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REPORT ON A REGIONAL PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY IN 1992

The Secretary of State was authorized by the legislature (Laws of 1990, c 603, s 11) to determine the feasibility of conducting a regional presidential primary on April 7, 1992, the date of the presidential primary in Minnesota. This will be the first presidential primary election conducted in Minnesota since 1956. Presidential primaries were also held in 1916 and 1952.

In July, 1989 contacts were made with the chief election officials of states in the Midwest region. A brief summary of their responses is listed below, along with the date of their primaries in 1992.

Illinois	March 17	Proposed changes recently defeated
Indiana	May 5	No response received
Iowa	(caucus)	Unlikely to move to primary
Kansas	April 7	Primary on same day as Minnesota
Michigan	March 17	Unlikely to change date of primary
Missouri	(caucus)	May be interested in April primary
Nebraska	May 12	May be interested in April primary
North Dakota	June 9	Unlikely to change date of primary
Ohio	May 5	May be interested in April primary
South Dakota	February 25	No interest in a regional primary
Wisconsin	April 7	Primary on same day as Minnesota

Based on the contacts made with these states, there seems to be some level of interest in conducting a regional presidential primary. There is some disagreement concerning the proposed date

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of such a primary however and this may prove a substantial impediment to the establishment of a regional primary.

For example, Michigan expressed some interest in a regional presidential primary, but given the difficulty experienced in the legislature in the establishment of a primary date in 1988, it is unlikely that the date could be moved to April 7 in 1992. In Illinois, the legislature recently rejected two bills designed to change the date of the presidential from its current date in March. The North Dakota legislature recently established a June state primary election and would be unlikely to authorize an April primary due to the cost of conducting an additional statewide election.

The states of Minnesota, Wisconsin and Kansas are currently scheduled to conduct a presidential primary on April 7, 1992. Combined, these states comprise approximately 5% of the nation's population. All have similar economic and social characteristics. Minnesota and Wisconsin share several media markets, such as Duluth-Superior and the Minneapolis-St Paul market (of which approximately 17% is located in western Wisconsin). Even without further action on the part of other states, it seems likely that candidates will be interested in campaigning in Minnesota and Wisconsin next year, given the geographic and logistical circumstances.

Although Wisconsin currently holds its presidential primary on the same date scheduled for Minnesota's presidential primary, the president of the Wisconsin Senate has indicated that he is adamantly opposed to Wisconsin being part of a regional presidential primary.

It would seem most productive for Minnesota to follow up during this year's legislative session with the states of Missouri and Nebraska. Missouri currently is scheduled to conduct local elections on April 7 and may be interested in conducting their presidential primary on that date as well. In 1988, Missouri conducted its presidential primary in concert with other states on "Super Tuesday". The Missouri legislature has subsequently decided that it does not wish to be a part of that primary schedule in 1992 and has tentatively decided to return to an April caucus. Nebraska has indicated a tentative interest in conducting an April 7 primary, and may be further encouraged by the actions of adjacent states (Kansas, Missouri). Direct contact with those states on the legislative level would seem the most appropriate method of proceeding at this point.

It might also be beneficial to make contact with legislators in Ohio (and perhaps in Indiana, which shares Ohio's primary date), since there may well be support for a regional primary in April. However, there have been changes in key elected officials in Ohio since contact was made with them in 1990 and these changes may have an impact on the interest expressed earlier by Ohio officials.

Summary
1992 Presidential Primary Election

I. Selected Dates

December 17	First day to file affidavits of candidacy
December 31	Last day to file affidavits of candidacy
January 28	Last day to submit nominating petitions
February 11	Last day to decline nomination by petition
March 6	Begin absentee voting
April 7	Presidential primary election
April 21	State canvass of presidential primary election

II. Estimated Costs

State Costs:	\$650,000
Local Costs:	\$2,500,000