

While the nation turned its eyes to New Jersey and Virginia, most Minnesotans focused their Election Night attention on the City of Minneapolis. Having been thrust prominently into the national spotlight during the civil unrest last June, the role of Mayor in Minneapolis and St. Paul has prompted significant discussion and debate in the months that followed.

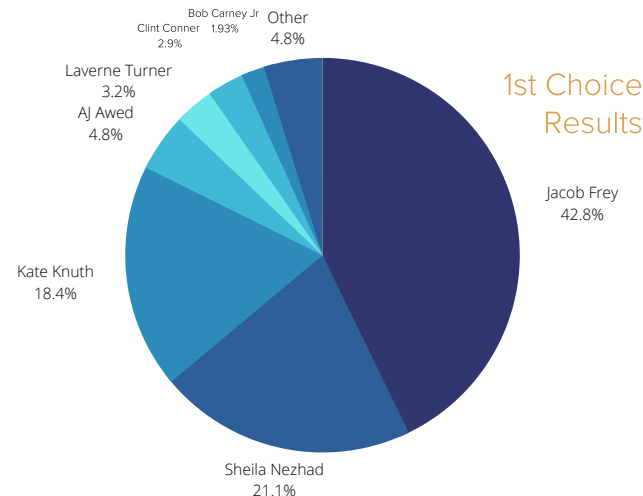
Voters in both cities, along with others around the state, went to the polls to voice their opinions on local leadership and weigh in on a number of ballot initiatives that had the potential to fundamentally change their respective communities' futures.

## MINNEAPOLIS

### MAYORAL RACE

Minnesota's largest city took center stage this election cycle with a hotly contested mayor's race, 13 mostly competitive city council races, and three polarizing ballot questions.

On Election Night, incumbent Mayor Jacob Frey had a strong lead over a large field of potential challengers, having received 43% of first-choice votes. His top challengers, community organizer Sheila Nezhad and former state representative Kate Knuth, garnered 21% and 18% respectively. However, as Minneapolis' ranked-choice voting system requires a candidate to receive a majority of the votes, city officials convened the following day to tabulate second and third choice votes. In the end, Frey ended up receiving 56.2% of the vote, toping Knuth who received 43.8%.



### BALLOT MEASURES

- Question 1:** Amended City Charter to adopt an Executive Mayor-Legislative Council structure and shifted certain powers to the mayor. **PASSED**



- Question 2:** Would have removed the Minneapolis Police Department and replaced it with a Department of Public Safety in an attempt to provide a "comprehensive public health approach to the delivery" of public safety services. **FAILED**



- Question 3:** Authorized the City Council to enact a rent control ordinance that would give rent stabilization powers to the City Council. **PASSED**



### CITY COUNCIL

The Minneapolis City Council elections represent a microcosm of the general rift amongst the Democratic Party; notably the split between progressive candidates, many of whom identify as Democratic Socialists, and more moderate Democrats.

There will be seven new members of the Minneapolis City Council next year as Council members Alondra Cano (Ward 9) and Lisa Bender (Ward 10) did not seek reelection and Council members Phillipe Cunningham (Ward 4) and Jeremy Schroeder (Ward 11) were defeated on election night. However, once the second and third choice votes had been tabulated, it became evident that Councilmembers Kevin Reich (Ward 1) and Steve Fletcher (Ward 3) as well as the council's lone Green Party member, Councilmember Cam Gordon (Ward 2), had also been defeated.

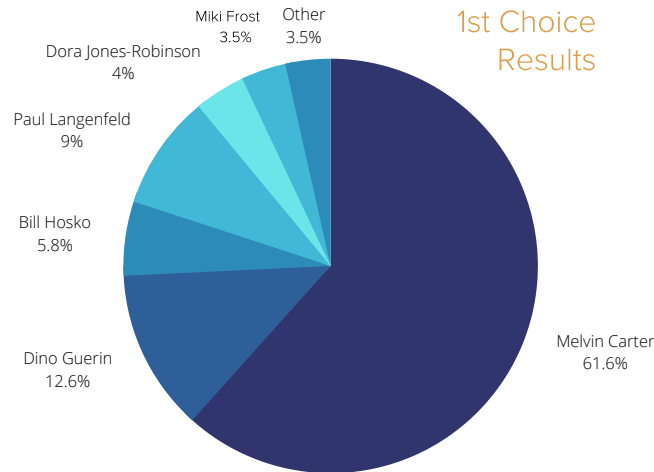
Not only will the majority of the Minneapolis City Council be first-term council members, but for the first time in the city's history, a majority will be individuals of color.

## ST PAUL

**MAYOR & SCHOOL BOARD**

While things were generally quieter across the river in St. Paul, voters still went to poles tasked with selecting the next Mayor, electing four school board members, and deciding on a rent control ballot measure. First-term Mayor Melvin Carter defeated seven challengers, receiving 61.6% of first-place votes.

Jeannie Foster, Jim Vue, Halla Henderson, and Uriah Ward all won seats on the St. Paul School Board.



**BALLOT QUESTION**

St. Paul voters also decided the fate of a rent stabilization measure of their own, voting 52.9% to 47.1% in favor of a proposed city ordinance that will limit rent increases to no more than 3% a year, and in doing so, giving St. Paul one of the most aggressive rent control policies in the nation.



## BLOOMINGTON

**CITY COUNCIL**

Having recently surpassed Duluth as Minnesota’s fourth-largest municipality, Bloomington had three city council seats on the ballot; one of the two at-large seats as well as the seats representing Council District 3 and Council District 4.

After a strong first choice showing in which incumbent at-large Councilmember Nathan Coulter received 46.9% of the vote, Coulter went on to win reelection, eventually receiving 56.5% of the vote. Coulter defeated challengers Paul King and Ricardo Oliva, who received 30.6% and 22.3% of the first-choice votes respectively.

Following Councilmember Jack Baloga’s retirement after 10 years representing District 3, Lona Dallessandro emerged from a pack of four candidates to win 51.7% of the vote. While in District 4, Councilmember Patrick Martin won reelection over three challengers with just over 50% of the first-choice votes.