

Oberstar Democracy Project



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Minnesota Primary Results

Minnesota's primary election took place on September 12. Turnout across the state was low, though up from an abysmal showing in 2004. Democratic turnout in the primary accounted for 66% of the votes cast. This is great news for Minnesota in November.

Recent scandals in Congress, the war in Iraq, the failed Medicare Part D plan, the incredibly slow response to Hurricane Katrina: these are all symbols of failed Republican leadership. Republicans currently control the House of Representatives, the Senate and the White House, and gas prices fluctuate with the approval rating of George Bush, our men and women in uniform are caught in the crossfire of a civil war, the levees in New Orleans are not yet capable of protecting the residents of that still devastated city, and millions of our seniors who were forced to sign up for a drug plan that benefited pharmaceutical companies are now in a donut hole, paying full price for their prescription drugs.

It is time to restore a Democratic majority to Congress; our country, our people, our very way of life deserves better.

James L. Oberstar



Lori Swanson
Candidate for Attorney General

After graduating Magna Cum Laude from William Mitchell College of Law in St. Paul, Lori went into private practice in Minneapolis. She served as Deputy Attorney General in the office of Minnesota Attorney General Mike Hatch from 1998—2002. Lori currently serves as Minnesota Solicitor General, a post she has held since January, 2003.

Lori says she is running for Attorney General to stand up for ordinary citizens against companies and criminals that break the law. If elected to that position, Lori says she will fight for HMO and health care reform and will crack down on pharmaceutical companies that price-gouge patients.

"I promise to hold companies accountable when they unlawfully stack the deck against our citizens while holding all the cards. I will fight for ordinary Minnesotans to keep Minnesota fair and safe," said Swanson.



Tony Lourey
Candidate for MN Senate 8

Kerrick native Tony Lourey's rural roots are evident in his desire to serve the public. "I'm running for this office because of my commitment to this area, it's people and our unique way of life," said Lourey, "I benefited tremendously from my experiences as a youth growing up in rural Minnesota, and I want to do all that I can to make this a better place to live, work and raise a family."

If elected, Tony says that quality education for every Minnesota child will be a top priority. "State funding cuts and increased reliance on local property taxes to support our schools have disproportionately harmed greater Minnesota school districts. We must work to achieve an equitable funding formula that ensures our kids have every opportunity to reach their fullest potential."

Lourey also says that access to affordable, quality healthcare and building strong rural economies will be priorities in his tenure.

Protecting and Strengthening Social Security

August 14th marked the 71st birthday of Social Security. In 1935, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Social Security Act into law. His intent was to protect future generations of Americans from the devastation and poverty of depressions.

As it has evolved, Social Security has become an immeasurable tool in preventing poverty and maintaining dignity for older and disabled Americans. Today, Social Security means economic security for more than 47 million.

Without Social Security benefits, 46.8% of older Americans would have incomes below the federal poverty line. Rod Grams' proposal calls for workers to invest 10% of the 12.4% they pay in to Social Security. The cost of his "savings

plan": \$13 trillion.

Switching to the "Grams Plan for Retirement Security" does absolutely nothing to extend the solvency of Social Security. In fact, it would financially devastate the Social Security program and the federal government, causing an *immediate* bankruptcy of the system. Creating individual accounts in the social security system would not only require the federal government to borrow more than \$2 trillion from foreign governments, increasing our national debt for the next 60 years, it would also put \$940 billion in the pockets of private financial firms in the form of fees.

Investing Social Security funds in the private market will destroy the sustainability of Social Security.

Retirees and disabled Americans would be subject to the whim of investors and the rise and fall of a tumultuous market.

It is time for the Congress to return to the basic principle of serving the people, not special interests. We now have the opportunity and the obligation to do the right thing by the American people. Social Security taxes should be used solely to pay for Social Security benefits, and the Congress should be required to pay back the money that the Republican majority raided from the Social Security Trust Fund to give to corporate special interests in the form of tax breaks.

[Social Security Calculator](#)

Calculate your Social Security Benefits under the President's privatization plan.

[Top 10 Myths About Social Security](#)

Primary Results Continued...



Tom Anzelc
Candidate for MN House 3A

A former teacher, county commissioner, labor official and Keewatin native, Tom Anzelc also served as an administrator with former Minnesota Governor Rudy Perpich. Anzelc has been endorsed by every labor group in District 3A.

"I'm running because I'm at a point in my life where I feel I can make a contribution," said Anzelc.

"When Irv (Anderson) decided to retire, I saw the need to protect and enhance our northern Minnesota way of life while giving our kids the tools they need to succeed. We also need help in dealing with the health care and pension crisis affecting workers in our state and country."

If elected, Anzelc listed his three top priorities: "I will fight for economic development and the creation of jobs that can sustain a family. I will be a leader in natural resource policy and advocacy, and I will work to restore the partnership between state and local government."

Anzelc has a "Community Revitalization Plan" that can be viewed at www.tomanzelc.com.

Lawn Sign Alert!



Campaign staff is out and about placing lawn signs in your area. If you would like to show your support for Jim by placing a lawn sign in your yard, please contact Blake at (218) 213-4586. Or, submit your request [here](#).



Be Engaged. Participate. Matter.

John Edwards Visits Duluth

On a recent trip to Minnesota, Senator John Edwards made a stop in Duluth. Senator Edwards was joined by Congressman Oberstar, Congressman David Obey (WI), Senate Candidate Amy Klobuchar, as well as current Minnesota legislators and other DFL candidates. Over 400 people showed up on a rainy September day for a DFL Unity Rally—2006 is the year we will take back the Minnesota House, regain the Governor's seat, elect the first woman Senator from the State of Minnesota, and we will take back the majority in Congress, turning the tide on this culture of corruption and lack of accountability and restoring dignity, compassion and leadership to this nation.



Jim Oberstar

WORKING for you 
for minnesota

E-mail _____

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

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Please contact me about—

The Oberstar Democracy Project

Volunteering

Traveling around MN to support Democrats

Placing a lawn sign in my yard

Writing a letter to the editor

Using my name and testimonial

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