

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

Jess

**Last Name / Apellido \***

Toft

**Today's Date / Fecha de hoy \***

12/12/2025

**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. \***

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:

- 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
- 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? \***

I want to continue the crucial work of the Human Rights Commission, turning progressive policy into tangible action for our community. My passion is ensuring Northfield remains a safe, equitable, and welcoming place for all residents.

**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 HRC provides a direct platform to champion equity and dismantle systemic barriers. I am deeply invested in seeing our recent milestones, especially the Sanctuary City status and the business inclusivity program, evolve into lasting, institutional change.

**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 a successful track record of execution and measurable results—not just ideas. My experience includes leading the Sanctuary City proposal through to adoption and currently managing the logistics and execution of the major Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. event, as well as contributing to events like Hispanic Heritage and Pride in the Park with new and successful activities like rock painting for all ages.

**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 am reapplying after serving a very successful term on the Northfield Human Rights Commission. Key achievements include: Leading the effort to propose and successfully pass the designation of Northfield as a Sanctuary City in Northfield. Spearheading the initiative to ensure local businesses move to actionable, structural inclusion steps. Currently managing all event logistics for Pride in the Park and the upcoming Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. celebration, including securing the speaker, ordering awards, and coordinating youth activities.

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

My work on the Human Rights Commission is my central commitment. It requires constant engagement, coalition building, and collaboration with city staff and diverse community groups to ensure our policies are effective and reach those who need them most. I have also been involved in teaching classes at The Northfield Arts Guild, Community Education classes, Runway Revival, and theater with The Guild.

**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 life has been dedicated to youth development, education, and advocacy, providing a strong foundation for the Commission's work. I hold a degree in Early Childhood and Youth Development. My work experience includes directing childcare centers, operating a substitute teaching company, and serving as an EA in special education at Bridgewater Elementary School. I am currently the Founder of Bully Buddy, a venture focused on scaling proactive solutions for a safe and inclusive environment for youth. This extensive background gives me a unique understanding of the systemic challenges children and families face in educational settings, which is critical for driving equity within the community.

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

Northfield is excellent at fostering deep community engagement. We saw this in the support for the Sanctuary City measure—residents and the City Council are willing to embrace moral leadership and progressive policies.

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

Our biggest challenge is ensuring that our growth is truly equitable. We must work harder to address housing accessibility and ensure that all residents—especially those in marginalized groups—see themselves reflected in our institutions and feel fully supported.

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

My vision is a Northfield recognized statewide as a model city for human rights. A community where equity is integrated into every level of city planning and where the Human Rights Commission's impactful work leads to palpable safety, opportunity, and belonging for everyone.

## Reapplying

If you are reapplying for a term on a board/commission, please complete the below questions. / Si Vuelve a presentar su candidatura para un mandato en un consejo/comisión, rellene las siguientes preguntas.

**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 added a focus on high-impact policy wins and efficient project management. I was instrumental in getting the Sanctuary City proposal passed. Furthermore, I've brought concrete organizational skills by overseeing the complex logistics of Pride in the Park, and the annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. event, ensuring its success.

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

The most fulfilling experience was seeing the Sanctuary City proposal pass the City Council. It proved that our Commission can drive significant, tangible policy change that directly enhances the safety and dignity of vulnerable populations in Northfield.

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

The challenge lies in ensuring sustained institutional change. Getting the Sanctuary City policy passed was a huge win, but the ongoing work of ensuring local businesses implement actionable, structural inclusion—moving beyond symbolic language—requires persistent education and oversight. I am eager to continue leading this effort.

## Questions / Preguntas

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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](#)

## Public data / Datos públicos

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All information supplied on this form will be public data. Your address, telephone number, email address do not become public until you are appointed.

Toda la información facilitada en este formulario serán datos públicos. Su dirección, número de teléfono y dirección de correo electrónico no se harán públicos hasta que sea nombrado.