

2006 Minority Political Summit

**An Invitation to Candidates for Public Office to Include these
Priorities as Part of their Policy Platform**

October 2, 2006

**PARTICIPANTS OF THE 2006 MINORITY POLITICAL SUMMIT AT
THE HUMPHREY INSTITUTE, UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA**

Why Integrate Minority Policy Priorities in Political Vision of Candidates for Public Office?

- Minorities represent a buying power of over 12 billion dollars greater than the GDP of over 50 countries of the world including Afghanistan.
- Over 20,000 minority firms are growing faster than the overall growth rate of firms in Minnesota.
- Minority workers play critical roles both as high skilled workers as well as essential workers
- Minorities add much to the cultural capital of Minnesota through food, theatre, art, music and dance
- Minority global networks help Minnesota in our new global economy
- Minorities pay taxes and will make up an increasingly larger share of the future tax base of Minnesota.
- Minorities will make up an increasingly larger share of the workforce of the future in Minnesota
- Minorities are your core constituents (**Please see appendix for minority percent of each legislative district**).
- Minorities vote (**Please see appendix for minority percent of each legislative district**)
- **In essence – look on our priorities as a vehicle in invest in Minnesota’s future. Investments today will reap manifold benefits in the future.**

Resource: www.ethnictrends.info

Does one size fit all? Are not minority priorities part of larger issues such as affordable housing, child care, health care and education?

- Yes and No
- Yes, minorities share a common concern about affordable health care, housing, and education but in addition make a strong case that we need – Affordable **AND CULTURALLY COMPETENT** health care, child care, education and housing.
- There is also the issue of barriers to access these resources

Bruce P. Corrie, PhD, Lawrencina Mason Oramalu

MINORITY POLICY PRIORITIES

Education

- Policies to close the achievement gap between minority students and other students
- Improving the quality of educational institutions serving minority children from the preschool to college level
- Increasing minority student high school participation in Post Secondary Option, Advanced Placement and other advanced educational opportunities in schools.
- Improve educational outreach to minority parents from the preschool to college level to enable them to more effectively use the educational system to improve their children's education and increase degree attainment – high school, BA and beyond
- Need for Affordable college education through a partnership of shared responsibility and resources from State, federal government, parents, the student and the colleges
- Special effort to involve minority students in STEM disciplines from K-12-16.
- Ensure that faculty and staff at public and private educational institutions from preschool to college reflect the new demographics of Minnesota.
- Pass the Dream Act
- Expand funding for college access programs for students of color .
- Have state pay ACT testing fees for low income students.
- Expand financial aid for low income, college bound students.
- Empower MN Department of Ed to provide cultural competency skill development for all K-12 employees that result in establishing pedagogy of high expectations for all students.
- Implement a state-wide American Indian Education bill for public schools to teach about Minnesota's native peoples in grades K-12.

Resources for Education:

- The State of Students of Color, 2006. (www.mmep.net)
- www.learnmoremn.org

Jess Kao Lee, Phillip Miner, Carlos Mariani Rosas, Kojo Wallace Reed, Rafael Ortiz, Ramon Leon, Alberto Monserrate, LeMoine LaPointe.

Internships/Mentoring

- Help grow talent in Minnesota by implementing a uniform statewide career track internship for high performing high school and college students from low income and minority backgrounds
- Develop mentoring partnerships between professionals, legislators and policy makers and high school and college students from low income and minority backgrounds

Emma Corrie

Business Development

- Address the rising costs in health care insurances for small businesses,
- Improve access to financing (increase the funding capacity of the state's Urban Initiative Program),
- Strengthen and expand the federal and state's procurement programs and construction projects to utilize more minority businesses. In particular enforce and expand state statutes such as 16c that allow as much as 25 percent of state procurement spending from small businesses including minority businesses.
- Fund resources that have a proven track record to assist minority businesses to start, grow and build capacity, such as non profits that provide ethnic based technical assistance.
- Provide long term public forecasts of business opportunities so that minority businesses can plan ahead to take advantage of these opportunities.
- Provide on going support for capacity building for businesses, such as business expansion, financing options, promotion and support of networking, mentoring and partnerships relationships, workforce preparation.
- Adopt a single central certification process, for classifying a business as minority owned, for the entire state as currently a minority firm has to submit multiple applications in different formats to prove the same basic identity.
- Government offices should leverage their banking relations with private institutions i.e. deposits, investments, revenue bonds and other financial services) to support community economic development in neighborhoods experiencing disinvestments at the very least government offices should be working with banks that have outstanding CRA ratings and demonstrate -investments in census tracts that have high numbers of low income people. Those investments take the form of home loans, business

loans, construction loans, relationships with community development corporations etc.

- Financial Literacy programs on the power of credit and the financial system in the USA
- Alternative lending programs for the Islamic Community - interest free financing

Resources for Business Development

- The Governor's Working Group Report on Minority Business Development, 2000

Yvonne Cheung Ho, Karri Plowman, Ezell Jones, Ramon Leon, Readus Fletcher, Bruce Corrie, Debbie Montgomery, Martin Mohammed

Health Care

1. Incorporate the special health care needs that are unique to populations of color;
2. Focus on health areas such as infant mortality, cancer screening and management, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and HIV, among others;
3. Get rid of disparities in conditions that affect mental health, other STDs, hepatitis, and tuberculosis, all of which impact populations of color disproportionately;
4. Develop certification standards for interpreter services so that trained, ethical, and competent interpreters are available for populations that do not speak English as a first language. Related to this would be a requirement for all health care providers to undergo cultural competency training;
5. Involve minority populations in solutions that can affect their health;
6. Improve the health literacy of populations of color; and
7. Find ways to reign in health care and prescription drugs costs.

Resources for Health Care:

- Priority Health Areas of the Eliminating Health Disparities Initiative.
<http://www.health.state.mn.us/ommh/priority.html>

Vinod Kutty, Rafael Ortiz, Alberto Monserrate, LeMoine LePointe

Housing

- Housing policies and officials that are culturally competent – understand and incorporate the unique needs of minority families such as multigenerational housing units.
- Increase funding for affordable housing needs
- Build capacity of organizations serving minority housing needs
- Work with Banks and other lending institutions to leverage CRA dollars for more affordable housing
- Strengthen and support the Minnesota Emerging Markets Homeowners Initiative
- Policies to protect minorities from predatory lending practices
- Investigation into the causes of the increasing foreclosures affecting minority homeowners

Resources for Housing:

- A Business Plan to Increase Homeownership in the Emerging Markets.
http://www.mhfa.state.mn.us/homes/EMHI_Executive_Summary.pdf

Georgia Lickness, Tony Genia, Tera Cole, Senator Mee Moua

Minority Senior Citizens: Roger Banks

- Promote greater use of culturally specific programming and program funding for Minority seniors with a goal of equitable access as well as culturally competent care.
- Increase the cultural competencies of service delivery staff – so that they may better serve populations of color.
- Evaluate and measure the extent to which seniors of color and American Indian elders benefit from existing and future program efforts.
- Tie funding levels of senior serving agencies and programs so that funding levels reflect the extent to which agencies and programs are making progress in providing quality services to seniors of color and American Indian elders.

- Address the inequities in Social Security participation experienced by seniors of color and American Indian elders as a result of changing participation criteria. Rules of eligibility changed right when persons of color and American Indians were living till and/or approaching the age of 65. Because we do not live long enough, we do not receive the benefits of our investments. It is safe to say that persons of color and American Indians have been subsidizing the Social Security system since its inception in the 1930's.
- There must be greater understanding regarding the impact of socialization on African American senior's involvement in health and human services. On one end of a continuum there are African American seniors who have experienced significant discrimination and individual and institutional racism. And, as a result, they are hesitant and ambivalent about participating services and activities that are offered. They do not want a repeat of their negative experiences. Services to this population has been spotty at best. However, at the other end of the continuum there are seniors who have been assimilated. It is to this population that most services have been directed and where most deliverers of services have the highest comfort level.
- We cannot assume that immigrant and refugee elders have a strong family network. The housing and community service needs of immigrant and refugee elders must be documented and subsequently addressed through high quality culturally and language specific service delivery.
- Isolation and depression disproportionately affects minority elders and leads to increased health and long-term care costs for the state. Make addressing the mental health and underlying factors of minority elders a priority in state-funded health and community long-term care services.
- Increase options for family members to be paid to provide care for their elders while concurrently putting safeguards in place to monitor that funds are used to meet the needs of elders.

Roger Banks, Gaoly Yang

Transportation

- Create adequate and stable funding for inner city transit system, starting with fully funding the bus system and its operating costs. The inner city bus system has been cut each year for the last five years, while at the same time the population and size of the Twin Cities region has grown.

- Build Central corridor (University Ave.) and other inner city light rail and trolley lines while protecting the interest of disadvantage businesses in the corridor
- Invest in the strategies to minimize the adverse environmental impact of the transportation vehicles on center city citizens and their neighborhoods.
- Allow more input from organizations and people in reviewing Title VI analyses for transit planning, the analyses that determine if there is a disparate impact for minorities. Currently, there's inadequate public participation in Metro Transit's planning for transit cuts and additions.
- Increase minority membership in important transportation related committees such as Met Council's Light Rail committee and other such committees.
- Support the creation of the World Cultural Heritage District in the University Avenue area of Saint Paul as a way to grow ethnic businesses and invest in community development and at the same time ensuring the benefits of light rail accrues to residents and businesses in the area.

Adeel Lari, Unny Nambudripad, Lee Pao Xiong, Bruce Corrie

Welfare to Work

- Streamline the process and procedures as people move through the different programs on their way to self sufficiency so that they can make a smooth transition to full time work.
- Increase the time and funding for worker training programs and ELL programs to help people get the skills needed to get permanent job placements.
- Recognize that these programs meet a short term need of people in poverty – what is needed is long term strategies that will enable them to achieve true self reliance.
- Address the critical needs of affordable and culturally competent childcare and transportation for low income people.

Resources

- Integrating Immigrants and Refugees into Minnesota's Economy and Culture. Report of the Governor's Workforce Development Council
http://www.gwdc.org/support_new_immigrants.htm

Vee Phan Nelson, Norma Renville, Rogelio Munoz, Mee Moua, Velma Korbel, Sheila Ards, PhD

Immigration

- In developing policy around immigration adopt a comprehensive approach that also looks at the assets and contribution of immigrants and the need for immigrant friendly policies rather than a pure punitive, cost based approach.
- Eliminate the employment based visa backlog
- Support comprehensive immigration reform, such as The Secure America & Orderly Immigration Act S.1033/HR 2330.
- Protection for unaccompanied children
- Access to driver licenses for migrant workers

Michael Fondungullah, Alberto Monserrate, Ramon Leon

Resources

- <http://www.energyofanation.org/>

Justice System

- Ending homelessness for battered women must be a priority.
- Policies to breaking the intergenerational cycle of violence
- Policies for eliminating racial disparities in the criminal justice system, but at a minimum, ways to mitigate their effects, e.g. policies that do not further punish exonerated persons, or persons who have served time and have lived offense-free.
- Policies that address human trafficking and exploitation.
- Policies to rehabilitate ex offenders who served their time to help them integrate back into society
- Improve access to justice for all persons
- Provide adequate funding for police, prosecutors, courts, and public defenders
- Transparent detention procedures so that lawyers may know the place of confinement and have access to their clients
- Provide funding for court advocates in programs serving victims of prostitution and domestic violence
- Protect the independence of the judiciary

Resources

- Root Causes and Solutions to Disparities for Hispanic/Latinos in the Juvenile Justice System. HACER
- American Indian Perspectives on Disparities in the Minnesota Criminal Justice System. American Indian Policy Center

Judge Lajune Lange, Norma Renville, Don Samuels

Appointments

Public Appointments

- Ensure that our county, state, local and federal government reflects the growing and diverse face of its citizens at all leadership levels.
- In the Governor's Cabinet, important and crucial appointments for minorities must include areas of commerce, trade, transportation, and human and civil rights departments.
- The executive and administrative staff at all levels of county, state, and federal levels must begin to reflect the diversity of the state, such as appointments as Assistant and Deputy Commissioners, Office Directors etc. Appointments must be made in a timely, inclusive, and transparent manner.
- Greater utilization of minority constituents need to be a part of the recommendation, selection and appointment process, such the Governor's transition team, Board and Chair of the Metropolitan Council, Committee on Judicial Selection, Committees to appoint people on public boards and commissions. Today, at a time of bipartisan support for creating a multi-ethnic democracy in Iraq and across the globe, we need bipartisan support for multi-ethnic democracy and representation at home.

Judicial Appointments:

- Increase the number of minority judges on the Minnesota bench to reflect the increasing racial and ethnic diversity of the state, including judges of Asian Pacific American descent.
- Increase the number of minority lawyers from all ethnic and racial groups to serve on the Judicial Selection Commission to bring their perspective on the selection of minority judges.

Lester Collins, Gail Chang Bohr,

SPEAKER BIOS

Lawrencina Mason Oramalu, Associate Director of the Roy Wilkins Center for Human Relations & Social Justice, earned her Bachelors in Political Science and Policy Studies from Rice University in Houston, Texas; Masters in Public Affairs from the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs and Juris Doctor from William Mitchell College of Law, specializing in civil rights. As the Associate Director of the Roy Wilkins Center, Mason-Oramalu manages the Center's various research projects including disparity studies of local government and contracting processes. Most recently, Mason-Oramalu managed a project designed to establish a baseline of racial and gender diversity in state DOTs and transit agencies, sponsored by the National Academy of Sciences' Transportation Research Board. Prior to coming to the Wilkins Center, Mason-Oramalu worked in the non-profit and private sector, serving as a project manager for Minority Access, Inc. in Maryland and as a management consultant for the Public Strategies Group, a private consulting firm that works with government organizations to assist them in becoming more performance-oriented. Before graduating from William Mitchell College of Law, Mason-Oramalu clerked for the Ramsey County Attorneys' Office and the Minneapolis Legal Aid Housing Discrimination Law Project. In addition to serving as the Associate Director of the Roy Wilkins Center, Mason Oramalu is currently co-teaching a freshman seminar on Law & Public Policy at the University of Minnesota.

Bruce P. Corrie, PhD is Professor of Economics and Chairs the Business Department at Concordia University in Saint Paul. His new vision (and data) on the dynamic power of ethnic capital has been well received by audiences ranging from the Rotary Club to the Rural Diversity, El Pueblo Hispano and Minnesota Indian Economic Development Fund conferences. His views have appeared on various mainstream media outlets and the ethnic press including the national Lehrer News Hour, National Public Radio, Minnesota Public Radio, Midmorning (MPR), WCCO radio, KCCO Business Radio, WCCO TV, Almanac, the Pioneer Press, the Star Tribune, the Fargo Forum, La Prensa, Insight News, Finance and Commerce, The Business Journal, Asian American Press, The African News Journal, Mshale, Hmong Times, Hmong Today, Korean Quarterly, India Abroad, La Gente and Asian Pages.

Jesse Kao Lee is currently working as Hmong Project Manager at Ready4K, a nonprofit advocating organization on behalf of our youngest citizens in Minnesota. Its mission is to assure every young child in Minnesota enters kindergarten encouraged, supported, and fully prepared for learning success. Jesse has been executive director of the Asian Development Corporation, Southeast Asian Community Council, and President of the Hmong Chamber of Commerce. He has also served on various nonprofit and government agencies

as Board of Director and Advisory member. Jesse is a long time community activist of the Hmong and Asian Pacific communities.

Carlos Mariani Rosa, Executive Director of the Minnesota Minority Education Partnership, Inc. (MMEP) and current State Representative from St Paul. Rep. Mariani serves on the House Education and Higher Education Finance committees.

Kojo Wallace Reed is a student at Concordia University St. Paul.

Phillip W. Miner has spent over 30 years as a committed advocate of education and social justice. He currently serves as Director of Community Initiative for Minnesota's Private College Council in St. Paul, MN. Prior to the Council, Miner served 15 years at Hamline University (also in St. Paul) where his last role was as Assistant Vice President for External Diversity and Community. A core component of his professional work and personal volunteerism has been a commitment to serving and lifting up the African American community and other diverse communities in all the ways he can.

Emma Corrie has extensive experience working in career track internship programs for low income and minority students and programs to recruit and retain qualified minority professionals. She has a Masters Degree in Business and recently co-authored a book on an Indian American model of preschool education published by Macmillan Publishers, India.

Yvonne Cheung Ho is President of the Metropolitan Economic Development Association which helps minority entrepreneurs grow their businesses and succeed.

Readus Fletcher is Director of Economic Opportunity for the City of Saint Paul. He is chairman of the General Advisory Committee of St. Paul College, Member of the Board of Directors of Minnesota Minority Suppliers Development Council MMSDC, member of Twin Cities Local Initiatives Support Corporation LISC, Economic Development Capacity Building Committee, member of Metropolitan Economic Development Association MEDA Loan Credit committee and member US Conference of Mayors Work Force Development Council.

Ezell Jones is CEO of Fifth Quarter Enterprises, LLC.

Martin Mohamed has an MBA from University of Saint Thomas and worked for Citi Group for 8 years. He is the founder of Immigrant Credit Education & Financial Education Agency and has worked over ten years with the immigrant

population from African & Latin America countries. Martin strongly advocates for a broad financial education for immigrant and refugees to build wealth and assets in the USA.

Lester R. Collins is the Executive Director of the Council on Black Minnesotans. He has served the community in this capacity nearly 20 years. The Council was created by the Minnesota Legislature in 1980 (Minnesota Statutes §3.92225). Its primary purpose is to advise the Governor, the Legislature and the policymakers and administrators on the nature and intensity of issues confronting the State's Black populations. The Council is a policy-oriented and systems change focused agency that uses a community mobilization and involvement model to address unmet needs and ongoing issues impacting Minnesotans of African descent.

Gail Chang Bohr is the first executive director of Children's Law Center of Minnesota (CLC), a non-profit organization, Bohr has been a leader in advocating for foster children through legal representation and system reform. Bohr received the Minnesota State Bar Association Civil Litigation Section Advocate Award in 2004. She was named an "attorney of the year" for 2000 by Minnesota Lawyer, and in 2000, was profiled in William Mitchell 100 Who Made a Difference, on the occasion of its centenary. She has been listed as a Super Lawyer in Law and Politics.

Georgia Lickness-President of American Indians is an Urban Indian from East Side of St Paul and President of American Indians in Unity since 2002. She is Ojibway from the White Earth Nation, in Northern Minnesota. She has served on several American Indian and non Indian Board of Directors and hon committee's under three Governors and with two former Mayors of St Paul. She currently is on the Science Museum of Minnesota Board of Trustee's, American Indians Economic & Development Fund board Chair, and EMHI-Board of Governance.

Vinod Kutty was born in Malaysia and went to school in Singapore. He has certifications in education, English, and anthropology from the National University of Singapore, Macalester College, and the University of Minnesota. He has had extensive experience in conducting cultural competency training and working with health, social and human service providers and educators who serve new Americans, refugees, immigrants, asylees, and traditional minority groups. He is currently the Project Coordinator for the Hennepin County Office of Multi-Cultural Services.

Adeel Z. Lari is a 30+-year veteran of Minnesota Department of Transportation and is currently on loan to University of Minnesota where he is serving as Director of Innovative Financing at State and Local Policy Program, Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs. An engineer by profession, Adeel Lari's formal education includes Masters Degree in Civil Engineering (M.Sc.) and Master of Business Administration (M.B.A) from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. He is also a licensed real estate broker and has earned certificates in Mediation from William Mitchell College of Law and in Strategic Public Sector Negotiations from Harvard University.

Unny Nambudiripad joined the Alliance organizing staff in January of 2005. He started organizing at the Minnesota Public Interest Research Group (MPIRG) in 2002. Subsequently, Unny coordinated clean energy campaigns for the Western Clean Energy Campaign, working with grassroots activists and organizations to challenge new coal plants. He went on to work for the Sierra Club, organizing volunteers on a voter education campaign. His work prior to joining the Alliance staff culminated in the largest volunteer effort by the Sierra Club in Minnesota.

Unny received Bachelor of Science degrees in Computer Science and Mathematics from the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities.

Roger W. Banks, Research/Policy Analyst with the Council on Black Minnesotans

Gaoly Yang, Grant and Contract Manager, 651-917-4603 or gaoly@tcaging.org
Dawn Simonson, Executive Director, 651-917-4602 or dawn@tcaging.org.

Ms. Vee Phan Nelson, Executive Director of the Center for Asian and Pacific Islanders provides overall leadership to a \$2.3 million non profit that employs 30 diverse staff and serves over 3,500 refugees annually from around the world. As a Vietnamese woman and former refugee, Vee has served in leadership capacities in many organizations such as the National Alliance of Vietnamese American Service Agencies, Maryland, North End Family Resource Center and the Center for Southeast Asian Research and Education and as member of the Emerging Markets Homeowner's initiative and the boards of Good Image Family Services and the Metropolitan Interfaith Council on Affordable Housing. She was awarded the 2006 Dragon Festival Special Award for her leadership and participation in the Dragon Festival of Minnesota.

Lee Pao Xiong is the Director of the Center for Hmong Studies at Concordia University and was a member of the Met Council in the Ventura Administration.

Alberto Monserrate, Co-Founder, CEO & President of Latino Communications. Latino Communications Network, or LCN Media is a Latino Media Company that owns and publishes La Prensa de Minnesota, A bilingual Weekly newspaper, Gente de Minnesota a weekly Spanish newspaper, Vida y Sabor a weekly Spanish alternative entertainment weekly and El Directorio a yearly Spanish yellow Pages directory. LCN Media publications have a weekly audited circulation of 40,000 and over 100,000 weekly readers. LCN media also publishes all three weekly publications online. LCN Media also owns La Invasora AM 1400 a 24 hour a day Spanish radio station. Alberto is recognized locally as an authority on marketing to the Latino community, and he is frequently quoted in the Star Tribune, Pioneer Press, and Minnesota Business publications.

Norma Renville is one of the co-founders for Women of Nations. Women of Nations was founded in 1982 to provide American Indian women and their children culturally specific advocacy and shelter services. Today, Women of Nations provides culturally appropriate services for all victims of domestic violence. Norma has been the Executive Director since 2001. Norma is currently the co-chair of the Metro Urban Indian Directors. The MUID Group has been serving the Twin Cities American Indian community as a gathering of leadership to discuss and inform the community of organizational and community issues for the past two decades. Norma also works on Minneapolis crime and safety issues as the co-chair of the American Indian Safety Council and as an alternate to the Minneapolis' Police Community Relations Councils. Norma is an Ojibwa from White Earth and an enrolled member of the Sisseton Wahpeton Dakota Nation.

Tony Genia is an enrolled member of the Ottawa tribe. He has been active in American Indian community development in the Twin Cities for the past 30 years. He is currently President of the Neighborhood Development Center and an officer of the Native American Community Clinic. He is employed by the Northwest Area Foundation where he leads poverty reduction work on American Indian reservations in an 8-state region.

Rafael Ortiz is Executive Director of HACER - a Latino-oriented research organization based at the University of Minnesota. We conduct research and policy analysis in collaboration with government agencies, nonprofits and community organizations that serve and work with Minnesota's Latino communities.

Karri J. Plowman is Paiute from California who has lived and worked in Minnesota for over 13 years. Currently he is the Executive Director for the Minnesota American Indian Chamber of Commerce, where he handles outreach, advocacy, and procurement representation for the American Indian Community in the State. Karri has served on the 2006 Growth and Justice New Economic

Agenda Think Tank, the 2004 Citizen's Leagues & Governor's Task Force on Higher Education, been a past member of the Hiawatha Light Rail Disadvantage Business Committee and is a current member of the American Indian Family Empowerment Grant Committee, St. Paul American Indian Parent Committee, Native Voter Alliance of Minnesota, and MN Council of Non-profits Board of Directors.

Rogelio L. Muñoz, Jr. *is Executive Director of the Chicano Latino Affairs Council. Before coming to the Chicano Latino Affairs Council, he worked in the National Security Law Branch at the Federal Bureau of Investigation headquartered office in Washington, D.C. At the federal level, Rogelio has worked for the Honorable U.S. Representative Rubén Hinojosa-Texas 15th district, the Office of Examination at the U.S. Farm Credit Administration in McLean, Virginia, and at the Central Intelligence Agency in Langley, Virginia. His specified interests include workforce development, K-12 education, and access to higher education and healthcare. He has a Masters in Public Affairs from the Humphrey Institute at the University of Minnesota.*

Senator Mee Moua *is the incumbent State Senator, who represents Senate District 67, which is the Eastside of St. Paul. She was elected in a special election in 2002 and, if re-elected this November, will be serving her 3rd term at the Senate. Mee Moua currently chairs both the St. Paul Senate and the Ramsey County Senate Delegations. She is a member of the Health and Family Security Policy Committee, the Tax Committee, and is the Vice-Chair of the Transportation Budget and Policy Committee.*

Ramon Leon *was born in Mexico City; he has lived continuously in the United States since 1987, and moved to Minnesota in 1992. He worked as a business consultant and program director of Latino Business development center of Whittier CDC, a program that became the first Latino CDC in Minnesota, and of which he is the executive director. Ramon also was the founding board chair of Cooperative Mercado Central (small business incubator in Minneapolis), has been an active social justice leader in his community on different issues, has served on WCDC board and currently on the board of the Neighborhood Development Center, and the Minneapolis Community of community developers, and has served on several boards and committees at different levels to bring forward the voice of immigrant communities.*

Councilmember Don Samuels *represents the fifth ward in Minneapolis.*

Councilmember Debbie Montgomery *represents the fourth ward in Saint Paul.*

Tera Cole work as a Sr. Planning Analyst for Hennepin County's Strategic Initiatives and Community Engagement department. She previously worked for, Powderhorn Residents Group (PRG), Inc., the Greater Metropolitan Housing Corporation, the Minneapolis Public Schools, the MN Higher Education Services Office - Get Ready! program and One Stop Student Services at the University of Minnesota. She has a Masters of Urban and Regional Planning with a concentration in housing and community development from the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs.

LeMoine LaPointe-The Director of the Twin Cities Healthy Nations Program a program that serves youth and their families and is one of the many programs of the Minneapolis American Indian Center. LeMoine's work has taken him all over the United States and he has worked on issues such as conservation, education and tribal government. LeMoine is also the co-chairperson for the Metropolitan Urban Indian Directors.

Judge LaJune Thomas Lange recently retired from serving as a trial judge on the Fourth Judicial District Court in Hennepin County. Judge Lange is a graduate of the University of Minnesota Law School, and Augsburg College and is currently devoting her time to the International Leadership Institute establishing programs and providing technical assistance in Africa and other regions in transition.

In addition to her role as President of the International Leadership Institute, Judge Lange serves as a clinical professor at William Mitchell College of Law teaching International Human Rights and Civil Rights. She is a lecturer nationally and internationally in the area of women's rights, African American issues, government corruption, comparative legal systems and judicial independence. Judge Lange has served on the Boards of the Minnesota International Center and the Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights and is a member of the Wilkins Forum at the Roy Wilkins Center.

Dr. Sheila Ards is the Associate Vice-President for Community Partnerships and Development at the University of Minnesota. Prior to serving in this capacity, Dr. Ards served as Vice-President of the Division of Community Development and as the Director of the Center for Excellence for Community Development at Benedict College in Columbia, South Carolina. Dr. Ards has a Ph.D. in Public Policy from Carnegie –Mellon University.

Senate District	Minority Race or Ethnicity percent		
State Senate District 01	5.6	State Senate District 33	3.7
State Senate District 02	16.4	State Senate District 34	6.2
State Senate District 03	3.6	State Senate District 35	7.6
State Senate District 04	12.4	State Senate District 36	5.1
State Senate District 05	3.3	State Senate District 37	9.1
State Senate District 06	4.6	State Senate District 38	13.5
State Senate District 07	8.2	State Senate District 39	11.2
State Senate District 08	7.3	State Senate District 40	12.8
State Senate District 09	6.9	State Senate District 41	7.7
State Senate District 10	3.4	State Senate District 42	9.1
State Senate District 11	2.8	State Senate District 43	8.9
State Senate District 12	2.5	State Senate District 44	13.6
State Senate District 13	6.2	State Senate District 45	12.8
State Senate District 14	2.6	State Senate District 46	32.9
State Senate District 15	7.8	State Senate District 47	10.6
State Senate District 16	3.8	State Senate District 48	4.7
State Senate District 17	3.4	State Senate District 49	5.5
State Senate District 18	3.6	State Senate District 50	12.3
State Senate District 19	2.8	State Senate District 51	8.8
State Senate District 20	4.8	State Senate District 52	3.9
State Senate District 21	6.3	State Senate District 53	5.7
State Senate District 22	7.4	State Senate District 54	10.9
State Senate District 23	6.3	State Senate District 55	10.7
State Senate District 24	4.8	State Senate District 56	10.5
State Senate District 25	5.7	State Senate District 57	6.6
State Senate District 26	9	State Senate District 58	64.5
State Senate District 27	7	State Senate District 59	27.6
State Senate District 28	3.7	State Senate District 60	15
State Senate District 29	9	State Senate District 61	62.1
State Senate District 30	10.6	State Senate District 62	22.7
State Senate District 31	3.4	State Senate District 63	19.1
State Senate District 32	5.4	State Senate District 64	14.1
		State Senate District 65	52.6
		State Senate District 66	36.5
		State Senate District 67	39.2

Source: <http://www.lmic.state.mn.us/datanetweb/LegProf/>

House District	Minority Race or Ethnicity percent		
State House District 01A	3.8	State House District 24B	3.1
State House District 01B	7.3	State House District 25A	5
State House District 02A	14.8	State House District 25B	6.5
State House District 02B	17.9	State House District 26A	8.4
State House District 03A	3.6	State House District 26B	9.6
State House District 03B	3.7	State House District 27A	7.2
State House District 04A	21.2	State House District 27B	6.7
State House District 04B	3.5	State House District 28A	4.3
State House District 05A	3.8	State House District 28B	3.1
State House District 05B	2.9	State House District 29A	5.6
State House District 06A	4.9	State House District 29B	12.3
State House District 06B	4.3	State House District 30A	16.5
State House District 07A	6.2	State House District 30B	4.7
State House District 07B	10.3	State House District 31A	5
State House District 08A	9.5	State House District 31B	1.7
State House District 08B	5.1	State House District 32A	5
State House District 09A	8.8	State House District 32B	5.7
State House District 09B	5.1	State House District 33A	4
State House District 10A	4.4	State House District 33B	3.4
State House District 10B	2.4	State House District 34A	4.6
State House District 11A	2.2	State House District 34B	7.8
State House District 11B	3.4	State House District 35A	8.2
State House District 12A	3	State House District 35B	7
State House District 12B	1.9	State House District 36A	6.3
State House District 13A	1.9	State House District 36B	4
State House District 13B	10.5	State House District 37A	9.1
State House District 14A	2.5	State House District 37B	9.1
State House District 14B	2.7	State House District 38A	15.2
State House District 15A	6.4	State House District 38B	11.9
State House District 15B	9.3	State House District 39A	12.7
State House District 16A	5	State House District 39B	9.7
State House District 16B	2.6	State House District 40A	14.3
State House District 17A	3	State House District 40B	11.2
State House District 17B	3.9	State House District 41A	5.5
State House District 18A	4.4	State House District 41B	10
State House District 18B	2.7	State House District 42A	7
State House District 19A	3.2	State House District 42B	11.2
State House District 19B	2.4	State House District 43A	10.3
State House District 20A	4	State House District 43B	7.5
State House District 20B	5.6	State House District 44A	15
State House District 21A	7.7	State House District 44B	12.3
State House District 21B	4.9	State House District 45A	13.4
State House District 22A	3.1	State House District 45B	12.2
State House District 22B	11.8	State House District 46A	36.8
State House District 23A	5.3	State House District 46B	29
State House District 23B	7.4	State House District 47A	6.9
State House District 24A	6.5	State House District 47B	14.4
		State House District 48A	3.3
		State House District 48B	6.1
		State House District 49A	4.3

State House District 49B	6.8
State House District 50A	14.5
State House District 50B	10.2
State House District 51A	7.4
State House District 51B	10.3
State House District 52A	4.9
State House District 52B	3
State House District 53A	6.2
State House District 53B	5.3
State House District 54A	11.5
State House District 54B	10.3
State House District 55A	11.3
State House District 55B	10.1
State House District 56A	9.5
State House District 56B	11.5
State House District 57A	8.7
State House District 57B	4.5
State House District 58A	52.7
State House District 58B	76.3
State House District 59A	23.1
State House District 59B	32.1
State House District 60A	20.3
State House District 60B	9.7
State House District 61A	62.5
State House District 61B	61.6
State House District 62A	26.3
State House District 62B	19
State House District 63A	15.5
State House District 63B	22.6
State House District 64A	16.4
State House District 64B	11.8
State House District 65A	65.9
State House District 65B	39.4
State House District 66A	51.8
State House District 66B	21.1
State House District 67A	39.4
State House District 67B	39

Source:

<http://www.lmic.state.mn.us/datanetweb/LegProf/>

Congressional District

Minority
Race or
Ethnicity
percent

Congressional District 01	6.7
Congressional District 02	8.1
Congressional District 03	11.3
Congressional District 04	22.2
Congressional District 05	28.6
Congressional District 06	5.1
Congressional District 07	6.8
Congressional District 08	5.4

Source:

[http://www.lmic.state.mn.us/datanetweb/
LegProf/](http://www.lmic.state.mn.us/datanetweb/LegProf/)