



SENATE DISTRICT 66

DFL NEWSLETTER *November 2022*

Vote! Election Day is Tuesday, November 8!

If you haven't voted in advance by mail or at a local site, vote on November 8. Remind your family members, friends, neighbors, and colleagues to vote.

The polls in Ramsey County are open from 7:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. Find your polling place at <https://pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us/>

To register on Election Day, you must show proof of identification and residence.

VOTE
LIKE DEMOCRACY DEPENDS ON YOU.
(Because it does.)

Graphic courtesy of the League of Women Voters

In this issue

■ Vote!	1
■ Farewell to Senate District 66	2
■ Alice Hausman on Minnesota politics	2
■ Why I'm running	3
■ Forward to Election Day	4
■ City of Roseville is making progress	4
■ Save the bees!	5
■ SD66 volunteers are busy	7

Upcoming events

Tuesday, November 1, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Door Knock with Athena Hollins

Tuesday, November 3, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Door Knock with Athena Hollins

Saturday, November 5, 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.
Door Knock with Clare Verbeten

Farewell to Senate District 66 DFL friends

by Sen. John Marty

I write from Senate District 40, just north of your new district.

It has been a great honor to represent so many of you in the old SD66 during the past decade. As you may know, a small portion (less than 20 percent of the old district, parts of Roseville) was moved into a new senate district that includes much of Roseville and New Brighton, and all of Shoreview, Arden Hills, and Mounds View. I am the DFL candidate in that new district and am optimistic that I will win reelection to the Minnesota Senate.

At the capitol, I will continue working for economic, social, racial, and environmental justice, pushing Minnesota to address climate, protect reproductive rights, and all the other issues that so desperately require urgent change.

You are fortunate to have a great team of wonderful, dynamic, progressive candidates to serve you in the legislature next year. It has been a privilege to work with

Rep. Athena Hollins over the past two years, and I am excited that **Clare Oumou Verbeten** and **Leigh Finke** will be joining her as your new senator and 66A representative. Each of them will provide strong leadership at the capitol, and I look forward to the opportunity to work with them to build a better future for all.

This note also gives me a chance to *thank you* for the opportunity to represent you in the senate over the last decade. Thank you for all your support, your encouragement, and your advice!

Finally, please do everything you can to get every possible friend and neighbor to the polls. A heavy turnout in SD66 is essential if we are to keep our strong statewide DFL leadership, from Gov. Walz & Lt. Gov. Flanagan, Attorney General Ellison, Secretary of State Simon, and Auditor Blaha.

Again, thanks for your past support, and thanks for sending such a strong team of progressive leaders to the capitol.



Alice Hausman will speak on Minnesota politics on November 15 at the St. Anthony Park Library

by Judy Woodward



Rep. Alice Hausman

When Alice Hausman retires at the end of this year from the Minnesota House of Representatives, she will have served the people of this area for 17 consecutive terms, ever since her first election in 1989.

On Tuesday, November 15, 6:30- 7:30 p.m., Rep. Hausman will take a look back at the events that shaped her political career. Join Alice for a reflection on her life in politics and a chance to ask her about our political history—and our political future. All are welcome, and no advance registration is required for this live event in the basement meeting room of the St. Anthony Park Library.

This event is presented by the library in partnership with the St. Anthony Park Library Association. For more information, call the Saint Anthony Park Library at (651) 642-0411.

Why I'm running

by Clare Oumou Verbeten, DFL-endorsed candidate for SD66 Senator



My name is Clare Oumou Verbeten. I am the proud daughter of Rama and Hans, a Senegalese immigrant and a second-generation Dutch American. They raised me and my sister while running a small cleaning business and teaching in the public schools. My dad's union membership supported our family, and to this day, my mom is still working on the front lines cleaning homes and offices during the pandemic. I grew up in Roseville, graduated from Roseville Area Public Schools, worked for the City of Saint Paul, and live in the beautiful Como neighborhood. I am an organizer, a public servant, a fighter for justice, and I'm running to be your state senator.

As a political and labor organizer, I fought against the rise in Trumpism and white nationalism by working to elect progressive candidates across the state. As the equity manager at the City of Saint Paul, I fought every day to eliminate racial disparities by leading and developing our equity policies

and programs. As chair of the Roseville Area Schools Foundation, I fought the disinvestment in public schools by fundraising thousands annually to address critical unmet needs for our students and families. And, as a Black woman, I am in the fight for Black lives every day—both professionally and personally.

At this moment, the promise of a prosperous Minnesota is threatened by the reality of systemic racism and structural inequity. Our community still mourns the loss of Philando Castile who was killed, right here, in our district. Far too many of our Black and Native neighbors have been killed when encountering police across our state and are also disproportionately incarcerated. Minnesota has deep racial disparities in income, homeownership, and education. We can break the violent cycles of disinvestment, discrimination, and disillusionment that hold us back. We can build a state where everyone is truly safe and successful.

I was raised by this community, I love this community, and I know my community. It's what drives my activism in our schools, city government, and local politics. When we fight together, we win. We need to take this fight against systemic racism to the state capitol.

We need bold leadership in the Minnesota Senate that puts the fight for racial justice and human dignity at the center of everything we do. We need leadership that recognizes our collective safety goes far beyond policing. Safety is housing for all. Safety is healthcare and reproductive rights for all. Safety is a job that pays a living wage. Safety is childcare that every Minnesotan can access. Safety is fully funded public schools. Safety is clean water and air. Our communities are safer when we take care of people. It's ultimately that simple.

Join me in this fight for justice, and together we will build a community that is safe and successful for all.

Forward to Election Day

by Commissioner Trista MatasCastillo



With Election Day on November 8 fast approaching, I am focusing my free time on bringing our DFL message and platform to my neighbors and to the wider community. That message is resonating in District 3 for the same reasons it is resonating throughout the state; because voters in Ramsey County, like people all throughout Minnesota, want real solutions to the problems we face that respect the rights and dignity of all our neighbors.

These past few years have been an unprecedented challenge, and this has certainly not been the first term I expected. Yet I am so incredibly proud of the victories we have won these last four years at Ramsey County, and I know that we have so much potential for even greater and more profound changes that will truly make ours a county where everyone can thrive. From promoting community healing to making historic investments

into deeply affordable housing, we have proven that progressive county government can lead the way on creating solutions for our toughest challenges.

I love this job, and the energy and the passion that I bring every day is a big part of why my colleagues honored me this year by electing me the first Ramsey County Board Chair ever from District 3. I intend to spend every minute I have sharing that enthusiasm and encouraging all of our neighbors to cast ballots this November. We have the power to ensure that our state continues to go in the right direction; let's make it happen.

CITY OF ROSEVILLE NEWS

The City of Roseville is making important progress

by DFL-endorsed Roseville Councilmember Wayne Groff

As all of you know, we are finishing up our campaigns. Lots of door knocking, phone calls, and lit dropping in apartment buildings. Your DFL team is working hard to get out the vote up and down the ticket.

At the city we are finishing the budget process. Residents can still have input. We will make the final vote on the budget on December 5.

Some of the issues I have worked on this past year include:

1. Funding for the Roseville Fire Department so they can treat persons experiencing a stroke with medication upon their arrival instead of waiting for the ambulance. Twenty minutes can make a difference between life and death and for many it can lead to full recovery.
2. Funding to train police to recognize mental-health issues when they arrive at a residence and treat it as a health issue. We now have two embedded social workers with the Roseville Police to help with the correct treatment.
3. Continued work with the Parks and Rec department to improve accessibility. This includes better pathway surfaces, especially in the arboretum. Last year we installed a fully accessible playground so kids of all abilities can play on the same equipment. Check it out in Central Park.
4. Continuing work on equity and inclusion. To help with this work, we hired an equity and inclusion manager, Thomas Brooks. He is doing an excellent job helping us see all projects and work through an equity lens. We are reviewing all our hiring procedures to help us include lived experience as well as education. Some tools have been used to exclude certain groups in the past.

These are just a few things that come to mind. You can always contact me at waynegroff4roseville@gmail.com for more details.

Thank you for your support.

Save the Bees!

by Gwen Willems



What's the problem?

Bees continue to be in trouble, and we should be concerned because of how important they are to our economy and food security. All bees need flowering plants for their nutrition, and our nutrition needs their pollination of fruits and vegetables. We depend on bees to pollinate 79 out of 100 major crops, according to the [National Resources Defense Council \(NRDC\)](#). A few of these crops are apples, blueberries, melons, almonds, watermelon, and zucchini.

We have top bee specialists here in Senate District 66 at the [Bee Lab](#). It is part of the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences on the University of Minnesota St. Paul campus. Dr. Marla Spivak, a MacArthur Fellow and Distinguished McKnight Professor in Entomology, conducts research at the Bee Lab with a team of

professors and graduate students. They focus on the conservation, health, and diversity of bee pollinators.

According to an article by [Prof. Spivak, et al.](#) that is in pre-publication review (2022), "Since 2006, there has been a tragic breakdown in honeybee health. Frequently referred to as colony-collapse disorder, this erosion of honeybee health has taken place on an enormous scale, affecting most of North America and parts of Europe. Survey data indicate that the average winter mortality of colonies across the United States has ranged from 22 to 37 percent, and the average yearly mortality from 35 to 45 percent (Lee et al., 2015; Seitz et al., 2016). These losses are well above the historical 15 to 18 percent that beekeepers consider acceptable winter attrition."

Why are bees disappearing?

Honeybees are just part of the bee population. In North America, there are more than 3,600 bee species. It is commonly agreed among scientists that there are four main stressors to the health of bees:

- Parasites
- Pathogens
- Pesticides
- Poor nutrition

Can we citizens do anything?

Fortunately, there are many actions we can take to conserve their populations and help preserve their habitats.

- **Plant a pollinator garden.** Provide a diverse array of blooming flowers, including native plants. Choose plants based on what you see attracting pollinators in your neighborhood. Be sure to plant drought-tolerant plants as well as early, middle, and late season plants.
- **Establish nesting habitat.** The Bee Lab advises that the best way to encourage nest-building for native bees is to provide undisturbed areas where they can make their own nests. Offer standing, dead stems, downed logs, brush piles, and most importantly, undisturbed ground.
- **Be selective in weeding your lawn and garden.** According to the nonprofit organization [Friends of the Earth](#), many weeds like milkweed and dandelions are an excellent food source for not only bees but other pollinators as well.
- **Remember water.** Place a shallow bowl of water in your garden to keep bees hydrated. Bees can drown in larger pools of water.

(Continued on next page)

- **Avoid pesticides or use only as needed.** Pesticides include insecticides, fungicides, and herbicides and are designed to kill insects, which could include bees and other beneficial insects. However, pesticides can be harmful or fatal to bees and other advantageous insects. If you do use a pesticide, read the label to see if it is toxic to bees. Those labelled “OMRI approved” (Organic Materials Review Institute) are safe, organic options.
- **Sign petitions.** [One petition](#) sponsored by the NRCD demands that the German chemical company Bayer-Monsanto immediately stop selling neonics, the world’s most widely used class of insecticides, in the United States. Bayer-Monsanto is one of the world’s leading manufacturers of bee-toxic neonics. Petitions don’t always work, but it is easy for us to sign on.
- **Reduce pesticide availability.** Also urge your grocery retailer to not carry food treated with pesticides and urge hardware and home stores to not sell harmful pesticides.
- **Be a citizen scientist who collects data.** Through the Bee Lab, you can help contribute data to answer one of the many remaining questions about bees. If you are a beekeeper, you can monitor mite loads. From anywhere in Minnesota, you can help monitor bumblebees by taking a class and adopting a bumble bee route for the Minnesota Bee Atlas. Or you can take photos of bumblebees and share them with the Bumblebee Watch app by phone or web. Another project is identifying rusty patched bumblebees in the Twin Cities.
- **Contact elected officials.** Tell them to ban dangerous pesticides from agricultural, residential, and commercial use; preserve wild habitats; and support farmers to shift to organic, ecological agriculture.
- **Purchase sustainable honey.** Find a honey source that is friendly and beneficial for the bees. Consider organic or buy from a local individual beekeeper who favors sustainability and pesticide avoidance.
- **Buy organic.** Research shows that by avoiding synthetic pesticides, organic farming can help bees and other important creatures thrive.
- **Educate.** Tell your family members and friends about the importance of bees and their vital role in our food production.



Rusty patched bumblebee.
 Photograph by Jim Hughes, jimhphoto.com

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

SD66 volunteers are busy

by Wayne Groff, SD66 DFL Vice Chair

Senate District 66 has been working hard on the campaigns in our district. The candidates are door knocking and phoning. We have organized some group door knocks especially concentrating on apartment buildings the last weekends before the election. The response has been very positive.

SD66 has received their share of donut booth proceeds. Thank you to all the volunteers who have helped. The donut booth committee for Best Fair Foods deserves a big thank you. We are making plans to be even more efficient next year.

There will be several election night watches. Watch for notices in your emails.

Officers for the DFL's new SD66 are Chair Remy Huerta-Stemper, Vice Chair Wayne Groff, Secretary Liz Danielson, and Treasurer Noelle Bakken.

Hope to see you at the next SD66 monthly meeting.



CALENDAR

*SD66 DFL and Roseville DFL are continuing to hold their meetings remotely.
A map of redistricted SD66 is posted at sd66-dfl.org.*

Tuesday, November 1, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Door Knock with Athena Hollins

1720 Rice St, Roseville, MN 55113

Tuesday, November 3, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Door Knock with Athena Hollins

1720 Rice St, Roseville, MN 55113

Saturday, November 5, 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

Door Knock with Clare Verbeten

More info at: <https://www.mobilize.us/clareverbeten/event/507562/>

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

Elected officials

Sen. John Marty

(651) 296-5645

jmarty@senate.mn

Rep. Alice Hausman

(651) 296-3824

rep.alice.hausman@house.mn

Rep. Athena Hollins

(651) 296-4224

rep.athena.hollins@house.mn

County Commissioner

Mary Jo McGuire - Dist. 2

(651) 266-8356

maryjo.mcguire@co.ramsey.mn.us

County Commissioner

Trista MatasCastillo - Dist. 3

(651) 266-8360

trista.matascastillo@co.ramsey.mn.us

DFL contacts

City of Roseville DFL

Ryan Lee, Chair

(507) 298-0455

mlee07@gmail.com

Senate District 66 DFL

Remy Huerta-Stemper, Chair

(605) 920-0252

sd66dfl@gmail.com

City of St. Paul DFL

Garrison McMurtrey, Chair

stpauldfldmn@gmail.com

Ramsey County DFL

Russ Warren, Chair

(763) 786-359

russellawarren@gmail.com

4th District DFL

Jen Guertin, Chair

(651) 747-5651

jenguertin919@gmail.com

Minnesota State DFL

Ken Martin, Chair

(651) 293-1200

chair@dfldfl.org

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.

Newsletter committee

Editor: Gwen Willems (651) 646-8854

Designer: Edwin Beylerian

Committee Members: Judy Berglund, Wayne Groff,
Remy Huerta-Stemper, Gwen Willems