

**Subject:** DFL Party: The Case for Pawlenty as Republican Nominee for Vice President  
**From:** "Kelly Schwinghammer" <kschwinghammer@df1.org>  
**Date:** Thu, 7 Feb 2008 14:23:33 -0600  
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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Media, Interested Parties  
**FROM:** Minnesota DFL Party  
**DATE:** February 7, 2008  
**RE:** The Case for Tim Pawlenty as Republican Nominee for Vice President

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With news today that Mitt Romney has suspended his campaign for president, speculation has begun about whether now-inevitable Republican nominee Senator John McCain will choose Governor Tim Pawlenty as his vice-presidential running mate.

This memorandum makes the case for Governor Tim Pawlenty as Senator McCain's running mate. Highlights include:

- Pawlenty was unable to carry Minnesota for his endorsed candidate at GOP precinct caucuses, while DFL caucus turnout dwarfed Republican turnout by close to a factor of four.
- Minnesotans are indifferent at best to Pawlenty's potential presence on the national Republican ticket.
- While governor, Pawlenty has watched his party lose a net 43 Republican legislative seats, and has been unable or unwilling to keep his own party in line.
- With economic issues rising to the forefront of voters' concerns nationally, Pawlenty has presided over dramatic job losses and Minnesota's slide into recession.

### The Case for Tim Pawlenty as Republican Nominee for Vice President:

**Pawlenty on Short List for McCain's Running Mate.** Presidential candidate Mike Huckabee and Florida Governor Charlie Crist are also mentioned. [US News, [2/6/08](#)]

**Minnesotans Cold to Idea of Pawlenty on Republican Ticket.** A Rasmussen poll released by FOX 9 News showed that 35% of Minnesotans polled said Pawlenty's presence on the national Republican ticket would make them less likely to vote Republican. Thirty percent said Pawlenty as the vice-presidential nominee would make no difference in their choice, while only 29% said that Pawlenty on the ticket would make them more likely to vote Republican. [FOX 9, [2/3/08](#)]

**Despite Pawlenty's Endorsement of McCain, Mitt Romney Is Landslide Winner of GOP Caucus Ballot .** The former Massachusetts governor was the favorite of 41.36% of Minnesota Republicans, with Senator McCain lagging a very distant second place with 21.98%. Former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee, with 19.93%, nearly bested McCain for third place. [Minnesota Secretary of State web site, accessed [2/7/08](#)]

**After Dramatic Minnesota Loss, McCain Backs out of Trip to Germany with Pawlenty.** Governor Tim Pawlenty was scheduled to travel to Germany this weekend with Republican presidential hopeful John McCain to attend a security conference. The Star Tribune reported that the trip was “prompting renewed questions about a possible vice presidential run. The governor again deflected the speculation.” On Wednesday, however, Senator McCain backed out of the trip. [Star Tribune, [2/5/08](#); Boston Globe, [2/6/08](#)]

**Pawlenty Traveled Country for McCain ... a Lot.** “Aside from his day job at the capitol, Pawlenty’s side gig as John McCain’s national co-chair has him crisscrossing the nation almost every weekend so far this year ... Take a look at his itinerary: Dec. 29: Pawlenty was in New Hampshire. The next week, to the Iowa caucuses. Then it was off to Michigan. And next was sunny Florida. Last weekend he was in Illinois ... The Governor racked up more than 6,700 miles in the last 40 days—all paid for by McCain’s campaign.” [KSTP-TV, [2/6/08](#)]

**Despite Extensive Travel, Pawlenty Continued to Deny Interest in Vice-Presidential Nomination.** “People always assign motives and labels, and half of the stuff is unfounded,” said Pawlenty. “There are a lot of commentators and writers and people who speculate about this, but it’s simply and clearly only that I want Senator McCain to be president. I don’t need or want anything else other than that, and there’s no agenda other than that.” [MPR, [1/13/08](#)]

**In Michigan, Pawlenty’s Motives Clear.** According to prominent Michigan Republican operative Dan Schnur, “... it’s clear Pawlenty is laying the groundwork for a possible run for higher office. ‘When you go out and campaign for another candidate for president, you develop a political network of your own. You meet the worker bees. You meet the local leaders, you meet the donors,’ said Schnur. ‘It’s very difficult for a governor for one state to develop a political base in another. One way to do that, the best way, is to campaign for another candidate for president.’” [MPR, [1/13/08](#)]

**While Pawlenty Repeatedly Left Minnesota, Republican Party Splintered.** While Pawlenty endorsed McCain, top Minnesota Republicans not only did not follow his lead, but dramatically splintered: Senator Norm Coleman endorsed Rudy Giuliani, House Minority Leader Marty Seifert endorsed Fred Thompson, Republican National Committee member Brian Sullivan endorsed Mitt Romney, and in a controversial move, state Republican Chair Ron Carey endorsed Mike Huckabee. (Senator Coleman endorsed McCain after Giuliani dropped out of the race.) [Star Tribune, [1/14/08](#); Star Tribune, [1/29/08](#); MPR, [1/7/08](#)]

**On Caucus Night, DFL Attendance Dwarfed Republicans by Nearly a Factor of Four.** An estimated 240,000 DFLers turned out for DFL caucuses on February 5, compared to about 65,000 Republicans. [Pioneer Press, [2/7/08](#)]

**Since Pawlenty Became Governor, Minnesota Republicans Have Lost 43 Legislative Seats, One Presidential Election and Three Statewide Races Other Than His.** Since 2002, Republicans have lost 33 seats in the Minnesota House of Representatives, falling from 81 in January 2003 (with one Republican vacancy at the time) to 49 today. In the Senate, Republicans have lost 10 members, falling from 31 in January 2003 (with one Independence Party member caucusing with the Republicans at the time) to 22 today. In addition, President George W. Bush lost Minnesota in 2004, while in 2006, Representative Mark Kennedy lost his race for the U.S. Senate and Secretary of State Mary Kiffmeyer and State Auditor Patricia Anderson were defeated for reelection. [Minnesota Legislature, House of Representatives data accessed [2/7/08](#); Senate data accessed [2/7/08](#)]

**While Pawlenty Campaigned at Iowa Caucuses, Republicans Lost Special Senate Election That Gave DFL Veto-Proof Majority.** Governor Pawlenty called a special state Senate election for January 3, 2008 to fill the vacancy in District 25 that he created when he named Senator Tom Neuville a district-court judge. While

Pawlenty attended caucuses in Mason City, DFL candidate Kevin Dahle won a 13-point victory that handed the Senate DFL caucus a veto-proof majority. [KAAL, [1/3/08](#); Star Tribune, [1/5/08](#)]

**Minnesota Now in Recession.** “Minnesota's official economic outlook, the basis for budget decisions affecting schools, roads, health care, taxes and more, now projects a national recession this year that could throw the state's finances deeper into the red ... Tom Stinson, Minnesota's state economist, informed legislators in St. Paul that Global Insight, an international economic research firm that performs budget forecasts for Minnesota and other state governments, now says there's no longer any doubt a recession has arrived.” [Star Tribune, [2/7/08](#)]

**Minnesota Will Face Even Bigger Budget Deficit.** “Minnesota's chief economist says there's no longer any doubt that a recession has arrived and a projected state budget deficit will ‘almost certainly’ worsen ... A new state budget forecast is due in a few weeks. In November, state finance officials projected a deficit in the two-year budget of \$373 million.” [West Central Tribune (AP), [2/7/08](#)]

**MnDOT Chronically Underfunded to the Tune of \$1 Billion Per Year.** According to a report by KARE-TV, MnDOT “is already reporting that current funding projections show they will be a \$23 billion shy of what they need to hit performance goals in Minnesota over the next 23 years.” [KARE 11, [11/27/07](#)]

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