



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

Candidates for District 1:

- Nicholas Cichowicz

The City-wide meeting to elect four neighborhood Commissioners will be held on Thursday, June 15, 2017 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 15, 2017

6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Crown Roller Mill

105 Fifth Avenue South

Minneapolis, MN 55401

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

All votes must be cast on June 15, 2017

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 Cheyenne Brodeen, 612-673-2052. You can also find more information on our website at <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ncr/boards/ncec/WCMSP-193140>.

The building is ADA accessible. If any special accommodations are needed, please contact 612-673-2052.

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 can build relationships with diverse stakeholders. As a non-profit 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 volunteer, have positioned me to be an engaged and committed member of the NCEC.

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. During my four years as a board member on the DMNA I also served as Board Chair for two years.

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 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.

I have served on the NCEC Executive Committee as Secretary for the past year. My experience on the NCEC has allowed me to continue to grow as a leader while also learning from my diverse and passionate fellow commissioners. I would like to continue serving on the Commission for another term because there is more work to be done.

I'd like to continue the foundation work we've started on the City Department Engagement Committee along with continuing in a leadership role on the Executive Committee.

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 goal for my second term is to build upon relationships and connections I've made and continue to foster more interest within the overall community in the NCEC.

During my second term, I'd like to attend more neighborhood meetings and develop and send out a monthly electronic newsletter to be shared with all neighborhoods in the 5th District. My goal is to be a point person for sharing the opinions and thoughts of the neighborhoods with the entire NCEC commission and NCR staff.

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

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 organization.

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

Volunteer Service

- Commissioner: Neighborhood Community Engagement Commission, Secretary

Previous 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
- 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.

N/A