



ST. LOUIS  
YOUNG DEMOCRATS  
YOUNGDEMS.COM

## VOTER GUIDE

### ENDORSEMENT MEETING

**Tuesday, June 20, 2017**

7:00 pm, Llywelyn's Pub

4747 McPherson Ave, St. Louis, MO 63108

\*Open to the public, only members as of 6/6/17 can vote

### 28th WARD ALDERMAN SPECIAL ELECTION

The St. Louis Young Democrats will endorse a candidate for the 28th Ward Alderman Special Election taking place July 11, 2017. During the endorsement meeting, candidates who completed the Young Dems Endorsement Questionnaire will have an opportunity to seek the organization's endorsement and speak to membership.

The Democratic Central Committee has nominated Heather Navarro as the Democratic Candidate in the race. Since there is not a Democratic Primary in a Special Election, we invited Independent Candidates who identify as Democrats, Steve Roberts and Celeste Vossmeier, to seek endorsement.

Members that are in good standing by June 6, 2017 will have the opportunity to vote using an electronic ballot that will be emailed Sunday, June 18th and will close at 11:59 pm on Tuesday, July 20, 2017.

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## 28<sup>TH</sup> WARD ALDERMANIC CANDIDATES

### HEATHER NAVARRO, DEMOCRAT

[votenaVARRO.com](http://votenaVARRO.com)



#### **Why are you seeking the endorsement of the Young Dems?**

We need more young, progressive voices in local government. Last November we saw a surge of new, young leadership from the grassroots. These voices are important at the federal level, but even more so at the local level. We need to channel this energy for progressive values into more leadership positions. The St. Louis Young Democrats have been effective in elevating the dialogue around transparency and process that will help advance issues such as community benefits agreements (CBAs) and reunification. I would be honored to have the endorsement of the Young Democrats because they represent the forward-thinking and progressive ideals I

would work for as alderwoman.

#### **How has the Delmar divide impacted your life? What do you intend to do to heal the stark racial divides of the Saint Louis region?**

For 13 years I lived two blocks south of Delmar. I was interviewed as a young, white mother, raising a family on the south side of Delmar for the BBC's "Crossing the Delmar Divide". I chose to live in a diverse neighborhood and it raised my awareness of racial disparities in our community. As a city, we must confront racial inequity and analyze every decision for how it either perpetuates or heals racial injustice. I will work towards a more unified St. Louis by continuing to examine my own privilege while also seeking a deeper understanding of how racial injustice has been perpetrated throughout the region. I will address tough questions about how our decisions on everything from zoning to parks and recreation impact racial disparities. I will cross virtual and actual racial divides and partner with individuals and organizations who are creating opportunities for healing and reconciliation.

#### **How will you ensure that federal investment into the region (St. Louis Promise Zone, NGA) is used to the greatest benefit to the whole of the City?**

Federal investment in the region should be leveraged to foster collaboration and attract additional resources for the benefit of the City. I was lucky to participate in a series of discussions around potential funding from the MacArthur Foundation's 100&change program. That effort brought together organizations and stakeholders from a variety of perspectives and opened up a new level of intersectional dialogue. Similarly, I helped convene over 30 groups to discuss overlapping opportunities between health, the

environment, community development, and criminal justice at an event with Van Jones last fall. I believe that these sorts of events, where everyone is at the table, encourage the kind of investment that empowers communities to maximize federal funding opportunities.

### **Do you support some form of unification between St. Louis City and St. Louis County? If so, what form and why?**

Yes, I support unification. Our region's fractured nature has created inefficiencies in government and disparity in basic services and opportunities. In order for collaboration to be successful we have to start by identifying the strengths that the city and county each bring to the table and be intentional about three things: 1) preserving and enhancing citizen engagement and responsive representation, 2) taking care of people in the process, specifically the people who have dedicated their careers to public service, and 3) ensuring that every community benefits from a stronger region. As a member of the Board of Aldermen, I would be a strong advocate for facilitating conversations that result in concrete steps moving our region toward greater unification.

### **If a Young Democrat wants to get involved in your campaign, who should they contact?**

Mark Kutelski, bu.ink1@gmail.com, 314.677.4981

### **What is the best opportunity for Young Democrats to volunteer between now and the election?**

Canvassing, phone banking, working the polls, volunteering to help sign people in at meet and greets, and delivering yard signs.

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## 28<sup>TH</sup> WARD ALDERMANIC CANDIDATES

### **STEVE ROBERTS, INDEPENDENT**

[robertsforalderman.com](http://robertsforalderman.com)



#### **Why are you seeking the endorsement of the Young Dems?**

I was first elected as an Alderman at a very young age and believe in helping young people get more politically involved. I know that one of your members was unable to remain on the ballot. I also know that the YDs are one of the more progressive groups in the city. In this case the regular Democratic candidate is financially supported and endorsed by the incumbent Mayor, which will make it very difficult for her to break with administration when circumstances require. That is why I am running as

an Independent Democrat. I will be free to vote in the best interests of the city as a whole.

#### **How has the Delmar divide impacted your life? What do you intend to do to heal the stark racial divides of the Saint Louis region?**

I am the only candidate in this race who has opened new commercial businesses in North St. Louis to provide jobs and shopping options. With my wife, Dr. Eva Frazer, and in cooperation with St. Louis University School of Medicine, we have opened a clinic to help serve the needs of Seniors and children. I know what needs to be done and am the only African American candidate in this race. It is time for the courage to break from the past, put old racial divisions behind us, and to bring our city together to be the St. Louis we know we can be. If the very ward that housed the Confederate Memorial elected its first African American Alderman, that would be a clear signal that we have taken that first step.

#### **How will you ensure that federal investment into the region (St. Louis Promise Zone, NGA) is used to the greatest benefit to the whole of the City?**

It needs to be continually monitored. Too often we learn of broken promises when it is too late to correct them. Job opportunities, construction and employment with NGA and services must be open to residents of low income areas of the city as well and a concerted effort at helping them gain access.

### **Do you support some form of unification between St. Louis City and St. Louis County? If so, what form and why?**

Whatever plan is developed needs to be supported by the voters of the City and not imposed on them. Re-entering the county as a city, with the existing charter in place, would seem the easiest to accomplish. The more complex plans of creating a combined regional government will take much longer and may be too problematic. It also leaves the residents of St. Charles and Jefferson counties out of supporting our cultural and infrastructure needs, while benefiting from our employers, institutions and transportation systems. No one is addressing those inequities.

### **If a Young Democrat wants to get involved in your campaign, who should they contact?**

Rory Riddler, campaign consultant, [mediamagic@primary.net](mailto:mediamagic@primary.net), 314-723-6553

### **What is the best opportunity for Young Democrats to volunteer between now and the election?**

We are canvassing every neighborhood and that is the best point of entry. Simply submit your name and desire to help and we will have our volunteer coordinators get back with you.

## 28<sup>TH</sup> WARD ALDERMANIC CANDIDATES

### **CELESTE VOSSMEYER, INDEPENDENT**

[celestevossmeier.com](http://celestevossmeier.com)



#### **Why are you seeking the endorsement of the Young Dems?**

As a lifelong democrat and activist, I been involved in politics and the community from a very young age. I value the impact that young people can make on their community and country. I'm seeking this endorsement because I want to provide residents of all ages the opportunity to get involved and participate in moving the 28th ward and all of St. Louis forward. I would be proud to have the YDs involved in my campaign as well as my efforts as Alderwoman when I am elected.

#### **How has the Delmar divide impacted your life? What do you intend to do to heal the stark racial divides of the Saint Louis region?**

Professionally and personally, I have worked to tear down the economic and racial borders that divide our city. As noted in the St. Louis American, while General Counsel at Bi-State, I worked to increase minority hiring on construction projects and to improve conditions for minority bus drivers and workers. Personally, I have devoted my time and dollars to support early childhood education for at risk families – serving on the Board of the Southside Day Nursery, mentoring young girls in St. Louis City public schools with Mentor St. Louis, working for youth leadership and to prevent teen pregnancy with Wyman, and creating higher educational opportunities for our youth with College Bound. We can only move our City forward by being inclusive and providing opportunity for everyone.

#### **How will you ensure that federal investment into the region (St. Louis Promise Zone, NGA) is used to the greatest benefit to the whole of the City?**

Federal investment in our region generates the opportunity, when invested and spent wisely, to benefit the entire City. The Promise Zone designation can create a catalyst for change that can drive future regional growth and prosperity, as well as to create a more inclusive community. Similarly, NGA, can be truly transformative for the city, creating jobs and driving new investment and development into North St. Louis. We need to ensure that engagement at the community level continues with outreach efforts designed to solicit input from residents and businesses in the surrounding neighborhoods to ensure these projects connect with other development efforts designed to benefit our city and the region.

**Do you support some form of unification between St. Louis City and St. Louis County? If so, what form and why?**

To move our City forward we need to think regionally. Successful communities work together to promote their strengths; competition between the City and County is destructive to both sides of this debate. Finding ways to reduce costs and increase service and access to government resources for St. Louis residents are one of my top priorities. Moving forward as a region, rather than divided factions and communities, would increase our economic development impact and provide resources across the board.

**If a Young Democrat wants to get involved in your campaign, who should they contact?**

Contact me directly as I plan on being the most accessible candidate and Alderwoman this city has seen, [cvossmeyerstl@gmail.com](mailto:cvossmeyerstl@gmail.com), 314-367-1791

**What is the best opportunity for Young Democrats to volunteer between now and the election?**

Young Democrats who are interested in volunteering can join us for canvassing during the week after 5:00 and all day on Saturday. We've grown each night from a few people in the beginning to teams of volunteers now joining Celeste and her husband in going door-to-door to talk with voters.

### OUR ENDORSEMENT PROCESS

An endorsement from the St. Louis Young Democrats indicates that a candidate's record, performance in office, or promise of future relations meets the standards set forth by the St. Louis Young Democrats. An endorsement makes resources available to a candidate or campaign, including but not limited to a press release announcing the endorsement, an email to the St. Louis Young Democrats 1000+ person email list encouraging them to vote for the endorsed candidate, and publicizing campaign volunteer opportunities and events with St. Louis Young Democrats members. Additionally, an endorsement allows a candidate or campaign to inform voters of the support of the St. Louis Young Democrats.

Endorsements are determined by a majority vote of dues-paying members who are in good standing on June 6, 2017. Our organization recognizes the importance of assessing the ability of a candidate to run a winning campaign, in order to avoid spending valuable time, money and volunteers on non-contenders. Members review all pertinent information regarding a candidate's capability, including evaluation of questionnaire responses, research of news media and social media, past political performance, voting record, and campaign promise.

It is incumbent upon each member of the Executive Board to maintain impartiality. Executive Board members shall disqualify themselves from the participation in the screening/endorsement process where such endorsement poses a conflict of interest with the board member's elective or appointed political office.



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