

Matt Privratsky
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Dear Jay,

I'm writing to express my interest in serving as the Interim Ward 4 Councilmember for the City of Saint Paul. I believe my experience, skill set, and familiarity with both the City Council and City Hall would make me a great fit to join your team.

I moved to Saint Paul in 2013 without virtually any knowledge or background in how the city worked. My way of learning my new community was to show up to a lot of city and neighborhood engagement events and learn the way things worked from scratch – the way new ideas got proposed, the way community members gave their feedback, and the way elected officials seemed to respond to it all. For years I was just an active local advocate for things like safer transportation options, better land use, and adding more homes. By 2017, I started spending most of that same time and energy helping local progressive candidates run for city, county, and state level positions where they could make an impact on the issues we cared about.

This personal experience, alongside the more than a decade of professional experience described on my attached resume, has helped me work for and coach a wide range of candidates and elected officials with incredibly different strengths, working styles, and priorities. I've built successful working relationships with virtually every single person I've met because my focus is entirely on our shared outcomes and goals rather than any personal ambition or ego. When that means I do significant leg work, research, and analysis and save others' time by quickly briefing them, I'm more than happy to do it. When that means biking the entire University Avenue corridor at 6AM to take pictures of every single building that was damaged overnight during unrest so city department staff have a clear record of who to reach out to, I'm game. When it means standing in front of dozens or hundreds of angry residents who want to express their frustration, I'm more than happy to take the heat and hear them out.

Being a Councilmember is an absurdly unique and difficult job. It requires you to oscillate between tasks, issues, priorities, and moods at the drop of a hat. It forces you to balance polite, angry, excited, and hateful feedback all at once. And it asks you to grapple with the needs of tens of thousands of people at every moment. There are very few people in Saint Paul that appreciate the nuances and complexities of what our six sitting Councilmembers grapple with every day more than me. I've done city level policy development for issues like tenant protections, sustainable to-go packaging, and complex zoning code updates. I've helped implement robust new community engagement efforts to shape community first public safety grant programs. Most of all, I have a track record of being a stable, trustworthy, consistent partner not only to my council colleagues but to every single staff person in City Hall and throughout my Ward.

I am fiercely proud of the work I did as a legislative aide for former Councilmember Mitra Jalali and I would be honored to have the chance to serve as the Interim Ward 4 Councilmember this summer. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.

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MATTPRIVRATSKY@GMAIL.COM | 651-403-1051

EXPERIENCE

Nokomis Energy — Director, Government Affairs

Oct 2021 - Present

- Policy analysis, development
- Legislative tracking, strategy, engagement
- Regulatory tracking, strategy, engagement
- State agency tracking, strategy, engagement

City Council, Ward 4 — Legislative Aide

Oct 2018 - Oct 2021

- Policy analysis, development
- Internal department engagement
- County, state, Met Council engagement
- Community engagement, media relations

Fresh Energy — Director, Public Affairs (Prev: Sr Comms & Gov Affairs, Sr Comms)

Jan 2015 - Oct 2018

- Partnership, coordination with policy team leads
- Legislative tracking, strategy, engagement
- Strategic communications, media relations

MN Rural Electric Association — Gov & Public Affairs Representative

July 2014-Dec 2014

MN House DFL Caucus — Communications Specialist

Jan 2013-July 2014

Tastefully Simple — Audio/Visual Production Manager

Oct 2011-Dec 2012

KMRS/KKOK Radio — News Director

June 2011-Oct 2011

EDUCATION

University of Minnesota, Morris — Bachelor of Arts

2011. Major: Political Science. Minor: Communications.