



League of Women Voters of Minnesota Records

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THE LEAGUE
OF WOMEN VOTERS
MINNESOTA EDUCATION FUND

550 RICE STREET ST. PAUL, MN 55103 PHONE (651) 224-5445 FAX (651) 290-2145

March 22, 2000

Governor Jesse Ventura
Office of the Governor
130 Capitol
St. Paul MN 55155

Dear Governor Ventura:

On behalf of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota I am writing to thank you for your consistent and outspoken support of a woman's right to choose and the protection of her privacy in exercising that right.

It is very disheartening to see support for the pro-choice position eroding more and more each year as a result of the threats and untiring pressure of the pro-life lobby. We appreciate your steadfast refusal to knuckle under.

Sincerely, *Thanks!*

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Judy Duffy'.

Judy Duffy
President



THE LEAGUE
OF WOMEN VOTERS
MINNESOTA EDUCATION FUND

550 RICE STREET ST. PAUL, MN 55103 PHONE (651) 224-5445 FAX (651) 290-2145

March 22, 2000

The Honorable Sheila Kiscaden
Minnesota Senate
135 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Senator Kiscaden:

On behalf of the League of Women Voters I am writing to thank you for your good words on the floor of the Senate on March 21 during the debate on the Informed Consent amendment that was added to the Omnibus Spending Bill.

Your unfailing support for a woman's right to choose and to have her privacy protected is very heartening to those of us who are seeing this right challenged and support eroding in the face of the constant pressures of the opponents. Keep up the good work!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Judy Duffy". Above the signature, the word "Thanks!" is written in a similar cursive style.

Judy Duffy
President

MN Letterhead

March 15, 2001

Kate Perry, Editor
St. Paul Pioneer Press

Saved on

Shared

Immigrant

Letter to Kate Perry

Dear Kate,

It was with great pleasure that I learned of the Pioneer Press winning the Frank Premack Public Affairs Journalism Award for the series on how immigrants are changing the face of Minnesota. The series was of course beneficial to our own project, "Changing Faces, Changing Communities," conducted about the same time.

The service you provided in describing the changes and their impacts on the communities at large was, I think, an eye opener for many Minnesotans.

Thank you for providing the valuable information and my congratulations to the staff and the newspaper for a fine effort.

Sincerely,

Judy Duffy, President

St. Paul among papers winning Premack award

Associated Press

The St. Paul Pioneer Press was named winner of a Frank Premack Public Affairs Journalism Award for its arti-

► The Southwest Journal and John Brewer, Brent Killackey, Linda Picone, Scott Russell and Sarah Tellijohn won the weekly newspaper award for a September series



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THE LEAGUE
OF WOMEN VOTERS
MINNESOTA

550 RICE STREET ST. PAUL, MN 55103 PHONE (651) 224-5445 FAX (651) 290-2145

November 6, 2000

To the Editor:

While it is required that judges in Minnesota run for election every six years, there are some very basic differences about these elections. These elections are and should remain nonpartisan. Candidates for the judiciary are not being elected to a representative office. They are being elected to hear and rule on legal cases that come before them. Therefore, these candidates are expected and required to be proficient in the law and its application. How an individual judicial candidate stands on the issues that may come before them is both irrelevant and dangerous in its application. Judges are entrusted to be impartial as to political and other influences. To endorse candidates based on their political or philosophical allegiances would pervert the process and leave judges beholden to those entities for their judicial future.

Contrary to the claims that judges' free speech is denied when they cannot speak out on issues during a campaign is erroneous. Judges can speak to their own qualifications and they can speak to how they would facilitate and expedite the legal process within their own courtroom and other such procedural matters that are important to the delivery of services. Their campaigns are not nor should they be the traditional debate about issues as occurs in other elective campaigns. The election of judges is a different matter and should remain so.

Judy Duffy, President
League of Women Voters of Minnesota

Elections unconstitutional

Lucy Quinlivan's Nov. 2 article concerning Greg Wersal and judicial elections misstates how judicial elections work under our Minnesota Constitution. Her article states,



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THE LEAGUE
OF WOMEN VOTERS

MINNESOTA

550 RICE STREET ST. PAUL, MN 55103 PHONE (651) 224-5445 FAX (651) 290-2145

March 14, 2001

The Honorable Mark Dayton
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Dayton,

I am writing on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota and our 2500 members to urge you to support S. 27. When the McCain-Feingold bill comes up for debate in the Senate, we urge you to both support the McCain-Feingold bill and to vote *against* any amendment that would raise "hard money" contribution limits.

At last we have a historic opportunity to take a strong first step toward real reform. However, we are concerned about potential weakening amendments to S. 27, such as those that would allow for significant increases in hard money contribution limits. We are convinced that amendments to increase the amounts that individuals could give to candidates, PACs and parties would contradict and discredit reform and lessen congressional and public support for your legislation.

The McCain-Feingold bill will go a long way toward cleaning up a campaign finance system full of loopholes that is controlled by big monied special interests. This bill will ban the unlimited "soft money" contributions to political parties from corporations, labor unions and wealthy individuals.

Proposed amendments to raise "hard money" limits would weaken the legislation. Tripling the hard money limit represents backward steps in the effort to stop the legalized bribery that goes on in Washington today. In the last analysis, S. 27 will not be seen by the press or the public as a credible reform bill if it eliminates \$500 million in party soft money only to put back hundreds of millions of dollars in multithousand dollar contributions by individuals, their spouses, and their business associates.

Until we change the way that campaigns are financed in this country, big monied interests will control the political system. We need to restore democracy and return politics to the people of Minnesota. We hope we can count on your support for reform without hard money amendments. Thank you for taking the League's views into account.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Judy Duffy".

Judy Duffy
President

A handwritten note in cursive script that reads "Thank you for your consideration.".



THE LEAGUE
OF WOMEN VOTERS

MINNESOTA

550 RICE STREET ST. PAUL, MN 55103 PHONE (651) 224-5445 FAX (651) 290-2145

March 14, 2001

The Honorable Paul Wellstone
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Wellstone,

Thank you for supporting meaningful campaign finance reform legislation in the past. When the McCain-Feingold bill (S. 27) comes up for debate in the Senate, we ask that you once again support this important legislation. Specifically, we urge you to both support the McCain-Feingold bill and to vote *against* any amendment that would raise "hard money" contribution limits.


At last we have a historic opportunity to take a strong first step toward real reform. However, we are concerned about potential weakening amendments to S. 27, such as those that would allow for significant increases in hard money contribution limits. We are convinced that amendments to increase the amounts that individuals could give to candidates, PACs and parties would contradict and discredit reform and lessen congressional and public support for your legislation.

The McCain-Feingold bill will go a long way toward cleaning up a campaign finance system full of loopholes that is controlled by big monied special interests. This bill will ban the unlimited "soft money" contributions to political parties from corporations, labor unions and wealthy individuals.

Proposed amendments to raise "hard money" limits would weaken the legislation. Tripling the hard money limit represents backward steps in the effort to stop the legalized bribery that goes on in Washington today. In the last analysis, S. 27 will not be seen by the press or the public as a credible reform bill if it eliminates \$500 million in party soft money only to put back hundreds of millions of dollars in multithousand dollar contributions by individuals, their spouses, and their business associates.

Until we change the way that campaigns are financed in this country, big monied interests will control the political system. We need to restore democracy and return politics to the people of Minnesota. Again, thank you for your support in the past and we look forward to your support for reform without hard money amendments in the coming weeks. Thank you for taking the League's views into account.

Sincerely,


Judy Duffy
President

*Thank you for your
Consideration.*

November 1, 2000

To the Editor:

Election Day is nearly here. For some, it cannot come fast enough, and for others, it means last minute campaigning and hoping that the right message has been delivered to the right voters.

With the whirlwind of election polls that have been filling the news, some would think that the election is already over. I would argue that the daily polls and their publication often confuses voters and gives the impression that their actual vote is unnecessary in this system of polling and instant analysis.

As some say about polls, they are merely a snapshot of a person's opinion on that day at that time and therefore, they could actually be irrelevant by the time the poll is published. Whatever your opinion of polling, the only poll that actually matters is that taken on Election Day with the voters casting their ballots.

The League of Women Voters office is inundated by calls from voters with a variety of questions. Not only are we asked how one goes about registering to vote, how to get an absentee ballot and where one might go to vote, we are asked questions about what the electoral college is, are the results of the electoral college already in, and should I still vote?

It is troubling to me that this level of confusion exists about how we actually make our election decisions.

It is not naïve to say that every vote does count. Our system was devised to make our decisions by voting. Remember that there is more at stake than a Presidential election. There are countless ballot issues in local communities. There are elections for city council, county commissioners, legislators as well as for Members of Congress and the U.S. Senate. Especially at the local level, those votes are important and often it takes very few votes to make the final decision.

Contrary to some reports, the election is NOT over. Newspapers, voter guides, television and radio programs and websites are filled with election information. Voters need only exert minimal effort to learn about the issues and the candidates. There is still time to do that and then show up on November 7 and vote.

If anyone has a question about voting, call the League of Women Voters/WCCO-4 Hotline beginning on Sunday, November 5, in the metro area at 612-330-2764, and from greater Minnesota at the Hotline's toll-free number, 1-877-223-9226. You may also pick up the League's *Voter Guide* from all Target, Mervyn's and Dayton stores or visit the League's website, www.lwvmn.org, or Democracy Network (DNet), at www.dnet.org, with candidate information from the local to the national level.

As with all elections, this election is important. It is important for you to show up and express your opinion with your vote. This is a basic responsibility of citizenship.

Judy Duffy, President
League of Women Voters of Minnesota

League of Women Voters of Minnesota
550 Rice Street
St. Paul, MN 55103
For more information, contact Judy Duffy, President
Phone: 651-224-5445

To the Editor:

An article on October 10th left the impression that the League of Women Voters is fading from existence. First, let me say this is wrong. In Minnesota, there are 48 local Leagues. While it may be true that the Mankato League has lost members, New Ulm and St. Peter Leagues continue to thrive. Over the years, some communities have lost local chapters and others have gained a chapter. Like most volunteer organizations, the work and vitality of the organization is dependent upon volunteers. Leagues grow within communities when there is a realization that the League contributes to a better-informed and involved citizenry.

This year, Leagues across the state are responsible for hundreds of candidate forums. Thousands of election-related questions are answered by League members statewide. League members keep tabs on public officials by observing public meetings. Leagues study issues and hold public forums on topics of local concern. In short, these members are vital contributing citizens in their communities.

The nonpartisan League is a statewide and national organization, formed in 1920. Most Leagues quietly go about their business and yet make a huge contribution to the well being of their communities. Yes, sadly we lose a chapter from time to time, but often another forms and picks up on the work at hand. We are hopeful the League will be revitalized in Mankato and that any and all interested individuals who value an active and informed citizenry will consider joining.

Judy Duffy
League of Women Voters of Minnesota President



10:30 Weds - 9/6

Laura Laitala, Chair
Ely Area Unit
218-365-3307

To: President Judy Duffy (I will ^{also} call you!)
RE: "Informational Interview" with
Bill Arthur of WELY Radio
(218-365-4444)

Outline: (General/Basic) 1/2 Hour time
apprx.

(Bill will lead question) 1) Brief background/history of League
(State non-partisan and League's "intent".

(Judy) 2) League at present - organizational levels -
(United States, State, Local/regional levels)
How and what League is doing
(Judy go for it!)

(Bill asks) 3) 2000 Election - Mn Compact/Debates/Voter Guide
Web sites available for information
www.dnet.org
lwvmn.org
Election Hotline 1-877-223-9226
6A/6B
CD 8 - Oberstar

(Judy) 4) Mention Ely's unit - 1 yr. old -
(have done 3 public candidates forums
2 "Speaker Events" with Commissioner
Forsman and Mayor Schnitzius)
Contact Ely Chair locally at 365-3307
and State at toll free 1-800-663-9328
Bill will probably share conversation in our efforts

(Mr. Bill Arthur)

Public Access Video

{ Primary Forum for City Elections

Sept 5-11

6 pm Ely Public Access TV

TOTAL P.01



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Vice President, Corporate Relations
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Professor
Hubert H. Humphrey
Institute of Public Affairs
University of Minnesota

Laura Waterman Wittstock
President
MIGIZI Communications, Inc.

Mark G. Yudof
President
University of Minnesota

August 21, 2000

Pat Fiske
U.S. Senator Rod Grams Campaign 2000
320 E Main Street
PO Box 1029
Anoka MN 55303

Dear Mr. Fiske:

I have enclosed a copy of the League of Women Voter's **Primary Voter Guide 2000** for you to review.

Our Voter Guide is given free to shoppers in Target, Dayton's and Mervyn's California stores. It is also give to visitors to the WCCO state fair booth. Businesses across the state purchase Voter Guides for their employees. Local Leagues distribute them widely in their communities. Colleges and libraries purchase them in large quantities. A copy is mailed to each of our members and to our major business contributors.

Our candidate's statement are printed as the candidates has written them correcting only spelling and punctuation with a 50-word limit per question.

I hope after reviewing the Voter Guide you will agree to participate.

Sincerely,

Judy Duffy
President



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MIGIZI Communications, Inc.

Mark G. Yudof

President

University of Minnesota

August 9, 2000

Pat Fiske

Campaign Manager

U.S. Senator Rod Grams 2000 Campaign Committee

320 East Main Street

Anoka MN 55303

Dear Mr. Fiske:

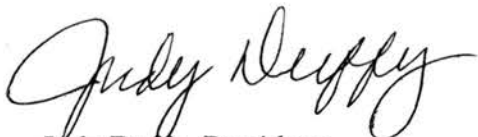
We are dismayed by your decision to not participate in the League of Women Voters of Minnesota Education Fund Voter Guide. The League has a twenty plus year history of producing a nonpartisan voter guide for the citizens of Minnesota. Throughout our history, no candidate for state office has ever declined to participate. The Guide goes to over 300,000 Minnesota voters throughout our state. The Guide has corporate and individual support and is often cited as the best guide because of the inclusion of all candidates and its nonpartisan approach.

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota Education Fund exists to provide nonpartisan information to voters. It is well known that individuals are more likely to participate on election day if they feel they have adequate information in order to cast an informed ballot. Through all of our election services, our objective is to give candidates a forum to present ideas and plans to all Minnesota voters.

This year, the League will produce a Primary Election Voter Guide and a General Election Voter Guide. It will be distributed by Target Stores and multiple other businesses and organizations. Our aim is to produce at least 350,000 guides for each election and possibly more, depending on orders. Our local League chapters will distribute the guides in their own communities throughout the state. In short, the Guide goes to all corners of the state and is greatly anticipated and respected

It is the policy of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota Education Fund that the contents of the voter guide are provided by the candidates. We edit for spelling errors and for length, due to space limitations. I am personally very sorry that you have chosen to not participate. The League's voter guide provides a great service to Minnesota voters by incorporating candidate information in one place. The Guide will be produced soon - we are on a very short timetable - and will reflect that Senator Grams has declined to participate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Judy Duffy".

Judy Duffy, President
League of Women Voters of Minnesota Education Fund

cc: Target Corporation
LWVMNEF Voter Service Committee
LWVMNEF Board of Directors



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OF WOMEN VOTERS**
MINNESOTA EDUCATION FUND

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President
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Mark G. Yudof
President
University of Minnesota

August 23, 2000

Senator John Marty
2478 Lydia Avenue
Roseville, MN 55113

Dear Senator Marty:

Thank you for your letter concerning the Minnesota Compact on Campaign Standards. We are delighted that you and others in Minnesota are taking this project seriously because we firmly believe that while harshly negative campaigns may work in the short run, they turn people off from politics in general. We do not intend to minimize candidate differences, but to foster exploration of those differences in responsible ways that encourage more people to take part in, not avoid, the political process.

The Minnesota Compact has never asked candidates to sign a pledge. It was another group led by advertising executive, Lee Lynch, which asked for public pledges of adherence to a code in 1996. The Compact has always been a 501c.3 project and must avoid any hint of endorsement of one candidate over another. We do hope, of course, that candidates will publicly declare their intention to abide by Compact Standards and hold themselves and each other responsible for good conduct in campaigns. We hope the public will hold each of you and all of you responsible for observing the spirit if not the letter of the Compact.

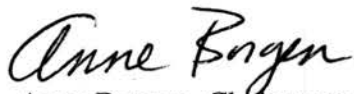
The issue of the 50 percent standard for broadcast ads is an interesting one. It applies to ads placed by the candidate or his/her campaign committee. Issue ads by the party or by interest groups placed on behalf of the candidate do not have to abide by the rule requiring the candidate to be present 50 percent of the time. Frankly, I do not see why it is difficult to have the candidate present to state that he/she is proud to have this person talking about his/her record. Positive ads need to be clearly identified, too. All ads of any kind, placed by anyone, need to be judged by the standard of accuracy and fairness. A positive ad that takes credit where it is not due violates the spirit of the Compact just as much as an untrue negative one does.

Senator John Marty
Page 2 of 2
August 21, 2000

I will bring up your points at the next Steering Committee meeting. It is important that we understand responses from those we hope to influence. We would like to have all of Minnesota--politicians, political parties, the press and the general public--internalize this Compact as the way campaigns are expected to be conducted here. We have published standards by which to measure our conduct, but it is the spirit of the Compact that we hope will catch on.

Thank you for your letter. I hope my answer clears up some points.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Anne Borgen".

Anne Borgen, Chairperson
Minnesota Compact on Campaign Standards

AB/er

BILL LUTHER

4 SIXTH DISTRICT, MINNESOTA
ANOKA, WASHINGTON AND CENTRAL DAKOTA COUNTIES

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON TELECOMMUNICATIONS,
TRADE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION
SUBCOMMITTEE ON FINANCE
AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

REGIONAL WHIP



**Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-2306**

March 3, 2000

117 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515-2306
(202) 225-2271
FAX: (202) 225-3368

1811 WEIR DRIVE
SUITE 150
WOODBURY, MN 55125
(651) 730-4949 (V/TTY)
FAX: (651) 730-0507

bill.luther@mail.house.gov
<http://www.house.gov/luther>

Ms. Judy Duffy
President, League of Women Voters
550 Rice Street
St. Paul, Minnesota 55103

RECEIVED MAR 14 2000

Dear Judy:

Congratulations on the eightieth anniversary of the League of Women Voters! The success of the League, both in Minnesota and nationally, should make you and all the organization's members very proud.

I have enclosed a copy of a letter to the editor that I recently sent to the newspapers in the Sixth Congressional District. I am pleased that some newspapers have helped communicate the message of the League's anniversary by publishing the letter.

Again, congratulations. I hope you will feel free to contact me if I may ever be of assistance to you or your organization. You have my very best wishes!

Sincerely,

BILL LUTHER
Member of Congress

BL:jmm

Hope all is well!

BILL LUTHER

Sixth District, Minnesota
Anoka, Washington and Central Dakota
Counties

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

Subcommittee on Telecommunications,
Trade and Consumer Protection

Subcommittee on Finance and
Hazardous Materials

REGIONAL WHIP

**Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2306**

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(651) 730-4949 (V/TTY)
FAX: (651) 730-0507

bill.luther@mail.house.gov
www.house.gov/luther

February 22, 2000

Dear Editor:

The League of Women Voters celebrates its eightieth anniversary this year. Since its beginnings as a women's suffrage organization, the League has made outstanding contributions to American life. We should all be very proud of the great success of the League.

As a non-partisan organization, the League of Women Voters plays a particularly unique and significant role in the American political process. Voters can use the League to find polling places, gather information about specific policies, and learn more about candidates through League-sponsored debates. When members of the League of Women Voters feel strongly about an idea, the organization advocates for it. The League's commitment to Campaign Finance Reform, for example, has been instrumental in attracting national attention to this important issue.

In today's political environment, special interests affect the way nearly every topic is viewed. I am grateful that we have the League of Women Voters to provide people with solid, objective information and a forum to express ideas. I congratulate the League of Women Voters on its accomplishments to date and I wish the League continued success in the future!

Sincerely,



BILL LUTHER
Minnesota Sixth District
Congressman

Woodbury Review
2/29/2000

'We should all be very proud'

To the editor:

The League of Women Voters celebrates its 80th anniversary this year. Since its beginnings as a women's suffrage organization, the league has made outstanding contributions to American life. We should all be very proud of the great success of the league. As a non-organization, the League of Women Voters plays a particularly



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BILL LUTHER

SIXTH DISTRICT, MINNESOTA
ANOKA, WASHINGTON AND CENTRAL DAKOTA COUNTIES

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON TELECOMMUNICATIONS,
TRADE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION
SUBCOMMITTEE ON FINANCE
AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

REGIONAL WHIP



RECEIVED NOV 27 2000

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FAX: (651) 730-0507

bill.luther@mail.house.gov
<http://www.house.gov/luther>

November 16, 2000

Judy Duffy
President, League of Women Voters
550 Rice Street
St. Paul, Minnesota 55103

Dear Judy:

Thank you so much for your participation on my Nominations Committee for the U.S. Service Academies. I truly appreciate all the time and effort you provided.

Your involvement on the Nominations Committee was essential in my congressional nomination process. The information from the interviews help me better understand which candidates are best qualified to attend one of the service academies. I am extremely impressed with this year's candidates and I know they will represent our community and country well.

Thanks again. If I can ever be of assistance in any way, please be sure to let me know.
Best wishes!

Sincerely,

BILL LUTHER
Member of Congress

BL:jr



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Peggy Lucas
Partner
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Vivian Jenkins Nelsen
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INTER-RACE

James A. Roberts
Vice President, Corporate Relations
Minnesota Power

G. Edward Schuh
Professor
Hubert H. Humphrey
Institute of Public Affairs
University of Minnesota

Laura Waterman Wittstock
President
MIGIZI Communications, Inc.

Mark G. Yudof
President
University of Minnesota

March 6, 2000

Ron Eibensteiner, Chair
Republican Party of Minnesota
480 Cedar Street
Suite 560
St. Paul, MN 55101

Dear Mr. Eibensteiner,

Again, thank you for returning my call last Friday. I hope we were able to clear up some misunderstandings that apparently exist. I would hope that any questions you might have about the League and our activities, you would feel free to call and discuss them with us.

As I mentioned in our conversation, our mission is to serve the voters of the state of Minnesota. When it comes to election activities, the League works to further the participation of all voters. Therefore, any ideas you may have to encourage participation, I hope you will pass them on to us. We distribute information regarding the process and opportunities for involvement. In any election year, we field upwards of 20,000 calls asking for information. We work to be sure the information we give out is accurate and certainly try to accommodate everyone involved. We are happy to pass along general information to the voting public.

At some point, it might be helpful to discuss how we might work together in a more comprehensive manner to encourage voter participation. We certainly view ourselves as partners, not as antagonists in this endeavor.

Thank you for the call and I look forward to further conversations.

Sincerely,

Judy Duffy
President
League of Women Voters of Minnesota

cc: Randall G. Skoglund



THE LEAGUE
OF WOMEN VOTERS

MINNESOTA

550 RICE STREET ST. PAUL, MN 55103 PHONE (651) 224-5445 FAX (651) 290-2145

November 30, 1999

Senator Roger Moe, Majority Leader
Minnesota State Senate
208 Capitol
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Senator Moe:

On behalf of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota, I would like to congratulate you for being named a recipient of the 1999 William M. Bulger Excellence in State Legislative Leadership Award. You commented that while the award recognizes individuals, it "is a reflection on the state."

It is equally true that you have brought honor to the profession of politics and to our state. We thank you for your leadership, dedication and hard work for the people of Minnesota. And once again, our sincere congratulations.

Yours truly,

Judy Duffy
President



**THE LEAGUE
OF WOMEN VOTERS**
MINNESOTA EDUCATION FUND

550 RICE STREET ST. PAUL, MN 55103 PHONE (651) 224-5445 FAX (651) 290-2145

PRESIDENT
Judy Duffy

December 3, 1999

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Laura Waterman Wittstock
President
MIGIZI Communications, Inc.

Mark G. Yudof
President
University of Minnesota

Editor
The Washington Post
1150 15th Street NW
Washington, DC 20071

To the Editor:

E.J. Dionne's column discussing our country's crisis in civic participation was disturbing and unfortunately, accurate. The declining participation by our citizens can only lead to government by the very few if this trend continues. The League of Women Voters was organized more than 80 years ago around the belief that our vote is important and imperative to a well-governed nation. In an effort to counter the trend to declining participation, the League of Women Voters of Minnesota has developed three excellent and innovative curricula to be used by students from elementary to secondary levels. These curricula utilize experiential techniques in teaching children and young adults about why it is important for us to take an active role in our democracy.

Our research has shown that citizens must feel that they have a stake in the process and that their vote counts. They must feel that they have power to effect change by their actions in their community. Our curricula teach this through role playing and discussion. The elementary level curriculum, "We the People: Skills for Democracy," provides foundation for citizenship activities and is based on the Preamble to the U.S. Constitution. "We've Got the Power: Skills for Democracy," the secondary curriculum, focuses on empowerment of students to participate more skillfully in their personal, community, national and international environments. "Tenemos Poder: Habilidades para la Democracia" is the identical Spanish version to the secondary curriculum.

This material has been marketed to teachers and schools in Minnesota and across the country. We would like to see these marvelous curricula even more widely used by teachers in all states.

Children exposed to these curricula are excited by the skills they acquire. It requires them to think and to take action and control. These materials do not solve all the problems addressed in Dionne's column but it is a means to move us in that direction. Further information about the materials can be downloaded from our website: www.lwvmn.org.

Sincerely,

Judy Duffy, President
League of Women Voters of Minnesota

P.S. Copies of the curricula are included. After you have looked at them, pass them on to a teacher you know and encourage their use. Any questions about the curricula can be directed to Eydie Kargas, our marketing director.

cc: E. J. Dionne



THE LEAGUE
OF WOMEN VOTERS

M I N N E S O T A

550 RICE STREET ST. PAUL, MN 55103 PHONE (651) 224-5445 FAX (651) 290-2145

November 22, 1999

Mary Kiffmeyer
Minnesota Secretary of State
180 State Office Building
100 Constitution Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Secretary Kiffmeyer:

Thank you for sending us copies of the Legislative Manual for 1999-2000. The Manual is a valuable reference, consulted frequently by our volunteers and staff for everything from election data to provisions in the U.S. and Minnesota Constitutions. These copies will be put to good use!

We hope to meet with you in January to discuss how we can work together to increase voter participation in the 2000 Elections. We'll call you after the first of the year to set an appointment.

Thank you again for thinking of the League of Women Voters.

Sincerely,

✓ Judy Duffy
President

Sally Sawyer
Executive Director



THE LEAGUE
OF WOMEN VOTERS

MINNESOTA

550 RICE STREET ST. PAUL, MN 55103 PHONE (651) 224-5445 FAX (651) 290-2145

November 22, 1999

President Mark Yudof
University of Minnesota
202 Morrill Hall
100 Church Street SE
Minneapolis, MN 55455

Dear President Yudof,

First of all, let me express my gratitude for the work you put into the decisions that were required to move the University ahead in the unfortunate business of academic fraud within the basketball program. I think you demonstrated remarkable judgment, wisdom and foresight in the decisions that were carried out and announced last Friday. These decisions were neither popular nor comfortable for many supporters of the University. I think however, they were necessary. I personally thank you for your courage in carrying out those decisions.

As a graduate of the University, I, like many, want the University to succeed and excel on a number of levels. The academic integrity of the University is paramount to athletic success even though that is not often stated. I appreciate your commitment to that integrity. I know that the last word has not been spoken and that there are yet many hurdles to overcome. I do believe though that the first difficult and painful steps have been taken and we are now on our way to the conclusion of this sad chapter in the University's history.

I also believe that you are the right person at the right time to carry the University forward and resolve all of the outstanding issues connected to this situation. I believe many are in support of your actions and that in the long run we will all benefit from your leadership. Once again, let me express my appreciation for the effort that these decisions have required and confidence in the direction you have outlined for our first next steps.

Sincerely,

Judy Duffy, President
League of Women Voters of Minnesota



THE LEAGUE
OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF THE UNITED STATES

RECEIVED SEP 27 1999

President

Carolyn Jefferson-Jenkins, Ph.D.
Colorado Springs, Colorado

Vice-Presidents

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Greenwich, Connecticut

Barbara A. Foston
Atlanta, Georgia

Secretary-Treasurer
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Knoxville, Tennessee

Eleanor Reveille
Evanston, Illinois

Faye Harned Sinnott
Barrington, Illinois

Alison P. Smith
Portland, Maine

Executive Director

Jane Gruenebaum

September 22, 1999

Russel Rosen
1453 St. Clair Avenue
St. Paul, Minnesota 55105

Dear Mr. Rosen:

Judy Duffy, President of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota forwarded your letter about presidential candidates to me.

Thank you for taking the time to write such a thoughtful note. The League of Women Voters is committed to reforms that open the system and level the playing field. Your suggestions are greatly appreciated.

Your ideas will become part of our ongoing interest in new ways to help us advance our mission.

Sincerely yours,

Carolyn Jefferson-Jenkins, Ph.D.
President

September 13, 1999

The Honorable Mary Kiffmeyer,
Secretary of State of Minnesota
180 State Office Building
100 Constitution Avenue
St. Paul, MN. 55155-1299

Dear Secretary Kiffmeyer,

We were pleased to see the information released by your office regarding the establishment of task forces to address the issues of citizenship education for young and under-represented voters. We know that these populations can be better served with information that can assist them as they go about voting.

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota has produced a series of curricula to teach citizenship skills to young people. "We the People" is targeted to elementary age students and based on the preamble to the Constitution. "We've Got the Power" is a series of interactive activities geared to the older student in secondary school and is also available in Spanish.

Enclosed is a set of our curricula that perhaps can be helpful to your task forces as they go about their work. Good luck in your efforts and please call upon us if we can assist you in any way.

Sincerely,

Judy Duffy, President
League of Women Voters of Minnesota

Encs

Copies to :
Stamps - Home
Judy Covey

Leg Reporter 9/15/99



OPEN APPOINTMENTS

FOR VOLUNTEER SERVICE ON STATE AGENCIES

Secretary of State
Open Appointments
180 State Office Building
100 Constitution Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55155-1299
(612)297-5845

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 7, 1999

Notice of Vacancies in Multi-Member Agencies

Notice is hereby given to the public that vacancies have occurred in multi-member state agencies, pursuant to *Minnesota Statutes, Section 15.0597, subdivision 4*. Application forms may be obtained from the Office of the Secretary of State, Open Appointments, 180 State Office Building, 100 Constitution Ave., St. Paul, MN 55155-1299; (651) 297-5845, or in person at Room 174 of the State Office Building. In accordance with the Minnesota Open Appointments Law, the Secretary of State acts as an administrator in publishing vacancies, receiving applications, and recording appointments. Applications will be reviewed and appointments made by the Appointing Authorities for these various agencies. **Completed applications are to be submitted to the Secretary of State by September 28, 1999.** Appointing Authorities for these agencies may also choose to review applications received by the Secretary of State after that date. Applications are kept on file for a one year period. Agency information for this press release was supplied by the various agencies.

The 1998 Annual Compilation is now available from the Minnesota Bookstore. This publication includes a complete listing of state boards and councils that follow the Open Appointments process, descriptions of these agencies and their memberships, and statistical information about appointments and vacancies made during the 1998 fiscal year. The 1998 Annual Compilation, Statistical Report and Annual Report are also available on the Internet Web site at: www.sos.state.mn.us.

To order copies of the 1998 Annual Compilation please call the Minnesota Bookstore at (651) 297-3000 or 1-800-657-3757. This press release is available on the Internet Web site location: www.sos.state.mn.us.

ABUSED CHILDREN ADVISORY COUNCIL

MN DEPT. OF CHILDREN, FAMILIES & LEARNING, 1500 W. HIGHWAY 36 ROSEVILLE, MN 55113-4266
(651) 582-8508
LAW OF 1994, CHAPTER 552.

APPOINTING AUTHORITY: Commissioner of children, families & learning.

COMPENSATION: Reimbursement of expenses.

TWO VACANCIES: Members must be knowledgeable about or have an interest in issues abused children and the programs that serve them including the need of effective advocacy services, public members from the seven county Metropolitan area.

The council advises the commissioner of children, families and learning on all matters related to the department's funding of abused children programs in Minnesota, other than purely administrative matters. The council advises on grant-related planning, development, data collection, rulemaking, funding and evaluation of programs. The council shall serve as a liaison between the commissioner of children, families and learning and organizations that provide services to abused children, and serves as an advocate within the Department of Children, Families and Learning for the rights of abused children.

MN WORKERS COMPENSATION ASSIGNED RISK PLAN REVIEW BOARD

133 E. 7TH ST., ST. PAUL, MN 55101 (651) 297-7033

MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 79.251.

APPOINTING AUTHORITY: Commissioner of commerce

COMPENSATION: None.

5 VACANCIES: See membership requirements below.

The board will audit the reserves established for individual cases and the total book of business arising under workers' compensation policies and contracts of coverage issued pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 79.25 and 79.252.

The six members shall include three insured holding workers; compensation policies issued by the Assigned Risk Plan and two representatives of licensed workers' compensation insurance companies. The sixth member is the

commissioner of commerce. Term of office is three years. Meetings are held at various times during the year in St. Paul. The board does not expire.



YOUNGER CITIZEN ADVISORY TASK FORCE

174 STATE OFFICE BUILDING, 100 CONSTITUTION AVE., ST. PAUL, MN 55155-1299 (651) 297-5845

MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 15.014.

APPOINTING AUTHORITY: Secretary of State.

COMPENSATION: None.

15 NEW POSITIONS: See membership requirements below.

The task force will assist the secretary in developing effective voter and citizenship education materials for use with Minnesotans who are under the age of 25. See also Minnesota Statutes, Section 204B.27, subdivision 7.

The task force consists of 15 members at least 13 of the members must be 16-24 years of age, none under 16. All must be Minnesota residents or attending school full-time in Minnesota. The council meets quarterly at the State Office Building in St. Paul. The task force expires on June 30, 2001.

The twelve members of this council need to be knowledgeable about or have interest in issues concerning abused children and the programs that serve them, including the need for effective advocacy services. Six positions will be reserved for persons who are not service providers in community or governmental organizations (persons not affiliated with grantee programs) that provide services to abused children. Six members of the council shall be residents of the seven county metro area and six members shall be residents of greater Minnesota. Membership must include one member from the Department of Human Services Child Protection Unit. The Department of Children, Families, and Learning seeks to ensure that the advisory council membership reflects diversity with respect to race, age, sexual orientation and disability. The terms of members shall be for two years. No member may serve on the advisory council for more than two consecutive terms. Meetings are held monthly at the Department of Children, Families and Learning. The council expires June 30, 2001.

CITIZEN OUTREACH ADVISORY TASK FORCE

174 STATE OFFICE BUILDING, 100 CONSTITUTION AVE., ST. PAUL, MN 55155-1299 (651) 297-5845
MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 15.014.

APPOINTING AUTHORITY: Secretary of State.

COMPENSATION: None.

15 NEW POSITIONS: See membership requirements below.

The task force will assist the secretary in developing effective voter and citizenship education materials for use in traditionally under-represented communities. See also Minnesota Statutes, Section 204B.27, subdivision 6.

The 15 members include representation by African American, American Indian, Asian-Pacific, Hispanic and disabled persons. The task force has quarterly meetings at the State Office Building, St. Paul. The task force expires June 30, 2001.

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON MINNESOTA'S COASTAL PROGRAM

1568 HIGHWAY 2, TWO HARBORS, MN 55616 (218) 834-6625
EXECUTIVE ORDER 99-12.

APPOINTING AUTHORITY: Governor.

COMPENSATION: Reimbursed for expenses.

15 NEW MEMBERS: See membership requirements below.

Review and make recommendations to the commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources on program priorities, on selection of programs and projects for funding, on annual administrative (non-project) budget and participation in two year program review.

Twelve of the members shall consist of three persons per county appointed from a pool of names submitted by each of the cities, townships and counties with the Lake Superior coastal boundary in Minnesota. Each entity may submit up to three nominees. Three at-large members shall be selected from individuals nominated by the public statewide and submitted to the governor. A minimum of three and a maximum of five council members may represent any one county at any time. No more than one elected official from each county shall be represented on the council. The council has quarterly meetings or as necessary at various location. The council expires on May 3, 2001.

STATE OF MINNESOTA
OPEN APPOINTMENTS APPLICATION FOR SERVICE ON STATE AGENCY

All information on this form is available to the public upon request.

Agency Name: * _____
(Enter name of board, council, commission or task force to which you are applying.)

Position Sought: _____
(Enter type of membership position or state "member" if no specific requirements)

Applicant Name: * _____
(First Name) (Last Name)

Applicant Address: * _____
(Street) (City) (State) (Zip) (County)

Daytime Phone: * _____ **E-MAIL: *** _____

Evening Phone: _____ **State Legislative District:** _____ **U.S. Congressional District:** _____

* Selected information will appear on the Secretary of State's web site: www.sos.state.mn.us

STATISTICAL INFORMATION

The following information is optional and is sought for the purpose of compiling the annual report on the open appointments process pursuant to *Minnesota Statutes 15.0597, subdivision 7*.

Gender: <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Male	Political Party: <input type="checkbox"/> DFL <input type="checkbox"/> MN Taxpayers <input type="checkbox"/> Reform <input type="checkbox"/> Republican <input type="checkbox"/> None or Other	Race/National Origin: <input type="checkbox"/> African American <input type="checkbox"/> American Indian <input type="checkbox"/> Asian/Pacific <input type="checkbox"/> Caucasian <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
Disabled: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		

STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATION

Minnesota Statutes 15.0597 requires that the application include "a statement that the nominee satisfies any legally prescribed requirements and any other information the nominating person feels would be helpful to the appointing authority."

(may continue on the back or on attached sheets)

Did the appointing authority ask you to submit this application? YES _____ NO _____

I, the undersigned, hereby state that I satisfy, to the best of my knowledge, all legally prescribed qualifications for the position sought.

(Signature of Applicant) (Date)

If applicant is being nominated by another person or group, signature indicates consent to nomination. You will not receive an acknowledgement of this application but the appointing authority will notify you if an interview is desired."

MAIL THIS COMPLETED APPLICATION TO: Secretary of State, Open Appointments
180 State Office Building, 100 Constitution Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55155-1299

OR SUBMIT IN PERSON TO: Room 174, State Office Building. **Phone:** (651) 297-5845 **Fax:** (651) 296-9073

On request, this application will be made available in alternative format (for example, braille, large print, audio tape, or computer disk.)

FOR OFFICE USE: Sub by AA: _____ AA: _____ Res: _____ Trans Date: _____
oaapp97.p65 rev. 7/99

JIM RAMSTAD
THIRD DISTRICT, MINNESOTA

WAYS AND MEANS
COMMITTEE

TRADE SUBCOMMITTEE

HEALTH SUBCOMMITTEE



Duffy

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
103 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-2871

DISTRICT OFFICE:
8120 PENN AVENUE SOUTH, #152
BLOOMINGTON, MN 55431
(612) 881-4600

Congress of the United States

RECEIVED AUG 3 1999

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-2303

July 30, 1999

Kay Erickson
President
League of Women Voters of Minnesota
550 Rice Street
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55103-2116

Dear Kay:

Thank you for contacting me about health care reform legislation.

I must tell you that I have concerns about some of the troubling consequences of massive legislation, such as those introduced by Reps. Dingell, Norwood and Ganske and Senator Kennedy. While well intentioned, I do not believe they are the best methods for improving health care in this country.

I also have concerns about giving politicians and federal bureaucrats the authority to determine how much money can be spent on health care premiums and which health care services should be covered by an insurance policy. I do believe we must reform the insurance market to expand access and take steps to stem the rise in health care costs. But it is absolutely imperative that we preserve our existing high-quality health care delivery system, and I strongly object to proposals that would give a federal bureaucracy too much control over health care.

Studies have found that the major reason families lack health coverage is because the parent works for a company which doesn't offer health insurance. For those which do, the out-of-pocket costs are often too high for the employee. Clearly, the cost of health insurance can determine whether or not an employer is able to provide it as a benefit for employees. Adding a host of new federal mandates to health care would have the effect of increasing premiums and ultimately reducing the number of people with health coverage, as small businesses find they cannot afford to provide health insurance.

I believe the best way to help families afford insurance is to reduce the cost of health care services and insurance policies. Market-oriented alternatives to achieve this goal include giving individuals and the self-employed the same health-insurance tax benefits enjoyed by corporations, so individuals can afford to shop the marketplace for the highest quality at the best price; expanding Medical Savings Accounts (MSAs) so more uninsured people are covered and have incentives to "comparison shop;" and reforming the medical malpractice regime to bring down wasteful "defensive medicine" costs.


Kay Erickson
Page 2
07/30/99

The Senate recently passed the Patient's Bill of Rights, which includes reasonable reforms to improve access to quality care, as well as, important tax relief provisions to help make health and long-term care insurance more affordable.

While the House has not completed its work on similar legislation yet, rest assured I will continue to support policies which allow consumers, not the government, to drive the health care industry toward higher quality and lower prices.

Thanks again for your input, as I appreciate hearing from you. Please feel free to contact me whenever I can be helpful to you or your family.

Sincerely,



JIM RAMSTAD
Member of Congress

JIM RAMSTAD
THIRD DISTRICT, MINNESOTA

WAYS AND MEANS
COMMITTEE

TRADE SUBCOMMITTEE

HEALTH SUBCOMMITTEE

RECEIVED AUG 23 1999



WASHINGTON OFFICE:
103 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-2871

DISTRICT OFFICE:
8120 PENN AVENUE SOUTH, #152
BLOOMINGTON, MN 55431
(612) 881-4600

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2303

August 17, 1999

Kay Erickson
President
League of Women Voters of Minnesota
550 Rice Street
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55103

Dear Kay:

Thank you for letting me know your views on the juvenile justice bill and your opposition to new gun regulations.

Like you, I support the Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms. That's why I voted to restore the Second Amendment rights of the citizens of the District of Columbia by voting to repeal the District's ban on citizen gun possession. I also voted for an amendment to allow District residents to possess a loaded handgun in their homes to protect themselves and their families.

Most of the gun owners I have heard from do not believe their Second Amendment rights are infringed by reasonable, common-sense measures to protect children and keep criminals from getting guns. That's why I supported the gun safety measures passed by the U.S. Senate on a vote of 73 to 25. (Senator Rod Grams also voted for this legislation.)

We need to address the problem of youth violence in a comprehensive and balanced way. That's why I also supported the juvenile justice bill which calls for more aggressive prosecution of criminals who violate existing gun laws. Of the thousands of gun law violations each year, only a few are prosecuted.

Also, the House juvenile justice bill imposes tougher sanctions for serious crimes committed by juveniles.

Clearly, legislation, alone, will not solve the problem of youth violence in America. Families, churches, schools and community organizations must work together to make our children and communities safer.

Thanks again for letting me know your views about the problem of youth violence in America. Rest assured, I will continue to support the rights of law-abiding citizens to use guns legally and responsibly.

Sincerely,

JIM RAMSTAD
Member of Congress

COMMITTEES:

BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

FOREIGN RELATIONS

JOINT ECONOMIC

July 22, 1999

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

INTERNET: MAIL_GRAMS@GRAMS.SENATE.GOV

MINNESOTA OFFICE:

2013 SECOND AVENUE NORTH
ANOKA, MN 55303

Post-it® Fax Note 7671		Date	# of pages 2
To Lloyd Leonard	From Judy Supply		
Co./Dept. LWRUS	Co. LWR-Mn		
Phone #	Phone #		
Fax # 202/429-0854	Fax #		

The League of Women Voter
550 Rice Street
Saint Paul, MN 55103

Dear Friends:

Thank you for contacting me to express your support for reforming our nation's campaign finance laws. I appreciate hearing from you on this important issue.

My evaluation of campaign finance reform legislation is based on several guiding principles, particularly the First Amendment right of Americans to participate in the political process. Equally important is my belief that we need to ensure greater compliance of our existing laws, and require fair and frequent disclosure of contributions. In my view, campaign finance proposals considered by the Senate during the 105th Congress violated these important principles.

Many campaign finance reform proposals are premised upon the belief that there is too much money spent on American elections. Contrary to the First Amendment, these proposals seek to limit participation of many Americans in the political process and keep them from having their voices heard. In fact, the notion that there is government justification for regulating the costs of political campaigns was rejected by the Supreme Court in the landmark case of Buckley v. Valeo.

Additionally, I do not agree that we should place new restrictions upon the ability of national parties to support generic state and local party activities through a ban on what is known as party "soft money." The 1996 Supreme Court case of Colorado Republican Campaign Committee v. FEC, in which the Court determined that Congress may not limit independent expenditures by political parties, makes it questionable whether these restrictions would be constitutional.

I firmly believe Congress must not use violations of existing laws to restrict political speech and participation by those who abide by current law.

As your U.S. Senator, I will continue to review all campaign finance reform legislation which comes before the U.S. Senate to ensure that it does not violate our First Amendment freedoms.

Again, thank you for contacting me with your concerns. Please

July 22, 1999
Page 2

continue to get in touch with me anytime you have questions or concerns about an issue before the U.S. Senate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Rod Grams', written in a cursive style.

Rod Grams
United States Senator

RG:jd

CC: SAMMYER
CURRY
ERICILSON

July 22, 1999
Page 2

continue to get in touch with me anytime you have questions or concerns about an issue before the U.S. Senate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Rod Grams', written over a horizontal line.

Rod Grams
United States Senator

RG:jd

CC: SANCER
CURRY
ERICKSON



THE LEAGUE
OF WOMEN VOTERS

MINNESOTA

550 RICE STREET ST. PAUL, MN 55103 PHONE (651) 224-5445 FAX (651) 290-2145

July 6, 1999

The Honorable Rod Grams
United States Senate
261 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Grams:

We urge you to support the McCain-Feingold amendment to reform campaign finance. The McCain-Feingold campaign finance reform amendment would:

1. effectively ban soft money;
2. require that funding for sham issue ads be covered by the same rules that apply to other election activities; and
3. strengthen Federal Election Commission enforcement and disclosure.

We ask the Senate leadership to allow a vote on campaign finance reform legislation. It is clear the American voting public is eager for change.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading 'Judy Duffy'.

Judy Duffy
President

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading 'Kay Erickson'.

Kay Erickson
Action Chair



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

M I N N E S O T A

550 RICE STREET ST. PAUL, MN 55103 PHONE (651) 224-5445 FAX (651) 290-2145

July 6, 1999

Editor
Minneapolis Star Tribune
425 Portland
Minneapolis, MN 55488

To the Editor:

Thank you for your feature article on the Brainerd Lakes Area League of Women Voters and their new president, Dean Wiesner. Most do not realize that the League welcomes all people of voting age as members, women and men. The Brainerd Lakes Area League is busy making contributions to their city and surrounding area.

As you stated in your article, the Brainerd Lakes Area League was reactivated after a number of years of inactivity. This occurred when the editor of the Brainerd newspaper stated in an editorial comment that what Brainerd needed was a League of Women Voters. He was right and so it happened. The League is a valuable resource for any community in which it serves.

There are myriad opportunities for involvement with the League. Anyone interested in more information about the League can call our office at 651/224-5445.

Judy Duffy, President
League of Women Voters of Minnesota

League of Women Voters of Minneapolis

Membership & Contribution Form



Member Information

Date: 6/29/99 (Please include Month, Day, & Year)

Name: Kerri [redacted]
First Middle Last

Street: [redacted] City: [redacted] State: MN Zip Code: [redacted]

Place of employment: League of Women Voters of Minnesota until 6/9/99
Summer intern in Ecuador

Profession/Special Interests/Skills: Graduate Student in Public Affairs
University of MN

Home Phone: [redacted] ☐ I am currently a member of Unit #

Work Phone: ☐ I would like more information about joining a Unit.

☒ New Member ☐ I would prefer not to join a Unit at this time.

☐ Renewing Member

Dues

\$ 90.00

Dues help support the basic workings of the LWV. The LWV Membership year runs from June to June; new members joining after Feb. 1 will be enrolled through June of the following calendar year. Of the \$45 basic dues received, \$7.60 stays with the LWVMPis, \$0.40 goes to CMAL, \$18 to LWVMN, and \$19 to the LWVUS.

\$45	Basic
\$60	Household
<u>\$90</u>	Basic (2 year)
\$20	Student
\$	Pay what you can

Operating Fund Contribution

Judy C. Duffy [redacted] 17-150 910 3973679308 1704

Date 6/29/99

Pay to the Order of League of Women Voters of Minneapolis \$ 90.00

Ninety and no/100 Dollars

Education Fund Contribution

Norwest Bank Minnesota, N.A.
 St. Paul Office
 55 East Fifth Street
 St. Paul, MN 55101
 612-667-9378

MEMO Therapy for Kerri [redacted] [redacted]

Judy C. Duffy [redacted]

Please complete the information on the reverse side



JIM RAMSTAD
THIRD DISTRICT, MINNESOTA

WAYS AND MEANS
COMMITTEE

TRADE SUBCOMMITTEE

HEALTH SUBCOMMITTEE



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2303

June 18, 1999

RECEIVED JUN 23 1999

Judy Duffy
President
The League of Women Voters
550 Rice Street
St. Paul, Minnesota 55103

Dear Judy:

Thank you for contacting me about campaign finance reform.

In the last Congress, I was a cosponsor and strong supporter of the Shays-Meehan legislation, voting against all amendments that would have risked breaking apart the coalition needed to pass the bill.

This year, I am again an original cosponsor and strong supporter of the Shays-Meehan legislation that would reform our campaign system by eliminating unregulated soft money contributions, improving accountability for campaign ads and increasing disclosure and enforcement. I am also one of 29 Republicans who recently wrote to Speaker Hastert urging House consideration of Shays-Meehan by a date certain. Pursuant to our letter, Speaker Hastert has promised a vote by the week of September 13.

I believe this date allows reasonable time to pass campaign finance reform into law. Hearings on campaign finance reform will be held soon, and the House vote will take place during the ninth month of a 24-month Congressional term. This is nearly one year earlier in the process than the House passed Shays-Meehan in the last Congress.

It is also important to remember that the Senate is not required to wait for House action before it considers campaign finance reform. Under Senate rules, a senator could offer this legislation as an amendment at any time on nearly any bill. If the Speaker's promise for a September vote were to be broken, I would then sign the discharge petition. However, as long as we proceed with campaign finance reform on schedule, I do not believe it is necessary to sign the petition.

Thank you for your strong support of the Shays-Meehan legislation and for your help in reforming the campaign finance system to restore the American people's trust in the political process.

Sincerely, *


JIM RAMSTAD
Member of Congress

Copy to K.E.
WASHINGTON OFFICE:
103 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-2871

DISTRICT OFFICE:
8120 PENN AVENUE SOUTH, #152
BLOOMINGTON, MN 55431
(612) 881-4600

DUFFY



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

MINNESOTA

550 RICE STREET ST. PAUL, MN 55103 PHONE (651) 224-5445 FAX (651) 290-2145

June 22, 1999

The Honorable Collin Peterson
House of Representatives
2159 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Peterson:

We urge you to cosponsor and support H.R. 358, the Patients' Bill of Rights Act. The Patients' Bill of Rights Act would guarantee basic health care protections for consumers by protecting the rights of patients in health care plans. It would guarantee the right of access to necessary care, especially for seriously ill persons or those with chronic conditions, the right to emergency room care using the "reasonably prudent person standard" and the right to have medical information kept confidential. H.R. 358 will ensure a process that will resolve grievances in a timely manner.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Judy Duffy
President

Kay Erickson
Action Chair

SENT TO
GRAMS
RAMSTAD
GUTKNECHT
MINGE
OBERSTAR
PETERSON



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

MINNESOTA

550 RICE STREET ST. PAUL, MN 55103 PHONE (651) 224-5445 FAX (651) 290-4

SENT TO
WEUSTONE
LUTHER
SABO
VENTO

June 22, 1999

The Honorable William P. Luther
House of Representatives
117 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Luther:

Thank you for your cosponsorship and support of H.R. 358, the Patients' Bill of Rights Act. The Patients' Bill of Rights Act would guarantee basic health care protections for consumers by protecting the rights of patients in health care plans. It would guarantee the right of access to necessary care, especially for seriously ill persons or those with chronic conditions, the right to emergency room care using the "reasonably prudent person standard" and the right to have medical information kept confidential. H.R. 358 will ensure a process that will resolve grievances in a timely manner.

Thank you for your work on this issue.

Sincerely,

Judy Duffy
President

Kay Erickson
Action Chair

Judy



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

MINNESOTA

550 RICE STREET ST. PAUL, MN 55103 PHONE (651) 224-5445 FAX (651) 290-2145

June 18, 1999

Gail Hanson, President
Rosemarie Kelly, Executive Director
League of Women Voters of Minneapolis
Young Quinlan Building
81 S. Ninth Street
Suite 335
Minneapolis, MN 55402

Dear Gail and Rosemarie:

We are writing in response to your letter of June 4, 1999 in which you request permission to pay 50% of LWVMinneapolis' PMP from your Education Fund and 50% from the operating fund. We know that LWVUS is allowing up to 100% of PMP to be paid to the Education Fund rather than to LWVUS.

It seems reasonable for you to pay half to LWVMN from your operating fund and half to LWVMNEF from your Education Fund. We are reviewing our current policy of allowing up to 25% of PMP to be paid with Education Fund monies. (Our one reservation about increasing the percentage is that PMP is the sole support for our membership and advocacy activities carried out by LWVMN.) In the meantime go ahead for this year.

We are happy to grant you the waiver you requested to pay the PMP in full after July 1st.

Thank you for the outstanding work you do—LWVMinneapolis sets the standard!

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading 'Judy Duffy'.

Judy Duffy
President

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading 'Sally Sawyer'.

Sally Sawyer
Executive Director

sent to Conf etc.
House & Senate leaders
+
governor

May 5, 1999

The Honorable Don Samuelson
Minnesota Senate
124 Capitol
St. Paul MN 55155

Dear Senator Samuelson:

LWVMN believes the Tobacco Settlement funds (the one-time revenue paid to the state over five years totaling \$1.3 billion starting with \$461 million in the current biennium ending June 30) provides a unique opportunity for the state to make maximum use of the funds by establishing a Minnesota Families Foundation and endowments for medical education and research, tobacco prevention efforts and health care especially the adolescent health initiative proposal designed to fund health care for children at risk.

There does not seem to be a reason to utilize these one-time funds for ongoing state budget needs in these times of budget surplus. Prudence should dictate that the tobacco settlement funds be put to use on long term programs which would promote health benefits well into the future.

It is well to recall that the lawsuit against the tobacco industry was initiated not to create a state windfall to finance tax cuts but to recover the state's costs of health care expenditures resulting from diseases caused by smoking, to keep kids from starting to smoke, to assist those trying to quit, and to provide the means to create a healthier society in the future.

The LWVMN position on government spending as defined in our 1995 study states *"...long-term vision as well as immediate concerns should guide state spending decisions."* In addition, LWVMN has strong positions on children's concerns, health care and family support as state spending priorities. Therefore we strongly support the use of the \$1.3 billion on health related endowments and the family foundation which are included in SF1269."

Sincerely,

Judy Duffy
President

Carol Frisch
Vice President, Action



THE LEAGUE
OF WOMEN VOTERS

M I N N E S O T A

550 RICE STREET ST. PAUL, MN 55103 PHONE (651) 224-5445 FAX (651) 290-2145

April 28, 1999

The Honorable Ember Reichgott Junge
MN State Senate
7701 48th Avenue North
New Hope, MN 55428-4515

Dear Senator Junge:

Thank you very much for joining us in St. Cloud last Saturday and sharing with our convention delegation your ideas for women running for public office. Your enthusiasm and encouragement were energizing to the convention and we were delighted you were there.

We are also very appreciative of the work you have done in your legislative career to advance the opportunities and prestige of women in office. You are a role model for showing us how it can be done with grace and determination.

Personally, I have enjoyed working with you and look forward to our next meeting.

Sincerely

Judy Duffy, President
League of Women Voters of Minnesota

JD:KK
enclosures



THE LEAGUE
OF WOMEN VOTERS
MINNESOTA

550 RICE STREET ST. PAUL, MN 55103 PHONE (651) 224-5445 FAX (651) 290-2145

April 28, 1999

The Honorable Mae Schunk
Lieutenant Governor of Minnesota
Room 130, State Capitol
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Lt. Governor Schunk:

Thank you very much for speaking to our state convention delegates last Friday evening. We appreciated your candid observations about running for office and your ideas for an improved educational system. As I mentioned to you, our membership is very interested in education and works hard in each of our communities to address issues of importance.

I hope that if there are areas where we can work together on issues of mutual interest and concern that you will call on us. Within the legislative framework, we work on a number of issues in the areas of education, social policy, natural resources, criminal justice and governmental process. For your information, I am enclosing some information about the League -- and if you are so interested, a membership form. Many elected officials are League members.

Once again, I thank you for joining us in St. Cloud. We were very appreciative of your willingness to meet and chat with a number of us, allowing us the opportunity to get acquainted with you. I wish you much success in your new position and look forward to our next meeting.

Sincerely,

Judy Duffy, President
League of Women Voters of Minnesota

JD: KK
enclosures



THE LEAGUE
OF WOMEN VOTERS

MINNESOTA

550 RICE STREET ST. PAUL, MN 55103 PHONE (651) 224-5445 FAX (651) 290-2145

April 28, 1999

The Honorable Mary Kiffmeyer
MN Secretary of State
Room 180, State Office
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Secretary of State Kiffmeyer:

Thank you very much for speaking to our convention delegation in St. Cloud last Friday. We appreciated hearing something about you and your plans for your office. Since we share largely the same mission with regard to voter participation, we were very interested to hear from you and what you hope to do in your new position.

I hope that you will call on us to work with you to increase voter turnout and to help to educate citizens with voting questions. This is the ongoing mission of the League. I am enclosing some information about the League and a membership brochure. Many elected officials are members of the League.

Personally, I enjoyed chatting with you over lunch and look forward to our next meeting. I wish you much success in your new position.

Sincerely,

Judy Duffy, President
League of Women Voters of Minnesota

JD: KK
Enclosures

sent to Ventura
Moe
Swiggum

March 11, 1999

The Honorable Roger Moe
Senate Majority Leader
208 Capitol
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Senator Moe:

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota has long advocated for the State of Minnesota to play an active role in providing long-term decent and affordable housing for very low-, low- and moderate-income households. It is becoming increasingly obvious that the housing situation is at a crisis point in Minnesota.

The League applauds the efforts that are being made to increase the supply of transitional housing to keep people off the streets although we believe that this is not a long-term solution to the lack of affordable housing. The answer is to increase the supply of housing stock that is affordable to low and very low income people on a permanent basis. We need to look beyond temporarily housing the homeless and find suitable homes for them. It is an established fact that many of the homeless are working and are families with children. The waiting list for subsidized housing in Minnesota now averages between five and six years.

We respectfully suggest:

- ◆ The spending target for housing be dramatically increased.
- ◆ Minnesota Housing Finance Agency should be funded at a level that restores the dollars lost in federal cuts. The MHFA performs admirably with limited resources and the state should increase its role.
- ◆ Home ownership is a laudable goal of housing programs. The need now is for rental housing for persons and families with low and very low income. An increased allotment of housing resources should be directed to this type of housing. Home ownership may be the ultimate preferred solution but is an unrealistic answer to immediate housing needs of persons who are economically strapped.
- ◆ Creative solutions should be explored to lower the cost of rehabilitation and production of rental properties

March 11, 1999

Page 2

- ♦ It is time to consider reforms in the tax structure to remove impediments to the economic viability of rental properties.
- ♦ Support the Bridges program adequately and with statewide use of subsidies.

True economic growth of a region depends upon a solid housing strategy. Without adequate housing for workers there can be no sustained economic expansion. Minnesota could take a leadership role in the nation to point the way to real solutions to the housing crisis.

Sincerely,

Judy Duffy
President

Judy



THE LEAGUE
OF WOMEN VOTERS

MINNESOTA

550 RICE STREET ST. PAUL, MN 55103 PHONE (651) 224-5445 FAX (651) 290-2145

March 10, 1999

The Honorable Sheila Kiscaden
Minnesota Senate
135 State Office Building
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Senator Kiscaden:


The League of Women Voters of Minnesota has long supported programs and policies that promote the well being, development and safety of all children and prevention efforts to lower the rates of teenage pregnancy and other high risk behaviors. We believe that improved access to good health care and related services is especially needed for adolescents.

A recent, joint study by the Leagues of Women Voters of Minneapolis and St. Paul entitled *From Childhood to Adulthood: Putting Adolescents on a Healthy Lifetime Path* notes that among Minnesota youth smoking rates are on the rise, fifty percent of ninth graders use alcohol and twenty-eight percent of ninth graders are sexually active. Clearly much work remains to be done.

Therefore the League of Women Voters of Minnesota strongly supports SF1137, which establishes a process to award grants to community clinics with demonstrated need that provide prevention and clinic-based health services and resources to adolescents. This bill would target funds to improve access to health services and encourage parental and adolescent involvement in preventing and reducing adolescent health risks. Stated outcomes are reduced rates of suicide, tobacco, alcohol and substance abuse, eating disorders and sexually transmitted diseases.

We commend you and Senator Wiener for introducing this much needed measure and urge its passage.

Sincerely,


Judy Duffy
President

RECEIVED MAR - 8 1999

Richard W. Stanek
State Representative

District 33B
Hennepin County



Minnesota House of Representatives

COMMITTEES: JUDICIARY; JUDICIARY FINANCE DIVISION; LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS

March 4, 1999

Judy Duffy
President, League of Women Voters
550 Rice Street
St. Paul, MN 55103

Dear Ms. Duffy:

I am in possession of a copy of your February 25, 1999 newsletter, "Capitol Letter." In your discussion of the February 19 Joint Hearing of the House and Senate Crime Prevention Committees in which the concealed carry issue was debated, you claimed that you testified in opposition to my bill. This statement is patently untrue. My bill, HF 897, was not presented at that meeting. No testimony was taken either in support of or in opposition to my bill. As of that date, my bill had not even been introduced.

Your newsletter is further in error in its statement that Sen. Dave Johnson has sponsored a concealed carry bill. Sen. Johnson to date has never introduced a concealed carry bill.

I demand an apology and a published retraction of these misstatements. I have no respect for an organization that prints and disseminates false information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Rich", is written over a horizontal line.

Rich Stanek
State Representative

cc: Sen. Dave Johnson

Date: November 14, 1998
From: Walter H. Kuckes



To: St. Cloud Times

Subject: League of Women Voters and Jesse Ventura

Dear Editor:


I do not know the details of the criticisms that have been directed at the League of Women Voters for their recent political debates. Perhaps the League like everyone else are not perfect. But let's recognize the great public service they and Public Television provided with the recent debates. Without them we would still see Jesse Ventura as The Body and not as The Mind. Without them we would not be looking forward to having what appears to be a great next Governor and Lt. Governor. Thank you League of Women Voters and Public Television.

Walter H. Kuckes

cc- Governor Elect Jesse Ventura, Capitol, St. Paul, Mn.
League of Women Voters 550 Rice St. St. Paul, Mn. 55103
KTCA-Channel 2 172E. 4th St. St. Paul, Mn.

LIBERTY




WALTER H. KUCKES

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75-7565/2919

AY TO THE ORDER OF League of Women Voters of Mn. \$ 1,000.00
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Judy Duffy

December 2, 1998

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President
MIGIZI Communications, Inc.

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President
University of Minnesota

Walter H. Kuckes
1001 Hamlet Drive North
Avon, MN 56310

Dear Mr. Kuckes:

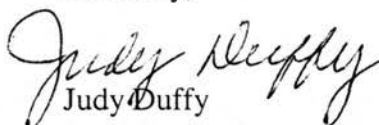
We were very pleased to receive your contribution to the League of Women Voters of Minnesota Education Fund in the amount of \$1,000. I assure you that we do not receive such generous gifts on a regular basis.

You indicated in your accompanying letter and in your conversation with our director, Sally Sawyer, that you were recognizing the importance of the League's and KTCA's gubernatorial debates in the 1998 election and the decision to include the Reform Party candidate in those debates.

Candidates are invited to participate in League of Women Voters debates based on whether they meet criteria for inclusion, criteria adopted by the League Board months before the candidates have been selected. In 1998 all of the major party candidates—Republican, DFL and Reform Party—were invited to participate in the League's gubernatorial debates because the first of the League's criteria is that major party candidates will be invited to participate. We have followed this criterion for 20 years. As you may recall, the Reform Party achieved major party status in the 1994 election for U.S. Senate; its candidate for U.S. Senate participated in the League's debates in 1996; and as a result of that election the Reform Party maintained its major party status.

The League of Women Voters believes debates give voters the opportunity to see and hear those candidates who have the best chance of being elected to represent them. We are most grateful for contributions like yours which enable us to provide this important service. Thank you again!

Sincerely,


Judy Duffy
President

JD:ss

Tax Purpose: No goods or services were provided
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THE LEAGUE
OF WOMEN VOTERS
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Institute of Public Affairs
University of Minnesota

Laura Waterman Wittstock
President
MIGIZI Communications, Inc.

Mark G. Yudof
President
University of Minnesota

January 4, 1999

Jerome S. Gray
611 Medical Arts Building
825 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, MN 55402

Dear Mr. Gray:

Thank you very much! The League of Women Voters of Minnesota Education Fund was very pleased to receive your check dated December 31, 1998 in the amount of \$1000.00 for the 1998-99 LWVMNEF Annual Appeal.

Your tax deductible contribution is greatly appreciated. It will be used to help provide voter information for Minnesota citizens.

Sincerely,

Judy Duffy
President

*We really appreciate
your generous support!*

Tax Purpose: No goods or services were provided in return for this contribution.

JD/kg

Nov. 26, 1998

Hi, Judy -

Just a quick note to say "thanks" for your help at the Forum - and to include this letter from Rick Luther. Thought you might like to see this. The highlighted words - I did!

Take care -

Cordially,

Jo



Bill Luther

United States Congress

Suite 202, 1399 Geneva Avenue North
Oakdale, Minnesota 55128
Phone : (612) 730-4288
Fax: (612) 730-4858

November 13, 1998

Pastor Chuck Claus
Trinity Lutheran Church
115 North 4th Street
Stillwater, MN 55082

Dear Pastor Claus,

I want to express my most sincere thanks to you for coordinating the Political Forum at the Trinity Church on October 17. The forum, I felt, went extremely well, and I am confident it was beneficial to those who attended.

I should also mention that I felt the organization of your forum was one of the best of the year. Judy Duffy of the Minnesota League of Women Voters is, of course, a terrific moderator and she helped make the entire event go smoothly.

Again, thank you for making the commitment and taking the time to arrange this forum. I look forward to participating in your future events.

Sincerely,

Bill Luther
Member of Congress





FLORENCE W. CLAUS
CHARLES W. CLAUS

17-2 134
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Florence W. Claus

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Laura Waterman Wittstock
President
MIGIZI Communications, Inc.

Mark G. Yudof
President
University of Minnesota

October 27, 1998

To the editor:

With the November election fast approaching, all the "experts" are saying voter turnout will be down. They're saying voters are turned off by what's going on in Washington. And they're saying Americans are complacent -- the economy's in pretty good shape, so why would people vote?

I'm not ready to give up on the American voter. I know how important voting is. So I'm asking readers to help in getting people to the polls.

What can you do to increase voter turnout? The first thing, obviously, is to get out and vote. Don't be swayed by anyone who says this election doesn't really matter; it does. The candidates we elect on November 3 will be making decisions that affect our lives in countless important ways. Our jobs, our taxes, our health care, our children's education, our Social Security, you name it - they are all at stake.

The second thing you can do to help get out the vote is to encourage your friends, your family, your neighbors and your coworkers to vote, too. The League of Women Voters has conducted scientific research to determine exactly what makes the difference in getting people to vote, and you know what they found? One of the key reasons people vote is that friends and family encourage them to vote.

It's that simple. About one-half of the people who vote were encouraged to do so by friends and family. The comparable figure among people who didn't vote? Only one-fifth. The findings are a clear sign that we can all play a role in increasing voter turnout, and that it's not that hard to do. All we have to do is talk to people we know, tell them why we're voting and encourage them to do the same.

But what if people aren't sure whom or what to vote for? What if they don't have what they need to make an informed decision? According to the League's research, one of the other key factors in voting vs. nonvoting along with encouragement from friends and family - is access to information.

Obtaining information will help boost voter participation. Nonvoters are much more likely than voters to express frustration that they can't get their hands on credible information about the candidates and the issues.

The League of Women Voters has made getting election information a little easier. Check out "1998 Election Central" on the national League's website (www.lwv.org/elect.html) for links to candidate and ballot information, information on registering to vote, tips on getting out the vote in your community and lots of other resources, including links to other websites with election information.

The Minnesota website is <http://tcfreenet.org/ip/pol/lwvmn>. This website contains candidate information in Minnesota's statewide contests as well as other information. Our complete Voter Guide is available in Target, Dayton's and Mervyn's Stores, while supplies last. Voter questions can be answered by calling 651/224-5445 in the Metro area or 800/663-9328 from outside the Metro area.

As you're talking to family, friends and others about voting, tell them about these important, nonpartisan resources. Make sure people know that it's easy to find credible information about the election, and that the League is always a great place to start.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Judy Duffy".

Judy Duffy
President, League of Women Voters of Minnesota



THE LEAGUE
OF WOMEN VOTERS

MINNESOTA

550 RICE STREET ST. PAUL, MN 55103 PHONE (612) 224-5445

228-5477
Fax - 228-5564

To: Steve Dornfeld, Pioneer Press

From: Judy Duffy, President, League of Women Voters of Minnesota

Re: "What sort of Reform?"

Date: November 5, 1998

Fax: 228-5564

Here is piece you requested from the League of Women Voters. I hope it speaks to the question you asked.

Should you have any questions, please contact me at the League office at 224-5445.

*Sorry for the Handwritten Changes —
we were running out of time.*

Judy Duffy

letters@pioneerpress
Steve Dornfield
Fax - 228 5564
228-5477

Of they are interested
in ~~Reform~~
What sort of reforms
should they be proposing
400 words

Krisch

Non-profits -

knec - seek return surplus to
long range spending ^{good} pop.
on educ

Children / Child care
family / health
housing / trans

Tax: Relieving School takes

Budget surplus

- Schools should be funded
- Merit Selection of judges
- Not pull subsidies for Child Care
- Can't go welfare to work w/o bridges
- Smaller class sizes
- Profiles in Learning
- Environment - studying effects

Gindler

- > Judicial Selection Commission
not mandatory Gov. uses it.
Structured for District
- > application process structured

Education — Class size does
not neces. mean better
local Control — "who" is Control
"Capture enthusiasm"

Open Mind - Consider
alternatives and
those affected

Guns - 50,000 deaths

CFR

Re-form / Reform

Shake up System
how will it settle down

Long term benefit.

What sort of Reform?

In the wake of the Jesse Ventura victory, the candidate of the Reform Party, we need to ask ourselves what sort of reform can we expect. Is it reform as defined by Webster "to make better by removing faults and defects;" or is it "to make better by putting a stop to abuses or malpractices;" or is it re-form "to form again"? Whatever the definition of the Reform Party by those who elected Ventura as our next governor, it is clear that there may be an opportunity to capture the enthusiasm and do government differently.

Throughout the campaign, Governor-elect Ventura talked about the need to reduce taxes and the size of government. But let's remember that government and government programs are not always bad. Government does have Constitutional responsibilities to perform certain functions and to fill certain needs. During the campaign, Ventura stated that he would have an open mind and be willing to look at alternatives to existing government programs and policies behind them.

Some suggestions from the League of Women Voters would be that all programs should be considered for their long term impact. A priority would be for those programs that affect our children and their families trying to make their way: education, child care, health care, housing and transportation. Also among those priorities would be how ~~the~~ Governor Ventura will go about choosing judges to fill vacancies on the bench--a significant issue for ~~anyone~~ ^{those} who find themselves in court where life changing decisions will be made.

Careful and regular review of programs should be welcomed. However, they should be reviewed with the needs identified and the benefits that are delivered. Are they reaching the right people? Are they cost effective? Do they do what they were designed to do? Are they being conducted by the proper entity? If they meet the tests, let's be very careful ~~in~~ any steps that would cut government just for the sake of cutting government. If they don't meet the tests then perhaps they should be altered or terminated. No one should be given a free ride but there are real needs and people trying to make it in this world who need bridges to get there.

The selection of judges is a major responsibility of the governor. The Judicial Selection Commission makes recommendations to the governor to fill vacancies. Governor Ventura should take great care in both his appointments to this commission and in reviewing the recommendations that will be made by that commission. This is a mechanism to assure that qualified candidates are named to the bench and that this process is not politicized. The need for a qualified, fair and impartial judiciary cannot be overstated.

Can we cut taxes in Minnesota? Certainly. Due to a sustained strong economy, our state treasury has been expanding and by most predictions will continue to grow at least over the short term. We are cautioned that this will come to an end and that we need to craft our spending to be prepared for that eventuality. That is wise advice but we also have responsibilities as a state. A balance can and should be struck between our spending and our saving. The surplus that has accumulated creates an opportunity to carefully weigh our priorities and responsibilities to our citizens. Wholesale "reform" should not create more problems than it solves.

Judy Duffy, President
League of Women Voters of Minnesota

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

cc to Board

Board of Regents

220 Morrill Hall
100 Church Street S.E.
Minneapolis, MN 55455-0110
612-625-6300

October 16, 1998

Judy Duffy
505 Lake
Birchwood, MN 55110-1631

Dear Judy:

Thank you for attending the dinner with the Board of Regents at Eastcliff last week. What a delightful evening!

The Board of Regents has made a concerted effort to more aggressively reach out to a variety of Minnesota constituencies with whom we must partner to serve this state effectively. We are especially pleased with the work of University president Mark Yudof in this regard.

As regents, we share with you and your colleagues on the board of the Minnesota League of Women Voters, a special commitment in serving as "citizen representatives" to advance issues and opportunities that broadly benefit our society. Our discussion of higher education's responsibility in promoting citizenship was testament to this shared value and commitment. We will follow up the remarks by Professor Boyte and your input through discussions this year.

Again, thank you for visiting with us and for your ongoing support of the University of Minnesota.

Sincerely,



William E. Hogan, II
Chair



Patricia Spence
Vice Chair

c: Members of the Board of Regents
Mark Yudof, President



THE LEAGUE
OF WOMEN VOTERS

MINNESOTA

550 RICE STREET ST. PAUL, MN 55103 PHONE (612) 224-5445

October 16, 1998

President and Mrs. Yudof
176 North Mississippi River Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55104

Dear President and Mrs. Yudof,

On behalf of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota Board of Directors, I would like to extend our appreciation for the delightful evening spent at Eastcliff last week. We very much enjoyed the opportunity to meet you and members of the University's Board of Regents.

Our brief discussion regarding higher education's role in nurturing citizenship was an encouraging sign that institutions such as the University are becoming more engaged in this effort. As we mentioned, fostering good citizenship is a responsibility of the entire community and requires deliberate and intentional steps. We would welcome the opportunity to work with the University in this effort.

We also are proud to count you, Judy, among our members. We have spoken in the past about your ability to devote time to the League but we are pleased to have you at any level of involvement. Your past accomplishments while in Texas would be worth repeating to our members in Minnesota and at some time I hope we can call on you to tell us about your work there.

Once again, we welcome you to Minnesota and to the University. It is apparent in your short tenure that new life and direction have been breathed into the University and we look forward to what is in the future under your leadership.

Sincerely,

Judy Duffy
President



THE LEAGUE
OF WOMEN VOTERS
MINNESOTA EDUCATION FUND

550 RICE STREET ST. PAUL, MN 55103 PHONE (612) 224-5445 FAX (612) 290-2145

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Judy Duffy

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Professor
Hubert H. Humphrey
Institute of Public Affairs
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President
MIGIZI Communications, Inc.

Mark G. Yudof
President
University of Minnesota

October 26, 1998

John Remes, President and General Manager
Gannett Foundation

KARE 11

8811 Olson Memorial Highway
Minneapolis, MN 55427

Dear Mr. Remes:

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota Education Fund was pleased to receive check # 25438 for \$2,500 for the "Choosing Minnesota's Judges" study. I enjoyed the event on October 21st at KARE 11.

In consideration for this contribution the Gannett Foundation has received no benefits that would reduce the tax-deductibility for the contribution.

Thank you very much for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Judy Duffy
President

news for #

612-546-8606

Give contact

name + number

- incl after 5pm

+ weekend #'s

See notes

*re meeting
Attached*



RECEIVED
OCT 13 1998

October 9, 1998

Jean Tews
Director of Development
League of Women Voters of MN Education Fund
550 Rice Street
St. Paul, MN 55103

Dear Ms. Tews:

Congratulations! Your grant request for the amount of \$ 2,500 has been approved by the Gannett Foundation Management Contributions Committee.

We would like to invite you and our other Gannett Foundation quarterly grant recipients to join President and General Manager, John Remes, myself and other members of our staff at 3:30pm on Wednesday, October 21. We would like to present your check personally and talk with you about your organization. Please let Carol Solberg know if you can or cannot attend. You may call her at 797-7370.

Thank you for your interest in KARE TV and the Gannett Foundation. We look forward to meeting you on October 21.

Warm regards,

Kiki Rosatti
Community Relations Director

KLR/cs



8811 Olson Memorial Highway

Minneapolis, MN 55427

612-546-1111



KARE 11

News Fax 612-546-8606

get note w/

Contact Name + #
(after 5 PM too*)
Weekends

Visual Component
tie in to another story
new programs, events
especially

Kiki Resatti

John Remes

Paula Sargent Brenda

Joann Bravander

Carol Solberg - Community Relations

Tom Hinder - News Director

Yannett Foundation
not profits for better quality of life

Camp Heartland AIDS Camp
can around

Brain Injury Mn - Tom Gode

Crime Stoppers Inc - Holly

Alexander House - domestic violence
early age violence
intervention - new program

Camp Oz - epilepsy camp

Sr Outreach - Canbreak - new Hope

Bridging Inc - furniture for people
"furniture recycling" in transition

Continental Ballet Co. - programs for kids

Century College
Child Care for
students

Becky Christianson
Charles Hays, Pres.

Big Lake School - Jane - extended day



Kay?
[Handwritten signature]

October 9, 1998

Jean Tews
Director of Development
League of Women Voters of MN Education Fund
550 Rice Street
St. Paul, MN 55103

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Warm regards,

Kiki Rosatti
Community Relations Director

KLR/cs



8811 Olson Memorial Highway

Minneapolis, MN 55427

612-546-1111

GANNETT

ROD GRAMS
MINNESOTA

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BUDGET

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FAX 202-228-0956
TDD: 202-224-9522

MINNESOTA OFFICE:

2013 SECOND AVENUE NORTH
ANOKA, MN 55303
PH. 612-427-5921
FAX 612-427-8872
TDD: 612-427-5902

September 4, 1998

League of Women Voters
550 Rice Street
St. Paul, MN 55103

Dear Staff:


With Women's Equality Day just behind us, and Constitution Week and Minnesota's primary on the horizon, I wanted to take this opportunity to recognize the efforts of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota in promoting voter awareness.

"The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any state on account of sex...." The 19th Amendment sits at the heart of our democracy even though it followed more than a century after this nation was founded.

The Minnesota Legislature ratified the amendment on September 8th, 1919, but it took nearly another year before final ratification was achieved. In those first few hours, dedicated women in South Saint Paul organized a local referendum making Minnesota's women the first female voters in our nation's history. Today, this proud tradition continues as all Minnesotans turn out to the polls and participate by exercising their constitutional right to vote.

For decades, the League of Women Voters of Minnesota have provided important insight on key issues of the day. As an elected official, I want to commend the organization and its volunteers for their commitment to improving the electoral process. As a voter, I wanted to thank you for the information you provide.

Sincerely,


ROD GRAMS
U.S. Senator



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

MINNESOTA

550 RICE STREET ST. PAUL, MN 55103 PHONE (612) 224-5445

To the Editor:

Are we political? You bet your socks we are! And we, the League of Women Voters, encourage every citizen to be political as well.

Are we partisan? Absolutely not! Never and I repeat never, do we as an organization work in support or opposition to a candidate for political or judicial office. League members are encouraged to work for candidates whom they support as individual, responsible citizens. The League is a unique organization that draws its membership from across the political spectrum. Our members, who are amply represented in several political parties, join the League because they take very seriously their civic duty to be informed and active participants in the election process. Our members, by and large belong to the League because they care about their communities and their country and believe it is important to pay attention to what is going on and to make their voices heard.

The League is comprised of two separate legal entities. One is the League's Education Fund which is responsible for citizen education. The Education Fund carries out the study of issues selected by our membership at large in a careful and balanced process that requires full member participation. The Education Fund also provides for the education of the voter through the production of voter guides listing all candidates for statewide office; the establishment of telephone hotlines to answer thousands of questions from citizens who want to vote and need to know how to register, where to vote and when the polls are open; and the production of hundreds of candidate forums around the state for candidates for local, state and federal office so that voters have the opportunity to see, hear and meet those who wish to represent them in elected office. The Education Fund does not advocate or oppose issues of public policy.

The other entity – the League of Women Voters of Minnesota – is responsible for advocating positions arrived at through study and consensus of its members. The issues fall generally under the categories of government, social policy, natural resources, international relations, education, and criminal justice. Does every League member fully support every position? No, but our membership does agree on the fundamental principles to examine issues of public policy and to speak out when appropriate about where we stand.

A recent letter from Loren Pecore (8/21/98) sought to cast doubt and suspicion on League activities and motivations in an attempt to justify Representative Gil Gutnecht's refusal to participate in a League's Education Fund debate. He is entitled to his opinion; however, it should be formed when in possession of the facts of which his letter was generally devoid. The League was formed in 1920 as an outgrowth of the women's suffrage movement and the realization that one should only cast a ballot if one is informed. The League continues to work not only to inform its members but the community at large. If that is an agenda to be suspect, I wish more citizens would become engaged.

Judy Duffy, President
League of Women Voters of Minnesota

AUG 21 '98 12:50 CARLETON FAC. MGMT.

P.2

Political Charade

To the editor:

The criticism that Congressman Gutknecht has received from the Minnesota League of Women Voters for his refusal to participate in their candidate forum is unfair and, in my opinion, simply "sour grapes" on the part of the league.



THE LEAGUE
OF WOMEN VOTERS
MINNESOTA EDUCATION FUND

550 RICE STREET ST. PAUL, MN 55103 PHONE (612) 224-5445 FAX (612) 290-2145

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July 7, 1998

Bill Cooper, State Chairman
Republican Party of Minnesota
480 Cedar Street, Suite 560
St. Paul, MN 55101

Dear Mr. Cooper:

Thank you for your response to our letter on the Minnesota Compact. We're hopeful that your party will subscribe to the suggestions outlined. Our intent is to raise the level of public discourse with issue-centered discussion during the upcoming political campaign. In no way do we wish to stifle debate, only to insure that voters are getting useful information on which to base their voting decisions.

As to your request, the League is currently studying the judicial election process in Minnesota. We have not yet reached any decisions regarding the process. Our local League chapters will be discussing the issues surrounding this topic throughout the fall of 1998 and we will reach our conclusions by January of 1999.

Sincerely,



Judy Duffy



Republican Party of Minnesota

480 Cedar Street, Suite 560
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55101

(612) 222-0022
(612) 224-4122 (fax)

Bill Cooper
State Chairman

RECEIVED JUL - 2 1998

June 30, 1998

Ms. Judy Duffy
Co-Chair, Minnesota Compact
President, League of Women Voters of MN
550 Rice Street
Saint Paul, MN 55103

Dear Ms. Duffy:

I read with interest your letter concerning the Minnesota Compact.

I wonder if your group would be interested in taking a position on the rules of judicial elections?

Very truly yours,

Bill Cooper

P.S. Under Supreme Court rules
candidates for judge can not
speak out on any political or
judicial issue.



THE LEAGUE
OF WOMEN VOTERS
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President
University of Minnesota

August 6, 1998

Rochester Post Bulletin
P.O. Box 6118
18 First Avenue S.E.
Rochester, MN 55903-6118

To the Editor:

Regretfully, Representative Gutnecht has opted out of a League of Women Voters sponsored forum for the candidates from Minnesota's First Congressional District. Mr. Gutnecht reasons that he cannot receive a fair and unbiased setting from the League.

The League has, for 78 years, provided nonpartisan voter information and continues to do so. League members acting as volunteers within their communities work hard to produce candidate forums as a service to the voting public. This fall, in Minnesota, League sponsored candidate forums will occur in every Congressional District except the First. It is the voters who will be deprived of the opportunity to learn about those who wish to serve them in the U.S. House of Representatives. For a candidate to presume an unfair, biased setting prior to the event is both insulting and absolutely erroneous. The losers in this decision are the constituents of the First Congressional District.

Sincerely,

Judy Duffy
President

CC to Austin Herald
Albert Lea Tribune
Republican Eagle
(Red Wing)
Mankato Free Press
Northfield News

M Mc
Coney
Huelmayer
Beard

*Copy for
m.m.*

From: Ann/Hal <aksahs@win.bright.net>
To: lwvmn@mtn.org <lwvmn@mtn.org>
Date: Tuesday, August 04, 1998 1:41 PM
Subject: Re: First Congressional District Candidate Forum canceled

Judy: Here is the info from Yvonne, she e-mailed 4 leagues and I sent the rest by post today. I didn't find a Rochester PB in town. Ann

At 04:36 PM 8/3/98 -0500, you wrote:

>8/3/98: 4 p.m. Received a telephone call from Jay Furst informing me that
 >Congressman Gutknecht refuses to participate because the sponsors are
 >biased against him. His aide included the League of Women Voters and, in
 >particular, myself because I had contributed to the Mary Rieder campaign in
 >1996.

>
 >I sought advice from President Judy Duffy and at 4:15 received a phone call
 >from Mike Dougherty, PB reporter, wanting a statement. This is what I said:

>
 >League members are interested in encouraging citizens to participate in the
 >political process and that includes making contributions to candidates of
 >their choice. The fact that I contributed two years ago does not affect my
 >ability to put together a fair candidate forum so that voters in the First
 >Congressional District can learn more about the candidates.

>
 >I was not Voter Service Chair in 1996 and I am taking no position this
 >race. This is a different year with a different opponent. The losers in
 >Congressman Gutknecht's refusal to participate are the voters of the First
 >Congressional District.

>
 >Unless the negative publicity from Gutknecht's refusal changes his mind, I
 >regret to inform you that our efforts to organize a candidate forum for the
 >First Congressional District are finished.

>
 >Thanks for all of your help.

>
 >Yvonne J Hubmayr
 >4956 60th Ave SW
 >Rochester, MN 55902
 >Tel: 507-288-7265
 >Fax: 507-282-2470
 >E-mail: yhubmayr@sparc.isl.net

>
 >

*letter to
editor of
Rochester P.B.*



THE LEAGUE
OF WOMEN VOTERS
MINNESOTA EDUCATION FUND

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President
University of Minnesota

August 6, 1998

Northfield News
P.O. Box 58
115 West 5th Street
Northfield, MN 55057-0058

To the Editor:

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Sincerely,

Judy Duffy
President



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Mark G. Yudof
President
University of Minnesota

August 6, 1998

The Mankato Free Press
P.O. Box 3287
418 S. 2nd Street
Mankato, MN 56002

To the Editor:

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Sincerely,

Judy Duffy
President



THE LEAGUE
OF WOMEN VOTERS
MINNESOTA EDUCATION FUND

550 RICE STREET ST. PAUL, MN 55103 PHONE (612) 224-5445 FAX (612) 290-2145

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President
MIGIZI Communications, Inc.

Mark G. Yudof
President
University of Minnesota

August 6, 1998

Republican Eagle
P.O. Box 82
2760 N. Service Drive
Red Wing, MN 55066

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August 6, 1998

Albert Lea Tribune
P.O. Box 60
808 West Front Street
Albert Lea, MN 56007-0060

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Sincerely,

Judy Duffy
President



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Judy Duffy

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MIGIZI Communications, Inc.

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President
University of Minnesota

August 6, 1998

Austin Herald
P.O. Box 578
310 Second Street NE
Austin, MN 55912

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Sincerely,

Judy Duffy
President

Thanks
Yvonne

An appeal to Congressman Gutknecht to reconsider his decision not to participate in candidate forums

I am extremely disappointed with Congressman Gutknecht's decision not to participate in the two candidate forums that I, as representative of the nine Leagues of Women Voters of the First Congressional District was organizing in co-sponsorship with the Post-Bulletin, Minnesota Public Radio, the Free Press of Mankato and KSMQ-TV, Austin.

In explaining his refusal, Congressman Gutknecht accused most of these organizations of being biased against him. He included the League in his list and singled me out because my history of campaign contributions indicate support of his 1996 opponent.

Congressman Gutknecht is surely aware of League's 75-year history of producing candidate forums that are uniformly organized, balanced and of service to the voters. He must also be aware that individuals who are members of League are members precisely because they are deeply concerned with political events. Naturally, we all have made individual decisions on issues and political liaisons. Part of our mission is to "encourage the informed and active participation of citizens in government," and we would be remiss in trying to fulfill that mission if we did not, ourselves, participate.

As Voter Service chairperson for the LWV--Rochester, I have, and will continue to follow the guidelines that are described in "Candidate Forum Guidelines," a 40-page booklet produced by LWV--Minnesota that was specifically written to ensure uniform, non-partisan and fair candidate forums. I would like to reassure Congressman Gutknecht that I am very familiar with the contents of "Guidelines" since I participated in revising the recent edition.

I hope that Congressman Gutknecht will reconsider his decision not to participate in our proposal for candidate forums. The losers in his decision are the voters of the First Congressional District.

Yvonne Hubmayr
Voter Service, RLWV

FAX COVER SHEET

Please call 507-288-7265 if this transmission is incomplete or presents any other problem.

MINNESOTA PUBLIC RADIO



OPEN LETTER TO CONGRESSMAN GIL GUTKNECHT

Dear Mr. Gutknecht,

America has a long proud history of debates: Lincoln/Douglas, Webster/Clay, Kennedy/Nixon to name just a few of our most famous debates. Debates allow an educated public the chance to hear firsthand the views and beliefs of those who wish to be our leaders in government. There are no media consultants, campaign coordinators, negative ads, or independent political expenditures to filter the message to the voters. It is simply an honest discourse of ideas going directly from the candidate to the voter.

We at Minnesota Public Radio (MPR) are disappointed in the decision of your campaign manager to not have you take part in a debate format cosponsored by the *Rochester Post Bulletin*, *The Free Press of Mankato*, the League of Women Voters, KSMQ-TV and Minnesota Public Radio. We hope you will reconsider.

Not every voter is able to attend a live debate. It's especially important that local broadcast and print media bring debates to the voters, into their homes, cars and trucks or their workplaces. MPR is uniquely equipped to provide this important public service to southeastern Minnesota and the entire state.

MPR is the most trusted news source in Minnesota, according to an independent survey (1992, University of Wisconsin-River Falls). Because of that credibility, more than 34,000 people in the First District listen to Minnesota Public Radio's News & Information broadcasts from KZSE/Rochester, KNGA/St. Peter-Mankato, KXLC/La Cresent and KNOW/St. Paul. Fully 83 per cent of our listeners are registered voters and almost 60 per cent always vote in statewide elections (January 1998 Scarborough Survey).

In addition to reaching a significant number of voters, MPR provides another major advantage as a debate broadcast sponsor. MPR provides unedited coverage of the debate to the entire First District. It will be heard live, in full, without excerpting, or host commentary during the broadcast. Voters can able to hear the entire debate in full and then interpret the candidates' responses on their own merits.

On the final issue put forth by your campaign manager: Whether Minnesota Public Radio is biased since we lobbied against the position of some members of the Congress to cut funds for public radio and television. Yes, MPR, its members and listeners did give voice to our concern over that issue in 1995, the last major effort to cut funding in the Congress. During the debate, which occurred primarily in the US House of Representatives; only one recorded vote was taken on efforts to further reduce funding to the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the federal agency responsible for funding. On that vote 72 members voted

45 EAST SEVENTH STREET • SAINT PAUL MINNESOTA 55101-2274

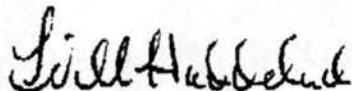
telephone • 612.290.1800 facsimile • 612.290.1260 e-mail • mail@mpr.org website • http://www.mpr.org

to cut funding and 350 voted against the amendment. All eight members of the Minnesota delegation, including you, voted against a further cut and for Minnesota Public Radio's position. Our listeners and members as well as MPR appreciate your support on that issue.

But the fact of the matter is, our news room covers all candidates equally, whether they support Minnesota Public Radio or not. That is why we are a trusted news source by the people of Minnesota.

In closing, I hope you will reconsider the position of your campaign manager and support a debate that will be heard by all the voters of the First District.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Will Haddeland".

Will Haddeland
Vice President of Public Affairs
Minnesota Public Radio

MSBA

Duffy

Minnesota
State Bar
Association

February 27, 1998

514 Nicollet Mall
Suite 300
Minneapolis, MN 55402

Judy Duffy
President
League of Women Voters Minnesota
550 Rice Street
St. Paul, MN 55103

www.mnbar.org

Telephone
612-333-1183
National
1-800-882-MSBA
Fax
612-333-4927

RE: Judicial Elections Study

Dear Ms. Duffy:

I am writing to express my support for the League of Women Voters study of the judicial election system in Minnesota. The work that the League is doing on judicial elections complements the ongoing efforts of the MSBA in this area. One of the recommendations of the MSBA's June, 1997 Judicial Elections Task Force Report encouraged the Association to work closely with citizens' organizations like the League on public education efforts. Consistent with this recommendation, the MSBA will be co-sponsoring a May 1 Judicial Elections Focus with the League. The MSBA looks forward to continuing this kind of partnership in the future, and wishes the League success on the judicial elections project.

President
Sheryl Ramstad Hvass
Minneapolis

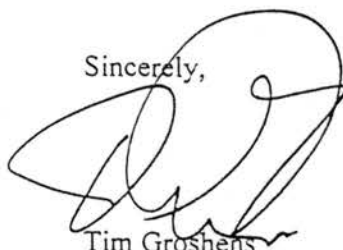
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Secretary
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Treasurer
Wood R. Foster, Jr.
Minneapolis

Executive Committee
At-Large Members
Kenneth R. White
Mankato
Marcy Wallace
St. Paul
Trudy Halla
Minneapolis

Sincerely,



Tim Groshens
MSBA Executive Director

Tim Groshens
Executive Director

cc: Susan Lentz, President, Minnesota State Bar Foundation

Mary Jo Ruff
Associate Executive Director



THE LEAGUE
OF WOMEN VOTERS

MINNESOTA

550 RICE STREET ST. PAUL, MN 55103 PHONE (612) 224-5445

July 30, 1997

St. Paul Pioneer Press
345 Cedar Street
St. Paul, MN 55101

To the Editor:

In response to Jackie Schwietz of the Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life and her comments of 7/29/97 regarding campaign finance reform, let me set the record straight. The League of Women Voters of Minnesota does not advocate for legislation that would abridge anyone's First Amendment rights, including the freedom of speech.

The LWVMN not only does not support the McCain-Feingold bill but has worked in opposition to it because of our concerns with Constitutional issues.

Our current concentration on campaign finance reform deals with the elimination of the flagrant abuses of the 1996 election in which more money than ever was raised and spent to influence the outcome of elections. The uses of "soft money," issue advocacy campaigns and independent expenditures left voters wondering who had the greater impact on candidates--moneyed interests or average voters. Unlimited contributions by corporations, labor unions and wealthy individuals skew the election process. These loopholes in current campaign finance laws must be closed now before the next election cycle.

The American public needs to know their concerns are being addressed by elected officials on their merits and not their bankrolls.

Without these reforms, it is the American voters whose right to access to our elected officials is severely threatened.

Sincerely,

Judy Duffy
President

JD:ss

Post-It™ brand fax transmittal memo 7671		# of pages > 1
To <i>Sally Sawyer</i>	From <i>Susan Weisbrod</i>	
Co. <i>LWVMN</i>	Co.	
Dept.	Phone # <i>436-7528</i>	
Fax # <i>292-9417</i>	Fax #	

Threats to free speech

An extremely important aspect to the so-called campaign finance reform debate is getting short shrift . . .

Many of the various plans promoted by lawmakers, media moguls and public policy groups such as the League of Woman Voters, and Common Cause would trample on the First Amendment rights of issue-oriented groups to communicate directly with the public regarding the positions and votes of politicians.

Already some members of Congress have stated that . . . "campaign reform" should curb distribution of materials critical of voting records of elected officials and quell mass communications that mention or use a likeness of a candidate within 90 days of an election.

It's understandable that many office holders would like to prevent or impede the dissemination of their voting records to those constituents who are likely to disapprove of their votes on a given issue — understandable, but constitutionally impermissible.

Issue-oriented groups such as Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life have become concerned with these legislative threats to their right to free speech. A coalition has formed, including such groups as the National Right to Life Committee, the American Civil Liberties Union, the Christian Coalition, the National Education Association and the National Association of Broadcasters. These organizations are diverse on issues but united in opposition to the McCain-Feingold "campaign reform" and other bills that would restrict free speech.

JACKIE SCHWIETZ
MINNEAPOLIS

■ The writer is executive director of Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life.

ST PAUL PIONEER PRESS 7-29-97



League of Women Voters of Minnesota
League of Women Voters of Minnesota Education Fund

550 Rice Street
St. Paul, MN 55103

Judy - FYI
6/97

Fax Cover Sheet

DATE:

6/25/97

TIME:

TO:

Feg Roessler
KTCA

PHONE:

949-6550

FAX:

949-9740

FROM:

Sally Sawyer

PHONE:

(612) 224-5445

FAX:

(612) 292-9417

RE:

CC:

Number of pages including cover sheet: [3]

Message

Here are some ideas from the
League of Women Voters for
KTCA's promotion - call me if you have
suggestions or questions. If you need
to edit any of these, just let me know
what the new wording is to make sure
it's accurate. Thanks for the opportunity!

Here are some suggestions for you from the League of Women Voters which will enhance your effectiveness as a citizen and contribute to your community. Who knows? You might even have fun!

1. Know your "political address."

***call your city hall, your county auditor or your local League of Women Voters chapter to find out your ward, precinct, county commissioner district, school district and your legislative and congressional districts.**

Get names, addresses and phone numbers of current office holders and keep as a reference. Some local Leagues of Women Voters publish a *Know Your Elected Officials*.

2. Participate in your local Elections this Fall.

***While there are no state or federal elections this Fall--they will be held in the Fall of 1998-- there are many local elections around the state. Watch your newspapers, call your city hall or county, your political party or your local League of Women Voters for information about what's happening in your community!**

***Find out who the candidates are and what the issues are. Watch newspapers and local news broadcasts for information; attend candidates' forums -- often sponsored by your local, non-partisan League of Women Voters; many local Leagues also prepare and distribute Voter Guides, outlining the offices, the candidates and the issues.**

***Get actively involved in a political campaign. There are many volunteer opportunities from literature drops to "Get Out theVote" phone banks to fundraising. Contact the party or candidate of your choice.**

***If non-partisan political activity is more to your taste, volunteer to assist your local League of Women Voters or other civic organization in providing information to voters about candidates and issues and in voter registration drives.**

***Register to Vote if you are not currently registered. Call your City Hall or County Auditor to obtain a voter registration card.**

***Vote on Election Day, November 4th, for the candidate(s) of your choice.**

***For a really good time, join the League of Women Voters. Call 612-224-5445 for more information. There are fifty local chapters throughout the state. All are welcome!**

3. Learn how to be an effective "citizen lobbyist." Call the League of Women Voters at 612/224-5445 for information about our "Citizens in Action" lobbyist training workshops, scheduled for two Saturday mornings in early 1998 (January 17th and 24th) at the state Capitol in St. Paul. These workshops are designed to help you and/or your organization communicate your concerns effectively to your elected representatives. Participants receive a copy of *How to Make a Difference, a Citizens Guide to State Government*.

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Duffy - copy

Mark G. Yudof
President-Designate
(Until June 30, 1997)

c/o The University of Texas at Austin
Main Building 201
Austin, TX 78712-1111
512-471-4363
Fax: 512-471-0577

RECEIVED MAY 19 1997

May 13, 1997

President Judy Duffy
The League of Women Voters
550 Rice Street
St. Paul, MN 55103

Dear President Duffy:

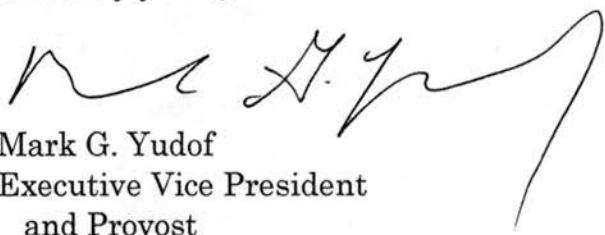
Thank you for your kind invitation to be a member of the Advisory Board of the League of Women Voters.

I am delighted at the opportunity to serve in this capacity.

Judy and I look forward to meeting you after our relocation to Minnesota.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,


Mark G. Yudof
Executive Vice President
and Provost

MGY:ck



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

MINNESOTA

550 RICE STREET ST. PAUL, MN 55103 PHONE (612) 224-5445

JD

July 10, 1997

Editor

Saint Paul Pioneer Press

345 Cedar Street

St. Paul, MN 55101

To the Editor:

Thank you for your recent series *Restoring Public Trust*. Clearly, Campaign Finance Reform is basic to any efforts to restore the public's trust and confidence in government. The record amount of money spent to influence the outcome of the 1996 elections should be a wake-up call to each of us. The League of Women Voters is engaged in action for incremental campaign finance reform to close the loopholes most exploited in the last election.

First, the "soft money" loophole, enabled corporations, unions and wealthy individuals to give millions to political parties. Second, "independent expenditures" allowed business, labor and other groups to spend substantial sums on media campaigns supposedly independent of candidates. In addition, political parties also made expenditures which were supposedly "independent" of their own candidates. Finally, under the guise of advertising on issues, interest groups spent large sums to change the outcomes of elections.

The League believes it is imperative that, at the very least, the 105th Congress close these loopholes. The current mood however in Congress is to point fingers and do little or nothing about the problem. We are deeply concerned that both political parties will once again lock themselves into particular reforms deeply opposed by the other. An incremental approach based on closing loopholes may provide a basis for actually enacting campaign finance legislation.

Polls show that most Americans believe that our government is run for the benefit of special interests rather than for the good of all people. Our political system is based on the consent of the governed, but the campaign finance system is undermining public confidence. Congress must act to restore a greater measure of trust. The League of Women Voters encourages you to contact your elected representatives and urge them to support incremental campaign finance reform.

Minnesota's Congressional Representatives with local phone numbers:

Senator Paul Wellstone 612/645-0323

Senator Rod Grams 612/427-5921

Congressmen:

Gil Gutnecht, District 1 1-800-862-8632

Martin Sabo, District 5 612/348-1649

David Minge, District 2 1-800-453-9392

Bill Luther, District 6 612/730-4949

Jim Ramstad, District 3 612/881-4600

Collin Peterson, District 7 218/847-5056

Bruce Vento, District 4 612/224-4503

James Oberstar, District 8 218/727-7474

Sincerely,

Judy Duffy
President



THE LEAGUE
OF WOMEN VOTERS

MINNESOTA

550 RICE STREET ST. PAUL, MN 55103 PHONE (612) 224-5445

July 30, 1997

The Honorable Rod Grams
United States Senate
261 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Grams,

Thank you for your letter of July 16th regarding campaign finance reform.

We certainly share your Constitutional concerns regarding the First Amendment and limits to free speech and in no way advocate measures that would abridge individual rights. At this time, however, we are advocating that the 105th Congress take steps to end the kind of abuses that occurred in the 1996 campaign with regard to soft money, issue advocacy and independent expenditures. Also, a strengthened Federal Elections Commission is vital to improving the process. This is the least Congress can do and have an impact on improving the climate for future campaigns.

Regardless of the conclusions of the Committee now investigating possible 1996 campaign finance law violations, another election is only one year away and improvements are needed now. Dealing with the flow and direction of campaign money is a minimal yet necessary step. This was the essence of statements made last week by former Presidents Bush, Carter and Ford. Additionally, former Senators Kassebaum and Mondale have called for these measures in their current capacity as Co-Chairs of a Presidential commission examining Campaign finance issues.

The League of Women Voters also urges you to act in support of minimal improvements to the current campaign finance laws. I would welcome an opportunity to talk further with you on these issues if you would like.

Thank you for your response.

Sincerely,

Judy Duffy, President
LWVMN

ROD GRAMS
MINNESOTA

COMMITTEES:

BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

FOREIGN RELATIONS

JOINT ECONOMIC

RECEIVED JUL 28 1997

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

WASHINGTON OFFICE:

PH. 202-224-3244
FAX 202-228-0956

INTERNET: MAIL_GRAMS@GRAMS.SENATE.GOV

MINNESOTA OFFICE:

2013 SECOND AVENUE NORTH
ANOKA, MN 55303
PH. 612-427-5921
FAX 612-427-8872

July 16, 1997

Ms. Judy Duffy
League of Women Voters
550 Rice Street
Saint Paul, MN 55103

Dear Ms. Duffy:

Thank you for contacting me to express your support for campaign finance reform. I regret that Senate business prevented us from meeting during your visit to Washington last month.

The First Amendment of the Constitution is one of the guiding principles I look to when reviewing campaign finance reform proposals. The First Amendment ensures that, among other things, average citizens can participate in the democratic process through publicly disclosed contributions to campaigns of their choice. I am concerned that many of the campaign finance reform proposals introduced in the Senate would prohibit Americans from exercising their Constitutional rights.

Campaign spending is protected by the First Amendment because the Supreme Court has ruled that limits on political spending are in effect limits on the speech of ordinary citizens. The Court has concluded that political communication with voters requires the expenditure of money by candidates. In my view, campaign spending limits, voluntary or not, would severely limit political discourse in our country. Moreover, spending limits would likely benefit incumbents and candidates who are more well known.

I am concerned that the ultimate goal of those who advocate campaign finance reform is to require public financing of political campaigns. I strongly oppose such an effort because I believe taxpayers should not be forced to pay more of their hard earned dollars to politicians. As a former broadcaster, I also oppose any proposal which requires television broadcasters to provide discounted broadcast time to candidates who comply with certain spending limits. The federal government should not order broadcasters to provide discounted advertising to politicians at a time when they are working voluntarily to meet their public interest obligations.

Instead of proposing new laws, which would only result in more confusion and costly litigation, we can accomplish the same goals by more thorough enforcement of our current laws. The allegations of illicit campaign contributions to the Democratic National Committee (DNC) and White House during the 1996 campaign cycle clearly illustrate the need for better enforcement of our existing campaign finance laws. I am disappointed that the Attorney General has denied repeated requests from Congress for the appointment of an independent counsel to investigate these allegations.

July 16, 1997

Page 2

As you may know, the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee has begun its investigation into improper and illegal activities in the 1996 federal elections. While the focus of this investigation is to investigate possible violations of existing law, the investigation also serves a legitimate legislative purpose. The Committee fully intends to examine the issues of soft money, issue advocacy and independent expenditures during the second phase of its hearings. In addition, the Senate Rules Committee will continue to hold hearings on various campaign finance reform issues.

I am hopeful that the American people will receive a full disclosure of these disturbing reports of campaign finance law violations. Congress should not use violations of existing law as reason to restrict the political speech and participation by those who abide by current law.

Judy, thanks again for taking the time to contact me regarding campaign finance reform. I will carefully review any campaign finance reform legislation that comes before the Senate and appreciate your counsel. Please feel free to contact my office in Anoka if you would like to schedule an appointment to discuss these issues further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rod Grams", with a stylized, flowing script.

Rod Grams
United States Senator

RG:de

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Office of the President

202 Morrill Hall
100 Church Street S.E.
Minneapolis, MN 55455-0110
612-626-1616
Fax: 612-625-3875

RECEIVED FEB 17 1998

February 10, 1998

Judy Duffy
President
League of Women Voters of Minnesota
550 Rice Street
St. Paul, Minnesota 55103

Dear Ms. Duffy:

It was a pleasure to be able to join you and other luminaries for lunch at the recent Minnesota Meeting. I enjoyed the opportunity to convey my message about the University of Minnesota to such a wide audience. I am continually impressed by the support I have encountered for the goals we have established to "preserve its past" and "nurture its future."

I look forward to seeing you again and to enlarging the already strong partnership between the University of Minnesota and Minnesota's professional and civic leadership.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,



Mark G. Yudof
President

MGY:slw



THE LEAGUE
OF WOMEN VOTERS

MINNESOTA

550 RICE STREET ST. PAUL, MN 55103 PHONE (612) 224-5445

February 6, 1998

Mr. Dennis Connors
Director, Public Broadcasting Division
PTFP/NTIA #4625
U.S. Department of Commerce
14th & Constitution Avenue NW
Washington DC 20230

Dear Mr. Connors:

I am writing to express my full support for Twin Cities Public Television's application for a matching grant for digital broadcast equipment.

As the President of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota, I am aware of the tremendous impact KTCA's commitment and services have made in our community and state.

This community impact has the potential to be greatly increased as KTCA transitions to digital broadcast. With the ability to transmit multiple channels and data, in addition to high quality programming in High Definition format, KTCA can build on, and expand, its existing array of community services.

Our community is adapting locally to the fast growing international information society and economy driven by digital technology. In a world of increasing media monopolization, KTCA's core strength of providing free, locally controlled and universally available services will become increasingly important.

With a transition to digital broadcast, KTCA can provide a platform for institutional partnerships that will be invaluable to the communities throughout Minnesota.

The Governor and Minnesota State Legislature have shown their support by providing \$750,000, in matching funding for KTCA's digital transition and the need for this grant to match state dollars is urgent.

Given the federal government's mandate for television stations to transition to digital broadcast technology, and KTCA's record of commitment and leadership in the community and the nation, I urge you to support KTCA's request.

Sincerely,

Judy Duffy, President
League of Women Voters of Minnesota

February 6, 1998

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Sincerely,

Judy Duffy, President
League of Women Voters of Minnesota

*Sally - if we have time tomorrow (Fri), this
can go out.*

Sample letter of support for NTIA PTFP grants.

Deadline: Letter should be faxed and mailed to KTCA by Monday, Feb 9, 1998.

Letter should be
faxed & mailed to:

Mrs. Terry Evans
Twin Cities Public Television
172 East Fourth Street
St. Paul, MN 55101
612-229-1451
FAX: 612-229-1282

but please address your letter to:

Mr. Dennis Connors
Director, Public Broadcasting Division
PTFP/NTIA #4625
U.S. Department of Commerce
14th & Constitution Avenue NW
Washington DC 20230

Questions: call Mark Lynch at 612-229-1546

Sample letter: please utilize appropriate elements and adapt to your own style & language.

February 2, 1998

Mr. Dennis Connors
PTFP/NTIA #4625
U.S. Department of Commerce
14th & Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20230

on LUV letterhead

JP

Dear Mr. Connors:

I am writing to express my full support for Twin Cities Public Television's application for a matching grant for digital broadcast equipment.

As the President (title or function) of the League of Women Voters (organization), I ~~have~~ *am aware of* ~~witnessed (participated in, supported, felt strongly)~~ the tremendous impact KTCA's commitment and services have made in our community and state.

This community impact has the potential to be greatly increased as KTCA transitions to digital broadcast. With the ability to transmit multiple channels and data, in addition to unique high quality programming in High Definition format, KTCA can build on, and expand, its existing array of community services.

 (example of service you find valuable here)

Our community is adapting locally to the fast growing international information society and economy driven by digital technology. In a world of increasing media monopolization, KTCA's core strength of providing free, locally controlled and universally available services will become increasingly important.

With a transition to digital broadcast, KTCA can provide a platform for institutional partnerships that will be invaluable to ~~the~~ *Communities of Minnesota* ~~(your organization, constituent group, city, Minnesota).~~ *throughout*

The Governor and Minnesota State Legislature have shown their support by providing \$750,000 in matching funding for KTCA's digital transition and the need for this grant to match state dollars is urgent.

Given the federal government's mandate for television stations to transition to digital broadcast technology, and KTCA's record of commitment and leadership in the community and the nation, I urge you to support KTCA's request.

Sincerely,

name
title

Additional suggestions & talking points:

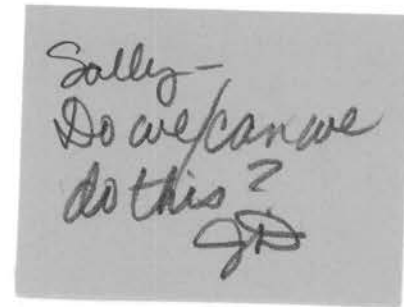
- Talk about your organization's work, and how it impacts the community or perhaps your specific role in your organization....
- Use your organization's present efforts as a springboard to talk about the future, especially a digital future in which your constituents will increasingly rely on electronic means to receive and access services...
- Express the importance of KTCA transitioning to digital broadcast so it can help you reach and serve your constituents....

RECEIVED FEB - 3 1998



Twin Cities Public Television
172 East Fourth Street
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55101
Tel: 612.222.1717
Fax: 612.229.1282

February 2, 1998



Ms. Judy Duffy
The League of Women Voters
550 Rice Street
St. Paul MN 55103

Dear Ms. Duffy:

I am contacting you with a request to write a letter of support for Twin Cities Public Television.

As you are aware, the federal government has mandated the transition of television from analog to digital technology over the next several years.

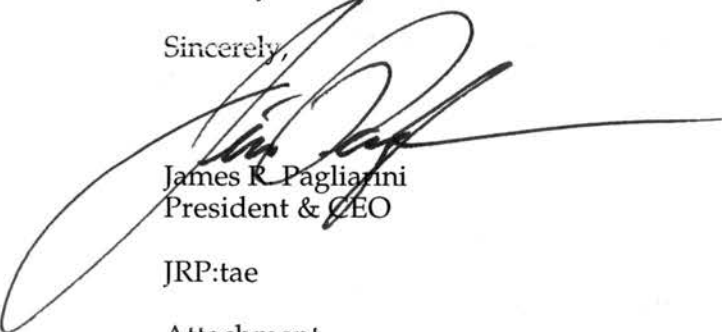
In hopes of acquiring some of the funding necessary for our digital transition, as well as match our grant of \$750,000 from the State of Minnesota for Digital TV equipment, we are submitting a grant proposal, due February 12, to the U.S. Department of Commerce Public Telecommunications Facilities Program.

With the equipment we hope to purchase, we envision doing much, much more than simply rebroadcasting KTCA Channel 2 in a digital format.

Frankly, I believe that our ability to partner with fellow community organizations and government institutions to help serve their constituencies will be greatly enhanced as we continue to provide a locally controlled, universally accessible free service in the digital age.

I hope you will consider writing a letter of support for us. Please feel free to reach me at 612-229-1349 or jpagliari@ktca.org or my staffer, Mark Lynch at 229-1546 or mlynch@ktca.org. Thank you for the consideration.

Sincerely,



James R. Pagliarini
President & CEO

JRP:tac

Attachment

DTV

10 Evolving Fundamentals of Digital Television

Digital TV is a new medium that may take years to fully develop and deliver. As it evolves, and because it is based on conventional broadcast television, some things about television may remain the same, while others change dramatically. Here are 10 basic concepts:

1. **Present home antennas are expected to receive new Digital TV broadcasts.** Like conventional TV, Digital TV is broadcast from local transmitter towers.
2. **Don't throw away your conventional TV!** TV stations will *phase in* Digital TV, while continuing to broadcast conventional TV. Estimates vary from 5 to 15 years.
3. **With a converter, your present TV set will also be able to get some Digital TV.** Expensive at first & cheaper in time, receiver/adapters will be available in Fall, 1998.
4. **Digital TV broadcast schedule may vary:** High Definition TV (HDTV) may be transmitted during prime time and multiple channels of regular TV during the day.
5. **Computer information can also be transmitted:** Internet Web pages, CD ROMs, and computer software could all be transmitted digitally to home, office & school.
6. **Putting a computer in a television means new services are still to be invented.** Touch-tone phones introduced many new uses/services compared to rotary phones.
7. **Consumer products may vary according to use:** including big, expensive High Definition TV sets, set-top converters, and computer/TV/phone combo units.
8. **No one really knows how "DTV" will look five years from now,** but consumers will have the last word on new uses, formats, services and hardware.
9. **Research shows that Digital TV is more likely to be successful if it is as easy as a TV and less complex than a computer.** Ease of use is still the number one criteria.
10. **Digital TV may be a fluid medium.** Most people still watch TV, but in 1995 computers outsold new televisions for the first time. Digital TV may evolve as new uses/services are developed and prices come down. The medium is yet to be configured, not only by locally controlled public television, but also by international media companies, TV set manufacturers and increasingly, the computer industry.

The following is a vision developed by the MN Public Television Association....

THE PROMISE: Minnesota Public TV...in the Digital Age

Even though the pace of change in this world is getting to be truly blinding in the digital age, locally owned and controlled Public Television in Minnesota will continue to serve everyone. We will continue to:

broadcast *Sesame Street* to young children learning to read and add;
bring *Mr. Rogers* to slightly older children learning self esteem;
excite scientific interest in youth of all ages with *Newton's Apple*,
(produced here in Minnesota)
Venture North to countless Minnesota communities;
and, of course, *Almanac* on Friday nights will continue to spark Saturday morning conversations in cafes across the state...

...just as we've done since starting out 40 years ago.

At the same time, we refuse to hold still. America's cowboy, Will Rogers may as well have been a Minnesotan when he said: "Even if you're on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there." We plan to take the digital age by the horns and wrestle it into a strong harness and set it to work in all of our communities.

Technical language, such as the fact that we will be able to broadcast the equivalent of 18 T-1 lines to homes, schools and businesses without digging up the ground, is exciting to those that understand it.

But no advanced degree is necessary for folks to appreciate the program and service capability of Digital Television: We intend to provide **multiple** channels of service across the entire state.

In partnership with fellow Minnesota institutions, we plan statewide Digital TV services that could include:

Civic Participation
Citizenship Services for Immigrants
Services for Infant through Kindergarten
Services for Elderly
Services for Job Seekers
State Data Services
Automobile Road Conditions
Community and Economic Development Services
Legislative Hearings and Floor Debate

We have already begun conversations with institutions, including the University of Minnesota and the Minnesota High Technology Council.

In education, partnerships with Minnesota institutions will allow us to provide services that could include:

**Higher Education
English as a Second Language
Literacy
K-12
Home Schooling
Dropout Intervention
School to Work
Small Business Education**

Services in these areas are **not** limited to television shows. Digital broadcast allows us to broadcast, over the air, computer software, CD ROMs and Web pages.

And that is only the beginning.

As the television set converges, actually merges, with telephones and computers, the functions of electronic consumer products will multiply...and options for service will multiply exponentially.

Public Television in Minnesota will feed Minnesota homes, schools and businesses with digital information. Do not fret or throw out your TV set. Present antennas on top of the house should work fine. But you will need a different receiver, like switching from AM to FM.

Just because the technology is changing, we don't plan to stop or cut back our services. We refuse to just stand by our laurels, maintain the status quo and sit on the tracks.

Minnesota Public Television is committed to strengthen our communities by strengthening its services in the digital age.



BRUCE F. VENTO
4TH DISTRICT, MINNESOTA

2304 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-2304
(202) 225-6631

DISTRICT OFFICE:
GALTIER PLAZA
175 FIFTH ST., E.
RM. 727, BOX 100
ST. PAUL, MN 55101
(612) 224-4503

RECEIVED JUL 18 1997

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
RESOURCES

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
BANKING AND
FINANCIAL SERVICES

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2304

July 16, 1997

Judy Duffy
550 Rice Street
St. Paul, Minnesota 55103

Dear Judy:

Thank you for sharing with me your views on the need to reform Congressional campaigns. I too believe that reforms are needed. I have consistently worked in Congress to enact into law strong campaign finance reforms.

As you may be aware, efforts to enact meaningful campaign reforms were made during both the 103rd and 104th Congresses. I supported these efforts, which, unfortunately were not enacted into law.

The American Political Reform Act, which I support and cosponsored, would establish a voluntary spending limit for Congressional races, since mandatory spending limits have been ruled unconstitutional. In addition, the bill would limit the total Political Action Committee (PAC) and wealthy individual contributions each House candidate could accept and closed other campaign loopholes dealing with independent expenditures, bundling of contributions, and "soft money."

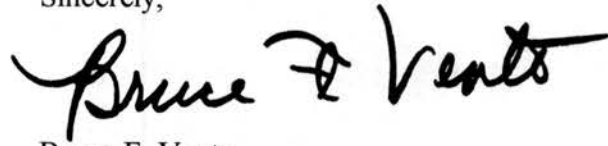
Spending on Congressional campaigns is far too high. The American voter wants election campaigns based on ideas, not media buys with sound bites. This legislative initiative, The American Political Reform Act, provides an important step toward taking our national elections out of the hands of media handlers and returning campaigns to one-on-one contact with the American voter. Campaign spending must be brought under control, within the Constitutional limits and court rulings that control overall campaign law and policy.

I am hopeful that this new Congress will address these issues and further reforms such as incentives and requirements for public candidate debates. Such initiatives will allow the American voter to make more informed decisions and participate directly in the political process. These steps will help to more fully restore the political process to the people.

Action on campaign finance reform must be a top priority for Congress. For this reason, I signed a letter to Speaker Gingrich and Minority Leader Gephardt urging that the House of Representatives pass campaign reforms legislation in the first 100 days of the new Congress. Unfortunately, the House Republican leadership controls the floor schedule and have yet to allow for any meaningful debate on this issue this year.

I appreciate your continued interest in these matters and will continue to support initiatives to reform Congress and improve public confidence in our Federal government.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Bruce F. Vento". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end of the word "Vento".

Bruce F. Vento
Member of Congress

BFV:ms