

IRENE

FERNANDO

HENNEPIN COUNTY DISTRICT 2

DFL and LABOR ENDORSED!

Biography

Irene grew up in a large and lively Filipino family, where she learned to believe in what's possible. Her parents immigrated to this country in pursuit of the American Dream. Irene's mother has been a nurse in Los Angeles county for 35 years. Working double shifts, she taught Irene the value of a strong work ethic. Her dad, a stay at home parent, taught her how to strategize, ask questions, and find creative solutions. While earning a Bachelor of Science in Business and a Master of Education in Youth Development Leadership, Irene co-founded Students Today Leaders Forever (STLF), a youth leadership nonprofit with a mission of revealing leadership through service, relationships, and action. She worked at STLF for 11-years, creating jobs and recruiting national talent into Minnesota. In 2015, Irene was selected to be a Bush Foundation Fellow and began teaching social entrepreneurship at St. Mary's University. Currently, she works within a newer division at Thrivent Financial leading around organizational design, culture, and talent. She is also a candidate for Hennepin County Commissioner in District 2.



Why County Commission?

Hennepin County Commissioners have the power to ensure equity through affordable housing, transit solutions, healthcare services, criminal justice reform, and environmental justice. The Commission is a powerful body of government that is nearly invisible to the public eye – 7 Commissioners oversee the Hennepin County budget of \$2,400,000,000. Today, the Commission lacks diversity in age, ethnicity and therefore, perspective. That needs to change. Irene is running to:

- increase the visibility, transparency, and accountability of this role
- create new pathways for community engagement in local governance
- advance equity across Hennepin County