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## Election 2008: Who People in Minnesota Should Vote For

*Editor's note: the name of the incumbent candidate is italicized, while the candidate we're endorsing is in bold.*

### SENATE

#### ***Norm Coleman (R)***

Al Franken (D)

The Left is frothing over this race, but the passion seems displaced. Coleman, a centrist uncomfortable in a right-wing party, is exactly the kind of Republican Democrats can work with; Franken, the sort of knee-jerk partisan that both parties should avoid like disease. Anyway, we preferred his earlier, funny work.

**Esquire endorses:** Coleman

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

#### ***Congressional District 1***

Brian Davis (R)

#### ***Tim Walz (D)***

In an early sign that the president was political poison, Walz, a neophyte, deposed a six-term incumbent and strict Bush supporter in 2006. In the House, he's united his two previous careers--high school teacher and 24-year veteran of the Army National Guard--in supporting legislation to extend GI Bill benefits to previously ineligible soldiers.

**Esquire endorses:** Walz

#### ***District 2***

#### ***John Kline (R)***

Steve Sarvi (D)

Kline, a career military man before his 2002 election, has done good work to protect the jobs and families of soldiers sent overseas in the war on terror. That said, for resisting the idea that those who have the right to declare war--congressmen like him--have any oversight obligation when war goes wrong, he gets a demerit.

**Esquire endorses:** Kline

#### ***District 3***

Erik Paulsen (R)

#### ***Ashwin Madia (D)***

Sorry to say, moderate Republican Jim Ramstad is retiring. His proposed successor, Erik Paulsen, is far more doctrinaire than Ramstad ever was. The Democratic candidate, Ashwin Madia, is a centrist more in Ramstad's mold and an Iraq veteran to boot.

**Esquire endorses:** Madia

#### ***District 4***

Ed Matthews (R)

#### ***Betty McCollum (D)***

The quintessential Minnesota Democrat, McCollum's earnest Catholic faith animates her practical, results-oriented progressivism. Let others argue over Christian values; McCollum lives and works by them.

**Esquire endorses:** McCollum

#### ***District 5***

Barb Davis White (R)

#### ***Keith Ellison (D)***

Ever notice how *Koran* kind of rhymes with *moron*? The GOP priesthood got its undervestments in a twist when Ellison, the first Muslim elected to Congress (2006), swore his oath to the Constitution on the Koran. Nobody else seemed to care--religious freedom and all that. It's early yet, but Ellison is able.

**Esquire endorses:** Ellison

#### ***District 6***

Michele Bachmann (R)

#### ***Elwyn Tinklenberg (D)***

See ["The 10 Worst Members of Congress."](#)

**Esquire endorses:** Tinklenberg

#### ***District 7***

Glen Menze (R)

#### ***Collin Peterson (D)***

Why the GOP is fronting an opponent here is a mystery; Peterson's essentially a populist Republican, big on gun rights and small on taxes. But here's something everyone can appreciate: He wants to make it easier for farmers to replace corn with switchgrass for ethanol. Doing so would expand production (hooray, free market) and keep more wildlife habitat from going under the plow (hooray, Sierra Club).

**Esquire endorses:** Peterson

#### ***District 8***

Michael Cummins (R)

#### ***James Oberstar (D)***


The longest-serving Minnesota rep in history, Oberstar owes his tenancy to two things: his faith-based Democratic values and his championing of public lands, a big issue in a district of hunters, fishermen, and more-Lycra-oriented outdoorsmen.

**Esquire endorses:** Oberstar

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