

Page 1: Government Affairs Committee - Candidate Selection Survey

**Q1**

Full Name

Sophia Ginis

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**Q2**

Preferred phone number

6124089558

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**Q3**

Preferred email address

sophia.ginis@gmail.com

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**Q4**

Office Sought

City Council, At-Large

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**Q5**

Town of Residence

Golden Valley

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**Q6**

How long have you lived in your community?

Since 2019 (purchased a vacant piece of land a few years before that, and a super awesome relator connected me to great people to work with)

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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.

With almost 20 years of experience in community affairs, I am a seasoned public sector leader. I have successfully overseen some of the most challenging infrastructure projects in Minnesota and currently serves as the Director of Community Affairs at Metro Transit. Through my career, I have consistently worked to improve public processes and amplify the community's voice in government decision-making.

In my personal time I have always been a very active member of my community. I served on community boards, lead community environmental processes, and engaged in elections. When I moved to Golden Valley, I instantly joined city boards, serving on the Board of Zoning Appeals and then the Planning Commission, before being appointed to the City Council.

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**Q12**

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

DLF Senate District 43, Stonewall DFL, Run for Somethings, many neighbors and community leaders

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**Q13**

What are the most important housing challenges facing your community?

Golden Valley does not have enough housing choice, including more affordable options. I want to work to ensure we have more verity to accommodate young adults to seniors and everyone in between. We have lovely single family homes but we need more townhomes and apartments.

**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 will support increased density in strategic locations. I have supported TIF to help make projects happen, and I will encourage more long-term plans/thinking in our short and long term planning work.

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**Q15**

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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?

Golden Valley is trying to slowly increase funds available in our HRA. I would love to do more to support first time home buyers, and to build and maintain more properties in Golden Valley that are targeted at BIPOC communities. Golden Valley has the HOPE program and I will continue to foster it.

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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?

Being in communication with both is a first step. In Golden Valley the biggest issues is when properties are not being maintained. I also hope we increase the amount of housing options for those with vouchers.

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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?

Golden Valley's property taxes have been a little higher compared to similar cities. To help with this, I want more strategic density in our community to take some of the burden off of single family homes. I also hope we can change the Fiscal Disparities Formula, which is currently hurting Golden Valley.

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**Q18**

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

<https://www.facebook.com/electginis/>

<https://www.instagram.com/ginissophia/>

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