

PANORAMA RACES

PRESIDENT/VICE PRESIDENT

BARACK OBAMA/ JOE BIDEN – OH HELL YEAH

We LOVE Obama. First of all, the man is brilliant, understands that we're part of a bigger world, and has run his campaign community-organizing style. Obama is committed to making higher education affordable, taxing the filthy rich and bringing troops home. We love and support the man, but once he's elected, there will still be work to do; we'll need to push Obama on his support of offshore drilling and nuclear energy, gun control and corporate bailouts.

US SENATE

AL FRANKEN – YEAH

To be honest, Franken is not our favorite guy, but electing him is CRITICAL. His slimy opponent, Norm Coleman, has spent the last 6 years destroying MN's infrastructure and kissing up on Big Oil, Big Polluters, War Profiteers and Pharmaceutical Companies. Franken supports renewable energy, universal health care and a tax credit to help students pay for college.

US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

***Several of the following candidates for US Representative wont be on your ballot—they are from districts outside the Twin Cities. But we wanted you to know about these races because they have a big impact on our state overall.*

US Rep – District 2

****STEVE SARVI – YEAH**

Sarvi is an Iraq Veteran and moderate Democrat who believes that we need more funding and less standardized testing in MN schools. His opponent, John Kline, is a wack job who's voted *against* access to student loans, the establishment of an Office of Congressional Ethics and access to mental health and addiction care. Wow.

US Rep – District 3

****ASHWIN MADIA – YEAH**

Y'all, here's our chance to flip the Third District after nearly 50 years of Republican control (We NEED this seat) with a young, smart Iraq War veteran who is committed to bringing our troops home, building a "green" economy, expanding educational opportunities, and breaking our nation's addiction to foreign oil.

US Representative – District 4 (St Paul)

BETTY MCCOLLUM – YEAH

Betty stands up for children, the environment, soldiers, low-income people and civil liberties. She's particularly interested in international issues—from genocide in Darfur to US military action in Latin America. We want her to keep it going in District 4!

US Representative – District 5 (Minneapolis)

KEITH ELLISON – OH HELL YEAH

Ellison is our man. He takes young people seriously. He's proposed legislation for national same-day voter registration, is a key figure pushing for Green Jobs, and is fighting for college tax credits for room/board, books and fees. He's pushing GLBT issues in Congress, and cosponsored articles of impeachment against Bush! One caveat: we're angry about Ellison's bailout vote.

US Representative – District 6

****EL TINKLENBERG – YEAH**

Tinklenberg is a fine guy—he's serious about renewable energy and higher ed access—but compared to his opponent, Michelle Bachmann, he's a saint. Bachmann (MN's answer to Sarah Palin), has voted against children's health care (!), veterans' benefits, and public safety. She's against teaching evolution and believes global warming is a "voodoo hoax." So for the love of all things rational, vote Tinklenberg.

BALLOT ISSUES

STATE REFERENDA

CLEAN WATER, WILDLIFE, CULTURAL HERITAGE, & NATURAL AREAS (AKA VOTE YES MINNESOTA) – YES, WITH RESERVATIONS

This amendment to our state constitution would mandate an increase sales tax (about \$1/week for the average family) to ensure that our state has the money it needs to protect the outdoors and the arts. We love the outdoors. We love art. But a constitutional amendment? We support this initiative, but fear this is a slippery slope.

MINNEAPOLIS REFERENDA

STRONG SCHOOLS, STRONG CITIES REFERENDUM (AKA VOTE YES FOR KIDS) – YES

In order for all kids in the MPLS Public Schools to succeed, we need serious improvement in early literacy, math and science education, technology and text books, and small class size. And we've got to pay for them. This referendum raises property taxes to ensure our kids get the education they deserve. We need to ensure that the next generation of kids get quality education.

MINNEAPOLIS ABC REFERENDUM – NO

This is a very serious issue and we did not make this decision lightly. This Referendum would change the way MPLS School Board members are elected. Rather than being elected "at large," members would be elected by geographical area (like the park board). Public education is an area of huge concern for the League and we believe that the MPLS schools are in serious trouble—with underfunding, racial disparities and miserable test scores, to name a few problems. To make real, substantive change we need board members who look at the big picture, who have the entire district in mind rather than battling on behalf of their specific neighborhood. While we oppose the referendum at this critical moment for the district, we do think that this is an issue that could and should be revisited once MPLS public schools are more stable.

WHO WE ARE... We are young people from the Twin Cities who are pissed off at politics as usual and want to have a say in the policies that govern our lives. There are a whole lot of us, and if politicians want our votes they need to get serious about the issues we face every day.

WHAT WE WANT... At the end of the day, what we want is simple—a fair chance to get an education, a job and a place to live in a safe and sustainable world regardless of sex, race, class, identity or ability. We pay taxes, we vote and we want to live in a country that respects young people and invests in us to succeed. We're not asking for handouts. We're demanding fairness and smarter priorities.

WE DID THE RESEARCH... And man was it a lot of work! Here are the candidates we think best reflect the needs and values of young people in the Twin Cities. But as LeVar Burton always said, "You don't have to take my word for it"—We HIGHLY encourage you to do your own research as well!

HIT US UP!

FOR QUESTIONS OR TO GET INVOLVED, CONTACT CAMILLE: CAMILLE@THELEAGUE.COM, OR CALL 651.414.6040. TO SEE THE SLATE ONLINE, GO TO WWW.THEBALLOT.ORG.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

WHEN, WHERE:

★ Polls are open on Nov 4, 7am - 8pm.

★ To find out where you vote, go to: <http://maps.google.com/vote>

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO VOTE:

★ If you have been convicted of a felony, your right to vote is automatically restored when you finish probation/parole; if you are off paper, you can register and vote.

★ If you need assistance with a disability or a language other than English, you can bring someone with you into the polls to mark your ballot.

★ Out-of-state college students: you can vote absentee in your home state OR you can register to vote in MN (but not both)

★ You have the right to be absent from work, to vote, for up to two hours on the morning of Election Day—without reduction in pay.

★ YOU CAN TAKE THIS ENDORSEMENT SLATE INTO THE VOTING BOOTH

REGISTERING TO VOTE:

★ Register by October 14th so your name is on the voter rolls on Election Day, OR....

★ Election Day Registration -- bring proof of who you are and where you live to your polling place:

OPTION 1: MN driver's license, MN state ID, or photo tribal ID (ID can be expired, address must be current)

OPTION 2: A photo ID + a current utility bill in your name

OPTION 3: A voucher -- someone registered to vote in your precinct who can swear that you live there

VOTER HOTLINES

If you have any questions about where or how to vote, or if anything sketchy or confusing goes down, call:

1-866-OUR-VOTE

If you need a ride to the polls, call:

1-877-NOV-2008

TWIN CITIES LEAGUE OF PISSED-OFF VOTERS

<http://theleague.com/tc>



2008
ENDORSEMENT SLATE

Paid for by the League of Young Voters PAC and Not Authorized by any Candidate or Candidate's Committee. League of Young Voters PAC, 45 Main Street, Suite 628, Brooklyn, NY 11201, Robert Baker, Treasurer.

STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MINNEAPOLIS

State Representative—District 58A

JOE MULLERY – WELL, OKAY

Mullery has become something of a leader in finding solutions to the home foreclosure crisis. But he’s been around for a LONG time and doesn’t seem to have kept up with his changing district. This is a seat young people should look at running for.

State Representative—District 58B

BOBBY JOE CHAMPION – HELL YEAH

The name says it all: Bobby Joe is a champion in our book. He is pushing living wage jobs, Universal health care and has taken the bold stance that we cannot “arrest away” public safety concerns. Instead, we must invest in more and better youth programming and education.

State Representative—District 59A

DIANE LOFFLER – YEAH

Diane takes her job seriously and has worked really hard on our state health care system.

State Representative—District 59B

PHYLLIS KAHN – WELL, OKAY

Phyllis Kahn is Latin for “cog in the DFL machine.” She has held this position since 1972—before any of us were even a twinkle in our moms’ eyes. She votes just fine—and she has really pushed for lowering the voting age to 16. But 36 years? Really?

State Representative—District 60A

MARGARET ANDERSON KELLIHER – YEAH

Kelliher holds it down at the Capitol, as Minnesota’s Speaker of the House. She’s put a lot of energy into supporting new candidates for the legislature—especially women—in order to build a solid progressive majority. She is responsible for the *only* override of a Pawlenty veto (on the Transportation Bill).

State Representative—District 60B

FRANK HORNSTEIN – HELL YEAH

With an extensive background in community organizing, Hornstein has fought hard for young people, GLBT people, immigrants, public transit riders, workers and students (YOU, probably). He has aggressively pushed for renewable energy, public transit, and affordable health care.

SAINT PAUL

State Representative—District 64A

ERIN MURPHY – YEAH

Murphy is a solid DFLer in a very solid DFL district. She took a bold vote to keep the separation between immigration and law enforcement. Given the “safety” of this district, we’d like to see young people push their elected officials to take even more courageous stances.

Representative District 64B

MICHAEL PAYMAR – HELL YEAH

Dang. Paymar is a hard-working champion on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault legislation, public safety and civil rights. He’s got our love.

State Representative—District 65A

CY THAO – YEAH

Where in the world is Cy Thao? We like Thao, he’s a great artist, but on some big issues facing his ward and the Hmong community—light rail, for example—his leadership has been notably missing.

State Representative - District 65B

CARLOS MARIANI – YEAH

Mariani has been a true champion of racial justice at the capital. We love him for that. We only wish he’d step up his game on other progressive issues. Shout out to Mariani’s son-- a great example for young people and an excellent poet.

State Representative—District 61A

SEN. KAREN CLARK – HELL YEAH

Clark represents the poorest district in the state and scores high on the “Racial Justice Report Card.” She’s good on choice issues & comprehensive sex education. She’s good on civil rights. She’s good on K-12 and higher education. She’s good on climate change and environmental issues. What can we say - she’s just good. No, she’s GREAT.

State Representative—District 61B

FARHEEN HAKEEM – HELL YEAH

This is a tight race. And straight up: we think her opponent, Jeff Hayden, is a great candidate. But Farheen (Green Party) is incredibly accessible to the people in her district, and really committed to young people. She has been serious about renewable energy & environmental justice long before it got sexy. We endorse Hakeem because she’s clearer on the issues, but this is a tough one—you make the final call.

State Representative—District 62A

JIM DAVNIE – HELL YEAH

Thank you, Jim Davnie, for all the work you’ve done for us and our communities. A teacher and union activist, Davnie fights for good schools and sits on the Green Jobs task force. A special thank you for going after predatory lenders, and for offering protection and aid to homeowners and renters facing foreclosures.

State Representative—District 62B

JEAN WAGENIUS – YEAH

Wagenius has done a lot to protect the environment. We need her to step up her leadership in other areas, particularly on issues of racial justice.

State Representative—District 63A

PAUL THISSEN – YEAH

Representing a more conservative, largely suburban district, Thissen has to do a lot of compromising to make moderate reforms to health care, welfare, and social security. We admire his steadiness on this. Moving forward, we’d like to see him fight more for health care for poor and immigrant families and worry less about insurance companies’ profits.

State Representative—District 66A

JOHN LESCH – YEAH

Lesch is a strong DFLer in a DFL kind of district. We could do a lot worse but could also push him to be better.

State Representative—District 66B

ALICE HAUSMAN – YEAH

Hey does this sound familiar? Hausman is a strong DFLer in a DFL kind of district. Good on education funding.

State Representative—District 67A

TIM MAHONEY – YEAH

Mahoney supports green jobs and Minnesota Care, the League supports green jobs and Minnesota Care. If the League were an older white guy we might in fact look like Mahoney. Then again, what are the chances of that?

State Representative - District 67B

SHELDON JOHNSON – YEAH

Hey St. Paul, have you heard this before? Johnson is a solid DFLer, blah, blah, blah.

JUDGES

Wow. Judges are so hard to endorse: they’re non-partisan and all claim to uphold a fair and impartial interpretation of the law. This is frustrating because a lot of our people have more face time with judges than with any other elected official. We only endorsed in contested races.

MINNEAPOLIS & ST. PAUL

Associate Justice - Supreme Court 3 (State)

PAUL H. ANDERSON – YEAH

Don’t let the grey hair fool you on this one; Anderson’s got us in mind. He is known for calling out the “crisis” of racial inequality in the MN judicial system and looks for alternative options to incarceration. An avid biker, you may see him on a greenway near you.

Associate Justice - Supreme Court 4 (State)

NO ENDORSEMENT (HELL NO on both)

Lorie Skjerven Gildea is a conservative Pawlenty appointee who is especially bad on prisoner and ex-felon issues. Hedlund is a rabid right wing-Christian homophobe who’s campaigning hard in Greater MN. Why the hell are these our only choices for Supreme Court?!

Judge - Court of Appeals - Seat 16

TERRI J. STONEBURNER – YEAH

Stoneburner is both a good judge and highly active in her community. More importantly, her opponent is a member of one of the most restrictive, right-wing evangelical churches in Northern Minnesota.

MINNEAPOLIS

Judge - 4th District Court - Seat 9

PHILIP D. BUSH – HELL YEAH

Judge Bush is one of the best, more justice-oriented judges we’ve got in Hennepin County. He makes sure all voices are truly heard. A community group that works against police brutality said of Bush, “After all the monkeyshines we’ve seen by Hennepin County judges, it is refreshing to find a judge who takes his job seriously and is willing to actually see justice done.”

Judge - 4th District Court - Seat 53

JANE RANUM – HELL YEAH

For the record, Ranum’s opponent, David L. Piper, is a great, highly-qualified candidate. But we’re incredibly impressed by Ranum, who years of experience in the Hennepin County Attorney’s office and the Minnesota Senate. Ranum held the first hearings in Minnesota on racial profiling, and authored the first racial profiling legislation. She prosecuted groundbreaking domestic violence cases, fought for increased funding for Legal Aid, and opposed Pawlenty’s anti-immigrant legislation.

Judge - 4th District Court - Seat 58

NO ENDORSEMENT

This race aint pretty. Haeg’s run is apparently a bit of a vendetta about the reshuffling of his job. And according to a family court lawyer, “[Swenson’s] judgeship has been the epitome of personal power, to the detriment of public service.” Our digging for real insight only revealed gossip. Not pretty.

ST. PAUL

Judge - 2nd District Court - Seat 21

GAIL CHANG BOHR – YEAH

Chang Bohr is an advocate and activist for kids. She’s spent the last 13 years as the Executive Director of Children’s Law Center of Minnesota, making sure that kids have a voice and real representation in the courts. She’s fair, ethical and smart.

MINNEAPOLIS SCHOOL BOARD

For this race, you will be asked to CHOOSE UP TO 3 CANDIDATES. This has been a hard race to endorse because frankly, we’re not very impressed by the pool (and we want to be impressed—this is a critical time for our schools!).

CARLA BATES – HELL YEAH

Carla has three kids in MPLS public schools. She’s honest, ethical and gutsy. She believes in small class size, community and parent involvement in schools, and is committed to tackling racial and cultural disparities in the district. Carla would be the only gay or lesbian council member at a time when schools are grappling with issues of gender and sexuality.

Choose two more from this pool of “WELL, OKAY” candidates. These three have all proven their commitment to a specific constituency. We didn’t want to pick—and in effect, pit constituencies against one another. DO NOT vote for Reed (a homeschool mother who doesn’t believe in public schools) or Mann (a perennial candidate who is absolutely unimpressive)!

SHARON HENRY-BLYTHE, JILL DAVIS, LYDIA LEE – WELL, OKAY

SOIL AND WATER COMMISSIONER

“This race is AWKWARD,” said one candidate. We couldn’t agree more. It’s nearly impossible to find out what they do, or why they’re running. YOU try calling Tom Peterson, District Manager: 651.266.7272. Most say they’ll make the lakes healthier using “Rain Gardens” (indigenous gardens that capture ground flow). Huh? Awkward.

MINNEAPOLIS

Soil and Water Supervisor District 3

JAMES WISKER – YEAH

Wisker understands that rural and urban communities have different environmental problems, and believes in working in partnership with communities. Guess you can’t argue with that.

Soil and Water Supervisor District 5

NO ENDORSEMENT

Karl Hanson is an avid Ron Paul supporter and a patent lawyer, while Jeffery Beck is a thrice failed mayoral and county commissioner candidate who recommends getting kids out of Chinese class so they can learn to mow the lawn. You choose.

ST. PAUL

Soil and Water Supervisor District 2

NO ENDORSEMENT

We tried, folks. What little info we had wasn’t enough to endorse on.

Soil and Water Supervisor District 3

PAUL SAWYER – YEAH

Paul is a young guy. We like his passion. In his own words, “Being a young person, I have a sense of urgency about these issues, because I will have to live with the conservation decisions made today for the next fifty or sixty years...Our resources are too valuable to ignore any longer.”

COUNTY COMMISSIONER

ST. PAUL

County Commissioner District 1

VICTORIA REINHARDT – YEAH

Reinhardt is committed to finding real, long-term solutions to crime and juvenile justice. The unions love her.