





He said Connolly has shown courage and leadership as a city councilor and has been “laser-focused on improving the quality of schools in Boston, is committed to providing the public safety resources needed to keep our communities safe, and is committed to working on development issues to help improve quality of life in South Boston.”

Connolly said the support from Collins, coupled with other endorsements he has received from elected leaders and local groups in other parts of Boston, are a testament to how he has “run a campaign that is citywide in nature.”

“I’m thrilled by the endorsement,” he said by phone Wednesday evening.

“[Collins] is part of a new generation of young leadership in this city that’s committed to transforming our schools and building a new economy and creating safe streets.”

Connolly said he and Collins had a “friendship and a working relationship” even before Collins was elected to the Fourth Suffolk District seat in 2010.

They each said their ties were strengthened when they recently worked together on proposals to overhaul Boston’s school-assignment plan.

Ross unveils housing plan, adds planner as adviser

Councilor Michael P. Ross released his housing plan and announced an endorsement by a well-known urban planner who is joining his campaign.

Barry Bluestone will be a senior adviser on housing and economic development. He is the founding director of the Kitty and Michael Dukakis Center for Urban and Regional Policy and the founding dean of the School of Public Policy & Urban Affairs at Northeastern University.

“We can’t be afraid to look outside City Hall for good ideas.” Ross said.

“I’m honored to have the support of professor Bluestone, and I look forward to working with him and other experts and community advocates to help grow our neighborhoods and ensure that recent graduates, returning empty nesters, recent immigrants, and life-long residents are able to call Boston home.”

Bluestone was a major contributor to Ross’s housing plan.

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In the plan, Ross commits to building 10,000 units of transit-oriented development and mixed-rate housing along the Fairmount Commuter Rail Line by 2020; increasing the required percentage of affordable housing units in new development to 15 percent; and requiring more family-sized two- and three-bedroom units in new multifamily developments.

### Democrats in Ward Four endorse Golar Richie

The Ward Four Democratic Committee has endorsed Charlotte Golar Richie to become the next mayor of Boston, according to an announcement Wednesday from Richie's campaign.

"I'm truly honored to have the support of Ward Four, and I am humbled that this strong and progressive group of Boston residents support me as their next mayor," Richie said in a statement.

Ward Four includes parts of the Back Bay, Fenway, and the South End.

The committee also endorsed three City Council candidates running for district seats: Suzanne Lee, incumbent Tito Jackson, Josh Zakim; and three City Council candidates running for at-large seats: Michelle Wu, incumbent Ayanna Pressley, and Jeff Ross, according to the announcement from Richie's campaign.

### Consalvo calls for civility when debating school issue

Rob Consalvo, a district city councilor running for mayor, is pledging to change the tone of the debate over strengthening the city's public schools.

The discussion over reforms in the school system has at times plunged into rancor, particularly around charter schools and the school-assignment process.

"We have to end the divisiveness, name-calling, and demonizing of teachers in the debate over school reform," Consalvo said earlier this week in a round-table discussion with Boston Public School teachers and parents, according to remarks provided by his campaign.

ESSDRAS M SUAREZ/GLOBE STAFF

**"We have to end the divisiveness," Rob Consalvo, who is running for mayor, said to Boston school teachers and parents.**

"If we want to make our schools stronger, we have to start by bringing everyone to the table and listening to each other."

Consalvo's campaign, which organized the event at Riverside Theater Works in Hyde Park, invited more

than two dozen residents and asked them to share concerns and ideas about moving the system forward.

Parents and teachers talked about school choice and raised concerns about transparency in the school system, according to two parents who were at the meeting.

"It was a positive meeting," said Christopher Kollet, a Roslindale parent of two children age 4 and 7.

"I think the overall tenor in the meeting was that there's a lot of potential in the Boston Public Schools."

ONLINE: For more coverage of the mayor's race, including profiles of candidates and where they stand on key issues, go to [bostonglobe.com/mayor](http://bostonglobe.com/mayor).

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