



**CD7 REPUBLICANS**

**2023 CD7 ENDORSING  
CONVENTION**

**March 24th & 25th**

CD7 Executive Committee

**Candidate Profiles**



Seventh Congressional  
**Republicans**  
Serving Western Minnesota

**[www.MNCD7Republicans.com](http://www.MNCD7Republicans.com)**

# VOTERS GUIDE FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT SEVEN

**This guide includes important information you will need for your congressional district convention.**

## CHAIR CANDIDATE

**Craig Bishop:** I attended Kansas State University and graduated in 1985 with a Bachelor's degree in History and received a Master's degree in Soviet and Eastern European Studies from the University of Kansas in 1991. This was the era of historic meetings between Ronald Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev. Curiosity of Eastern Europe and Communism landed Craig in West Berlin working for the State Department at the Trade and Investment Bureau. Traveling across the Berlin Wall and a few years later living in Bulgaria and Estonia drove home some hard truths about the dangers of socialism and that America is a unique hope for freedom in our world.



In 1993, I joined the Pilot Outreach jail ministry and have now completed 28 years of service. In 2016, I wrote and self-published a book about evangelist Billy Sunday entitled, *Billy Sunday The Baseball Evangelist The Story of a Remarkable Life*. I have traveled many times speaking in the State of Iowa, Billy Sunday's home state, including one time at the Iowa Historical Society in Des Moines.

I have served in various ways in my McLeod County BPOU since 1996 including, Secretary, Vice-Chair and BPOU Chair from 2007-2009. In 2009 I was elected Chair of the Seventh District Republicans. Some of the great memories I have as chair are giving the Lifetime Achievement Awards at our convention in Thief River Falls in 2017 and being involved to help get Donald Trump elected in 2016 and Michelle Fischbach in 2020. I am currently a Casework Manager with the Michelle Fischbach Congressional office in Willmar. I want to thank all the wonderful people I have worked with over the years. If you elect me, I would be glad to serve another two years as your District Chairman. 320-582-0138

## DEPUTY CHAIR CANDIDATE

**Tiffany Lesmeister:**

Dear Fellow Republicans,



It is an honor to be running for re-election for the Seventh Congressional District Deputy Chair position. I live on a small farm near Wabasso, work for a dairy company and I have a few crops and animals. I have worked in the agricultural industry for over 30 years, specifically in the dairy industry for the last 21 years. I have served locally as a Redwood County, New Avon Township Supervisor since 2012. In my past and present employment opportunities, I have been able to work in a swine veterinary practice, clone cattle, pigs and sheep, work with dairy farmers and work with many multi-cultural co-workers. I am a Christian mother, prolife supporter, current conceal and carry permit holder, member of the St. Anne's school

advisory board and former youth advisor.

Since 2016, I have been active at the county, district and state levels of the Republican Party. In 2020, I was elected to serve as a National Delegate to the Republican National Convention. Besides the broad duties of the current CD7 Deputy Chair, I am focusing on a plan for CD7 to help win back the Minnesota Legislature and improve election integrity of CD7 and statewide. I am currently co-chairing the state wide Minnesota Election Integrity Solutions.

My belief in the Republican Party of Minnesota leads me to be involved and support the people of CD7 into the future. I would be honored to be your voice and serve you as your Deputy Chair of CD7 and I sincerely ask for your vote.

Sincerely,

Tiffany Lesmeister-Knott

507-430-1705

t\_lesmeister@yahoo.com

Facebook- Tiffany Lesmeister-Knott

## STATE EXECUTIVE OFFICER CANDIDATES



**Tim Miller** lives in Prinsburg, is married to his wife Cherie, and they have a blended family of seven adult children and six grandchildren. Their youngest, Jacob, lives with them along with Cherie’s mother, Norma.

Tim served in the Minnesota House of Representatives from 2015-2022. He defeated a six year liberal Democrat incumbent becoming the first Republican Representative from the district in over 30 years. While in office Tim authored Minnesota’s two “Heartbeat” bills, the “Bathroom Bill” (school bathrooms and locker rooms segregated by genetic sex), and other pro-life and pro-family legislation. Tim was a co-author to the only tax bill in 2021 that gave 100% of the surplus back to taxpayers. Tim was a co-author for multiple pro-2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment bills including Constitutional Carry, “Stand Your Ground”, and “Castle Doctrine” bills. He was one of only four legislators who sued Governor Walz in district court for his “emergency powers”. He supported the Convention of the States. Tim was consistently ranked by most conservative scorecards as one of the top ten most conservative legislators in Minnesota. In 2017 he was ranked tied for 2<sup>nd</sup> most conservative Minnesota legislator by CPAC.

Tim began his grassroots Republican efforts as Campaign Manager for Lee Byberg in 2010. He has volunteered for federal and state campaigns including President Trump and Senator Cruz for President; Jeff Johnson, Michelle Benson, and Scott Jensen for Governor; Michelle Fischbach for Congress; and multiple candidates for State House and Senate seats. Tim has been a delegate or alternate to State, CD7, and Kandiyohi County Republican Conventions since 2012.

Tim is currently the Executive Director of PLAM Action, a statewide grassroots political action group that defends the unborn through legislative and community action. He served eight years in the Army Reserve. He has a Bachelor’s degree from the University of Iowa. 320-905-1010

**Bill Nichol:** In 1962 my parents were married out of High school and moved to a farm my grandpa Nichol bought during the depression. It was located on the " King of Trails" wagon trail near Wolverton, MN in the Red River Valley. We raised beef cattle, alfalfa, corn and wheat. Life on the farm was never dull. Our cousins loved to



spend their summers with us swimming in the gravel pit behind our house. We worked hard, played hard and slept well and I wouldn't trade it for any other life.

I graduated from Oak Grove Lutheran High School in Fargo in 1985. That summer, Reaganomics allowed me to start my excavating company that helped put me through a couple years at North Dakota State and Moorhead State. I spent three years at the Art Institute of Atlanta then another 2 years at the Full Sail Center for the Recording Arts in Winter Park, FL to be a sound engineer. In the mid-90s I recorded and managed a Blues band, *Bad Medicine* that became Jonny Lang's first backup band. I also pursued an acting career. What's remained consistent in my life is my faith in God and to choose my own path of interest and live life fully. I am completely at odds with the liberal progressive agenda. Everything I love is at risk!

I currently hold the position of Senate District 12 chair, which is a voting position on the CD7 board and CD7 State Executive Officer. My responsibilities for that position are to travel to the twin cities once a month to work with Chairwoman Jennifer Carnahan and other statewide leaders to work on plans to win Minnesota red for the Republicans in November 2022. I am also owner and operator of William Nichol Excavating Inc. since 1985.

## TREASURER CANDIDATE

### Tim Nanson

**Tim Nanson** was raised in Southern California. His father was a civil engineer and his mother was the family COO. Tim was raised in a fiscally conservative home and those values rubbed off at a young age. Tim spent his summers at his Great Aunt's lake cabin on Big Cormorant Lake, where his love for Minnesota began.

During high school, Tim swam competitively, enjoyed playing basketball as well as water polo. He graduated from Santa Clara High School in 1990 and went on to Loyola Marymount University in Westchester, CA. where he majored in Business Finance.

At Loyola, Tim met his future wife, Ursula. They both graduated in 1994, were married in June of 1996, and were living in Plymouth, MN by September of that year. In 2001 Tim and Ursula moved to Battle Lake and took over Elmer's Texas BBQ. Their daughter, Devin, was born in Fergus Falls in 2004 and their son, Tim, in 2005.

In 2007 Tim and his family moved back to California to be close to family and enable the kids to have relationships with their (Great) Grandparents.

Tim returned to his financial background resuming work as a Financial Planner. Tim earned his CFP® designation in 2008 and has made a career of providing objective, fee only, holistic financial planning to fiscally conservative families. Tim prides himself on his constant integrity and takes his Fiduciary Responsibility very seriously.

Due to the onset of COVID Tim and his family moved back to MN and are proud to call Fergus Falls their home. Tim continues his work as a CFP® and is becoming actively involved with the community.

Outside of work Tim has a passion for cooking and entertaining, a nice glass of bourbon, a good rack of ribs, and, most importantly, spending time celebrating his children. 805-908-5694



## SECRETARY CANDIDATE



**Lisa Tilney.** I have lived in Minnesota for over 6 years. Soon after moving here, I became a delegate at my local caucus. I have been involved in the MNGOP ever since. I have been a delegate to CD conventions, State Central, and State Conventions in both Carlton and Yellow Medicine Counties. Currently I am Co-Chair of the Yellow Medicine Republican BPOU and a delegate for CD7 and the state convention. I am also the YMC State Central alternate. I am a homeschooling mom of two beautiful girls and a very active pastor's wife. I am a very driven, motivated person with conservative values who will work hard for CD7. I love this country and our great state of Minnesota and believe in medical freedom, life from conception, and the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendments. I also support getting Minnesotans back to work, the entire Constitution and free and fair elections. 218-206-5949

## VICE CHAIR CANDIDATES

### Heidi Jo Ahmann



626 SW 2nd Street  
Willmar, MN 56201  
320-295-9514  
hjvag@hotmail.com

Married to husband, Steve Ahmann, December 8,  
2001-present  
Kandiyohi County and Willmar resident for most of  
my 60 years

### Work History:

Flight Attendant with Northwest Airlines from December 9, 1990 - merger with  
Delta Airlines in October 2008

Flight Attendant with Delta Airlines from October 2008-present

### Political History:

Campaign Manager and Treasurer for husband, Steve Ahmann, in his successful  
bid for Kandiyohi County District 2 Commissioner; 2016

Campaign Manager and Treasurer for husband, Steve Ahmann, in an unsuccessful  
bid for reelection to Kandiyohi County Commissioner District 2; 2020

Treasurer of the Kandiyohi County Republicans; February 2019-present

Candidate supporter of ALL municipal, county, state and federal conservative/GOP  
candidates; contributor, parades, literature drops, door knocking, phone banking,  
etc

### Education:

Willmar Senior High School: 1980

Willmar Community College: AA degree 1982

Mankato State University: 1982-1983

Southwest State University: 1989-2000; Major in Business Administration with concentration in Management, Marketing and Economics

**Current Activity or Member:**

Kandiyohi County Republican BPOU Treasurer; 2019-present  
Willmar Human Rights Commission Committee Member; 2022-present  
Harvest Community Church; 2010-present  
American Legion Auxilliary  
VFW Auxilliary

**Past Activity within last 10 years:**

Fortress Men's Ministry and Restoration Home

1. Steering Committee Member from this ministry's inception; 2012
2. Executive Board Member; 2012-2019
3. One-Way Festival organizer/volunteer

First Covenant Church, Willmar, Board Member and Deacon of Outreach, Evangelism and Discipleship

Calvary Lutheran Church, Willmar, Board Member and Member to Worship Committee

Barn Theatre; actor and music director

New London Little Theatre; actor

Much volunteering throughout the Willmar community!



**Jim Bobier:** I am running for my first re-election as a CD7 vice chair. My wife Diane and I are conservative Christians who raised our 4 children in Hutchinson. Our youngest is now a junior at Moorhead State University.

Within my county, I have served as Deputy Chair of the McLeod County Republicans since 2012. My local focus has been to help with a “**One Party – One Ticket**” focus to elect local nonpartisan candidates using all of the political strategies and tools that are available through both CD7 and MNGOP resources.

In 2022, McLeod County did experience a Red Wave by electing 9 of our 10 recommended candidates. We won several contested races for school board, county attorney, city council and one judicial race win (for McLeod County only)

For my district, I have been SD18 Chair since 2010 representing Meeker, McLeod and Sibley Counties from 2010 thru redistricting in 2022. In 2022, I lead the planning for the new 2022 Senate District 17 Convention and was elected as a Co-Chair of the newly redistricted SD17.

I have been a CD7 delegate for McLeod County since 2008.

I am running for vice chair for 3 reasons:

- 1) To champion the message that “It’s The Majority Stupid” to emphasize all efforts for Republicans to regain it
- 2) To share our McLeod knowledge on winning local elections out across CD7.
- 3) To provide leadership to the board to protect and uphold the endorsement decision by the CD7 delegates.

I have been an active supporter of all our convention-endorsed candidates for congress including Lee Byberg, Torrey Westrom, David Hughes, and Michelle Fischbach. Jim Bobier [SD17ACoChair@gmail.com](mailto:SD17ACoChair@gmail.com) 320-282-2434 cell

## Matthew Franzese



I was born in Queens, New York, and raised in Northeast, Minneapolis. For high school I attended St. Thomas Academy, then went to college at Creighton University, where I double majored in English and History, and obtained a law degree from Creighton University School of Law.

I have been practicing law in 1995 in the Tax Department at Jostens, Inc. In 1996 I began a private practice career in Alexandria. Since 2003 I have been the elected County Attorney for Traverse County, and I am also presently the City Attorney for six cities.

As an attorney, I have had a wide range of accomplishments, including drafting a nationwide sales tax manual for Jostens, convincing the Minnesota Supreme Court to create new criminal law, and receiving the Advocacy Achievement Award from Legal Services of Northwest Minnesota. I am now trying to intervene in the Dr. Jane Doe lawsuit in Ramsey County, after the Attorney General refused to appeal a decision striking down several criminal pro-life laws.

I am the father of five children, all of whom have been homeschooled. I also teach CCD classes at Ave Maria Church in Wheaton, where I served on the Parish Council. I have also been on several local area boards, assistant coached my children in youth sports, and have 14 years of martial arts experience.

As a youth I would engage in literature dropping for local GOP candidates, and volunteered at phone banks and MCCL while in law school. I joined the Traverse County Republicans in 2003 and have been a delegate to the state convention and working with local candidates. Since 2014 I have been an active supporter of State Rep. Jeff Backer, doing everything from marching in dozens of parades to consulting with him on policy issues. 320-287-1419



- + Eagle Scout since 2020
- + YMC BPOU Co-Chair
- + Actively working to engage others to join the Party
- Twitter: @taringatchell
- Facebook: Tarin Gatchell

**Tarin Gatchell:** Greetings, CD7 delegates! I am Tarin Gatchell, a history and political science double-major at Saint John’s University, an Eagle Scout, and Co-Chairman of the Yellow Medicine County BPOU. At Saint John’s, I am currently undertaking the reorganization of the CSBSJU College Republicans, because the old organization no longer exists, whereas the College Democrats do continue to hold events on campus.

It is obvious that the last election ended up being a failure for the MNGOP, since the DFL held its executive triplex and gained the legislative trifecta. Even nationally, the GOP could only squeak by with a majority in the House while losing ground in the Senate. In truth, the last election where Minnesota Republicans saw real victory was 2016 - I entered and graduated high school since 2016. The solution to this electoral deficit is to bring voters onto our Party’s platform, and that means interacting with voters, especially young voters. This is why I am running, because we need to continue to engage new voters. While CD7 is clearly the most Republican-leaning congressional district in Minnesota, we still need to bring in new voters so we can continue to be the “reddest” district, but also so we can grow the statewide GOP vote to reclaim the Minnesota House, the U.S. Senate, and the White House in 2024. 320-435-1698

## Phillip W. Holmes



I am happily married to Danita for 32 years, and we have 7 biological children. I enjoy fishing and studying history and medical topics. I have helped with youth church programs for many years. I was born and raised in the Minneapolis, MN, area. I was graduated from the University of Northwestern in Roseville, MN, with a one-year Bible Certificate. I was graduated from Bethel University, obtaining a B. S. in Biology and a B. A. in Psychology. I played 4 years of college football at Bethel, and obtained a Life Sciences High School teaching certificate at Bethel. I then went on to the University of SD medical school where I received my M. D. degree. I then was graduated from the U of MN's Rural Family Practice Residency Program in 1997. I have worked in Albany, MN, Savannah, TN, Nashwauk, MN, and Elbow Lake, MN.

I currently am a family practice physician practicing in Elbow Lake, MN. 218-969-4988



 JoyOrvis@gmail.com

# Vote Joy Orvis

## CANDIDATE FOR CD7 VICE CHAIR

Personally, I am a Christian conservative mother of 5, living in Roseau, MN. I am a 4th generation Minnesotan, born and raised in St. Paul. My grandparents and their parents before them farmed in Western Minnesota since the late 1800's. My faith and family values drive me to get involved in the Republican Party, because there is just no other party that represents those values. I believe more Christian conservatives like me, need to stand up and get involved in the Republican Party to keep its focus on our Christian family values. I ask you to vote for me for CD7 Vice Chair so that I can continue to serve and represent Western MN. Thank you!

### DELEGATION STATUS

- 2020 – Present State Delegate
- 2021 - Present State Central Alt
- 2020 – Present CD7 Delegate
- 2020 – Present County Delegate
- 2018 SD35 Alternate
- 2016 CD6 Delegate
- 2016 SD35 Precinct Chair

### PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

- Digital Communications
- Event Marketing
- Email Marketing
- Website Design
- Website Administration
- Social Media Marketing Strategy
- Social Media Management
- Creative Design
- Brand Development
- Project Management
- Verbal & Written Communication
- CRM System Development
- Database/List Management
- Communication Strategy
- Proficient in MS Office Suite, Google Workspace, ZOOM, Facebook Pages & Groups, Wix, GoDaddy, Canva, Pixelmator, Hootsuite, MailChimp, Constant Contact, HubSpot, Salesforce & more

### CD7 Executive Committee Vice Chair 2022 - Present

Elected to the CD7 Executive Committee in 2022, I have served one full term as Vice Chair. In the past year on the CD7 EC I have attended over 90% of the meetings. In 2022 I drove over 2500 miles across CD7 to deliver campaign signs for our Republican Congressional, Statewide, State Senate, House candidates. I also managed the SD1 Victory office and walked in several parades supporting our endorsed candidates.

### CD7 Communications Committee Chair 2021 - Present

Appointed by the CD7 Executive Committee Chair in 2021, I have the responsibility of managing all communications for CD7. As the Chair of the Communications Committee, I work with a team of volunteers to develop strategies for communications, materials, social media, and management of the CD7 website, [www.MNCD7Rebpublicans.com](http://www.MNCD7Rebpublicans.com). In 2022 I developed and executed a digital media campaign to support our endorsed candidates in HD4A, SD4 and SD9.

### Roseau BPOU Events/Communications Committee Chair 2019- Present

Since moving to Northwestern Minnesota over 4 years ago, I have been an active voting member of the Roseau County BPOU. I have been instrumental in growing our BPOU activity from just 1-2 meetings per year to now having monthly BPOU Meetings and several events that have included Trump Parades, Medical Freedom Rally's, Town Halls, Campaign Rally's and more. The Roseau BPOU now has the largest delegation in SD1 with over 100 delegates elected in the 2022 Caucuses.

### CD7 Director - MN Federation of Republican Women 2019 - 2022

Elected in 2019 by MNFRW members in CD7, I am served 1.5 terms as a voting member of the Executive Committee on the Board of Directors for the Minnesota Federation of Republican Women. I was also elected as an At-Large Delegate and attended the National Federation of Republican Women Bi-Annual Convention in 2021, hosted in Orlando, Florida.

### NWMN Republican Women's Club Executive Board Member 2019- 2022

As a former member of the North Metro Republican Women's Club, prior to moving to Northwestern MN in 2018, I reached out to then President of the MNFRW, Kathy Tingelstad, to form a club in CD7, since there was not one at the time. Since founding the NWMNRW club has truly done amazing work in SD1. However, I am most proud of using my expertise in event coordination and marketing to lead our members to host a successful event in July 2021 with David Barton, Founder of Wall Builders.

### City of Andover Commission Member - ACC/YMCA 2016-2018

Appointed to this position by the City Council for Andover, MN, I sat on the board that managed the day-to-day operations of the Andover/YMCA Community Center that 10,000sqft facility that houses a rink, basketball courts, pool and YMCA and serves over 1 million people annually.

### SD35 BPOU Communications Committee Chair 2015-2017

In this role I was instrumental in developing the communications strategy within SD35, that represented several cities in the North Metro area of the Twin Cities. I helped set up their communication channels that included a website, social media, and CRM system.



**Anita Runck.** My name is Anita Runck and I am running to be a CD7 Vice Chair.

I graduated from Mankato State University with a Bachelor's of Science degree in education. I am married to Leonard Runck who is the BPOU Deputy Chair for Redwood County Republicans. We have four children and four grandchildren. I recently retired as the business owner and teacher of Anita's Conservatory of Dance after 40 years. I am a friendly, outgoing, cheerful, and a God loving individual. My hobbies include travel, gardening, and of

course the election of GOP candidates. I am on the board of the Choices Pregnancy Center, Redwood County BPOU and a current CD7 Vice Chair.

In 2020 I was a delegate to the Republican National Convention. I made 50,000 campaign calls for President Trump and Congresswoman Fischbach and was recognized as the top caller in the state. I helped organize and participate in pop up events where we registered new voters, sold shirts, and handed out candidate campaign signs. I recruited local people to call for GOP candidates and hosted training and watch events for President Trump at my home.

In 2021 as a C7 vice chair I helped facilitate coordination of BPOU development in several CD7 counties and assisted local election awareness.

In 2022 I made 18,000 calls for Governor and Senate District 4 races and was the top volunteer caller with the most completed surveys. I worked on our local county commissioner race for Tiffany Lesmeister Knott by door knocking and placing 1000 calls. I was an election judge in November and an absentee ballot election judge in February.

For 30 years I have done door knocking, literature drops and parades for Republican candidates and would be humbled and honored to have your vote to be a Vice Chair of CD7. 507-430-0776