

**2020 Verbal Screening Questions – 5CD Green Party candidate  
endorsement Josh Scheunemann – April 14, 2020**

1. Why are you running for office? How did you decide to run?

I want to have a third party voice, be more active in the local community and help the everyday day to day people see the most effective government. Break down the two party system that we currently have and building a strong third party voice where I feel it really matters, which is at the local level.

How I started running was I saw the position on the facebook post that the city elections services put out. I decided within 15 minutes that I was tired of the two party system even more. I wanted to run for either City Council or Park Board and this seat came open first. I am very passionate and want to grow. I've been working with the Park board and now learning more about the city when I decided to run. That is basically the two prongs to why I decided to run.

2. Please tell us about the office that you are seeking. What are its duties and powers? What can you tell us about the constituency (Ward, District, or City) from which you seek election?

Minneapolis Ward 6 is mainly located off of Franklin Ave. The majority of the population is Somali community which is the largest voting population which includes Cedar Riverside and up and down Franklin. It has a small majority of gay and LBGT people in Stevens square. It is a majority of working class and lower income citizens that live in this area.

City council members are active members in the community for that district, they set resolutions, city level ordinances, finances of the city, roads and infrastructure, work with the board of taxation and budget for the city.

3. Why are you seeking Green endorsement?

I feel strongly about third parties, more so everyday. Becoming more active in the Green Party I feel that third parties are more important. Seeking the Green Party endorsement is my best option right now when we are embroiled in this two party system where even though the majority of people like a certain candidate the big money Super PACs and big corporations win in the end.

4. What is your history with the Green Party?

I started as a member about 8-9 months ago. In November I was elected to the State Central Committee and still serving in that position now. I am the chair of the State Environmental Committee.

5. Pretend that you're either in a community candidate forum or otherwise meeting voters for the first time. You have two minutes to introduce yourself and campaign. Please give us your best two-minute stump speech.

I am Josh. I am running for the Green Party endorsement for Minneapolis City Council ward 6. I'm working on a platform working towards the green solution. We are focusing on addressing the climate emergency which matters the most on the local level. I hope you can join me today to join our grassroots effort to address climate change.

6. Tell us about your campaign strategy and how you envision working with your campaign committee. Do you currently have a campaign manager and a treasurer?

My current campaign manager is the Green Party State Chair Trahern, he is currently running my campaign until I can find someone. I do have a couple of people in mind right now, I'm just waiting to hear back from them. My treasurer is currently myself. I'm also seeking to find someone else. I have a couple of possible leads and am waiting to hear back from them, too. I've been recently talking to Adam Schneider, who has been a huge help the last few days. He will more than likely continue as treasurer.

My strategy with my campaign committee is very active with lots of communication. We currently have been using a chat software, where we can communicate in chat rooms. We can have digital meetings with Zoom to meet with a larger group of people. I'm trying to gain as many volunteers and be as active as we can, building a strong cooperative and collaborative team with the goal of winning the election.

7. What are your fund-raising goals? Are you comfortable asking people for money? What is your strategy?

I am very comfortable. I've done different activism work. I'm good at asking for money. I have a sales background at a variety of retail environments. I'm really good at connecting with people even if they don't always agree with me.

My strategy is to ask for money in every possible instance. If after the pandemic we can go back to door knocking, I will have a fundraising pitch. I'll be asking voters about what issues they care about. I will be throwing in fundraising at every opportunity, like in social media, every press release and every other opportunity. I really want to focus on just grassroots. No PACs, no corporate sponsors. I have high lofty goals. My original goal is raising \$15,000, but I feel I'm under estimating. I'm always ready to break the goal I set for myself.

8. A common perception exists that the Green Party is solely an environmental party. Yet, at our core are the four pillars - Grassroots Democracy, Nonviolence, Social & Economic Justice, and Ecological Wisdom. How have you lived out those values in your past experiences? How will you communicate the many issues we are concerned about to the voters?

I really strongly believe and everyday try to practice conservation, all the environmental issues, democracy, really trying to promote and encourage to participate and enjoy the democratic process. I encourage other people to follow the Four Pillars. Other people in different cultures may have a different way to talk about the Four Pillars with different words they use but really it's the same thing. So I encourage people to see where they fit them into everyday life, practice it and pass it along.

Starting in 2016 I worked with Working America, part of AFL-CIO, on campaign efforts here in the summer of 2016. I worked on a team in St. Louis that worked on local elections. When I came back, with Working America, I worked on the Fight for \$15. I canvassed ward 6 with Working America because Abdi Warsame was one of the few people who opposed the \$15 minimum wage. I spoke in front of the city council for Working America. I worked with the Park Board on Pesticide Free Parks and have been working with them since 2017.

9. What issues are likely to emerge in the campaign as raised by other candidates? How are you prepared to address those issues?

Just today one of my opponents posted online about the city's investigation of slumlords in the Cedar Riverside neighborhood. I've been working on platform ideas and trying out a few different ones. I think affordable housing is key. So when an issue comes up I want to see it from both sides. If there is a brand new topic that hasn't been brought up I like to analyze, inspect and review it and collaborate before making a statement.

10. What types of support are you hoping to get from the Green Party (besides our endorsement)?

Access to 5th District volunteers that are willing to help out with the campaign. Fundraising help. I have an idea, the state Green Party has a get out the vote and party building effort money. Ward 6, unless I'm wrong, it has low voter turnout which is a big challenge I'm facing with the campaign. So have the Green Party endorsement and the get out the vote effort would be very helpful with voter outreach. It would be "cross pollination" working with the state party and local 5th district which would help out more than just my campaign. It would help out the state party, 5th district too.

11. Is there anything else you would like to tell us about yourself or your campaign?

Not that I can think of.

12. Are there any changes to your answers from your written questionnaire?

No.