Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey grew up in northern Virginia and went to the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, VA on a track scholarship. After graduating with a degree in government, he began running professionally while attending law school at Villanova University in Philadelphia, PA. That’s when he came to Minneapolis to run the Twin Cities Marathon where two things happened. First, his time qualified him to compete with Team USA at the 2007 PanAm Games. Second and more importantly, he fell in love with Minneapolis. The day after Jacob graduated, he drove 1,200 miles west to his chosen home Minneapolis.

As an employment and civil rights attorney, Jacob became an active community organizer. In 2011, he spearheaded efforts to launch the Big Gay Race, which raised over $250,000 to help defeat the proposed Minnesota constitutional amendment defining marriage between a man and a woman. He also became involved in advocacy for the homeless, helping tenants who lost their homes in North Minneapolis. In 2012, the City of Minneapolis awarded its inaugural Martin Luther King, Jr. Award to Mayor Frey for his civil rights work.

Jacob successfully ran to represent the Third Ward on the city council in 2013, defeating a long-time incumbent with a platform centered on constituent services, increasing residential growth, growing the number and variety of small and local businesses, and fully funding affordable housing. During his time as a Council Member, the Third Ward accounted for more than 65 percent of all growth in Minneapolis, affordable housing was funded at record levels, and gained a new community-based school that is winning awards.

Since his election as Mayor in 2017, Jacob has championed an agenda centered on increasing access to affordable housing throughout the city, strengthening community-police relations, and fueling economic growth through inclusive policies. From a record-setting $50 million investment in the city’s efforts to expand and preserve affordable housing to helping launch the state’s only black-owned financial institution to strengthening the Police Department’s body-worn camera policy, Jacob is delivering results and laying a strong foundation for a stronger Minneapolis.