



## Sample Letters to the Editor

### **Jennifer Schultz's House Bill 246**

Is bipartisanship dead? If not dead, it is on life support. Representative, Jennifer Schultz has introduced a bill that could revive bipartisanship. Her bill, HF246, calls for a bipartisan commission to redraw the congressional and state districts for the state of Minnesota after each ten year US Census Report. Jennifer's plan calls for the Majority and Minority leaders of the Senate and the House to each choose a retired district or appellate judge who has not served in a party endorsed position. The four judges would then choose a fifth judge. The judges would construct district maps that would fairly represent the state. Two factors would be included. The district must not dilute voting strength of racial or language minority populations. Also, the district must not be drawn for the purpose of protecting or defeating an incumbent.

While Jennifer Schultz is attempting to increase bipartisanship, Senator Mary Kiffmeyer and Representative Sarah Anderson with their bills SF86 and HF314 are attempting to prevent any possibility of forming a bipartisan commission. Since 1970 till now four out of five redistricting attempts by the legislature have required the Supreme Court to redraw the congressional and state districts. The process has created added expense and a contentious atmosphere not conducive to effective bipartisan legislating. Please call or email your senator and representative and encourage them to vote in favor of Jennifer Schultz's bill HF246.

Jeanne Thompson, Plymouth

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Word Count 230

### **State Senate District 44 : Calvert deserved the endorsement**

So, the Star Tribune Editorial Board disagrees with Paul Anderson who is running for the Minnesota Senate in District 44, yet endorses him. (Three standouts for state Senate seats, Oct. 31). The Editorial Board disagrees with several issues, notably the proposed Southwest light-rail line. Yet it presents no reason to disqualify Deb Calvert from the endorsement. Calvert gets things done! When she lived in Michigan, she worked as a private violin instructor. She saw the need of poor children to receive music lessons. She cofounded the Cadillac Strings Association, a nonprofit that provides string music lessons. As an outgrowth of the success of this program, she was asked to develop one for the public schools. Both the nonprofit and the public school program are still going strong. We need leaders like Deb Calvert to get practical things done in our Legislature!

Jeanne Thompson, Plymouth

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