



Senate District 48 (Eden Prairie/Minnetonka)

Democratic Commentary

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Using Our Fear -----by Rod Fisher, Senate District 48 Director and Precinct Vice Chair Eden Prairie Precinct 2

There is no doubt that, at least since the Nixon era, toxic messages of fear have been used to drive Republican voters to give money and to vote. GOP strategists and leaders have been very effective at frightening voters with messages of race, crime, abortion, taxes, and immigration. Were you listening during the RNC speeches?

Fear. Fear is the antithesis of how we should choose. We should use reason and ethical considerations and make rational decisions. Or so I try to do.

But now, after three years of this President, I am afraid. I admit it, and I feel in my gut the power of fear. Donald Trump and his enablers have scared the crap out of me, and for the first few months of this administration and this US Senate and this State Senate, I rubbed my eyes in disbelief and thought it could not get worse. It got worse. They don't want our government to work, and chaos is their goal. My fear surprised and paralyzed me for those first months of the Trump presidency, and I felt bad, even depressed.

But then came the campaign for 2018, and I decided if this is a fight for a way of life, then I'll fight. So I retired from teaching, and my wife, Nancy, and I decided to go all-in with our volunteer time and our financial giving to candidates. The endorphin rush of that campaign season, and the many victories in November, did so much to reduce my anxiety. But then the Republicans doubled down on chaos, and my panic increased. So, for this election, we fight again, and harder.

What am I fighting for? Many things, but mostly I want representatives who understand that climate change is our biggest long-term threat, and that we have to work on it now.

Yes, fear of Trumpism is motivating me, I accept that, and it is a powerful force. My fear for our future is real, and instead of burying fear, or denying it, I will continue to let it push me forward. But I will also work hard to not dislike the guy at Menards who's wearing a Trump shirt, and I will manage anger toward my Trump-supporting brother in Iowa. I admit that I am motivated by fear, but I will not be consumed by it.



You Can make a Difference in 2020 Democratic Elections-----by Pat Gernes, Chair of Senate District 48 Resource, Support and Education Committee

As the end of the 2020 election season nears, when we are faced with the immediacy of a pandemic and the affecting economic turn down, the roller coaster of emotions that we have all been feeling for the last 8 months with an impeachment followed by a pandemic, a governmental mismanaged pandemic response, an attempted authoritarian takeover of our government by President Trump, and his tactics to disrupt our election process, we cannot give up hope. We can dare to hope to see better days again.

To achieve those better days, however, we cannot sit on the side lines. We need to **become politically active as we never have before.**

For starters, **we need to vote.** If voting by mail, request your ballot now. Mail your ballot in as soon as possible after you have received it.

Secondly, if you have not yet **contributed financially** to our local candidates, do that now too. Every bit helps. (If you can manage it, feel free to donate to other of our DFL candidates and the Presidential election as well.)

And now, the big question is-**what more can we do?**

With the above accomplished, our next step is **to volunteer to help in your local candidates' campaigns.** Because COVID-19 has interrupted the usual campaign activities, **phone calling** to independent and leaning democratic voters has become even more significant than ever.

Volunteer to make phone calls.

You will receive a list, a script, and assistance in calling.

The role and responsibility of a Senate District is to support our local candidates for Minnesota Senate, and Minnesota House. Therefore, for SD48, our focus is on successfully returning Senator Steve Cwodzinski, Representative Laurie Pryor and Representative Carlie Kotyza-Witthuhn to the Minnesota Legislature.

Please do not underestimate the impact of your volunteering to make phone calls for our SD48 Candidates. The following is the contact information to get you rolling.

Sen. Steve Cwodzinski

cwodsquad@gmail.com
cwodforsenate.com
952-540-7292

Rep. Laurie Pryor

lauriepryor.org/volunteer
Laurie Pryor laurie.pryor@gmail.com

Rep. Carlie Kotyza-Witthuhn **Field Organizer-Jon Schwarze**

jon@dfthouse.com, **920-515-2646**

Please consider volunteering for our other Democratic candidates. From the Senate Districts, the next level up is Congressional Districts.

3rd Congressional District Return Dean Phillips to Congress.

Representative Dean Phillips

phillipsforcongress.org/deanteam/join-the-dean-team/

We have an open seat on the Hennepin County Board.

Hennepin County Commissioner

Chris LaTondresse District 6 latondresse.org/volunteer

Debbie Goettel District 5 debbiegoettel.com

Minnesota Supreme Court- continue his work on the Minnesota Supreme Court.

Justice Paul Thissen

paulthissen.com
[/paulthissen.com/support-paul/](http://paulthissen.com/support-paul/)

We all know how important our Presidential and Senator races are to Minnesotans.

Presidential and Vice President Candidates

Joe Biden and Kamala Harris joebiden.com

Return our Minnesota Senator to the Senate

Sen. Tina Smith

tinaforminnesota.com
tinaforminnesota.com/act/

For your information, more local Democratic candidates to support.

Eden Prairie City Council

PG Narayanan

PGforEP@gmail.com

Lisa Toomey

Lisatoomey4ep@gmail.com

A reminder, please do not underestimate the difference you can make by volunteering in the run-up to the November 3rd election. As we all know, this may be the most important election in our US history. We need Joe Biden and Kamala Harris in the White House. We need all of our amazing and visionary candidates, that have served us so well, returned to Congress, the Minnesota Legislature and the Minnesota Supreme Court. It would be most fitting too, if we could also be represented in our City Councils.

As Michelle Obama said, "If You Think Things Cannot Possibly Get Worse, Trust Me — They Can". Help by volunteering!



I Had to Ask-----by Pam Scherling, Precinct Chair Minnetonka Ward 4 Precinct D

What would happen if either President Trump or Vice President Biden were to become incapacitated, or pass away, between now and the general election on November 3rd? This question has come up in recent conversations with a few friends, perhaps due to the speculation we've been hearing that President Trump has suffered a series of mini-strokes, or perhaps more generally because we have two older-than-average presidential candidates. In either case, no one knew the answer.

The obvious place to go for an answer was a call to the Minnesota Secretary of State. When I was connected to someone in Steve Simon's office and gave the reason for my call, I mentioned that the closest situation I could recall was the tragic death of Minnesota Senator Paul Wellstone when he was up for re-election in 2002. Surprisingly, I found out that there were no statutes in Minnesota law covering the situation at that time, so the question was settled by the Minnesota Supreme Court. Since then, this has perhaps been rectified. I was referred to Minnesota Statute 204B.13.

On the national level a major political party would follow its procedure for replacing a dead or incapacitated candidate for election. In some states there would be presidential electors on the ballot. Since Minnesota is a winner-take-all state, there would be no presidential electors on the ballot. A second call to the office of the Minnesota Secretary of State came up with the response that the whole matter is so complicated and controversial that the replacement of the dead or incapacitated candidate would almost inevitably be referred to the courts.

Minnesota Statute 204B.13 does give us some idea of one possible way the problem might be addressed. The statute refers to this situation as a “vacancy in nomination”, and lists three possible scenarios: 1) when a candidate dies, 2) when a candidate simply withdraws, or 3) when a candidate withdraws due to a diagnosis of a catastrophic illness that would prevent them from fulfilling the duties of the office, if elected. A major political party can establish a procedure to fill the vacancy, although the statute does not prescribe what that procedure must be (the only caveat being that the vacancy must not be filled by conducting a primary). A nomination certificate, with the name of the new candidate and prepared by the political party's chairperson and secretary, would then be filed with the state no later than (7) days after the general election. Once this process was completed, a **special election** would be held.

On the special election ballot would be the name of the replacement presidential candidate, and the names of all the other presidential candidates who appeared on the original election ballot. (Note: the original general election ballots would remain unchanged, and the vote totals for all of the other offices would be tabulated and certified. Additionally, on November 3rd, a notice prepared by the Secretary of State would be posted in each precinct, informing voters of the reason for the vacancy in nomination, the procedure used to fill the vacancy, and the process of conducting the special election).

With all the anxiety and uncertainty we're already feeling as we approach election day, my hope is that there will not be this legal tangle for us to face.



United----by Frank Malley, Precinct Chair Minnetonka Ward 4 Precinct F

Right now I am reading The Federalist Papers written by “Publius” (the pen name of Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, and John Jay). I am finetuning my General Election precinct letter for the voters in Minnetonka Precinct 4F. Of course, I am also gathering articles for the fall edition of Senate District 48 Democratic Commentary. So I am acting rather than just sitting eating the lotus of an ideologue.

I am also sending monthly donations to more than half a dozen Minnesota and national candidates. (I have to confess that I do wish they would dial down slightly the letters, e-mails, phone calls, and texts asking for more and more money.)

I talked yesterday with my brother, who lives in Seattle and who joked that he is protecting himself from the virus and the “socialists”. Meanwhile living a few minutes from downtown Minneapolis has brought all the hot political issues home to me.

On my television—my link to the outside—I watched the entirety of the Democratic and Republican conventions. Since we Democrats are traditionally perfectionists who battle over every comma in our (numerous and various) political statements, I was heartened to witness a Democratic convention in which every speaker seemed to acknowledge the need to unite for a greater good: the urgent need to return to the public-spirited community envisioned by Hamilton, Madison, Jay, and our other founding fathers.

The Republican convention constantly invoked the American Dream, without realizing the irony in their rejecting the Dreamers of DACA. The Republican nominee did generously offer to end payroll taxes, which is the same as ending Social Security and Medicare.

I do like the diversity that is contemporary America. I have many Chinese friends and do not see them as the yellow peril envisioned by the Republicans. I was born decades ago in Oakland, California when there was a White Oakland and a Black Oakland but am now so old that I feel it is a waste of my limited energy to try to figure out what the olive-skinned person across the street is—Black, Latinx, South Asian, Mediterranean, someone with a healthy tan, etc., etc. We have many challenges. Let's use all our people and all our talents to address them. Besides, all our folks prepare lots of really good food.

Our founding fathers worked hard to construct the United States of America. Remember, too, that talented as they were, they started with a colossal mistake, the Articles of Confederation. Today we have our own colossal problems, but if we unite—all Democrats, Independents, and plenty of Republicans—we can embody the discipline and patriotism that has always been in the American consciousness.

Note on Voting

Voting by Mail is Safe and Easy: Get your ballots by mail--Democratic or Republican.

Online: 1. Go to <https://www.mnvotes.org> 2. Provide personal information, including address, email address, and driver's license number or MN ID number. 3. Submit this info and wait for mailed ballots.

No internet: Pick up a ballot application at your City Hall.

You can request an 11/3 General ballot.

Prepared by SD48, Frank Malley, Precinct Chair, Paid for by CD3 DFL, dfl3cd.org.