

Name: Julie Pointner
Seeking Office:
Plymouth Plymouth City
Council Ward 4

Interview #16

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9/28/2022 - 4:00:00 PM

How long have you lived in your community?

About 6 years

Are you a Homeowner or Renter?

Homeowner

Do you own other real property (e.g. Business, Cabin, Investment, or Rental Property)? If so, which?

No

Describe your civic and/or community engagement.

I am currently on the Plymouth Planning Commission and ran for Plymouth City Council Ward 4 in 2018. I also volunteer where and when needed.

What is your fundraising goal? How much have you raised to date?

I have received recent donations and do not have a total at this time. My goal is \$1,500

Are you accepting PAC contributions?

Yes

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

I will be placing this information on my website.

What are the most important housing challenges facing your community?

Plymouth's wonderful quality of life has presented us with a housing shortage for those wanting to live and work in Plymouth. Transportation is limited to Plymouth and I was one of those employees that worked in Plymouth, shopped in Plymouth, but didn't live here. I was a single mom so I had to do everything in Plymouth before I went home. As soon as I was an empty-nester I sold my home and moved to Plymouth. I know there are many others out there that would love to live and work in Plymouth.

The Twin Cities Metro 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 residents of your community?

I support housing specifically targeting older, more experienced, residents allowing for younger residents to have the opportunity to experience owning their own home.

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 home ownership gap?

As stated above, I think there needs to be more housing created so residents who are wanting to down size can move to other forms of housing. This allows the opportunity for all new homeowners, especially people of color, Indigenous and Black Minnesotan's homes to call their own. This is by no means a solution to the gap, but we have to start by opening up the market, notification of availability, and giving everyone a chance to live in Plymouth.

How do you think the city can best balance the rights of tenants and property owners to effectively manage rental housing?

This is one area that I would really love information on. What rights do the residents have for large increases? This is very important to me. I am not saying a moratorium, or freeze on rate increases is the answer, but there needs to be discussions.

What are your views on property tax rates in your community? Do you have concerns related to the city's property tax rate? If so, how would you address those concerns once elected?

I understand and hear from residents that they are upset about their tax levels increasing. Something I ask them to research as well, is their homes value. However, this doesn't solve the amount they are paying now. The biggest thing I could do on the council is take this into account as we are creating the budget. Be very cognizant of the impact on residents and to make sure that the cities budget always keeps the individual residents budgets in mind when making any decisions. The city council is a very important place where residents can have a direct conversation with their elected officials at a basic level. This is one place everyone can have a say. I was a single mom, I really understand that even a small increase can, and does, have a large impact on a monthly budget.

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

Pointnerforplymouth.com or Facebook: Julie for Plymouth City Council

The Minneapolis Area Association of REALTORS(R) may plan to interview some candidates virtually, would you be willing to participate, if contacted?