FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Marian the Red Fox Enters Mayor of the Zoo Race

DULUTH, Minn. — Marian, a red fox at the Lake Superior Zoo, has joined the race for Mayor of the Zoo, running as the candidate who knows what it means to adapt. Marian gets around on three legs, and her campaign says that's the whole point: she notices what others miss, and she's set on making the Zoo work for everyone who comes through the gate.

Red foxes are quick, clever, and remarkably adaptable, and Marian is living proof. She lost a leg early on but never lost a step — these days she runs, climbs, and pounces right alongside every other fox. Her pitch leans on both the brains foxes are known for and the grit it takes to find a new way forward. She promises to spot trouble before anyone else does, and to make sure nobody gets left behind while she's at it.

"Everybody says they work hard. Marian works smart — and she works around whatever's in her way," said Jessica Phoneix, Marian's keeper. "She'd tell you the Zoo doesn't need the biggest mayor, just the one paying attention to who's getting left out."

Marian's platform is about access: clear paths and ramps, room for everyone to take part, and a Zoo where a missing leg or anything else is no reason to be counted out. Asked about a rival's joke that voters can never quite trust a fox, her keeper had a quick answer of her own: "They're only saying that because she thought of it first."

Fun facts about the red fox: Red foxes are the most widely distributed wild carnivore in the world, at home across North America, Europe, Asia, and beyond. They are famous for adapting to almost any surroundings, from deep forest to city streets. Their hearing is sharp enough to pinpoint prey moving underground, and they'll leap high and dive nose-first to catch it. Foxes that lose a limb in the wild are known to adjust their hunting style and keep right on thriving.

Marian is one of five candidates in the primary, joining Pepper the African bullfrog, Bianca the African spiny mouse, Syke the American black bear, and Nester the snapping turtle.

How to Vote: Voting is free, and you can vote either in-person at the Zoo's voting booth or online at https://lszoo.org/mayoral-election/. The primary election voting runs from August 21st through September 14th at 4:00 p.m., with the top finalists advancing to the general election. General election voting runs from September 21st through November 10th at 4:00 p.m. to decide the winner.

Why We Are Voting: Mayor of the Zoo is a fun way for young visitors to learn how elections work. Good community habits can start when you are young, and voting is one way people help make decisions together. When children have a friendly first experience with voting, they can

discover that their voice matters. Today's zoo vote is practice. Someday, that habit may help them take part in decisions that affect their schools, neighborhoods, and communities.

About the Lake Superior Zoo: For more than a century, the Lake Superior Zoo has connected visitors with animals from around the world. As the only AZA-accredited zoo in Northeastern Minnesota and Northwestern Wisconsin, it offers year-round recreational and educational experiences that inspire appreciation for nature and wildlife conservation.

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