

**REBUILDING AMERICA**

## Renewed hope amid uncertainty

After months of an economic lockdown, many states and cities are in the process of "reopening" their economies. The USA TODAY Network analyzes our "new normal." **Coming next Sunday**



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# St. Cloud Times

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### HOW REPRESENTATIVE IS ST. CLOUD?

# SEEKING DIVERSITY IN DELEGATION

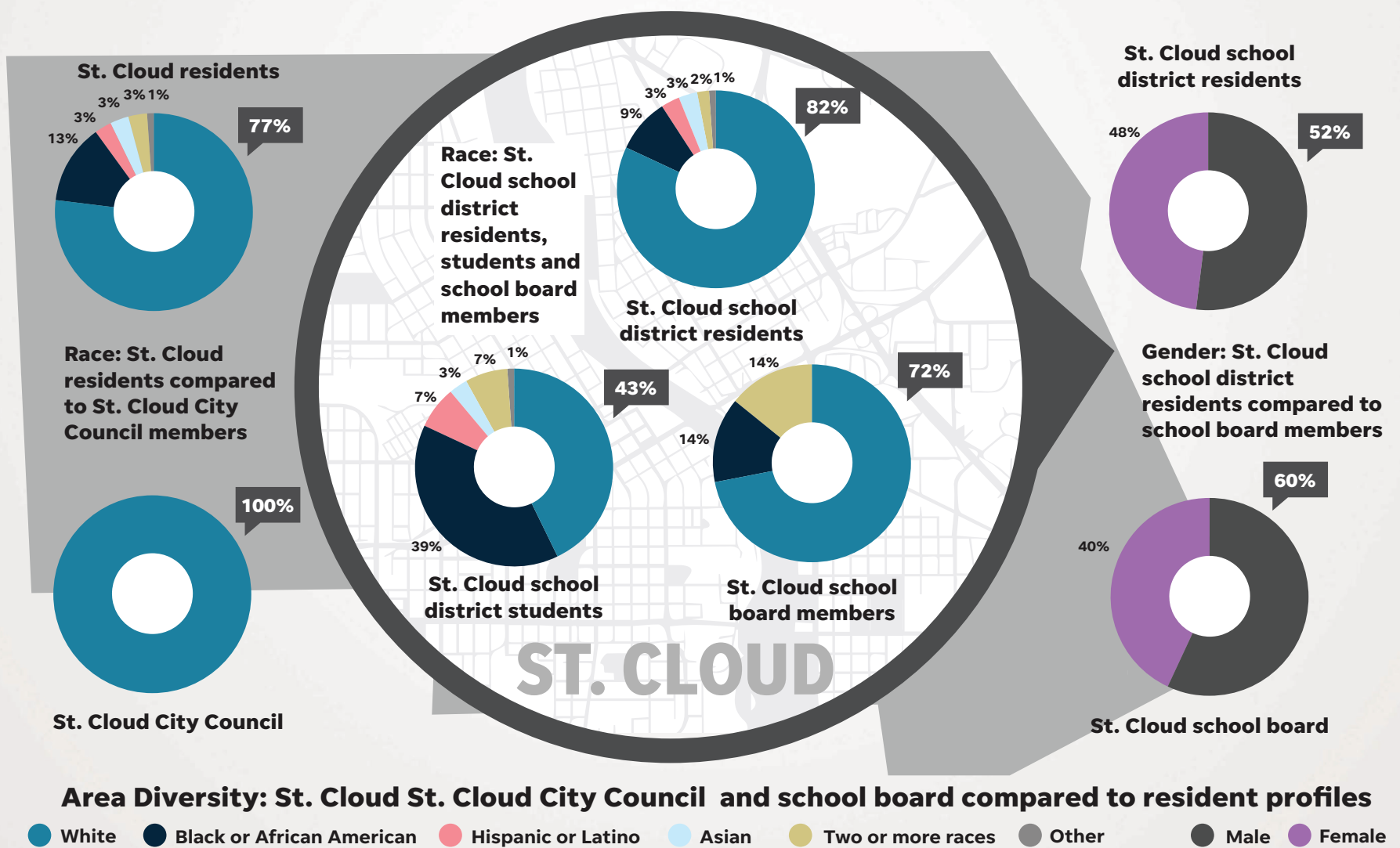
Changing community not always reflected in makeup of elected bodies

Jenny Berg St. Cloud Times | USA TODAY NETWORK

Diversity is growing in the St. Cloud metro. ■ It's reflected by the growing number of languages spoken in schools. By the growing number of diverse storefronts. And by the faces that speckle crowds at community events. ■ In the past decade, nonwhite residents have grown from about 10% to 20% of St. Cloud's population, according to American Community Survey estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau. Some of that diversity growth has trickled into the surrounding communities, too. ■ But that change has not necessarily been reflected on the area's elected bodies. Many skew more male, more white and older than the communities they serve. ■ For example, the seven-member St. Cloud City Council has one woman; 100% of members are white and 50 or older, whereas only about 77% of St. Cloud residents are white and 30% of residents are 50 or older. **See DIVERSITY, Page 6A**

**Online**

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## Does City Council reflect constituents?

Times survey: It's more white, male and older

Jenny Berg St. Cloud Times  
USA TODAY NETWORK

ST. CLOUD – When Abdi Daisane was campaigning for St. Cloud City Council in 2016, he remembers being called a “modern-day jihadist” and a member of the Muslim Brotherhood trying to “infiltrate the system.”

Daisane is a Somali-American business owner, a husband and a

father. He's served on city commissions and recently graduated from St. Cloud State University with a master's in public administration with a focus on local government.

A jihadist he is not. “There were people who were against the notion that I could run and hold public office. I mostly

**See COUNCIL, Page 4A**

## ‘People were looking for that contrast’

School board increasingly more balanced

Jenny Berg St. Cloud Times  
USA TODAY NETWORK

When Mónica Segura-Schwartz ran for St. Cloud school board four years ago, she was looking to break the norm.

The board at the time — like many elected bodies — skewed older, more male and more white than its constituents.

“I had been working with fam-

ilies, advocating for families in many places including the school district,” she said in a May interview with the Times. “I actually had people that asked me to run. I remember having conversations with some groups from which people were saying we need to diversify the board.”

“I also had the same wish.”

**See CONTRAST, Page 7A**

**USA TODAY**

Illinois, L.A. eyed for possible overreach in recent stay-at-home actions. **8A**

**Limited religious services OK'd**

Modified in-person worship can resume in Minn. on Wednesday. **3A**

**Weather**

High 77° ■ Low 62°  
T-storm. Forecast, **16A**

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