



District 5 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 5 Neighborhoods: Bryn Mawr, Downtown East, Downtown West, Elliot Park, Harrison, Loring Park, Near North, North Loop, Sumner-Glenwood and Willard Hay.

Candidates for District 5:

[Nicolas Cichowicz](#)

Pages 2-3

[Christopher Hoffer](#)

Pages 4-5

The City-wide meeting to elect four neighborhood Commissioners will be held on Thursday, June 18, 2015 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 pm at the Crown Roller Mill Building:

City-Wide Election for Districts 1, 3, 5, and 7

Thursday, June 18, 2015

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 18, 2015

If you have any questions about the elections for Districts 1, 3, 5 and 7 or the Voter's Guides, please feel free to call Howard Blin, 612-673-3163. You can also find more information on our website at <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ncr/boards/ncec/WCMS1P-122610>.

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

Nicholas Cichowicz

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

I have lived in Minneapolis since 2008. During that time I've lived in a variety of neighborhoods including: Marcy Holmes, North Loop, Elliot Park, Downtown East and Bryn Mawr. My passion for community engagement and involvement can be seen in both my personal and professional life.

My professional and volunteer background is centered on non-profit management, fundraising and community building. I am a self-starter and quick learner who thrives in ambiguity and is able to build relationships with diverse stakeholders. As a nonprofit professional, Executive Director and volunteer, I have prepared grant proposals and funding requests while also implementing community outreach strategic plans targeting public, private, and non-profit organizations.

My experiences, both professional and as a volunteer, have positioned me to be a successful as a member of the NCEC because I have fostered collaborative results between diverse stakeholders during my entire career.

2. How have you participated in your neighborhood organization?

I have served on the Downtown Minneapolis Neighborhood Association (DMNA), the neighborhood association that serves Downtown East and Downtown West, since 2012. In 2013 I served as Board Chair for the DMNA. Currently I serve as the Community Participation Program (CPP) Chair for the Bryn Mawr neighborhood association.

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

The NCEC has a unique opportunity to be a leader in building the foundation for a system in the City of Minneapolis that benefits all neighborhoods and residents. By developing a process for open and transparent dialogue between the City of Minneapolis and the neighborhoods, the NCEC will be able to better serve the needs of all Minneapolis residents.

I believe that public service is one of the most important elements of a great city. I would like to play a role in helping all our neighborhoods become neighborhoods of excellence.

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

My approach to leadership and engagement is collaborative, open and transparent. My first action if elected would be to visit each neighborhood association and introduce myself. This would allow me to create not only an introduction opportunity but allow for the neighborhoods to understand the role of the NCEC.

Attending neighborhoods meetings is just the beginning, as a member of the NCEC I would see my role also including attending neighborhood events and sharing with all neighbors the initiatives of

the NCEC. Being a point person for the opinions and thoughts of the neighborhoods would be a key part of my service.

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

During my time serving in the community engaging under-represented groups has been a priority of every organization I have been a part of. Listening to the neighborhoods is the key to engaging under-represented groups.

As a member of the NCEC I would make it my priority to offer specific opportunities and listening sessions so that I would be able to better understand the needs of our neighbors. I believe we must be creative in trying new initiatives if we want to better connect with those who are marginalized and do not currently see a place for them within their community and more specifically within their neighborhood organizations.

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

Volunteer Service

- Board Member: Downtown Minneapolis Neighborhood Association
- Board Member: Dress for Success, Minneapolis, MN
- Minneapolis Downtown Improvement District: Tactical Urbanism Advisory Committee
- Downtown Service Area Master Plan Community Advisory Committee
- 2025 Plan East Downtown Development Task Force
- Bryn Mawr Neighborhood Association – CPP Committee Chair

Previous Volunteer Service

- Board Chair: Como Park Living at Home Block Nurse Program
- Board Chair: Restorative Justice Community Action, Inc.
- Board Member: Sexton Lofts Community Board Member

7. Please list all current paid and unpaid affiliations.

I currently serve on the Downtown Minneapolis Neighborhood Association and as a committee chair for the Bryn Mawr Neighborhood Association.

Christopher Hoffer

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

For the past 25 years, my professional work as an attorney has been centered on resolving disputes. This, coupled with my work in neighborhood organizations, has underscored the importance to listen and learn from those involved, and then do my best. That will be my approach with NCEC for District 5; listen, learn, and then do my best.

2. How have you participated in your neighborhood organization?

I am a resident of the Loring Park neighborhood. I am currently President of the Citizen's for Loring Park Community, the Loring Park neighborhood association. I have served on the Board of CLPC for eight years, I have served as Treasurer, as well as Secretary of the CLPC. Additionally, I have co-chaired the Historic Preservation Task Force of CLPC.

I have also been involved in CLPC, as well as other neighborhood organizations, through being a past Commissioner of NCEC, as well as a member of the NRP Policy Board.

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

I believe that vibrant neighborhoods are the bedrock upon which the City of Minneapolis has been built. The continuing promotion, and funding, of the neighborhoods and their engagement in addressing issues of livability, security, community, environmental sustainability, multi-modal transportation, historic preservation, and a robust and energetic vision of the future is a crucial effort in the continuing success of Minneapolis

My experience in community engagement through CLPC, as well as being president of the cooperative in which I live, has underscored to me the critical role engaged residents and neighborhoods play in the success of our city and our lives. I believe my contributions to the Commission would be built on this past experience as well as upon the visions of the residents of District 5 for the future of Minneapolis.

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

- Continually seeking active citizen participation in neighborhoods and the city as whole.
- Encourage and ensure fair and equitable formulas for the distribution of funds to neighborhoods.
- Providing e-mail updates on the actions of the NCEC, as well as the NCEC Committee of the Whole.
- Attend the neighborhood meetings of the member neighborhoods in District 5 in a revolving fashion to ensure contact is personal for those who wish to avail themselves of personal discussions.

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

To use the expertise of the member neighborhoods in reaching their identified underrepresented groups. These include cultural groups, minority groups, groups with non-English speakers, long term renters, and those who due to economic necessity or hardship are too busy supporting themselves and family to regularly attend organized neighborhood functions. My goal is to insure representatives in these various communities are kept apprised of the work of NCEC and have an opportunity to influence this work. This is a very important responsibility of the NCEC in my opinion.

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

I live at 510 Groveland Avenue and am President of the Board at 510 Groveland Housing Cooperative. Additionally, I am President of the Board for the Citizens for Loring Park Community, as well as a board member. I am Co-chair of the Historic Preservation Task Force of CLPC.

7. Please list all current paid and unpaid affiliations.

I am an attorney at the law firm of Bolt Hoffer Boyd. Additionally, I have been a volunteer attorney for Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights regarding asylum matters, as well as a member of Masonic Lodge No. 30, and a member of the Minneapolis Valley Scottish Rite.