2016 Election Preview and Tips for Advocacy

Mary Krinkie
Vice President Government Relations
Minnesota Hospital Association

2016 Election Preview

- 2016 is obviously a Presidential race – which has been and will continue to be the focus of the media, making it difficult for other candidates to garner voter attention.
- Every 12 years MN has neither a gubernatorial race nor a U.S. Senate race. Gov. Mark Dayton is at the midpoint of his second term and not on the ballot in 2016.
- MN has 8 congressional races; three of which are considered competitive.
  - District 2: GOP primary winner v. Angie Craig
  - District 3: Rep. Erik Paulsen v. state senator Terri Bonoff
  - District 8: Rep. Rick Nolan v. Stewart Mills (rematch)
All 201 state legislative races are on the ballot; 67 state senate races and 134 state house races.

The MN Senate currently has 39 DFL members and 28 Republican members.
- State senators will be running for a 4-year term.
- Flipping six seats from DFL to Republican would change the majority party status.

The MN House currently has 73 Republican members and 61 DFL members.
- Flipping eight seats from Republican to DFL would change the majority party status.
- Of the 11 Republicans who beat DFL House members in 2014, 10 are from rural districts.

2016 Election Preview

Minnesota State Senate Races

Retirements: (13 seats)
- Sen. LeRoy Stumpf, Senate District 1, DFL-Plummer
- Sen. Roger Reinert, Senate District 7, DFL-Duluth
- Sen. John Pederson, Senate District 14, R-St. Cloud
- Sen. Dave Brown, Senate District 15, R-Becker
- Sen. Kathy Sheran, Senate District 19, DFL-Mankato (Chair, HHS Policy)
- Sen. Alice Johnson, Senate District 37, DFL-Blaine
- Sen. Barb Goodwin, Senate District 41, DFL-Columbia Heights
- Sen. Sen. Bev Scalze, Senate District 42, DFL-Little Canada
- Sen. Terri Bonoff, Senate District 44, DFL - Minnetonka
- Sen. Julianne Ortman, Senate District 47, R-Chanhassen
- Sen. Jim Metzen, Senate District 52, DFL-South St. Paul (deceased)
- Sen. Katie Sieben, Senate District 54, DFL-Newport
- Sen. Dave Thompson, Senate District 58, R-Lakeville
### 2016 Election Preview

#### Minnesota State House Races

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Retirements: (10 not running for the State Senate)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rep. Dave Hancock, House District 2A, R-Bemidji</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rep. Tim Kelly, House District 21A, R-Red Wing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rep. Tim Sanders, House District 37B, R-Blaine</td>
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<td>Rep. Joe Atkins, House District 52B, DFL-Inver Grove Heights</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rep. Denny McNamara, House District 54B, R-Hastings</td>
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<td><em>(Chair, HHS Policy)</em></td>
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#### House members running for the state senate

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<th>5 House members running in open State Senate seats:</th>
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Political Involvement

- All candidates are looking for information, donations and volunteers.
- Hospital trustees are respected community leaders. Candidates would like to hear from you.
- Encourage your hospital CEO to host a legislative candidate visit.
  - This invitation could be open-ended or date/time specific. Offer to attend with your CEO and other members of the hospital’s leadership team.
  - Try to meet with all incumbents seeking re-election in your hospital’s service area.
  - If it is an open seat, try and meet with both candidates.

- Use the MHA Election Toolkit to assist you. *(This is available on the MHA website, member center.)*

Suggested topics to discuss at a legislative/candidate visit

- If you are meeting with incumbent legislators, thank them for prioritizing mental health in both the 2015 and 2016 Sessions.
  - Nearly $100 million in new mental health funding --- and it was supported on a bi-partisan basis. Ask them to make mental health a priority again in 2017. The needs are still great.

- Showcase your hospital’s patient safety and quality work.
  - The best way to beat the MNA’s continued lobbying for a government mandated nurse staffing ratio is to illustrate this expensive proposal is simply NOT needed.

- Be sure to express that the hospital is still opposed to government mandated nurse staffing ratios. Even if you have discussed this issue before in previous legislative meetings, it needs to be voiced again.

- Discuss your hospital’s workplace violence prevention efforts.

- Share information about your hospital:
  - The number of employees, the services you provide, the economic impact;
  - The hospital’s community benefits and the goals of your non-profit mission;
  - Concerns about government underpayment in the Medicare and Medicaid programs. Your legislative visits, however, should not be focused on finances, but on service to the community!
## Next steps

- Contribute to the Minnesota Hospital PAC!
- Encourage hospital CEOs to conduct legislative/candidate visits.
- Do personal outreach with your local legislators and candidates seeking election.
- Vote on Tuesday, November 8.
- Be a positive voice with Minnesota legislators and on behalf of Minnesota legislators.
- Become a health care resource contact for legislators.

**The work you do now will reap benefits for the hospital community in 2017 and into the future!**