



SENATE DISTRICT 66

DFL NEWSLETTER

February 2022

SPECIAL DFL REPORT

Contactless caucuses

by Katrina Lee

This year's SD66 DFL precinct caucuses will be conducted using a new, contactless format. To participate, you need to fill out a non-attendee form and submit it to the party chair **by 9:00 p.m. Central Time February 1, 2022.**

You can submit your non-attendee form by one of the following means:

1. You can complete the digital non-attendee form:
<https://sd66-dfl.org/2022-non-attendee-form>
2. You can drop off a completed [non-attendee form](#) at one of the two SD66 DFL Caucus locations on caucus night between 7:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. on February 1.
3. You can print off a [non-attendee form](#), fill it out, scan it, and email it to sd66dfl@gmail.com, or you can send a [filled-out PDF](#) to sd66dfl@gmail.com.

You can submit resolutions by one of the following means:

1. You can upload one or more filled-out [resolution forms](#) to the [digital non-attendee form](#) using Google Drive.
2. You can drop off one or more completed [resolution forms](#) with your completed [non-attendee form](#) at one of the two SD66 DFL Caucus locations on caucus night between 7:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. on February 1.
3. You can print off one or more [resolution forms](#), fill it out, scan it, and email it along with your [non-attendee form](#) to sd66dfl@gmail.com, or you can send one or more filled-out PDFs along with your non-attendee form to sd66dfl@gmail.com.

Note: Resolutions will automatically be passed at the precinct level and will be forwarded for consideration by the organizing unit convention.

Anyone who selects interest in becoming a delegate or alternate will be selected either:

1. Automatically if there are fewer people wishing to become delegates than total delegate slots.
2. By lot if there are more people wishing to become delegates than slots. In precincts where lots are drawn, there will be an in-person event and live web broadcast to view the results. Please check this website after the caucuses for details on when the broadcast will be streamed.

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Upcoming events

SD66 DFL and Roseville DFL are continuing to hold their meetings remotely. Redistricting information will be posted at sd66-dfl.org

Caucus locations

The following locations are for non-attendee and resolution form drop-offs only. Because there will be no in-person caucusing, you can drop off forms at either location no matter which house district you live in. (Just make sure that you live in Senate District 66.)

House District 66A

Roseville Area High School
1240 West County Road B2
Roseville, MN 55113

House District 66B

Washington Technology School
1495 Rice Street
St. Paul, MN 55117

Official contactless caucus rules

On January 12, 2022, the DFL State Executive Committee approved an emergency measure to allow for contactless precinct caucuses. [You can find a copy of the full emergency measures here.](#)

The next steps: conventions

Organizing unit convention dates and locations will be announced after publishing of the redistricting results, which are expected on February 15. Note that it is likely that your senate district number will change after February 15. We will update sd66-dfl.org with more information as it becomes available.

Building something new

by Rep. Athena Hollins



When I was young, growing up in Hawaii (where there really aren't seasons), I thought that the arrival of January 1 meant winter was over and that spring had arrived. Living in Minnesota, of course, has taught me how intensely incorrect I was. The darkness of winter seems like a strange time to ring in the New Year. This January 1, I was focused on a quote by Dan Millman: "The secret of change is to focus all of your energy, not on fighting the old, but on building the new."

I don't know about you, but the last year has been utterly exhausting—from vaccination efforts that took longer than expected to roll out, to missed social gatherings and milestones, to grappling with difficult decisions about our eldercare and childcare options. Just existing has been tiring.

Of course, this year we are facing a whole new host of challenges—redistricting, an election year, and the very scary possibility that we might lose the majority in the Minnesota House of Representatives. All on top of our continued struggles with COVID-19.

This can all be intensely daunting; however in 2022, I've decided to focus my energy on building something new—something better than what was stolen from us by COVID-19. We have the opportunity to forge new coalitions with one another, to solidify our progressive values and create the world we have always wanted. We've seen what incremental change has gotten us—a failing health-care system, our neighbors living in tent cities, and a world on the brink of climate catastrophe. Instead of fighting old battles, let's build something beautiful together. I hope you'll join me.

Here's to the New Year!



Serving as chair of the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners

by Commissioner Trista MatasCastillo



Earlier this January, my colleagues elected me chair for the 2022-23 year, succeeding Commissioner Toni Carter. I so deeply appreciate the trust that the other commissioners have put in me by electing me as their chair. I see the role of chair as helping the Ramsey County Manager deliver on the vision, values, and priorities that the board has set and expressed, and to serve as a conduit that ensures each commissioner has the information they need to be effective in the many roles and responsibilities that each holds. As we embark on the next year, I will be relying on all of them to work together to ensure that we can provide the best possible service for our constituents and communities.

To our former chair, Commissioner Toni Carter, I want to extend my deepest and most heartfelt gratitude for the leadership she has shown over the last two years through a series of truly unprecedented challenges. Her focus on ensuring we did all we could

to serve our community across so many areas while also bringing forward the importance of mindfulness, healing, and collective understanding could not have come at a more important moment. I am so proud to have called her Madame Chair these last two years. She has set us on a path, with initiatives that bring our community members to the table with us like Healing Streets, Community First Public Safety, and Transforming Systems Together, that are going to yield big dividends in the years to come, and I am glad that she will continue to challenge us and uplift us in this work.

Ramsey County is an expansive organization that encompasses many services, initiatives, programs, and areas of focus. Across the organization, our staff is focused on creating innovative new ways to deliver essential services, on providing life-saving public health interventions and guidance, on undoing multi-generational crises like affordable housing and systemic racism, on transforming our systems of justice to center the individuals affected, and on building resilient, prosperous twenty-first-century communities with sustainable transportation for people of all ages and abilities. All of these initiatives must continue, and I want to express my gratitude to the staff planning and executing our programs. And especially to the front-line workers who serve our residents every day of the year providing assistance and truly lift up our communities.

This heavy workload also means we must think carefully and thoughtfully about new programs and initiatives that meet the needs of the moment while preserving our institutional capacity and not overwhelming our staff at all levels. These past two years have tested every member of our Ramsey County family in ways we could never have anticipated. We have adjusted to continue delivering on behalf of our community and in new ways based on our changing reality. I would like to share how proud I am to be part of an organization where staff do great work with such incredible heart and dedication to our residents and community. I thank you from my new position as board chair, but also as a user of county services, and as a taxpayer, a neighbor, and a friend. Ramsey County is an amazing community and place to live, work, and play, and the people of our organization play an indelible role in that. I am proud to be a part of this team.

One area in particular that I believe will require more focus is addressing what Ramsey County can do to reduce our environmental impact locally and to mitigate future climate change impacts that we know are on the horizon. I will be working with the Ramsey County Manager to schedule workshops on this topic in the months ahead as I continue to have conversations in the community and with my colleagues.

Undoubtedly, we will face new challenges that we cannot anticipate, but I am fully confident in our ability to continue to rise to the challenge. We have big dreams here in Ramsey County, but I know we have what it takes to match the scale of the need. I look forward to seeing what we can accomplish together.

Daylighting waterways

by Gwen Willems



Are you familiar with the term *daylighting*? It refers to revitalizing waterways by uncovering some or all of a previously covered river, stream, or stormwater drainage. Burying or covering waterways clears areas for roads, parking lots, and buildings. Although these small streams are usually unnamed, absent from maps, and lacking visibility, they are still important.

Urban development during the era of industrialization buried or artificially channeled most small streams into pipes, culverts, or concrete-lined ditches, or simply paved over them. The burial of streams deprives the environment of their filtration capacity. It increases the connection between streams and impervious surfaces, which in turn increases the transport of nutrients, road salts, metals, and organic contaminants from urbanized landscapes into larger streams and rivers.

When streams are buried, communities lose a range of benefits of daylighted waterways. These include nutrient and pollution reduction, groundwater recharge through infiltration, flood mitigation, and passive cooling. When open to nature, streams attract fish and other wildlife. Their borders can be filled with native plants whose long roots carry polluted water deep into soil. Fitted with walking and biking paths, informational displays, and artwork, daylighted sites can enhance aesthetics and interactions in communities and offer recreational opportunities. As two St. Paul sites demonstrate, historical and cultural restoration are major benefits.

Due to being technically complex and labor-intensive engineering projects, the initial price of daylighting is relatively expensive, but experts think that in the long term it will more than offset the costs to repair and maintain culverts and other storm structures. Once completed, daylighted waterways need a few years of monitoring and intervention to ensure the channel is stable and plantings are established.

Daylighting is increasing popular and established across the United States and internationally in Canada, France, New Zealand, South Korea, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom.

Two local sites illustrate the benefits. The brook in the Trout Brook Nature Sanctuary was restored a few years ago, and funding has just been confirmed for work on daylighting Phalen Creek. I encourage you to take a walk in each area.

[Trout Brook Nature Sanctuary](#) is now a 40-acre restored wilderness area near I-35E and Cayuga Avenue. Once travelled by Native Americans, the Trout Brook area in St. Paul was a lush valley carrying the brook from Lake McCarrons in Roseville to the Mississippi River in downtown St. Paul. By the 1880s, railroad construction had filled the channel, burying Trout Brook in an underground pipe, and years of pollution contaminated the groundwater.

The site was converted back to a natural state by Capitol Region Watershed District and several partners—City of St. Paul Parks and Recreation and Public Works Sewers Division, District 6 Planning Council, Tri-Area Block Club, Ramsey County, Minnesota Department of Transportation, and many community members.

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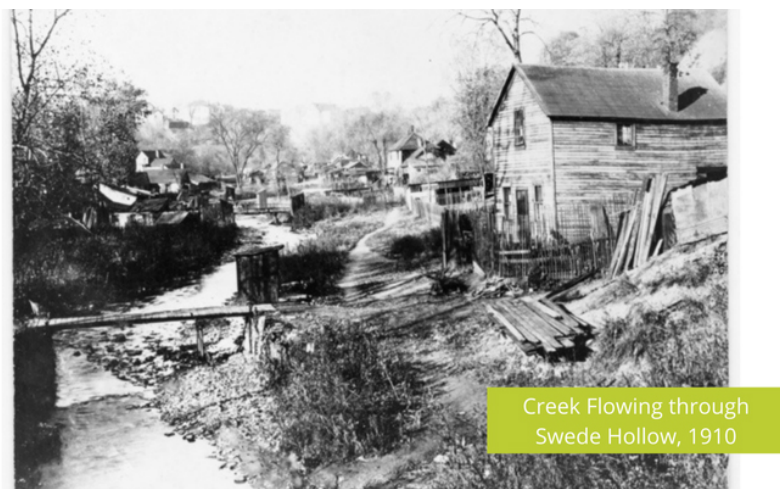


Brook Trout exposed to the air, with special plantings, a pedestrian and biking bridge, and artwork.

Photo courtesy of Capitol Region Watershed District.

The project restored an open stream channel that flows through ponds and wetlands, cleaning stormwater. Several ponds allow solids to settle out before entering the channel, filtering the water through iron-enhanced sand systems that capture nutrient pollution. Currently treating 200 acres of previously developed land, the site is accessible and enjoyable for the community, with art installations, walking paths, and an extension of the Trout Brook Regional Trail.

Similarly, further east in St. Paul, four miles of [Phalen Creek](#) have been channeled through a sewer pipe from Lake Phalen to the Mississippi River since the 1920s. In November 2021, the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council recommended the project receive \$3.2 million in state funding. This will be used for five years beginning July 2022 to design, construct, install, and maintain restoration of the quarter-mile of Phalen Creek stemming from the southern outflow of Lake Phalen.



*Phalen Creek in 1910.
Photo courtesy of Lower Phalen Creek Project.*

Maggie Lorenz, executive director of the Native-led nonprofit Lower Phalen Creek Project (LPCP), said that daylighting the creek will not only be spiritually and culturally significant to local Native Americans, but ecologically important as well (*Star Tribune*, December 24, 2021). Since LPCP's original planning in 2001, the vision has been of a connected trail system across the East Side, a soon-to-be interpretive center located in the heart of the urban ecosystem, and a comprehensive process for returning the flow of Phalen Creek to the surface. Daylighting Phalen Creek will improve water quality, species habitat, and the community care of the creek, said staff members of the Ramsey-Washington Metro and Capitol Region watershed districts, both of which are working with the LPCP.

To learn more about daylighting, visit [American Rivers](#), [The Guardian](#), and [Naturally Resilient Communities](#).

Gwen is co-chair of the Capitol Region Watershed District Community Advisory Committee.

Roseville DFL is seeking candidates for Roseville City Council and Mayor

Chair Lauren Peterson, Roseville DFL

Roseville DFL is seeking candidates who want to make a difference in our neighborhoods. We are looking for solid DFL values that will drive us towards a city we all want to live in. The endorsing convention will be held on May 10. We are looking for one city council and one mayoral candidate.

In 2015 Roseville residents active in Senate Districts 42 and 66 received approval from the Minnesota DFL to form the City of Roseville DFL organization. Now we can endorse candidates in Roseville City elections. This means that our endorsed local candidates can, if they choose, access all the resources available to endorsed DFL candidates in Minnesota.

This November, Roseville voters will elect two city councilmembers and one mayor.

As a party, we must speak and act as a cohesive organization supporting our candidates in all races. We strongly believe endorsement has a place in city elections. We need to have Democrats elected to positions at all levels to issue credible supporting statements for our legislators during off-year and election-year campaigns. We also need these people to be ready to step up as candidates to run for legislative office.

Our local values can be directly correlated to DFL values, which is why having a local DFL chapter is so important. Our values statement document translates the DFL platform into what is relevant to our city. These include environmental protection, safe and efficient transportation, affordable housing, and public safety.

Roseville DFL has endorsed two candidates for city council—Wayne Groff, and Julie Strahan. Wayne is up for reelection this year, and we are reaching out to anyone interested in running for either city council or mayor.

If you or someone you know is interested in running for Roseville City Council or would like to have a deeper conversation, please reach out to Lauren Peterson, Chair of the Roseville DFL, at lrpeterson8@gmail.com or check out our website: <https://www.dfl.org/local-units/roseville-dfl/>



*SD66 DFL and Roseville DFL are continuing to hold their meetings remotely.
Redistricting information will be posted at sd66-dfl.org.*

Visit our website at <http://sd66-dfl.org/> for updates.

Elected officials

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jmarty@senate.mn

Rep. Alice Hausman

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Rep. Athena Hollins

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County Commissioner

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The *Senate District 66 DFL Newsletter* is published four times a year to inform and educate all interested parties in the activities and issues of SD66 DFLers including elected officials and endorsed candidates. Please contact the editor if you are interested in joining the newsletter committee or submitting an article for publication.

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