

# Adam Steele

Candidate

# For Mayor

of the corrupt and disgusting City

# of Bemidji



*"We live in one of the most beautiful places in the world; it's just our government that stinks, and that can be fixed."*

## FUNDAMENTAL CAMPAIGN PLEDGE:

**I Will Do  
Almost  
Nothing.**

Generally,

**NO NEW LAWS**

**NO NEW BUILDING**

**NO NEW TAXES.**

*"The best Mayor or City  
Councilman is one that you  
don't remember." -- A. Steele*

The basic function of a City government is to provide water and sewer and emergency services. And to do it as efficiently and economically for the residents as possible. We need to focus our city resources on these goals; and not on things that lie outside of them.

### Bemidji City Slogans

*"MINNESOTA WATER -- Best  
water going -- always ask for  
it by name!"*

*"BEMIDJI -- The FIRST CITY  
to pollute the Mississippi"*

In the case of Bemidji, we have an additional revenue function in alcoholic beverages. We make money on both ends: 1) selling the booze; and 2) busting people when they drink it. As long as we're doing this, its management needs to be better. As much as Bemidji drinks, the Bemidji price of booze should be less - not more - than private stores.

And if we want to do something special, as a City project that fits in with what we're doing anyway, this is an area where we can excel and bring the consumer good buys

Prepared and paid for by Adam Steele • P.O. Box 1132, Bemidji, MN 56619 • 218-759-1162  
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they might not find elsewhere. That's what'll bring booze business to Bemidji. We should get a good selection of good value petit chateau imported wines; and maybe some good pate du canard, cheeses, and french brie to go with them. If we're going to be in the booze business, at least let's do it right.

### OTHER THINGS:

- Per diems should be limited to about \$20 a month. If councilmen are collecting more than that, they're doing too much.

Further, city councilpeople already get paid \$10,000 a year. That should be good for about 1,000 hours of work\* - far more than is taken up in City Council meetings, work sessions, etc. So, right now, we're paying them to do a job, and then with per diems, paying them again when they do it! The first 42 hours per month of committee, constituent, and other "extracurricular" meetings should be considered already paid in the regular salary. Per diem pay should start only after that number of hours is exceeded.

- About half of city staff should be eliminated, and eliminated from the payroll. You don't see them at City Hall on Friday afternoons anyway; maybe we don't need to see them at all. The half that's left can work normal hours (including Friday afternoons) for normal pay.

- The very expensive position of City Manager should be eliminated. We can save a lot of your money this way. The great corruption and damnation that we know as the City of Bemidji feeds on itself and is self-sustaining. It doesn't need to be managed, and there is no reason those oppressed by it should pay princely sums

(including an in-town car allowance and salary and benefits in excess of \$100,000 a year) for the management of that corruption.

- The position of City Attorney should be eliminated. Al Felix has tried to justify his full-time position over the years by saying that he does a lot more legal stuff for the City than its basic needs. If he's doing all that, he's doing too much, to the detriment of the city's basic needs. A lot of cities of our size save money by contracting their necessary legal work out, part-time; and they save more money by not instigating unnecessary legal work.

- We need not only to not pass new laws that further intrude into the rights and lives of people; we need to get rid of a lot of the old ones. Amidst all of the unneeded people at City Hall, from the 1/2 that we're going to keep, I'll find someone to man (woman?) a Complaint Desk where onerous Bemidji laws that have accumulated over the years, and which infringe people's rights and privacy, can be brought to my attention and removed.

- Itinerant BSU students should not vote in City elections. They don't pay the taxes on the things that they vote for. Our City *hosts* a college; the City must not be held hostage by it.

- The new pet/cat ordinance needs to be repealed. We have much higher and better things to do than to try to regulate cats, which live best outside a lot of the time without causing any substantial problem. This is not properly a matter of city concern\*\*.

And people's homes differ. We cannot, as a city, try to determine how many pets every person should have. It would make some sense to do that

with children -- but not house pets.

- All of the many city-owned empty lots and unused properties, that checkerboard the city, that Bemidji has acquired over the years and is holding onto for future special interests or sweetheart building contracts, should be sold immediately at public auction.

This will raise revenue, provide building land to people who need it, and put those properties back on the tax rolls. The City has no business in the land speculation business. And this is the way to boost the tax base without hijacking surrounding townships where people bought so as not to be subject to the great corruption that we know as the City of Bemidji.

- The city harassment of beneficial organizations, such as *People's Church*, which provides needed long-term food and housing for Bemidji's homeless, will end.

- Bemidji must, for a change, reflect integrity and Truth In Advertising. Accordingly, until there are major changes to the Council, it will be known and referred to as the "Heart Of Corruption". I'll do what I can to see that a sign to that effect is hung over the Council Chambers door during meetings.

Also, Councilman Ron Johnson will be known as the "King of Per Diems", and as such will be properly addressed as "your highness". If the Bemidji taxpayers want to pay for a crown for him to wear during meetings, that will be OK; otherwise, the respectful address will suffice.

- The sanctity and peace of Bemidji's neighbourhoods is important. These days, the encroachment of city noise is becoming more and more of a problem. Bemidji *has* a strong

noise ordinance that prohibits unreasonable noise from invading your property. It needs to be *enforced*. Use of equipment backup alerts (that obnoxious "beep-beep-beep") should be prohibited in residential areas; people shouldn't have to hear that all day in their homes.

- Planning, zoning, and building codes must be flexible enough to allow a property owner to do the practical thing with *his property* given the circumstances. Requests for a variance, when needed, must not come at its present exorbitant fee. Property pays for a lot of our City costs; allowing its improvement increases that tax base. Downtown, particularly, should be targeted for relaxed regulation and fees. The revitalization of Downtown will come when we have a more business-friendly approach there that encourages a diversity of new shops and merchants and bargains - the things the tourist or shopper looks for.

- We will be an environmentally conscious city. That means things like delaying (or not doing) unnecessary roadside mowing; promoting natural (and not "manicured") landscapes; resuming curbside recyclables pickup; and not wasting 75,000 watts of power lighting up the **(Statement continues, next page)**

### FOOTNOTES

\* This is at a rate of \$10 an hour, which is fair. Mind you, it's not as much as you pay your plumber, but then, most city councilpeople don't know how to fit a pipe, and aren't much help when your lines freeze.

\*\* Actually, the cat would be a good official *city animal* or mascot for Bemidji. It's independent, resourceful, clean, somewhat opportunistic, a basically outdoor creature, and a good hunter and fisher - all of the things that Northern Minnesotans try to be. It's a much better symbol of our community than an ox, although given the mentality and thickheadedness of the ox, and considering our city councils, one can see why that stuck.

lakefront trees all winter.

Additionally, we must stop harassing and penalizing people who devote *their property* to ecologically sound uses.

Further, current city policy discourages home gardening by charging "sewage" on irrigation water (what you use to water your lawn and garden). This makes vegetable gardening not cost-effective in Bemidji, and makes no sense -- that water doesn't go into the sanitary sewers. This policy needs to be

changed, so people, who want to, can grow some of their own veggies without having to pay the City to do it.

• **Bringing the tourists back.** Past City Councils have worked long and hard to make Bemidji as hostile to tourists as can be - things like getting rid of Paul Bunyan Amusement Park and the boat concessions at the waterfront; and making streets and the waterfront parking lot "no parking" after 10

pm. You can't watch the moonlight on the lake without risking a tow. So, in the already tight economic environment, tourists have gone where they're treated better, like Walker, Longville, or WAL★MART's parking lot.

These are some tourist-friendly things that will bring them back to Bemidji:

1) Stop destroying what little historic, quaint and natural charm Bemidji has left. This has been severely eroded since

polices changed, about 1991. And it can't be rebuilt, it has to just happen over time, if unfettered.

2) Stop trying to be a mini-minneapolis (that's what they come here to get away from).

3) A free, or low-cost, municipal campground and RV park should be considered. These have worked in North Dakota and Alberta. The new South Shore property might be an ideal location for this, and it will bring business to downtown.

4) The discovery of cougars here has particular tourist appeal. We should work with the DNR and the State to see that they are protected, and incorporated into area tourism promotion. Imagine the tourist draw (to Bemidji) that the prospect of a "Lion Country Safari", where people might have the chance of seeing a live cougar in the wild at Bemidji State Park, or even nearby Koochiching County, would bring.

## Adam Steele's Work & Background

• Adam Steele is a Certified Public Accountant, and Editor of Northern Herald newspaper, living and working in Bemidji, Minnesota since 1991.

• 1981 - Began accounting practice, specializing in tax, in Minneapolis from a storefront office on Lake St. known as *The Fed Tax Center*.

• 1982 - Suggested needed (and enacted) federal tax code changes to fix an inequity caused by the previous year's tax act.

• 1983 - Volunteered professional time for the IRS and Minn. DOR sponsored VITA program to provide free tax help to low income and senior taxpayers. Each Wednesday, Steele would haul The Fed's computers and equipment to the Hennepin Co. Government Center VITA site, where he was the "technical" person, who did the more complex returns that VITA would otherwise have had to turn away.

• 1984 - Working on a Minn. Dept. of Revenue (DOR) professionals' advisory committee, Steele designed the 1984 form M-1B used throughout the state.

• 1986 - Discovered the errors in, and caused the immediate correction of about 35,000 forms 1099-G which had been issued by Minn. DOR. The event was documented by WCCO (Minneapolis) which shot footage at The Fed.

• 1986 - In his campaign for State Treasurer, walked across Minnesota, from the Iowa border (by Prosper, Minn.) to the N. Dakota border (by E. Grand Forks). In his walk, Steele carried a message of hope to farmers beleaguered by the farm economy, then; help to save family farms was a primary campaign issue.

• 1986 - 1991 Worked as a staff accountant for CPA firms in San Diego and Denver earning positive references from both.

• 1991 - Established accounting & tax practice in Bemidji which continues to the present day.

• 1992 - Founded Ojibwe Nation Village at the Beltrami County Fair, to give Native Americans more opportunity to participate in the fair. The Village operated for 3 years and many visitors said that it was "the best thing at the fair."

• 1993 - Certified by IRS as an Enrolled Agent.

• 1993 - In 1993, when counties, as well as home, farm and other property owners were faced with an oppressive and unfunded state Wetlands mandate, Steele spearheaded a multi-county coalition - the Northern Tier Accord - to oppose implementation of the mandate. This eventually resulted in the still environmentally-conscious wetlands act amendment of 1996 which recognized the ability of Northland counties to regulate their own wetlands.

• 1995 - Founded Northern Herald Newspaper to bring honest and frank reporting, expose corruption, and give the community a fair forum, in Northern Minnesota.

• 1995 - Broke the story that brought (then) Bemidji Police Chief Robert Tell to trial for swindling by submitting improper travel vouchers.

• 1998 - Certified as a C. P. A.

• 2002 - Broke the story of helicopter swindles by (then) Bemidji Police Chief Bruce Preece. For the next 4 years, pending the trial, Northern Herald was the only area paper that kept the public informed on this, as well as the DWI arrest of Preece's wife.

• 2003 - Won federal case against City of Bemidji for violating First Amendment rights. (Bemidji had tried to outlaw distribution of the Northern Herald in public places.)

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**Steele is a fiscal conservative (less tax, less spending), pro-choice, and a strong supporter of *all* of the tenets of the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights.**

*"Do the best you can in every task, no matter how unimportant it may seem at the time. No one learns more about a problem than the person at the bottom."*

— Justice Sandra Day O'Connor (retired), U.S. Supreme Court

**MORE FUN! FOR VARIOUS OLD ADVERTISEMENT EXCERPTS (from previous elections) & EDITORIALS WITH POSITIONS ON OTHER ISSUES, SEE THE FOLLOWING PAGES!**

Please note, however, that many of the opinions and positions expressed on the following pages are on state issues, from a prior state rep election, and so, as they may not be properly addressable in Bemidji city matters, are not necessarily a part of this mayoral platform.



Adam Steele  
Candidate for State Rep. in  
2008 - District 4A  
District 4A includes parts of  
Beltrami, Cass, & Itasca  
Counties, including Bemidji,  
Cass Lake, Deer River & Remer



*The Blumobile*

# THE COST OF GAS, OIL, & ENERGY: IT'S THE ISSUE IN THE 2008 ELECTIONS

*The national economic crisis caused by escalating energy prices can and should be addressed locally and by the State of Minnesota. It's just a matter of getting economic priorities straight.*

*Example: The State and the City of Bemidji are currently spending about \$90 million to build an "events center". This same amount of money, put into an alternative energy subsidy, would be enough to make every house in Bemidji highly energy self-sufficient, as concerns electricity. In addition to immediately reducing power plant use of fossil fuels, the generated electricity can also be used instead of oil, propane, or gas for heating, and will soon be able to power automobiles.*

*The "events center" is projected to lose up to \$1/2 million a year. Were the same money put into household alternative energy generation, it would save well over \$1.5 million per year in electric costs (and these are very conservative estimates), the amount of fossil fuels presently used to generate that electricity, and the emissions resulting from that use.*

*-- Adam Steele, C.P.A.*

**You VOTED For These Gas Prices.**

**ENJOY Them!**

**And you haven't seen anything yet.**

by Adam Steele, C. P. A.,  
Bemidji, Minn.

## **PART I - THE NATURE OF THE BEAST**

When things go wrong, it is human nature to look for someone to blame. We like to point a finger at those greedy oil nations and U.S. oil companies. But actually, if we want to find the root of the problem, we only need to look in the mirror. It is caused by a finite supply of the resource, against a geometrically increasing energy demand due primarily to population growth; and a stubbornness of the U.S. government to get us off of oil and underwrite adequate alternative energy measures.

Sure, the oil producers want to get the best market price for their product, but

that's no different than any other product anywhere else. If one was selling garden tomatoes, they'd try to get the best price they could. It would depend upon how many tomatoes were grown that season, and how many people were eating salad that day.

Only about half of U.S. crude oil imports come from all of the OPEC nations. The top single nation crude oil supplier to the U.S. is Canada, which provides about 18% of our total imports. Other major U.S. suppliers are Mexico and Venezuela.

Current energy prices are partially the result of the whims of the OPEC nation heads, and their desire for a bigger share of America's, and the world's wealth; but are primarily demand-driven; that is, they are the result of a finite and diminishing supply of the resource, in the face of increased demand

due to increased U.S. population (every child becomes, in sixteen years, another car on the freeway), and increased world population coupled with the industrialization of already populous countries. In 2005, world oil consumption exceeded world oil production by about 1 million barrels per day. When consumption reaches the point that it outstrips production, that sharply moves the price curve.

The population myth: Some brush off the population theory on the premise that more people can mean more innovation, more production. This holds in some things, but it doesn't apply to the production ceiling of basic resource-based commodities like fossil fuels, and, to a large degree, food. That's because no matter how many workers we have, they're not going to be able to produce wells of oil. Actually, they won't be able to

cost-effectively produce a single drop of crude oil.

Similarly, no matter how many people farm the land and how educated they become in the art, there is a limit as to how much land can be farmed, they won't be able to increase that.

How much food that land can produce, per acre, is also limited, and recent technological advances have caused American farmers to approach that limit. That limit - the ceiling of production - is based on a principle that physicists call "Conservation of Energy". It means that, except for nuclear events, one doesn't get more energy coming out of a transaction, than there was going in. Food production is a conversion, an output, of the sun's energy.

At current world population levels, about 6.5 billion, we are near reaping as much of that

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energy as can be done without significant environmental changes. And even now, malnutrition and starvation are not uncommon during lean times in many parts of the world. It has been researched and explained that based upon Conservation of Energy, when world population levels reach about 15 billion - a little more than doubling of the current population - it will require all of the sun's energy reaching the earth just to produce adequate food for that human population. That is the food ceiling.

Further, this will come only with the extinction of most other terrestrial species. The beginnings of that can be seen even now, as the massive rain forests of South America are destroyed to produce farmland for human food crops and slaughter animal feed.

With this, even now, species are being lost daily, and the loss of seemingly insignificant species can have profound environmental results (it is known, for instance, that the loss of an orchid plant can cause a fig tree, which feeds many higher animals, to stop producing. The loss of a tiny stingless wasp would have the same effect on the fig tree).

So, overpopulation is at the root of both energy, and future food, shortages. Some people remember the 60s when gas was as low as 17 cents a gallon. Now it's over 15 times that. In that time, U.S. population has about doubled, from about 180 million, then. As we can see, the effect of increased demand upon the price curve is not linear, it is geometric. A small change in demand causes a much greater increase in price. And population increase is geometric, over time.

## PART II WHAT TO EXPECT

If nothing is done to curtail demand for fossil fuels, America is about to experience a depression that

will make the 1930s look like nothing; and we're seeing the very beginnings of it - a minuscule fraction of what it will be, right now. This will be a different kind of depression.

In a usual domestic depression, income goes down, but so do prices; in inflation, prices go up, but so does income.

This, however, is a different type of depression. Unlike the 1930s, America is now a debtor nation and the money is flowing out of it, actually reducing per capita standard of living here. The dollar will lose value, raising prices, but incomes will not keep pace. That money is leaving the American economic system and going to places that export oil here, like Mexico, Canada, Venezuela, and of course, Saudi Arabia.

Near future years will see dramatic increases in the cost of fossil fuels. \$5 a gallon, in the U.S., is just around the corner. \$10 and more is foreseeable. With these increased fuel costs also go costs of heating, electricity (recently hiked in many places) produced from fuel, and increases in the price of all goods the production of which involves petroleum, or which, at some point, have to be transported. In short, most everything one buys.

When this happens, it causes profound economic effects which ultimately result in the erosion of our standard of living, to the oil-exporting countries. You may have noticed that over the past three years your dollar has significantly lost value due to inflation caused by energy costs. The can of peas that, in 2005, cost 33 cents is now 50 cents. (Note also, the price of the inflation benchmark, gold.) In the short time of the most recent energy price hike, (2005-2008) the dollar has inflated by about 30%. Put differently, your money has lost 30% of its value in just 3 years' time.

It takes \$1 now to buy what 70 cents bought three years ago. Except if you're buying gas, which has more than doubled, producing the trickle-down to all of these other goods.

When this happens, business failures become an epidemic. Due to the causes from abroad, American business is placed between a rock and a hard place. Business faces increased overhead (from energy) costs, but, at the same time, diminished sales to a consuming public which has less disposable income, because they're sending more of it overseas. Businesses which cannot downsize and adapt to these conditions simply cease. The result is lessened employment, and the symptoms we generally refer to as a depression (and Zoloft® won't help this one).

Normally, economic variations are normalized over time - that is they correct themselves. Inflation leads to higher wages (and, of course, taxes). That is, if the inflation is caused by changes in a closed domestic economy. But this is a different animal. Here the cause is outside of the domestic economy, so it will not be fully corrected here. It is causing a portion of our standard of living to erode to the oil-exporting nations.

The inflation has been about 30% over the past 3 years; most people's income hasn't increased by that much in that time. Retired people and people on fixed incomes are really SOL (Simply Out of Luck). Not only are their earnings not keeping pace, but the money that they had put away in banks and retirement plans has lost 30% of its value. And this is just the start. As if in a hurricane wind, as the price of energy ascends to \$5 and \$10 a gallon (for gas), an increasingly large percentage of America's wealth will simply be blown away to other nations. And remember,

the price of energy increases geometrically to the population, and demand.

Americans haven't seen anything yet.

For almost 200 years, America was a "creditor" nation. Our agricultural output kept the world trade equation positive. Only in the past 40 years or so has it, due to energy imports, gone negative; and we have become a "debtor" nation - more so each year.

Continuing on the same path, geometric increases in foreign energy costs will bring this to catastrophic proportions, with the symptoms, such as worthless currency, that deep-debtor nations enjoy. There are also profound military, national defense, and national security issues, as well as standing in the world political arena; but, for space (here, that is - not "outer space") we'll explore those another time.

## PART III - UNCLE SAM SHAFTS RETIREES

Another thing that distinguishes the current economic crisis is that, usually, in an inflation, interest rates follow the inflation factor. In the 1980s, there was double-digit inflation, but there were also double digit interest rates. This kept people's savings from being eroded by the inflation, and is a necessary economic condition, as it assured that money borrowed this year won't be repaid with cheaper money next year - interest compensates for the decline in the value of each dollar.

But this time, as concerns consumers and savers, the banks and the Federal Reserve have changed all that. They've set it up so that consumers are paying the inflated interest rate; but savers and people who put away nest eggs for retirement are getting paid interest, based on U.S. Treasury rates, kept far below the inflation

rate.

Who does this benefit? Well, the consumer credit banks and credit card companies, of course; but even more so, the nation's largest borrower - at the artificially low interest rates - the federal government. It allows them to manage the national debt by paying (to Americans) lower than true market rate interest on it, and then eventually repay the principal with "cheaper" money.

In a very real way, as the buying power of retirees' savings in the bank erodes (30% in the last three years), this amounts to an invisible tax, which blows their money away to the benefit of the federal government.

## PART IV - THE WAY OUT

**An anti-depressant for the economy.** Is there a solution? Yes, there is one that other countries (e.g. Germany is a great example) have taken, but we're not doing it here. We simply need to

1) Get serious about alternative energy, and cure America's dependence on foreign crude. This needs to be done specifically, concretely, and **immediately**, and not by some nebulous promises that are somehow supposed to materialize in 2015 or 2020. As each day passes, more of America's standard of living is being blown abroad, never to return.

2) At the same time, we must take a conscientious and proactive approach to domestic population growth, both as concerns removing incentives to overbreeding by Americans, as well as allowing reduced immigration.

In reducing foreign oil dependence, the effect of conversion to alternative energy is magnified. That's because America only imports about 60% of its oil. So cutting consumption by 20% reduces the need for imports by 33%.

It's time to look for and elect candidates that understand these factors and are pledged to action on them. These are THE FOREMOST issues facing Americans today which will most affect their lives.

## PART V - YOU VOTED FOR THESE GAS PRICES, ENJOY THEM!

In the last election for U.S. Senate in Minnesota, one candidate stood out on energy issues. It was Robert Fitzgerald (Independence Party (IP)) who toured the state in his bus that ran on used veggie oil (e.g. waste from restaurant deep fryers) explaining the urgent need for energy reform. Statewide, he polled a whopping 3%, like most other IP candidates.

People like to vote for the

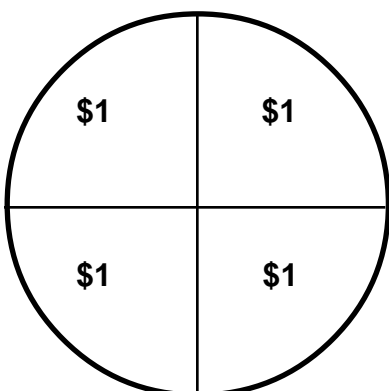
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## UNDERSTANDING OIL PRICES - THE POPULATION PIES

*Demand and price for oil responds to population increase much like these pies.  
As with oil, we'll assume that there's only so much pie that can be produced each day.*

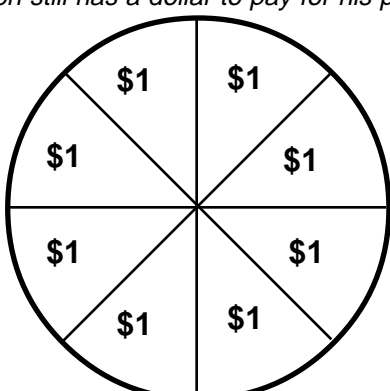
### MODEL A

A society of four people (two couples), with one pie. There's enough so each person gets a quarter.



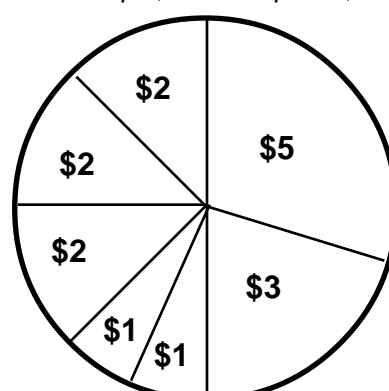
### MODEL B

Let's say each couple produces two more people, so there are now eight. In a socialist economy, the pie would be equally divided into more pieces. Each person has a smaller piece; just like the same dollar now buys less at the pump. Note that the whole pie is now worth twice as much as before. That's because the amount of pie is limited, but each person still has a dollar to pay for his piece.



### MODEL C

In a free market economy, such as America's, and global markets, price balances supply against demand. Since there's more demand than supply, the price is further increased. There are still eight people. Those who can afford it get the largest pieces; and some may not be able to afford pie, at these prices, at all.



usual Democrats and Republicans - the guys that got us into this mess and are not likely to bring us out of it. So it goes.

Energy Reform is a matter that can, and must, be addressed at both the state, and national levels. So it's THE issue to ask both state and federal candidates about, and ascertain, in no uncertain terms, what they plan to DO.

We have talked about alternative energy enough, now is the time for action.

Other countries are taking it. In Germany, for example, an aggressive federal subsidy has encouraged people to put solar panels almost everywhere. There are even panels on the Autobahn sidings. They were projected to be 30% energy self-sufficient by 2020, but may actually exceed this goal much sooner.

#### FUN FACTS:

- Imports account for only about 60% of U.S. oil consumption. If we produced 60% of our energy from alternative sources, or otherwise reduced demand for oil by 60% America would no longer be dependent on foreign imports, and all the trouble they bring.

- We'll talk about the boon of plug-in electric cars economically fueled by electricity from renewable sources some other time - for now it's enough to know that they are the bet bet. As regards the other alternative, the "hydrogen" car, well, hydrogen is typically produced from natural gas, so this doesn't help much, and even if it were produced from the electrolysis of water, you'd be buying it from the same vendors - the major oil companies who control the point of sale - the same guys who who recently jacked up the price of ethanol to be

commensurate with oil prices. In a nutshell, hydrogen cars will not reduce what you pay at the pump. You can't make hydrogen on your roof or in your backyard, but you can make electricity there. The plug-in hybrid electric car (like the Chevy Volt) is the way to go. This is what we should support, governmentally.

- Due to the mechanics of the price curve, a relatively small reduction in demand for crude oil produces a marked and disproportionate reduction in its price. (This works the other way, too.)

- In 2006, The Internal Revenue Service collected \$2,518,680,230 (about 2.5 trillion dollars) in total taxes

- In the first year of the rebuilding of Iraq, President Bush asked for an \$87 billion appropriation for the process. This amounts to about 3.5% of current revenue.

- The same \$87 billion,

invested, each year, in alternative energy to reduce America's dependence on foreign fuels would make, each year, about 7 million American homes energy self-sufficient, as concerns electricity. This amounts to about 6.3% of all households becoming self-sufficient each year. If figured as a percentage of U.S. homeowners (estimated to be about 73 million in 2006), it amounts to almost 10% of the owner-occupied homes. By extrapolation, within 10 years, there would be enough solar and wind energy being produced to power all U.S. owner-occupied homes, all of the time (this assumes an equivalent where excess daytime electricity produced is sold into the grid to reduce commercial draw, and is replaced by electricity drawn from the grid, at night).

- In fiscal 2006 (2006-2007), Energy expenditures were the smallest category of

the federal budget. This minuscule percentage of the total budget was dwarfed by the massive outlays in all of the other categories; and well indicates where the current administration (the President and Congress) stands on supporting change and innovation in this area, now most vital to the nation's continued economic health, security, and standard of living.

- As a candidate for State Rep, it is Adam Steele's intent to strongly and aggressively bring substantial alternative energy to Minnesota, immediately, in ways that directly help Minnesotans the most. He is pledged to author bills supporting massive funding and incentives, through subsidies and loans, that will cause alternative energy to become a reality here, not in 2012 or 2015, after we've lost much of our money abroad; but within a year or two of enactment.

# 2008 PRIORITIES

## I. AN AGGRESSIVE NATIONAL & STATE ENERGY PLAN

Including making *alternative energy* available to the average person through expanded loans and subsidies for home wind, solar, and other energy generation; as well as conservation and fuel efficiency measures that were proven to work in our last oil crisis, but are not now being implemented. We *have* the technology. We *can* end our dependence on foreign oil **NOW!** I will implement this top priority in State legislation, and I will also go to the Dakotas (an alternative-energy "breadbasket") and to Washington to work with federal, and other-state lawmakers on a coordinated plan of action.

## II. SUPPORT OF THE CONSTITUTION AND REAFFIRMING OF PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS

so that the *KELO* decision can never happen again.

## III. SUPPORT OF MARRIAGE & FAMILY

in state legislation, including laws supporting and benefiting the lifelong marital union of a man and a woman, taking the economic incentives out of divorce, and the withdrawing of state support from those organizations which try to destroy sound marriages and disintegrate families. Your tax money shouldn't pay for that.

## IV. RIGHT OF CHOICE

so the presently stacked Supreme Court won't invade the most intimate of couples' family planning decisions. If Bush's justices don't understand the Constitutional right to privacy, we can spell it out. The *government* has no business in ladies' private places, or, generally, other private establishments. The role of government has higher and better places to be.

## V. ALLOW SMOKING IN BARS

As a matter of property rights, the decision as to whether smoking is allowed in a bar or restaurant or other private establishment should lie solely with its owner. The state smoking law has cost substantial sales tax revenues, loss of charitable pull-tab revenue, and coming at a time of economic and business hardship anyway, is causing many bars, some of which have been the owners' careers for many years, to go out of business. The State has no legitimate interest here. It's not a health issue. Non-smokers generally don't go to or work at bars. If we wanted to force the closure of Minnesota bars, this would be a way to do it; but that is neither desirable, nor a legitimate State interest, either.

## VI. ELECTORAL ACCOUNTABILITY

The basis of our democratic society lies in the fair and honest tabulation of the vote. But lately, public confidence in this has waned, possibly for good reason. The vote belongs to the people, and the ballots (without identifying information) should be public records and be open to public inspection and counting, should a citizen choose to do so to verify the official results. Also, in certain cities, like Bemidji, the college vote can decide important city questions. College students who are temporary visitors while they go to school shouldn't be deciding questions which will affect residents' taxes for many years thereafter - taxes that the students will never have to pay. A good example is the \$80 million Bemidji Events Center. In 2006, the BSU students were strongly encouraged by BSU staff to vote 'yes' so their hockey team would have a new place to play. Most permanent Bemidji residents, who would be paying for it, were opposed - they didn't want this long term debt on their taxes for as much as 30 years. But the students' vote decided it to the detriment of the taxpaying residents. With the visiting students' several hundred 'yes' votes, the measure passed by 45 votes. College students should be permitted to vote *local measures* (by absentee ballot) only in their hometown - they shouldn't be allowed to control the city that hosts their college, and its taxes.

There is a pressing need to beef up our INITIATIVE and REFERENDUM processes, and to make these remedies available statewide; so that when, on certain issues, elected officials don't adequately represent the people who elected them, those people *really can* petition for redress of their grievances, and have it mean something, as is contemplated by the U.S. Constitution.

*An ad from the 2006 elections (Steele's opponent was incumbent Frank Moe):*

AGGRESSIVE ENERGY PLAN • HOMEOWNERS' PROPERTY RIGHTS

Do you want some Moe?  
or do you say,  
***We Don't Want No Moe!***

***How much did you pay for gasoline and heating oil today?***

***How much tomorrow?***  
(And remember, the oil companies are bringing the price down before the election - it'll go back up after.)

***Are you ready to do something about it?***

***Well, I am, too.***

Watch your candidates in the Lakeland (PBS) TV debates. State Rep, District 4A, is Tuesday, Oct. 3rd, 2006 at 7:00 p.m.



**ADAM STEELE, C.P.A.**  
CANDIDATE FOR STATE REP - DISTRICT 4A  
(Parts of Beltrami, Cass, & Itasca Counties, including Bemidji, Cass Lake, Deer River & Remer)

A note to other candidates - any race: The attractive button you see depicted here was made by DAC, Park Rapids. It's a great cause providing work to those who might not otherwise have any, is proof that just about everyone can work, and the quality and service are as good or better than the commercial campaign supply companies. I ordered mine Thursday, and they were in my mail box by Sunday. Competitively priced, and there's no minimum. To order yours, call Debbie Luther at DAC, 218-732-3358

Prepared and paid for by THE STEELE COMMITTEE, P.O. Box 1132, Bemidji, MN 56619. 218-759-1162 editor@northernherald.com http://northernherald.com

EQUITABLE DOMESTIC RIGHTS • HOLDING THE LINE ON TAXES THROUGH FISCAL CONSERVATION AND WASTE REDUCTION • FREEDOM OF CHOICE IN FAMILY PLANNING • HOLDING THE LINE ON TAXES • NO STATE TAX ON SOCIAL SECURITY

SUPPORT OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILIES • RIGHT TO SMOKE (TOBACCO)

# RADIO AD MANUSCRIPTS

The following is provided in accordance with Minnesota campaign law, which requires that candidates post a transcript of campaign radio ads, to be used by the hearing-impaired.

The following ads are run Monday, Sept. 8th, 2008, on KKZY-FM, Bemidji:

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## 090808 RADIO CAMPAIGN AD MANUSCRIPT (60 sec.)

0:00 Narrator: This is what Republican Bill Batchelder has been telling people about Republican Candidate Adam Steele.

0:06 Bill Batchelder from recording: "He beat his wife in Denver, his wife-beating charges, his rapes."

0:11 Narrator: But this is what law enforcement says:

0:14 Mel Rateike: "Hi. I'm Mel Rateike. I've been a law enforcement officer for almost 40 years, and was Hackensack Police Chief for 17. Adam Steele has never been charged, in Minnesota, Colorado, or anywhere else, with any of these offenses or anything like them. I know of no legal reason why he shouldn't be elected to office.

0:30 Adam Steele: I'm Adam Steele, candidate for State Rep, District 4A. There IS something we can do RIGHT NOW about the price of gas and energy. It's what I'm going to St. Paul for. We have the technology, we have the means. We just need to do it NOW before we lose more of our standard of living to the oil-exporting countries.

You can remember to vote TOMORROW, Tuesday, Sept. 9th, for Adam Steele, on the Republican primary ballot, or be remembering that you didn't, every time you fill your gas tank, for the next two years.

0:55 Narrator: This does not imply endorsement by the Republican Party - Prepared & paid for by THE STEELE COMMITTEE  
0:60

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## 090808 RADIO CAMPAIGN AD MANUSCRIPT (30 sec.)

0:00 Adam Steele: Hi! I'm Adam Steele, candidate for state rep-district 4A. The Bemidji Events Center plan is far different from what voters narrowly approved two years ago; and it is clear that it is not supported by Bemidji residents and taxpayers.

If elected, I would not vote ANOTHER PENNY of state money for the Bemidji Events Center, and I will do everything legislatively possible to stop it.

Whatever your party, vote TOMORROW, Tuesday, Sept. 9th, for Adam Steele, on the Republican primary ballot.

0:25 Narrator: This does not imply endorsement by the Republican Party - Prepared & paid for by THE STEELE COMMITTEE  
0:30

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## WHY ARE WE SENDING OUR HARD-EARNED MONEY TO THE ARABS?

• Isn't it time for a Comprehensive Energy Policy designed to reduce American dependence on foreign crude, before they own our country; and keep more \$\$\$s in consumers' wallets?

### MAKE ENERGY - NOT KIDS

• **Ethanol is a significant renewable energy source.** Some guys get more energetic after just a few glasses. But why, when oil prices go up, do ethanol-enriched gas prices go up proportionately? The Arabs don't control the price of ethanol - the oil companies do.

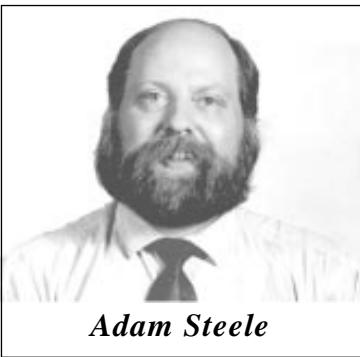
• **In Northern Minnesota, we've made strides** toward alternative energy sources. There's OtterTail Power here. Why not Beaver Tail Power, too? Aren't these noble animals good enough? Beavers have larger tails, and as any farmer will tell you, they are renewable.

• **Texas oil fueled the great industrialization** and much of the progress of this nation. But a lot of those wells are dry now, and it's time to use our advances to look elsewhere. Imagine a house that quietly produces, not only all of it's electricity needs, but also those of the family (electric) car. This technology is available **now!** Government just needs to make it economically practical for the average consumer. For our advancement and economy, as well as national security, to continue, this **has got** to be a priority **now!** We need to take subsidization away from producing babies (i.e. \$millions in tax breaks, welfare, etc.), and put it into producing energy. Making kids never should have been a public policy issue. Making energy is.

• **Have you ever wondered:** How it is that we've just liberated a major oil-producing nation (yes, you can get oil from an Iraqi, if you squeeze him hard enough) and yet, we're still paying through the nose for gasoline, AND for the war? Did someone miss a memo somewhere? (If anyone wants to actually meet an Arab, just stop in at the Smoke Shop across from Union Station, downtown Bemidji (this is **not** the same shop, or management, as the great new Minnesotan-owned S.A.V.E. tobacco shop on the north side). This may lead to a better understanding of why we're in Iraq, and what we're dealing with there.)

• **Ever drive by the Middle School** when classes let out? Look at the huge fleet of busses going onto the road. With energy so precious, why are we spending \$millions to build schools so far out that no one can walk?

• **Windmills aren't just for The Netherlands.** They're producing lots of renewable power near Pipestone, Minn. Why not here? With this year's elections, there will be an enormous amount of wind produced right here in the Northland. Why waste it? **Let's produce some power!** All of the cheap energy we need is all around us. It's time for a state effort to redirect priorities so we can use it.



Adam Steele

### TO MAKE BANKING EQUITABLE

So, a guy makes a \$3.95 error in his checkbook. And then writes a check which, unknown to him, overdraws his account. He gets his paycheck and deposits it, and pays some bills. SURPRISE! Due to the bank overdraft charge (up to \$30) that he won't find out about for a few days, his account has much less in it than he thinks. This generates more overdrafts, at \$30 a pop. By the time he knows something is wrong, the \$3.95 error could have cost him over a hundred bucks in fees. This scenario actually happens a lot in Minnesota. It makes big money for the banks, at the expense, primarily, of the wage-earning classes, who can't get "overdraft protection", and are least able to afford it. It's one reason why many of them don't have bank accounts and have to pay high fees just to cash their paychecks; and it is absolutely inequitable. I have no sympathy for people who intentionally write bad checks. They should be locked up like any other thief. But a small unintended error shouldn't cost over a hundred dollars, with no advance notice to the consumer that the charges are being made. As State Rep, I will support legislation requiring at least 5 days written notice prior to the bank's making an irregular service charge to a customer's account.

### TO UPHOLD THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

The Fifth Amendment (the part known as "the takings clause") guarantees that private property shall not be taken for public use without just compensation. The Courts have held that when the government tells a property owner what he can and can't do on his property, that constitutes a "taking" of it. City and County anti-smoking ordinances, thusly, are violative of Constitutional property rights under the Fifth Amendment. The municipality isn't paying the restaurateur's taxes; they can't tell him whether or not to allow smoking on his premises. This matter could be made a court action, but it's easier and more just to simply address it at the State legislative level. In this, I will support Minnesota's recognition of the Fifth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution; thus invalidating all city and county laws which invade the rights of private business as concerns smoking, and in any other matter that, justly, is subject solely to the owner's control. This will extend to malls, stores and other privately-owned public places. The anti-smoking faction has gone too far - they've gotten over half of the pie, and now want the whole thing. It's time for some common sense. New studies (*Journal of British Medicine* - May 17, 2003 - a 39 year longitudinal study) refute the, often publicized and argued, supposed dangers of second-hand smoke (and if the nuts were really concerned about it, they certainly would have stopped driving their cars). If people want to be rude and nutty, and can't get along with others without being a pain in the rear, well, they don't have to eat out, or go to places where normal people go. As for me, I'd just tell them to go to the underworld. Whether or not people smoke is not a fit public interest - it is not the business of any city, county, or other government. City Councilmen need to keep their minds on their stealing and corruption - not bugging normal people who normally like to smoke.

### ADAM STEELE

#### CANDIDATE FOR STATE REP - DISTRICT 4A

(Parts of Beltrami, Cass, & Itasca Counties, including Bemidji, Cass Lake, Deer River & Remer)

Prepared and paid for by THE STEELE COMMITTEE, P.O. Box 1132, Bemidji, MN 56619  
If you have a pile of money sitting around with nothing better to do with it, and would like to be represented in St. Paul for a change, you can send it to us. The state will even give you back up to \$50 per person (Minn. Political Contribution Refund). If you **don't** contribute AND vote, you've got no complaint with whatever happens when whichever crook gets in, next session.

From Pg. 4 of NORTHERN HERALD of JANUARY 5, 2004

## EDITORIALS - OPINION

# Death Penalty is Fine, But If Governor Kills the Wrong Person, HE Should Swing

In the wake of the recent Dru Sjodin kidnapping, Governor Tim Pawlenty has suggested that Minnesota adopt the death penalty for certain crimes.

This type of thing is politically popular. As humans, after all, we like to kill people. Republicans, particularly, like to kill people, as long as they've already been born.

The notion of "an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth" is both wise and just. It's been with us since biblical times.

As long as we're executing the right person.

In 2000, student journalists at Northwestern University demonstrated, by new evidence they'd unearthed, that Illinois death row inmate Anthony Porter had been innocent and was wrongly convicted. The discovery came within two days of when he was to have been executed. (Source: CNN)

Under law, a jury is presumed to be infallible. But the Porter discovery caused then-Governor George Ryan (Rep.) (who supports the death penalty, for actual criminals) to review Illinois's death row record. He determined that since Illinois reinstated capital punishment in 1977, 12 people had been executed; and 13 people who had been convicted and sentenced to death, had been exonerated from death row. In other words, the jury was shown to have been wrong in more cases than the number of executions performed. (Juries: *Because none of us is as dumb as all of us* -- Ed.)

And Governor Ryan then ordered a moratorium on the use of the death penalty. To be sure that it wouldn't be used on innocent people, before leaving office, he also commuted the sentences of all of the inmates on death row to life in prison.

The death penalty is a very final thing. It is unfortunate that some people have to spend years in prison (Porter was there for 15) before evidence is discovered showing that they shouldn't have been there to begin with. After the death penalty is carried out, however, it doesn't matter what new evidence shows. And if we impose the death penalty on an innocent person, we commit, knowingly, the same type of crime for which he was wrongly convicted. Can we be that sure?

Well, yes, in some cases, we can be that sure of guilt; but history has shown that, as a matter of course, judges and juries have imposed the penalty, and various governors have allowed it to be carried out, without being that sure.

Nicholas Yarris, of Pennsylvania, became the 10th person to be exonerated from death row in 2003, a year in which more death row inmates were exonerated than any other. He had been imprisoned for 21 years. Now, three DNA tests on the trial evidence have excluded him from



Adam Steele, Editor

the crime. (Sources: *Death Penalty Focus*, ICADP, [www.icadp.org/page223.html](http://www.icadp.org/page223.html))

Newer forensics are one means by which it is being shown that many capital convictions, even by a jury, were just plain wrong. Said Richard Dieter, Executive Director, Death Penalty Information Center, "Clearly, the problem of wrongful convictions of those facing the death penalty has not gone away...."

A recent daytime television show, *Maury*, did a telecast featuring 3 death row survivors. Innocent people sentenced to death. One of them was a woman who, along with her husband, was sentenced to be executed for a crime to which another person later confessed. She and her husband were, in the end, found innocent of the crime. She was released, but she is a widow. By then, her husband had been put to death.

Administered correctly, capital punishment is a fine and just thing. But there needs to be a measure of accountability to absolutely ensure that it isn't used inappropriately on someone that the jury just didn't like. Personal responsibility would provide that assurance. If an officer's neck is on the line, he's going to be careful, which we should be when killing our citizens.

As it was in Illinois, in states where it is enacted, the governor is the official who has the role of enforcing capital punishment. He has the final say as to who shall and shall not be executed.

So we support Minnesota's adoption of capital punishment, provided,

1) that it is done by public hanging where people can come to the festive event and socialize (some like to bring box lunches) and see justice carried out, for it's deterrent effects; and that way, also, we can be sure the person is really dead (there have been allegations of nonperformance and cover-up with other methods); and

2) that the bill enacting capital punishment contain a provision that, should a person be executed and later be proven to have been innocent, then the Governor shall face the same penalty.

The Republican Governor and House can have the death penalty, but if he kills an innocent person, Pawlenty would have to swing, too. It's an eye for an eye, and, with something this important, we can't be hypocrites about it.

From prior years:

From NORTHERN HERALD JANUARY 21, 2008

# Taxpayers To Waste \$Tens of Thousands on "Eurospring"

BEMIDJI -- Welfare used to be the biggest dumping ground, now it's welfare in the name of "education".

Education is the largest spending item in the Minnesota budget. Despite this, school administrators refuse to live within their plush means, and regularly ask the already strapped taxpayers, now plagued by outlandish fuel, heating, and inflated food costs besides, for even more money in "excess levy" referendums. Fortunately, last November, in many Minnesota communities, taxpayers just said "No! - Enough is Enough!" Kudos to them.

For years, it's seemed that anything was OK, if it could be done in the name of education. Most taxpayers, for example, couldn't afford to take an 8-week stay in Europe, or go to China or Australia. But they're paying to send Minnesota college students and faculty there.

One of the ways we throw this tax money to the winds is by way of Bemidji State University

(BSU)'s Eurospring program, in which students and paid faculty spend a few weeks in England, and then on to a tour of France, Italy, and Germany, including a Rhine cruise.

The cost of this fiasco is estimated at \$6,200 per student, plus normal tuition (yes, they get credit for this) but can be entirely covered by student grants and loans, per a financial aid representative at BSU, who said that at least half of the students who take the trip use financial aid to do it.

In addition to BSU, this type of taxpayer-financed world travel for students and faculty is also done on other MNSCU campuses. It is not known how many (hundreds of ?) thousands of dollars are wasted in the aggregate on this.

Whatever happened to public education as meaning books, pencils, and homework?

More info: [http://www.bemidjistate.edu/students/international/Docs/US\\_Eurospring\\_Flyer07-08.pdf](http://www.bemidjistate.edu/students/international/Docs/US_Eurospring_Flyer07-08.pdf)

My official position on Health Care Costs and Prescription Drugs:

## PEOPLE\* SHOULD BE ABLE TO LIVE FOREVER, FOR FREE.

\*(with a few exceptions who know who they are)

But neither of the other candidates, nor I, can make that happen. There is a lot of smoke being blown around by the DFL candidates, now, about reducing health care, and particularly prescription costs. Mark Dayton was elected to the U.S. Senate on a similar platform. But have your costs come down significantly since he's been in office? Not even Hillary Clinton was able to actually do this; absent direct state or federal subsidy (which the taxpayers, or other patients, then pay for), the DFL Rep candidate, at the state level, isn't going to either. Really, the best political inroad that's been made in Minnesota was Arne Carlson's MinnesotaCare plan, but that has been expensive and has not become as universally available as should be.

As a very old man, I understand the problem. I come from a time when the doctor would actually come to a patient's house if need be. But one didn't ask him to make a house call unless it was really necessary, because it cost \$6. Prescriptions could be gotten for only a few dollars, then.

The downside was, that many remedies for common ailments that we now take for granted just didn't exist then. If one asked a heart or cancer patient what he'd pay, then, to stay alive a bit longer, it would probably be a lot. Same for other severe pain relief - the things that enable an arthritic to lead a normal day-to-day life. But those medications just weren't available, then.

They came about later as the drug companies invested in research and found some answers, and that research is ongoing. The companies that found the answers, so we can all live and feel better, have to recover their research costs (which are high), and they have to make a fair profit; if we don't let them do this, there's not much reason for them to continue research - then where would we be?

As a result of these new discoveries, we are living longer and better now than ever before. What is that worth? The longer we live, the more it costs. We could fully socialize medicine, but this means rationing of it. Then the government would tell you how long you could live and how well. Do we want that?

The bottom line is that medical research, including FDA required testing and approval, is expensive. For the most part, what is done legislatively just changes the "packaging" of the cost. When we reduced the patent period, so the drug could be manufactured generically sooner, this gave the drug inventor less time to recover his cost. The result? Higher prices for new drugs during the shortened patent period.

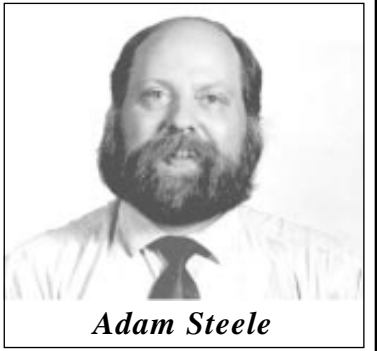
Even so, most drug companies have programs to furnish their drugs, free, to people who honestly can't afford them. I've publicized these programs since my 1992 campaign. In these programs, they provide the medications to the patient, through his doctor.

**WE'VE ALL HEARD ABOUT PEOPLE BUYING U.S. DRUGS OUT OF THE COUNTRY; BUT WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU BOUGHT A PRESCRIPTION, HERE, THAT WAS INVENTED OR MANUFACTURED IN CHINA, OR SOME OTHER COUNTRY?** For all of it's faults, the simple fact is that the U.S. economic system is conducive to the research for, discovery, and manufacturing of new cures.

I agree with Medicare's program to cover seniors' prescriptions - it should have been sooner and stronger - I've advocated that for years. People will pay a lot to stay alive and feel OK; and I am opposed to allowing the drug companies to gouge prices on that basis. But we have to be careful when we tamper with the economics of drug manufacturing. Some costs we try to reduce may just pop up elsewhere making the cure worse than the disease. And we have to be careful not to socialize medicine to the point where it is no longer worthwhile for a number of drug producers to find new medical solutions.

There are some things that can be done. An uninsured person shouldn't have to pay significantly more for his prescription than what would be charged to an insurance company or to the state or federal government. And U.S.-made medicine shouldn't be cheaper abroad than it is here.

And there are some things the consumer can do: 1) Deal with a **reputable and honest pharmacist** who is knowledgeable and concerned with prescription costs. He can help you save money; a leading Bemidji pharmacist recently said that on some prescriptions, his regular price was lower than what it would cost to get it in Canada; 2) **Ask Your Doctor or Nurse-Practitioner** about drug companies' free drug programs. The income guidelines are more generous than most think and you may be able to get your medication free; and 3) **Don't be fooled** by a "chicken in every pot" approach. Sure, the Democrats are concerned about health costs - we all are.



Adam Steele

## THE BOTTOM LINE - FREEZING THE PROPERTY TAX

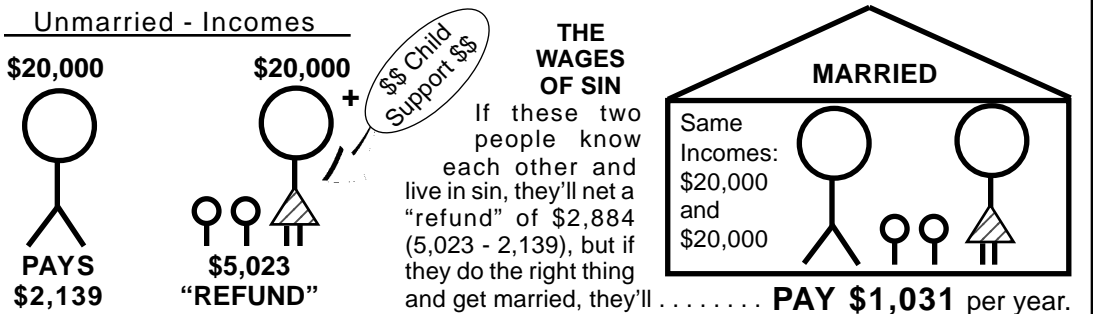
When enrollments are up, the schools say they need bonding bills and more money for new buildings; then when they're down, they say they're not getting as much from St. Paul and need an operating levy. Does it seem that the whether up, down or the same, the schools always want more money? And, lately, their track record in educating students isn't that good. More money doesn't make for better education - better teachers led by better administrators make for better learning.

Minnesota has been "discovered," and the influx of people, particularly retirees, here, is now causing the appreciation in property values that the rest of the country has already seen. The downside is, that this can cause people to be taxed out of their homes. When this happened in California, many years ago, they passed the Jarvis-Gann tax initiative which froze property taxes and assessed valuations, while the same person owns the home and lives there. It can be reassessed only when it is sold. That way, people know what their tax will be from year to year, and this has helped many people keep their homes. This can work here.

**I support a Minnesota property tax freeze extending to both rates and valuations.** No matter how much your neighbours' property becomes worth, your house's taxes won't go up until you sell it. Sometimes counties and municipalities try to get around a freeze by calling a tax hike a "fee". These flat-rate fees are very regressive - they hit lower income people the hardest. Under my tax plan, **user fees could be imposed only if approved by the voters**, at the polls.

## TO SUPPORT MARRIAGE AND FIX THE DEFICIT

### TAX UNDER CURRENT LAW



Computations are based upon Federal and Minnesota returns, combined, with no withholding, and 2003 tax rates.

Current tax law gives unmarried parents an annual bonus payment - it's not really a refund, because there's no tax paid or withheld - it's really welfare wrapped in a tax form. And for people making good money, and getting child support besides. This federal giveaway to unmarried women who have kids raises everybody else's tax. But it makes it very profitable to be an unmarried woman with kids. Current tax law rewards that. If the people in this example shack up, they'll net \$2,884 a year. But if they do the right thing and get married, they'll pay \$1,031. A marriage penalty of \$3,915 per year. This is why a lot of women, with kids, don't get married, preferring to raise them in unwholesome surroundings.

**The State Deficit** can only be resolved, while retaining desired services, by raising state revenue. But we can't get it from the guy above - he's already paying his fair share. The unmarried parent, conversely, is paying nothing, and it has to come from her \$5,023 giveaway. My plan to balance the state budget is to reduce this giveaway, applying \$500 per child to state education, children's programs, other state revenue funds. This will resolve the deficit, without a tax increase, and, at the same time, reduce the marriage penalty.

## ADAM STEELE, C.P.A. CANDIDATE FOR STATE REP - DISTRICT 4A

(Parts of Beltrami, Cass, & Itasca Counties, including Bemidji, Cass Lake, Deer River & Remer)

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218-759-1162 editor@northernherald.com http://northernherald.com