



Dear Candidate:

2020 LETTER TO CANDIDATES FOR POLITICAL OFFICE

Access to PHA Hi-Rises for Political Candidates

The Saint Paul Public Housing Agency (PHA) has adopted a policy to grant access to PHA hi-rises to political candidates, in order to comply with Minnesota law and to enable hi-rise residents to participate in the democratic process.

Your primary contact person is Youa Thao, Program Coordinator, who can be reached at 651-228-3205 or youa.thao@stpha.org. She will provide contact information (usually the Hi-Rise Resident Council President or another officer) for each building you wish to visit. Please call those residents to make arrangements for visiting the buildings.

If you are unable to gain access to a PHA hi-rise building by contacting the Resident Council representatives, then you may contact the PHA's housing management staff for that building. On request, PHA staff will arrange a time when a staff member or a resident can admit the candidate to the building.

- Candidates may arrange visits to fit their schedules, but visits which require PHA staff assistance should be scheduled during PHA management staff's regular hours in the building. Staff should not make a special trip to the building on a different day or stay after normal work hours. (Some PHA hi-rises do not have a full-time management office, so one Housing Manager may cover two or three hi-rises.)
- Staff (or a resident) will meet the candidate at the door and let him or her in, alone or accompanied by campaign workers. Campaign workers must be accompanied by the candidate to be admitted to the building.
- Once properly admitted to the building, candidates and their workers may speak to residents in the common areas and/or knock on residents' apartment doors. (Please respect an individual resident's posted sign saying "No Soliciting" or "No Political Messages".)
- PHA staff will not arrange meetings with residents for candidates, distribute their campaign literature, introduce them or speak to residents on their behalf.

We hope this procedure will continue to work well for candidates, staff and residents. If you have questions about it, please feel free to call me or Alicia Huckleby at 651-298-5270.

Sincerely,

Jon Gutzmann

Jon M. Gutzmann
Executive Director



Political Campaigning in PHA Hi-Rises

The Public Housing Agency of the City of Saint Paul (PHA) and the PHA Hi-Rise Resident Councils welcome candidates for public office who are seeking PHA residents' support for their candidacy.

Once properly admitted to a PHA hi-rise building, candidates and their workers may approach residents in the common areas and/or knock on residents' apartment doors for campaigning. However, residents may at any time refuse to speak with candidates and/or their workers. Please respect any resident's posted sign stating "No Soliciting", "No Political Messages" or a similar notice indicating that campaigning is not welcome.

In compliance with Minnesota Statutes, Section 211B.20, the PHA Board of Commissioners has adopted a policy that includes the following provisions:

- Candidates must make arrangements in advance to visit the building.
- Campaign workers must be accompanied by the candidate to be admitted to the building.
- To make arrangements for visiting the building, candidates are first asked to contact the Hi-Rise Resident Council President or another resident designated by the Resident Council.
- To get the name(s) and contact information for the current Resident Council President or designee, please contact Youa Thao, Program Coordinator, at 651-228-3205 or youa.thao@stpha.org.
- If the candidate is unable to gain access to a PHA hi-rise building after repeated attempts to contact the Resident Council representatives, then the candidate may contact the PHA's housing management staff for assistance. PHA staff will arrange a time when a staff member or a resident can admit the candidate to the building.
- As public employees, PHA staff will refrain from actively supporting a candidate for office during their work hours. PHA staff will not arrange meetings with residents for candidates, distribute their campaign literature, introduce them or speak to residents on their behalf.

For more information, please contact Youa Thao, Program Coordinator, at 651-228-3205 or youa.thao@stpha.org.