

# Making a comeback at 75



SCOTT WILLIAMS, JOURNAL TIMES FILE PHOTO

Tom Vos, left, shown addressing the Burlington City Council in November on a proposed stormwater management district, is a former alderman who served 36 years, and is running uncontested for a return to the council.

## Robin Vos' father jumps back into Burlington politics, citing love for community

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**BURLINGTON** — At an age when many politicians are riding into the sunset, Tom Vos is saddling up for another rodeo.

The 75-year-old father of Wisconsin Assembly Speaker Robin Vos is back on the ballot April 5, asking voters to return him to Burlington's non-partisan city government.

With no opposition in a race for alderman, Vos is virtually assured of winning election and re-joining the Burlington City Council, where he previously served for nearly four decades.

Vos says he has no specific

agenda, other than that he still feels passionate about public service. And he remains committed to Burlington, where he grew up, ran a business and raised a family.

"I think giving back to the community is an important thing," he said, adding with a laugh, "It's certainly not for the money." Burlington aldermen serve two-year terms at a salary of \$3,600 a year.

Before calling it quits in 2018, Vos had served in City Hall for 36 years, representing neighborhoods in Burlington's west-side Third District, generally between Milwaukee Avenue and Park Avenue.

His colleagues elected Vos five different times to the leadership position of City Council president. He also served on the plan commission, finance committee, health board and airport commission, among others.

"Tom loves the city," said Bob Miller, who served as mayor from 2000 to 2008. "And he loves doing

what he can to help the city."

Miller recalled working with Vos on improvements to city properties, recruitment of new businesses and public recreation upgrades. Vos always was cost-conscious about city funds, and he never let political considerations get in the way, Miller said.

"If there's one thing Tom is not, it's a political creature," the ex-mayor said. "It's not a matter of conservative or liberal; it's a matter of working for the city."

Vos, who ran a home improvement business in Burlington, was first elected to the City Council in 1982.

His son, Robin, graduated from Burlington High School in 1986, and after college the younger Vos got involved in politics. He worked for a state legislator and a congressman, then got elected to the Racine County Board.

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