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## Former E.L. mayor Singh to run for MSU Board of Trustees

By [Zane McMillin](#)

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MSU alumnus and former East Lansing mayor Sam Singh officially has announced his bid for one of two spots up for grabs on the MSU Board of Trustees during this fall's midterm elections.



Singh

Singh, who served as the city's mayor from 2005-07, said he has filed the necessary paperwork with the Secretary of State to run and is seeking the Democratic nomination.

The terms of two current trustees, Colleen McNamara and Donald Nugent, expire in January 2011. Both McNamara, a Democrat, and Nugent, a Republican, are seeking re-election.

Singh said he chose to run for the board because of his experiences as an MSU student, an elected official in the city and his work across the state.

"I love the university," Singh said. "I think the university is a plausible economic development entity and it is preparing students for the jobs of the future. And I think that strong leadership at the board level is important."

Singh said his campaign platform includes keeping tuition at MSU down and strengthening the university's role as an engine of economic growth and transformation in the state.

"(MSU) has a really strong role in economic development," he said. "I think as the state of Michigan goes through very difficult times, the university needs to play a very fundamental role in helping reshape a new vision or economic future."

Singh also said he would like to continue empowering MSU's study abroad and service learning programs because of his past involvement with both.

Leading up to the Michigan Democratic Party convention in August, Singh said he will be meeting with the party's leaders and drumming up support for his campaign across the state.

Singh said his work with organizations such as the Michigan Nonprofit Association and his more recent collaboration as a senior consultant for the New Economy Initiative for Southeast Michigan, an initiative seeking to find new ways to increase economic prosperity in that region, have helped expand his name recognition outside of East Lansing.

"I'm working on meeting now with people within the Democratic Party, letting them know about my experiences, my interest and my vision for the university, and I'm going to proceed from there," Singh said.

McNamara said Singh's announcement adds to the "viable" pool of candidates seeking both their parties' nominations and election to the board.

Singh is the most recent to announce his candidacy. Also included in the field is Mitch Lyons, an MSU alumnus and former Spartan and NFL tight end, who in January announced his candidacy for the Republican nomination.

"They all sound like very viable candidates, and quite qualified," McNamara said. "It's a good sign. There's some very quality people who have identified an interest in the university."

Nugent said he does not know Singh personally, but said trustees need to be collaborative and pursue what's best for MSU.

"We need trustees that are committed to Michigan State University and who take the time to understand the issues to work together to come up with a good conclusion," Nugent said.

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