



Benjamin's News and Updates April 14, 2026

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by [Benjamin Zastrow](#) on April 14

Spring is here! That means the official filing period for candidates is just around the corner. Like many of you, I am excited to see who files for many various offices during the May 19th - June 2nd period. While I have announced my run for mayor, the paperwork and the accompanying \$50 fee at the Clerk's Office will make it official.

I believe in you, the people of Rochester, and I'm ready to work on your behalf. The most exciting part of campaigning will be here soon, and I look forward to meeting more neighbors and hearing your concerns.

As I look forward to the coming months, I continue to call for you, the people of Rochester, to participate this year not just by voting or [donating](#), but by taking care of yourselves, loving your families, and helping your neighbors. If I can count on you to do that, I will guarantee lasting results at City Hall.

BENJAMIN'S RECENT HIGHLIGHTS



MN Forward Independence Endorsed!

March 10th, 2026

It was an honor to accept the endorsement from [Minnesota's Forward Independence Party](#) as a mayoral candidate for Rochester. While municipal offices and balloting here in Rochester are non-partisan, candidates are free to talk to groups and accept endorsements. So, when the local Forward Independence congressional district co-chair reached out, we began a months-long process which ended in an endorsement decision by the Forward Independence state delegates in late February.

This endorsement is meaningful to me, showing that an independent, community-minded candidate is something people truly are hungry for here in Rochester, and even across Minnesota. I agree that our governments should work for all of us, not just the wealthy and powerful who continually push extreme positions while neglecting the vast majority of us.

On Tuesday, March 10th, a joint press conference was held at the Olmsted County Government Center, where other candidates joined me in accepting Forward Independence's endorsements. It was an honor to learn about and get to know Jay Reeves, running for State Auditor, Mike (Hutch) Hutchinson, running for District 20B in the State House, and, while he couldn't make the conference, Bob Hopkins, running for re-election on the Olmsted County Board in District 6.

Thanks to my supporters who braved the wind to show their support, the community members who stopped to talk with me, [KAAL-TV](#) and [Post Bulletin](#) for their coverage, and, of course, the people of Forward Independence for their belief in me and their hope for a stronger Rochester.



New Designs Thanks to Local Artist

April 9th

I am thrilled my campaign was able to connect with and hire local artist and printer, Devon Hugdahl, to create a variety of new designs. Devon's work captures the independent and local spirit I wish to bring to City Hall. I look forward to seeing these around town!

BENJAMIN'S RECENT CAMPAGIN UPDATES

- Accepted endorsement from the Minnesota Forward - Independence Party. Post Bulletin coverage is [here](#), KAAL TV coverage [here](#), and National Today coverage [here](#).
- Campaign video created by local businesswoman, Tiffany Piotrowicz. [Check it out here](#).
- Fundraising goals met for early spring - [Thank You!](#)

Supporter to do list:

1. Mark your calendars for Primary Elections on August 11th.
2. Go view and share [Benjamin Zastrow's campaign website](#).
3. Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).
4. [Donate any amount today](#).
5. Tell a friend or neighbor.

Thank you!

Benjamin Zastrow



Prepared and paid for by Elect Benjamin Zastrow
P.O. Box 158 Rochester, MN, 55903