



2016 Voter Guide NCEC Elections Districts 2, 4, 6, 8

Voter Guide prepared by the
Neighborhood and Community
Relations Department.

The Voter Guide is available online:
[www.minneapolismn.gov/ncr/boards/ncec/
WCMSP-177659](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ncr/boards/ncec/WCMSP-177659).



District 2 Voter Guide

As part of the neighborhood election process to elect 4 neighborhood representatives on to the City's Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission (NCEC), applicants interested in serving were asked to respond to the following statements on their applications to be used in the Voter's Guide:

- ❖ How have your life/work/cultural experiences prepared you to be a neighborhood representative on the NCEC?
- ❖ How have you participated in your neighborhood organization?
- ❖ Describe why you want to serve on the NCEC.
- ❖ How do you plan to maintain a relationship with the neighborhoods you would represent, if elected?
- ❖ How do you plan to engage with under-represented groups within your district?
- ❖ Please list any community-based organization(s) with which you are currently involved.
- ❖ Please list all current paid and unpaid affiliations.

District 2 Neighborhoods: Armatage, Cedar-Isles-Dean, East Harriet, Fulton, Kenny, Linden Hills, Lynnhurst, Tangletown, West Calhoun and Windom.

Candidates for District 2

- Denis Houle

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City-Wide Election for Districts 2, 4, 6, 8

Thursday, June 16, 2016

6:30 PM to 8:00 PM

Crown Roller Mill

105 5th Avenue South

Minneapolis, MN 55401

[\(Click here for a MAP and DIRECTIONS\)](#)

All votes must be cast on June 16, 2016

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The building is ADA accessible. If any special accommodations are needed, please contact 612-673-3163.

Denis Houle

1. How have your life/work/cultural experiences prepared you to be a neighborhood representative on the NCEC?

I grew up in a small Iron Range town that taught me the value and importance of knowing your neighbors, participating in city affairs and directly communicating with government leaders. And in my various employments I always interacted with the public, listening to their questions and needs and providing whatever services they required. This outstate Minnesota perspective, combined with strong inclinations toward service, participation and direct communication, prepared me to serve both my neighborhood and Minneapolis on the NCEC.

2. How have you participated in your neighborhood organization?

Since the early 2000s I served as the Armatage Neighborhood Association's president for three years, treasurer for one year, and am currently completing the second year of my second three-year (I hope) stint as president. I have belonged to the board as a member when I have not served as an executive.

3. Describe why you want to serve on the NCEC.

I want to serve on the NCEC because I possess a unique perspective that includes working with the NRP and neighborhood and community organizations. My neighborhood participation began in the early 2000s when I and many others helped Armatage determine how and where to spend its NRP Phase II funds. Today I believe I am the last NCEC member with this NRP experience. This experience led me to join the Armatage Neighborhood Association and, later, the NCEC, because today these organizations, like all neighborhood organizations throughout Minneapolis, provide people their first experience directly participating with Minneapolis city government. And after two terms I have learned much about the city and will be an even more effective member this term.

4. How do you plan to maintain a relationship with the neighborhoods you would represent, if elected?

During my term I have attended several neighborhood board meetings and I have emailed them many times about significant issues facing neighborhoods, particularly neighborhood funding. In addition I have attended open houses sponsored by the Southwest Minneapolis Business Association and city council member Palmisano and several summer festivals. During my next term I intend to attend as many events as possible, including

the ones mentioned above, and I will continue contacting neighborhoods about important issues facing them.

5. How do you plan to engage with under-represented groups within your district?

At Armatage we have attempted to engage with under-represented groups with neighborhood socials, targeted mailings, a yearly festival, increased online presence and heightened awareness about the neighborhood board, including information about membership, elections, meeting times and locations, and board duties and functions. In addition we created several subcommittees focusing upon specific neighborhood issues that welcome non-board members. And I have contacted neighborhoods about their efforts to engage under-represented groups. I would help neighborhoods both replicate these efforts and learn from each other to increase engagement.

6. Please list any community-based organization(s) with which you are currently involved.

Armatage Neighborhood Association

7. Please list all current and unpaid affiliations.

I recently joined the planning committee at Christ The King Catholic Church, where I have belonged since 1996. The committee is working to increase fundraising efforts, restructure its organization and improve its communications and membership retention.



District 4 Voter Guide

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- ❖ How have you participated in your neighborhood organization?
- ❖ Describe why you want to serve on the NCEC.
- ❖ How do you plan to maintain a relationship with the neighborhoods you would represent, if elected?
- ❖ How do you plan to engage with under-represented groups within your district?
- ❖ Please list any community-based organization(s) with which you are currently involved.
- ❖ Please list all current paid and unpaid affiliations.

District 4 Neighborhoods: Audubon Park, Beltrami, Bottineau, Columbia Park, Holland, Logan Park, Marcy Holmes, Marshall Terrace, Nicollet Island/East Bank, Northeast Park, Sheridan, St. Anthony East, St. Anthony West, Waite Park and Windom Park.

Candidates for District 4

- Marcus Mills
- Pat Vogel

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Marcus Mills

1. How have your life/work/cultural experiences prepared you to be a neighborhood representative on the NCEC?

As a Communications Consultant for Non-Profits and Political Campaigns, I've made it a point to familiarize myself with communities and neighborhoods. I serve on the Marcy-Holmes Neighborhood Association (MHNA) Board and I've chaired or co-chaired several of its committees and task forces. I often represent my neighborhood and others at the University District Alliance (the UDA Housing and Livability Committees), the City's Hennepin/First Ave Study, before the City Council, and even as an elector for the NCEC in the last cycle. My talents and services have been employed in advisory roles from messaging and communication crafting with neighborhoods and local organizations to policy and ordinance reform with Community Power, City Staff and my Council Member Jacob Frey. Also, my skills, connections and unique perspective have made me an uncommon voice for those who find themselves regularly or even momentarily excluded from such discourse by circumstance, structural issues or fiat.

2. How have you participated in your neighborhood organization?

In the past two years, alone, I have Co-Chaired the MHNA Land Use and Development Committee. I recently co-founded and currently Co-Chair the new MHNA Environment Committee. I've had the honor of chairing the MHNA Housing Diversity Task Force, its Nominations Committee; I hold a director's position on the MHNA Board and membership in its current Audit Committee. Also, I serve as the Marcy-Holmes Representative to the Hennepin/First Ave Study and to the University District Alliance Housing & Livability Committees.

3. Describe why you want to serve on the NCEC.

Effective community engagement is one of the cornerstones of success in the skillful, inclusive operation of the city and in the measurement of its quality of life. Minneapolis has chosen to utilize the unique perspectives of its citizens by fostering open dialogue with the many, diverse communities that form its individual and unmistakable character. Thus, our city has developed a quality approach to decision-making, by listening to its neighborhoods. The NCEC was developed to assist, streamline and monitor that process, and now has the ability to facilitate the improvement of the city's efforts in gathering input from neighborhoods, but also ensuring that the myriad systems, services and departments better, more effectively and more adeptly serve the neighborhoods, communities and people of Minneapolis. Realizing this, my choice was clear. To better serve my community, my friends, my neighbors and the city that I am so proud to call home, I need to join the organization spearheading the success of the processes Minneapolis formed to ensure that all people in the city are served to the best of our ability. This is why I have chosen to run

for District 4 representative to the Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission and serve with distinction, if elected.

4. How do you plan to maintain a relationship with the neighborhoods you would represent, if elected?

Between my work with the MHNA, the UDA, the DFL and Community Power, I have established positive working relationships with members, leadership, committees, executives and influential individuals within several of our peer neighborhoods as well as the powerful institutions and businesses that, all together, make up the fabric of our communities. During the tour I'm undertaking before the election, I intend to connect with the Neighborhoods in District 4, especially through personal visits, to their Neighborhood Association meetings, along with electronic and phone communication. Once with them, I intend to collect their concerns, ideas, and input on the matters that impact them, their communities and the individuals they serve. I'll also engage them on city-wide matters asking them for their thoughts and insights. Our City Council Members regularly make the 3 rounds to do the same, and I understand that as District 4 Representative, I will need to accomplish similar contact and achieve similar outreach, as part of the position. I look forward to it. Since I already serve on behalf of so many, I think I'm ideally suited to serve NCEC District 4 in this capacity.

5. How do you plan to engage with under-represented groups within your district?

In my current (recently re-elected) role as Senate District 60 DFL Outreach and Inclusion Officer, I proposed to form and lead a dynamic committee that will foster leadership, listening, leverage and serve our communities toward a few specific goals. With the NCEC, I intend to expand and continue that work, crafting bridges of trust and cooperation with our New American, Native American, impoverished and disabled communities and with our Communities of color. While, I had always intended for the fruits of that outreach to benefit the neighborhoods of Minneapolis, on the NCEC I will have the ability to use the same strategies, venues and pathways to communication that I planned to use, already. And, with those, I endeavor to help unite all of the aspects of our city into a competent, confident and more strategically formidable whole, that consciously and deliberately listens to all voices, considers all positions (all needs), intelligently and compassionately weighs our options and actively sets out to serve the needs of the people of Minneapolis. Further, I intend to also promote regular outreach and community engagement within the city through the NCEC, so that we can effectively foster mutual understanding with our varied communities and cultivate our rich mixture of backgrounds, outlooks, needs and ideas. This builds the trust and cooperation we need to be as effective as we want to be. Finally, I plan to further outreach within our disabled communities, to help bridge the gap that stands between them and greater, more regular and more comfortable participation. It is our lack of consideration, preparation, invitation and accommodation that has discouraged those in these precious and powerful communities from joining us and adding their voices to the discussion. We must work hard to welcome them back.

6. Please list any community-based organization(s) with which you are currently involved.

Marcy-Holmes Neighborhood Association

University District Alliance

Community Power

Neighborhoods Organizing for Change

Energy Equity Coalition

HERC Coalition

Senate District 60 (and 41) DFL, Minnesota DFL Party (and several constituency caucuses)

Clean Energy Partnership EVAC Subcommittee on Community Engagement

7. Please list all current paid and unpaid affiliations.

Community Power (Vice President)

At Your Fingertips Body Care (Owner)

At Your Fingertips Solutions (Owner)

Marcy-Holmes Neighborhood Association (Director, Co-Chair: Land Use and Development Committee and Founding Co-Chair: Environment Committee)

Senate District 60 DFL (Outreach and Inclusion Officer)

Pat Vogel

1. How have your life/work/cultural experiences prepared you to be a neighborhood representative on the NCEC?

- As a lifelong resident of Northeast Minneapolis, I have an understanding of the history and character of the Eastside.
- As well as being active in my neighborhood organization, I've been involved with the Minneapolis YWCA, the Northeast Emergency Depot, several local campaigns, Jobs Now Coalition and Skills for Tomorrow charter school. These experiences showed me the value and importance of collective action so that everyone has a chance to realize their full potential. I would promote the idea that effective neighborhood organizations can and should be a vehicle for community empowerment.
- I've worked in non-profits and for small businesses. I understand data and budgets. My work experience helps me appreciate both the necessity and complexity of the reporting neighborhood organizations are expected to do. As a neighborhood representative, I would advocate for training and workshops in this area.

2. How have you participated in your neighborhood organization?

I currently serve as the Treasurer for LPNA. I have been a board member since 2013. I am also on the Small Area Plan Core Committee. Previously, I was Co-Chair of the 807 Broadway Task Force (2012-2014) and a committee chair during NRP Phase 1. I have participated at many LPNA activities and events for the last 20 years.

I have also attended several NCR workshops and the annual Community Connections Conference for the last 3 years.

3. Describe why you want to serve on the NCEC.

The next few years will be critical to neighborhood organizations since funding is currently scheduled to end in 2020. Now is the time to show the council and the mayor why neighborhood organizations are necessary to ensure livability through well-planned growth and development. At the same time, neighborhood organizations need to be up to the task. I would like to see more assistance for neighborhood organizations that are experiencing capacity issues.

I want to serve because I can bring experience and appreciation for the work of neighborhood organizations as we consider and critique possible new visions for the future of neighborhood organizations.

4. How do you plan to maintain a relationship with the neighborhoods you would represent, if elected?

I would endeavor to meet with each neighborhood organization as needed to listen to their concerns and questions as well as keep them informed on the work of the Commission. I would also be available by phone and email for questions and conversations.

5. How do you plan to engage with under-represented groups within your district?

I would ask for assistance from both NCR staff, neighborhood organizations and community members to help facilitate connections and networking to develop communication and trust with under-represented groups.

6. Please list any community-based organization(s) with which you are currently involved.

Treasurer, Logan Park Neighborhood Association

7. Please list all current paid and unpaid affiliations.

Treasurer, Loeffler for the Legislature

Volunteer, Wielinski for Parks



District 6 Voter Guide

As part of the neighborhood election process to elect 4 neighborhood representatives on to the City's Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission (NCEC), applicants interested in serving were asked to respond to the following statements on their applications to be used in the Voter's Guide:

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- ❖ Describe why you want to serve on the NCEC.
- ❖ How do you plan to maintain a relationship with the neighborhoods you would represent, if elected?
- ❖ How do you plan to engage with under-represented groups within your district?
- ❖ Please list any community-based organization(s) with which you are currently involved.
- ❖ Please list all current paid and unpaid affiliations.

District 6 Neighborhoods: CARAG, East Calhoun, East Isles, Kenwood, King Field, Lowry Hill, Lowry Hill East, Lyndale, Stevens Square, or Whittier.

Candidates for District 6

- Aria Campbell
- Kenya Weathers

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Aria Campbell

1. How have your life/work/cultural experiences prepared you to be a neighborhood representative on the NCEC?

As a native to Minneapolis; I take an immense amount of pride in this city and all the various communities. Growing up in the Bancroft neighborhood there was a strong sense of community pride, and we were all neighbors. After college, I moved back to Minneapolis and lived in the Kingsfield neighborhood for 4 years; there, I helped organize several National Night out events, and still maintain close relationships with neighborhood. Currently I live in Stephens Square, where I bought property and have been a member of the Stephens Square Community Organization for the past 2 years. Working for the city of Minneapolis and Hennepin County for a number of years, afforded me the opportunity to learn a lot about city regulations, as well as interact with residents on a multitude of levels. I was fortunate enough to volunteer at the 2013 Minneapolis Open Streets, as well as the opening of the Green Line, where I learned more about the Camden neighborhood, and participated in discussions surrounding social justice in Minneapolis. Working for Hennepin County in Human Resources also helped me get a job at a non-profit called the Sexual Violence Center. I take great pride in being someone who is open to everyone, and have daily conversations with residents, business owners, and patrons of my community. Culturally; as a black female from Minneapolis, I believe my intersectionality would be a strong and have lived 6 years. I am the board president of my building association, in addition to being an active board member of the asset to the NCEC, as well as a good representation for district 6

2. How have you participated in your neighborhood organization?

I have been an active community participant of the Stevens Square Community Organization for the past 5 years, and have served as a board member for the past 2 years. I also enjoy participating in several neighborhood events and activities; including, Stevens Square Spring Clean Sweep, Cinema and Civics, and the Red Hot Art Festival, in addition to several other community events.

3. Describe why you want to serve on the NCEC.

Being on the board of the Stevens Square Community organization has given me a greater understanding of what goes on in my community, as well as the need for events and activities that help bring the community together. I would like to expand my knowledge of how the City of Minneapolis works with individual communities to help foster these events, and serve as the liaison for district 6.

4. How do you plan to maintain a relationship with the neighborhoods you would represent, if elected?

I enjoy being out in the community and engaging with people face to face. I invest a lot of time having conversations with people I meet; listening to ways in which people feel the community could be better served, events people are interested in, as well as info people how they can get involved with community organizations, and offering a different perspective to taking pride and ownership in the neighborhood. My

neighborhood is unique in its level of diversity, and people are often surprised by my level of engagement. I like to be a reminder to people that we are all neighbors and all of our voices should be included. I would continue to actively listen to everyone I encounter, along with being an active member of my community by patronizing local establishments. Being involved with the NCEC would give me a greater understanding of how the City of Minneapolis works with community boards to foster change and growth.

5. How do you plan to engage with under-represented groups within your district?

Working in the human services has given me an appreciation for all people, and I engage with everyone equally. From talking to people who would be classified as under-represented; I feel there is a level of intimidation when it comes to getting involved. I will continue to be someone people can relate to through casual conversation and empower people to feel comfortable attending meetings, expressing their opinions, and being a participant in community and neighborhood building events.

6. Please list any community-based organization(s) with which you are currently involved.

Stevens Square Neighborhood Association.

7. Please list all current paid and unpaid affiliations.

Stevens Square Neighborhood Association.

Kenya Weathers

1. How have your life/work/cultural experiences prepared you to be a neighborhood representative on the NCEC?

Yes my life experiences have prepared me to be open minded to other people ideas but most of all it has help me build empathy for other cultures.

2. Describe why you want to serve on the NCEC.

I presently a Board member and responsible for Crime and Safety Task Force.

3. How do you plan to maintain a relationship with the neighborhoods you would represent, if elected?

I want to be a voice for my community.

4. How do you plan to engage with under-represented groups within your district?

1) Be accountable to the people of my district.

2) Be available.

3) Be transparent.

5. How to you plan to engage with under-represented groups within your district?

1) Open continuous conversations.

2) Create a table for open discussion.

6. Please list any community-based organization(s) with which you are currently involved.

Whittier Alliance

7. Please list all current paid and unpaid affiliations.

Whittier Alliance

Minneapolis Police Chief Citizen Advisory Council

Block Club leader (City of Minneapolis)

District 8 Voter Guide



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- ❖ How do you plan to maintain a relationship with the neighborhoods you would represent, if elected?
- ❖ How do you plan to engage with under-represented groups within your district?
- ❖ Please list any community-based organization(s) with which you are currently involved.
- ❖ Please list all current paid and unpaid affiliations.

District 8 Neighborhoods: Cedar Riverside, Como, Cooper, Hiawatha, Howe, Longfellow, Prospect Park/East River Road and Seward.

Candidates for District 8

- Marcia Mariani

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Marcea Mariani

1. How have your life/work/cultural experiences prepared you to be a neighborhood representative on the NCEC?

In my experiences, I believe neighborhood diversity is a given. An automatic acceptance of diversity is not.

My volunteerism goes back many years and has provided unique experiences: As a member of NICOV, (National Information Center of Court Volunteers) I worked to guarantee volunteers would be permitted in courtrooms to represent underserved groups. To recognize an issue related specifically to a unique ethnic group and to provide support is what the NCEC is all about. My work with the underserved groups mentioned directly relates to the current work of the NCEC and the City.

Became a member of the Hennepin County public works task force for the reconstruction of Hiawatha Avenue.

Was a member of a group to plan and fundraise for specialized play areas for disabled children that would exceed requirements of the Americans with Disability Act. This was a major community effort for the nationally known Minnehaha Falls Park and learning implementation methods carries over to the work of the NCEC.

As a member of LAMP, (Legal Assistance to Minnesota Prisoners,) I was part of a team to assist the incarcerated with institutional grievances and to resolve issues with family members. This connected to unique and very specific needs for several large and under-served groups. It was recognized that social services were of primary concern for the families on the outside. Coordination with city and county groups became the norm. This sort of coordination appears to be identical to the current needs of incoming immigrants to our City.

2. How have you participated in your neighborhood organization?

Became a member of the Community Action Committee (CAC) with the Hennepin county public works task force for the reconstruction of Hiawatha Avenue. Served in positions of the treasurer and president of the Longfellow Community Council (LCC), the largest city neighborhood (23,000 residents).

Chair of the Community Connections Committee (CCC) for several years where my neighborhood affords the opportunity to gain experiences whereby many individuals who reside within some Minneapolis sectors do not have.

I learned there are communication differences between and among the City as opposed to other groups and the County. This insightful information carries forward to the work on the NCEC.

I have volunteered with my neighborhood organization and helped to promote recognition of the organization's goals. I have worked with the Minnesota legislature to insure continuity for the resolutions to neighborhood issues. I have worked with City Council members to retain a closed public school with re-use plans. These kinds of issues appear on many neighborhood fund applications that the NCEC reviews.

We are fortunate that my officially recognized neighborhood organization is actively engaged with the non-English speaking populations. Improvement of communications with all is another goal.

3. Describe why you want to serve on the NCEC.

In my experiences, I believe neighborhood diversity is a given. An automatic acceptance of diversity is not. This is the key for my interest to serve. In addition, I was elected in 2009 to represent NCEC District 8. It was necessary for me to resign the post in 2014 and we were fortunate to find a replacement rather quickly and that person is now stepping down. I am able to begin work on the NCEC "with feet on the ground and running". Also it was brought to my attention that a need exists to strengthen the NCECV visibility to neighborhood boards so as to interact much more as a cohesive unit.

It is imperative for the goals of the NCEC, through the NCR and the City, to best be maintained with consistently cooperative relationships among all entities and for those relationships to remain strong and unencumbered.

My membership is defined with the acknowledgement that tough decisions occur and with an imbedded and underlying goal to do no harm and more importantly, to do that which is best for the city AND its residents.

4. and 5. How do you plan to maintain a relationship with the neighborhoods you would represent, if elected? How do you plan to engage with under-represented groups within your district?

The NCEC must put itself up front and manage to be acknowledged by the officially recognized neighborhood groups as a positive. Neighborhoods need to recognize the NCEC as an organization to trust. The acknowledgement must be cooperative and result with a plus-plus for all entities. This unfortunate gap still exists.

In many of my past neighborhood meetings throughout our communities, it was apparent that neighborhoods did not know what the NCEC did or how it functioned, and in some cases, they were unaware that such an organization existed. I understand that today, much remains the case. Perhaps my first step is to introduce myself to those neighborhoods and open the door so that all neighborhood groups could respond

positively to interaction with an NCEC representative. When neighborhoods believe the NCEC is an ally, they would be more receptive to working together. It would be my responsibility to bridge that gap. Most likely, it would take the form of initial contact with the current board members and executive directors. Following that, it is an imperative for me to understand their issues as all neighborhood concerns differ from one another. It is for me to bring those concerns to the NCEC for consideration and thereby solidify a working relationship among all entities.

Officially recognized neighborhood organizations have several strategic plans to reach under represented groups. This is not a new concept but it has been ongoing as an established and routine method of work with my sphere for some time.

6. and 7. Please list any community-based organization(s) with which you are currently involved. Please list all current and unpaid affiliations.

All are unpaid:

Award; The international Women's' Leadership Association for work in Opticianery

Selected as "A Woman of Outstanding Leadership in Healthcare"

Oakton community College (Illinois)

Ely Education Foundation

Fruits of the City (The Minnesota Project)

Church of the Epiphany; Coon Rapids

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church; Minneapolis

Longfellow Community Council

American Board of Optometry (ABOC Certificate No. 50056003)