



Minnesota Universal Health Care Coalition *Campaign for the Minnesota Health Plan*



November 2010 E-Newsletter

Dear Friends,

The pundits are having a field day analyzing last week's election results. Was the vote largely a "throw the bums out" reaction? Was it the unemployment rate? Was the stimulus bill too small? Was it the deficit? Did the Tea Party ultimately win or lose? Was it a rejection of the federal health reform bill? Or are all politics local? I'll leave that to the commentators, but it does seem that the electorate is angry, anxious, and economically insecure.

In Minnesota the election result for single-payer was mixed. We elected Mark Dayton, or so we anticipate the recount will show. Dayton is a single-payer supporter and has committed to the Minnesota Health Plan. A favorable Governor can set the stage with his appointments, budget, bully pulpit and veto pen. Unfortunately, sixteen of our champion bill co-authors in the legislature were defeated. These legislators, mostly from greater Minnesota and suburban swing districts were courageous advocates for a sustainable, efficient, single-payer health care system that would assure every Minnesotan access to affordable health care. We thank them.

Despite the setback in the Minnesota legislature, the movement for single-payer carries on. Other states are closer than ever to passing a single-payer bill (read below). Our fragmented, wasteful and costly system hurts all individuals, families, businesses, cities and towns, regardless of political stripe. We must continue to build the movement and make the case. I encourage you, today, to start the conversation with someone new.

Amy Lange
Executive Director

MINNESOTA HEALTH PLAN ELECTION RESULTS

MN Health Plan Co-Authors who were Re-Elected

Sen. Rod Skoe (2)
Sen. David Tomassoni (5)
Sen. Tom Bakk (6)
Sen. Tony Lourey (8)
Sen. Gary Kubly (20)
Sen. Linda Scheid (46)
Sen. John Marty (54)
Sen. Charles Wiger (55)
Sen. Linda Higgins (58)
Sen. Scott Dibble (60)
Sen. Linda Berglin (61)
Sen. Patricia Torres Ray (62)
Sen. Dick Cohen (64)

Sen. Sandy Pappas (65)
Sen. Ellen Anderson (66)
Rep. Kent Eken (2A)
Rep. Tom Anzelc (3A)
Rep. John Persell (4A)
Rep. Tom Rukavina (5A)
Rep. Mary Murphy (6B)
Rep. Bill Hilty (8A)
Rep. John Ward (12A)
Rep. Andrew Falk (20A)
Rep. Patti Fritz (26B)
Rep. Tina Liebling (30A)
Rep. Rick Hansen (39)

Rep. John Benson (43B)
Rep. Lyndon Carlson (45B)
Rep. Debra Hilstron (46B)
Rep. Carolyn Laine (50A)
Rep. Tom Tilberry (51B)
Rep. Mindy Greiling (54A)
Rep. Bev Scalze (54B)
Rep. Nora Slawik (55B)
Rep. Joe Mullery (58A)
Rep. Bobby Joe Champion (58B)
Rep. Phyllis Kahn (59B)
Rep. Frank Hornstein (60B)
Rep. Karen Clark (61A)

Rep. Jeff Hayden (61B)
Rep. Jim Davnie (62A)
Rep. Jean Wagenius (62B)
Rep. Paul Thissen (63A)

Rep. Linda Slocum (63B)
Rep. Erin Murphy (64A)
Rep. Michael Paymar (64B)
Rep. Carlos Mariani (65B)

Rep. John Lesch (66A)
Rep. Alice Hausman (66B)
Rep. Sheldon Johnson (67A)

Newly Elected Declared MN Health Plan Support

Sen. Roger Reinert (7) (previously in State House)
Rep. Kerry Gauthier (7B)

Rep. Marion Greene (60A)
Rep. Rena Moran (65A)

MN Health Plan Co-Authors Who Were Defeated

Sen. Mary Olson (4)
Sen. Dan Skogen (10)
Sen. Rick Olseen (17)
Sen. Kevin Dahle (25)
Sen. Sharon Erickson Ropes (31)
Sen. Jim Carlson (38)
Sen. John Doll (40)
Sen. Leo Foley (47)

Sen. Sandy Rummel (53)
Sen. Kathy Saltzman (56)
Rep. Brita Sailer (2B)
Rep. Tim Faust (8B)
Rep. Al Doty (12B)
Rep. David Bly (25B)
Rep. Sandra Masin (38A)
Rep. Jerry Newton (49B)

IN THE NEWS

Single-Payer in the States: Not a Bad Election Night

...I've come to believe that single-payer is going to advance in the United States on a state-by-state basis, as it did province-by-province in Canada. That's going to take governors who support single-payer health care, and this past Tuesday three states may have elected three such governors. California, Minnesota and Vermont... [Read More](#)

Vermont Governor-Elect Lobbying Obama on Waiver for Single-Payer

Governor-elect Peter Shumlin says he's optimistic that he can persuade the Obama administration to grant Vermont a special waiver to implement a single payer health care system. Shumlin says he's already raised this issue with the president, and he'll do it again when he visits the White House early next month... [Read More](#)

Single-Payer Ballot Resolution Passes in All 14 Massachusetts Districts Where it Was on the Ballot

Massachusetts voters have, for the second straight election, overwhelmingly affirmed their support for single payer health reform by turning in majority 'Yes' votes in all fourteen districts where local single payer ballot questions appeared on November 2. The ballots spanned 80 different cities and towns in a state of 351 municipalities... [Read More](#)

The Price Problem

...The overhaul left virtually untouched one big element of our health-care dilemma: the price problem. Simply put, Americans pay much more for each bit of care -- tests, procedures, hospital stays, drugs, devices -- than people in other rich nations. Health-care providers in the United States have tremendous power to set prices. There is no government "single payer" on the other side of the table, and consolidation by hospitals and doctors has left insurers and employers in weak negotiating positions... [Read More](#)

UnitedHealth Profits Soar

UnitedHealth 3rd quarter profits were up 23% - a total of \$1.3 billion. [Read More](#)

CAMPAIGN FOR THE MINNESOTA HEALTH PLAN

TRAININGS AND PRESENTATIONS

Minnesota Can Do Health Care Better- Forum on the Minnesota Health Plan

Wednesday November 17th

7:00-9:00 p.m.

Mower County Senior Center

400 3rd Ave NE

Austin MN 55912

[Sign up to attend](#)

[Download Flyer](#)

Making the Case For Single-Payer- What Is the Evidence?

Tuesday November 30th

6:30-8:00 p.m.

at MUHCC

2469 University Ave W

St. Paul MN 55114

[Sign up to attend](#)

Comparing the MN Health Plan to the Federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act: Why Reform is Not Yet Complete!

Tuesday December 7th

6:30-8:00 p.m.

at MUHCC

2469 University Ave W

St. Paul MN 55114

[Sign up to attend](#)

Lobbying 101- What Does It Mean To Lobby? How Can You Engage Your Elected Representatives On Single-Payer?

Saturday January 8th

10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon

at MUHCC

2469 University Ave W

St. Paul MN 55114

[Sign up to attend](#)

All Events Free of Charge- Everyone Welcome- Registration Requested

ORGANIZE! ORGANIZE! ORGANIZE!

The election made one thing perfectly clear, if we are going to win on single-payer we have a lot of educating and base building to do! If you are interested in joining our *Community Organizing Committee* and helping to build the movement, [let us know!](#)

WEIGH IN ON THE BUDGET

The Citizens League is launching a series of 25 statewide community workshops, giving Minnesotans an opportunity to weigh in on the state budget crisis. The workshops are informative, fast-paced and interactive -- illuminating the current reality of the state budget, examining future trends, and asking participants to identify values and priorities they think should help frame state budget decisions for the coming decade and beyond. Findings will be presented to the governor and Legislature in January 2011. [This is an opportunity to promote the Minnesota Health and explain how single-payer controls health care costs and is an essential key to solving our budget mess. Learn more](#) and see the schedule.

NATIONAL REFORM EXPLAINED-- VIDEO

If you are still confused about the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, watch this [9 minute video](#) produced by the Kaiser Family Foundation. No mention of alternative reforms like single payer, but worth watching.

DONATE NOW

WE NEED RESOURCES FOR THE WORK AHEAD. PLEASE CONTRIBUTE TODAY!!

The Campaign for the Minnesota Health Plan is a collaborative effort of the Minnesota Universal Health Care Coalition and the Greater Minnesota Health Care Coalition and their coalition partners across Minnesota.