

Meet the Candidates for Governor



Chris Coleman, Mayor of Saint Paul

Chris Coleman took office as Saint Paul's Mayor in 2006 after several years as a city councilmember, community and neighborhood leader. After graduating from the University of Minnesota Law School in 1987, Coleman worked as both a prosecutor and public defender in Hennepin County. Chris has private sector work experience as a financial advisor at RBC Dain Rauscher. Prior to his election as Mayor of Saint Paul, Coleman served on the Saint Paul City Council for six years. As mayor, Coleman advocated for education and public safety, and championed the Green Line (Central Corridor Light Rail line), the largest infrastructure project ever undertaken in the state of Minnesota. Mayor Coleman is past President of the National League of Cities, a national organization of city leaders across the United States. In 2012, Mayor Coleman was elected as the Second Vice President of National League of Cities, and became the League's Vice President in 2013. Mayor Coleman and his wife, Connie, live in Saint Paul's West Side, where they raised their two children, Molly and Aidan.



Keith Downey, Former Republican Party Chair and State Representative

Keith Downey served as Chair of the Republican Party of Minnesota from 2013 to 2017. He also represented Edina as a State Representative from 2008 to 2012. During his time in the House of Representatives, Representative Downey was the Vice Chair of Ways and Means and the Ranking Minority Member of the Early Childhood Finance and Policy Committee. He also served on the K-12 Education Policy and Oversight Committee, the Taxes Committee, Higher Education and Workforce Development Finance and Policy Committee, and the State Government Finance Committee. Representative Downey earned a bachelor's degree and master's degree from the University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire. During his career, he has consulted with private companies and many government entities. He lives in Minnetonka with his wife Amy and their three children.



Mary Giuliani Stephens, Woodbury Mayor

Mary Giuliani Stephens was elected Mayor of Woodbury in 2010. She was elected to the Woodbury City Council in 2006. Mayor Giuliani Stephens received her bachelor's degree in Political Science and Speech Communications from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Mayor Giuliani Stephens received her Juris Doctor from William Mitchell College of Law. Mayor Giuliani Stephens is a partner in the St. Paul law firm of Moore, Costello, & Hart, practicing primarily in the area of commercial construction. She also served as a Hearing Examiner for the St. Paul Human Rights Department. Mayor Giuliani Stephens is a long-time resident of Woodbury. She is married to Greg Stephens, and they have two adult children, Jane and David.



Jeff Johnson, Hennepin County Commissioner

Commissioner Johnson was born and raised in Detroit Lakes, Minnesota. His father still calls Detroit Lakes home, as does his sister and her family. He graduated from Detroit Lakes High School in 1985, Concordia College in Moorhead in 1989 and Georgetown Law School in Washington, D.C. in 1992. From 2000 to 2006 Johnson served in the Minnesota House of Representatives, where he was elected Assistant Minority Leader by his colleagues. In the House, he was the chief sponsor of several successful bills to limit government power, cut taxes, and combat the methamphetamine epidemic that was gripping the state. In 2011, Commissioner Johnson was elected by Republicans in Minnesota to represent them at the Republican National Committee. In 2014, he was Minnesota's Republican nominee for Governor. While falling just short of defeating incumbent Governor Mark Dayton, he raised more money than Dayton in 2014 and won independent voters by 10%. Commissioner Johnson is currently serving his final term as a Hennepin County Commissioner. Hennepin County is one of the largest counties in the country and he is one of seven commissioners who oversee a nearly \$2 billion annual budget.



Tina Liebling, State Representative

Tina Liebling has been representing the Rochester area in the Minnesota House of Representatives since 2005. She was the first person from Olmsted County elected to a Minnesota legislative seat from the DFL party. Representative Liebling chaired the House's Health and Human Services (HHS) Policy Committee from 2013-15 and currently serves as the DFL lead on the Health and Human Services Reform committee. Representative Liebling graduated magna cum laude with a B.A. in Spanish at the University of Minnesota. She received her M.S. in Public Health from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst and a J.D. cum laude at Boston University School of Law. Representative Liebling worked as a public defender for the Office of the Cook County Public Defender before opening her own private practice in Rochester. She belongs to and supports many local organizations, such as the NAACP, the Boys and Girls Club, and the United Way. Representative Liebling and husband Mark live in Rochester, where they raised their three children.



Erin Murphy, State Representative

Erin Murphy is state representative for district 64A, representing Western St. Paul, a seat she has held since 2006. She spent four terms in caucus leadership roles, including Majority Leader in 2013-2014. She currently serves as the DFL lead on the Health and Human Services Finance Committee. Her legislative focus has been in health insurance and health care issues. Representative Murphy worked as a surgical nurse in rural Wisconsin before moving to St. Paul to work at the University of Minnesota Hospital as a part of a transplant team. She also worked at the Minnesota Nurses Association in a variety of capacities, including as Executive Director. Representative Murphy teaches a nursing class at St. Kate's. She lives in St. Paul with her husband Joe where they raised their twin daughters.



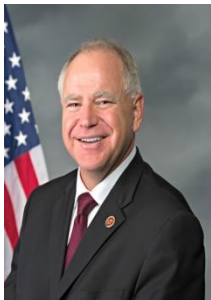
Rebecca Otto, State Auditor

Rebecca Otto was elected Minnesota's 18th State Auditor in 2006 after receiving the endorsement of three previous State Auditors from both major political parties. She is the first woman Democrat to be elected to the post and the only Democrat ever to be reelected State Auditor, a post formerly occupied by Arne Carlson and Mark Dayton. State Auditor Otto was re-elected to a second four-year term in 2010 and a third term in 2014. In 2003, Otto was elected state representative for the Stillwater area and served on the House Local Government, Environment, and Agricultural Policy and Finance committees. She also served on the Forest Lake school board and on the district's ad-hoc finance committee. Auditor Otto holds a Master's Degree in Education from the University of Minnesota and a B.A. in Biology from Macalester College. She taught public school seventh-grade science for five years. She was also president of a 50-employee business for several years. She was an active volunteer for a number of organizations, including Warner Nature Center and Big Brother/Big Sister. Auditor Otto has won numerous awards for her position of State Auditor including in 2017, the William R. Snodgrass Leadership Award from the National Association of State Auditors, Comptrollers and Treasurers (NSAA). She lives with her husband, screenwriter Shawn Otto, in a wind-powered, passive solar home in May Township. They have one son who recently graduated from Hamline University.



Phillip Parrish

Phillip Parrish has served as a decorated commissioned officer since 2007. Lieutenant Commander Parrish has deployed to Afghanistan with NATO SOFC, served as a branch chief, department head, and joint operations officer for U.S. European Command JIOCEUR and U.S. Joint Special Operations Command. Parrish was the principal of the Gerard Academy and Treatment Center for girls and boys with emotional behavioral disorders in Austin, Minnesota for six years. Parrish joined the U.S. Navy Reserve as an Intelligence Specialist in 1999. Parrish received a music scholarship to Mankato University, where he graduated with a bachelor's degree in Education. He earned a Master of Science in Educational Leadership and a Specialist Degree in Educational Administration.



Tim Walz, United States Representative

Tim Walz is a high school geography teacher and a 24-year veteran of the Minnesota Army National Guard, where he retired as Command Sergeant Major. Tim has the honor of representing Minnesota's 1st Congressional District in Congress, including Rochester, Faribault, Mankato, and Worthington. He's the 2nd Democrat to represent that district in the past 125 years. He lives in Mankato with his wife Gwen and his kids - Hope, who's 16, and Gus, who's 10.