Secretary - MN GOP Questionnaire & Declaration of Candidacy

Please complete the form below if you are interested in running to be Party Chair, Deputy Chair, or Secretary.

Then, to receive the list of SCC Delegates & Alternates, please download, print, sign, and email the list agreement to Nominations Committee Chairman Aaron Farris at [chair@mncd1republicans.org](mailto:chair@mncd1republicans.org).

The agreement is on the MN GOP website at https://www.mngop.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/SCC-List-Agreement.pdf.

If you have any questions, please email Aaron.

Name\* Erik van Mechelen

Email\* erikvanmechelen@protonmail.com

Phone\* 203-253-2274

Mailing Address\* 5612 Elliot Ave, Minneapolis, MN 55417

Are you a year-round resident of Minnesota?\*

Yes

Have you attended a Republican caucus in Minnesota? Please list years in which you have caucused.\*

Yes, SD63, 2022 and 2024

Are you a Republican? Have you ever not been a Republican, and if so, when and why?\*

Yes. Have so far always voted for republicans.

Please disclose and detail all monetary or in-kind payment from any other organization involved in political activity or competing interests with the Party. Will those payments continue if you are elected as a Party officer?\*

None.

Please type your name here to authorize the Nominations Committee to complete a background check at whatever level deemed necessary.  
\*Erik van Mechelen (ONLY if required for Secretary according to bylaws)

Do you have any prior history of criminal activity, charges or arrests? Police reports on record, outstanding legal fines? Have you engaged in any type of illegal activity? Please disclose and describe if so.  
\*None – a recent background check showed fines issued for not updating car tabs, which were then paid

Are you soliciting for prostitution or other paid sexual activity of any nature? If so, please describe.   
\*No

Have you been a part of previously filed legal challenges against the Party, or are you a part of active litigation against the Party? If so, please describe.  
\*No

Please disclose and detail any previous removal from any MN GOP elected position (losing a re-election does not apply).  
\*N/a

Please upload a resume detailing your professional and political history.

If the size of your resume is too large to upload, you can email it directly to Nominations Committee Chairman Aaron Farris at chair@mncd1republicans.org

Upload up to 5 supported files. Max 100 MB per file.

File attached in email to Aaron Ferris

Add file

Please detail your experience serving at any level of MNGOP leadership.\*

Precinct Chair in SD63

Please detail your experience in a campaign field program/operation.  
\*MN Sec of State, 110,000 votes by activating volunteers in a 90-day campaign, refusing any political campaign contributions

Please detail your experience managing a non-profit board or any other board.  
\*N/a

Please detail your experience managing staff and detail your ability to delegate. How would you describe your management style?  
\*Listen and activate the best in others

What kind of conflict-resolution skills do you have? Please describe.  
\*I try to understand everyone’s views thoroughly before suggesting solutions that will help all to feel good about outcome—this has been practiced in developing election integrity solutions between advocates and elected officials and county or city staff

Please detail your proven ability to raise sufficient funds for the MN GOP operating budget ($5+ million per cycle).  
\*N/a for Secretary

Please detail your knowledge of state and federal election laws. Have you had any CFB or FEC training?  
\*Have studied them carefully in pursuit of election integrity

Please detail your experience working with national partners to bring resources/funds/attention to Minnesota.  
\*N/a

Your answer

This is a required question

Please detail your current relationships with elected officials at every level throughout Minnesota.  
\*I’ve received support from current and former MN House Reps and Senators, BPOU Chairs, as well as officers in multiple BPOUs.

Your answer

This is a required question

Have you ever opposed endorsed candidates or supported unendorsed candidates? Have you ever opposed a Republican candidate in the general election? If so, please describe.  
\*After was blocked from endorsement process for 2022 Secretary of State, I ran as a republican in the 2022 primary election, securing 110,000 votes with zero campaign contributions

Your answer

This is a required question

Please detail your experience working with the media on a local and national level. What type of media training have you received? How many times have you been interviewed on camera, on the radio, etc? How many pieces have you published as op eds, LTEs, etc?  
\*Have spoken to rooms of up to several hundred (with online audiences of many thousands) on election integrity. Have been mentioned in several local newspapers relating to election integrity. Published a book, [S]elections in Minnesota.

Your answer

This is a required question

Have you ever been elected to public office? Run for public office? If so, please detail.  
\*Ran for MN Sec of State in 2022

Your answer

This is a required question

Have you made any comments on social media or been covered in a way by the media that could be problematic to the MN GOP? Please include links to social media comments that could be considered problematic and links to all news articles covering you for the Nominations Committee to review.  
\*I’ve been critical of the Republican Party with the aim of helping it to improve with a focus on transparency and integrity

Your answer

This is a required question

Do you plan to take a salary as secretary? What is your proposed salary, and what responsibilities would be covered by that salary?  
\*No

Your answer

This is a required question

What would your priorities be as MN GOP Secretary, and how do you plan to accomplish them?  
\*To increase transparency through detailed record keeping and supporting all team members in the party’s goals to save Minnesota.

Your answer

This is a required question