

Tim Walz

Education: Teacher/Coach

The importance of “public service, generosity toward others, and working for the common good” are all values that Tim Walz’s parents instilled in him from an early age. These values would guide him through his roles as a teacher, U.S. representative, governor, and vice-presidential candidate.

Young Walz

Tim was born in West Point, Nebraska, on April 6, 1964. His dad was a teacher, administrator, and Army veteran, all roles that would later influence Tim’s professional journey. Tim was a member of his high school football, basketball, and track teams, where he continued to learn the importance of working with others to reach common goals. Upon graduation from high school, Tim joined the Army National Guard.

Mr. Walz

In 1989, Tim graduated college with a degree in social studies education and taught for a year in China before returning to Nebraska. He accepted a position teaching and coaching. There, he met Gwen, a fellow teacher. They would marry and move to Minnesota, where Tim became a geography teacher and football coach at Mankato West High School.

Coach Walz

Before Tim joined the school’s football staff, the team had lost 27 games in a row. As a defensive coordinator, he supported the team in making progress. In 1999 they won their first state championship! At this same time students approached Tim and asked him to become the faculty advisor for the school’s first gay-straight alliance. Tim drew on his core values to help create the inclusive student club.

Representative Walz

As a social studies teacher, Tim took a group of his high school students to a political rally, where the event’s security unjustly questioned the students. This negative experience prompted him to volunteer to support political campaigns, attend a weekend

training program to learn how to run for office, and ultimately get elected as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives. He served six terms before setting his sights on running for governor.

Governor Walz

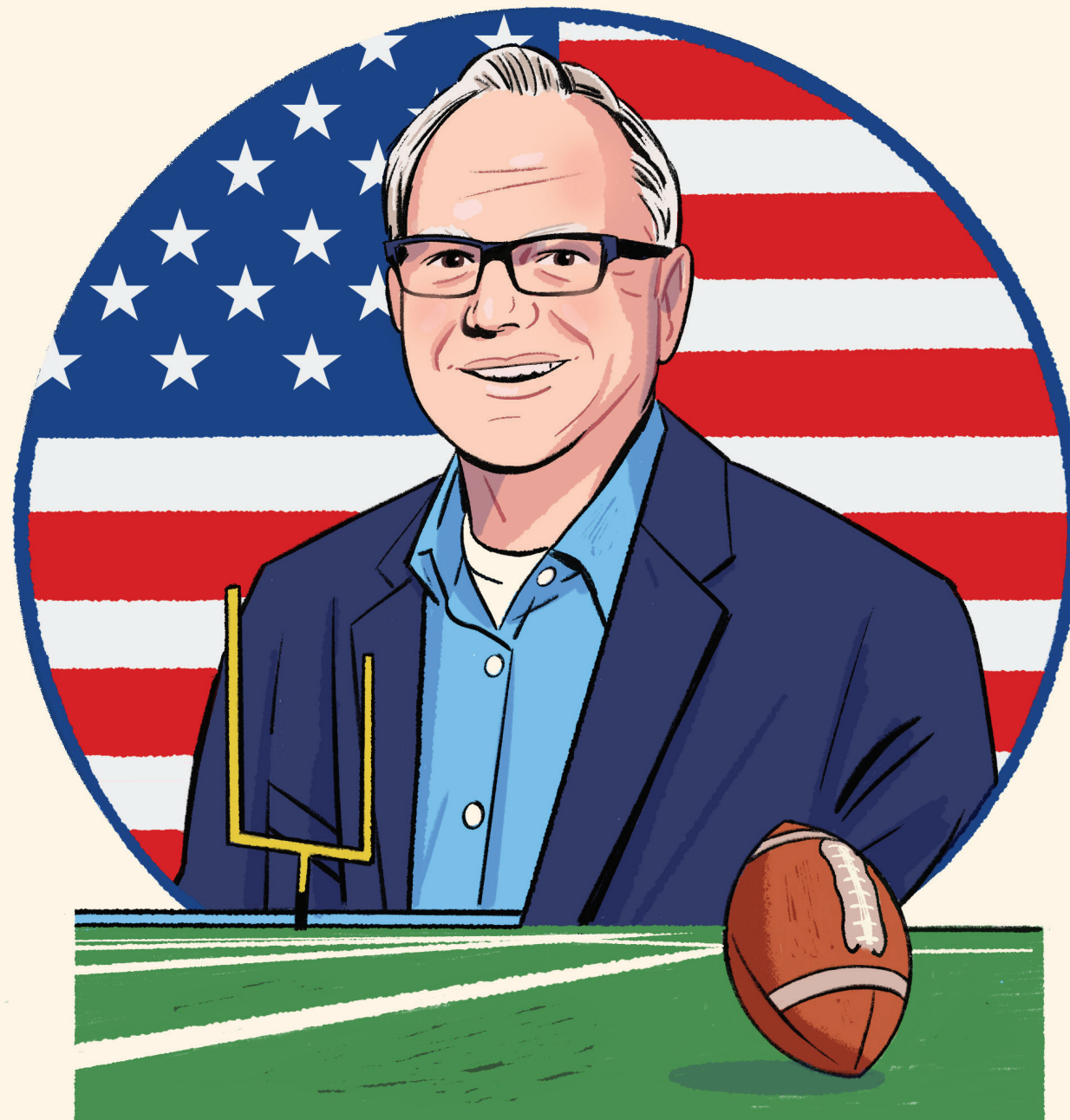
In 2019, Tim was sworn in as governor of Minnesota. During his time in office he relied on his many life experiences, especially his role as a teacher, to guide his work for the state. Always seen as a leader who valued the rights of teachers and students, Tim signed a bill providing free school meals to all students throughout the state regardless of their family’s income.

Vice President Walz?

In 2024, Vice President Kamala Harris was running to become the first woman president of the United States. On August 6, it was announced that she had selected Tim to be her running mate. Tim was a long way from where his story began, but what remained central through his work on the campaign was his dedication to “public service, generosity toward others, and working for the common good.” He showed that a leader could be brave, empathetic, and inclusive.

Go Give It a Try!

Campaign buttons are a popular way of showing your support of a person or a cause. Trace a circle onto thin cardboard and decorate the circle with your message. Cut it out and attach a pin to the back. You can “laminate” your button with clear packing tape on top of your design before you take it out into the world to show others what you support.



Bonus biography from *Yes, Boys Can!* by Jonathan Juravich and Richard V. Reeves.

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