

**From:** "Drouin, Lindsey E."  
**To:** "Kavanaugh, Brett M."  
**Subject:** FW: Final MN BP and PB  
**Sent:** Thu, 16 Jun 2005 18:16:51 -0500  
[06-17 Political Briefing \(MN\).doc](#)  
[06-17 BP for Maple Grove Visit & Conversation.doc](#)

Can I send this to Platts and Roy?

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**From:** Slaughter, Kristen K.  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 16, 2005 7:15 PM  
**To:** Fricks, Joseph W.; Staff Secretary; Drouin, Lindsey E.  
**Cc:** Plack Intern, John S.; 'wfricks@gwb43.com'; 'jwf717@nextel.blackberry.net'  
**Subject:** Final MN BP and PB

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**From:** Fricks, Joseph W.  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 16, 2005 11:24 AM  
**To:** Staff Secretary; Drouin, Lindsey E.  
**Cc:** Plack Intern, John S.  
**Subject:** 6/17 MN Visit and Conversation Event Briefing and Acks

for your review.

-wf

**10 ELECTORAL VOTES**

2006 – SENATOR DAYTON (D) OPEN

2006 – GOVERNOR PAWLENTY (R) UP

## **MINNESOTA BRIEFING**

### **STATE ISSUES**

#### **ECONOMIC NUMBERS**

As of April, Minnesota's unemployment rate was 4.0 percent, 1.0 percent below its peak of 5.0 percent in March 2004. As of May, the national unemployment rate was 5.1 percent.

#### **BASE REALIGNMENT AND CLOSURE (BRAC)**

The BRAC recommendations, made by the Department of Defense on May 13, would result in a net loss of 138 military jobs and 124 civilian jobs in Minnesota. Only two military facilities in the state would be affected by the recommendations. The Navy Reserve Center in Duluth would lose only eight jobs. The biggest impact would be felt at Fort Snelling, which would lose 130 military jobs and 124 civilian jobs.

#### **STATE BUDGET PROPOSALS**

The State Legislature has failed to reach an agreement on a State budget for FY 2006-2007. The Legislature has agreed on budget bills that would assure funding for courts, prisons, colleges, tax collectors, and driver's license bureaus, but the Departments of Agriculture, Natural Resources, Human Services, Education, and Health remain unfunded. The State faces a \$466-million deficit.

If State lawmakers, who are debating in a special session, fail to agree on a budget by June 30, some government functions will shut down. If an agreement is not reached, approximately 16,000 non-essential State employees will be laid off for two weeks.

As of June 16, negotiations remain unsuccessful.

#### **POSITIVE ALTERNATIVES ACT**

On May 24, Governor Tim Pawlenty (R) signed The Positive Alternatives Act, which provides \$2.5 million in state funding to crisis pregnancy centers that oppose abortion. The bill marks the first time state funding has been made available to the centers. It was a top priority of Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life.

#### **MINNESOTA CASINOS**

Minnesota, unlike other states, receives almost no profits from Indian casinos. Governor Pawlenty has asked tribes to begin contributing \$350 million in profits to the state and has proposed a plan for a casino partnership between the Minnesota Lottery and three Minnesota Indian tribes. He has opposed the expansion of gambling but has threatened to

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## **MINNESOTA BRIEFING**

allow non-Indian casinos if the tribes do not cooperate. The plan met opposition from Republican members of the House Taxes Committee and from the State's Attorney General, who doubted the plan's constitutionality. The Attorney General doubts that the State can operate a lottery in conjunction with the northern Indian tribes and whether it can split the profits among the tribes and the state's general fund. Governor Pawlenty withdrew the plan, but a bill may re-emerge in the special session.

### **PRESCRIPTION DRUGS**

Governor Pawlenty held talks in mid-February with northern Minnesota tribal leaders to discuss having them use their sovereign status to act as a wholesaler and distributor of prescription drugs. He held the talks to explore responses to a potential Federal Drug Administration shutdown of Minnesota RxConnect, a state-sponsored program that allows Minnesotans to buy prescription drugs from Canadian pharmacies over the Internet. In addition, Governor Pawlenty plans an expansion of the state's RxConnect Website to add prescription drugs from the United Kingdom, allowing the program to continue should the Canadian drug companies stop their supplies.

### **GAY MARRIAGE AMENDMENT**

The Minnesota State House approved a bill to put a measure on the 2006 ballot to give voters the opportunity to approve a constitutional amendment to limit marriage to a union between a man and a woman. Minnesota law already bans same-sex marriage, but proponents of the amendment believe it is the only way to make sure activist judges do not circumvent the will of the people. Thirteen Democrats joined 64 Republicans in voting for the bill, but Senate Democrats voted to end the discussion without debate. Governor Pawlenty hopes to bring the amendment back in the special legislative session.

### **MARIJUANA APPEAL**

A Minneapolis group that supports medical use of marijuana lost its latest bid to allow voters to decide whether marijuana distribution centers should be established throughout the city. On June 7, the Minnesota Court of Appeals upheld the city's decision not to include the proposal on the ballot last November, stating that state and Federal laws against marijuana possession and distribution would have made establishing the centers unconstitutional.

### **NORTHWEST AIRLINES**

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**MINNESOTA BRIEFING**

Blaming a combination of high fuel prices, low fares, and an excess of empty seats in the U.S. aviation market, Minnesota-based Northwest Airlines will reduce its fleet by 30 airplanes and cut up to 900 high-paying mechanic jobs. Northwest says it needs the cuts to help stop losses and compete with United Airlines and other rivals. The airline wants the 2,450 mechanics and cleaners to take wage cuts of about 25 percent and accept other givebacks.

The union representing Northwest Airlines' mechanics said that it is preparing to strike over the carrier's drive to cut members' wages and jobs. Chief Executive Officer Doug Steenland pledged on June 6 that Northwest Airlines will keep flying even if its mechanics go on strike. The National Mediation Board rejected management's request to declare an impasse in the airline's talks with the union. Northwest Airline's management and the union are scheduled to return to the bargaining table on June 20, 2005.

**OPERATION CARE**

St. Paul Mayor Randy Kelly (D) announced the launch of Operation CARE (Comprehensive Area Reclamation Enterprise), an organization that will focus on gang and drug violence and criminal behavior.

**POLITICAL CLIMATE AND KEY RACES**

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**10 ELECTORAL VOTES**  
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## **MINNESOTA BRIEFING**

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## MINNESOTA BRIEFING

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### STATISTICS

#### 2004 General Election Results (Presidential):

	Total Votes	% Won
<b>Kerry</b>	1,445,014	51%
<b>Bush</b>	1,346,695	48%
<b>Nader</b>	18,683	0.5%
<b>Other</b>	17,995	0.5%

#### 2000 General Election Results (Presidential):

	Total Votes	% Won
<b>Gore</b>	1,168,266	48%
<b>Bush</b>	1,109,659	46%
<b>Nader</b>	126,696	5%
<b>Other</b>	34,064	1%

#### 2004 General Election Results (Hennepin County):

	Total Votes	% Won
<b>Kerry</b>	383,841	59%
<b>Bush</b>	255,133	39%
<b>Other</b>	8,007	1%

#### 2000 General Election Results (Hennepin County):

	Total Votes	% Won
<b>Gore</b>	307,599	54%
<b>Bush</b>	225,657	39%
<b>Nader</b>	35,584	6%
<b>Other</b>	5,006	1%

### CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION

#### U.S. SENATE:

- Mark Dayton (D), 1<sup>st</sup> term, elected in 2000 with 49%
- Norm Coleman (R), 1<sup>st</sup> term, elected in 2002 with 50%

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**MINNESOTA BRIEFING**

**U.S. HOUSE: 8 Total (4D, 4R)**

- Gil Gutknecht (R-01), 6<sup>th</sup> term, re-elected with 60%
- John Kline (R-02), 2<sup>nd</sup> term, elected with 56%
- Jim Ramstad (R-03), 8<sup>th</sup> term, re-elected with 65%
- Betty McCollum (D-04), 3<sup>rd</sup> term, re-elected with 58%
- Martin Sabo (D-05), 14<sup>th</sup> term, re-elected with 70%
- Mark Kennedy (R-06), 3<sup>rd</sup> term, re-elected with 54%
- Collin Peterson (D-07), 8<sup>th</sup> term, re-elected with 66%
- James Oberstar (D-08), 16<sup>th</sup> term, re-elected with 65%

**Note:** Mark Kennedy served District 2 before redistricting.

**STATE GOVERNMENT**

Governor Tim Pawlenty (R), 1<sup>st</sup> term, elected with 44%

Lieutenant Governor Carol Molnau (R), 1<sup>st</sup> term, elected with 44%

Attorney General Mike Hatch (DFL), 2<sup>nd</sup> term, re-elected with 54%

Secretary of State Mary Kiffmeyer (R), 2<sup>nd</sup> term, re-elected with 47%

Auditor Patricia Anderson (R), 1<sup>st</sup> term, elected with 44%

**State House:**

**134 (68R, 66DFL)**

Speaker:

Steve Sviggum (R)

Majority Leader:

Erik Paulsen (R)

Minority Leader:

Matt Entenza (DFL)

**State Senate:**

**67 (31R, 35DFL, 1I)**

Majority Leader:

Dean Johnson (DFL)

Minority Leader:

Dick Day (R)

**STATE PARTY**

State Chairman:

Ron Carey

National Committeeman:

Jack Meeks

National Committeewoman:

Evie Axdahl

**10 ELECTORAL VOTES**

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## **MINNESOTA BRIEFING**

### **STATE DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE**

#### **Estimated Population 2000:**

Minnesota: 4,919,479, an increase of 12.4% since 1990

National: 281,421,906, an increase of 13.1% since 1990

#### **Race/Ethnicity:**

Minnesota: 89.4% White; 3.5% African-American; 2.9% Hispanic; 2.9% Asian-American; 1.1% Native American

National: 69.1% White; 12.5% Hispanic; 12.3% African-American; 3.6% Asian-American; 0.9% Native American

#### **Median Age:**

Minnesota: 35.4 years (12.1% are 65 years and older)

National: 35.3 years (12.4% are 65 years and older)

#### **College Educated:**

Minnesota: 27.4%

National: 24.4%

#### **Median Income:**

Minnesota: \$47,111

National: \$41,994

#### **Households:**

Minnesota: 66.2% family households; 53.7% married couple families

National: 68.1% family households; 51.7% married couple families

*Source: 2000 U.S. Census Bureau*

**10 ELECTORAL VOTES**

2006 – SENATOR DAYTON (D) OPEN

2006 – GOVERNOR PAWLENTY (R) UP

**MINNESOTA BRIEFING****YOUR PREVIOUS TRAVEL**

<b>Event</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>
Victory 2004 Rally	October 30, 2004	Minneapolis
Bush-Cheney '04 Focus on the Economy with President Bush	October 20, 2004	Rochester
Victory 2004 Rally	October 9, 2004	Chanhassen
Victory 2004 Rally	September 16, 2004	St. Cloud
Bush-Cheney '04 Focus on Health with President Bush	September 16, 2004	Blaine
Victory 2004 Rally	September 16, 2004	Rochester
Bush-Cheney '04 Rally	August 18, 2004	St. Paul
Remarks on the Conservation Reserve Program	August 4, 2004	Le Sueur
Bush-Cheney '04 Rally	August 4, 2004	Mankato
Bush-Cheney '04 Rally	July 13, 2004	Duluth
Remarks at the Association of American Community Colleges Annual Convention	April 26, 2004	Minneapolis
Victory 2004 Lunch	April 26, 2004	Edina
Bush-Cheney '04 Fundraising Event	August 26, 2003	St. Paul
Meeting With Small Business Owners And Employees; and Remarks on the Economy	June 19, 2003	Fridley
Welcome Rally	November 3, 2002	St. Paul
Victory 2002 Welcome Rally	October 18, 2002	Rochester
Roundtable on Prescription Drugs; and Coleman/Kline/Minnesota GOP Fundraiser	July 11, 2002	Minneapolis
Education Speech	March 4, 2002	Eden
Coleman Fundraiser	March 4, 2002	Prairie
Energy Policy Unveiling at District Energy	May 17, 2001	St. Paul

## THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

### VISIT TRAINING SESSION AT MAPLE GROVE COMMUNITY CENTER AND A CONVERSATION ON MEDICARE

Friday, June 17, 2005  
10:35 a.m. – 12:20 p.m.  
Maple Grove Community Center  
Maple Grove, Minnesota  
Karl Rove / Al Hubbard

#### I. PURPOSE

To highlight your plan, “Medicare Covers America.”

#### II. BACKGROUND

On December 8, 2003, you signed into law the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 (MMA), which provides seniors and individuals with disabilities with prescription drug benefits and more coverage options under Medicare. The new Medicare prescription drug benefit, MMA’s main feature, brings Medicare’s benefits up to date to prevent disease and to better support those with complications from chronic diseases.

Medicare and many partners inside and outside of government have begun a national grassroots education campaign to make sure people with Medicare know what the new coverage means for them personally, putting a special emphasis on low-income participants. More than 65,000 community events are planned for the summer to create awareness and help people apply for the low-income subsidy.

#### Maple Grove Community Center – Senior Center

The Senior Center of Maple Grove Community Center is located in the northwest suburbs of Minneapolis/St. Paul. The center has a mailing list of approximately 1,200 households and offers a variety of programs, including health and wellness classes, computer training, social trips, and art classes. In 2004, more than 25,800 seniors participated in activities with an average daily attendance of 108 seniors. The Senior Center has just begun educating seniors on the new Medicare drug benefit, working in conjunction with the local office of the Social Security Administration (SSA) and the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). In addition, the Center has a volunteer health care counselor on call who meets monthly with Maple Grove Seniors to assist them with Medicare issues.

Today’s event will build upon the June 16, Washington, D.C., launch of the “Medicare Covers America” education and outreach campaign. You will visit a training seminar

conducted by SSA that will be teaching community volunteers how to help low-income individuals complete the subsidy application. SSA has conducted 65 training seminars in Minnesota since April. After the visit, you will participate in a brief meeting with conversation participants and then participate in a conversation on Medicare.

**Note:** Today's event is in Congressman Jim Ramstad's (R, MN-03) district; he will not attend.

### III. PARTICIPANTS

#### Training Session at Maple Grove Community Center

Rhonda Whitenack, Social Security Administration Training Instructor

Greg Chesmore, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Training Instructor

15 training participants

#### Conversation Participants

Administrator Mark McClellan, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (will introduce you)

Kris Orluck, Senior Coordinator, Maple Grove Community Center

Dorothy Bourgeois, Volunteer, Maple Grove United Way's Senior Community Services

Steve Preston, President and CEO, Falks Woodland Pharmacy, Inc.

Tamera Shumaker, Pharmacist, Walgreen's

#### State and Local Officials in Audience for Remarks

Governor Tim Pawlenty (R)

State Auditor Patricia Anderson (R)

Education Commissioner Alice Seagren (R)

Secretary of State Mary Kiffmeyer (R)

State Senator Dick Day (R), Minority Leader

State Senator Warren Limmer (R)

State Senator Leo Foley (DFL)

State Representative Melissa Hortman (DFL)

State Representative Joyce Peppin (R)

State Representative Kurt Zellers (R)

Mayor Mark Steffenson (R), City of Maple Grove

Sheriff Pat McGowan, Hennepin County

Commissioner Penny Steele (non-partisan), Hennepin County Board of Commissioners

Doug O'Brien, Health and Human Services Region V Director

#### Other VIPs in Audience for Remarks

Lisa Jost, Manager, Maple Grove Community Center

Bob Sparboe, Founder, President, and CEO, Sparboe Companies

Ron Haberkorn, Founder and President, NOREX

Mary Igo, CEO, Minnesota Gastroenterology, P.A.

Martin Davis, General Manager, Cambria Co.

John and Agnes Jurek, USA Freedom Corps Greeters

520 invited guests including seniors, health care providers, and other beneficiaries of Medicare

White House Staff

Joe Hagin, Deputy Chief of Staff

Al Hubbard, Assistant to the President for Economic Policy

Scott McClellan, Press Secretary

Susan Ralston, Assistant to the Senior Advisor

Roy Ramthun, Special Assistant to the President for Economic Policy

Glynda Becker, Associate Director, Office of Political Affairs

IV. PRESS PLAN

Visit: Pool

Conversation: Open

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

- You arrive and are met by Mayor Mark Steffenson, Pat McGowan, Lisa Jost, Bob Sparboe, Ron Haberkorn, Mary Igo, and Martin Davis.
- You conclude greeting and proceed to Room 127 where you are met by Rhonda Whitenack who will escort you to the training of volunteers by SSA for Medicare enrollment.
- You greet participants in training session.
- You conclude participation in visit and proceed to Room 124 where you meet briefly with conversation participants.
- You conclude meeting and proceed with Administrator McClellan to offstage announce.  
**Note:** Other conversation participants proceed on to stage.
- Administrator McClellan is announced on to stage.
- You are announced on to stage.
- Administrator McClellan introduces you.
- You begin conversation.  
**Note:** There will be 45 attendees seated behind you on stage.
- Upon conclusion of conversation, you work rope line and depart.

VI. REMARKS

Provided by Speechwriting

## VII. ATTACHMENT

### Background on Conversation Participants

## **BACKGROUND ON CONVERSATION PARTICIPANTS**

### Dr. Mark McClellan, Administrator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), Department of Health and Human Services (Baltimore, Maryland)

- Dr. McClellan was sworn in as CMS Administrator on March 25, 2004. Prior to this position, he served as Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration.
- In 2001 and 2002, Dr. McClellan served in the White House as a Member of your Council of Economic Advisers.
- Previously, he was Associate Professor of Economics at Stanford University, Associate Professor of Medicine at Stanford Medical School, a practicing internist, and Director of the Program on Health Outcomes Research at Stanford University. He was also a Research Associate of the National Bureau of Economic Research and a Visiting Scholar at the American Enterprise Institute.
- Dr. McClellan is married with twin daughters.

### Kristine “Kris” Orluck, Senior Coordinator, Maple Grove Community Center (Brooklyn Park, Minnesota)

- Kris Orluck is the senior coordinator at Maple Grove Community Center.
- She develops programs for seniors including: social recreational programs, health screening, computer education, and fitness programs.
- From her work with seniors in the community, she has noticed that they are ill-informed and often misinformed about the new Medicare options.
- Kris is working with the Social Security Administration to develop programs to educate seniors on the different new opportunities Medicare offers and how to take advantage of the new programs.
- She helped navigate the Medicare process when her late mother-in-law, Joan, needed cancer treatments. This first-hand experience showed Kris how important Medicare is to seniors.
- Kris and her husband, Tom, have two daughters.

### Dorothy Bourgeois [boor-ZWAH], Retired (Maple Grove, Minnesota)

- Dorothy Bourgeois is retired and receives Medicare benefits.
- She plans to sign up for the new prescription drug benefit and encourages other seniors in her community to take advantage of the new benefits like “Welcome to Medicare” physicals and screenings.
- Because most of her friends do not understand the new Medicare benefits and the “Welcome to Medicare” physical, Dorothy volunteers at Senior Community Service to inform other seniors on the options available to them.
- She thinks Medicare is important to seniors because the drugs that they depend on are often expensive.
- Dorothy is single and has three grown children and one granddaughter.

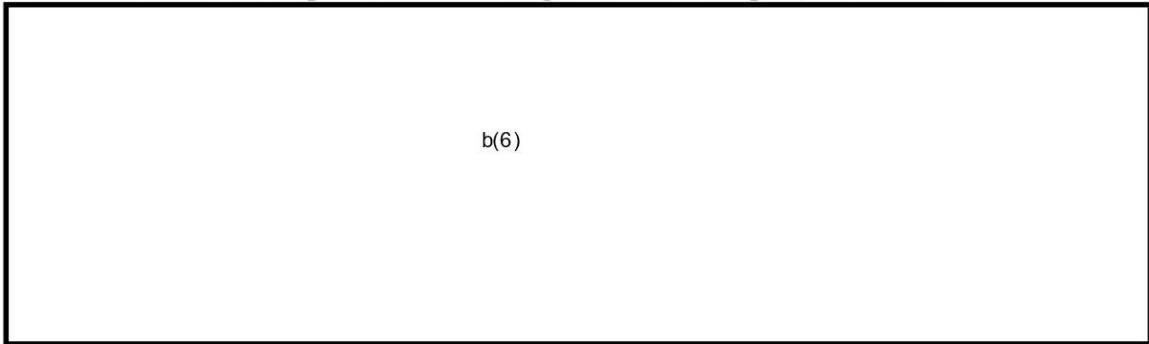
Steven “Steve” Preston, President and CEO, Falks Woodland Pharmacy, Inc. (Duluth, Minnesota)

- Steve Preston is president and CEO of Falks Woodland Pharmacy, Inc., which owns seven pharmacies in the Duluth area.
- Most of his customers do not understand the new Medicare benefits and often seek his advice.
- Steve plans to reach out to his senior customers this summer to explain the upcoming Medicare prescription drug benefits and additional coverage options.
- He believes MMA is a step in the right direction, and he thinks the prescription drug benefit will provide extra help for the seniors that need it most.
- Steve and his wife, Carla, have one daughter. He also has a daughter from a previous marriage.

Tamera [tam-RAH] Shumaker [shoe-MAKER], Pharmacist, Walgreen’s (Maple Grove, Minnesota)

- Tamera Shumaker is a pharmacist at Walgreen’s in Champlin, Minnesota.

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