

Wadena County, MN Board Action Form



Action Requested

- Action/Motion
 Discussion
 Information Item
 Consent Agenda Item
- Report
 Resolution
 Other

Sourcewell Ballot

Date of Meeting: 01/13/2026 Total time requested: 5 Minutes

Department Requesting Action: Administrator

Presenting Board Action/Discussion at Meeting: Heather Olson, Auditor/Treasurer

Background Supporting Documentation enclosed

Please see attached letter.

Options Supporting Documentation enclosed

Recommendation The Wadena County Board of Commissioners approves the following by Motion:

To vote for Bryan Winkels on the attached Sourcewell ballot.

Financial Implications: \$ Comments

Funding Source:

Budgeted: Yes No

Action	Voting in Favor	Voting Against
Motion:	<input type="checkbox"/> Noon	<input type="checkbox"/> Noon
Second:	<input type="checkbox"/> Kreklau	<input type="checkbox"/> Kreklau
<input type="checkbox"/> Passed	<input type="checkbox"/> Stearns	<input type="checkbox"/> Stearns
<input type="checkbox"/> Failed	<input type="checkbox"/> Winkels	<input type="checkbox"/> Winkels
<input type="checkbox"/> Tabled	<input type="checkbox"/> Kangas	<input type="checkbox"/> Kangas
Signatures		
STATE OF MINNESOTA}		
COUNTY OF Wadena }		
I, Heather Olson, Auditor/Treasurer, Wadena County, Minnesota hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing copy of the proceedings of the County Board of said County with the original record thereof on file in the Administration Office of Wadena County in Wadena, Minnesota as stated in the minutes of the proceedings of said board and that the same is a true and correct copy of said original record and of the whole thereof, and that said motion was duly passed by said board at said meeting. Witness my hand and seal:		
		Seal



December 27, 2025

To: Sourcewell Member Chief Executive Officers in Sub-Region I and IV

From: Katrina Wood, Election Judge

Re: Voting Information and Ballot for the 2025 Sourcewell Board of Directors Election

Enclosed you will find the election ballot and candidate biographies for this year's Board of Directors election. Please reproduce and distribute this information at your next Board meeting.

Voting Clarification:

- **School districts:** Each board *member* receives **one vote**.
- **Cities and counties:** Each *organization* receives **one organizational vote**, determined by a majority vote of its governing body – not one vote per individual board or council member.

After your vote is determined, place the completed ballot in an envelope, seal it, and sign across the seal.

Please mail or deliver the signed, sealed envelope to:

Katrina Wood / Sourcewell Election

Sourcewell
202 12th Street NE
Staples, MN 56479

Ballots must arrive **no later than February 1, 2026**.

To ensure receipt, we are sending this letter by certified mail, return receipt requested. To help reduce postage costs, please reproduce the ballot if needed and provide your own return envelope. Be sure to seal and sign across the seal and clearly mark the front: **"Sourcewell Election."**

If you have any questions about the voting process, please contact me at **218-541-5227** or Katrina.Wood@sourcewell-mn.gov.

Thank you for your participation and for all you do for Sourcewell.

Enclosures:

- Election ballot
- Election biographies



2025 SOURCEWELL BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION

Official Ballot Sub Region IV

Each individual board member of each Sourcewell member school district is asked to complete one ballot and give it to your board clerk, who will return the completed ballots in a sealed envelope marked **Sourcewell Election** to: Sourcewell, Attn: Katrina Wood, 202 12th Street NE, PO Box 219, Staples MN 56479.

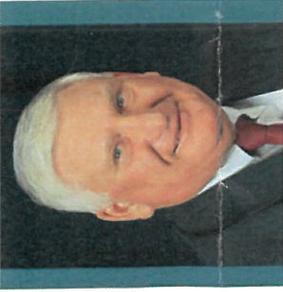
Instructions

Vote for candidates by marking an (X) in the square opposite the name of each candidate you wish to vote for:

Four- year term. Vote for ONE	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Steve Barrows (incumbent)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bryan Winkels
<input type="checkbox"/>	(write-in)

Sourcewell Board of Directors Election Biographies

Sub Region IV



Steve Barrows (incumbent): As your Sourcewell Board representative over the past four years, my service has been defined by meaningful change, strategic investment, and a steadfast commitment to Region 5. This period has been one of growth and progress, focused on strengthening partnerships, building capacity, and ensuring our communities are supported today and well into the future.

During this time, we have made significant investments across the region, including signing contracts with multiple military units, completing investments in Level IV schools, and expanding collaboration with EMS and first responders throughout Region 5. Addressing mental health challenges has been a priority, alongside advancing workforce development efforts and providing impactful trainings for local government officials and school district leaders.

At Sourcewell, we have grown in both size and scope. We implemented organizational structure changes to strengthen accountability, improve collaboration, and uphold the highest standards of integrity. These changes have positioned Sourcewell to be more responsive, effective, and aligned with the needs of the communities we serve.

These accomplishments reflect just some of the investments made to support Region 5. With your continued support and my election to another term, I will work to ensure Sourcewell remains a trusted, dependable partner, one that invests for impact, listens to community needs, and delivers results that matter. Together, we will continue building a stronger, more resilient Region 5.

I respectfully ask for your vote for another term on the Sourcewell Board of Directors.

Thank you for your consideration.

Bryan Winkels: My name is Bryan Winkels, and I am currently serving my first term as the Wadena County Commissioner for District 2. In the early stages of my first term, I have gained firsthand experience with county operations, budgeting, strategic planning, and intergovernmental collaboration. My work includes engaging with residents, partnering with local agencies, and helping shape policies that support public safety, infrastructure, community well-being, and long-term county sustainability. These responsibilities have strengthened my understanding of how regional partnerships-like those supported by Sourcewell-directly impact local governments and the people we serve.

Before my time as commissioner, I served 12 years on the Staples-Motley School Board, including my last four years as board chair. I helped guide the district through strategic planning, budget development, contract negotiations, facilities discussions, and policy updates. As board chair, I emphasized transparency, accountability,

and collaboration, working closely with administrators, educators, and community members to support student achievement and responsible stewardship of public resources. This experience deepened my appreciation for the challenges faced by rural school districts and the essential role shared services and cooperative purchasing play in supporting education.

Across both roles, I have demonstrated leadership grounded in curiosity, empowerment, and meaningful impact—the very values that shape Sourcewell's work. I bring strong experience in governance, community engagement, and data-informed decision-making rooted in local needs. My background in both education and county government provides a balanced and practical perspective that aligns closely with Sourcewell's mission of supporting schools, cities, counties, and nonprofits through collaboration and service.

For these reasons, I believe I would be a strong and effective representative for District IV.
