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Ramsey County attorney candidates tout their lists of bipartisan supporters

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Ramsey County attorney candidate John Choi has won former Vice President Walter Mondale's endorsement, Choi announced Sunday.

Choi, the former St. Paul city attorney, is running against private attorneys David Schultz and Tammy Pust in the Aug. 10 primary election.

At a gathering at the Arden Hills city hall Friday, Choi, a DFLer, emphasized the bipartisan nature of his support by bringing together a number of Republicans and DFL members to speak on his behalf. The GOP leaders included former U.S. attorney for Minnesota Thomas Heffelfinger and former chairman of the Republican Party of Minnesota Chris Georgacas.

Choi has also won the endorsement of the Ramsey County DFL. The county attorney race is nonpartisan.

Pust and Schultz each have lists of hundreds of supporters on their websites.

Pust, a Roseville City Council member and a partner at Parker Rosen in Minneapolis, notes on her

website that she is supported by "moms and dads, small business owners, teachers, firefighters, police officers, waitresses, retirees, social workers, nurses, and yes — lawyers and former or present elected officials" of all political persuasions.

Specifically, her supporters include former Minnesota Supreme Court Justice Esther Tomljanovich; former St. Paul Mayor Jim Scheibel; Ann Berry, a longtime community leader in Roseville; and Debra Page, a partner at Lindquist & Vennum law firm.

Schultz counts among his supporters former Minneapolis Mayor Don Fraser,

former Hennepin County Attorney Tom Johnson and "some of the best-known lawyers in town," such as Tom Fraser of Faegre and Benson and Hank Shea, a professor at the University of St. Thomas law school and a former assistant U.S. attorney.

Schultz said his focus has been not on getting the nod from politicians but "from lawyers who understand the legal system. ... In legal circles I have the strongest reputation."

Two of the three candidates will advance to the Nov. 2 general election. The winner will succeed Susan Gaertner, who has held the post since 1994 and is not seeking re-election.

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