need to ensure that the finances of housing development remain sound in order to preserve the incentive for housing developers to invest in Ward 12 and Minneapolis. We should incentivize new rental co-ops and seek additional funds from the state and federal government to put towards rent payments for low-income residents. We must urgently identify new solutions that work in other cities to generate affordable housing development. I will bring together a broad coalition of voices on housing including renters, home owners, landlords, housing-focused nonprofits, developers, city agencies, Council Members and others to identify creative ways to ensure that every resident of Ward 12 and Minneapolis can afford to put a roof over their head

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?

Aurin Chowdhury : I believe that the rent stabilization working group proposal is a good starting point for the next council to consider as we build out a policy. I am not sold on a 3% cap and believe that new construction exemptions are necessary. What is important to me and the constituents that I represent is that we have a policy that fits the City of Minneapolis and can achieve the goals of eliminating predatory rent hikes by way of price gouging and we can ensure that housing supply continues to grow. I want to gather more information and data on the policies other municipalities and states have implemented and the features that they have and learn what the outcomes of different policy mechanisms in rent stabilization would be in the City of Minneapolis. Saint Paul is going back to the drawing board to improve their policy and it shows to me that Minneapolis needs an iterative process too. Rent stabilization is a renter's protection that is needed among a constellation of other protections.

Nancy Ford: *Does not answer this question on her website*

Luther Ranheim: *Does not answer this question 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?

Aurin Chowdhury : Community building is an essential part of our city's healing and also centering the voices most in need. As a Council member, I want to create opportunities for neighbors to come together in Ward 12 and specifically do outreach to community members of color, young people, renters, and working people who are not typically represented in community spaces in Ward 12.

As a council member, I will support community-led activation efforts like Open Streets, events in our parks, and other creative ideas that people in our neighborhoods have to bring people together. Most importantly, in order for a community to thrive and be connected, people need access to basic resources like affordable housing, healthcare, and an easy way to get around the community- I plan on championing policies and efforts that invest in this for residents across the City of Minneapolis.

Nancy Ford: *Does not answer this question on her website*

Luther Ranheim (from website): Funding our parks, parkways & stormwater runoff

The Parks system is one of the best parts of Minneapolis. We enjoy an award-winning parks system that is one of the best in the country. The Park Board needs a funding increase just to maintain basic services. We are also neglecting maintenance for our Parkways, which will become a severe infrastructure issue if it is not dealt with urgently. I will advocate for more funding for the Park Board, whose assets we all enjoy, and for the Parkways & storm water runoff systems in particular. We must care for and adequately fund our public infrastructure.

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

Aurin Chowdhury : Public safety is multifaceted and dynamic, and it requires a multifaceted and dynamic response. The work of public safety must be approached through an intersectional community-based lens. I have worked on public safety policy, and budget amendments, and have had hundreds of conversations with community members on what keeps them safe that support this vision.

Our city deserves a fully-funded public safety system that is culturally competent, data-driven, focused on preventative, proactive, and restorative measures, and unequivocally works for all of us. Every person in our city deserves to feel and be safe in their homes, places of employment, places of faith and worship, neighborhoods, and beyond. It means our workers can feel safe taking public transportation to and from their place of employment.

We need better response times and tools to address and prevent crime in our community and we need to hold strong to the values of police accountability to implement deep reforms to put an end to racist, ableist, and unconstitutional policing.

I want to increase funding to violence prevention efforts and support groups that have been doing the work to support survivors of domestic violence, and sex trafficking, and are in unsafe living conditions. I support funding the mandatory minimum of officers and recruitment efforts to get there, and I believe the place where the City Council can be most effective is expanding public health-based approaches to keep the community safe. I want to expand behavioral crisis response to 24/7, I want to grow the community safety specialist program piloted on the northside, on the ground violence prevention, and expand our imagination on

how we can give neighbors and block captains the tools they need to best connect with the City and keep their neighborhoods safe.

I also want to expand the table of people that help us figure out solutions to recurring public safety issues; I want local businesses, block captains, neighborhood organizations, LGBTQ advocacy organizations, and community members who are impacted to have a place where they connect on issues that are seeing and can help direct where existing services go.

Nancy Ford (from website): Public Safety

This city has now been through some real pain when it comes to policing and public safety. When George Floyd was murdered, it was clear a response was needed. When crime rose immensely since 2020, a response was needed. Balancing reform with public safety should be the key objective when it comes to this issue. We need more officers but we need those officers to be held to a high standard. I support incentivizing new recruits to the MPD who live within Minneapolis City limits. We cannot have a police force that entirely comes from outside the city. We need to address violent crime as well as property crime which has impacted many small businesses in Ward 12 and throughout the city. The most important thing on this issue is that we work together because I think we can all agree that police reform and public safety are top priority for many Minneapolitans right now. We need to fully fund our police force so they are sufficiently staffed and sufficiently trained to do their jobs.

Luther Ranheim (from website): Funding our parks, parkways & stormwater runoff

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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?

Aurin Chowdhury : If elected as a City Council Member, I will work to expand the power of the civilian commission on police oversight and explore how the city can make the recommendations that they make on police cases of violence and policy infractions to be binding. Police officers who use excessive force and violate the human rights of our residents should be held accountable and taken off the force. I look forward to ensuring that the consent decree given by the Minnesota Department of Human Rights is carried out and has lasting

impacts on changing the culture of violence and discrimination that has long existed in the Minneapolis Police Department. As a Council member, I will push the City Council to use the full weight of our audit power in conjunction with funding an independent monitor to spot-check the work of the MPD to ensure compliance, push for unrestricted access to all data collected by the monitor, require a regular status report on implementation.

We recently moved into a new model of public safety in the City of Minneapolis. Instead of having MPD as a stand-alone department, we have created the Office of Community Safety. A public safety department that now houses– Fire, Emergency Response, Office of Violence Prevention, and alternatives to police response. However, what is missing is transparency and community vision in directing the flow and work of this department. Very few people know what this change means and how this will impact public safety services differently.

I am running for office to create that transparency and have the community give recommendations on the deliverables that they want to see from the Office of Community Safety and how we can hold it accountable.

Nancy Ford: Does not answer this question on her website

Luther Ranheim (on website): Building a comprehensive & accountable public safety system

A community can only truly thrive when all of its residents feel safe. I believe that implementing an effective and fair public safety system is among the most pressing issues our city faces. I am running to serve as a community-informed advocate in addressing our city's approach to public safety. A community-informed approach to Public Safety is critical to ensure that everyone in our community feels safe and fairly treated. I believe that we need police and that policing must change. I will advocate for a professional police force that is responsive to the community it serves, and more importantly, accountable to the community through strong oversight and greater transparency. I support a holistic approach to public safety, which means advocating for all professional first responders who help ensure our safety. Our firefighters, paramedics, crisis mental health counselors and violence interrupters are on the front lines of emergency response in our city. I will work to provide the resources needed to fully staff the department, creating capacity for timely and appropriately tailored emergency responses. We must work on developing alternative responses to armed policing for nonviolent crimes. We need to find, fund and scale alternatives to police response whenever possible.

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?

Aurin Chowdhury : One of my top policy priorities is building a just and equitable climate-resilient city. As I envision our city’s future, combating environmental racism and centering the lived experiences of our Black, Brown, and Indigenous community members in the policy-making process is indispensable. I was the first candidate in Ward 12 to come out in support of the People’s Climate and Equity Plan. We need a bold vision if we are going to have bold results to combat climate change. The harmful effects of climate change have a devastating impact on Black, Brown, Indigenous, and working-class people, and our voices must be at the center of our work. I have worked in the Ward 9 office as a policy aide for the last year to honor the wishes of the community members of East Phillips and their desire for self-determination and environmental justice at the roof depot site. I have spoken with Hennepin County Commissioners on how we can get to a place of closing the HERC incinerator and am determined to be a partner in the City to help achieve it. Polluters and polluting projects need to be held accountable in our City and as Council Members, it is our job to call environmental injustice for what it is even if it is not convenient.

Nancy Ford: *Does not answer this question on her website*

Luther Ranheim (from website): Responding to climate emergency

We have reached the point of no return on climate change, and individual action can only achieve so much. We have a great opportunity to make significant strides on climate change at the municipal level. We must ensure that every city agency is appropriately factoring climate change into its decisions. As individuals we can have some impact on climate change, but together as Ward 12 and as Minneapolis, we can increase our positive impact many times over. I support the People’s Climate Equity Plan, a bold vision for a green future for Minneapolis.

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?

Aurin Chowdhury : Investing in public transportation is a vital step in achieving racial, economic, and climate justice. Many community members rely on our public transportation system to be able to travel across the city and metro area to (1) go to school and attain a quality education, (2) bring their children to daycare, school, and after-school programming, (3) travel to and from work to support their family and booster our economy, and so on. City governments must lead the way and work hand-in-hand with county, state, and federal leaders to achieve a world-class walk, bike, and transit infrastructure. Pushing for a quality, accessible, and affordable public transportation system will only benefit our community and future generations. I want to work with other jurisdictions like Metro Transit, Met Council, the State, and County to address public safety and livability concerns on transit. I will work on

finding solutions that disrupt the culture that has caused riders to feel unsafe while making sure we are not engaging in the practices of mass incarceration.

Nancy Ford: *Does not answer this question on her website*

Luther Ranheim (from website): Improving Metro Transit & expanding services

I support expanding public transit service in Minneapolis to ensure that getting around our city without a car is an attractive option. For Metro Transit to provide the best service it possibly can, our buses, trains and stations need to be safe spaces for all. I will work with the city's partners at the Met Council to create a Transit Ambassadors program to hire non-police employees to address the antisocial behaviors and crimes that we are seeing on our buses and trains. Our public transit must be safe in order for ridership to increase.

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?

Aurin Chowdhury : The foundation of why I'm running is to build a safe, healthy, multiracial, and multigenerational connected community. As a policy aide, I have helped connect community members with their elected officials during the most difficult times our city has faced. A council member is the first line of contact when community members have questions and concerns about their community. My office will be inclusive of all Ward 12 neighbors no matter if you've just moved into the ward or have lived here for 20-plus years. I am committed to hosting regularly scheduled town halls, local business meetings, and newsletters to update our community on the work being done at City Hall. I encourage people to become more involved in local politics and am committed to working collaboratively with the community to create policies that move our values into action.

Nancy Ford: *Does not answer this question on her website*

Luther Ranheim (from website): Centering Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Justice

I will work to ensure that the city council continues to be a body that is representative of the population of Minneapolis. I am committed to making the city council one that makes decisions with all residents' interests in mind, with a particular focus on the needs of historically marginalized communities, especially our BIPOC (black, indigenous, people of color), LGBTQ+ and immigrant populations. I will approach all policy decisions through the lens of DEI. I will listen to those with different lived experiences than my own in seeking to make decisions that work for all residents of Ward 12 and Minneapolis.

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?

Aurin Chowdhury : I am running on having an inclusive Ward 12 office where everyone is welcome and we are building towards a multigenerational, multiracial community. I want to work with the youth collective to help reach the younger people in my ward to be a part of the local government and on the policy work my office will always be open to meet and discuss what we can push forward together.

Nancy Ford: *Does not answer this question on her website*

Luther Ranheim: *Does not answer this question 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?

Aurin Chowdhury : When I first launched my campaign the future of the East Phillips community getting ownership of the roof depot site was unclear and many powerful people in our City opposed it. I had been working on finding a path for community ownership as an aide for the last year at that point and long advocated for the community to get the site, it was just the moral and right thing to do. Early on in my campaign stood strong on pushing for this vision even when I was critiqued for it, even when people told me and the people of East Phillips it wasn't possible, and even when my opponents wavered in their positions or didn't take a strong position themselves. I am proud to have stood firm because I believe in this community and through the work of hundreds of people on the ground, my work in CM Chavez's office, Rep. Samantha Sencer-Mura's work at the legislature, there is a path and EPNI will gain community ownership.

Nancy Ford: *Does not answer this question on her website*

Luther Ranheim: *Does not answer this question on his website*