



TO: Interested Parties

FROM: Lisa Grove
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RE: Minnesota Voters Want Coleman to Concede and Pawlenty to Certify the Election

DATE: April 26, 2009

This analysis is based on 600 interviews among registered voters in Minnesota. The survey was conducted April 22-25, 2009. A voter file sample was used and the data set reflects the true partisan, age, gender and geographic composition of the electorate. The margin of error is plus or minus 4.0 percentage points at the 95% level of confidence.

Voters Want Coleman to Concede and Pawlenty to Certify the Election for Three Reasons:

- 1. The recount has been fair**
- 2. A majority now believe Franken won**
- 3. The Minnesota Supreme Court should be the final arbiter**

Nearly six in 10 (59%) believe that Norm Coleman should concede to Al Franken. Only one-third (34%) do not feel Coleman should throw in the towel and another 7% are undecided. Even a significant number of self-identified Republicans (34%) are ready for Coleman to call it quits.

This may be due, in part, to the fact that nearly the same percentage – 61% -- believe the recount process has been “fair, impartial, accurate and carried out according to Minnesota law.” With less than one-quarter (24%) now questioning the process, it is clear that voters are ready to move on. Indeed, even a large number of self-identified Republicans (40%) believe the process has been fair, while self-identified Democrats (78%) and Independents (60%) are even more likely to feel this way.

A majority is also now convinced that Franken was the victor last November. Well over half (54%) believe Franken won the election. One-quarter (26%) are now of the opinion that Coleman pulled it off. Less than one in five believe the two contenders either tied (5%) or are unsure of who came out ahead (14%). While voters are a bit more divided on whether or not they back Coleman’s legal challenge (42% favor, 50% oppose), it is

clear they want this saga to be over and Franken in the Senate. Keep in mind that those who “strongly” oppose Coleman’s legal challenge (41%) outnumber “strong” supporters (29%) by a 12 point margin.

Lest we not forget, Minnesotans are still paying attention. Two-thirds (67%) are following the recount and court cases at least “somewhat closely” with one-quarter even more intent in their tracking of this issue (25% “very closely”).

Voters adopt a no-nonsense view of why Pawlenty should sign the certificate once the Minnesota Supreme court makes a final decision. When asked to provide the best reason for Pawlenty to sign a certificate declaring a winner from a list offered to them, the three top reasons include: a) the Supreme Court should have the final say (26%); b) Franken won (23%); and c) according to state law, it is Governor Pawlenty’s responsibility (22%).

The Governor and the Recount

Tim Pawlenty remains a fairly popular figure (50% favorable, 29% unfavorable). Though Minnesota voters give the Governor net negative job approval ratings, which are often a better measure of electoral strength.

The Governor’s negative approval ratings approach a majority (48%) and are four points higher than his positive job numbers (44%). In sharp contrast, President Obama is both better liked (64% favorable, 19% unfavorable), and receives positive approval ratings from a large majority of the electorate right now (58% positive, 32% negative).

What ought to be of concern to Governor Pawlenty is the fallout should he refuse to sign a certificate of election. A clear majority (58%) believe that failure to certify Franken after the Minnesota Supreme Court rules raises at least “somewhat serious doubts” about Tim Pawlenty. This number grows to 64% when voters are told that the governor is legally required to sign an election certificate. In fact, even four in 10 (40%) self-identified Republicans say they would have “serious doubts” with their

Perceptions of Whether Pawlenty Should or Should Not Sign a Certificate of Election

I’m going to read you two points of view on the U.S. Senate race:
[ROTATE]

__ SOME PEOPLE / OTHER PEOPLE say that Governor Pawlenty should not sign a certificate of election even after the Supreme Court has ruled on the case. These people say there is a legitimate concern that many voters may have been treated unfairly in the election. They also point out that waiting for the matter to be resolved in the federal courts is the responsible thing to do and makes sure no voter gets left behind.

__ SOME PEOPLE / OTHER PEOPLE say that Governor Pawlenty is playing partisan politics by not committing to sign an election certificate when the state Supreme Court rules. These people say that by dragging out the process as long as possible, Governor Pawlenty is helping conservative Republicans in Congress prevent the passage of President Obama’s proposals while elevating his own national profile among Republican party loyalists for his future Presidential bid.

Having heard this, which opinion do you agree with more?

Pawlenty should wait, strongly	26%	37%
Pawlenty should wait, not strongly	11%	
Pawlenty is concerned with helping party, not strongly	11%	
Pawlenty is concerned with helping party, strongly	38%	49%

Republican Governor should he fail to sign an election certificate after the Minnesota Supreme Court rules.

When given two opposing viewpoints, nearly half the electorate ascribe to the view that Pawlenty's motivations are not based on legitimate concerns about the process, but a desire to play partisan politics and help conservative Republicans in Congress. In fact, Minnesota voters are more likely to see the failure to certify as an emblem of Pawlenty's ambition than they are to believe that he prudently is waiting for the matter to be resolved in the federal courts.



**MINNESOTA STATEWIDE
TOPLINE RESULTS – APRIL 25, 2009**

I'm going to read you a list of people. After each, please tell me overall, do you have a very favorable, somewhat favorable, neutral, somewhat unfavorable, or very unfavorable impression of ____? **[READ NAME FROM LIST BELOW/ROTATE]** If you haven't heard of the person {7}, or if you don't know enough about it to have an impression {6}, just say so and we will move on. **[ROTATE]**

	Very fav	Swht fav	Neutral	Swht unfav	Very unfav	No opin	Nvr Hrd
__1. Tim Pawlenty	21	29	16	12	17	4	1
__2. Barack Obama	38	26	13	6	13	4	0

Now I'm going to read you the names of some public officials. After I read each name, please tell me if you think that officeholder is doing an excellent job, a good job, only a fair job, or a poor job. If you aren't sure how good a job that person or organization is doing, just say so. **[ROTATE]**

	Excl job	Good job	Only fair job	Poor job	DK
__3. Governor Tim Pawlenty	8	36	36	12	8
__4. President Barack Obama.....	18	40	23	9	10

5. How closely are you following the recount and court cases surrounding the U.S. Senate race in Minnesota – are you following the situation very closely, somewhat closely, not too closely or aren't you following the situation at all?

Very closely	25	67
Somewhat closely	42	
Not too closely	21	
Not following at all.....	10	31
STOPPED FOLLOWING IT [VOLUNTEERED].....	2	
DK/NA	0	

6. Do you or do you not believe the recount process has been fair, impartial, accurate and carried out according to Minnesota law?

Do believe the recount has been fair	61
Do not believe the recount has been fair	24
DK/NA	15

[ROTATE Q7 THROUGH Q9]

__7. In your personal view, who do you think really won the U.S. Senate race, **[ROTATE]**
 __Al Franken or __Norm Coleman?

Al Franken	54
Norm Coleman.....	26
Both/tie [VOLUNTEERED].....	5
DK/NA	14

__8. Do you support or oppose Norm Coleman's legal challenge to the results of the U.S. Senate election in Minnesota? **[IF SUPPORT/OPPOSE, ASK:]** Do you feel that way strongly or not so strongly?

Support, strongly.....	29	42
Support, not strongly.....	13	
Oppose, not strongly.....	9	
Oppose, strongly.....	41	50
DK/NA	7	

__9. Do you think Norm Coleman should concede the election and allow Al Franken to be seated in the U.S. Senate or don't you think Coleman should concede?

Yes, he should concede	59
No, he should not concede	34
DK/NA	7

10. If the Minnesota Supreme Court declares Al Franken the winner in the U.S. Senate race and Governor Tim Pawlenty refuses to sign a certificate of election, for you personally, would this raise very serious doubts about Tim Pawlenty, somewhat serious doubts, not too serious, or no serious doubts at all? If you aren't sure, you can tell me that, too.

Very serious.....	38	58
Somewhat serious	20	
Not too serious.....	11	
Not serious at all	23	34
Not sure	9	

11. As the Governor of Minnesota, Tim Pawlenty is legally required to sign an election certificate declaring a winner in the U.S. Senate race. Having heard this, let me ask you again – if the Minnesota Supreme Court declares Al Franken the winner in the U.S. Senate race and Governor Tim Pawlenty refuses to sign a certificate of election, for you personally, would this raise very serious doubts about Tim Pawlenty, somewhat serious doubts, not too serious, or no serious doubts at all? If you aren't sure, you can tell me that, too.

Very serious.....	43	64
Somewhat serious	21	
Not too serious.....	10	
Not serious at all	20	30
Not sure	6	

12. Which of the following is the best reason for Governor Pawlenty to sign an election certificate declaring a winner in the U.S. Senate race once the Minnesota Supreme Court makes a final decision? **[READ LIST; ROTATE]**

__The Minnesota Supreme Court should have the final say	26
__ Al Franken won the election	23
__According to state law, it's Governor Pawlenty's responsibility	22
__We need two Senators, especially right now	13
__President Obama needs Al Franken to get his agenda passed	2
PAWLENTY SHOULDN'T SIGN IT [VOLUNTEERED]	6
DK/NA	8

13. I'm going to read you two points of view on the U.S. Senate race: **[ROTATE]**

__SOME PEOPLE / OTHER PEOPLE say that Governor Pawlenty should not sign a certificate of election even after the Supreme Court has ruled on the case. These people say there is a legitimate concern that many voters may have been treated unfairly in the election. They also point out that waiting for the matter to be resolved in the federal courts is the responsible thing to do and makes sure no voter gets left behind.

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Having heard this, which opinion do you agree with more? **[IF PAWLENTY SHOULD WAIT / CONCERNED WITH HELPING OWN PARTY, ASK:]** Do you feel that way strongly or not so strongly?

Pawlenty should wait, strongly.....	26	37
Pawlenty should wait, not strongly.....	11	
Concerned with helping own party, not strongly	11	
Concerned with helping own party, strongly	38	49
DK/NA.....	14	

14. Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a Republican, a Democrat, that is, a member of the DFL party, an Independent, or something else? **[IF REPUBLICAN OR DEMOCRAT, ASK:]** Do you consider yourself a strong (Republican/Democrat) or a not so strong (Republican/Democrat)? **[IF INDEPENDENT, ASK:]** Would you say that you lean more toward the Republicans or more toward the Democrats?

strong Republican	16	30
not so strong Republican	6	
indep. leans Republican.....	8	
independent	27	
indep. leans Democrat.....	8	
not so strong Democrat.....	8	
strong Democrat	24	40
DK/NA/Other	3	

15. What is your age? [CODE ACTUAL AGE. REFUSED= 99]	
18-29.....	13
30-39.....	13
40-49.....	18
50-59.....	21
60-69.....	16
70+.....	19
DK/NA.....	0
16. What was the last level of schooling you completed?	
High school graduate, or less.....	24
Some college.....	28
College graduate.....	34
Post-graduate.....	13
DK/NA.....	0