VANCOUVER PICKLEBALL ASSOCIATION

VPA Pickleball Pledge: Candidate Commitments

Vancouver Park Board, 2026 general election (October 17, 2026)

Methodology: The VPA contacted all the Park Board candidates and requested a meeting in person and if not to respond to a survey. We subsequently developed the six-point Pickleball Pledge as a way to provide clarity and a record of their position on pickleball. We asked all candidates to sign. This page records who met with the VPA, our understanding of their alignment and support for pickleball in Vancouver, and if they signed the pledge, their responses.

The VPA does not endorse specific parties or candidates. We ask candidates for their position on pickleball in Vancouver through surveys and in-person meetings. We then communicate this information to the estimated 35,000+ people interested in pickleball in Vancouver.

Candidate response summary

There are 35 Park Board candidates. 11 candidates responded to the VPA Pickleball Pledge or survey; the chart below shows only those candidates and the questions they answered.

Candidate	Party	1	2	3	4	5	6
Jas Virdi	ABC Vancouver	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Christian Kyle	ABC Vancouver	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Tamiko Suzuki	COPE	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓
Tom Digby	Green Party of Vancouver	✓	✓	✓	*	✓	✓
Breanne Smart	Green Party of Vancouver	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Spencer Van Vloten	Green Party of Vancouver	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
John Irwin	OneCity Vancouver	✓	✓	✓	✓	*	✓
Tyler Petersen	OneCity Vancouver	✓	✓	✓	*	*	✓
Wah Gee	TEAM for a Livable Vancouver	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Tricia Barker	Vancouver Liberals	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Shayla Bird	Vancouver Liberals	✓	✓	✓	✓	–	✓
Mark Halyk	Vancouver Liberals	✓	✓	✓	✓	–	*
Summit Wannamaker	Vote Vancouver	✓	✓	–	✓	✓	✓
Stephen Menon	Vote Vancouver	✓	✓	✓	*	*	✓

Key: ✓ supports ✗ does not support – no response yet * qualified or partial answer.

Why we ask individual candidates

- Party ties can change during a four-year term, but a signature stays with the person who gave it.
- Park Board commissioners vote as individuals and are not bound to follow a party line.
- Follow-through matters most when it is not convenient, so we ask each candidate to stand behind these commitments in their own name.

We also show a party-by-party view below, because there are 35 candidates across eight parties.

The six commitments

#	Commitment	What the candidate pledges
1	**Partnership and recognition**	Work with VPA to advance pickleball in the City of Vancouver, and recognize VPA as a principal actor in pickleball in the city.
2	**Parity with other racquet and paddle sports**	Treat pickleball with parity, in privileges and capabilities, with other racquet and paddle sports, including the ability to book courts.
3	**Support for the Vancouver Tennis & Pickleball Centre**	Support the Vancouver Tennis & Pickleball Centre (VTPC), the proponent-funded indoor tennis and pickleball facility the Park Board endorsed unanimously on February 2, 2026.
4	**Speed on Unsolicited Proposals**	Act with speed so a VPA Unsolicited Proposal (UPP) for pickleball upgrades goes through quickly, with a staff report to the Board within 90 days of a complete submission.
5	**Permanent courts**	Recognize all existing temporary or pop-up pickleball courts as permanent. Some of these have been designated temporary for years.
6	**Court improvements**	Work with and communicate with VPA on improvements to courts, including signage, painting, patching and other pickleball court related activities.

How to read this page

Each candidate has a mark for each commitment: ✓ supports ✗ does not support – no response yet * qualified or partial answer (see comment). Written comments are quoted as given. Every candidate on the City of Vancouver's official list of Park Board candidates has been invited to sign; the list is organized by party, and candidates are shown individually within each.

Party overview

Party	Candidates	Pledges returned	Support all six with or without qualification	No response yet
ABC Vancouver	7	2	2	5
COPE	4	1	0	3
Green Party of Vancouver	3	3	3	0
Independent Parks Party	5	0	0	5
OneCity Vancouver	3	2	2	1
TEAM for a Livable Vancouver	5	1	1	4
Vancouver Liberals	6	3	1	3
Vote Vancouver	2	2	1	0
All parties	**35**	**11**	8	**24**

Candidate commitments by party

ABC Vancouver 7 Park Board candidates

Status: We met with Jas Virdi on Monday Oct 5. We also attended a candidate meeting at Kerrisdale where ABC was present. ABC's *platform* states "An ABC Park Board will also create a year-round, public, covered pickleball facility, giving residents more opportunities to stay active in every season." Jas is on the Park Board, and supported the VTPC. He will continue to support the VTPC if re-elected. He also signed all 6 of the Pickleball Pledge commitments.

Candidate	Status	1 Partner	2 Parity	3 VTPC	4 UPP	5 Courts	6 Improve	Response / comment
Jas Virdi	Incumbent	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	*Signed Oct 5. Willing to make UPP a priority if re-elected. Supported parity with other racquet sports.*
Jay Bailey	New candidate	–	–	–	–	–	–	*Awaiting response*
Cheryl Grant	New candidate	–	–	–	–	–	–	*Awaiting response*
Christian Kyle	New candidate	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	*Pickleball has transformed my mom's relationship with team/social sports, and has done so to tens of thousands of other Vancouverites. I want to thank the Vancouver Pickleball Association for the work they have done to advance the sport and look forward to working together if I am lucky enough to be elected to the Park Board!*
Stephen Molnar	New candidate	–	–	–	–	–	–	*Awaiting response*
Chris Qiu	New candidate	–	–	–	–	–	–	*Awaiting response*
Marie Rogers	New candidate	–	–	–	–	–	–	*Awaiting response*

COPE 4 Park Board candidates

Status: We contacted the COPE candidates twice and did not receive any response.

Candidate	Status	1 Partner	2 Parity	3 VTPC	4 UPP	5 Courts	6 Improve	Response / comment
Sacia Burton	New candidate	–	–	–	–	–	–	*Awaiting response*
Jamie Han	New candidate	–	–	–	–	–	–	*Awaiting response*
Tamiko Suzuki	New candidate	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	*Awaiting response*
T'uy't'tanat Cease Wyss	New candidate	–	–	–	–	–	–	*Awaiting response*

Green Party of Vancouver 3 Park Board candidates

Status: We contacted the Green Party and received quick responses. We had a meeting with them and a discussion about Vancouver Pickleball. We found their responses and support for the Pickleball Pledge aligned with the goals of the VPA. Tom Digby, the current Park Board chair, attended Andy Livingstone's Pickle Palooza where he had a chance to engage with local pickleball players.

Candidate	Status	1 Partner	2 Parity	3 VTPC	4 UPP	5 Courts	6 Improve	Response / comment
Tom Digby	Incumbent, Board Chair	✓	✓	✓	*	✓	✓	*Survey, Sept 30.* *4 – "We receive many unsolicited proposals. Staff has bandwidth for a limited number. I am optimistic staff will recommend the VTPC to proceed and will watch for it. But another Ken Sim zero % budget increase will freeze many UPP projects, I need to be honest here."* *Other – "Pickleball is a great way to increase capacity at our parks. Grateful you are coordinating with Tennis BC to jointly manage capacity increase. Vote Pete Fry for Mayor!"*
Breanne Smart	New candidate	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	*Survey, Sept 30. No comment.*
Spencer Van Vloten	New candidate	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	*Survey, Sept 30.* *Other – "I support more pickleball opportunities in the city!"*

Independent Parks Party 5 Park Board candidates

Status: We did not receive any response from the Independent Parks Party. We did attend an all candidates meeting where they were present. Their position on pickleball specifically is not known.

Candidate	Status	1 Partner	2 Parity	3 VTPC	4 UPP	5 Courts	6 Improve	Response / comment
Niknaz Alemi	New candidate	–	–	–	–	–	–	*Awaiting response*
Michael Robert Caditz	New candidate	–	–	–	–	–	–	*Awaiting response*
Brynja Marshall	New candidate	–	–	–	–	–	–	*Awaiting response*
Cam Rothery	New candidate	–	–	–	–	–	–	*Awaiting response*
Leonard Vanderstar	New candidate	–	–	–	–	–	–	*Awaiting response*

OneCity Vancouver 3 Park Board candidates

Status: We met and had a good discussion with John Irwin about pickleball in Vancouver. We believe that the OneCity platform is aligned with the goals of the VPA.

Candidate	Status	1 Partner	2 Parity	3 VTPC	4 UPP	5 Courts	6 Improve	Response / comment
John Irwin	Former commissioner (2018–22)	✓	✓	✓	✓	*	✓	*Survey, Oct 5. 5 – "I support this, but for some I want to have a process with tennis players as well."* *Other – "On Saturday, the 26th of September I joined folks from the VPA to try out this sport. I've purchased two paddles, and my daughter and I are starting to play. On October 4 I dropped by Pandora Park to chat with more pickle ball players. The exciting thing about pickleball and tennis is they both get people of all ages out in Vancouver's parks enjoying themselves. I am running in this election to improve access for all types of recreation."*
Dominic DeNofrio	New candidate	–	–	–	–	–	–	*Awaiting response*
Tyler Petersen	New candidate	✓	✓	✓	*	*	✓	*Survey, Oct 3. 4 – "As a Park Board Commissioner, I would ensure that the policy we create equitably supports the creation of pickleball facilities."* *5 – "As a commissioner, I will establish a framework to convert temporary pickleball facilities into permanent facilities on a case-by-case basis to take into account the needs of the area. I will also direct staff to look at the creation of more indoor pickleball facilities, ideally in multi-sport complexes."*

TEAM for a Livable Vancouver 5 Park Board candidates

Status: *We met with Wah Gee, one of the candidates for TEAM at the Andy Livingstone Pickleball Palooza. Wah signed and agreed to support all of the pledge items.*

Candidate	Status	1 Partner	2 Parity	3 VTPC	4 UPP	5 Courts	6 Improve	Response / comment
Mayeli Alvarez	New candidate	–	–	–	–	–	–	*Awaiting response*
Allan Fawley	New candidate	–	–	–	–	–	–	*Awaiting response*
Wah Gee	New candidate	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	*Signed. Pickleball is an extremely popular sport that is growing quickly. Many friends of mine play the game, as it is more "fun" than tennis. In conversations with citizens, it is balancing and mitigating the impacts (e.g., court noise, lighting) in the surrounding neighbourhoods. The funded indoor facility will help.*
Jon Girard	New candidate	–	–	–	–	–	–	*Awaiting response*
Alex Tkach	New candidate	–	–	–	–	–	–	*Awaiting response*

Vancouver Liberals 6 Park Board candidates

Status: *We met with most of the Vancouver Liberal candidates. We had a good discussion and believe that their interests are aligned with the VPA. We generated a number of interesting ideas with them.*

Candidate	Status	1 Partner	2 Parity	3 VTPC	4 UPP	5 Courts	6 Improve	Response / comment
Scott Jensen	Incumbent	–	–	–	–	–	–	*Awaiting response*
Tricia Barker	Former commissioner (2018–22)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	*I recognize that Pickleball is important to the health and well-being of many seniors and applaud the many positive aspects of this sport offers.*
Amanda Bains	New candidate	–	–	–	–	–	–	*Awaiting response*
Amir Bajehkian	New candidate	–	–	–	–	–	–	*Awaiting response*
Shayla Bird	New candidate	✓	✓	✓	✓	–	✓	*Survey, Sept 29. No answer on 5.*
Mark Halyk	New; ex-Park Board manager	✓	✓	✓	✓	–	*	*Survey, Sept 29. No answer on 5. 6 – "We will create a comprehensive communication plan and have a dedicated staff member assigned as your contact. I will personally create a motion and policy stating that the Park Board needs to be fully responsible for communication with your association and others and needs to respond in a quick and efficient manner." Other – "I will personally commit to the Pickleball association."*

Vote Vancouver 2 Park Board candidates

Status: *Vote Vancouver attended the National Pickleball Day celebration at Pandora Park on Saturday August 8, 2026, with their mayoral and school board candidates. They stayed for 2 hours+, engaged in playing pickleball and talking to people. We had subsequent meetings with Stephen Menon, and they were present at the Park Board all candidate meetings. We believe the Vote Vancouver is aligned with the VPA on supporting pickleball.*

Candidate	Status	1 Partner	2 Parity	3 VTPC	4 UPP	5 Courts	6 Improve	Response / comment
Summit Wannamaker	New candidate	✓	✓	–	✓	✓	✓	*Signed pledge, Sept 29. Signed an earlier five-item version of the form that did not include commitment 3 (VTPC), so 3 is not answered.*
Stephen Menon	New candidate	✓	✓	✓	*	*	✓	*Signed pledge, Sept 29, supporting all six with two amendments: 4 – "Where VPA submits a complete Unsolicited Proposal for pickleball facilities, I will push for prompt staff review and a report to the Board, targeting 90 days, under the same process that applies to any proponent." 5 – "I will support a site by site review to make existing temporary pickleball courts permanent, including painted lines, where noise, neighbour and shared use impacts are addressed, and will welcome VPA's offer to fund painting through the Park Board's donation process."*