

# Kristel Porter

**Candidate for:** Minneapolis Ward 5 City Council

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

Over 30 years

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

DFL Senior Caucus, DFL Environmental Caucus, MN 350, Local 82 Firefighters, Wolfpack Promotionals (unionized under the IBEW), Stuart Ackerberg, George Sherman, Dean Rose, Jackie Cherryhomes, Linda Higgins, Sam and Sylvia Kaplan.

**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?**

In order to increase the number of homes available to Minneapolitans, I plan to support the increase sufficient down payment assistance through revamping NRP by re-creating a TIF district to provide the funding available to make home ownership more affordable. I will support organizations that provide first-time homebuyer education and classes so that they have the funding needed so there is never a cost to participate. I also plan to work with and support local developers to build high quality affordable properties, including rental units, as this would build Minneapolis from within and prevent displacement of our community, specifically with our seniors and BIPOC communities. I really think that our city should work closely with organizations that are providing short and longer term shelter options to those who are suffering from chronic homelessness. This way we can begin to provide safe shelters for our homeless populations by creatively developing spaces like tiny home villages which can be managed by caseworkers and maintained through local contractors.

**\*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?**

To be honest, I am beginning to grow tired of the narrative behind every affordable housing discussion that always paints the picture of rental units and apartment pies in the sky. When we talk about affordable housing, we need to start talking about affordable ownership opportunities for North Minneapolis residents. The reason why there is a high demand for affordable housing in the first place, stems from the lack of generational wealth in our community. So, in order to build wealth for current and future generations in North Minneapolis, we need to get serious about affordable ownership. Especially in a time where we are trying to combat gentrification during the highest housing prices we have ever seen. The quickest way to build wealth is through land and home ownership. If the city does not begin to work with the state and federal government to get more creative on how to finance affordable ownership models for underrepresented communities, we will continue to see a rise in displacement and an ever-growing wealth gap in our city. This means building smaller homes or allowing property owners to develop condos, four unit townhomes or tiny homes on their properties, allowing for an affordable pathway to homeownership.

**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.**

Housing stability and affordability are complex, nuanced matters...there is no silver bullet or easy-approach that will fix everything in one fell swoop. This means a multi-pronged approach is needed: 1.) It means buckling down on slumlords. It is clear that there are gaps in our regulatory services arena – either in policy or in enforcement 2.) It means supporting our GOOD landlords. Approximately half of the dwelling units in Minneapolis are rental units – and with those comes landlords. If we want to preserve rental opportunities as one housing option, we need to stop vilifying all landlords and start making it easier for community members to want to BECOME landlords. 3.) It means helping tenants build a solid rental history. 4.) It means not making excuses

for bad tenants 5.) Getting back to local ownership – it is to the benefit of our city to have local landlords. 6.) Rent Stabilization is nice in concept, but not good policy in reality. Research shows that it actually creates the opposite of the intended outcome within a few years. 7.) Inclusionary Zoning – this is a great idea. It would have been even better had it not contained massive loopholes for large developers from the onset of its adoption.

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

No, Until a public safety approach that is actually effective, systematic and is focused on trauma is in place and working, we need a fully staffed MPD. It will take years for real change to be seen with a public health approach and for some, no interventions will be effective. Many people who are supporting this don't understand what it takes for individuals to change their lives and turn away from crime, violence, and substance abuse. Even in the best circumstances; If an individual is ready for change, has a strong support system, is not chemically dependent, has stable housing and is working on their trauma, it can still take years. If our Black Lives Mattered so much to the current city council, why have they continued their actions which have ultimately led to more deaths of black people, children, sons, daughters, mothers, and fathers than ever before. Losing a loved one to violence is a trauma no one should ever have to live with and I have experienced it multiple times in just one year. Our council has already demonstrated incompetence in what they are currently responsible for and therefore should not be allowed to take on more responsibility in being in charge of the MPD. Our current Chief Medaria Arradondo is right on time. He is our best chance of truly reforming the MPD. It's not going to happen overnight, it will take work, and cooperation from a newly elected council that will work with the mayor to make sure this happens.

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

Yes. Our city needs to catch up to other major metropolitan cities. The way our government is structured is to provide checks and balances over each branch; Judicial, Executive, and Legislative. On a state level that would be our State Supreme Court, our Governor, and our State Senators and House of Representatives. It is the Legislative body's duty to write, approve, and suggest policy or policy change such as amendments. It is the Executive Body's duty to execute, or enforce the implementation of that policy or amendment. Currently, our mayor should be the executive body presiding over the department heads such as; Regulatory Services, Public Works, Solid Waste and Recycling, Neighborhood Community Relations, and so on. The Council should be focusing on the work of policy, regulations, approving building permits and business licenses. Having the city's departments, especially the MPD controlled by 14 bosses is not a safe way for a larger city to be structured. Especially in the time of an emergency.

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