

Four seats on the Blaine City Council will be up for election on Tuesday, Nov. 5. All the incumbents on Blaine City Council whose terms is ending at the end of this year have filed for election. Early voting began on Sept. 20.



## **Ward 1 Lori Saroya**

Age: 43

Occupation/personal background info: I have nearly 20 years of community service and nonprofit leadership experience. I spent seven years on the Blaine Charter Commission and

now almost two years on the Blaine City Council. I have a law degree and a people-centered approach to my work. I am proud to be the first Muslim and woman of color to be elected to the Blaine City Council.

What experience makes you uniquely qualified to represent the city?: I bring a unique perspective shaped by my background as the daughter of immigrants, my law degree, and my extensive experience in strategic planning. I have lived in Blaine for 20 years with my husband and three children and I'm deeply committed to this community. I love living in Ward 1 because it is the heart and soul of Blaine. There is so much history here and I have met so many good, genuine people. I am committed to creating a Blaine that puts residents first.

Do you think the current election system is fair?: I don't think the current election system is fair, transparent, or inclusive. When there is a lack of public trust in the legitimacy of the outcome of an election, we need to address it. I often raise issues of conflict of interest on our city council — developers run and fund candidates and this impacts how decisions are made and who benefits.

How should your city handle/create its development goals for the next 10 years?: We have great momentum: redevelopment of the Northtown mall and reducing crime in the area, the Highway 65 project, new parks and activities to bring neighborhoods together, clean water projects, a carwash moratorium, and real efforts to seek resident input and put people before profit. I am the strongest advocate for unions because of the quality of work, stability and ethical leadership unions bring to cities and projects.

*Blaine Election: Sanders Facing Challenge for Mayor; Incumbent Council Members Also Fighting Competitors. (October 1, 2024). ABC Newspapers.*