



EDINA - WEST BLOOMINGTON DEMOCRATS

SENATE DISTRICT 41

WWW.SD41.DFL.ORG

UPCOMING EVENTS

Edina-West Bloomington Democrats Central Committee Meetings

Mon., Jan. 14
Room 350

Mon., Feb. 11
Room 351

Mon. March 10
Room 350

All at 7 p.m., Edina
Community Center,
5701 Normandale
Road, Edina

Helping Democrats Get Elected in Your Neighborhood

6:45 p.m.

Tues., Jan. 15

Penn Lake Library,
8800 Penn Ave S.,
Bloomington
or 10:15 a.m.

Sat., Jan. 19
Edina Community
Library,

5280 Grandview
Square, Edina

Contact: Chuck
Prentice at 952-929-
8284

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STATE PRECINCT CAUCUSES MOVED TO NATIONAL "SUPER TUESDAY"

The road to Election Day begins at your precinct caucus Feb. 5, and this year Democrats are excited. Anyone who will be a qualified voter by the next general election on Nov. 4 may participate fully in their precinct's Democratic caucus. (Even people at least 16 years old can participate; they just

can't vote in the presidential preference ballot or for convention delegates.)

In Edina, caucuses will begin at 7 p.m. at Valley View Middle School, 6750 Valley View Road. Caucuses for Bloomington precincts 16 through 19, 21 through 24, 27 and 28 will begin at 7 p.m. at Olson

Middle School, 4551 W. 102nd St. in Bloomington.

For most people, the exciting part of caucuses is having a say in nominating Democratic candidates and selecting party officials. This year, a preference ballot for presidential candidates will take place, and the results will

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MEET OUR GREAT DFL CANDIDATES

Minnesota's candidates for national and state legislative positions have been campaigning for months. Here's a round-up of basic information.

Minnesota House



Kevin Staunton, Edina Planning Commission member and

Excelsior City Attorney, is running for the District 41A House seat. Staunton is a former assistant Minnesota attorney general and now runs his own law firm.



Paul Rosenthal, the endorsed candidate in the 2006 District 41B

House race, is making another run for the seat. He has owned a small business, was vice president of sales and leasing for Cimmaron properties, a commercial brokerage in New York City, and was an intern working on environ-

mental issues with the National Audubon Society. Rosenthal is a partner in a development group, based in St. Paul, formed to save endangered historic buildings.

Citizens for Rosenthal
4721 Hibiscus Ave.
Edina, MN 55435

Website: www.voterrosenthal.org
Phone: 651-271-8131



Mick Spence also has announced his candidacy for the 41B House seat.

For the past eight years, he

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DISTRICT LEADERS

Chair

Bill Melton

Associate Chair

Eileen McAuley

Secretary

Position vacant

Treasurer

Terri Stermer

Affirmative Action

Chuck Prentice

Directors

Donna Carlton

Jill Crafton

David Davison

Joan Kampmeyer

Bill Layton

Tim O'Brien

Gene Persha

Gwen Ruff

Del Smith

Peggy Smith

Russ Stanton

Website

www.sd41.dfl.org

Prepared and paid for by Senate District 41 Democrats

Comments?

Suggestions?

Contact Gwen Ruff, e-mail gweruff@yahoo.com

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P R E C I N C T C A U C U S E S C O N T I N U E D

determine allocation of Minnesota's delegation to the 2008 Democratic National Convention in Denver, Colo. You only get to vote in the presidential preference poll if you show up. Voting will end one hour after the caucus convenes, and you can vote without staying for the rest of the caucus activities if you wish.

DFL officials hope the earlier caucuses will increase grassroots participation, draw new participants into the political process and make Minnesota's caucuses more relevant in a hyperspeed presidential election year.

Volunteers are trained to convene each precinct caucus. After opening formalities, all decisions are made by the participants, who elect a chair to run the meeting. Caucus attendees also elect precinct officers and delegates to the Mar. 15 Edina-West Bloomington Democrats convention.

In addition, caucus participants may discuss and vote on resolutions relating to issues they care about. If supported at the precinct caucus and subsequently at the district convention, these resolutions can become recommendations for Minnesota DFL Party platform planks.

Even if you've never attended a caucus before, there's no need to feel intimidated. Other folks at your caucus will be your Democratic neighbors. Most people enjoy the chance to chat with old friends and to make a few new ones. Check our website, www.sd41.dfl.org for more details.

District Convention

People elected as delegates or alternates at precinct caucuses attend the March 15 district convention. Those delegates will make several very important decisions. Among other things they will:

- Elect officers and directors to run the Edina-West Bloomington (Senate District 41) Democrats group
- Endorse candidates for Minnesota Senate and House Districts 41A and 41B
- Elect delegates to the Third Congressional District

convention, which will endorse a candidate for U.S. Congress, and to the state convention, which will endorse a candidate for U.S. Senate and select delegates to the Democratic national convention.

Resolutions on issues also can be introduced and discussed.

The district convention will be at Valley View Middle School, 6750 Valley View Road, in Edina. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m., with a call to order at 9 a.m.

Even if you're not elected a district convention delegate, we'll need lots of volunteers to serve on committees, put up signs, run the registration table, serve lunch and clean up. If you're interested in helping out, please contact us through our website at www.sd41.dfl.org.

“SUPER TUESDAY” CAUCUSES
7 p.m., Feb. 5
All Edina precincts
 Valley View Middle School
 6750 Valley View Road, Edina

Bloomington precincts 16 through 19,
21 through 24, 27 and 28
 Olson Middle School
 4551 W. 102nd St., Bloomington

We need lots of volunteers to make caucus night a success. If you'd like to help out, call Chuck Prentice at 952-929-8284.

CANDIDATES CONTINUED

has been with the Spence Law Firm, which handles entertainment law, intellectual property, business and personal legal issues. Before that he started a consulting business advising companies and individuals in non-legal and entertainment industry, internet, media and business matters. He was a trial attorney and investigator with Meshbeshner and Spence from 1993 through 1999.

Supporters for Spence
5013 Arden Ave.
Edina, MN 55424

Website: www.
SpenceMakesSense.org
Phone: 952-944-3938

Third Congressional District



Terri Bonoff grew up in Edina. She has worked in several marketing

and other corporate positions, was president of the Hopkins Legislative Action Coalition and served on the Minnetonka Planning Commission. She won a 2005 special election to fill an open House seat, then won the 2006 general election, becoming the first Democrat to win a seat in her Minnetonka, Plymouth and Medicine Lake district in 20

years. Bonoff serves on several education committees and is vice chair of the Finance Transportation Budget and Policy Division committee and co-chair of the Business, Industry and Jobs Committee.

Bonoff for Congress
P.O. Box 668
Wayzata, MN 55391-9998

Phone: 952- 607-6368
Web site: www.
terribonoff.com



Jim Hovland has been an attorney for more than 30 years, with a specialization in health issues,

particularly women's health care. He has been Edina's mayor for the past three years and was on the Edina City Council for about seven years before that. He has held leadership positions in the I-494 Corridor Commission and the Regional Council of Mayors. As an advocate of sensible investment in transportation infrastructure, he is a critic of the Pawlenty administration's neglect in this area.

Jim Hovland
for U.S. Congress
P.O. Box 385727
Bloomington, MN 55438

Website: www.
jimhovland.com



Ashwin Madia's parents immigrated from India, and the family settled in Plymouth. While attending New York University Law School, he represented unemployed people in hearings to obtain benefits and provided volunteer legal services for an organization that helped developmentally disabled children. Madia then joined the U.S. Marine Corps and served in Iraq from September 2005 to March 2006. While stationed in Baghdad, he worked with U.S. military and civilian officials, European Union and U.N. representatives and Iraqi judicial officers to strengthen the Iraqi criminal justice system. After returning to Minnesota, he worked as an attorney in private practice, specializing in the area of intellectual property and as an advocate for victims of political oppression overseas.

Ashwin Madia for Congress
P.O. Box 2459
Maple Grove, MN 55311

Web site: www.
madiaforcongress.com
Phone: 612-250-3378

OFF THE BOOKSHELF

Conscience of a Liberal
By Paul Krugman

The *New York Times* columnist uses historical information to show how what he calls "movement conservatism" has steadily eroded New Deal achievements that built America's middle class. "The lion's share of economic growth in America over the past thirty years has gone to a small, wealthy minority, to such an extent that it's unclear whether the typical family has benefited at all from technological progress and the rising productivity it brings." Such income inequality has "real, negative consequence for the way people live in this country." Middle-class families buy houses they can't afford because they want to live in communities with good schools for their kids. Children unlucky enough to live in low-income families often have health problems that stunt their life chances. Krugman contends that such inequality does more than hold down the purchasing power of most families; it corrupts politics and strains the bonds that hold society together. He suggests a new New Deal in which guaranteed health care is the key domestic priority.

CANDIDATES CONTINUED

U.S. Senate

**Mike Ciresi**

may be best known for filing suit against the entire U.S.

tobacco industry on behalf of the State of Minnesota and Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota. At the time, the tobacco industry hadn't lost a case in more than 40 years of litigation. Ongoing settlement payments to the state treasury originally were intended and did fund many public health initiatives, but recently payments have been used to make up for a large percentage of the state's budget deficits. A graduate of the University of Minnesota Law School, Ciresi is one of the few attorneys to be recognized twice in the *National Law Journal's* annual list of top 10 national trial lawyers. The *Journal* also has named him one of the 100 Most Influential Lawyers in America several times. He has been given the Minnesota Trial Lawyers Association Lifetime Achievement Award and the Trial Lawyers for Public Justice's Trial Lawyer of the Year Award.

Website: www.ciresiforsenate.com
Phone: 651-695-8888

**Jim Cohen**

began working in public interest law following graduation

from the University of Michigan law school and a few years as a trial attorney with a Washington, D.C. firm. As a deputy assistant director of the Federal Trade Commission's Bureau of Consumer Protection, he created rules against false advertising of foods and deceptive marketing of medical devices to the elderly and disabled. He then started the D.C. office of the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund, a national public interest environmental law firm. He also created the Environmental Task Force, a national organization that helped local citizen groups fight to protect the environment in their communities. After moving to Minneapolis in 1994, Cohen continued public interest advocacy as counsel to American Indians and federally recognized tribes in Minnesota and other states. He is a founding member of the Will Steger Foundation to combat global warming and a board member of a charter school designed for students interested in civic leadership and community organizing.

Jim Cohen for U.S. Senate
P.O. Box 7056
Minneapolis, MN 55407

Web site: www.jimcohenforsenate.com
or <http://jimcohen.org>
Phone: 612-874-0602

**Al Franken**

moved with his family to Albert Lea when he was four.

When his father's quilting factory went under, the family moved to St. Louis Park. Over 20 years as a writer for "Saturday Night Live,:" Franken won five Emmy awards. He was named a fellow at Harvard's Shorenstein Center on Press, Politics and Public Policy in 2003. One year later, Franken became one of the first hosts at a new progressive talk radio network, Air America Radio. Aired live, three hours a day, five days a week, Franken's show featured experts in domestic and foreign policy, national and world leaders and issues ranging from the cost of prescription drugs to the Bush administration's misuse of scientific research. Franken soon was ranked among the most influential radio talkers in the country. He moved back to Minnesota after his youngest child went to college.

Al Franken for Senate
P.O. Box 583144
Minneapolis, MN 55458-3144

Web site: www.alfranken.com
Phone: 612-344-2008

**Jack Nelson-Pallmeyer**

has taught justice and peace stud-

ies at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul since 1992. He has a master of divinity degree and turned his master's thesis into his first book, *Hunger for Justice: The Politics of Food and Faith*. He was national program director of the Politics of Food Program with the interfaith organization Clergy and Laity Concerned. He returned to Minnesota and worked on hunger issues for the American Lutheran Church and Lutheran Church of America for several years. He also has traveled to Chile, Ethiopia, Sri Lanka and the Middle East and spent significant time in Nicaragua during the turbulent 1980s.

Jack Nelson-Pallmeyer for Senate
P.O. Box 8416
Minneapolis, MN 55408

Web site: www.jackforsenate.org
Phone: 612-216-1186

**INSIGHT ON ISSUES:
DEMOCRATS FACE TOUGH SESSION**

Minnesotans have had a run of discouraging economic news.

- The I-35 bridge collapsed in August, killing 13 and calling attention to the state's neglect of infrastructure investment in recent years.

- Falling home prices and sharply rising foreclosures have plagued Minnesota, with some neighborhoods especially hard hit.

- Minnesota employment has been stagnant for about a year and a half, and recently its unemployment rate has matched or exceeded the U.S. rate—a shocking departure from previous decades when the state rate routinely tracked well below the national rate.

- At the end of November, the State of Minnesota's official budget forecast pointed to a significant revenue shortfall in fiscal year 2009, which starts July 1, and a much larger shortfall in the subsequent biennium.

Despite the seriousness of these developments, it's probably going to be quite difficult for the Democratic Legislature to make meaningful progress this year. Democrats lack a veto-proof majority, and Gov. Tim Pawlenty and most Repub-

lican legislators remain as obstructionist as ever.

Even the collapse of a major bridge couldn't persuade the governor to abandon his opposition to raising the gas tax to fund the state's transportation infrastructure properly. Similarly, he has stood by his discredited transportation commissioner, Lt. Gov. Carol Molnau.

Incremental progress is possible. The Senate is expected to hold confirmation hearings for Molnau. She doesn't have a snow ball's chance of regaining the public's trust, much less the trust of senators. She almost certainly will go, either through losing a formal vote or resigning. Unfortunately ousting Molnau from the Transportation Department won't provide the money to repair Minnesota's aging bridges and highways.

In other areas progress is possible, but it's going to be tough. A large part of the projected budget deficit for the next fiscal year could be eliminated by closing a loophole in the tax code allowing special treatment for corporations that shift profits to foreign subsidiaries. Even Pawlenty has agreed this should be done, but he turned down Democrats' suggestion that the problem be

addressed in a special session.

No doubt Pawlenty will blivate about cutting spending for education, health care, and other programs. However most Minnesotans strongly support these initiatives, and Republicans lack the votes to cut them significantly.

Similarly, Republicans can be expected to promote bills dealing with their socially divisive "wedge issues." These will be duly referred to committees, from which they will never emerge.

One thing will be working in Minnesotans' favor—the calendar. Pawlenty and Republicans will want to wrap up the Legislature's business well in advance of the Republican National Convention in St. Paul over the Labor Day weekend. (What were they thinking when they picked that date?) So the upcoming Legislative session will be tough—but not endless.

Minnesotans don't want obstructionism. We can make progress in November's elections, but the key test will come in 2010 when Democrats will have a chance to elect a governor who wants to get Minnesota moving again.

Bill Melton

**UPCOMING
EVENTS**

Third Congressional District Candidates Forum

2 p.m.
Sun., Jan. 27
Bloomington City Council Chambers, Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington

Precinct Caucuses

7 p.m.
Tues., Feb. 5
Edina precincts
Valley View Middle School, 6750 Valley View Road, Edina

Bloomington precincts 16-19, 21-24, 27 and 28
Olson Middle School 4551 W. 102nd St., Bloomington

Edina-West Bloomington District Convention

8:30 a.m.
Sat., Mar. 15
Valley View Middle School, 6750 Valley View Road, Edina

Edina-West Bloomington Democrats Links

7 p.m.
Fourth Tuesday of each month
Davanni's, 5124 Gus Young Lane, Edina

ANOTHER CAUCUS REMINDER

**“Super Tuesday”
7 p.m., Feb. 5**

**Edina caucuses
Valley View Middle School, 6750 Valley View Road.**

**Bloomington precincts
16 through 19,
21 through 24,
27 and 28
Olson Middle School, 4551 W. 102nd St.**

Anyone who will be a qualified voter by the next general election on Nov. 4 may participate fully in their precinct’s Democratic caucus. (Even people at least 16 years old can participate; they just can’t vote in the presidential preference ballot or for convention delegates.)

Check our website for more information: www.sd41.dfl.org

NOTES FROM THE DISTRICT CHAIRS

This joint is jumpin!

On Nov. 8 we had the “office warming” for our new, permanent office in Room 320 of the Edina Community Center. Senate Assistant Majority Leader Tarryl Clark, House Assistant Majority Leader Steve Simon and Minnesota DFL Party Chair Brian Melendez, as well as our local Democratic candidates, joined the celebration. A fine old time was had by all. We’re still fixing up the office, but it will be all set to go early in 2008—just in time for what promises to be a crucial year for America and Minnesota.

Speaking of our candidates, we have a lot to be proud of. Our candidates for Minnesota House seats are simply outstanding, and they’re running hard. In District 41A, Kevin Staunton is going full blast. In District 41B we have two fine candidates—Paul Rosenthal and Mick Spence—work-

ing for the endorsement. Not even the old-timers can recall when we’ve had such excellent candidates enter the races so early. This is a portent of good things to come in 2008!

As if that weren’t enough to keep us charged up, three very impressive candidates are competing for the Democratic endorsement for U.S. Congress in the Third District. To put it mildly, we haven’t seen anything like this in a long, long time. They are State Sen. Terri Bonoff, Edina Mayor Jim Hovland and attorney Ashwin Madia. They’re running active campaigns focused on issues people really care about. Their vibrant energy is a big plus for all Democrats.

We can’t mention our congressional candidates without telling you Edina-West Bloomington Democrats will be sponsoring a debate among the Third Congres-

sional District candidates at 2 p.m. Jan. 27. The location will be the Bloomington City Council Chambers in the Bloomington Civic Plaza at 1800 West Old Shakopee Road. So put down your snow shovels and plan to attend.

Last but absolutely not least, caucus night is right around the corner on “Super Tuesday,” also known as “Tsunami Tuesday,” Feb. 5. This is the essential first step in your participation in the campaigns this year. Check out the front-page article, which has all of the details. You really do need to be there, and “you” doesn’t mean just the old folks. The Minnesota DFL Party encourages people as young as 16 years old to come out and participate. Hey, it’s their country, too! So, see “you” all at the caucuses.

*Bill Melton, Chair
Eileen McAwley, Associate Chair*

PRESENTATIONS WILL OFFER TIPS ON GETTING DEMOCRATS ELECTED

Edina-West Bloomington Democratic activist Chuck Prentice will conduct two sessions offering practical tips and easy-to-do suggestions—like helping with phone-calling trees or delivering candidates’ lawn signs—for increasing Democratic voter turnout in your neighborhood. Prentice will offer the same basic information at each session, but you’re welcome to attend both.

**6:45 to 7:45 p.m., Jan. 15
Penn Lake Library, 8800 Penn Ave S.,
Bloomington**

**10:15 to 11:30 a.m., Jan. 19
Edina Community Library, 5280 Grandview Square, Edina**
Contact Prentice at 952-929-8284 for more information.

CONTRIBUTE NOW AND HELP US ELECT VETO-PROOF DEMOCRATIC MAJORITIES

Our job is to elect Democrats, and we've got no time to lose. Consider these recent reports about the state Minnesota finds itself in:

■ Minnesota mayors say tax relief is needed to offset double-digit levy increases expected for 300 cities, including hikes greater than 20 percent in 122 cities. Mayors say they've fallen behind on police patrols, road maintenance and meeting other costs in part because of reductions in state aid.

■ According to the 2007 Department of Revenue Tax Incidence Study, the bottom 10 percent of Minnesota income earners pay, on average, 2.73 percent of their incomes on property taxes to support local government

and schools. The top 10 percent of income earners support these services with only 0.41 of a percent of their incomes.

■ KARE-TV reports that the Minnesota Department of Transportation says current funding projections show it will be \$23 billion shy of what is needed to hit performance goals in Minnesota over the next 23 years.

The Republican "do-nothing" approach has failed to make any real progress on these issues and many more. Democrats have to get a veto-proof majority in both houses of the Minnesota Legislature. **Let's do our part in Edina and West Bloomington** by sending Democrats to the Minnesota Legislature to pro-

vide real leadership and practical solutions. Our community deserves better than conservative Republican loyalists who talk the moderate talk while walking the far-right line.

By making this your first political contribution of 2008, you'll receive a refund—up to \$50 per individual or \$100 per couple—paid directly to you from the state's Political Contribution Refund program. Republicans in Edina and West Bloomington who donated money to their political party or candidates received more than twice the amount of refunds through this program than local Democrats did. Why aren't we tapping this precious resource to the maximum benefit of Democrats in

Edina and West Bloomington?

It's so easy to do. Simply fill out the form below and mail it along with your check. You'll receive a receipt and a one-page form to mail in for your refund. Refunds usually arrive in six to eight weeks.

We'll put your money to good use—most importantly by providing financial support to our great legislative candidates in the upcoming campaigns. So please write a check and send it today with the form below.

We're counting on you.

Any questions? Contact Bill Layton at 952-922-2597 or via e-mail at BillLayton@comcast.net.

Senate District 41 Democrats Contribution Form

Electing Democrats is important! I'm enclosing my (our) check, payable to Senate District 41 Democrats.

\$150 _____ \$100 _____ \$50 _____ Other _____ Please mail my (our) receipt to the address below.

Name _____ E-mail address _____

Phone numbers (h) _____ (w) _____ (cell) _____

Name _____ E-mail address _____

Phone numbers (h) _____ (w) _____ (cell) _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zipcode _____

Mail to: Terri Stermer, Treasurer, Senate District 41 Democrats, P.O. Box 24073, Edina, MN 55424-0073



**Edina-West Bloomington
Democrats**

P. O. Box 24073

Edina, MN 55424-0073

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**Third Congressional District
DFL Candidates Forum
2 p.m., Sun., Jan 27**

*Bloomington City Council Chambers
Bloomington Civic Plaza
1800 W. Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington*

*Candidates Terri Bonoff, Jim Hovland
and Ashwin Madia will discuss issues
important to you!*

*Sponsored by Edina-West Bloomington Democrats
For more information, check our website:
www.sd41.dfl.org*