

Page 1: Government Affairs Committee - Candidate Selection Survey

**Q1**

Full Name

Maurice Harris

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**Q2**

Preferred phone number

612-567-2584

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**Q3**

Preferred email address

maurice.s.harris@gmail.com

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**Q4**

Office Sought

Councilmember

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**Q5**

Town of Residence

Golden Valley

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**Q6**

How long have you lived in your community?

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6 1/2 years

**Q7**

Are you a Homeowner or Renter?

Renter

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**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.

Councilmember: 2020 - Present

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**Q12**

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

So far I have been endorsed by the Carpenters Union and been supported by the SD 45 DFL.

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**Q13**

What are the most important housing challenges facing your community?

The most important housing challenges facing Golden Valley are building a variety of housing options for our population, finding available space to develop housing, and ensuring housing affordability via property taxes.

**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?

The HRA and City Council approved of three lots to be developed for this Summer and will be redeveloping another three to four lots next year.

The HRA will also use its levy and TIF receipts from developments to purchase vacant lots in the next few years to continue the

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program.

I will push to include in our City's goals to review, and amend as needed, our zoning ordinances to allow for duplexes to be built on single-family lots (if the lot size allows), continue to allow for increased housing density in our commercial areas for multi-family housing, and finally using our Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) to construct housing on city owned and turnback lots from the State of Minnesota or Hennepin County.

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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?

During my time on Golden Valley's HRA, a program called Home Ownership Program for Equity (HOPE) was created. The goal of the HOPE program is to help reduce racial disparity in homeownership, build wealth, provide long-term affordability, and support Disadvantaged Business Enterprises. Through the City's Public Land Disposition Policy, we provide a land write-down as an incentive for development of homes affordable at less than 115 percent of Area Median Income (AMI), with a priority for affordability at 80 percent or 60 percent of AMI.

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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 in the last two years have been working property owners to ensure safe and effective management of rental housing by providing incentives such as the 4D housing tax credits to maintain and keep naturally affordable housing in Golden Valley. Additionally, the City has revamped its Crime-Free program with our property owners to be a more well-rounded program to discuss safety and tenant protections and resources such as tenant assistance programs especially during and after the pandemic.

### **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?

Golden Valley property taxes are higher than some of our surrounding cities due to our position as a "net loser" in fiscal disparities funding and not receiving local government aid. This is a major issue as we want our current homeowners, especially those on fixed income, to be able afford to pay property taxes and not be forced to move away from Golden Valley. To address these concerns it will

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take a multi-pronged approach: Keep spending in check to ensure property tax certainty year-over-year for residents, increase redevelopment of commercial and industrial properties to increase the tax base, and to partner with cities with similar challenges to lobby the legislature to amend the formula used to determine local government aid so that Golden Valley can receive some funding to help lower property taxes in Golden Valley.

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**Q18**

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

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MauriceHarrisGV>

Instagram: votemaurice

website: [www.mauriceforgv.com](http://www.mauriceforgv.com)

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