



Como Community Council District 10 Election Guide

**April 16, 2019
7 p.m.
Como Park
Streetcar Station**

Introduction

Each year, the Como Community Council holds elections so community members in District 10 can elect officers and directors to the district board. The procedures for nominations, elections, candidate eligibility, and voter eligibility are governed by the Bylaws of the District 10 Como Community Council. Each year, the Bylaws put roughly half the seats on the board up for election. All terms are two years. Board members elected this year officially take office on April 23, 2019, and serve until April 27, 2021. The complete Bylaws can be found on our website at: www.district10comopark.org/By_Laws.html

Elections

Elections take place by secret ballot during the Como Community Council's Annual Meeting.

When: Tuesday April 16, 2019, beginning at 7 p.m.

Where: Como Park Streetcar Station, 1224 Lexington Parkway N (at the northeast corner of Lexington and Horton)

Below is the list of neighborhood residents who will be on the April 16 ballot. These candidates submitted their names by the April 9 deadline. Additional candidates may be nominated from the floor during the Annual Meeting; they will be considered write-in candidates. Elections will be held in the following order:

- Treasurer (Special Election to fill the one year remaining on the term for this vacant office)
- Chair
- Secretary
- Sub-Districts 1-4
- At-Large (3 seats)

Voting

All renters, homeowners, and other residents age 16 or older who live in District 10 are eligible to vote and run for office. So are authorized representatives from a business or nonprofit organization located in District 10. Community members must vote in person; there is no absentee or proxy voting.

All eligible community members may cast ballots for officers and for At-Large positions. (Officers on this year's ballot are the Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer). For positions representing the four Sub-Districts, only sitting board members and community members residing in that Sub-District may cast ballots.

Candidate Statements

Candidates submit their own statements for the positions they are seeking. These statements are reprinted below, with only minimal editing for clarity and consistency. Candidates are listed first by the office they are seeking, then in alphabetical order.

If you have questions about voting or the elections, contact the District 10 office at 651-644-2889 or district10@district10comopark.org.

Candidate Statements

Office: Treasurer (vote for 1)

Mike Ireland

Alameda Street

In the three years I have served on the board, including 2½ years chairing our Environmental committee, my primary motivation in running for the board has been reaffirmed: to give back to our community a portion what has been generously given to me throughout my life. Living within a few miles of the Como neighborhood most of my life, this community has always been a significant part of my life. Yet, it was not until I began to actively participate in our community that I gained an inspired appreciation how critical it is to get involved and stay involved to ensure our neighborhoods, its resources, and the environment continue to improve and thrive.

My professional career has concentrated on leadership positions in bank operations and project management. Currently, I am on the staff at Presbyterian Church of the Way, providing pastoral care. I volunteer on the Como Active Citizen Network's leadership team, a consultant for the Como Community Seed Library, Como Connect Neighborhood Resource Fair lead organizer, and with other local organizations and events. My previous volunteer experience includes serving on the boards of several other nonprofit organizations holding the positions of board chair, vice chair, treasurer, property manager, and committee chairs.

It has been an honor representing Sub-District 3 and chairing the Environmental committee. The Treasurer position is another meaningful opportunity to apply my experience and skills in service to our community. With your support, it would be a privilege to contribute in this capacity.

Office: Chair (vote for 1)

Melissa Liu

Avon Street

My family and I have been residents of Como Park since 2014. I have served as an At-Large Representative of District 10 for 3 years and served as the Chair of the Neighborhood Relations Committee during part of that time.

I see the role of the Chair as one who facilitates open discussion, respects fair process, supports and encourages each board member in their work, and serves as a sounding board for the committees. The chair also maintains communication with our City Council members and with individual neighbors. As a senior member of the board, I understand the importance of weighing all matters circumspectly but also know the parameters and limitations that we have in our advisory role. I am excited about the new equity initiative taking place in our city and, as an educator, I look forward to seeing younger people integrated into our civic discussions.

Office: Secretary (vote for 1)

Marika Staloch

Milton Street

I moved to the Como neighborhood in 2007 with my to-be wife. On closing day, there was a snow storm. Since we had been renters, we did not have a snow shovel, but we wanted to see the house anyway. It was a great way to meet our neighbors, as one slugged down the block with a shovel in hand to rescue us as we were stuck in the street.

I have worked for Saint Paul Public Libraries since 2001, and have been called to public service because of my interest in social justice. I have experience in leading teams and meetings, maintaining minutes, and communicating internally and externally to colleagues and our patrons. My goal for being on this council is that everyone will find the Como neighborhood as welcoming as we have.

Office: Sub-District 1 (vote for 1)

Sub-District 1 is the part of our neighborhood west of Hamline, bounded roughly by Hoyt on the north and the BNSF tracks south of Jessamine on the south.

Lisa Linnell

Holton Street

West Como has been my family's home for 13 years; living between the State Fairgrounds and Como Park has shaped our lives and brought us enormous joy. Our daughter has enjoyed the benefits of the area (Como Zoo and Conservatory, Como Town, the playground, bike trails, and the Como Pool) her whole life. My day-job is on the Wellness team at Target Corporation, so I know personal wellness comes in many forms and support initiatives to make physical, mental, and emotional wellness achievable in our community. I am especially interested in projects that make the Como area safer and cleaner for residents: more accessible composting, pedestrian- and bicycle-friendly routes to schools and businesses, community gardening, to name a few.

I hope to join the Como Community Council to support its mission help people be excited about living in the area and in St. Paul generally through dialogue, communication, and engagement, to see city government as accessible and problem-solving in nature, not bureaucratic and opaque. I appreciate the opportunity to give back to the community I care about and call home.

Sarah Reuter

Almond Avenue

I moved into the neighborhood with my family a little over a year ago. Throughout this last year, we have found ourselves welcomed into an amazing neighborhood. I am excited to contribute to our community, by helping people to connect to one another, and to the incredible resources our community has to offer. Our communitiy is so fortunate to be surrounded by an abundant amount of
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Office: Sub-District 1 (continued)

nature and stunning parks. I am excited to help continue the work of connecting our community to our natural assets, to both better our environment and the lives of all our neighbors. I look forward to utilizing my skills at organizing events and bringing people together, to keep our community vibrant and connected.

Office: Sub-District 2 (vote for 1)

Sub-District 2 is the part of our neighborhood roughly between Hamline on the west, Larpentour on the north, Victoria on the east, and the BNSF tracks south of Jessamine on the south.

Stephen Greenwood

Argyle Street

As a 36-year resident of the Warrendale/Como area and a retired civil (environmental) engineer, I would like to serve on the District 10 Community Council. My wife and I have raised three wonderful children, whom all are working in very productive professions. Currently, I am an active member of the following organizations: 1) Twin Cities Recorder Guild – Treasurer for 6 years. 2) St. Rose of Lima – Choir member and guitarist, 3) Loaves & Fishes, 4) Habitat for Humanity and 5) Audubon Society. Also, I am an active bicyclist, cross-country skier, and golfer. My wife and I have planted hundreds of wildflowers in small yard to attract bees & butterflies and we have composted our yard leaves for 36 years.

Concerning my education, I have Bachelor degrees in Civil and Mechanical Engineering and a Masters in Civil Engineering from the University of Minnesota, specializing in water and wastewater treatment, air pollution control, and industrial engineering. In 36+ years of engineering at the Metropolitan Council and Minnesota Department of Health, I worked on many types of projects: evaluation of public water systems, investigation of groundwater contamination, treatment plant process control, construction and modifications of wastewater treatment plants, dewatering equipment evaluations, and air pollution control. Treatment plants are very complex, cost hundreds of millions of dollars, and involve public health. I have authored ten (10) and co-authored (7) professional papers and presentations, relating to water and air pollution control. My highest award is being nominated and listed in the Marquis Who's Who of Science and Engineering. My relevant professional skills for the Community Council are: understanding of engineering projects and environmental issues, problem solving, and fiscal responsibility.

Amanda Rohrer

Chatsworth Street

Amanda Rohrer has been a resident of Como for more than 10 years. The central location and amenities brought her here fresh out of grad school, but the vibrance and energy of the neighborhood have kept her here through many life changes.

An active person, Amanda runs, bikes, and skis both close to home and elsewhere. She's fascinated by the systems that encourage these activities -- both for recreation and transportation. You can *(continued on next page)*

Office: Sub-District 2 (*continued*)

catch her on bikes around the lake with her two young sons on most sunny days.

Amanda has a Master's degree in Public Policy from the Humphrey Institute and works for the State as an analyst. Her interest is in keeping the neighborhood livable and welcoming for many years to come.

Office: Sub-District 3 (vote for 1)

Sub-District 3 is the part of our neighborhood roughly between Victoria on the west, Larpenteur on the north, Dale on the east, and the BNSF tracks south of Jessamine on the south.

Sara Benzkofer

Parkview Avenue

I've been a St. Paul resident for 14 years and moved to District 10 three years ago. I love walking around the lake and watching the sunset, getting warm in the winter at the conservatory, and catching a concert at the pavilion.

I'm on the Como Connect team planning the neighborhood resource fair we held in October 2018, lending my skills in communication and event planning. I'm excited about the future plans to connect it to the Ice Cream Social in July and increasing the opportunity for more people to be connected to the services and resources in the Como area.

I'm currently the Interim Executive Director for an education non-profit, and previously served as their Director of Public Policy and Communications. My career and volunteer pursuits center around public service, building strong communities, and working to create change where all voices are heard and respected. I believe that we all have story to share, and in encouraging and listening to those stories, we can build an equitable and thriving community.

I am interested in a variety of issues, but have a passion for affordable housing, clean water, clean air, and high-quality early care and education.

In my free time, I enjoy reading, spending time with family, and photography, and Como Lake has become a favorite subject.

I am excited about the opportunity to serve alongside others on the council and with residents in Como as one of the representatives of Sub-District 3.

Melissa Brannon

Dale Street

My name is Melissa Brannon and I would love to be considered for a seat with District 10, sub 3 and be on the Neighborhood Relations and Safety board.

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Office: Sub-District 3 (continued)

I am originally from Minneapolis; I am a mother and a wife, and have been living in the Como neighborhood for almost three years now. I have enjoyed the diversity and opportunities that it has to offer, such as the Como Zoo, Como Lake, community meetings, and much more. Our community is made up of wonderful and great neighbors, events, and schools and I want to be a part of that growing community. Last year, while living in the neighborhood, I won a Pop Up St. Paul contest where I had to submit an essay on why I think my neighborhood should win and what my goal would be and I chose to focus on Crime Prevention & Safety.

I am a college graduate with a degree in Criminal Justice, have a certificate in Corrections, and a Community Health Worker certificate. I am a Century College Alumni, and registered with the Minnesota Social Service Association (MSSA). I have been working with individuals and families within the nonprofit community for five years, have been working in the sober community housing field for almost three years, and also work full-time for an international non-profit organization as a Case Worker II.

I love and truly enjoy helping people connect to community resources, to help them to live their best lives, and want to bring my educational and professional experiences, along with my passion to this position to keep our neighborhood safe and open to all.

Mike Mitchelson

Avon Street

My wife and I have lived in D10 since 2008, and in St. Paul since 1998. We think D10 has been a great place to live and raise our child. My careers as a journalist and St. Paul business operator/executive have often placed me at the intersection of neighborhood development, preservation, and environmental issues. I understand the complexity and impact of these issues, and would be honored to join the D10 Community Council to continue the valuable work it's done.

Office: Sub-District 4 (vote for 1)

Sub-District 4 is the part of our neighborhood roughly between Snelling on the west, Dale on the east, and between the two sets of BNSF tracks (near Jessamine on the north and between Front Ave. and Energy Park Drive on the south).

Alexis Baker

Ryde Street

I am currently one of two representatives from Sub-District 4 and have served on the Council since winning a special election last October. In my short time with the board, I have joined the Neighborhood Relations Committee and have been an active member in representing our sub-district on matters such as the TCGIS proposals, community outreach planning for Summer 2019, and votes appearing before the Board related to smoking cessation and compostable to-go container motions. It has been an honor to serve SubD 4, and I am excited to continue serving my neighbors. Re-election to the board would enable me to continue to make a strong and lasting *(continued on next page)*

Office: Sub-District 4 (*continued*)

impact representing SubD 4 and its residents. Being situated as our sub-district is, along Front Ave., the train line, and next to the Dale/Como/Front intersection, makes ours a unique and important voice for the larger District 10.

Outside of the Council, I work in Labor Relations for the Metropolitan Council. I have worked in public service management for almost 6 years, and my work brings a unique and balanced perspective to the Council. My husband, Steve, and I are originally from Des Moines and have lived in St. Paul for 3.5 years. We bought our first house in Como in Fall 2017, and we, along with our dog and two kitties, love the neighborhood, our neighbors, and all that Como has to offer.

Office: At Large (vote for up to 3)

Jill Henricksen

Holton Street

I've lived in the Como Park neighborhood for 15 years with my husband and two sons, who attend Capital Hill and Como Park High School.

After obtaining a degree in Urban and Regional Planning, I've worked in community planning, organizing, and development for more than 20 years. In addition, I have experience with nonprofit management and fundraising.

Currently I am a Community Development Manager at MN Housing Partnership, providing technical assistance to local governments, nonprofits, and Native Tribes.

I'm interested in a position on the Board of Directors as a way to serve my community.

Debra Verber

Maryland Ave.

I am a native Midwesterner but I've only lived here in Como for 3 years, but plan to be here for many years to come. My daughter, Emma (6), my beagle Lucy, and I love the neighborhood and everything it has to offer. I am an elementary school teacher, so education is of specific interest to me. I have experience working in both public and private schools. My goal is to keep Como a fun, vibrant, and safe place for our families and children to be.

Jennifer Victor-Larsen

Midway Parkway

I have lived in District 10 for over 20 years and raised my family here. I have an MBA from St. Thomas and bring broad experience as a Senior Underwriting Director for John Hancock Financial, Executive Director of HeroSearch.org, and spouse of a small-business owner. I have a passion for reducing waste and have been involved with the city drop-off events and donation collections. I enjoy working collaboratively on thoughtful solutions to issues that include 'and' and not 'or'.

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Office: At-Large *(continued)*

Maggie Zimmerman

Montana Avenue

I have served as a representative of Sub-District 2 for 2-1/2 years. In the last year, I have also served as the chair of the Land Use Committee, where I have helped to navigate local issues related to parking, development, planning, and growth. In this capacity I've had the chance to work with many different folks across Como and the City of St Paul. I've developed some familiarity with city processes and some of the common concerns that residents face when change comes to the neighborhood. I remain interested and excited to help people navigate the sometimes murky waters of city systems and to look for ways to help Como Park shine.

I live with my family on the north side of Como Lake. My children attend Chelsea Heights Elementary School, and I am a faculty member at St Paul College near downtown StP. I very truly love Como Park and St. Paul and hope to continue serving on our district council.