

REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Representative Erik Paulsen, Chair of the Redistricting Committee, called the tenth meeting to order at 2:35 P.M. on Tuesday, March 20, 2001, in Room 500 South of the State Office Building.

The Clerk noted the roll.

Members present:

PAULSEN, Erik, Chair
RIFENBERG, Michelle, Vice Chair
ABRAMS, Ron
ANDERSON, Irv
BOUDREAU, Lynda
GRAY, Gregory

KNOBLACH, Jim
MARIANI, Carlos
PELOWSKI, Gene
SEIFERT, Marty
TINGELSTAD, Kathy

Members excused: LUTHER, Darlene

A quorum was present.

Rep. Boudreau moved the minutes. **The motion prevailed.**

Holle Brian and Chris Allison, Minnesota Green Party, presented the Minnesota Green Party's views on redistricting and answered questions from the committee.


Mary McEvoy, associate chair of the Minnesota DFL Party, presented the Minnesota DFL Party's views on redistricting and answered questions from the committee.

Cedric Scofield, Minnesota Reform Party, presented the views of the Minnesota Reform Party on redistricting and answered questions from the committee.

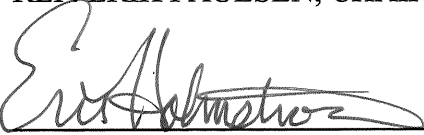
Rick McCluhan, State Chair of the Independence Party, presented the views of the Independence Party on redistricting and answered questions from the committee.

Bill Walsh, Republican Party, presented the views of the Republican Party of Minnesota on redistricting and answered questions from the committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 P.M.



REP. ERIK PAULSEN, CHAIR



Erik Holmstrom
Committee Legislative Assistant

HOUSE COMMITTEE TAPE LOG

TAPE: 1 of 2

COMMITTEE: Redistricting

START TIME: 2:40

DIVISION/SUBC: _____

CHAIR: Paulsen

SIDE: A

PAGE: 1 of

DATE: March 20, 2001

REVOLUTIONS:

LOG:

2:40

Meeting called to order & vote. Minutes approved

2:41

Testify - Halle, Brian - Green Party

2:53

Testify - Chris Allison - Green Party

3:04

Questions

3:13

Ken Pentel - Testify - Green Party

3:14

Questions

3:17

Testify - Mary McEvoy - AFL

3:19

Questions

3:27

Testify - Cedric Scofield - Reform Party

3:38

Questions

Side B

Tape Change - Side A -> B

3:53

Testify - Rick McLuhan - Independence Party

4:02

Questions

4:14

Testify - Bill Walsh - GOP

4:34

Questions

Tape 2

Tape Change - Tape 1 -> Tape 2

4:52

Meeting adjourned

COMMITTEE ON REDISTRICTING
REP. ERIK PAULSEN, CHAIR

MEETING: Tuesday, March 20, 2001
2:30 P.M.
Room 500 South, State Office Building

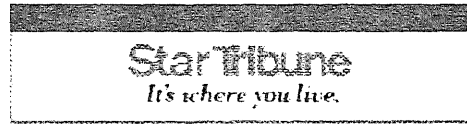
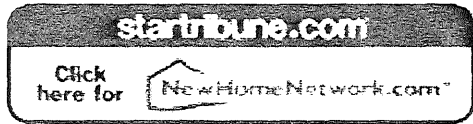
AGENDA

- I. Call to Order.
- II. Roll Call.
- III. Approval of Minutes: March 13, 2001.
- IV. Testimony from Minnesota's political parties on redistricting.

Green Party of Minnesota: Holly Bryan and Chris Allison
Minnesota DFL Party: Mary McEvoy
Reform Party of Minnesota: Cedric Scofield
Independence Party: Rick McCluhan
Republican Party of Minnesota: Bill Walsh
Representatives of any other parties in attendance.
- V. Adjournment.

Next meeting: March 27, 2001

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Classifieds

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 To select more than one area, **Command+Click** (Apple+Click) (Macintosh), or
CTRL+Click (Windows). Then click on search.
 Click on an area's name to view a map.

City of Minneapolis

- None
- Calhoun
- Camden
- Central

South of the River

- None
- Apple Valley
- Belle Plaine Area
- Burnsville

Suburbs

NW, SW, and West

- None
- Bloomington E
- Bloomington W
- Brooklyn Ctr

St. Paul

- None
- Btl Crk/SE St. Paul
- Cherokee/Riverview
- Como

Submit Query

North and East

- None
- Andover
- Anoka
- Arden Hills/Shrw

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Reform Party
of Minnesota
P.O. Box 19161, Minneapolis, MN 55419-0161

Robert Laguban, Chair
Phone: 612 827 3763
Cedric Scofield, Government Affairs Representative
Phone: 612 459 9408

Comments for the Minnesota House Redistricting Committee
March 20, 2001 presented by Cedric Scofield

My name is Cedric Scofield. I reside in Newport, Minnesota and I am addressing you as a representative of the Minnesota Reform Party.

Mr. Chair, and members of the committee, thank you for allowing us to comment at this hearing.

First, I will make a suggestion, for a practice to use in redistricting, and then make a suggestion for dealing with the statutes, rules and legal precedents involved.

The Reform Party exists, because more than half the eligible voters are not connected with the bipartisan, politics as usual, politically correct, major parties. I do not see anything in the redistricting rules or principles that speak directly to seeking to have districts that voters identify with more easily, in an effort to have a better democratic representative process by establishing better public opinion and reform to connect with more voters.

My suggestion, as to a practice, is to look at using real estate sales classifications as a model for the structure of the districts in the Minneapolis/St. Paul metro area that includes more than two-thirds of the Minnesota population.

Voters identify, naturally with real estate sales classifications, because those classifications are a reflection of the natural demographics of communities, and neighborhoods.

The Minneapolis/St. Paul area has five large real estate sales classifications. They are: St. Paul; City of Minneapolis; Suburbs South of the River; Suburbs SW, West and NW; and Suburbs North and East.

The voters in the suburban areas relate more to their adjacent rural areas than they do to a second or third ring suburb on the other side of the metro area.

Voters in out state areas, adjacent to a suburb, relate more to the suburb than they do to the out state, far corners of the state.

The real estate sales classifications are reflective of the increased population in the suburbs as compared to St. Paul/Minneapolis proper and out state Minnesota.

Conceptually, this model may not only allow the suburban districts, but also the out state districts, to be more "Community of Interest", "Convenient Contiguous" and "compact" than they are now.

More importantly, this model may have better public opinion because it reconnects voters, more naturally, with demographic geography.

Within Minneapolis, St. Paul, and the largest suburbs, the neighborhoods are identified with real estate sales classifications that represent the natural demographics of the neighborhoods.

Likewise, the smaller suburban communities are grouped in real estate sales classifications by their natural demographics.

I hope that suggestion is helpful.

Discussing all the rules, etc. involved is more difficult. My suggestion, as to this more difficult part is, get back to the basics and keep it simple.

Try to see it, the way those of us who are not "politics as usual" or "politically correct" would see it by keeping in mind the "secure the blessings of liberty" idea that is primary in the preambles to the United States, and Minnesota, constitutions that you swore to uphold.

Seek to secure the blessing of liberty by not overwhelming the process with rules and procedures.

Please think in terms of being non-partisan. Many of us feel left out when government act in a bi-partisan manner because we are part of the majority, who are not democrat or republican.

After looking at the statutes, rules, precedents, principles, constitutional provisions, etc. relating to redistricting, I had several thoughts.

One thought was that, this is another example of what Philip K. Howard wrote about in his 1995 best selling book, *The Death of Common Sense* - about how 1970s and 1980s statutes, and government rules for every aspect of everything, are suffocating America.

A second thought was that this is politics as usual, and political correctness, at it worst.

A third thought was that all of the rules combine to legalize gerry mandering.

An over riding thought was that the statutes, rules and precedents, set the stage for what we saw, as the 2000 Presidential election was decided, after election day. We saw that there are enough conflicting and related laws and precedents, that

every branch of government - executive, legislative and judicial, at every level - local, state and federal, can and will find a way to justify doing almost anything they have to, to try accomplish their partisan results.

James G. Blaine, a political reformer, U.S. Congressman, Speaker of the House, and Secretary of State, in the mid 1800s is famous for an Americanism quote. He said, "What is needed is not more law, but a better public opinion."

Focusing on how redistricting will result in a better public opinion will do more good than focusing on accommodating all the conflicting rules, that can not be accommodated any way

An example of how this, the back to basics, keep its simple, approach works, in public opinion, can be illustrated by discussing reaction to "Racial Profiling".

When I hear or read about racial profiling, two thoughts come to mind. One is, "It is the Bill of Rights stupid!!!". Specifically, if the basic ideas of, secure the blessings of liberty, probable cause, and due process had not been undone by legislators, statutes and associated court decisions, racial profiling would not be an issue.

The second thought is, "What about gender profiling?". If you look past the politics as usual, and political correctness, of racial profiling and looked at gender profiling in traffic stops for nebulous reason, the profiling that results in unwarranted traffic stops would be even more obvious. Now, seat belt laws, that would make the unwarranted "profiling" stops problem even worse, are being considered.

That demonstrates how public opinion suffers because too many laws muddle the issues. Redistricting is a good place re-form, with establishing better public opinion, in mind.

I encourage you to consider Rutherford Hayes famous comment in his inaugural address. He said, "He serves his party best who serves his country best."

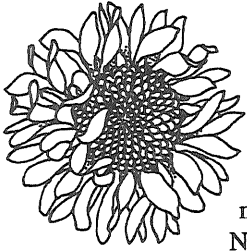
In closing, when considering redistricting, please think about, The Dream of Deliverance in American Politics. That is the title of a book written in the later 1980's by Mona Harrington, a Political Science professor and author.

This discusses - how politics have failed to deliver the "dream" because politics as usual and political correctness result in domestic and foreign policy that are reactions to perceived evil - and the real political policy considerations are not liberal or conservative, but they are a combination of localist, functionalist and majoritarian policy influences, that respond to various economic group interests.

That demonstrates again that, "What we need is not more laws, but better public opinion.", that will not be accomplished by politics as usual and political correctness in redistricting.

I hope these comments are helpful.

The Green Party of Minnesota



The international Green movement has its roots in the cultural and political renaissance of the 1960s: the movement to stop the Viet Nam war; the struggle

for nuclear disarmament; the civil rights movement and the development of non-violent strategies of resistance; community political organizing; a recognition of the need for women's liberation; and the movement to protect our environment from human destruction.

Green Parties in the United States have been forming since the 1980s to create an independent political movement to promote ecological wisdom, social and economic justice, grassroots democracy and non-violence. The Green Party promotes these values by running and electing candidates; initiatives and referendums; promoting legislation; and through education and issue activism. The Green Party of Minnesota was founded in 1994 by the Minnesota Greens Confederation. In 2000 the GPMN ran Ralph Nader and Winona LaDuke for president and vice-president, resulting in the Green Party becoming a major party in Minnesota.

Around the globe, there are Green parties in over 80 countries on six continents, and the Green Party is part of majority coalitions in six European parliaments.

Where We Stand

The international Green movement is inspired by four "pillars": ecology, nonviolence, social and economic justice, and grassroots democracy. The Green Party of Minnesota strives to build a society in which all can lead full and productive lives in harmony with each other and with nature.

THE MINNESOTA GREENS STAND FOR:

- A society in which wealth and power are distributed broadly among all the people rather than concentrated in the hands of a few.
- An economy that makes communities more self-sufficient and self-reliant.
- Vigorous public action to combat discrimination on the basis of race, sex, ethnicity, and sexual orientation.
- An international trade policy that promotes the rights of labor and protection of the environment worldwide.
- The development of clean and sustainable sources of energy to replace ecologically harmful energy sources.
- Land use policies that promote mass transit and pedestrian neighborhoods over suburban sprawl.
- A woman's right to full reproductive choice.
- The promotion of family farming over corporate farming, and organic farming over chemically-dependent farming.
- Respect for Native American treaty rights.
- Waste management policies that place their highest emphasis on waste reduction.



For more information about the Green Party of Minnesota, call:

(612) 871-4585

mngreens@juno.com

www.jimn.org/gpm

Mail to:

Green Party of Minnesota

P.O. Box 582931

Minneapolis, MN 55458

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- I would like to become a member of the Green Party of Minnesota
(no membership fee required.)
- I would like to subscribe to *The Sunflower* quarterly newspaper
Annual subscription price: \$12 for 4 issues
- I would like to donate \$ _____ to the Green Party of Minnesota
(up to \$50 a year per individual is refundable from the state of Minnesota)
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to help keep the Green Party of Minnesota growing!

Total amount enclosed \$ _____

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MN Green Party Contacts and Locals

Bemidji/Headwaters GP
Kyle Crocker
(218) 751-9014
kcrocker@spacestar.net

Jok County
Stephan Hoglund
(218) 387-1752
stephan@boreal.org

Clay County
Robert Kupec
(218) 287-2508
rjkupec@i29.net

Crow Wing/Brainerd GP
Steven Neils
(218) 828-0952
znils@yahoo.com

Dakota County
Patti Hurd
(651) 683-0228
pattih2@aol.com

Duluth Area GP
Joel Sipress
(218) 724-4624
jsipress@computerpro.com

Isanti County GP
Karen Roertgen
(763) 689-0176
karenr@fpsoftware.net

**Itasca County/
Grand Rapids GP**
Jeremiah Ryan
(218) 246-9180
holyboy@paulbunyan.net

Mankato/District 24 GP
Cheryl Lee
(507) 388-2841
cherlee@mctcnet.net

**Minneapolis/
5th District GP**
Cam Gordon
(612) 332-6210
gordo030@gold.tc.umn.edu

Northfield GP
Brian Karlsson-Barnes
(507) 645-2527
hgardens@charter.net

Ottertail County GP
Joe Merz
(218) 826-7378
merz@prtcl.com

Pine County
Jay Hanson
(320) 384-7240

**Olmsted County/
Rochester GP**
Bill Eaton
(507) 285-5774
weeaton5@aol.com

St. Cloud GP
Andy Hamerlinck
(320) 363-3417
achamerlinc@csbsju.edu

St. Paul GP
Tim Jordan
(651) 690-0294
two@bitstream.net

Stevens County
James Moore
(320) 589-4483
afscme@info-link.net

Wadena/District 11 GP
Nelle Apissomian
(218) 631-4513
eldemelle@netscape.net

Winona County GP
Dwayne Voegeli
(507) 453-9012
dvoegeli@wshs.luminet.net

(updated 11/00)

The Ten Key Values of the U.S. Green Movement

GRASSROOTS DEMOCRACY

We will work to increase public participation at every level of government through public campaign financing, proportional representation and other election reforms, to ensure that our public representatives are fully accountable to the people who elect them.

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE

All persons should have the rights and opportunity to benefit equally from the resources afforded us by society and the environment. We must consciously confront in ourselves, and in society at large, barriers such as racism and class oppression, sexism and homophobia, ageism and disability, which act to deny fair treatment and equal justice under the law.

ECOLOGICAL WISDOM

Human societies must operate with the understanding that we are part of nature, not separate from nature.

We must maintain an ecological balance and live within the ecological and resource limits of our communities and our planet. We support a sustainable society which utilizes resources in such a way that future generations will benefit and not suffer from the practices of our generation.

NON-VIOLENCE

It is essential that we develop effective alternatives to society's current patterns of violence. We will work to end institutional violence including war, the production of weapons of mass destruction, police brutality, the death penalty, hate crimes and poverty.

DECENTRALIZATION

Centralization of wealth and power contributes to social and economic injustice, environmental destruction, and militarization. We support a restructuring of social, political and economic institutions away from a system which is controlled by and mostly benefits a powerful few. Decision-making should, as much as possible, take place at the individual and local level, while assuring that the environment and civil rights are protected for all.

COMMUNITY-BASED ECONOMICS

We recognize it is essential to create a sustainable economic system that can create jobs and provide a decent standard of living for all people while maintaining a healthy ecological balance.

We support local economic development that assures protection of the environment and workers' rights. We support community-based businesses which are socially responsible, as well as co-operatives and public enterprises that distribute resources and control through democratic participation.

FEMINISM AND GENDER EQUITY

We call for the replacement of the cultural ethics of domination and control with more cooperative ways of interacting that respect differences of opinion and gender. Values such as equity between the sexes and interpersonal responsibility must be developed with moral conscience.

RESPECT FOR DIVERSITY

We believe it is important to value cultural, ethnic, racial, sexual, religious and spiritual diversity, and to promote the development of respectful relationships across these lines.

We acknowledge and encourage respect for other life forms than our own and the preservation of biodiversity.

PERSONAL AND GLOBAL RESPONSIBILITY

We encourage all people to work to fulfill their individual potential, and, at the same time, to enhance ecological balance and social harmony. We seek to join with people and organizations around the world to foster peace, economic justice, and the health of the planet.

FUTURE FOCUS AND SUSTAINABILITY

Our actions and policies should be motivated by long-term goals. We seek to protect valuable natural resources, while developing a sustainable economy that does not depend on continual expansion for survival. We need to assure that economic development, new technologies, and fiscal policies are responsible to future generations who will inherit the results of our actions.

STAPLE VOIDED CHECK OR DEPOSIT SLIP HERE

I authorize the Green Party of Minnesota and the financial institution named below to initiate entries to my checking/savings account. This authority will remain in effect until I notify you in writing to cancel it in such time as to afford the financial institution a reasonable opportunity to act on it. I can stop payment of any entry by notifying my financial institution 3 days before my account is charged.

AUTHORIZATION FOR DIRECT PAYMENT

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|--|-------|---|--|
| NAME OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTION | | BRANCH | |
| CITY | STATE | ZIP CODE | |
| SIGNATURE | | DATE | |
| NAME - PLEASE PRINT | | | |
| ADDRESS - PLEASE PRINT | | | |
| EMPLOYER | | | |
| Account No. _____ | | <input type="checkbox"/> Checking (or) <input type="checkbox"/> Savings | |
| Monthly Donation \$ _____ | | | |
| Financial Institution Routing Number _____ | | | |
| (between these symbols ⑆ ⑆ on the bottom left of your check) | | | |