

**ACTIVE GENERAL AND CORRECTIONAL PLAN CANDIDATES (LISTED ALPHABETICALLY)****Paul Bourgeois****Occupation:**

Executive Director of Finance &amp; Operations

**Education and Training:**BS-Business Administration - UW-Stevens Point  
BA-Accounting - UW-Green Bay  
WI CPA License 11758**Experience:** Executive Director - Finance & Operations - Minnetonka Public Schools 2007 - Present.

Vice President of Corporate Services - WPPI Energy 2003-2007. Chief Financial Officer - Rochester Public Schools 1994-2003

**What do you think should be the primary role of a PERA Trustee?** It is imperative that we stay focused on ensuring that retirement benefits are available for all retirees for the long term. Retirees depend on those steady benefit payments to support themselves - they have earned them with their years of service and we owe it to them to make sure that the benefits are there for the long term. We need to carefully monitor investment returns and look for opportunities to improve benefits incrementally if we can ensure that improvement is sustainable. We have recently been able to make an incremental improvement to the annual COLA calculation for monthly benefits because the conditions and an evaluation of sustainability warranted implementing an incremental improvement.**How do you think you could contribute to PERA as a member of the Board of Trustees?** My experience running the financial operations for various organizations includes ensuring long-term sustainability for those organizations. That financial experience and commitment to long-term sustainability will be of benefit when the Board is tasked with making decisions on financial issues.**Do you have any additional comments?** I am proud to be able to volunteer to serve on the PERA Board. I donate all my time - making up time at my employer for any PERA meetings - and even do not claim mileage to meetings from PERA, because I want to serve for the benefit of all members. As a Board Member who comes from the School District employee ranks, I am glad to be able contribute from that perspective, and will give my utmost for all PERA members if I am fortunate enough to be re-elected.**Rodney (Rod) Lindell Paulson****Occupation:**

Minneapolis Finance and Property Services

**Education and Training:**Master's of Business Administration - Cardinal Stritch University  
Bachelor's of Arts - Public Administration - Metropolitan State University  
Associate's of Applied Science - Accounting - North Hennepin Community College  
Certified Minnesota Assessor - Income Qualified  
Minnesota Realtor**Experience:** I became a PERA member when I started working with the City of Minneapolis Finance & Property Services

Department in 1985. I have worked in the areas of Finance, Real Estate Assessment, Customer Service, Real Estate Assessment, Program Assistance, Legislative Investigation, and Budgeting. I currently work in the Revenue and Collections area of Finance &amp; Property Services.

**What do you think should be the primary role of a PERA Trustee?** To advocate for our members, promoting whatever may benefit our membership in the most cost-effective manner possible. It is a trustee's responsibility to analyze and approve the PERA budget, decide on legislative policy and priorities, and to hire the executive director. Trustees establish policies and procedures that govern operations at PERA, hear and rule on appeal matters of those with disability claims, retirees, and members. The Trustees direct the dissemination of information to PERA members.**How do you think you could contribute to PERA as a member of the Board of Trustees?** I have over 33 years as an active member. I plan to work another 7 years. I have a background of working with finance, customer service, and local legislation. Within my work with the City of Minneapolis, I have 23 years in finance, over 24 years of customer service, 7 years working on program development with the Minneapolis Civil Rights Department and City Clerk's Office. I have experience with neighborhood and community organizations and development. I am compassionate and fiscally responsible.**Do you have any additional comments?** PERA has been blessed to have highly qualified trustees willing to serve members and assist PERA employees keep PERA a strong retirement association that is concerned with protecting funds to benefit our membership for the future benefit of all. I would like to assist in those efforts.**Thomas Rupp****Occupation:**

Senior Financial Management Analyst

**Education and Training:**

Master of Public and Nonprofit Administration - Metropolitan State University

**Experience:** Hennepin County Office of Budget and Finance - October 2012 – Present. River's Edge Academy Board of Directors - July 2013 - Present (Chair). Hennepin County Millennial Employee Resource Group July 2016 - Present (Chair)**What do you think should be the primary role of a PERA Trustee?** PERA Trustees should fairly represent the interests every member no matter what their age or employment status, educate members and nonmembers, correct misinformation about pensions, and advocate for a strong solvent pension.**How do you think you could contribute to PERA as a member of the Board of Trustees?** I understand the importance of diverse perspectives and reaching out to include a wide range of stakeholders and underrepresented voices. As a member of the Board of Trustees, I will bring diverse perspective having worked as a union employee, served on a school board, analyzed multi billion dollar budgets, and belief that long-term health and sustainability of our defined benefit system is essential to a strong workforce and a secure retirement.**Do you have any additional comments?** I am a third generation pensioner; my grandmother earned pensions from PERA and TRA, and my mother earned a pension as a nurse. I understand how critical pensions are for our present and our future. Continued support and education throughout our members' careers is equally as important as the paycheck. Long term solvency and sound financial decisions in good years and bad will ensure continued pension benefits for our retirees, employees, and the following generations of workers.

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### Thomas Stanley

<p><b>Occupation:</b> Senior Attorney, Civil Division - St. Louis County Attorney's Office</p>	<p><b>Education and Training:</b> Master of Business Administration - University of Minnesota, Duluth (2006) Juris Doctor - University of Michigan Law School (1989) Bachelor of Arts, Government and International Relations - University of Notre Dame (1987)</p>
<p><b>Experience:</b> Attorney with the St. Louis County Attorney's Office, Civil Division, since 2003; public defender for seven years; private legal practice for five years; President of AFSCME Local 3761; Director for Grandma's Marathon; former President of the 11th District Bar Association; service on numerous non-profit and community boards; PERA Trustee since 2013 and current board Vice President.</p>	
<p><b>What do you think should be the primary role of a PERA Trustee?</b> A PERA Trustee monitors, and seeks to maintain and sustain, our pension plans to ensure that all of our retirees, our active members, and our future public servants will receive the monthly retirement incomes they have earned and to which they are entitled. To do this, the Trustees must educate themselves to make informed decisions regarding management oversight, plan design, member requests and legislation to impact the fund in a positive manner.</p> <p><b>How do you think you could contribute to PERA as a member of the Board of Trustees?</b> I bring experience, dedication, integrity, and a depth and breadth of knowledge to the Trustee position. During my service as a Trustee, the board has effectively transitioned to new PERA leadership and achieved legislative changes that have enhanced the sustainability of the PERA funds. My involvement in this process and awareness of past actions of the board provide continuity and a strong foundation for moving forward.</p> <p><b>Do you have any additional comments?</b> I have approached my Trustee responsibilities with diligence, candor and determination, working for, and on behalf of, my fellow public servants to protect and sustain our retirement funds. Despite our recent legislative success, we cannot become complacent. We must repeatedly evaluate and analyze what we can do to ensure our financial futures; I relish the opportunity to continue this work.</p>	

## POLICE & FIRE PLAN CANDIDATES

### Paul A. Ford

<p><b>Occupation:</b> Commander, Saint Paul Police Department</p>	<p><b>Education and Training:</b> Bachelor's Degree, Criminal Justice, University of St. Thomas, 1995 National Conference on Public Employee Retirement Systems Fiduciary Program, 2018</p>
<p><b>Experience:</b> I have been a police officer for 22 years. I served on the board of the Saint Paul Police Federation and as a board member and President of the Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association (MPPOA). During that time, I worked with other organizations and politicians to maintain and strengthen our pension plans. Specifically, in 2010 and 2014, as MPPOA President, I worked with law enforcement groups, firefighters, and retirees to recommend legislative changes to the Police and Fire Plan to ensure its long-term viability. Those recommendations were enacted and have put our plan on the path toward full funding. I have been the PERA Police and Fire Trustee since 2017 and attended the National Conference on Public Employee Retirement Systems (NCPERS) to better represent our plan and think strategically about our pension plans futures. At NCPERS, I learned about successes and failures in other public employee pension plans around the country</p>	
<p><b>What do you think should be the primary role of a PERA Trustee?</b> To ensure the long-term viability of PERA pension plans, advocate for legislative changes that will keep the plans on track to full funding and keep people engaged on pension issues.</p> <p><b>How do you think you could contribute to PERA as a member of the Board of Trustees?</b> Being past President of the MPPOA, I have relationships statewide with members of the Police and Fire Plan which makes me familiar to our members and approachable. I worked with police and firefighter groups on pension changes in 2010 and 2014. I already have existing working relationships with police and firefighter groups to more effectively and rapidly bring together groups to address any pension issues that may come up and require action.</p> <p><b>Do you have any additional comments?</b> Thank you for allowing me to serve as the Police and Fire Trustee. I look forward to continuing that service.</p>	

