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CENTERPIECE

## Mayor's race off to an early start

By Ethan Forman | Staff Writer  
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Former City Council Paul Lundburg is challenging Mayor Greg Verga who is seeking a third term.

File photos



Mayor Greg Verga announced Tuesday he plans to seek reelection to a third term as Gloucester's 60th mayor.

"I'm not a career politician and I don't plan on staying in this role forever, but I do believe we have more work to do to build on our successes," Verga said in an email.

But he may not be alone on the ballot for mayor come the municipal election in the fall.

Former City Council President and railroad executive Paul Lundberg said he is running for mayor "because people deserve a choice every two years," with elections called for in the City Charter every other year to give residents a chance to review the job of those representing them.

The potential candidates are both Gloucester natives and graduates of Gloucester High School.

For candidates to citywide offices, nomination papers are available April 1 in the city clerk's office. Candidates have until 5 p.m. July 29 to return their papers with the required number of Gloucester voters' signatures for certification.

## More on Verga

"I've been in this job for just over three years — less than one percent of Gloucester's history — and we've done incredible work," said Verga, a former School Committee member and city councilor. "I was born and raised here and I ran with a sense of duty to take the best of Gloucester, which is considerable, and make it better."

Verga touted accomplishments such as technology upgrades at the Rose Baker Senior Center and City Hall, the mitigation of beach traffic, and upgrades to the police station and courthouse complex and the Legion building.



“Our record speaks for itself, but my work isn’t done,” Verga said. “With the team we now have in place: our managers and our frontline employees across every department — schools, public safety, public works, all of them— I’m successful because they’re talented and committed, and they know what they’re doing.”

Verga said he was most proud of his allocation of funds under the American Rescue Plan Act with outcomes based on input from residents around the city. These outlays “directed millions to city structures, systems and services, parks and open spaces, schools, housing and community initiatives,” his email said.

A priority for a third term is the groundbreaking for a \$206 million wastewater treatment plant upgrade scheduled to be completed in three years. Verga said he is determined to “do more with less” and “ensure every dollar that comes in is put to its best use, doing the most good for the most people over the long term.”

## More on Lundberg

Lundberg, 72, said he decided to run just before Christmas and has let folks know what he planned to do.

Lundberg served six years, from 2013 to 2019, on the City Council with two years as its president. He also served six years, from 2001 to 2007, on the Planning Board, chairing the board during his last two years.

Lundberg has spent his entire career in the railroad industry for freight and passenger services. He worked his way up from brakeman to working in various management jobs.

The president of the transportation operations consulting firm Great Western Partners, Lundberg served as general manager of the MBTA Commuter Rail for two years starting in 2005. He served for 10 years on the board of trustees of Beverly and Addison Gilbert hospitals, chairing its quality and patient experience committee.

After he left the council, in 2020, he served as chair of “Vote Yes for Gloucester Kids,” a group in favor of what was a successful debt exclusion vote to finance the construction of the new East Veterans Elementary School on Webster Street.

## The job at hand

Asked if he planned to run for mayor this year, Councilor at-Large Jeff Worthley, a 47-year-old financial advisor, said in a message: “Lots of people are hoping I’ll run but I’m focused on the job at hand right now.”

“I’m not surprised Greg wants another term,” Worthley said in an email. “His announcement will not distract me from focusing on the tremendous amount of work that matters to the community right now.”

Worthley was elected as a councilor at-large in 2021 and re-elected in 2023. He previously was elected as a councilor at-large in 2001 and as Ward 3 councilor in 2003.

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