



League of Women Voters of Minnesota Records

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CENTENNIAL ESSAY CONTEST

OUR MINNESOTA CONSTITUTION - ITS FIRST HUNDRED YEARS

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota is sponsoring an Essay Contest to encourage students at the high school level to acquaint themselves with the Minnesota Constitution.

1ST PRIZE 30 VOLUME SET OF THE ENCYCLOPEDIA AMERICANA, new 1957 edition. Approved by the American Library Association and used by government agencies and leading universities in America.

2ND, 3RD AND 4TH PRIZE Day at the State Capitol, including a personal tour, a chat with the Governor and participation in Minnesota Centennial events. This all expense paid visit is offered to all four winners.

SUGGESTED TOPICS

1. Should there be a Convention to revise Minnesota's Constitution?
Reasons for or against revision. Suggested methods of revision. Advantages of the amendment process and of the convention process. Experiences in other states.
2. Minnesota's Only Constitutional Convention
Its historical background. What were the peculiar circumstances of the Convention? Do any present day problems stem from that haste and confusion?
3. Compare Minnesota's Constitution with the Federal Constitution
How do the documents compare in length, clarity, frequency of amendments and practical enforcements? Compare the way the two were written.
4. Amending the Minnesota Constitution
History of and changes in amending process. What does an amendment cost? Is extensive revision by amendment practical?
5. Reapportionment, Good or Evil?
What is its purpose? When was it last accomplished? What are some of the things wrong with our present system? How does Minnesota compare with other states?

CONTEST RULES

1. Contest opens March 1, 1958 and closes at twelve noon, April 12, 1958. All papers must be in the office of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota (address above) by the closing date in order to be considered.
2. Only Minnesota high school students (grade 9 through 12) will be eligible to enter.
3. The completed essay is not to exceed 1,500 words. Use one side of the paper, write legibly or typewrite, double space.
4. The full name of the contestant, grade, age, address, telephone number, name of high school must be written in upper left hand corner. Fasten all pages securely.
5. No papers will be returned and the decision of the judges will be final.

Suggested Bibliography - Report of Constitutional Commission of Minnesota, 1947; Constitution of Minnesota, Legislative Manual (available from your legislator); A History of the Constitution of Minnesota, Anderson and Lobb, U of Minn. Press, 1921 -- ask at your library for these. A 25¢ packet of League material - available from your local League, or League of Women Voters of Minnesota, address above.

minnesota's future is in your hands

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA

15th and Washington Avenue S.E. Minneapolis 14, Minnesota

Federal 8-8791

January 15, 1958

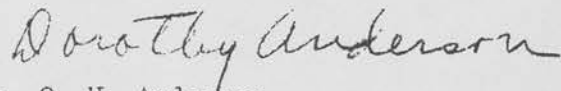
Dear Sir:

That time is here. Once again the League of Women Voters of Minnesota is sponsoring an essay contest to encourage students at the high school level (grades 9 through 12) to acquaint themselves with the Constitution of Minnesota. The contest opens March 1, 1958 and will close April 12.

With Minnesota looking forward eagerly to its second hundred years, it seems most important that the future citizens have a clear understanding of the constitution upon which this state was built so that they will be better able to plan for the future.

Please forward the enclosed contest information to your teachers and students. Additional copies of Contest rules are available on request. Will you let us know the approximate number of entrants?

Sincerely,



Mrs. O. H. Anderson
President



Affiliated with the
League of Women Voters of the U.S.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA

15th and Washington Avenue S.E. Minneapolis 14, Minnesota

Federal 8-8791

Memo: To Local League Presidents

January 23, 1958

From: Mrs. O. H. Anderson

012258CL

Re: Area Conferences on Taking League Program to the Community

PLANS The State Board has now completed the plans for the seven Area Conferences to be held this spring on the subject of Taking League Program to the Community. Guided by your suggestions, we have planned meetings which emphasize techniques, with Constitutional Convention and Reapportionment the subject matter used to illustrate points made; we have divided the Conferences into small groups for part of the morning; we are ending the day with a headline speaker at a luncheon meeting, after which you can start back home in time to get dinner for the family.

AGENDA The doors will open at 9:30, when you will start to arrive, register and get settled. At 10 A.M. the meeting starts with emphasis on the League's heritage and accomplishments, our role in a Centennial Year, and how to make plans to reach the public. Then the group will divide into three sections -- Section I will consider reaching the public through mass media; Section II will consider reaching the public in person, that is, through speeches, public meetings, etc.; Section III will consider reaching the Legislators. In all sections appropriate publications and visual aids will be used.

At 12:30 we will have lunch, after which headline speakers on Reapportionment will discuss the question of how we can achieve a solution to this knotty problem in Minnesota. To this luncheon will be invited community leaders who will be encouraged to question the Speakers, and to argue with them, if so inclined.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND? We think it would be helpful to you to have at least three League members come, so that one can attend each Section. Why don't you fill up some one's station wagon? Your Public Relations Chairman, State Item, Legislative and Publications Chairmen, and you, Madam President -- all of these and members of any of these committees would be helped by this conference. We are giving you the details of all conferences so that if you cannot attend the one nearest you, perhaps you can go to another one.

RESERVATIONS Will you make reservations by sending to the State Office by one week before your conference a check for as many luncheon reservations as you want? The cost, the date, the place of all conferences are indicated on the following pages.

(detach and return with check to State Office)

Enclosed find a check for \$ _____ for _____ reservations for lunch at the Area
(no.)
Conference in _____ on _____
(town) (date)



Affiliated with the
League of Women Voters of the U.S.

(signed)

(LWV of)

SCHEDULE OF AREA CONFERENCES ON TAKING LEAGUE PROGRAM TO COMMUNITY

I. SOUTH HENNEPIN AREA CONFERENCE - Monday, March 10 - LWV of St. Louis Park, Hostess

Where? St. Louis Park, at Aldersgate Church, Excelsior Avenue and Highway 100.
For lunch, at Park Terrace Cafe, $\frac{1}{2}$ mile east of Hwy. 100, on Excelsior Avenue at Kipling.

Cost? \$1.25. Send check to state office by March 3, for reservations.

Who? Bloomington, Deephaven, Edina, Excelsior, Hopkins, McLeod-Hutchinson,*
Minneapolis *, Minnetonka, Mound, Richfield, St. Louis Park.

II. SOUTHEAST MINNESOTA AREA CONFERENCE - Tuesday March 11 - LWV of Austin, Hostess

Where? Austin, at Presbyterian Church, 801 South 2nd.

Cost? \$1.00. Send check to state office by March 4, for reservations.

Who? Austin, McLeod-Hutchinson* New Richland, Owatonna, Red Wing*, Rochester,
Waseca, Wells.

III. NORTH HENNEPIN AREA CONFERENCE - Tues. March 18 - LWV of Columbia Hts., Hostess

Where? Columbia Heights, Community Methodist Church, 950 Gould Ave. N.E., near
40th and Central Avenue (Highway 65).

Cost? \$1.25. Send check to state office by March 11, for reservations.

Who? Anoka, Brooklyn Center, Buffalo, Columbia Heights, Crystal, Golden Valley,
Minneapolis*, Robbinsdale, St. Cloud, Wayzata

IV. SOUTHWEST MINNESOTA AREA CONFERENCE - Tues. March 18 - LWV of Worthington, Host.

Where? Worthington, New Dining Room, Ehler's Steak House on Highway 16

Cost? \$1.50. Send check to State Office by March 11, for reservations.

Who? Granite Falls, Jackson, McLeod-Hutchinson*, New Ulm, Olivia, Worthington

V. RAMSEY CONFERENCE - Tues. March 25 - LWV of North St. Paul, Hostess

Where? North St. Paul, Northwood Country Club, S.W. 1st Street & 5 Ave. S.W.

Cost? \$1.75. Send check to State Office by March 18, for reservations.

Who? Afton-Lakeland, Arden Hills, Birchwood, Circle Pines, Falcon Heights,
Mahtomedi, North St. Paul, Red Wing*, Roseville, St. Anthony, St. Paul,
South St. Paul, West St. Paul, White Bear Lake

SCHEDULE OF AREA CONFERENCES (Cont.)

VI. NORTHEAST MINNESOTA AREA CONFERENCE - Tuesday, March 25 - LWV of Virginia,
Hostess

Where? Virginia, Coates Hotel, Chestnut Street and 5th Avenue

Cost? \$2.00. Send check to State Office by March 18, for reservations.

Who? Bemidji*, Brainerd, Cass Lake*, Duluth, Hibbing, Virginia.

VII. NORTHWEST MINNESOTA AREA CONFERENCE - Tuesday, April 1 - LWV of Moorhead,
Hostess

Where? Moorhead, Warren Cafe, 15 No. 4th Street.

Cost? \$1.00. Send check to State Office by March 25 for reservations.

Who? Alexandria, Battle Lake, Bemidji*, Cass Lake*, Fergus Falls, Moorhead,
Park Rapids.

* Indicates Leagues listed as possible attendants at two conferences, they will choose which conference is more convenient for them, or they may attend both.

League of Women Voters of Minnesota, 15th & Washington S.E., Minneapolis 14, Minn.
March 1958 033158CXX

TO: Local League Presidents
RE: Amendments
FROM: Mrs. Kenneth Green, Constitutional Revision Chairman

The League of Women Voters is announcing its support of the Home Rule Amendment and the Longer Term Amendment through a letter to the editors of the twin city newspapers this week. It would be helpful if at this time all League presidents would write informative letters in the name of the League to their local papers supporting these amendments, using as a basis the new material sent out in the March president's mailing and presented at the Area Conferences. As you know, these two items were on the Current Agenda in 1955 and are now listed as Continuing Responsibilities. Here is a chance for us to start some action which may lead to success for two of the League's state program items and shorten that long list of CR's !

In addition, it would be helpful if you would:

1. Clip and send to the state office any news articles or editorials on the amendments from your local papers so we will be informed on editorial feeling around the state.
2. Bring your membership up to date on Home Rule and the longer term, using the new material and The State You're In, so that an informed effort may be made in the fall to acquaint the public with these amendments.
3. Encourage members of your Board or League to work in your area with the state-wide "Information Committee on Amendments 1, 2, & 3," on which the LWV is represented. (Refer to a notice in the February president's mailing.) Enclosed is a pamphlet already put out by the Committee which we hope can be used by Voters Service in the fall.

To help you further, we have planned a briefing session to clear up any confusion about the amendments and give you a chance to ask questions.

When: Tuesday, May 6, 10:00 to 12:00

Where: Coffman Memorial Union, University of Minnesota - Room 320

We will have Senator Donald Fraser (co-author of the Home rule amendment), Orville Peterson, and possibly other experts there to answer any questions you may have. You may send as many people as you like to this meeting, including the President, Board members and unit members. We would like an estimation of the number coming from your League by May 1, so we can plan for adequate space. We realize this meeting will probably apply mainly to Leagues close to Minneapolis and St. Paul, but we hope that people from all Leagues will be able to attend. If you can't make it, and do have questions, send them to the state office and we'll do our best to help you. Parking facilities are available at the ramp at the corner of Washington and Union Avenues.

League of Women Voters of Minnesota, 15th & Washington S.E., Minneapolis 14, Minn.
March 1958 030958D

Attention: Local Leagues

Re: Proposed Amendment #3

The State Board has voted to reconsider the League's action on Amendments 1, 2 & 3; that we support 1 and 2, but that we neither support or oppose Amendment #3 - the Elective Office Amendment. The Board decided, after full discussion, that the implications of the last phrase of the bill, "....provided, however, that nothing herein contained shall preclude any senator or representative from serving as attorney for any school district or political subdivision of the state except that he shall not serve as a county attorney.", made the amendment one which does not satisfy League standards.

This action was taken after study and consultation with political scientists and others interested in state government, most of whom felt that the improvement made by the first section outweighed the possible disadvantages of the second. However, the State Board feels that the disadvantages of the second section (the lawyer-legislator rider) create new problems not now in the constitution. Therefore, despite the advantages of the first section in removing unnecessary restrictions on holding office, the Board felt that the League of Women Voters should not support Amendment #3. We will supply the public with information, as set forth in the accompanying material.

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS
TO BE VOTED ON NOVEMBER 1958

AMENDMENT # 1 - Home Rule Amendment

Amendment #1 proposes changes in the state constitution relating to local government. It amends Article XI, amends Article IV Sec. 33, and repeals Article IV Sec. 36.

The present constitutional provisions on local government are:

Article IV, Sec. 33 - "Against Special Legislation,"

Article IV, Sec. 36 - "City or village may frame its charter; submitted to the voters; cities classified." (This section is restrictive and confusing. For example, the voting requirements on adopting a charter are 4/7 (57%), and to amend, 3/5 (60%). There is no provision for repealing a charter once adopted.)

Article XI. - "Counties and Townships". (These sections contain provisions for county and township organization, election of officers, powers of taxation - all through legislative enactment.)

The proposed amendment contains the following provisions:

Article IV, Sec. 33 - "In all cases when a general law can be made applicable, no special law shall be enacted, except as provided in Article XI." This section retains the constitutional restrictions on special legislation, except as relating to local government.

Article IV, Sec. 36 - Repealed

Article XI. - Completely new article on local government

Section 1. "The legislature may provide by law for the creation, organization, administration, consolidation, division, and dissolution of local government units and their functions, for the change of boundaries thereof, for their officers, including qualifications for office, both elective and appointive, and for the transfer of county seats. No county boundary shall be changed.... until approved by a majority of the voters of each county voting thereon."

Section 2. This section enables the legislature to enact special laws relating to a local government, but it must name the unit involved, and it cannot become effective until voted approval by the local government unit (either voters or governing body), unless otherwise provided by general law. A charter or charter amendment can overrule a special law if it is adopted after the law is passed.

Section 3. "Any city or village, and any county or other local government unit when authorized by law, may adopt a home rule charter for its government in accordance with this constitution and the laws. No such charter shall become effective without the approval of the voters of the local government unit affected by such majority as the legislature may prescribe by law. If a charter provides for the consolidation or separation of a city and a county, in whole or in part, it shall not be effective without approval of the voters both in the city and in the remainder of the county by the majority required by law."

Section 4. This section provides for charter commissions, allows for repeal or amending of home rule charters, and allows the legislature to determine the voting requirements on adopting and amending.

Section 5. Existing laws and charters shall continue in effect until amended or repealed.

Basically, Amendment #1 deals with 1) special legislation, 2) home rule charters, and 3) authorization of county home rule. The following questions and answers are designed to point out the changes the amendment would bring, what their effect would be, and controversial aspects of the amendment.

Special Legislation

Q - What is special legislation? What is a special law?

A - A special law is any law applying to a single unit of government or to a group of such units in a single county or in a number of contiguous counties.

Q - What does our constitution now say about special legislation?

A - Since 1892 the Minnesota Constitution has contained provisions prohibiting special legislation dealing with local governments. Yet every year hundreds of bills are passed which are special in nature. This is done by the device of "classification." An amendment in 1896 allowed for the division of cities into four classes and the adoption of laws relating to a special class. A city, town, or village cannot be named in the legislation. For example, a bill can be drawn for Minneapolis alone by limiting its application to cities of over 450,000 population.

Q - What are some of the disadvantages of the present practice?

- A -
1. Reliance on the legislature for special acts tends to weaken local government and destroy the effectiveness of home rule.
 2. Special laws require valuable legislative time better spent on general policy. In the 1957 session alone, approximately 259 special bills were passed - 27% of total bills passed.
 3. General legislative deliberation on special bills is almost totally lacking.
 4. Many laws are put in special form in order to avoid the difficulty of selling the legislature on general policy, whereas the law might be desirable as a general law.
 5. Special legislation is so obscure that it is almost impossible to find if one does not know of its existence.

Q - What will the proposed amendment accomplish?

- A -
1. The special law will have to name the local government unit to which it applies.
 2. A special law cannot become effective without the approval of the local unit.
 3. A special law could be modified or superceded by a subsequently adopted charter or charter amendment. Thus a new charter might enable a city to rid itself of accumulated special laws.

Home Rule

Q - What is home rule?

A - Home rule is the power given by the constitution to communities to determine their own form of government. The home rule power is used by a community when it drafts, and its voters adopt, a home rule charter.

Q - How many Minnesota communities have used their home rule privilege?

A - Of 153 villages and cities in Minnesota, 86 have home rule charters. When a village adopts a home rule charter, it automatically becomes classified as a city regardless of size.

Q - How are the communities governed which do not have home rule charters?

A - Either by special laws passed by the state legislature to apply to a particular community or under a general law permitting villages to choose certain optional plans of government set forth in the laws.

Home Rule (cont)

Q - What is an advantage and disadvantage of adopting home rule charters?

A - The people in a community know their own local needs and local government problems better than a distant legislature composed of persons residing in other cities, so a home rule charter can be tailored to the city's needs. However, changes in a charter may be more difficult to get because of the 60% vote requirement as against getting a law passed.

Q - What is an advantage and disadvantage of communities being governed by general or special laws passed by the state legislature?

- A - 1. Changes in the local government provisions may be easier to get from the legislature, but laws applying to a particular community may be passed without obtaining its consent.
2. Communities may change from one form of government to another within the optional plans set up by the legislature.

Q - How will Amendment #1 change things for cities and villages?

- A - 1. It will permit the legislature to make it easier for communities to adopt home rule charters by lowering the voting requirements from the present 4/7.
2. It will permit the legislature to lower the voting requirements for amending home rule charters.
3. It provides that a local government unit may repeal a home rule charter and adopt a new one, or a statutory form of government.
4. It provides that a charter amendment overrules a special law if it is adopted after the law is passed.

Q - If home rule means "self-government," then why do we need special laws at all?

A - Quotation from William Anderson, "Municipal Home Rule in Minnesota": "Under the American system of government, each state has complete power to govern the people within its boundaries in every respect not forbidden by the federal constitution. The legislature of the state is supposed, therefore, to have all the powers of government not denied to it. Hence its power extends to municipal affairs of all kinds as well as to state affairs...When kept within proper limits local self-government is an excellent thing, but when it is carried to a point where the city causes injury to the state as a whole, the superior interests of the people of the state must prevail over those of the people in the city, just as national must prevail over state interests."

Senator Rosenmeier points out also that special laws are sometimes necessary to take care of emergencies which arise requiring quick action. The process of having citizens vote on every piece of legislation is cumbersome and almost impossible to achieve.

Q - How does the Home Rule Amendment measure up to League standards and where does it fall short?

A - The League supported the 1955 bill which was endorsed by the League of Minnesota Municipalities and which was probably more closely allied to Minnesota Constitutional Commission recommendations. The 1955 bill incorporated everything into an Article XI, was in simple language, and was clear as to definitions and provisions. In the 1957 bill you will note that the voting requirements on Home Rule Charters are left up to the legislature to implement. This follows the sound practice of writing basic policy into the constitution and leaving the details to the legislature. Amendment #1 is still, in substance and underlying philosophy, the result of the MCC report of 1948.

Q - Is the Home Rule Amendment an attempt to annex the suburbs into one large city or county? (Refer to Article XI, Sec. 3)

A - No, It is an effort to improve the effectiveness of local government by
 1) bringing special legislation into the open and requiring local approval, and
 2) at the same time making possible legislation facilitating the use of home rule charter privileges. The amendment does recognize the possibility that city-county consolidation or separation may be accomplished through a home rule charter. (This is impossible now because there is no provision in the constitution for county home rule charters.) However, before this can be done, a legislative enabling act would have to be passed, and then voter approval secured by separate majorities in both the central city and in the rest of the county.

Q - Does Amendment #1 extend the legislative power to abolish local communities without their consent? (Refer to Article XI, Sec. 1)

A - No, the wording of Section 1 does not grant to the legislature power that it lacks now. Under the present constitutional provision, the legislature may provide for the abolition of local units and for consolidation in any manner it sees fit, using the classification device. Under the proposed amendment, any similar law would require the approval of the voters or the governing body of the local government affected, unless a general law dispensed with the need for approval.

Authorization for County Home Rule

✓ Q - How will Amendment # 1 affect counties?

A - Amendment #1 makes it possible for the legislature to authorize counties to adopt home rule charters if a different form of government is wanted by the county. The increasing complexity of county services, particularly in metropolitan areas, makes this possibility of interest. Other states have had county home rule for many years.

Q - Is county home rule necessary?

A - The answer is indicated in the number of special laws which are passed for counties in each session. In the 1957 session, of the 259 special laws passed, 105 were for counties. County home rule, as provided for in this amendment, could provide more flexibility or allow reorganization of county government. Also the legislature could provide for optional forms of county government such as are now available for towns and villages.

Conclusion on Amendment #1

✓ We should like to quote Mr. Orville Peterson, attorney for the League of Minnesota Municipalities, and authority of many years' standing in the field of local government:

"I think no one who had a part in the legislative work of Amendment # 1 would argue that it provided a perfect solution to the constitutional problems of state-local government relations. The amendment is a product of long deliberation and compromise. The choice, is, therefore, not between the proposed amendment and a "perfect amendment," whatever that might be, but between Amendment #1 and the present constitution. I do not think that in the foreseeable future we can expect the legislature to submit an amendment on local government which goes farther in the direction of legislative restrictions or the broadening of local autonomy. Particularly when this setting is appreciated I think the proposed amendment should be supported as providing a much sounder constitutional framework than we now have."

AMENDMENT #2 - Four year term for Governor and other Constitutional Officers

This amendment would lengthen the term of office for the governor, lieutenant governor, state treasurer, attorney general, and secretary of state from two to four years, starting with the election of 1962. As you know, the Four Year Term was specifically listed in the League's Current Agenda in 1955 and is now a Continuing Responsibility. For more detailed reasons why we support this amendment, please refer to The State You're In, Chapter IV, section on Tenure. The state auditor continues to have a four year term under this amendment.

AMENDMENT #3 - Elective office Amendment

Q - What does Amendment #3 accomplish?

- A - 1. It amends Article IV, Sec. 9 to grant a state senator or representative the right to run for another elective office while a member of the legislature, even if the position was created, or the salary for the position was increased, by the legislature of which he is a member; providing that if elected, he resigns his legislative post. This was previously forbidden under Article IV, Sec. 9.
2. He may hold no non-elective office other than Notary Public or postmaster.
3. It also permits a legislator to serve as an attorney for a city, village, or school district while serving in the legislature. He cannot serve as a county attorney.

Q - What are the advantages of this amendment?

- A - Our present Article IV, Sec. 9 is unnecessarily restrictive. Many good men have been prevented from running for another office because of this section.

Q - What are the disadvantages of this amendment?

- A - There has been some debate on the advisability of allowing a legislator to serve as a city, village, or school district attorney. Actually it is fairly common now, even though forbidden in the constitution. Many feel that this is a good thing and this is why:

1. It is a good thing to have lawyer-legislators and they need practical experience while serving in the legislature.
2. Since many legislators now serve in these capacities, it should be made consistent with present practice and be made allowable under the constitution.
3. The advantages of the first part of this amendment (allowing him to run for another office) outweigh the disadvantages of the last part; therefore it should be supported.

Many feel that this is a bad thing because:

1. A legislator cannot possibly escape having a conflict of interests if he is an attorney for a village, city, or school district while also a legislator.
2. A legislator might be able to exert undue influence on a local government to retain him as village attorney.
3. A lawyer is bound by a code of ethics and he should not be representing two sides at once.
4. This amendment is an attempt to legalize an existing practice not necessarily good.

It is because of these last four considerations that the League of Women Voters will not actively support Amendment #3 and will merely inform the public.

Also D St Paul Pioneer Press File
F 3 D 2 A 1

FOR SUNDAY PAPER

March 31, 1958

To the Editor
Minneapolis Tribune
Minneapolis, Minnesota

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota has always stood for good government. We have actively studied ways of improving our state constitution since 1948. Amendments 1 and 2, offered by the last legislature for vote next November, are two proposed changes in the present constitution which the League feels are important and should be made.

The Home Rule Amendment (#1) is the result of ten years of hard work on the part of some of the best constitutional attorneys in the state and of other informed people and organizations. The League believes that passage of the Home Rule Amendment will pave the way for more effective local government. At the same time, the improved provisions on special legislation should help break up the log-jam of special acts in the Legislature and allow our Legislators to concentrate more of their efforts on state-wide issues.

The Longer Term Amendment (#2) gives four-year terms to the Governor and other state executive officers, starting in 1962. It should make possible more satisfactory development of administrative policies and more efficient government.

We ask other citizens to join the League of Women Voters of Minnesota in supporting these governmental improvements.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Kenneth Green,
Constitutional Revision Chairman

League of Women Voters of Minnesota
15th & Washington Avenues S. E.
Minneapolis 14, Minnesota

Release: May 5th

League announces winners
of Centennial Essay Contest

Winner of the 1958 Centennial Essay Contest sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Minnesota is Joseph George Rushton, Jr., 1521 5th St. S. W., Rochester, Minnesota. He is 16 years old and in the eleventh grade at Rochester Senior High School.

Second prize goes to Pat Attema, Route 3, Box 28, Worthington, Minnesota. Pat is seventeen and in grade 12 at Worthington High School.

Third place winner is Jane Rohrer, 412 Eleventh St., Worthington, Minnesota. She is seventeen and in grade 12 at Worthington High School.

Fourth place winner is Richard Grossman, 2401 W. 52nd St., Minneapolis, Minnesota. He is fourteen and in the ninth grade at Southwest High School.

First prize is a 30 volume set of the Encyclopedia Americana, new 1957 edition. All four of the winners will come to the Twin Cities, all expenses paid, on Saturday May 10. They will see the Centennial Parade from reserved seats, go to the Festival of Nations in St. Paul and to the re-dedication ceremonies in Minneapolis on Sunday.

These four winners were picked out of one hundred and twenty-three entries by three judges: Mrs. Donald Guthrie, past legislative chairman, League of Women Voters of Minnesota; Mr. Jay Edgerton, editorial writer, Minneapolis Star; and Mr. Floyd Flom, assistant professor, political science department, University of Minnesota.

The winning essay, entitled "Should There Be a Convention to Revise Minnesota's Constitution?" discussed the need for revising the constitution and compared the two methods, amendment and the calling of a constitutional convention. He pointed out that since the present document has been amended more than eighty times and since there is a need for some one hundred and eighteen more changes, constitutional revision is a necessity.

The Centennial Essay Contest is sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Minnesota for high school students grades nine through twelve to encourage these students to acquaint themselves with the Minnesota Constitution.

The Constitutional Revision Chairman's Notebook should contain: Local League Handbook, Publications Catalogs, Tips on Carrying Out Program (available from LWV of U.S.); State Program, Facts about LWV of Minnesota, and Resource material underlined below (available from LWV of Minnesota); your local League By-laws, Budget, Program. Paragraphs addressed to the Constitutional Revision Chairmen from last year's President's Letters should be included.

- "I. Constitutional Revision - support and work for:
- A. The calling of a constitutional convention;
 - B. A constitutional amendment providing for periodic submission to the people of the question of calling a constitutional convention;
 - C. A constitutional amendment providing for fair and enforceable apportionment of the Legislature."

The State Item I chairman will have to be a maid-of-all work and Jack-of-all-trades this year. The scope of your job depends on your energy, ingenuity and interest. We will be as specific as we can with our suggestions while leaving room for you to tailor the state Board plans to the needs of your League and your community.

I STUDY (see enclosure on Minnesota Government and Politics)

Keep members up to date on the facts through briefing meetings, articles in your local bulletin, and publications. You can't sell a program unless you yourself are sold, and the public does look to League members to "know the facts." Here are your tools:

Constitutional Convention

background..... The State You're In, revised 1958

new, and for action.. Folder (matching Party Designation folder) plus short fact sheet for use in lobbying and speaking

Periodic Submission of Convention Question to the people

background..... "Dear Abigail" 1957. No new material is planned but if your League did not get a chance to study this last year, please squeeze it in this year, and PLEASE send in the questionnaire at the end of the material.

Reapportionment by Amendment

background..... Will an Area Amendment Settle Reapportionment in Minnesota?
Democracy Denied
Legislative Report, 1957

new, and for action... Folder (matching Party Designation folder) plus fact sheet Supplementary material in the fall, if the Governor's Committee comes out with a report

important decisions... The LWV of Minnesota will have decisions to make on reapportionment before January when the legislature meets. We urge you to be familiar with the three reapportionment possibilities:

Area House - Population Senate
Population House - Area Senate
Compromise (or area factor) in both houses

Your League should know the methods by which these plans would be carried out (ie: ceiling on metropolitan representation, etc.) and be prepared to be asked for consensus on at least the four points mentioned at the Council meeting this May. We'll repeat them here:

1. Reinforcement provisions: it was decided at the Council that the LWV would accept special session plus Commission if legislature fails to agree.
2. What does the League think of frozen or semi-frozen districts as a way of putting area into the Senate?
3. Will the League insist on strong population guarantees in one house if we accept a strong area factor in the other?
4. Should the League support the use of census tracts in metropolitan redistricting?

It is only by making these decisions that the League can be effective if a new reapportionment amendment is written next session. Backed by a firm League stand on new points, and by past League positions, the state Board and the lobbyists can then work for some equitable solution to the reapportionment problem.

II PUBLIC RELATIONS

Alert the community to our "Big Three" (constitutional revision, reapportionment and party designation), using techniques discussed at the Area Conferences in March. Work with the Public Relations Chairman on ideas, and ways to carry them out. If you have a way of reaching the public which is successful but somewhat taken for granted in the community, you might consider a switch in emphasis or method, such as:

Radio.....tapes, series on state program, interviews

TV

Local Press...regular column, special articles or features, try getting to know your editor and giving him our publications and information

Speaking to groups

Public Meetings

Window Displays

County Fair Booths

Publications..... distribute to contributors, in finance drives, at meetings, at booths, to schools and libraries, waiting rooms, etc. The State Item Chairman can make suggestions in her field to the publications chairman.

III LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES

State Item I is obviously closely linked to legislative activities in a legislative year. You can help by providing background information on state program to the members and helping on the Lobby by Letter program.

IV AMENDMENTS (under Continuing Responsibility I)

Voters service channels will handle informing the public about all three amendments through the flyer, A Quick Look at Amendments 1,2,3.

Action in support of Amendment 1 and 2 can be dealt with by the State resource chairman and the Public Relations chairman working together. Try to make sure your members are informed on League background and position on Amendment 1 and 2, using The State You're In and the 5-page Information on the Proposed Constitutional Amendments sent you in March.

Amendment # 1 - on ballot November 1958

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

AN ACT PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF MINNESOTA
RELATING TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND REVISING AND CONSOLIDATING THE
PROVISIONS THEREFOR; AMENDING ARTICLE XI AND ARTICLE IV, SECTION
33, AND REPEALING ARTICLE IV, SECTION 36.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Section 1. An amendment of the Constitution of the State of Minnesota revising and consolidating the provisions relating to local government is proposed to the people of the state for their approval or rejection, which, if adopted, amends Article XI, amends Article IV, Section 33, to remove inconsistent provisions, and repeals Article IV, Section 36. The proposed amendment revises Article XI and Article IV, Section 33, to read as follows:

ARTICLE XI

Section 1. The legislature may provide by law for the creation, organization, administration, consolidation, division, and dissolution of local government units and their functions, for the change of boundaries thereof, for their officers, including qualifications for office, both elective and appointive, and for the transfer of county seats. No county boundary shall be changed or county seat transferred until approved by a majority of the voters of each county affected voting thereon.

Sec. 2. Every law which upon its effective date applies to a single local government unit or to a group of such units in a single county or a number of contiguous counties is a special law and shall name the unit or, in the latter case, the counties, to which it applies. The legislature may enact special laws relating to local government units, but a special law, unless otherwise provided by general law, shall become effective only after its approval by the affected unit expressed through the voters or the governing body and by such majority as the legislature may direct. Any special law may be modified or superseded by a later home rule charter or amendment applicable to the same local government unit, but this does not prevent the adoption of subsequent laws on the same subject.

Sec. 3. Any city or village, and any county or other local government unit when authorized by law, may adopt a home rule charter for its government in accordance with this constitution and the laws. No such charter shall become effective without the approval of the voters of the local government unit affected by such majority as the legislature may prescribe by general law. If a charter provides for the consolidation or separation of a city and a county, in whole or in part, it shall not be effective without approval of the voters both in the city and in the remainder of the county by the majority required by law.

Sec. 4. The legislature shall provide by law for charter commissions. Notwithstanding any other constitutional limitations, the legislature may require that commission members shall be freeholders, provide for their appointment by judges of the district court, and permit any member to hold any other elective or appointive office other than judicial. Home rule charter amendments may be proposed by a charter commission or by a petition of five percent of the voters of the local government unit as determined by law and shall not become effective until approved by the voters by the majority required by law. Amendments may be proposed and adopted in any other manner provided by law. A local government unit may repeal its home rule charter and adopt a statutory form of government or a new charter upon the same majority vote as is required by law for the adoption of a charter in the first instance.

Sec. 5. Existing laws and charters, valid when adopted, shall continue in effect until amended or repealed in accordance with this article.

ARTICLE IV

Sec. 33. In all cases when a general law can be made applicable, no special law shall be enacted, except as provided in Article XI; and whether a general law could have been made applicable in any case is hereby declared a judicial question, and as such shall be judicially determined without regard to any legislative assertion on that subject. The legislature shall pass no local or special law authorizing the laying out, opening, altering, vacating or maintaining roads, highways, streets or alleys; remitting fines, penalties or forfeitures; changing the names of persons, places, lakes or rivers; authorizing the adoption or legitimation of children, changing the law of descent or succession; conferring rights upon minors; declaring any named person of age; giving effect to informal or invalid wills or deeds, or affecting the estates of minors or persons under disability; exempting property from taxation or regulating the rate of interest on money; creating private corporations, or amending, renewing extending or explaining the charters thereof; granting to any private corporation, association, or individual any special or exclusive privilege, immunity or franchise whatever or authorizing public taxation for a private purpose. The inhibitions of local or special laws in this section shall not be construed to prevent the passage of general laws on any of the subjects enumerated.

The legislature may repeal any existing special or local law, but shall not amend, extend or modify any of the same except as provided in Article XI.

Sec. 36. This section is repealed.

Sec. 2. The proposed amendment shall be submitted to the voters of the state for their approval or rejection. Notwithstanding Minnesota Statutes 1953, Section 3.21, the attorney general shall omit from the statement of purpose and effect the text of the existing sections of the constitution proposed to be amended, repealed, or superseded by the proposed amendment. The question shall be stated on the ballot as follows: "Shall the constitution of Minnesota be amended by revising and consolidating the provisions on local government, regulating the passage of special laws relating thereto, and providing for the adoption and amendment of home rule charters by cities and villages and by other local government units when authorized by law?

Yes _____

No _____"

Approved April 27, 1957.

SEP 18 1958

League of Women Voters of Minnesota, 15th & Washington S.E., Minneapolis 14, Minn.
C91858CL September 1958

QUOTES FOR BULLETIN EDITORS

From the Centennial Institute on Minnesota Government and Politics held at the University of Minnesota, July 21 - August 1. Subject: "Our State Constitution"

John Bebout, associate director of the National Municipal League and consultant to several constitutional conventions.

In discussing basic weaknesses found in state constitutions, Mr. Bebout mentioned the extraordinary majority vote of the legislatures needed to submit the constitutional convention question to the people. This, he said, "rules out the chance of future and present generations to do what our forefathers have done - write themselves a new and possibly better constitution."

These weaknesses are "institutional stumbling blocks standing in the way of the basic powers of self-determination that our ancestors enjoyed."

"State constitutions were conceived in fear - that the state might do wrong. The United States Constitution was conceived in hope - of establishing an effective government."

State Senator Arthur Gillen of South St. Paul

"I will concede that a call for a constitutional convention is not mandatory. Anyway, it is immaterial. Reapportionment is mandatory and no one heeds it."

There are two arguments advanced by opponents of a constitutional convention:

- "1. The original is so good that it doesn't need tampering with.
2. There are so many thorny problems that we can't deal with them in a convention.

These opposite viewpoints, presented at the same time, cancel each other out."

Frank Farrell, St. Paul, attorney active in the reapportionment suit

"Lack of reapportionment makes for discrimination on the basis of geography, which is just as bad as that based on race, creed, or color."

State Rep. Karl Grittner, St. Paul

In rebuttal of the statement that metropolitan people are closer to their legislators, he said:

"People are no farther from their legislators than the nearest post office."

State Senator Charles Root, Minneapolis

"There are very few in many districts who would be interested or qualified to run as delegates to a constitutional convention."

State Senator Donald O. Wright, Minneapolis

"The federal and state constitutions are documents of equal solemnity."

"Bills passed by the Legislature are restrictions on people's liberties. The constitution is the wall or bullwark which stands between the people and government."

December 6, 1958

To the Editor
Minneapolis Morning Tribune
Minneapolis, Minn.

Dear Sir:

Recently a reader asked why the League of Women Voters doesn't write a "model constitution" for Minnesota in order to show what a revised constitution would be like and gain support for a constitutional convention. The reason is that we feel it is not the function of the League or any other advisory group to write a proposed constitution. It is the delegates to the convention, an elected representative body, who have the authority and the privilege of drawing up the specific provisions of a constitution.

The League can point out aspects of the Constitution which need change, and this it has done over the past ten years through many publications. The League and other groups can make recommendations which they would like to see incorporated into a revised constitution. Some of the most urgent and talked-about are included here.

- More clearly fixed executive responsibilities
- Some method of enforcing reapportionment of the Legislature
- Adequate length of legislative session
- Removal of obsolete, contradictory, or purely statutory material from the Constitution
- Workable amending process
- Overhauling of the financial provisions, some of which are archaic or unnecessarily restrictive.

The Constitutional Commission appointed by the Legislature in 1947 studied the Constitution and recommended many changes of the sort mentioned above, plus a constitutional convention to achieve them. However, the Commission also compiled its recommendations into a model constitution for Minnesota. For this last effort the Commission was criticized by some as having exceeded its authority.

The League of Women Voters will not take over the job of the duly elected delegates to a constitutional convention, but we will continue to advocate a constitutional convention as the most efficient and democratic way to get the constitutional improvements that Minnesota needs.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Kenneth Green
Constitutional Revision Chairman
League of Women Voters of Minnesota

leg. file

LEGISLATIVE OBSERVERS COURSE

Ninety Days of Lawmaking in Minnesota - A Go-See Tour

Object: To learn legislative procedures
Textbook: Ninety Days of Lawmaking in Minnesota
Material: Lobby by Letter Kit

The general plan will be to meet at 10 A.M. every other Wednesday in the Weyerhaeuser Room of the Historical Society (Cedar St. and Central Avenue, next door to the Capitol) to have a discussion of the subject for the day, then a half hour speech by a legislator, then a Go-See tour to see in action the subject we have just discussed. We plan to spotlight special events such as the joint session of the legislature to elect the University Regents, etc.

- January 14 - Explanation of Observers Course - Lunch hour & place to be announced
Introduction to the Legislature - Representative Sally Luther
Welcome by Governor Orville Freeman
Scheduled Capitol Tour
Governor's Budget Message
Orientation Session for "Freshmen" Legislators - on Drafting and Processing of Bills, by George Leahy, Chief Clerk of House, following Governor's Address - League members welcome in gallery
- January 28 - Organization of House and House Committees - George Leahy, Chief Clerk of the House
- February 11 - Organization of Senate and Senate Committees - Senator John M. Zwach
- February 25 - How a Bill becomes a Law
- March 11 - Legislative Research Committee, Interim Committees and their reports
Speaker, Louis Dorweiler, Director of Research, LRC
- March 28 - Progress report on League legislation
- April 8 - Conference Committees, use of special orders, compromises, and problems of the jam up in the last two weeks
- April 22 - Last day of the session. Those who wish may come for the final curtain or clock covering.

LEGISLATIVE OBSERVERS

This year we are initiating a new program - that of Legislative Observers. Any League is invited to take an active part in this program, but we are not specifically asking Leagues beyond the suburban areas of the Twin Cities to participate because we know that the expense and bad weather would probably make this impossible.

We have felt for a long time the need for a training program for future lobbyists. Many more women would help out at the Legislature if they could go as observers rather than lobbyists, and this experience would be valuable to the potential lobbyists because it would familiarize them with the ins and outs of lawmaking and lawmakers.

Naturally local Leagues must carry the burden of persuading their particular legislators but in areas where we have no Leagues, this burden falls on state League lobbyists who are few (about twenty) in number but experts in their fields. To train lobbyists for future sessions we are setting up a new group, the Legislative Observers.

How will it work? Each League in the five counties (Ramsey, Hennepin, Anoka, Washington and Dakota) should contribute four observers. Each observer will be assigned to a committee in the Legislature when we have a "School for Observers," probably the second week in January. At "school" the observer will be told about the different committees, when they meet, etc. Each observer can then indicate her committee preference and details on her assignment will be mailed to her later.

Here is an opportunity to try out some of your resource and board members who are interested in legislative procedure. We hope that no observer will be required to spend more than 15 hours during the session.

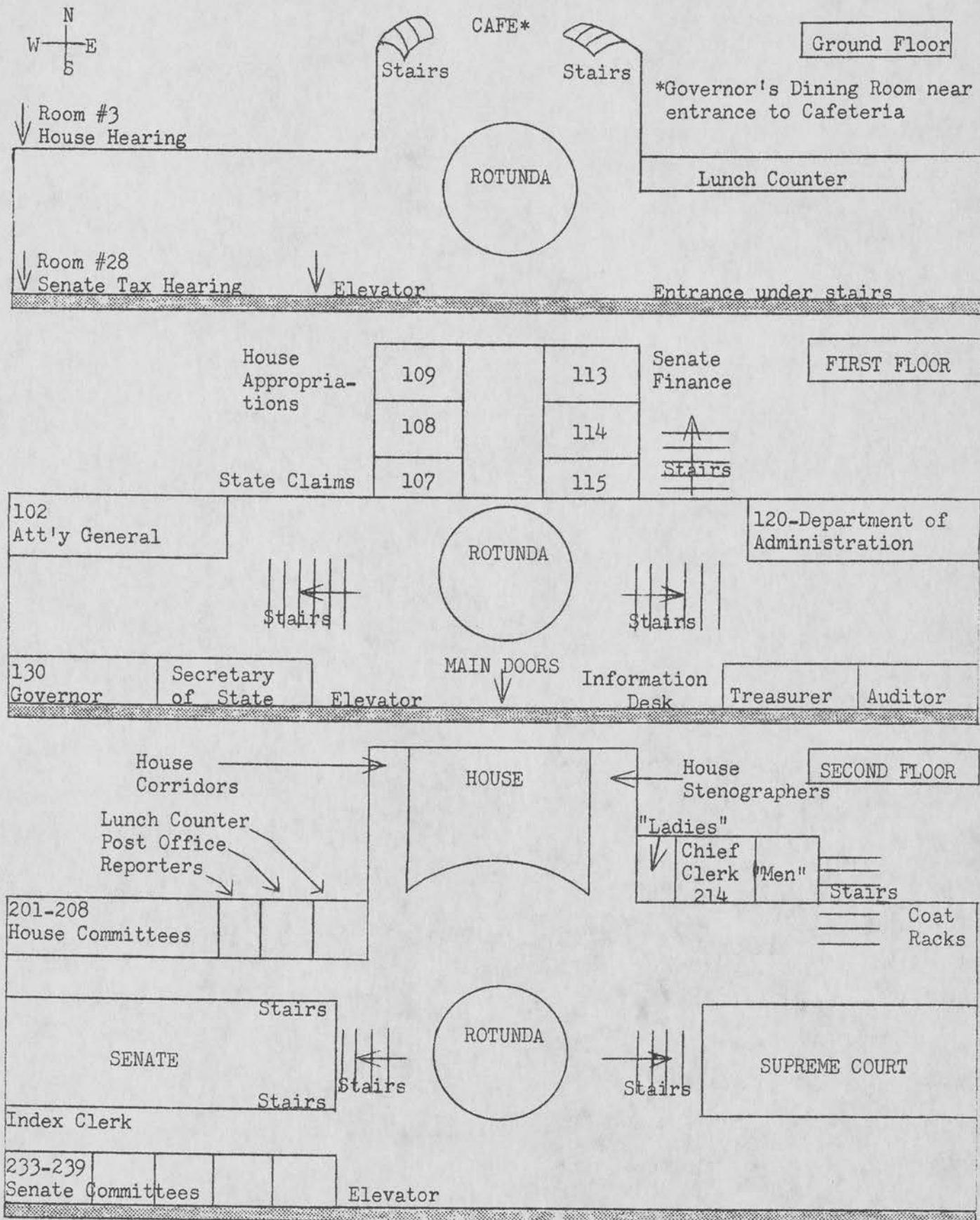
We would like to have the names, addresses and telephone numbers of your observers by December 10th, if possible. We also hope that you will let us know what you think of this plan and what additional data you feel you will need in order to provide these observers. We need to know the approximate number of people who are interested in being observers in order to arrange for a large enough room and enough supplies of material.

Please return to state office by December 10th.

LEGISLATIVE OBSERVERS

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Telephone</u>
1.	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____

SIMPLIFIED MAP OF MINNESOTA CAPITOL, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA



Pick up House Journals in Room 214, Senate Journals in Room 234.

DEC 22 1958

League of Women Voters of Minnesota, 15 & Washington Aves. S.E., Minneapolis 14, Minn.

FOR RELEASE: December 31

HOW REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT IS ASSURED BY OUR STATE CONSTITUTION

Minnesota's High School students throughout the state will be busy reading most of the 26,000 words contained in Minnesota's most important document, the Minnesota Constitution, in preparation for the third annual essay contest entitled, "How Representative Government is Assured by our State Constitution," sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Minnesota. The contest is held to encourage high school students to become better acquainted with their constitution and state government.

First prize is a 30-volume set of the Encyclopedia Americana, new 1957 edition. The first three winners will also come to St. Paul for an all-expense paid day at the state legislature. This will include a tour of the capitol, a chat with their legislators and the governor and a seat in the gallery of the House and Senate to see their government in action.

The contest opens January 5, 1959 and closes February 14. All papers will be sent to the League of Women Voters of Minnesota, 15th and Washington Ave. S.E., Minneapolis, Minnesota. No papers will be returned and the decision of the judges will be final. Only Minnesota high school students grades 9 through 12 will be eligible.

The judges are Miss Miriam Alburn, editorial staff, Minneapolis Tribune; Dr. Scott Johnston, Political Science Professor, Hamline University; Mrs. William Graham, Jr., past president of the Bloomington League of Women Voters and a lobbyist for the League of Women Voters in the state legislature.

A copy of the contest rules and a list of material available on the Constitution may be had by writing to the League of Women Voters, 15th and Washington Aves. S.E., Minneapolis, Minnesota.

H. F. No. _____

H. F. No. _____

A BILL FOR AN ACT PROPOSING A
CONVENTION TO REVISE THE
CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF
MINNESOTA; PROVIDING FOR A
REFERENDUM THEREON.

Introduced and Read First Time } _____ 19 _____

By Mr. _____

Ref. to Com. on _____

Reported Back _____

Read Second Time _____

Com. of Whole _____

Read Third Time _____

Passed _____

Transmitted to Senate _____

Chief Clerk H. of R.

Read First Time _____

Ref. to Com. on _____

Reported Back _____

Read Second Time _____

Com. of Whole _____

Read Third Time _____

Passed _____

Returned to House _____

Secretary of Senate.

APPROVED AS TO FORM
Revisor of Statutes
By *Edith M. H. [Signature]*
Date JAN 16 1959

A BILL

FOR AN ACT PROPOSING A CONVENTION TO
REVISE THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE
OF MINNESOTA; PROVIDING FOR A
REFERENDUM THEREON.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Section 1. There shall be submitted to the electors at the general election to be held in November, 1960, the question:

"Shall there be a convention to revise the constitution of the state of Minnesota?"

Sec. 2. The electors may vote by ballot for or against a convention. The election shall be conducted and the returns thereof made, canvassed, and certified in the manner provided by law for general elections. The question on the ballot shall be:

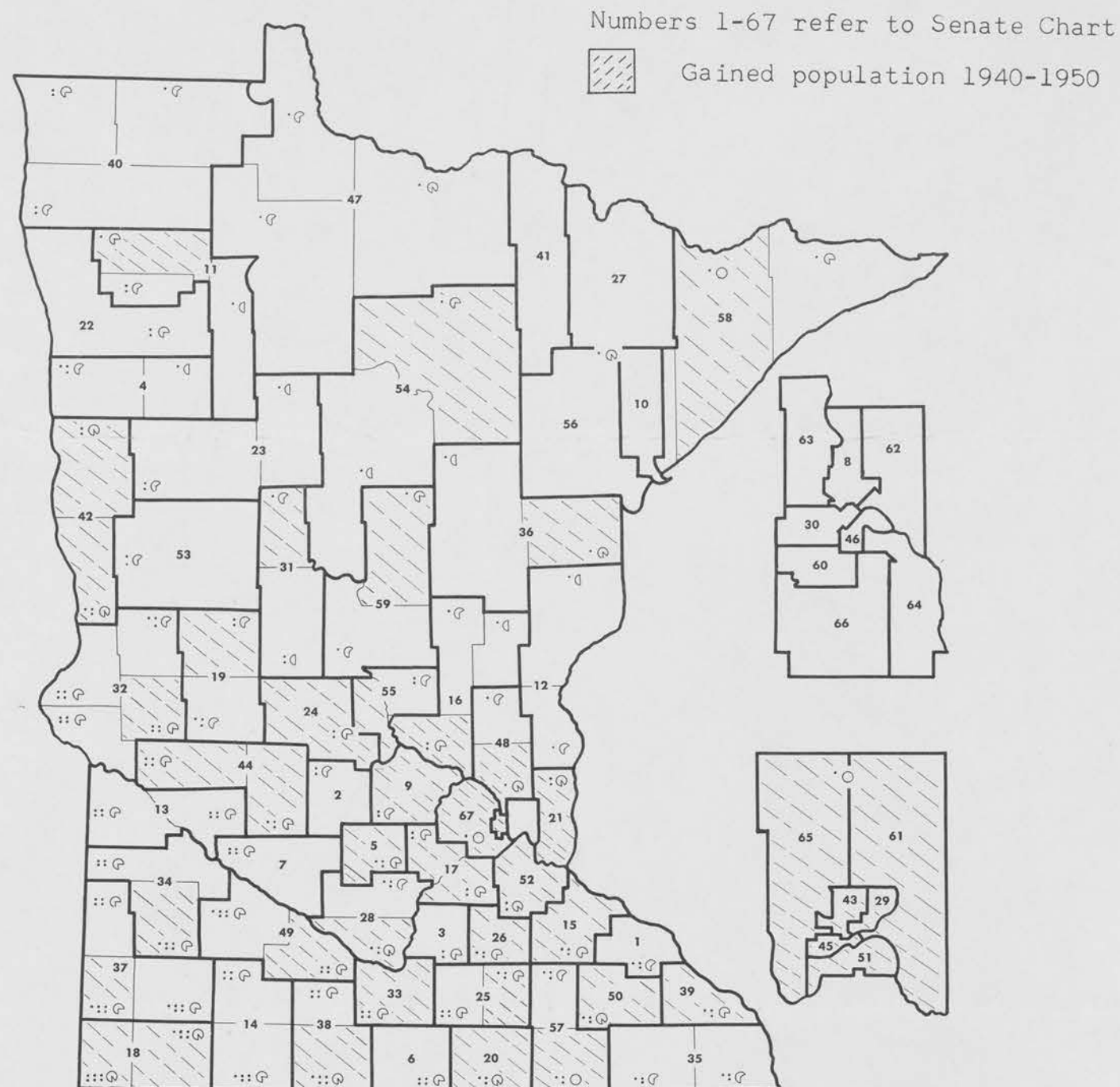
"Shall there be a convention to revise the constitution of the state of Minnesota?"

Yes _____

No _____

If the majority of the voters voting at the election shall have voted for a convention, the legislature shall, at its next succeeding session, provide for calling such a convention.

MINNESOTA SENATE



Sources:

U. S. Bureau of Census, COUNTY AND CITY DATA BOOK, 1952.
(A Statistical Abstract Supplement)

1949 Median Family Income

•	Less than \$2,000
◐	" " 2,500
◑	" " 3,000
◒	" " 3,500
○	" " 4,000

% of All Farms Operated by Tenants, as of April 1, 1950

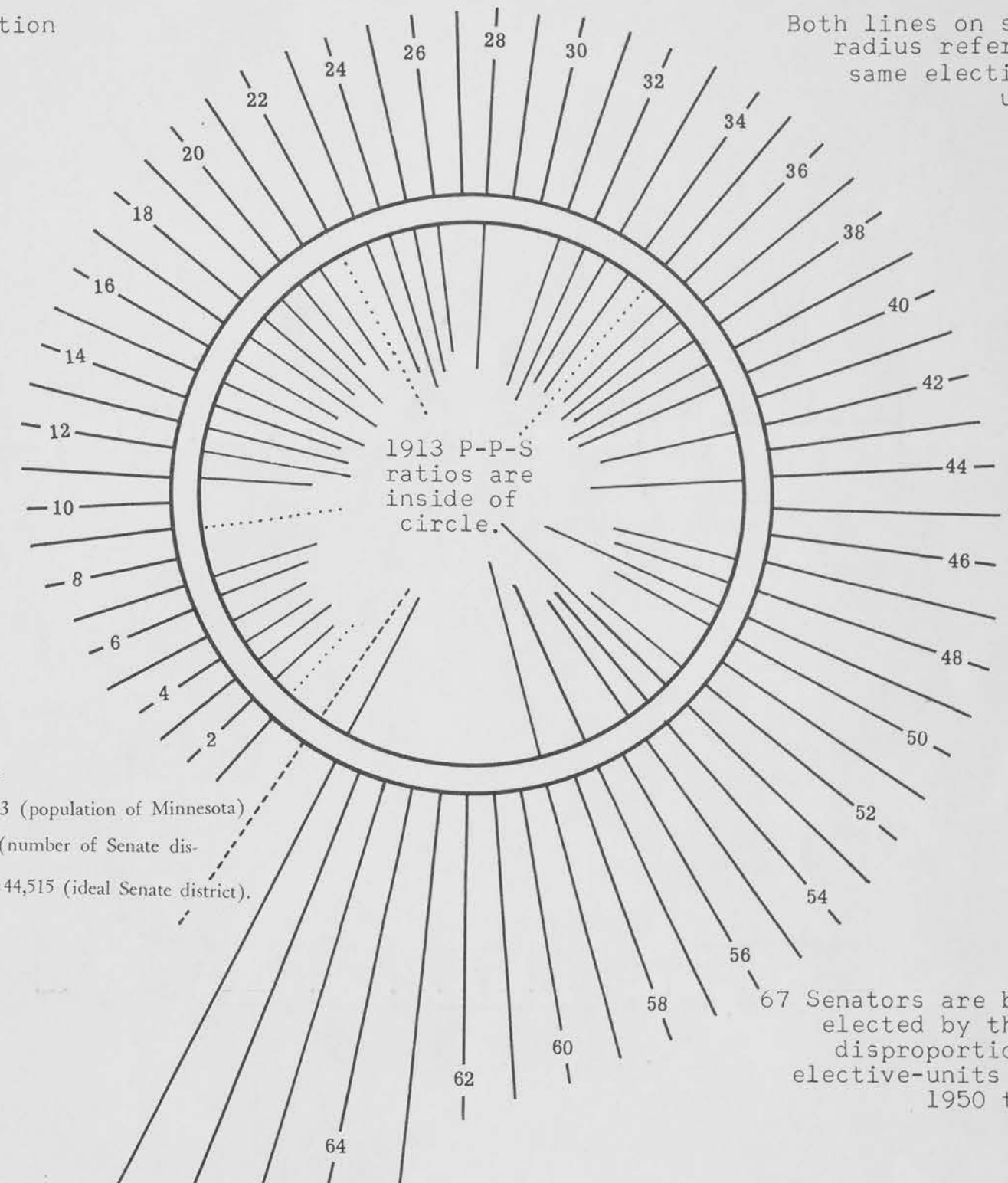
•	From 0 - 10%
◐	" 10 - 20%
◑	" 20 - 30%
◒	" 30 - 40%
◓	" 40 - 50%
◔	" 50 - 60%

POPULATION-PER-SENATOR RATIOS

Population
10,000



Both lines on same
radius refer to
same elective-
unit



Senate:

2,982,483 (population of Minnesota)

÷ 67 (number of Senate districts) = 44,515 (ideal Senate district).

67 Senators are being elected by the 67 disproportionate elective-units from 1950 till?

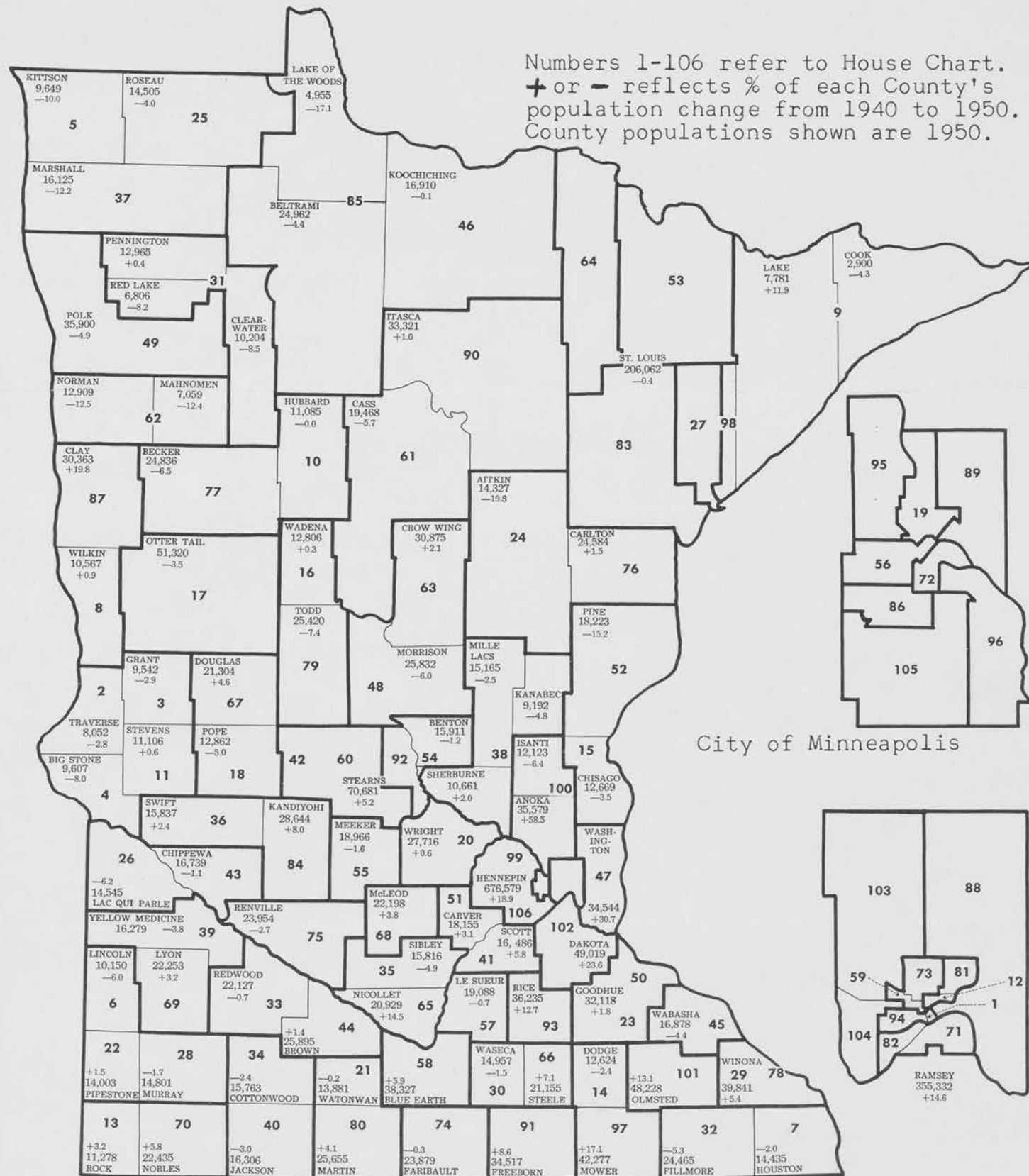
Sources:

July 8, 1954, Report by Research Department of the Legislative Research Committee.

Unfinished Ph. D. thesis by John A. Bond, University of Minnesota.

Prepared by F. J. Nestorek, and presented to the Citizens of Minnesota by the Minneapolis First Ward D.F.L. Club.

MINNESOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

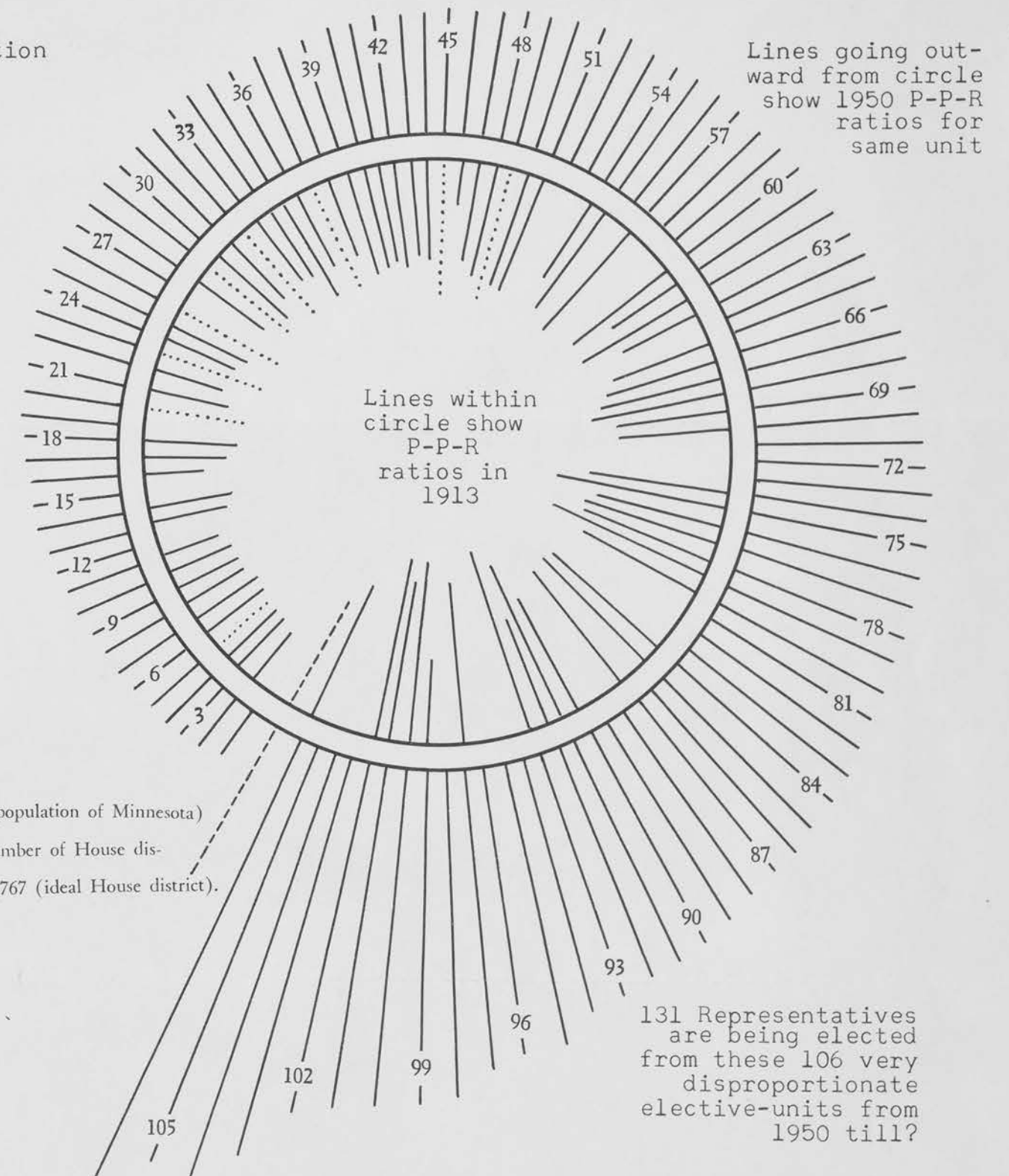


Sources:

1953 Minnesota Legislative Manual
Minnesota League of Women Voters
Sixteenth and Seventeenth Census of the United States

POPULATION-PER-REPRESENTATIVE RATIOS

Population
10,000



House:

2,982,483 (population of Minnesota)
÷ 131 (number of House districts) = 22,767 (ideal House district).

Sources:

July 8, 1954, Report by Research Department of the Legislative Research Committee.

Unfinished Ph. D. thesis by John A. Bond, University of Minnesota.

Prepared by F. J. Nestorek, and presented to the Citizens of Minnesota by the Minneapolis First Ward D.F.L. Club.



Sunday, April 26, 1959

Bloomington JUNIOR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
BOX 6577 • BLOOMINGTON 20, MINNESOTA

Mrs. Homer Mantis,
State Legislative Chairman,
League of Women Voters of Minnesota,
2352 Buford Avenue,
St. Paul 8, Minnesota.

Dear Mrs. Mantis,

Thank you for your kind telephone call today relating to my letter in the Minneapolis Sunday Tribune of today concerning the need for state constitutional reform.

I attach a resolution and memorandum attached, sponsored by the Bloomington Jaycees which was adopted by the executive committee of the Minnesota Junior Chamber of Commerce on April 11, 1959.

My understanding is that our state organization has already or immediately will be setting up a special committee to look into this matter.

Yours very truly,

Bill Endersbe

Bill Endersbe, President,
Bloomington Jaycees.

cc: Kelton Gage,
State President.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS: The Constitution of the State of Minnesota was adopted on October 13, 1857;

AND WHEREAS: It is believed by many individuals and groups that this constitution is poorly drafted and substantially outmoded for today;

AND WHEREAS: It is further believed that the general public is not generally aware of the contents of the present constitution and its patent short-comings;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Minnesota Junior Chamber of Commerce consider the foregoing by referral to the State Public Affairs Committee, or other suitable committee, for study and possible action in the forthcoming Jaycee year.

Sponsoring Chapter:

Bloomington Jaycees

*Adapted by Executive
Committee of The
Minnesota Junior
Chamber of Commerce
on April 11, 1959*

To: Public Affairs Committee - Minnesota Junior Chamber of Commerce,
Gentlemen:

The present constitution of the State of Minnesota was adopted on October 13, 1857, more than 100 Years ago. Much of its contents have to do with life as it existed then. The ninety day legislative session every two years is an example. We know it is impossible to run the State of Minnesota and make its budget and laws within that time. so we have to resort to such puerile devices as covering the clock. Other examples of ill-conceived provisions in our constitution are:

- a. 7 or 8 pages taken up in description of the trunk highways
- b. Taxation of railroads
- c. Detailed provisions on school funds and taxation
- d. Iron ore tax provisions
- e. Loan provisions for insane asylums
- f. Provisions relating to the rights of private stockholders
- g. Compensation for members of the Armed Forces

Most of these things are a proper matter for legislation but should not be cluttering up such a basic document as a constitution. Taking the federal constitution as a model, such a basic document should concern itself only with the broad powers and duties of branches of the government, public officials, a bill of rights for individuals and matters of that sort. It should not be restricted by detailed provisions on matters of less than constitutional importance.

It is believed that if the general public was aware of the many short-comings of this document they would call for a constitutional convention. Therefore it is a problem of education, and herein lies the field in which the State Jaycees could do a notable job of far-reaching and lasting importance to our state.

Suggested plan of action

1. Set up a sub-committee consisting of our members who are lawyers, political scientists, legislators, and others who are interested, to make a detailed study of the background of the present constitution, its specific inadequacies for today, and the changes that should be made. Possibly they could consider drafting a model constitution.
2. Contact with other groups that are interested, notably The League of Women Voters (who have much background and material on this matter), both political parties, The State Bar Association, and others.
3. Promotion of this project in the local organizations with suggested literature, posters showing inadequacies with, perhaps, cartooning used.
4. Letter writing campaigns to our legislators urging allowance of a constitutional convention. We can only ultimately deal through the legislature to allow such a convention since we do not have, in Minnesota, the machinery of Initiative and Referendum (the power of the people to legislate outside of the legislature).
5. Other imaginative devices for educating the people about their constitution and the need for a general overhaul.

May 5, 1959

Mr. John P. Wheeler, Director
State Constitutional Studies Project
National Municipal League
47 East 68th Street
New York 21, New York

Dear Mr. Wheeler:

I have been negligent in replying to your letter of March 12, because I have found it difficult to give definitive answers to your questions. However, I shall do what I can with them, hoping that I am not too late.

The organization of our group for purposes of study is not a problem. As you probably know, the League of Women Voters is organized on the basis of municipalities and subdivided into units, ranging in size from 10 to 30 women, who give and listen to reports and discuss whatever subjects have been voted on to the League program by the membership at annual or biennial conventions. The Minnesota LWV put revision of the State's Constitution on its study-action program in 1947 and it has voted to continue with it at each biennial convention since that time.

From the beginning, we had excellent source material, from which our League experts-to-be were to draw information for the more readable and available material we ultimately produced (all are listed in bibliographies in The State You're In which, I understand, you have). The authoritative reference was Anderson and Lobb, History of the Constitution of Minnesota. Professor Anderson was also readily available to us as consultant and has served as a continuing and indispensable adviser. Folwell's History of Minnesota and the Debates of the 1858 Constitutional Convention itself were excellent sources and fascinating reading as well. Any state which has comparable material should use it - it alone rouses interest in the subject. Two other major references were the Report of the Minnesota Constitutional Commission, appointed by the 1947 Legislature, and the Report of the Minnesota Efficiency in Government Commission, authorized by the 1949 Legislature. The then State League president served on the latter Commission and became one of the League's resource people on constitutional revision. Final important reference was your own Model State Constitution, as you can see in even the most cursory scanning of our publication.

We began our study of the Constitution without commitment to need for specific changes and soon realized that the subject was too large for our membership to comprehend all

in one "chunk." The reports of the two legislatively-authorized committees further demonstrated differences of opinion among responsible people as to changes needed. Therefore, after a comparatively short study (a year or so), we concentrated our efforts on seeking the calling of a constitutional convention, stating clearly that we took no position on changes to be made in the Constitution itself - that this would be the job of a convention. This gave us time to find out just what we did think needed change, while at the same time left us free to advocate revision.

In 1953, we tentatively moved into the position of recommending some changes in broad areas, still emphasizing the calling of a convention, and in the ensuing two years we attacked the Constitution on several particular points, but without attempting to cover anything but the most out-of-date or inequitable provisions. By 1955, our membership felt knowledgeable enough to go beyond the obvious antiquities of the Constitution and make specific suggestions toward a forward-looking, workable document.

It had taken us eight years, working with the best possible materials (here I refer specifically to the two Reports) and resource people to arrive at this point of confidence.

Although we relied heavily on outside material, we began producing our own early in the game. Our first efforts were one, two and three page mimeographed "fact sheets" or question-answer formats having to do with generalities about the historical development of the Constitution and the men who made it, misconceived attitudes about the "sacredness" of such charters, out-of-date provisions, the difficulties of amendment, etc. By 1953, we were putting out fairly comprehensive, yet - hopefully - readable papers (15 - 20 typed sheets) on specific areas, such as legislative reorganization, and tax provisions found in the Constitution. These were accompanied by discussion outlines. In the next two years we had done enough of these so that by 1956 we were able to re-edit and condense them and to assemble a booklet - the first edition of The State You're In. The revised second edition, completed in 1958, is the one you have. It is most important to a thorough study of a subject as complex as a state constitution that those leading the study actually produce more than mere "surface" material in connection with it, whether or not there is good source material available. I am convinced that our most expert experts (forgive me) came to be such because they had to write concisely and carefully about it.

I believe that the single most helpful suggestion you could make is one that would demonstrate the fascination of studying a state constitution. I presume that different appeals motivate different people, but these are some we found most effective with ours:

1. Breaking down the idea that a state constitution is
 - a - a sacred document, written in a contemplative atmosphere by intellectual giants of unquestioned integrity and devotion to public service; and
 - b - like the Federal Constitution, and not to be tampered with.

2. Showing the basic difference between and purposes of the Federal as against the state constitutions.
3. Emphasizing that it is the citizen - not the legislator - who is the traditional American constitution-maker.
4. Tracing the historical forces at work at the time in which our particular State Constitution was formulated and their effect on the writing of that document.

If a person has an adequate feeling of history and enough natural curiosity, he will be caught up by one or more of these ideas, if only because they are generally not known - or perhaps are misunderstood - and are intriguing enough to provide a kick-off. The study can then be approached from one or two of several possible directions, at a pace commensurate with the students' abilities.

Our approaches were haphazard, but - in retrospect - fall into several categories.

1. History of the Constitution, including statehood and the first (only) Constitutional Convention(s).
2. Provisions which are antiquated by time itself or by supercession of federal law, or are otherwise out-of-date.
3. Expense of operating under this charter and expense of piece-meal amendment.
4. Major areas of interest, e.g., provisions having to do with legislative, executive, judicial operation, home rule, legislative apportionment, finance, etc.

This is my best effort in response to your letter. I know I have not dealt with all of your questions. If it is not too late and if other questions occur to you, please write again. I promise a prompt reply.

Incidentally, I wish you success on your project. It is greatly needed.

Sincerely yours,

Eleanor M. Salisbury,
Treasurer

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA
15th and Washington Avenues S.E., Minneapolis 1', Minnesota FE 8-8791

M
E
M
O

DATE: March 23, 1959

TO: John P. Wheeler, Director, State Constitutional Studies Project

FROM: Grace Wilson, Secretary

SUBJECT: Request for advice on preparation of publication on study of state constitutions

Dear Mr. Wheeler, I am forwarding your request to Miss Eleanor Salisbury, who was our board member who edited our "State You're In" - the study we produced on Minnesota's constitution, and which you requested (I sent you 3 copies under separate cover.)

She will try to answer your questions herself, or get information from others who have information, I am sure.

P.S. You asked the cost of our publications - The State You'r In is 85¢ -- feel a little guilty charging such a public service organization as yours, but if you insist.....

Alfred Willoughby, Executive Director
Allen H. Seed, Jr., Assistant Director

A Citizens' Organization for Better Government
Founded 1894 • Incorporated 1923

D.G.
MAR 16 1959

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March 12, 1959

Mrs. O. H. Anderson
University of Minnesota
15th & Washington Avenue, S. E.
Minneapolis 14, Minnesota

Dear Mrs. Anderson:

Several weeks ago I wrote to you, announcing our plans for the revision of the Model State Constitution. Now I write to request your help on a second phase of the Project. The State Constitutional Studies Project plans a publication, tentatively entitled "How to Study Your State Constitution." The purpose of this will be to provide citizen groups with some guides concerning the best methods to use in studying their state constitutions. We assume that few people have much of an idea of what is in their state constitutions and have even less notion of how to find out what is in them. We are convinced that a publication of this kind will be of immeasurable help to citizen study groups.

Knowing of the extensive work of some of the state Leagues of Women Voters, we thought that your organization would be an important source of information about problems confronted by study groups. My request is that this letter be passed on to those of your organization who have been involved in studying your state constitution or some particular part of it.

We are interested in the answers to such questions as: What problems of reading and comprehension did you confront? Were there problems resulting from the terminology or organization of state constitutions? How did you organize your group for the purposes of the study, and do you feel your approach was a successful one? What kind of materials did you find most helpful? What other materials would have been useful to you? Whom did you consult? Were they cooperative and helpful? Finally, and in general, what do you think is the single most helpful suggestion that we could make in our projected publication? These questions are merely suggestive of the kinds of information we seek.

We hope that you will assist us for without your help our publication will be much less than it could be.

Very truly yours,

John P. Wheeler

John P. Wheeler, Director
State Constitutional Studies
Project

Plan now to attend the 65th NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON GOVERNMENT
Springfield, Mass. Nov. 15-18 Sheraton-Kimball Hotel

Remarks on Bill to Submit to the Voters of
Minnesota the Question of Calling a Constitu-
tional Convention - *by Lloyd Short* -

Senate Judiciary Committee--Feb. 20, 1959

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee:

I wish to submit just two points for your consideration this morning.

I - Our state constitution is in need of revision

A Commission to study this need was created by the legislature in 1947. The Commission consisted of 16 legislators, 1 representative each from the executive and judicial branches of government, and 3 citizens.

This Commission, reporting 2 years later, recommended minor changes or deletions in 78 sections of the constitution, and major changes in 40 sections including 6 wholly new sections.

These recommendations were arrived at after 18 months of study with virtual unanimity. In the intervening decade some of these recommendations, with modifications, have been adopted through the amending process as you know, such as the two amendments adopted last fall.

But much remains to be done to give us a state constitution free from deadwood and equal to the requirements of effective state government in the 20th century. Amended some 85 times without ever being revised as a single document, our constitution is a patchwork that fails to meet adequately present day state governmental needs.

We are illustrative of the finding of the national Commission on Intergovernmental Relations in 1955 that "there is a very real need for the states to improve their constitutions."

II - A constitutional convention is an appropriate method for achieving such a revision

It is recognized as such in the constitution of the U. S. and in most of the states.

It is the way in which we got our present U. S. and Minnesota constitutions

The constitution is essentially a grant of power by the people to their government-- what the people have given they should have the opportunity to withdraw or revise

The Legislature, which is charged with the responsibility under our constitution of giving the voters an opportunity to decide whether they want to call a convention, should be especially sensitive to this responsibility, since a convention is the only means by which the people can initiate change in this branch of state government. Some states

have the Initiative and Referendum for this purpose but we do not in Minnesota. The Constitutional Commission, at the conclusion of its work, voted to recommend that the legislature submit to the voters the question of calling a constitutional convention. The Commission also recommended in its report that this question should be submitted to the voters every 20 years.

To remove all doubt that the work of a constitutional convention must receive voter approval before it becomes effective, an amendment to this effect was proposed by the 1953 Legislature and adopted in 1954.

There is no reason to expect that the voters will approve the calling of a convention unless they feel there is a compelling need for it.

And there is no reason to fear the consequences of such a convention composed of citizens and possibly some legislators elected for that task from the existing districts for choosing members of the House of Representatives.

Ludle
Tupac
5464

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA

15th and Washington Avenue S.E. Minneapolis 14, Minnesota

Federal 8-8791

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

February 20, 1959

by Mrs. O. H. Anderson, President of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota

This is the twelfth year that the League of Women Voters of Minnesota has worked for revision of the State Constitution. That the Constitution needs changing is not a point of disagreement. Many different groups—including the Legislature—have favored constitutional revision.

In 1947 the Legislature appointed a Constitutional Commission which recommended 34 changes; 6 new sections; and 78 minor corrections in the Constitution—plus a constitutional convention to accomplish these changes. Several of the Little Hoover Commission's major recommendations required constitutional change.

President Eisenhower's Commission on Intergovernmental Relations stated that many state constitutions restricted the scope, effectiveness, and adaptability of State and Local action and that there was a very real and pressing need for states to improve their constitutions.

At each general election, the Legislature submits amendments to the voters. In fact, ⁸³83 amendments have been adopted since the constitution was written in 1857. The League of Women Voters feels that revision by amendment, however, is too slow and costly and that the only way to achieve an orderly and efficient revision is by a convention elected for the specific purpose of reviewing the Constitution as a whole.

The League is asking this Judiciary Committee to allow S.F. 86 to get out on the floor of the Senate for full debate. Then we hope that the Senators will show their faith in the people of Minnesota by allowing them to vote on a convention.



Affiliated with the
League of Women Voters of the U.S.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA

15th and Washington Avenue S.E. Minneapolis 14, Minnesota

Federal 8-8791

Testimony by Mrs. Anderson - page 2

In the United States, the citizen is the constitution maker and the constitution is a peoples' law. The people in Minnesota have not had an opportunity to review their constitution since it was drafted in 1857. It seems to us that they should be given this chance by this Legislature. Democracy implies a trust in the people and when that trust lessens, democracy suffers.

Abraham Lincoln, in a speech delivered in 1854, said that: "No man is good enough to govern another man without that other's consent." Let's get the opinion of the people of Minnesota as to whether they want a constitutional convention.



Affiliated with the
League of Women Voters of the U.S.

(COPY)

A BILL

FOR AN ACT PROPOSING A CONVENTION TO
REVISE THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE
OF MINNESOTA.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Section 1. There shall be submitted to the electors, at
the general election to be held in November, 1960, the question:

"Shall there be a convention to revise the Constitution of
the State of Minnesota"

Sec. 2. The electors may vote by ballot for or against a
convention. The election shall be conducted and the returns
thereof made, canvassed, and certified in the manner provided
by law for general elections. The form of the ballot shall be:

Shall there be a convention to revise the Yes _____
Constitution of the State of Minnesota? No _____

The voter shall designate his choice by a cross mark
opposite the word "Yes" or the word "No" in the space provided
therefor. If a majority of the voters voting at the election
shall have voted for a convention, the legislature at its session
next succeeding this election shall provide for calling such
convention.

Two-year Report on State Item I:

Constitutional Revision; 1. Constitutional Convention, 2. Periodic Submission, 3. Reapportionment by Amendment.

Continuing Responsibilities I (Constitutional Revision Items) and II (Reapportionment by statute)

(reference to the two reports on state activities to National LRV might be helpful)

Committee:

Mrs. Stanley Kane
Miss Eleanor Callabury
Miss Barbara Stuhler
Mrs. Basil Young
Mrs. Robert Upgaard
Mrs. Kenneth Green, chairman

(material on Party Designation prepared by
Mrs. William Graham of Legislative Comm.)

PublicationsResource:

1. "Will an area amendment settle reapportionment in Minnesota?"
2. Periodic submission: "Dear Abigail"
3. Revision of "State You're In"
4. Background material on 3 Constitutional amendments for Nov. 1958
5. Three fact sheets for League members on Constitutional Convention, Party Designation, and Reapportionment
6. Minn. Voter, Sept.-Oct. 1957: Reapportionment & Periodic Submission
7. Minn. Voter, Jan.-Feb. 1958: State Continuing Responsibilities
8. Minn. Voter, Jan.-Feb. 1959: Constitutional Revision
9. Contributions to Capital Letter by committee members

Public Relations tools:

1. "Hole in Pocket" broadside
2. Amendments in Brief; PR and Voters Service broadside
3. "Big 3" folders: Party designation, constitutional convention, reapportionment

Guidance to Local Leagues

1. Outlooks for work: 1957 and 1958
2. Suggestion sheet for Hole in Pocket broadside
3. Discussion guide for "Area Amendment"
4. Area Conferences: (chairmen of Const. Revision, Legislation, Public Relations and Field Service worked together as joint committee). Guides on techniques for reaching the public and legislators, using the "Big 3" state items.
5. How discussion questions for chapters in "State You're In".
6. Public Relations and Voters Service suggestions sheets for use with the amendment broadsides.
7. Workshop on three constitutional amendments, especially home rule.
8. Correlation of LRV activities on amendments through the Citizens amendment comm.
9. Consensus discussion guide on reapportionment, leading to reaffirmation and clarification of League stand.

Legislative Activity (and miscellaneous)

1. Participation on Bipartisan Committee
2. Appearances by various Committee members on KUOM radio programs on state program.
3. Letters to Twin City editors on LRV program and stance.
4. Statements before House and Senate reapportionment committees on statutes and amendments. LRV statements distributed to Senate and House members.
5. Statement on home rule implementation before Local Govt. Comm. Statement on special law bill distributed to Senators. Calls for action on special law and home rule charter bills to certain local leagues.

MEMO TO: President, Legislative Chairman, Office
 FROM : Anne Green
 RE : Recommendations for future on program emphasis, and legislative program
 Date : May 12, 1959

Program: In line with the proposed current agenda re-evaluation of Party Designation and its scope, probably an integrated public relations effort on PD would be most effective in the long run, after the League arrives at a position. Some responsibility to party platform and pre-campaign pledges on the part of both Liberals and Conservatives will be needed before we get other improvements in state government, such as a constitutional convention.

One of the feelings that the League's campaign for a convention has gone on so long that opposition to it has ~~never~~ had a chance to solidify and even spread to establish support for. (Much the same thing has happened to the state governmental reorganization program since 1953.) Successful passage of amendments has taken away much of the impetus for a convention, even though one is needed still to do a thorough job on the constitution.

As to reapportionment, it appears that some outside force, such as the Federal Court Suit, will be needed to obtain fair or adequate changes in representation.

Legislative program

1. The service and stimulation to the local Leagues through the area conferences, legislative workshop, leg. day, observers course, and Capitol Letter were excellent and should be continued or expanded.

2. Service to the public through the Capitol Letter and other publications needs more help and direction from a public relations department. Local Leagues could possibly use help on how to set up a speakers bureau and speech resource material. Previous LCV material on this subject could be updated and collected.

3. Activity in the legislature

Since we are a volunteer group advocating legislation in the public interest, I feel that the League's program should be more important than any one person, no matter how able, informed, or dedicated.

Techniques for information to legislators, testimony before legislative committees, and "lobbying" by the local League's home should be set up that a change of personnel on the state board makes no difference to the success of the legislative program. After all, it is the stimulation of interest in government, rather than legislative success as such, that is our basic aim.

Many groups, other than so-called private interests, such as the IAW, Citizen's League, County Officials, etc., maintain paid executive-secretary-lobbyists who have few other duties during the session than to cultivate legislators and maneuver legislation. Perhaps the League of Women Voters could lose some of its appeal were it to emul to these other organizations.

This is not to say that improved methods of legislative communication, information, observation, and reporting should not be sought. League members working with the legislature should be trained, informed and capable. The proposed manual being prepared by Mrs. Mantle should be a help. I would also suggest a thorough pre-session briefing meeting where tactics, approaches, and methods could be thrashed out by experienced advocates and those new at the game.

But the League's legislative techniques should not depend on finding a few people each session who will fill the position of a full-time professional lobbyist.

Report to National on State Program 1958-59 - March

----- = material to be filled in from
Reports by Legislative or Election
Laws chairman

State Program; adopted May, 1957 for two years.

Current Agenda; I: Constitutional Convention, Reapportionment by amendment,
Periodic submission of convention question to voters

II: Election Laws

Continuing Responsibilities: 1. Constitutional Revision (5 items), 2. Reapportionment
by statute, 3. FPC, 4. Party Designation for legislators.

I STATE BOARD ACTIVITY: A. PUBLICATIONS

1. Popular flyer on "Minnesota needs Legislative Reapportionment"--to match one on Party
2. Popular flyer on "Why Minnesota needs constitutional convention--" designation.
3. Three fact sheets for League members to accompany the three flyers.
4. All above included in a "obby by Letter" kit, also containing the state program, "90 Days of Lawmaking", and the state constitution,
5. "Constitutional Amendments in Brief"; voters' service flyer on the three amendments voted on Nov., 1958 (#1 and 2 were LTV supported.)
6. Minnesota Voter: July-Aug. Issue - emphasized home-front lobbying, and legislative committee plans; Jan-Feb. issue had status of Constitutional Revision, election laws, and legislative program.
7. Capitol Letter _____ ...

B. Conferences and Workshops

1. May, 1958: Workshop on Amendments, especially Home Rule Amendment #1, which was under attack at the time by a Suburban Editors' group. Gave LTV history in the field, questions answered by a state senator and Attorney for the League of Minn. Municipalities (LMM), suggestions for action in the metropolitan and suburban area. 18 Leagues attended, 57 people.
2. Legislative workshop _____ ...
3. Legislative Day _____ ...
4. Legislative Observers Course _____

C. COMMUNITY ACTIVITY

1. State Board Legislative chairmen continued working with Republicans and Democrats on Bi-Partisan Committee for reapportionment, constitutional convention, and party designation for legislators--the "Big Three". Difficulties in arriving at agreements for action were encountered.
2. State Board Constitutional Revision and CP's chairman continued work with the Information Committee on Amendment 1, 2, 3. See Report on Amendments.
3. _____

D. LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY - Report from many sources, Leg. chairman

1. _____ (etc)

II. LOCAL LEAGUE ACTIVITY: based on returns from 48 Leagues

State Item I: 45 Leagues - at least one meeting on Item I
and CP's 20 Leagues - separate meeting on CP's

30 - Using bulletins to inform members on State I and CP's -- 30-

33 - report some community activity, ie: any one or more of the following:
radio programs, newspaper columns, distribution of LTV flyers and pamphlets, material to schools, open meetings, cooperation with work for Amendment #1, speakers' bureaus, etc.

35 - Leagues participating in the reapportionment consensus

STATE Item II: 45 Leagues - at least one unit meeting on election laws.

18 " * two unit meetings

1 League had 4 unit meetings

1 " had 3 unit meetings.

3 Leagues reported community activity on election laws.

_____ Leagues participated in the Election Laws consensus.

III. CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ACTIVITY

1. Description of amendments: Of the three amendments up for vote Nov. , 958, two were League-supported. #1, the Home Rule amendment, provided for more realistic special (or local) legislation procedure, naming the community involved and requiring local consent in most cases; allowed legislature to lower vote required to adopt and amend home rule charters from the 4/7 and 3/5 in the constitution; and allowed county home rule charters. #2 provided 4-year terms for all executive officers of the state. #3 (not League-supported) would have liberalized constitutional provisions for legislators running for or accepting appointments to other offices.

2. League activity: State Board member was vice-chairman of citizen Information Committee on Amendment 1, 2, 3, including representatives of Hennepin County Citizens League, LMM, DFL, and Republican parties, Bar association, AFL-CIO and others, all of which endorsed at least amendment #1. The committee employed a full-time PR staff person for four months to issue press releases,

get publicity, correlate activities of the groups forming the committee. 18 local League presidents outside the metropolitan area acted as county chairmen for the Information Committee, to get local press coverage. 19 Leagues in the city and suburban area collected money and names used in an endorsing ad for Amendment #1 just before the election. League members helped organize and many were officers of a "Suburban Committee of 100 for Amendment #1."

Local Leagues did voters service work on all three amendments by distributing 65,000 fliers (see publications). 18 Leagues used them before the primary, 38 before the general election. Other activities included letters to the editor, newspaper columns, informational material to editors, radio shows, LMM TV shows, spots on other TV shows, speakers bureaus.

3. Result: Amendments to Minnesota Constitution require majority of those voting at the election to pass.

Amendment #1 ; yes- 60.48% -- passed (% on the question, 69.69)

Amendment #2 ; yes- 54.48% -- passed (" " , 62.66)

Amendment #3 ; yes 48.90% -- did not pass (was not endorsed by LMM of Bar Assn)

4. Future: LMM taking charge of support and introduction of enabling legislation for Home Rule Amendment, with the LMM doing lobbying and testifying. Home Rule Charter Bill to lower requirements on amending and adopting HR charters passed House, encountering opposition on Senate floor. Special Laws procedure Bill passed House as League-endorsed, still in hostile Senate Committee.

Local		Leagues Reporting		- 48		Int = material from Bulletin		O = a check on 1, 2, 3		O = Bulletin used for info.		Legislative		Comments	
State I		CRS-		State II		Election		Legislative		Comments					
MM = membership meeting		Unit + 600		Unit + 600		Unit + 600		Unit + 600		Unit + 600		Unit + 600		Unit + 600	
U = Unit m.		Unit + 600		Unit + 600		Unit + 600		Unit + 600		Unit + 600		Unit + 600		Unit + 600	
P.M. = Public meeting		Unit + 600		Unit + 600		Unit + 600		Unit + 600		Unit + 600		Unit + 600		Unit + 600	
afternoon - X		Unit + 600		Unit + 600		Unit + 600		Unit + 600		Unit + 600		Unit + 600		Unit + 600	
Label		Unit + 600		Unit + 600		Unit + 600		Unit + 600		Unit + 600		Unit + 600		Unit + 600	
Austin		MM - Reapp		U - 1, 2, 3		U		U		Legisl. tour					
Arden Hills		U		U		U		U		Observers course					
Battle Lake		U		U		U		U		Legislators are now respecting 2nd U in B. Lake					
Benedict		2 U m Big 3		U		U		U		Gave State program material to legislators					
Birchwood		U		U		U		U		leg workshop + leg. day					
Bloomington		U		U		U		U		open meeting 2 speakers in Cong. building					
Brainerd		U		U		U		U		MM - 2 Rosemount					
Brooklyn Center		U		U		U		U		attended h. workshop					
Buffalo		U		U		U		U							
Cass Lake		U		U		U		U							
Circle Pines		U		U		U		U							
Crystal		U		U		U		U							
Deephaven		U		U		U		U							
Duluth		U		U		U		U		met with legislators					
Edina		U		U		U		U		open meeting 2 Leg. Leg. tour					
Excelsior		U		U		U		U		Key members upon leg. program					
Falcon		U		U		U		U		Leg. given each member					
Fergus Falls		U		U		U		U							
Golden Valley		U		U		U		U							
Granite Falls		U		U		U		U							
Hubbing		U		U		U		U							
Hopkins		U		U		U		U							
Jackson		U		U		U		U		sent Big 3 sheets to Leg					
Joka Valley		U		U		U		U							
Maunse		U		U		U		U							
Mankato		U		U		U		U							
McL. - Hutch.		U		U		U		U							
Mpls.		U		U		U		U		Leg luncheon, League day, Observers					
Moorhead		U		U		U		U		luncheon for leg					
New Richland		U		U		U		U							
New Ulm		U		U		U		U							
No. St. Paul		U		U		U		U		newsp. coverage Leg. luncheon with Leg. 3 to speakers					
Owatonna		U		U		U		U							
Red Wing		U		U		U		U							
Richfield		U		U		U		U							
Robbinsdale		U		U		U		U							
Rochester		U		U		U		U		Leg. tour					

State I -

CRS -
mainly Home
Rule

State II

Leg. +
Comments

Study

Common
Comm.
action

Study

Common
activity

Study

Common
Comm.
action

Presville ^x 2U	X	at workshop	U	X	Leg. briefing -
St. Anthony 2U	X	2U	2U		
St. Cloud 1U B.93	X		2U		
St. Louis Park ^x 1U B.93	X	1U	1U	X	Leg. tea - "What's Brewing..."
St. Paul ^x 2U	X		2U	X	Leg. Reception, tour, Call for action Tour.
So. St. Paul ?					
Virginia 1U	X		2U		
Waseca 1U B.93			1U		
W. St. Paul ^x 1U	X		1U	X	
White Bear 1U		1U	2U		

Leagues answering Riapp Concerns not in Annual Report

Alexandria ^x U-893Anoka ^xWayzata ^x

Wells ma-Rapp X

networks

Leagues whose Bulletin show state activity (or CRS) and Comm. activity not in annual reports

Worthington - 1958 Essay Contest - Winner from W. publicized

Yonka - Promoted Lomax 102

Col. Heights ^x - U on 1, 2, 3 in Rapp

copy for - Mrs. O. H. Anderson, President
Minn. League of Women Voters
15th and Washington, S. E.
Minneapolis 14, Minnesota

C 3 copies made for
President
Leg. File
Const. Conv. File
MAY 19 1959

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS: The Constitution of the State of Minnesota was adopted
on October 13, 1857;

AND WHEREAS: It is believed by many individuals and groups that
this constitution is poorly drafted and substantially
outmoded for today;

AND WHEREAS: It is further believed that the general public is
not generally aware of the contents of the present
constitution and its patent short-comings:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Minnesota Junior Chamber
of Commerce consider the foregoing by referral to the State Public
Affairs Committee, or other suitable committee, for study and
possible action in the forthcoming Jaycee year.

Sponsoring Chapter:

Bloomington Jaycees

Adopted by Executive Committee of the
Minnesota Junior Chamber of Commerce
April 11, 1959

To: Public Affairs Committee - Minnesota Junior Chamber of Commerce,
Gentlemen:

The present constitution of the State of Minnesota was adopted on October 13, 1857, more than 100 years ago. Much of its contents have to do with life as it existed then. The ninety day legislative session every two years is an example. We know it is impossible to run the State of Minnesota and make its budget and laws within that time, so we have to resort to such puerile devices as covering the clock. Other examples of ill-conceived provisions in our constitution are:

- a. 7 or 8 pages taken up in description of the trunk highways
- b. Taxation of railroads
- c. Detailed provisions on school funds and taxation
- d. Iron ore tax provisions
- e. Loan provisions for insane asylums
- f. Provisions relating to the rights of private stockholders
- g. Compensation for members of the Armed Forces


Most of these things are a proper matter for legislation but should not be cluttering up such a basic document as a constitution. Taking the federal constitution as a model, such a basic document should concern itself only with the broad powers and duties of branches of the government, public officials, a bill of rights for individuals and matters of that sort. It should not be restricted by detailed provisions on matters of less than constitutional importance.

It is believed that if the general public was aware of the many short-comings of this document they would call for a constitutional convention. Therefore, it is a problem of education, and herein lies the field in which the State Jaycees could do a notable job of far-reaching and lasting importance to our state.

Suggested plan of action

1. Set up a sub-committee consisting of our members who are lawyers, political scientists, legislators, and others who are interested, to make a detailed study of the background of the present constitution, its specific inadequacies for today, and the changes that should be made. Possibly they could consider drafting a model constitution.
2. Contact with other groups that are interested, notably the League of Women Voters (who have much background and material on this matter), both political parties, the State Bar Association, and others.
3. Promotion of this project in the local organizations with suggested literature, posters showing inadequacies with, perhaps, cartooning.
4. Letter writing campaigns to our legislators urging allowance of a constitutional convention. We can only ultimately deal through the legislature to allow such a convention since we do not have, in Minnesota, the machinery of Initiative and Referendum (the power of the people to legislate outside of the legislature).

M
E
M
O

TO: D. Anderson 

FROM: GSW

SUBJECT "Malapportionment"
national session proposed by NMLeague

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA

15th and WASHINGTON AVES. S.E.

MINNEAPOLIS 14, MINNESOTA

DATE 10/2/59

This proposed session in Massachusetts, on November 16, is I suppose a dreamy thing to even bring up, but thought you s ould have sme notice of it before Oct.8

Wish reply on possible attendznce by Oct. 10.

In your folder, but too heavy to mail, are their enclosures that look fascinating:
reprint from NMReview, 1955, "Unrepresentative States"
reprint from CSMonitor 1958, "Minority Rule, Challenge to Democracy", by GBMerry
NML publication, "Chronology of Legislative Malapportionment, 9/59
brochure of 1958 conference, in Colorado

Alfred Willoughby, Executive Director
Allen H. Seed, Jr., Assistant Director

A Citizens' Organization for Better Government
Founded 1894 • Incorporated 1923

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OCT 2 1959

September 29, 1959

To the 24 state Leagues of Women Voters who have apportionment on their 1959-1960 C. A.'s and C. R.'s.

The enclosed prospectus for a joint session of all available authorities on apportionment will, we hope, explain itself.

Can you provide a representative to report on the apportionment problem in your state?

Please note that our project will be called off if acceptances received by October 10 indicate that an adequate session cannot be assembled.

We hope for your conditional acceptance.

Very truly yours,



Richard S. Childs
Chairman
Executive Committee

RSC:oaks

Enclosures

Plan now to attend the 65th NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON GOVERNMENT
Springfield, Mass. Nov. 15-18 Sheraton-Kimball Hotel

Prospectus for Workshop Session on Legislative Malapportionment

Monday P. M., November 16, at the National Conference on Government, Springfield, Mass. 

The 1960 census will worsen the malapportionments in many states and call for redistricting of legislative and Congressional seats in the 1961 legislatures. Dauer and Kelsay in a publication of the National Municipal League, "Unrepresentative States," demonstrate that apportionment has worsened between 1937 and 1954 and show that no house in any state requires that a majority of the voters provide a majority of the seats. In some cases small minorities control, and disparities between district populations are enormous.

1. The three 1959 court attacks provide new hope. In Minnesota the suit in the Federal district court demanded equal protection of the law. The court refused to dismiss the case, suspended action as a warning to the legislature that it might grant the remedy of requiring the election officials to have the next legislature elected entirely at large, and the legislature, having neglected apportionment since 1913, reapportioned and reduced disparities from 1 to 37 to 1 to 4. Plaintiffs may amend their complaint and persist.

In Tennessee plaintiffs pressed for similar action, warned the legislature, and the court there also refused to dismiss the case.

In Florida a similar complaint was dismissed and the appeal from dismissal has been taken and will be heard this winter in New Orleans.

— 0 —

We now propose this agenda for the session.

Complaints would be described by representatives of the three law firms with comment by Anthony Lewis, author of the latest legal discussion of the subject (in the Harvard Law Review of April 1958), and by a staff member of the American Civil Liberties Union whose 25 affiliates may bring additional suits.

2. Effect of vesting apportionment in self-serving legislators.

Mr. Gus Tyler, International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union
Dr. Manning J. Dauer, University of Florida
Mr. Robert G. Kelsay, University of Florida

3. Reports on the frontal attacks of 1959 from Leagues of Women Voters in the 24 states now listing reapportionment in their programs: namely, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin.

4. The effect of the transfer of the redistricting function from the legislature in eight states -- a round-up of experience to date.

5. The National Municipal League's problem of where to place the redistricting function in its next Model State Constitution now undergoing revision. (The present Model proposes proportional representation). A draft will be presented.

NOTE: Program of last year's Conference is enclosed to exhibit the character of these affairs. This Workshop Session will run concurrently with three others. Usual Conference registration is 800 plus. Conference prospectus with hotel details, etc., will be sent later. Session is open to all. No registration fee.

This session will be called off if replies to current invitations before October 10 disclose unsatisfactory prospects of attendance.
R. S. V. P.! Return form enclosed.

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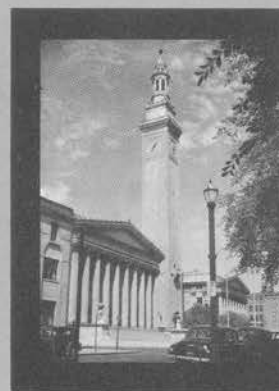
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OCT 12 1959

Attend the 65th

NATIONAL CONFERENCE on GOVERNMENT



NOVEMBER 15-18, 1959

Springfield, Massachusetts

NATIONAL MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

65th Annual National Conference on Government

CHALLENGE OF THE '60s

Many still think "You can't beat City Hall" despite the National Municipal League's record of helping to prove the statement wrong.

In many hundreds of cities, City Hall is no longer the hangout and headquarters of venal political organizations. It is the working headquarters of public-spirited citizens in city councils, planning commissions, urban renewal and other agencies. Today it's a question of continuing to improve City Hall, not of beating it.

Since 1894 the National Municipal League has been developing new ways to achieve better city, county and state government, and helping citizens help themselves be more effective.

The National Conference on Government, now in its 65th year, has been one of the principal methods through which these new ideas were developed. Each year hundreds of civic and business leaders, newspapermen, public officials and political scientists have brought to it their experiences and have taken away from it new insight and practical solutions to problems "back home."

All governments — local, state, national — face new and tremendous problems as a result of the current and future vast urban growth. In recognition of their urgency, the Conference theme will be "The Challenge of the Sixties."

Small panels of nationally known civic leaders, business executives, scholars and public officials will seek to identify the problems of the next decade and to find ways to solve them.

It has been said that a man's opinions are only as good as his information. Those who attend the 65th annual National Conference on Government will return home better equipped to analyze their city's or state's emerging role and better able to do something about it.

Schedule of Events

Sunday, November 15

- 9:00 A.M.—Registration
- 10:00 A.M.—Annual Meeting, National Municipal League
- 11:00 A.M.—Annual Meeting and Luncheon, National Association of Civic Secretaries
- 1:00 P.M.—Charter Clinic
- 4:00 P.M.—Sightseeing Tour
- 5:30 P.M.—Hospitality Hour and Dinner, Stagecoach Barn
- 8:00 P.M.—Concert, Springfield Symphony Orchestra

Monday, November 16

- 9:15 A.M.—General Session:
"What's Ahead in the Sixties?" — technological change, population growth and economic development
- 9:15 A.M.—Workshops:
State Constitutions: How to study them
Citizen Associations: Campaign Techniques
- 12:15 P.M.—Luncheon
- 2:15 P.M.—General Session:
"Climate for Growth in the Sixties"—our choice of economic policies
- 2:15 P.M.—All-America Cities Competition—finalists present their cases to the jury

Tuesday, November 17

- 2:15 P.M.—Workshops:
State Constitutions: Reapportionment
Regional Planning
- 5:00 P.M.—Tour of Westover Air Force Base. Dinner and entertainment
- 9:15 A.M.—General Session:
"Local Government in the Sixties"—its responsibilities, capabilities and limitations
- 9:15 A.M.—All-America Cities Competition — (Second session)
- 9:15 A.M.—Workshops:
State Constitutions: Amendment and Revision
Partisan vs. Non-Partisan Local Elections
- 12:15 P.M.—Luncheon
- 2:15 P.M.—General Session:
"The States in the Sixties"—can they meet the challenge?
- 2:15 P.M.—Workshops:
Fair Campaign Practices
Program and Performance Budgeting
- 6:00 P.M.—Hospitality Hour
- 7:00 P.M.—Annual Dinner

Wednesday, November 18

- 9:15 A.M.—General Session:
"Federal Urban Policy in the Sixties"
- 9:15 A.M.—Workshops:
State Constitutions: Political Leadership
Village Managers
- 12:15 P.M.—Luncheon
- 2:30 P.M.—Trip to Old Sturbridge Village



▲
CHARLES P. TAFT
Former Mayor
of Cincinnati



▲
PHILIP M. HAUSER
Population authority,
University of Chicago

▼
HANS CHRISTIAN SONNE
Chairman, National
Planning Association



▲
MARK O. HATFIELD
Governor of Oregon



▲
VICTOR GRUEN
Architect-planner,
Victor Gruen Associates

▼
J. CAMERON THOMSON
Vice Chairman, Committee
for Economic Development



ALL-AMERICA CITIES

A popular Conference feature is the All-America Cities contest now in its eleventh year. This annual event co-sponsored by the National Municipal League and Look Magazine offers visitors an opportunity to hear the finalists present their stories of inspiring citizen action to the distinguished awards jury.

The jury will select the 1959 "team" of eleven cities whose citizens through initiative and concerted action have made especially noteworthy contributions to their communities.

Citizen led campaigns for better government, better schools, slum clearance, industrial rehabilitation, improved public health and recreation, or other forms of civic progress may help a city win the coveted honor.

Dr. George H. Gallup, Chairman of the Council of the National Municipal League and Director of the American Institute of Public Opinion, is foreman of the jury.

Other members of this year's jury are:

Miss Grace B. Daniels, Kingston, Pa., President, National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs; Dr. Anna L. Rose Hawkes, President, American Association of University Women; Harry J. Krusz, President, Harry Krusz & Co., former manager internal affairs, Chamber of Commerce of the United States; Mark S. Matthews, former president, United States Junior Chamber of Commerce; Author "Guide to Community Action"; Willard V. Merrihue, Manager, Community and Business Relations, General Electric Co., President, Effective Citizens Organization; Vernon C. Myers, Publisher, Look Magazine; James M. Osborn, Yale University; Mrs. Robert J. Phillips, President, League of Women Voters of the United States; Henry Toy, Jr., President, National Citizens Council for Better Schools; Donald H. Webster, Director, Bureau of Governmental Research and Services, University of Washington; and Arnold S. Zander, President, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO.

CONFERENCE INFORMATION

All sessions are open to the public. There is no registration fee but visitors are requested to register and obtain their badges.

Luncheon tickets are \$2.25, dinner tickets \$3.50.

For those who wish to participate in the entertainment program, there will be a \$12.75 fee to defray the cost of meals, entertainment and transportation.

All Conference sessions will be held at the Sheraton-Kimball Hotel. Room reservations should be made direct with the hotel. Be sure to specify that you will attend the National Conference on Government.

ENTERTAINMENT

An attractive entertainment program for Conference visitors has been arranged by the local sponsors.

First event will be a guided bus tour Sunday afternoon. Visitors will see the small arms museum at the Springfield Armory, founded by George Washington; Forest Park with its famous gardens and zoo; public buildings; and some of the residential areas that have given Springfield the sobriquet "City of Homes." The tour will terminate at the Stagecoach Barn at colonial Storowton where a hospitality hour, dinner and square dancing will be enjoyed. Later in the evening Springfield's nationally known 80-piece Symphony Orchestra will present a special concert in the Municipal Auditorium.

Monday evening, guests will be transported to Westover Air Force Base, headquarters for the Eighth Air Force and home base for forty-five giant B-52 Stratofortress bombers. Visitors will get a close-up view of an "air alert." A cocktail hour and buffet supper will follow in the Officers' Club. The evening will conclude with a short briefing on SAC, topped off with a revue by the United States Air Force Band and crack entertainers from the Air Force spectacle "Tops in Blue."

◆ ◆ ◆

A campus tour of nearby New England colleges is scheduled for the ladies Monday afternoon. Visits will include Mount Holyoke, Smith, Amherst, University of Massachusetts, Springfield, American International, and Western New England colleges.

On Tuesday afternoon, the ladies will visit Springfield's unique civic and cultural center with tea at the Museum of Fine Arts.

◆ ◆ ◆

There will be a special post-conference trip for all visitors Wednesday afternoon to Old Sturbridge Village, faithfully reconstructed colonial town generally regarded as one of the most noteworthy attractions in New England. A nominal fee will be charged for this trip.

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TO: D. Anderson

FROM: GSW

SUBJECT "Malapportionment"
national session proposed by NMLeague

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA

15th and WASHINGTON AVES. S.E.

MINNEAPOLIS 14, MINNESOTA

DATE 10/2/59

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reprint from GSMonitor 1958, "Minority Rule, Challenge to Democracy", by GBMerry

NML publication, "Chronology of Legislative Malapportionment, 9/59

brochure of 1958 conference, in Colorado

From *The Christian Science Monitor*
October 2, 6, 9, 13 and 16, 1958

Reprinted by permission by
National Municipal League
47 East 68th Street, New York 21, N. Y.

50 cents

Minority Rule: Challenge to Democracy

By George B. Merry

Staff Writer of The Christian Science Monitor

EVERY YEAR fewer and fewer Americans are exerting more and more influence on their state governments. While skyrocketing state budgets and soaring taxes grab much of the spotlight, unequal legislative representation lurks in the shadows as a constant threat to good government.

Rural Overrepresentation

For the most part, rural areas are overrepresented, while cities and surrounding metropolitan sections are underrepresented.

Legislative malapportionment, as this

of the century, a big advantage over cities and metropolitan regions, now holding much of the nation's swelling population.

In 1900 at least 60 per cent of all Americans lived on farms or in small rural communities, and less than 40 per cent of the people made their



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September 1959

CHRONOLOGY OF
LEGISLATIVE MALAPPORTIONMENT

Apportionment of Legislatures--A table citing constitutional articles, basis of apportionment in each house, frequency, apportioning agency and dates of last two apportionments for all states appears in each biennial issue of Book of the States (Council of State Governments, 1313 East 60th Street, Chicago, \$9).

One or more pamphlets on single state apportionment conditions have been issued in recent years in nineteen states and are on file in the National Municipal League library.

- 1948 U. S. Conference of Mayors published "Government of the People" graphical showing that 41 per cent of the population elects 75 per cent of the state legislators (out of print).

- 1953 Michigan redistricted its lower house giving Wayne County (Detroit) its full allotment, 34.6 per cent, instead of 27 per cent and stipulating the districting of Wayne to avert continued election of its 38 legislators at large as formerly.

Wisconsin voters approved an advisory referendum giving 30 per cent weight to area and 70 per cent to population in senate districts, reducing Milwaukee County senators from seven to six. The state Supreme Court found the act invalid.

Virginia redistricted both houses reducing disparities to maxima of one to three.

- 1954 Connecticut. A revision of the 1901 senate districting in 1953 was invalidated because it should have been done in 1951 and could not be done except in the session next after the census, postponing correction until 1961.

New York redistricted the Senate worsening by about 1 per cent the underrepresentation of the city of New York.

"Government by Minority", 16 pp., graphically exhibits disparities of representation in Congress and legislatures; AFL-CIO Department of Education and Research, 815 16th Street, N. W., Washington 25.

- 1955 New Mexico redistricted by giving populous areas better representation in the House. The most populous county, Bernalillo (Albuquerque), with 21 per cent of the state population got 14 per cent of the seats.

"Rural versus Urban Political Power," by Gordon E. Baker, University of California (Santa Barbara). 70 pp. Doubleday & Co., Garden City, N. Y. 95 cents. Demonstrates admirably how cities are underrepresented in legi

latures and in Congress, and some of the consequences.

"Unrepresentative States," Dauer and Kelsay, National Municipal Review, December, demonstrated that "From 1937 to 1955 legislatures' representativeness declined in more than three-quarters of the states." Reprinted with corrections 1959. National Municipal League, 10 cents.

In Illinois an amendment, approved November 1954, compelled revision of the 1901 apportionment. The amendment gave Cook County a three-vote majority in the lower house, gave a committee of ten members, five from each party, appointed by the governor, power to redistrict if the 1955 legislature failed to act, and required the 177 representatives to be elected at large if the commission failed to act. The legislature acted.

1956 Alabama legislature approved for submission an amendment giving additional representation to populous areas. It was defeated 2 to 1 at the November election.

Oklahoma. An initiative revising congressional districts to maximum variations of 1.46 per cent from the average instead of 28 per cent received a majority of votes cast thereon but failed for lack of a majority of the total vote at the election.

Alaska. First constitution adopted vesting apportionment in the Governor, subject to advice of a reapportionment board.

Arkansas. The Farm Bureau Federation successfully backed an amendment which stopped decennial redistricting of the Senate and froze the existing districts into the constitution.

(Under an initiated 1936 amendment redistricting is vested in a Board of Apportionment consisting of the Governor, Secretary of State and Attorney General with power in the Supreme Court to compel action and "revise any arbitrary action or abuse of discretion," which it did in 1941 and 1951.)

Washington. The League of Women Voters' initiative, with 83,000 signatures--an epic effort--providing highly accurate legislative districting was approved at the polls by a narrow vote (448,121 to 406,287) in November, not however affecting the composition of the 1957 legislative session. The districting of 1900 had never been revised, except by similar initiative, in 1930. But cf. 1957 below.

1957 Washington. The legislature flouted the 1956 initiative vote and mangled the new districting before it could take effect, restoring unconstitutional inequalities by amendment!

Florida. The legislature submitted a reapportionment amendment which would have worsened a bad situation so that 10 per cent instead of 17 per cent could elect a majority of the Senate. Defeated 2 to 1 at the November polls.

1958 Minnesota. Daniel B. Magraw et al of Minneapolis, citizens of legislative districts inequitably represented since 1913, asked in Federal court for "equal protection of the laws" and the court in November accepted jurisdiction despite the classic U. S. Supreme Court's 4 to 3 decision of 1946 in Colegrove vs. Green, refusing to accept jurisdiction of such cases.

The court chose to delay and give the 1959 session a chance to correct the inequities, which was apparently effective, since the legislature enacted a new districting which reduced the disparities from an extreme of 1 to 37 to 1 to 4 leaving the plaintiffs free to amend the complaint and press again for action by the court.

Proposed Model Constitutional Article for Legislative Districting, Second Draft, January 1958. By Richard S. Childs and Comments collected in 1957. 8 pp., mimeographed; on request from National Municipal League. Proposes vesting redistricting on equal (± 10 per cent) population basis in a commission balanced between the major parties and between urban-rural interests plus three members not all of one party chosen by the highest state court. If the commission fails to redistrict, the court may temporarily redistrict (as in Arkansas). Adoption of a new or alternative model provision in the National Municipal League's Model State Constitution, which now specifies proportional representation, is due in 1960.

Louisiana. The legislature defeated a series of bills designed to improve the 1921 apportionment.

Washington. The voters rejected an amendment to shift the redistricting function from the legislature to a mixed appointive administrative commission if the legislature failed to reapportion.

Texas. The legislature, after an extra U. S. representative had been elected at large since 1949, divided a large district to provide for him while doing nothing otherwise to equalize a situation where one congressional district has 240,000 population and another has 827,000.

"Legislative Apportionment and the Federal Courts," by Anthony Lewis, New York Times Washington Bureau. Harvard Law Review, April 1958. Reprinted in Congressional Record, May 19, 1958, pp. 8086-8098. An exhaustive, richly documented review relating to Congress only and indicating reversal of Colegrove vs. Green as the only hope.

1959 Kansas. Governor's Commission on Constitutional Revision proposed revision of districts by administrative commission rather than by the legislature.

The legislature redistricted by giving additional seats to populous areas but leaving disparities of population up to 100 to 1.

Oklahoma. With support from the League of Women Voters, a state-wide organization has been formed, Oklahomans for Constitutional Representation. Districts range from 16,000 to 351,000 in the Senate and in ratio of 1 to 100 in the lower house.

Florida. A reapportionment will be submitted November 1959 providing a few extra seats to populous areas but leaving gross disparities, e. g., 495,084 to 10,413 in the Senate.

Another amendment, if adopted, will freeze into the constitution an equal sharing of state racing taxes, giving about \$185,000 a year to each of the 67 counties whether in the 10,000 population range or a half-million!

National Municipal League issued 8 pp. reprints of two sets of articles by George B. Merry in the Christian Science Monitor, "Minority Rule: Challenge to Democracy," bringing state legislative malapportionment conditions down to date, and "How Minorities Help Shape Congress," 50 cents each.

Minnesota. The legislature voted to submit an amendment to make equality of district populations unnecessary for the Senate after 1970!

Tennessee. Charles W. Baker et al brought suit against Joe E. Carr, Secretary of State, et al in Federal District Court (after vainly threatening the 1959 legislature) relating that they are underrepresented that certain revenues are inequitably distributed to rural districts and asking the court to convene a three-judge court to require the next legislature to be elected at large or by a fair allocation temporarily provided by the court. The court refused to dismiss the case, and the three-judge court was ordered. (Baker vs. Carr; Walter Chandler, Home Federal Building, Memphis 3, is attorney.)

Florida. Otis W. Shiver et al brought suit in Federal court against R. A. Gray, Secretary of State, et al under the XIV Amendment (equal protection of the law) and the U. S. Civil Rights Act, Sec. 1983 and 1343, describing the underrepresentation (ratios up to 1 to 87 and 1 to 115).

Motion to dismiss was granted and appeal carried to Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, New Orleans. (Shiver vs. Gray; Holladay and Swann, 634 West Flagler Street, Miami 36, are attorneys.)

North Dakota. Legislature submitted to popular vote June 1960 an amendment freezing the present senatorial districts into the constitution (disparity 5,405 to 39,933) and creating a board to redistrict the House if the legislature fails to reapportion.

South Dakota. The legislature adopted reapportionment limitations effective in 1961. Appraisal later.

*Program of
the 64th*

**NATIONAL
CONFERENCE
ON GOVERNMENT**

Antlers Hotel

September 14-17, 1958

Antlers Hotel

Colorado Springs, Colorado

sponsored by

THE NATIONAL MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

CONFERENCE INFORMATION

Registration: Sunday 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.,
Weekdays 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Main lobby.
No charge.

Meals: Tickets should be purchased at registration counter. Luncheon tickets are \$1.75 each. Dinner tickets, \$3.00. Special rate for all four functions \$8.00, including tax and gratuity.

Entertainment: Special events Sunday, September 14 and Monday, September 15. See program for particulars. Tickets \$12.50 each. Prorated for single attractions. Buy tickets at registration counter.

Meeting Rooms: All rooms are located off main lobby, except

Palmer Room—lower level, one and a half flights down from main floor

City Club — lower level, one and a half flights down from main floor

Room 229 — lower level, one flight down from main floor

Conference Headquarters: Rooms 305, 307, 309, 311, south end, main lobby.

Press Headquarters: Locker Room, City Club. Complete facilities for visiting newsmen. Glen R. Peterson, Jr., in charge.

Staff: The following members of the League staff are in attendance at the Conference and will be glad to serve you:

Alfred Willoughby	Ralph W. Conant
Allen H. Seed, Jr.	Stella Foreman
William N. Cassella, Jr.	Glen R. Peterson, Jr.
John P. Wheeler, Jr.	

BE ON TIME!

Colorado Springs is on Mountain STANDARD time — set your watches accordingly. Please note starting time for the sessions and be there at the opening . . . get full benefit of the discussions and don't disturb others by arriving late!

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

10:00 A.M.

Green Room

Annual Meeting and Election of Officers
National Municipal League

11:00 A.M.

Sidewalk Cafe

Annual Meeting and Luncheon
National Association of Civic Secretaries

12:30 P.M.

Green Room

Luncheon: Charter Clinic — New Developments
and the Model City Charter.

Chairman: Arthur W. Bromage, University of Michigan

John E. Bebout, Assoc. Dir., Sp. Legislative Comm. on
the Simplification and Revision of the New York
Constitution

Emmett L. Bennett, Cincinnati Bureau of Govtl. Research

Victor D. Brannon, Dir., Govtl. Research Inst., St. Louis

Samuel K. Gove, University of Illinois

William Grelle, University of Colorado

Herman Kehrli, University of Oregon

Louis J. Kroeger, Louis J. Kroeger and Associates, San
Francisco

Lennox L. Moak, Dir., Phila. Bureau of Municipal
Research

Orin F. Nolting, Exec. Dir., Internatl. City Managers'
Association

John Pfiffner, University of Southern California

E. H. Plank, University of Denver

Mrs. Doris D. Reed, Wethersfield, Conn.

Thomas H. Reed, Wethersfield, Conn.

Leo C. Riethmayer, University of Colorado

Harold S. Shefelman, Weter, Roberts and Shefelman,
Seattle

George R. Sidwell, Attorney at Law, Lansing, Mich.

Charles F. Spencer, President, East Central State College,
Ada, Okla.

Mrs. Lida S. Stark, Michigan Municipal League

Harvey Walker, Ohio State University

John F. Willmott, Exec. Vice Pres., Research and Plan-
ning Council, San Antonio

Participation in the Charter Clinic is by invitation

Sunday, September 14 (Continued)

3:00 P.M.

Bus tour of U.S. Air Force Academy.

Busses will leave promptly from hotel entrance on Cascade Avenue, arriving at Academy 3:45 for conducted tour. Return trip starts at 4:45 with stopover for refreshments at Garden of Gods Club.

6:15 P.M.

Chuck Wagon Dinner at Garden of the Gods —

Followed by western entertainment. Courtesy Colorado Springs Junior Chamber of Commerce. Busses will return to Antlers Hotel at approximately 8:15.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

Four Concurrent Sessions

9:15 A.M.

Peak Room

Financing Municipal Capital Improvements — Recent Trends and Views of the Future.

Chairman: John S. Linen, Vice President, The Chase Manhattan Bank

Panelists:

James L. Beebe, O'Melveny & Myers, Los Angeles
Frank E. Curley, Hawkins, Delafield & Wood, New York
Russell McInnes, Wood, King and Dawson, New York
Con F. Shea, Budget Director, State of Colorado
Joseph S. Slavet, Secy., Boston Municipal Research Bureau
Miss Mabel Walker, Exec. Dir., Tax Institute, Inc., Princeton, N. J.

Green Room

How Citizens Aid the City Manager

Chairman: Wayne E. Thompson, City Manager, Oakland

Panelists:

W. B. Avery, City Manager, Springfield, Mo.
John M. Biery, City Manager, Colorado Springs
Porter W. Homer, City Manager, Tucson
Jerome Keithley, City Manager, Palo Alto
Guy C. Larcom, Jr., City Administrator, Ann Arbor
Irving G. McNayr, City Manager, Columbia, S. C.
Keith A. Murdoch, Administrative Officer, Anaheim

Monday, September 15 (Continued)

James E. Neal, City Manager, Redwood City

City Club

Extending Municipal Boundaries — Annexation of the Urban Fringe.

Chairman: C. C. Ludwig, Exec. Secy., League of Minnesota Municipalities

Opening Presentation: George H. Esser, Jr., University of North Carolina

Panelists:

Chester W. Bain, University of Virginia
Herman Kehrli, Exec. Secy., League of Oregon Cities
Mayor Leo C. Riethmayer, Boulder, Colorado
Stanley Scott, University of California, Berkeley

Palmer Room

Fair Campaign Practices

Chairman: Charles P. Taft, former Mayor, Cincinnati; Chm., Fair Campaign Practices Committee

Opening Presentation: John A. Carroll, U. S. Senator, Colo.

Panelists:

Edith C. Bramhall, Colorado College
Bruce L. Felknor, Exec. Dir., Fair Campaign Practices Committee
Lee F. Johnson, Exec. Dir., Denver Housing Authority

12:15 P.M.

LUNCHEON

Terrace Room

Sponsored by the Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce

Presiding: R. W. Brossman, Vice President

Welcome: Fred W. Simpson, Jr., Mayor, Colorado Springs; L. Don Daily, Executive Assistant to the Governor

Response: Cecil Morgan, President, National Municipal League

Speaker: Thomas R. Reid, Director, Office of Civic Affairs, Ford Motor Company —
It's Everybody's Government

Monday, September 15 (Continued)

2:15 P.M.

City Club

General Session: Regional Planning — The Role of Metropolitan Planning Agencies.

Chairman: Harold S. Shefelman, Seattle Planning Commission

Opening Presentation: C. David Loeks, Dir., Twin Cities Metropolitan Planning Commission, St. Paul, Minn.

Panelists:

Stuart Eurman, Exec. Dir., Inter-County Regional Planning Commission, Denver

Hayden Johnson, Planning Director, Port of New York Authority

Victor Jones, University of California, Berkeley

A. Hugo Ray, Chm., Metropolitan Joint Committee, Vancouver, B. C.

Gourmet Room

General Session: A Citizen's Role in Politics and Public Affairs. Business leaders discuss opportunities and limitations.

Chairman: Donald D. Munroe, President, R. Munroe and Sons Mfg. Co., Pittsburgh

Opening Presentation: William F. Leonard, Director, Corporate Relations Services, Olin Mathieson Chemical Corp., New York

Panelists:

Charles R. Diebold, President, Western Savings Bank, Buffalo

Ben B. Ehrlichman, Chm., United Pacific Corp., Seattle

Robert H. Fouke, Fouke and Wertsch, San Francisco

Harry J. Krusz, President, Harry J. Krusz & Co., Lincoln, Neb.

Richard A. Trippeer, President, Euclid-Memphis Sales, Inc., Memphis

2:30 P.M.

Palmer Room

All-America Cities Contest

Finalists Present Their Cases to the Jury

(See back page for contestants)

Monday, September 15 (Continued)

5:00 P.M.

Trip to Cripple Creek

Busses leave promptly from hotel entrance on Cascade Avenue passing through Manitou, Ute Pass and circling base of Pikes Peak over 44 miles of scenic paved road, arriving at historic Cripple Creek, roaring old gold camp of the nineties.

(Last bus leaves at 5:30 P.M.)

6:30 P.M.

Dinner at famed old Imperial Hotel

Followed at 8:45 by melodrama, "Star Crossing," presented by Imperial Players, hotel theatre. Busses leave at 10:45 for Antlers Hotel.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

8:00 A.M.

Terrace Room

Annual Meeting and Breakfast
Proportional Representation League

Three Concurrent Sessions

9:15 A.M.

Green Room

City Charters for Tomorrow — New Problems May Require New Charter Provisions.

Chairman: Lee M. Sharrar, Humble Oil & Refining Company, Houston

Opening Presentation: Louis J. Kroeger, Louis J. Kroeger and Associates, San Francisco

Panelists:

Emmett L. Bennett, Cincinnati Bureau of Governmental Research

Tuesday, September 16 (Continued)

Victor D. Brannon, Dir., Governmental Research Institute, St. Louis
George R. Sidwell, Attorney-at-Law, Lansing, Mich.
Charles F. Spencer, President, East Central State College, Ada, Okla.
Mrs. Lida S. Stark, Michigan Municipal League
John F. Willmott, Exec. Vice Pres., Research and Planning Council, San Antonio

City Club

County Home Rule — Route to Modern County Government.

Chairman: James A. Singer, former Chairman, St. Louis County (Mo.) Council

Tuesday, September 16 (Continued)

Peak Room

Citizen Associations at Work — Current Problems and Projects.

Chairman: Francis A. Harrington, former President, Worcester (Mass.) Citizens Plan E Association

Panelists:

Samuel F. Downer, Vice President, Colorado Springs Charter Assn.
Norman N. Gill, Director, Citizens' Governmental Research Bureau, Milwaukee
Eric H. Hanson, Executive Director, Cambridge Civic Assn. (Mass.)
Edward Jones, Executive Director, Future Springfield (Mass.)
Thomas P. Riddle, Jr., Executive Secretary, Citizens' Civic Association, Fort Wayne, Ind.



Cecil Morgan



Otto L. Nelson, Jr.



Thomas H. Reed



Thomas R. Reid



Thomas B. Stewart



Cecil H. Underwood

Opening Presentation: William R. MacDougall, General Counsel and Manager, County Supervisors Association of California

Panelists:

Bernard F. Hillenbrand, Exec. Dir., National Association of County Officials
Ralph T. Keyes, Exec. Secy., Minnesota State Association of County Commissioners
David W. Knepper, University of Houston
Clarence H. Koch, Jefferson County Commissioner, Golden, Colo.
Raymond A. Lathrop, County Judge, Josephine County, Oregon
Bruce B. Mason, University of Illinois
Robert H. Rawson, Vice Pres. and General Manager, Empire Plow Company, Cleveland
M. L. Reiss, County Manager, Montgomery County, Md.

Guy F. Robbins (M.D.), past President, Citizens' Planning Association, Westport, Conn.
Theodore Turner, Jr., past President, Municipal League of Spokane (Wash.)

9:15 A.M.

Palmer Room

All-America Cities Contest
Jury Hearings Continue

(See back page for contestants)

Tuesday, September 16 (Continued)

12:15 P.M.

LUNCHEON

Terrace Room

Sponsored by the League of Women Voters

Presiding: Mrs. Tor Hylbom, Board Member,
League of Women Voters of the United
States

Speaker: Major General Otto L. Nelson, Jr.,
Vice President, New York Life Insurance
Company —

Will Our Cities Survive?

2:15 P.M.

City Club

General Session: Challenge to the States — A Look
to the Future with Emphasis on Intergovern-
mental Relations, Natural Resources, Education
and Finance.

Chairman: H. Vaughan Watkins, Watkins, Edwards and
Ludlam, Jackson, Miss.

Opening Presentations: Jefferson B. Fordham, Dean, Uni-
versity of Pennsylvania Law School

Irving Fox, Resources for the Future, Inc., Washington,
D.C.

Roger A. Freeman, Vice President, Inst. for Social Sci-
ence Research, Washington, D.C.

Alonzo B. May, Chairman, Department of Economics and
Transportation, University of Denver

Panelists:

Thomas J. Graves, United States Bureau of the Budget
Dayton D. McKean, Dean, University of Colorado Gradu-
ate School

William J. Ronan, Dean, New York University Graduate
School of Public Administration and Social Service

Peak Room

General Session: Urban Renewal

Chairman: Norris Nash, Vice President, Kaiser Industries
Corporation, Oakland

Opening Presentation: Julian Levi, Exec. Dir., South East
Chicago Commission

Panelists:

Joseph M. Boyd, Jr., Exec. Dir., Dyersburg Housing
Authority, Dyersburg, Tenn.

Sidney Jagger, Asst. Commissioner, U. S. Housing and
Home Finance Agency

Otto L. Nelson, Jr., Vice Pres., New York Life Insurance
Co.

Tuesday, September 16 (Continued)

4:30 P.M.

Ladies Tea and Tour Fine Arts Center

(See back page for particulars)

6:00 - 7:00 P.M.

Gourmet Room

Hospitality Hour

7:00 P.M.

ANNUAL DINNER

Palmer Room

Presiding: Cecil Morgan, President, National
Municipal League

Speakers: Thomas H. Reed, Author and Mu-
nicipal Consultant —

A Job for the States

Cecil H. Underwood, Governor of West
Virginia —

Facing the Future

Presentation of Distinguished Citizen Awards
George H. Gallup, Chairman of the Council,
National Municipal League

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

Five Concurrent Sessions

9:15 A.M.

Green Room

Citizens' Views of Municipal Public Relations

Chairman: W. Howard Chase, President, Communications
Counselors, New York

Opening Presentation: Steve Matthews, Exec. Dir., League
of Texas Municipalities

Panelists:

Brendon Byrne, Exec. Dir., American Heritage Foun-
dation

Myron C. Law, Vice Pres., Frederick and Nelson, Seattle
Harry O. Lawson, Colorado Legislative Council

John M. Leavens, Exec. Dir., Citizens Budget Commis-
sion, New York

Wednesday, September 17 (Continued)

William J. McCann, Controller, Standard Steel Corporation, Los Angeles

Lennox L. Moak, Exec. Dir., Pennsylvania Economy League (Eastern Division)

Mrs. Tor Hylbom, Board Member, League of Women Voters of the United States

City Club

Developing Understanding of Urban Problems — Via Press, Radio and TV.

Chairman: Edwin D. Dodd, Vice Pres., National Container Corp., Toledo

Opening Presentation: Charles F. Preusse, City Administrator, New York City

Panelists:

George H. Deming, Dir., Conference on Metropolitan Area Problems, New York

Clayton Knowles, *New York Times*

Werner Renberg, Regions Editor, *Business Week*

Mort Stern, Associate Editor, *The Denver Post*

Houstoun Waring, Editor, *Littleton* (Col.) *Independent and Arapahoe Herald*

John W. Ziegler, Assistant to the General Manager, WQED—Channel 13, Pittsburgh

Peak Room

Education for Civic Leadership — Round Table Discussion

Chairman: Harvey D. Willson, Vice Chancellor and Treasurer, University of Denver

Participants:

Joseph R. Barresi, Asst. Secy., Boston Municipal Research Bureau

O. B. Conaway, Jr., Director, The Albany Graduate Program in Public Administration

James W. Drury, University of Kansas

Shelby F. Harper, Exec. Dir., Colorado Public Expenditure Council

James R. Jensen, Dir., Public Affairs Research Center, University of Houston

John P. Keith, Asst. Dir., American Society for Public Administration

Edward M. Kresky, Sp. Legislative Comm. on the Simplification and Revision of the New York Constitution

J. Douglas Mertz, Chm., Pol. Sci. Dept., Colorado College

Robert S. Rankin, Duke University

Robert F. Ray, Director, Inst. of Public Affairs, State University of Iowa

Robert D. Seltzer, Indiana State Teachers College

Wednesday, September 17 (Continued)

Palmer Room

The Mayor's View of City Problems — The Perplexing Situations that Make Municipal Leadership Both Difficult and Rewarding.

Chairman: John B. Gage, Gage, Hillix, Moore and Park; former Mayor of Kansas City, Mo.

Panelists:

Mayor Will F. Nicholson, Denver

Mayor Thomas J. O'Connor, Jr., Springfield, Mass.

Mayor Fred W. Simpson, Jr., Colorado Springs

Mayor Howard Whitmore, Jr., Newton, Mass.

Mayor Jack Williams, Phoenix

Mayor John W. Yager, Toledo, Ohio

Room 229

Workshop — State Constitutions

Chairman: Jefferson B. Fordham, Dean, University of Pennsylvania Law School, Member, Pa. Comm. on Constitutional Revision

Panelists:

Mrs. Robert K. Emerson, Member, West Virginia Commission on Constitutional Revision

C. Read Granberry, Exec. Dir., Legislative Council of Texas

Mitchell J. Hunt, Pennsylvania Economy League

William J. Ronan, Exec. Dir., Sp. Legislative Comm. on the Simplification and Revision of the New York Constitution

Walter E. Sandelius, Chm., Kansas Comm. on Constitution Revision

Thomas B. Stewart, Executive Officer, Alaska Statehood Committee

Edwin W. Tompkins, Member, Pennsylvania Comm. on Constitutional Revision

Roll call of sixteen state Leagues of Women Voters with constitutional revision on their current agendas to identify their representatives in attendance.

(Meeting will be continued at 2:15 P.M. in the Green Room)

12:15 P.M.

LUNCHEON

Terrace Room

Sponsored by Colorado Springs Charter Association

Presiding: A. Earl Bryson, Chairman

Speaker: Thomas B. Stewart, Executive Officer, Alaska Statehood Committee —

The Forty-Ninth Star

Pikes Peak Tour.

Wednesday — 2:30 P.M.

Trip to top of Pikes Peak's 14,110 ft. summit,
in chartered GRAY LINE observation busses.

Special rate for Conference visitors —
\$4.90 including federal tax and toll.

Advance reservations necessary at
registration counter.

ABOUT THE LEAGUE

The annual National Conference on Government is only one of a multitude of projects of the National Municipal League, a non-partisan citizen's organization.

The League has been described as "the most influential organization in the movement for better city and state government."

Founded in 1894, it is comprised of civic organizations, corporations and men and women interested in improving state and local government and in developing the techniques of citizen action.

The League helps citizens to help themselves. It gives them the ammunition and know-how for local efforts. It tells them how citizens in other places have met similar problems.

You are cordially invited to join like-minded men and women and become a member of the League. Use the convenient application form below. Mail to the National Municipal League, Carl H. Pforzheimer Bldg., 47 East 68th Street, New York 21, N. Y.

(MR.)

(MRS.)

(MISS)

STREET

CITY, ZONE, STATE

CLASSES OF MEMBERSHIP

- \$10.00 Sustaining Membership:** Entitles member to all League services, voting privileges, new publications and National Municipal Review.
- \$25.00 Contributing Membership:** For those who wish their dues to carry more nearly their proportionate share of the League's budget, in addition to the above.
- \$100.00 Patron Membership:** For individuals and businesses wishing to encourage good government as a sound investment in the future of their country.

THE NATIONAL MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

Carl H. Pforzheimer Building
47 East 68th Street, New York 21, New York

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John S. Linen
William Collins
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Ben B. Ehrlichman, Seattle
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Barry Goldwater, Phoenix
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Mark S. Matthews, Greenwich, Conn.
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Harold W. Dodds, Princeton, N. J.
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Bayard H. Faulkner,
Upper Montclair, N. J.
Ewart W. Goodwin, San Diego
Harry T. Ice, Indianapolis
Earl Kribben, Chicago

Bruce H. MacLeod,
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James A. Singer, St. Louis
Halsey Smith, Portland, Maine
R. A. Trippier, Memphis, Tenn.
Frank A. Vanderlip, Jr., New York
George S. Van Schaick, New York

Arrangements Committee

1119 Palmer Park Blvd., Colorado Springs, Colo.

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Clay J. Banta, Vice Chairman, Exec. Sec., C. S. Chamber of Commerce
Mrs. Tor Hylbom, Vice Chairman, Bd. Mem., Natl. League of Women Voters
Dayton D. McKean, Vice Chairman, Dean, Grad. School, Univ. of Colorado

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Milward L. Simpson, Governor of Wyoming
George D. Clyde, Governor of Utah
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Fred W. Simpson, Jr., Mayor of Colorado Springs
Will F. Nicholson, Mayor of Denver
Fred Voss, Vice President, Pueblo City Council
Leo C. Riethmayer, Mayor of Boulder
Keith D. McBurney, Chairman, El Paso County Commissioners
Dr. Louis T. Benezet, President, Colorado College
Quigg Newton, President, University of Colorado
Major General James E. Briggs, Supt., U. S. Air Force Academy
Arthur E. Johnson, Argo Oil Corporation, Denver
Mrs. E. P. Swerdfefer, President, Colo. League of Women Voters

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Tours, Transportation: James H. B. Wilson, Chairman
Women's Events: Mrs. James F. Donahue, Chairman
Headquarters: Clay J. Banta, Chairman
Attendance: Wm. F. Marker, Chairman

ALL-AMERICA CITIES CONTEST

The All America Cities contest, co-sponsored by the National Municipal League and LOOK Magazine, offers Conference visitors an opportunity to hear spokesmen from the 22 finalist cities present their cases to the awards jury.

The jury will select eleven cities whose citizens, through sustained concerted action, have made noteworthy contributions to their communities.

The 22 finalists this year are:

Bloomington, Indiana	Huntington, West Virginia
Casper, Wyoming	Leadville, Colorado
Chillicothe, Ohio	Lebanon, New Hampshire
Columbus, Ohio	New Haven, Connecticut
Denison, Texas	Phoenix, Arizona
Downey, California	Presque Isle, Maine
Elmwood Park, Illinois	Sheridan, Wyoming
Fresno, California	Sikeston, Missouri
Granite City, Illinois	Sunnyvale, California
Hayden, Arizona	Tarrytown, New York
Highland Park, Illinois	Westport, Connecticut

Spokesmen for the eleven cities in the left-hand column will appear before the jury at 2:15 P.M. Monday, September 15, in the Palmer Room. Those in the right-hand column will appear at 9:15 A.M. Tuesday, September 16.



George H. Gallup

The jurors are: Dr. George H. Gallup, Director, American Institute of Public Opinion, Foreman; Mrs. Dorothy Brimacombe, National Treasurer, Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs; John C. Cornelius, President, American Heritage Foundation; Mrs. Frederic Gilstrap, Vice-President, American Association of University Women; Mrs. Alf Gundersen, Vice-President, League of Women Voters

of the United States; Willard V. Merrihue, Manager, Personnel Practices and Community Relations Services, General Electric Company, President, Effective Citizens Organization; Vernon C. Myers, Publisher, LOOK Magazine; Quigg Newton, President, University of Colorado; H. Bruce Palmer, former President, United States Junior Chamber of Commerce; Philip M. Talbott, Chairman of the Board, Chamber of Commerce of the United States; Donald H. Webster, Director, Bureau of Governmental Research and Services, University of Washington; Arnold S. Zander, President, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO.

FOR THE LADIES

There will be a tea and tour of Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center for women visitors, Tuesday, September 16, 4:30 P.M.—5:30 P.M. Special attractions include Air Age Exhibition of art owned by the Air Force, print collection depicting the life of Christ from the Rosenwald Collection and architectural photographs of Blaine Drake. Transportation provided.

Compliments of Entertainment Committee

DEC 7 1959

National Conference on Government
Malapportionment Session
Monday, November 16, 1959
Springfield, Massachusetts

F 4

Richard S. Childs: Chairman

Rowland Watts, American Civil Liberties Union

Mr. Watts discussed the recent malapportionment cases in Federal courts in Minnesota, Florida and Tennessee, pointing out that a common basis for all three was Article 1, Section 4 of the U. S. Constitution which gives the states the power to determine the method of selection of representatives yet gives Congress the power to alter these. From 1872 to 1929 there was a federal law requiring Congressional districts to be compact and contiguous but since its repeal, Congress has kept hands off the situation probably for the same reason the state legislatures have--fear of losing individual seats. In Colegrove v. Green (1946) the U. S. Supreme Court supported the practice of federal noninterference in elections. Frankfurter in the majority decision, supported by only three other justices, declared that voting is not a right of the individual in state elections but is the right of the "body politic" of a state. Justice Rutledge, however, in a minority decision stated that ordinarily the issue was within the ken of the court under the Fourteenth Amendment but in this particular situation there was no guarantee that the people would be better off if the lower court's decision was reversed since the election had been so close.

In the 1959 Minnesota case, Magraw v. Donovan, the plaintiffs declared the apportionment situation was a violation not only of the Fourteenth Amendment but also of the Federal Civil Rights Act since it was an irreparable injury of rights. The case was accepted by the federal court and heard but decision was withheld and jurisdiction retained to allow the legislature to do its duty (although it had not done so since 1913). At its last session, threatened by the possibility of an election held at large for its entire membership, the legislature reapportioned, trimming disparities from one to 37 to one to four. The plaintiffs have just asked for dismissal of the case without prejudice and this has been granted.

In Florida the question of malapportionment was brought up on the same bases but with one distinction--no relief was asked for. The court in this case, Shiver v. Gray, accepted the Attorney General's appeal for dismissal, and the appeal from this decision will be held in the Federal Circuit Court in New Orleans some time this winter.

In Tennessee a more carefully prepared case was just heard before a three-man federal court November 23. In Baker et al v Carr the plaintiffs contend that the act of 1903 establishing the present apportionment is void and invalid under a constitutional requirement for apportionment every ten years; they further contend that the malapportionment situation is an illegal seizure of property rights under state tax laws. They demand, as in the Minnesota case, that election officials be restrained from running elections under the 1903 laws until relief is granted and that legislative elections until then should be held at large. This is not a suit on behalf of the Tennessee "body politic"; it is rather an action on behalf of all voters similarly situated.

Mr. Watts also mentioned two other suits dealing with the question--one brought last year by Mayor Hartsfield of Atlanta in an effort to declare the Georgia unit voting system illegal which failed but may be brought to court again in a new approach, declaring that the county unit system deprives a candidate of his rights to be elected fairly. The other involved a case brought by voters in Tuskegee, Alabama, under the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments, now being appealed to the Supreme Court.

David Wells of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union pointed out that labor has an important stake in proper apportionment as citizens, mainly of cities, and its numerical strength is not reflected fairly in legislatures. He highlighted the results of this in legislation--narrow trade union laws, social security and unemployment insurance program defects, inadequate housing provisions, lack of schools.

He noted the result of malapportionment on the state level, particularly in the North. Increasingly, governors are from one party with the second controlling one or both of the legislative houses, leading to divided government, stalemates, and crises such as the recent financial one in Michigan. Malapportionment also has intraparty results--"safe" districts have been maintained and some representatives, aided by the seniority system, have gained disproportionate power in state legislatures and Congress.

Labor turned to the federal level for relief and supports efforts to pass the Celler or Muller bills, calling for federal control over Congressional districts (one allows for deviations of 10 per cent, the other, 15 per cent, from a norm).

Some standards of legislative reapportionment were presented by Ernest Reock of Rutgers University. Apportionment is based mainly on geographical districting, population or, more commonly, a combination of the two. He pointed out that the establishment of criteria for judging the situations in states would aid in comparisons. Furthermore, it would aid the efforts to remove redistricting and reapportionment functions from state legislatures and place them under a state ministerial authority--by establishing standards reapportionment could take place on a nonpolitical basis as provided for by state law.

He suggested that equality of population could be a criterion, the most accurate measurement of which is the average relative deviation computed by dividing the number of representatives into the number of voters in a state and comparing the result with figures obtained in the same manner from each district.

A second basis for apportionment, geography, has two factors which could be measured. The compactness of a district could be judged by the relationship of its area to that of a circle and setting the deviation which would be allowable. Contiguity is those areas where parts of a district are separated could be judged on the basis of the sizes of the parts of the district and the distance between them.

Mrs. William S. Morgan, president of the Oklahoma League of Women Voters, on behalf of the L. W. V. of the United States, described the activi-

ties of some of the state Leagues working on reapportionment. In Wisconsin, for example, reapportionment was achieved and the state L. W. V. is now protecting fair apportionment; it helped defeat a recent move to place apportionment back on an area basis. In Illinois the League helped pass the constitutional amendment of 1954 establishing a reapportionment. In Oregon the L. W. V. is also protecting a recent apportionment and two bills which would have weakened it died last session in committee. In Washington a petition with 83,000 signatures for reapportionment was circulated by the L. W. V. It was put on the ballot and won. Before it took effect the legislature "amended" it to the point of emasculation. In Oklahoma the League with thirty other state organizations formed "Oklahomans for Constitutional Representation," circulated an initiative for reapportionment, and were at the point of submitting it to the voters when they had to hold it back in favor of one soon to be presented by the governor, for the realistic reason that he is the only person who can call a special election to vote on initiatives. If his fails, the other will hopefully be presented.

Information on the work on reapportionment by state Leagues of Women Voters can be obtained from the office of the League of Women Voters of the U. S., 1026 Seventeenth Street, N. W., Washington 6, D. C.

Reports on the situations in other states where work is being done on malapportionment came in from individual representatives.

Mrs. William T. Lusk, League of Women Voters of Connecticut, reported that the present system in Connecticut has resulted in the fact that a majority of the seats have been filled from 100 small towns with a population amounting to less than 11 per cent of the state. The House had been in the unbroken control of the Republican party for 83 years--from 1876 to 1958. There has been no overall redistricting since 1903 and, although the 1959 legislature set up a bipartisan committee to study the problem, the outlook for change and progress is not very favorable. The legislature has sole control over apportionment.

George Goodwin of the University of Massachusetts pointed out that Massachusetts has a unique situation--the legislature has given greater representation to urban areas than to rural. Actually, Massachusetts is in a relatively good position since there are no constitutional provisions guaranteeing rural predominance. However, redistricting has been on a political basis and gerrymandering has flourished. The Democrats in 1959 took complete control of the state government and hope to redraw Congressional and state legislative district lines in 1960 if they can work out some solution for the Boston area which is due to lose five representatives if an accurate redistricting is done.

Mrs. Aileen R. Lotz, executive secretary of the Miami Beach Taxpayers Association, told how it was possible in Florida for 17 per cent of the voters to elect a majority of the state legislature in 1955 and that this dropped to 15.4 in 1959. The recent attempt at reapportionment, which was defeated, would have allowed a 3 per cent increase in the number of voters to elect a

majority of the House and a 1 per cent increase to control the Senate, a solution which was completely unsatisfactory to the seven south Florida counties which have had a 78.9 per cent population increase since 1950. Proponents said that it was the best possible compromise under the existing circumstances and opponents took a big chance in turning it down--but perhaps improvement will come about as a result of the nearing gubernatorial campaign and the efforts of the candidates to gain the support of the populous southern counties.

Mrs. E. E. Reisman, Jr., president of the League of Women Voters of Tennessee, stated that hope was running high that the suit before the federal court in that state would be the corrective instrument for changing the situation in Tennessee wherein one-third of the people elect two-thirds of the legislature. She quoted the judge's opinion in accepting the case for review by a three-man court which made it clear that there is no such thing as a judicial "no-man's land" or a "zone which is off limits to judicial authority."

Mrs. Michael Glowa of the League of Women Voters of Vermont related that there is extremely little favor in the state for reapportionment. "While the legislature is admittedly inefficient, it is also singularly honest, largely free of control by special interests and is of close personal concern to an unusually large proportion of the population." Only one large manufacturing town, Burlington, is actually hampered by the present apportionment. Any change will be long and slow in coming, for a constitutional amendment can take as long as sixteen years to be effected.

Mrs. Horton Quinn, president of the League of Women Voters of Rhode Island, pointed out that despite a permissive constitutional article, no apportionment has been made since 1925. Moreover she stated that there is no understanding of or public interest in the malapportionment in her state.

Mrs. Robert K. Emerson of Huntington, West Virginia, said that conditions were not acute in her state.

Professor Ruth C. Silva, a consultant for the Commission for the Revision and Simplification of the New York Constitution, said that on the basis of the 1960 census, New York City for the first time would probably be fairly represented in the state legislature and that reapportionment will be sought by the representatives of the city's growing suburban areas instead. The battle thus will not be, as it has been in the past, New York City Democrats versus up-state Republicans but down-state versus up-state Republicans.

Anne Stich
Reporter