

## Elections Gearing Up

Now that the State Fair is nearly over, the election season will heat up fast. Here are some important realities which will influence the outcomes.

### Minnesota's Legislative Retirements

For a variety of factors, including the decision to retire, there are 32 open seats this year in the State Legislature. In the Minnesota House of Representatives, 22 legislators will not seek re-election, including 10 Republicans and 12 DFLers. Five House members have chosen to run for state Senate--all of which are DFLers. One Senator has filed to run for Congress.

Some of the open seats have been held by the same person for many years and their retirement provides the other party an opportunity to snatch it away. A perfect example is the Senate seat held by LeRoy Stumpf of Plummer. Elected to the House in 1980 and the Senate in 1982, his retirement will make that seat a target for Republicans. Not only is the seat open, but the two House seats in that Senate district area currently held by Republicans.

### Primary Upsets

You no doubt heard about the primary upset in Minneapolis, resulting in Rep. Phyllis Kahn, DFL-Minneapolis, losing her House seat. Kahn served 22 terms, or 44 years in the Minnesota House after being elected in 1972. She is perhaps the most degreed member of the legislature with a B.A. in Physics from Cornell University; a Ph.D. in biophysics from Yale; and an M.P.A. degree from Harvard. Most would consider her greatest legislative achievement the passage of the Minnesota Clean Indoor Air Act, which she authored in the House. In recent years she has been a member of the Housing Committee, and when foreclosure legislation went to that committee, she was not sympathetic to the arguments by lenders.

One upset not in the news, but significant to ICBM, was the primary upset of Rep. Joe Mullery, DFL-Minneapolis. His district includes North Minneapolis, ground zero in Minnesota during the residential foreclosure crisis. As one would expect, he tried to do everything he could to help constituents hit by the crisis. In doing so, he also promoted some of the more anti-lender, foreclosure-related proposals.

Some examples of his measures included: A bill proposing that future

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mortgage foreclosures would not be effective, and deficiency judgments no longer be available; require lenders to offer those in foreclosure financing to buy back a property after the redemption period had expired; allow foreclosed homeowners the right to stay in the home past the redemption period and up until two weeks before new buyers were to move in; and a proposal that lenders would be required to defer foreclosure for at least 12 months if the foreclosed borrower had lived in the home for at least 10 years, and at least one person in the home was eligible for unemployment compensation, or for 24 months if the borrower had lived in the home for 20 years.

Mullery was beaten by Fue Lee, who fled Laos in 1992 with his family and has lived in North Minneapolis for 20 years. His past service includes work as a legislative staffer for the House Civil Law and Elections Committee. He currently works in the Office of the Secretary of State.

Representative Mullery represents House District 59A and won in 2014 with 82 percent of the vote. Mr. Lee received 56 percent of the vote to Mullery's 45 percent with 2,853 votes cast. The Republican candidate, Jessica Newville, was unopposed and received 155 votes. This is a solid DFL district so one can assume Lee will be sworn in next January.

### Presidential Debates

The first presidential debate between Hilary Clinton and Donald Trump will occur September 26. A vice presidential debate will occur on October 4. A second presidential debate will occur October 9, and a third and final presidential debate will be take place on October 19.

The Commission on Presidential Debates (CPD) organizes and sponsors these debates. While dates, locations, and formats have been chosen by the CPD, the commission has yet to announce the moderators and will not do so until sometime after Labor Day. In past cycles, moderators have been announced in mid-to-late August.

Trump has publicly stated some moderators will "not be acceptable" and that inferred "veto power" has complicated choosing moderators for the CPD.

### 2016 FY Surplus

Good news came recently from Minnesota Management and Budget. Fiscal Year 2016 concluded on June 30, and revenues exceeded the amount from the February budget forecast by \$230 million.

Legislative questions? Contact David Skilbred, ICBM Vice President of Government Relations, at [dskilbred@icbm.org](mailto:dskilbred@icbm.org) or 651-789-3983.

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