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Q1

Full Name

Scott Graham

Q2

Preferred phone number

612-597-7778

Q3

Preferred email address

scott@scottformpls.com

Q4

Office Sought

Minneapolis City Council Ward 7

Q5

Town of Residence

Minneapolis

Q6

How long have you lived in your community?

Since 1991

Q7

Are you a Homeowner or Renter?

We own a duplex. We live in one unit and rent the other unit.

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.

I have been very active in the DFL party holding leadership positions such as senate district chair and congressional district chair. I have served on many DFL statewide and local committees and I have worked on countless political campaigns. I also previously sat on the board of Riverton Community Housing, a non-profit housing provider. I initiated my block's Neighborhood Night Out and served on the board of the Bryn Mawr neighborhood association.

Q12

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

Our campaign is endorsed by The North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters, Minneapolis Firefighters Local 82, AFSCME Council 5, Minneapolis City Council Member Lisa Goodman, Former DFL State Party Chair Mike Erlandson, Former Minneapolis School Board Chair Tom Madden, and MPHA Board Chair Tom Hoch.

Q13

What are the most important housing challenges facing your community?

Not enough housing at all levels. Market-rate and luxury housing have been in short supply for many months, years. It has created a supply/demand imbalance which has put heavy burdens on buyers. Affordable housing units, from 60% down to 40% AMI are always in short supply despite the amazing network of property developers in Minneapolis willing to incorporate affordability into many developments. Deeply affordable housing at 30% AMI and below also is in acute shortage and this housing is especially difficult because of the expense. Wrap-around services like mental health counseling and substance treatment exist in constant deficit.

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?

My approach is "yes, and". We need to be involved on many fronts and in varying ways. Our market-rate housing creation should rely on our property development partners. I oppose instituting a rent control policy as it weakens development by choking the supply of

capital. Along with market-rate and luxury housing we need to create affordable housing. By helping developers identify sources for their capital stack we can develop housing to address neighbors living at and below 60% AMI. I support preserving existing affordable housing through City programs like Minneapolis Homes, the Affordable Housing Trust Fund and the Naturally Occurring Affordable Housing Preservation Fund. I will work to expand and create programs that incentivize naturally occurring affordable housing like the 4d Affordable Housing Incentive. Lastly, deeply affordable housing, housing that supports people struggling at or below 30% AMI; this is unique and requires different funding strategies and partnerships. It should feature wrap-around services like substance treatment, trauma-informed mental health counseling, among others. I support Minneapolis' strong appropriation to the Minneapolis Public Housing Authority (MPHA) to support the development of more deeply affordable housing and ensure the quality of our public housing stock is maintained. I will partner with Hennepin County, the MPHA, and Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS) to expand the Stable Homes Stable Schools program that helps families with MPS children.

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 support the Minneapolis Homes program which helps communities of color access home ownership by building and financing homes. There is a Developer Technical Assistance component to assure the supply of homes is sustained. There are also home ownership training components to assure home owners assisted by the program thrive in their new home. Mayor Frey increased funding for Minneapolis Homes to \$2M in his proposed budget and I support the increase.

Although it does nothing to increase home ownership in minority communities, I participate in the Just Deeds project to eliminate hateful and racist deed restrictions that, while unenforceable, still exist on property deeds.

Minneapolis' Green Zones very closely mirror communities of color in Minneapolis. The Green Zones have been identified as the locations the city will institute its Climate Equity Plan initially. These programs, which are not necessarily aimed at home ownership, will do a lot to reduce energy costs in communities of color, which will in turn stabilize peoples' financial lives and drive them ever-closer to stability and possible home ownership. The radical imbalance of generational wealth between white communities and communities of color is at the heart of the homeownership gap, so all of these measures contribute to rectifying the historical imbalance.

Q16

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

Minneapolis has a fairly strict rental licensing ordinance and inspection protocol. My real estate brokerage, Uptown Realty, previously had a property management division and I participated hands-on. Most of our properties were in Minneapolis, so I was keenly aware of

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the regulations. Problem property owners who flagrantly abuse tenants and break regulations need to be dealt with swiftly and effectively. Minneapolis does a pretty good job with this, although the worst offenders seem to survive longer than they should. Most property owners are rule-abiding and want what is fair and best for everyone. They provide a quality product at a market price and should expect equal performance from their tenants. If tenants feel aggrieved they can call the City who will send a housing inspector to look into the issue. Sometimes tenants get educated about what is allowable, sometimes corrective action must be taken by the property owner. It is a fair system for the most part and it works.

As I mentioned above I am opposed to rent control. It has never worked as intended and generally hurts the tenants it seeks to support.

In situations where disagreements arise and cannot be resolved through typical means the court system is there to help. Nobody wants to go to court but sometimes it is the only way intractable parties can affect a solution.

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?

Minneapolis residential property taxes are relatively high compared to our surrounding cities. Commercial property is taxed at a rate approximately triple that of residential property, so taxes are high. That said, Minneapolis bears the burden of being home to many of the state's assets like stadiums, arts institutions and music venues. It is an expensive city to run. We are also home to the state's largest school district. Minneapolis is a leader on many initiatives that raise taxes and costs; we encourage surrounding cities to follow. I am not blind to the burden placed on residents and businesses in Minneapolis, and I will work hard to attract state and federal funding to help ease the tax burden for our stakeholders.

Minneapolis' downtown is approaching radical change as building owners contemplate changing the uses of their buildings in response to changing business patterns of their tenants. I anticipate foreclosures in downtown that will shock our economic system. City Council is going to have to identify as much Federal and State financing as it can to shield homeowners from additional tax burdens as we navigate these changes. We have a tough road ahead of us and business-minded individuals need to be involved in navigating us through it.

Q18

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

Twitter/X: <https://twitter.com/scottformpls>

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

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/scottformpls>

Threads: @scottformpls
