

# OPINION

OUR VIEW

## Participating in the future

Minnesota’s primary election is Tuesday, when voters will decide which candidates will represent their political party in the Nov. 4 general election. This year, Minnesota voters will head to the polls to decide a U.S. Senate seat, all of Minnesota’s eight U.S. House seats, as well as governor and other state officers, and all Minnesota state House seats.

In Minnesota’s partisan primary elections, voters do not need to publicly declare affiliation with a party — they are free to vote for any one political party on the ballot. But voters beware: Voting for candidates from more than one party voids all votes in the party portion of the ballot.

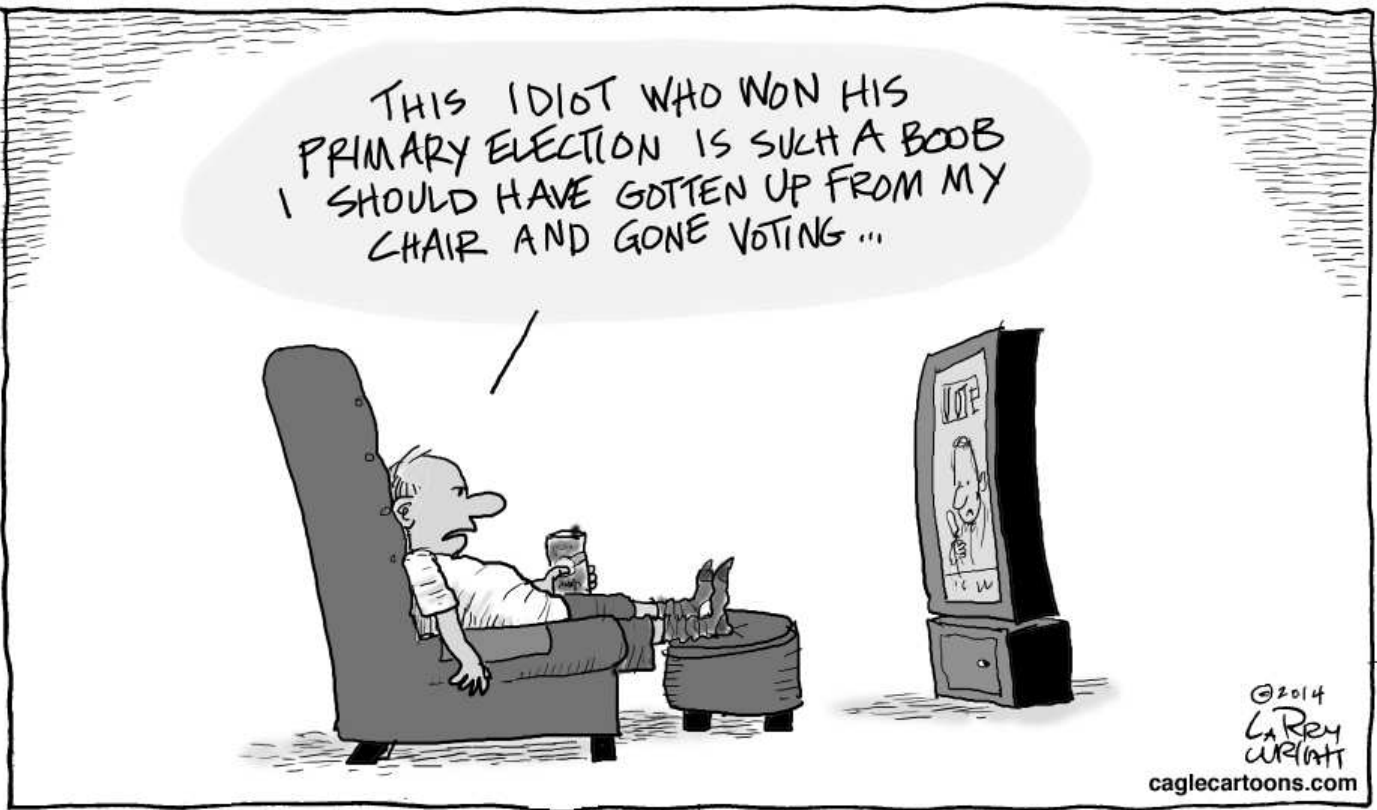
While there are no local races in the primary, it is still an important time for our democracy. Voters can do some homework before the election by visiting [www.mnvotes.org](http://www.mnvotes.org) to check their registration status, view their sample ballot, find their polling place and learn how to register at their polling place, and information about candidates.

In addition, voters can get familiar with the ballot by considering the sample ballot published in the Aug. 2 edition of The Journal.

The front of the ballot will have a column for each major political party and their candidates. Primary ballots do not allow for write-in votes. Preregistration for the primary election has ended, but voters may continue to preregister for the Nov. 4 general election by using online voter registration or registering by mail through Oct. 14.

But what if you are busy or out of town Tuesday? This year, it’s easier than ever to vote by absentee ballot. For the first time, Minnesota voters do not need an excuse to vote absentee, such as being ill or out of the precinct. To vote absentee, visit the Koochiching County Auditor/Treasurer’s Office between now and Tuesday.

Elections are the way we decide who will lead us into the future. We encourage everyone who is eligible to exercise their right to cast a vote for the candidates who best represent their views.



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## Eliminate overpaid jobs instead of more tax

**To the editor,**  
A local sales tax? And who is supposed to pay this tax? Half the town of International Falls is unemployed and low income. And the other half is government employed with what’s left in Boise. Senior citizens at best \$700 per month

from Social Security. And if the people of International Falls don’t vote this tax in — raise water and sewer that’s outrageously too high now. That alone is taking food off people’s tables, clothes off kids’ backs. There’s no way you can compare International Falls

to Bemidji, Duluth or Grand Rapids. Those towns are growing, expanding, prospering — those towns have people and jobs – everything International Falls doesn’t have. The people who have money to spend go out of town to buy because there’s nothing here. It’s

not a tax problem; it’s a spending problem. You say you want to save taxpayers money. Eliminate some of these overpaid government or city jobs that aren’t needed or producing anything for the town.  
**Darren Wallen  
International Falls,  
MN**

GUEST COLUMN

## Wil the Sarah Palin Channel rival Comedy Central?

This just in! If you’re willing to spend more money than you currently drop on Netflix, you can now get the Sarah Palin Channel online, which promises to “discuss the great issues of the day and work towards solutions.” Wait, solutions? How can THAT be the Sarah Palin Channel?

To some conservatives, Palin tells it like it is and is irresistible. To many other Americans, she’s a lightweight and a turnoff. Since being on John McCain’s losing 2008 Presidential ticket she hasn’t lifted a finger to add to her existing constituency, and most of her policy ideas fit in — or barely fill — a 140-character Tweet.

The New York Times’ Republican pundit David Brooks recently noted Palin’s role as queen of political polemics. On the PBS News Hour, he pointed to the Tea Party-influenced House of Representative’s success in disemboweling the House leadership’s conservative proposal for a bill to cope with illegal immigrant children and said:

“This is about Palin-ization of parts of the GOP. This is not about passing legislation, not about...we’re in a party. We should pay attention to our leaders. We should craft some compromise. We should compromise with the other side. This is about making a statement that will sound good on Fox. And so they want to make a statement that will sound good on



**Joe  
GANDELMAN**  
INDEPENDENT’S EYE

TV or will sound good at a town meeting, but it’s not actually about governing.”

Palin is the embodiment of the GOP’s talk radio allied wing that has virtually consumed the party, and a living, breathing manifestation of the damaged political legacy of Arizona Sen. John McCain. McCain’s putting her on the ticket was a political mistake that unleashed upon his party someone who has helped purge the party of its already dwindling contingent of moderates and conservatives willing to reach across the aisle — the very kinds of GOPers the 2000 incarnation of McCain respected.

Satirist Andy Borowitz couldn’t resist, writing: “Sarah Palin’s online video service starring herself had a hugely successful launch on Monday, as millions of Americans paid \$9.95 for the rare opportunity of hearing the former Alaska Governor speak.”

Those who don’t think much of Palin (centrists, moderates, many inde-

pendents, and many women voters) could come up with some suggested shows for the channel. Here are a few that immediately come to mind:

- The Biggest Loser: See which Republican politico can lose the biggest chunk of the growing Latino vote. The competition is already fierce to see who can wipe out gains made by George W. Bush in 2000 in winning over Hispanic voters. Contestants will compete to see who can most insult, disdain, and stereotype Latinos. The 223 House Republicans voting for the conservative border bill have already placed themselves in top in the competition. The likely Presidential candidate in the lead: Texas. Sen. Ted Cruz.

- The Blame Game: Who can most blame Barack Obama for things such as losing China to the Communists, the heart-break of psoriasis, and the single sock that vanished in the dryer?

- American Ideologue: Early auditions will feature bloggers, comments section trolls, and talk show fanatics. Who can be declared the purest member of the far right and hit all the right notes so loved by the political choir?

- RINO Hunter: Sarah Palin and Jim DeMint don pith helmets as they stalk and eliminate those dangerous RINOS that lurk on the East Coast, in country clubs, at lunches with Democrats, and on Wall Street.

- Arrested Develop-

ment: An exploration of the constructive ideas of Sean Hannity, Glenn Beck, Mark Levin and Rush Limbaugh.

- America’s Got Polarization: Who can make the most over-the-top, patently false assertions about Barack Obama, Democrats and anyone perceived as “going moderate”? Winner gets a \$10 million talk radio show contract, a private jet, and a seven hour lunch with Limbaugh.

- Conservative Looney Tunes: Re-runs of the 2012 Republican Presidential primary debates, plus live coverage of the 2016 Republican Presidential primary debates.

Palin is creating the channel in partnership with the online company Tapp, run by former NBC/Universal Television chairman Jeff Gaspin and former CNN U.S. President Joe Klein. Will it make money? You betcha. Will it offer serious, thoughtful solutions? I betcha not.

**Gandelman’s columns are distributed exclusively by Cagle Cartoons newspaper syndicate. Gandelman is a veteran journalist who wrote for newspapers overseas and in the United States. He has appeared on cable news show political panels and is Editor-in-Chief of The Moderate Voice, an Internet hub for independents, centrists and moderates. He also writes for The Week’s online edition.**

### How to contact your lawmakers

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### Share your point of view

Make a difference by writing a letter to the editor or contributing to our online discussions. The Journal’s Opinion page is where meaningful community discussions take place.

### The Journal welcomes letters from readers

Letters should be limited to 500 words or less. Longer letters may be edited. Letters must be signed and include the telephone number and address of the letter writer. Only the author’s city address will be published.

Mail letters to The Journal, 1602 Highway 71, International Falls 56649. Letters can also be sent by e-mail to [laurel@ifallsjournal.com](mailto:laurel@ifallsjournal.com).

### Candidate letter policy

The beginning of 2014 brought a new policy to The Journal. A charge of \$30 will be required to publish letters to the editor from candidates or about candidates. The letters must be 500 words or less and the fee must be paid prior to the letter being published. The name and city of the author will be published with the letter. Letters may be emailed to [laurel@ifallsjournal.com](mailto:laurel@ifallsjournal.com). The Journal will publish a deadline for publication of paid election letters prior to the Aug. 12 primary and Nov. 4 general elections.