

Page 1: Government Affairs Committee - Candidate Selection Survey

**Q1**

Full Name

Luther Ranheim

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**Q2**

Preferred phone number

612-387-5925

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**Q3**

Preferred email address

luther@lutherforward12.com

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**Q4**

Office Sought

Minneapolis City Council, Ward 12

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**Q5**

Town of Residence

Minneapolis, MN

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**Q6**

How long have you lived in your community?

I've lived in South Minneapolis my entire life except for 4 years away at college. I've lived in the Howe neighborhood for the past 22 years, since 2001.

**Q7**

Are you a Homeowner or Renter?

I am a homeowner.

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**Q8**

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

I own a cabin property along with my wife Michelle.

**Q9**

Describe your civic and/or community engagement.

I have been involved in DFL politics my whole life, from door knocking with my parents for City Council candidates when I was a kid to hosting fundraisers for Gov. Walz early in his first run. I'm also a block leader and helped organize safety patrols for my neighbors in the aftermath of the murder of George Floyd. I know my neighbors well and I'm always sure to let them know what's going on in the community. I have also served on several nonprofit boards for organizations that create community connections. I'm currently on the boards of the Westminster Town Hall Forum & the American Composers Forum.

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**Q12**

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

My campaign is endorsed by AFSCME Council 5, Minneapolis Firefighters IAF Local 82, International Union of Operating Engineers Local 49, OutFront MN Action, Park Board President Meg Forney & Park Board Commissioner Cathy Abene.

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**Q13**

What are the most important housing challenges facing your community?

The two most affordable housing challenges in Ward 12 are the high pace of annual property tax levy increases and the preservation of naturally occurring affordable housing coupled with the development of affordable units in South Minneapolis.

**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?

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Simply put, we need to build more supply. The research is telling us that our pace of building housing, including affordable units, is lowering costs for working families. We need to continue building at the current pace for market rate housing and increase the pace of building affordable units without rent control, especially at a strict 3% annual cap with no exceptions. This misguided policy would lead to a halt of the housing development that we need to increase the supply side, as we saw in Saint Paul.

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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?

I believe that the large racial gap in homeownership is one of our collective failures on housing policy. Firstly, we need to expand the current programs that already exist that support closing the racial homeownership gap: Minneapolis Homes, the Affordable Housing Trust Fund, Stable Homes Stable Schools program, increase funding for the Minneapolis Public Housing Authority and identify sites for new affordable housing projects in South Minneapolis. Secondly, I will use my professional relationships in the non-profit and foundation sectors to create new, public-private partnerships focusing on building affordable housing supply for historically marginalized communities, especially people of color. My three-decades of work experience in social services nonprofits and community foundations positions me best of the candidates to be able to establish new housing programs that do not currently exist. We have one of the largest racial homeownership gaps in the country and I'm firmly committed to working towards closing this gap.

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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?

The city should regularly monitor rental housing, especially larger properties and those that receive greater funding from the city, to make sure that all units are up to code and in compliance with renter protection ordinances. Minneapolis has strong renter protection ordinances. I will work to ensure that tenants know their rights through ensuring that the city does proper inspections and outreach to renters.

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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?

Property taxes are a great concern of mine and Ward 12 residents. I speak with many Seniors at their doors who have paid off homes but who are living on fixed incomes and can't afford the increases in property taxes, along with special sidewalk or alley assessments. We need to acknowledge that property tax is a regressive tax that has a disproportionate impact on low income residents, especially Seniors. I would like to work with City and County leaders to propose a Low-Income Senior Home Improvement Property Tax Deduction.

I'm also concerned about the vacancy rate of Downtown office buildings, which has led to the overall property tax burden shifting to the homeowner. We all have a vested interest in a healthy, well-functioning Downtown and we need to ensure that we are not overly burdening the homeowner with the city's overall property tax assessments.

**Q18**

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

<https://www.lutherforward12.com/>

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## 2023 Minneapolis Area REALTORS Candidate Survey

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<https://www.instagram.com/lutherforward12/>

<https://twitter.com/lutherforward12>

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