

ELECTIONS 2011 NOW A PART OF HISTORY

ANOKA COUNTY RECORD REVIEWS THE SCHOOL DISTRICT AND CITY RACES



In our last issue, ACR's election coverage focused on the only two city races in Anoka County, Lino Lakes and Circle Pines. Six school districts also held elections Nov. 8. Next year's elections will require a herculean effort by voters to keep up with all the races: all 201 seats in the legislature will be on the ballot, as well as twenty city races in Anoka County, six school district races, the County Board and other county offices, not to mention Congress and the presidency. 2012 promises to be a busy year to say the least.

Kelso and Percy win city council seats in Circle Pines

Mayor Dave Bartholomay was re-elected without opposition, while two seats on the city council were also on the ballot. Incumbent David Kelso kept his seat with 585 votes, and Matthew Percy won the second seat with the same number of votes, 585. Placing third was James M. Keister (392 votes), Heather Rebecca Wrobel (223), former mayor Keith Perlich (206) and Clay Arnett with 192 votes. Percy had most recently served on the city's Planning Commission.

Reinert re-elected mayor of Lino Lakes

Incumbent mayor Jeff Reinert held his seat for another 2-year term, garnering 71% of the vote (2,855 votes). Challenger Ivy Cavegn had 1,134 votes.

Two council seats were won by incumbent Dave Roeser (1,832 votes) and newcomer Dale Stoesz (1,512). AFSCME business agent Tim Henderson, who represents the Lino Lakes prison employees union as well as Lino Lakes city employees, came in third with 1,225 votes.

Three other candidates followed: Matthew Kassner (595 votes), Sam Larson (562) and Byron J. Roland (418).

Incumbents win all seats in Anoka-Hennepin ISD #11

In District 1, Tom Heidemann handily fought off a challenge from Darin Rorman. Heidemann collected 70% of the vote (3041 votes) against Rorman's 1,184 total. Former Blaine city councilor Randy Kolb was among the challengers for the District 2 seat held by Marci D. Anderson, but the incumbent came out on top with 40% of the vote (1,559). Kolb placed third with 1,109 votes while a third challenger, Mary Nelson, just edged Kolb out for a 2nd place showing, with 1,128 votes. In District 5, incumbent Scott D. Wenzel ran unopposed. As to the levy questions in ISD #11, Questions 1 and 2 were passed, but #3 failed (see separate report on levy question results).

Incumbents win 2 of 4 seats in Forest Lake ISD #831; Fridley ISD #14 and White Bear Lake ISD #624 had no contests

ISD 831 School Board incumbents Dan Kieger and Rob Rapheal placed 2nd and 3rd respectively to keep their seats, while Julie Corcoran was the number one vote-getter with 4,033 votes in a field of seven candidates. Kieger received 3,606 and Rapheal 3,480 votes. Gail B. Theisen won the fourth seat with 3,367 votes. The remaining candidates were Connie Sutherland (2,631), John Beckstrom (2,577) and John Freed (2,561). The levy question was passed with 4,977 "Yes" votes (63%).

In Fridley ISD #14, three incumbents, Fred Bischke, Kim Sampson and Chris Riddle ran unopposed. Two levy questions were passed easily, with over 72% approval. Three incumbents also ran unopposed in White Bear Lake ISD #624: Chris Hiniker, Lori Swanson and Cathy Storey. The levy question was approved by 73% of those voting.

Incumbent Colleen Vranish retains seat on Spring Lake Park ISD #16 School Board

Colleen Vranish captured the last seat on the ballot for the ISD #16 school board, with 1,425 votes. Placing first was Amy Hennen with 1,882 votes and Jim Amundson claimed the second seat with 1,625 votes. Others in the race were Bill Lewis (741), Bryan Reynolds (679) and Bobbi George (608). Both levy questions passed.

Few votes to go around: St. Francis ISD #15 race was very tight

Six candidates filed for four seats on the St. Francis ISD #15 school board, and the numbers were very close. Top vote-getter was Amy Kelly with 715 votes, followed by Matthew Rustad (699), Suzanne Erkel (664), and Janet Glover (662). Sandy Grams (640) and CJ Mulder (571) narrowly saw defeat.

Editor's Note: We soon hope to present a table of voting statistics in a future edition, spotlighting the voter turnouts. We feel this information is as important as the vote totals. The numbers provided in this article are from the Secretary of State. We have noticed that absentee ballots are not always included in some vote totals given by various state, county or city sources. We will attempt to give readers a more complete statistical look at this election in a future edition once this information becomes available.

MAJORITY OF SCHOOL LEVIES PASS IN LOCAL ELECTIONS

Here is a summary of all the ballot questions that were put to voters in the school districts that operate within all of, or portions of, Anoka County.

ANOKA-HENNEPIN ISD #11

School District Question 1 (ISD #11)

RENEWAL OF EXPIRING PORTION OF REFERENDUM REVENUE AUTHORIZATION

The board of Anoka-Hennepin Independent School District No. 11 has proposed to renew the \$1,044 per pupil portion of the school district's existing referendum revenue authorization which is scheduled to expire after taxes payable in 2012. The proposed referendum revenue authorization would increase each year by the rate of inflation and be applicable for ten years, beginning with taxes payable in 2013, unless otherwise revoked or reduced as provided by law. Shall the increase in the revenue proposed by the board of Anoka-Hennepin Independent School District No. 11 be approved? BY VOTING "YES" ON THIS BALLOT QUESTION, YOU ARE VOTING TO EXTEND AN EXISTING PROPERTY TAX REFERENDUM THAT IS SCHEDULED TO EXPIRE.

Results: YES (63%) 20,698
No (37%) 12,139

School District Question 2 (ISD #11)

CAPITAL PROJECT LEVY AUTHORIZATION FOR TECHNOLOGY IMPROVEMENTS FOR SCHOOL INSTRUCTION

The board of Anoka-Hennepin Independent School District No. 11 has also proposed a capital project levy authorization of 1.55% times the net tax capacity of the school district to provide funds for the purchase, installation, and maintenance of software and technology for school instruction. The proposed capital project levy authorization will raise approximately \$3,000,000 for taxes payable in 2012, the first year it is to be levied, and would be authorized for ten years. The estimated total cost of the projects to be funded over that time period is approximately \$30,000,000. The projects to be funded have received a positive review and comment from the Commissioner of Education. Shall the capital project levy proposed by the board of Anoka-Hennepin Independent School District No. 11 be approved? BY VOTING "YES" ON THIS BALLOT QUESTION, YOU ARE VOTING FOR A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE.

Results: YES (51%) 16,580
No (49%) 16,187

School District Question 3 (ISD #11)

ADDITIONAL FUNDING TO MAINTAIN STABILITY OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

The board of Anoka-Hennepin Independent School District No. 11 has also proposed to increase its general education revenue by an

SCHOOL LEVY QUESTIONS

continued on next page, A-2

SCHOOL LEVY QUESTIONS*Continued from front page, A-1*

additional \$260 per pupil. The proposed referendum revenue authorization would increase each year by the rate of inflation and be applicable for ten years, beginning with taxes payable in 2013, unless otherwise revoked or reduced as provided by law. If School District Ballot Question 1 is approved, shall the increase in the revenue proposed by the board of Anoka-Hennepin Independent School District No. 11 also be approved? **BY VOTING "YES" ON THIS BALLOT QUESTION, YOU ARE VOTING FOR A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE.**

Results: NO (55%) 17,990

Yes (45%) 14,725

FOREST LAKE ISD #831

School District Question 1 (ISD #831) SCHOOL DISTRICT BALLOT QUESTION — RENEWAL OF EXPIRING SCHOOL DISTRICT REFERENDUM REVENUE LEVY AUTHORIZATION RENEWAL OF EXPIRING SCHOOL DISTRICT REFERENDUM REVENUE LEVY AUTHORIZATION
The board of Independent School District No. 831 (Forest Lake), Minnesota has proposed to renew the existing property tax referendum (\$725 per pupil) that expires after taxes payable in 2011. The proposed referendum revenue authorization of \$725 would be applicable for eight (8) years unless otherwise revoked or reduced as provided by law. Shall the renewal of the expiring property tax referendum proposed by the board of Independent School District No. 831 (Forest Lake) be approved?

Results: YES (63%) 4,977

No (37%) 2,955

FRIDLEY ISD #14

School District Question 1 (ISD #14) RENEWAL OF EXPIRING PORTION OF REFERENDUM REVENUE AUTHORIZATION

The board of Independent School District No. 14 (Fridley Public Schools) has proposed to renew the \$412.52 per pupil portion of the school district's existing referendum revenue authorization which is scheduled to expire. The proposed referendum revenue authorization would be applicable for ten years unless otherwise revoked or reduced as provided by law. Shall the increase in the revenue proposed by the board of Independent School District No. 14 be approved? **BY VOTING "YES" ON THIS BALLOT QUESTION, YOU ARE VOTING TO EXTEND AN EXISTING PROPERTY TAX REFERENDUM THAT IS SCHEDULED TO EXPIRE**

Results: YES (73%) 1,435

No (27%) 516

SPRING LAKE PARK ISD #16

School District Question 1 (ISD #16) RENEWAL OF EXPIRING SCHOOL DISTRICT REFERENDUM REVENUE LEVY AUTHORIZATION

The board of Independent School District No. 16 (Spring Lake Park), Minnesota has proposed to renew the existing property tax referendum (\$524.58 per pupil) that is scheduled to expire after taxes payable in 2012. The proposed referendum revenue authorization of \$524.58 would be applicable for seven (7) years unless otherwise revoked or reduced as provided by law. Shall the renewal of the expiring property tax referendum proposed by the board of Independent School District No. 16 (Spring Lake Park) be approved? **BY VOTING "YES" ON THIS BALLOT QUESTION, YOU ARE VOTING TO EXTEND AN EXISTING PROPERTY TAX REFERENDUM THAT IS SCHEDULED TO EXPIRE**

Results: YES (67%) 2,320

No (33%) 1,118

School District Question 2 (ISD #16) APPROVAL OF SCHOOL DISTRICT CAPITAL PROJECT LEVY AUTHORIZATION

The School Board of Independent School District No. 16 (Spring Lake Park), Minnesota has proposed a capital project levy authorization in the amount of 2.96% times the net tax capacity of the school district to provide funds for the costs of technology maintenance, replacement of outdated technology, improving access to current technology, and facility and equipment maintenance. The proposed capital project levy authorization will raise approximately \$1,065,985 for taxes payable in 2012, the first year it is to be levied, and would be authorized for eight (8) years. The estimated total cost of the projects to be funded over that time period is approximately \$8,600,000. The projects to be funded have received a positive review and comment from the Commissioner of Education. If Question 1 above is approved, shall the capital project levy proposed by the Board of Independent School District No. 16 (Spring Lake Park) be approved? **BY VOTING "YES" ON THIS BALLOT QUESTION, YOU ARE VOTING FOR A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE**

Results: YES (56%) 1,908

No (44%) 1,526

WHITE BEAR LAKE ISD #624

School District Question 1 (ISD #624) RENEWAL OF EXPIRING REFERENDUM REVENUE AUTHORIZATION
The board of Independent School District No. 624 (White Bear Lake Area Schools) has proposed to renew the school district's existing referendum revenue authorization of \$1,580.36 per pupil which is scheduled to expire after taxes payable in 2012. The proposed referendum revenue authorization would change each year by the state determined rate of inflation and be applicable for six years, beginning with taxes payable in 2013, unless otherwise revoked or reduced as provided by law.

Results: YES (73%) 6,928

No (27%) 2,556

CENTENNIAL ISD #12

School District Question 1 (ISD #12) APPROVAL OF SCHOOL DISTRICT REFERENDUM REVENUE LEVY
The board of Independent School District No. 12 (Centennial), Minnesota has proposed to increase its general education revenue by \$275 per pupil. The proposed referendum revenue authorization would be applicable for four (4) years unless otherwise revoked or reduced as provided by law. Shall the increase in the revenue proposed by the Board of Independent School District No. 12 (Centennial) be approved? **BY VOTING "YES" ON THIS BALLOT QUESTION, YOU ARE VOTING FOR A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE**

Results: YES (54%) 3,415

No (46%) 2,951

Editor's Note: All data for this report was retrieved from the Secretary of State's web site.

**CITY OF OAK GROVE
TAKING APPLICATIONS UNTIL DEC. 5
FOR PLANNING AND PARKS
COMMISSIONS**
Three-year terms
Applications available at City Hall

CITY OF COON RAPIDS
Applications are now being taken for openings on various city commissions including Arts, Charter, Board of Adjustment and Appeals, Police and Fire Civil Service, Parks, Planning, Historical, Safety and Sustainability ("Green") Commissions. Terms begin Jan. 1 and are for 3 years. Call City Hall 763-767-6493 for more information or see the city website at coonrapidsMN.gov

SCHOOL LEVIES ALL AROUND!*Opinion from the Anoka County Watchdog*

On Tuesday night, approximately 80% of school levies passed, with most of those levies being renewals of existing levies, thereby arguably not raising property taxes.

The renewal of so many levies really proves three things.

First, the Education Industrial Complex has a well-oiled machine that nearly always prevails over the grass roots, underfunded campaigns of those who oppose these property tax increases and demand more accountability.

When the resources of the teachers union is combined with the taxpayer resources that are used to "educate" voters, the outcome is rarely in doubt.

This year's propaganda theme was "survival." We were told that these levies were "survival levies" that would allow our "cut to the bone" schools to simply survive.

Of course, the fact that these districts got a \$650 million INCREASE in state aid this year was overlooked and never discussed.

Nor was the fact that the much decried "school shift" did nothing more than stretch out state aid payments to a 28-month pay cycle from a 23-month pay cycle.

Oh, the humanity!

Second, the majority of voters still don't care about accountability and results.

In the real world, investors who put money into any kind of endeavor demand a return on investment (ROI) that spells out, with quantifiable metrics, what kind of results the investor will see from the investment of their resources.

Our own smug arrogance regarding our public schools blinds us to the fact that we are way behind other developed countries and that we are falling behind the states we so often ridicule.

While states like Florida, Louisiana, and Tennessee are linking teacher compensation to student achievement and developing methods to enhance student learning, Minnesota inches along, hampered by a teacher union and its toadies in the legislature who maintain a status quo that is wonderful for teachers (especially the incompetent ones) and horrible for children.

In 2011, Minnesota clings to a teacher pay system that moves teachers across a Soviet-style pay grid that increases pay for seniority and how many college credits a teacher accumulates and has absolutely nothing to do with student learning or teacher competence.

While the teachers' union complains of no money, many of their local chapters have rejected the extra compensation that comes with "Q comp" a pay program that is based on results and not how many years a teacher has avoided getting fired.

Don't expect the increased spending to result in better educated students. Voters didn't demand it. Instead, we're told that class sizes won't be increased or that the kids will have new high definition televisions in each class-room. Sorry, even reduced class sizes can't be linked to better educational outcomes. Check with Japan or any private school that serves impoverished urban areas.

So long as better results aren't demanded, we won't get them.

We need to support and encourage legislators who have demonstrated the courage to take on the status quo in education.

Folks like state Representative Pat Garofalo are working hard to change the system.

Ideas like moving school levy votes to even numbered years will help. So will a more rigorous enforcement of laws against using taxpayer resources for levy campaigns.

Opinion

"It's a good thing the American people aren't getting all the government they're paying for." — Will Rogers



OUR PURPLE LEGACY

from the Anoka County Watchdog

While not a new idea, using money from the increased sales tax we pay to fund the "Legacy Amendment," has resurfaced in recent days as a funding option for the Vikings' stadium.

State representatives [Kurt Daudt](#) and [Pat Garofalo](#) have been talking about this option as has our Trust Fund Governor, who has said all options should be on the table.

Maybe the gov really believes in this option or maybe he just wants to take a poke at his ex-wife, another silver spooner who blew some family dough on the massive public relations campaign that tricked voters into enshrining into the state constitution a sales tax increase for arts and entertainment.

The Legacy Amendment raised the sales tax by 3/8ths of a percent and dedicates the money into different pots of money, including 20% of which may only be spent to preserve Minnesota's cultural heritage.

This is exactly what keeping the Vikings in Minnesota would do, according to stadium supporters, our elected officials, and those who don purple Zubas, beads, and face paint every Sunday as they watch Ponder and company get smoked.

These folks constantly talk about the Vikings being an "asset to the state" and part of the "cultural fabric" of Minnesota.

Great. It sounds like preserving this cultural asset is just what that tax increase was designed to protect.

Now don't get us wrong. The Watchdog's position is that government has no role in subsidizing this business or any other business. When government gets into this activity, subsidies distort the market and tax dollars are allocated on the basis of political influence, not merit. The best policy is for government to get the heck out of the way and let the job creators create jobs.

Now, of course the arts and croissant crowd has been going bananas at the thought of their opera and fine painting money being used to support such a barbaric sport supported by such an unrefined and unwashed mob.

Our precious arts money being used to subsidize professional football? Egad!

Football fans probably don't know the works of Monet, the tenets of Impressionism, or the proper etiquette for drinking tea, according to these erudite and refined connoisseurs of fine art. Indeed!

Pitting the limousine liberals against mouth-breathers who demand a stadium is a sport in and of itself and reason enough to support using Legacy money for a stadium.

It's also interesting to hear the arts and croissant crowd decry using Legacy money

for a "for profit" organization like the Vikings.

These folks think taxpayers are dumb enough to think that somehow a non-profit organization is just some sort of small-time operation solely dedicated to the general public welfare. Sort of like missionary work.

Don't be fooled. Non-profit organizations can be very large and very lucrative. Yes, they can't have shareholders and a distribution of profits, but people can get very rich at the business of non-profits.

Take a look at the salaries of some of these poor not-for-profits, based on 2009 data:

Bill Kling, National Public Radio: \$654,000

Joe Dowling, Guthrie Theater Foundation: \$646,000

Thomas Kingston, Amherst Wilder Foundation: \$471,000

Eric Jolly, Science Museum of Minnesota: \$367,000

James Pagliarini, Twin Cities Public Television: \$326,000

Nina Archabal, Minnesota Historical Society: \$300,000

Not-for-profit certainly doesn't mean not-getting-rich.

Oh, yeah. These people all lead organizations that take a lot of taxpayer funding.

It's rather ironic to see the arts community point a finger at Zygi Wilf and accuse him of greed. Yes, he's greedy, but so are you guys. Talk about the pot calling the kettle black.

We're not done with Legacy amendment business and all its problems.

Last week, it was [reported](#) that over \$100 million in Legacy funding remains unreported to the state web site that provides transparency and accountability to taxpayers regarding the use of these funds.

Never mind the fact that it's been nearly three years since the amendment passed. Just how hard is it to track spending and put it on a web site?

Moreover, state bureaucrats were given \$70,000 to develop the web site. That ought to be more than enough to establish a web site.

But maybe it's better that we don't know where some of this money is going.

If you're uncomfortable with idea of using this money to preserve our purple heritage, consider where the money is currently going, at least the money we can actually track:

[American Society of Landscape Architects-MN Legacy Project](#)

To document in 8 interviews the story of landscape design in 20th Century Minnesota

[An Oral History of Homelessness in Minnesota](#)

To document in 9 interviews the homeless experience in Minnesota outside of the metropolitan area

[Documenting the History of Minnesota Comics](#)

To document in 15 interviews Minnesota's cartoonists' community

[Duluth Birth History Oral History Project](#)

To document in 5-7 interviews the history of maternity care in Duluth prior to 1941

[Heritage and Cultural Growth from Somali Sports in MN Oral History](#)

To document in 20 interviews the history of Somali experience in Rochester

[IAM Oral History Project](#)

To document in 7 interviews the history of subcontinental Indian music in Minnesota

[Intergenerational Learning Programs](#)

A set of projects designed to bring together members of multiple generations around history topics

[Neighborhood Leadership Program](#)

The Minnesota Historical Society is partnering with the Amherst H. Wilder Foundation to continue the Neighborhood Leadership Program, an initiative that develops leadership skills of community members to take effective action

[New Faces of Minnesota Oral History](#)

To fabricate and install an exhibit on new Minnesotans who have begun to weave themselves into the state's story

[Saint Paul Police Women's Oral History Project](#)

To document in 11 interviews the history and culture of women serving the St. Paul Police Department

[Fishing: A Cross Cultural Gateway to Environmental Education](#)

Develop fishing as a gateway for communicating meaningful environmental information; teaching skills for lifelong outdoor participation; and instilling values of stewardship in three generations of Southeast Asian communities

[Folk and Traditional Arts](#)

Dance Revels Moving History will work with local French and Metis (French-Indian) cultural specialist/interpreter Virgil Benoit, French Director Josette Antomarchi, and several French cultural groups to produce dance workshops, discussions about being bi-racial, and a dance theater show about the Met's founding father of Minneapolis and St. Paul, Pierre Bottineau and his multi-racial world.

It's either football or this stuff. You voted it into the constitution.

Editor's note: after this first appeared in the Anoka County Watchdog, stadium funding talk shifted to an expansion of gambling. This occurred after Gov. Dayton was told by House and Senate leadership that they had no interest in convening a special session in late November. It was also said there were not enough votes among legislators to exempt the stadium sales tax proposal from the state law which requires a voter referendum.

COON RAPIDS WINTER PARKING BAN IN EFFECT

Section 9-122 of the City Code states that no person shall park or be permitted to park any vehicle on any public street in the City of Coon Rapids between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. between the first day of November and the first day of April the following year.

Opinion

"It's almost been worth this Depression to find out how little our big men know."

— Will Rogers



THE LAW: SOMETHING BEYOND THE COMPREHENSION OF VIKINGS FANS

Special to the ACR by Bryan Olson, Ramsey County Charter Commission member

It was five years ago this month when Anoka County officials announced they were throwing in the towel in its pursuit of constructing a stadium for the Minnesota Vikings in Blaine. At the end of 2006, it was reported that the county had spent \$1.2 million in lobbying efforts to make the dream happen. Sponsoring the stadium bills in the House and Senate were Rep. Andy Westerberg and Sen. Don Betzold, respectively.

The Twins however were successful that same year in getting public funding (a sales tax) for a new stadium. The Twins stadium bill, which *exempted Hennepin County from a state law that requires a voter referendum on all sales tax proposals*, was passed by the legislature by only about a dozen votes.

Five years later, the Vikings are still searching for other people's money. They landed upon Ramsey County commissioners Tony Bennett and Rafael Ortega who happened to have a big chunk of contaminated land they wanted to unload. In February 2011, the County Board voted to start spending taxpayer dollars in an effort to locate a stadium on the TCAAP site in Arden Hills.

It was assumed that Ramsey County taxpayers would be happy to contribute a 1/2 of a percent sales tax toward the stadium. Since the Twins got their stadium five years ago, what could possibly be different today? It ought to have been a "slam dunk", right?

The Vikings organization seemingly was unaware that the legislature of 2011 is a very different group of people than those who were at the capitol in 2006. They also didn't do their homework regarding the politics of the county, very different from others'. Why?

Ramsey County is governed by a *charter*, which is a form of local government used by over 100 cities in Minnesota, and just one county — Ramsey. The charter is similar to a constitution; its contents were approved in an election held in the county in 1990.

The charter contains petition and referendum powers to the county's citizens, and this is where the stadium question gets a little sticky.

The legislature would not only have to have waive the state law that attaches a voter referendum to all sales taxes, but would also have to ignore a county charter which was approved in an election. They *can do this*, but the question that has been thrown around for months now is whether the legislature has the political will to do something this nasty to the voters of Ramsey County.

Recently, statements made by legislative leaders suggest they have no interest in abrogating state law or the county charter.

These declarations have only now arrived after months-long debate on whether to hold a voter referendum in Ramsey County. Taxpayers would decide whether they want to tax themselves more to keep their sports entertainment.

It's important to note here that voters' rights to a referendum *already exist* in state law and the

charter. Decisions aren't going to be made based on whether the *For* Referendum or *No* Referendum side screams the loudest.

Which brings us to the headline of this column: the *law* seems to be something that Vikings' fans cannot comprehend. Not one fan or stadium promoter ever speaks to the charter or the state law that requires a referendum. In their minds, these things do not exist. Judging by some of their writings, they don't appear to be *able* to comprehend anything more complicated than the score of the game. Here is just a small sampling of highlights from e-mails I have received, sent to Charter Commission members and sometimes legislators as well:

"Tomorrow could be a bad day for Minnesota. If you allow a stadium referendum to be on the ballot in 2012, the end of the Viking's time in Minnesota will be near, and that is sad. I don't think you people realize how close we are to the Vikings moving to LA. . . Do you people really want to be known as the reason why the Vikings moved to LA? Please don't let that happen.

"The referendum is a waste of time and money. We elect our politicians to make decisions for us. That is their job! If the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners chooses to impose a tax, so be it. . . The Minnesota Vikings are an asset to the state and it would be a shame if we lose them. My kids love going to games with me!!! We would be heartbroken without the Vikings! Please allow your county to raise the sales tax WITHOUT a referendum!!!

"The Viking's lease ends a few months!!!! Do you not realize that? The Vikings should not be treated any different than the Twins. Hennepin County did not have a referendum and neither should Ramsey County!!!

"Didn't you play football or any other sports when you were younger?"

— (from a resident of *Dakota County*.)

"Hi, I'm a 13 year old boy that lives in a small town in **Iowa**. I have been a Minnesota Vikings fan for 6 years but it seems like it's been 60. I go to 1 game every year. I never miss a game weather I have to watch it on TV, listen to it on the radio, or follow it on NFL.com. I get mad when they lose but extremely happy when they win. I have never been more depressed in my 13 years of life. When ever I think of the Vikings moving to a nother state other than Minnesota I get pretty emotional. Sometimes I cry, sometimes I lock myself in my room for a hour. Football is very important to me. I been playing football for 3 years and It is by far the best sport ever! My dream is to play football in the NFL and growing up watching the Vikings have helped that dream be apart of me. So please, the Minnesota Vikings is a hudge part of my life, and I don't know what I would do without it. Think about the jobs that would benifit in a new stadium. Think about the thousands of fans. Think about me. And think about the Minnesota Vikings and how they are and should always be in Minnesota. Thank you for taking your time to read this message.

!SKOL VIKINGS!"

(One cute touch: all mentions of "Minnesota" and "Vikings" were in purple-colored text.)

Sent to the Ramsey County Charter Commission and all 201 state legislators:

"Your position on requiring a Sales Tax Referendum vote within Ramsey County in relation to the usage of a .5% tax increase towards the build of the Vikings stadium, in essence, sets the stage for the departure of the Minnesota Vikings, which is a professional franchise with a die-hard fan base here in Minnesota, and is by far the professional sports franchise within Minnesota that has the highest popularity and participation. The Arden Hills sight for development of a Viking's stadium is ideal in terms of what can be accomplished with a piece of land that, in all likelihood would remain stagnant and undeveloped until some corporation or government entity spent a significant amount of money, as this Stadium project would, to clean up the site and develop it.

"You already know what the result will be if you put this to a vote. There are too many people that cannot see the forest through the trees to get them to understand the consequences of voting down this sales tax increase. . . . we won't get another team back, and sure we'll get by on Fall Sundays raking our yards , going for a Sunday drive, tossing a "football" with our kids in the backyard, etc.. But —we quite possibly could be tailgating and having fun in the new stadium parking lot, spending money in bars and talking about "our" team and the game, reliving old times, or throwing foam bricks at the TV, ordering pizza, teaching our kids the game and about what is sportsmanship and what is not, snoozing on the couch through halftime, etc...

"Vikings football has been a fabric of this State and the metro communities for 50 years, and because of the potential rejection of a .5% sales tax increase, which would for most people, cost them probably an extra \$25 to \$50 a year, or less, you are willing to let go of another segment of the corporate community within Minnesota, and a very popular one at that. It's no wonder that many companies have left Minnesota to headquarter in different states or move major segments of their operations to different states (Lockheed Martin, Travelers, Northwest Airlines, etc...). It's because Minnesota doesn't incentivize as it should to assure that we keep the jobs here.

"I live in Bloomington (Hennepin County), and I would have no problem paying an additional .5% sales tax to keep this valuable franchise here in Minnesota. If I were living in Ramsey County, and in one year, I spent \$10,000 on items in which the additional .5% sales tax is applied, I would have contributed \$50 to the build of a Stadium. \$50 of my money would help to keep a valued and popular entity in the state of Minnesota, and the money I contributed will have eventually gotten paid back to my county by the end of the 30 year agreement. I watched the North Stars leave and I still can't stomach it. I went to every home game of their Stanley Cup run in '91, and I tailgated in the parking lot with 18000+ fans for each game, having one heck of a fun time. Yes, I know we are in tough economic times, and it is tough on the people of this state, but the Vikings and NFL football are actually a stressor relief for a ton of Minnetotans on Sunday afternoons from all of the pressures of state economics and personal finance concerns . . ."

Anoka County

GOVERNMENT MEETINGS

Anoka County Board

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

Mon. Nov. 14 & 21

Public Works Cmte, 9 am, Rm 772 ACGC

Tues. Nov. 15

Human Services Cmte — 8:30 am, Rm 710 ACGC
Inform. Technology (“IT”) Cmte — 10:30 am,
Rm 772, ACGC

NOTICE
MEMBERS OF THE ANOKA COUNTY BOARD
OF COMMISSIONERS
MAY BE ATTENDING
**AN OPEN HOUSE CELEBRATION FOR THE
COON RAPIDS RECYCLING CENTER
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2011
AT 3:00 P.M.**
COON RAPIDS RECYCLING CENTER
1831 111TH AVENUE NW
COON RAPIDS, MN

NOTICE
THE ANOKA COUNTY BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS
MAY ATTEND THE
**2012 ANOKA COUNTY LEGISLATIVE
WORKSHOP
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2011
AT 3:00 P.M.**
ARCHERY COMPLEX AT BUNKER HILLS
REGIONAL PARK
COON RAPIDS/ANDOVER BORDER

Thurs. Nov. 17

Community Corrections Advisory Bd — 12:00
pm, Rm 710, ACGC

NOTICE
MEMBERS OF THE
ANOKA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MAY ATTEND
**National Adoption Day
Saturday, November 19, 2011
10:00 a.m. to Noon**
Adoptions: Courthouse, Court Room 8
Adoption Celebration: Government Center Atrium

Mon. Nov. 21

Finance & Capital Improvements Cmte — 3 pm.
Rm 772 ACGC
Library Board, 5:30 pm, Library offices behind
Northtown Library

Tues. Nov. 22

Management Cmte Anoka Co. Board — 8:30 am
& reg. meeting (9:30 am) , Rm 705 ACGC

Andover

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

Tues. Nov. 15 & Dec. 6

City Council — 7 pm

Thurs. Nov. 17, Dec. 1, 15

Parks Comm. — 7 pm

Tues. Nov. 29

Special City Council Workshop — 6 pm

Tues. Dec. 13

Planning Comm. — 7 pm

Wed. Dec. 14

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

Mon. Nov. 14

Housing & Redevelop. Auth. (HRA) — 5 pm

Tues. Nov. 15

Anti-Crime, 7:30 am

Tues. Nov. 15

COC — 7:30 am

Tues. Nov. 16

Parking Advisory Board — 7:15 am

Thurs. Nov. 17

LRRWMO — 8:30 pm

Mon. Nov. 21

City Council — 7 pm

Bethel

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

Thurs. Nov. 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. 10, Nov. 17 & Dec. 1

City Council — 6:30 pm (Workshop);
7:30 pm (meeting)

Tues. Nov. 15

Natural Resource Conservation Bd — 7 pm

Tues. Nov. 22

Parks Comm. — 7 pm

Centerville

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

Wed. Nov. 23

City Council (Delinquent Utilities Public
Hearing) — 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

Mon. Nov. 14

Planning Comm. — 7 pm

Wed. Nov. 16

Utility Comm. — 4:30 pm

Tues. Nov. 22

City Council — 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

Mon. Nov. 14 & 28

City Council — 7 pm

Tues. Nov. 22

EDA — 7 pm

Wed. Nov. 23

Parks Comm. — 5:30 pm. Murzyn Hall

Columbus

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

Wed. Nov. 16

Planning Comm. — 7 pm

Thurs. Nov. 17

Parks Board — 6:30 pm

Coon Rapids

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

Tues. Nov. 15 & Dec. 6

City Council — 7 pm

Thurs. Nov 17

Planning Comm. — 6:30 pm

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

East Bethel

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

Wed. Nov. 16 & Dec. 7

City Council — 7:30 pm

Tues. Nov. 22

Planning Commission — 7 pm

Fridley

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

Mon. Nov. 14

City Council — 7 pm (pre-meeting); 7:30 pm

Wed. Nov. 16

Planning Comm. — 7 pm

Thurs. Dec. 1

HRA — 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. 14

Planning Comm. — 6 pm

Wed. Nov. 16

Park & Tree Comm. — 6 pm

Mon. Nov. 21

City Council — 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. 17

City Council — 7 pm (followed by workshop)

Mon. Nov. 21

Fire Dept. Relief— 6:30 pm

Lino Lakes

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

Mon. Nov. 14

City Council — 6:30 pm

Mon. Nov. 28

City Council Work Session & Mtg — 5:30 pm

Wed. Nov. 30

Environmental Board — 6:30 pm

Linwood Township

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

Mon. Nov. 14

Senior Advisory Bd — 9:30 am

Tues. Nov. 15

Planning Comm. — 7 pm

Mon. Nov. 21

Cemetery Cmte. — 5 pm

Tues. Nov. 22

Town Board — 6 pm

Mon. Nov. 28

Parks & Recr. 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

Thurs. Nov. 10
Parks & Rec. Comm. — 6:30 pm

Tues. Nov. 15
Public Works Cmte. — 5:30 pm (followed by
City Council work session & HRA work
session & HRA Special Session)

Thurs. Nov. 17
Mayor's Town Hall mtg — 7 pm

Tues. Nov. 22
City Council work session — 5:30 pm (reg. mtg.
7 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. 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 22 & Dec. 13 — 7 pm
Tues. Nov. 15 & Dec. 20 — 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

Fridley School Dist. #14

board, prior to regular meetings, at 6 p.m.
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

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

**METRO NORTH ABE
ADULT EDUCATION CENTER
4111 CENTRAL AVE NE in
COLUMBIA HEIGHTS
SOUTH BLDG., ROOM 100
FREE CLASSES IN:
ADULT DIPLOMA
ENGLISH (ESL)
GED PREPARATION
Reading, Writing, Math
Citizenship Classes
Conversation
763-783-4870**

**CITY OF OAK GROVE SEEKING
RESIDENTS TO SERVE ON PARKS
AND PLANNING COMMISSIONS.**
Applications available at City Hall;
deadline for submissions is Monday,
Dec. 5th. Terms are for 3 years.

**Breakfast With Santa
St. Francis American Legion
Bridge Street & County Rd 9
SATURDAY, DEC. 3
9AM-11:30AM
\$2.50 Age 10 and Under; \$3.50 Adults**

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. 23
(Deadline Nov. 18)
DEC. 8
(Deadline Dec. 5)**

COLUMBIA HEIGHTS PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION



**FUNDRAISER
Miracle on 34th Street**

Sunday, December 4, 2011 Heights Theatre
3951 Central Ave NE
ENTERTAINMENT: 1:00 First Four Performance
MOVIE FOLLOWS – TICKETS \$10

Advance tickets available:
Northeast Bank
Heights Theatre
Columbia Heights City Hall
Columbia Heights Safety Building
Cliff Shedlov: 612-251-9557 / Marlane Szurek: 763-788-4506