

## RETIRING STATE LEGISLATOR TO HEAD COUNTY PROGRAM REP. JOHN KRIESEL APPOINTED BY ANOKA COUNTY BOARD

At a special meeting May 1, the Anoka County Board appointed State Representative John M. Kriesel to lead the county's Veteran Services office. He is a combat veteran of the Iraq war, and recently worked for the Minnesota National Guard as a civilian contractor in the marketing field.

"John Kriesel will lead our service to Anoka County veterans with compassion and empathy," said Anoka County Board of Commissioners Chair Rhonda Sivarajah. "His desire to serve comes from his deep-rooted love of our country and his experience on the battlefield and in recovery. His presence and leadership will help veterans and their families find strength and healing as they work through the issues that arise after leaving military service."

Kriesel left the service after being severely injured by a roadside bomb in Iraq in 2006. His injuries forced doctors to amputate both of Kriesel's legs. He first enlisted in the Minnesota National Guard as an 11B Infantryman on his 17th birthday and attended basic training between his junior and senior years of high school.

He served on a NATO peacekeeping mission in Kosovo in 2004 and less than two years later volunteered for a deployment in Iraq.

On December 2, 2006, Kriesel was on a combat patrol with his squad near the Euphrates River when his Humvee encountered a 200-pound Improvised Explosive Device (IED). The blast killed two of his close friends. Kriesel suffered multiple internal injuries, two broken arms and amputation of both his legs. He retired after 10 years of service, achieving the rank of Staff Sergeant. His service awards include the Combat Infantryman Badge, Purple Heart Medal and Bronze Star.

In 2010, Kriesel won the District 57A (Cottage Grove) seat as the Republican candidate in a traditionally Democratic district. Kriesel defeated his DFL opponent Jen Peterson, a Cottage Grove city councilor, with 52% of the vote for the open seat vacated by Rep. Karla Bigham. Two months ago Kriesel announced he would not seek a second term.

He has co-authored a biography, "Still Standing: The Story of SSG John Kriesel" which details his military career and recovery from his combat injuries.

### Anoka County Veteran Services

Anoka County Veteran Services helps veterans, widows, widowers, and children of veterans understand and overcome the myriad problems and situations faced after leaving service. Anoka County's Veteran Services Officers know and understand the laws that impact veterans and their families. They will apply those rules and related services to best serve the needs of Anoka County veterans and their families who contact the office.

The Veteran Services Office is located in the Anoka County Government Center, Suite 216, 2100 3rd Avenue in Anoka. The office phone number is (763) 323-5290.



Rep. John M. Kriesel

## TEACHER LAYOFF REFORM BILL VETOED BY GOVERNOR

by Evan Paskach — *Minnesota State News*

"Anti-public schools," "anti-public school teachers," and "anti-collective bargaining" were just some of the ways Gov. Mark Dayton described the legislation in his veto of HF 1870, a bill that would have required school districts to consider teacher performance in addition to seniority when laying off teachers. Dayton formalized the expected veto May 3.

"This bill, with the rhetoric accompanying it, is yet another example of this prejudice against public school teachers," Dayton wrote in his veto letter. "Once again, they are singled out as 'the problem' for which some legislators' solution is to override the long-established rights of local school boards and teachers' elected representatives to negotiate the terms of their employment and their dismissals."

Before the governor's veto came, the bill's author, Sen. Pam Wolf (R-Spring Lake Park) said in a statement, "I am proud of the work we have done to reform the last in, first out policy. I would like to thank my colleagues who offered their support for this bill which confirms that we value quality teachers. We know that teacher quality has a significant impact on student learning. Ending seniority-

based layoff will help our schools keep their best teachers in the classroom and enhance the learning experience for Minnesota's children." The bill passed in the House 70-61 and in the Senate 35-28.

Supporters of the legislation, including House sponsor Branden Petersen (R-Andover), responded sharply to the governor's veto.

"I would like to apologize on behalf of Governor Dayton for his unapologetic veto of a bill that would have done away with the archaic 'Last In, First Out' (LIFO) policy in Minnesota. By choosing to veto a measure with broad bi-partisan support that would allow schools to keep their most effective teachers on staff, the Governor has dealt a major blow to teachers, schools, students and parents across the state," Petersen said in a statement.

The governor found support for his veto from the state's public teachers union Education Minnesota.

"Gov. Dayton said in his State of the State speech that education policy shouldn't be a political ploy and he promised to veto anything that was," Education Minnesota President Tom Dooher said. "He kept that promise today and our 70,000 educators thank him for it."

## SIGNS 40 BILLS, VETOES 6 IN LAST WEEK OF APRIL; LIFO STRUCK DOWN GOV. DAYTON'S PEN IS RUNNING OUT OF INK

by Evan Paskach — *Minnesota State News*

During the last week of April, Gov. Dayton signed 40 bills into law, including several key bills in the area of public safety and corrections, veterans affairs, as well as legislation allowing the sale of alcohol at TCF Bank Stadium on the University of Minnesota campus.

Lawmakers on both sides of the aisle have applauded bipartisan solutions for certain reforms.

On the other hand, the governor also issued six vetoes last week of some high-profile bills. On April 26, Dayton vetoed a bill that would have required all abortion clinics in the state to be licensed. The Senate bill's sponsor noted that the Senate might be just two votes shy of overriding governor's veto.

Also making headlines over the weekend of April 28 was Dayton's veto of the fireworks bill. The legislation that would have granted Minnesotans access to more powerful aerial fireworks was stifled because of safety concerns. An attempt to override the governor's veto in the Senate failed on May 3. A two-thirds majority was needed; the vote was 37-29.

### Signed week of 4/22-4/28

Chapter: 204 Bill: \*HF795/SF639  
Description: Bermuda; human services commissioner instructed to initiate a foreign reciprocal agreement.

Chapter: 205 Bill: \*HF1850/SF2253  
Description: State employee gainsharing program maximum award increased.

Chapter: 206 Bill: \*HF2506/SF2059  
Description: School district reserved staff development revenue allocation requirement stricken.

Chapter: 207 Bill: \*SF1073/HF1272  
Description: High school transition plan proposed for students to successfully pursue postsecondary education and employment, and money appropriated.

Chapter: 208 Bill: \*SF2379/HF2680  
Description: Jury selection limitation removed on voter list data received by courts.

Chapter: 209 Bill: \*HF2174/SF1737  
Description: District money deposit investments authorized, and designated depositories provided.

Chapter: 210 Bill: \*HF2373/SF1874  
Description: Felony of fraudulent or other improper finance statements extended to include retaliation against a sheriff or county recorder for performance of official duties regarding real property.

Chapter: 211 Bill: \*HF2160/SF2108  
Description: Fingerprints permitted to be taken by law enforcement for any offender interacting with the criminal justice system for any offense to eliminate a suspense record.

Chapter: 212 Bill: \*SF1678/HF2059  
Description: Public defender representation, appointment, and reimbursement obligation provisions amended; and financial responsibility outlined for public defender cost, cost for counsel in CHIPS cases, pretrial appeals costs, and standby counsel costs.

Chapter: 215 Bill: \*HF1236/SF973  
Description: Pharmacy audit integrity program established.

**GOVERNOR SIGNS AND VETOES** *cont. page A-2*

**GOVERNOR SIGNS AND VETOES**

*continued from previous page, A-1*

Chapter: 216 Bill: \*SF1675/HF1967 Description: Children and family services provisions modified, child safety and permanency reform provided including adoptions under guardianship of the commissioner, statutory provisions modified related to child support, child care provisions modified, fees modified, MFIP provisions modified, criminal penalties provided, and technical changes made.

Chapter: 217 Bill: \*SF248/HF383 Description: New radiation therapy facility construction criteria established, and radiation therapy facility capacity study required.

Chapter: 218 Bill: \*HF738/SF1000 Description: Public notice provided for the release hearing for killers of peace officers, and harassment restraining order provisions modified.

Chapter: 219 Bill: \*HF1175/SF929 Description: Scott County; additional deputy registrar of motor vehicles authorized.

Chapter: 220 Bill: \*HF1813/SF1650 Description: Eligible contractor list required to be made available under a master contract program.

Chapter: 222 Bill: \*HF2246/SF1825 Description: Convictions under the original criminal vehicular operation law allowed to enhance DWI offenses, and legislative oversight corrected.

Chapter: 223 Bill: \*HF469/SF574 Description: Harassment restraining order petitions jurisdiction provided.

Chapter: 224 Bill: \*HF2614/SF2227 Description: Administrative law judge and compensation judge mandatory retirement age changed.

Chapter: 225 Bill: \*HF2335/SF1888 Description: Debt collection agency and registration of individual debt collector procedures amended.

Chapter: 226 Bill: \*HF2861/SF2466 Description: Municipalities authorized to make grants to emergency medical services agencies.

Chapter: 227 Bill: \*HF2149/SF1657 Description: Domestic violence-related offense qualifying definition expanded.

Chapter: 228 Bill: \*HF2276/SF1811 Description: Advanced diagnostic imaging services operator accreditation required.

Chapter: 229 Bill: \*SF2464/HF2896 Description: Sex offender sentencing grid modification required.

Chapter: 230 Bill: \*SF2316/HF2495 Description: Veterans removal hearing board appointment procedure modified.

Chapter: 231 Bill: \*SF2354/HF2493 Description: Noncompetitive appointment of disabled veterans in the classified service provided.

Chapter: 232 Bill: \*SF2112/HF2437 Description: Correctional facility claims settlement against the state provided for and money appropriated.

Chapter: 234 Bill: \*HF2173/SF2067 Description: Fraud prevention measures established for money transmitters, and home solicitation sale definition clarified.

Chapter: 235 Bill: \*SF2392/HF2784 Description: Liquor regulations

modified, and liquor licenses authorized.

Chapter: 236 Bill: \*SF1750/HF2214 Description: State parks, state recreation areas, and state forests added to and deleted from, and conveyances and public and private sales of state and county lands authorized.

Chapter: 237 Bill: \*HF2731/SF2216 Description: Community energy technical assistance and outreach assessment and grant required.

Chapter: 238 Bill: \*SF1922/HF2169 Description: State agency notice to the legislature and requirements modified for statements of need and reasonableness.

Chapter: 239 Bill: \*HF2949/SF2482 Description: General education, education excellence, special education, and other programs provided for, and money appropriated.

Chapter: 240 Bill: \*HF2508/SF2319 Description: State-controlled substance schedules aligned with federal controlled substance schedules, Board of Pharmacy's controlled substance regulation authority modified, and penalties provided.

Chapter: 241 Bill: \*HF2447/SF2106 Description: Office of Administrative Hearings judge authorized to perform marriages.

Chapter: 242 Bill: \*SF1754/HF2259 Description: Lawful gambling net profits for military marching, color guard, or honor guard units allowable per diem reimbursement increased.

Chapter: 244 Bill: \*HF2398/SF2061 Description: Omnibus agriculture bill.

Chapter: 246 Bill: \*HF2532/SF2128 Description: Electronic prescribing of controlled substances allowed.

Chapter: 247 Bill: \*HF2294/SF2093 Description: Health and human services omnibus bill.

Chapter: 248 Bill: \*SF2137/HF2553 Description: Claims practices regulated.

Chapter: 250 Bill: \*SF2296/HF2545 Description: Absentee ballot envelope certificate modified.

**Vetoed week of 4/22-4/28**

Chapter: 213 Bill: \*SF247/HF371 Description: Local government employees required to approve participation in or withdrawal from the public employees insurance program. *Governor veto: 4/23/12*

Chapter: 214 Bill: \*HF1812/SF1846 Description: Department of Administration permitted to contract for waste-hauling without determining whether state employees are able to do the work. *Governor veto: 4/23/12*

Chapter: 221 Bill: \*HF1976/SF1842 Description: Federal E-Verify program use by state appointing authorities required. *Governor veto: 4/24/12*

Chapter: 233 Bill: \*SF1921/HF2340 Description: Abortion facility licensure required, facility license fee set, and money appropriated. *Governor veto: 4/26/12*

Chapter: 243 Bill: \*SF1694/HF1774 Description: Fireworks personal use authorized. Gov. Dayton described vetoing this bill as being "the toughest decision I've had to make on any piece of legislation." *Governor veto: 4/28/12*

Chapter: 245 Bill: \*HF1974/SF2078 Description: Contract terms

continuance not allowed after expiration of a collective bargaining agreement. *Governor veto: 4/27/12*

**Approved by the Governor and signed into law after April 30:**

Chapter: 251 Bill: \*SF2334/HF2684 Description: Lobbying principal reports modified.

Chapter: 253 Bill: \*HF2627/SF2208 Description: Electronic claims and electronic transaction requirement changed, health care and disability service provisions changes made, supplemental agreement provided to a contract for community social services, family stabilization service provision changes made, procedures required to establish reciprocal child support agreement with Bermuda, and public pool exemption provisions changed.

Chapter: 254 Bill: \*SF1597/HF1821 Description: Small business set-aside program changed for veteran-owned small businesses, county set-aside programs authorized for veteran-owned small businesses, and reporting requirements changed.

Chapter: 255 Bill: \*SF2342/HF2749 Description: Auto insurance claims practices regulated.

Chapter: 257 Bill: \*SF2535/HF2759 Description: Board of School Administrators provisions modified.

Chapter: 258 Bill: \*HF1607/SF1283 Description: State Patrol authorized to provide security and protection to certain government officials, and capitol complex security committee established.

Chapter: 259 Bill: \*HF2638/SF2310 Description: Portable electronics insurance sale regulated.

Chapter: 260 Bill: \*HF2705/SF2340 Description: Closing agents regulated, and licensed attorneys and direct employees of licensed attorneys exempted from the licensing requirements for closing agents.

Chapter: 262 Bill: \*SF2324/HF2732 Description: Electrical licenses modified.

Chapter: 263 Bill: \*SF946/HF755 Description: School district pilot project established to examine joint operations to provide innovative delivery of programs and activities and share resources.

Chapter: 264 Bill: \*SF2493/HF2430 Description: Legacy bill; outdoor heritage fund, clean water fund, and arts and cultural heritage fund money appropriated; outdoor heritage fund appropriation requirements modified; public grazing program provided; grant management provisions and film production jobs program oversight and control changed; and prior appropriations modified.

**Anoka County RECORD PUBLICATION SCHEDULE**

MAY 2012					1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31				

JUNE 2012					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Thursday Publication Deadline for next issue

Chapter: 266 Bill: \*HF2046/SF1958 Description: Department of Human Services electronic civil commitment data access permitted to law enforcement for background checks on explosives possession permit applications.

Chapter: 267 Bill: \*HF2136/SF1734 Description: Motor vehicle damage disclosure modified.

Chapter: 268 Bill: \*SF2098/HF2747 Description: Cooperative utilities under the integrated resource planning process reporting obligations modified.

Chapter: 269 Bill: \*SF288/HF614 Description: Dental laboratories regulated, and money appropriated.

Chapter: 270 Bill: \*SF1573/HF2065 Description: Omnibus higher education bill.

**Vetoed by the Governor since April 30:**

Chapter: 252 Bill: \*HF2341/SF1912 Description: Abortion; prescribing physicians required to be physically present when abortion-inducing drugs are administered. *Governor veto: 4/30/12*

Chapter: 256 Bill: \*SF1933/HF2339 Description: Health care compact created. *Governor veto: 4/30/12*

Chapter: 261 Bill: \*SF877/HF1134 Description: Annuity products regulated, and National Association of Insurance Commissioners model regulation enacted and modified relating to suitability in annuity transactions. *Governor veto: 4/30/2012*

Chapter: 265 Bill: \*HF2821/SF2424 Description: House of Representatives district boundaries adjusted within senate districts 39 and 49, and obsolete district descriptions repealed. *Governor veto: 5/2/12*

**ANOKA COUNTY ELECTION CALENDAR**

Candidates for state, county and city offices (cities that have primary elections) file between May 22-June 5

Candidates for cities and school districts that have no primary, file between July 31-August 14

**June 29:** begin in-person and mail absentee voting for state primary

**July 24, 5 pm:** end of pre-registration of voters for state primary

**Aug. 11:** Absentee voting 10am-3pm at all "in-person voting" locations with primary races

**Aug. 14:** STATE PRIMARY ELECTION Polls open 7 am-8 pm

**Sept. 21:** begin in-person and mail absentee voting for general election

**Oct. 16:** end of pre-registration of voters for general election

**Nov. 3:** Absentee voting 10am-3pm at all "in-person voting" locations

**Nov. 6:** STATE GENERAL ELECTION Polls open 7 am-8 pm

**CANDIDATES FOR PUBLIC OFFICE**

We will publish your candidacy statements and editorials Please e-mail them to us: editor@anokacountyrecord.com

## Reports from Your Legislators



### REP. PEGGY SCOTT (Dist. 49A) 651-296-4231



May 1. As we approach the end of the 2012 legislative session, I would like to look back on some of the bills from this year. There have been many good reforms passing through the Legislature, some of which were signed by the Governor Dayton, many others vetoed. It is important to reflect on both as it reveals the hesitancy this governor has shown in working with the Legislature, even on bills with bipartisan support.

#### Bills vetoed

Gov. Dayton has shown this session that he is not concerned with listening to the desires of the Legislature or the citizens of this state. Several bills with either bipartisan legislative support or overwhelming polling support have been vetoed simply because they do not fit what the governor wants.

The governor kicked off the year in his usual fashion by vetoing four different tort reform bills which would have protected citizens and small businesses from frivolous lawsuits. This action seemed to set the tone for the rest of the year as Dayton's veto pen got a real workout this session.

Probably the most egregious veto that Governor Dayton has issued this year was on a bill that would begin to repay our state's debt to our schools. School shifts have been a method for balancing the budget in Minnesota for many years. While they have been increased by both DFL and GOP majorities, no Legislature has yet to take steps to relieve our debt. When the state learned that unexpected revenue increases had led to a budget surplus earlier this year, we felt it was our duty to use that money responsibly and begin to repay the shift, bringing it to its lowest point since the previous, DFL controlled legislature increased it in 2010. Governor Dayton, however, chose to act politically rather than responsibly and vetoed this measure.

This week the governor vetoed a bill with sweeping bipartisan support. The focus of this bill was on requiring that an annuity product recommended to a consumer by an insurance agent be suitable for that consumer. It would've added a new requirement that the insurance company independently review the agent's suitability determination. This was a good bill that would've protected consumers, and despite receiving a 110-17 vote in the House and 59-6 in the Senate, Dayton vetoed this bill as well.

Governor Dayton even chose to ceremonially veto the photo ID constitutional amendment, even though he had no say on the matter. Despite several polls showing public support from Minnesotans at 80% or higher, our Governor has been vocal in his opposition to this measure.

Dayton also vetoed a bill this year that would've made important reforms to the Met Council. This is an appointed agency with no accountability to the voting public and great power to affect policy making in the metropolitan and surrounding areas. These reforms would have instituted some much needed accountability and transparency to this organization.

Of all the important bills the governor has seen over the past two years, he claimed that acting on the fireworks bill last week was one of the most difficult decisions he has had to make. Is he really willing to rank a bill to expand fireworks right up there with the decision to shut down our state last year? He eventually vetoed this bill as well.

#### Bills signed into law

After originally saying that he would veto the measure, the deep bipartisan support for last week's school land trust bill convinced Governor Dayton to sign the bill into law. When Minnesota was granted statehood, it was required to set aside land trusts for the benefit of the school-age children. These lands were to be managed in such a way that they would generate financial benefit to our public school students. Under the management of the DNR, these trust lands have under-produced, dropping into the bottom third of all U.S. states for Land Trust revenue. This new law establishes a Director of School Trust Lands position to maximize revenue from the lands and increase funding for the benefit of our school children.

Earlier this year the Governor signed a bill to expand on our permitting reforms from last year. Despite the bill being drafted and carried by a GOP member of the House, Governor Dayton has shown great support for these reforms, even going so far as to take credit for last year's bill's success during this year's State of the State Address.

Though he has vowed to veto a bill that would keep quality teachers employed in Minnesota, the governor did sign a bill earlier this year that would hire quality teachers. This bill will make sure that our teachers are qualified and knowledgeable by requiring teacher candidates to pass the basic skills exam.

The HHS Omnibus bill was signed into law last week after receiving an extremely bipartisan vote in the House. This is a terrific bill that will reduce Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) and welfare fraud, reform corporate foster care, provide grants to nursing homes, and much more.

#### Governor's Absence

As we approach the end of session with several very important pieces of legislation yet to work out; just like last year, the Governor has been absent, a complete dereliction of his duties. We have been attempting to negotiate the Tax Relief and Job Creation Act since April 27, but he has not been around to do so. GOP and DFL members of the legislature even held a meeting in the Governor's own office that he did not attend! Though he does not seem to have time to work with us, he did have time to participate in a comedy sketch show for MinnPost last Friday.

The media has been completely unwilling to report on his absences, even though they were consistently preoccupied with Tim Pawlenty's whereabouts while he was Governor. I would urge Governor Dayton to start taking his job seriously and listen to the wants and needs of the people of this state.

For a more thorough list of reform bills from this year and their progress, visit: <http://www.minnesotahousegop.com/billtracker/>



### SEN. BENJAMIN KRUSE (Dist. 47) 651-296-4154

May 4. Hours after the Minnesota Senate passed the jobs and tax relief conference committee report, Governor Dayton announced his veto of the bill. The measure offered \$51.7 million in immediate tax relief and for \$200 million over the next three years. During the legislative process, lawmakers focused their efforts in stimulating economic development activity, job creation and homeowner tax relief. Furthermore, legislative leaders took the Governor's priorities and concerns into consideration in the development of the final conference committee report.

This bill was crafted within the parameters that the Governor set in negotiations and the conferees responded to his concerns by reducing spending tails and eliminating renters credit reductions. Conferees also included a Dayton priority of \$2 million for the Minnesota Investment Fund and \$6 million for a tax credit for hiring veterans.

An important provision in the bill freezes business property taxes and eliminates the automatic inflator, which under current law, increases with inflation every year. The compromised bill called for the state's levy amount to be frozen at \$817 million. Without the freeze, the statewide levy would escalate to over \$1 billion for business property taxpayers by 2022. The bill also included a phased-in, upfront sales tax exemption for capital equipment purchases which would have been effective in July 2012 and was designed to encourage immediate investments and orders, and would be expected to generate a surge in business activity in the state. Governor Dayton also vetoed important provisions for homeowner tax relief and incentives for construction and economic development for dozens of cities throughout the state.

### SEN. ROGER CHAMBERLAIN (Dist. 53) 651-296-1253



The Governor disappointingly vetoed our jobs and tax relief package this morning. It offered \$51 million in immediate tax relief and \$200 million over the next three years for hardworking middle-class taxpayers, small business owners, veterans, and local governments.

My Republican colleagues and I have made it very clear all session that our top priority is rebuilding our economy through job creation and tax relief. We worked with the Governor's office to craft a bill would satisfy all parties. We addressed his concerns by reducing spending tails and eliminating renter's credit reductions. He asked for \$2 million for the Minnesota Investment Fund and another \$6 million for a tax credit for companies that hire veterans. Both were in our bill.

And even after working closely with his office, and making it clear that tax relief was our number one priority, he vetoed it only hours after it passed the Senate.

The Governor kept out the veto pen to strike down an important piece of education reform, the bill to end the archaic "last in, first out" policy of teacher layoffs.

This bipartisan bill was designed to keep the best teachers in the classroom. Crafted by a teacher, Sen. Pam Wolf (R-Blaine), it would change statute to say that in the event of layoffs, teacher performance must be considered in addition to seniority. In other words, ineffective teachers would not be kept simply because they have been around the longest. Minnesota is one of only seven states that has this policy.

There was broad support from the public and education groups for this proposal. The only public opponent was Education Minnesota, the teachers' union.

Governor Dayton has vetoed 27 bills this year. Of those, 23 were passed with bipartisan support, some overwhelmingly. In his State of the State, the Governor urged us to work together and approach him with the best ideas from both sides. We have presented bills that have support of both Democrats and Republicans, and he has vetoed nearly all of them.

All the while, he expects Republicans to carry the water for his number one priority, the Vikings stadium, a package that most Minnesotans do not support. His rhetoric and his actions have been very disappointing, but I will continue to work to do what's best for my constituents and the state of Minnesota.

*Editor's Note: This issue of the Anoka County Record went to press before the stadium vote scheduled for May 7.*

**CANDIDATES FOR PUBLIC OFFICE**  
Send us your candidacy statements  
E-mail [editor@anokacountyrecord.com](mailto:editor@anokacountyrecord.com)



# 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. May 14

Public Works Cmte — 9 am,  
Rm 772, ACGC

### Mon. May 14

Meeting to discuss integrating the use of interactive video conferencing for metro counties criminal court — 2:30 pm, ACGC, Rm 710

### Tues. May 15

Human Services Cmte — 8:30 am,  
ACGC, Rm 710

Information Technology Cmte —  
Noon, ACGC, Rm 772

Finance and Capital Improvements  
Cmte — 1 pm, ACGC, Rm 772

Intergovernmental-Community Relations  
Cmte — 3 pm, ACGC, Rm 772

### Wed. May 16

Anoka County Solid Waste Abatement  
Advisory Team Awards Reception —  
ACGC, 7th floor, 2 pm

### Thurs. May 17

Community Corrections Advisory Bd  
— Noon, ACGC, Rm 710

Public Safety Cmte — 3 pm, AC  
Public Safety Ctr, Andover

### Mon. May 21

Library Board — 5:30 pm, Library  
Services office, next to Northtown Libry

### Tues. May 22

Mgmt Cmte — 8:30 am, Rm 772 ACGC  
County Board — 9:30, Rm 705 ACGC

Regional Railroad Auth. — 10:30 am  
or immediately after County Bd  
meeting, ACGC, Rm 705

HRA — 11 am or immediately after  
Reg. Rail Auth. meeting, Rm 705

## Andover

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

### Tues. May 15 & June 5

City Council — 7 pm

### Thurs. May 17

Parks Comm. — 7 pm

## Anoka

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

### Thurs. May 10

Economic Develop. Comm. — 7:30am  
Council Worksession Rm, ACH

### Mon. May 14

HRA — 5 pm

### Tues. May 15

Parks & Rec Advisory Bd — 7 pm

### Wed. May 16

Parking Advisory Bd — 7:15 am, Pub-  
lic Safety Ctr, 275 Harrison St.

### Mon. May 21

City Council Executive Session —  
6:45 pm; Council Mtg — 7 pm

### Tues. May 29

City Council “work session” — 5 pm

## Bethel

Bethel City Hall  
23820 Dewey St. / PO Box 64  
Bethel, MN 55005  
Ph: 763-434-4366  
www.bethelmn.govoffice2.com

Call City Hall for information

## Blaine

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

### Thurs. May 10

City Council “workshop” — 6:30 pm;

### Tues. May 15

Natural Resource Conserv Bd — 7:30 pm

### Thurs. May 17

City Council “work session” — 6:30  
pm; meeting 7:30 pm

### Tues. May 22

Park Board — 7 pm

## Centerville

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

### Wed. May 23

City Council — 6:30 pm

### Tues. June 5

Planning Comm. — 6:30 pm

### Wed. June 6

Parks & Rec Cmte — 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. May 14

Planning Comm. — 7 pm

### Wed. May 16

Utilities Comm. — 4:30 pm

### Tues. May 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. May 14

Library Task Force — 6:30 pm, Conf  
Rm #1, City Hall

### Mon. May 14

City Council — 7 pm, Council Chambers

### Thurs. May 17

Public Works Dept. Annual Public  
Hearing — SWPPP Storm Water  
Pollution Prevention Program — 6 pm,  
Council Chambers

Landlords Meeting — 7 pm

### Wed. May 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. May 16 & June 6

Planning Comm. — 7 pm

### Thurs. May 17

Park Bd — 6:30 pm

### Wed. May 23

City Council — 7 pm

## Coon Rapids

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

### Tues. May 15

Arts Comm. — 5:45 pm

City Council — 7 pm

### Thurs. May 17

Planning Comm. — 6:30 pm

## East Bethel

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

### Mon. May 14

Public Hearing — 9 am. Request of  
Lowell Friday for Interim Use Permit  
for the keeping of horses at 18215  
Greenbrook Dr NE, East Bethel.

### Wed. May 16

City Council — 7:30 pm

### Wed. May 23

Economic Develop. Authority — call  
city hall for more information

## Fridley

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

### Mon. May 14 & 21

Survey Discussion w/City Council and  
Commissions — 6 pm

### Wed. May 17

Planning Comm. — 7 pm

### Mon. May 21

City Council — 7:30 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. May 14 & 29

Planning Comm. — 6 pm

### Wed. May 16

Park & Tree Comm. — 6 pm

### Mon. May 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. May 17

City Council — 7 pm; (“workshop”  
after the meeting)

### Mon. May 21

Fire Relief Mtg — 6:30 pm, Fire Hall

## 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. May 14

City Council — 6:30 pm

### Tues. May 29

City Council “work session” & mtg —  
5:30 pm

## Linwood Township

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

### Mon. May 14

Senior Advisory Bd — 9 am

### Tues. May 15

Planning & Zoning Comm. — 7 pm

### Mon. May 21

Parks & Rec. Cmte. — 7 pm

### Tues. May 22

Town Board — 6 pm

## Nowthen

Nowthen City Hall  
19800 Nowthen Blvd.  
Elk River, MN 55330  
Ph: 763-441-1347  
www.nowthenmn.govoffice2.com

Call City Hall for information

## Oak Grove

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

### Mon. May 14

City Council — 7 pm

### Wed. May 16

Parks Comm. — 7 pm

### Thurs. May 17

Planning Comm. — 7 pm

**NOTE: All meetings listed on  
this page are subject to change  
of time or date —  
call ahead to verify**

## Ramsey

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

### Thurs. May 10

EDA — 7:30 am

Parks & Rec. Comm. — 6:30 pm, Rivers  
Bend Park, 14201 Waco St NW. At city  
council chambers if inclement weather

### Tues. May 15

Public Works Cmte. — 6 pm

### Thurs. May 17

Mayor’s Town Hall Mtg — 7 pm

### Tues. May 22

City Council “work session” — 5:30 pm,  
regular meeting 7 pm, followed  
by HRA mtg

## St. Francis

St. Francis City Hall  
23340 Cree St. NW  
St. Francis, MN 55070  
Ph: 763-753-2630  
stfrancismn.org

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  
slpmn.org

### Mon. May 21

City Council — 7 pm

### Mon. May 28

Planning Comm. — 7 pm

## ANOKA CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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

Mon. May 21 — 5 pm

**ANOKA COUNTY FAIR  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
TUES MAY 15th  
763-427-4070**

**ANOKA CITY EMPLOYEE  
APPRECIATION BREAKFAST  
Wed. May 16th  
Sparky’s Cafe in Anoka — 7 am**

**HAM LAKE FIRE DEPT.  
AUXILIARY 5K WALK/RUN  
SAT. MAY 19th  
LIONS PARK — 9 am**

**North Metro Telecommunications  
Commission Meeting  
WED. MAY 16th — 6 PM  
Spring Lake Park City Hall**

**Spring Lake Park  
TOWER DAYS  
JUNE 7-10**

**ANOKA COUNTY FAIR  
JULY 24-29**

**FAMILY LAW SEMINAR  
at NORTHTOWN LIBRARY  
MONDAY MAY 14 5:45 PM**

Information about family law issues such as divorce, child support, paternity, and custody will be discussed at a free informational program about family law at the Northtown Library, 711 County Road 10 NE in Blaine, May 14 from 5:45 to 7:45 pm. Topics to be covered include court process, financial and property considerations in divorce, paternity, custody/parenting time, and child support. Learn the basics of these legal issues and where to find free legal forms and online legal resources as well as the resources available at the Anoka County Law Library and Anoka County Library.

**SCHOOL DISTRICTS****Anoka-Hennepin ISD #11**

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

**Mon. May 17**

School Board Meet and Confer  
(Teachers) — 6 pm

**Mon. May 21**

School Board — 6:30 pm

**Centennial ISD #12**

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

**Mon. May 14**

School Board — 6:30 pm

**Columbia Heights ISD #13**

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

**Tues. May 15** School Bd “work session”  
— 5:30 pm

**Tues. May 22** School Bd — 7 pm

**Elk River Area ISD #728**

815 Hwy 10  
Elk River, MN 55330  
Ph.: (763) 241-3400  
elkriver.k12.mn.us

School Board meetings

**Mon. May 14 & 28** — 7 pm

**Mon. May 21** “work session” — 6 pm

**Forest Lake ISD #831**

6100 N 210th St  
Forest Lake, MN 55025  
Ph.: (651) 982-8100  
forestlake.k12.mn.us

School Board meetings: held, with a few exceptions, at 7 p.m. on the first Thurs. 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.

*\*Editor's note:* There are often work session meetings on the 3rd Thurs.; check website or call to verify

**Fridley ISD #14**

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

School Board mtgs held at Fridley City Hall, 6431 University Ave NE; Work Session — 5:30 pm, Public Comment — 7 pm; Meeting — 7:30 pm

**Next meeting: Tues. May 15**

**St. Francis ISD #15**

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

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

**Spring Lake Park ISD #16**

1415 81st Ave NE  
Spring Lake Park, MN 55432  
Ph.: (763) 786-5570  
splkpark.k12.mn.us/

**Tue. May 22** — 6:30 pm “work session”

**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. May 14** — 7 pm

**Mon. May 21** — 5:30 pm “work session”

**916 Intermediate School District**

2540 Cty Rd F, White Bear Lake  
Board meetings at Bellaire School,  
District Office Board Room  
Ph.: (651) 415-5562  
nemetromn.k12.mn.us

**Tue. May 29** — “work session”  
**CANCELLED**

**Tue. June 5** — 6 pm

**SECRETARY OF STATE'S LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

**Safe at Home:** The legislature has passed a law that is going to provide critical protections for participants in the Safe at Home address confidentiality program. Known as “Jacob's Law”, Minnesota Session Law Chapter 153 requires that both parents be informed if a child is the victim of a crime. However, the bill also exempts Safe at Home participants from disclosing information to the other parent that would reveal the participant's location and compromise much of the protection that Safe at Home is intended to provide to its participants.

**Elections Bills: Elections Misc.**

**Provisions.** The legislature passed into law a small, but important piece of elections legislation in Minnesota Session Law Chapter 250. One of the provisions in this legislation removes the requirement that absentee voters include a date on their absentee ballot envelope. The date adds little value, because ballots have to be received on or before Election Day in order to be counted, regardless of when they were filled out. In 2010, more than 500 absentee voters had their ballots rejected simply because they forgot to include the date on their envelope. This legislation will help ensure that voters in a similar situation do not have their ballots rejected in this year's presidential election.

The bill also includes a provision to move the deadline for major political parties to certify the names of their presidential and vice presidential candidates to the Office of the Secretary of State. It postpones the deadline by five days to help ensure that the deadline falls after the Republican Party has named their vice presidential nominee.

The bill also includes a new prohibition on political parties from punishing candidates who do not have the party's endorsement to prevent them from filing for office.

Rep. Tim Sanders (R-Blaine) and Sen. Roger Chamberlain (R-Lino Lakes) guided this bill through the process.

**Election Integrity Task Force**

**Recommendations.** The Governor's Task Force on Election Integrity's recommendations were introduced as legislation this past session, but unfortunately did not make it all the way through the process. House File 2327 / Senate File 2043 were authored by the legislative members of the Task Force: Representatives Mike Benson (R-Rochester) and Steve Simon (DFL-St. Louis Park) and Senators Roger Chamberlain (R-Lino Lakes) and Katie Sieben (DFL-Newport). The bill passed through several committees in the House and one committee in the Senate, but stalled when it did not receive a hearing in the Senate Judiciary Committee. The Office expects to try to advance the legislation again next year.

**HAVA Funding.** In Minnesota Session Law Chapter 282, the legislature appropriated an additional \$750,000 to the Office of the Secretary of State from the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) account to help ensure that the Office has the required resources to work with local election officials to complete the redistricting process and administer this fall's presidential election. Many thanks to Rep. Morrie Lanning (R-Moorhead) and Sen. Mike Parry (R-Owatonna) for fighting to ensure that this bill was passed into law.

**Redistricting Corrections.** Once each decade the Office of the Secretary of State works with local election officials to implement the newly drawn legislative boundaries. Local election officials identify any problems with the

**Meetings listed on this page are subject to change — call ahead to verify**

boundary lines and bring them to the Office's attention. The Office evaluates them and has the authority to make changes to the court's redistricting plan in cases in which the court's order is unclear or in which the court misnamed the boundary between districts. So, for example, the Office has ordered corrections in cases in which the court ordered that the line follow a power line or school district boundary, but misunderstood or inaccurately described exactly where the lines went. All of the corrections ordered by the Office can be found at <http://www.sos.state.mn.us/index.aspx?page=1668>.

If an issue identified by a local election official is that the new boundary is clearly defined, but problematic, the Office can make recommendations to the legislature to make the necessary changes. Minnesota Session Law Chapter 265 reflected two such recommendations, one for Stillwater Township and one in Edina.

Rep. Sarah Anderson (R-Plymouth) and Sen. Geoff Michel (R-Edina) sponsored this legislation. Unfortunately the bill did not garner broad bi-partisan support and was vetoed by the Governor.

**Jury Pool bill.** Another small piece of legislation that passed this year is important to the court system. Minnesota Session Law Chapter 208 allows the Office of the Secretary of State to provide the State Court Administrator with information from the list of registered voters that includes voters' full dates of birth and driver's license numbers. The courts need this data because the list from which the jury pool is created is derived from a combination of the voter list and the list of those with driver's licenses and state identification cards. Without access to voter's dates of birth and driver's license numbers, the courts were unable to remove duplicates from their list.

**June Primary.** A bill to move the primary from August to June passed through a House committee, but did not receive a hearing in the Senate. In an attempt to pass it anyway, House members added it as an amendment to the miscellaneous elections bill referenced above. The Conference Committee removed this provision from the bill in part because it had not met or allowed for public testimony on this significant policy proposal. The legislature may revisit the subject in future sessions.

**Constitutional Amendment.** The Minnesota Legislature has passed HF2738, a bill proposing an amendment to the state constitution. The proposed amendment concerns Minnesota's current voting processes and, if passed, would profoundly alter Minnesota's election system. The bill language introduces provisional balloting, creates new requirements for absentee, vote by mail and overseas voters, and requires that all voters be subject to substantially equivalent eligibility and identity verification before a ballot is cast or counted.

The proposed amendment would also require that voters voting in person present a government issued photographic identification prior to voting. The proposed amendment will appear on the November 6, 2012, ballot in the form of a question asking the voters of Minnesota if these provisions should be implemented and the amendment ratified.

Section 1, Article IX of the Minnesota State Constitution allows that a majority of the members of the state legislature may propose amendments to the state constitution and that a majority of all voters voting in the election must vote to ratify the amendment in order for it to become a part of the constitution.

**ELECTIONS & VOTING**

**Administrative Rules Changes to Absentee and Mail Balloting.** Proposed changes to administrative rules on absentee and mail balloting were approved by Judge Eric Lipman on April 30, 2012, as modified. These rules will be

in effect for the state primary absentee voting period beginning June 29, 2012. The rules revised the materials and instructions to improve the usability and success rate for absentee and mail balloting voters. Most notably the changes removed the requirement for absentee voters to list a date on the envelopes. Providing a date was determined to be unnecessary, because regardless of when the ballots were filled out they had to be received by Election Day.

**Candidate Filing Period Begins May 22.** The candidate filing period for the November 6, 2012 general election for federal, state, and county offices begins May 22, 2012. The filing period ends at 5:00 p.m. on June 5, 2012. Filing dates for municipal, school district, and other local offices vary.

All candidates must file an affidavit of candidacy for office except for candidates for president and vice president. A properly completed affidavit and filing fee (*or a petition in place of filing fee*) must be submitted by mail or by hand and received by the filing officer between May 22 and June 5, 2012.

Candidates for federal offices must file with the Minnesota Secretary of State. Candidates for state and judicial offices may file with either the Secretary of State or with the county auditor of the county in which they reside. Candidates for county offices must file with the county auditor. Candidates for municipal offices must file with the municipal clerk. Candidates for school district offices must file with the school district clerk.

Additional information, filing and petition forms and informational brochures for candidates are available online at [www.sos.state.mn.us](http://www.sos.state.mn.us).

**Poll finder Updated with New District Information.** The Polling Place Finder is currently off-line to give counties an opportunity to update the precinct and district information to reflect changes made due to state and local redistricting. The Polling Place Finder will be available again in mid-May 2012.

**Redistricting Information** is now available on the Minnesota Secretary of State website at [www.sos.state.mn.us](http://www.sos.state.mn.us).

Residency requirements for candidates differ depending on the office they seek. State legislative candidates must reside in the district that they wish to represent by May 5, 2012 (six months before the election) and must be residents of the state for one year before the election (by November 5, 2011). Candidates for Congress do not have to ever inhabit the district they seek to represent. They must be inhabitants of the state on Election Day (on November 6, 2012), but do not have to be inhabitants of the state before this date.

**Election Integrity Task Force.** The Election Integrity Task Force will meet on Monday May 14, 2012, at 10 a.m. in the Retirement Systems of Minnesota Building, Empire Board Room 117, 60 Empire Drive, St. Paul. The meeting is open to the public.

**Serve as an Election Judge.** Minnesota's election judges are the hardworking poll workers that ensure that elections run fairly and smoothly. Minnesota law requires that at least two election judges from different major political parties conduct certain tasks in the polling place to ensure the integrity of our elections.

An election judge is a paid official who works at a polling place to protect the rights of voters and determine the balloting results after the polls close on Election Day. Election judges must be at least 18 years old and typically serve in polling places near their homes. There is also an election judge program that allows students age 16 and 17 to serve as election judge trainees and this is an exciting way for students to experience democracy firsthand.

To learn more about becoming an election judge visit [www.mnvotes.org](http://www.mnvotes.org).