



Weather looks good for Minneapolis Occupy 10th Anniversary event -- 3 PM TODAY at "People's Plaza (Henn Co Govt Center North Plaza) – group

campaigning ideas are one topic; all candidates are invited – past success with joint campaigning will be reviewed

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Minneapolis, MN, 10/7/2021 – All Minneapolis municipal candidates with a listed e-mail on their Affidavit of Candidacy have been invited to a 10th Anniversary Occupy Minneapolis event at "People's Plaza," today (Oct. 7th) at 3 PM. Joint campaigning will be one topic; another topic will be what to do – if anything – about candidates who may have views and positions that are abhorrent to some or many other candidates. "One interested participant raised this issue in an e-mail reply to my earlier invitation," said Mayoral candidate and even organizer Bob "Again" Carney Jr. ("bobagain") – "we need to discuss this," he added. The Minneapolis Occupy movement – daily assemblies at the Hennepin County Government Center North Plaza... which came to be called "People's Plaza" – was part of the larger 2011-12 Occupy Wall Street movement.

A brief review of joint campaigning activity in past Minneapolis Mayoral campaigns.

Since the advent of Ranked Choice Voting in the 2009 Minneapolis municipal election there have been at least two attempts at coordinated group campaigning. In 2009 Mayor R.T. Rybak ran for a third term; he was perceived as having no opponent with a serious prospect of winning and appeared to avoid campaign activity and possible controversy as he prepared to run for Governor of Minnesota in 2010. A group of candidates began campaigning together, claiming that Rybak was ignoring and disrespecting both the voters and their campaigns. This resulted in some significant news coverage – including a FOX 9 news report featuring four of the candidates at a [City Hall news conference](#) (see 6:35 on the timeline.)

In 2013, with no incumbent in the race and a filing fee of only \$20, Minneapolis made national news when 35 candidates filed for office. A "top tier" of eight "serious" candidates won in a "media primary," and forums excluded the others. However, a "Mayoral Council" was organized and met weekly at "People's Plaza" – again to both discuss and carry out joint campaign activities. A photo shows the forum's inaugural meeting of seven candidates -- with captions for each candidate's "Political Principle" – a phrase up to three words that appeared by their name on the ballot. The joint campaigning broke through the media blackout, including a [Pioneer Press front page](#) article, and [MPR coverage](#). It also raised some issues in a very direct, personal way: in the wake of the "Great Recession" candidate Jaymie Kelly was facing foreclosure, and candidate Joshua Ray was homeless. Star Tribune columnist Jon Tevlin featured Kelly in [one of his columns](#).



The Principles vs the Parties?! —Left to Right, Minneapolis Mayoral candidates Abdul M. Rahaman "The Rock" – John Charles Wilson – Dan Cohen – Captain Jack Sparrow – Jaymie Kelly – Bob "Again" Carney Jr. and Joshua Rea "state" their Political Principles – these Principles (up to three words) will appear by each candidate's name on this November's ballot.

“This brief history shows that joint campaigning does work as a way of earning mainstream media publicity for candidates who might otherwise be entirely ignored,” bobagain commented. “Progress has been made – including the fact that three major “voter guide” sources – the [Star Tribune](#), the [League of Women Voters](#), and Minnesota Public Radio (not yet published,) all offered (or are offering) each of the 17 Mayoral candidates on this year’s ballot the same opportunity to answer their questions,” he concluded.

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