

**Senate Elections Committee**

Wednesday, March 8, 2006

3:00 p.m., Room 107, State Capitol

The following committee members were present:

WIGER, Chuck, Chair  
FISHBACK, Michelle  
HIGGINS, Linda  
HOTTINGER, John  
KOCH, Amy  
LIMMER, Warren  
MARTY, John  
MARKO, Sharon  
PARISEAU, Pat  
SCHEID, Linda

The meeting was called to order at approximately 3:05 p.m. A quorum was present.

**I. Confirmation of Sven Wehrwein, Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board**

The Committee discussed the confirmation of Sven Wehrwein (DFL) to the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board.

Mr. Wehrwein gave a brief introduction and summary of his political background.

Committee discussion followed.

Senator Marty moved to appoint.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**II. Confirmation of Scott Heintzeman, Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board**

The Committee discussed the preliminary confirmation of Scott Heintzeman (R) to the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board. The Committee was not in possession of documentation, but wanted to hear both candidates at the same time.

Mr. Heintzeman gave a brief introduction and summary of his political background.

Committee discussion followed.

Senator Limmer moved to appoint.

**MOTION CARRIED**

Senator Marty questioned if any Independent Party members were on the Board and if members that were appointed five years ago were still on the Board.

Jean Olson of the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board responded.

**III. The Committee considered S.F. 1389: Changing the state primary from September to June (Higgins, L.)**

Peter Watson, Senate Counsel, clarified that the engrossment bill was left in committee last year.

Brian Malendez, Minnesota DFL Chair, spoke in support of the bill and responded to Committee questions.

Committee discussion followed.

Chris Georgacas, Co-Chair of the Task Force on Legislative Reform, spoke in support of the bill and responded to Committee questions.

Committee discussion followed.

Mike Franklin, Manager of Elections Policy for the Chamber of Commerce, spoke in support of the bill.

Senator Higgins moved to amend SCS1389E as follows:

Page 6, line 64, delete “6” and insert “7”

**MOTION CARRIED**

Senator Higgins moved to pass S.F. 1389.

Committee discussion followed.

Senator Higgins again moved to pass S.F. 1389 as amended.

Committee discussion followed.

Senator Limmer requested a roll call vote.

Yes: HIGGINS  
HOTTINGER  
MARKO  
SCHEID  
WIGER

No: FISHBACH  
KOCH  
LIMMER  
MARTY  
PARISEAU

**5-5, MOTION IS DEFEATED**

**IV. The Committee considered S.F. 1086: Early voting by absentee ballots (Higgins, L.)**

Senator Higgins introduced S.F. 1086.

No witnesses were present and Committee discussion followed.

Senator Higgins moved to amend S.F. 1086 as follows:

Delete everything with exception of Section 2

Committee discussion followed.

Peter Watson, Senate Counsel, informed that Section 3, lines 28 and 29 were amended by a previous bill. He recommended deleting sections 1 and 3-5 and inserting sections 3, A1.

Senator Higgins moved to amend S.F. 1086 as Peter Watson recommended.

Committee discussion followed.

Senator Fishbach requested a roll call vote.

Committee discussion followed.

Peter Watson informed the Committee on the status of the bill. The bill failed on its Third Reading and is not eligible to be heard.

**ALL MOTIONS WERE VOID**

**V. The Committee considered S.F. 2737: Allowing eligible voters to vote by absentee ballot under certain public health circumstances (Ranum, J).**

Senator Ranum introduced S.F. 2737.

Committee discussion followed.

Senator Higgins moved that S.F. 2737 be recommended to pass.

**MOTION CARRIED**

The Committee considered S.F. 385: Absentee ballot voting (Marty, J.)

Committee discussion began, but the matter was put later in the meeting because of missing materials.

**VI. The Committee considered S.F. 642: Instant runoff voting for cities (Marty, J.)**

Senator Marty introduced S.F. 642.

Committee discussion followed.

Bruce Kennedy of Roseville testified in support of the bill.

Committee discussion followed.

Senator Fishbach requested a roll call vote.

Senator Marty moved that S.F. 642 be recommended to pass.

Yes: HOTTINGER  
MARTY  
MARKO  
SCHEID  
WIGER

No: FISHBACH  
KOCH  
LIMMER  
PARISEAU

Absent: HIGGINS

**5-4, MOTION CARRIED**

**VII. The Committee considered S.F. 385: Absentee ballot voting (Marty, J.)**

Senator Marty introduced S.F. 385 and made a motion to pass amendment A-1.

**MOTION CARRIED**

Senator Marty explained amendment A-2.

Beth Fraser of the Voting Rights Coalition testified in support of the bill.

Committee discussion followed.

Rachel Smith, Superintendent of Elections in Anoka, testified in support of the bill.

Senator Marty moved to pass S.F. 385 as amended.

Senator Pariseau requested a roll call vote.

Yes: HOTTINGER  
MARTY  
MARKO  
SCHEID  
WIGER

No: FISHBACH  
KOCK  
LIMMER  
PARISEAU

Absent: HIGGINS

**5-4, MOTION CARRIED**

**VIII. The Committee Considered S.F. 2758: School district election provisions (Wiger, C.)**

Senator Wiger introduced S.F. 2758.

Thomas Deans, legal counsel and lobbyist for the Minnesota School Board Association, explained section 1 of the bill.

Kirk Schneidawind, Associate Director of Governmental Relations for the School Board Association, explained sections 4-6 of the bill.

Committee discussion followed.

Senator Scheid proposed deleting section 4 of S.F. 2758.

Committee discussion followed.

Senator Scheid moved to amend SCS2758 as follows:

Page 2, delete section 4

**MOTION CARRIED**

Committee discussion followed.

Senator Wiger moved to pass S.F. 2758 as amended.

Bruce Kennedy of Roseville testified in support of the bill.

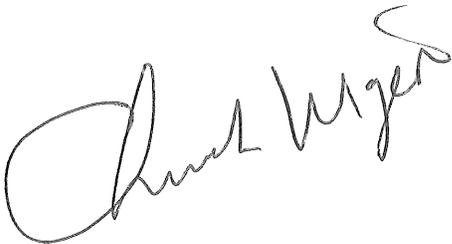
Senator Wiger restated the motion to pass.

**MOTION CARRIED**

S.F. 2476, which was on the agenda, will be heard on Monday, March 13, 2006

The meeting was taped. The meeting adjourned at approximately 5:35p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Senator Chuck Wiger, Chair  
*Senate Elections Committee*



Gretchen Walczak, Legislative Assistant  
*Senate Elections Committee*

# Senate Elections Committee

**Chair: Senator Chuck Wiger**

Wednesday, March 8, 2006

Room 107, Capitol

3:00-5:30 p.m.

## Agenda

- I. Confirmation of Sven Wehrwein, Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board
- II. Confirmation of Scott Heintzeman, Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board
- III. S.F. 1389-Higgins: Changing the state primary from September to June
  - a. Brian Malendez, Chair, MN DFL
  - b. Mike Franklin, Manager of Elections Policy, Chamber of Commerce
  - c. Chris Georgacas, Co-Chair of the Task Force on Legislative Reform
- IV. S.F. 1086-Higgins: Early voting by absentee ballot
- V. S.F. 2737-Ranum: Allowing eligible voters to vote by absentee ballot under certain public health circumstances
- VI. S.F. 642-Marty: Instant runoff voting for cities
  - a. Bruce Kennedy, Roseville
- VII. S.F. 385-Marty: Absentee ballot voting
  - a. Beth Fraser, Voting Rights Coalition
  - b. Rachel Smith, Supervisor of Elections, Anoka County
- VIII. S.F. 2758-Wiger: School district election provisions
  - a. Kirk Schneidawind, Associate Director of Governmental Relations, MN School Boards Association
  - b. Thomas Deans, Legal Counsel/Lobbyist, MN School Boards Association
  - c. Bruce Kennedy, Roseville

