

greater MANKATO *this month*

Information is Power when Voting

As a voter you have the opportunity to shape policy. Whether voting on a specific issue important to you or deciding which individuals should make or carry out policies on your behalf, you as a voter possess a great deal of power.

This power is one many individuals take extremely seriously (one vote can make a difference), and in order to help them make the best decisions – they utilize the power of information.

Many organizations throughout our community and country provide a variety of information on issues and candidates. The organizations you as an individual seek your information from will depend on what is important to you (e.g. art, education and business). When it comes to areas impacting businesses and their role in strengthening our community, Greater Mankato Growth welcomes the opportunity to serve as an *intermediary* between voters and those making policy.

We are intentional about choosing the word *intermediary*, because while some organizations lend their support to a particular issue or candidate, we realize to do so is impossible and even irresponsible when it comes to a group as vast and diverse as our business community.

So, rather than take a position on a particular issue or candidate, GMG communicates information from sources on all sides of issues, while at the same time providing opportunities for meaningful exchange between voters and elected officials (both current and potential).

Year round the public affairs area of our website is filled with information on issues and opportunities to give feedback to officials.

During the election season, GMG has a special elections webpage



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greatermankatoelections.com to provide information about candidates, events and the voting process.

One of the most valuable elements of greatermankatoelections.com is information provided directly from candidates in our area city, county and state elections, who responded to a survey conducted by GMG that included both biographic and profile questions. None of these profile questions have “yes” or “no” answers. They are behavior-focused questions that enable voters to gauge a candidate’s perspective, as well as his or her decision making style and process (yes, much the same way a good employer would interview a prospective employee). The answers to these questions will be posted online September 16.

greatermankatoelections.com also includes information about the 11 candidate debates and forums GMG is hosting leading up to the election on November 2. These events all have a consistent design, aimed at ensuring fairness to all candidates and unbiased treatment of issues.

In this way, voters can be assured they are getting non-filtered information directly from the candidates themselves on the many important issues not only impacting business, but the overall vitality of the region at large.

Upcoming Candidate Forums and Debates

- Nicollet County Commissioner District 1 DebateSeptember 27, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
- Blue Earth County Commissioner District 2 Debate.....September 28, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
- MN House District 24B Debate.....October 4, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
- MN House District 23B Debate.....October 5, 7:15 – 8:15 p.m.
- North Mankato City Council (all open seats) Forum.....October 7, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
- Nicollet County Commissioner District 5 DebateOctober 11, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
- North Mankato Mayor DebateOctober 12, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.
- MN House District 23A Debate.....October 18, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
- Mankato Mayor Debate.....October 19, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
- MN Senate District 23 DebateOctober 21, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
- Mankato City Council (all open seats) ForumOctober 26, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

For more information on these and other candidate events visit greatermankatoelections.com