

Statewide Vice President nominees

Julie Hoffman

My name is Julie Hoffman and I have been a MAPE member for over four years. I work at Mn.IT Central at the Capitol. I have private and public sector leadership and supervisory experience, as well as experience serving on the Board of Directors for a non-profit. I have a law degree and career in executive management, contracts and negotiations. During my time representing MAPE members as Chief Steward, on the Employee Rights Committee and formerly on the Negotiations Committee, I have worked tirelessly on behalf of members. Through each of these roles, I've demonstrated executive leadership capacity, high ethical standards, labor rights savvy, contract management, advocacy and public service skills. It is a testament to those demonstrated skills that a Negotiations Committee member nominated me for the Statewide VP role. I pledge to serve the interests of the members and the advancement of worker rights. A vote for me is a vote for ethical and effective leadership for your union.

Thu Phan

We are living in an exciting period in MAPE. We are blessed to have unsung heroes/heroines, such as stewards, local leaders and officers, negotiators, directors and statewide officers as well as MAPE staff, who all helped us weather a few storms from Janus v. AFSCME to budget cuts. We are also blessed that one of the four key strategic priorities of MAPE in 2019 is steward and chief steward development.

The good news is your fellow stewards, chief stewards, and MAPE staff have been diligently working to introduce new measures to improve steward and chief steward development. We have increased the number of Basic Steward and Advanced Steward trainings to fit with your busy schedule. We have brought the Basic Steward Trainings to you locally rather than having them strictly at MAPE (Shoreview). We have also revamped the Advanced Steward Training with the intent that all stewards should be comfortable with the grievance process.

With the help of your fellow chief stewards and MAPE enforcement business agents, we will be rolling out a lunch and learn session quarterly through GoToMeeting. The training video will be posted on the MAPE YouTube page following every lunch and learn. An area of improvement that we will be working on is reporting back. We want to keep you informed to know your employee rights. We welcome you to be part of the steward and chief steward development.

Lastly, they say it takes two years to become acclimated and productive in any new job. As you may know, I have only served for one year because of the special statewide election last year. It has been a great honor and privilege to work with you on steward and chief steward development. Please **RE-ELECT** me, Thu Phan, as MAPE Vice-President.

Statewide Secretary nominees

Beth Brostrom

My name is Beth Brostrom. I work for the Department of Human Services in St Paul. I have been a State employee since 1996. I was in ASCFME for 1 year and a MAPE member ever since my job change resulted in a different union. I am currently the secretary for Local 601. Being part of the MAPE board is a way to get acquainted with the workings of MAPE and meeting members from around the state. What is most important to me is the solidarity of being in a strong union - MAPE. If I am elected, I will work hard be the best MAPE member and secretary that I can be.

Lynn Butcher

My name is Lynn Butcher. I work for the Department of Human Services – Direct Care and Treatment in St. Peter. I have been a State Employee for twelve years and a MAPE member for just about ten years. I first became active in MAPE when I was asked to join our local Meet & Confer, which I am still on. I then started to represent MAPE at DCT's Statewide Labor Management Committee. I then became a Steward. In 2016, I became Region 19 Negotiations Rep and represented 1901 at Delegate Assembly. In 2018, I joined the MAPE PAC Board, the DHS Statewide Meet & Confer, and became Local 1901 President and Co-chair for the Statewide Negotiations Committee.

My experiences with MAPE have helped me to develop my leadership skills, and given me the opportunity to speak with MAPE members across the state and learn about the important work they do for Minnesotans. These opportunities have allowed me to advocate on their behalf while testifying in front of the legislature, in meetings with law makers, and with the Governor's team while negotiating our contract.

I have been proud to say I am a union member, and even prouder to say I am a MAPE member. I have watched MAPE grow as a union over the years and have been excited to by the changes we have made to strengthen our union and build our power, even in the face of adversity. I believe continued engagement of our members and non-members alike is the key to continued growth, and I want continue working toward that as Statewide Secretary.

Statewide Organizing Council nominees

Dyan Brainard

My name is Dyan Brainard. I work for the department of Community Based Services/ Department Human Services in Afton, MN. I am a Skills Development Specialist/ Designated Coordinator. I have been a state employee for 8 years and have been a MAPE member for one year. I have always been interested in unions. In the past I was a steward for AFSCME and I am currently a MAPE steward. I enjoy organizing, mentoring and building relationships. Communication, consistency, follow thru, teaching and working with MAPE members are just a few things that are important to me. If I am elected, I will work hard to promote your proposals and priorities.

Kristine Moody

Kristine Moody
Department of Revenue

Property Tax Division
Three Years of Service
St. Paul, MN

Dear MAPE members,

My name is Kristine Moody and I work for the Department of Revenue in the Information and Education section of the Property Tax Division. I have been a state employee for three years, and a MAPE member since I started. Part of my graduate thesis included the importance of unions to offset toxic legislation to the working class. Growing up in a pro union family and understanding the importance of unions in keeping workers' rights has inspired a long and deep passion to fight for the preservation of the right to collectively bargain.

I started active participation in the union when I was invited to an officers meeting. At the time there was no official position or committee for me to get involved with. I saw this as a missed opportunity, through this experience I help to develop the Activities Committee (organizes events for local 401) which quickly lead to me being elected president. Recruiting members requires a multifaceted approach in which you; identify an item of interest, develop and market a variety of opportunities for members to get involved, and build personal relationships to tailor a request to participate for maximum effectiveness. This approach has been very successful at local 401, and we have expanded the groups available to include; a food committee (organizing large food orders) membership committee (recruitment), and an Action Committee (centered on an action item).

If elected on the Statewide Organizing committee, I hope to create an informational best practice tool kit and educational offerings by pulling from my professional educational experience and my local's success through member engagement.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Kristine Moody
Local 401 President

Lauren Siegel

My name is Lauren Siegel and I am running for MAPE's statewide organizing council. I have been a state of Minnesota employee and MAPE member for five years. I work in St. Paul at the Department of Human Services and my local is 2101. I have identified as a community and progressive activist and organizer for the last 13 years. Over the span of 13 years, I've been lucky to be involved with campaigns and movements for housing, racial, income, and environmental justice issues. When I was hired for a job at the state, I was eager to add labor organizing with MAPE to my experience.

I was elected to be local 2101's membership secretary in April of 2017. During this time, the "first 30 days" initiative was ramping up and I helped to launch it at my local. Local 2101 is one of the largest locals in MAPE, with over 900 represented employees and so I could not do this alone. With the help of upwards of 20 local MAPE activists, I have led a successful launch of a "First 30 days" initiative, as well as two annual summer membership drives. Since April 2017, our membership rate has increased from 76.8% to

82.5%. I want to stress that this growth in membership, at such a large local no less, is only possible with a group of collaborative and dedicated activists. I feel my strengths in organizing include building relationships, listening to collaborators to better ensure input and ideas are represented, and generating new ideas to tackle continued challenges. I would be honored to serve on MAPE's organizing council and would hope I could contribute to increased inclusion, engagement and representation of more MAPE members statewide.

Macarre Traynham

Hello! My name is Macarre Traynham and I want to be your representative for the Statewide Organizing Council. I currently serve as the educational equity specialist for the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE). I've been at the agency since December 2017 and have had the opportunity to work with and provide voice to concerns and issues that local 1001 members and leaders have been working to address.

As a former classroom teacher, principal and central office administrator, I've worked on both sides of the aisle with unions. At MDE, I have watched MAPE representatives reach out to, engage and include members who are often silent or feel invisible. I've watched them be transparent in their work and mission, and be persistent and consistent in seeking input and direction. This alone has energized me to be part of the hard work needed to move our vision forward.

We must promote and actively attain and retain diversity as a union to build solidarity and belonging among our members. I want to bring your voices, those that are consistently engaged as well as those that are often absent or silent, to the table to ensure all voices are heard in local and statewide bargaining. I want to help build the capacity of leaders at all levels to promote and engage in meaningful conversations and activities that will increase access to and understanding of MAPE.

You know the issues. You know when your families are struggling with costs from student loans to healthcare. I want you to see yourself reflected in everything MAPE fights for. My work is to help move MAPE from simply being inclusive to building a true sense of belonging for all our members. Our struggles must belong to each of us to be united as one.

Sarah Evans

As a proud member of MAPE for the four years I've been in public service at the Health Department, I've witnessed and experienced the true power of union organizing that has changed the lives of employees, families and citizens of Minnesota for the better. I've served Local 601 as membership secretary for the past two years, and I'm excited to have an opportunity to apply the organizing skills I've learned at the local level to the statewide level. As a member of the Organizing Council, I look forward to empowering other locals to build community, identifying and developing new leaders, ensuring locals have the resources they need to strengthen their membership, and exploring new and creative communications tactics. When we harness the passion, intelligence, diversity and experience of our members, we can accomplish great things. It would be an honor to serve on the first ever statewide Organizing Council and I appreciate your consideration!

Statewide Political Council nominees

Cathleen Cotter

My name is Cathleen Cotter, I work for Child Support Enforcement, CFS, DHS in St Paul. I have been a state employee for 22 years and a MAPE member for approximately 18 years. I currently serve as the Chair of MAPE's political action committee and as president of Local 202. In my capacity as PAC chair, I have volunteered on over 40 MN House, Senate and constitutional officers campaigns. I've completely worn out three pairs of shoes knocking on doors; I made thousands of calls, resulting in hundreds of conversations with voters about candidates I supported. I have spoken at a number of locals regarding the work the PAC does. I've presented on the PAC to several Delegate Assemblies. In December 2017 I facilitated the screening of seven of the then 10 candidates for Governor of Minnesota, and led the PAC in our endorsement of Governor Tim Walz and Lieutenant Governor Peggy Flanagan.

I have been a political nerd since junior high, and a union activist since MAPE went on strike in October 2001. I have a Master's degree in Advocacy and Political Leadership (MAPL) with a labor concentration from the University of Minnesota-Duluth.

The resolution adopted at the 2018 delegate assembly that approved the creation of a political council stated 'the MAPE Political...Council[s] will carry out the strategic direction of MAPE on organizing, education, membership, engagement and political work'. I have been active in setting the strategic direction of, and carrying out, MAPE's political work for over 15 years and I look forward to continuing to do so.

I would be honored to serve my MAPE colleagues as a member of the Political Council and I respectfully ask for your vote.

Corey Hoffman

Hello my name is Corey Hoffman I have been a MAPE member for two years now. I am a union steward and enjoy being a part of such a strong union and being helpful in any capacity that I am able to be. I was nominated for Political Council, I enjoy learning about any process related to MAPE and if selected for the position I would continue to learn and use that knowledge to further the betterment of MAPE. Thank you for the consideration.

David Sandbeck

Name: David Sandbeck
Department: MNIT at DHS
Work City: Saint Paul
Years of state service: 3
Years as a MAPE member: 3
Position Sought: Political Council

I am David Sandbeck and I am a political geek! It would be an exciting privilege to serve in the **Political Council**. I would be a good fit for the **political council** because I am very familiar with the State's political arena, the house and senate committees and who leads them. I work and live in the area legislative activity takes place. I also understand how legislation is created, I am a geek about this stuff. I have ideas to advocate for on the political council about how to be effective in advancing our MAPE agenda. I am excited to contribute. We have less than a year to organize ahead of the 2020 Caucus, Feb 25th! We can make a HUGE impact in 2020. I have allot to say about that!

We should use the caucus system to lobby for our legislative goals! If we can get 2,000 people dedicated to Caucus state wide at least 200 MAPE people in each congressional district, we can empower elected leaders to advocate for our legislation more effectively by getting our legislative goals into the party platform!

I will be helpful in contributing strategic plans, and will personally take an active role to get our agenda advanced!

The numbers we need to get involved are small to get a huge return on our time and effort!

Thank You for your consideration for a position in the **political council**.

David Sandbeck

Eben Johnson

My name is Eben Johnson, and I have worked for the Department of Revenue in St. Paul for about two years. I have always had a committed interest in paying attention to what is happening in the state legislature, and I want to bring that dedication to help MAPE's priorities by serving on the political committee.

I became involved with MAPE because I recognize the importance of maintaining a strong union with the power to fight for a contract that compensates MAPE members fairly for the work that they do. Growing up in Wisconsin, I witnessed public unions lose almost all their power to fight for their members after the 2010 election; teachers that were paying between 3-5% of their healthcare premiums in 2011 are paying an average of 12% in 2018. We cannot let that happen in Minnesota, and I will make sure that the political committee fights for our right to a fair contract.

My top priority while serving on the political committee will be to communicate with MAPE members about what they want to see within the committee and organization as a whole. After attending last year's delegate assembly, I realized how it can be difficult for individual members to make their voices heard when it comes to statewide MAPE policy. If elected, I will seek to create a clear channel of communication to keep fellow MAPE members informed about legislative issues and how the political council as a body seeks to address them. Because communication goes both ways, I will also organize a means for any member to share their ideas or concerns about legislative priorities directly with myself, to be shared with the rest of the political council.

Janet Kitui

My name is Janet Kitui. I work for the Department of Employment and Economic Development in Saint Paul. I have been a State employee for two years, and a MAPE member for two years. I am a member of MAPE PAC Board. I have always been interested in unions and see firsthand the benefits and protections the union affords employees. What is most important to me is seeing that members' voices are heard in MAPE. If I am elected, I will work hard to solicit opinions from other members in my Local and fiercely advocate Members rights.

Regards
Janet Kitui

Jason Broberg

My name is Jason Broberg. For the last eight years, I have been a regulatory investigator for the Department of Commerce in St. Paul where I live with my wife and young daughter. Forty-two years ago, I was born in Hibbing, Minnesota where I grew up. I have a political science degree from Concordia College in Moorhead and I graduated from the University of North Dakota School of Law. I have been active in MAPE since 2012 and I was involved in the early efforts to obtain Paid Parental Leave. I serve on the Local 601 Membership Committee; am helping to build the Department of Commerce Meet and Confer Committee; and, I have been an activist on behalf of MAPE, Local 601, and unions generally. As a third generation government employee, I understand the unique impact that public policy has on government workers because we are both citizens and public employees. As public employees in a post-Janus world, our collective bargaining must include public policy. I believe it is important to advocate for legislative solutions that improve our working conditions specifically and the socioeconomic wellbeing of everyone generally. I believe we all do better when we all do better. I ask that you vote for me to serve on your Political Council because I am passionate about public policy, I am passionate about our union, and because I think with my background a seat on the Political Council is the best way I can serve.

Jessica Garcia

My name is Dr. Jessica Garcia. I work for the Department of Health Services (Direct Care and Treatment/Forensic Services) in St. Peter. I am new to the Minnesota state system, reaching my one year anniversary in April 2019. During New Employee Orientation training at my facility, I enthusiastically signed up to be part of the MAPE for one main reason: I experienced firsthand what the lack of union representation meant for workers. I most recently worked for an out-of-state, for-profit prison that offered no union options and put the business bottom line and corrupt political connections ahead of the safety and wellbeing of their employees. As a result, having a union-supported job –where the workers had protections and a voice- was important to me. Since joining MAPE in April 2018, I was put in a leadership position as Local 1901's communications officer. In my officer role I have worked to launch social media accounts with content to better engage our members. I am also developing materials to

better educate and inspire our members to engage in political activism. I was also part of the Government Relations Committee for statewide MAPE, participating in discussions about how to more effectively engage legislators and achieve our legislative goals. I am also part of the Legislative Committee for the Minnesota Psychological Association, promoting mental health-focused legislative needs for our state. Clearly, this is a passion of mine. If you elect me to the Statewide Political Council I will continue to help our union build on and increase our legislative and political power, promote public relations needs, and facilitate engagement between members and local political leaders.

John Ferrara

My name is John Ferrara and I am running for a seat on the Statewide Political Council. I work for Winona State University's (WSU) IT Services department in Rochester, MN. I joined MAPE and began working for WSU in 2006. I am currently the Regional Director for Region 20 and a MAPE steward. Prior to being elected to the Board of Directors, I served as Vice President (starting in 2011) then President (starting in 2012) of Local 2001. I have co-sponsored resolutions that have been passed by Delegate Assembly. I have done training for the local presidents' committee. On the board of directors, I have worked tirelessly to ensure that MAPE's policies and procedures work for our members across the entire state.

Region 20 is located south of Red Wing and east of I-35. It has nearly 500 members at 49 worksites, working for 17 state agencies and the City of Caledonia. When I first became an officer in Local 2001, in 2011, our membership was at 58%. The leadership team was comprised entirely of members from one agency. All but one were men. Today Local 2001's membership is just under 75%. To promote growth I've worked hard to innovate how we connect with members from diverse backgrounds and underrepresented locations. Our members in these populations are the key to building our power and ensuring that Minnesota hears all our voices in a strong, unified message of solidarity. Our leadership team is now comprised of members from 4 different work sites and 60% are women. As our membership has grown stronger our ability to be involved politically has grown. Region 20 had our first door knocks in 2018. I want to grow our political power statewide.

Please vote for me for MAPE's Political Council.

Please follow me on Twitter @JohnMAPE1

Marijke Decuir

My name is Marijke Decuir (she/her), and I am an epidemiologist at the Department of Health. I have worked for the state for just over seven years, and been a MAPE member for five. My primary goal in running for the political council is to help create a meaningful body that can represent all MAPE members in our work with elected officials. The council has the potential to be a lean and effective leadership group if those with the right energy are part of its inception.

I can provide that type of energy. I currently sit on a small, non-profit board and have been a driving force to eliminate extraneous meetings, move communication with the board and stakeholders to digital formats, and promote using modified consensus as our guiding principle for decision making. I would like to bring my experience in streamlining administrative functions while improving stakeholder buy-in to MAPE's political council.

Monica Weber

Hello, my name is Monica Weber and I would ask for your vote to the new MAPE political council. I am currently a Grants Specialist at the Department of Natural Resources, administering multiple grants for the Outdoor Heritage Fund and the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund. I was previously a grant specialist at the Department of Employment and Economic Development.

I have been a MAPE member for my entire career in state service and currently serve as the Secretary for Local 101 and as a steward. I have also been a member of the MAPE PAC for the last 3 years. Before I came to state service I was a political organizer for a variety of legislative campaigns and worked as a legislative assistant at the Minnesota House.

This is an exciting time for MAPE as we move forward with a new governor and new challenges for our changing workforce. My number one commitment is to maintaining our union strength through political organizing. We need people involved who are willing to help elect labor friendly candidates and put in the hard work on campaigns and lobbying at the legislature. I love being able to help our members understand how politics affects their life and politicians understand how their votes how a real life impact on our members lives.

If elected to the political council I commit to being a dedicated volunteer for political member engagement, lobbying at the Capitol, and everyone's favorite door knocking for labor friendly candidates.

Please support Monica Weber for Political Council.

Nicholas Snavelly

My name is Nicholas Snavelly, a Minnesota Department of Natural Resources state employee and MAPE member since 2007 based in Sauk Rapids. Since 2012, I've served on the Government Relations Committee, which will now be known as MAPE's Political Council.

MAPE's Government Relations Committee has screened and recommended MAPE's legislative priorities each year, while keeping our members informed about legislative issues and labor related political activity to encourage your political activism, so you and your fellow members can help support your MAPE contract, as well as ensure adequate state agency funding for MAPE represented positions like yours.

Similarly, MAPE's new Political Council's purpose is to align MAPE's legislative priorities, member political education and legislative/political engagement with a scope that includes:

- Overseeing strategy implementation while building legislative power.

- Organizing MAPE members to build political power.
- Developing media, community and public relations strategies.
- Building and engaging local leaders.

I'm asking for your vote to serve on MAPE's Political Council, so I can continue advocating that we as MAPE members work to enhance state employee benefits by fighting for fair compensation with your support. I will educate and listen carefully to your needs, while taking on the responsibility to reach out to existing and new MAPE members for their insight, as well as grow MAPE membership levels locally and across the state by reaching out to other state employees represented by MAPE to ensure we are all in the best place to advocate for our benefits that we have negotiated into our MAPE contract, as well as ensure MAPE's contract is approved by the Minnesota Legislature and signed by the Governor following its ratification by MAPE members. It has been a privilege representing you on MAPE's Government Relations Committee and I would be honored to do so on MAPE newly created Political Council.

Nicole Juan

My name is Nicole Juan and I serve as a Community Relations Specialist at the Department of Human Services. I previously worked in health policy at MDH. I've been an active MAPE member since I started with the state in 2015.

I am running for Political Council because I believe strongly in the power of organized people to make political change. As a child in a Wisconsin union family, I began door knocking for candidates in elementary school. We saw firsthand what happens when non labor-friendly folks are elected. In 2011, I fought back through organizing and electoral action while over 100 years of progressive legislation was reversed in mere months. That experience instilled in me the vigilance and passion needed to maintain and advance the worker protections that we hold dear in Minnesota.

I served as a lobbyist in Minnesota and Wisconsin for grassroots nonprofit organizations and value the education, mobilization, and involvement of people directly impacted by issues in the political process. Legislators must continually hear our stories to better represent their constituents. MAPE members need to continue sharing our stories, and establishing relationships with those whose decisions impact our agencies, our communities, and our families.

My focus on the Political Council will be broadening our membership's engagement in the political process. I will support action at the local level, and empower local leadership by creating a direct line from our political work via the Council. I will grow our activity across greater Minnesota and increase our presence in legislative districts (in-district meetings, town halls, etc.) across the state. These actions will build our power and hold elected officials accountable to the workers of Minnesota.

MAPE Leadership:

- Vice President/Steward, Local 2101
- MAPE PAC
- MAPE Government Relations Committee Chair
- PPL organizer/negotiator

Stephanie Widing

My name is Stephanie Widing, and I work for the Department of Human Services, Office of Inspector General in St Paul. I have been a State employee for two-and-a-half years, and a MAPE member since I began my career in public service. I am an East-sider, dog-lover, Star Wars enthusiast, paralegal, wife, daughter, sister, and friend. I am seeking election to MAPE's political council because I'm passionate about the power of organized labor, and the change it can effect for everyday Americans. I have door-knocked, phone-banked, participated in Day on the Hill, rallied, and produced political literature with MAPE, and seek to do more in the political realm. Specifically, I am interested in educating members on political issues that directly impact workers. Last year, with the help of MAPE's graphic designer, I brought to life an idea I'd had for some months; an infographic comparing Minnesota and Wisconsin's achievements for working families under Governors Dayton and Walker. Minnesotans saw increases in wages, jobs, access to healthcare, and the right to organize. Contrastingly, Wisconsinites greatly suffered under Walker's anti-labor policies. I seek to bring factual data to members that will assist them in making decisions at the ballot box. I believe in this critical era of "fake news" it is essential that members have the resources to make informed decisions when it comes to their families, neighborhoods, benefits, and paychecks. An issue that is very important to me is the rapidly increasing income inequality between the working, middle, and upper classes. As an elected member of MAPE's political council, I will push to elect politicians who commit to supporting labor unions and workers' rights. I agree whole-heartedly with the late, great Paul Wellstone, who once said "We all do better, when we all do better."

Stuart Orlowski

My name is Stuart Orlowski and I'm asking for your vote for MAPE's political council. I work for the Minnesota Department of Agriculture in environmental investigations and cleanups. I have been a State employee for five years, and a MAPE member for four years. In 2018 I was a delegate at the delegate assembly and introduced a resolution to support a bill in the Minnesota Legislature that would lower healthcare costs for our union members. The resolution was moved on to the government relations committee, but the experience made me want to get more involved with MAPE. Healthcare is an important topic to me; almost every person I talk to has had a negative experience in our healthcare system. I've heard some of these stories during contract negotiations, with issues like changes in cost levels being a top concern. One of my priorities as a member of the MAPE political council would be to support policies that would lower healthcare costs and improve access for our members. In addition, public unions have been under attack since the Janus decision in 2018 and I want to advocate for policies to support union rights and in general improve quality of life for us all. I have experience coordinating with local leaders which will be important in exerting our political power in the future. I'll always do what I can to support my coworkers and MAPE, and I would like to keep an open door and open mind for people with policy and political ideas. I ask for your vote to the political council. Thank you for your consideration.

Tanya Belanger

Hello, I am Tanya Belanger and I am interested in serving as on the Political Council. I am currently assisting members as a Steward in Local 701. My goal is to help colleagues when in need to understand and effectively leverage the policies and practices that affect their employment. Through my interactions with members as a union steward, I have become interested in evaluating HR practices and specifically would like to conduct research on member experiences with classified/unclassified positions, internal transfer practices, and also workplace safety practices.

I have been with the State of MN and MAPE for the past 11 years. I have a Master's in Public Policy and Bachelors in Business and Economics. I have been on nonprofit boards and served in many capacities in public policy roles from legislative to agency-based policy development and implementation. I appreciate the nomination and look forward to the opportunity to leverage my skills and experience in public policy for the wider MAPE membership.

James Spector-Bishop

I am James Spector-Bishop and I came to work for DEED in St. Paul last year, soon after graduating college. I sought employment at the State of Minnesota because I believe that the work of state government is important. In MAPE, we all know this to be true because we see the impact that our work has each day. However, I am running for political council because I believe that, as state employees, we should contribute our knowledge of government to ensuring that that government is on the right track. Given the insight we receive from being the ones who carry out state policy, it is important that we make our voice heard when the legislature and governor are creating those policies. On the political council I will help organize our members to fight for the issues that are important to us. Foremost among these is the right of workers to organize, both in state government, and across Minnesota because organized labor is essential to building an equitable and prosperous economy which values human dignity. Other issues I am passionate about include climate change, healthcare policy, and voting rights. However, more important than what I believe is my commitment to what you believe. The goal of the political council is to gather input from members, rather than to dictate to them what they should support.

I am excited to hear more from you all about your political priorities and I look forward to working together to build a better Minnesota.