

MINNESOTA REPUBLICAN PARTY STATE CONVENTION

BILLS ENDORSED FOR U.S. SENATE RUN RON PAUL BACKERS TAKE NATIONAL DELEGATE SEATS

by ACR staff

The Republican Party of Minnesota completed a 2-day state convention last Friday and Saturday at the River's Edge Convention Center in St. Cloud.

Friday's business included the endorsement of the candidate the Republicans will pit against DFL incumbent U. S. Senator Amy Klobuchar. Late in the afternoon, presidential candidate Ron Paul delivered a 20-minute speech to a large, appreciative audience.

The number of delegates present at the convention reached nearly 2,200.



Rep. Kurt Bills accepts the endorsement of the Minnesota Republican Party to run as its U. S. Senate candidate (ACR photo)

The delegates' first muscle flexing came with the endorsement of Rep. Kurt Bills, 42, a first-term state legislator from the Apple Valley-Rosemount area. Bills, a Ron Paul supporter himself, was nearly put over the top on the first ballot, with a 53% showing (60% was needed to cinch the nomination). On a second ballot, Bills was endorsed with 64% of the delegate vote.

Bills' competitors for the U. S. Senate nomination were Pete Hegseth, a 31-year old war veteran who had mounted an impressive campaign with the help of some of the same management that had been behind Congressman Chip Cravaack's 2010 campaign. A third candidate in the competition was Dan Severson, a former

state representative and Republican candidate for Secretary of State in 2010. Severson is also a veteran.

Of the three, Severson, 58, said he had the most legislative experience and proven outreach efforts toward the Hmong and Somali. In his speech before the first ballot voting began, Severson said that new immigrants to this country are receptive to the party's conservative message, and the party ought to cultivate their support.

All three candidates used portions of their 20 minute presentations to show campaign videos — Bills' was the loudest — hard-hitting in the style of a trailer for a movie that promises a lot of explosions. Severson's and especially Hegseth's videos were more sedate biographies. Bills also showed a videotaped endorsement by radio talk show host Jason Lewis.

Bills, a high school economics teacher when not at the state capitol, often used the words "liberty", "freedom" and "personal responsibility" in his Friday speeches, and said that "France and Greece have headed back to the short-term comforts of socialism." For his first speech to the delegates, Bills was introduced by Rep. Keith Downey of Edina.

Hegseth was introduced by former state legislator Laura Brod. The candidate said he has a consistent personal record of conservatism. "I don't want to go to Washington to be popular; I want to go to Washington to lead." He said that Klobuchar's voting record is that of someone who is on the sidelines rather than engaged. Hegseth also poked fun of the senator's interest in photo opportunities.

State Senator Paul Gazelka of Brainerd and St. Paul businesswoman Eva Ng introduced Severson's presentation, which emphasized his experience as a legislator, veteran, inventor and his early involvement in the voter photo ID initiative. Severson scolded the party for not paying attention to the Hmong and Somali populations of the inner cities: "the demographics of Minnesota is changing, and our party isn't changing with it. Our minority groups are growing and we aren't reaching out to them." Severson rattled off statistics to illustrate his argument that Republicans can win statewide races only by netting a higher percentage of minorities' vote.

A fourth candidate, Harold Shudlick of Apple Valley, delivered some snappy one-liners that gave the conventioners some chuckles: "We will fight them until hell freezes over, and then we will fight them on the ice!" Shudlick was also a candidate in the 2006 U. S. Senate race. He said he wants to "remove President Obama from his public housing." Besides targeting Klobuchar, Shudlick jabbed Secretary of State Mark Ritchie, George Soros "and their ACORN cronies".

"I pledge to you, as your endorsee and nominee, I will not give anyone hell. I'll just tell the truth and ask the questions and it will sound like Hell."

Shudlick received 36 votes on the first ballot and was eliminated from the competition. A fifth candidate, Bob Carney Jr., was given five minutes to speak to the delegates and received a handful of votes. In his speech, Carney articulately advocated for a primary election to determine the party's candidate rather than the endorsement process. He said that primary campaigns will foster a wider discussion of different viewpoints.

Fortunately for the delegates, there was a need for only two ballots. More ballots would have sent the convention into the wee hours since each count took at least 90 minutes. On the second ballot, 2,109 eligible delegates cast votes. 1 was spoiled and 113 were blank; Bills received 1,353 votes (64%) and the endorsement; Severson 439 (20%) and Hegseth 316 (15%).

About an hour later, at 5:20 p.m., presidential candidate Congressman Ron Paul took the stage, saying he was pleased that his endorsee won. His first order of business was to give a report on the bill Congress was wrestling with that week, the National Defense Authorization Act. An amendment to strike the language that "permits the U. S. military to arrest American citizens, not give them a trial and hold them indefinitely" failed in a vote of the body. Paul also said that recent efforts to promote a troop withdrawal measure sponsored by a coalition of conservative Republican and Democrats was stymied and kept off the floor. Paul chuckled when he recollected that many people suggest he compromise more often. To that, he said "You have to stand on your principles and get more people to agree with you!"



Congressman Ron Paul, presidential candidate, speaks below an image of himself projected onto a video screen at the Minnesota Republican Party State Convention.

Saturday's agenda included guest speakers 8th District Congressman Chip Cravaack, and 7th District Congressional candidate Lee Byberg, who is running again in a rematch with DFL incumbent Collin Peterson. Byberg made fun of his "Minnesota accent" (Byberg has a very heavy Norwegian accent due to his childhood upbringing in Norway). Early in the morning, a breakfast fundraiser for the Minnesota Republican Party was hosted by Ron Paul.



Candidate Kurt Bills talks to delegates on the floor. Rep. Pat Garafalo is at his side (L)

Much of the business of the convention was hampered by gaffes in the creation of ballots (national delegate candidates were identified by numbers rather than their names) and there were numerous

complaints from the floor that hard copies of many documents were not available. The usual squabbles about the rules and noise from the floor contributed to a slower-moving meeting.

The feature attraction was the election of national delegates and later, the election of the Republican National Committee representative which was held in another room after the convention adjourned.

The squabbling of the two factions, the Ron Paul People versus the Old Guard was kept to a minimum on the floor but there were some things that went on behind the scenes:

Each faction distributed flyers advertising slates of national delegate candidates, which were clearly labeled pro-Romney or pro-Paul. In this mix was a flyer by party member John Gilmore of the 4th Congressional District, which caught a lot of attention since it labeled the Paul

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supporters as the "chaos slate".

Gilmore, a blogger who has no love for Paulites, made a list of the names of the delegate candidates whom he asserted were Paul supporters.

Gilmore's flyer predicted that if the Paul supporters were sent as delegates to the national convention, there would be chaos and embarrassment at the event.

A number of conventioners expressed disgust by Gilmore's flyer, including many that were able to do it with a microphone in hand. One of them was party chair Pat Shortridge.

As an answer to the Liberty Caucus slate (an organization of Paul supporters), the Romney faction distributed a flyer for its "Conservative Unity Slate" which included the names of many former and current elected officials and past candidates: Keith Downey, Michele Bachmann, Mark Kennedy, Chris Barden, and Branden Petersen.

The Romney delegate slate found themselves ineffective as the Paul faction had them outflanked. One of the reasons for the schism between the two factions is that Paul was denied from speaking at the 2008 state convention unless he agreed to endorse the candidate he was competing against, Sen. John McCain.

The delegate candidates were allowed to make one-minute speeches before the voting. Many identified themselves as Paul supporters. All 13 delegate seats were captured by Paul backers, but Don Huizenga bowed out and gave his seat to Sen. Michele Bachmann who had been one of the Romney slate.

Romney's campaign made no effort to have a presence at the convention, however a short Saturday morning video greeting from Mrs. Romney was shown.

The battle between the two presidential candidates may move to the Republican National Convention in Tampa, Florida in August.

Saturday evening, Janet Beihoffer of Lakeville, former chair of the CD 2 Republicans, was chosen to be the next Republican National Committeewoman, defeating incumbent Pat Anderson, 215 to 124 at the State Central Committee meeting. Beihoffer's campaign focused on Anderson's employment as a lobbyist while being a Republican National Committee representative.

Hennepin County Board member Jeff Johnson ran unopposed for reelection to his National Committeeman seat.

Johnson also made an impression on Saturday as he gave a brief unity speech to the warring delegates. He said that the Paul supporters should not abandon the party after the election and that their energy and organizational efforts are needed. To the Paul haters, as he called them, his message was to "get over it."

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

LEGISLATURE PASSES STADIUM BILL

*by Evan Paskach
 Minnesota State News*

After a marathon session in the Minnesota House of Representatives that resulted in a 71-60 vote, the Senate passed the Vikings stadium bill (HF 2958) with a 36-30 vote May 10.

Both bodies adjourned Sine Die following the conclusion of the vote.

The \$975 million stadium will be located on the current Metrodome site. The team will bear \$477 million of construction costs, while the state will contribute \$348 million in addition to the \$150 million from Minneapolis.

The conference committee for HF 2958 upped the team's contribution by \$55 million, increasing the team's total share while reducing the state's share by the same amount.

"I'm very pleased to announce that the Vikings have agreed to terms with state leaders to finance and construct a new multi-purpose stadium in Minnesota," said Lester Bagley, the team's vice president of public affairs and stadium development. "We've agreed to contribute up front \$477 million, which remains the third-largest private contribution in NFL history. We've agreed to contribute \$13 million annually in operating costs, which is now 54 percent of the life-cycle costs of the project ... The Wilfs have stepped up and made a huge commitment to Minnesota and a huge commitment to Minnesota Viking fans. They've made a commitment to secure this franchise and to stabilize this franchise for the future generations in Minnesota."

The state will finance its portion of the stadium construction costs through proceeds derived from electronic pull tabs and bingo. The amended bill also adds two additional funding sources in case the gambling revenue does not fully materialize: a sports themed lottery game and a 10 percent tax on luxury seats.

Minneapolis will extend its convention center tax to cover its share of the construction costs. The city will also designate a portion of the city sales tax for Target Center upgrades. The bill also allocates \$2.7 million for 20 years to St. Paul for operating or capital costs of its sports facilities.

Other terms of the agreement include a 30-year lease between the team and the state and an exclusive five-year agreement for the Vikings to bring a Major League Soccer (MLS) team to the state. The team will also retain the revenue of the stadium naming rights. The builder will be responsible for construction cost overruns.

Anoka County legislators' vote on the stadium bill —

- Voting Yes:**
 Rep. Jim Abeler
 Rep. Denise Dittrich *
 Rep. Melissa Hortman
 Rep. Kate Knuth *
 Rep. Tim Sanders
 Rep. Tom Tillberry
 Sen. Barb Goodwin
 Sen. Michael Jungbauer *

Voting No:

- Rep. Kurt Daudt
 Rep. Bob Dettmer
 Rep. Tom Hackbarth
 Rep. Carolyn Laine
 Rep. Branden Petersen
 Rep. Linda Runbeck
 Rep. Peggy Scott
 Sen. Michelle Benson
 Sen. Roger Chamberlain
 Sen. Benjamin Kruse
 Sen. Sean Nienow
 Sen. Ray Vandever
 Sen. Pam Wolf
 * retiring from legislature; not seeking re-election

MEETINGS AND ACTIONS OF THE ANOKA COUNTY LIBRARY BOARD

Meetings of the Future Services Committee will be held at the Anoka County Libraries office next to the Northtown Library, on Mondays June 4 and June 11 at 9:30 a.m. The next Anoka County Library Board meeting will be Mon. June 18 at 5:30 p.m. at the library office.

The *Anoka County Record* made a request of Anoka County Libraries that the Library Board packets be posted online. Although this could be implemented immediately in the same fashion as the County Board packets are posted, the Library Board decided to wait for a new library web site before making the addition. An excerpt from the minutes of the March 19, 2012 meeting of the Library Board follows:

"Director Moulton Janssen has received a request from a local news outlet to post the Library Board packet information on the website in advance of the meeting. Legal counsel was sought. Posting the agenda, meeting schedule with locations and the meeting minutes is all that is legally required. A review copy is available at the Board Meetings as well. Consensus was to continue with the legal requirements, as we are doing. The Library is transitioning to a new website and we can revisit this issue when that is up and running. On a motion by Ward, second by LeTendre, the Library Board unanimously agreed to post Board packet information after we transition to the new website."

Genealogy class at Rum River Library June 16. Many have attended *Discover Your Roots*, Anoka County Library's introduction to genealogy program. The most frequent request at the end of these popular programs was "More, please!" and "More advanced genealogy information." For help in taking that next step in researching your family roots, attend *Discover Your Roots: What's Next?* at the Rum River Library, 4201 6th Avenue, Anoka, on Saturday, June 16 at 2:00 p.m.

This program is free and open to the public and is presented by the Anoka County Genealogical Society in partnership with Anoka County Library and is funded with money from Minnesota's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

This is not a hands-on computer class, so registration is not required, but seating is limited. For more information call 763-576-4695.

Planning for Coon Rapids Parks & Open Space

Public input is critical to future planning and strategic design
Wed. May 23 & May 30, 6:30 pm
Coon Rapids City Center (Council Chambers) 11155 Robinson Drive

The firm of Brauer & Associates, LTD. is helping the city guide its strategic planning process. Brauer & Associates will also lead the open house events, sharing highlights of what the firm has learned about the city's park system to date and discuss preliminary planning ideas and approaches for moving forward. Contact: Ryan Gunderson, Recreation Coordinator, 763-767-6513.

City of Columbia Heights Employment Opportunity Library Director

POSITION: LIBRARY DIRECTOR

POSITION SUMMARY: This is highly responsible administrative and supervisory work in the direction of all employees, functions, and operations of the Library. Performs professional, administrative, and technical functions in the provision of library services to the public. Works cooperatively with an appointed Library Board, which serves in an advisory capacity. Work is performed with wide latitude for independent judgment and action under the general supervision of the City Manager.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS: Master's degree in Library Science from an accredited college or university. Five years of responsible professional library experience of which at least two years is in a public library setting. Five years supervisory experience. Three years experience with on-line circulation systems.

DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS: Three or more years of responsible professional library experience in a public library setting. One year experience complying with State of Minnesota reporting requirements for public libraries.

SALARY RANGE: \$6,707 - \$8,081 per month, plus fringe benefits

APPLICATION PROCEDURE: City application and position description can be downloaded from our website at www.ci.columbia-heights.mn.us. To be considered for this position, applicants must submit a cover letter, resume, and completed City application to: Assistant to the City Manager/HR Director, City of Columbia Heights, 590 40th Avenue NE, Columbia Heights, MN 55421.

CLOSING DATE: Monday, June 11, 2012; 4:45 p.m.

Anoka County RECORD

PUBLICATION SCHEDULE JUNE 2012

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BLAINE CITY COUNCIL CALLS OUT THE NEWSPAPER POLICE

I'm always amazed by the number of people who are not interested in local politics. They don't know who's on the school board, who's on the city council, but they are concerned about who's in the White House. Partly because of this, one or two citizens can wield great influence over their local governments. These handful of citizens can twist the arms of city councils to pass resolutions that have nothing to do with city business, force all city residents to use the same garbage hauler, make all taxpayers pay for a community garden for 18 people, and any number of other measures pushed by, and benefiting a specific few.

I'll bet that only one or two complaints to Blaine city hall was all it took to get this recent posting on the city website, which said, in paraphrase, "if you are upset about receiving the free newspaper that the Star Tribune is distributing in certain parts of Blaine, call the newspaper office to stop delivery."

To think that people would complain about being delivered *a free newspaper* is something hard to for me to comprehend. Secondly, that city hall staff is spending time and resources on this matter is also surprising. It illustrates how a handful of people can stir things up.

The matter even found its way to the city council meeting of May 3. The city manager explained there had been complaints about the Star Tribune delivering free newspapers. This is nothing new — both of the major newspapers will occasionally give away their product as a means to solicit subscriptions.

The tone of the council meeting was that of "how do we **stop this distribution?**"

Some of the papers were landing in driveways.

Can we nail the Star Tribune on littering laws?

What about protecting the homeowners' associations and their private roads from the pesky newsboy?

Staff rightfully pointed out that the council would be trampling on the freedom of the press.

We hope that cooler heads will prevail above all this nonsense.

We also question the wisdom of allowing "homeowners' associations" to operate like sovereign nations that may soon ask the mailman for his passport.

FINAL COMMENTS ON THE STADIUM

I have been considering sharing some final comments regarding the stadium debate — a postlude or epilogue of sorts. While my comments are a consequence of the stadium debate, I believe they can be applied to an underlying problem with our government and the condition of our culture. That is the stadium debate is a symptom of a larger underlying problem.

Congratulations are in order for the winners of the stadium debate. Mr. Wilf is a businessman, he is running a business and he did what he was suppose to do, what many of us would do in any business deal. That is he maximized his profit; he got as much as he could for as little as possible. As for the state and our citizens, some are happy the Vikings will continue to call Minnesota home. However, in the end I believe we lost more than money. Some of us in the senate have become reacquainted with the phrase "Bread and Circuses."

I have learned much during the last two years in the senate, especially during the last several weeks of the stadium debate. The final vote in the senate was 36-30; 21 democrats and 15 republicans voted to pass the bill. Of the 15 Rs only 3 were true freshmen and 6 of those 15 are retiring.

The bill would not stand up under any objective analysis — economically, financially, ethically or morally. The process itself, while technically, legally, it might pass an examination, it was certainly unethical. A Feb 2012 Survey USA poll showed 68% of Minnesotans said the stadium should be privately funded, only 10% believed electronic pull tabs should be used if public funding were to be provided. And with the support of only 15 republican senators the bill was able to make it through an expedited process and become law.

We had an opportunity to change the way the state conducts the people's business. But we reverted back to business as usual.

Did we do what was right or what was easy?

Republicans and Democrats conspired to once again transfer wealth, however, this time it from the lower income to the upper income.

Much was sacrificed on the altar of the "Ruling Class" for the sake of entertainment, for football: Truth, Trust, Integrity, rules, process and at least \$1 billion in public money for the stadium and additional money for the costs of gaming and much more.

Again, congratulations to those who won. It is done, we will move on. But this is a critical time in our history, and I believe we have lost much more than money. Is it a

Opinion



by
Bryan
Olson

mystery why so many people have so little faith in their elected officials? Does it need to be this way? I say no. Principal, integrity and the truth do matter. So, will it be about "Bread and Circuses" or something more? We will get the government we deserve, the voters will decide.

A PURPLE PRIMER

Hands down, the biggest issue of this session was the Vikings stadium, which is unfortunate since there were so many other thousands of issues more important that a public subsidy for a private enterprise.

We've broken down the biggest takeaways from this bad stadium deal, which violates the fundamental principle that government has no business subsidizing private enterprise.

The Financing. The state will finance the taxpayer share with appropriation bonds, which are debt instruments to be repaid over time with interest.

Appropriation bonds are paid with an annual appropriation from the state's general fund. Yes, the state's general fund is at risk with appropriation bonds, unlike revenue bonds.

Revenue bonds are bonds that are repaid with revenue from the particular capital project that is built with the bonds. For example, a community center can be built with revenue bonds and then be repaid with revenues from the enterprise.

Appropriation bonds indeed put the state's general fund at risk yet do not pledge the full faith and credit of the state to repay the bonds. General obligation bonds do that.

Thus, some folks will argue that appropriation bonds are less risky for taxpayers precisely because they do not pledge the full faith and credit of the state.

This is really a distinction without a difference. If the financing mechanism for the stadium deal, electronic gambling, fails to produce revenues sufficient to repay the bonds, it is highly unlikely the state would allow the bonds to go into default, even though there would be no legal argument to prevent such an outcome.

More likely, the state would simply rob other programs or raise taxes to fund the gap.

So yes, the taxpayers are at big risk regarding these bonds.

Which leads us to the next financing issue: gambling revenue.

The deal finances the bonds by allowing the state's charities to implement two new kinds of gambling, electronic pull tabs and electronic bingo that links players in one location to players in other locations.

This gambling would be taxed with the revenues going into the general fund and then laundered back out to repay the bonds.

First, gambling revenues are incredibly volatile. To base 30 year bonds on a volatile revenue stream is risky, even reckless.

Second, this kind of gambling is new and unproven, adding to the risk. There is really no track record of this kind of gambling to offer and kind of reliable projections upon which to base revenues.

And no, the answer to this problem wasn't more gambling in the form of the so-called "racino," as some Republicans proposed.

The state is going to come to regret turning to gambling to finance programs.

Gambling is a regressive tax visited upon those who can least afford it. Normally, our libertarian tendencies wouldn't care, but the fact is that these addicts blow their small earnings on gambling and then turn to the welfare system to pick up the pieces. The state has no business preying on dopes who don't know any better because the taxpayers end up footing a bigger bill in the long run.



Opinion

Opinion



by
Senator
Roger
Chamberlain
(Dist. 53)

SEND US YOUR LETTERS AND OPINION COLUMNS!

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A PURPLE PRIMER *continued on next page B-2*

A PURPLE PRIMER *contd. from B-1*

It's the coward's way out. If Republicans want more government and more government spending, they ought to be big enough and honest to support honest tax increases to pay for it.

Really, it's been appalling to watch Republicans bray on and on about more gambling while attempting to claim the mantle of conservatism.

There's nothing conservative about advocating for more governmental revenue to support more governmental programs, especially when those programs have nothing to do with core functions of government (like building a stadium or bailing out the horse racing industry).

With the session over, maybe Republican leaders like RNC Committeewoman Pat Anderson can back to her job of rebuilding a broken, bankrupt state party instead of hanging out at the Capitol as a paid lobbyist for the gambling industry.

The Referendum. As expected, Minneapolis residents will get jobbed out of their right, pursuant to the city charter, to vote on the expenditure of city funds to build sports facilities that require more than \$10 million city funds.

The sophistry here is that the \$150 million local share isn't really Minneapolis money since it's financed with a local tax that is state imposed.

If that's true, is it really a local share? Shouldn't that \$150 million count towards the state share?

The 1%. Despite being the legislative minority, Democrats in both the House and Senate provided the majority of votes for the stadium.

Yes, the DFL was responsible for a \$350 million public subsidy for a Delaware based private corporation owned by a billionaire New Jersey real estate mogul.

Let the DFL never, ever be heard to complain of corporate greed, corporate welfare, or any BS about paying one's "fair share."

Every DFLer who voted for this bill put the lie to the "party of the workin' man" narrative.

You offered up a subsidy to a member of the 1%, financed by gambling, which preys heavily on the bottom 1%.

And that includes a DFL governor who did little this session but advocate for this stadium, his clear number one priority.

The DFL wanted a stadium this session. Will they campaign on it? Don't hold your breath.

How cynical and how very crass.

Photo I.D. Required! Did you know the Vikings bill requires the presentation of a photo identification. It's true! Check out HF 2958, the stadium bill. Article 4, section 52, subdivision 9(d) states: Before participating in the play of a linked bingo game, a player must present and register a valid picture identification card that includes the player's address and date of birth.

It's right there on page 71, lines 13-15.

So Democrats are opposed to a photo ID to vote but support photo ID to play bingo?

How cynical and how very crass.

The Process. Every citizen should be appalled by the lack of transparency and secrecy surrounding the conference committee that assembled the stadium bill behind closed doors.

Joint Rule 2.06 mandates: All Conference Committees shall be open to the public. As much as practical, meetings of Conference Committees shall be announced as far in advance as possible, with the intent to provide a 24-hour notice, and actions taken shall be agreed upon in an open meeting.

This didn't happen. Instead, the conference report was crafted behind closed doors, out of

sight from the taxpaying public. The conference committee played games by having different parties in separate rooms to avoid triggering a quorum of the conference committee which would then trigger an open meeting.

Citizens were treated to the spectacle of the conference committee posting their bill before the committee even officially met. Just how in the he\$\$ does a conference committee assemble and agree upon a conference report before they have even met?

They hid behind closed doors and cut a deal with the Vikings in a smoke-filled back room. What disservice to the people of this great state.

Another stadium? The Vikings bill didn't just build a new home for the Vikings. It also will likely build one for the Saint Paul Saints.

Sources tell the Watchdog that the Saint Paul legislative delegation was persuaded to support the Vikings stadium with a wink and a nod that the Saints would get a stadium as well.

How?

Well, just take a look at the bonding bill that passed just days before the stadium bill.

Contained within is a provision that appropriates \$47.5 million for capital project grants. Our sources say that a chunk of this money is set aside for a Saints stadium.

Anyone else out there who wants a stadium? Anyone the state has missed? How about that lingerie women's football team?

The fallout. Many conservatives are rightly ticked off about this bill and have expressed interest in stripping GOP legislators who supported the bill of endorsement.

The Watchdog encourages folks to take a different, more positive course of action.

Namely, go out and work to support legislators who had the courage to oppose the bill in the face of angry, hostile, venomous supporters who harassed legislators with profanity and threats throughout.

No matter where you live, there is a GOP legislator nearby who stood on principle. Even if it isn't your legislator, support that person with your time, money, and talents.

Work FOR something, not against.



REP. CAROLYN LAINE
(Dist. 50A)
651-296-4331



May 9. The Vikings stadium bill was one of the hardest votes I recall as a state representative. There are good and important reasons both to support and to oppose the proposal. I listened carefully to them all. Based on my own conscience, as well as what I discerned to be the majority opinion of my constituents, I finally voted no.

Although the argument that stadium construction would provide much needed jobs was extremely persuasive to me – my heart goes out to unemployed trades people – I could not rationalize the stadium as the best way to do that. (A robust bonding bill would create opportunities all over the state for construction projects.) The passionate love by many people for the Vikings

was evident in the last week or so. At many levels, having the Vikings as a part of Minnesota is a wonderful thing. There is a pride and excitement in the home team. Businesses, schools and families include the games in their lives. This addition to our quality of life must be taken into consideration — but the trade-off was just too great.

The primary concern I have is funding a new stadium from gambling revenues. There is a very high likelihood that this source of revenue will simply not produce the promised amount of money. When this happens, our greater state priorities related to education, the elderly, lower property taxes, health care, law enforcement, etc. will be shortchanged. I'm very concerned this extension of gambling will bring the harms and costs associated with gambling to our communities.

I was glad to vote for a major amendment that created the needed revenue stream from user fees. Those who love and patronize the Vikings could provide the necessary funding through additional sales tax on memorabilia, concessions, luxury suites, parking, etc. This could have been a win-win but was rejected as not acceptable to the Vikings.

The Vikings negotiated a very sweet deal. For instance, they claim their share of the cost of construction is slightly more than the state's. However, part of that is simply their purchasing the naming rights, a cost they will more than recoup by selling those rights. How is that a fair share of the costs? Shouldn't the state receive or share in the profit from selling the naming rights? After all, it is considered "the people's stadium."

I could not in good conscience vote for a bill that seems to me to be harmful to the long-range interests of the state. Perhaps I was wrong and the arguments in favor of the proposal turn out to be correct. But since I do not think they will, I cast a no vote.

REP. TOM HACKBARTH
(Dist. 48A)
651-296-2439



May 9. It seems like the only thing our governor cares about these days is getting a Vikings stadium. Education, taxpayers, job-seekers, MinnesotaCare enrollees, small businesses and even senior citizens are so far off his radar it is unbelievable.

The governor has vetoed six strong bills in the last week alone, shooting down everything from the Tax Relief and Job Creation Act (H.F. 2337), to business regulation reform (H.F. 203) and a plan to improve service delivery for lower-income MinnesotaCare enrollees (H.F. 8).

Education improvements are not safe from the governor's confounding judgment, either. He recently killed one bill (S.F. 1656) that would allow districts to pool resources with increased student achievement in mind. He also vetoed a bill (H.F. 1870) allowing school districts to look beyond simple length of service when making personnel decisions.

Those are all good bills the governor nixed, but the one that really left people scratching their heads was when he denied a bill to fix a new legislative district boundary. An error was made in the redistricting process and a border now runs directly through a senior retirement community building in Edina. Hall neighbors – or even roommates – are now in different districts.

Democrat Secretary of State Mark Ritchie and the League of Minnesota Cities even supported the bill (H.F. 2821) that would reroute the boundary to fix the problem.

The same mistake happened 10 years ago in the last redistricting go-round, but the situation was remedied. This time, the governor chose to put partisanship to an effort done in good faith.

MORE LEGISLATOR REPORTS on page C-2

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. June 4
Public Works Cmte — 9 am,
Rm 772, ACGC

Tues. June 5
Parks & Rec Cmte — 9 am, Banfill-
Locke Center for the Arts

Tues. June 12
Management Cmte — 8:30 am, Rm 772,
ACGC
County Board — 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. June 5
City Council — 7 pm

Thurs. June 7
Parks Comm. — 7 pm

Tues. June 12
Planning Comm. — 7 pm

Wed. June 13
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. June 4 & 18
City Council — 7 pm

Tues. June 5 & July 10
Planning Comm. — 7 pm

Mon. June 11
HRA — 5 pm

Tues. June 12
Heritage Preserv. Comm. — 5:30 pm

Wed. June 13
Waste Reductn & Recycl. Bd — 5 pm

Thurs. June 14
Economic Devp. Comm. — 7:30 am

Tues. June 19
Planning Comm. “work session” — 6 pm

Wed. June 20
Parking Advisory Bd 7:15 am, Public
Safety Ctr, 275 Harrison St

Tues. June 25
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. June 7 & 21
City Council “workshop” — 6:30 pm;
reg. meeting 7:30 pm

Thurs. June 14
City Council “workshop” — 6:30 pm

Tues. June 12
Blaine Arts Council — 6:30 pm

Blaine Historical Society — 6:30 pm

Planning Comm. — 7 pm

Thurs. June 18
Natural Resource Conserv. Bd. — 6:30 pm

Tues. June 26
Park Board — 7 pm

Centerville

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

Tues. June 5
Planning Comm. — 6:30 pm

Wed. June 6
Parks & Rec Cmte — 6:30 pm

Wed. June 13
City Council — 6:30 pm

Circle Pines

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

Tues. June 5
Park Board — 6:30 pm

Tues. June 12
City Council — 7 pm

Mon. June 18
Planning Comm. — 7 pm

Columbia Heights

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

Tues. May 29
City Council — 7 pm

Mon. June 4
Traffic Comm. — 5:30 pm
Library Task Force — 6:30 pm, Coun-
cil Chambers

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

Tues. June 5
Planning Comm. — 7 pm

Wed. June 6
Library Board — 6:30 pm, Library

Columbus

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

Wed. June 6
Planning Comm. — 7 pm

Wed. June 13
EDA/EDAB — 5 pm

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. June 5 & 19
City Council — 7 pm

Thurs. June 7
Bd of Adjustment & Appeals — 6:30 pm

Thurs. June 21
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

Wed. June 6
City Council — 7:30 pm

Tues. June 12
Road Comm. — 6:30 pm

Wed. June 13
Parks Comm. — 7 pm

Fridley

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

Mon. June 4
Parks & Rec. Comm. — 7 pm

Thurs. June 7
HRA — 7 pm

Mon. June 11
City Council — 7 pm “pre-agenda”;
7:30 pm meeting

Mon. June 18
City Council Budget “work session”
— 6 pm

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

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

Tues. May 29
Planning Comm. — 6 pm

Mon. June 4 & 18
City Council — 6 pm

Wed. June 20
Park & Tree Comm. — 6 pm

Hilltop

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

City Council — 1st & 3rd Mon., 7 pm

Lexington

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

Mon. June 4
Park Board — 6:30 pm

Thurs. June 7 & 21
City Council — 7 pm; (“workshop”
after 6/21 meeting)

Wed. June 13
Planning Comm. — 7 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

Tues. May 29
City Council “work session” & mtg —
5:30 pm

Wed. May 30
Environmental Board — 6:30 pm

Mon. June 4
City Council “work session” — 5:30 pm

Park Board — 6:30 pm

Mon. June 11
City Council — 6:30 pm

Linwood Township

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

Tues. June 5
Road & Bridge Cmte. — 7 pm

Wed. June 6
Fire Dept. Mtg. — 7 pm

Tues. June 12
Town Board — 6 pm

Mon. June 18
Senior Advisory Bd — 9 am

Nowthen

Nowthen City Hall
8188 199th Ave NW
Nowthen, 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

2nd and last Monday of month
City Council — 7 pm (EDA 8 pm on
last Mon) [No meeting on 5/28
holiday]

3rd Wednesday
Parks Comm. — 7 pm

3rd Thursday
Planning Comm. — 7 pm

ANOKA CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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

Mon. June 18 — 5 pm

Ramsey

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

Tues. May 29
City Council Special Mtg — 6 pm;
to discuss a personnel matter. Portions of
this meeting will be closed to the public
pursuant to state statute 13D.05. Subd.
2(a)(2). Council will also discuss strategy
for responding to a threatened lawsuit.

This discussion will be closed to the
public as allowed by state statute 13D.05,
subd. 3(b). Council “work session” (open
to public) will be held immediately after
these meetings.

Mon. June 4
EPB — 6:30 pm

Tues. June 5
City Council “work session” — 5:30 pm
followed by HRA “work session”

Thurs. June 7
Planning Comm. — 7 pm

Tues. June 12
City Council “work session” — 5:30 pm

City Council — 7 pm
HRA — follows city council meeting

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

Tues. May 29
Planning Comm. — 7 pm

Mon. June 4 & 18
City Council — 7 pm

ST. FRANCIS LIBRARY CLOSED SATURDAYS DURING SUMMER

The St. Francis branch of the Anoka
County Library system will be
closed on Saturdays effective **June
16, 2012**. This fall, St. Francis
branch will resume Saturday hours
beginning **Saturday, September 8**.

This seasonal change in open hours
continues the long-standing tradition
of this branch closing during slower
summer days. All other Anoka
County Library branches will be
open during their regularly scheduled
Saturday hours of 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

All Anoka County libraries, and the
Columbia Heights library will host
the 3rd annual “Live at the Library”
celebration of the arts, Sat. June 9,
from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., with various
activities being held at each library.
The events are being funded by the
Minnesota Art and Cultural
Heritage Fund.

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E-mail: editor@anokacountyrecord.com

www.anokacountyrecord.com
(763) 220-0411

Next issues: JUNE 7, JUNE 21

SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Anoka-Hennepin ISD #11

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

Mon. June 11
School Board “work session” — 6 pm
Mon. June 25
School Board — 6:30 pm

Centennial ISD #12

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

Mon. June 4
School Board “work session” — 5:30 pm
Mon. June 18
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. June 12 & 26 School Bd — 7 pm
Tues. June 19 “work session” — 5:30 pm

Elk River Area ISD #728

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

School Board meetings held at Elk River City Hall, Council Chambers, 13065 Orono Pkwy
Mon. May 28 — 7 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 meetings: Tues. June 19, July 17

St. Francis ISD #15

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

Tues. May 29, Mon. June 11, June 25 — 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. June 12 — 6:45 pm

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. June 11 & July 9 — 7 pm

916 Intermediate School District

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

Tue. May 29 — “work session” CANCELLED
Tue. June 5 — 6 pm
Tue. June 19 — 4 pm “work session”



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



May 22. I want to thank everyone who has contacted me over the last few weeks regarding our vote on state funding for a Vikings stadium.

Your input was meaningful, and I took it into consideration when making my decision.

As a state representative, my job is to carefully consider each piece of legislation before allowing it to pass into law. The legislative process is made to move slowly, with bills receiving careful consideration in several committees and three readings on the House floor before their final passage. With the “People’s Stadium” bill, it was important to carefully weigh the social and economic impacts before granting such a large sum of money.

The stadium bill that we heard on the House floor asked for \$348 million of state general fund money fronted by an unproven form of electronic-pull tab revenue and sports-themed tip boards to support this project. After fighting our way out of a large budget deficit of nearly \$6 billion and getting \$1.2 billion back in the black, I believed it was simply not the time to gamble so much taxpayer money on an unproven and risky funding source.

After the bill’s passage, the state’s obligation to this project will now be paid through the state’s general fund using state “appropriation bonds”. These stadium bonds are first in priority for payment by the state each year and for the next 30 years the state will cut a check for these appropriation bonds before anything else. It is essentially the equivalent to taking out a mortgage on the stadium. Those of you who pay mortgage on a house would likely not feel comfortable making that kind of commitment with a varying income.

The projections for e-pull tab revenues assume a 280% increase in pull tab gambling, to cover the entire cost of the stadium. If and when the income does not add up to projections, the stadium bond payments will come out of the general fund, made up of taxpayer dollars, and will take priority over filling budget reserves, filling rainy day funds, paying back education shifts, paying for health and human services, and proving funding equity for low funded school districts.

In addition, the inclusion of “sports themed tip board” gambling as a funding source in the bill may conflict with federal law. If this source were to be shut down for being deemed illegal, we would be faced with an even greater burden on our taxpayer dollars.

The bill does contain a back up source for revenue, a 10% tax on

suite revenue in the new stadium. This is unfortunately not a safe enough source as it can’t generate any revenue until the stadium is built and tickets are sold. When it is able to generate revenue, the income will likely be a drop in the bucket when compared to the obligations we are left with.

The city of Minneapolis is left to decide on a \$338.7 million contribution, including \$150 million for construction. The city’s contributions would exceed \$600 million after interest. To fund its portion, Minneapolis will extend the life of several downtown sales taxes by 20 years. Minneapolis rules indicate that a contribution of this kind requires a public referendum so taxpayers can have a say on this issue. This rule was sadly ignored through the Legislative process.

Despite this being a “people’s stadium”, through this bill the Vikings retained naming rights to the stadium, valued at about \$200 million. Add this to the \$200 million loan the Vikings will likely receive from the NFL and their contributions seem pretty minimal. There is also a clause in the bill which allows the Minnesota Vikings to be exempt from state laws requiring public disclosure for tax payer funded benefits. There will unfortunately be no public transparency for the outside contributions the Vikings will receive for this project. The bill also allows the Vikings’ owner the exclusive right to attract a professional soccer team and receive the proceeds from it.

These hidden contributions and revenue sources could equate to the team having very little cost, if any at all. It is strange to me that with all of the public outcry over government bailouts of large companies, that this bill wasn’t faced with more opposition.

This session, Governor Dayton has vetoed property tax relief for small businesses across the state, repayment of the K-12 budgetary shift and a bill containing TIF (tax increment financing) for an economic development project that would have put more people back to work than the Stadium bill and the bonding bill combined. But, of course, he could not let Republicans get credit for that (he vetoed this project twice in less than a month). It seems his only focus has been approving this Vikings stadium effort, no matter the cost.

Despite vetoing a bill with significantly more job development attached, Governor Dayton’s main selling point for the stadium was that it creates jobs. While the construction jobs that will result from the building this stadium is very positive, the number of jobs has been grossly overstated. The number of jobs touted by the Vikings, the Governor and various media sources has been between 7,000 and 10,000. This number is not equivalent to 7,000 to 10,000 full time jobs and is a misleading exaggeration.

According to the project’s general contractor, Mortenson Construction, the number of projects hours is

estimated to be four million over the three year construction time period. This is the equivalent of only 667 full time jobs in each of the three year periods during construction of the stadium.

The Vikings and Gov. Dayton have also been touting the huge economic benefit of this new stadium. A recent article in *Forbes* magazine, however, discounts the economic impact claims made by the Vikings and the Governor. This article cites that, “Independent academic research studies consistently conclude that new stadiums and arenas have no measurable effect on the level of real income or employment in the metropolitan areas in which they are located.” It also points out that the biggest economic benefit will be to the team’s owner, billionaire Zygi Wilf.

It is ironic that the Vikings were able to use a new stadium in Los Angeles as a threat to gain more public support for keeping the team in Minnesota. The bill that approved California’s new NFL stadium contained no public funding. The Los Angeles stadium will be built entirely with private funds by a stadium owner who would receive a portion of the stadium’s revenue.

Supporters of the stadium effort urged lawmakers to “vote with their hearts, not with their heads”. This is unfortunately how many legislators voted as they ignored the merits of the bill and instead focused on their desire to see the stadium built, no matter the cost. This cannot be the basis for our decision making at the Capitol. We were sent here by voters to defend taxpayers against rampant and irresponsible spending.

The fact is that this bill was simply not right for the state of Minnesota and the people of Minneapolis. The public contribution level was far too high and the funding source is risky at best. Additionally, one must consider what the role of government truly is. Because of these reasons, I could not support the bill.

Now that the voting is over, I will acknowledge, as a football fan, that there are some long-suffering Vikings fans who have much to cheer about.

As always, please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or want to share your thoughts on the legislative session.

CANDIDATE FILING
Now through June 5 for State, County and some city offices
including
Coon Rapids City Council
4 Seats: Wards 1, 2, 4 and At-Large
Ramsey City Council
4 Seats: Wards 2, 4, At-Large and Mayor
Blaine City Council
4 Seats: Wards 1, 2, 3 and Mayor
Fridley City Council
2 Seats: At-Large councilor and Mayor
Columbia Heights City Council
2 City Council seats and Mayor
Spring Lake Park City Council
2 City Council seats
Centerville City Council
2 City Council seats and Mayor
Anoka City Council
2 City Council seats and Mayor

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