



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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St. Paul Area Chamber PAC Announces Endorsements for East Metro Elections

(Saint Paul, MN) -- The St. Paul Area Chamber Political Action Committee has announced its 2026 endorsements for state and local offices. Endorsed candidates are:

Judy Seeberger, Senate District 41; **Aisha Elmquist**, House District 40A; **Wayne Johnson**, House District 41A; **Joe Atkins**, Dakota County District 2; **Rebecca Noecker**, Ramsey County District 5; **Stan Karwoski**, Washington County District 2; **Karla Bigham**, Washington County District 4; **Dan Kealey**, Burnsville City Council; **Nick Gessell**, Farmington Mayor; **Luke Hellier**, Lakeville Mayor; **Marylee Abrams**, Maplewood Mayor; **John Maczko**, Mendota Heights Mayor; **Kari Niedfeldt-Thomas**, New Brighton Mayor; **Anne Burt**, Woodbury Mayor; **Steve Morris**, Woodbury City Council

"Businesses can handle plenty of challenges, but they can't plan around uncertainty. These endorsed candidates understand that predictable rules, reliable infrastructure, and safe neighborhoods are what allow employers to hire, invest, and grow," said Marc Cove, chair of the PAC Board. "Electing them this November will help ensure the East Metro remains a place where businesses and families want to build their futures."

"Whether it's finding talent, keeping costs manageable, or getting projects approved on a reasonable timeline, business owners need leaders who listen and follow through. In our evaluation, these candidates showed that they'll be responsive partners to the employers and employees who drive our economy," said B Kyle, treasurer of the PAC Board.

Among the PAC's decision-making criteria were the following principles:

- The PAC is non-partisan and will support candidates who meet the PAC's objectives, regardless of party affiliation;
- Any endorsed candidate must understand and support the concerns and interests of the East Metro business community;
- Any endorsed candidate must be electable; and
- The candidate's campaign position or previous voting record will be used as a determining factor.

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About the St. Paul Area Chamber Political Action Committee -- *The SPAC PAC is designed to identify, endorse, and support state and local candidates for office across the East Metro that support pro-business public policies. The SPAC PAC gives members of the business community access to and the ability to learn about candidates for city, county, and state offices. The SPAC PAC is a separate legal entity, independent of the St. Paul Area Chamber, and is registered with the Minnesota Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board. More information can be found at <https://www.stpaulchamber.com/pac>.*

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