

Lona Dallessandro

Candidate for: Bloomington City Council district 3

How long have you lived in your community?

I have lived in the Twin Cities since 2008 and in Bloomington since 2018

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

Andrew Carlson, State Representative Michael Howard, State Representative Debbie Goetell, Hennepin County Commissioner other endorsements are listed at www.voteforlona.com/endorsements

What are the most important housing challenges facing your community?

Affordable access to a variety of housing options for Bloomington residents is the biggest issue we face, and I am most concerned about our seniors will be faced with as they plan to down-size while on fixed income.

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?

I would like to see the city push for a wider variety of home types - like duplexes, quadplexes, condos and townhomes to increase density while maintaining the lower profile aesthetic of our neighborhoods. Having step up housing that can be owned is a great way to enable new homebuyers the ability to build wealth and capital, and to offer options for seniors when they downsize.

REALTORS® hold Diversity, Equity and Inclusion as core values. Please describe how you view the importance of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in your role as an elected official.

If I am elected, I would likely be the first openly gay member of Bloomington's city council, and I know that my lived experience as a gay person will provide a unique point of view to the Council discussions. That's what is important about DEI - that the lived experiences of the people making decisions reflect the lived experiences of those they serve, I am glad that my successful candidacy will add to the diversity of Bloomington's city council, and I am committed to continuing to advocate for more in all areas of our city government where I'd have influence.

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 homeownership gap?

I am grateful for the work of our Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) to address these disparities actively. Ultimately, we must make sure that we have an inventory of housing options that are truly affordable, so expanding our Opportunity Housing Ordinance may be an option as well as innovations in the Housing within Reach program of Hennepin County.

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

I believe in clear communications regarding expectations between property owners and tenants, and that those expectations are reasonable, fair, and easy to understand. I believe that the city may be able to assist here by helping to define those parameters for all parties, and then can assist with ongoing communication and support.

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?

I personally think we get decent value for our money at the city level, but the city tax levy is a small part of the overall tax levy applied to home owners here in Bloomington. My concerns about our taxes is related to these complications -home owners struggle to understand them, believe they have little recourse to address them, and as such they blame the city when taxes go up. A better relationship with Hennepin County is also needed, so we

can better support residents as they grapple with the increases. It is a good thing when property values go up, but it affects the taxes that people pay - and if they don't think they are getting good services for those dollars, then we must address that.

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

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