



Northern Liberty Alliance

Tuesday February 2nd marks the beginning of the campaign season in Minnesota as citizens across the state gather together to organize and express their views at the precinct caucuses. We at Northern Liberty Alliance urge you to participate and make it easy for you by including the state's [Election Caucus Locator](#)

No matter what party you are affiliated with, go caucus with your fellow citizens. In Douglas County, Wisconsin, there will be a caucus meeting **Saturday the 30th of January at 10 am** at Barker's Island.

Joe the Mariner is back after a bit of a hiatus. Joe can see through the veil of secrecy in Washington and urges you to stay the course and "promote and preserve economic liberty and the Constitution of the United States."

And be sure to **keep checking the NLA Website** (link to the right). We have a new blog and video channel.

Give Me Liberty...

Joe the Mariner
Northern Liberty Alliance
Published January 28, 2010

Seeing through transparency

Operating government in the open is law in nearly every state of the union. Practicing it, however, is a bit more elusive. Typical sunshine legislation requires notification of a called meeting, although most do not specifically address two or more members of a public body meeting behind closed doors or over a meal to discuss a topic; reaching consensus before the actual vote takes place at a another publicized location.

Historically journalists confronted public officials when they suspected a "non-public meeting" had taken place. When was the last time you heard a reporter raise this issue? It doesn't happen often, if at all.

Nationally governing in secrecy is normal behavior. Lawmakers don't seem to care. As far as they are concerned, it's business as usual. And



Quick Links

[NLA Website](#)

[Obama and the 'hatchet' job](#)

[Ryan reintroducing GOP health-care reform bill](#)

[U.S. Debt Clock](#)

Lawmaker Links

[Minnesota Senator Amy Klobuchar](#)

[Minnesota Senator Al Franken](#)

[Minnesota 8th District Congressman James Oberstar](#)

[Wisconsin Senator Russell Feingold](#)

[Wisconsin Senator Herbert Kohl](#)

[Wisconsin 7th District Congressman David Obey](#)

with the clear majority in both houses, Democratic leaders are emboldened to legislate how they believe we should live our lives. Take the recent health care debacle. President Obama promised to be transparent ensuring listeners along the campaign trail that the debate "would be seen on C-span." And even when the CEO of C-span offered to televise the negotiations on his dime, congressional leaders looked the other way. [1]

But a funny thing happened on the way to 2010. First it was the tea parties that spontaneously energized the electorate in April and again in July. Then tens of thousands of agitated citizens approached lawmakers at town hall meetings in the summer signaling Washington that enough is enough. We want our country back and by golly you promised to be open, you promised to invite us to the discussion, you promised to improve the economy, you promised to keep unemployment under 8 percent...

Along comes the November elections and a couple special elections and poof...three Democratic "sure things" were not so sure anymore. What should have been a "slam dunk" on health care ended in a gooey mess, which is still oozing out of Washington and will for weeks to come. And polls from a variety of independent researchers consistently indicate that John Q. Public is fed up with the hole our elected officials are digging.

So what does this mean to you and me? It means what seemed impossible is actually possible. Our collective voices are being heard loud and clear. From New Jersey to Virginia to Massachusetts; to Minnesota and Wisconsin, the landscape is changing. More and more pundits are acknowledging what the polls are saying which is that the two houses in Congress could change hands in 2010. What seemed improbable a year ago is realistic as we head into the mid-term elections.

The question is do we have the fortitude and the energy to make that happen? Can we work together to get the word out about what our Founding Fathers stood for, about what we believe in as a nation and what people in America want? I submit we do! You, me and thousands of like-minded souls should take part in the process, go to the upcoming caucuses, attend Tea Parties and spread the word...spread the truth.

Make your voices heard...advocate for our liberties and when a solid no nonsense candidate emerges, show your support and put everything you have in urging our fellow citizens to vote...to vote this November for new leadership, new lawmakers who are accountable, who will do the business of the people, who will work to restore our liberties and lower the cost of living through private, free market policies, not through a government handout or entitlement program.

Enough IS enough. Let's get back to the basic principles that founded our great country. Let's restore the solvency of our society so our children and grandchildren can live the American dream.

[1] See: [Politico Jan 5, 2010](#)

Northern Liberty Alliance Founding Principles

www.northernlibertyalliance.org

To promote and preserve economic liberty and the Constitution of the United States.

We must return to the idea of limited government based on enumerated powers.

Government intrusions at the local, state, and federal level have grown at an escalating pace. We need to reverse this trend for the welfare of all.

Liberty, including economic freedom, is the foundation upon which our nation was built and the fountain of all prosperity.

Governments are instituted to protect liberty (rights) not to provide programs.

With liberty must come individual responsibility. People should reap the consequences, both positive and negative, of their actions.

The Northern Liberty Alliance (NLA) is a group of citizens working to promote and preserve the liberties guaranteed by the Bill of Rights. We share a strong belief in the free market system, economic liberty, limited government and the principles espoused in the United States Constitution.

Principles that guide us

- Liberty, including Economic Liberty
- The Free Market System
- Limited Government
- Rights
- Responsibility
- Honor
- Justice
- Constitutionalism

Our goal is to educate citizens about these principles, to promote liberty in a positive way, to develop leaders that embody our values, and to advocate for our values whenever they are challenged in the political arena.

Please join us in our efforts!

**Join the Movement To Restore and Preserve
Economic Liberty and the Constitution**

Contact heather@northernlibertyalliance.org for membership information