

# Mpls Mayoral Questionnaire

## Introduction:

Our population is aging, both in Minneapolis and nationwide. People over 60 now comprise more than 25% of the Minneapolis population, and people over 65 comprise nearly 11%. As part of this significant demographic, the Minneapolis DFL Senior Caucus is concerned about issues that affect the general community as well as issues that pertain specifically to them.

Candidate Name

Jazz Hampton

Candidate Email

jazz@jazzformayor.com

Candidate Phone

612-2372162

Manager

Kristina Mitchell

Manager email

campaignmanager@jazzformayor.com

Manager phone

6122376544

**1. Priorities:** What are your top three priorities for our city?

My top priorities are expanding affordable housing, building a public safety system that truly works for everyone, and revitalizing Minneapolis' economy. These priorities are not only essential for the city's overall well-being—they are also critical for seniors. Revitalizing Minneapolis' economy is going to help reduce the increasing costs on seniors and the residential property tax levy to ensure they can age in place with dignity. A safer city allows seniors to feel secure in their homes and communities. And access to deeply affordable housing ensures that every resident, regardless of age or income, has the stability they deserve.

**2. Housing:** What will you do to provide quality, affordable housing for all, including seniors?

Since aging in place is often the best and most cost-effective way to house seniors, we are especially interested in your plan for how Minneapolis will achieve this.

Everyone deserves a place to call home. My plan will strengthen our homelessness response, increase deeply affordable housing, and create new pathways to homeownership. But for seniors specifically, I am deeply committed to expanding home repair and accessibility grant programs, supporting naturally occurring affordable housing, and working with Hennepin County to deliver wraparound services for those aging in place with dignity. Housing must be affordable, accessible, and designed with every life stage in mind.

**3. Crime and public safety:** How will you deter and fight crime, including juvenile crime, to keep us all — including seniors — safe? Please address how you will work to bring the Minneapolis Police Department up to the level required in the city charter.

I will expand our entire public safety system—from violence interrupters to police officers—but only after we build a relationship of trust with a localized representation of responders. Safety begins with prevention, which means funding youth opportunity programs, mental health response, and community violence intervention. It also means supporting a professional, accountable police force to respond swiftly and fairly to violent crime. We need a system built on trust, equity, and responsiveness—one where every senior feels safe in their home and neighborhood.

**4. Local economic development:** Many of our community commercial corridors and hubs are struggling to recover from recent challenges and changes to our city. How will you approach economic development to provide needed jobs, products and services, and bring community commercial corridors and hubs back to life?

Small businesses are the heart of our communities. I will create a Small Business Resource Hub to help entrepreneurs thrive, provide incentives for fair-wage businesses, and streamline the permitting process. These investments will ensure local businesses return and grow—especially in our neighborhood hubs—bringing essential services, jobs, and vibrancy back to our city. This economic revitalization supports access to amenities and helps seniors age in place with dignity by keeping resources close and communities strong.

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**5. Financing the City:** Because the city's commercial tax base is decreasing, and funding from the federal government is in decline, an increasing amount of the property tax levy is falling on residential properties. How will you craft a budget that meets the City's needs and also protects renters and homeowners, especially seniors, from property taxes that threaten to make their homes unaffordable?

I'll take a balanced approach that protects our most vulnerable residents. That means increasing transparency in budgeting and identifying opportunities for structural savings. I will advocate for increased state and federal investment, while supporting home modification programs that help seniors safely stay in their homes and age in place with dignity. Our budget must reflect our values—and that means protecting our seniors from being priced out of the communities they've built.

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**6. Planning for the future:** As the city's population grows and infrastructure ages, the city is facing increasing pressures on both built and natural environments, jeopardizing our health and quality of life. What is your plan, including financing, for addressing the pressure points from growth on aging infrastructure (water system, sanitation, waste disposal, streets) as well as our natural environment (tree canopy, air and water quality)?

I support strong implementation of the Minneapolis Climate Equity Plan and the 2040 Plan. My infrastructure plan includes upgrading our stormwater systems, modernizing our water and waste infrastructure, and protecting our tree canopy. I'll push for clean air and water protections, green infrastructure, and investments that ensure every neighborhood can withstand extreme weather. These improvements will be financed through smart leveraging of city, county, and federal funds, ensuring that seniors can live in healthy, resilient communities.

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**7. Good government:** Minneapolis's good-government reputation has been damaged by headlines alleging fraud and abuse. What will you do to ensure integrity in how the City awards contracts and to prevent even the appearance of cronyism or conflicts of interest?

We must lead with transparency and collaboration. I will ensure that the work of the Mayor's office and the City Council is clearly communicated to the public, with accessible reporting and regular updates. Procurement processes must be fair and competitive, and community stakeholders must be able to see how decisions are made. Restoring public trust means sharing power, not hoarding it, and letting residents see the work as it happens.

**8. Equity for seniors/ Increasing mobility:** Recent urban designs limit some people's ability to get around the city to the services they need. How will you ensure that seniors and other mobility-impacted people are centered in the design of city streets and services?

I will prioritize accessibility in every transportation and infrastructure decision. That includes expanded sidewalk repair programs, snow removal support, curb cut improvements, and senior-friendly public transit planning. We must engage seniors directly in the design of services and make sure their voices are represented. I also support walkable neighborhoods and 15-minute city planning that keeps essential services close to home—making it easier for seniors to age in place with dignity.

**9. Your relationship with seniors:** Where do you get your understanding about issues of concern to seniors in Minneapolis? How will you consult with senior and disability groups such as the Minneapolis Chapter of the DFL Senior Caucus, Age Friendly and other senior advisory groups?

I get a lot of my understanding about seniors' issues from my parents, my in-laws, my amazing neighbors, and the elders at church. I have learned from seniors in every corner of Minneapolis—as a neighbor, legal advocate, nonprofit board member, and candidate. I will continue to engage with the Minneapolis DFL Senior Caucus, Age Friendly Minneapolis, and other senior advisory groups to co-create policy that reflects lived experience. I believe in listening to the wisdom of seniors as their input and perspectives are imperative and unparalleled, they have the longest relationship with this city, and deserve the reverence of being heard and focused on in shaping policy. I believe in shared power, and that means showing up, listening, and taking action based on what seniors actually tell us they need to age in place with dignity.

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