

Terry White and Bob Sullenthrop 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?

- **Andrea Jenkins:** During the rent stabilization debate, I have publicly stated that I believe the citizens of Minneapolis should have a say in the policy. I worked with my colleagues to create a working group to make a policy recommendation and I followed through on my promise to allow whatever recommendation to go before the citizens. I voted to refer this to the ballot when it was brought up at the City Council. Because the vote to refer this to the ballot failed, I believe we have to continue to work on a solution to rising rent that everyone can agree to. I am committed to studying this issue more, holding community meetings, and working with the community to shape a rent stabilization policy that has input from everyone.
- **Bob Sullenthrop:** *did not complete MNYC's questionnaire and does not have a website to view stances or policies.*
- **Soren Stevenson:** I support a strong rent stabilization policy that includes just cause protection for renters. Nothing is more important for healthy people, families, and communities than safe and stable housing. When rent increases push people and families out of their homes there are huge hidden costs that are especially burdensome for the most vulnerable among us. Those costs are financial, emotional, and temporal. Housing stability is essential for healthy families and safe communities. That's why we have to prioritize policies like rent stabilization with a 3% annual cap, without carve-outs like vacancy decontrol and new construction exemptions. I will work closely with community organizations that are directly organizing renters (like Inquilinxs Unidxs Por Justicia/United Renters for Justice and Faith in MN) in order to stay informed and listen to the community about the best ways to take action on housing policy. I know that the organizations that are doing deep base-building with renters and home-owners know best what action we need on housing policy, and I am prepared to listen and take action accordingly.
- **Terry White:** *Did not answer this on website*

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?

- **Andrea Jenkins:** I think the proposal was a good first step and wanted to allow residents to vote on that proposal. I do believe we have to strike a balance in rent stabilization. I would support a very modest increase to rent so that landlords can deal with the increased expenses of being a landlord, but that

modest increase can't go beyond income growth in our city nor can it create 40% increases in rent each year. That is unacceptable for me. So I would like to research how other progressive cities have passed rent stabilization, figure out what the initial increase was, and what is the maximum increase a landlord can increase rent each year.

- **Bob Sullenthrop:** *did not complete MNYC's questionnaire and does not have a website to view stances or policies.*
- **Soren Stevenson:** I support the work group recommendations of rent stabilization with a 3% cap, as outlined by Framework 5. We need a strong policy in order to address the scale of the housing crisis that is plaguing Minneapolis. I'm realistic about the possibility of winning rent stabilization and recognize that it will likely take compromise. I'm willing to explore good-faith policies that prioritize stable housing for everyone over profits for the few. I will not compromise on some of the aspects that could weaken a rent stabilization policy so far that it would render the policy inefficient, or worse could further harm renters while lining the pockets of big developers and corporations. In particular, I am not willing to compromise on vacancy control. In addition, I will work to ensure that a renter board overseeing rent stabilization heavily represents renters and community members who are most impacted by the housing crisis.
- Terry White: While some people advocate for a 3% rent control ordinance as a solution, I have reservations for several reasons:
 - i. While it may cap rents, it has the unintended effect of allowing rents to be raised 3% in an already high-rent market. Landlords may exploit this by raising rents and cutting spending on maintenance. They may also introduce new fees, such as utilities charges, that they aren't currently imposing.
 - ii. This approach discourages landlords from rewarding stable tenants by keeping their rent steady.
 - iii. Rent control has the potential to discourage new development and push it outside of Minneapolis. To increase the vacancy rate, which is good for renters, more rental properties are required.
 - iv. I believe a luxury tax has the potential to support ongoing housing production while funding programs for those in need of affordable housing.

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?

- **Andrea Jenkins:** As we are still dealing with the effects of COVID, I fully understand isolation and loneliness. I have advocated for the city to invest in creating more green spaces and more entertainment districts in the city to allow our residents and event promoters to host more events. As we look at

some of our transportation needs and how we achieve them, we must also look at how we are creating spacing around our transportation hubs that would allow for safe and fun events for everyone. In addition, I would like the city to continue to invest in programs that fund our arts events, festivals, and days in the park. The different cultures we have all over Minneapolis need to be showcased and celebrated more.

- **Bob Sullenthrop:** *did not complete MNYC's questionnaire and does not have a website to view stances or policies.*
- **Soren Stevenson:** We're lucky to live in the city that is the cultural and economic engine of this state. Our neighborhoods are vibrant communities that people want to live in. I believe that protecting our neighborhoods and communities, while investing in public transit that is accessible to everyone, is the best way to foster connection and a sense of place. I support changing zoning policy in order to allow for more low-impact businesses (coffee shops, restaurants, corner stores etc) throughout the city. These businesses improve our neighborhoods. They help us meet our daily needs without having to travel across town. They provide us with shared spaces where we can connect with neighbors and build relationships. They help us to feel more connected to our communities and give us a sense of place. I also strongly support events that foster connection and a sense of place in Minneapolis such as Open Streets. I hope to partner with Our Streets to learn how to best support Open Streets and bring back Open Streets Nicollet. Finally, I will work closely with Park Board representatives to learn how to best protect and invest in public parks and more green spaces.
- Terry White (from website): Support Small businesses. They are essential for job growth, lower crime, and a vibrant economy. City planners need to be receptive to learning how to support businesses as they strive to regain a foothold after the Pandemic and the after-effects of George Floyd's murder. Vacant businesses is one sign of urban decline. Nearby parking is usually essential for a business to succeed. Bold action is needed to re-establish a thriving economy.

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

- **Andrea Jenkins:** Public safety should be a continuum of services and responses determined by the community, including professional, well-trained, highly accountable, community-controlled police force to investigate crimes and hold people accountable for breaking the law; a separate mental health response to address mental health crises without the use of force by employing more social workers; and addressing economic inequities, including the lack of affordable housing and housing insecurities. Additionally, we have to fund programs that help our residents deal with substance abuse.
- **Bob Sullenthrop:** *did not complete MNYC's questionnaire and does not have a website to view stances or policies.*

- **Soren Stevenson:** Establishing a comprehensive public health approach to public safety is my top priority. Safety is one of our most basic needs. Everyone deserves to be safe no matter who they are or where they live. Our current approach to public safety has failed. Two consent decrees and \$111 Million in settlements for victims of police violence prove it. It's time for us to transform our approach to keeping folks safe by expanding our options for safety, centering racial justice and investing in violence prevention, mental health co-responders, and addiction services. By being proactive to address the basic needs that people have we can prevent crime and build a safer city. We can do better than the failed policies of current City leadership.
 - Terry White (from website): I advocate for recruiting and hiring more police officers in Minneapolis. However, it is essential that Minneapolis confronts its history of abuse and systematic racism while concurrently supporting the dedicated officers who protect our community daily (longer answer on site).
- 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?**
- **Andrea Jenkins:** We first have to do more community meetings to educate the residents about what the consent decree entails. We must also solicit our residents recommendations for additional changes we might still need to make. As we continue to implement the things in the consent decree, we must continually update the community through social media, news outlets, and community meetings about our progress. The Mayor, Police Chief, and our City Council members must all be committed to an open and transparent process as we do the tough work to reform policing in Minneapolis.
 - **Bob Sullenthrop:** *did not complete MNYC's questionnaire and does not have a website to view stances or policies.*
 - **Soren Stevenson:** The consent decree signed by the City is an important first step towards the important transformational change to policing that our communities need. But we know that community, especially community members that have been the most impacted by police violence and discrimination, need to be in the driver's seat of making this change happen in order for our shared values to be truly reflected. That is why on the council I will push to make sure that, at every step of the way, the City is giving regular public updates to the community on the implementation of the consent decree. I will also work closely with community organizations that advocate for police accountability and transformational change to policing in order to hear directly from the community about how the implementation of the consent decree is going and what feedback they might have. Finally, I will ensure that the City

offers ample opportunities for community input at city council meetings, community hearings, and more.

- Terry White: *Does 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?

- **Andrea Jenkins:** I have been a vocal advocate for making Minneapolis a carbon-neutral city by 2050 and will continue to do so. We must address climate change directly and with urgency, with a focus on justice for historically marginalized people. Important initiatives include:
 - i. creating community solar power projects, like the solar garden at Sabathani Community Center, a joint project with the Center for Energy and the Environment
 - ii. I led on creating a green job training center at Sabathani Community Center
 - iii. Do an energy audit of our homes. This will show how you use or waste energy and help identify ways to be more energy efficient.
 - iv. Help residents change incandescent light bulbs (which waste 90 percent of their energy as heat) to light emitting diodes (LEDs) through incentives. T
 - v. Help homeowners and landlords install energy efficient appliances in new and existing homes.
 - vi. Sign up to get your electricity from clean energy through your local utility or a certified renewable energy provider. Green-e.org can help you find certified green energy providers.
 - vii. Convert most if not all city buildings to solar power.
 - viii. The city is investing in electric vehicles, we have already added 64 EV's to the fleet, with more ordered.
- **Bob Sullenthrop:** *did not complete MNYC's questionnaire and does not have a website to view stances or policies.*
- **Soren Stevenson:** We are in a climate emergency that threatens all of us. It is paramount that we face the crisis head-on so that we can have a climate-resilient city. The People's Climate and Equity Plan provides a good road map of what we need to do in order to face the crisis at scale. In order to raise the revenue needed to meet the new climate goals in this plan, I believe we need to rework and increase the Pollution Control Annual Registration (PCAR) fee. The City must also get funding that is not based on polluters polluting our neighborhoods. This creates a wicked incentive for the City to have companies polluting so that they can continue to get money from it. The City must tax pollution into extinction and have dedicated funding to continue to address

environmental justice and the climate crisis even after the pollution-related money disappears. I will show up by advocating tirelessly for the measures presented in The People's Climate And Equity plan and ensuring it is fully funded and implemented.

- Terry White: *Does 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?

- **Andrea Jenkins:** I have already been committed to creating better transportation options for our city. I helped secure funding to complete the D-Line, a Bus Rapid Transit infrastructure project, which is along the most-used bus route in the entire state of Minnesota. I am also a big supporter of creating an express bus line that would connect Minneapolis and St. Paul. My biggest goal for our transit system would be to work with the community, Minneapolis and St. Paul city leaders, and our state leaders to introduce 100% free transit rides in both Minneapolis and St. Paul. I think this would help with the inequities in transportation and hopefully encourage more people to park and take public transit. I would also advocate for more electric charging stations across the city and into our neighborhoods that would allow electric bikes and scooters to be charged and more accessible to the public. We must also continue to invest in more bike lanes across the city so that people deciding to use other modes of transportation are safe when they do so.
- **Bob Sullenthrop:** *did not complete MNYC's questionnaire and does not have a website to view stances or policies.*
- **Soren Stevenson:** Investing in public transportation and complete streets are critical parts of adapting to our new climate reality. We must invest in infrastructure to make walking, biking, rolling, and transit more accessible, efficient, and safer for all. Currently, there are parts of our city that are basically off-limits to those without a car, either because transit doesn't service that area or because the streets are unsafe for pedestrians or cyclists. All of our city should be accessible to all of our neighbors without having to rely on cars. We need deep investments in walking, biking, rolling, and transit infrastructure. We also need to encourage the development of walkable neighborhoods with sufficient amenities so most folks can meet their daily needs without using a car. These changes not only benefit the environment but are also shown to produce more vibrant communities and happier people. This means that the City needs to dedicate transit-only lanes, give transit signal priority, and maintain clean and safe transit stops. This is crucial for building a transportation system that is people-focused, efficient, and climate-friendly.
- Terry White: *Does 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?

- **Andrea Jenkins:** Equity and access have been key issues I have focused on while on the City Council and I will continue to do so in another term. I host community office hours to allow our constituents to visit with their representative in their own neighborhood. This allows me to be more present in the ward instead of always working from downtown. I also believe in going to my constituents so I would continue to show up at community events and large housing complexes to hear directly from my constituents. Finally, the city needs more translators on staff to help our city leaders communicate with our growing diverse population.
- **Bob Sullenthrop:** *did not complete MNYC's questionnaire and does not have a website to view stances or policies.*
- **Soren Stevenson:** Without a doubt, one of the most important ways that I will use my platform and power to build participatory, multi-racial democracy is by working closely with base-building community organizations. I believe that elections and elected officials are most powerful when they are deeply rooted in community. It's no exaggeration to say that without base-building organizations, the wins that we need are nearly impossible. When you identify, recruit, and develop leaders, you're building lasting movement infrastructure—progressive community power that outlasts election cycles and terms of office. As organizations that do the important work of bringing people into democracy and ensuring their voices are heard, it's important that council members and the mayor's office recognize the value of your work. As an elected official accountable to both my ward and the city, my job will be to build public and administrative support for the ambitious policies we need to face the crises we're in. Part of that will be developing progressive policies that fundamentally transform the balance of power in our city, away from wealthy elites and toward those whose voices are marginalized in city hall and city ordinances.
- **Terry White:** *Does 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?

- **Andrea Jenkins:** In everything I do as a city council member, I work to build a coalition first. I am always trying to bring people together so that we can collectively talk through the issue in order for me to make an informed decision. I will continue to have that policy as it relates to the Minnesota Youth Collective. I want to hear your ideas on policies we should be pursuing and hear from you when you disagree with policy at the local level. As a council member, my job is to hear from everyone and try to make the best decision that will move everyone

forward. That also means we have to be willing to respectfully educate those who disagree with us on issues from time to time.

- **Bob Sullenthrop:** *did not complete MNYC's questionnaire and does not have a website to view stances or policies.*
- **Soren Stevenson:** We're living through a period of multiple overlapping and increasingly severe crises. We're facing the consequences of climate change, white supremacy, and predatory capitalism every day. At the heart of all of these crises, as well as at the heart of our chances to organize to overcome them, are young people. I believe that with more young people in leadership, and with more multi-generational movements, we will be able to pass policies that make our city more racially and economically just, while improving environmental sustainability and resilience. We can do that if we work together. To me, co-governance requires building deep relationships. It will be the responsibility of me and my staff to be in regular communication with MNYC. It will be my responsibility to know your membership's priorities and concerns. I will proactively seek out your input on policy development—involving MNYC in the process, from conceptualization to implementation. Too often, elected officials treat co-governance and sharing power as if that means they develop policy on their own and get your feedback later. That's not real power-sharing and doesn't reflect my values and commitments to multigenerational, multiracial, working-class and middle-class democracy.
- Terry White: *Does 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?

- **Andrea Jenkins:** As a Black Trans identified elected leader, everyday is a risk. That said, I have taken several unpopular stances to bring fairness and justice to communities. I introduced an ordinance to ban Conversion Therapy in the City of Minneapolis. I initiated the Transgender Equity Summit and it is now celebrating 10 years in existence. I authored a resolution declaring racism as a public health crisis, which led to the county and the state making the same declaration after that.
- **Bob Sullenthrop:** *did not complete MNYC's questionnaire and does not have a website to view stances or policies.*
- **Soren Stevenson:** Running for office feels like a kind of risk I'm taking on behalf of my community. Ward 8 is a progressive ward. Our community deserves a council member who shares their values and fights for them on the council. It is a basic requirement of democracy that the people we elect represent our views. Few thought it was possible to run a community-focused, issue-based campaign against the incumbent due to her identities. They were sure that bad faith actors would cynically deploy a deeply misinformed version of identity politics to help her retain the seat—even as she acts against the progressive values of her

constituents time and again. But I had faith in my neighbors that they would understand that elections aren't just, or even primarily, about candidates. Elections are about communities, about our shared values and vision for the future. Elections are about the policies we need to build the city we want to live in. It's a risk to run a community-focused, issue-based campaign during a time when everything in politics is reduced to a conflict of identities. We know we can love and respect Andrea Jenkins and her historic importance while rejecting the conservative politics she supports.

- Terry White: *Does not answer this on his website*