

Name: April Graves
Seeking Office:
Brooklyn Center Mayor

Interview #11
RPAC Endorsed

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How long have you lived in your community?

10 years

Are you a Homeowner or Renter?

homeowner

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

no

Describe your civic and/or community engagement.

I have served on the Brooklyn Center City Council since 2015. I have served as the liaison to the Park and Recreation Commission and the Youth Council. I am a member of the rotary and I helped to start the district parent advisory group for Brooklyn Center Schools. I teach donation-based yoga in the community, and I mentor young mothers. I also work for the Minneapolis OVP and have many opportunities to work with youth, outreach groups, schools and community organizations through my role as a public health specialist/youth violence prevention associate.

What is your fundraising goal? How much have you raised to date?

\$8,000. About \$5,000

Are you accepting PAC contributions?

Yes

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

DFL, Women Winning, Former City Manager, Former Mayor, Current Councilmember

What are the most important housing challenges facing your community?

The need to diversify our housing stock, so we can both protect our NOAH as well as provide opportunities for individuals and families to expand beyond starter homes which will help to build our tax base and help individuals build generational wealth. We also want to make sure our rental properties are being managed with fairness and that they are maintained to provide healthy and safe homes for tenants.

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 are in the process of approving a large development that would provide housing for seniors, market rate, mixed income and affordable options in our city. In my time on the council we have seen many new rental units some workforce, some affordable , some market rate and some luxury. We also built multi-family units and single family homes.

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?

We have restated our first-time homebuyers down payment assistance program in BC. We also have partnered with organizations to offer first time homebuyer's classes to our residents to help them better prepare for homeownership.

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

I think cities need to find a balance between the rights of renters to have safe, affordable, fair and well managed living conditions while also respecting and protecting the rights of property owners. The probable means that neither will get 100% of what they want but that there will a balance compromise. I have first had experience trying to navigate this balance.

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?

Not especially concerned. It's difficult because we have a small-town budget with big city problems. Also property taxes are not totally within our control at the local level. But I'd be interested in learning more about how I could be more proactive in helping to lower rates.

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

website: aprilforbc.com facebook page: Brooklyn Center City Councilmember April Graves for Mayor

The Minneapolis Area Association of REALTORS(R) may plan to interview some candidates virtually, would you be willing to participate, if contacted?

Yes