



SOUND & CLEAR

SENATE DISTRICT 41 DEMOCRATS WWW.SD41.DFL.ORG

UPCOMING EVENTS

Edina League of Women Voters candidate forums

Tues., Oct. 17
7 to 8 p.m.
District 41A candidates
8:30 to 9:30 p.m.
District 41B candidates

Tues., Oct 24
7 to 8 p.m.
Edina City Council candidates

Mon., Oct. 30
7 to 8 p.m.
District 41 State Senate candidates
All forums in Room 349, Edina Community Center, 5701 Normandale Road

SD 41 Democrats Links (Meetups)

Tues., Oct. 24; 7 p.m.
Davanni's, 5124 Gus Young Lane, Edina

Election Night Victory Party

Tues., Nov. 7; 7:30 p.m.
Highland Room, Majors Sports Cafe, 8301 Normandale Blvd., Bloomington

OUR CANDIDATES TALK ISSUES

Education, health care and transportation are three issues that are important to Minnesota voters. *Sound & Clear* asked Senate District 41 legislative candidates to talk about their positions.

What is the most important challenge facing education, and how can the Legislature help?

Jeffrey Rich, House District 41A candidate:

While our schools remain among the highest ranked in the country, the per pupil allocation has been frozen at \$4,601 for the last three years. We finally saw an increase in K-12 education spending this last legislative session. Clearly,



JEFFREY RICH,
HOUSE DISTRICT
41A CANDIDATE

education has not been a priority for the Legislature and many feel the only reason for an increase this last session was because we're heading into an election year. Our schools need to climb the national rankings instead of



PAUL ROSENTHAL,
HOUSE DISTRICT
41B CANDIDATE

slip. The way to do this is to set the goal of making Minnesota public schools number one in the country. Funding for education from early childhood to K-12 to higher education needs to be the highest spending priority. As a legisla-

continued on page 2

BORENE LEAVES SENATE RACE

Andrew Borene ended his District 41 State Senate candidacy in September to address an addiction to alcohol. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family.

However, we're terribly disappointed about what this has done to a race many Edina and West Bloomington Democrats believed was winnable. Our incumbent senator is out

of step with the district due to his past alignment with extreme right-wing groups such as the Taxpayers League. His votes just don't jibe with his "I'm a moderate" talk.

By state law, Borene's name must remain on the ballot, and we are unable to place any other names on the ballot. If he were to win and

chose not to serve, a special election would be held. Senate District 41 Democrats recommend that local Democrats vote their consciences in this race.

We've got two other great candidates. So, to stay focused on competitive races, we won't be actively campaigning in the Senate race.

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Comments?**Suggestions?**

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

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I S S U E S C O N T I N U E D

tor, I will put education first and make sure the needs of our schools and educators are met.

Paul Rosenthal, House District 41B candidate:

Education is my top priority. Gov. Pawlenty and Republican legislators have gutted aid to local government. School districts have been hit hard by these cuts. We must restore funds and foster development of leading early childhood education programs. Any state mandate must be fully funded, so that money appropriated for classroom use gets spent in the classroom.

I would encourage the federal government to fund its 40 percent commitment to special education and other programs. The one-size-fits-all No Child Left Behind program imposes extra costs and time commitments on school administrators and teachers. This isn't a good use of resources and should be abolished.

Public education at all levels should be adequately funded to hold down class sizes, new technologies should be employed to keep schools clean, modern and safe, all parents should have the option of full-day kindergarten and early childhood education programs should be strengthened and expanded.

Teacher quality can be improved through professional development loans and increased aid to schools and by rewarding educational professionals who achieve superior results.

What should the Legislature be doing about health care?

Rich: Health care is an extremely complex issue, and there are clearly no easy answers. The federal government has no ability to address the health care question in the near future. Apparently our leadership feels invading sovereign nations who pose no immediate threat to us is more important than making sure all our citizens have basic health care.

In my opinion, this leaves the issue to the states. Minnesota needs to develop a vision and a strategy for creating a sustainable health care system that ensures every Minnesotan has coverage. The expense side of health care needs to be addressed just as obviously as the funding side of the equation. We need accountability for health care costs. Pricing needs to be standardized and made competitive like every other consumer product in our society.

Funding needs to be shared equally across public, private and consumer sectors. If we approach health care with this philosophy, we can develop a plan that provides the highest level of care delivery while allowing businesses to expand by reducing their responsibility for primary funding.

There's no question the state will need to fund a portion of this approach. While I think re-prioritizing our current expenditures to include funding for health care will get us part of the way, a program of this type may very well require a new tax structure.

Rosenthal: I believe health care is a right, not a privilege. Our current system is broken. Not only are great numbers of people uninsured, but individuals and businesses pay too much for coverage. This forces the uninsured to seek "free" health care in our emergency rooms and drives costs up further for all of us.

We need to explore the savings and convenience promised by single-payer "universal" health care, saving all patients administrative overhead costs while maintaining their personal physician relationships. We should encourage sharing medical data to improve patient care and

ISSUES CONTINUED

lower expenses and promote programs that reward excellent patient care.

What can be done to improve Minnesota's transportation policy?

Rich: Having lived a portion of my life in New York City and having been a strap-hanger riding subways to work, I'm a big believer in public transportation. It's good for the environment and will relieve traffic congestion. We need to devote funding to expand light rail and that commitment needs

to be long term.

Fully funding education and developing a health care program will undoubtedly make immediate and large-scale expansion of light rail difficult. This doesn't mean we don't address expansion, but results may be slower than many wish.

I suspect federal funding will increase in the coming years as the Democratic agenda regains leadership in Washington. Transportation and pollution reduction will once again become federal

priorities. All levels of government Minnesota need to aggressively pursue federal assistance.

Rosenthal: Transportation issues need urgent attention. Most of us spend too much time in traffic. This lost time affects our families and our businesses. We must commit to long-term investment in our transportation infrastructure, roads, buses, light rail and bike paths. This investment will pay off in retaining existing employers and attracting new employers.

LUGER WOULD TARGET GANGS

Edina resident **Andy Luger** says one of his priorities as Hennepin County attorney would be to dismantle the gangs in Minneapolis and the surrounding suburbs. A county witness protection program would give prosecutors



ANDY LUGER, DFL-ENDORSED CANDIDATE FOR HENNEPIN COUNTY ATTORNEY

new tools needed to fight gang violence in the courtroom. No county-wide witness protection program currently exists and that undermines the county attorney's ability to prosecute gang-related cases. Protections are needed for witnesses who are intimidated or threatened, as their testimonies are often the crucial evidence that leads to conviction, according to Luger.

He also would target repeat offenders, aggressively prosecute domestic abuse and white collar crime and investigate and prosecute crimes against vulnerable adults. Luger has vowed to take a leadership role in creating an innovative and effective pris-

oner re-entry program in Hennepin County to reduce recidivism.

Luger says he has handled some of the most complex and interesting cases at two U.S. attorneys offices, from dismantling violent crime units to prosecuting complex white collar crimes. He is the DFL-endorsed candidate for Hennepin County attorney.

"Our county is diverse in people and its problems," Luger says. "But regardless of where we live, we all want the same thing: safe neighborhoods and safe homes for our children and our families."

He and his wife, Ellen, have two teen-age children.

OFF THE BOOKSHELF

Conservatives Without Conscience
By John Dean

Dean began discussing today's conservatives with Sen. Barry Goldwater after an early '90s run-in with former Watergate colleagues over a book defaming Dean and his wife. They planned to write a book together, but the senator died, and Dean completed the project alone. His book isn't a laundry list of what he sees wrong with the Bush administration and today's conservative Republican rule, however. "My effort, fundamentally, is to understand them," Dean writes. After extensive research, Dean concluded "Conservatism has been co-opted by authoritarians, a most dangerous type of political animal." And one he was plenty familiar with from his Watergate days. (Think G. Gordon Liddy.) "Authoritarianism now constitutes the prevailing thinking and behavior among conservatives. Regrettably, empirical studies reveal that authoritarians are frequently enemies of freedom, anti-democratic, anti-equality, highly prejudiced, mean-spirited, power hungry, Machiavellian and amoral." Dean uses 50 years of scientific study and current examples to bolster his case.

INSIGHT ON ISSUES: JOB GROWTH IS NOTHING TO BRAG ABOUT

During almost all of Gov. Tim Pawlenty's time in office, Minnesota's job growth rate has trailed even the feeble U.S. employment growth rate.

A few weeks ago Gov. Tim Pawlenty was quoted in the *Star-Tribune* bragging about the rapid growth of Minnesota jobs. "This is an extraordinarily positive development," he crowed. "Obviously we're on a really good clip." It also was pointed out that in July, Minnesota accounted for a tenth of nationwide jobs growth. Such boosterism calls to mind Mark Twain's famous warning about statistics: "Figures don't lie, but liars can figure!"

The truth: During almost all of Pawlenty's time in office, Minnesota's job growth rate has trailed even the feeble U.S. employment growth rate. Only recently has the trajectory of Minnesota jobs moved back in line with that of U.S. jobs, which is nothing to brag about. That 10 percent figure for July has already been revised down, and Minnesota employment shrank in August. Job growth for the two months together was in line with Minnesota's share of U.S. employment.

National job growth has been extraordinarily weak during President Bush's time in office. If the economy had merely performed in line with the average growth of jobs during previous eco-

nomic expansions, the United States would have created over 10 million more jobs than it has. Instead, under government policies that have consistently favored upper-income tax breaks over effective economic stimulus, job growth has been abysmal.

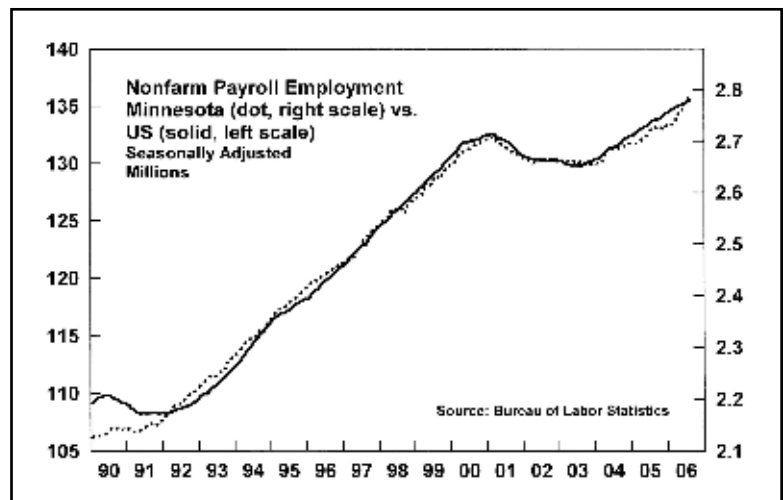
As the chart shows, Minnesota job growth has been very closely linked to U.S. job growth. This is because the national business climate and economic policies are the main drivers of state economies. So it's inconceivable Minnesota could avoid being affected.

A large portion of the recent improvement is due to gains in government jobs. In July, the month Pawlenty bragged about, almost half of the gain in state employment came in government jobs. To restore critical services, many local governments have been forced to compensate for the

Pawlenty-driven cuts to Local Government Aid with property-tax hikes. In addition, during the last session, the Legislature refused to go along with Pawlenty's miserly proposal for school funding, and the increase finally enacted probably has allowed many school districts to boost hiring. These are probably the main factors behind the recent uptick in government jobs in Minnesota. Given Pawlenty's cuts to Local Government Aid and to education funding, it's the height of hypocrisy for him to brag about this.

Whatever the case, the blunt fact is that in Minnesota, as in the nation, job growth has been extremely weak. Far from being on "a really good clip," this economy just doesn't deliver for many people who need good jobs.

Bill Melton



NOTES FROM OUR DISTRICT LEADERS

We've said it before, and we'll say it again. This is shaping up to be a year of extraordinary opportunity for Democrats!

You can see it in the rock-bottom approval ratings Americans give President Bush, Vice President Cheney and the Republican-dominated Congress. You can see it in the comic efforts of Republican candidates to distance themselves from an unpopular president whom they followed slavishly until just a few weeks ago. You can see it in the colorful Democratic lawn signs and bumper stickers that have popped up everywhere. Most important of all, you can see it in your friends and neighbors. Whatever their political

affiliations may have been in the past, increasingly they now have "had enough." They want their nation and state to get back on track.

The pace of political campaigning has really ramped up since Labor Day, as we enter the home stretch to election day. We need your help more than ever. We want you to do three things.

1. Volunteer. We have outstanding legislative candidates, and they need your help. Anything—absolutely anything—you can do will be important. You'll feel good about doing your part to turn our nation and state around. For details on how to volunteer, just have a look at page six. Then get in

contact and lend a hand. You'll be glad you did.

2. Contribute. To the Democratic candidates. To Senate District 41 Democrats. Contributions from people like you are our only source of funds. To assure victory in November, we need every dollar we can get. Please be as generous as you can.

Keep in mind that the first \$50 contribution you make (or \$100 for a couple) entitles you to a dollar-for-dollar refund from the State of Minnesota through the Political Campaign Refund Program. Your refund check will come to you directly from the state, usually within six to eight weeks.

3. Join us November 7. After you've done your duty and voted, after you've helped out in whatever way you could with the campaigns, after you've contributed what you could afford, we want you at an Election Night Victory Party! We'll get started at 7:30 p.m. in the Highland Room of Majors Sports Cafe at 8301 Normandale Blvd. in Bloomington. (It's just north of the Holiday gas station.) We'll stay as long as it takes to watch the results come in. Come on out and enjoy a long overdue happy time with your Democratic friends and neighbors!

Bill Melton, Chair
Eileen McAwley, Associate Chair

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 _____

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

Senate District 41 Democrats

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HELP TURN SD 41 TRUE BLUE

Democratic momentum continues to build. Be a part of it. Our candidates need your help during the final campaign push to election day. There are plenty of things to do—everything from simply hosting a lawn sign to knocking on doors to making phone calls. Democrats have a tremendous opportunity in Edina and West Bloomington. We can feel it, and poll numbers back us up. Help make history by turning **Senate District 41 true blue.**

Jeff Rich, House District 41A candidate

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Paul Rosenthal, House District 41B candidate

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Andy Luger, DFL-endorsed Hennepin County Attorney candidate

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