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Page 1: Government Affairs Committee - Candidate Selection Survey

**Q1**

Full Name

Lona Doolan

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**Q2**

Preferred phone number

612-850-8184

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**Q3**

Preferred email address

lona.doolan@gmail.com

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**Q4**

Office Sought

City Council

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**Q5**

Town of Residence

St. Anthony Village

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**Q6**

How long have you lived in your community?

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1985 as renter in Diamond 8 Terrace and 1987 as homeowner

**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?

No

**Q9**

Describe your civic and/or community engagement.

I serve as a Parks and Environment Commissioner in St. Anthony Village, and as a Citizens Advisor to the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization. I have served as an election judge since 2000 and for the past 10 years as Head Judge in Hennepin Precinct 2. I volunteer in our schools, helping younger students learn to explore and care for nature and older students learn about climate change, renewable energy, and climate actions. I am also active with Village Gardeners and Citizens for Sustainability, and I volunteer as a Minnesota Master Naturalist. I received the 2022 US President's Gold Volunteer Service award for 600 hours of service in our community.

**Q12**

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

Women Winning, Citizens for Sustainability

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**Q13**

What are the most important housing challenges facing your community?

The price of housing in St. Anthony has increased significantly over the past decade, due to the popularity of our school district, and it makes it difficult for many families to be able to afford to stay in the community. We also have a growing number of short-term rentals and Airbnb's in the community which makes it even more difficult to provide enough housing for permanent area residents.

**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?

St. Anthony has had several new senior housing complexes built in the last few years and recently had a new housing complex built on the site of a vacated Walmart. The city recently exchanged a parcel of land it owns within a business district with a larger property owned by Bremer Bank. The larger parcel of land can be sold to a property developer for additional housing. The city also owns a parcel of land at 39th and Stinson Boulevard. City Council and Commissioners recently met with experts from Urban Land Institute to

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explore options we might pursue in redeveloping this lot. One idea presented was to keep the land in perpetual trust and partner with a developer to build affordable townhouses on the site.

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**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?

To start, we can help build awareness and encourage homeowners to join in regional efforts to clear racial real estate covenants. St. Anthony should join Just Deeds Coalition, a group of Minnesota cities working to find race restrictions that still linger on deeds to record land ownership long after the federal Fair Housing Act voided them in 1968. Finally, the city should continue efforts to grow diversity in city staff, police and fire fighting workforces.

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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?

St. Anthony has several older apartment complexes with lower rental rates that are more affordable. We could work with those property owners to help them find funding resources that would incentivize them to keep rental rates lower and encourage them to take advantage of tax credits in the Inflation Reduction Act to install energy efficiencies which will in turn, help keep the cost of living lower for more of our rental communities.

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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?

It is expensive to live in St. Anthony. Last year, the average property taxes paid was 1.3%. Our largest tax increment financing (TIF) district will end in 2031, which will help spread the cost of city services across a greater portion of the community. However, until that time, we should look to promote more efficient use of existing tax dollars, 20% of our land use is in parks and public buildings. We should apply for federal and state funding programs to install rooftop solar to generate income from our public rooftops and work with local businesses and churches to maximize state, federal, and private resources to create solar farms over parking spaces and provide savings in power costs for residents. We should limit any future TIF incentives to projects that advance our goal of affordable housing.

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**Q18**

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

[www.lonadoolan.com](http://www.lonadoolan.com)

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