



# SOUND & CLEAR

SENATE DISTRICT 41 DEMOCRATS WWW.SD41.DFL.ORG

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### SD 41 Democrats Meetups

7 to 9 p.m.  
Tues., Sept. 13  
and Tues., Oct. 11  
Davanni's, 5124 Gus  
Young Lane, Edina

### U.S. Senate Candidates Forum and Reception

3 p.m.  
Sun., Sept. 18  
Valley View Middle  
School Auditorium,  
6750 Valley View  
Road, Edina  
Free and open to the  
public. Doors open at  
2 p.m. Parking is on  
the east and west  
sides of the building.  
Enter through Door  
16 on the south side  
of the building.

### SD 41 Democrats Monthly Meetings

7 to 8:30 p.m.  
Mon., Sept. 26  
and Mon., Oct. 24  
Southdale Public  
Library, Helen Young  
Room, 7001 York  
Ave. S., Edina

## SENATE CANDIDATES FORUM SET

Senate District 41 Democrats are sponsoring a forum featuring Democratic candidates for U.S. Senate at Edina's Valley View Middle School on Sun., Sept. 18.

Candidates Ford Bell, Kelly Doran, Amy Klobuchar and Patty Wetterling will speak, then answer audience questions. Carol Frisch, former president of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota, will moderate.

"Senate District 41 feels it is important for voters to hear directly from candidates on the issues, so people can make informed decisions

about whom to support in terms of financial contributions and volunteer time," said Joan Kampmeyer, one of the forum's organizers.

Doors will open at 2 p.m., and the forum will begin at 3 p.m. Participants can meet the candidates at a reception, just outside the auditorium, following the forum. Refreshments will be on sale.

The following Democratic candidates for the U.S. Senate seat to be vacated by Mark Dayton will attend the forum:

#### Ford Bell

Bell has been president of the Minneapolis Heart Institute

Foundation for the past 10 years. The grandson of one of General Mills founders, Bell is active in his family's James Ford Bell Foundation. He chairs the Minneapolis Institute of Arts board and has served on the boards of numerous community and charitable organizations, including the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches and Community Health Charities. A veterinarian by training, Bell is an elder of Westminster Presbyterian Church in Minneapolis.

#### Kelly Doran

Doran is president of Robert

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## STATE VOTERS WANT COMPROMISE

The 2005 legislative session wasn't Minnesota's finest hour.

Why? Elected officials didn't listen to voters. Last November, 14 Democrats replaced 14 Republicans in the Minnesota House. Nine of those 14 Democrats came from districts that voted to re-elect George Bush. We won in places like Champlin, Minnetonka and Rochester

with effective candidates who brought experience in business, nursing and local government. Democrats also won the popular, statewide aggregate vote but fell one district short of a 67-67 House tie. Today, Republicans have only a one-seat majority.

Rather than hear the voters' clear message for compromise and consensus, Speaker Steve Sviggum's House ma-



HOUSE DFL  
LEADER MATT  
ENTENZA

*continued on page 2*

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Website

[www.sd41.dfl.org](http://www.sd41.dfl.org)**SOUND & CLEAR**

Prepared and paid for by Senate District 41 Democrats

**Comments?**

Contact Gwen Ruff,  
e-mail [gweruff@yahoo.com](mailto:gweruff@yahoo.com)

**Cooperative Printing Association**

## C A N D I D A T E S F O R U M C O N T I N U E D

Muir Company, a Minnesota commercial real estate builder. He is the first state builder to enter into a multi-year union labor agreement with the Minnesota Building and Construction Trades Council. He is a past president and a current board member of the Caring Tree organization, a member of the International Council of Shopping Centers and the Minnesota Shopping Center Association, having served as president and as a board member.

**Amy Klobuchar**

Klobuchar has been Hennepin County Attorney since 1998. After graduating from law school, Klobuchar returned to

Minnesota to practice law and worked closely with former Vice President Walter Mondale. She became a partner at the law firms of Dorsey & Whitney and Gray Plant Mooty and has served in leadership positions with a variety of community organizations such as Big Brothers, Big Sisters, Campfire and PACER.

**Patty Wetterling**

Wetterling is a secondary school math teacher by training. She has worked as a child safety advocate since being thrust into the public spotlight after her son, Jacob, was kidnapped in 1989. She worked to pass the Jacob Wetterling Crimes Against Children Sex Offender

Registration Act on a state level, as well as nationally. She helped initiate the community notification act known as Megan's Law and the statewide launch of the Amber Alert Plan in Minnesota. She presents victim impact sessions at law enforcement training programs and consults with other programs across the country.

Valley View Middle School is located at 6750 Valley View Road in Edina. Parking is on the east and west sides of the building. Entry is through Door 16 on the south side of the building. Check [www.sd41.dfl.org](http://www.sd41.dfl.org) for more information.

## L E G I S L A T U R E C O N T I N U E D

majority pretended as though nothing had changed. The House DFL Caucus was harshly relegated to a limited role.

This present crisis has three underlying causes. First, the issues important to Minnesota voters—education, transportation and health care—frequently were sacrificed to House Republicans' divisive social agenda. Over the past three years, far too much time has been focused on national, right-wing issues. If the trend continues, Minnesota will soon be debating flag burning and creation-

ism, at the expense of far more pressing issues.

Second, Gov. Tim Pawlenty and House Republicans need to accept voters' insistence on collaboration and compromise. The governor should have realized it was time to reach out, get things done and stop issuing ultimatums. He didn't.

Finally, the legislative process itself needs to be reformed. Legislative committee assignments, budgets and staffing should reflect voters' preferences. Despite

the DFL caucuses' massive electoral gains, House Republicans used their one-vote advantage to impose lopsided Republican-committee majorities. Back in January, Democrats warned this bullying would lead to a polarized, partisan outcome. It has.

Responsible leaders learn from their mistakes, and learning starts with listening. Listen to voters and compromise is not just possible, it's overdue.

*By Matt Entenza, House DFL leader*

NOTES FROM THE DISTRICT CHAIR



DISTRICT CHAIR TOM LAFORCE

At our monthly meetings, we mostly talk about the big stuff. Recently it's been about pic-

nic and forums. Soon it will be caucuses and conventions. Sometimes I wish we talked more about what people who don't attend our meetings are doing. I hear enough stories to know this district is filled with everyday activists.

Everyday activism doesn't take a lot of time. It's not about huge projects and endless meetings. It's about recognizing opportunities and seizing them. Instead of a few people doing lots of work, it's about lots of people doing a little something that collec-

tively makes a big impact. Here are a couple ideas to get you started.

- \*Let people know you're a Democrat. Stick a sign in your yard. Put a bumper sticker on your car. Wear a t-shirt. Everyone who knows, and likes, you should know that you're a Democrat and why. You have tremendous influence with your friends. Let them know where you stand.

- \*Challenge assumptions and labels respectfully. When you hear something that isn't true about Democrats, engage the person in a conversation. Ask good questions, listen intently and offer your perspective.

- \*Add your voice to the media mix. If you've got something to say, say it so lots of people hear. Call into talk radio. Write a letter to the editor. E-mail educational articles to friends and relatives.

- \*Build connections. Think of a network—neighborhood, school, work—to which you belong and throw a party for people to help them connect. While some people wouldn't be caught dead at a political meeting, many will attend a party. In 2002 a person in this district threw a party to encourage people to attend caucuses. It was educational, inspiring and, most of all, fun.
- \*Support a campaign. There's always an election just around the corner, and it's easy to be part of the excitement.

If you haven't been politically involved, everyday activism is an easy way to start. Use your imagination. Make it fun. Take action. Your efforts will make a difference.

*By Tom LaForce, Chair*

BORENE RUNS FOR STATE SENATE

Democrat Andrew Borene is running for District 41's Senate seat. A former banker, U.S. Marine Corps Intelli-



ANDREW BORENE

gence Officer during the Iraq invasion and lifelong Edina resident, Borene formed a campaign committee in June. He had a float in the Edina Fourth of July parade, where the response from voters was amazing, Borene said.

He continues to meet with district residents who express concerns about state budget deficits, transportation, education and overall quality of life.

"The neoconservative ideology and so-called ownership society runs counter to our progressive Minnesota roots," Borene said. "We must work to restore balance to St. Paul, so we can focus on education, transportation and affordable health care in our community and throughout the state."

His website is [www.andrewborene.com](http://www.andrewborene.com).

OFF THE BOOKSHELF

***What's the Matter with Kansas? How Conservatives Won the Heart of America***  
By Thomas Frank

In recent years Kansas politics has veered from predictable to freaky and far-right. Kansas is not a backwater; it's closer to a vanguard. All of the major economic and political trends of recent years arrived early in Kansas, including growing disparities of income and the rise of right-wing extremists. The decline of Kansas Democrats has been catastrophic, but traditional Republicans also have been routed.

Frank explains how this happened. First, the right wing systematically emphasizes divisive social issues while ignoring or denying the impacts of their tax and other economic policies. Democrats and traditional Republicans have let them get away with this tactic.

Second, the foot soldiers of the right wing work very hard indeed. Democrats and traditional Republicans mostly have assumed that the hard work of politics is someone else's job. Let's not let what happened in Kansas happen in Minnesota.

## INSIGHT ON ISSUES: JOBLESS RATE HIGHER THAN YOU THINK

**Declining labor-force participation has lowered the official unemployment rate dramatically. People have withdrawn from the labor market on a record scale, and they aren't counted among the unemployed.**

The unemployment rate was 5 percent in July. This was 0.8 percent higher than when the Bush administration came into office in January 2001, but mostly it has trended downward since peaking at 6.3 percent in June 2003. So we must be doing OK, right?

Wrong! This simple comparison fails to take into account the massive decline in labor force participation that has occurred during the Bush administration. Since the mid-1960s overall labor force participation has increased, as more women have taken jobs and greater opportunities have opened up for minorities.

This trend has reversed in recent years, as every major group except for seniors has experienced sharp declines in participation. The pattern for men, women, minorities,

young people, the middle aged, etc. is quite similar. People in all these groups have withdrawn from the labor market on a record scale. Working-age people who give up looking for work and don't register with an employment office are counted in the official statistics as withdrawn from the labor force, not as unemployed.

However, seniors increased their participation rate substantially. Part of this increase is a statistical distortion created by the large number of baby boomers entering the 55 to 64 age category. But this is only part of the explanation, and it has nothing to do with the increase in the 65+ category. In recent years retirement income has been under pressure due to sharp declines in interest rates, losses in the stock market and in some

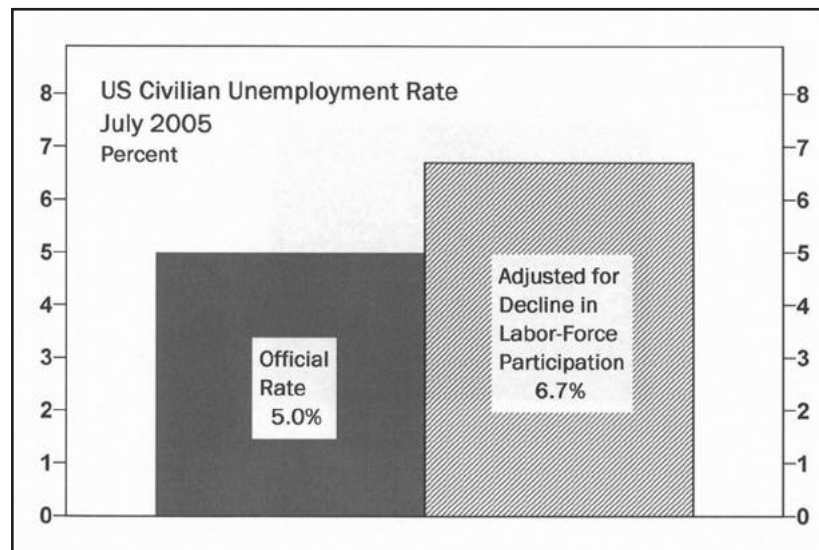
cases cancellation of promised pension benefits. Large, uninsured medical expenses also have been a major problem for many seniors. These are probably the main reasons why more seniors are working.

This plunge in overall labor-force participation has depressed the official unemployment rate dramatically. As the chart below shows, if participation had remained at its peak level, reached in early 2000, the July unemployment rate would have been 6.7 percent and not the official 5 percent. Similar conclusions were reached in a study done by the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston earlier this year.

So despite some modest improvement recently, in general jobs remain hard to get. Even the official unemployment rate is higher now than

when Bush came into office. Declining labor-force participation has masked much of the damage from a remarkably thoughtless economic policy.

*By Bill Melton*



**D O N A T I O N S S P R E A D D E M O C R A T S ' M E S S A G E**

The local Republican Party is a money-making machine. To compete we need the ability to communicate our ideas to voters. This takes money, and lots of it. Between now and the 2006 elections, we have lots of work to do:

- Electing a new state senator who aligns with our district's common sense values.
- Electing two new state representatives who will be strong voices for us in the Minnesota House.
- Building an infrastructure that can keep Senate District 41 "blue territory" for the governor and U.S. Senate races.
- Supporting other Democratic candidates for local, regional and national offices.
- Educating and involving people in the political process

through efforts like this newsletter.

- Preparing for future caucuses and conventions.
- Planning and carrying out events that give you a chance to socialize with friends and neighbors.

And remember, your donation can be reimbursed by using the Minnesota Political Contribution Refund program. The Minnesota Department of Revenue will refund up to \$50 per individual or \$100 per married couple. This is entirely separate from the political campaign check-off on your state tax return and can be done at any time of year. When we receive your contribution, we'll send you a receipt and the Department of Revenue's official refund form. Just complete the sim-

ple form, and mail it to the revenue department. You'll receive your refund check in the mail in eight weeks or so.

Again, for up to \$50 per person and \$100 per married couple, it's a dollar-for-dollar refund from the State of Minnesota. (Of course, we always welcome contributions over the refund program limit, but extra amounts don't qualify for a refund, and they're not tax deductible.)

In 2004, 24,113 people in District 41 voted for John Kerry. If each of these people took full advantage of the refund program and contributed to Senate District 41 Democrats in 2005, we would raise \$1.2 million.

Anyone doubt we could make a difference in Edina with that kind of money?

Of course not everyone will contribute, that's normal. But what if just 2,000 loyal Democrats made their \$50 refund-eligible contribution to Senate District 41? That \$100,000 would even the playing field, and we could make some great progress.

So if you've already contributed to Senate District Democrats in 2005, thank you so much. If you haven't done so, please take the time to send your contribution to Senate District 41 Democrats.

*By Joan Kampmeyer,  
Finance Team 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Phone numbers (h) \_\_\_\_\_ (w) \_\_\_\_\_ (cell) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zipcode \_\_\_\_\_

September 2005

**Mail to: Joni Kelly Bennett, Senate District 41 Democrats Treasurer, 4003 Lynn Ave., Edina, MN 55416**

Senate District 41 Democrats  
5901 Tingdale Ave.  
Edina, MN 55436

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PLEASE  
JOIN US

Here's your chance to practice everyday activism. If things are going to change, a lot of people will have to step up and do something. Will you be one of them? We always have plenty of work to do. Contact Chair Tom LaForce at [chair@sd41.dfl.org](mailto:chair@sd41.dfl.org) or 952-920-3313.

SUNDAY 9/18/2005 3 p.m.

DON'T MISS THIS GOLDEN  
**OPPORTUNITY**

TO MEET  
**DEMOCRATIC**  
CANDIDATES FOR THE  
**U.S. SENATE**

**VALLEY VIEW MIDDLE SCHOOL AUDITORIUM.** 6750 VALLEY VIEW ROAD, EDINA.

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