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Page 1: Government Affairs Committee - Candidate Selection Survey

**Q1**

Full Name

Rebecca Schack

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**Q2**

Preferred phone number

6125903735

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**Q3**

Preferred email address

rebecca@rebeccaschack.com

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**Q4**

Office Sought

Minnetonka City Council - Ward 2

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**Q5**

Town of Residence

Minnetonka

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**Q6**

How long have you lived in your community?

10.5 years

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**Q7**

Are you a Homeowner or Renter?

Homeowner

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**Q8**

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

No

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**Q9**

Describe your civic and/or community engagement.

I have served in the Minnetonka, Ward 2 City Council position since August 2018. Prior to joining the city council, I served on the Minnetonka Planning Commission from January 2017 through July 2018, and a portion of my time on the Planning Commission I served as Vice-Chair. I also served as a member of the 2040 Comprehensive Plan Committee.

Aside from my work with the city of Minnetonka, I serve as a volunteer attorney taking appointments through Hennepin County Family Court, Dakota County Legal Assistance, the Ramsey County Guardian ad Litem program, and the Volunteer Lawyers Network.

From January 2017 through December 2018, I worked as a volunteer at an Immigration Clinic offered by Lutheran Social Service.

I was on the Board of Directors for the nonprofit, Living with Lupus from 2011 through 2018.

I also currently volunteer with Prism, ICA, IOCP, and Bridging as I am able.

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**Q12**

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

I am endorsed by:

Patty Acomb, Minnesota State Representative  
Karen Anderson, Former Minnetonka Mayor  
Deb Calvert, Minnetonka City Councilmember  
Susan Carter, Former Minnetonka City Councilmember  
Clark Gregor, Plymouth City Councilmember  
Matthew Henry, Minnetonka Planning Commission and Sustainability Commission Member  
Melissa Johnston, Minnetonka Economic Development Advisory Commission Member  
Chris LaTondresse, Hennepin County Commissioner  
Terry Schneider, Former Minnetonka Mayor  
Josh Sewall, Minnetonka Planning Commission Chair  
Lisa Toomey, Eden Prairie City Councilmember  
Brian Golob, Minnetonka Sustainability Commission Member

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**Q13**

What are the most important housing challenges facing your community?

The biggest challenges to housing in Minnetonka (and the Twin Cities Metro area at large) is shortages of all housing types, but particularly mid-priced single level living properties for aging residents and affordable housing options for our community workforce. In a city like Minnetonka which is considered "fully developed" these challenges are exacerbated by some zoning limitations. The challenge for city leaders is to find a way to protect the expectations of existing residents (within reason), while still finding opportunities to increase density and new housing opportunities.

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**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 must recalibrate the way city leaders, staff, and residents see zoning. Too often the government adds limitations through new zoning requirements, without taking time to analyze what existing requirements may be outmoded, unnecessary, or an create an unreasonable impediment to development. We must always consider how we can change our policies and ordinances to encourage smart development. In Minnetonka it is critical that we remain a desirable place for developers to do business because we cannot increase our housing stock without the investment from quality developers.

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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?

Minnetonka has done extensive work and made significant investments in order to increase homeownership opportunities for the BIPOC community. Minnetonka was the original city partner in the Homes Within Reach program and we continue to invest \$300,000 annually in the program. In 2023, supplemented our long standing down-payment assistance program by adding a similar, but more robust program called "Welcome to Minnetonka" where we offer a forgivable loan for down-payment assistance up to \$75,000. The program is intended to assist those who have been historically marginalized build generational wealth through real estate.

Minnetonka and our surrounding neighbors need to continue to prioritize these types of programs to give those who have historically been left behind the opportunity to thrive. I am committed to continuing to explore new ways to make homeownership a reality to all, but particularly to the BIPOC communities.

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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?

It is important that all residents feel safe, secure and welcome in the community. This particularly includes renters. Likewise, in order to remain a desirable place for property owners to do business, our regulations cannot be overreaching. I support maintaining and potentially expanding tenant rights related to property conditions, eviction notices, and a forum to resolve tenant landlord disputes outside of the judicial system. I am also supportive of exploring rental licensing as a way to manage and inventory the rental units in our city. I also support the creation of an advisory committee or task force seated with both local renters and property owners/landlords to help us review current policy and explore new policies that meet the needs of both landlords and tenants.

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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?

In an expansive survey of our residents during spring/summer 2023, 90% of those surveyed indicated that they believe they receive a good value in Minnetonka for their tax dollars and also indicated they would support a reasonable tax increase to maintain the current city services. This is meaningful feedback that I take to heart. That being said, I also understand that Minnetonka is an expensive place to live and property taxes are a part of that expense. I take my responsibility as a steward of our tax payor's money very seriously. I am committed to continuing to examine our budget and make adjustments to ensure that we are providing the superior services our residents expect without making frivolous expenditures. I have and will continue to push our staff to look for ways to cut expenses and secure alternative funding, such as grants and state and federal bonding dollars, to defray the direct costs for our residents.

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**Q18**

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

Website: [rebeccaschack.com](http://rebeccaschack.com)

Facebook: [@facebook.com/voterebeccaschack](https://www.facebook.com/voterebeccaschack)

Instagram: [@voteschack](https://www.instagram.com/voteschack)

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