

# [***Michele Tafoya Dives Into Republican Politics Following NBC Sports Exit And Teases Future Run***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:64SS-7BW1-JBCM-F0TF-00000-00&context=1516831)

Forbes.com

February 14, 2022 Monday

Copyright 2022 Forbes LLC All Rights Reserved

**Length:** 413 words

**Byline:** Derek Saul, Forbes Staff

**Highlight:** NBC s long-time football sideline reporter Michele Tafoya is the new co-chair of a Republican candidate for governor in Minnesota, completing Tafoya s transition into a career in ***politics***.

**Body**

**Topline**

A day after working her last Super Bowl as NBC s sideline reporter, Michele Tafoyasharedher next move: heading the campaign of a Republican gubernatorial candidate, a role fit for her increasing embrace of right-wing ***politics***.

<figure>

<figcaption>

: Commentator Michele Tafoya looks on during Super Bowl LVI between the Los Angeles Rams and the Cincinnati Bengals at SoFi Stadium on February 13, 2022 in Inglewood, California.

Getty Images

</figcaption></figure>

**Key Facts**

Tafoya, a Minnesota native who worked for the last decade at NBC Sports, is the new campaign co-chair of Kendall Qualls, Republican candidate in Minnesota s governor race, Qualls announced Monday morning according to theandAxios.

In an interview withThe Athletic, Tafoya confirmed her new position and said she will also regularly appear on political talk shows, a widely expected move after Tafoya made controversial statements as guest host on NBC s**The View** last fall.

Tafoya will appear at this month s Conservative Political Action Conference and plans to interviewoutspokenNBA player Enes Kanter Freedom at the event, shetoldThe Athletic.

**Crucial Quote**

Tafoyateaseda future political run in her interview with**The Athletic**:  I ll say this I ve been asked multiple times to run for office in Minnesota . But I just don t know yet. Not at the moment. I will say not at the moment. A lot will depend on what transpires here over the next year.

**Key Background**

In November, Tafoya co-hosted**The View** for two episodes,sharingher conservative views and drawing criticism for several comments she made, such as comparing Covid-19 to the flu and questioning the effectiveness of Covid-19 vaccines. Tafoyamissedthree consecutive NBC Sunday Night Football broadcasts shortly after her appearances, though NBC said this was a planned absence. In December, the**New York Post**reportedTafoya will leave her role as sideline reporter following the Super Bowl, and NBC made the news official in January. Tafoyatold**The Athletic**Monday her departure was her decision. The**Hollywood Reporter**speculatedlast month Tafoya could become a permanent co-host on**The View**, filling the show s conservative seat left open by Meghan McCain sexit.

**Further Reading**

Michele Tafoya steps away from sports broadcasting and enters political arena(The Athletic)

Michele Tafoya signs off from final Super Bowl with little fanfare, jumps into ***politics***(**Star Tribune**)

Michele Tafoya to Work Final NFL Game for NBC Sports at Super Bowl LVI(**Hollywood Reporter**)

**Load-Date:** February 15, 2022

**End of Document**