

2017 Saint Paul Voter Guide

Except where noted, all statements were approved or written by candidates.

Mayoral Candidates

Sharon Anderson

Campaign Website: <http://www.sharon4mayor2018.blogspot.com>

Campaign Phone: (651) 776-8535

Email: Sharon4anderson@aol.com

Sharon Anderson is a candidate who's run for various offices including: the Legislature, city council, state attorney general, and mayor. She describes herself as a whistleblower. If elected, some of her goals would be to downsize local government departments, elect city attorney and police chief and have them carry personal insurance, and blow the whistle on real estate Ponzi taxing schemes.

Melvin Carter

Campaign Website: <http://www.melvincarter.org>

Campaign Phone: (651) 321-4623

Email: campaign@melvincarter.org

Melvin Carter is a fourth-generation Saint Paulite and son of Ramsey County Commissioner Toni Carter and former police officer and nonprofit leader Melvin Carter Jr. He holds a bachelor's degree in business administration and a master's degree in public policy. Melvin served as Ward 1 Saint Paul City Councilmember from 2008-2013.

He is most proud of his work as a councilmember to secure two additional light rail stops on the Green Line, establishing the city's Affordable Housing Trust Fund and Department of Human Rights and Equal Economic Opportunity, and founding Saint Paul's Promise Neighborhood.

Melvin left office in 2013 to serve as the Executive Director of Governor Mark Dayton's Minnesota Children's Cabinet, where he oversaw greater investment in higher per-pupil funding, all day kindergarten, and an expansion of Pre-K programs across the state.

Melvin has a long history of organizing which began in 2000, when his brother-in-law was turned away from casting a ballot in the presidential election in Florida.

If elected, Carter's priorities for Saint Paul include: raising the minimum wage, improving outcomes for kids in public schools, increasing access to affordable housing, enacting smart policing reform to rebuild the trust of all our neighbors, and building a city that works - for all of us.

Trahern Crews

Campaign Phone: (651) 398- 6372

Email: traherncrews@gmail.com

Trahern Crews is a graduate of Saint Paul Central. He is the founder of Original Man Farms, which teaches youth from Saint Paul about urban farming in a cultural and historical context and how to grow and sell food. His work and volunteer experience includes nutrition services and scholar advocate for Truth Academy, consultant and nonviolence advocate for Black Truce, and a community organizer for Black Saint Paul. He has worked with Dayton's Bluff Community Council as a community liaison, organizer, and event and strategic planner. He is a radio personality of WEQY and

WFNU, served on the NAACP's Executive Committee, Chaired the Public Safety Committee and has worked with the Summit University Planning Council.

When asked why he is running for office, he said, "I am running for Mayor of Saint Paul to fight for the poor and working people in the city. I want Saint Paul to be friendly to small businesses and I want to close the disparities in our city. I want to bring forth legislation to require all Saint Paul Police officers to carry professional liability insurance in the city of Saint Paul. I also want to raise the minimum wage to a cost a living wage of \$15 an hour and I want to end homelessness in our city by 2024."

Elizabeth Dickinson

Campaign Website: <http://www.elizabethdickinson.org>

Campaign Phone: (651) 235-1208

Email: elizabeth@elizabethdickinson.org

Elizabeth Dickinson has worked as an organizer, manager or lobbyist for organizations including the Minnesota AIDS Project, Association for Non-Smokers, National P.T.A., and Healthy Legacy – on topics ranging from comprehensive sex education, healthcare funding, the smoking ban, chemical safety in consumer products and public education standards. She's a long-term board member of both state/national Clean Water Action and of MN Community Power, a past district council honoree, and a former board member for the Minnesota Chapter of the International Coach Federation, where she initiated the Prism award recognizing organizational coaching excellence at Barr Engineering, Cargill, Pepsi and nonprofits including Better Futures Minnesota and Pregnancy Choices

Education: B.Ed. Honors Education Cambridge University, M.A. Psychology Lesley University, Life Coaching Certification Adler Graduate School.

"A mayor must help heal social, racial, economic, and environmental inequality and mobilize St. Paul's underappreciated cultural, natural, educational, medical, business and people-powered assets to promote a more just and prosperous society. In addition to my practical problem-solving skills honed through years of public policy work, my ability to listen deeply, to synthesize different viewpoints, and to find, celebrate, and capitalize on others' strengths and contributions so everyone can contribute and feel they matter, is something sorely needed now."

Tom Goldstein

Campaign Website: <http://www.tomforsaintpaul.com>

Campaign Phone: (651) 644-8558

Email: tomforsaintpaul@gmail.com

Tom Goldstein grew up just outside of Washington D.C. He moved to Minnesota in 1975 to attend Carleton College and has been a resident of Saint Paul since 1984 where he currently lives in the Hamline-Midway neighborhood. A graduate of the William Mitchell College of Law, Tom operated the Sports Collection retail store on Grand Avenue for many years and is a former member of the Saint Paul School Board. He has also been a long-time advocate for neighborhoods and has served on the Mac-Groveland Community Council, the Ayd Mill Task Force, and as chair of the JJ Hill Montessori PTO. His "people before politics" message is exemplified by his well-known opposition to public subsidies for sports stadiums.

Tom is running for mayor to change the status quo in Saint Paul and ensure that local government works for residents rather than just political insiders and wealthy developers. If elected, he will seek to rebuild the city's infrastructure, promote entrepreneurship and job creation, close the digital divide, maximize educational outcomes for all students by partnering with local institutions, increase after school programming in schools and rec centers, push for more affordable housing, and improve government transparency by transforming City Hall into a customer-service-oriented institution. Tom supports raising the minimum wage to \$15 per hour with certain exemptions for small businesses and start-ups.

Pat Harris

Campaign Website: <http://www.patharrisformayor.com>

Campaign Phone: 651-291-8180

Email: info@patharrisformayor.com

Pat Harris is fourth-generation Saint Paulite who holds a BA from Marquette University and a MBA from the Carlson School of Management. He served on the Saint Paul City Council for twelve years where he provided financial expertise and support for city services. He has been active in community service by serving on several boards such as: Como Friends, Children's Museum and others. Pat currently serves as a public finance professional helping cities, counties, and schools manage their budgets.

Pat is running for mayor because he believes Saint Paul can be a city where every resident and business owner can thrive. According to a recent Pioneer Press article, the best thing he can do to help Saint Paul families is to make it easier for residents to get a job with a living wage – which will create jobs and promote economic growth. If elected, his priorities will also include: public safety – fully funding and staffing police and fire department, enhancing public services such as parks and libraries, and bringing balance to the city budget by rebuilding the commercial tax base. Pat will promote equity and opportunity by working to close the achievement gap and promoting economic development in communities of color. Pat also supports raising the minimum wage to \$15 per hour.

Chris Holbrook

Campaign Website: <http://www.lowertaxeschris.wordpress.com>

Campaign Phone: (612) 499-4493

Email: use website portal

Chris Holbrook has been a resident of the Midway and Frogtown neighborhoods for 18 years. He has an Associate's degree in architectural technology and currently works in the wholesale building products industry as a senior-level sales leader for a local distributor. Chris and his wife bought, rehabbed and currently manage three duplexes. He has been politically active for several years and currently serves as Chair of the Libertarian Party of Minnesota.

Chris is running for mayor on a fiscally conservative platform and vows to lower taxes. His vision for Saint Paul includes growth and livability. He believes that lower taxes will create jobs and put more money in the pockets of workers which in turn creates more affordable housing and transit options. If elected, he will commit to an audit and cost benefit analysis of every regulation, department, program, and proposal.

Tim Holden

Campaign Website: <http://holden4mayor.com>

Campaign Phone: (651) 387-8075

Email: holdenformayor@gmail.com

Tim Holden grew up in the west part of Saint Paul and currently lives in the Hamline-Midway neighborhood. He has a degree in criminal justice, is real estate investor, and a licensed contractor. He currently owns a remodeling business called Added Value Improvements. Holden became interested in politics when the Green Line light rail was being planned, a project that he did not support. He later joined a business-owners group called University Avenue Business Association. Tim ran for mayor in 2013.

Tim believes Saint Paul needs a change. According to his responses for an East Metro Voter Guide, Tim's top priorities, if elected would be: creating jobs, fixing the budget, and addressing the digital divide. When asked, he says, "The city needs to stop subsidizing everything developed. Focus 100% on public safety and start to look out for the less fortunate. Work on educational excellence and focus on seniors. Save Saint Paul!"

Dai Thao

Campaign Website: <http://www.daithao.org>

Campaign Phone: (651) 485-7077

Email: daithaoforstpaul@gmail.com

Dai Thao was born in war-torn Laos where his father and uncles fought on behalf of the United States. He came to Minnesota as a refugee and grew up in a single-parent household in the public housing projects of North Minneapolis. After high school, he attended Montana State University and shortly found himself having to move back to support his mother and younger siblings because the City used eminent domain to demolish their home. He quickly landed an IT job and bought a house to support his mother and siblings.

Since then, he has been an IT professional and found his way into community organizing through his faith and pursuit of justice. He organized with ISAIAH and TakeAction Minnesota prior to being elected to the City Council in 2013. As mayor, some of his priorities include: investing in families and safe neighborhoods by increasing affordable housing, championing all day pre-kindergarten and making sure police and fire departments have the resources they need to succeed while improving police-community relations, working toward greater equity by prioritizing investments in ignored communities, supporting a \$15 minimum wage, and encouraging entrepreneurship.

Barnabas Joshua YShua

Phone: (612) 295-3746

*According to a Pioneer Press article, Barnabas Joshua YShua moved to the Twin Cities from the Denver area 25 years ago to manage a Domino's Pizza. He later suffered a heart attack that left him with traumatic brain injury. His difficulties after the heart attack left him with a deeper understanding for mentally and physically disabled people. YShua has lived for the last two and half years at the Union Gospel Mission on University Avenue.

He was inspired to run for office after hearing a calling from the Lord. His political platform is simply to help others.

Source: <http://www.twincities.com/2017/08/04/homeless-man-hears-call-from-higher-power-joins-st-paul-mayors-race/>

School Board Candidates**Luke Bellville**

Campaign Website: www.lukeslegal.yolasite.com

Campaign Phone: (612) 559-2628

Email: cosmicshine@protonmail.com

Luke Bellville lives near West 7th Street. He is an attorney with a Juris Doctorate from the University of North Dakota and Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy from the University of Minnesota. He has worked as teacher in Japan. As an attorney, he will help the school district navigate the system and find available resources. He believes it is beneficial for every citizen to participate in the political process as it creates social cohesion.

The challenges that he sees for public schools include: removing violence, raising standardized test scores, providing teachers with the resources they need, and helping students understand that they will soon be a part of highly competitive global workforce. He would, "like to help the people of Saint Paul see that there is a reason that Minnesota is known for high quality education." He plans to do this by, "reiterating my own positive experiences in the open school system of Minneapolis Public Schools in which I was enrolled for ten years in the 80s and 90s."

John Brodrick (incumbent)

Campaign Website: <https://brodrick4kids.blogspot.com>

Campaign Phone: (612) 651-645-7500

Email: Brodrick4kids@yahoo.com

*John Brodrick spent his lifetime in Saint Paul Public Schools. First as a student, then a teacher and now as a four-term school board member. He understands the inner workings of our school district. He has been an advocate for parents, students, teachers, and the district.

John believes that his experience on the board is an asset now more than ever. During the 2017-18 school year the district will be led by a new superintendent and six new or relatively new school board members. On his website John says, "My record on the board, as an upholder of progressive values, and a champion of parents and teachers is one that I am proud to stand on and run in." He is seeking re-election to help make Saint Paul Public Schools even better.

Greg Copeland

Campaign Website: gregcopeland911.wordpress.com

Campaign Phone: (612) 776-7894

Email: gregcopeland@centurylink.net

Greg Copeland, 62, a widower, is a 25-year resident of the Payne Avenue neighborhood where he started his volunteer public service to Saint Paul as District 5 Council President, six years on the Capital Improvement Budget and 12 years as a member of the Saint Paul City Charter Commission. A Political Science major and former reporter, Greg was editor of his St. Leo University newspaper, where the Faculty named him 'Outstanding Student' at his graduation for his investigative reporting exposing excessive administrative costs at the private Catholic college, while tuition was being increased and many faculty were being laid off.

Greg Copeland knows the achievement gap will not be closed unless education dollars follow Children Directly into the Classroom. Less than half of the District's \$521.4 Million 2017-2018 General Fund now are directly allocated to schools! Only 47.44% or \$247.4 of General Fund are directly budgeted to the classroom.

Greg Copeland believes every child needs a Personal Education Success Plan.

Greg's promise is to be the board member who listens parents, advocates for their children; and will oppose a 2018 Property Tax increase by cutting the fat out of administration; which Greg did as Maplewood City Manager when he *froze* tax rates and the next year cut property tax rates!

Jeannie Foster (incumbent)

Campaign Website: [https://www.jeanniefosterforkids.com](http://www.jeanniefosterforkids.com)

Campaign Phone: (651) 560-5437

Email: info@jeanniefosterforkids.com

*Jeannie Foster is lifelong resident of Saint Paul and a Saint Paul Public Schools graduate. She has worked for over twenty-five years as an educator. She holds a master's degree in education and currently works for Community Action of Ramsey & Washington County managing Family Services. Jeannie believes in the power of education and community. She is the Vice Chair of the Dayton's Bluff District Council and has worked to address the issue of gun violence and created a Youth Engagement Committee.

Jeannie is running for re-election to help bring the district and stakeholders back together. If re-elected she will work to bring staff back together and improve relationships with the administration, keep children and equity at the forefront of decision making while helping the system be more responsive, and work to increase parent and family engagement. Jeannie believes that she is uniquely qualified to move the district forward because of her own life experiences overcoming obstacles, her community involvement and her commitment to education.

Andrea Touhey

Campaign Phone: (612) 267-0504

Andrea is an education consultant and former teacher. She could not be reached for further information.

Marny Xiong

Campaign Website: www.marnyxiong.org

Campaign Phone: (651) 428-8645

Email: marnyxionspps@gmail.com

Marny Xiong is a St. Paul native whose parents came to Minnesota as refugees from Laos. She is an alum of the Saint Paul Public Schools who has a BA in political science with a minor in African and African American studies. Marny is a community organizer who resides in the Payne Phalen neighborhood.

She believes that education provides an opportunity to break the cycle of poverty. She is running for Saint Paul School Board to fight for our students, schools and community. If elected, she will work to ensure equitable outcomes for all students, set high expectations and implement rigorous curriculum so that students are well-equipped to succeed. She will support teachers so that they can create safe and healthy learning environments through restorative justice practices, and increase enrollment by building partnerships between the schools and the community while addressing the needs of students and families.

**This statement was not approved by candidate prior to printing.*