

Contact information / Información del solicitante**First Name / Nombre ***

Bob

Last Name / Apellido *

Pfefferle

Today's Date / Fecha de hoy *

4/13/2026

Address / Dirección *

[REDACTED]

Phone number / número de teléfono *

[REDACTED]

Email / Correo electrónico *

[REDACTED]

Selection and interests / Selección e intereses**Select board(s) or commission(s) you wish to apply for. / Seleccione la(s) junta(s) o comisión(es) a la(s) que desea presentarse. ***

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- Economic Development Authority / Autoridad de Desarrollo Económico
- Environmental Quality Commission / Comisión de Calidad Medioambiental
- Heritage Preservation Commission / Comisión de Preservación del Patrimonio
- Hospital Board / Junta del hospital
- Human Rights Commission / Comisión de Derechos Humanos
- Library Board / Consejo de la Biblioteca
- Youth Substance Prevention Alliance Task Force / Grupo de trabajo de la Alianza para la Prevención del Consumo de Sustancias entre los Jóvenes
- Northfield Area Fire & Rescue Services Joint Powers Board / Junta de Poderes Conjuntos de los Servicios de Rescate e Incendios del Área de Northfield
- Planning Commission/Zoning Board / Comisión de Urbanismo/Junta de Zonificación
- Other / Otro [REDACTED]

Why are you interested in serving on a City of Northfield board or commission? / ¿Por qué le interesa formar parte de una junta o comisión de la ciudad de Northfield? *

As a long time resident and recent retiree from a long career in commercial real estate I feel my experience could add value to help define the strategic and intentional future growth plans for the City of Northfield.

What interests you about the board(s)/commissions(s) you selected? / ¿Qué le interesa de la(s) junta(s)/comisión(es) seleccionada(s) en la pregunta 1? *

It involves commercial and industrial real estate growth plans for the city to improve the overall C/I tax base.

What do you feel you would add to selected board(s)/commission(s)? / ¿Qué cree que aportaría a la(s) junta(s)/comisión(es) seleccionada(s)? *

After spending 3+ decades in a commercial real estate career that involved planning, development, entitlement, financing, management, leasing and much more of large scale projects and multi-million dollar budgets I feel I have a unique knowledge set and industry contacts that could benefit the city of Northfield in crafting short term and long term goals for building up and maintaining a strategic and successful C/I growth plan.

Describe any current or past experience serving on a board or commission. / Describa su experiencia actual o pasada como miembro de un consejo o comisión. *

I have not served on any City of Northfield boards or commissions but have served previously on several boards and commissions in the Twin Cities throughout my real estate career - a couple of mention - Building Owners and Management Association (BOMA); NuLoop Partners; Project for Pride and Living to name a few.

Describe any current or past community involvement. / Describa cualquier participación actual o pasada en la comunidad. *

I ran the girls and boys basketball associations for a number of years while our three kids were going through school (2004 - 2009 time frame).

Describe any current or past related education, training, or work experience. / 7. Describa cualquier tipo de educación, formación o experiencia laboral relacionada actual o pasada. *

37 year career in commercial real estate in San Francisco and Minneapolis. Still a licensed commercial real estate broker in Minnesota.

What does Northfield do well? / ¿Qué hace bien Northfield? *

Northfield does a good job creating a livable city for all. It is a strong connected community

What challenges does Northfield face? / ¿A qué retos se enfrenta Northfield? *

Affordability is a big issue for Northfield (and other like size cities as well) - the rising cost of property taxes is putting a strain on many elderly fixed income individuals. Need to provide opportunities for more C/I growth as well as residential growth.

What is your vision for Northfield? / ¿Cuál es su visión de Northfield? *

Create a city led (with help from Rice and Dakota counties) environment that will attract capital and investment to help build the C/I tax base while at the same time supporting job creation and additional housing development opportunities of all types.

Reapplying

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Explain what you've added to the work of your board or commission during your term(s). / 11. Explique qué ha aportado al trabajo de su junta/comisión durante su(s) mandato(s).

What have you found most fulfilling during your term(s)? / ¿Qué es lo que más le ha llenado durante su mandato?

What have you found most challenging during your term(s)? / 13. ¿Qué le ha resultado más difícil durante su mandato?

Questions / Preguntas

Contact Lynette Peterson, City Clerk, City of Northfield, 801 Washington St., Northfield, MN 55057

[Email Lynette Peterson](#)

Póngase en contacto con Lynette Peterson, Secretaria Municipal, Ciudad de Northfield, 801 Washington St., Northfield, MN 55057

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Contact information / Información del solicitante**First Name / Nombre ***

Michael

Last Name / Apellido *

Provancha

Today's Date / Fecha de hoy *

8/29/2025

Address / Dirección *

[Redacted]

Phone number / número de teléfono *

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- Charter Commission / Comisión de la Carta
- Economic Development Authority / Autoridad de Desarrollo Económico
- Environmental Quality Commission / Comisión de Calidad Medioambiental
- Heritage Preservation Commission / Comisión de Preservación del Patrimonio
- Hospital Board / Junta del hospital
- Housing & Redevelopment Authority / Autoridad de Vivienda y Reurbanización
- Human Rights Commission / Comisión de Derechos Humanos
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- Northfield Alliance for Substance Abuse Prevention / Alianza de Northfield para la prevención del abuso de sustancias
- Northfield Area Fire & Rescue Services Joint Powers Board / Junta de Poderes Conjuntos de los Servicios de Rescate e Incendios del Área de Northfield
- Park & Recreation Advisory Board / Junta Consultiva de Parques y Actividades Recreativas
- Planning Commission/Zoning Board / Comisión de Urbanismo/Junta de Zonificación
- Other / Otro [Redacted]

Why are you interested in serving on a City of Northfield board or commission? / ¿Por qué le interesa formar parte de una junta o comisión de la ciudad de Northfield? *

I am interested in serving on a City of Northfield commission because I believe deeply in service to my community and the positive impact that local leadership can have. I am passionate about environmental sustainability and want to help ensure that Northfield continues to grow in ways that respect our natural resources and support a resilient future. Just as importantly, I see this work as an investment in the next generation, creating a city that reflects hope, inclusivity, and opportunity. Serving on a commission is a meaningful way for me to contribute my time, skills, and commitment to Northfield's long-term success.

What interests you about the board(s)/commissions(s) you selected? / ¿Qué le interesa de la(s) junta(s)/comisión(es) seleccionada(s) en la pregunta 1? *

I am deeply interested in serving on the Environmental Quality Commission because I am passionate about sustainability, environmental consciousness, and fostering strong community partnerships. I see the EQC as an important platform to advance initiatives that protect and enhance Northfield's natural resources while promoting awareness and action among residents. I am motivated by the opportunity to collaborate with city staff, fellow Commissioners, and community leaders to create practical, long-lasting solutions that benefit both the environment and the community.

What do you feel you would add to selected board(s)/commission(s)? / ¿Qué cree que aportaría a la(s) junta(s)/comisión(es) seleccionada(s)? *

I bring leadership to the EQC by showing up consistently, asking thoughtful and relevant questions, and approaching each discussion with curiosity and commitment. I am willing to collaborate with individuals I may not know well, building bridges and fostering constructive dialogue to move projects forward. My steady presence, openness to diverse perspectives, and dedication to teamwork help create an environment where ideas can grow into actionable solutions that benefit the community.

Describe any current or past experience serving on a board or commission. / Describa su experiencia actual o pasada como miembro de un consejo o comisión. *

I have served on the Environmental Quality Commission (EQC) for the past three years and have had the wonderful opportunity to showcase my skills in leadership, determination, and drive. During this time, I have contributed to projects that promote sustainability, strengthen community engagement, and support Northfield's long-term environmental goals. My work has included collaborating with fellow commissioners, city staff, and community partners to identify opportunities, develop initiatives, and ensure that sustainability remains a priority in city planning. Serving on the EQC has allowed me to grow as a leader while helping Northfield take meaningful steps toward a more resilient and environmentally responsible future.

Describe any current or past community involvement. / Describa cualquier participación actual o pasada en la comunidad. *

My community involvement reflects a strong commitment to service, environmental stewardship, and supporting families. I currently serve as a volunteer water monitor with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, where I contribute to protecting water quality by collecting and reporting data that supports long-term environmental health. I am also an active member of the Rotary Climate Action Team, collaborating with others to promote sustainability initiatives and raise awareness about climate challenges and solutions.

In addition to environmental work, I volunteer at my children's school, serving lunch and helping create a positive, supportive environment for students. These experiences—ranging from hands-on environmental monitoring to community-based service and school involvement—demonstrate my dedication to both local engagement and broader sustainability efforts. They have also given me the opportunity to build strong connections with residents, organizations, and families.

Describe any current or past related education, training, or work experience. / 7. Describa cualquier tipo de educación, formación o experiencia laboral relacionada actual o pasada. *

My professional and personal experiences have given me a well-rounded foundation in advocacy, environmental sustainability, and leadership. As a former social worker, I developed strong skills in listening, problem-solving, and advocating for individuals and families—skills that translate directly into community engagement and consensus-building. In my current role as a communication specialist, I work to share information clearly and effectively, ensuring that diverse voices are heard and understood. I also bring technical expertise from my background as an automotive diagnostic technician, where I gained hands-on knowledge of energy systems, efficiency, and the importance of innovation in reducing environmental impacts.

What does Northfield do well? / ¿Qué hace bien Northfield? *

Northfield is a vibrant, well-connected community that provides opportunities for enrichment and engagement for residents of all ages. It is a safe and welcoming place that values diversity of thought, expression, and speech. The community embodies a spirit of respect for others and care for one's neighbors. Northfield has great leadership in place to take the City into the 21st century by consistently monitoring and adapting to resident wishes and needs such as park infrastructure, public safety, and water quality. With strong leadership and a shared commitment to its future, Northfield is well-positioned to thrive in the years ahead.

What challenges does Northfield face? / ¿A qué retos se enfrenta Northfield? *

Northfield has opportunities to strengthen community connections by reaching out to residents of all political affiliations and backgrounds, ensuring diverse voices are represented. While the city enjoys the benefits of a rural setting, the high cost of living highlights the need to expand economic opportunities. Attracting mid- to large-sized businesses with multiple revenue streams can help balance the tax base, create jobs, and provide resources that benefit all residents. By approaching these challenges as opportunities, Northfield can continue to thrive while preserving its strong community values.

What is your vision for Northfield? / ¿Cuál es su visión de Northfield? *

My vision for Northfield is a community that celebrates inclusivity, sustainability, and well-being. I imagine a riverfront that is both welcoming and recreationally sustainable, serving as a vibrant gathering place for all. Northfield's strength lies in its diversity—not only in race and creed, but also in socioeconomic background—and I see a city that embraces and uplifts all its residents. Above all, I envision Northfield as a place of peace, serenity, and grace, where both residents and visitors feel a deep sense of belonging.

Reapplying

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Over the past three years on the EQC, I have actively engaged with the community through outreach, partnership-building, and listening to resident perspectives. I bring these insights back to the Commission, fostering collaboration and ensuring our initiatives reflect community needs. I communicate with courage and persistence, tackling challenging or unpopular initiatives while supporting leadership directives with professionalism and integrity.

What have you found most fulfilling during your term(s)? / ¿Qué es lo que más le ha llenado durante su mandato?

The most fulfilling aspect of serving on the EQC has been the collaboration with city staff, resident and student leaders, and fellow Commissioners. Working together, we have advanced initiatives that position Northfield to excel in environmental sustainability. I have also greatly valued the guidance from city leaders, which has helped me maintain best practices while serving as Chairperson of the EQC.

What have you found most challenging during your term(s)? / 13. ¿Qué le ha resultado más difícil durante su mandato?

One of the most challenging aspects of serving on the EQC has been navigating communication with city leaders, staff, and fellow Commissioners. These experiences, however, have strengthened my ability to collaborate, adapt, and lead effectively. I take pride in the progress we have made and in contributing my time and energy to achieving the EQC's goals while continuously growing as a public servant.

Questions / Preguntas

Contact Lynette Peterson, City Clerk, City of Northfield, 801 Washington St., Northfield, MN 55057

[Email Lynette Peterson](#)

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Contact information / Información del solicitante**First Name / Nombre ***

Susannah

Last Name / Apellido *

Shmurak

Today's Date / Fecha de hoy *

1/7/2026

Address / Dirección *

[REDACTED]

Phone number / número de teléfono *

[REDACTED]

Email / Correo electrónico *

[REDACTED]

Selection and interests / Selección e intereses**Select board(s) or commission(s) you wish to apply for. / Seleccione la(s) junta(s) o comisión(es) a la(s) que desea presentarse. ***

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- Planning Commission/Zoning Board / Comisión de Urbanismo/Junta de Zonificación
- Other / Otro [REDACTED]

Why are you interested in serving on a City of Northfield board or commission? / ¿Por qué le interesa formar parte de una junta o comisión de la ciudad de Northfield? *

I've greatly enjoyed the years I've served on EQC and wish to continue

What interests you about the board(s)/commissions(s) you selected? / ¿Qué le interesa de la(s) junta(s)/comisión(es) seleccionada(s) en la pregunta 1? *

Passionate about environmental issues, helping others make more eco-conscious choices

What do you feel you would add to selected board(s)/commission(s)? / ¿Qué cree que aportaría a la(s) junta(s)/comisión(es) seleccionada(s)? *

Years of experience on EQC and working with environmental issues outside of EQC

Describe any current or past experience serving on a board or commission. / Describa su experiencia actual o pasada como miembro de un consejo o comisión. *

Current member of EQC; also served on EQC from 2008-16

Describe any current or past community involvement. / Describa cualquier participación actual o pasada en la comunidad. *

see above; have volunteered with school district and other organizations as well

Describe any current or past related education, training, or work experience. / 7. Describa cualquier tipo de educación, formación o experiencia laboral relacionada actual o pasada. *

As a freelance writer, I've written numerous articles on environmental subjects

What does Northfield do well? / ¿Qué hace bien Northfield? *

I've appreciated Northfield's efforts to set goals for sustainability and take steps towards achieving those goals. Northfield also has lots of great walkable neighborhoods and independent businesses

What challenges does Northfield face? / ¿A qué retos se enfrenta Northfield? *

Housing prices and limited housing availability. Insufficient tax base to fund many proposed projects, especially water treatment.

What is your vision for Northfield? / ¿Cuál es su visión de Northfield? *

Preserve small-town character and find creative ways to address challenges mentioned above

Reapplying

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Contributed to outreach (tabling at Earth Day, Riverwalk Market). Worked on subcommittees addressing issues involving water and native plants.

What have you found most fulfilling during your term(s)? / ¿Qué es lo que más le ha llenado durante su mandato?

Outreach: Connecting people to resources that help them save energy and water. Working with other members of EQC and learning about initiatives to shrink the City's environmental footprint.

What have you found most challenging during your term(s)? / 13. ¿Qué le ha resultado más difícil durante su mandato?

Finding ways that one can have a noticeable impact

Questions / Preguntas

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Simon

Last Name / Apellido *

Pryor

Today's Date / Fecha de hoy *

4/4/2026

Address / Dirección *

[REDACTED]

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Why are you interested in serving on a City of Northfield board or commission? / ¿Por qué le interesa formar parte de una junta o comisión de la ciudad de Northfield? *

I'm a student at St. Olaf and I study Environmental Studies and Political Science. I'm motivated to support environmental protection on campus but also in the broader Northfield community. For me, this comes from a goal of being an active and engaged citizen in my community. I hope to serve on the Environmental Quality Commission so that I can combine my knowledge of environmental policy and my passion for environmental protection. I want to serve and support my community and the EQC would allow me to increase this engagement and give back to a town that supports my education.

What interests you about the board(s)/commissions(s) you selected? / ¿Qué le interesa de la(s) junta(s)/comisión(es) seleccionada(s) en la pregunta 1? *

Many of my classes focus on environmental policy, often at a state or national level. However, the EQC would give me an opportunity to understand the implications of this policy locally. I want to gain a better understanding of the struggles that communities face in balancing environmental protection and economic prosperity.

What do you feel you would add to selected board(s)/commission(s)? / ¿Qué cree que aportaría a la(s) junta(s)/comisión(es) seleccionada(s)? *

I have a wide knowledge base that I hope to bring to the EQC. I consider myself a leader in many different areas of my life. I have strong interpersonal skills and a desire to create change. Additionally, I spent multiple years living abroad, which helps me to relate to the diverse range of citizens in Northfield. In combination, my skills and experiences allow me to bring a perspective that pushes for environmental protection but also understands the potential negative implications of these policies in the community. I work to compare different factors to serve the needs of the community but also ensure progress. Overall, I would blend my experience and knowledge as a student with my understanding of broader needs in the community.

Describe any current or past experience serving on a board or commission. / Describa su experiencia actual o pasada como miembro de un consejo o comisión. *

In high school I worked with the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department's Recreational Trails Program Advisory Committee (RTPAC). I served on this committee for a three-year term with eight other citizens and state employees. We reviewed around 20 applications annually for new recreational trail projects in North Dakota. Projects expanded opportunities for hiking, equestrian, paddling, biking, and motorized recreation. We got the opportunity to distribute approximately one million dollars in funding every year. This position is something that was typically reserved for adults. I was the first young person to be appointed to the board. Because of my work, a new permanent youth position was created to ensure representation of this age group and increase youth involvement on a state level.

Describe any current or past community involvement. / Describa cualquier participación actual o pasada en la comunidad. *

Much of my community involvement began in high school when I became a member of a renewable energy advocacy organization in my home of Fargo, ND. I attended meetings and discussions that educated members on environmental protection. I also helped create bylaws for the organization as it was working to establish itself in the community. Other involvement includes sustainability events through my church, performing free public Norwegian fiddling concerts, and coaching for the St. Olaf Rowing Club.

Describe any current or past related education, training, or work experience. / 7. Describa cualquier tipo de educación, formación o experiencia laboral relacionada actual o pasada. *

I'm currently employed by the St. Olaf to work on developing a climate action plan and data collection of campus carbon emissions. Additionally, I study environmental policy which prompts me to wrestle with a variety of factors in environmental protection. Many of the questions that the EQC must consider are things that I'm already considering in my classes such as the implications of data center development, land use, or building design. Ideas about sustainability are always at the front of my mind and I hope that I can bring this same thinking to the EQC.

What does Northfield do well? / ¿Qué hace bien Northfield? *

My experience in Northfield has been based in a strong community. There are a wide range of cultures that merge together in the city combining different languages, ages, or religious orientations together. This is reflected just by the wide range of shops when walking down Division street. Northfield works well in fostering this community, providing fulfillment and satisfaction for citizens.

What challenges does Northfield face? / ¿A qué retos se enfrenta Northfield? *

The most common complaint that I hear about Northfield is how expensive it is to live here. This is further exasperated by many college faculty and staff commuting into Northfield for work. I think it is important for Northfield to continue work that addresses this issue to ensure that the strong community that exists can continue into the future. This is something that the EQC can be especially mindful of. It is important to consider the cost implications of policies and how they may affect the community.

What is your vision for Northfield? / ¿Cuál es su visión de Northfield? *

My vision for Northfield is that it continues to grow its community education and outreach. Oftentimes disputes between citizens and city government come from a lack of understanding between both groups. I would like to see Northfield work to be more of an educator for the community, not only for young people, but every generation. This would directly affect the actions of the EQC but also the city more broadly.

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Contact information / Información del solicitante**First Name / Nombre ***

Amy

Last Name / Apellido *

Machacek Shonka

Today's Date / Fecha de hoy *

3/8/2026

Address / Dirección *

[REDACTED]

Phone number / número de teléfono *

[REDACTED]

Email / Correo electrónico *

[REDACTED]

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- Planning Commission/Zoning Board / Comisión de Urbanismo/Junta de Zonificación
- Other / Otro [REDACTED]

Why are you interested in serving on a City of Northfield board or commission? / ¿Por qué le interesa formar parte de una junta o comisión de la ciudad de Northfield? *

I have been on this commission since Jan. 2025. Since I have lived in, or had a business in Northfield my whole life, and my family has lived her 125 years, owning a local business that whole time (Northfield foundry and machine company, now called Northfield Woodworking). I feel I bring a local perspective to this commission.

What interests you about the board(s)/commissions(s) you selected? / ¿Qué le interesa de la(s) junta(s)/comisión(es) seleccionada(s) en la pregunta 1? *

I have a passion for history and a love of the history of Northfield, and feel it is valuable to protect that.

What do you feel you would add to selected board(s)/commission(s)? / ¿Qué cree que aportaría a la(s) junta(s)/comisión(es) seleccionada(s)? *

My nearly 6 decades of living here and knowing how things have evolved over time.

Describe any current or past experience serving on a board or commission. / Describa su experiencia actual o pasada como miembro de un consejo o comisión. *

I've been on this board for 16 months.

Describe any current or past community involvement. / Describa cualquier participación actual o pasada en la comunidad. *

I've been active with the Northfield fire department both as a family when my dad was a fireman and the fire chief in town for 40+ years, then as a spouse of a fireman for over 20 years. Plus raised my 4 kids here and volunteered in many capacities, and as a foster family for 84 foster kids in Rice County over 12 years.

Describe any current or past related education, training, or work experience. / 7. Describa cualquier tipo de educación, formación o experiencia laboral relacionada actual o pasada. *

I am a realtor who focuses on Nfld. I have an architectural drafting degree. I have co-owned the Holland Building in the historic district for 21 years, and learned much about being a steward of old buildings.

What does Northfield do well? / ¿Qué hace bien Northfield? *

Creates community that shows up for each other.

What challenges does Northfield face? / ¿A qué retos se enfrenta Northfield? *

The cost of housing. High property taxes that make affording homes challenging. They face community opinion that our city govt doesn't underface. Or care about the affordability issues residents face.

What is your vision for Northfield? / ¿Cuál es su visión de Northfield? *

That we figure out how to move forward to both take care of the town, the infrastructure, and its residents, while keeping better fiscal responsibility so it becomes affordable again.

Reapplying

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Explain what you've added to the work of your board or commission during your term(s). / 11. Explique qué ha aportado al trabajo de su junta/comisión durante su(s) mandato(s).

My view of where this town has been and the challenges and triumphs we have faced before. This board has a lot of people who are Very talented with HPC knowledge. I bring a perspective of understanding what it takes to own a historical building for decades and also a local who has 57 years of being in town.

What have you found most fulfilling during your term(s)? / ¿Qué es lo que más le ha llenado durante su mandato?

I've seen how much people on this commission value Historical perspective

What have you found most challenging during your term(s)? / 13. ¿Qué le ha resultado más difícil durante su mandato?

That the HPC codes and processes are new to me.

Questions / Preguntas

Contact Lynette Peterson, City Clerk, City of Northfield, 801 Washington St., Northfield, MN 55057

[Email Lynette Peterson](#)

Póngase en contacto con Lynette Peterson, Secretaria Municipal, Ciudad de Northfield, 801 Washington St., Northfield, MN 55057

[Envíe correo electrónico a Lynette Peterson](#)

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Contact information / Información del solicitante**First Name / Nombre ***

Larry

Last Name / Apellido *

Tolle

Today's Date / Fecha de hoy *

2/6/2025

Address / Dirección *

[REDACTED]

Phone number / número de teléfono *

[REDACTED]

Email / Correo electrónico *

[REDACTED]

Selection and interests / Selección e intereses**Select board, commission, or task force you wish to apply for: / Seleccione la junta, la comisión o el grupo de trabajo para el que desea presentar su candidatura ***

You may select more than one. If the group you're interested in is not listed, please check "other" and fill in the name of the group. / Puede seleccionar más de uno. Si el grupo que le interesa no aparece en la lista, marque "otro" y escriba el nombre del grupo. Seleccione la junta, la comisión o el grupo de trabajo al que desea presentarse:

- Arts & Culture Commission / Comisión de Arte y Cultura
- Charter Commission / Comisión de la Carta
- Economic Development Authority / Autoridad de Desarrollo Económico
- Environmental Quality Commission / Comisión de Calidad Medioambiental
- Heritage Preservation Commission / Comisión de Preservación del Patrimonio
- Hospital Board / Junta del hospital
- Housing & Redevelopment Authority / Autoridad de Vivienda y Reurbanización
- Human Rights Commission / Comisión de Derechos Humanos
- Library Board / Consejo de la Biblioteca
- Northfield Alliance for Substance Abuse Prevention / Alianza de Northfield para la prevención del abuso de sustancias
- Northfield Area Fire & Rescue Services Joint Powers Board / Junta de Poderes Conjuntos de los Servicios de Rescate e Incendios del Área de Northfield
- Park & Recreation Advisory Board / Junta Consultiva de Parques y Actividades Recreativas
- Planning Commission/Zoning Board / Comisión de Urbanismo/Junta de Zonificación
- Other / Otro [REDACTED]

Summarize why you are interested in serving: / Resuma por qué está interesado en servir *

Curiosity and commitment. I have a broad business background, have a vested interest as a commercial and residential property and business owner. Chose Northfield as home over any other place in the world (seriously) and know the city can still continue to improve as a community for all of its citizens.

Summarize your personal background and attributes you feel are relevant to consideration of your appointment such as community involvement, experience serving on governing boards, training, education, work history, or other personal values, experience or perspectives: / Resuma sus antecedentes personales y atributos que considere relevantes para su nombramiento, como su participación en la comunidad, experiencia en consejos de administración, formación, educación, historial laboral u otros valores, experiencias o perspectivas personales: *

In brief: I am a retired operations program manager overseeing organizations with up to 150 employees running multiple projects and programs in software development and IT infrastructure. I have been active on business boards and elected service boards (large HOA with over 2000 households, small HOA with 6 members), Merlin Players (theater) board member and currently oversee the boards for two family owned LLC's in Northfield. I have managed multi-million dollar budgets and successfully grown business and profitability (I have also had a fair amount of very educational failures and an active student in the school of stupid mistakes).

Questions / Preguntas

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Contact information / Información del solicitante**First Name / Nombre ***

William

Last Name / Apellido *

Kuhlmann

Today's Date / Fecha de hoy *

1/2/2026

Address / Dirección *

[REDACTED]

Phone number / número de teléfono *

[REDACTED]

Email / Correo electrónico *

[REDACTED]

Selection and interests / Selección e intereses**Select board(s) or commission(s) you wish to apply for. / Seleccione la(s) junta(s) o comisión(es) a la(s) que desea presentarse. ***

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- Heritage Preservation Commission / Comisión de Preservación del Patrimonio
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- Planning Commission/Zoning Board / Comisión de Urbanismo/Junta de Zonificación
- Other / Otro [REDACTED]

Why are you interested in serving on a City of Northfield board or commission? / ¿Por qué le interesa formar parte de una junta o comisión de la ciudad de Northfield? *

I have the time and enjoy working to better the community.

What interests you about the board(s)/commissions(s) you selected? / ¿Qué le interesa de la(s) junta(s)/comisión(es) seleccionada(s) en la pregunta 1? *

The Planning Commission plays an important role in the built environment of the city which has a long term impact on the city. Our work on the comprehensive plan and now the zoning code have provided a template for the future of the city.

What do you feel you would add to selected board(s)/commission(s)? / ¿Qué cree que aportaría a la(s) junta(s)/comisión(es) seleccionada(s)? *

My experience on the commission enables me to provide a measure of continuity to the commission as the commission experiences its normal turnover.

Describe any current or past experience serving on a board or commission. / Describa su experiencia actual o pasada como miembro de un consejo o comisión. *

I have served on the commission for the past five years and currently serve as the commission chair.

Describe any current or past community involvement. / Describa cualquier participación actual o pasada en la comunidad. *

I remain active with the Northfield Rotary Club.

Describe any current or past related education, training, or work experience. / 7. Describa cualquier tipo de educación, formación o experiencia laboral relacionada actual o pasada. *

During my work career as an attorney, I worked on a number of development projects in smaller communities that provided me with appreciation for the work of the city staff when development occurs and the need to balance competing interests in such projects. I have also served on the boards of a number of non-profit and professional organizations.

What does Northfield do well? / ¿Qué hace bien Northfield? *

Northfield has a very active and engaged citizenry. On the whole, the community is willing to work to make the city better.

What challenges does Northfield face? / ¿A qué retos se enfrenta Northfield? *

I worry that the community does not have a shared vision for the future of the city. On a more tangible level, diversifying the tax base while leveraging our existing strengths is extremely important for the future of the city.

What is your vision for Northfield? / ¿Cuál es su visión de Northfield? *

Maintaining Northfield as a distinct community and not another Twin Cities suburb while diversifying the tax base and expanding workforce housing.

Reapplying

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Explain what you've added to the work of your board or commission during your term(s). / 11. Explique qué ha aportado al trabajo de su junta/comisión durante su(s) mandato(s).

I take my work on the commission very seriously and work to be prepared for each meeting by staying on top of meeting materials but also looking at other resources to expand my knowledge of matters coming before the commission.

What have you found most fulfilling during your term(s)? / ¿Qué es lo que más le ha llenado durante su mandato?

The commission's work on the new comprehensive plan.

What have you found most challenging during your term(s)? / 13. ¿Qué le ha resultado más difícil durante su mandato?

The turnover of Community Development Directors and the resulting lack of consistency in vision coming from the staff.

Questions / Preguntas

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Contact information / Información del solicitante**First Name / Nombre ***

Julia

Last Name / Apellido *

Menard

Today's Date / Fecha de hoy *

4/12/2026

Address / Dirección *

[REDACTED]

Phone number / número de teléfono *

[REDACTED]

Email / Correo electrónico *

[REDACTED]

Selection and interests / Selección e intereses**Select board(s) or commission(s) you wish to apply for. / Seleccione la(s) junta(s) o comisión(es) a la(s) que desea presentarse. ***

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- Northfield Area Fire & Rescue Services Joint Powers Board / Junta de Poderes Conjuntos de los Servicios de Rescate e Incendios del Área de Northfield
- Planning Commission/Zoning Board / Comisión de Urbanismo/Junta de Zonificación
- Other / Otro [REDACTED]

Why are you interested in serving on a City of Northfield board or commission? / ¿Por qué le interesa formar parte de una junta o comisión de la ciudad de Northfield? *

I am interested in continuing to serve on the Planning Commission because this Commission shapes and guides Northfield now and for years to come. I also firmly believe that public service is a public good, and this is my way of giving back to the City of Northfield. The Planning Commission is important work, and the more I learn the more fascinated I become— and as a professional public servant, this work informs and enriches my professional work as well. I also gain valuable experience from it that's directly applicable to my professional life.

What interests you about the board(s)/commissions(s) you selected? / ¿Qué le interesa de la(s) junta(s)/comisión(es) seleccionada(s) en la pregunta 1? *

One of the things that fascinates me about the Planning Commission is how, in many ways, it serves to mediate the relationships between place and space and how we approach the built environment that is our City, and what we value and what we don't. Our values are made real by the kind of projects we build, what land use we allow where, and why we make those decisions. These decisions have real impact on our residents, and that impact can last for decades. The decisions the Planning Commission makes affects the lives of all Northfielders, and I want to help make those lives better.

What do you feel you would add to selected board(s)/commission(s)? / ¿Qué cree que aportaría a la(s) junta(s)/comisión(es) seleccionada(s)? *

I am a professional geographer for a metro county's GIS unit. My work seeks to visualize the relationships between place and space, to show pattern and meaning in how we use land, and to use geographic information to provide data-driven and defensible options to decisionmakers. In my prior tenure on the Planning Commission, I augmented our consultant's work on the new Comprehensive Plan by working with City staff to create the internal maps we used of the City and our possible land use goals. I bring my professional expertise to the Planning Commission, and a thorough grounding in Northfield's current land-use dilemmas and with our Land Development Code.

Describe any current or past experience serving on a board or commission. / Describa su experiencia actual o pasada como miembro de un consejo o comisión. *

I have served on the Heritage Preservation Commission for six years (with several years as Chair), and for three on the Planning Commission.

Describe any current or past community involvement. / Describa cualquier participación actual o pasada en la comunidad. *

My service on City commissions is one of the ways I give back to this community. I am an active member of my church and passionate advocate for justice, in addition to serving in professional organizations.

Describe any current or past related education, training, or work experience. / 7. Describa cualquier tipo de educación, formación o experiencia laboral relacionada actual o pasada. *

Mentioned this above, I'm a professional geographer for a metro county's GIS unit. I hold a Master's in Geographic Information Science from the University of Minnesota Twin Cities, and a Ph.D in Interdisciplinary Archaeological Studies as well, also from the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. I have prior experience on the Northfield Planning Commission and I also work with and support my county's Planning Department with GIS services.

What does Northfield do well? / ¿Qué hace bien Northfield? *

Northfield does so many things well, from our beautiful and thriving downtown, to our rich and vibrant culture and our tradition of civic engagement, to our amazing colleges and how we make space for them and their diverse student bodies, to the simple fact that when neighbors need help, Northfield shows up. In Northfield, community is a verb, and I am so proud to be a part of it.

What challenges does Northfield face? / ¿A qué retos se enfrenta Northfield? *

Though we get a lot right, a major challenge Northfield faces stems from how we use land, and on whom the majority of the tax burden falls-- in Northfield, residential homesteaders pay the majority of the tax burden, and much of Northfield's taxable land is in fact tax-exempt. Housing costs are high, and many people who want to live here and be a part of Northfield simply can't afford to, and others who bought their homes in the past are finding the tax burden onerous at best and impossible at worst, and are forced to move to other communities. While of course there are other challenges, this is a major concern and one the Planning Commission is uniquely suited to address.

What is your vision for Northfield? / ¿Cuál es su visión de Northfield? *

My vision for Northfield is simple. Northfield should be a welcoming community where everyone belongs, everyone matters and has access to all our city has to offer. The decisions we take to this make this vision real should be grounded by relevant data, in a defensible way-- without fear or favor, and without partisanship. Though of course we will make mistakes, our work should be doing the most good for the most people, and when residents may be adversely impacted, we should work to mitigate that impact to the minimum possible.

Reapplying

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Explain what you've added to the work of your board or commission during your term(s). / 11. Explique qué ha aportado al trabajo de su junta/comisión durante su(s) mandato(s).

In my last term as a Planning Commissioner, I added value to the Commission through my geographic expertise, willingness to learn, and openness to change. Additionally I augmented our comprehensive plan work by offering my professional services to the City gratis to better support our efforts.

What have you found most fulfilling during your term(s)? / ¿Qué es lo que más le ha llenado durante su mandato?

I find learning new perspectives and knowing that my service on the Commission actually helps the City meaningfully deeply rewarding. I have been a Northfield resident since 2014, and this is my home. Knowing that my work makes a difference to my fellow Northfielders is very important to me.

What have you found most challenging during your term(s)? / 13. ¿Qué le ha resultado más difícil durante su mandato?

Occasionally, I find the process challenging and overburden with procedure. And I've found the few instances where the City Council (who is, after all, the final authority) and the Planning Commission have disagreed vexing-- however that's the Council's prerogative. But the process matters, because an open, transparent process gives the residents of Northfield the opportunity to understand what is happening in their community and to have their voices heard.

Questions / Preguntas

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