**Statewide Political Council Candidates**

**Cathleen Cotter**

My name is Cathleen Cotter, I work for the Department of Human Services in the Child Support Division. I have been a state employee since 1996 and a member of MAPE for over 20 years. I was elected to the Political Council shortly after it was formed in April 2019 and have served as the Chair of the Political Council since July of 2019. Our initial goals were to create a statewide political infrastructure; defeat the toxic narrative around state service and build MAPE’s political power and competence. I believe we have made significant progress toward meeting those goals.

One of the functions of the Political Council is to organize MAPE’s Day on the Hill (DOTH). In 2020 we decided to sponsor several agency based DOTH, rather than one statewide DOTH. On March 4th, we held the Department of Corrections DOTH, which was a success according to all who attended. Twelve days later, on March 16th we began working from home. Suffice to say, the subsequent in-person DOTH were cancelled.

The volunteer election work MAPE members did in 2020 also looked vastly different: fewer door knocks and many, many more virtual phone banks. We encouraged members to vote by mail and recruited members to serve as election judges.

In the year since, we have adapted to meeting on Zoom, communicating on Slack and have held several virtual DOTH. If re-elected to the Political Council, I pledge to continue the work we are doing to define legislative priorities; educate MAPE members; and encourage our members to engage in the legislate and political process. I would be honored to have your support to continue this work.

**Chet Bodin**

Public service and workforce solidarity are two of the professional values I work to uphold every day. As a resident and a public servant of Greater Minnesota, I strive to build resilient partnerships that lead to common understandings of local workforce conditions and the need for good governance. Through this engagement, I believe we can erode the toxic partisan narrative that permeates through many of our Greater Minnesota communities, and drive more diverse economic growth.

I’ve been a MAPE member since joining DEED 2014, first as a labor market analyst and now as a workforce specialist. In that time, I’ve developed credibility in northern Minnesota as a knowledgeable resource who understands local and regional context and how public service work applies to contemporary social and economic challenges. As a member of local 1601 in Brainerd and statewide Political Council member, I’ve worked in Greater Minnesota to build membership, advocate for workers’ rights and stand up for public service employees. I’m running for election to the Political Council to help ensure that we, as a union, stay focused on what makes for good public policy, and to advocate for the support and resources that empower public service workers to do the work. Notably, this includes the unique challenges faced by public service employees, and communities at large, outside the metro. I'm also proud to have served in the Minnesota National Guard from 2009-2020. Thank you for your consideration!

**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 IT Services department in Rochester, MN. I joined MAPE and began working for WSU in 2006. I was appointed to the Political Council in 2019. I am currently the Vice-Chair of the Political Council (elected by peers twice to that role) and a steward. I have served as Regional Director, Local President, and Local Vice President. I have co-sponsored resolutions passed by Delegate Assembly. I have done training for the local presidents’ committee. As a leader with experience at all levels of MAPE, I have worked tirelessly to ensure that MAPE’s policies and procedures work for all our members across the entire state.

My time as a local President and Regional Director gave me a deep understanding of how MAPE is governed. This experience is valuable in getting programs started and gaining approval from the board for budgetary requests and authorizations. Many groups within MAPE fail to initiate change or gain traction because their leaders lack the expertise to navigate MAPE’s bureaucracy. MAPE does those members a disservice by failing to provide them adequate training. Part of building MAPE’s political power and competence includes building skills for internal actions.

As local president and regional director, I transformed our leadership from being comprised entirely of members from one agency (out of 17) with a lone female member to a team that was 60% women with members from four different agencies. This helped increase our membership nearly 12% to nearly 75%.

I have a proven track record of building power and exceptional leadership at all levels of MAPE. I accomplish this by building diverse coalitions and partnerships.

Please vote for me for MAPE’s Political Council.

**Moi Boudoir**

My name is Moi Boudoir. I work for the Minnesota Department of Education in Roseville, MN. I am the Neglected Delinquent Foster Care Specialist Coordinator, I have worked at MDE for 8 months, and I have been a MAPE member since September 2020. I am interested in running for Political Counseling to find common causes across other statewide unions to input Equity Opportunity and Inclusion across the state unions. I believe in advocating for BIPOC and other members from all ethnic backgrounds. MAPE union members deserve to have their voices heard on topics affecting their work, home, and communities they serve. I believe in collaborating across many different agencies to bring our issues to the forefront to bring change in the systems that have a history of marginalizing people who deserve the same chances as everyone else. My background is in Social Work (Child Welfare), and if I am elected, I will work my hardest to bring my perspective, knowledge, and experiences to the council to influence all MAPE members to be the very best they can be. I will intentionally work through the lens of Equity Opportunity and Inclusive and listen to all MAPE members to let them know I heard them, and I plan to act on what I have heard. A strong Union can accomplish the goals set before them with humility and grace for all members.