

# NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## MEDPAC ENDORSES PATRICIA TORRES RAY FOR MINNESOTA SENATE

The MEDPAC Board of Directors voted to endorse Ms. Patricia Torres Ray (DFL-Minneapolis) for the Minnesota Senate. MEDPAC, the political arm of the Minnesota Medical Association (MMA), is governed by a 24-member board of directors, which includes physicians and medical students from all areas of Minnesota.

“Patricia Torres Ray is a candidate who understands the importance of promoting health care initiatives designed to improve the health of all Minnesotans,” said Blanton Bessinger, MD, chair of the MEDPAC Board of Directors. “The physicians in Minnesota look forward to working with Ms. Torres Ray once elected to address important issues like providing health coverage for the growing number of uninsured citizens, protecting all people from the dangers of tobacco and secondhand smoke, and improving the quality of care, while controlling the cost of health care by passing meaningful health care reforms.”

MEDPAC reviewed many legislative races and endorsed 59 candidates for Minnesota Senate and House of Representatives this year. Candidates were interviewed regarding their positions on a number of priority issues, including:

- Support for a statewide smoking ban in all workplaces, including restaurants and bars
- Support for meaningful reform to the medical liability system
- Support for meaningful health care reforms like those proposed in the MMA’s *Physicians’ Plan for a Healthy Minnesota*
- Support for using the Health Care Access Fund only for health care purposes

“Physicians in Minnesota believe that we need to support legislation that will maintain an excellent health care system and improve the health of our patients. We believe Patricia Torres Ray will serve the state of Minnesota well and Ms. Torres Ray embodies the mission statement of the MMA—to promote excellence in health care, ensure a health practice environment, and preserve the professionalism of medicine through advocacy, education, information, and leadership,” said Bessinger.

The following candidates have been endorsed by MEDPAC for the 2006 Election:

**Governor:**  
**Tim Pawlenty, R-Eagan**

**Minnesota House:**  
**Kent Eken, DFL-Twin Valley (2A)**

**Tom Huntley, DFL-Duluth (7A)**  
**Mary Ellen, Otremba DFL-Long Prairie (11B)**  
**Bonnie Wilhelm, R-Willmar (13B)**  
**Dan Severson, R-Sauk Rapids (14A)**  
**Steve Gottwalt, R-St. Cloud (15A)**  
**Kevin Johnson, DFL-Hutchinson (18A)**  
**David Detert, DFL-Litchfield (18B)**  
**Andy Davis, R-North Mankato (23A)**  
**Kathy Brynaert, DFL-Mankato (23B)**  
**Ray Cox, R-Northfield (25B)**  
**Robin Brown, DFL-Austin (27A)**  
**Gary Iocco, R-RedWing (28A)**  
**Steve Sviggum, R-Kenyon (28B)**  
**Rich Decker, R-Rochester (29A)**  
**Tina Liebling, DFL-Rochester (30A)**  
**John Berns, R-Wayzata (33A)**  
**Duke Powell, R-Burnsville (40A)**  
**Ron Erhardt, R-Edina (41A)**  
**Neil Peterson, R-Bloomington (41B)**  
**Maria Ruud, DFL-Minnetonka (42A)**  
**Erik Paulsen, R-Eden Prairie (42B)**  
**Sarah Anderson, R-Plymouth (43A)**  
**John Benson, DFL-Minnetonka (43B)**  
**Jim Abeler, R-Anoka (48B)**  
**Chris Delaforest, R-Andover (49A)**  
**Carolyn Laine, DFL-Columbia Heights (50A)**  
**Lori Grivna, R-Shoreview (50B)**  
**Brad Biers, R-Blaine (51A)**  
**Bob Dettmer, R-Forest Lake (52A)**  
**Matt Dean, R-Dellwood (52B)**  
**Carol McFarlane, R-White Bear Lake (53B)**  
**Mindy Greiling, DFL-Roseville (54A)**  
**Bev Scalze, DFL-Little Canada (54B)**  
**Margaret Anderson Kelliher, DFL-Minneapolis (60A)**  
**Frank Hornstein, DFL-Minneapolis (60B)**  
**Vernon Wilcox, R-Bloomington (63B)**  
**Erin Murphy, DFL-St. Paul (64A)**

**Senate:**

**Anthony Lourey, DFL-Kerrick (8)**  
**Paul Koering, R-Fort Ripley (12)**  
**Dean Johnson, DFL-Willmar (13)**  
**Steve Dille, R-Dassel (18)**  
**Mark Piepho, R-Mankato (23)**  
**Sharon Ropes, DFL-Winona (31)**  
**William Belanger, R-Bloomington (40)**  
**Geoff Michel, R-Edina (41)**  
**Ron Latz, DFL-St. Louis Park (44)**  
**Ann Rest, DFL-New Hope (45)**  
**Linda Scheid, DFL-Brooklyn Park (46)**  
**Leo Foley, DFL-Coon Rapids (47)**

**John Marty, DFL-Roseville (54)**  
**Charles Wiger, DFL-North St. Paul (55)**  
**Katie Sieben, DFL-Newport (57)**  
**Scott Dibble, DFL-Minneapolis (60)**  
**Linda Berglin, DFL-Minneapolis (61)**  
**Patricia Torres Ray, DFL-Minneapolis (62)**  
**Dan Larson, DFL-Bloomington (63)**  
**Richard Cohen, DFL-St. Paul (64)**