

Name: Mary Supple
Seeking Office:
Richfield Mayor of
Richfield

Interview #13

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How long have you lived in your community?

19 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 the At-Large Member of the Richfield City Council and chair of the Richfield Housing and Redevelopment Authority. I taught in the Richfield Public Schools for 33 years before recently retiring. I was active in my community during all of those years.

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

My goal was to raise \$7,000 in addition to carryover funds from my previous campaign. I have currently raised over \$3,000 of that goal.

Are you accepting PAC contributions?

Yes

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

I am supported by current Richfield Mayor Maria Regan Gonzalez, former City Council Member and State Representative Edwina Garcia, Hennepin County Commissioner Debbie Goettel, Richfield School Board Member Paula Cole, former State Representative Linda Slocum, and other individuals. I am endorsed by the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation, Richfield Firefighters Local 1215, IBEW Local 292, Minneapolis Building and Construction Trades Council, Women Winning, and the Richfield DFL.

What are the most important housing challenges facing your community?

Keeping housing affordable is the biggest challenge. We have such a competitive market for housing that prices are being driven up for both homeowners and renters.

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 been supporting multi-family housing developments in Richfield the last few years to increase the supply of housing. We have also been working to build programs which help residents afford those homes. I will continue supporting those efforts.

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?

We have a first-time homeowner's program that works to close the gaps by providing forgivable down payment assistance loans. 91% of the participants in the program in 2021 were BIPOC. We also helped a local group of manufactured home homeowners to form a cooperative and facilitated down-payment assistance for them as well. Programs like these should be expanded.

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

There needs to be a balance of power and a healthy working relationship between tenants and property owners. We offer apartment rehab loans to encourage upkeep of rental properties. It is also important for tenants to know their rights and work together with management to find solutions to issues that arise.

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?

We have been working to increase our tax base so that property tax rates fall. However, even though the tax rate may be falling, the value of the properties has been increasing so fast, the property owners still pay more in taxes. I believe continuing to diversify and build our tax base is the best strategy for the future.

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

My website is marysupple.com. My Facebook page is still listed at Mary Supple, Richfield City Council.

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

Yes