



District 1 Voter Guide

As part of the neighborhood election process to elect 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 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 1 neighborhoods: Cleveland Neighborhood Association, Folwell Neighborhood Association, Hawthorne Neighborhood Council, Jordan Area Community Council, Lind-Bohanon Neighborhood Association, McKinley Community, Shingle Creek Neighborhood Association, Victory Neighborhood Association, Webber-Camden Neighborhood Organization

Candidates for District 1

- [Jeffrey Strand, Shingle Creek](#)
- [Rebecca Thompson Linder, Victory](#)

The citywide meeting to elect neighborhood commissioners will be held on:

Wednesday, July 17, 2019

6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Crown Roller Mill, 105 5th Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55401

[\(Click here for a map and directions\)](#)

To request reasonable accommodations, please contact NCR at 612-673-3737 or via email at ncr@minneapolismn.gov.

All votes must be cast on July 17, 2019

If you have any questions about the elections or voter guides, please feel free to call Cheyenne Brodeen, 612-673-2052. You can also find more information on our website at

<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ncr/boards/ncec/WCMSP-217782>.

Jeffrey Strand, Shingle Creek



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

I have a deep and abiding belief in the good and productive work of the neighborhood organizations in Minneapolis. I have been involved with Shingle Creek N.A. since 1992. I have prior experience on the neighborhood board as chair and many other volunteer capacities. Part of my story involves how SCNA was able to get an unpaved, wood-chip covered 600-yard trail segment paved in order to provide an accessible connection between Minneapolis and Hennepin County pedestrian and bicycle trail systems in the

early 1990's. This effort proved to me how individual residents indeed CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THEIR COMMUNITIES!

I have prior service experience on the original Joint Powers NRP Policy Board as an elected neighborhood representative and/or alternate for 9 of the last 10 years of its existence. I was previously appointed (City Council At Large) and elected (District 1 representative) on the NCEC as well as having been the first non-elected official to chair the reconstituted NRP Policy Board.

I follow through on commitments made, attending commission meetings and subcommittees and contributing to processes and projects. I stand ready, willing and able to serve District 1 neighborhoods and residents in this challenging transition time period.

2. How have you participated in your neighborhood organization?

I was a founding resident and board member of Shingle Creek Neighborhood Association. I have served as a director, chair for 10 years, as secretary, and currently as vice chair.

I have served as an organizer, elector, committee chair and as a volunteer on various projects over the 37 years of involvement. I am proud of the work of the SCNA over the decades in such areas as helping facilitate affordable/senior housing (e.g. Shingle Creek Commons), promoting environmental clean-up and redevelopment to create jobs and tax base (e.g. Minneapolis Business Center), volunteer watershed clean-ups in partnership with the Park Board, providing books, arts funding, and STEAM expo support for local MPS students, collaborations with other Northside and Camden Community neighborhoods, and helping facilitate major corridor Humboldt Greenway housing.

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

My current and past involvement make me ably suited to serve as a strong and knowledgeable voice for neighborhood organizations during this transition time into the next iteration of neighborhood and community engagement programming. I have co-chaired Neighborhoods 2020 Committee of the NCEC, was a past chair and executive committee member on the NCEC, and have chaired and served as an NRP Policy Board member.

I have most recently concentrated collaborative work with the Northside Neighborhoods Coalition during the past months in opposing detrimental aspects of process and content of the NCR Department's Neighborhoods 2020 Framework, including speaking at the City Council Committee public hearing and assisting with NNC policy documents development and strategic action planning sessions. I am a very collaborative person and strive for inclusivity and want to support emerging new leadership.

If elected to represent District 1, I will tender a resignation of the appointed position effective July 1, 2019 so that the City may appoint another resident to fill out the remaining one-year term.

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

When I served a prior term as your NCEC District 1 representative, I strived to regularly attend board and/or general membership meetings and events of the several neighborhood organizations in the district. I strived to communicate with boards and staff about their needs and to have a 2-way communication with them. I used social media to help spread the word about what the NCR and NCEC were doing that affected the neighborhood organizations and residents, and to solicit input on the policy and program directions being taken.

As volunteer commissioners trying to maintain healthy work-life and family and volunteer services balance, I recognize that it's not possible to be in attendance at all meetings and events. NCEC colleague Nick Cichowicz has developed a highly effective newsletter; I think that both emulating Nick's newsletter and negotiating the type and frequency of check-ins with boards and executive directors/staff is a tact that I would take if elected this cycle. Unfortunately, the City-NCR Department hasn't provided a lot of resources for NCEC commissioners to communicate directly with constituencies, so it appears the large body of work of the NCEC has not become as widely known to neighborhoods residents as it should have been. Some of the faults of the current NCR Department's delivery under the existing framework were laid out in the program audit referred to as the BIKO/Gray-Hall/Pentel report.

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

While on the NCEC, I have worked to increase diversity and inclusion on the City's boards and commissions at least in part through service on the One Minneapolis Fund Committee twice, and served the Boards and Commissions Diversity and Inclusion Task Force that made recommendations on how to improve opportunities and reduce racial and socioeconomic disparities.

I would use experience of past service on the NCEC and NRP Policy Board as well as tapping into the knowledge among fellow Commissioners and the expertise of the paid NCR Community Specialists, as well as the expertise that exists in the diverse District 1 neighborhood organizations that are doing this work to help in outreach to meet the needs of under-represented communities.

On the SCNA board, we have worked with Henry High School Herobotics 2500 as they implemented a national grant to increase local robotics teams and participation among boys and girls from communities of color. I have volunteered multiple times at the Community Connections Conferences to encourage residents to look at boards and commissions as a way to develop networks and social capital.

I personally have completed the 5-day International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) training, the 3-day Art of Hosting and Harvesting Conversations that Matter training, some Technology of Participation (ToP) facilitation training, the IAP2 half-day training for leaders, and a Mitchell-Hamline certificate program for Negotiation and Collaboration for Leaders conducted in 2018. All of these skills are useful in working with all communities to co-create useful engagement processes that are welcoming and inclusive to all residents. I participated and assisted as a volunteer during the 5-sector Art of Hosting "world cafés" used to gather residents' input for Neighborhoods 2020.

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

Shingle Creek Neighborhood Association, Vice Chair, Director
CommonBond Communities Shingle Creek Commons Community Board, President
CommonBond Communities Kingsley Commons Community Board, President
Senate District 59 DFL Party, Chair
Minneapolis DFL Party, At-Large Director
5th Congressional District DFL Party, At-Large Director
Minnesota DFL Party, State Central Committee member

Hennepin History Museum, Hiawatha Circle Family Members
Pioneer Power Association (tractor club), Hanley Falls, MN
Minnesota's Machinery Museum, Hanley Falls, MN (Life Member)
Minnesota Public Radio, Member

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

Please list all current and unpaid affiliations.

Hennepin County RRES Department, Administrative Manager
Minnesota Association County Auditors Treasurers Finance Officers (MACATFO), Lead Co-Chair, Delinquency and Tax-Forfeiture Statewide Committee
MN Association of County Officers (MACO), Legislative Committee, Member
MN Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party (as noted above)
Minneapolis Capital Long-Range Improvement Committee, 4th Ward Appointee, Chair 2019-2020
Minneapolis Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission
Minneapolis Neighborhood Revitalization Program Policy Board, Vice Chair

Rebecca Thompson Linder, Victory

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

I started working at North Community YMCA when I was 17 years old after getting my lifeguarding certificate at 16 at north commons. I have worked on the north side so long as I have lived in Minneapolis. I have lived in Webber/Camden for 9 years. I also have lived in NYC and Los Angeles and those experiences helped me shape new ideas that could be vital to our community. I currently work at a contract alternative high school trying to empower our neighborhood youth to lean into our community and find their power and voice in positive, impactful ways. As a person who grew up in South Minneapolis, I also have seen how our city struggles neighborhood to neighborhood- which is both a positive and negative.

2. How have you participated in your neighborhood organization?

I have always had my ear to the grindstone and shown up for primaries and caucuses. I have volunteered but I have not specifically worked with VINA. A lot of that has had to do with things in my personal life AKA my divorce which took several years.

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

I want to make sure that the needs of the residents of NOMI are heard and I feel as if I have a unique perspective on the intersection of longtime residents with the needs of new comers. Those who are impacted by our schools and also those who wish to bring a thriving arts community here as well. I want the city to know our needs and direct funds accordingly.

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

Absolutely. My neighbors are the reason I won't move. I love it here, they have been a huge support to me in my newly 'single mom' view of the world.

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

Well, I currently teach underserved youth. I will try to continue to start conversations with them and being steps of listening to groups that they likely would know better about than I would and/or do.

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

None.

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

None.