



ISD 197 Voter's Guide

Election Day is Tuesday, November 2
Go to MNVotes.org to register & find your polling place.

Go to WestStPaulReader.com for our detailed voter's guide.

Candidates (Vote for 3)	Candidate summary (synthesized from various sources by us, not the candidate)	Supports the levy renewal?	Supports a mask mandate?	Volunteer for the district?	Kids in ISD 197 schools?	Attended candidate forums?	Endorsements?	Occupation?	Where do they reside?
Tim Aune (website)	COVID response; engage wider community; curriculum; more transparency	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	4/4	DFL SD 51*	Retired tech executive	Mendota Heights
Stephanie Auran (no website)	Refocus on core subjects instead of race & sexual identity; more parental input on policy & curriculum; remove anything divisive or uncomfortable	No	No	No response	Yes	1/4	GOP SD 52*	Technical recruiter	West St. Paul
John Chandler (website)	8-year incumbent; improve culture; listen to all sides; be accessible	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	4/4	DFL SD 52*, Outfront MN	Director of development, Scholarship America	Mendota Heights
Mark Grondahl (website)	Scrutinize budget; questions timing of levy elections; more diversity of thought on board; no politics in schools	Yes	No	No	No	2/4	GOP SD 52*	Risk manager, Wells Fargo	Mendota Heights
Marcus Hill (website)	1-year incumbent; COVID response; all children can achieve if we invest in equitable systems, staff, & infrastructure	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	4/4	Did not seek	Senior manager, Best Buy	West St. Paul
Sarah Larsen (website)	10-year+ volunteer in district; social & emotional learning (social skills, self control, understanding, awareness, & coping w/ stress)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	4/4	Did not seek	Technical services supervisor, MPCA	Mendota Heights
Robert Reese (website)	Poor academic results so focus on fundamentals; mission statement; parent choice in curriculum; no politics in schools (including LGBTQ)	No	No	No	No	3/4	GOP SD 51 & 52*	Surgeon	Sunfish Lake
Morgan Steele (FB page)	Equity; make early childhood education affordable & accessible; more transparency	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	3/4	DFL SD 51 & 52*, Moms Demand Action	High school teacher, Richfield	West St. Paul
Jon Vaupel (website)	20+ years in education (teaching, policy, research); COVID response; equity/diversity/inclusivity; more transparency	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	4/4	Did not seek	Program manager, MN Dept. of Ed.	Mendota Heights
Levy Renewal:	ISD 197 has an operating levy up for renewal. Neither vote will raise taxes.	Vote Yes: Taxes stay the same, school funding is maintained at existing levels. Vote No: Taxes go down an average of \$52 per year, but \$1.2 million in budget cuts required.							

*Did not officially endorse but DFL offered a "letter of support" & GOP "recommended" candidates.
Note: Elena Villarreal dropped out in September, though her name will still appear on the ballot.

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