



greater  
**MANKATO** *this month*  
*growth*

## Issues Impacting Greater Mankato

As long as there are leaders setting policy and constituents impacted by that policy, there will be a need for open communication between the two groups. That is why Greater Mankato Growth takes seriously our role in public affairs of providing you with information from sources on all sides of issues, while at the same time offering opportunities for meaningful exchange with policy leaders (both current and potential).

### Election Information

When we promote the benefits of Greater Mankato, one of the most significant assets we tout is our outstanding educational system. Soon we will have the opportunity to vote on the next leaders who will help shape the future of education in our area as school board members.

As we did for the general election last year, Greater Mankato Growth is once again serving as an information intermediary between candidates and voters. Every vote is particularly important in school board elections, because rather than two candidates running against one another, all candidates are competing collectively for a set number of seats. You can vote for one or more candidates of your choice, with the top vote getters elected to the open seats.

On our website, [greatermankato.com/gmg-election.php](http://greatermankato.com/gmg-election.php), you can access information provided directly from Mankato school board candidates, who responded to a survey conducted by GMG that included both biographic and profile questions, providing you with their thoughts on how they will approach the work if elected.

The Saint Peter Chamber of Commerce will also provide voters with information on the city and school board elections, which we will link to from our website.

We will also soon be announcing the dates for two Mankato school board candidate forums each focusing on different topics. These events will be open to the general public, so all can make an in-



**Jonathan Zierdt**  
Greater Mankato Growth, Inc.  
President & CEO

formed decision on Election Day.

### Issues Information

Greater Mankato Growth also provides the business community with information and opportunities for dialogue with public policy leaders on issues impacting business and the marketplace's economic vitality.

Earlier this week, we sent out a survey to businesses at the request of Congressman Walz's office, on the recently announced American Jobs Act, with 137 business professionals responding in the first 24 hours after the survey went live. The results of this survey will be released next week.

Another issue important to our business's success is the availability of local government financing offerings and incentives related to economic development. We will be holding an issue dialogue for businesses on current and future policies related to this topic on September 28, with area mayors and city managers serving as panelists. Area's to be discussed at the event include: loan and grant programs tax increment financing, incentives and abatements; and the geographic and/or business sector focus of policies.

For information on these issues and future topics, visit the issues area of the Greater Mankato website at [greatermankato.com/gmg-publicpolicyissues.php](http://greatermankato.com/gmg-publicpolicyissues.php).

Check back at this site regularly, because as you know, when it comes to public policy, the dynamics are always changing, and we are here to help you stay informed, while providing your valuable input to policy leaders.