

## Mayoral Primaries Set the Stage for Competitive Fall Elections

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The big story in the September 13<sup>th</sup> Twin Cities mayoral races was not who qualified to move on to the general election this fall – the major candidates all survived. The surprise was that DFL-endorsed Chris Coleman (51.5%) nearly received double the number of votes than incumbent Randy C. Kelly (26.6%) in the St. Paul race. Kelly is also identified as a member of the DFL party, but alienated some Democrats by endorsing George W. Bush for president in 2004 instead of his party's nominee, Senator John Kerry. Indeed, Kelly faced a scare of not advancing to the general election because of the surprisingly strong showing of Green Party-endorsed candidate Elizabeth Dickinson who pulled in 19.4% of the vote – just 7.2 percentage points behind the sitting mayor.

### St. Paul Mayoral Primary Election Results

Place	Candidate	Votes	%
1	Chris Coleman (DFL)	13,041	51.5
2	Randy C. Kelly (Incumbent) (DFL)	6,740	26.6
3	Elizabeth Dickinson (Green)	4,905	19.4
4	Sharon Anderson (Republican)	216	0.9
5	Nick Tschida	135	0.5
6	Bill Dahn	59	0.2
7	Glen Mansfield	40	0.2
8	Jacob Perasso (Socialist Workers)	36	0.1

In Minneapolis, incumbent mayor R.T. Rybak fared much better, earning 44.5% of the vote, compared to 35.3% for his leading challenger, Hennepin County Commissioner Peter McLaughlin. The Green Party candidate in Minneapolis also had a very respectable showing with Farheen Hakeem earning 13.8% of the vote.

### **Minneapolis Mayoral Primary Election Results**

<b>Place</b>	<b>Candidate</b>	<b>Votes</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>R.T. Rybak (Incumbent) (DFL)</b>	<b>14,766</b>	<b>44.5</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Peter McLaughlin (DFL)</b>	<b>11,734</b>	<b>35.3</b>
3	Farheen Hakeem (Green)	4,596	13.8
4	Mark Koscielski (Pissed Off Taxpayer)	585	1.8
5	Don Johnson (No Stadium Tax)	422	1.3
6	Dick Franson (DFL)	269	0.8
7	Gerald James Savage (Independent)	240	0.7
8	Marcus Harcus (Minneapolis Humanitarians)	147	0.4
9	Tim Nolan (We the People)	140	0.4
10	Gregory A. "Ernie" Brown (DFL)	108	0.3
11	David A. Alvarado (DFL)	101	0.3
12	Gregory Groettum (DFL)	93	0.3

### **Competitive General Election**

The general election in St. Paul and Minneapolis is wide open. Many more voters will turnout and they will reflect a wider cross section of the Twin Cities than the primaries. The results of the general election will also be influenced by which candidate wins over Green Party voters.