

## Candidate Questionnaire – Devin Miller

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### BACKGROUND

1) Have you ever been convicted of a felony, sued successfully, or had a restraining order placed against you? If so, please explain.

No

2) Is there anything we should know about your background which could be used against you fairly or unfairly?

No

### CAMPAIGN

1) Why are you seeking the endorsement of the Green Party, as opposed to any other party or running independently?

Because I feel I have a better chance of being seen as a true alternative to the republican or democratic parties. I also feel that with my visibility within the community, being a part of this party will bring more attention to it.

2) What has been your prior involvement with the Green Party?

I have not had any prior interaction with the party.

3) Have you worked on prior campaigns, as a worker or candidate? If so, please describe your role and what you achieved.

In 2000, I ran for mayor of St. Paul. I ran as a republican to emphasize the historical connection that African-Americans had to the party (i.e. Re-construction period). I lost but was able to receive 800 votes without money or support. I made my own flyers, used my own money and walked all through Frogtown and rondo neighborhoods.

4) How much money do you believe you need to raise to run your campaign successfully? How will you go about raising that money?

Because this is the first race that I am really going after, I am not sure how much I will need. I do know I plan on seeking financial support from the community through fund-raisers and pledges.

5) What personnel do you believe you need to run your campaign? Who have you approached to be on your campaign team?

I definitely need policy people and canvassers for neighborhood literature drops. I will also need someone to maintain a website and possibly a person versed in managing campaigns and making the connections necessary to win. I have approached a few people to be an advisor and a treasurer.

6) What role will the following strategies have in your campaign and how much time will you devote to these activities: door knocking, Direct Mail, phone banking, lit drops, candidate forums, screenings of other organizations, filling out forms for other endorsements?

All of these areas will play a significant role in creating a successful campaign. I am willing to devote as much time as needed.

7) What civic organizations do you belong to? What role have you played in those organizations? Who will support you from those organizations?

I am a strong member of the African American community as a whole and the religious community specifically. Because I was asked by the community to run, I feel I will have strong support from these communities.

8) What groups will you seek endorsement from, beside the Green Party?

None.

9) What types of support are you hoping to get from the Green Party, besides our endorsement?

People, advice, expertise in running campaigns, sign and website support.

10) Are you willing to commit to attending Camp Wellstone or a Green Party equivalent, in order to develop your campaign skills?

I am willing to look at that as an option but I am a strong believer in representing the people, this is why they asked me to run.

11) Are you willing to commit to twice a month regular updates about your campaign's progress?

Yes.

12) Aside from winning, what do you hope to achieve by running for this office?

More representation on the Board for the people and parents of St. Paul

More accountability to the people from the Board

More accessibility to the people by the Board

Welcoming schools

Lowering the achievement gap between blacks and whites  
Better teachers through appreciation  
Better business and community partnerships that will benefit the kids!

#### THE OFFICE

1) What do you understand to be the primary duties of the office you're seeking?

Set policy

Assist the Superintendent in reaching goals for the St. Paul schools

Hold the system accountable to reaching the set goals

Be accountable to the community and be the bridge between the schools and administration for the benefit of the students and staff within the system.

2) How does the office you're seeking intersect with other arms of government?

As a Board member, we loosely intersect with City Council, we interact with the teacher's union and other unions associated with the schools, we also work with county and state arms of government as it relates to the education of those in our schools.

3) How would you integrate Green values into the office you're seeking?

The Green vision includes schools in which each child is nurtured and encouraged to develop to his/her full potential, not just as a member of the work force but as an informed citizen and a well-rounded human being.

It honors teaching as one of the most important functions in the community and supports that function with adequate funding and small class sizes.

It fosters creativity and appreciation for all forms of art. It includes instruction and practice in conflict-resolution and peaceful solutions to interpersonal and social problems. In a Green city that values nonviolence, programs such as ROTC and military recruitment would have no place in the schools, along with corporate influence over instructional materials. I do not fully agree with this. I believe that our youth should be given all opportunities to pursue their dreams.

Participatory sports would be especially encouraged. Above all, in the Green vision education is a lifelong enterprise, and there will be abundant opportunities for adults to pursue it.

I would integrate all of this vision, with the noted exception, within my vision of:

1. Welcoming Schools
2. Closing the Achievement gap
3. Teacher appreciation and development
4. Better business and community partnerships

4) Why are you the most qualified person to hold the office you are seeking?

I founded and ran an educational non-profit organization for 12 years that worked with the system.

I have worked in the St. Paul community for 21 years.

I have strong relationships with City and County agencies

I have children and grandchildren that have come through and are currently in the St. Paul schools.

I have a strong commitment to the success of all youth, especially African American youth.

5) What are your top three issues and how can the office you seek influence or further those issues?

1. Welcoming Schools – working with administration and staff to make this happen and hearing from youth and parents on what needs to happen.

2. Closing the Achievement gap – partnering with businesses and community to create incentives to entice youth to graduate and also attain the highest grades to close the gap.

3. Teacher appreciation and development – creating true conference that will equip the teachers, training for those who have lost the desire to teach, incentives to develop a desire to teach well, appreciation and recognition for those who are reaching and exceeding the goals for our schools.

6) What are the major concerns of the geographic area under your office's jurisdiction?

N/a

7) How will you interact with the other parties in office? If applicable, who will you caucus with?

N/a

8) How will you balance the political need to compromise with your interpretation of Green values? Give an example of where you are willing to compromise and where you would be unwilling to compromise.

n/a