

# Jacob Frey

**Candidate for:** Mayor of Minneapolis

**How long have you lived in your community?**

12 Years

**Please list any notable supporters or groups of supporters for your campaign**

Senator Amy Klobuchar, Governor Tim Walz, Mayor Sharon Sayles Belton, Attorney General Keith Ellison, SEIU State Council, AFSCME Council 5, Teamsters Joint Council 32, Minneapolis Building Trades, among others.

**Minneapolis is facing a housing shortage unlike any we have experienced in recent history. What will you do to increase the number of homes available to Minneapolitans?**

My record speaks for itself on this question. We set records in terms of housing production when I was the Ward 3 city councilmember, and we've continued that work as mayor. Our ability to keep up with demand and prevent skyrocketing rent is predicated, in part, on our ability to increase housing supply. I have pushed for comprehensive zoning reform to allow for a diversity of housing options in every neighborhood, including affordable housing where it was previously blocked. Further, we've worked extensively to increase density along main corridors. To that point, I am extremely proud that even as our city has grown quickly, average rent in Minneapolis has never increased by more than 3% in a year throughout my term as Mayor. It is, in large part, due to the aggressive goals we've set and met with regard to increasing the supply of housing.

**\*Minnesota has one of the largest homeownership gaps between Whites and Blacks, Indigenous, and People of Color. This is one of MAR's primary concerns. What would you propose at the local level to close this homeownership gap?**

This issue is of critical importance. We've led classes, tutorials, and other educational opportunities toward this end. We've also put significant funding forward. We allocated over \$4 million in city funding for the Minneapolis Homes program that facilitates and provides financial assistance for redevelopment of the more than 450 city-owned vacant properties into affordable units and provided new opportunities and pathways for homeownership and generational wealth-building in BIPOC communities. I will continue to explore funds, trusts, direct assistance, and any other proposals that can help redress these inequities.

**How do you think the city can best balance the rights of tenants and property owners to effectively manage rental housing? Specifically, please speak to your positions on Rent Stabilization, Inclusionary Zoning, Rental Subsidies, and/or Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act.**

I do not believe in classic form rent control. Economic studies have widely shown that it has been counterproductive in achieving affordable housing, has reduced supply, disincentivized mobility, and diminished habitability of housing stock. On rent stabilization, I would need to see a policy that mitigates some of the negative effects of classical rent control before I consider supporting it. There are many different forms of inclusionary zoning. I have supported measures that incentivize affordable housing production, while allowing for continued supply and growth. I've been and continue to be a staunch supporter of affordable housing. We've invested more than 3 times the previous record in affordable housing in my administration, and more on a per capita basis than almost any city in the country. We have further started a program called Stable Home Stable Schools that has helped over 3000 school children in our city from becoming homeless. I've not yet seen a recommended policy from our staff and experts regarding TOPA. While having a city/public right to purchase could allow for retention of naturally occurring affordable housing in certain circumstances, much more work needs to be done before a broader requirement is instituted. Presently, we as a city are not equipped to regulate or enforce such a broad and extensive policy as what I've seen proposed by some candidates.

**Do you support the current Public safety charter amendment and why?**

I will not be voting for the public safety charter amendment. Broadly speaking on policing, I believe we need to adequately staff our police department. We've lost nearly 30% of our department in the past year and a half, and are simultaneously seeing an increase in crime. We've set an aggressive timeline to replenish the ranks within MPD. There are some pieces of the amendment that I would support. I support the creation of a Department of Public Safety. We need to better coordinate and integrate the work of discrete departments and continue to move toward a more public health driven approach to safety. A Department of Public Safety, if properly implemented, could move us closer to these goals. My main objection to the charter amendment is that it would have the Chief of Police or head of the Department of Public Safety report to 14 people - 13 council members and the mayor. When everyone is in charge, no one is in charge. We need to give clear and consistent direction to police officers and maintain clear lines of communication. No major city that I'm aware of has adopted this structure of oversight for law enforcement. It does not make sense, and I believe it would negatively impact accountability efforts within our department and safety outcomes within our city. I am extremely disappointed that the city council majority has approved language that does not meaningfully communicate, to voters, the extent of the changes of the proposed amendment. I vetoed this language twice, the first time it was sustained. The second veto (of slightly different, but still insufficient, language) was overturned.

**Do you support the current government structure charter amendment to enact a strong mayoral system and why?**

There are two general types of municipal governments: the weak mayor and the strong mayor system. Most small cities and towns across Minnesota (and the rest of the country) have a weak mayor system. These places usually contain a mayor who's part-time, unpaid, and sits on the city council, with a city manager who runs day-to-day operations. Strong mayor systems are more common in bigger cities and towns (New York, Saint Paul, and Duluth, for example). In this system, the mayor is vested with well-defined executive powers and carries out the daily operations of the city. In other words, the separation of powers between branches of government is clear. If a crisis occurs, the mayor can take swift action to manage it. Minneapolis combines both systems -- neither the council nor the mayor has clearly defined roles under our current charter. This arrangement causes unnecessary confusion. City departments often don't know who to report to and emergencies take too long to be addressed. I support this government restructure to align Minneapolis with nearly every major city in the United States and create a strong mayor system. By clarifying each division of city government's roles, our city will run more efficiently. I will be voting for it.

**Please provide links to all social media accounts connected to you or your campaign if any.**

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