



# *Endorsements*

I have known Tami for more than 25 years, first as a music teacher, later as an activist in our community. Tami knows how to get things done – she's organized and focused and knows how to work with people holding various viewpoints to get things done for our community. She's tenacious at achieving the goal of a better world for all.

*-- Joanne Dorsher*

I am writing to endorse Tami Calhoun for the Minnesota House of Representatives District 14A – the District in which I live. I want to be represented by a person who “walks the talk” and I believe Tami does just that.

I have known Tami for a long time, first by reputation, and later in person. We were both educators in the St. Cloud Public School System, and although my experience was in middle and high school and Tami's was in elementary school, I had heard about Tami and what a terrific music teacher she was. That's a little unusual in a system the size of ISD 742. Later, when I retired, I chaired the GRIP/ISAIAH Education Committee working on equity for marginalized kids in our community, and there was Tami, doing volunteer door-knocking and sharing with people the stories about kids she saw every day in the classroom.

After that, it was no surprise to me when I was at Promise Neighborhoods in southeast St. Cloud and discovered Tami doing volunteer teaching and serving the same disadvantaged kids outside the school day as she saw during the day when she taught at Talahi School. More recently, our paths crossed as I participated in the work of the St. Cloud Educational Rights Advocacy Council – a group in which Tami serves – that works for social justice through legal channels for low income kids of color who constitute the majority of students in the St. Cloud public school system.

While Tami's interests and work in the community are much broader than what I have pictured here, this is how I know her best. What I respect is that she doesn't just talk about issues; she does what needs to be done – again and again – to move things forward. She jumps into the work and goes where it must be done. She is the kind of person we need from District 14A to represent us in the State Legislature.

*-- Patricia Welter, Waite Park*



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Months ago, I was asked whom I support for House District 14A; Tami Calhoun came immediately to mind. Everything since has confirmed that I was right. Tami's decades-long experience as teacher and community activist aligns with what we need our legislators to care about. Her well-honed skill as a listener is evident. Campaigning is hard work, and in this uncharted time will require imagination and innovation of a sort that Tami has practiced through her whole career.

*--Patrick Henry, Waite Park*

I support Tami because of her broad base of experience and skills. During her 17 years of volunteering with the nonprofit ISAIAH, she has already clearly demonstrated that she can do the work of a legislator: organizing issue- and policy-based advocacy campaigns, conducting research interviews with stakeholders, meeting with locally elected officials, building coalitions, and lobbying at the state legislature. I also value Tami's willingness to listen and gather all of the information necessary before staking out a resolute position on an issue.

*--Scott Wells, St. Cloud*

I am writing to show my strong support of Tami Calhoun as a candidate for the Minnesota House of Representatives in House District 14A. I support Tami because she exemplifies the values that I believe will best serve the long-term interest of both the St. Cloud area and the State of Minnesota. I have come to know Tami and her value to the community by observing her role as a volunteer working within the faith community, in her leadership role with Isaiah/GRIP. I was thrilled when she decided to run for the State House of Representatives because I believe she is the right antidote for these turbulent times.

More than ten years ago my wife Carol and I founded the Central Minnesota Sustainability Project (CMSP). CMSP shortly thereafter founded Maine Prairie Garden, with collaborative support from the City of St. Cloud. Maine Prairie Garden, located in Diocese City Park at the intersection of Maine Prairie Road and Quarry Road, has become a multicultural community building project where gardeners of multiple ethnicities come together to share their love of growing healthy food and the stories of their traditions. Maine Prairie Garden is a model for the kind of community building that Tami Calhoun has striven to engender through her professional career as a teacher and her long-time leadership role as a community volunteer.

*--Rick Miller, St. Cloud, Co-Founder, CMSP*