

Famous pollster hopes his numbers are right for Town Hall spot

BY BIANCA HALL

HIGH-profile pollster Gary Morgan has entered the battle for Melbourne Town Hall, vowing that if he is elected lord mayor he will do the job for free.

Mr Morgan said refusing the \$143,000 annual salary, plus the car and chauffeur package, would save ratepayers \$1 million over four years. He also promised a more robust relationship with Spring Street, saying it was “unfair and wrong” that GST revenue was directed to the State Government.

Docklands Association president Michele Anderson is Mr Morgan’s deputy lord mayor candidate, and current councillor Peter Clarke is lead councillor candidate.

On Friday, Liberal councillor Catherine Ng announced she would run for lord mayor. She named former council director Terry Makings as her deputy lord mayor candidate and ALP member and current councillor Brian Shanahan as lead councillor candidate.

In 2006, during Mr Makings’ time as city services director, a State Ombudsman’s report raised allegations of incompetence and bullying in Melbourne’s parking and traffic branch.

Both Cr Ng and Mr Morgan will campaign on law and order in the CBD.

On Sunday, Geelong councillor Peter McMullin, a member of the right-wing Labor Unity faction, announced Tim Wilson – director

of the IP and Free Trade Unit of right-wing think tank the Institute of Public Affairs – would be his deputy lord mayor candidate.

Kevin Louey, chief of staff to lord mayor John So for seven years, is Mr McMullin’s lead councillor candidate.

The other declared candidate for lord mayor is the Greens’ Adam Bandt, who will run with Yarra councillor Kathleen Maltzahn for deputy lord mayor and Cathy Oke as lead candidate.

The lord mayor and councillor elections are run separately, with preferences from mayoral teams flowing to their councillor candidates.

If history repeats, the lead councillor candidates on top polling teams will be elected.



GABRIELE CHAROTTE