



Jonathan Isenor for MN House District 21B

Rural Economy, Infrastructure and Education

From the Campaign Trail

Policy 1 – Rural Broadband

“In those wretched countries where a man cannot call a tongue his own, he can scarce call anything his own. Whoever would overthrow the liberty of a nation must begin by subduing the freedom of speech...”
 ~ Silence Dougwood

This quote was written by Benjamin Franklin under a pen name over fifty years before the battles of Lexington and Concord, long before he knew there was going to be a United States, let alone that he would be the first Post Master General. Two decades before he helped draft the Declaration of Independence Benjamin Franklin was in England trying to find diplomatic ways for the colonies to remain under British rule.

The pivotal moment for Franklin was the Hutchinson Letters. These were letters sent from British agents through the British Post Office to encouraging the government to be more aggressive towards the colonists. Franklin sent copies of these letters back to the colonies where the Sons of

Liberty published them. To punish Benjamin Franklin he was removed from his Post Master General position for the colonies.

Franklin was sent home, the tension between the colonist and the British grew, and Franklin became a delegate to the Second Continental Congress. Of Benjamin Franklin’s many accomplishments at this Congress we cannot ignore that he worked to establish the United States Postal Service. As our Continental Army struggled the colonists’ efforts stayed alive because they invested in a network of communication.

With the printing press and the postal service the pro-colonist newspapers could spread and receive information from every segment of the *snake*. Because “don’t tread on me” has more power when everyone has reliable and equal access to information.

I hope that it is pretty obvious where I am going by this point. But let me make a handful of things clear. Most debates about broadband and net

neutrality are between the conservative position that the internet is not a utility and therefore access is not a right* and progressives state that we do have a right to the equal benefits of the internet. For me I believe that there are certain issues that are fundamental to our democracy. If those issues aren’t handled in the right way then we lose footing in calling anything our own. Benjamin Franklin recognized this and immortalized the Post Office in the Constitution in Article 1, Section 8. Because freedom of speech means nothing without having a voice.

What this means for rural Minnesota is that net neutrality and access to broadband internet are our obvious rights. The real argument is do we deserve to have a voice. For our laborers, farmers and businesses to compete having access to broadband is our obvious right and is such a necessity that it can only be an insult that rural Minnesota doesn’t have reliable and equal access to internet. For our rural communities to succeed we need (1) equal access to (2) equal internet.

[BROADBAND COVERAGE MAP](#)

* Please print this off and distribute it to those who don’t have access to the internet.



Special Elections

February 12th is a Monday. And a Special Election in two districts! We need to get out the vote for Candidate Melissa Wagner (House District 23B) and Candidate Karla Bigham (Senate District 54).

Join us at the Isenor house in Wanamingo for a Phone Bank Party for Melissa Wagner on Saturday February 10. And join the Isenor Campaign for door knocking with Karla Bigham on Sunday February 11.

Check the campaign [facebook page](#) for more information.

Some Upcoming Events

Feb 3rd – Zumbrota Tax Meeting
 – Phone Bank Party & Caucus Training at
 224-3rd Avenue Wanamingo
 – **Service Saturday** Donate to the Kellogg
 Area Food Shelf (they really need canned
 meat, soup, and canned fruit). Drop off
 donations at Jonathan's house anytime on
 February 3 & 4.

Feb 6th – Caucus!

Where do you caucus?

Find your caucus precinct here:

<http://caucusfinder.sos.state.mn.us/>

Feb 9th – DFL CD 2 Mardi Gras

Feb 10th – Phone Bank for Melissa Wagner (Special
 Election Feb 12th District 23B)

At the Isenor House in Wanamingo

Feb 11th – Door Knock for Karla Bigham (Special
 Election Feb 12th District 54)

Feb 17th – **Service Saturday** SE Minnesota 4H
 Project Bowl!

Policy Platforms

As you know I am rolling out fifteen policy plans, broken down into 3 categories, which target rural needs. These plans will repair and advance our state! I will detail one policy each week.

The first group of 5 policies improve the rural labor force. With these changes our rural workforce will be very competitive in the state. Rural communities will become leaders in workforce development and support.

The second group supports our farmers. I am proposing that we clear obstructions and add support that will ensure our farmers have the state backing in their risk-taking jobs.

The third group of 5 policies will ensure that our rural economy is not only maintained but encouraged.

HAVEN'T DONATED IN A WHILE? [GIVE \\$25 HERE!](#)

