



### Note from Jill:

Good morning, we are less than 100 days away from the start of the 2024 legislative session and our team is busy preparing. On that note, as we draft and finalize our legislative agenda, we need your input, **we ask that you all please fill out the member policy survey by 12:00PM Tuesday November 14.**

This week, many municipalities across Minnesota saw elections for city council, school board and tax proposals – see our recaps of Minneapolis, St Paul, key takeaways and sales tax increases below.

-- Jill

### Member Policy Survey

As the session rapidly approaches, we are drafting our 2024 policy agenda. Please fill out this member policy survey to help inform our team of issues affecting your business. The deadline to fill out the survey is **12:00 PM CT on Tuesday, November 14.**

[Complete the Survey](#)

If you'd like to join our advocacy work group to help shape the legislative agenda and legislative activities, [please reach out to Jill.](#)

### Minneapolis Election Results



The Minneapolis Council had all 13 seats on the ballot, with 11 incumbents running. All incumbents won, and the progressives picked up seats in Ward 7 (Cashman) and Ward 12 (Chowdhury). Ward 8, Council President Jenkins, was a particularly close race with Jenkins winning by 38 votes in the final round. The election results show a shift to the left with a more progressive council.

Key race results:

- **Ward 07:** Katie Cashman defeated Scott Graham on the final round winning with 50.8% of the vote. In the first-choice round, Cashman only had 61 more votes than Graham, but pulled away with 177 more votes in the final round. Cashman is expected to often vote with the more progressive colleagues, but given her representation of downtown and close race, is one to watch for swing votes. Incumbent Lisa Goodman did not run for re-election.
- **Ward 08:** Council President Andrea Jenkins initially trailed challenger Soren Stevenson by 106 votes, but ultimately won in the final round with 48.3% of the vote. Council President Jenkins won by 38 votes in the final round.
- **Ward 12:** Aurin Chowdhury won the first round with 53.75% of votes, defeating Luther Ranheim and Nancy Ford. Incumbent Andrew Johnson did not run for re-election, making this seat a pick up for the progressives.

Check out this helpful graphic created by MinnPost on the ideological alignments of the new Minneapolis Council:

## Minneapolis City Council 2023 Elections: Final Results



## St. Paul Election Results



The St. Paul City Council had all seven seats on the ballot, with four open seats. For the first time in the city's history – the council is projected to be all female. The council will see a shift to the left, with more progressive candidates winning. Three wards did not meet the 50% threshold to declare a winner after election night, so on Friday St. Paul staff will begin counting the second and third choice votes for Ward 1, 3, and 7. The winners will be declared on Friday when a candidate meets the 50% plus one threshold. Worth noting – all incumbents running for re-election won.

**Sales Tax** – the focal point in St. Paul for many was the proposed 1% sales tax increase. Voters approved the tax increase to pay for streets, bridges and parking facilities at 60%. The sales tax increase will put nearly \$1 billion into the city's infrastructure over the next 20 years.



photo courtesy of Derek Montgomery | MPR News



photo courtesy of Aaron Nesheim | Sahan Journal

- **Duluth:** former State Senator Roger Reinert defeated two-term incumbent Emily Larson by a 2 -1 margin securing 60% to Larson's 40%.
- **Minnetonka:** Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) survived a challenge, with Minnetonka voters choosing by over 58% to keep RCV in place.
- **St. Louis Park:** Nadia Mohamed, the first black Somali Mayor elected in St. Louis Park, is also believed to be the first Somali mayor in Minnesota and the first elected Somali mayor in the United States. Mohamed previously served on City Council.

## Ballot Initiatives: Sales Tax Increases



photo courtesy of Maya Giron | Post Bulletin

- **Bloomington:** Approved a 0.5% sales tax increase for the next 20 years for a new community center (\$100M), improvements to Bloomington Ice Garden (\$37.3M) and the Nine Mile Creek corridor (\$20M).
- **Edina:** Approved an extension for the city's existing 0.5% sales tax to fund a \$31.7M expansion to Braemar Arena.

- **Golden Valley:** Approved a 1.25% sales tax increase to purchase land to build a public works building (\$15M), to build the public works building (\$45M) and to establish a new police and fire headquarters (\$45M).
- **Mounds View:** Rejected a 1.50% sales tax to expand the community center through \$16.5M in upgrades such as a walking track, expanded fitness center and additional sport courts.
- **Rochester:** Approved extension of 0.5% tax for \$205M in projects.
- **St. Paul:** Approved 1% sales tax for 20 years for \$984M in projects.

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