

*Victor Martinez 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?**
  - **Jeremiah Ellison:** I am proud to have co-authored the two Rent Stabilization charter amendments which gives City Council permission to pursue a rent stabilization ordinance; and, Right to Counsel, ensuring all tenants have legal representation in housing court. These changes were in part made possible by the tireless work of organizers, unions, and renters who have been calling for changes like these long before I came into office. I spoke with many leaders on the issue while drafting, and continued to work with them to see their ultimate passage. This is how I will continue to work with community members for policy change. To respond to immediate needs my office does constituent services by making sure people are connected to the resource, office, or program they need. I see the City Council as the frontline of service and the last line of defense, and I approach constituent work with that in mind, regularly being in my community working directly with folks to get them access to services as quickly as I can. Whether what they need is at the City, County, State or some combination I see it as my responsibility to help my constituents navigate that process to get what they need.
  - **Victor Martinez:** Does not answer this on website
  - **Phillip Peterson:** I will work closely with housing organizations and individuals to make sure that rents not just stabilize but maintain a nominal amount that will coincide with one's cost of living. Will also be looking to add new and affordable housing options about North Minneapolis.
- 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?**
  - **Jeremiah Ellison:** The framework from the majority of the Rent Stabilization Work Group has multiple key elements that I support, such as - a fixed, and fair rent increase at 3%, vacancy control, zero rent banking, and Just Cause tenant protections. What I want to see is a policy that is thorough enough to last and withstand challenges that are presented in our current and future community. There are as many rent control policies as there are cities with rent control, we need to (and would) design and implement a policy that considers and meets the unique needs of North Minneapolis. A policy created by way of thoughtful listening to impacted communities and pulling together in order to create a strong solution that puts people who are most impacted, and historically most vulnerable, in a position to be considered first.

- **Victor Martinez (from website):** I do not support rent control. There is no proof that it works. And if we look at our neighbor to the east, we see that it stifles new housing development in our cities. I rather use our licensing procedure to deal with those housing providers that are abusing renters with steep increases in rent. We have failed to use our licensing procedure to address this issue. Why even have a renter license in the first place, let's not put more rules and regulations when the current ones that we have don't work. I think New York, and Saint Paul are good examples of how the rent control programs in their current form are not efficient in continuing the production of affordable housing. Some policies that might work instead (which were mentioned above) include:
    - i. Reducing the shortage of deeply affordable rental housing, implementing a housing developer-focused renters' tax credit, and reversing restrictive local zoning practices;
    - ii. Preventing the loss of existing affordable housing;
    - iii. Investing in tribal communities' housing needs;
    - iv. Removing barriers to homeownership; and
    - v. Reforming project-based housing programs to encourage higher-quality housing.
  - **Phillip Peterson:** In this current form this rent stabilization group would not be a bad thing but term limits need to be associated with the seats. A term one year should give everyone the chance who wants to represent and come up with these policy plans the ability to do so.
- 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?**
- **Jeremiah Ellison:** The Northside has regularly relied on our neighbors to take care of ourselves and build space. For decades there was active disinvestment and neglect while still feeling the impact of historic red-lining, exclusionary zoning, and urban renewal. Isolation & loneliness are easily felt when a community that is part of the city has been socially and economically separated. In the face of this reality and isolation, the Northside has rejected a narrative of despair and instead showed what a difference can be made when we come together with shared hope and vision. In my time in office I have tried to further inspire that sense of community by holding office hours in my Ward and attending and promoting events in the Ward that allow people to gather with minimal or no cost. I believe the rest of the city could learn from how the Northside has come together in the face of isolation, that's why I'll continue to tell it. To protect and invest in public spaces I will commit to not removing publicly funded places people gather if they are accessible and regularly used. When given the opportunity, I would also happily support measures that invest more in free public spaces, including Capital Investment Projects.

- **Victor Martinez:** does not answer this question on website
  - **Phillip Peterson:** As someone who at times does suffer from isolation issues themselves I will be looking to have more open safe spaces but more looking for community involvement in activities. The possibility of block game night or movies in the park or anything that can get people to come together safely. And I'm also open to any ideas that anyone would have because to build a community we need to get to know each other!
- 4. If elected, what would your approach to public safety look like?**
- **Jeremiah Ellison:** A police-only system not only fails to prevent harm, it causes plenty of harm too: the killing of Barabra Schneider, the corrupt metro gang “strike force”, more than 30 years of untested rape kits, and the murder of George Floyd are just the tip of a tragic iceberg. We can and must keep people safer than this. Public safety must go beyond the police-only model that has long fallen short. That’s why I’ve supported dedicated mental health response, city-wide violence prevention, and shifting non-emergency calls away from police and our 911 system. If re-elected I will continue to advocate for the expansion and full funding of these services and programs. But we can’t forget that public safety also looks like prevention through affordable and dignified housing, a living wage, access to transportation, a focus on public health that addresses addiction, and clean air and water in our communities. To truly be safe we have to invest in and care for one another.
  - **Victor Martinez (from website):** We need to bring the community around our law enforcement, publicly showing our support and value for them. We want good honest and culturally competent officers to serve us. We need them and we can't have public Safety without an adequately staffed police force. I would support a strong public recruitment campaign, billboards, radio announcements, and engaging influencers. Everybody in our state should know that we are serious about having good officers. For the short term, I think we need to continue to work with community groups providing security assistance as well as faith groups.
  - **Phillip Peterson:** My approach to public safety looks like this hiring more officers creating two new styles of officer one for mental health issues one strictly for community engagement meaning on the streets not in the car. I want to get back to community style policing where the officers not just walk the beat but get to know the individuals. Especially with the recent findings that show that they do use discrimination it's imperative that we do things that only protect not harm.
- 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?**

- **Jeremiah Ellison:** Previously many have felt that the DOJ's process for community input did not give enough time in advance of the meetings and/or that the meetings being held were not pushed out enough for folks to be aware of what was happening. In response to this, DOJ personnel have said community members interested in attending future sessions can reach out via email or phone and given specific contact information - as a Council Member I will continue to share that contact information as well as information about scheduled sessions as often as I can to folks that are interested in participating in the process. That means sharing it out via my office's newsletter, speaking about it in public meetings, and telling folks in my ward personally. I will provide updates on the consent decree process as quickly as I can with any of the resources I have at my disposal.
  - **Victor Martinez (from website):** How do you envision assuring police accountability? Nothing ever worked without transparency and honesty. I support police chief Brian O'Hara's vision to take into consideration every complaint no matter who it comes from. In the past, complaints have often been ignored. But I believe there needs to be an adequate way of tracking complaints and their resolution. It does nothing for accountability when community members are making complaints and are kept in the dark. I also believe that making body camera footage available to the community is important and needs to continue.
  - **Phillip Peterson:** transformers change takes dramatic action which would mean changing the training module currently being applied by Minneapolis Police. The criteria for being a weapon towing officer would change and an incentivization of living in the communities especially in the cities would be one of my priorities. While officers must maintain a work-life balance protecting and serving needs to be their highest priority.
- 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?**
- **Jeremiah Ellison:** There is no question the deep impacts environmental justice has on communities, especially on the Northside. All actions to make Minneapolis a carbon-neutral city should be done through the lens of how we can rectify past harms, and the damage that is actively being done especially in low-income, Indigenous, and Black communities. It's why I worked to help shut down Northern Metals ahead of schedule and continue to support shutting down HERC. The path forward to accomplish our Climate Equity Plan is to prioritize our communities, and refuse to put profit or development before people. We have to give impacted communities like mine the opportunity to have ownership and work in green energy businesses and jobs. City leaders

cannot be afraid of holding developers accountable to Climate Equity standards. We need to continuously engage residents on these issues through public education and conversation, and allow folks most impacted to lead.

- **Victor Martinez:** Does not answer this question on website
- **Phillip Peterson:** I would want to be looking to change a majority of the city vehicles to either hybrid or all electric and that also includes the police. More solar panels for apartments buildings. Wind turbines and strategic places that receive constant air flow. Also changing the way that the traffic lights work installing truly intelligent traffic systems that help maintain a consistent floor traffic which negates deadlock we need to change the way that we drive!

**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?**

- **Jeremiah Ellison:** I am committed to improving the ability to move throughout the region to connect with each other, our jobs and our government by investing in effective, efficient, and green transportation while prioritizing an affordable public transportation network. It is essential that we build a transportation network that remedies not exacerbates historic inequities. We must look at transportation not just as means of getting places, but as a vein of life and affordability for North Minneapolis residents. One that can help ensure a flourishing community by expanding bus rapid transit throughout North Minneapolis, ensuring access to high value projects like the METRO green and blue line extensions while not catalyzing gentrification or displacing residents. Equitable transportation access includes expanding bicycle facilities to ensure safe passage for people using bikes to commute, while being mindful of how these are designed to ensure the low wealth communities and communities of color interests and needs are met. I am working to ensure North Minneapolis streets are ADA compliant and improve accessibility beyond the minimum guidelines set out by law.
- **Victor Martinez (from website):** We not only need more public transportation, but we need safe public transportation. It does no one any good if we get the light rail coming through the northside but riders are harassed and robbed. A stable and more accessible public transportation system can help to address systemic issues such as climate change and economic instability. The larger we can grow our public transit the more access to jobs, opportunities and new parts of the city people will have, creating a boom of new jobs and income. We also need to make sure that our public transit system is affordable and incentivize more riders through discount programs.

- **Phillip Peterson:** Converting the buses or incentivizing the Metro Transit system to convert the buses to electric or hybrid systems and investing in a more intelligent light rail with turnstiles and a different level of safety at stations and on trains. And the city needs to re-implement either a scooter or bicycle ride sharing program and maintain the vehicles to a very high quality. The way to go is electric for the city!

**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?**

- **Jeremiah Ellison:** Before running for office when my community asked me to in 2017 I was mainly a mural painter, creating public art. In doing this I got to spend most of my time creating public art in collaboration with the broader community, frequently with people who didn't see themselves as creative. Even though they didn't see themselves that way, through the process I saw people come into their creativity and understand what they could contribute. That experience has informed how I govern and how I see building more powerful local democracy. Many people don't imagine themselves as "political" or feel excited to engage in the political process, but when you focus on issues that matter to them, listen, and meet them where they are, folks often have more to contribute than they could have imagined. I regularly spend time in my ward to connect with folks and further that type of dialogue, as well as encouraging independent outreach to the city, and letting them know opportunities to get involved. If re-elected I will continue to utilize my role in this way. I believe good policy making is community making, and that is the part of the job that I firmly believe helps people develop and grow into their power.
- **Victor Martinez:** Does not answer this on website
- **Phillip Peterson:** not to be cliché with great power comes great responsibility. I will use my power and responsibility to bring new businesses to create new housing options with the option to buy from the city change the way that we do snow removal more intelligent ways of snow prevention and a host of other things to not just modernize our city but to quantum leap it into the future. Minneapolis needs to be The shining Jewel that people want to attain. And with the help of everyone I believe it is possible.

**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?**

- **Jeremiah Ellison:** I firmly believe policy which does not come from the people is patronizing, and that good policy making is community making. My policy priorities come from an ethic of active listening and collaboration with Northside residents, my team, organizations, unions, and those engaged in mass work. I am first and foremost accountable to the people on the Northside who

have far too often been neglected and forgotten by this city. With that in mind I also have an open door policy for organizations like Minnesota Youth Collective that are shoulder to shoulder in the work to advance working class interests. I envision working together for a shared agenda to mean having an open line of communication, meeting with the base of young people affiliated with MNYC to hear about how they are being impacted by city decisions and listen to their ideas, and inviting being held accountable to execute on our shared vision for Minneapolis.

- **Victor Martinez:** Does not answer this on website
- **Phillip Peterson:** Any allied organization or organization that is seeking to not just better the city but the residents and the quality of life not only will I sit down with but I would work very closely with step by step. One has to be voted in so as a life-long or career server I believe serving services is a high priority. We would all be working very closely.

**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?**

- **Jeremiah Ellison:** During the 2021 election cycle Minneapolis was still reeling from the murder of George Floyd, for some this was the first time they had considered the harm that has been done in the name of “safety” and if changes should be made. But for many it was a well known truth and long standing pain that was finally being discussed in public and at scale in a way we had not seen in our lifetimes. Because of this the dominating conversation in every ward of the city was what does it mean to be safe and how should our public safety system function. During that election I took what many saw as a risk by never backing down from the stance I and many of my colleagues took at Powderhorn to defund MPD. I won in 2021 and I did so by being honest with my constituents, not compromising my values, and being unafraid to have difficult and complex conversations with my community. If it was a risk, it was certainly a worthwhile one.
- **Victor Martinez:** Does not answer this on website
- **Phillip Peterson:** Being a nerd is weird because it allows you to see problems from multiple angles. I think of myself as a forward thinker willing to take acceptable risk to get maximum rewards. Well this wasn't so much with public leadership but during the time of the riots and the burnings when we lost the Olympic diner and we lost O'Reilly Auto parts I began to patrol my neighborhood with a sword. No guns I don't like guns. Every night for weeks I would just dress up in a cloak and a sword. The risk was being shot being killed but it didn't matter the reward was making sure that the part of the North Minneapolis that I live stayed looter free and safe. I think I did a okay job! So I'm known as the sword guy I would rather be called a Knight protecting the realm!