



St. Peter / Greater Mankato

2023 St. Peter City Election Overview

Publication date: Sept. 2023

The election is on **Tuesday, November 7th**, from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Ward 1 (North): Vote at **St. Peter Armory**, 1120 W. Swift St.

Ward 2 (South): Vote at the **St. Peter Community Center**, 600 S. Fifth St.

Visit [MNvotes.org](https://mnvotes.org) to check **registration**, **sample ballot**, and **polling place**.

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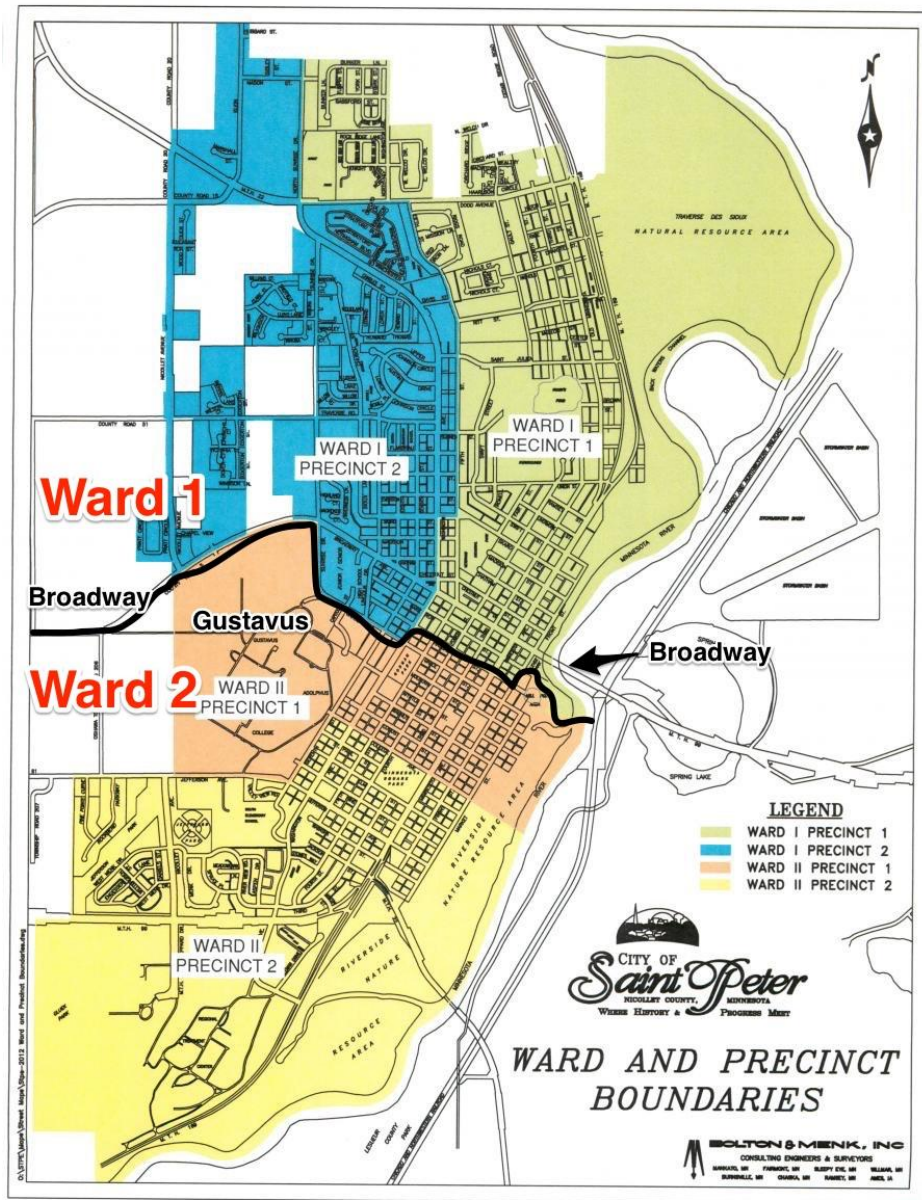
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*This packet has been compiled by volunteers from Indivisible St. Peter/Mankato. Information is taken from candidates' websites, news articles, candidate forums, questionnaires, and meet and greets. Where there is no information for a particular question, this does not mean that the candidate does not care about or has not spoken about the issue - they just may not have provided a response. Every attempt has been made to be accurate and objective. Corrections and suggestions should be submitted to indivisblespgm@gmail.com.
To access the digital version, hover your camera phone over the QR Code on the left.

Candidate Forums and Overviews

- **Mayor and City Council**
 - **League of Women Voters Candidate Forum: Mayor and City Council**
 - [Forum Video](#)
 - [Forum Notes](#)
 - St. Peter Herald article summary: [Mayor, City Council candidates face questions on cannabis, TIF, environment](#)
 - **Mayor** [Where do the candidates stand: St. Peter mayor](#) (St. Peter Herald)
 - **City Council** [Where do the candidates stand: St. Peter City Council](#) (St. Peter Herald)
- **School Board**
 - **League of Women Voters Candidate Forum: School Board**
 - [Forum Video](#)
 - [Forum Notes](#)
 - St. Peter Herald article summary: [St. Peter School Board Candidates Talk Issues in LWV Forum](#)
 - **School Board** [Where do the candidates stand: St. Peter School Board](#) (St. Peter Herald)



Candidates for Mayor

(1 seat open)

- Shanon Nowell (Incumbent)
- Ed Johnson

City Council Ward 1 (North) 4-yr term

(1 seat open)

- Keri Johnson

City Council Ward 2 (South) 4-yr term

(2 seats open)

- Brad DeVos
- Joshua Weisenfeld
- Chuck Zieman
- Charlie Rustman

School Board 4-yr term

(4 seats open)

- Rita Rassbach
- Amanda Hird
- Ken Rossow
- Bill Kautt (incumbent)
- Michael Spear
- Tracy Stuewe (incumbent)
- Krystal Loula
- Bill Weber

St. Peter City Council and Mayor - What do they do?

The **St. Peter City Council** is made up of **6 elected council members** and **1 elected mayor**. These seven individuals work with the appointed **City Administrator** to create and administer public policies affecting the city.

The **mayor** serves a 2-year term, **presides** over the city council meeting and has a vote that is equal to any other council member. Mayors serve as **representatives** of the city at official events and in interactions with other governments (i.e. the state of Minnesota, the federal government, or other cities). According to state law, mayors have several other interesting roles and responsibilities including being the city weed inspector (ensuring that noxious weeds are controlled by landowners) and having the sole ability to declare a local emergency in a city.

Council members are divided into two wards: Ward I (the north side) and Ward II (the south side) and serve four-year, overlapping terms (see map).

The City Council meets twice a month for regular sessions, twice a month for workshops, and once per quarter for goal setting sessions. One of the most important functions of the city council is the **hiring or appointment of key city leaders including the City Administrator, Treasurer, Police Chief, Fire Chief, and City Attorney**.

The Council can also appoint **independent boards and commissions**. The Council has administrative and legislative authority and responsibility to set policy for the city and ensure that the city is fulfilling its duties under the law. Councilmembers act as **liaisons between the city and the public** and should be concerned with the **future development** of the city. The council oversees the city's **financial affairs** and is responsible for levying city **taxes**, adopting a **budget**, **spending city money**, and **borrowing** money.

The council manages parks, recreational facilities, water, sewage, police and fire services, hospitals, streets, animal regulations, public events, and city employees.

2023 St. Peter Mayor and City Council Candidates - Overview

Mayor - 2 year term (choose 1)			
 Incumbent	■ Shanon Nowell (FB; website) - current mayor elected in 2021; works as Executive Assistant to the Provost at Gustavus Adolphus College; served on St. Peter City Council and the boards of the Creative Play Place, Early Childhood/Family Ed., and St. Peter Library; served as Congregational President at First Lutheran church; has lived in Saint Peter since 2005 (507) 246-6858 vote@shanonnowell.com		■ Ed Johnson - manager of Red Men Club for 34 years; 13 years experience serving the St. Peter Fire Department as a firefighter; Previously served on the St. Peter Hospital Commission and on the City Council for 3 years; lifelong St. Peter resident (507) 382-4022 edwardjohnson529@gmail.com
City Council Ward 1 (roughly N. of Broadway) - (choose 1)		Indivisible Voter Guide	
 Incumbent	■ Keri Johnson (FB) - St. Peter Council Member since 2020; St. Peter Food Co-op Personnel Administrator; 2nd VP of Coalition of Greater MN Cities, Regional Economic Development Alliance Vice Chair, Greater Mankato Growth Board Member, Serves as the Council Liaison on: Economic Development Authority and the River's Edge Hospital Commission, volunteers as the BeSMART for Kids (safe/secure firearm storage) Lead in St. Peter/Mankato, and volunteers with the United Way Emergency Services Impact Team. (612) 387-2835 keriforcitycouncil@gmail.com		Hover your camera phone over this QR code for an online version of this candidate overview and more information about the election and endorsements.
City Council Ward 2 (roughly S. of Broadway) - (choose 2)			
 Incumbent	■ Brad DeVos - St. Peter City Council Member since 2020; small business owner, rental property owner, Implementation Specialist at Schwartz Farms; Treasurer of St. Peter Community Childcare Center (2013-2017); Climate Smart Municipalities; Economic Development Authority; Planning & Zoning Commission; Public Works; over 25 years financial & data analysis experience in agriculture, retail and financial service. (763) 350-7567 sbdevos3@gmail.com		■ Joshua Weisenfeld - Born and raised in St. Peter; St. Peter High School and Gustavus Adolphus College graduate; law degree from the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law; licensed and practicing Intellectual Property Attorney; Strategic Planning Committee Member for Bar Association; St. Peter Parks & Recreation Commission; active volunteer; Mug Club member at Patrick's. (507) 995-2247 joshweisenfeld@gmail.com
	■ Chuck Zieman - resident of St. Peter for 45 years; graduate of Gustavus Adolphus College; served on City Council from 2012-2015 and as mayor from 2016-2019 (507) 934-2107 woody@hickorytech.net		■ Charlie Rustman - production manager at Jarraff Industries, St. Peter firefighter and stock car racer (507) 382-2514 charlierustmand05@hotmail.com

School Board - What does it do?

Independent School District 508 has a **7-member school board**. School board members are elected at large and serve **four-year terms**, with three or four seats open in a given election. To be eligible for election to the school board, individuals must be US citizens, eligible to vote, residents of the school district for at least 30 days before the election, and 21 years of age.

The school board serves as the **governing and policymaking body** for the school district. The school board **manages district facilities and property** and is responsible for **hiring, supervising, and evaluating the superintendent**. School board members serve on **committees** established by the board itself.

Standing committees include (among others) the **instructional program** committee, **co-curricular program** committee, **personnel** committee, **calendar** committee, and **policy review** committee. The policymaking process generally begins with a proposal brought by the superintendent to the school board. Such proposals are open to the public for comment before the committee considers and votes on the proposal. The school board has oversight over things like **curriculum, personnel, facilities, and school policy**.

ISD 508 includes the following:

- St. Peter Community and Family Education
- Early Childhood Center (Pre-K)
- South Elementary (grades K-1)
- North Elementary (grades 2-4)
- St. Peter Middle School (grades 5-8)
- St. Peter High School (grades 9-12)
- Rock Bend Alternative Learning Center (grades 9-12)
- Hoffmann Learning Center (serving residential clients of the Hoffman Center)

2023 St. Peter School Board Candidates

School Board - Choose 4



■ **Rita Rassbach (FB)**- B.S.in Biology and Psychology, M.S. in Occupational Therapy with specialties in mental health/rehab; advocate for people with developmental disabilities and their families; 1 child who is a recent graduate of the district and one child who is a student in the district; math and reading volunteer for 7 years in the district; advocated for operating referendum for the district during the last election; currently co-chair of the Advisory Council Office of Education Equity; has served on many community boards and is a Promoting Respect Facilitator with the Greater Mankato Diversity Council
(507) 382-0531
rita4schoolboard@gmail.com



■ **Amanda Hird (FB)** - Mother of 2 young children, Bachelors and Masters in Social Work from MSU; Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker and Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselor; works as a therapist and clinical supervisor in community mental health and county setting; recently completed a 2 year commitment with National Health Service Corps focusing on access to behavioral health services in areas with limited access to services; guest lecturer for MSU Social Work classes.
(507) 318-0201
greineramanda@yahoo.com



Incumbent

■ **Bill Kautt** - current School Board member; retired from the Minnesota School Boards Association. Former St. Peter High School teacher (35 years), Dean of Students and counselor. BA in History, Masters in School Counseling and in Strategic Studies.
(507) 382-8256
bill.kautt998@gmail.com



■ **Ken Rossow** - A banker and a past or current member of numerous community organizations including the Chamber of Commerce School/City Committee, the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce Education and Workforce Development Committee, and the County Historical Society. Served on the St. Peter School Board for two sessions, 1997-2003, including 3 years as Treasurer.
(507) 931-6859 kenwrossow@gmail.com



■ **Michael Spear** - graduate of St. Peter schools and Gustavus Adolphus College; works as a Software engineer and implementations expert
(507) 720-4876
mwspear@gmail.com



■ **Marty Duncan** - PhD in Educational Administration, 32 years as a teacher; served as school superintendent; 10 years on St. Peter School Board; 2017 appointed by Gov. Dayton to Board of Directors at MN State Academies
(507) 380-1963
duncanmarty32@gmail.com



Incumbent

■ **Tracy Stuewe** - has served as president of the St. Peter Booster Club, chair of Special Education Advisory Council; South Parent Council; has worked as a secretary; is currently an administrative assistant at River of Life Lutheran Church in St. Peter.
(507) 380-0339 tracy.stuewe@gmail.com



■ **Krystal Loula** - has lived and worked on family farm for 16 years, 3 daughters in district, active volunteer on South Elementary Parent Council, North Elementary Parent/Teacher Organization
(507) 276-7179 kloula@gmail.com



■ **Bill Weber** - District Sales Manager at Performance Foodservice
(507) 360-9923
bill.weber.77@gmail.com