

Page 1: Government Affairs Committee - Candidate Selection Survey

**Q1**

Full Name

Lona Dallessandro

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**Q2**

Preferred phone number

763-312-3274

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**Q3**

Preferred email address

lonaforbloomington@gmail.com

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**Q4**

Office Sought

City Councilmember, District III

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**Q5**

Town of Residence

Bloomington, MN

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**Q6**

How long have you lived in your community?

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5+years in Bloomington, 15 years in Twin Cities metro

**Q7**

Are you a Homeowner or Renter?

homeowner

**Q8**

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

Yes, rental property in Utah, vacation home in St Croix, USVI, land in Florida

**Q9**

Describe your civic and/or community engagement.

- Lay leader for Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church since 2013
- Director and Chair, DFL local organizing unit 2017-2021
- Steering Team member, Best Buy LGBTQ+ Employee Resource Group, 2008-2011
- Member and supporter / volunteer - Izaak Walton League, Three Rivers Parks District, VEAP
- Advisory Board member - Bloomington Remembers Veterans
- Board Member - Bloomington Chamber of Commerce

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**Q12**

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

- Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation AFL-CIO
- Stonewall DFL
- North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters
- State Senator Dr. Alice Mann
- State Senator Melissa Wiklund
- Hennepin County Commissioner Debbie Goettel

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**Q13**

What are the most important housing challenges facing your community?

Lack of housing stock is the biggest barrier, cost of building is close behind. Without more smaller format units - condos, tiny homes, duplexes, triplexes - we cannot affordably house all who need homes.

**Q14**

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?

We have relaxed the lot requirements for houses throughout the city, which should incentivize building. We also need to prioritize building smaller format products. As a fully developed city, our new construction options are limited, so maximizing density on these parcels is essential.

**Q15**

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?

Our HRA is targeting these communities with homeownership support. I fully support their education, lending, and maintenance programs to improve the number and quality of BIPOC-owned property in Bloomington.

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**Q16**

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

I believe in clear communications regarding expectations between property owners and tenants, and that those expectations are reasonable, fair, and easy to understand. It is important that property owners are held to a standard of maintenance and care so that tenants can feel confident that they have a quality place to live. Property owners also need to have remedies when tenants violate the terms of their agreements. Establishing some standards in this area may be a way to support this more fairly and equitably.

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**Q17**

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 personally think we get decent value for our money at the city level, but the city tax levy is a small part of the overall tax levy applied to home owners here in Bloomington. My concerns about our taxes is related to these complications -home owners struggle to understand them, believe they have little recourse to address them, and as such they blame the city when taxes go up. In the last budget cycle, we passed a 9% levy - which is A LOT. But we can draw direct lines between those tax dollars and the services that were invested in with them. That transparency and accountability is essential to ensure trust between the city and it's residents.

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**Q18**

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

Facebook: @voteforlona

Instagram: @voteforlona

Twitter (X): @voteforlona

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