

*Scott Graham 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?**
  - **Katie Cashman:** So many renters, like myself, are cost-burdened as the cost of housing outpaces wages. We need to provide relief to renters and stop predatory price gouging. I support expanding universal basic income, giving direct rental assistance to cost-burdened renters and ensuring the enforcement of the strong tenant protections that we do have as a city. I support fully funding the right to legal counsel for renters facing evictions and passing a “Know Your Rights” ordinance to ensure that renters know their rights when signing a lease. Minneapolis has four major tenant protections which go above and beyond state law, but their enforcement is not funded and prioritized. These laws include Tenant Screening Ordinance, which prevents a landlord from discriminating against tenants, the Security Deposit Cap, whereby the landlord can only charge one-month's rent for a deposit, Section 8 Non-Discrimination Ordinance, which prevents landlords from denying a Section 8 Voucher-holder, and finally the 14-day Pre-Eviction Notice Ordinance to prevent unlawful evictions. I will work to strengthen these laws and support renters. In order to ensure affordability, we also need to maintain the affordable housing stock that we have while expanding affordable and deeply affordable housing options throughout Minneapolis.
  - **Kenneth Foxworth:** As a renter myself I understand the concerns of all renters. We will continue advocating for affordability and ownership for people of color and seniors. We have enough public housing available already. We will host events, town halls and meetings to build and hear from community members and always have my phone line, social media and email available for residents. As council, we will continue working with organizations already doing the work and community members to develop strategies to have sustainable equitable and affordable rent enough is enough. Empower residence by knowledge of the impact, then we can take affirmative action.
  - **Scott Graham (from website):** The City needs to continue to grow its strong investment in affordable housing. The City Council must support yearly budget increases for the Affordable Housing Trust Fund, Minneapolis Public Housing Authority, and the Naturally Occurring Affordable Housing Preservation Fund. We also need to continue to tap into state and federal funds to bolster this investment. To support the preservation of naturally occurring affordable housing (NOAH) and mitigate short term market instability, the City can provide

direct assistance targeting low-income households that rent. The City can also support long term NOAH viability by working to keep affordable units in the same owners' hands through mechanisms such as grants for maintenance upgrades and access to property management resources.

**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?**

- **Katie Cashman:** I respect the work of the Work Group and the organization around passing a rent control policy, but am not supporting a 3% cap, due to the issues with enforcement we are seeing in St. Paul. I believe the cost of implementation and oversight, while we already needing better oversight and enforcement of the renter protections that we do have, would be better spent on direct rental assistance, funding the enforcement of renter protections and expanding/maintaining our affordable housing stock.
- **Kenneth Foxworth:** Well first off we feel like the community is being left out of the conversation. Why aren't any renter's that are currently renting homes, apartments and public housing, part of the work group? I would advocate to have at least 2 renters and 2 organizations (Member Based) representatives, that can be part of the work group, to provide their personal insight on their living conditions.
- **Scott Graham (from website):** We need to protect our existing affordable housing and ensure that more is being built. Rent control is a complex tool that can have unintended, negative consequences for renters. I am opposed to implementing a rent control policy in Minneapolis. I support:
  - i. Holding accountable landlords whose conduct leads to additional instability for tenants. We cannot tolerate gouging.
  - ii. Expanding rental assistance and providing eviction protections.
  - iii. Investing in City programs that promote affordable housing development and preservation, like the Affordable Housing Trust Fund and Stable Homes, Stable Schools.

**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?**

- **Katie Cashman:** We deserve high quality public and community spaces to gather, heal and create. I will support the Arts and the Creative Economy in Minneapolis to host festivals, pop-ups and develop community spaces for connection. We need to revitalize our Downtown and Uptown corridors to serve 21st century resident needs. Throughout Minneapolis there are storefronts that have been vacant for years. Throughout my campaign, I have been meeting with small business owners throughout Ward 7 in Downtown, Uptown, and Bryn Mawr to talk to them about their needs. It's been really surprising to see the lack of community infrastructure around supporting small businesses. I am committed to coordinating with building owners, small businesses, and the

community to allow for smaller, more affordable commercial tenant spaces that are accessible to entrepreneurs, creatives, and small business owners. I will improve the City's financial and technical assistance to help small businesses, while prioritizing placemaking and neighborhood character. I will work closely with small business owners and local entrepreneurs to ensure that our licensing and zoning procedures are consistent and accessible. Local businesses and public spaces are what attract residents and visitors to play, work, and live in our city and they must be invested in.

- **Kenneth Foxworth:** Build the trust back. We know we need to clean up the streets so people will feel safe again to connect in public spaces. We have ideas in mind like bringing back Rudolph barbecue restaurant. A traditional restaurant most people of color attended with their families on Sundays after church. Creating a new roller skate rink in Minneapolis. That's convenient for youth and will also, generate jobs for the youth. We need more after school programs for youth. We would like to design a program where youth can go help take care of seniors and earn college and high school credits. Bridging the divide, that way the youth can learn from seniors and vice versa seniors can learn from youth. Entertainment in art drives the city and draws people together culturally and spiritually. We will be committed to providing spaces for all forms of entertainment and art that are accessible, safe and fun.
- **Scott Graham (from website):** From Uptown to Downtown, we need revitalization. The people who live, work and play in these areas need the City to work with them to ensure safety and vibrancy. We need to consider creative ways to encourage people to re-engage with these parts of town, to encourage businesses to open or stay open, and help heal the wounds that Minneapolis has suffered the past few years. I will work with small business owners, business associations, residents and neighborhood associations to assure strong and vibrant neighborhoods and shops.

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

- **Katie Cashman:** We deserve fast and effective emergency response and our current system is failing. We need to continue to work towards a public safety system that has community trust. I support a robust emergency response workforce that includes well-trained and accountable MPD officers along with alternative and complementary responders. We must be proactive in preventing the conditions for crime. Adequate upkeep to our streets, sidewalks, storefronts, and street lighting set the tone for high quality neighborhoods. Activating our business corridors and public spaces through festivals and events also helps our safety goals. I am committed to listening to neighbors and business owners' experiences with crime and ensuring accountability in our police force.
- **Kenneth Foxworth:** Changing the way people look at police. Police should be the last resort when it comes to handling situations involving individuals with

mental illness and domestic disputes. Build a space where the community and police can work together to build back trust.

- **Scott Graham (on website):** The City needs to prioritize hiring and retaining quality police officers and creating more pathways to hiring a diverse police force. The City Council needs to do everything possible to enable that. We need to get rid of bad cops, no excuses. I will be supportive of approving budgets for our police department, but that support is tied to high expectations. I believe Chief O'Hara is committed to transforming our police department and I look forward to working with him and our new Commissioner of Public Safety, Todd Barnette. Not every 911 call requires an armed officer to respond. We must expand and build upon law enforcement alternatives like the Behavioral Crisis Response Team. Working with Hennepin County for more social workers must be a priority. I will continue the work of the City to have violence interrupters as a key part of our public safety infrastructure. We need a multifaceted approach with a diversity of professional disciplines to address crime and facilitate greater safety for all residents. Public safety underpins most everything we want to accomplish in Minneapolis and must be priority number 1.

**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?**

- **Katie Cashman:** I recently attended one of the MPD community engagement sessions focused on non-discriminatory policing. There were hundreds of people there separated into small groups to discuss how MPD can align its stated values with our community that has faced so much trauma from the police department. The turnout was encouraging but there was no discussion of accountability or making it harder for officers, good or bad, to game the system to get promoted. We need to continue to engage the community, but we need to have a greater commitment to outreach and tangible mechanisms to ensure confidence in our public safety system.
- **Kenneth Foxworth:** We will always inform my neighbors/constituents with every policy through email, phone, social media and most importantly invite input always from the community because you matter.
- **Scott Graham:** Does not answer this on 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?**

- **Katie Cashman:** For two years I was one of the Ward 7 organizers for the People's Climate and Equity Plan and this summer we succeeded in passing a

robust city policy with dedicated funding for climate action. I will lead on acquiring federal and state funding for climate action to deliver investments city-wide, primarily in the Green Zones in North and South Minneapolis which are overburdened by pollution. We need to ensure every neighborhood in Minneapolis is resilient to extreme weather events, eliminate our dependency on gas vehicles and appliances, and expand our renewable energy supply to meet our climate action goals. We need to be prioritizing equity through funding projects in marginalized communities throughout this process. I support equity-based climate solutions to ensure that everyone in Minneapolis has healthy air, clean water, and a clean energy future. We have the resources to respond to the climate crisis while improving our quality of life in the process.

- **Kenneth Foxworth:**The first thing that comes to mind is the HERC. Minneapolis will not have real equity until we get rid of the HERC. As your council, we will continue building the appropriate infrastructure the people set forth by 2050.
- **Scott Graham (from website):** We must remain committed to reducing our city's climate impact and investing in sustainability. It's going to take a large investment from the City, in tandem with significant state and federal money, to meet Minneapolis' climate goals. I am fully supportive of the City's recently adopted Climate Equity Plan. Pragmatic and impactful initiatives like insulating and weatherizing homes, expanding our tree canopy, and expanding EV charging infrastructure are among the actions we must prioritize to combat the climate crisis. In Ward 7, we can lead the way by investing in new technologies like electric cars and rooftop solar. We need to work toward a zero waste circular economy, and the City needs to lead in pursuit of this goal.

**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?**

- **Katie Cashman:** Our streets should make it safe and comfortable for everyone to get around, no matter how they choose to do so. Our transportation system should prioritize safety and accessibility for all people and equity for those without cars. We need to invest in expanding our bus system to be more reliable, frequent, and able to get every rider to their destination efficiently. We should also be expanding our electric bus fleet to phase out high polluting vehicles. Additionally, I support developing safer biking and walking infrastructure so our neighbors can access their jobs, homes, and services safely without needing to drive. This can include piloting a municipal snow clearing program, targeting bus stops, schools, libraries and other public institutions.
- **Kenneth Foxworth:** My campaign team's top priority is safety. I travel back and forth most of the time to work at delta airlines on the light rail and I see exactly what's going on. We are committed to keeping transportation safe and accessible so everyone can fairly travel around the city.
- **Scott Graham:** Does not answer this on 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?**
- **Katie Cashman:** I am committed to accessibility and being present in the community. My team and I have prioritized speaking to renters across Ward 7 that haven't had a seat at the table when community decisions are made and engaging them in local government. I will hold regular participatory budgeting meetings, hold office hours that are accessible to working people, and seek out input from community members of all backgrounds that have a stake in any decision I make on council. As an advocate, I know the power of community to collectively advance policy through convening different stakeholders and as city council member, I will value the input and ideas of all residents to make our city inclusive and sustainable.
  - **Kenneth Foxworth:** Create committees, workshops and town halls. Giving the community platforms to build on. We understand that we only can build policy where everyone is involved. The problem is we have less power under a strong mayor system. We plan to greet and teach ourselves, tap in with the ones left out then teach them about the impact.
  - **Scott Graham:** Does not answer this on 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?**
- **Katie Cashman:** I would be happy to meet regularly with MNYC to strategize together toward our shared agenda.
  - **Kenneth Foxworth:** Thank you for this question but it's very simple and the answer is in your organization name "youth". For over 30 years I have coached, mentored and created programs for and with the youth. I have worked in special education, I still work with the Minneapolis park and rec. Empowering our youth in my eyes is what Minneapolis needs to have the future we would like to produce.
  - **Scott Graham:** Does not answer this on 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?**
- **Katie Cashman:** I took a risk running for City Council in Ward 7 with a commitment to bringing all voices to the table. Ward 7 has historically voted exclusively in the interests of wealthy homeowners in the area. I have been proactively engaging all of Ward 7 and continue to speak to homeowners about how we need to be doing more in Minneapolis to support our neighbors. This type of campaign is work- and time-intensive but must be done if we are to create a Minneapolis that works better for everyone and is more responsive to community needs.

# Candidate Questionnaire

## *Ward 7 Responses*

- **Kenneth Foxworth:** I ran over 300 miles in the rain and snow to raise scholarships and grant funding for students of color and with disabilities to attend the university of Minnesota. They still use the grants and scholarships till this day. I did this when Bill Clinton was president. That's why they call me the people's champ.
- **Scott Graham:** Does not answer this on website