



# News Release

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## **AFSCME Endorses Melvin Carter for Saint Paul Mayor**

Today, one of the state's largest and most politically active unions – AFSCME Council 5 – announced its endorsement of Melvin Carter III for Saint Paul mayor.

“Melvin has the experience, intellect and drive to lead our great city to an even better future,” says Willie Snyder, chairperson of the union’s screening committee. “He respects public workers and values the work we do to improve people’s lives. We’re proud to support him.”

“AFSCME members work hard for the people of Saint Paul and we want to help Melvin build a city that works for everyone,” says Jennifer Guertin, president of AFSCME Local 2508 and an office assistant III with the city water department. “Melvin is a strong leader and a proven champion. He has stood strong on transit, equity, living wages, housing for all and especially education.”

The union’s endorsement follows a forum held March 18 with five mayoral candidates: former Saint Paul City Council members Melvin Carter III and Pat Harris, City Council member Dai Thao, former School Board member Tom Goldstein, and Green Party candidate Elizabeth Dickinson. Candidate Tim Holden, a commercial landlord, was invited but did not participate.

AFSCME represents 924 workers employed by the City of Saint Paul and 2,787 members and retirees who can vote in the 2017 mayor’s race. The union will communicate its endorsement to influence the upcoming Saint Paul DFL ward caucuses on April 22, 23, 29 and 30.

AFSCME Council 5 is a union of 43,000 workers who advocate for excellence in services for the public, dignity in the workplace, and opportunity and prosperity for all working families.

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