



League of Women Voters of Minnesota Records

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Constitutional Revision - 1956

MEA Clipping Bureau
835 Palace Bldg., Minneapolis 1
MINNEAPOLIS TRIBUNE
(Morning)

Date MAY 19 1956

Convention Urged on Revision of State Constitution

Minnesotans are being "denied access to a basic law" when the legislature refuses to call a convention to revise the state constitution, State Sen. Elmer Andersen, St. Paul, said Friday.

Andersen called the legislature's position "absolutely untenable."

DURING THE 1955 session, the state senate voted against submitting an amendment to voters on the question of a constitutional convention, as provided in the constitution.

Andersen, long a backer of constitutional revision, addressed a session on the final day of the biennial council meeting of the Minnesota League of Women Voters at Leamington hotel.

THE SENATE said Minnesota's government could be greatly improved by cutting "obsolete material" from the constitution and making the document "a shortened and simplified" statement of principles.

Outdated features in the document which hamper legislative operations, Andersen said, include the 90-day limit on sessions, provision for only biennial sessions and the requirement that revenue bills originate only in the house of representatives.

MEA Clipping Bureau
MOUND PILOT

SEP 20 1956

Date

League of Women to Review Constitution

A brief review of action taken and action contemplated on the "Constitutional Revision" program of the League of Women Voters will be a part of the first fall meeting of the Mound group Tuesday.

Two meetings are scheduled

for the day — the first at 12:45 p. m. at the home of Mrs. Arnold Aslakson, Saga Hill, and the second at 7:45 p. m. at the Talbot Jones home on Casco Point. Members are requested to note "the new times."

A call has gone out for new members who will be acquainted with the League's program on Constitutional Revision. Emphasis will be put on the "Home Rule" section, recommending greater local control for municipalities.

Committee members for CR are Mrs. John French, chairman, and Mary T. Littlejohn and Mrs. William deWinter.

Women interested in joining the League are asked to call either Mrs. Aslakson at Mound 512 or Mrs. Jones, Gr. 1-9069.

MEA Clipping Bureau
NEW RICHLAND STAR

Date OCT 4 1956

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS MEET OCT. 9

The League of Women Voters will meet Tuesday evening, October 9, at the home of Mrs. George Clunis. The program will be on the Amendments and the candidates in the coming election.

A "black mark" against Minnesota's legislators, thinks Harold Schoelkopf of



the St. Cloud Times is the way they defy the constitution which should rule us all." The League of Women Voters is trying to acquaint the people with

Schoelkopf the need for constitutional revision and reapportionment. The new 1957 legislature, he hopes, may be the one with "the moral backbone to do what its predecessors have failed to do."

CASS LAKE TIMES

IS OF CONTINUOUS SERVICE TO CASS LAKE AREA

VERY THURSDAY BY THE UTLEYS OF CASS LAKE
GRANT UTLEY, Editor and Publisher

nesota Editorial Ass'n and the National Editorial Ass'n.

ond Class Matter at the Post Office at Cass Lake,
a, April 27, 1899. Under Act of March 3, 1879

SEPTEMBER 27, 1956

In October, The Cass Lake Times will publish the proposed amendments to the Constitution of Minnesota, to be voted upon in the election of Tuesday, November 6th. Every citizen who intends to vote should read these proposed amendments over very carefully.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS

If you can not be in your voting precinct on November the 6th, apply NOW for absentee ballot.

WHO? Servicemen, students attending college, invalids—anyone who knows now that he will not be able to vote in his regular voting precinct on election day.

WHEN? NOW! There is no deadline for obtaining a ballot except that enough time must be allowed for one to send for an application, to return that form, to receive the ballot, and to return the ballot BEFORE election day.

WHERE? Write to the Office of the County Auditor, Walker, Minnesota.

WHAT? Simply write to the above address and ask for an application for an absentee ballot. Give your name—your regular voting address — and also the address to which you wish the application and ballot sent.

Full information will be included with the form as to how it is to be filled out. When you receive the ballot, be sure to follow the instructions carefully as to where to vote, how to verify the vote and where to return the ballot.

**DON'T LOSE YOUR VOTE
ON NOVEMBER 6TH !!**

The Marshall Daily Messenger

Member of the Associated Press, the Northwest Daily Press Association and the Minnesota Editorial Assn.

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When he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them. (Matthew 9:36)

★ ★ ★ ★

The PRAYER
FOR TODAY FROM
The Upper Room®



Our Father, we ask Thee to grant to each of us the compassion that so marked our Lord. May our lives be filled with love for men and women that we may long to help them. In the name of Him who taught us to pray, "Our Father who art in heaven . . . Amen."

★ ★ ★ ★

OCT 4 1956

Toughest Job for Voters

Most people who read this editorial are good, conscientious citizens. They approach next November's ballot with a keen sense of their own responsibility as voters. And yet we wonder how many of these good citizens will have the fortitude and endurance to wade through the long text and explanation of the three proposed state constitutional amendments published in today's Messenger.

The whole works makes quite a legal mouthful. It's enough to give anybody mental indigestion. This is quite a task the 1955 legislation assigned the voters of Minnesota. And yet the success or failure of these three amendments has a lot to do, right in and around Marshall, with the kind of roads we drive on, the kind of justice we get in court, and the kind of state and local taxes we're asked to pay.

THAT'S WHY WE ASK you to study and understand these three amendments. Their fate may well have more to do with the state's welfare than who is elected governor. And remember, above all, this one key fact: You can't be neutral on these amendments if you go to the polls at all. If you go to the polls, vote for Ike or Adlai, and leave the amendment ballot blank, you've actually voted NO on all three amendments. To pass, an amendment must receive a Yes vote from a majority of all people who show up at the polls.

Now for what's in these three amendments. We think you should vote Yes on all three. We think passage of every one will be a big boost to good government. But you've got to make up your own mind. Listen to the arguments and then decide for yourself. Here's why we are going to vote Yes on all three:

No. 1—This is extremely complex. It represents a complete overhaul of the state's judicial system. It's designed to modernize our courts. It gets rid of a lot of obsolete provisions in the present constitution and clears the way for more efficient and economical administration of justice.

THE AMENDMENT has the full support of the state bar association. Ask your lawyer about it. If he's on the ball, he should be able to give you a good explanation. So far as we know, the amendment has no opposition.

No. 2—This amendment will make more money from state gasoline and auto license taxes available for county roads, township roads, and city and village streets. It lumps all revenue from these two state taxes into one fund and divides it 62% to state highways, 29% to counties, including townships and municipalities under 5,000 people, and 9% to municipalities over 5,000 population.

This amendment is the product of two years of careful study by a group made up partly of legislators and partly of representatives of highway users. The amendment also marks the culmination of a ten-year effort to get more money for country roads. Only this time state highway people and their friends favor the amendment. It cuts the state highways' share of gas and auto license taxes, but the big new federal aid program is providing a lot of new money for state highways.

Again, this amendment has no organization opposition. The state highway department, automobile association, truckers, county commissioners, league of municipalities all urge you to vote Yes. It will help us a lot in this area.

No. 3—This amendment will make about \$8,000,000 in new money available to Minnesota public schools and the University without costing us a cent in additional taxes. That is because this portion of iron ore tax income is now being salted away in trust funds, which are subject to the erosion of inflation and which pay only a small amount of interest anyhow.

EVERY MAJOR organization concerned with schools has endorsed this amendment. This includes the school board association, the teachers, and citizens committees for education. Taxpayers groups also favor the amendment. Republican and D-F-L parties have both endorsed it, and both Anchor Nelsen and Gov. Freeman are urging a Yes vote.

Some scattered individuals oppose the idea. They say we should continue to buy U. S. government bonds with this \$8,000,000 per year in iron ore tax money and use only the interest for our schools. They favor saving this iron ore income for the future, but they forget that inflation robs these savings of purchasing power and that taconite is changing our iron ore industry from something that will run out in another generation to something that will go on forever with more employment than ever before.

One thing is sure. If this amendment fails and the state doesn't get this extra \$8,000,000 to help educate our youngsters, the legislature will have to find the same \$8,000,000 somewhere else. And the only other place to go is higher taxes on your pocketbook.

N. Y. Mills Herald

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by

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RUSSELL O. PARTA

EDITOR



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under the act of March 9, 1879

OCT 11 1936

Proposed Constitutional Amendments

The proposed amendments of the Constitution of Minnesota are published in this issue of the New York Mills Herald. They are appearing in this issue, and in next week's issue, as legal advertising of the state of Minnesota.

They are being published so that all voters can see and read these amendments before the date of the general election in November.

In order to become state law, these amendments must receive over 50 per cent of the total vote cast in the election.

In other words, if 1,000,000 votes are cast in the general election, an amendment must receive at least 500,001 votes to become law.

If only 900,000 of these voters vote on the amendments, they will still require at least 500,001 votes to become law. The amendments must receive a majority of the number of votes cast in the whole election, a majority of the number of people who accepted ballots in the election, to become law — not just a majority who voted on the proposed amendments.

This is often confusing to voters; but in effect, it means that the amendments must receive over 50 per cent affirmative votes of all the people who cast ballots.

And, if a person fails to vote on

the amendment ballot it is the same as voting no.

Perhaps this last paragraph is the one that we should bear in mind and not be too concerned with the other technicalities: **failure to vote on the amendment ballot is the same as voting NO.**

There are three proposed amendments. No. 1 relates to the judicial power of the state. No. 2 relates to the change in distribution of highway gas tax funds. No. 3 relates to the use of iron ore occupation tax and its use for current school needs.

Information on proposed amendments 2 and 3 has been issued in these columns previously.

An effort is being made throughout the state by bipartisan groups to have both proposed amendments No. 2 and 3 passed. Both of these amendments will be of value to the people living in the rural areas as well as in the state as a whole.

There has been little said about Amendment No. 1 up to this point. At this time we are not in position to give any further explanation on the amendment other than that which appears in the completely published form.

Although these amendments appear ponderous and "beyond grasp," they are published so that everyone can read them — why don't you?

MEA Clipping Bureau WELLS MIRROR

Date OCT 11 1936

Minnesota Needs A New Constitution

ON NOVEMBER 6 YOU WILL
VOTE ON THREE AMEND-
MENTS TO THE MINNESOTA
CONSTITUTION

Amendment No. 3—Iron Ore Tax Amendment

DIVERTS TO CURRENT NEEDS
OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
THE 50% OF THE IRON ORE
OCCUPATION TAX NOW GOING
TO THE PERMANENT SCHOOL
TRUST FUNDS.

Divide the 50% as at present:

40% to current needs of public schools,

10% to current needs of the University of Minnesota.

The purpose of the proposed amendment is to secure a distribution of the proceeds of the tax on the business of mining or producing iron ore or other ores in this state different from that now provided. Under the existing section, 50% of the funds derived from said tax is apportioned to the state general revenue fund, 40% thereof is apportioned to the permanent school fund, and 10% thereof is apportioned to the permanent University fund.

The effect of the proposed amendment, if adopted, will be to provide that the funds thereafter derived from said tax shall be used as follows:

50% to the state general revenue fund,

40% for the support of elementary and secondary schools, and

10% for the general support of the University.

Supt. Fjelstad says, "Vote YES to Amendment No. 3."

A blank vote is counted as a NO vote.

Wells League of Women Voters

Date Oct 13 1956

Val Bjornson—

LWV Irreverence?

MINNESOTA'S LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS IS UNQUESTIONABLY interested in the three amendments to the state constitution up for a referendum vote Nov. 6. The organization has done by far the best job of summarizing the three proposals, as usual. Its sketch of the amendment highlights occupies a single letterhead sheet, printed in large, readable type, rather than columns of legalistic verbiage.

The women are more interested, however, in revising the constitution all at once. And they chose the current week as the time for release of a most unusual booklet on the state's 99-year-old organic act. Its title sets the tone, "Well, what d'ya know . . . Minnesota has a constitution!"

The League of Women Voters is going to be accused of downright irreverence in its approach to our constitution. But they make out a good case, by implication, for the levity of tone which makes the booklet so thoroughly readable. They simply tell the story of the 1857 convention—how it never actually met as a convention, how Republicans and Democrats, split just about evenly, glowered at each other during hot summer weeks here in frontier St. Paul, and how a committee from each of the rival camps finally got together on a compromise draft whose two varying versions were never fully reconciled as to minor errors they contained.

* * *

MENTIONING THE STATE'S constitution in the same tone of reverence properly reserved for the "sheet anchor of our liberties," the federal Constitution, isn't supported by any comparison of the historical backgrounds of the two conventions, the one in Philadelphia in 1787 and the other in St. Paul in 1857.

On amendments — and the three to be voted on three weeks from next Tuesday are the really pertinent aspect of any discussion of the constitution now—the league has some sharp comments:

"Let's call a halt to trying to make things right by continually attempting amendments. If you don't like the

coat, you can't design a better one simply by putting sleeves on the vest! Constitutional revision by amendment is long, ponderous and costly!"

* * *

THE BUSINESS OF REMAKING the constitution "belongs to all of us," says the League of Women Voters brochure. Then it explains "here's how it's done: First we elect men and women to represent us at a convention to look at our constitution as a whole and revise it as a whole. Then they'll turn the constitution back to you, to allow you to pass or reject it. But your legislators are the only ones who can help you call for this constitutional convention."

The ease with which amendments were adopted, up to 1898, is traced. Since that time, it hasn't been enough to get a majority of all votes cast on an amendment submitted — it must be a majority of all votes polled in the election.

Thus, any one or all three of the pending amendments may carry by a landslide vote. Some proposed change may, for example, receive a whopping 2-to-1 approval, a vote of 500,000 "Yes" to 250,000 "No." But if we cast a million and a half votes next month, as is likely, that margin will be far from sufficient. An amendment, to carry under such circumstances, must receive more than 750,000 "Yes" votes.

Do You Know The Amendments?

When you go to the polls Tuesday, November 6, will you know what the proposed constitutional amendments are all about?

The League of Women Voters has briefed the three amendments as a public service and has asked newspapers of the state to publish their bulletin.

We are happy to co-operate. Here are the amendments —

1. Judicial Amendment provides for the following:

★ Supreme, district and probate judges required to be attorneys (except judges now in office); legislature may set requirements for other judges.

★ Justice of peace courts removed from constitution.

★ Legislature may create such minor courts and judicial offices as it thinks necessary.

★ Legislature shall provide for election, retirement and removal, if incapacitated, of judges.

★ Six-year term for all judges; however, term ends if judge files for a non-judicial elective office.

★ Supreme or district court judges may hold no state or federal office other than a reserve military commission.

★ No judge required to run for election until at least one year after appointment to a vacancy.

★ Supreme court may appoint a clerk (now elected) and other necessary employees, may meet at places other than the capital, and shall have not less than six nor more than eight associate justices.

★ District court duties may be extended, boundaries may be set by the legislature (providing no judge's office can be abolished during his term), judges may perform duties of another district judge or of a supreme court justice; and there shall be two or more judges in each district.

★ Probate court duties may be extended and there shall be one or more judges in each district.

2. Highway Amendment:

★ Creates a highway user tax distribution fund from the net proceeds of the motor vehicle and gasoline taxes, to be divided as follows:

62 per cent — trunk highway fund.

29 per cent — county state-aid highway fund.

9 per cent — municipal state-aid street fund (for cities, villages, and boroughs having populations of 5,000 or more.)

(At the present time, all of the motor vehicle and two-thirds of the gasoline tax revenue go toward trunk highways. The other one-third of the gasoline tax revenue goes toward county roads.)

★ Permits legislation to apportion 5 per cent of net proceeds of distribution fund to any one or more of the three funds after January, 1963.

3. Iron Ore Tax Amendment:

★ Diverts to current needs of public schools and University of Minnesota the 50 per cent of the iron ore occupation tax now going to the permanent school and University trust funds.

★ Divides the 50 per cent as at present:

40 per cent to current needs of public schools.

10 per cent to current needs of the University of Minnesota.

Crane's Falls

MEA Clipping Bureau
WELLS MIRROR

Date OCT 18 1956

Minnesota Needs A New Constitution

ON NOVEMBER 6 YOU WILL
VOTE ON THREE AMEND-
MENTS TO THE MINNESOTA
CONSTITUTION

Amendment No. 2 Highway Amendment

This amendment creates a high-
way user tax distribution fund
from the net proceeds of the mo-
tor vehicle and gasoline taxes to
be divided as follows:

62% into the trunk highway
fund

29% into the county state-aid
highway fund

9% into the municipal state-aid
street fund

This amendment also permits
the legislature to apportion 5%
of the net proceeds of the distri-
bution fund to any one or more of
the three funds after January,
1963.

The amendment will give cities
over 5000 money for streets that
they don't now have. It also will
provide a fair share of the funds
for county use, and it will leave
enough money in the state high-
way fund to take advantage of
federal money that will be allo-
cated for the new interstate high-
way system. Even cities under
5000, which aren't included in the
direct division will benefit from
the money allocated to counties.

E. Ray Cory, Austin, president
of the Minnesota State Automo-
bile Association, and who heads
a joint committee of trucking and
contracting industries, shippers,
and private motor car users, urges
passage of this amendment. He
says, "The amendment provides
the only opportunity many of us
will see in our lifetime for settling
the Minnesota highway controver-
sy."

Remember—A blank vote is
counted as a NO vote.

Wells League of Women Voters

Date OCT 17 1956

Candidates At League Meet, Mon.

The Waseca League of Women Voters is planning a special Voters' service meeting for their October meeting to be held at the Waseca library next Monday evening at 8 p. m.

As this will take the place of the voters' rally, held in recent years, the public is invited to attend. Members of the New Richland League will also be present.

Mayor Tobin and Rodney Searle, candidates for state representative from Waseca county, have been invited. Einer Iversen and William Byron, Republican and DFL chairmen, will give a brief run down of candidates seeking office at the state level, their qualifications and experience.

Explaining amendments to be voted on in the November election will be Henry Gallagher on Amendment No. 1, Emerson Ward on Amendment No. 2 and Supt. E. W. Eininger on Amendment No. 3.

Also invited are the candidates for the office of county commissioner. There are contests in three districts. In district I, composed of New Richland, Byron and Otisco the candidates are Roy Arnfelt and James Madison; District III made up of third ward Waseca, Blooming Grove and Woodville townships, has J. B. Lee and Martin Lewer as candidates. Seeking office in district V, from Waldorf, Freedom and Wilton townships are Edward Doyle and Ernst Marquardt.

The meeting will be open for questions and discussion.

A coffee hour will follow.

MEA Clipping Bureau
835 Palace Bldg., Minneapolis 1
BEMIDJI DAILY PIONEER

Date OCT 13 1956

Voters Institute To Be Held on Monday Evening

A voters institute and candidates meeting will be held in St. Philip's auditorium Monday evening at 8 o'clock sponsored by the Bemidji League of Women Voters.

Representative Elmer Berglund and Robert B. Kohl, the contending candidate in the 62nd legislative district, have accepted invitations to present their views on various issues including conservation, taxes and education.

Dr. A. C. Clark, BSTC faculty member and John Schuiling of the Bemidji high school faculty will serve as moderators.

The three amendments to be voted on at the November election will also be discussed and a box for questions and time for answers for moderators and candidates will be provided. Coffee and cookies will be served after the meeting. The public is urged to attend by league members.

Date

OCT 18 1956

To Vote On Three Amendments Nov. 6

Last week and this week the complete text of the three Amendments to be voted on at the General Election, Nov. 6, are found in the Enterprise. You should study these very carefully before voting on them to see whether you favor voting "Yes" for them. If you do not vote on these its the same as voting "No".

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota have provided us with a condensed form of the three amendments, giving what each amendment provides for.

The only one the Enterprise isn't just too sure about is No. 1. It looks to us as if here's another move to centralize our judicial into the hands of a few people. Anyway read them over and study them for yourself.

1. Judicial Amendment—Provides for the following:

Supreme, district and probate judges required to be attorneys [except judges now in office]; legislature may set requirements for other judges.

Justice of peace courts removed from constitution.

Legislature may create such minor courts and judicial offices as it thinks necessary.

Legislature shall provide for election, retirement and removal, if incapacitated, of judges.

Legislature shall provide for election, retirement and removal, if incapacitated, of judges.

Six-year term for all judges; however, term ends if judge files for a non-judicial elective office.

Supreme or district court judges may hold no state or federal office other than a reserve military commission.

No Judge required to run for election until at least one year after appointment to a vacancy.

Supreme court may appoint a clerk [now elected] and other necessary employees, may meet at places other than the capital, and shall have not less than six nor more than eight associate justices.

District court duties may be extended, boundaries may be set by the legislature [providing no judge's office can be abolished during his term] judges may perform duties of another district judge or of a supreme court justice; and there shall be two or more judges in each district.

Probate court duties may be extended and there shall be one or more judges in each district.

2. Highway Amendment—

Creates a highway user tax distribution fund from the net proceeds of the motor vehicle and gasoline taxes, to be divided as follows:

62% trunk highway fund, 29% county state-aid highway fund, 9% municipal state-aid street fund [for cities, villages, and boroughs having populations of 5,000 or more].

[At the present time, all of the motor vehicle and 2/3 of the gasoline tax revenues go toward trunk highways. The other 1/3 of the gasoline tax revenue goes toward county roads.]

Permits legislature to apportion 5% of net proceeds of distribution fund to any one or more of the three funds after January, 1963.

3. Iron-Ore Tax Amendment—

Diverts to current needs of public schools and U of M the 50% of the iron-ore occupation tax now going to the permanent school and University trust funds.

Divides the 50% as at present: 40% to current needs of public schools, 10% to current needs of the University of Minnesota.

Date

OCT 18 1956

Are You Familiar

The local League of Women Voters unit will distribute "flyers" containing information on the three state amendments at the candidate rally, Monday, Oct. 22, at the high school cafeteria.

Voters throughout the state will vote on the amendments at the Nov. 6 general election. It

Read This

as it thinks necessary.

Legislature shall provide for election, retirement and removal, if incapacitated, of judges.

Six-year term for all judges; however, term ends if judge files for a non-judicial elective office.

Supreme or district court judges may hold no state or federal office other than a reserve military commission.

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Supreme court may appoint a clerk (now elected) and other necessary employees, may meet at places other than the capital, and shall have not less than six nor more than eight associate justices.

District court duties may be extended, boundaries may be set by the legislature (providing no judge's office can be abolished during his term), judges may perform duties of another district judge or of a supreme court justice; and there shall be two or more judges in each district.

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62%—trunk highway fund,
29%—county state-aid highway fund,

9% — municipal state-aid street fund (for cities, villages, and boroughs having populations of 5,000 or more).

(At the present time, all of the motor vehicle and 2/3 of the gasoline tax revenues go toward trunk highways. The other 1/3 of the gasoline tax revenue goes toward county roads.)

Permits legislature to apportion 5% of net proceeds of distribution fund to any one or more of the three funds after January, 1963.

• No. 3. Iron-Ore Tax Amendment.

Diverts to current needs of public schools and University of Minnesota the 50% of the iron-ore occupation tax now going to the permanent school and University trust funds.

Divides the 50% as at present:

40% to current needs of public schools,

10% to current needs of the University of Minnesota.

Here's Amendment Information

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota have prepared a mailing piece which explains thoroughly the three amendments to the Minnesota constitution which you will vote on at the November 6 elections. The league has provided this factual information as a public service to help you make a decision for or against these three amendments.

In case you have not seen one of these information sheets, you might take time out to look over a condensed version which we reprint here in our editorial columns.

1 JUDICIAL AMENDMENT, which provides the following:

- * Supreme, district and probate judges required to be attorneys (except judges now in office); legislature may set requirements for other judges.

- * Justice of peace courts removed from constitution.

- * Six-year term for all judges; however, term ends if judge files for a non-judicial elective office.

- * Supreme court may appoint a clerk (now

elected) and other necessary employees, may meet at places other than the capital and shall have not less than six nor more than eight associate justices.

2 HIGHWAY AMENDMENT

- * Creates a highway user tax distribution fund from the net proceeds of the motor vehicle and gasoline taxes, to be divided as follows: 62 per cent to the trunk highway fund; 29 per cent to the county state-aid highway fund; and 9 per cent to municipal and state-aid street funds (for cities, villages and boroughs having populations of 5,000 or more). At the present time, all of the motor vehicle and two-thirds of the gasoline tax revenues go toward trunk highways. The other one-third of the gasoline tax revenue goes toward county roads.

3 IRON-ORE TAX AMENDMENT.

- * Diverts to current needs of public schools and the University of Minnesota the 50 per cent of the iron-ore occupation tax now going to the permanent school and University trust funds.

- * Divides the 50 per cent as at present: 40 per cent to current needs of public schools; 10 per cent to current needs of the University of Minnesota.

MEA Clipping Bureau
835 Palace Bldg., Minneapolis 1
**OWATONNA DAILY
PEOPLES PRESS**
(Morning and Sunday)

Date **OCT 19 1956**

3 Amendments To Constitution

Will Be Voted On At General Election

Three amendments to the Minnesota constitution will be voted upon in the general election next Nov. 6.

Failure to vote either way will be counted as a "no" vote, the League of Women Voters emphasizes. The "no vote counts as a 'no' vote" reminder is especially important in cities such as Owatonna, Austin and St. Paul, where voting machines are used.

The record shows that there are more failures to vote in precincts having voting machines than there are in areas where pencil and ballot are used.

Factual information as a public service is provided on the three proposed amendments by the League, to help voters make a decision for or against any or all of the amendments.

Proposed Amendment One, the "judicial amendment," provides for the following:

- ◆ Supreme, district and probate judges required to be attorneys (except judges now in office); legislature may set requirements for other judges.

- ◆ Justice of peace courts removed from constitution.

- ◆ Legislature may create such minor courts and judicial offices as it thinks necessary.

- ◆ Legislature shall provide for election, retirement and removal, if incapacitated, of judges.

- ◆ Six-year term for all judges; however, term ends if judge files for a non-judicial elective office.

- ◆ Supreme or district court judges may hold no state or federal office other than a reserve military commission.

- ◆ No judge required to run for election until at least one year after appointment to a vacancy.

- ◆ Supreme court may appoint a clerk (now elected) and other necessary employees, may meet at places other than the capital, and shall have not less than six nor more than eight associate justices.

- ◆ District court duties may be extended, boundaries may be set by the legislature (providing no judge's office can be abolished during his term), judges may perform duties of another district judge or of a supreme court justice; and there shall be two or more judges in each district.

- ◆ Probate court duties may be extended and there shall be one or more judges in each district.

2. Highway Amendment:
◆ Creates a highway user tax distribution fund from the net proceeds of the motor vehicle and gasoline taxes, to be divided as follows:

62% — trunk highway fund
29% — county state-aid highway

fund

9% — municipal state-aid street fund (for cities, villages, and boroughs having populations of 5,000 or more).

(At the present time, all of the motor vehicle and $\frac{2}{3}$ of the gasoline tax revenue goes toward county ways. The other $\frac{1}{3}$ of the gasoline tax revenue goes toward county roads.)

- ◆ Permits legislature to apportion 5% of net proceeds of distribution fund to any one or more of the three funds after January, 1963.

3 Iron-ore Tax Amendment:

- ◆ Diverts to current needs of public schools and University of Minnesota the 50% of the iron-ore occupation tax now going to the permanent school and University trust funds.

- ◆ Divide the 50% as at present:
40% to current needs of public schools
10% to current needs of the University of Minnesota

**WILLMAR
DAILY TRIBUNE**
(Evening)

Date OCT 20 1956

NOTES AND COMMENT

LWV By V.E.L.

The Constitutional Amendments

Three changes in the constitution of the State of Minnesota are to be voted upon at the coming general election. The chapters of the constitution as proposed to be amended have been printed in full in all the newspapers of the state under the direction of the Attorney General. As they are voluminous and appear in fine type it is not likely that many voters will wade through them to note the changes proposed. For that reason it is well to read and heed a well edited synopsis, and we will publish such in this column.

We will begin in this issue on Amendment No. 2. This is an issue that has occupied the public mind a good deal down through the years—namely, an equitable division of the gas tax, between the different types of roads in the state.

Amendment No. 2 is the direct result of a two-year study conducted by a 28-man commission, on which were representatives of counties, cities and statewide organizations interested in better roads and streets. All these varying interests agreed that Amendment No. 2 is needed to give Minnesota a balanced program of improvement on all roads and streets.

FACTS ON AMENDMENT NO. 2

Amendment No. 2 on the election ballot this fall proposes to change the present distribution of highway funds in Minnesota. At the present time, state trunk highways get all the license plate fees and $\frac{1}{2}$ of the gas taxes, counties get $\frac{1}{3}$ of the gas taxes, municipalities get nothing for business access and arterial streets.

The amendment proposes:

- (1) To put all highway taxes into one fund (instead of having two separate funds as at present.)
- (2) To divide this one fund on the following basis:
 - 62% to state trunk highways
 - 29% to counties and municipalities under 5000 population
 - 9% to cities over 5000 population

Reason for the "cut-off" as 5000 was that few municipalities under 5000 have an engineer to plan and program use of the money. Also, Federal Aid is established at the 5000 population figure . . . and for the same reason.

Other Reasons Why You Should (1) The amendment will put Minnesota's own highway house in order so the state will be able to gain maximum benefit from the new federal highway program.

(2) If the amendment does not pass, there is good

reason to believe the legislature may lower license plate fees and raise the gas tax (as a quick method of getting more funds for county roads . . . their present $\frac{1}{3}$ share of the gas tax.) This, of course, would do nothing for cities . . . certainly would not answer the highway problem.

(3) This is the fairest distribution of highway funds ever put into an amendment, because the distribution is based on study, on facts, on putting the money where the needs are.

(4) Amendment No. 2 is more than just a new distribution of highway funds. It contains many sound highway principles which set the framework for efficient road and street building in the years ahead.

*These percentages were arrived at through a highway needs study conducted by the Automotive Safety Foundation of Washington, D. C., the foremost highway study experts in the nation. In each instance, the percentage is adequate to meet the needs on a 15-year program.

A Lee-Way To Lawmakers Is Permitted

(3) To allow the legislature, once every six years,

to take 5% of the one fund to adjust any inequities that may appear or to take care of changing conditions and changing needs.

*For example, total revenues in Minnesota are now roughly \$3 billion dollars a year. 5% of this is 4 million, which could be apportioned among all three categories, all going two or given entirely to one, depending on needs. The balance of 76 million would be divided 62-29-9.

To Provide a More Workable Formula Of Distribution (4) To establish provisions for efficient cooperation between counties and state, counties and cities, cities and state and counties and townships.

(5) To remove from the constitution the present antiquated formula for distributing highway funds to counties and to replace it with legislation based on sound highway factors. The present formula limits any county to a maximum of 3% of the fund available to all counties or a minimum of $\frac{3}{4}$ of 1% regardless of what the county's needs are.

How County Funds Would Be Divided *The new formula being suggested would divide the counties 29% on the following factors:

50% on the basis of money needs (what the county actually needs in the way of money for roads above and beyond what it can reasonably raise by local levy.)

30% on the basis of mileage

10% on the basis of motor vehicle registration.

10% as an equalization factor (this is a standard

10% for nonvariable costs such as administration, etc.)

*Under the amendment, the counties would receive upwards of 9 million dollars a year more for roads than they are receiving at present.

To Allow Limited Bond Issues Payable From The State's Share

(6) To allow the state to issue up to 150 million dollars in bonds for highway purposes

if needed (no bonds at present). These bonds would be retired from the states 62%.

*No new or increased taxes are proposed under the amendment.

Why the 5,000 Population Limit On Municipalities The amendment also:

*would give municipalities of 5000 population and over (by the last federal census) roughly \$7,200,000 a year for use on business access and arterial street. As noted before, municipalities receive no direct share of highway revenues at present.

*The formula being suggested for distributing the 9% (of \$7,200,000) is 50% on the basis of needs and 50% on the basis of population.

*The needs of municipalities under 5000 population are figured in the county needs and the money to meet those needs is in the counties 29%. They will receive their aid indirectly, through the county. Reason for the "cut-off" as 5000 was that few municipalities under 5000 have an engineer to plan and program use of the money. Also, Federal Aid is established at the 5000 population figure . . . and for the same reason.

Other Reasons Why You Should Vote "Yes" on Amendment No. 2 (1) The amendment will put Minnesota's own highway house in order so the state will be able to gain maximum benefit from the new federal highway program.

(2) If the amendment does not pass, there is good

reason to believe the legislature may lower license plate fees and raise the gas tax (as a quick method of getting more funds for county roads . . . their present $\frac{1}{4}$ share of the gas tax.) This, of course, would do nothing for cities . . . certainly would not answer the highway problem.

(3) This is the fairest distribution of highway funds ever put into an amendment, because the distribution is based on study, on facts, on putting the money where the needs are.

(4) Amendment No. 2 is more than just a new distribution of highway funds. It contains many sound highway principles which set the framework for efficient road and street building in the years ahead.

**BRainerd
DAILY DISPATCH**

Date OCT 22 1956

Candidates' Meeting Set Here by Women's League

Candidates for congress, state house of representatives and county board of commissioners as well as members of the Brainerd city council, city charter commission and the Water and Light board will appear before residents of Brainerd and Crow Wing county at a Candidates' Meeting to be held Friday, Nov. 2, in the American Legion hall, it was announced here today.

Arranged by the League of Women Voters, the meeting will have Miss M. Eleanor Nolan, Legion post commander, serving as moderator.

Already accepting invitations to appear at the meeting are Fred Marshall and Joseph Kaczmarek, candidates for U. S. Congress; Charles L. Halsted, Vernon A. Har-

ington, Fred W. Schwanke, and Gordon Gerling, seeking state representative posts; and Ed. R. Heikenen, George Krueger, Walter F. Schwendeman and Oscar Provost, county commissioner candidates.

Proposed amendments to the state constitution as well as the Brainerd city charter will be discussed at the meeting, with city officials expected to present their views on the proposed amendment to the tax levy law which now holds the levy to 24 mills.

The proposed amendment, if passed by the voters at the Nov. 6 general election, would make a larger levy possible when the needs of the city are shown to demand it.

The meeting is scheduled to begin at 8 p. m.

**WORTHINGTON
DAILY GLOBE**

Date OCT 23 1956

Community Club To Have 'Voters Service' Program

Worthington Community Club meeting will be held this Thursday afternoon, with the League of Women Voters in charge of the program.

Meeting will be held at 2:30, in the community room of the city hall, with a board meeting preceding the regular monthly meeting.

Members of the League, with Mrs. Ermin Windschill, president, in charge, will present a "Voters Service" program, with Mrs. Hardy Rickbeil and Mrs. Robert Tollefson conducting the discussion.

William Hedeon, Mrs. John Gagnon and Mrs. Ray Mork will present explanations of the three amendments and both Republican and Democratic candidates' answers to questionnaires will be given.

A coffee and social hour will conclude the meeting, after which members of the Welfare and Christmas Basket committees will meet.

**WORTHINGTON
DAILY GLOBE**

Date OCT 23 1956

Court Revision:

Amendment No. 1

OF the three amendments to the state constitution which will be on November 6 election ballots, Amendment No. 1 is probably the most important because it calls for a sorely needed overhauling of our state judicial structure.

Amendment No. 1, as it will appear on the pink ballot election day, reads as follows: "Shall Article VI of the Constitution of the State of Minnesota, relating to the Judicial Power of the State, be amended to organize, establish, conduct and operate the Judicial Power of the State of Minnesota in accordance with provisions of the Amendment printed and published in Laws 1955?"

Here are the important changes that Amendment No. 1 would make to improve Minnesota's court system:

- (1) Justices of the peace may be abolished. The legislature is given the power to abolish justices of the peace and substitute some other form of court.
- (2) Supreme court can be increased to eight judges by legislative action, and they shall be judges instead of justices.
- (3) All judges of Minnesota will serve uniform terms of six years.
- (4) Amendment requires that all judges in the state be "learned" (that is educated or trained) in the law.
- (5) Probate courts of counties may be combined, or a probate judge may be added in larger counties.

This amendment has the support of the Minnesota State Bar Association, the Minnesota League of Municipalities, the League of Women Voters, many Chambers of Commerce, organized labor and both political parties. For years the legislature and the courts have been hampered in putting improvements into effect. Amendment No. 1 will mean an efficient, modern day court system for Minnesota.

ULEN UNION

Date OCT 24 1956

Do You Know The Amendments?

When you go to the polls Tuesday, Nov. 6, will you know what the proposed constitutional amendments are all about?

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota has briefed the three amendments as a public service and has asked the newspapers of the state to publish their bulletin.

We are happy to co-operate. Here are the amendments—

1. Judicial Amendment provides for the following:

- * Supreme, district and probate judges required to be attorneys (except judges now in office); legislature may set requirements for other judges.

- * Justice of peace courts removed from constitution.

- * Legislature may create such minor courts and judicial offices as it thinks necessary.

- * Legislature shall provide for election, retirement and removal, if incapacitated, of judges.

- * Six-year term for all judges; however, term ends if judge files for a non-judicial elective office.

- * Supreme or district court judges may hold no state or federal office other than a reserve military commission.

- * No judge required to run for election until at least one year after appointment to a vacancy.

- * Supreme court may appoint a clerk (now elected) and other necessary employees, may meet at places other than the capital, and shall have not less than six nor more than eight associate justices.

- * District court duties may be extended, boundaries may be set by the legislature (providing no judge's office can be abolished during his term), judges may perform duties of another district judge or of a supreme court justice; and there shall be two or more judges in each district.

2. Highway Amendment:

- * Creates a highway user tax distribution fund from the net proceeds of the motor vehicle and gasoline taxes, to be divided as follows:

- 62 per cent — trunk highway fund,

- 29 per cent — county state-aid highway fund,

- 9 per cent — municipal state aid street fund (for cities, villages, and boroughs having populations of 5,000 or more).

(At the present time, all of the motor vehicle and two-thirds of the gasoline tax revenue go toward trunk highways. The other one-third of the gasoline tax revenue goes toward county roads.)

- * Permits legislature to apportion 5 per cent of net proceeds of distribution fund to any one or more of the three funds after January, 1963.

3. Iron-Ore Tax Amendment:

- * Diverts to current needs of public schools and University of Minnesota the 50 per cent of the iron-ore occupation tax now going to the permanent school and University trust funds.

- * Divides the 50 per cent as at present:

- 40 per cent to current needs of public schools.

- 10 per cent to current needs of the University of Minnesota.

There was a lively after-meeting social session with coffee and cake and a lot of political gab.

Local League Moves Into Pre-election Stride

Election year, and one group of local women grids for action—action not only to get out the vote, but to help voters (including themselves) understand the issues, know what the candidates stand for.

Monday evening, the League of Women Voters held a joint meeting at the home of Mrs. Ray Mork, 109 Ninth Avenue, and conducted a "voters service" program, which will be presented again tomorrow (Thursday) at the monthly meeting of the Community Club.

Conducted by Mrs. Hardy Rickbeil and Mrs. Robert Tollefson, members and guests heard explanations of the three proposed amendments, listened to questionnaires and answers from state and local candidates and qualifications of both Republican and Democratic candidates.

There was also a discussion and a straw vote was taken on a local issue, the proposed swimming pool.

The three amendments, which are backed by the League, as well as most candidates, were explained by William Hedeon, local attorney, who discussed the first amendment, dealing with court revision;

Mrs. John Gagnon, who explained the second, on highway changes, and Mrs. Mork, speaking on the third, which deals with schools.

Mrs. A. G. Satre and Mrs. F. D. O'Malley read the questionnaire answers of the two legislative candidates, Wayne Bassett and Donald Mitchell;

Mrs. William Boyce and Mrs. A. B. Karp, those from Governor Freeman and Ancher Nelsen, and Mrs. William Miller and Mrs. Wynn Stoll presented Democratic and GOP candidates' qualifications, respectively.

Since the annual Membership Breakfast held in September at the Worthington Country Club, the local League has grown by 15 new members.

Nonpartisan, the group meets twice each month, morning and evening, and is open to any woman over 21.

Membership is divided into three levels of interest, national, under Mrs. M. G. Farrington and Viola Pedersen, chairmen; state, Mrs. Edgar Anderson and Harriet Sather, and local, Mrs. Wayne Bassett.

A study of water conservation is the national topic; constitutional, state topic, and the tax structure of Worthington, the local.

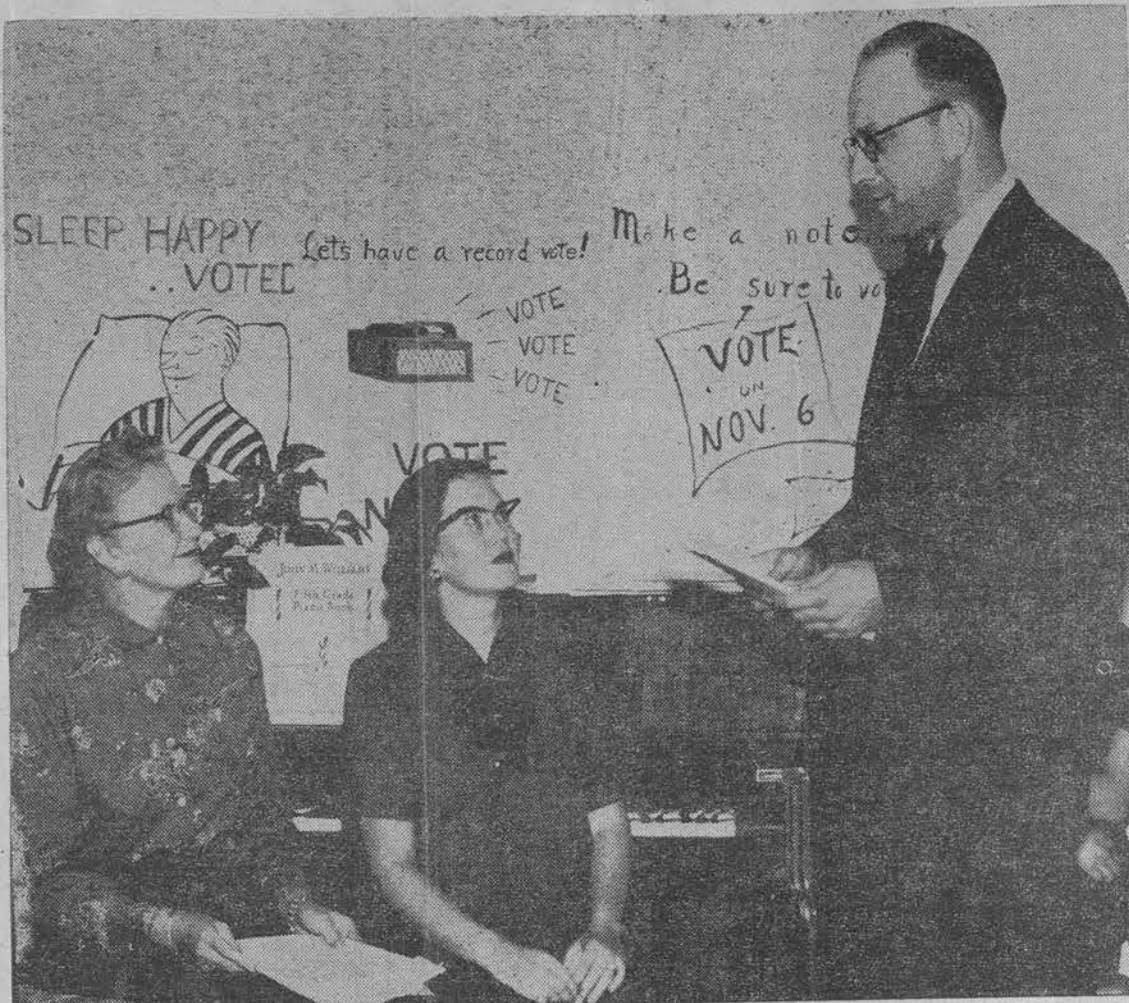
The next meeting of the local group will be a morning session, Tuesday, November 13, in the home of Mrs. C. G. Anderson, membership chairman, with Miss Pederson and Mrs. Farrington in charge of the program.

Mrs. Ermin Windschill is now serving her second term as president of the Worthington organization.

HOSPITAL NOTES

Patients discharged Tuesday: Donald Bruxvoort, Gilbert Berger, Jr., Mrs. Paul Calvin and son, Worthington; William Tomford, Fulda; Mrs. Rimer Isder and son, Avoca.

WORTHINGTON DAILY GLOBE
Wednesday, October 24, 1956—3



LEAGUE HEARS William Hedeon explain the proposed amendment relating to the judicial power of the state at the Monday-night meeting. Mrs. Ray Mork, left,

explained the school, or third, amendment and Mrs. John Gagnon, the second amendment, pertaining to public highways. (Daily Globe photo)

MEA Clipping Bureau
835 Palace Bldg., Minneapolis 1

PARK RAPIDS
ENTERPRISE

Date OCT 25 1956

League of Women Voters To Sponsor Candidates Meeting

The League of Women Voters met Friday evening, October 19, at the home of Mrs. Harry Crane. Mrs. Francis Ask, former president of the league gave a report on the state council meeting that she attended during the summer.

Plans were made to hold a candidates meeting on Tuesday, October 30, at 8 P.M. in the Municipal club rooms.

Tags will be presented to those who have voted on election day in order that they in turn will remind others to vote.

The league urges all voters to pay particular attention to the amendments on the ballot as a failure to vote at all on them constitutes a "No" vote. Many people are not aware of this.

The next meeting of the league will be on November 7 at the home of Mrs. Frank Ressler. All women interested in good government are urged to attend.

MEA Clipping Bureau
835 Palace Bldg., Minneapolis 1

PARK RAPIDS
ENTERPRISE

Date OCT 25 1956

Candidates Meeting Set October 30

The League of Women Voters will sponsor a Candidates' Meeting at 8 o'clock Tuesday evening October 30, in the Municipal building in Park Rapids.

A cordial invitation is extended to the public to attend the meeting and hear the several candidates for public offices.

On October 19, the League met at the home of Mrs. Harry Crane and heard a report by Mrs. Francis Ask, former president, on the State Council meeting she attended last summer.

On election day, November 6, League members will distribute tags to persons who have voted, urging them, in turn, to remind others to vote.

The League urges all voters in Hubbard county to pay particular attention to the Amendments on the ballot because failure to vote on an Amendment is considered a "No" vote.

All women interested in good government are invited to attend the League's next meeting November 7 at the home of Mrs. Frank Ressler.

OCT 25 1956

Voters Urged To Vote On Amendments November 6

There will be one rarity on the Election Ballot Tuesday, Nov. 6 which the voters of Minnesota should not let go unnoticed. It lies in the three amendments . . . No. 1, 2, and 3, which deal respectively with courts, roads, and schools.

The rarity is two-fold. First, no new taxes are involved in any of the three amendments and secondly, there is no organized opposition to any of the amendments.

As a matter of fact, both Governor Orville Freeman and his Republican opponent for Governor, Anchor Nelsen, have joined hands to endorse the three amendments and are urging the voters of Minnesota to vote "YES" on each one. They have even jointly declared this week as Constitutional Amendment Week to emphasize to the voters the necessity of voting "YES" on Amendment No. 1 for Better Courts, on Amendment No. 2 for Better Roads, and on Amendment No. 3 for Better Schools.

Here is what the three amendments are all about: Amendment No. 1 proposes a complete revision of the constitutional article on courts so that the State Legislature will be able to make improvements in the court system which are not possible under the present obsolete provisions in the constitution. For years, the Legislature and the Courts have been hampered in putting improvements into effect. Amendment No. 1 will mean an efficient, modern-day Court System for Minnesota.

Supporting Amendment No. 1 are the Minnesota State Bar Association, the Minnesota League of Municipalities, the League of Women Voters, many Chambers of Commerce, organized labor and both the Republican and the D. F. L. parties.

Amendment No. 2 proposes to change the distribution of highway revenues in Minnesota by putting all license plates fees and gasoline taxes into one fund and then distributing that fund 62% to State Trunk Highways, 29% to counties and municipalities under 5,000 population and 9% to cities over 5,000 population. The 29% to counties takes into account the needs on township roads and streets in the smaller municipalities. The amendment proposes no increase in gasoline taxes for license plate fees.

This amendment has the support of all highway user groups, the farm organizations, the Minnesota League of Municipalities, the Petroleum Industry, the Chambers of Commerce, organized labor, and both political parties.

Amendment No. 3 proposes to make Iron Ore Tax Money available for current school operation, instead of going into the Permanent School Fund. It will permit using 100% of the Iron Ore Tax to pay our bills instead of 50% as is now the case. The one-half share going to the General Rev-

enue Fund remains there, unchanged, while the other half would be made available for education's current needs rather than continuing to add it to the unspendable Trust Funds which now exceed a quarter of a billion dollars. It is estimated that Amendment No. 3 will mean \$8,000,000 or more in new money each year for schools, without increasing taxes.

This amendment has the support of all the educational groups, labor, and Women's Clubs, farm organizations, the P. T. A. and both political parties.

Despite this unqualified support for the amendments from so many organizations and interested groups all over the state, despite the fact that no new taxes are involved in any of the amendments, despite the fact that there is no organized opposition to any of the three . . . despite the fact that each of the three amendments is needed for a better and greater Minnesota . . . there is a possibility that any or all of the amendments could lose if people fail to vote on them. Under Minnesota law, failure to vote on an amendment is the same as a vote against it.

So, if you are interested in better courts, better roads, better schools . . . look for the three amendments on your Election Ballot November 6th and be sure to vote "YES" on each one of them.

OCT 25 1956

"Meet Your Candidate" Rally In St. Cloud Nov. 1st.

Do you feel confused about the coming election? Would you like to know more about your candidates from the 6th Congressional district as well as the legislative aspirants? The League of Women Voters is sponsoring a "meet your candidates" rally at the Central Junior High school auditorium in St. Cloud on Thursday evening, November 1st at 8 p.m. The meeting is planned as a public service, and will be completely non-partisan.

Speakers will include Joseph Kacmarek of Foley, Fred Marshall of Grove City, Dewey Reed of St. Cloud, Marvin Schumann of Rice, and John Kosloske of Sauk Rapids. Each candidate has been asked to give his opinions on current issues, and will be given an opportunity to answer questions from the floor.

Judge Wendell Henning will lead a discussion of the three amendments to the state constitution. Handbills with information about the amendments will be passed out at the close of the meeting.

Mrs. Roy Nordling, president of the League of Women Voters, will act as moderator.

The candidates' meeting on November 1st is going to be the only one of its kind which is sponsored by the League, so remember this date. The public is invited, and they urge you to come.

Date OCT 25 1956

3 Amendments Explained at Kiwanis Meet

Three state amendments, the Olympic Basketball dinner and game here and the Kiwanis club all received boosts at the Kiwanis luncheon Wednesday.

C. Gay Hinthorn, Albert Lea, Kiwanis district lieutenant - governor, lauded the local club for its service the past year in the community, particularly for boys and girls work.

W. D. (Bill) Todd passed around photographs of Olympic basketball players and urged attendance at the public banquet Nov. 3 and the game Nov. 4. He emphasized that prices have been slashed to enable more people to attend.

Mrs. Robert Jacobson, representing the League of Women Voters, explained the proposed Amendments No. 2 and 3, and K. K. McMillan, municipal judge, outlined the purposes of Amendment No. 1.

Mrs. Jacobson warned that failure to vote on the amendments will have the same effect as a "no" vote. McMillan said that so far as he knows every lawyer and judge favors amendment No. 1, which should bring about an important improvement in implementing justice.

St. Cloud Daily Times

League, Judge Explain Proposed Amendments

The League of Women Voters at its "meet the candidates" rally Thursday night passed out literature explaining briefly the three proposed amendments to the constitution and Municipal Judge Wendell Y. Henning reviewed each amendment orally.

Tuesday, the voters here and throughout the state will decide on these three amendments. A majority of the persons voting in the election is needed to pass each amendment. Therefore, if you go to the polls and cast a ballot for the candidates but fail to vote on any of the amendments, it will count as a "no" vote on the amendment.

Following is a brief rundown on the amendments, based on the League's literature and Judge Henning's explanation:

Amendment 1 — This is known as the judicial amendment and is aimed at streamlining the judicial setup of the state. Judge Henning said he knows of no organized opposition to this amendment in the state. Its passage is recommended by anyone who has anything to do with law, he said, and it is backed by the state and local bar associations.

The amendment provides: Supreme, district and probate judges required to be attorneys (except those now in office) and the legislature may set requirements for other judges.

Office of justice of peace abolished but legislature may create such minor courts as it thinks necessary.

Supreme court clerk appointed by the judges rather than elected.

Probate court jurisdiction may

be extended to two, three or more counties, thus enabling the court to get better qualified men.

District court duties may be extended and judges may perform duties of another district judge or of a supreme court justice and there shall be two or more judges in each district. (This is aimed at relieving crowded court calendars in one district.)

No judge will be required to run for election until at least one year after appointment to a vacancy.

A six-year term for all judges.

Supreme court may hold session at places other than the capitol.

Supreme or district court judges may hold no state or federal office other than a reserve military commission.

* * *

Amendment 2 — Highway amendment. This will redistribute highway user taxes, for the first time giving municipalities a share. The division is as follows: trunk highway fund, 62 percent; county fund, 29 percent; municipalities with 5,000 or more population, nine percent. At the present time all of the motor vehicle and two-thirds of the gasoline tax revenues go toward the trunk highways. The other one-third of the gasoline tax revenue goes toward county roads.

The amendment permits the legislature to apportion five percent of the net proceeds of the distribution fund to any one or more of the three funds after January, 1963.

This amendment also has no organized opposition, the judge said, and is supported by all groups interested in roads and highways such as the state branch of the American Automobile association. Locally it has been supported by the Stearns County board of commissioners and St. Cloud city council.

* * *

Amendment 3 — Iron ore tax amendment. This is the most controversial of the three amendments, and although many groups such as the Parent Teachers association have supported it, opposition is strong, and Judge Henning gave no recommendation on this one, saying it was up to the individual voter.

The amendment would divert to

current needs of the public schools and University of Minnesota the 50 percent of the iron-ore occupation tax now going to the permanent school and University trust funds.

This 50 percent would be divided as at present: 40 percent to the current needs of public schools and 10 percent to the current needs of the University of Minnesota. It would not cut into the present trust fund.

Boost Amendment

Hibbing

The League of Women Voters in Minnesota has been actively engaged in a campaign urging the submission to the people of the state of an amendment which would come before the voters in the general election in 1958 to revise what they describe as an out-moded state constitution. The League has been very active in Hibbing in urging that the citizens, by their vote, express themselves in behalf of a revision. The Minnesota House is supporting the change. It is now before the Senate judiciary committee where, unless action is taken before the state legislature adjourns, it may die. The League is urging that supporters of the revision express themselves to their lawmakers in the upper house, urging that it come out of committee for a vote in the senate.

Amendment Plan Rated Over a New Constitution

The writer of this letter is
state senator from the 49th
district.

To the Editor: For the first time, it seems, I have received editorial recognition from you in your editorial of March 28, "So He's Uninformed!"

Your editorial deals with the senate judiciary committee splitting 9 to 9 on the bill to submit to the people of Minnesota the question of holding a constitutional convention, and you quote me as having stated in the judiciary committee that "If a constitutional convention were held the state's most vital document would have to be submitted to an uninformed electorate." This was also stated in the news article in the Star for March 27.

This "quotation" is printed in your news article and editorial entirely out of context of the discussion in the committee and the statement I made to the committee. This is no doubt your reporter's paraphrase of what he thought I said.

I did argue against the bill. However, this is not an "abysmal estimate of the average voter's ability to grasp issues" as stated in your editorial. With others, I argued for submitting amendments to the constitution on the portions that are most in need of amendment, and not hold a convention to draw up a complete and new constitution which would have to be submitted to the voters as one entire document and proposition.

THE PRESENT constitution is found in the 1955 Legislative Manual on pages 135 to 157 inclusive. This is a total of 23 pages of fine print, double columns, and includes a total of 30 articles, most of the articles having many sections and paragraphs, and also the amendments added to it.

Roughly, the constitution includes a few hundred separate propositions and I believe it is clear to everyone that to submit a whole new constitution in toto to the people would be confusing, to say the least, and it would certainly be difficult for the average voter to become fully informed on every section of the consti-

tution which would become the basic law of the state, if adopted.

In separate amendments there is less confusion, and it is easier for the voter to gain a clear understanding of what is involved, because each amendment is considered separately and voted on separately.

The voters may make a separate choice on each separate amendment.

If a new constitution is submitted the people would have to accept or reject it as written.

IF A constitutional convention were held the cost would be anywhere from one to three million dollars, or more, depending on how long it lasted.

Such a convention would be subject to the same lobbying pressures that the legislature is subjected to and the end result would be a series of compromises.

Some things would not be changed much, and other things would be changed radically. Some parts of the new constitution would be acceptable to nearly all the people. Other parts would be acceptable to many, and still others would be acceptable to only a few.

For instance, such a new constitution might conceivably eliminate the gross earnings tax on railroad and telephone companies, with the result that representatives of such companies would be working night and day against the adoption of the constitution only because that feature is eliminated.

A MORE strongly centralized state government might be set up and those not in favor of a more centralized form of government would oppose it. The trust funds might be eliminated and the school people would work against it. We would have minority groups working against the new document, one group for one reason only, another group for a different reason and other groups for still different reasons. The effect of such a situation could well mean that the work of the constitutional convention would go for naught, because it would take 60 per cent of the voters to approve it. It would not take much to get 40 per cent against it.

The end result would be that all the money spent for the convention would go down the drain. The constitution would have to be accepted or rejected as a whole, with the result we might still have our present constitution, just as it is.

It would certainly be difficult for the majority of the voters to become well informed on such a new document, and on each and every provision. The propaganda for it, and the propa-

ganda against it would be worse than confusing, with the result that it would probably be more likely to be rejected than adopted.

THEREFORE, until it appears that it will be impossible to continue to get satisfactory amendments to the constitution, I believe that the voters could become better informed on the submission of a few amendments rather than on a completely new constitution which would embody all of the following subjects: bill of rights, distribution of the powers of government, legislative department, executive department, judiciary, elective franchise, school funds, education, science, finances, taxation, banks and banking, corporations, municipalities, counties, townships, highways, and many other topics not now embodied in the constitution.

I find it infinitely easier to become informed on one or two topics at a time rather than on a multitude of topics all at once. People who have any degree of education know this. It is human nature and the human mind is so made that it absorbs one thing at a time much more readily than it does many things in a hurry.

Even people who have made long studies of a subject are often in sharp disagreement. Also we are not now confronted with setting up a new state. The state has been in existence for nearly 100 years, and no sharp break with the past is indicated or desired.

Let us improve our state constitution on the basis of growth, and not on the basis of sudden disruption because of current political tides, whatever they may be.—Magnus Wefald, Hawley, Minn.

'57-'59 Aims Mapped by Vote League

League of Women Voters of Minnesota voted on its state program for 1957-59 at the final session Friday of the two-day state convention at Nicollet hotel.

The two items accepted for the current agenda are the following:

Constitutional revision. Support and work for (1) calling of a constitutional convention (2) constitutional amendment providing for periodic submission to the people of the question of calling a constitutional convention (3) constitutional amendment providing for fair and enforceable apportionment of legislature.

Study of Minnesota election laws. Evaluate election laws and procedures and work for changes if needed.

Four items were accepted

by the state league as continuing responsibilities:

- Support revision of constitutional provisions for (1) a workable amending process (2) clearly fixed executive responsibility (3) adequate time for consideration of legislation by the legislature (4) post auditor appointed by and responsible to the legislature and (5) increased home rule for local governments.

Date MAR 9 1957

**LEAGUE, BIPARTISAN COMMITTEE
WARN PEOPLE TO GUARD RIGHTS**

Minnesotans were warned today, as a result of testimony at a legislative hearing, "not to let a smoke screen of side issues hide the basic fact that they have the right to vote on whether they want a convention to revise the state constitution." The warning was made by the League of Women Voters of Minnesota in consultation with the joint GOP-DFL legislative committee headed by P. Kenneth Peterson of Minneapolis and William Carlson of St. Paul. Calling a constitutional convention is in both party platforms.

"Opponents of the constitutional convention bill testifying at a House hearing have tried to switch the spotlight to many other issues," the statement said, "but not one has given a single reason why the people should not be allowed to vote on having a convention."

"We advise those who believe in this right to tell their legislators immediately."

On the bipartisan committee are: GOP- Mrs. Leonard Wilson, Carlton; Senator Albert Quie, Dennison; Rep. Alf Bergerud, Edina; Mrs. C. E. Howard, Excelsior. DFL- Mrs. Marge Maki, St. Paul; Dr. C. F. McQuiggan, Marshall; Mrs. Betty Green, St. Louis Park; and Gerald Dillon, Minneapolis.

Joining in issuing the statement were several persons who testified at the House hearing in favor of the constitutional convention bill. They are William Pearson, Ogilvie, master of the Minnesota State Grange; Donald Holmes, Minneapolis, chairman of the Minnesota Citizens Constitutional Committee; Mrs. Ellis Peilen, Minneapolis, state legislative chairman of the National Council of Jewish Women; George W. Lawson, St. Paul, active in the A.F.L.; Mrs. Graydon J. Kilborn, Minneapolis, Hennepin County Republican Workshop; Stanley Platt, Minneapolis; Mrs. Malcolm Hargraves, Rochester, constitutional convention chairman of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota.

**ST. PAUL DAILY
PIONEER-PRESS
(Morning)**

Date MAR 12 1957

Mail Bag—

**An Open Forum For Readers
Convention Favored**

Sir: Otto Christenson, Executive Vice President of the Minnesota Employer's association, attacked the proposal to hold a constitutional convention. According to an article in the Dispatch of Feb. 25, he stated before the House general legislation committee that the Constitution has been amended 83 times and that a convention to revise it would cost \$1,500,000.

Here are some additional facts that may help to put this matter in proper perspective. Of the amendments submitted to the voters since 1899, only 35 of the 96 or 36½ per cent have been approved. Many were submitted two, three, or even five times before passing. The cost of preparing the amendment, publicizing it, preparing the ballots and holding the election is considerable. If one takes the secretary of state's estimate that at least one-fourth to one-fifth of election costs are due to amendments, the average cost per election has been approximately \$66,000.

It is interesting to estimate that at current costs the 29 elections since 1899 in which amendments have been submitted for vote would have cost nearly 2 million. The most expensive convention in the country hasn't cost that much. New Jersey's 90-day convention cost \$330,000; Missouri's \$697,000 and lasted one year.

The League of Women Voters has actively supported legislation which would

Mail Bag letters limited to 200 words must not violate or engage in racial or religious controversies. Writers must give addresses for our files, but may use fictitious signatures. This open forum is conducted for the benefit of the public; paper assumes no responsibility for any statements contained in letters returned. The right to condense letters is reserved.

permit the people of Minnesota to decide on whether they wished a convention to revise the Minnesota Constitution

MRS. HOMER MANTIS, Chair
MRS. HERBERT WRIGHT
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE
League of Women Voters of St. Paul

Date MAR 14 1957

**Women Voters League
Urges United Support
For Revised Constitution**

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"Opponents of the constitutional convention bill testifying at a House hearing have tried to switch the spotlight to many other issues," the statement said, "but not one has given a single real reason why the people should not be allowed to vote on having a convention."

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**ST. PAUL DAILY
PIONEER-PRESS
(Morning)**

Date MAR 14 1957

State Constitution

Sir: Shall the people of Minnesota have a chance to decide for themselves whether or not they want a convention called to revise the Constitution of Minnesota, or shall they again be denied that right?

The issue involved in the constitutional convention bill now before the Legislature is as simple as that. It seeks only to place the question where it belongs—in the hands of the people.

If two-thirds of both House and Senate vote for it, it means they believe their constituents should have the opportunity to vote on the question in November, 1958. If it does not pass, the opposite will be true.

It is interesting to note that those who support this legislation fall into the one general category of public interest groups. The League of Women Voters of Minnesota is one of them. Its membership has studied the facts thoroughly and arrived at consensus through the democratic deliberative process of discussion and agreement at convention. Our unpaid lobbyists can testify in the Legislature, secure in the knowledge that they speak for 5,000 league members in 54 local leagues throughout the state.

Those who oppose it fall into two general categories: (1) special interest groups who want to keep the status quo and fear change or loss of special privilege, and (2) those who believe that the slow, expensive amendment method is good enough for Minnesota.

The League of Women Voters believes that Minnesota deserves something better than this snail's pace reform. It believes that a constitutional convention, composed of delegates elected by the people, would be the most orderly, efficient and economical way of revising the Constitution.

Minnesota's Constitution needs improvement; there is little argument about that.

MRS. BASIL YOUNG,
President, League of Women
Voters of Minnesota.
Minneapolis.

★ For Better State Government

To the Editor: Should a citizen convention be called to revise Minnesota's constitution? A proponent of a convention has been accused of being against "our form of government" because she pointed to specific weaknesses in our legislative and executive departments.

This insinuation—that those who favor a convention are disloyal and/or radical—will frequently be made in months to come by those who favor the status quo. It is a scare argument.

The legislator who made the insinuation on this occasion was confusing the issue by identifying the tools of government with the essential structure. To give our three governmental departments better ways of working is to strengthen, not destroy, our democratic system. President Eisenhower's recent commission on intergovernmental relations pointed to state governments as the weak spot in our tri-level system of American democracy in pressing need of improved efficiency.

A constitutional convention is the normal American way of going about this business of constitutional improvement. Our 48 states have held 200 of them; Minnesota is one of the few states never to have examined its basic character by this method. It is not because she doesn't need to.

Minneapolis. —Mrs. Elizabeth Kane.

Mail Bag—

Mail Bag letters engage in racial and address for This open forum paper assumes no letters returned, 1

An Open Forum

Hits Women's Group

Sir: Minnesota senators were ready the other day to reply to Senator Andersen's query: "Are you ready for the question?" They decisively said "No," and closed the door to constitutional revision. Forty senators displayed real courage—as they have been under terrific pressure from the League of Women Voters, whose lobbying tactics have been both irritating and annoying.

The senators seem to have discovered what many of us have known for a long time—that the league is not sacrosanct. It speaks feelingly about "democratic processes," but its actions within its own organization, and also without, are anything but democratic.

People questioning the wisdom of a wholesale revision have tried to detect a widespread interest in constitutional revision, but have failed to unearth too much enthusiasm, except among league members. The group now indicts the Legislature, stating that it is obligatory upon the legislators to call for this convention. I refer the league to Section 2, Article 14, Constitution of the State of Minnesota, reading: "Amendments to the Constitution. Whenever two-thirds of the members elected to each branch of the Legislature shall think it necessary to call a convention to revise this constitution, they shall recommend to the electors to vote at the next general election for members of the Legislature, for or against a convention. . . ."

The phrase "shall think it necessary" places the discretion, also the responsibility, squarely in the hands of the legislators, and they would be derelict in their duty to the state, if they supinely complied with the demands of the league in this very serious matter. This section of the constitution was written to protect the document from whims, and in some instances, crackpot ideas, as to what should be changed in our constitution.

St. Paul. MRS. W. D. VILLARS.

MEA Clipping Bureau
835 Palace Bldg., Minneapolis 1

ST. PETER HERALD

MAR 21 1957

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MEA Clipping Bureau
835 Palace Bldg., Minneapolis 1

**ROCHESTER
DAILY POST-BULLETIN**

(Evening)

Date MAR 19 1957

Letters to the Editor

LWV
(The Post-Bulletin invites readers to express their opinions on matters of public interest through the Letters to the Editor column. Short letters are more interesting, and the right to condense letters is reserved. Letters must bear the signature and address of the writer. Anonymous letters will not be published.)

Citizens Should Decide, Not State Legislators

To the editor: It is not a proper function of the Legislature to protect the people from themselves!

The legislature is not being asked to decide whether Minnesota needs a constitutional convention. Our Constitution rightfully leaves that decision to be made by the voters.

The only issue before the Minnesota Legislature is whether they will allow the people of Minnesota to exercise their right to vote on the question of calling a constitutional convention. No convention may be called without an affirmative vote of the people.

The question of whether we need a constitutional convention should be decided by the voters after public discussion of the issues—not by a few committee members protected from public questioning by hearing procedures and the space limitations of committee rooms.

I urge every citizen who cares about his voice in government to inform his senator and representative that he wishes to vote on the matter of calling a constitutional convention himself—not to have it decided for him. The judgment of the citizens of Minnesota has been insulted by legislators long enough—it is time the citizens demand the right to exercise their own judgment in this matter.

Mrs. John Pemberton Jr.
603 14th Ave. SW
Rochester, Minn.

Senate Delays Action on State Constitution Bill

Two liberal senators pushed unsuccessfully Thursday for a vote on a constitutional convention bill, but Sen. Donald O. Wright, Minneapolis, insisted he be given time to speak against it. Action was delayed until 9 a.m. Tuesday.

Sen. Donald Fraser, Minneapolis, moved twice, as quitting time approached, to recommend the bill to pass.

He was supported by Sen. Henry Nycklemoe, Fergus Falls, who said all the arguments were heard two years ago.

Wright offered to return to make his speech later in the day, but the all-lawyer committee could not agree on a time.

Wednesday the house passed an identical bill, 89-38. Under its terms, voters would be asked in 1958 if they want to call a convention to rewrite the state constitution.

MEA Clipping Bureau
835 Palace Bldg., Minneapolis 1
BLUE EARTH REGISTER

Date **MAR 26 1957**

Wells, Minn.
March 18, 1957

LWV
Mrs. M. A. Johnson
Blue Earth Post
Blue Earth, Minn.
Dear Mrs. Johnson:

In the interest of good government could you find some space in your paper for the enclosed article on Constitutional Revision.

**MINNESOTA NEEDS A
NEW CONSTITUTION**

A bill giving the people of Minnesota a chance to vote on the question of calling a constitutional convention has been introduced into both the Senate and the House of Representatives. On March 4 the bill received favorable action from the House Committee and is now ready for the House vote.

The Legislature presents the voter at every general election with amendments for his consideration. Twenty-six amendments have been proposed at this session, but we hope that not all of them will appear on the ballot. The three we voted on last November cost approximately \$183,000. Amendments do not come cheaply. Compare this cost to Minnesota for three amendments to the cost of \$330,000 to New Jersey for a convention to revise its entire constitution. Cost is only one aspect of the virtues of a Convention compared to the amending process.

Misgivings are often expressed about the composition of a Convention, as though it would be an assembly having nothing in common with the prevailing character and convictions of the people of Minnesota. The conservatives are afraid that it will be composed of radicals; and the liberals that it will be composed of reactionaries. A Convention would not be a homogeneous group. It would be as varied as the Legislature itself: its delegates elected as are members of the House, in the same numbers, from the same districts. This would assure its representative character. Differing opinions would be expressed, discussed and reconciled. Under this procedure there is no reason why the resulting constitution should not be a document acceptable to the people of the state.

There is state-wide agreement that changes are needed. There are those who think that a Convention is a more thorough, orderly and, in the long process, cheaper way than amendments to bring about changes. They would like an opportunity to submit their views to the judgment of the electorate. Since 1949, the Minnesota Legislature has refused to pass a bill which would submit the question of calling a constitutional convention to the people. Now is the time to act. Let your legislators know that you want this right to voice your opinion.

Very truly yours,
Wells League of
Women Voters
Luella Hockenhull,
Chairman
Local Constitutional
Revision

EVERYBODY'S IDEAS
STAR - 3-28-57

Let the Senate Vote on Issue

To the Editor: Tuesday nine men on the senate judiciary committee made a decision, which the constitution specifically reserves to the entire senate body. They voted not to pass out of committee a bill to submit to the people the question of calling a convention to revise Minnesota's constitution. Article XIV, Section 2 of the constitution provides, "Whenever two-thirds of the members elected to each branch of the legislature shall think it necessary to call a convention to revise the constitution, they shall recommend . . ."

Previous to the vote the chairman of the committee, Sen. Thomas P. Welch of Buffalo, had made a great point of this provision, citing it to prove that the people had no right to demand to vote on the issue of a convention. He said that the constitution left it to two-thirds of both houses to decide whether a convention was necessary, then he voted with eight of his committee members to prevent the senate from having an opportunity to express itself.

Last week two-thirds of the house voted favorably on this bill. The people of Minnesota have a right to know how their senators stand on the same issue.

—Mrs. Malcolm Hargraves.

Rochester, Minn.

★

KENYON LEADER

Date **MAR 29 1957**

LETTER BOX

Editor of the Kenyon Leader
Kenyon, Minnesota

Dear Sir,

With the ever increasing complexity of national and world affairs, our state government does not always receive the attention it deserves. I think you are doing a real service to your community, therefore, when you bring state affairs to the attention of citizens as you did in your editorial of March 8th, entitled, "Why a Constitutional Convention?"

I share with you an interest in this important and timely issue. I have, however, a somewhat differing viewpoint as regards the merits of calling a constitutional convention.

I feel that our 100 year old state constitution urgently needs to be revised by a convention called for that purpose, if our state is to cope with the tremendous problems which face it every year. This constitution, which was hastily drawn up in 1857 so that Minnesota could become a state, already has 85 amendments, and is in need of many more. In fact, 52 bills to amend the constitution have been introduced in this session of the legislature alone.

The 1947 Minnesota Constitutional Commission reported after much study that 34 major changes were needed, 78 minor changes, and recommended six new sections be added to the constitution. Every member of this Commission felt that these changes should be made by a constitutional convention. It has been estimated that it would take 30 elections to make these needed changes by amendment.

Because it is so difficult to amend our state constitution, often the people have to vote

several times on the same amendment before it finally passes. This is a pretty expensive procedure, especially over a period of years. I wonder how many people realize the three amendments that were passed in 1956 cost the state over \$183,000, and that one of them had been on the ballot three previous times? Would it not be better to hold a constitutional convention, which could do the job of revision all at one time? Concerning the \$1,500,000 cost of a convention, which you say seems to be an "agreed" upon figure, an opponent of the present bill chose this figure by guesswork and used it in his speech against the bill at a House committee hearing two weeks ago. No-one has seriously agreed with him, as far as I know. The most expensive convention in the country did not cost that much, nor do we have any reason to believe that it would in our state.

A state constitutional convention is not a radical or unusual occurrence in the United States. On the contrary, it is the conservative and traditional method which citizens use to keep their state government efficient, up-to-date, and adaptable to changing conditions. Nearly 200 conventions have been held in the 48 states since colonial days. A convention can give its undivided attention to the work it is doing. It is not as subject as the legislature to special interest groups, because its delegates do not run for re-election. It is not distracted constantly by present-day problems, nor does it have a deadline of 90 days facing it, as does the legislature. It is more able to give thoughtful consideration to our basic law.

Our present state constitution is taught very little in our schools today. This is not only because it is obsolete, but also because many of its provisions are being either ignored or disobeyed. Even representative government is being denied to the citizens of Minnesota because the legislature has refused to reapportion itself since the 1910 census, even though the constitution says this shall be done every 10 years.

As you stated in your editorial, this issue of constitutional convention is now up before the state legislature again. The bill, if passed, by $\frac{2}{3}$ of each house, would put the question "Shall Minnesota hold a constitutional convention?" on the ballot in 1958. The people could then vote yes or no on the question. If they vote yes, in 1960 the people would elect delegates to the convention in the same manner as we elect our state representatives. The number would be the same as the number of representatives. In 1960-61, then, the convention would meet to review and rewrite our present constitution. In 1962, citizens would have the opportunity to approve or disapprove the new document at the general election.

I feel that the citizens of Minnesota, up to now, have been denied one of their most precious privileges, when the legislature, for four consecutive sessions, has refused to allow them to vote on this question "Shall Minnesota hold a constitutional convention?". Both the legislators and those who help to mold public opinion should have faith in the ability of the people to decide, since the people, after all, are the constitution-makers in our form of government.

Respectfully,
(Signed)
Mrs. Frank G. Chesley
RR 2, Red Wing, Minn.

Date **APR 1 1957**

Boost Amendment

The League of Women Voters in Minnesota has been actively engaged in a campaign urging the submission to the people of the state of an amendment which would come before the voters in the general election in 1958 to revise what they describe as an out-moded state constitution. The League has been very active in Hibbing in urging that the citizens, by their vote, express themselves in behalf of a revision. The Minnesota House is supporting the change. It is now before the Senate judiciary committee where, unless action is taken before the state legislature adjourns, it may die. The League is urging that supporters of the revision express themselves to their lawmakers in the upper house, urging that it come out of committee for a vote in the senate.

**Sen. Root Scored
for Committee Quip**

To the Editor: The senate judiciary committee of the legislature on March 16, with two members absent, deadlocked on the bill allowing the people of Minnesota to vote on a constitutional convention. Thus, the bill still remained before the committee.

Two days later, when an author of the bill requested a time be set for the whole committee to vote on the measure, Sen. Charles Root gaily remarked, "I move it be considered on May 1." (By then, presumably, the session would be over.)

Surely this flighty joke equals Marie Antoinette's fabled disregard for the people when she dismissed their demand for bread with, "Let them eat cake."

Committee opponents of

the bill then objected to the time voting would take from other bills pending. Actually, the time they wasted arguing would have been enough to fix a date and even to take a rollicall on the agreed day.

Do such delaying tactics by some of the legislators serve the people when there has been a great public demand for a constitutional convention? — J. Forester, Minneapolis.

Sacred Constitution?

A STRANGE LETTER appears in the Everybody's Ideas column on this page. The state representative who wrote it champions the Minnesota constitution. Yet he is one of the principal opponents of legislative reapportionment, which the constitution says shall take place after each federal census.

Section 2 of Article IV of the constitution says: "The representation in both houses shall be apportioned equally throughout the different sections of the state in proportion to the population thereof . . ." Still, no reapportionment law has been enacted since 1913, although four federal census counts have been made in the meantime.

In opposing the Bergerud reapportionment bill on the floor of the house Friday, Rep. Jensen called on his colleagues to vote against the measure because "there is grave danger the senate might pass it." He wanted representatives to disregard the state constitution because there was a chance the senators might accept their constitutional responsibility by voting reapportionment!

Rep. Jensen writes, "Frankly, I am afraid of some of these people urging this convention." Who are the people working for a constitutional convention? The Minnesota League of Women Voters has been playing the most prominent part in recent years. But both major political parties and many civic groups have urged that the people be given a chance to vote on the question of calling a convention.

Rep. Jensen makes much in his letter of the constitutional provision that a convention shall be called only when two-thirds of the legislature "shall think it necessary." The 1947 legislature created a constitutional committee to study the document and suggest changes. The committee recommended 112 changes, six completely new sections, and a constitutional convention to put the changes into effect.

A few changes have been made since then by amendment. But most of the old discrepancies and inadequacies continue. In Rep. Jensen's view the constitution is inadequate in its provisions on reapportionment. Let a constitutional convention debate that matter. First, however, let Rep. Jensen and all the other legislators who have sworn to uphold the constitution show their sincerity by obeying the constitution as it now stands.

Women Rap Legislative Delays

The Minnesota League of Women Voters today charged the state senate with deliberately misusing the legislative committee system to sidetrack important measures.

"The committee system, designed to expedite legislation and distribute the work load effectively, is being misused to kill bills by stalling until it is too late for the senate to act on them," said Mrs.

Basil Young, Hibbing, the league president, in a formal statement.

She listed half-a-dozen important bills which she said had "suffered because of the delaying tactics of some senate committee members."

These included party designation, constitutional convention and reapportionment. All of them, she said, had support of the league as well as of other civic groups and of

the two dominant political parties.

"Such delaying tactics are an effective way for a few legislators, who are swayed by special interests or personal fears, to keep important bills from being debated by the entire membership of the senate," she said.

She added that residents of the state have become "increasingly disturbed by a too-little, too-late senate."

Our Fine State Constitution

To the Editor: The house of representatives has passed a bill submitting the matter of calling a constitutional convention to a vote of the people at the next election. If the bill passes the senate and the vote of the people is favorable, a constitutional convention will be called and 131 people will be elected to revise the entire constitution and submit it at an election for acceptance or rejection.

The constitution provides that whenever two-thirds of the legislature "shall think it necessary to call a convention to revise the constitution, they shall recommend to the electors to vote at the next general election . . . for or against a convention." You will note that the words of the constitution are when the legislature "shall think it necessary." I do not think it necessary or advisable. Several representatives told me they voted for the bill although they did not think it necessary or advisable. They voted in favor of it only to give the people a chance to vote on it. This is an easy way to be on both sides of an issue.

I voted against this bill and I would like to point out a few of the reasons I did so.

1. We have operated under this constitution for 100 years. We have amended it many times, each time by a vote of the people, to meet the changing times. The constitution is now a well worded document. Some people have the idea that the 90 or so amendments we have adopted are tacked onto the end of the constitution. This is not true. When we amend a section we strike it out and substitute the new section.

2. In the past few years we have amended several whole sections so that we have an entirely new judiciary section and an entirely new highway section adopted only last year.

3. Although the proponents of this bill would not give us a sample constitution of the type they wanted, we know some of the major suggestions. One of them is that we should discontinue electing our constitutional officers, that is the secretary of state, state auditor, state treasurer and attorney general. This may or may not be good. In any event it is important enough to be voted on by the people by itself by way of an amendment to the constitution. One of the proponents states that there were too many dedicated funds in the constitution. These are the education trust funds and the highway user funds. I have never heard anyone urge that these dedications be taken out of the constitution. If someone wants to do so let them submit an amendment and see how far it goes.

4. One of the principal reasons for this convention is to provide new methods of reapportioning the legislature. This is an important convention. I am afraid that they will be able to get some provisions in the constitution which we would not accept if voted on separately but that might be accepted in a package.

6. I would estimate that such a convention would cost well over one million dollars. This would be an unnecessary expense.

7. Any such revised constitution would be a mass of compromises between labor and industry, between rural and urban sections, and between other groups. It is not necessary that we vote on such a package because we can easily and cheaply submit amendments individually. Some states that have adopted a new constitution have adopted 40 or 50 amendments in the following ten years so you would probably have more amendments after a new constitution than with our present constitution.

8. Most of our present constitution provisions have been interpreted by the supreme court and we know what they mean. Any new constitution would probably be subject to many lawsuits to determine what the new terminology meant.

Sleepy Eye, Minn. —Carl A. Jensen, Representative 14th District.

Editor's Note: See today's editorial, "Sacred Constitution?"

Saving Seen in New State Constitution

The writer of this letter is president of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota.

To the Editor: One of the principal arguments advanced against the constitutional convention bill is that we can save time, money and energy if we revise our constitution by the amendment method. Supporters of revision by amendment point with pride to the passage of seven amendments in the last two elections. Supporters of revision by convention also point with pride to the passage of these amendments.

THIS expression of citizen concern for improvement in our basic law is certainly gratifying. The League of Women Voters of Minnesota was, for many years, the only statewide organization providing amendment information to the voters. Other organizations like the bar and banking associations will perform this service only for those amendments in which they have an interest. But the fact remains, amendments are hard to pass. Since 1899, only about one-third of all amendments submitted to the voters have been accepted.

The time, energy and money devoted to attracting voter attention to the importance of amendments are considerable. Even more, the state legislature, confronted with over 3,000 bills to pass upon in 90 days, simply does not have the time to give the kind of consideration necessary for revision of our basic law. Already, in this session, some 52 constitutional amendments have been introduced into the house and senate which revise some part of each of the articles of the Minnesota constitution. But how many will we have a chance to vote on in 1958?

THE LEAGUE of Women Voters of Minnesota is now and has been for constitutional amendment by what-

EVERYBODY'S IDEAS

The Senate and the Constitution

To the Editor: I note the March 29 letter of Mrs. Malcolm Hargraves of Rochester with reference to the vote by the senate judiciary committee on the question of calling a convention to revise Minnesota's constitution, in which she quotes a part of Article XIV, Section 2:

"Whenever two-thirds of the members elected to each branch of the legislature shall think it necessary to call a convention to revise this constitution, they shall recommend to the electors to vote at the next general election for members of the legislature, for or against a convention."

Mrs. Hargraves states that previous to the vote I cited this provision to prove that the people had no right to demand a vote on the issue of a convention. I had no such thought. What I stated was that at the last two general elections the people of Minnesota adopted seven separate amendments to their constitution and that they understood quite well the question on which they voted.

Therefore I was not convinced by anything Mrs. Hargraves or others had advanced in their arguments for a constitutional convention that it was necessary to call a convention to revise the Minnesota constitution at this time.

The committee did not vote affirmatively not to pass out of committee a bill to submit the question to the people. A motion was made and seconded to recommend the bill for passage. It failed to secure a vote of the majority of the committee and hence the bill was not recommended for passage. It is still in the judiciary committee subject to further action.

May I also state that each member of the committee, in my opinion, was absolutely sincere in his convictions and vote.

Buffalo, Minn. —Thomas P. Welch,
Chairman,
Senate Judiciary Committee.

MEA Clipping Bureau
835 Palace Bldg., Minneapolis 1

ST. PAUL
PIONEER-PRESS
(Morning)

Date APR 8 1957

Blasts League

Sir: The governor should move over and make room for the League of Women Voters. Reading the league's latest wail against the Senate, I feel the governor and the league use the same rule book. He complains that Conservatives and commies subvert his elaborate plans to dominate the political scene; the league peevishly lambasts the Senate for not submitting meekly when the league cracks the whip.

The league's president in a recent statement admitted a membership of 5,000 individuals in 54 leagues. While I discounted the strength of the league, I am amazed that such an insignificant group dare demand its desires be superimposed upon our population of well over 3,000,000—an army of voters. This also reminds me there isn't a senator or representative in the Legislature who can't brag of representing more than 5,000 constituents.

The league president refers to indorsement of certain proposed legislation by party conventions. Some of us are quite familiar with methods used to create, and indorse, party platforms. Too long have many legislators cowered before the league. Now we are reassured to find these men asserting their responsibility to the men and women who elected them, and whom they are sworn to represent. Many voters have changed their minds about party designation, fearing senators and representatives might feel bound to support party instead of constituents. Minnesota voters do not relish the league's slurs at our State Constitution and feel it has served us well, and can be improved by amendment as provided therein. We also recollect a recent poll disclosed that over 35 per cent polled were unaware of any move to discard the Constitution; over 60 per cent felt we should keep the Constitution and revise it by amendment.

Conservative voters, who are in the majority in Minnesota, owe a debt of gratitude to our conservative House and Senate members. We hope they may succeed in holding the line against the un-sportsmanlike demands and pressures of so-called Liberals and the league.

St. Paul. MRS. W. D. VILLARS.

Date APR 6 1957

Additional Mail Bag

Defends Convention

Sir: One of the principal arguments advanced against the constitutional convention bill is that we can save time, money and energy if we revise our constitution by the amendment method. Supporters of revision by amendment point with pride to the passage of seven amendments in the last two elections. Supporters of revision by convention also point with pride to the passage of these amendments. This expression of citizen concern for improvement in our basic law is certainly gratifying. The League of Women Voters of Minnesota was, for many years, the only state-wide organization providing amendment information to the voters. Other organizations like the bar and banking associations will perform this service only for those amendments in which they have an interest. But the fact remains—amendments are hard to pass. Since 1899, only about one-third of all amendments submitted to the voters have been accepted.

The time, energy and money devoted to attracting voter attention to the importance of amendments are considerable. Even more, the state Legislature, confronted with over 3,000 bills to pass upon in 90 days, simply does not have the time to give the kind of consideration necessary for revision of our basic law. Already, in this session, some 52 constitutional amendments have been introduced into the House and Senate which revise some part of each of the articles of the Minnesota constitution. But—how many will we have a chance to vote on in 1958?

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota is now and has been for constitutional improvement by whatever means. However, the totals of legislative time and study, organizational time, money and energy, citizen time and study overwhelm us. If 52 amendments are now being considered by the Legislature, how many years will it take for us to vote on each of these and the others which are sure to be introduced.

The League cannot escape the conclusion that revision by convention will save legislators and citizens alike time, money and energy. The League cannot avoid the conclusion that a constitutional convention is the

most efficient, economical and just way of achieving the constitutional improvement which we all seek.

MRS. BASIL YOUNG.
Minneapolis.

Date APR 18 1957

League, Bipartisan Committee Warn People to Guard Rights

Minnesotans were warned today, as a result of testimony at a legislative hearing, "not to let a smoke screen of side issues hide the basic fact that they have the right to vote on whether they want a convention to revise the state constitution". The warning was made by the League of Women Voters of Minnesota in consultation with the joint GOP-DFL legislative committee headed by P. Kenneth Peterson of Minneapolis and William Carlson of St. Paul. Calling a constitutional convention is in both party platforms.

"Opponents of the constitutional convention bill testifying at a House hearing have tried to switch the spotlight to many other issues," the statement said, "but not one has given a single real reason why the people should not be allowed to vote on having a convention."

"We advise those who believe in this right to tell their legislators immediately."

On the bipartisan committee are: GOP—Mrs. Leonard Wilson, Carleton; Senator Albert Quie, Dennison; Rep. Alf Bergerud, Edina; Mrs. C. E. Howard, Excelsior. DFL—Mrs. Marge Maki, St. Paul; Dr. C. F. McQuiggan, Marshall; Mrs. Betty Green, St. Louis Park; Gerald Dillon, Minneapolis.

Joining in issuing the statement were several persons who testified at the House hearing in favor of the constitutional convention bill. They are William Pearson, Ogilvie, master of the Minnesota State Grange; Donald Holmes, Minneapolis, chairman of the Minnesota Citizens Constitutional Committee; Mrs. Ellis Peilen, Minneapolis, state legislative chairman of the National Council of Jewish Women; George W. Lawson, St. Paul, active in the A.F.L.; Mrs. Graydon J. Kilborn, Minneapolis, Hennepin County Republican Workshop; Stanley Platt, Minneapolis; Mrs. Malcolm Hargraves, Rochester, constitutional convention chairman of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota.

Date APR 9 1957

EVERYBODY'S IDEAS

The Senate and the Constitution

To the Editor: I note the March 29 letter of Mrs. Malcolm Hargraves of Rochester with reference to the vote by the senate judiciary committee on the question of calling a convention to revise Minnesota's constitution, in which she quotes a part of Article XIV, Section 2:

"Whenever two-thirds of the members elected to each branch of the legislature shall think it necessary to call a convention to revise this constitution, they shall recommend to the electors to vote at the next general election for members of the legislature, for or against a convention."

Mrs. Hargraves states that previous to the vote I cited this provision to prove that the people had no right to demand a vote on the issue of a convention. I had no such thought. What I stated was that at the last two general elections the people of Minnesota adopted seven separate amendments to their constitution and that they understood quite well the question on which they voted.

Therefore I was not convinced by anything Mrs. Hargraves or others had advanced in their arguments for a constitutional convention that it was necessary to call a convention to revise the Minnesota constitution at this time.

The committee did not vote affirmatively not to pass out of committee a bill to submit the question to the people. A motion was made and seconded to recommend the bill for passage. It failed to secure a vote of the majority of the committee and hence the bill was not recommended for passage. It is still in the judiciary committee subject to further action.

May I also state that each member of the committee, in my opinion, was absolutely sincere in his convictions and vote.

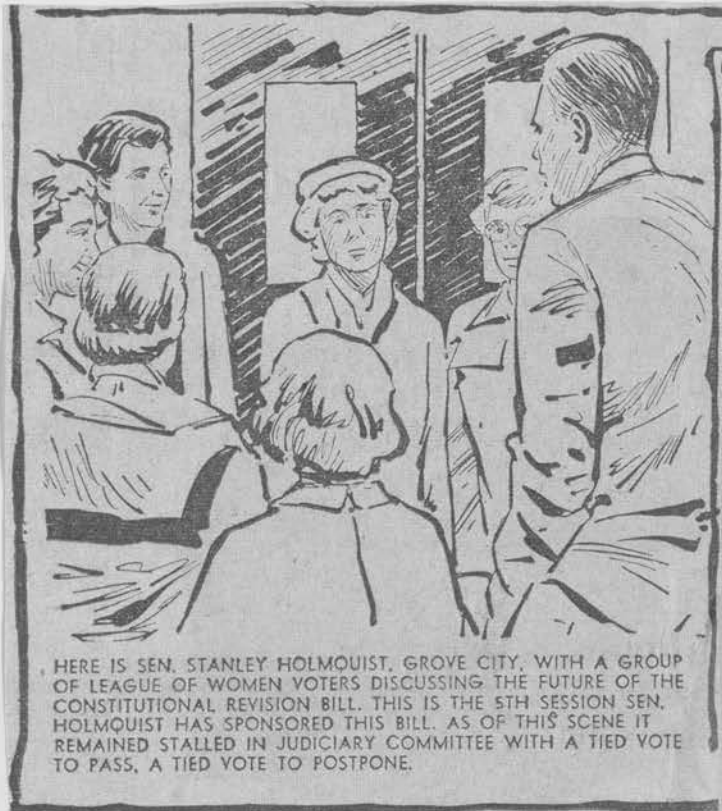
Buffalo, Minn. —Thomas P. Welch,
Chairman,
Senate Judiciary Committee.

To the Editor: A bill allowing the people to vote on the calling of a constitutional convention (S.F. 135) is now deadlocked by a nine-to-nine vote in the senate judiciary committee.

Two members were absent when the vote was taken. One has been a proponent of the bill during past sessions, and the other had declared to some of his constituents that he would vote for the bill this time. At the committee session following the taking of the vote, when the committee chairman asked whether the members wished to vote again to break the deadlock, committee opponents of the bill were quick to see that this was not done. One opponent indicated that there were many other bills up for consideration by the committee, and he felt no more time should be given to S.F. 135.

I accept the fact of a crowded agenda, but I feel this is not a valid excuse for deadlocking a bill of such statewide importance. This is the fifth session for the legislature that this bill has come up, and it has been passed by the house of representatives this time. It seems to me that the fate of a bill supported by both the DFL and the Republican parties as well as numerous other organizations in the state should be decided on the floor of the senate and not in a committee by the vote of nine men.

Richfield, Minn. —Mrs. Gordon Grunditz.



HERE IS SEN. STANLEY HOLMQUIST, GROVE CITY, WITH A GROUP OF LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS DISCUSSING THE FUTURE OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION BILL. THIS IS THE 5TH SESSION SEN. HOLMQUIST HAS SPONSORED THIS BILL. AS OF THIS SCENE IT REMAINED STALLED IN JUDICIARY COMMITTEE WITH A TIED VOTE TO PASS, A TIED VOTE TO POSTPONE.

mpls. Sunday Tribune

Date **APR 11 1957**

Lawmakers Blamed For Bill's Failure By Women Voters

"The wither-on-the-vine school of handling lawmaking triumphed again Thursday, April 4, when the State Judiciary committee once more refused to set a time to break the deadlock on the Constitutional Convention Bill," Mrs. Basil Young of Hibbing, president of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota, charged today, speaking for the League.

"This is the second time members of this committee have ducked the duty of resolving the stalemate," she continued.

On March 26, with two members absent, the committee voted 9 to 9 on killing the bill and, again 9 to 9, on sending it to the Senate floor by recommending it to pass. Therefore, the bill remained before the committee. On March 28 committee members, by moving adjournment, avoided setting a time for a revote. On April 4 the committee voted against setting a time for another vote.

"Such delaying tactics are an example of the State Senate's misuse of the committee system, which is designed to expedite legislation and distribute the workload effectively," Mrs. Young pointed out. "Instead, some of the Senate committee members are perverting this system to kill bills by stalling until it is too late for the Senate to act on them, or to hamstring bills by preventing deliberate consideration under the pressure of the closing days."

Among other important bills which have suffered from Senate committee delays are party designation and reapportionment, Mrs. Young concluded.

Date **APR 11 1957**

LWV President Attacks State Senate Misuse Of Committee System

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MEA Clipping Bureau
835 Palace Bldg., Minneapolis 1

ANOKA HERALD

Date **APR 11 1957**

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MEA Clipping Bureau
**BEMIDJI NORTHLAND
TIMES**
APR 12 1957

LWV Blasts At Senate Tactics

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Is New Constitution Beyond Public Ken?

To the Editor: Sen. Wefald's letter (April 6) in support of his opposition to calling a constitutional convention and favoring revision of the constitution by amendment is very interesting, not only for the arguments advanced but because it tells so much about Wefald himself.

I do not know what his business is. But if he is a farmer, no doubt instead of buying a new farm implement when the old one wears out or becomes unsuited to modern methods, he "gets by" by just adding something to the old one. Which of course may be all right, for, after all, he is farming the same old fields. And of course he is satisfied to put new parts into a 30-year-old car instead of buying one in which every part is geared, co-ordinated and designed to fit in with every other part.

AND IF he is a business man he finds it is not really necessary to make any radical changes in his way of doing business; the horse-drawn truck, the antiquated bookkeeping methods, the old ways of buying and selling are still perfectly usable.

Wefald is opposed to change. He likes things as they are. He assumes that it is going to be easy, at least possible and certainly much cheaper, to revise the constitution by amendment. He wouldn't be thinking (or would he?) that each one of such amendments would first have to have the approval and two-thirds vote of the legislature, very hard indeed to get sometimes.

Nor would he be taking into account the fact that amendments pass, when they do, only because a dedicated number of workers ring doorbells, get out pamphlets and handbills, campaign in homes and on street corners (at no cost to Wefald and the public, of course) in their behalf, and not because a harried and hurried body of voters know exactly why they want the amendment to pass. And sometimes, too, because the people have enough confidence in the legislature to believe that if the legislature wants such a change, it is a necessary and proper one.

WEFALD doesn't think the members of a constitutional convention, and the body so organized, could command such respect. And it will cost so much, too. Amendments cost very little and revision would be by legislature, maybe justifying a pay raise every session.

Nor does Wefald believe that Minnesota voters are as intelligent and forward-looking and well-intentioned as those of other states who scrapped outdated constitutions for new ones better suited to modern government and living conditions.

Let the voters of Minnesota decide whether or not they will have a constitutional convention? What nonsense! Sen. Wefald knows best!—Mildred B. Lee, Granite Falls, Minn.

To the Editor: The undersigned all were present and took notes at the senate judiciary committee hearing referred to by Sen. Magnus Wefald in his Tribune letter.

UNLIKE Sen. Wefald, we feel that the Tribune editorial of March 28 was a fair statement of what the senator said about Minnesota's uninformed voters. Several of his other remarks led us, also, to conclude that he had an "abysmal estimate of the average voter's ability to grasp issues."

He said, in fact, that only 10 or 15 per cent of the whole electorate would be informed on a subject like a new constitution. From Wefald's letter, itself, it is obvious that he feels Minnesota citizens could not inform themselves enough to vote on a new constitution.

WE REFER the senator to the report of the governor's committee on higher education which indicates that Minnesota servicemen top the nation in brains. It adds that Minnesota residents are above average in intellectual ability, a fact so well known to national industries that the high caliber of the citizens is the prime reason for establishing new plants in this state.

In view of all this, Minnesota citizens certainly are as able to vote on a new constitution as the citizens of countless other states and territories who

have done so successfully. —Mrs. Betty Huston, Mrs. Jean Gordon, Mrs. Mary Evenson, Minneapolis.

Root 'Brainwashing' Statement Assailed

To the Editor: If J. Forster (April 1) thinks Sen. Root's suggestion about senate judiciary committee consideration of the constitutional convention issue showed a disregard for the citizens, what does he think of the remarks made by the senator on the last Minnesota Poll taken on this subject?

For want of a better excuse for his delaying tactics, the senator from the 33rd district harked back to a Minnesota Poll taken before the 1955 legislative session which showed some public apathy to a constitutional convention. Root said that "if the people of this state have changed their thinking on this matter, there has been one of the most beautiful jobs of brainwashing done in Minnesota by proponents of the bill." This statement was disgraceful.

THE TRUTH is that public opinion has been aroused for a convention. As a member of the League of Women Voters, I resent Sen. Root's implication about a nonpartisan organization which, after years of study, has concluded that a convention is the best way of changing our basic charter into the efficient, concise document it should be.

As an active worker in my political party, I am downright furious with the senator for implying that the job of public education done by both major political parties in pointing out that the people have a right to vote on this matter constitutes brainwashing.

I am disgusted when the testimony of other statewide groups and individuals is ignored and the senator springs to the defense of an opponent of the bill because his fellow senator stated that this man represented a special-interest group. If Sen. Root feels, as he should, that the opponents of the bill have a right to be heard, why should he ignore the wishes of the people of this state?

OF WHAT are some of our Minneapolis senators afraid? Of the five Minneapolis senators on the judiciary committee, only Sen. Fraser voted to pass this bill out of committee so it could be aired on the senate floor. Must we be subjected to government by committee? Are Minneapolitans as dull as Sen. Root suspects, or do we really want our legislators' votes to reflect the opinion of their constituents? — Mrs. John Mitchell, Minneapolis.

May 1958

TWIN CITIES PRESS

'No Pressure Tactics, Please,' on Amendment

Suburban worries about amendment No. 1 are discussed in the **Hennepin County Review**, published by J. E. Tilton, this week:

Nothing so quickly raises the hackles of suburban folk as the suspicion that some nearby city is plotting to devour their community by annexation. They moved to the suburbs to escape the crowding, "bigness" and politics of big city life. They don't want to return unwillingly.

That explains this expanding opposition to the proposed constitutional amendment No. 1 scheduled for consideration by the electorate at next fall's election. The thing is backed by some pretty solid people, including Orville Peterson, attorney for the League of Municipalities; Stanley Platt of the Citizens league of Minneapolis; State Sen. Donald Fraser of Minneapolis, and some officials of the League of Women Voters.

Sponsors insist the amendment is innocuous, gives the legislature no authority it does not already possess so far as annexation is concerned and only corrects some serious defects in the state's constitution.

But there's a difference of opinion on that point. Some other, competent legal minds think the legislature does not now have the authority to merge or consolidate governmental subdivisions without the consent of the taxpayers affected—that amendment No. 1 thus would make the suburbs helpless against an annexation plot.

Whatever the truth (this question probably never could be determined without a court test), the fact remains some tempers are rising and the in-born suspicion of many suburban residents for their big city neighbors is becoming more emphatic.

Critics find it hard to understand why this amendment simply must be pushed through this year, why it can't go back for inclusion of some desired safeguards.

One thing is certain. If this amendment is pressed over the opposition of suburban people, the city-suburban relationship is not going to improve. And next time the need arises for area-wide cooperation the doubt and suspicion which now becloud suburban minds will only be that much more apparent.

Constitutional Amendments Get Support

To the Editor: 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 (No. 1) is the result of 10 years of hard work on the part of some of the best constitutional attorneys in the state and 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 statewide issues.

The longer term amendment (No. 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 in supporting these governmental improvements. — Mrs. Kenneth Green, constitutional revision chairman, League of Women Voters of Minnesota, Minneapolis.

Support for Amendments

To the Editor: Constitutional Amendment 1, known as the home rule amendment, and Amendment 2, increasing terms of office for the governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, treasurer and attorney general, have the support of the Minneapolis League of Women Voters. *St 4/28/58*

We feel that Amendment 1 is good for the citizens of Minneapolis because it strengthens local responsibility by requiring the people or the city council to vote on local laws. The Hennepin county group of legislators now has the power to decide on "special" legislation for Minneapolis and the people themselves have no opportunity of voting approval or disapproval. Amendment 1 would require that "special" laws enacted by the legislature for Minneapolis be approved by a vote of the people or the Minneapolis city council before they can take effect.

This amendment also permits the legislature to lower the present high voting requirements on adopting or amending the city charter. We feel that the 4/7 vote now needed for adopting and the 3/5 vote for amending are very high requirements and would like to see them lowered. As a result of these requirements we find ourselves running to the legislature for "special" laws rather than settling our problems locally.

Also included in this amendment is the provision that all "special" laws passed by the legislature name the community affected; and that a charter amendment overrules an existing "special" law.

Amendment 2 would increase the terms of governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, treasurer and attorney general from two to four years beginning in 1963. We feel that this would permit more efficiency in state government by allowing time for long-range planning and budgeting, and also would give the officials more time to spend at their administrative jobs instead of campaigning for re-election every two years. The four-year term has been recommended by the Little Hoover commission.

Many years of hard work and compromise have gone into the drafting of these two amendments, and while they may not be perfect they provide a much sounder constitutional framework than we now have. Therefore we urge the people of Minneapolis to support these amendments.

—Mrs. Edwin C. Widseth, president.

—Mrs. Theodore A. Olson, constitutional revision chairman.

Minneapolis.

League Unit Meetings To Discuss State Constitutional Amendments

Three State Constitutional Unit 8, Sept. 8, Mrs. Stanley Hobbs, 916 Northland; Unit 9, Sept. 8, Mrs. J. T. Evans, 2905 Minnesota; Unit 10, Sept. 12, 1 p. m., Mrs. Carl Hammer, 2001 Jefferson; Unit 11, Sept. 11; Unit 12, Sept. 10, Mrs. H. J. Richards, 620 Leicester; Unit 13, Sept. 10, Mrs. P. M. Lichterman, 214 Lewis; Unit 14, Sept. 10, Mrs. Joseph Quinn, 2222 East First Street; Unit 15, Sept. 8, Mrs. James Morrissey, 814—87 avenue West; Unit 16, Sept. 10, Mrs. Eli Orlich, 421 Anderson road; Unit 17, Sept. 9, 10 a. m., Mrs. E. A. Youngstrand, 4614 West Seventh; Unit 18, Sept. 11, Mrs. F. Robert Anderson, Jr., 3367 Miller Trunk; New Unit, Sept. 17, Mrs. Robert Alvar, 1214 Piedmont avenue.

Unit 1, Sept. 8, at the home of Mrs. Conrad M. Fredin, 3232 East Fourth street; Unit 2, Sept. 11, at 12:45 p. m., Mrs. Charles Olds, 2207 Sussex; Unit 3, Sept. 8, Mrs. John Berdie, 608 Woodland; Unit 4, Sept. 10, Mrs. Jack Marshall, 43 Artavia; Unit 6, Sept. 10, Mrs. John Streitz, 2450 Woodland; Unit 7, Sept. 9, 9:45 a. m., Mrs. Thos. Chamberlin, 628 Woodland;

Duluth

Letters to the T

Spread of Village Government Rapped

To the Editor: The letter by Peter J. Donaghue (March 31), regarding moves to bring about a rationalization and consolidation of municipal services in suburban areas calls attention to one of the most serious evils resulting from the proliferation of villages in the metropolitan area, namely, the growth of a horde of office-holders who will put their vested rights in the petty offices they hold above the public good, and fight all efforts to meet the needs of our growing urban population. This is already happening. These officials are organized to fight amendment No. 1.

In Ramsey county 15 (or is it 18 by now?) villages occupy an area and govern a population that could support one good municipality. We have volunteer fire departments, untrained and inadequate police departments, duplicating engineering, building, and other departments.

The county highway department is being supplanted by a multiplicity of little and inadequate village departments. And when it comes to the vital and sensitive matter of public health services, well, the village fathers of one village had a field day recently, ridiculing the very idea. This kind of in-

The Minneapolis Tribune invites readers to express their opinions on subjects of current interest. Letters not exceeding 150 words are preferred. Letters must carry the writer's signature. Street addresses are not published but must be included. Letters should be addressed to the Letters Editor of the Minneapolis Tribune.

adequacy becomes a bit frightening when one contemplates the problems growing up around us.

The blunt fact is that a major motive in the organization of many of these villages is control of liquor licenses. I submit that this is an inadequate motive.—Frederick S. Gram, St. Paul.

Letters to the Tribune

Home Rule Measure Draws Praise, Nays

The Hennepin county delegation in the senate heard vigorous support and opposition Thursday to a statewide bill permitting adoption and amendment of home rule charters by simple majority vote.

Verne Johnson, of the Citizens League of Minneapolis and Hennepin County, said Minnesota stands alone among the 20 states permitting home rule charters by requiring more than simple majority vote to adopt or change charters.

Sen. Daniel Feidt, Minneapolis, commented that at least one state—California—also requires legislative approval of proposed changes.

Another league representative, Stanley K. Platt, pointed out that amendment No. 1 carried Hennepin county by a 4 to 1 plurality. In some Minneapolis wards, he added, the figure was as high as 7 to 1.

The plurality indicates, Platt said, that Minneapolis residents want passage of the bill.

Opposition to the proposal was voiced by George Bestrom, Minneapolis Taxpayers' association.

Arguing that a charter is a basic document, he urged keeping a system that makes one difficult to amend.

Otherwise, he suggested, charter amendments reflect-

ing sentiments of the moment may be written into the document.

The delegation does not have the bill under formal consideration, but may be called upon to express its views at a local government committee hearing on it Monday.

testing and also disarmament, thus lessening the possibility of World War III.—Louise Huebner, Minneapolis.

Disagrees With Foe of Amendment No. 1

To the Editor: Bloomington's newspaper editor, Pete Donaghue, has created quite a stir with his opposition to constitutional amendment No. 1. He says if this amendment passes, suburbia will be swallowed by Minneapolis against the will of suburbanites.

I hope Minnesota residents haven't gotten the impression that all Donaghue's readers agree with him. It takes a bit of time to read the amendment, compare it with the present constitution, and listen to the arguments of Donaghue and those who disagree with him. But after this is done, one can only come to the conclusion that Donaghue's arguments are based on his interpretation of the amendment and his prediction of things to come.

Lawyers, legislators, ex-

perience, tradition and textbooks disagree with him. So do I and so do others who have taken the time to look into the facts. And we're just as opposed to consolidation with Minneapolis as is our otherwise well-informed editor.—Mrs. E. H. Newstrom, Bloomington.

2 was very gratifying to the League of Women Voters of Minnesota. While the league was only one of many organizations urging adoption of amendments, we have worked in the field of constitutional revision for 10 years and are pleased that basic improvements have been accepted at the last three elections.

Much credit this year should go, too, to the Minneapolis Star and Tribune, whose excellent educational articles and editorial championing of the Home Rule amendment got the message across to thousands of voters who might otherwise not have been reached.

The fact that the constitutional amendments offered by the legislature since 1953 have been basic and important accounts, we feel, for their endorsement by statewide groups and their approval by the voters.

However, it is unfortunate that the large amounts of time, energy and money used in explaining the amendments should go toward only three constitutional improvements, when with some additional effort the complete job of constitutional revision could be done through a convention. The League of Women Voters affirms the belief that it is less expensive to revise the constitution through a convention than to spread the task out through the years by amendments. Meanwhile, we applaud the legislature for submitting to the people for their vote these amendments which substantially improve our state constitution.—Mrs. Kenneth W. Green, constitutional revision chairman, League of Women Voters of Minnesota, Minneapolis.

Happy at Passage of Amendments

To the Editor: Passage of Amendments No. 1 and

Amendment No. 1: Annexation Plot?

Nothing so quickly raises the hackles of suburban folk as the suspicion that some nearby city is plotting to devour their community by annexation. They moved to the suburbs to escape the crowding, "bigness" and politics of big city life. They don't want to return unwillingly.

That explains this expanding opposition to the proposed constitutional Amendment No. 1 scheduled for consideration by the electorate at next fall's election. The thing is backed by some pretty solid people including Orville Peterson, attorney for the League of Municipalities; Stanley Platt of the Citizens League of Minneapolis; State Senator Donald Fraser of Minneapolis; and some officials of the League of Women Voters.

Sponsors insist the amendment is innocuous, gives the legislature no authority it does not already possess so far as annexation is concerned and only corrects some serious defects in the state's constitution.

But there's a difference of opinion on that point. Some other, competent legal minds think

the legislature does not now have the authority to merge or consolidate governmental subdivisions without the consent of the taxpayers affected . . . that Amendment No. 1 thus would make the suburbs helpless against an annexation plot.

Whatever, the truth (this question probably never could be determined without a court test), the fact remains some tempers are rising and the in-born suspicion of many suburban residents for their big city neighbors is becoming more emphatic. Critics find it hard to understand why this amendment simply must be pushed through this year . . . why it can't go back for inclusion of some desired safeguards.

One thing is certain. If this amendment is pressed over the opposition of suburban people, the city-suburban relationship is not going to improve. And next time the need arises for area-wide cooperation the doubt and suspicion which now beclouds suburban minds will only be that much more apparent.

Park Dispatch
4/30/58

Mon., May 5, 1958

THE MINNEAPOLIS STAR

* 9A

Rochester Youth's Essay on Constitution Wins

A 16-year-old Rochester, Minn., youth has won the League of Women Voters' Centennial essay contest for his paper urging a convention to revise the state constitution.

Joseph G. Rushton, Jr., a high school junior in Rochester, will receive a 30-volume set of Encyclopedia Americana. He and three runners-up will be guests at the Centennial parade, St. Paul Festival of Nations and Statehood day ceremonies this week.

Runners-up are Pat Attema, 17, and Jane Rohrer, 17, both of Worthington, Minn., second and third place winners, and Richard Grossman, 14, 2401 W. Fifty-second street, ninth - grader at Minneapolis Southwest high school.

Rushton, in his essay, said the Minnesota constitution is obsolete and needs 118 more changes.

He said a constitutional convention would cost about \$600,000, whereas a series of elections on proposed amendments might cost nearly two million dollars.

Judging the 120 entries in

65 Per Cent in State Favor Vote in 1960 on Calling Constitutional Convention

Nearly two out of three state residents (65 per cent) favor letting Minnesota voters decide in 1960 whether to hold a convention to revise the state constitution, the Minneapolis Tribune's Minnesota Poll finds.



Twenty-two per cent are against having the convention issue on the 1960 ballot. Thirteen per cent are undecided.

If the public were to vote "today" about having a convention, 44 per cent say they would vote for it, and 36 per cent against it. The remaining 20 per cent are undecided.

DURING MANY past sessions of the state legislature, lawmakers have considered the matter of calling a constitutional convention. However, sponsors never have mustered the necessary two-thirds majority in both the house and the senate during the same session.

This year Gov. Orville L. Freeman told the legislature that "we need to give the people a chance to vote on the desirability of a full revision of our state constitution."

But it appears that the

public will not get to vote on the matter in 1960. The senate judiciary committee in February voted to postpone indefinitely a bill which would have permitted voters to decide whether to call a constitutional convention. The committee action virtually kills the measure for this session.

Public reaction on the issue was measured by Minnesota Poll field reporters who interviewed a balanced cross-section of men and women, living in all parts of the state. The first question was:

"Minnesota's state constitution has been changed many times, through amendments, in the 100 years since it was adopted. Some people say we should rewrite the state constitution now . . . make it modern. Do you yourself think it would be a good idea or a poor idea to have the state constitution rewritten?"

The replies of all people interviewed, compared with those of persons having some college training:

	All adults	College-trained
Good idea	40%	55%
Poor idea	37	29
Other answers	1	2
No opinion	22	14
	100%	100%

Farm residents show the least enthusiasm of any group in the state population for constitutional revision.

Forty-five per cent of them call it "a poor idea."

Next, interviewers put this question:

"It's been suggested that the voters of Minnesota be asked to decide, in 1960, whether to call a state convention for the purpose of rewriting the state constitution. Do you think the question of calling such a convention should be put to the voters next year, or should not?"

The answers:

	All adults	College-trained
Should	65%	59%
Should not	22	33
No opinion	13	8
	100%	100%

Almost nine out of 10 adults (87 per cent) who think it is a good idea to rewrite the constitution also say the question should be put to the voters in 1960.

The final question in the survey was:

"If the matter were put to the voters, and the election were being held today — would you vote in favor of calling a convention to rewrite the constitution, or against it?"

The replies:

	All adults	College-trained
In favor	44%	51%
Against	36	36
No opinion	20	13
	100%	100%

Forty-seven per cent of the

Republicans and 46 per cent of the DFL backers say they'd vote in favor of calling the convention, but 44 per cent of the independents say they'd vote against it.

A MAJORITY of younger Minnesotans—those under 40 years of age—favor the idea of a convention, but older men and women tend to be divided on the issue.

State Women to Vote on Constitution

Reapportionment of the state legislature and revision of the Minnesota constitution, two standby items in the League of Women Voters program, were expected to be dropped today from the league's agenda for the next two years.

The move, recommended by the league board of directors, were up for approval by the state league convention during the afternoon session.

The board recommendation was that the league now attend to Minnesota's election laws, ethics in government and party designation for legislators and others.

Mrs. Walter Angrist, Deephaven, outgoing board member, said it was felt that special attention should be given to the advisability of party designation for county officials.

The league, for years, a supporter of party labels for legislators, has never taken a position on party designation at the county level.

Opponents of party designation in the legislature frequently have killed designation bills by adding county officials to the list.

Mrs. E. Stanley Kane, league lobbyist and reapportionment expert, stressed that both reapportionment and constitutional revision would remain in the league program as "continuing responsibilities."

Mrs. Angrist added that feeling was growing in league circles that little of the legislation the league believed important would be enacted until legislators are subject to party designation.

Moves made from the floor Wednesday to add water conservation and state taxation to the study list for the next two years were believed likely to fail today. League procedure requires two-thirds approval to add items not recommended by the board to the two-year agenda.

Dropped entirely as a league concern was the subject of fair employment practices laws. Mrs. Angrist explained the league does not believe the present law is endangered any longer and is not ready to consider present changes.

The convention at the Lowry hotel, St. Paul, winds up today.



LEAGUE AWARD WINNER—Mrs. Stanley Kane, 701 Parkview terrace, left, was given the Hope Washburn award by Minnesota League of Women Voters at the group's convention dinner Wednesday night. Pictured with her is Mrs. Reynold Jensen, Hopkins, last year's winner of the award, which is given for distinguished service to the league. The dinner, in Hotel Lowry, was an event of the LWV biennial convention, which ends today.

Mrs. Anderson Re-elected Women Voters President

Mrs. O. H. Anderson, Seymour, Bloomington, Mahtomedi, today was re-elected president of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota. The organization ends its biennial state convention in St. Paul today.

Other officers re-elected include Mrs. Kenneth Sigford, Roseville, first vice-president, and Mrs. O. J. Janski, Richfield, second vice-president.



Newly elected officers are Mrs. Arthur Welch, Duluth, secretary, and Mrs. Robert O. Hipps, Edina, treasurer.

New board of directors members are Mrs. R. Drew Miller, Rochester; Mrs. Louis Ode, Red Wing; Mrs. A. H.

Directors who were re-elected include Mrs. Robert Carlson, Granite Falls; Mrs. John Neumaier, Moorhead, and Mrs. William Whiting, Owatonna.

Eleanor Salisbury, Minneapolis, is chairman of the 1959-61 nominating committee. Others on the committee include Mrs. Homer Mantis, St. Paul, and Mrs. E. H. Newstrom, Bloomington.

House Passes Senate Bill on 'Home Rule'

By DANIEL J. HAFREY
Minneapolis Tribune
Staff Writer

The Minnesota house of representatives Wednesday passed a senate-approved "home-rule" bill and sent it to Gov. Freeman.

The senate version permits adoption or amendment of municipal charters by 55 per cent of those voting on the matter. The house earlier had passed a bill lowering the present requirement to 52½ per cent.

But Rep. Peter Popovich, St. Paul Liberal who had been one of the principal advocates of lowering the requirement, yesterday moved that the house accept the senate version.

"I didn't dare let it go to a conference committee," he explained later, because of the danger of losing whatever had been gained. There is strong opposition to lowering the requirement among a number of powerful Conservative senators.

THE PRESENT requirement is a 57 per cent majority of those voting in the election on adoption of a new charter and 60 per cent for amendment.

One of the main beneficiaries of the bill, its backers say, will be Minneapolis whose almost 40-year-old charter has been described as ineffective, financially wasteful and hard to change.

Yesterday's action was an anticlimax to previous extended and heated debate on the subject. Without debate, the house voted, 118 to 2, for adoption.

Voting against were Rep. Sally Luther, Minneapolis, and Rep. C. Donald Peterson,

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Edina, who have been holding out for a lower requirement.

IN ANOTHER action affecting Minneapolis, the Hennepin county delegation introduced a bill converting Minneapolis from a special to a special independent school district. The bill would permit the board of education to issue bonds of up to two million dollars. The board also could raise school millage rates, but the increase could be challenged.

Immediately after the house session the committee on cities of the first and second class met to recommend passage of the bill.

The house also gave preliminary approval to a group of bills relating to watershed districts, including one giving the districts power to levy up to one mill in taxes. A \$20,000 limit for any such district would be placed on the tax.

Approved was a concurrent resolution setting for noon Friday a joint house and senate session to elect four University of Minnesota regents.

It's Progress, Anyway

THE LEGISLATURE has finally passed a bill which will lower the voting percentages needed for the adoption or amendment of city charters in Minnesota. The new figure is 55 per cent as compared to present requirements of 60 per cent (to amend) and 57 per cent (to adopt).

This represents a victory for the senate over the house, which favored a 52½ per cent majority. And it is a disappointing development for those legislators who favored a simple majority provision in the bill.

The Tribune feels that 55 per cent is an unnecessarily high requirement. It would have preferred a lower figure. Yet the bill which has just gone to Gov. Freeman's desk is surely better than no bill at all. For Minnesota it means that the difficult process of amending the charter has been eased and that we can now shoot at 55 per cent instead of that forbidding 60.

Perhaps the next legislature, having a little more faith in majority rule, will lower the hurdle still further. Meanwhile we can be grateful that a little progress has been made even though Minnesota still remains the only one of 20 home rule charter states which does not have a simple majority provision.

Constitutional Revision - 1960

1960 Cass Lake
Women Voters Study Problems

The members of the Cass Lake League of Women Voters and their guests enjoyed a pot-luck dinner on August 21 at the home of Mrs. James Seward. Guests for the evening were Mrs. S. K. Alphson, Mrs. James Bohn, Mrs. Edgar Carman, Mrs. Charles Bul-lard, Mrs. Gasman, Mrs. Gun-ther Jahnke, Mrs. Conrad Ol-son, Mrs. Alvin Swanberg and Mrs. Darold Westerberg.

Following the dinner, offi-cers of the League were in-troduced and League Chair-men explained the various fields of League work in which the members are studying and those in which action is being taken.

Mrs. T. V. Grandy, Na-tional Chairman, discussed Foreign Aid, the League's po-sition to "support U. S. eco-nomic policies which promote world development and main-tain a sound U. S. economy", and water conservation.

Mrs. Rudolph Jacobson, State Chairman, discussed the League's work in support of amendments to improve the constitution of the State of Minnesota: the League's support of principles of em-ployment on merit and the study of problems of discrim-ination.

In the absence of Local Chairman, Mrs. Axel Erick-son, Mrs. C. R. Swenson ex-plaind the League's study of housing in Cass Lake and their work for Urban renew-al.

Urban renewal will be the theme of the League's Fall Festival booth. The term 'Ur-ban Renewal' is used to de-fine any improvements made in the appearance of a city's building and landscaping.

Special emphasis will be given to interesting citizens of Cass Lake in improved housing and zoning.

Mrs. Lyle Chisholm, Legis-lative Chairman, reported on Governor Anderson's request for the public to write their respective Representatives to work out a compromise be-tween the two houses for re-districting the State, and to bring the taconite amend-ment before the legislature. The Governor would then call a special session of two or three days. Failure to re-dis-trict the State of Minnesota means that Representatives to Congress will be elected at large and some areas of the state may not be properly re-presented.

Mrs. C. R. Swenson, Voters Service Chairman, discussed ways in which the League has encouraged political activity through Candidates meetings questionnaires to the Candi-dates and telephoning to get out the vote.

Publications were discuss-ed by Mrs. Swenson and Mrs. Grandy. Publications help members study, discuss and take action on local state and national issues, and they help inform citizens on govern-mental issues.

MRS. Philip Frisch, representing the League of Women Voters, spoke on the amendments to be voted on in the coming election, when she appeared as a guest at the meet-ing of the Business and Profes-sional Women's Club Thursday. Miss Alice Smith also was a guest.

68% Think Legislature Should Meet Yearly

Two out of three voting-age Minnesotans think the state legislature should meet annually, rather than every two years, as it now does.



That find-ing emerges from a statewide survey by the Minne-apolis Trib-une's Minnesota Poll, in which a representative section of urban and

7/26/59
rural residents was ques-tioned.

THE TWO principal rea-sons why people believe yearly legislative sessions are preferable to biennial sessions are:

1. "Some problems need prompt attention and can't wait for sessions every two years."

2. "The legislators need more time to handle their work; they could accom-plish more, and wouldn't have to rush so."

Poll interviewers put this question to respondents throughout the state:

"It has been suggested that the state legislature meet every year for a 60-day session, instead of the present 90-day session every other year. Which do you favor—having the state legislature meet every year, or every other year?"

The replies:

	Total	Men	Women
Should meet every year ...	68%	69%	67%
Should meet every other year	19	22	16
Qualified..	*	1	*
No opin-ion	13	8	17
	100%	100%	100%

(*—Less than 1 per cent.)

Several persons said they'd favor annual ses-sions "if it didn't involve an increase in taxes" or "if it lasted only about 30 days."

CITY, TOWN AND FARM people alike say they would rather have yearly sessions of the legis-lature. So do Democratic-Farmer-Laborites, Republi-cans and independent voters — all by approxi-mately the two-thirds mar-gin.

People who think the present system of sessions every other year is pref-erable say, for the most part: "We save money this way"; "they wouldn't get any more done if they did meet every year"; "it's worked fine in the past."

Group to Work on Simplifying Charter Shifts

By TED KOLDERIE
Minneapolis Tribune
Staff Writer

The league of Minnesota's cities and villages agreed last week to lobby in the 1961 state legislature for a law which could have important effects on the struggle over charter reform in Minneapolis.

Without a dissenting voice, the league voted to work for changes in the basic state law which would make minor charter changes easier and give city councils a larger role in sponsoring amendments.

STATE SEN. Donald Fraser was chairman of the league committee which drew up the recommendations.

He said Saturday he believes the proposal stands a good chance of passing the legislature. The Minneapolis city council probably will support it, he predicted.

The basic idea, he said, is to make it possible to get rid of more of the obsolete special legislation which has accumulated in charters over the years—such as the provision in the Minneapolis charter which allows the city "to regulate the erection of hitching posts or rings for fastening horses."

THE PROPOSAL would open up a third way to bring proposed charter amendments before the voters, by giving a city council authority to propose changes.

Amendments can now be sponsored only by the official charter commission or by a citizens' petition. The proposed charter amendment defeated in Minneapolis June 7 came up by petition.

Under any of the three procedures, approval by 55 per cent of the voters would still be required.

But the committee's proposal also calls for giving a city council power actually to amend the charter by ordinance, by a two-thirds vote. The council action could also be put to a public vote if 5 per cent of the voters petitioned for a referendum.

A COUNCIL could not use this new power, however, to change the city's basic form of government, increase taxes, deprive the people of an existing right to vote on a proposition or elective office, or affect the liquor patrol limits.

Minnesota is now the only state where charter commissions are appointed, rather than elected, Fraser said. Members are selected by the judges of the district court.

The league's proposal would allow a city, if it wished, to have its charter commission elected by the people.

The proposal on charters was one of 35 points in the legislative program which the league agreed to take to the session opening in January.

TWO POINTS in the program were dropped by delegates during the league's annual convention in Winona, Minn., Friday. These called for legislation permitting cities to consolidate fire and police pension plans into the general public employees retirement program, and setting out local standards for licensing electricians.

Some 600 delegates attended the league's 46th annual convention, which concentrated on "the challenge of the '60's."

There was some grumbling, after the opening day's programs, at the way panels and speeches centered on the growing problems of metropolitan areas.

"BUT IT HAS to be this way," a village engineer from a St. Paul suburb commented. "There's more going on in the 30-mile belt around the Twin Cities than in the rest of the state's municipalities put together."

Clayton LeFevre, village attorney for Richfield and Lauderdale, was elected league president. Miles Bowler, mayor of Le Center, was chosen vice president.

Four new trustees were elected to two-year terms: William Rich, St. Cloud engineer; Warren Hyde, Edina village manager; Baldy Hanson, mayor of Austin; and Irving Olson, clerk at Bagley

MNA Clipping Bureau

MOORHEAD
RED RIVER SCENE

MAR 16 1961

L of WV Meeting Set For March

Various unit meetings for the last March meetings of the Moorhead League of Women Voters are as follows:

Unit one will meet Tuesday, March 28, at 8 p.m. at the home of Mrs. R. R. Thompson, 519 18th St. N. Discussion leader is Mrs. Harding Noblitt.

Unit two will meet Wednesday, March 22 at 8 p.m. at the home of Mrs. Arthur Arett, 824 15th St. N. Mrs. Eunice Dinga is discussion leader.

Unit three meets Thursday, March 23 at 9:45 a.m. at the home of Mrs. C. W. Derrick, 1715 14th St. S. Miss Alice Grover is discussion leader.

Unit four meets Thursday, March 23 at 2 p.m. at the home of Mrs. Amos Maxwell, 1411 Ninth Ave. S. Mrs. Virginia Neumaier is discussion leader.

Various programs are under the direction of Miss Alice Grover, local chairman of the national study item. Consensus on current national study items will be taken on the economic development at home and abroad.

MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION
MINNEAPOLIS

TWO HARBORS
CHRONICLE

MAR 30 1961

Women Voters Annual Meeting on April 6

The annual meeting of the League of Women Voters of Silver Bay will be held at 6:30 p. m. Thursday, April 6. Dinner will be served in the Reserve auditorium conference room.

Mrs. Carl L. Hultstrom, president, will preside at the business session during which the membership will vote on a proposed by-law change; adopt a new budget and elect officers and directors for the year 1961-62.

The membership will also vote on a new local agenda item for study. Program topic for the evening will be, "Our State Constitution, Should It Be Amended or Rewritten?" Mrs. James G. Gray,

Jr., will be the guest speaker and Mrs. Allen Thorngren, Mrs. Vern Lee and Mrs. Vernon Buxton will present a skit. Reservations should be made with the various unit leaders before April 3.

The dinner committee consists of Mrs. E. Judson Bentley, reservations; Mrs. Lewis F. Kummer, table decorations, and Mrs. Edward M. Bartsch, publicity.

Constitutional Revision - 1961



League of Women Voters Officers—

Officers of the League of Women Voters presiding at the annual League meeting were from left, Miss Myrtle Hillestad, Mrs. Clinton Maxwell, Mrs. Lewis Kummer, Mrs. Carl Hultstrom, Mrs. Arthur Welch, Duluth, Mrs. Wayne Bolitho and Mrs. Earl Carmen. (Photo by Mike Morgan)

Mrs. Allen Thorngren Heads Women Voters

Mrs. Allen Thorngren, Finland road, was elected president of the Silver Bay League of Women Voters at the annual meeting on April 6.

Also elected were Miss Myrtle Hillestad, first vice president; Mrs. Edward M. Bartsch, second vice president; Mrs. Vernon H. Wallentiny, secretary.

Elected directors include Mrs. E. Judson Bentley, Mrs. John Rodgers, Mrs. Harold T. Regner, Mrs. Walter H. Frey and Mrs. William Cox. Mrs. Donald Lindahl was elected chairman of the nominating committee, assisted by Mrs. Richard Johnson and Mrs. James A. Hopkins.

Mrs. Carl L. Hultstrom, retiring president, presided at the meeting during which the league members voted to increase the annual dues to five dollars yearly in order to do a more effective job in the community. Since the league has studied the need for permanent voter registration it was decided to recommend to the Silver Bay

village council that permanent voter registration be adopted.

Mrs. Frank Moschet, state agenda chairman, urged the membership to write to their Senator to support the bill (No. 963) on Corrupt Practices. Mrs. Arthur Welch, Duluth, state board member, also urged support for the forming of a new committee to study the need to review and revise the state constitution.

As a local agenda item, the membership voted to study the Silver Bay public library facilities and needs. Following the dinner and business meeting, which was attended by 53 members and guests, Mrs. James D. Gray, Jr., spoke on "Case For The Constitutional Convention" and a humorous skit was given by Mrs. Vernon Lee, Mrs. Allen Thorngren and Mrs. Vernon Buxton.

Mrs. Hultstrom announced a combined meeting of the retiring board and the new board to be held at Kelley high school in the home economics room at 8 p. m. Thursday, April 27.

Women Voters Plan Study of Constitution

Mrs. Frank Patton and Mrs. Lloyd Marti, delegates, and Mrs. Philip Frisch, an observer, were in attendance last Thursday and Friday at the 38th biennial state convention of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota.

A study of the Minnesota state constitution and employment by merit and civil rights were the topics selected for a 2-year program by the League's 400-plus delegates.

Mrs. O. H. Anderson of Mahtomedi, who was re-elected state president, summed up League activities by saying, "We can be the political gadfly that pricks away at the pleasant lethargy in which the citizen so often sleeps."

John Bebout of Rutgers university urban studies center, who helped draft the Alaskan constitution, spoke on "Future of state government—antiquation or new role?" Rep. Esther Fieldman, freshman woman legislator from Park Rapids, spoke on her experiences in the legislature.

Mrs. Kenneth Sigford of Roseville received the Hope Washburn award for distinguished service to the League.

Other business transacted was adoption of the state budget, election of officers, and selections of "continuing responsibilities" of the League—ethics in government, election laws, party designation, home rule and constitutional revision.

Women Voters Set 2 Major Programs

Human rights and revision of the Minnesota constitution will be the chief study and action program of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota for the next two years.

The program, recommended by the league board of directors, was adopted Friday at the close of the group's convention in the Radisson hotel. About 400 women attended.

THE HUMAN rights item was defeated the first time around but was passed by a majority of delegates after being voted reconsideration.

Specifically the item calls for continued support of the principles of employment on merit and study of other problems of discrimination.

Under the other item, league members will work for amendments to improve the state constitution.

THIS ITEM was termed a "practical approach" toward immediate improvement in state government. The league, which has long supported the convention method of revising the constitution, added a similar item to their "continuing responsibilities." This would enable the league to support a convention if it were called.

Moves made from the floor Thursday to add state taxation and the Indian citizen to the study list failed to be adopted. League procedure requires two-thirds approval to add items not recommended by the board to the two-year agenda.

This was the fourth convention at which a state tax item has been proposed and defeated.

THE INDIAN item is expected to be included for study under the human rights issue.

Passed as continuing re-

sponsibilities of the league program were:

Ethics in government — conflict of interest and lobby registration.

Election laws, party designation and corrupt practices.

Home rule.

Constitutional revision by convention — constitutional convention, periodic submission to the people of the question of calling a convention, workable amending process, clearly fixed executive responsibilities, adequate length of legislative session, post auditor, reapportionment.

Mrs. O. H. Anderson, Mahomet, was re-elected president of the state league.

Other officers elected yesterday include: Mrs. William Whiting, Owatonna, first vice president; Mrs. Nicholas Anderson, E. Duff, Deephaven, second vice president; Mrs. Dean White, Austin, secretary; Mrs. Grady Mann, Fergus Falls, treasurer.

Directors elected are Mrs. E. C. Davidson, St. Louis Park; Mrs. Elmer Isaksen, Arden Hills; Mrs. Reynold Jensen, Minnetonka; Mrs. David N. Kanatz, Brooklyn Center; Mrs. Albert J. Richter, Minneapolis; Mrs. Herbert Wright, St. Paul.

At a luncheon meeting yesterday, Rep. Esther Fieldman, Park Rapids Liberal, urged women to implement their studies in nonpolitical groups with participation in partisan politics.

The freshman woman legislator said that members should not feel they should avoid political party activity because of their nonpartisan league affiliation.

"By taking part in political party activity you can implement the studies in good government procedure that you get through your league membership," she said.



Mrs.

Nicholas Anderson

Voters League Plans Annual Finance Drive

The League of Women Voters of Rochester announces the dates of its annual finance drive as Sept 11 to 18. Also announced are plans for the year and names of unit chairmen.

The drive is made to finance the work of the league through contributions of public-spirited men and women in the community, donations and dues of members. Annual dues are \$4.

Women who will be soliciting funds during the drive will attend a kickoff coffee Monday morning at the home of Mrs. Ralph Smith, 1085 Plummer Lane, finance drive chairman.

The current agenda of LWV is divided into three areas of study and action: local, state and national. Study of county planning with emphasis on the townships surrounding Rochester is on the local program for 1961-1962. On the state level are two items. The LWV of Minnesota will work for amendments to improve the state constitution and will continue support of the principles of employment on merit and a study of other problems of discrimination.

The national agenda is the support of United States economic policies which promote world development and maintain a sound U.S. economy.

The LWV of Rochester is comprised of nine units or neighborhood groups, which meet either mornings, afternoons or evenings. Women may choose to attend their own neighborhood units or any one of the other groups if they wish. All women citizens of voting age are eligible to join.

Each unit has its own chairman, but the programs are the same at each monthly meeting. The topic for study and discussion this month will be problems facing the United Nations in 1961.

Interested women may call Mrs. R. W. Steinhilber, membership chairman.

To enable a prospective member to find the group that best suits her schedule, the names of unit chairmen, co-chairmen, meeting times and general locations of the units are given as follows:

Unit 1, Elton Hills—Mrs. James Watson, chairman; Mrs. Jerald Morris, co-chairman; meets the second Wednesday of the month at 8 p.m.

Units 2 and 4, Southwest—Mrs. P. A. Ongley, chairman; Mrs. R. E. Smith, co-chairman; meets the third Thursday at 1:15 p.m.

Units 3 and 9, Homestead Addition and Homestead Village—Mrs. Mort Perlman, chairman; Mrs. Charles Timm, co-chairman; meets the third Thursday at 8 p.m.

Unit 5, Northeast—Mrs. John Amundson, chairman; Mrs. Paul Schwanke, co-chairman; meets the third Thursday at 7:45 p.m.

Unit 6, Southwest—Mrs. R. H. Jones, chairman; Mrs. E. L. Weinrich, co-chairman; meets the second Thursday at 9:30 a.m.

Unit 7, downtown Rochester business women's group—Mrs. Roland Beagle, chairman; Miss M. Katherine Smith, co-chairman; meets at Holland's Cafeteria at 12 noon the second Tuesday.

Unit 8, Southwest—Mrs. Haddon Carryer, chairman; Mrs. George Bailly, co-chairman; meets the second and fourth Thursdays at 9:30 a.m.

Unit 10, Southeast—Mrs. Fabian Stoppel, chairman; meets second and fourth Thursdays at 9:30 a.m.

Unit 11, Country Club Manor—Mrs. Clark Pahlas, chairman; Mrs. E. L. Forbrook, co-chairman; meets the second Monday at 9:30 a.m.

Aug '61



CEREMONIAL FIRE — League of Women Voters of Mound had its version of a "mortgage burning" ceremony Wednesday afternoon at the home of Mrs. Richard M. Schwart, Halstead's bay, Lake Minnetonka. The group held the victory celebration to burn the literature used in 10 years of study and work for state legislative reapportionment.

Pictured at the ceremony are, from left, Mrs. William Eisler, Mound, unit president; Mrs. Arnold Aslakson, Orono; Mrs. William Koenig, Mound; Mrs. A. C. Hellesen, Mound; Mrs. Roger Reed, Mound; Mrs. Robert Thurston, Spring Park; Mrs. Frank Norton, Mound, and Mrs. Schwert, hostess and current head of the league's state study item.

OLIS STAR

THE UPPER MIDWEST

425 Portland Av., Minne-
Star and Tribune Company.
3-3111

A. SWAN, Executive Vice
AWKS, Vice President and
President and Editor; OTTO
Manager; JOHN W. MOF-
Director; HOWARD W.
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2 NUMBER 270

AY, OCT. 6, 1961

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The Minnesota League of Women Voters, long an advocate of a convention, is turning more attention to the amending process. Presently the league is analyzing the constitution section by section and also is studying proposed amendments which will be on the 1962 ballot. The league's position seems to be that the convention method is best for overhauling the constitution but that, in view of legislative and public apathy, amendments may be more feasible.

First official step toward a convention would be approval by a two-thirds vote in each chamber of the legislature, then approval by a majority of those voting in the next general election, then legislative provision for election of delegates. Sen. Stanley Holmquist, author of several bills for a convention, didn't even bother to introduce such a bill this year and has said he doubts the voters would approve a convention. But he thinks they should have a chance to pass on the matter.

There is no guarantee that a convention would produce a perfect constitution. Some state conventions have been disappointing. Even so, a Minnesota convention should be given periodic attention. In the meantime let the amending process go forward.

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VOLUME LXXXIII 2 2 NUMBER 270

12A *

FRIDAY, OCT. 6, 1961



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Pictured at the ceremony are Mrs. William Eisler, Mound, unit hostess; Mrs. William Kleksen, Mound; Mrs. Roger Thurston, Spring Park; Mrs. Mrs. Schwert, hostess and state study item.

State Constitutions

A CONSTITUTIONAL convention got under way in Michigan this week. It probably will continue about seven months, for each of the 144 delegates receives \$1,000 a month to a maximum of \$7,500. Important proposals look to realignment of the many state agencies, a shorter election ballot with the governor appointing his cabinet, a four-year term for governor, and a boost in the present \$250,000 limit on state debt, which is the same as Minnesota's constitution imposes.

Elsewhere around the country there is great interest in making state government and state constitutions more effective. But no other constitutional conventions are in immediate prospect. Voters in several states have rejected conventions in recent years. California voters approved a convention in 1933 but the legislature never has taken the necessary action to get delegates together.

In Minnesota pressure for a convention, strong a few years ago, seems to have subsided somewhat. The Minnesota constitutional commission, appointed in 1947, reported to the governor and legislature in 1949 and asked a convention to modernize the largely outmoded constitution. Since then some members of the commission have changed their minds, noting that amendments have brought about many of the needed reforms.

The Minnesota League of Women Voters, long an advocate of a convention, is turning more attention to the amending process. Presently the league is analyzing the constitution section by section and also is studying proposed amendments which will be on the 1962 ballot. The league's position seems to be that the convention method is best for overhauling the constitution but that, in view of legislative and public apathy, amendments may be more feasible.

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VOLUME LXXXIII 2  2 NUMBER 283

6A * SATURDAY, OCT. 21, 1961

Revising Constitutions

A LEAGUE of Women Voters official suggests, in a letter on this page, that Gov. Andersen appoint a new constitutional commission composed of legislators and citizens. A similar commission was appointed by Gov. Youngdahl in 1947 and it made a constructive report to the 1949 legislature. Many of the constitutional changes recommended then have been effected through amendments.

The commission also recommended that a constitutional convention be held. That has not happened, of course, and does not seem likely in the near future. Even if the legislature were to approve submitting the question to the voters—which is highly doubtful—there is no certainty the voters would approve. Voters in other states have rejected similar proposals. The current constitutional convention in Michigan is the first in any state in several years.

But, as in Minnesota, constitutional revision has gone forward. Administrative procedures have been extensively reorganized by amendments in 18 states in the past 10 years. Nineteen legislatures now meet annually, 12 more than did so a decade ago. Governors now serve four-year terms in 34 states, and Minnesota will make the number 35 after the 1962 elections. Ten years ago only 28 states had four-year terms for governors.

The League of Women Voters is undertaking a study of the state constitution to determine how well the document has been amended since the 1948 report and what still needs to be done in view both of that report and of present conditions. Such a survey would be an excellent starting place for a new commission, which also could examine the question of whether or not the state needs a constitutional convention.

EVERYBODY'S IDEAS

Asks Constitutional Commission

Minneapolis Star 10/21/61
To the Editor: Your Oct. 6 editorial commenting on the value of periodic state constitutional conventions stated well what has long been the firm belief of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota: that the convention method of constitutional revision is the best one.

We still believe this. However, public pressure for the calling of a constitutional convention seems to be off, at least temporarily. Meanwhile from 1954 to 1961 about 78 per cent of the amendments submitted by the legislature to the voters have passed. For these reasons the league is in the process of taking a long look at the amendment method of revision.

We have asked Gov. Andersen to appoint a statewide legislator-citizen committee to review those sections and articles which still urgently need changing. The Minnesota constitutional commission of 13 years ago served a useful purpose in recommending changes, many of which have been incorporated into subsequent amendments.

It is our hope that other groups interested in constitutional reform will join us in urging the appointment of such a committee.

Minneapolis. —Mrs. A. J. Richter,
Constitutional Revision Chairman.

Editor's Note: See today's editorial, "Revising Constitutions."



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VOLUME LXXXIV 2 NUMBER 105

8A TUESDAY, MARCH 27, 1962

LWV Lends a Hand

THE MINNESOTA League of Women Voters has announced active support for three proposed amendments to the state constitution which will be on the November ballot this year. The league has made an intensive study of the issues involved in these amendments and its approval is significant.

Amendment 1 would widen the investment field for state trust funds, the income of which goes chiefly to public school and university education. Amendment 2 would remove the present \$250,000 limitation on state debt. Amendment 3 would permit legislative sessions of 120 days. The present limit is 90 days.

There is no organized opposition to any of the three amendments, but some scattered criticism has been heard against Amendment 2 because it does not set a definite limit on state debt, permitting the legislature to make that decision.

For many years the legislature got around the \$250,000 debt limitation by voting certificates of indebtedness for state building programs. Because it also set up property levies to retire the certificates it considered that the amounts—roughly \$50 million for recent bienniums—were not formally a part of the state debt. But the Minnesota Supreme Court finally ruled otherwise.

As a result, the 1961 legislature voted a curtailed program for the university, state colleges and institutions. Even that will not be implemented unless Amendment 2 passes. Thus Amendment 2 is the most pressing of the three and that is the reason a citizens committee has been formed to push for its passage. Dr. Charles W. Mayo of Rochester and Mrs. Charles Hymes of Minneapolis are the co-chairmen.

This is not to say that the other two amendments aren't important. The state trust funds now earn about \$8 million a year. If Amendment 1 passes, the trust funds would earn an estimated \$3 million a year more.

If Amendment 3 fails, the legislature would meet in 90-day sessions each two years and also in special sessions on the call of the governor. But it is obvious that the growing complexity of state business makes a longer regular session necessary.

Thus it is encouraging to the advocates of sound governmental procedure to have the League of Women Voters, notable champion of civic progress, working for all three amendments.

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VOLUME LXXXIII 2 NUMBER 283

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League ^{3/26 Stan} to Support Three State Amendments

The Minnesota League of Women Voters will actively support three proposed amendments to the Minnesota constitution to be submitted to voters in the November general election.

Mrs. O. H. Anderson, Mah-tomed, state league president, said that the league's stand was approved by its state board after reviewing reports from 58 local leagues.

On amendment 1, which calls for relaxing provisions for investment of state trust funds, Mrs. Anderson said:

"Passage of this amendment will maintain the standards of a safe investment policy and at the same time increase the earnings of the trust funds for our schools."

Amendment 2 would remove the state debt limit and allow the legislature to decide the size of the state debt.

"The large league majority that backed the amendment was aware that experts in governmental debt are not convinced of the effectiveness of debt limits," said Mrs. Anderson. "Also, league members did not wish to jeopardize the state building program."

Mrs. Anderson called amendment 3, which would lengthen the legislative session, a possible "stop-gap solution."

The nonpartisan League of Women Voters, after finding a "very substantial area of agreement" throughout its state membership, now will wage an active campaign to encourage passage of the amendments.

Mr. Louis Park Dispatch 3/29/62 Women Voters To Support Constitutional Amendments

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota announces support of all three proposed amendments to the Minnesota constitution.

These amendments will be on the ballot at the general election next fall. An active campaign will be waged by the League to encourage a YES throughout Minnesota.

Amendment No. 1 concerns provisions for investment of Minnesota trust funds. The

League feels passage of this amendment will maintain the standards of a safe investment policy and at the same time increase the earnings of the trust funds for our schools.

Amendment No. 2 removes the state debt limit from the Constitution. It allows the legislature to decide the size of state debt. The large League majority which backed the amendment was aware that experts in governmental debt are not convinced of the effectiveness of debt limits. Also League members did not wish to jeopardize the state building program.

Lengthening the legislative session — Amendment No. 3 — also has the support of the League. Perhaps this is a stop gap solution but it is surely a step in the right direction. Legislators need more than the current 90 days every other year to handle the problems of Minnesota today. From Silver Bay to Albert Lea, from Battle Lake to South St. Paul, the 58 local Leagues in Minnesota dug deeply into the carefully League researched facts. They held excellent community meetings and thoughtful discussions among the members. The results are a very substantial area of agreement throughout the state. Over 90% of the local Leagues took part in this decision making. Plans will now proceed for the YES VOTE.

3/21/61 Stan EVERYBODY'S IDEAS

Asks Constitutional Commission

To the Editor: Your Oct. 6 editorial commenting on the value of periodic state constitutional conventions stated well what has long been the firm belief of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota: that the convention method of constitutional revision is the best one.

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It is our hope that other groups interested in constitutional reform will join us in urging the appointment of such a committee.

Minneapolis. —Mrs. A. J. Richter,
Constitutional Revision Chairman.

Editor's Note: See today's editorial, "Revising Constitutions."

Three to Attend Women Voters' League Session

Three Minnesota women will attend a constitutional revision conference of the League of Women Voters of the United States to be held Wednesday through Friday in Chicago.

Representing the League of Women Voters of Minnesota will be Mrs. O. H. Anderson, president; Mrs. Kenneth Sigford, first vice president; Mrs. Stanley Kane, league lobbyist.

About 50 delegates from 19 state leagues are expected to attend. The representatives will come from states whose league's have been studying state constitutional revision.

MINNEAPOLIS MORNING TRIBUNE
★★★ Tues., Feb. 7, 1961 7