

Page 1: Government Affairs Committee - Candidate Selection Survey

Q1

Full Name

Shawn Nelson

Q2

Preferred phone number

952-479-0471

Q3

Preferred email address

shawn@nelsonforbloomington.com

Q4

Office Sought

Councilmember, District 2

Q5

Town of Residence

Bloomington

Q6

How long have you lived in your community?

24 years

Q7

Are you a Homeowner or Renter?

Homeowner

Q8

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

Rental in Bloomington

Q9

Describe your civic and/or community engagement.

Bloomington City Council since Nov 2017

Board Member, VEAP

Board Member, Bloomington Convention and Visitors Bureau

Past Board Member, Bloomington Chamber of Commerce

Q12

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

Housing First MN

Regional Labor Federation

Previous campaigns - MN Realtors

Q13

What are the most important housing challenges facing your community?

Supply, especially at entry level

Difficulty in creating home ownership opportunities in a fully developed city where multifamily is mostly rental.

Increasing prices - making it difficult for people to buy first house and driving up taxes, particularly for those least able to afford an increase.

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?

I supported the Opportunity Housing Ordinance to provide more multifamily housing.

I championed the zoning and single family standards reform to reduce the cost of housing, reduce the tax subsidies to for affordable units, and to provide opportunities for new types of housing in the city to meet the needs of seniors and younger families.

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?

Bloomington is a leader in tackling this issue with its multifamily and single family reforms to make more opportunities available. We also have a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion team that helps us with policies and outreach. There are still significant challenges, especially given the difficulty of building owner occupied multifamily housing. The reality is we have limited land for new single family units, although we have tried to increase the supply with zoning reform.

Q16

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

The property owner has the right to do what they want with the property and an obligation, legally and ethically, to provide notice to tenants so they can make decisions. I don't see the city imposing rent control or other measures to restrict the rights of property owners as prudent or appropriate.

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?

I guess I can't complain too much since I have voted for the levy since 2017. I am proud that we kept increases to very low levels. The last year was a larger increase (although in line with neighboring cities) directed largely to increases in staffing for police and fire. I do have significant concerns looking forward due to the transition to a staffed fire department, investments in our parks master plan, and aging infrastructure throughout the community. We will need to focused on needs and few wants, but avoid getting into the wishes that don't serve most of the community.

Q18

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

facebook - @nelsonforbloomington
I don't use it much.
