

OutFront Minnesota Action Municipal Questionnaire (Answers)

1. Candidate Name

- a. Joshua Scheunemann

2. Pronouns

- a. He/Him/His

3. Campaign Manager and Contact Info (Is this Trahern? I remember he was working on the campaign at one point)

- a. Trahern Crews, (651) 508-4233 trahern@mngreens.org

4. Candidate Direct Phone Number

- a. (612) 601-2372

5. Candidate Direct Email

- a. josh@joshforward6.com

6. Office Seeking (include ward/district)

- a. Minneapolis City Council, Ward 6

7. City

- a. Minneapolis, MN

8. Campaign Website

- a. <https://joshforward6.com/>

9. Please write a short statement on how you will promote equity for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer (LGBTQ+) communities. Please be sure to address racial inequities as part of your answer.

- a. My platform is meant to uplift the people and communities of Minneapolis. My platform calls for ending subsidies to corporations and only fund community-driven initiatives, pushes for an increase in funding in public housing (which is particularly important, as LGBTQ+ people are more likely to experience homelessness) and dedicated shelters for LGBTQ+ youth (as 40% of homeless youth are LGBTQ+), and calls for the dissolution of the MPD, as the police often discriminate against and inflict violence upon minorities and LGBTQ+ people.

10. Why are you seeking the endorsement of OutFront Minnesota Action?

- a. I'm seeking the endorsement of OutFront Minnesota Action because I believe I would be a great advocate for LGBTQ+ people in Minneapolis; in particular, I'll be able to provide

a perspective between the intersection of the LGBTQ+ community and the working class, both of which is needed in today's political climate.

11. What is your plan to win (This will not be posted or shared)?

- a. This campaign's plan on winning by addressing key issues, namely protecting the environment, being an advocate for workers, and fighting for social justice. I've been active as a community organizer and advocate for all of these issues; I'm currently helping lead an effort to remove pesticides from Minneapolis' parks, I've gone on strike with nurses and helped fight for the \$15/hour minimum wage, and I helped provide medical aid to and marched alongside the participants of the protests after the murder of George Floyd. I plan on winning by being true to my beliefs and being a public servant above all else.

12. Who do you consult with regarding issues of LGBTQ community?

- a. I and many within my campaign are members of the LGBTQ+ community and have been activists for years. And as active members of the community, we have many friends and colleagues of varying genders and sexualities and are continually seeking their insight on key issues such as healthcare and education.

13. What plans do you have to tackle equal access to affordable housing?

- a. Our plan is to increase funding for public housing and make sure that goes to the communities who need it most. Also, we need to stop predatory landlords and property owners from extorting tenants and make sure tenants know their rights and encourage them to seek justice when wronged.

14. What do you think should be included in a Tenant's Bill Of Rights?

- a. A Tenant's Bill of Rights should guarantee that their space is in a livable condition and that they have the right to an inspection of their space to determine if it is or not. Also, the landlords/property owners should not be able to harass tenants and must give them peace and privacy. Additionally, landlords/property owners should not be able to cut off services and utilities to a tenant. And, on what should be an obvious note, landlords/property owners should not be able to evict tenants on the basis of a tenant's gender, sexuality, race, religion, etc.

15. Current state and national political climates have been described as hostile towards LGBTQ+ rights; how do you see your campaign and yourself working to protect those rights if elected?

- a. One of the biggest things we can do is maintain the ban on conversion therapy for minors, as no one should be pressured to push away their identity, especially the young.

16. How do you and your campaign plan to be inclusive of the LGBTQ+ community during the election season? How do you interact with the community?

- a. Unfortunately, the coronavirus pandemic has stopped us from participating in large events such as Pride. But, as has been mentioned before, many within this campaign are members of the LGBTQ+ community and are constantly seeking the insight of other members.

17. Equal access quality to healthcare is an issue that faces many communities, the trans community even more than others, how do you see your role in ensuring quality access to healthcare throughout the city?

- a. We must increase funding for mental health services and make sure they're available to everyone regardless of their neighborhood, language, or financial situation. We must also educate the public about being transgender, non-binary, gender fluid, etc., and provide resources so that people can be comfortable coming out and being their true selves.

18. How will you work to defund and abolish the MPD?

- a. First and foremost, I support the efforts of councilmembers Jenkins, Cunningham, Ellison, and Gordon who intend to dismantle MPD through the city budget. However, we must also replace our current system with one that is based in the thoughts and needs of community (which should be consulted in creating this new system) and focuses on improving peoples' lives instead of throwing people behind bars. In addition, this new system must be directly overseen by the community so that this new system is held accountable to the people it's supposed to serve.

19. Will you commit to refusing law enforcement federation (for example, the MPD Federation, AFSCME Local 320) money or endorsement during your campaign and as an elected leader?

- a. Yes

20. If you selected No or Other please explain

- a. N/A

21. Do you support or oppose programs like CVE?

- a. Oppose

22. If you don't support programs like CVE, why not? If you do support them, why do you?

- a. Counter Violent Extremist programs have been used as an excuse to target and terrorize black and Muslim communities across the United States. Just like other policing programs, CVE is discriminatory and need to be replaced with community-based programs; the fact is funding education, housing, healthcare, and other social welfare programs are much more effective at achieving what CVE and programs like it claim what their goal is.

23. How will you support the inclusion of LGBTQ+ businesses when looking at city-wide procurement policies?

- a. One thing that we can do is commission a study similar to the one Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot backed that looked at whether or not homophobia, transphobia, or other anti-LGBTQ+ attitudes affected whether or not LGBTQ+ owned/ran businesses got contracts with the city. In addition, LGBTQ+ businesses would greatly benefit if the city of Minneapolis stopped subsidizing corporations and supported community-driven businesses and initiatives.