

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN ANOKA COUNTY SPEND \$544,115 FOR LOBBYING IN 2010

ANOKA COUNTY RECORD GOES BEYOND THE STATE AUDITOR'S REPORT BY DOING A COMPARISON OF EXPENDITURES BY POPULATION

In July, the Office of the State Auditor released the 2010 Local Government Lobbying Services Report, an annual report first published in 1989. This report details the expenditure of taxpayer dollars by local governments, for purposes primarily related to lobbying the State Legislature.

All lobbying expenditures by local government are paid for with taxpayer dollars in one form or another. Many times, taxpayer funds are used to lobby the Legislature or Congress to ask for more taxpayer dollars to spend. This is the primary reason why local government lobbying expenditures have been so controversial over the years.

Statewide vs. Anoka County

In 2010, a significant amount of money was spent on lobbying activities statewide, which the report breaks down into directly paid staff lobbyists, contract lobbyists, and dues paid to government associations that are used for lobbying purposes. Anoka County local governments spent a total of \$544,115 combined in these three lobbying categories.

TOP SPENDERS

Anoka County government
City of Blaine
City of Columbus

2010	Statewide	Anoka County local governments
Expenditures Directly employed staff Hired contract lobbyists	\$ 3,936,266	\$248,901
Expenditures Local government Associations on Lobbying expenses	\$ 4,311,727	\$295,214
Total lobbying expenditures	\$ 8,247,993	\$544,115
Directly employed staff Hired contract lobbyists	77	3
Expenditures Local government Association memberships	\$10,540,078	\$707,271

The \$150,000 Club

County government in Anoka County is one of only a handful of government entities that spent more than \$150,000 in lobbying expenses in 2010. In total there were seven local government entities, a list that includes only four of the eighty-seven counties in Minnesota. The others were the cities of Minneapolis and Saint Paul, along with the Metropolitan Airports Commission. County government in Anoka County placed third highest in the state with lobbying expenses totaling \$264,759.

In the State Auditor's analysis, they divided up county government expenditures in Anoka County into three separate government entities. They are general county lobbying expenditures, housing and redevelopment authority lobbying expenditures, and railroad authority lobbying expenditures.

In the Anoka County Record's analysis, we have combined these three entities into one group for the following reasons. The county board and the rail authority are run by the seven county board members, and the housing and redevelopment authority is run by a majority of the county board members. It is the same group of elected officials wearing three different hats. All three of these groups tax county residents for these lobbying services, therefore all should be considered as one group.

Only the City of Minneapolis and Hennepin County spent more on lobbying costs than county government in Anoka County. It is important to note that both the City of Minneapolis and Hennepin County serve more residents. Hennepin County in fact, serves over three times more residents than Anoka County but only spends roughly 30% more in lobbying costs.

NO BILL, NO SPECIAL SESSION, NO SUPPORT

Opinion from the Anoka County Watchdog

While the media breathlessly reports on the faux stadium crisis and portrays a dynamic situation where stadium events are moving quickly at the Capitol, that's just not the case.

The Watchdog has extensive sources at the Capitol on both sides of the aisle who tell a far different story than the *lame-stream* media.

First and foremost, there is no Vikings bill for the legislature to consider. In a typical "ready, fire, aim!" maneuver, the governor and his legislative stadium allies have called for a special session and passage of a bill that doesn't even exist.

Call us crazy, but it would seem that the first step would be to show the world a stadium plan that identifies a site, explains the financing mechanism, allocates risk among the parties, and divides the revenues.

Yes, various stadium bills have been introduced, but there is no comprehensive bill that addresses the stadium issue in a comprehensive way.

Second, there is no appetite for a special session. The legislature already had one special session this year. A special session in November has the smelly distinction of being held during a holiday week when the public is least paying attention.

Moreover, the state will release an updated economic forecast in early December, which will likely show another deficit and obviously dampen what enthusiasm exists to hand over some corporate welfare to the Vikings.

A survey of our sources puts the odds of a special session at "0%," right now.

Of course, the governor has the sole authority to call a special session but there is no support for one from the legislature.

Most importantly, a Vikings stadium doesn't have the votes to pass. The majority of Republican legislators with whom we've spoken are opposed to corporate welfare for the Vikings regardless of what the details look like.

There isn't a lot of gusto for a Vikings stadium on the DFL side of the aisle either.

At a time when the DFL perceives that health care, education, and other program areas haven't gotten enough money, there is no way many DFL legislators want to be seen as handing over money to a wealthy corporate interest.

As things stand today, it looks like no special session and no new home for Zygi.

We found it supremely arrogant and symbolic of what the NFL stands for when League officials showed up at the Capitol this week in a limousine to extort money from Governor Dayton.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT LOBBYING

Continued from front page, A-1

Local Governments Spending More Than \$150,000 on Lobbying Services in 2010

City of Minneapolis	\$400,414
Hennepin County	\$341,919
Anoka County government	\$264,759
Ramsey County	\$195,355
Metropolitan Airport Commission	\$178,277
City of Saint Paul	\$178,046
Dakota County	\$177,983

How many memberships are too many?

Many local government entities belong to government associations which spend anywhere from 10% to 100% of their membership dues on lobbying expenditures. The State Auditor's analysis shows that the City of Blaine stands out as one of 0.1% of local governments that belong to five associations, costing taxpayers \$93,852 in overall association dues in 2010. Out of this amount, \$48,910 was attributed to lobbying expenses. No other local government entity in Anoka County belongs to this many government associations. Most cities and school districts belong to only one or two associations.

Percentage of local governments belonging to:

Associations	State-wide	Anoka County local governments
One	48.5%	Columbia Heights East Bethel Ham Lake Lino Lakes Nowthen Oak Grove Spring Lake Park
Two	44.8%	Anoka Co. Soil & Water Bethel Columbus Fridley Hilltop Lexington Ramsey St. Francis Centennial ISD #12 Columbia Hts ISD #13 Fridley ISD #14 St. Francis ISD #15 Spring Lake Park ISD #16 White Bear Lake ISD #624 Elk River ISD #728 Forest Lake ISD #831
Three	5.6%	Andover Anoka Anoka-Hennepin ISD #11
Four	1%	Anoka County government Circle Pines Coon Rapids
Five	0.1%	Blaine

Comparing expenditures per resident provided surprising results

It should be no surprise that county government in Anoka County represents the largest dollar amount of spending on lobbying purposes in the county. County government is the largest government entity in the county, and along with the Anoka County Soil and Water Conservation District, they represent the largest population, 330,844 residents. A close second in number of residents served is the Anoka-Hennepin ISD#11 with a population of 226,412. All other local government entities have residential population numbers that range from a high of 66,807 in Elk River ISD#728 to a low of 466 in Bethel.

What was a surprise was the outcome of an Anoka County Record analysis of lobbying expenditures divided by population the local government entity serves. While county government in Anoka County is the largest spender in total dollars, the analysis by population shows they spend \$0.80 per resident on lobbying activities, which did not rank number one on the list.

Ranked number one in spending per resident is the City of Columbus at \$2.19 per resident. This is from a total lobbying expenditure in 2010 of \$8,565 with a population of only 3,914. Most of this is related to an expenditure for Larkin Hoffman Daly & Lindgren, Ltd. in the amount of \$7,035. The Anoka County Soil and Water Conservation District had the third lowest amount of lobbying expenditures per person at less than a half-cent per resident. Two local government entities, the City of Centerville and Linwood Township, reported zero dollars in lobbying expenditures.

In the fall of 2010, county government in Anoka County saw a major change in the political structure of the board with a new majority taking charge and Rhonda Sivarajah being elected board chair. The new chair has placed lobbying contracts up for competitive bid so there is a possibility that the State Auditor's report published in May 2012 may report lower expenditures for county government in Anoka County for the calendar year 2011.

As local government finances continue to remain tight, time will show whether the elected officials of these local government entities believe the solution is to spend more taxpayer dollars to lobby the state legislature and congress for additional taxpayer funds.

Anoka County Record will bring readers an analysis of the 2011 local government lobbying expenses once the State Auditor issues a new report in 2012.

NO SPECIAL SESSION

Continued from front page, A-1

That big black car parked out front of the Capitol symbolized the lunacy of a flat-broke state and its distressed taxpayers considering hundreds of millions in subsidies to a multi-billion dollar cartel.

Whatever happened to Dayton's "tax the rich" mantra? Taxing the rich? Hell, he's giving away millions!

NFL bagman Eric Grubman rode into town in his black limo and proceeded to lecture us hayseeds on the importance of forking over our hard earned money to his boy Zygi.

Los Angeles may or may not get a team. And if they do, it won't be the Vikings. The Twin Cities is a major media market and the Vikings have been here over 50 years. The NFL Wants a franchise in Minnesota.

Lobbying expenditures by population

Local government entity	Lobbying expenditures (\$)	Population	Per Capita (\$)
Columbus (city)	\$8,565	3,914	\$2.19
Circle Pines (city)	\$4,431	4,918	\$0.901
Lexington (city)	\$1,803	2,049	\$0.880
Blaine (city)	\$48,910	57,186	\$0.855
Anoka County government	\$264,759	330,844	\$0.800
Bethel (city)	\$334	466	\$0.717
Elk River Area ISD #728	\$43,949	66,807	\$0.658
Hilltop (city)	\$459	744	\$0.617
Anoka (city)	\$9,591	17,142	\$0.560
Fridley ISD #14	\$7,443	15,505	\$0.480
Coon Rapids (city)	\$29,009	61,476	\$0.472
Andover (city)	\$13,292	30,598	\$0.434
Centennial ISD #12	\$10,138	31,982	\$0.317
Ramsey (city)	\$7,469	23,668	\$0.316
Columbia Heights ISD #13	\$7,863	25,194	\$0.312
Spring Lake Park ISD #16	\$8,997	29,903	\$0.301
St. Francis (city)	\$2,028	7,218	\$0.281
Forest Lake ISD #831	\$10,284	45,564	\$0.226
Fridley (city)	\$5,604	27,208	\$0.206
White Bear Lake ISD #624	\$11,647	61,182	\$0.190
Spring Lake Park (city)	\$1,123	6,412	\$0.175
Anoka-Hennepin ISD #11	\$29,940	226,412	\$0.132
Nowthen (city)	\$437	4,443	\$0.098
Oak Grove (city)	\$773	8,031	\$0.096
East Bethel (city)	\$1,024	11,626	\$0.088
Ham Lake (city)	\$1,240	15,296	\$0.081
Lino Lakes (city)	\$1,564	20,216	\$0.077
Columbia Heights (city)	\$1,386	19,496	\$0.071
Anoka Co Soil & Water	\$1,457	330,804	\$0.004
Centerville (city)	\$0	3,792	\$0
Linwood Township	\$0	5,123	\$0

Instead of a special session to provide a stimulus bailout to a billionaire, the legislature ought to have a special session to cut more government and cut taxes.

The Vikings are such a small employer, they're nearly irrelevant to Minnesota in an economic sense.

The legislature should be looking to enhance the business climate for all job creators. We keep hearing that the Vikings are an integral part of our culture and our heritage.

Fine. Remember that sales tax increase we put into the constitution in 2008?

Called the "Legacy Amendment," the money is reserved to protect and promote our culture and heritage.

If the legislature must fund a stadium, tap those existing funds. They do nothing but fund bike trails and puppet shows anyway.

**ELECTION DAY
VOTE
TUESDAY
NOV. 8**

**CITY OFFICES in LINO LAKES and CIRCLE PINES
SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS in these Independent School Districts:
FOREST LAKE ISD 831 • ANOKA-HENNEPIN ISD 11 • ST FRANCIS ISD 15
FRIDLEY ISD 14 • SPRING LAKE PARK ISD 16 • WHITE BEAR LAKE ISD 624**



It's that time of year again for local elections. Only two of Anoka County's twenty cities have their elections in the odd year. Among the nine school districts in the county, six will be having their elections Nov. 8.

There are a number of races where there is no opposition: Circle Pines mayor Dave Bartholomay is running for re-election unopposed, and Scott Wenzel is unopposed in his re-election bid for the District 5 seat on the Anoka-Hennepin School Board.

Only three candidates filed for the three seats open in the Fridley school district, and the same thing occurred in the White Bear Lake School Board race as well.

For this issue of the Record, we have focused on the Lino Lakes mayor and council races. We chose to use information that came from the candidates themselves, by choosing excerpts from their websites.

Many candidates, particularly ones who filed for school board elections, did not post a website. Since the material on a campaign website is for public use, we chose to use websites for gathering candidate information. If a candidate's statements have not been included, it's due to the candidate not having made it available on the web.

Any election-related questions can be answered by city halls or the school district offices (see pages C-1 and C-2 for phone numbers), or by the Anoka County Elections Department, located on the ground level of the Anoka County Government Center and Courthouse, 325 E Main St., Room 130 in Anoka. Hours are 8 am to 4:30 pm Mon.-Fri.; Phone 763-323-5275; Fax 763-422-7526; E-Mail: elections@co.anoka.mn.us

CITY OF LINO LAKES

MAYOR (2-year term)

Ivy Cavegn

311 Linda Ln
Lino Lakes MN 55014
651-210-5492
icavegn@msn.com
www.ivyforlinolakes.com

Jeff Reinert (incumbent)

6765 E Shadow Lake Dr
Lino Lakes MN 55014
651-407-9150
mayorjeff@me.com
www.linolakes.org

From Ivy Cavegn's campaign website (mayoral candidate):

The November 8th ballot will have a school funding referendum for us to vote on. My inquiries regarding the referendum have provided me two seemingly different responses regarding the impact such a referendum will have on our property taxes.

First, I have been told that the referendum is "tax neutral," meaning it will have no impact at all. Second, I'm told that the ballot will tell us the following: "By voting yes on this ballot question, you are voting for a property tax increase." So which is it?

The answer is that both statements are correct. Welcome, one and all, to the State of Minnesota accounting system.

Unlike many states, Minnesota segregates school funding obtained through levies into several categories. Once an amount has been designated, it cannot be moved into another

category without the residents of the impacted district voting for such a move.

Our property taxes currently support a levy that was designated for the Centennial School District Building Fund. Because the District has been able to satisfy some of the mortgages held on various buildings through refinancing and consolidation of debt, the levy obligation is reduced.

The levy was approved for the Building Fund and thus, it cannot be automatically moved to the Operating Fund – the Fund by which salaries, benefits, classroom supplies, utilities, and maintenance are paid. First the money must be returned to the taxpayers. Then the taxpayers need to vote for that money to be used for the Operating Fund.

Currently, the State of Minnesota is scheduled to credit Centennial School District homeowners the reduced amount because of the payoff/consolidation of loans — an average of \$12 per month for the average homeowner in 2012. For the School District to continue benefiting from the original levy, we must again approve the levy, this time for the Operational Fund. This transfer of funding will add approximately \$275 per student to the school's bud-get allowing it to continue at its present operational level.

An equation for this might look something like this:

Building Fund Reduction Tax Credit
— \$12.00 per month (reduction in taxes)
Operational Fund Tax Increase
+ \$12.00 per month (increase in taxes)
Difference in Taxes Paid
\$00.00 (tax neutral – no difference in taxes)

So a "YES" vote on this referendum is, in fact, both a tax increase (because the State of Minnesota is planning a tax reduction) and is tax neutral (no difference in the amount of taxes we are currently paying.)

It was very helpful for me to get some clarification on what this referendum will actually mean regarding the amount of property taxes I am paying. I hope this also provides you a little more information on which to make your decision at the polls. Having talked to many of you, I know how difficult it is to financially support all the demands put upon you. And I also know how important you feel a good education is for the children of our community.

From Jeff Reinert's campaign website (mayoral candidate):

Anoka County Airport:

I am not for an expansion of the airport runway. To simply state the issue. The airport currently has a 5,000 foot runway which was designed to be consistent with its use for smaller piston type (gas engine not jet engine) airplanes. The airport can handle small jet engine aircraft but lately they have been wanting to land larger airplanes and jets at the airport. They are saying it's a safety issue but if they land the airplanes that the airport was designed to handle, there is not safety issue. It becomes unsafe if you try landing planes that are too large.

The issue is that they want permission to expand the runway to 6,000 feet which would move them up to the next classification level of airport allowing them to larger noisier jet engines and increase air traffic. Once re-classified with a 6,000 foot runway, the new classification allows a runway length of

between 6,000 to 8,000. The problem with this move up in classification is that their new classification would allow them to do another expansion without any further approvals and they wouldn't have to notify the public.

Also, if they did a new expansion to 8,000 feet (which would likely happen), you can land jets as large as a Boeing 737 and we would see and hear this type of large jet airplane overhead every day diminishing our quality of life.

As a city council we do not get to vote on this issue but I thought I should let everyone know some of the details of the argument and where I stand on the issue.

CITY COUNCIL (4-year term)

Tim Henderson

6987 W Shadow Lake Dr
Lino Lakes MN 55014
651-262-7092
tim.henderson@afscmemn.org

Matthew Kassner

473 Post Rd
Lino Lakes MN 55014
612-839-1096
matthew@mkassner.net
www.mattkassnercouncil.wordpress.com

Sam Larson

167 Gladstone Cir
Lino Lakes MN 55014
651-428-4567
samuel.allen.larson@gmail.com
www.wix.com/samuelallenlarson/cc

Dave Roeser (incumbent)

6179 Partridge Ct
Lino Lakes MN 55014
612-741-7747
droeser@comcast.net
www.4roeser.com

Byron Roland

1554 Lamotte Cir
Lino Lakes MN 55038
651-653-9164

Dale Stoesz

309 Linda Ct
Lino Lakes MN 55014
612-581-2047
linolakes@stoesz.com
www.stoesz.com

From Matthew Kassner's campaign website (city council candidate):

One of the biggest issues with revenues, as I see it, in the city is that a lot of it is coming from the public sector through property taxes. The City's people are footing the bill too much. I feel one way to grow revenues will be to encourage more business to the area.

There are many places zoned for business that have gone unused and that is a loss in revenue for the City as well as a loss to the City's residents. Attracting business will be one way that I seek to grow revenues for the City. The City needs to decrease spending on things that do not grow revenue or grow the City and needs to be more efficient in spending on projects.

What are my short and long-term goals for the office?

My short term goals is to dig into the small nuances in the city's budget and spending, finding ways to be more efficient in spending.

- Cut spending in areas that are not growing the city or that can help grow revenues
- Looking to work with the current businesses within the City to help expand their operations — this will help grow revenues, it will create

continued on next page, B-2

a partnership atmosphere, and will be a move towards expanding the City's business growth. My long term goals are to grow the city's appeal for businesses and to drive new businesses to the City to become more competitive with townships and cities in the surrounding area.

- Growth in commuter presence in the City. Expanding walking and bike paths to make the city a more commuter friendly city. Growing this infrastructure and combining it with the area business to create a synchronicity between commuters, homes, and businesses.

From **Sam Larson's** campaign website (city council candidate):

A priority for Lino Lakes ought to be ensuring that residents do not have extraneous burdens added to them by first and foremost making certain that the money coming into city reserves is spent as wisely and efficiently as possible. The hardship of a tightened budget should fall on the city first as opposed to the way things have been. Recently, it seems as if there's a push to raise taxes to "correct" the recession that has plagued the American people for the last several years. This methodology is flawed only increasing the burdens on small businesses and hard working citizens. It is unacceptable for one's home value to decrease and total property taxes to increase.

The second issue that Lino Lakes must continue to place effort on is that making sure the city is business-friendly, thus aiding businesses in their endeavors of job growth and creation. It only takes a short drive around Lino Lakes to notice empty business establishments and commercial real estate waiting for a local start-up business or a new franchise to move in. The city must make itself more desirable for a business to work with in order to benefit from the jobs that would be created and the revenues that could be raised by new companies taking up residence in Lino Lakes.

Lino Lakes has the benefit of being one of several cities that does not receive any form of Local Government Aid, commonly referred to as LGA. In that, Lino Lakes benefits because its local government is much more self sufficient and able to enact policies to manage and reinforce its own fiscal situation. On this same note Lino Lakes benefits from being a "charter city". This allows our city to run according to how we see fit. Without a charter in place our city would be subject to generic guidelines enacted by our state government limiting our freedoms as an individual city.

From **Dave Roeser's** campaign website (city council candidate):

I believe...

I believe we live in a wonderful community, and I know that didn't happen without concerned citizens making that happen. In August 2011, Lino Lakes was voted 44th in the top 100 cities to live in the USA. (money.cnn.com/magazines/moneymag/bplive/2011/snapshots/PL2737322.html)

I believe that government should be run like a business. Accountable to it's "shareholders". If elected leaders don't perform, vote to fire them. Those who do well, reward by re-electing. I have been working hard the past two years but there is still much work to be done. That is why I am asking for your vote, to continue to make government more transparent and affordable.

I believe that government should live within its means, just like your family does. This is why we have been successful in reducing the city's budget the past two years.

I believe that an all encompassing government that promises to give you everything you want, is big enough to take everything you have away.

I believe once we climb out of this recession, Lino Lakes is in the path of growth. We can deal with it or bury our head in the sand and wish it to go away. I prefer to deal with it.

I believe (and know) that Lino Lakes reputation for development has been unfriendly. If we don't change that, the best development options will skip our city and so will the property tax revenue that would have come with it. I have been working with developers to get them engaged with the city and allow for public discussion on projects.

I believe that getting neighbors together with developers very early in the process can provide a better solution and help avoid us vs. them confrontations that are negative to all parties.

I believe we need to jointly solve common issues with neighboring cities. I have been meeting with council members from other cities to put together innovative solutions to common issues and saving the taxpayers time and money.

I believe the 2030 plan is just that, a plan. A plan to get us ready for the future. Plans change with reality, but a plan helps the city reduce costs, duplication and plan for infrastructure. I also believe the Met Council has designs for our city that do not align with what residents want.

I believe that development shifted outside the borders of our city gives us most of the same traffic and other issues without any financial means to deal with it.

I believe in individual freedoms. The right to succeed or fail. Individual freedom has individual responsibilities. Government is not there to bail you out.

I believe in upholding the rights of landholders. If you live next to a horse pasture and would like to see it remain that way forever, buy it. Why should one person's wishes control the lawful use of a property they don't own without consideration to the rights of that neighbor who pays property taxes on the property?

I believe that Eminent Domain should only be used for public works like roads and highways and only used sparingly.

I believe that every citizen has a civic duty to help their community. I plan to help the city the best I can and then move on to make room for the next person with talent and skills to offer help.

From **Dale Stoesz's** campaign website (city council candidate):

Some of my goals.

- I want to continue lowering taxes
- I desire to reduce the fees for permits
- I want to explore greater business opportunities for our City
- I want to help businesses grow and the local government needs to get out of the way
- I will explore the possibility of removing odd/even sprinkler ban which I don't think works
- I support Lino Lakes basic services: Public safety, utilities, and other infrastructure
- I want to help eliminate some petty or out of date ordinances. Climbing a tree is an example.(301.17)
- I want to support citizens who are self-employed or work from home
- I will work with the Charter Commission to bring the Council and Charter closer together on differences

Why am I seeking this office?

Just as our businesses and residents have been doing "Better-With-Less" our City will also have to do "Better-With-Less".

- I enjoy the City where I live and want the City to continue to do what they are doing well today.

- I want to give back to my community.
- I want to be a part of the solution instead of complaining about the problem. I will do this using my unique and creative abilities to be an ambassador for this City.

OTHER ELECTIONS IN ANOKA COUNTY Tuesday, Nov. 8, 2011	
CIRCLE PINES – MAYOR	
Dave Bartholomay (I) (<i>unopposed</i>)	
CIRCLE PINES – CITY COUNCIL (2 seats)	
Clay Arnett	James M. Keister
David A. Kelso (I)	Matthew Percy
Keith Perlich	Heather Rebecca Wrobel
ANOKA-HENN ISD 11 SCHOOL BOARD District 1	
Tom Heidemann (I)	Darin Rorman
ANOKA-HENN ISD 11 SCHOOL BOARD District 2	
Marci D. Anderson (I)	Randy Kolb
Mary Nelson	
ANOKA-HENN ISD 11 SCHOOL BOARD District 5	
Scott D. Wenzel (I) (<i>unopposed</i>)	
FOREST LAKE ISD 831 SCHOOL BOARD (4 seats)	
John Beckstrom	Rob Rapheal (I)
Julie Corcoran	Connie Sutherland
John Freed	Gail B. Theisen
Dan Kieger (I)	
FRIDLEY ISD 14 SCHOOL BOARD (3 seats)	
Fred Bischke (I)	Chris Riddle (I)
Kim Sampson (I)	(<i>all unopposed</i>)
SPRING LAKE PARK ISD 16 SCHOOL BOARD (3 seats)	
Jim Amundson	Bill Lewis
Bobbi George	Bryan Reynolds
Amy Hennen	Colleen Vranish (I)
ST. FRANCIS ISD 15 SCHOOL BOARD (4 seats)	
Suzanne Erkel	Amy Kelly (I)
Janet Glover	CJ Mulder
Sandy Grams (I)	Matthew Rustad
WHITE BEAR LAKE ISD 624 SCHOOL BOARD (3 seats)	
Chris Hiniker (I)	Cathy Storey (I)
Lori Swanson (I)	(<i>all unopposed</i>)

"It don't take near as good a man to be a candidate as it does to hold the office – that's why we wisely defeat more than we elect" – Will Rogers



GEDi

Online GED Preparation

Metro North ABE

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	Do you want to study for the GED at home?
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	Do you have a computer with Internet?
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	Can you spend a minimum of 5 hours a week preparing?
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	Are you able to come in on site for Intake and a minimum of 2 hours a month?

If you answered YES to all of these questions you maybe eligible for the GEDi Program.

What is GEDi?
GEDi is a free online program designed for higher-level learners to prepare for the GED.

Enrolling:
The 1st step is to attend an Intake and Assessment session at a GEDi location.

GEDi Locations:
In the cities of Anoka, Elk River, Forest Lake, and Oak Grove.

For more information or Intake times please visit us on the web at www.metronorthabe.org and select "Contact Us" on the left menu bar or call 763-783-4870.

Anoka County GOVERNMENT MEETINGS

Meetings are subject to change of time or date — call ahead to verify

Anoka County Board

Anoka County Government Center
2100 3rd Ave
Anoka, MN 55303-5024
Ph.: 763-323-5700
www.co.anoka.mn.us

Fri. Oct. 28
Anoka Co. Board members may attend Corrosion Control meeting, 8 am, Rm 772 ACGC

Mon. Oct. 31
Public Works Cmte — 9 am, Rm 772 ACGC

Tues. Nov. 1
Public Safety Cmte — 9 am, Rm 1140, AC Public Safety Ctr, Andover

Tues. Nov. 1
Parks & Rec Cmte — 10:30 am, Meeting Shelter, Rum River North Country Park

Wed. Nov. 2
Anoka Co. Board members will attend Wetland Cmte Mtg to discuss Rice Creek Watershed — 1:30 pm, Rm 772 ACGC

Tues. Nov. 8
Management Cmte Anoka Co. Board — 8:30 am & reg. meeting (9:30 am) both at Coon Rapids City Hall

Wed. Nov. 9
Waste Management & Energy Cmte — 8:15 am Room 772, ACGC

Andover

Andover City Hall
1685 Crosstown Blvd NW
Andover, MN 55304
Ph: 763-755-5100
www.ci.andover.mn.us

Tues. Nov. 1 & 15
City Council — 7 pm

Thurs. Nov. 3 & 17
Parks Comm. — 7 pm

Tues. Nov. 8
Planning Comm. — 7 pm

Wed. Nov. 9
Open Space Advisory Comm. — 7 pm

Anoka

Anoka City Hall
2015 1st Ave. N.
Anoka, MN 55303-2270
Ph: 763-576-2700
www.ci.anoka.mn.us

Tues. Nov. 1
Planning Comm. — 7 pm

Mon. Nov. 7 & 21
City Council — 7 pm

Wed. Nov. 9
Waste & Recycling Bd — 5 pm

Thurs. Nov. 10
Economic Developm. Comm. — 7:30 am
Heritage Presrv. Comm. — 5 pm or 6 pm (verify)

Mon. Nov. 14
HRA — 5 pm

Bethel

Bethel City Hall
165 Main St. / PO Box 64
Bethel, MN 55005
Ph: 763-434-4366
www.bethelmn.govoffice2.com

Tues. Nov. 1
Planning & Zoning Comm. — 7 pm

Thurs. Nov. 3 & 17
City Council — 7 pm

Blaine

Blaine City Hall
10801 Town Square Dr NE
Blaine, MN 55449
Ph: 763-784-6700
www.ci.blaine.mn.us

Thurs. Nov. 3 & 10
City Council — 6:30 pm (Workshop);

7:30 pm (meeting)

Tues. Nov. 8
Blaine Historical Society — 6:30 pm

Centerville

Centerville City Hall
1880 Main St
Centerville, MN 55038
Ph: 651-429-3232
centervillemn.com

Wed. Nov. 2
Parks & Rec. Cmte. — 6:30 pm

Tues. Nov. 8
Planning Comm. — 6:30 pm

Wed. Nov. 9
City Council — 6:30 pm

Circle Pines

Circle Pines City Hall
200 Civic Heights Circle
Circle Pines, MN 55014
Ph: 763-784-5898
www.ci.circle-pines.mn.us

Tues. Nov. 1
Park Bd — 6:30 pm

Wed. Nov. 9
City Council — 7 pm

Mon. Nov. 14
Planning Comm. — 7 pm

Columbia Heights

Columbia Heights City Hall
590 40th Ave NE
Columbia Heights, MN 55421
Ph: 763-706-3600
www.ci.columbia-heights.mn.us

City Council meetings
2nd and 4th Mondays — 7 pm

Library Board
1st Wednesdays — 6:30 pm, Library

Parks & Rec. Commission
4th Wednesdays — 5:30 pm. Murzyn Hall

Planning Commission
1st Tuesday — 7 pm

Traffic Commission
1st Monday — 6:00 pm

Columbus

Columbus City Hall
16319 Kettle River Blvd.
Columbus, MN 55025
Ph: 651-464-3120
www.ci.columbus.mn.us

Wed. Nov. 2
Planning Comm. — 7 pm

Wed. Nov. 9
EDAB (5 pm); EDA (6 pm); City Council — 7 pm

Wed. Nov. 16
Planning Comm. — 7 pm

Coon Rapids

Coon Rapids City Hall
11155 Robinson Dr.
Coon Rapids, MN 55433
Ph: 763-755-2880
www.coonrapidsmn.gov

Tues. Nov. 1 & 15
City Council — 7 pm

Thurs. Nov 3
Board of Adjustmt. & Appeals — 6:30 pm

East Bethel

East Bethel City Hall
2241 - 221st Avenue NE
East Bethel, MN 55011
Ph: 763-367-7840
eastbethel.govoffice.com

Wed. Nov. 2 & 16
City Council — 7:30 pm

Tues. Nov. 8
Road Commission — 6:30 pm

Wed. Nov. 9
Parks Comm. — 7 pm

Fridley

Fridley City Hall
6431 University Ave NE
Fridley, MN 55432
Ph: 763-571-3450
www.ci.fridley.mn.us

Tues. Nov. 1
Environmental Quality & Energy Comm. — 7 pm

Wed. Nov. 2
Appeals Cmte. — 7 pm

Thurs. Nov. 3
HRA — 7 pm

Mon. Nov. 7
Charter Comm. — 7 pm
City Council — 7 pm (pre-meeting); 7:30 pm
Parks & Rec. Comm. — 7 pm

Ham Lake

Ham Lake City Hall
15544 Central Ave NE
Ham Lake, MN 55304
Ph: 763-434-9555
www.ci.ham-lake.mn.us

Hours: M-Th 7 AM - 4:30 PM Fri: 7 AM-12 NOON

Mon. Nov. 7 & 21
City Council — 6 pm

Mon. Nov. 14
Planning Comm. — 6 pm

Wed. Nov. 16
Park & Tree Comm. — 6 pm

Hilltop

Hilltop City Hall
4555 Jackson St. NE
Hilltop, MN 55421
Ph: 763-571-2023

City Council — 1st & 3rd Mon., 7 pm

Lexington

Lexington City Hall
9180 Lexington Av
Lexington, MN 55014
Ph: 763-784-2792
www.ci.lexington.mn.us

Thurs. Nov. 3
City Council — 7 pm

Mon. Nov. 7
Park Board — 6:30 pm

Thurs. Nov. 17
City Council — 7 pm (followed by workshop)

Lino Lakes

Lino Lakes City Hall
600 Town Center Pkwy
Lino Lakes, MN 55014
Ph: 651-982-2400
www.ci.lino-lakes.mn.us

Thurs. Nov. 3
Economic Devlpmt. Advisory Cmte — 8 am

Mon. Nov. 7
City Council Work Session — 5:30 pm

Wed. Nov. 9
Planning & Zoning Bd — 6:30 pm

Mon. Nov. 14
City Council — 6:30 pm

Linwood Township

Linwood Town Hall
22817 Typo Creek Dr. NE
Linwood, MN 55079
Ph: 651-462-2812
linwoodtownship.org

Tues. Nov. 1
Road & Bridge Cmte. — 7 pm

Mon. Nov. 7
School Forest Cmte. — 5:30 pm

Tues. Nov. 8 & 22
Town Board — 6 pm

Mon. Nov. 14
Senior Advisory Bd — 9 am

Tues. Nov. 15
Planning & Zoning Comm. — 7 pm

Nowthen

Nowthen City Hall
8188 199th Ave. NW
Elk River, MN 55330
Ph: 763-441-1347
www.nowthenmn.govoffice2.com

Mayor's Saturday hours at city hall
2nd Saturdays — 9 am
Call City Hall for meeting dates

Oak Grove

Oak Grove City Hall
19900 Nightingale St. NW
Oak Grove, MN 55011
Ph: 763-404-7000
oakgrove.govoffice.com

2nd and last Monday of month
City Council — 7 pm (EDA 8 pm on last Mon)

3rd Thursday
Planning Comm. — 7 pm

3rd Wednesday
Parks Comm. — 7 pm

Ramsey

Ramsey Municipal Center
7550 Sunwood Dr. NW
Ramsey, MN 55303
Ph: 763-427-1410
Fax: 763-427-5543
www.ci.ramsey.mn.us

Tues. Nov. 1
City Council / HRA worksession — 5:30 pm
City Council mtg. — 7 pm

Thurs. Nov. 3
Bd of Adjustment/Planning Comm. — 7 pm

Mon. Nov. 7
EPB. — 6:30 pm
City Council work session — 5:30 pm (reg. mtg. 7 pm)

Mon. Nov. 10
EDA — 7:30 am
Parks & Rec. Comm. — 6:30 pm

St. Francis

St. Francis City Hall
23340 Cree St. NW
St. Francis, MN 55070
Ph: 763-753-2630
stfrancis.govoffice.com
Hours: M-Th 7AM-5:30 PM (Closed Fri)
Meetings held at ISD #15 offices
4115 Ambassador Blvd NW

City Council
1st & 3rd Mondays — 6 pm

Planning Comm.
3rd Wednesday — 7 pm

Spring Lake Park

Spring Lake Park City Hall
1301 81st Ave NE
Spring Lake Park, MN 55432
Ph: 763-784-6491
www.ci.spring-lake-park.mn.us

City Council
1st & 3rd Mondays — 7 pm

SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Anoka-Hennepin ISD #11

11299 Hanson Blvd NW
Coon Rapids MN 55433
Ph.: (763) 506-1000
http://www.anoka.k12.mn.us

School Board mtgs 6:30 pm **Nov. 14, 28**
Truth in Taxation hearing 6 pm **Dec. 12**
followed by school board meeting

Centennial ISD #12

4707 North Rd
Circle Pines, MN 55014
Ph.: (763) 792-6000
isd12.org

School Board Meetings
Mon. Nov. 7 — 6:30 pm
Mon. Nov. 14 — 5:30 pm (Canvass election results; work session)
Mon. Dec. 5 — 6:30 pm
Mon. Dec. 19 — 5:30 pm (Work session)

Columbia Heights ISD #13

1440 49th Ave NE
Columbia Heights, MN 55421
Ph.: (763) 528-4436
columbia.mn.schoolwebpages.com

School Board Meetings
Tues. Nov. 8 & 22 7 pm
Tues. Nov. 15 5:30 pm (Work Session)

Elk River Area ISD #728

815 Hwy 10
Elk River, MN 55330
Ph.: (763) 241-3400

School Board mtgs 2nd and 4th Monday, "generally at" Elk River City Hall, council chambers, 13065 Orono Pkwy. — 7 pm
"Listening Sessions" with public, 2nd Mondays — 6:30 pm

Forest Lake ISD #831

6100 N 210th St
Forest Lake, MN 55025
Ph.: (651) 982-8100

School Board meetings: held, with a few exceptions, at 7 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month in the District Office Boardroom, 6100 N. 210th St., Forest Lake.
Listening Sessions: Residents are invited to speak informally with representatives of the board, prior to regular meetings, at 6 p.m.

Fridley School Dist. #14

6000 W Moore Lake Dr
Fridley, MN 55432
Ph.: (763) 502-5000
fridley.k12.mn.us

School Board Meetings held at Fridley City Hall, 6431 University Ave NE
Work Sessions — 5:30 pm, Public Comment — 7 pm; Meeting — 7:30 pm
Tues. Nov. 15, Dec. 20
Truth in Taxation hearing Dec. 20 — 7 pm

St. Francis ISD #15

4115 Ambassador Blvd
St. Francis, MN 55070
Ph.: (763) 753-7040
stfrancis.k12.mn.us

School Board mtgs 2nd & 4th Mondays 6:30 pm
Public comment; Meeting 7 pm

Spring Lake Park ISD #16

1415 81st Ave NE
Spring Lake Park, MN 55432
Ph.: (763) 786-5570

School Board mtgs 2nd Tuesday 7 pm
4th Tuesday scheduled as needed

White Bear Lake ISD #624

4855 Bloom Ave
White Bear Lake, MN 55110-5418
Ph.: (651) 407-7501
whitebear.k12.mn.us

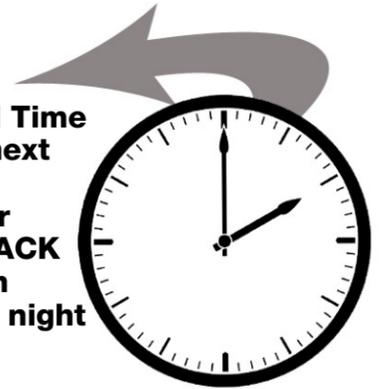
School Board mtgs
Mon. Nov. 14, Dec. 12 — 7 pm
Mon. Nov. 28 (Work session) — 5:30 pm

ANOKA CONSERVATION DISTRICT

1318 McKay Dr NE #300
Ham Lake, MN 55304
Ph.: (763) 434-2030
anokaswcd.org

Mon. Nov. 21, Dec. 19 — 5:00 pm

Standard Time returns next week!
Turn your clocks BACK 1 hour on Saturday night Nov. 5th!



VOTE TUESDAY NOV. 8th! GENERAL ELECTION FOR SCHOOL BOARDS:

- Anoka-Hennepin ISD #11
- Fridley ISD #14
- St. Francis ISD #15
- Spring Lake Park ISD #16
- White Bear Lake ISD #624
- Forest Lake ISD #831

LINO LAKES City Council
CIRCLE PINES City Council



Meetings are subject to change of time or date — call ahead to verify

ANOKA COUNTY RECORD LLC

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P.O. Box 21014
Columbia Heights MN 55421-0014
(763) 220-0411

editor@anokacountyrecord.com

The Anoka County Record is also available on our website:
anokacountyrecord.com

NEXT ISSUES:
NOV. 10
(Deadline Nov. 7)
NOV. 23
(Deadline Nov. 18)

Conversation Circle

Crooked Lake Library

11440 Crooked Lake Blvd, Coon Rapids
Phone 763-576-5972

Saturdays 11:00-11:45 am

October 1 - November 19

If English is not your first language, come and practice in casual conversation.

A Conversation Circle is...

a weekly gathering of adults who practice everyday conversational English

Come when you can!

Meet once a week for 1-2 hours.

You need to speak some English to participate.

Why Join Circle?

- Practice speaking English in a friendly environment
- Learn new English words and reduce your accent
- Learn about American culture
- Build confidence speaking English
- Learn about the library
- Make new friends and learn from each other

