



League of Women Voters of Minnesota Records

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THE LEAGUE
OF WOMEN VOTERS

MINNESOTA

550 RICE STREET ST. PAUL, MN 55103 PHONE (612) 224-5445

file

August 23, 1988

The Honorable LaJune T. Lange
Hennepin County Government Center
300 South 6th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55487

Re: Merit Selection of Judges

Dear Judge Lange:

Thank you so much for meeting last month with Rey Harp, Deb Nankivell, Carolyn Hendrixson and me to discuss merit selection of judges. I came away from the meeting with the strong impression that you had carefully thought out your position on the merit selection issue. It was an enlightening discussion for me; I appreciate and understand your position much better after our meeting.

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota will be looking at the merit selection issue again this legislative session. We would like to include you in this process and we will seek your input prior to committing ourselves to a specific lobbying position on any bill.

Thank you again for taking the time to meet with us.

Sincerely,

Catherine Shreves

Catherine Shreves
Lobbyist

CS/rk



THE LEAGUE
OF WOMEN VOTERS

MINNESOTA

550 RICE STREET ST. PAUL, MN 55103 PHONE (612) 224-5445

August 23, 1988

Rey Harp, Esq.
Holmes & Graven
Suite 470
The Pillsbury Center
Minneapolis, MN 55402

Re: Merit Selection of Judges

Dear Mr. Harp:

Thank you so much for meeting last month with Judge Lange, Deb Nankivell, Carolyn Hendrixson and me to discuss merit selection of judges. It was an enlightening discussion for me and it gave me a much better understanding of your position on the merit selection issue.

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota will be looking at the merit selection issue again this legislative session. We would like to include you in this process and we will seek your input prior to committing ourselves to a specific lobbying position on any bill.

Thank you again for taking the time to meet with us.

Sincerely,

Catherine Shreves
Lobbyist

CS/rk



files

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA

106 COMO AVE. • ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55103 • TELEPHONE (612) 224-5445

April 26, 1988

The Honorable Lajune Thomas Lange
Hennepin County District Court
Court Tower
Hennepin County Government Center
Minneapolis, MN 55487

Dear Judge Lange:

Thank you for your leadership in arranging the seminar on merit selection at Augsburg College. The seminar provided people involved with the legislative issue an opportunity to communicate with each other. I learned something new listening to your and Ray Harp's comments about the legislation. The only articulated opposition I had heard at the legislature was - Governor Perpich doesn't want this bill, because he feels it is a personal criticism of him.

After today's seminar I can understand the poor timing of this 1987 legislative push. My perspective during the legislative session was that this was an issue the League of Women Voters has worked on since 1974, and this bill was part of the continued effort to establish a "merit selection" commission in Minnesota. I now have a broader perspective. I learned something today. It is possible to be at the legislature for three months and do alot, but perhaps learn little. I appreciated the opportunity to think that you offered. You have inspired me to think of creating a forum like this on other legislative concerns of the League of Women Voters.

Thank you again for your leadership. I will be in touch with you soon about meeting with other League people about the future of merit selection legislative proposals.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Hendrixson
Legislative Coordinator

CH/ss



File

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA

106 COMO AVE. • ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55103 • TELEPHONE (612) 224-5445

March 1, 1988

The Honorable John E. Brandl
306 State Capitol
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Senator Brandl:

Thank you for meeting with League members on "Women Come To The Capitol" day. We appreciate the time you took from your busy schedule to listen to our thoughts on pending legislation.

I was encouraged to hear you are rethinking your position on the judicial merit selection proposal. One point I did not mention at the League briefing is that there are qualified attorneys who will not consider a judicial appointment because of the public's lack of confidence in the present selection process. Terri Stoneburner, the secretary/treasurer of the district bar association in Mankato, said a number of qualified women did not express interest in a district judicial appointment in the Mankato area because the Governor said he would appoint a woman. There was backlash among the men in the district and the prevailing opinion was that the appointee would be chosen by sex rather than competency. Many qualified women did not wish to serve under the shadow of perceived incompetency. However, Ms. Stoneburner said qualified people including women and people of color would be more willing to serve under a judicial merit selection commission established by statute which emphasized quality in its screening process and encouraged public confidence. With the merit selection commission the Governor still has final appointing authority. The Governor would receive some screening assistance.

I hope we can count on your support for SF 1814, the judicial merit selection bill. Thank you again for your time and concern.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Hendrixson
Legislative Coordinator

H:m



File

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA

106 COMO AVE. • ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55103 • TELEPHONE (612) 224-5445

January 8, 1988

The Honorable Rudy Perpich
Governor of the State of Minnesota
130 State Capitol
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Governor Perpich:

During this legislative session, the League of Women Voters of Minnesota will be supporting a bill concerning the merit selection of judges in Minnesota. The League of Women Voters has had a position supporting the creation of a commission to propose names for all appointments to the bench since 1972. We have supported past bills on this issue and will support the bill being introduced this session.

The League believes that in all cases, the Governor should have the final appointing authority. This bill provides for that. The League is also enthusiastic about this particular bill because it requires that members of the commission recommending names to the Governor include women and people of color. And the bill also stipulates that the commission give consideration to women and people of color. This is a practice that you, as Governor, have strongly followed. This bill will insure that in years to come your inclusive approach to judicial appointments will continue.

We would like to know your opinions on the merit selection bill and are willing to meet with you or a member of your staff at any time to discuss this legislation.

Sincerely,

Joan Higinbotham
Joan Higinbotham

Nancy Crippen
Nancy Crippen

H:C:m



DEC 28 1987

Minnesota State Bar Association

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December 21, 1987

President

HELEN I. KELLY

1800 International Center

900 Second Avenue South

Minneapolis, MN 55402

(612) 349-8242

Ms. Joan Higinbotham, President
Ms. Carolyn Hendrixson, Legislative Coordinator
League of Women Voters of Minnesota
106 Como Avenue
St. Paul, Minnesota 55103

Dear President Higinbotham and Ms. Hendrixson:

Thank you very much for advising me as to the position of the League of Women Voters on merit selection of judges. The proposed legislation is clearly a "good government" move.

I wish you and your League a very Happy and Successful 1988.

Sincerely,

Helen Kelly
President

/ac

Executive Director TIM GROSHENS

President-Elect

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