

Chapter 18

What's Broken and How to Fix It-- Part 2

Part 1 of *What's Broken and How to Fix It* dealt with the lack of constitutional and legislative qualifications for the State Auditor. Part 2 deals with "Voter's Right to Know." Minnesota Statute 204B.35, Subdivision 2, states,

"The name of a candidate shall not appear on a ballot in any way that gives the candidate an advantage over an opponent, including words descriptive to the candidate's occupation, qualifications, principles, or opinions, except as otherwise provided by law."

Notice that the statute says, "*name.*" It does not say, "*legal name.*"



For a policy-making position like a Legislator or a Governor, I see no problem with this statute; however, for professional positions like State Auditor and Attorney General, this law leaves the voter in the dark, especially, when it is coupled with the fact that there are no minimum qualifications for State Auditor and Attorney General (see Chapter 17, *What's Broken and How to Fix It -- Part 1*).

At the end of the statute are the words "except as otherwise provided by law." Here is where the remedy can emerge.

With or without legislation setting qualifications for State Auditor and Attorney General, the Legislature would serve these offices well by passing legislation that requires candidates for State Auditor and Attorney General to include professional designations like CPA.

This *Constitutional Office Enhancement Act of 2010* in conjunction with a legislative or constitutionally mandated minimum requirement for these offices will be indispensable to selecting qualified candidates.

A number of curious Minnesota ballot listings make a strong case for including CPA as part of a candidate's name where the inclusion of these letters benefits the voters of Minnesota.

James Janos appeared on the ballot as Jesse Ventura. Judi Dutcher, while she was the first pregnant woman in Minnesota to run for statewide office, used her famous father's last name (Gopher Basketball coach, Jim Dutcher) instead of her husband's last name, Hedblom on the ballot. Amy Klobuchar is married to John Bessler, yet places her well-known journalist father's name of Klobuchar on the ballot.

These examples provide ample precedence for names of convenience that provide no meaningful information to the voter. Surely assuring the voters that a candidate for State Auditor is qualified, with the addition of *CPA* to the ballot, is a more compelling reason.

Ask Jeff A Question

This chapter's selected question is from Greg in Duluth.

Greg asks, "Cousin, How are you going to find time to go hunting if elected State Auditor?"

Jeff's Answer: Well, it's all about priorities.



After the GOP election defeats of 2006, I became very concerned about the direction of our country and began my re-engagement with organized conservative politics.

In President Reagan Second Inaugural Address, Monday, January 21, 1985, he asked the following questions, "*If not us, who? And if not now, when?*"

Well, maybe I will find time to go hunting.

Well, maybe not.

Address all your questions directly to me at Contact Jeff. Please include name and town, name and town, if you wish to opine.

Current Event, Propitious Trends

The American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) recently announced its support of legislation (H.R. 4410) introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives by Reps. Collin Peterson, D-Minn., and Mike Conaway, R-Texas. The purpose of this bill is to require the U.S. Comptroller General to be a CPA.



The time for government accountability has come.

Sincerely,

Jeff Wiita, CPA

Prepared and paid for by Jeff Wiita, CPA for State Auditor

http://www.jeffforstateauditor.com/Home_Page.html

Contact Jeff