



Minnesota Network
for Progressive Action

home

about us

issues

ACT!

calendar

news center

blog

contribute

links

contact us

Progressive Political Blog

Progressive Politics in Minnesota, the Nation, and the World

Some Thoughts on Mark Dayton and Paul Thissen

Category: [DFL Gov 2010](#)

Posted: Thursday, 21 January 2010 18:17

by Dave Mindeman

Just a couple of topics regarding the DFL Governor's race....

1) Mark Dayton's Non-Participation.

I think the Dayton campaign has made a mistake in taking his name off the straw ballot at the caucuses. It is certainly not a crime to bypass the convention and head directly to the primary. He has been open and up front about it. But the caucuses are a much different story than party convention delegates. These are local people who simply want to get involved. And Dayton had as good a chance as anyone to capture a solid percentage of those folks. He always had the disclaimer he could use, if the percentage was low, to say he hadn't pursued that avenue and the low totals were expected.

As it stands now, the perception (accurate or not) is that he doesn't think the caucuses matter, although his campaign would never characterize it that way. As it stands now, no straw ballot and no convention presence can make Dayton the forgotten candidate for the entire 3 month cycle while the media covers the convention contest.

Depending strictly on name recognition through the entire primary is not good strategy and he could find himself playing a game of catch-up in May and June.

Still, Mark is a smart guy and has been through all of this before. Once the convention is over, I'm sure he would be the first to say it is a restart and it's anybody's ball game.

2) Paul Thissen Still Poised to Surprise

I recently got a call from Paul Thissen in the middle of the day. I'm not sure he expected to get a non-answering machine voice, but we had a very pleasant conversation. We discussed the caucuses, the Scott Brown fiasco, the convention, and even the upcoming legislative session. We spoke for nearly a half hour.

He indicated that he has been working the phones regularly and at times his voice sounded a little tired. This guy is a hard worker and seems purely authentic.

I asked him about moving beyond the convention into the primary as several candidates are now poised to do that....and he answered with a firm negative. It is definitely endorsement or

Calendar

January 2010						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Archive

- [January 2010](#)
- [December 2009](#)
- [November 2009](#)
- [October 2009](#)
- [September 2009](#)
- [August 2009](#)
- [July 2009](#)
- [June 2009](#)
- [May 2009](#)
- [April 2009](#)
- [March 2009](#)
- [February 2009](#)
- [January 2009](#)
- [December 2008](#)
- [November 2008](#)
- [October 2008](#)
- [September 2008](#)
- [August 2008](#)
- [July 2008](#)
- [June 2008](#)
- [May 2008](#)
- [April 2008](#)
- [March 2008](#)
- [February 2008](#)
- [January 2008](#)
- [December 2007](#)
- [November 2007](#)
- [October 2007](#)
- [September 2007](#)
- [August 2007](#)
- [July 2007](#)
- [June 2007](#)
- [May 2007](#)
- [April 2007](#)
- [March 2007](#)
- [February 2007](#)
- [January 2007](#)
- [December 2006](#)
- [November 2006](#)
- [October 2006](#)
- [September 2006](#)
- [August 2006](#)
- [July 2006](#)
- [June 2006](#)
- [May 2006](#)
- [April 2006](#)
- [March 2006](#)
- [February 2006](#)
- [January 2006](#)
- [December 2005](#)

Ads by Google

Map of MN
Ski Minnesota
Theo Political
MN Ski Trails

Politics Need Managers

Political
Management
Master Degree,
George
Washington
University!
[GeorgeWashingtonUniv.](#)

Got Oppo?

Research
services for
Dems on the
state and local
level.
[www.kleinresearchservic](#)

\$39 Moving Helpers

Fast,
experienced
movers to help
you move.
[www.LocalMotion.com](#)

MN Corporate Lawyer

Free 30 Minute

1 100 00 minute
 Consultation With
 Minnesota
 Corporate Law
 Firm
www.trepanierlaw.com

?

Listed **BLOGSHARES**

site search

nothing with Thissen. No hesitation on that. He is working on getting a good showing at the caucuses and that will be critical for getting traction. We'll soon know how that works out.

Paul is on the record that he would sign a single payer health care bill if it came to his desk as governor, but I think he is aware, more than most, that there is a definite selling job to be done there. He thinks moving into single payer is certainly the real future of health care, but convincing people who have used insurance coverage nearly all their lives to switch and trust a government program will not be so easy politically, even if it saves everybody money in the long run. (I hope I'm not characterizing anything incorrectly regarding this -- I didn't take notes...Hey, Paul, if I'm wrong feel free to comment)

One of his big concerns with the stalled out Congressional Health plan is that there was a fix in there for the state's GAMC problem. With that potentially gone, the state needs to step up -- and there is little doubt with Thissen that the state must do that.

He is also concerned about funding for education. Trying to fix a budget with Pawlenty will make it tough for the districts to get shifted money back. He mentioned that it may come to increasing future state funding in the formulas for the future.

When it comes to the convention, it is probably going to come down to Rybak, Kelliher and Thissen (Bakk is a dark horse as well). And to me, the longer the balloting goes on, the more possible a Thissen endorsement becomes. He is personable, knowledgeable, and a fresh face.

It is certainly not the conventional wisdom, but don't be shocked by a Thissen surprise.

[comments \(0\)](#) [permalink](#)

- [November 2005](#)
- [October 2005](#)
- [September 2005](#)
- [August 2005](#)
- [July 2005](#)
- [June 2005](#)
- [May 2005](#)
- [April 2005](#)
- [March 2005](#)

Categories

- [Uncategorized](#)
- [Al Franken](#)
- [Amy Klobuchar](#)
- [Barack Obama](#)
- [DFL Gov 2010](#)
- [Economy](#)
- [Education](#)
- [Environment](#)
- [Gay Rights](#)
- [GOP Politics](#)
- [Health Care](#)
- [I-35 Bridge](#)
- [Immigration](#)
- [Iraq War](#)
- [IRV Voting](#)
- [Jim Ramstad](#)
- [John Kline](#)
- [John McCain](#)
- [Kersten](#)
- [Mark Dayton](#)
- [Marty Seifert](#)
- [Media](#)
- [Michele Bachmann](#)
- [Mike Ciresi](#)
- [Minnesota Politics](#)
- [Norm Coleman](#)
- [Presidential Politics](#)
- [RNC](#)
- [Sarah Palin](#)
- [Single Payer Health](#)
- [Society](#)
- [Steve Sarvi](#)
- [Susan Gaertner](#)
- [Third District](#)
- [Tim Pawlenty](#)
- [Tim Walz](#)
- [Transportation](#)
- [US Politics](#)
- [Vikings Stadium](#)
- [World Politics](#)

Latest posts

- [Comment on Yesterday's Supreme Court Decision](#)
- [Some Thoughts on Mark Dayton and Paul Thissen](#)
- [Stand Up and Keep Fighting Is Not For the Faint of Heart](#)
- [Caucus/Endorsement: Relevance is in the Eye of the Participant](#)
- [Misinterpreting The Reasons For A Candidate's Win](#)
- [Fast Tracking the Unallotment Case](#)
- [Time to Suck It Up and Act Boldly](#)
- [Was Scott Brown a Republican?](#)

Search posts

Links

- [AAA:Twitter Sign Up](#)
- [Across the Great Divide](#)
- [Blog of the Moderate Left](#)
- [Blue Man in Red District](#)

- [Bob Meek](#)
- [ClothesLine Blog](#)
- [Dump John Kline](#)
- [Dump Michele Bachmann](#)
- [Dusty Trice](#)
- [Eric Black](#)
- [MN Central](#)
- [MN Progressive Project](#)
- [MNDem](#)
- [MNPublius](#)
- [Newsbobber](#)
- [NICK COLEMAN](#)
- [Outstate Politics](#)
- [Rooks Rant](#)
- [Think Progress](#)
- [Truth Surfer](#)

RSS Feeds



Copyright © 2010 Minnesota Network for Progressive Action. All rights reserved. [Legal](#). [Privacy Policy](#). [Sitemap](#).