



2022 West St. Paul Voter's Guide

Page 1: Municipal Races

	Candidate summary (synthesized from various sources by us, not the candidate)	Was the 2020 election legitimate?	Do you support LGBTQ rights?	Do you support abortion rights?	Do you support gun restrictions?	Do you support reducing impacts of climate change?	Do you support legalizing marijuana?	What are your top priorities? (summarized)
West St. Paul Mayor (nonpartisan; uncontested)								
Dave Napier (website)	Incumbent (since 2019), council member (6 years); HVAC service manager	Declined to answer because these questions are "divisive."						Public safety & financial stability
West St. Paul City Council Ward 1 (nonpartisan)								
Pat Armon (website)	Former council member (4 years); MN Dept. of Employment & Economic Development	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Public safety & a clean city
Kimetha Johnson (website)	Founder of Residents of Color Collective (ROCC); Senior program director at YMCA	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Renter protection & opportunities
West St. Paul City Council Ward 2 (nonpartisan; uncontested)								
John Justen (website)	Incumbent (since 2019); music store owner	Did not respond to our questionnaire.						
West St. Paul City Council Ward 3 (nonpartisan)								
Wendy Berry (website)	Incumbent (since 2019); HR manager	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	New voices, public safety, fiscal responsibility
Jake Nelson	Dropped out, but will still appear on the ballot.							
Other Offices								
See additional pages for county and state legislature candidates.								
There are several statewide races and a Congressional race on the ballot, as well as an uncontested county sheriff race, that we have not covered here.								



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The Election is Tuesday, Nov. 8

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2022 West St. Paul Voter's Guide

Page 2: Legislative Races

	Candidate summary (synthesized from various sources by us, not the candidate)	Was the 2020 election legitimate?	Do you support LGBTQ rights?	Do you support abortion rights?	Do you support gun restrictions?	Do you support reducing impacts of climate change?	Do you support legalizing marijuana?	What are your top priorities? (summarized)	
House District 53A (represents roughly the southern half of West St. Paul, Sunfish Lake, and parts of Mendota Heights, Inver Grove Heights, and more)									
Mary Frances Clardy (website)	DFL; current ISD 199 school board member (since 2020); public school teacher	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Education, disabilities, economic opportunities	
Brent Jacobson (website)	Legal Marijuana Now Party	Unsure	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Ending war on drugs, tobacco, poverty; freedom	
Todd Kruse (website)	GOP; former city council and school board candidate; works as business advisor in public affairs, training, etc.	Declined to answer because they "do not raise the level of conversation which voters should demand."							Inflation, crime, education
Senate District 53 (represents roughly the southern half of West St. Paul, South St. Paul, Inver Grove Heights, Sunfish Lake, parts of Mendota Heights, and more)									
Matt Klein (website)	DFL; incumbent (since 2017); former ISD 197 school board member (3 years); physician	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Healthcare, using surplus	
Chris Rausch (website)	GOP; vendor relations for an education company, owner of a marketing company	Declined to answer because they "deserve more than a one word answer."							Education, economy, public safety
House District 65B (represents roughly the northern half of West St. Paul, the West Side, downtown, and more)									
Kevin Fjelsted (website)	GOP; works as entrepreneur in business planning and technology	Did not respond to our questionnaire.							
María Isa (website)	DFL; community organizer; recording artist; youth worker; directs mentorship for Twin Cities Mobile Jazz Project	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Community-centered leadership	



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Page 3: Legislative Races (Con't.), County Races

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Senate District 65 (represents roughly the northern half of West St. Paul, the West Side, downtown, Rondo, and more)								
Paul Holmgren (website)	GOP; ran for this seat in 2020; owner of a tax prep & accounting business	Did not respond to our questionnaire.						
Sandy Pappas (website)	DFL; 32-year incumbent; ranking minority member of Capital Investment committee; executive director of Forward Global Women	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Bonding bill for infrastructure, paid sick leave, pension plan for low-wage workers
Dakota County Attorney (nonpartisan; represents all of Dakota County)								
Kathy Keena (website)	Incumbent unanimously appointed in 2021; 22 years in the Dakota County attorney's office	Declined to answer, "because this is a nonpartisan position and I believe those questions are more appropriately answered by legislative candidates."						Public safety, case backlog from pandemic
Matt Little (website)	Former Lakeville mayor (4 years) and state senator (4 years); attorney	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Sexual/domestic violence, gun violence, veterans' court
Dakota County Commissioner District 2 (nonpartisan; represents West St. Paul, South St. Paul, and parts of Inver Grove Heights)								
Joe Atkins (website)	Current District 4 commissioner (since 2017), redistricted to District 2; 14 years as state representative; attorney	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Remaining debt free, public safety, public health, mental health
Jimmy Francis (website)	Current South St. Paul mayor (since 2017), works as employee benefits administrator	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Listening to residents, mental health, public safety



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