



2008 Election and the Effect on State Health Care Policy

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U.S. Senate Election

- Norm Coleman(R) vs. Al Franken(DFL) vs. Dean Barkley(I)
- Health care is NOT a topic of high interest in this election
- Positions
 - Norm Coleman believes everyone deserves access to quality, affordable health care that they, not the government, control. Co-sponsor of Wyden (D, OR) bill which includes an individual mandate for coverage.
 - Al Franken believes in single payer, but supporting state requirement to achieve universal coverage however they choose (funded by the federal government). Must include single payer for kids.
 - Dean Barkely proposes that we use the Government's current Medicare System and open up that system to all Americans on a cost basis. Let the private sector compete with the public sector and see who wins.
- Coleman maintains a lead despite strong DFL position in MN

U.S Congressional Races

- Health care is NOT a topic of high interest in these elections
- MN 2nd, 4th, 5th 7th and 8th districts are fairly certain outcomes
- 1st district – Tim Walz (DFL, Inc.) vs. Brian Davis (R)
 - Walz: Affordable accessible care, Medicare Rx negotiations
 - Davis: No government takeover, malpractice reform, competition and preventive care
- 6th district – Michelle Bachmann (R, Inc.) vs. El Tinklenberg (DFL)
 - Bachmann: Tax deductibility for all individual medical expenses
 - Tinklenberg: Expansion of SCHIP to cover all children. Public and private coverage coexist, guaranteed issue
- 3rd district – Ashwin Madia (DFL) vs. Eric Paulsen (R)
 - Madia: Payment reform, open up FEHBP to public, affordability index for coverage
 - Paulsen: More choices for individuals, less regulation on physicians

State Level - What Just Happened

- Health care reform legislation adopted in 2008
 - Health Care Home
 - Quality measurement and reporting
 - Efficiency measures developed
 - Baskets of care
 - Public health investment
 - Section 125 offering requirement
- MN Department of Health will lead implementation
- Everyone involved is happy with the product

What Does That Mean

- Is the public paying attention?
 - Who is?
- Are policy makers satisfied?
- How will this be implemented?
- How do we pay for this?
- What will change during the 2008 session?



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MN State Elections 2008

- All 134 House seats up for election in 2008
 - Current makeup 85 DFL – 48 R – 1 IR
 - DFL 5 seats away from a veto proof majority
 - 15 open seats 5 DFL – 9 R – 1 IR
- 2 Senate special elections
- Buried by Presidential and U.S. Senate elections
- Larger more immediate impact on MN policy.
- Not a health care election



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Health Care Messages

- DFL
 - Access
 - Need for Change
 - Some single-payer
- Republican
 - Affordability
 - Choice
 - Consumer driven - Less government



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If the DFL Picks Up Seats

- Veto proof majority would make republicans and the Governor relatively useless.
- Moderate DFLers and Republicans gain some leverage.
- Continued push on health care reform consistent with 2008 session - focus on access
 - Expansion of MNCare
 - Aggressive payment reform proposals
 - Larger role for govt./legislative oversight
 - Tax increases



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If the Republicans Pick Up Seats

- Smaller majority will make it difficult for DFL leadership to push their agenda through
- Strengthens Governor Pawlenty's position to bargain
- Bigger push for pure market reforms to health care – focus on cost
 - Transparency
 - HSAs
 - Tax credits for purchasing health insurance
 - Competition

The Races to Watch

- 28A – Red Wing – **Wollschlager (DFL, Inc.)** vs. Kelley (R)
- 29B – Rochester – **Norton (DFL, Inc.)** vs. Johnson (R)
- 31B – La Crescent – **Tschumper (DFL, Inc.)** vs. Davids (R)
- 37A – Apple Valley – **Madore (DFL, Inc.)** vs. Mack (R)
- 37B – Rosemount – **Open Seat** - Sterner (DFL) vs. Lindsay (R)
- 38A – Eagan – **Masin (DFL, Inc.)** vs. Anderson (R)
- 38B – Eagan – Obermueller (DFL) vs. **Wardlow (R, Inc.)**
- 41A – Edina – Staunton (DFL) vs. **Erhardt (Ind., Inc.)** vs. Downey (R)
- 41B – Bloomington – Rosenthal (DFL) vs. Schneider (R)
- 49B - Coon Rapids – **Open Seat** – Newton (DFL) vs. Cimenski (R)
- 51A – Blaine – **Open Seat** – Hamilton (DFL) vs. Sanders (R)
- 53A – Shoreview – **Gardner (DFL, Inc.)** vs. Kappler (R)
- 56A – Woodbury – **Bunn (DFL, Inc.)** vs. Lohmer (R)
- 56B – Woodbury – **Swails (DFL, Inc.)** vs. Bohlson (R)

What Will Happen

- Most likely is that there won't be a huge shakeup in the House makeup.
- Budget will take up most of the energy
 - Big impact on health care
- There will be some interest in fixing the 2008 health care reform legislation.
- Most legislators will not be up for another big reform push.
- If the House DFL picks up 5 more seats all bets are off.



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