

# Oberstar Democracy Project



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## The Oberstar Democracy Project

In a speech planned for an ill-fated day in November, 1963, John F. Kennedy wrote, "Our duty is not to our party alone, but to the nation, and, indeed, to all mankind. Our duty is not merely the preservation of peace and freedom. Democracy is never a final achievement. It is a call to untiring effort, to continual sacrifice."

As a grass-roots leader, you understand the difference a clear, organized and pervasive effort can make in a contested election. You understand that every voice matters. Every vote counts.

This year, Democrats have a monumental opportunity in Minnesota. The Oberstar Democracy Project is your tool to stay connected to progressive issues in our state. As part of this Project, I will be issuing bi-weekly newsletters to keep you informed on the topics that will be front and center in this year's elections. I can't do it alone, however. I need your help!

Visit [www.oberstar.org](http://www.oberstar.org) to sign up for campaign updates, to volunteer, and to stay engaged.

*James L. Oberstar*

## Gearing Up for Campaign Season

The 2006 election cycle in Minnesota is already one of the most watched in the nation. In a non-Presidential election year, we are a battleground state.

This year, the DFL has the opportunity to win 3 U.S. House seats, retain a U.S. Senate seat, regain a Democratic majority in the Minnesota House, and put a Democrat back in the Governor's seat.

This election will be a referendum on the Bush Administration and its failed policies.

No more corruption, cronyism and scandals.

No more tax breaks to the rich while seniors struggle to pay for their medication.

No more skyrocketing fuel prices while oil companies reap record profits. No more war for oil.

## 8th Congressional District Convention Schedule Holiday Inn Center 200 West 1st Street, Duluth

### Friday, May 12

3:00 pm Nominations Committee

7:00 pm Rules and Constitution

### Saturday, May 13

8:00 am Credentials Committee

8:30 am Oberstar Hospitality Room

9:30 am Registration Begins

10:00 am Convention Begins

12:00 pm Endorsement Comm.

5:30 pm Dinner

No more!

Together, we will send the resounding message that Minnesota has values.

Your interest and participation in the election process will help guarantee that Minnesota can once again be a leader for our great nation.

I look forward to seeing you on the campaign trail!

# Jim Oberstar

## WORKING for you for minnesota

### Coordinated Campaign Opens Office in North Branch

Joe Ellickson has been hired by the Minnesota DFL to be the 8th Congressional District Field Director. Joe is available to all party units and endorsed candidates in the 8th District.

Joe previously worked for the DFL in the Field and Party Affairs Departments. He also worked on the Kerry-Edwards campaign as a surrogate organizer, and the R.T. Rybak campaign as a fundraiser.

Joe will be your liaison between the

state and local parties, as well as all campaigns in the 8th District.

I urge you to call Joe and introduce yourself. Don't hesitate to let him know what your local unit or campaign needs are.

Contact Joe Ellickson

Address: 5833 Pecan Street

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Joe Ellickson: 612-702-9968

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Joe Ellickson, 8th District Field Director

### The War in Iraq

When President Bush sent U.S. troops into Iraq, his administration misrepresented the facts and misled the Congress and the American people.

I did not vote for this war, I stood with 132 of my colleagues in vocal opposition to the untruths and misjudgments of this Administration.

The Iraqi military did not pose an imminent threat to the United States. There were no weapons of mass destruction. There was no significant connection between Iraq and Al Qaeda. There was no attempt to purchase "yellow cake" uranium.

There was only the Bush Administration's own agenda to overthrow Saddam, no matter what the cost to America.

The world united behind us after 9/11. That good will, that extraordinary unity of mankind, has been squandered.

Consider the cost. More than 2,400 U.S. military personnel dead, our treasury depleted, our standing in the international community diminished, resources diverted from the search for Bin Laden, our regular and reserve Armed Forces stretched beyond their limits, record high fuel prices, and a renewed sense of purpose by those in the world who would do us harm.

Three years ago, this Administration declared "Mission Accomplished!" in Iraq. Yet, today we are no closer to ending the war and bringing our troops home than we were then.

We must redouble our efforts to help the Iraqi people develop the ability to govern and protect themselves. We must bring our troops home, safely and soon, but we also must make sure that America's legacy in the Middle East and beyond is one of freedom, economic stability, and respect for the rule of law, not corruption and civil war, disarray and diminished respect for America.