

Today's Message

Today's message is *elected v. appointed*. As you know by now, if you have been following the race for State Auditor, the State of Minnesota has two Auditors; the *elected* State Auditor who has oversight over local governments, and the *appointed* [Legislative Auditor](#) who has oversight over state departments ([for more on the Office of the Legislative Auditor, click here](#)). Before the 1973 Reorganization Act, the two were one and the position was appointed and called the Public Examiner's Office ([for more information on the 1973 Reorganization Act, click here](#)).

The elected State Auditor is a Constitutional Officer with *no* Constitutional duties with regards to examination and oversight of local governmental entities ([click here to read the Minnesota Constitution](#)). The State Auditor's duties are written in Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 6 and can be changed or withdrawn by the State Legislature and the Governor at their will. They did this during the 1973 Reorganization Act. The Legislative Auditor is *appointed by*, and *reports to*, the bi-partisan [Legislative Audit Commission \(LAC\)](#).

An appointed position can also be or become partisan and political; the [U.S. Supreme Court](#) comes to mind. On one side, you have [Chief Justice John Roberts](#). On the other side, you have [Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg](#). On one side, you have [Justice Clarence Thomas](#). On the other side, you have [Justice Sonia Sotomayor](#). I'm sure you get the point. But the goal is to achieve the highest form of independence, and that is why the [Founding Fathers of the United States](#) made

the Supreme Court appointed with a confirmation process by the [U.S. Senate](#).

Can you image the disdain with which the State Legislature would react if someone proposed to place the elected partisan, political position of State Auditor in charge of oversight of departments of the State of Minnesota? Even the liberal democrats would not go along with that idea.

Why? Independence.

Even a liberal democrat understands that a position that is *appointed by*, and *reports to*, a bi-partisan commission inherently has more independence than an elected position. These are the basics of independence that are taught in Compliance Auditing 101, and I'm sure that that is why the legislature didn't consider the idea in the 1973 Reorganization Act.

The other candidates for State Auditor defend the elected partisan, political position of State Auditor. Why am I the only candidate for State Auditor asking for a Constitutional Amendment to eliminate the elected position of State Auditor and, at the same time, combine the duties of State Auditor with the duties of the Legislative Auditor (recreating the Public Examiner's Office)? Why am I the only conservative voice in the conservative wilderness addressing the issue of independence in fact and appearance? Why should local governments be subjected to partisan politics?

I know you know these answers; I just decided to ask you the rhetorical questions.

[\(Click here to find out how to eliminate a political welfare check\)](#)

[\(Click here to view a flowchart of the Evolution of the Minnesota Financial Departments\)](#)

Those who think that I am trying to be opportunistic are wrong. I have wanted to eliminate the elected position of State Auditor since 1994. In 1994, I prepared a report and hand delivered a copy to the mailboxes of each Legislator, mailed a copy to the Governor, State Auditor and Legislative Auditor then mailed a copy to the media ([click here to read a copy of the 1994 research report](#)). The last paragraph on page 27 of the 1994 research report says it all.

I have no direct confirmation, but I did hear of some indirect conversations that this report might have been the impetus behind Representative Kevin Knight's (R) initiative to eliminate the elected position of State Treasurer, which was held by a democrat. It may have stopped there because the State Auditor was Republican Judi Dutcher, who went to the Dark Side in 2000. In 1998, the people voted to eliminate the elected position of State Treasurer. It is now time to do the same with the elected position of State Auditor.

For those who want to protect a Constitutional Officer who has *no* Constitutional duties with regards to examination and oversight of local governmental entities, I ask you, how many

Constitutional Officers do you want? Should we have a Constitutional Officer for Dog Catcher? I know you now get the point.

I ask all delegates to the state convention to ask yourself if we should continue giving professional politicians a political welfare check and a forum to advance their statewide name recognition before running for higher office like Governor, Lt. Governor or U.S. Senate without ever having to cast a single vote on a critical policy issue like Life.

The wind is at our backs for clean government and new ideas. I am one of *the few* with genuine ideas. I'm Jeff Wiita, I'm a CPA, and I'm asking for your vote for State Auditor at the Republican Convention.

Keep Smiling 😊
Jeff Wiita, CPA