



Current **31°** Daytime Nighttime  
 Reafel: 23° High: 34° Low: 18°  
[Click Here For 5 Day Forecast](#)

[My Newspaper](#) [My Community](#) [My Pride](#) [My Marketplace](#) [My Services](#) [My Area Newspapers](#) [My Email](#)

[Home](#) • [News](#) • [Obituaries](#) • [Sports](#) • [Outdoors](#) • [Orchids & Onions](#) • [Business](#) • [Columnists](#) • [Our Views](#) • [Your Views](#) • [Weddings & Engagements](#) • [Special Sections](#) • [Classifieds](#)

## Archives > Our Views

[Print](#) | [E-mail](#) | [9 comment\(s\)](#) | [Rate](#) | [Text Size](#)

## WE ENDORSE:

### COLEMAN FOR U.S. SENATE

Published: Saturday, October 25, 2008 9:50 PM CDT

We firmly believe the most important issue this election campaign for the Iron Range is which candidates for state and federal office will work the hardest, and without giving an inch to certain environmental special interest groups, when it comes to helping pave the way for jobs in the region.

U.S. Sen. Norm Coleman has a proven six-year record of working hard in a bipartisan manner for economic development projects in the state and on the Iron Range. We have been especially pleased to see the harmonious working relationship between Minnesota political party Senate opposites ♦ Republican Coleman and Democrat Amy Klobuchar ♦ for the betterment of the state. That speaks well of both.

The senator, an advocate for rural Minnesota, is definitely deserving of a second six-year term and has more than earned our endorsement over Independence Party candidate Dean Barkley and Democratic nominee Al Franken. Coleman has been a champion of mining initiatives, including his wholehearted support of non-ferrous ventures of PolyMet near Hoyt Lakes and Franconia Minerals on Birch Lake near Babbitt.

**Clayridge**  
 Assisted Living & Memory Care  
 Biwabik, MN  
 218-865-4588  
[www.salmihomes.com](http://www.salmihomes.com)

He understands that the Iron Range was built on development of our natural resources; that we extract minerals to create jobs that provide opportunities for families to stay in the area and to build healthy communities. And, in so doing, we produce the raw materials that are used to make products vital to both the everyday lives of Americans and also to the country's national security.

Coleman also understands that these mining projects can move ahead successfully with modern technology helping to ensure that the environment will be protected while the area benefits from new jobs.

The senator has also been a consistent and persistent supporter of the Excelsior Energy clean-coal project for the Range ♦ a venture that would develop four units across the region while creating hundreds and hundreds of construction, permanent and spin-off jobs. Excelsior would also lead to more utility competition on the Range and in the state, which would be good for everyone.

Coleman teamed with the majority of area DFL legislators and Democratic U.S. Rep. Jim Oberstar to move the coal gasification project forward. While lawmakers did their jobs securing Iron Range Resources Board funding and also legislative support in St. Paul, Coleman led the effort in Congress to obtain \$133.5 million in federal tax credits for the project.

In addition, Coleman is working with both Republicans and Democrats in Washington to get funding to develop and build underground pipelines in the country to sequester carbon dioxide emissions from the coal gasification plants that would transfer that carbon residue to other areas where it could be used in further energy production. Such a project does not happen overnight. It needs public servants who see its value and how it fits into an overall Made in the USA energy policy and who then keep the faith and do

### 30 day basic Site Search:

Enter Keywords

[Click Here to search OUR ARCHIVES](#)  
 (Articles OLDER than 30 DAYS)

### Top News

- [Misty afternoon](#)  
Friday, October 24, 2008 11:48 PM CDT
- [6 seeking 3 Chisholm council seats](#)  
Saturday, October 25, 2008 9:50 PM CDT
- [3 seek Eveleth mayor's job; 4 eye 2 council seats](#)  
Saturday, October 25, 2008 9:50 PM CDT
- [Lessard's longtime goal on ballot](#)  
Saturday, October 25, 2008 9:50 PM CDT

### Most Commented

- [Obama backers not for America](#) (88)
- [\\$250,000 is now middle class?](#) (73)
- [McCain and Palin are pro-life, and deserve your vote](#) (54)
- [HILLARY HYSTERIA: Sen. Clinton rallies support for Obama on Range](#) (47)

### Most Read

- [Two injured in vehicle-train accident](#) (1064)
- [Fire burns Virginia trailer home](#) (1016)
- [Marie Ann Biondich](#) (625)
- [Rough day](#) (550)

### My Marketplace

#### AUTOS

fiberglass topper, Blue, off a '99 Chevy Silverado Ext Cab Short Box, great cond, \$250 (218)744-1297

Ford F150 '03 Super Crew, 4x4, 92K, bucket seats, 6 Disk CD, newer tires, perfect shape, \$11,000. (218)749-3849

**Bella**  
 A GREAT HAIR ON MAIN.  
 ~age~ ~Hand & Nail Art~  
 Gift Cards Available ~  
 Formerly Hair on Main  
 409 Chestnut St.,  
 Virginia  
 To Make a Reservation,  
 Please Call 741-1920  
 or 866-735-5089

not give up the battle. Sen. Coleman is one of those elected officials.

Barkley, who was the successful campaign manager for the stunning victory of Jesse Ventura 10 years ago in Minnesota's gubernatorial campaign, has run a good, healthy campaign. He has given voters a real third party choice, with his poll numbers running in the mid-teens.

Barkley has demonstrated over two decades, including serving in the U.S. Senate for a few weeks as a bridge to fill out former U.S. Sen. Paul Wellstone's term following his tragic death and before Coleman took office after his election, that he knows how to connect with voters from a third-party standpoint. Thus he has once again provided a valuable service to this election year.

Barkley, a former small businessman, has worked with a budget and met a payroll. That gives him yet another positive link with working people of the state and those who operate small businesses.

Barkley is definitely our second choice in this race. However, we are concerned that he has not been a strong public advocate for mining and logging and multiple use of our recreation areas in Northeastern Minnesota. Perhaps he is supportive on those issues, but that has not been a key component of his campaign.

Franken has brought "star" quality to the election. He is clearly a darling of Democratic activists in the state. And he's also been embraced by national Democratic groups because they see his victory as helping the party to secure 60 votes in the Senate, which would allow the majority party to close off debate and push through its agenda.

But we find Franken to be sadly out of step on issues that play such a crucial role in the future of Northeastern Minnesota.

We are especially concerned with Franken on economic development issues.

He has been lukewarm at best ♦" and that's being kind ♦" regarding the copper/nickel/precious metals mining projects on the East Range. Meanwhile, Coleman has been a steadfast supporter of those projects and the jobs they will create. That's a huge, huge difference.

On Excelsior Energy, Franken is opposed to the project. He has flat out said it should be built elsewhere ♦" in coal country ♦" with the jobs it would create benefiting another state. So much for looking at an innovative way for economic development in Minnesota and on the Iron Range. Coleman and most DFL legislators have worked hard to move along this energy project.

Regarding recreational use of our land and water, Franken has obviously been prepped well to stay away from seeking the endorsement of the Sierra Club, which is a constant challenger of multiple use and mining and logging on the Range. However, we believe that's just a politically convenient move by the Democratic candidate.

Coleman has a six-year record that is open to plenty of criticism from Democratic partisans and also disagreement in some parts from independents and Republicans. And Coleman certainly has his flaws and made his mistakes while serving in Washington. We find he has been far too much of a globetrotter at the public's expense. Yes many of his trips, such as those to Iraq and Brazil, were for good public policy purposes. But some were not.

Franken also has a public record from his job ♦" that as a satirist. He has made a good living from writing jokes and performing skits on "Saturday Night Live."

Some of those jokes he penned included ones about rape. During the campaign, Franken said some of his jokes were over the top and not funny and he has apologized for them. However, why would anyone at any time think there could even be a humorous punch line when the subject is rape? That's just repulsive.

The heavily DFL Iron Range will have a lot to say about the U.S. Senate election on Nov. 4. We hope that voters, regardless their political party, give deep thought and consideration to which candidate is best for the economic future of the Iron Range. And we hope they look closely at which person on the ballot would work best in a bipartisan way to get things done in Washington in these troubled times.

We believe without hesitation that candidate is Norm Coleman.

## EMPLOYMENT

Nail Tech & Hair Stylist Booth rental an option. Call Mary Ann at (218)780-7630.

Management ON SITE RESIDENT MANAGER TEAM  
For a 36 Unit Development in Virginia, MN. Duties include: Office leasing, Janitorial, Building & Ground Maintenance. Please send resumes to : Box 7215 Duluth, MN 55807 EOE

[More](#)

**Cottage Goods**  
Eveleth, MN

---

*"It's A Girl Thing!!"*

**Vintage  
&  
New Home  
Furnishings  
&  
Gifts**

**Cottage Goods**  
508 Grant Ave  
Eveleth, MN 55734  
218-744-0500

Open M-F 10-5  
Sat 10-3

Click or Call Now for  
More Information



[Next Article »](#)[Political hate incidents are bipartisan](#)**Article Rating**Current Rating: 1 of 1  
votes!Rate File: **Before you post a comment, consider this:**

- 1. Keep it clean. Comments that are obscene, vulgar, lewd or sexually-oriented will get the ax. Creative spelling of such terms also will be banned.
- 2. Don't threaten to hurt or kill anyone or anything.
- 3. Be truthful. Don't lie about anyone or anything.
- 4. Be nice. No racism, sexism or any other sort of -ism that degrades another person.
- 5. Keep it local. Do not post direct links to sites outside of VirginiaMN.com.
- 6. Share what you know. Give us your eyewitness accounts, background, observations and history.
- 7. Ask questions. What more do you want to know about the story?
- 8. Stay focused. Keep on the story's topic.

**Reader Comments**

The following are comments from the readers. In no way do they represent the view of virginiamn.com.

**498638** wrote on Oct 27, 2008 2:19 PM:

" I agree with the MDN endorsement. Sen Coleman has been excellent for NE MN. and his record proves it. "

**lettem01** wrote on Oct 27, 2008 12:35 PM:

" Al Franken couldn't carry Paul Wellstone's lunch pail let alone carry on his heels in the Senate. It would be interesting to see the comments about Franken's moral character if he would have had an 'R' behind his name instead of a 'D'. Having that 'D' cust grant one an extraordinary amount of absolution. "

**Om** wrote on Oct 27, 2008 12:08 PM:

" No surprise at all.

So let's see. You're mad at him because he made 1 bad joke in 30 years of writing (have you even read the truth behind this claim? No, that would be journalism and the MDN doesn't do that).

You're mad at him because he did NOT accept Sierra Club endorsement. Your mad at him for a whole bunch of BS, in other words. No, the editor of the MDN isn't a GOP-shill at all.

Coleman's record speaks for itself, and it is not the record of a man who cares about his constituents more than he cares about getting elected. Sad.

Not that I care, I'm voting for Ventura. "

**free2go012** wrote on Oct 26, 2008 10:22 PM:

" Oh please, Coleman could care less about us up here!!! I can't believe that this paper endorsed him...It just makes me shake my head. I'm not surprised, but I am very disappointed by your choice...I guess it's my choice not to buy your paper... "

**mouse** wrote on Oct 26, 2008 8:56 PM:

" Some of us women probably have more experience with rape than Bill and his "fans" here, and no, I was not offended by Franken's suggestion for a skit on SNL, thirteen years ago. Neither were most intelligent people. It is satire.

Again, a brainstorming session by writers of comedy THIRTEEN years or more ago generates one UNUSED joke, (unused because it wasn't funny and did it get dug out of the garbage or what?) and this is what some of you keep coming back to?

Anyone else notice that it is the kind of poster who doesn't normally defend women, not just Bill, who lists this old suggestion for a joke as something offensive enough to them that they can't vote for him. Where is all of this support for women anywhere else from them? Normally not a women's best friend, but this one thing just pushes them over the edge and they can't support the guy because of it. Why is that?  
A little ingenuous desperation?

Another thing: Who is this "we" who is supporting Coleman? I asked last week, is it just Bill, or is it all of the MDN staff, or is it a general consensus of staff, employees and owners. There's no "signature" to this support, it's anonymous, even though the MDN finds anonymity when making critical statements to be "cowardly". "

**forty** wrote on Oct 26, 2008 7:14 PM:

" As the editorial page said earlier in the week, after they endorse, then I vote the opposite! Has everyone forgotten that this is the same Norm Coleman that voted with George Bush to give our Social Security to Wall Street to manage a mere 6 years ago? Where would we be if the democrats had allowed that to happen??? I am so sick of this absurd sportsmen for whatever republican runs every four years. It is a non issue, at a

time when there are so many other things like our social security, healthcare etc. to worry about. "

**Lonesome\_Polecat** wrote on Oct 26, 2008 5:32 PM:

" Franken has the courage to repeatedly peel the hide off W, Cheney, and Bush administration funkies like Coleman. Sorry MDN, but Franken has this independent's vote. "

**stormy7** wrote on Oct 26, 2008 11:17 AM:

" Surprise Surprise. The Mesabi new endorses Norm Coleman. Too bad it's a losing endorsement for a loser like Coleman. Norm Coleman has been in the back pocket of the Bush Administration ever since they got rid of Paul Wellstone. What a crappy eight years it has been. Well the Range has a man running for the U. S. Senate by the name of Al Franken, who will carry on Paul's legacy. I'm voting for Al because he cares about all of the people of Minnesota. Not the bureaucrats in Washington. Start packing Norm! "

**ranger47** wrote on Oct 26, 2008 9:45 AM:

" Good objective journalism....thanks. It states the facts.

I simply reinforce one of your fundamental reasons not to vote for Franken, his misguided moral values, which he thinks is funny.

Franken never was funny. He might be absurd, laughable, ludicrous, ridiculous, strange, suspicious, unusual & weird, but not funny. "

**Submit a Comment**

We encourage your feedback and dialog.

**Name:**

**Email:**

(optional)

**Comments:**

**Image Verification:**




Post Comment

[Return to: Our Views](#) < | [Home](#) << | [Top of Page](#) ^



[My Newspaper](#) | [My Community](#) | [My Pride](#) | [My Marketplace](#) | [My Services](#) | [My Area Newspapers](#)  
 Copyright © 2008 ACM [Privacy Policy](#)

**Mesabi Daily News \* 704 7th Ave. \* Virginia, MN 55792 \* Phone - (218) 741-5544 \* Fax - (218) 741-1005**