

East Bethel Candidate Profile



Candidate Name: *Suzanne Erkel*

Office Sought: *City Council*

Bio:

Hi, I am Suzanne Erkel. I have lived in East Bethel since 1998 and I love this city. As retired US Army master sergeant I have common sense leadership experience, and the courage to stand up against those who I disagree with. I have a passion for the city and the residents. I believe the city council should represent the residents, not the city staff. I have advocated for the resident's desires prior to being elected to the city council and throughout my council term. I believe in property rights, and this city does not need to micromanage properties. I show respect to every citizen, regardless if I agree with their positions. I love the rural feel of East Bethel and have a strong desire to maintain this rural feel. I can do more to promote businesses that are here, such as featured business on social media and in our newsletter. I believe in Common sense leadership, not rubber stamp everything that comes before the council. The council should run the city, not the city running the council.

I would like to modify or eliminate ordinances that do not align with rights of property owners. Prohibit search warrants on residents based on minor violations such as suspicion of no permits.

I would like to revamp our budgeting process so levies are not an automatic part of the budget, and eliminate or reduce more of the fees the city charges for services like permits and variances. Our residents pay taxes to every government entity and it all adds up.

I believe the city of East Bethel is developing to fast. I think growth is a good thing, but limited. I would like to slow it down, and I have an idea that may do that. They tell me growth shares the tax burden and will decrease taxes. Can anyone tell me where that has happened? Every city that has exponential growth has increased taxes comparatively.

As our city grows safety becomes more of a concern. We have an excellent relationship with the Anoka County Police and I will strive to maintain that relationship. I will promote advice on community safety, publications and neighborhood watches. Increased policing comes with an increased cost, so citizen involvement will be my priority. We can increase the bond between our police and fire and the residents. As a great listener, the residents can help to identify and improve safety issues in their smaller communities.

