

Press Release

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Eden Prairie Republicans endorse Brad Aho and Larry Kacher for election to the City Council

Voting unanimously, a convention of Eden Prairie Republicans endorsed information technology executive Brad Aho and city planning board member Larry Kacher for seats on the Eden Prairie City Council.

Aho and Kacher said they would work as a team to pursue family-friendly policies, greater accountability to the community and a strong business climate. They told delegates at the Sept. 9 convention at Grace Church that they are strongly committed to parks and wetlands and sound money management.

The two are among nine candidates who have filed for City Council positions in the Nov. 2 general election. The others are incumbent Sherry Butcher, real-estate broker Theresa Hart, entrepreneur Sandra Johnson, homemaker Nina Mackay, Christopher McPhillips, businessman Darren Wercinski, and educator Munna Yastri. Jan Mosman, another incumbent, announced earlier that she would not seek reelection.

The Republican endorsements for the Council positions were the first since the 1980s. The convention was organized by the Senate District 42 Republican Committee.

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Aho said he believed his organizational skills and his ability to analyze issues would be valuable assets to the Council. He told the convention delegates, "I share your beliefs that strong family, superior education, positive business environment, fiscal conservatism and the continued faithful stewardship of our city's resources will maintain Eden Prairie as one of the most desirable places to live, raise families, and work."

Aho, 45, a 13-year resident of Eden Prairie, is co-owner and president of Information Technology Solutions of Plymouth. He has been active as a parent volunteer with the Eden Prairie High School and Foxjet swimming programs and he has served in the National Ski Patrol at Afton Alps and as a member of the Red Cross emergency team at Metrodome events in Minneapolis.

Kacher, 52, a consultant whose business, Kacher & Associates, works to solve business problems and to improve management, said it is important for the city to look ahead to how it will manage its future. He said that his experience and leadership skills in strategic-change management would be helpful in that regard.

He said now that 92 percent of Eden Prairie's land has been developed, it is important that the city apply the best possible long-term vision to careful development of remaining land and that it create a clear redevelopment strategy and a comprehensive long-range formula for wise financial management. He said he believes strongly in open community involvement in discussion of key issues.

"We have a great community," Kacher said, but we need to get a better balance in some areas. I am concerned that the vacancy rate in the Golden Triangle is 40%. We need to do everything we can to attract the right businesses to the right locations in Eden Prairie. We should not have to lose a major corporate headquarters like Best Buy to another community with all that we have to offer."

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A 24-year resident of Eden Prairie, Kacher serves on the Take Back Your Family Time community task force. He has been a Boy Scout and church youth leader.

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