

Emily Koski

Candidate for: Minneapolis City Council - Ward 11

How long have you lived in your community?

I am a lifelong resident of Minneapolis. I was born and raised in Northeast Minneapolis. My husband, Mike and I bought our family home near Pearl Park, 5 years ago.

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

I am endorsed by the following organizations: Minneapolis Area DFL Senior Caucus, Operation Safety Now, Minneapolis Firefighters Local 82, Women Winning, SMART SMW Local 10, Minnesota Municipal Retirement Association, Minneapolis Building and Construction Trades Council, and IBEW Local 292. I am also endorsed by community members throughout Ward 11, a complete list of which can be found at <https://www.emilykoskiformpls.com/endorsements>.

Minneapolis 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 Minneapolitans?

As Minneapolis's population grows, our housing sector must grow as well to accommodate for more people. I believe that as we work to accommodate our growing population, we must take steps to increase not only housing supply, but diversity and affordability in all neighborhoods throughout Minneapolis. We must take a multifaceted approach that focuses not only on creating opportunities for future residents of Minneapolis but preserving opportunities for current residents of Minneapolis. As a City Council Member, I will work to diversify our housing sector to meet the needs of Minneapolis residents – i.e. variation in size, type, affordability, and location of housing. I will work to find ways to incentivize the production of more affordable housing opportunities for neighborhood organizations, nonprofits, developers, etcetera. And of course, I will work with developers to produce more homeownership and housing opportunities city wide. I also believe that we must continue to update and expand our transportation systems to make our city increasingly accessible to our people, communities and businesses. Increasing accessibility in our transportation system will help expand transit services between all communities and narrow socio-economic disparities throughout the city. I will work to tackle our housing shortage by creating partnerships with organizations and advocacy groups, building community support through communication and collaboration, and building coalition with fellow City Council Members to achieve our shared goals.

***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 a strong supporter of closing the homeownership gap between White residents and BIPOC residents. Creating a justice, equitable and inclusive housing market will require intentional development plans that focus on these priorities. In order to close the homeownership gap, we must combat the racially restrictive housing practices and current lending practices that have reduced housing opportunities for BIPOC residents. We also must work to create pathways to homeownership for BIPOC residents. Homeownership is an important part of building wealth; however, it requires a certain degree of financial resilience that not all residents have. We need to provide programs for residents that do not have financial resilience and that will support them as they face the unexpected financial burdens of homeownership.

How do you think the city can best balance the rights of tenants and property owners to effectively manage rental housing? Specifically, please speak to your positions on Rent Stabilization, Inclusionary Zoning, Rental Subsidies, and/or Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act.

I believe a balance must be struck between the rights of tenants and the rights of property owners so that we can effectively manage rental housing. I believe it is the responsibility of our government to protect the rights of all residents and provide protection and support where necessary. I support Rent Stabilization, Inclusionary Zoning,

Rental Subsidies. I believe these policies will allow us to provide protection and support to residents, as well as incentivize the development of affordable housing. I do not support the implementation of the Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act in Minneapolis. I do not believe that the significant financial investment that the Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act would require in order to be implemented in Minneapolis is the best or most effective use of our limited resources. I believe we must weigh all potential housing policies based on an outcome driven approach, more specifically, I believe we must evaluate proposed housing policies based on how they help achieve specific goals along the housing continuum. I believe this will allow us to prioritize our limited resources to have the greatest effect.

Do you support the current Public safety charter amendment and why?

I do not support the Public Safety Charter Amendment proposed by Yes 4 Minneapolis. I do not support the language in the Public Safety Charter Amendment that outlines that the Department of Public Safety would “include licensed police officers if necessary”. While I believe we need to reform our public safety system so that it works for everyone, I believe that our reformed public safety system needs to include police officers. Additionally, the Public Safety Charter Amendment outlines that the Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety would report to the Mayor, as well as the entire, 13-member, City Council. I do not believe that having the Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety report to 14 individuals is an effective form of management, nor do I believe it allows for clear lines of accountability.

Do you support the current government structure charter amendment to enact a strong mayoral system and why?

I support the Government Structure Charter Amendment proposed by the Charter Commission. I believe that recent events - such as the COVID-19 pandemic - have shed light on just how difficult it is for our city government to effectively and efficiently respond to crises. I think there could be benefits to a Charter Amendment that gives our mayor the ability to direct and supervisor our city's departments, as it would streamline our crisis response.

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

Website: <https://www.emilykoskiformpls.com/> Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/emilykoskimpls>
Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/emilykoskimpls/> Twitter: <https://twitter.com/emilykoskimpls>