

# MGEC Executive Board Election

## Candidate Information

2019-2021 Term



Name	Blake Nelson			
Office running for	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Director	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Treasurer	<input type="checkbox"/> VP
Agency you work in	MnDOT			
Current job classification	Principal Engineer			
Work Address	1400 Gervais Ave., Maplewood, MN 55109			
Work Phone	651-366-5599			
Number of years working for the State	31+ years			
Number of years an MGEC member	31+ years			
Previous/current positions held with MGEC - list years.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Board Member	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Negotiations (Large Team)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bargaining (Small Team)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Contact person	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> P.E. Instructor 25+ yrs.		
Why you want to run for MGEC office	<p>I have served as MGEC President and am currently filling a vacant director position that expires this Dec. I have learned much in the past few years serving on the executive committee of MGEC and as volunteer on almost every committee the organization has. I have tried to serve the membership to the best of my ability and never missed board a meeting, listening and respecting members input no matter what side of the spectrum they come from and always trying to find middle ground and solutions on issues. I want to give back this experience to our membership in any way possible.</p> <p>Serving on four rounds of tough contract bargaining for our members late into the evenings has been worth the effort and I will continue to fight for all our members. Next year the contract will expire and bargaining will begin. It is sure to be another tough round of negotiations and we will not get everything we ask for but from seeing what works and what did not in past rounds my experience should be of help on the next round.</p>			

	<p>I will be open to new ideas from our members. I believe an active membership is a key to working towards improvements. I will only run for office with the support of the membership to work as a team of 900. I value customer relations as good business.</p> <p>We will have many challenges in the next several years and we have many great employees/members that are a bit uncertain what the future holds. I will say right now I don't have all the answers but I will listen and try to find them. I hope to keep the organization a viable unit so that the next generation of employees can have a great place to work. We want it to be not a "job" but a worthy and respected "career."</p>
<p>Anything else you feel might be relevant information</p>	<p>My positions at the DOT and Met. Council Light Rail allow me to work with MnDOT, MPCA, local agencies and other state agencies on common issues. I work with many of our DOT members statewide from Central Office, Bridge, Metro and all the outstate Districts giving me insights on different perspectives they have.</p> <p>Education: Masters study in Geotechnical, Hydrology and Structural Engineering.</p>