ELECT
BENJAMIN
ZASTROW

Benjamin's News and Updates February 06, 2026

by Benjamin Zastrow on February 06

What once seemed so far off is now right before us, and the 2026 election season is already here. While current events locally and nationally may feel heavy, I invite you to remember that it is up to us, regular people across our community, to remain engaged and never give up our ability to create positive change.

I believe in you, the people of Rochester and I'm ready to work on your behalf to ensure that our local government is delivering on affordable housing, small business support, and improving the lines of communication with all residents. This can only be achieved if we as a community continue to come together.

This is why I continue to call for you, the people of Rochester, to participate 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 HIGHLIGHTES

100th Anniversary Celebration at HCOC

January 17th, 2026 - Invited as Community Leader

It was an honor to speak at the celebration of the History Center of Olmsted County's 100th Anniversary Celebration. I used this opportunity to reflect on lessons learned while studying my neighborhood, Lowertown, which was established in 1857. My speech reminded the packed room how our local history is full of accounts showing time and again, regular people overcame tremendous challenges. From the American Civil War and Tornado of 1883, through both World Wars and the Great Flood of 1978, we find that our local history reminds us of what is possible when ordinary people rise to the occasion–becoming extraordinary. Thank you HCOC!

AFSCME Local 319 Listening Session

January 26th - Invited as Mayoral Candidate

The Local 319 invited me as a mayoral candidate to spend an evening with them for a listening session and discussion. This time was informative and shed light on the concerns of our municipal employees, specifically those in our library system. The time was well spent and I left feeling grateful for the hard work so many people put in to serve us each and every day.

BENJAMIN'S 2026 COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP (CL) and/or MAYORAL CANDIDATE (MC)

- Attended the Mayor's State of the City Address (CL/MC)
- Judged multiple competitions for Business Professionals of America at RCTC–including digital media and parliamentary procedure (CL)
- Presided over LNA's quarterly meeting (CL)
- Was the speaker at HCOC 100th Anniversary (CL)
- Joint neighborhood leaders meeting regarding urgent needs and local responses (CL)
- NAACP & Chamber of Commerce MLK Jr Event attendee (CL/MC)
- Participated in Forward Independence state & national interviews (MC)
- Attended Forward Independence state meeting (MC)
- Stood with community for peaceful demonstration and march at Government Center (CL)
- Attended the People of Hope Peace Vigil (CL)
- Attended the Public Peace Vigil on Peace Plaza (CL)
- AFSCME UNION LOCAL 319 listening session (MC)
- Unanimously elected Chair of HPC for the second year in a row (CL)
- Continued additional HPC committee work and meetings (CL)
- Held conversations with several current and former elected officials (CL/MC)
- Repeated contact with neighbors, organizations, Mayor Norton, and other officials regarding ICE activities in my neighborhood and the related disruptions and calls for service (CL/MC)
- Multiple conversations with local disability advocates (MC)
- Discussed several inquiries and concerns from the professional photography community regarding Rochester's new film permit ordinance (MC)
- Continued meetings and discussions with six potential 2026 City Council Candidates (MC)
- Production days filming campaign videos and future content (MC)
- Attended multiple grand openings of local businesses (CL/MC)
- Published opinion piece in PB regarding Lourdes Park (CL/MC)
- Campaign volunteer staff have conducted many in-person community interviews on my behalf (MC)

Supporter to do list:

1. Go view and share Benjamin Zastrow's campaign website.
2. Donate any amount today, to help your voice be heard in City Hall.
3. Follow us on Facebook.
4. Follow us on Instagram.
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