

## CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

### GENERAL EMPLOYEES AND UNCLASSIFIED RETIREMENT PLANS

**Important**

- ◆ The names of the candidates are listed alphabetically.
- ◆ Candidates supply the biographical information.
- ◆ MSRS does not verify the accuracy of the biographical information.

#### **Matt Broughton**

**State Employment:** Metropolitan Council, Principal Data Scientist

**Years of State Service:** 6

**Education, training, and experience:**

In my current role, I support agency performance reporting and build statistical models. Prior to Metro Transit, I was a testing analyst for Target, where I designed experiments to optimize store operations and built sales forecasting models. I hold a doctorate degree in physics from Dartmouth College and undergraduate degrees in physics and English from Augsburg University, where I am currently an adjunct professor and a member of the Service Employees International Union. I live in the Mac-Groveland neighborhood of Saint Paul with my wife and two sons.

**Why I would like to serve on the MSRS Board of Directors:**

In my work as a data scientist, I use statistical models to understand and evaluate practices, policies, and systems. This specialized skill set would be a great asset to the MSRS Board of Directors, bringing an objective, critical perspective to discussions around current practices and proposed changes. Both my current role and teaching experience have given me extensive experience in interpreting reports in non-technical language. I believe that clear, concise communication is an essential component of any effective working group.

I have a strong personal connection to the Minnesota state pension system. My wife is currently contributing to the MSRS General Employees Retirement Plan, and my parents are retirees through the Minnesota Teacher Retirement Association. These connections give me the perspective needed to balance the needs of both current and future retirees. MSRS has a long history of providing financially secure retirement plans for its retirees. I would be proud to contribute to furthering its goals and representing and advocating for the needs of its members.

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#### **Vanessa Fedorowski**

**State Employment:** Board of Public Defense, Legal Office Assistant

**Years of State Service:** 6 months

**Education, training, and experience:**

I am a Minnesota Certified Paralegal and member of the National Federation of Paralegal Association. My education consists of having a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the College of Visual Arts in St. Paul, Minnesota. In 2013, I received a post-graduate paralegal certificate from Inver Hills Community College. I am now attending Concordia University-St. Paul for a Master of Arts in Human Resource Management and expect to graduate in 2022. My work experience includes assisting attorneys in civil, criminal, and employment law. I worked for several years with the General Counsel for Minnesota Public Employees Association (MNPEA) as a paralegal. My tasks involved assisting attorneys in preparation for arbitrations, mediations, and contract negotiations. I helped assist public employees in over seventy bargaining units. I currently work for the Public Defense Board at the Appellate Office to help the dedicated attorneys achieve quality criminal defense services to indigent defendants in the state of Minnesota.

**Why I would like to serve on the MSRS Board of Directors:**

The Minnesota State Retirement System (MSRS) mission is to empower Minnesota public employees to build a strong foundation in retirement. I have worked hard to help Minnesota public employees throughout my years as a paralegal. With my educational background in human resource management and my experience in labor relations, I look forward to creating value for state employees by serving on the MSRS Board of Directors. My father worked for the State of Minnesota as a Corrections Agent for 25 years. I saw the benefits of the MSRS as he was provided with a secure, sustainable, and reliable retirement plan. I hope to become part of the MSRS's notable accomplishments to achieve its goals based on the MSRS Strategic Plan.

## **Brandon Gfrerer**

**State Employment:** Department of Transportation (MnDOT), Accounting Director

**Years of State Service:** 5

### **Education, training, and experience:**

I attended the Carlson School of Management at the University of Minnesota. I obtained a Bachelor of Science in finance and insurance/risk management. After graduating college, I worked for a Fortune 100 insurance company as well as a Fortune 500 bank. In 2004, I joined a small business as vice-president and general manager. In 2016, I joined MnDOT as the Business Manager for the Metro District. In 2019, I was promoted to the position of Accounting Director for the MnDOT - Metro District. I have served as the chairperson for the statewide Finance Professionals Group at MnDOT.

### **Why I would like to serve on the MSRS Board of Directors:**

I would enjoy serving on the MSRS Board of Directors so that I may promote and advocate for the continued success of MSRS. As an Accounting Director and previous Business Manager for MnDOT, I value accuracy, accountability, and transparency, which I will advocate for, should I be chosen for this position. Working in a small business for over a decade gave me an opportunity to hone my leadership skills with my employees as well as develop a strong ability to provide excellent customer service to our clients. I feel these skills will help me responsibly serve MSRS members while also providing opportunities for me to grow in my own professional development. As a plan member, I have an inherent interest in the success of the organization and will do everything within my power to ensure the continued prosperity of MSRS, legally and ethically. I cherish community involvement and giving back to those around me. I've enjoyed volunteering in financial roles for the Parent-Teacher Association at my daughter's school, as well as a local church in my community. I also take pleasure in coaching youth sports for my elementary age son.

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## **Chet Jorgenson**

**State Employment:** Minnesota Department of Commerce, Analyst

**Years of State Service:** 33

### **Education, training, and experience:**

I was the statewide president of the Minnesota Association of Professional Employees (MAPE) for twelve years until I did not seek re-election last year. As the president of MAPE, I was the chair of the MAPE Board of Director and was involved with managing the MAPE budget and monitoring its investments. I am a current member of the MSRS Board of Directors. The Board has worked with many stakeholders at the Legislature in recent years to make modest changes to the pension to successfully ensure the pension's future. The results have been impressive improvements in the funding ratio. I work at the Minnesota Department of Commerce as a regulator of Wall Street financial products.

### **Why I would like to serve on the MSRS Board of Directors:**

Some state employees fear the pension will not be there for them when they need it. Our pension is strong and stable. The numbers show whether you retire today or just start employment with the State today, the pension will be funded for you. We need to stand up to the organizations and politicians that distort the facts, and we need to explain the real story of our pension. Pensions put millions of dollars into the Minnesota economy. I am committed to getting these messages to the people of Minnesota. I am also committed to working my hardest to make sure our pension remains strong!

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## **Donald Lucksinger**

**State Employment:** Department of Human Services (DHS); HealthCare Eligibility Operations (HCEO);

Minnesota HealthCare Programs (MHCP), System and User Support Analyst

**Years of State Service:** 12

### **Education, training, and experience:**

I have been with the Department of Human Services for the past 12 years and with the County Relations Resource Center (CRRC) the last 6 years. I have extensive experience with information technology systems such as METS and MAXIS as well as Minnesota Health Care Programs (MHCP) such as MA, LTC, MFPP and more. I work with MNsure, all 87 counties and MMB as well as the Governor, Legislature and the Center for Medicaid Services (CMS). Prior to State service, I was accepted into the Minnesota State Patrol training program but had to decline due to a military service disability. I served in the U.S. Navy during the first Gulf War. I am a disabled veteran, husband and father of three amazing children and happily married for the past 20 years.

### **Why I would like to serve on the MSRS Board of Directors:**

I have been the regional negotiator for our union Minnesota Association of Professional Employees (MAPE) representing over 500 state workers in my region for the past 6 years. I have created working relationships with several agencies and legislative representatives and successfully negotiated three (3) contracts to date. I enjoy working in a diverse setting and collaborating with various areas to reach the best outcome for all stakeholders. If elected I would apply the absolute highest level of integrity, attention to detail and knowledge to my service to the members invested with the Minnesota State Retirement Service (MSRS).

## **Richard "Dick" McMullen**

**State Employment:** Minnesota State (formerly MNSCU), Information Technology Manager

**Years of State Service:** 14

### **Education, training, and experience:**

I'm pleased to have worked as an Information Technology Manager at Minnesota State since 2007. I am a member of the Middle Management Association (MMA) and served on the MMA Board of Directors from 2009 through 2016. Prior to state employment, I worked as an Information Technology Manager in financial services at RBC Wealth Management where I obtained a Series 7 certification. I've also worked in the health care and wholesale/distribution industries. I have a liberal arts degree from Metropolitan State University, and I will finish a Master of Liberal Studies degree focused on U.S. and Minnesota History at Metropolitan State University in May of 2022. I was raised in the Twin Cities and my wife and I live in Stillwater where we raised our three children.

### **Why I would like to serve on the MSRS Board of Directors:**

I've been interested in serving on the MSRS Board for some years due to my experience working in the financial services industry. Upon completion of my master's degree in early 2022, I will have time to engage interesting commitments such as this. We are all appreciative of the careful management MSRS has implemented over the years to maintain the viability of our retirement plans and our fiduciary accountability to the citizens of Minnesota. I hope to continue that legacy of careful oversight and careful consideration of the needs of employees and retirees. Further, I will support a strong commitment to maintaining the level of benefits expected and needed by retirees.

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## **Kenneth Meinz**

**State Employment:** Department of Transportation (MnDOT) - District 3B, Transportation Generalist

**Years of State Service:** 1.7

### **Education, training, and experience:**

Associate of applied science degree - Alexandria Technical College

Bachelor's degree - Southwest Minnesota State University

Master of Business Administration - Southwest Minnesota State University

### **Why I would like to serve on the MSRS Board of Directors:**

Over the years, personal finance and retirement planning has become a passion of mine. Life experiences have shown me the importance of sound financial planning and practices. I have spent a considerable amount of time studying how to make sound, long-term investments and retirement strategies. I enjoy sharing my knowledge and experiences to help others and I believe your vote will help me do that.

I appreciate your support.

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## **Anne Morris**

**State Employment:** Minnesota Pollution Control, Research Analysis Specialist Sr

**Years of State Service:** 8

### **Education, training, and experience:**

I have a master's degree in geographical information systems and an undergraduate degree in geography and environmental studies. For over 20 years, I studied how policy impacts us and our environment. During my career, I realized data shows us current patterns of behavior and that knowledge can lead us to make changes for a better future. I excel in taking complicated data and creating easy to understand visualizations.

### **Why I would like to serve on the MSRS Board of Directors:**

A safe and secure retirement is essential for all state employees. We have earned this benefit because of our dedication and service to others. I have made up for a lack of retirement planning education by becoming deeply invested in my future. MSRS is a key player in providing a steady retirement future. MSRS secures my safety and that of my family and children; I want to act on behalf of you and your family too.

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## **Marty Olson**

**State Employment:** Enterprise Minnesota, Business Development Advisor

**Years of State Service:** 7.5

### **Education, training, and experience:**

Bachelors of Science, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities

Parish Council Secretary / Parish Trustee, St Matthew's, St Paul

Eagan Athletic Association Director, Eagan, MN

### **Why I would like to serve on the MSRS Board of Directors:**

As an active participant in the MSRS, I believe a period of service is important to have a deeper connection to MSRS and to participate in helping improve MSRS for the benefit of those who are also participants.

## **Cathy Rajtar**

**State Employment:** Department of Natural Resources (DNR), OAS-Senior

**Years of State Service:** 24

### **Education, training, and experience:**

I have worked in legal offices as a legal secretary the first part of my career after college. In 1997, I re-entered State service and have been with the State for 24 years - 22 with the Minnesota State College System as an administrative assistant and 2 years with the DNR. In 2005, I obtained a master's degree in public administration from Metropolitan State University and applied what I learned to my daily positions with the State.

### **Why I would like to serve on the MSRS Board of Directors:**

I served a three-year term (2016-2019) on the Parish Council of St. Casimir Parish in St. Paul, MN, and have a varied background. I enjoy serving and learning, and would be pleased to represent State employees on the MSRS Board of Directors after 24 years of service with the State of Minnesota.

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## **Jacqueline Terry**

**State Employment:** Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED), Research Analyst

**Years of State Service:** 38

### **Education, training, and experience:**

I am a long-time resident of the City of St. Paul. I am a graduate of St Paul Central High school. I also have some higher education experience through various courses, workshops, and training. I understand the importance of governance, financial matters, and employment matters. I have also received training through AFSCME.

My experience includes 38 years of employment with the State of Minnesota; 38 years as a vested member of Minnesota State Retirement System (MSRS) and I am a current member of the MSRS Board of Directors. I'm also a former dedicated member of AFSCME Council 5 and a new member of MAPE. Throughout the years, I have had the opportunity to serve in various elected positions such as vice-president and president of AFSCME Local 22, AFSCME Council 5 Executive Board member, and now as a MAPE Steward. Additionally, I served on Generations of Faith Missionary Baptist Church Executive Board for many years and currently volunteer as a Ramsey County head election judge.

### **Why I would like to serve on the MSRS Board of Directors:**

I am interested in being re-elected as a member of the MSRS Board of Directors representing the General Employees and Unclassified Retirement Plans because I am committed to providing regulatory oversight to the pensions and retirement system department's processes. I will continue to dedicate my efforts through advocacy, collaboration, and governance with others related to the strategic planning and development of MSRS. I am a strong believer in servant leadership and open to learning and creating opportunities for sustainable growth and equitable outcomes. I look forward to sharing my expertise on complex issues; continue to provide accountability, creative energy, and a voice for all members.

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## **Maurice Wilson III**

**State Employment:** MN Department of Education, Special Education Fiscal Monitor

**Years of State Service:** 10

### **Education, training, and experience:**

- Bachelors of Arts in Business Management. Masters of Science in Organizational Leadership.
- Co-chair of Equity Justice Black Caucus, a statewide Employee Resource Group.
- MAPE Local 1002 President.
- Served 10 years in the Minnesota Army National Guard. Did one tour of duty in Iraq, Operation Iraqi Freedom.

### **Why I would like to serve on the MSRS Board of Directors:**

I want to ensure our investments are sustainable for all our future retirements. I would like to have an impact as to how money is invested. I want to bring peace of mind to all MSRS members that our investments are on par with our values and principles. I am willing to learn and grow as a Board member and will represent those who entrust us with their pension. Your livelihood is important to me, and as a Board member, I will keep all of your best interests in mind, while investing is sustainably and morally done.