

# Election endorsements: The picks in House Districts 49A, 52B, 54A and 57A.

Here is the last of three days of legislative endorsements.

By Editorial Board Star Tribune

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## District 49A: Dario Anselmo

When Republican [Dario Anselmo](#) defeated Republican-cum-DFLer Ron Erhardt in 2016, some thought Edina had lost the independent, politically moderate voice Erhardt had supplied during 22 nonconsecutive years of state House service. To the surprise of those observers, Anselmo has at times functioned in ways reminiscent of his party-defying predecessor. His independence should be rewarded with a second term.

Anselmo, 56, is a real estate investor and former owner of the Fine Line Music Cafe in downtown Minneapolis. That experience plus one other — the loss of his mother, Barbara Lund, to gun violence in 1992 — gives him a perspective many in his party lack on some of the Legislature’s sorest disputes. He agrees with DFLers that the state should take stronger steps to deter gun violence and that a gas tax increase — a “user fee,” he rightly calls it — should be part of a comprehensive transportation package in 2019. He favors abortion rights and has long been a supporter of the Southwest light-rail line.

What makes him a Republican? “I want Minnesota to be an attractive state to do business in,” Anselmo says. He sides with his party on tax and business policies. We disagree with his view that the state’s health care provider tax should be allowed to sunset on schedule at the end of 2019. But we think a bipartisan accord on health care funding is more likely if he stays in the House.