

# TEA PARTY

A PUBLICATION OF THE MINNESOTA TEA PARTY ALLIANCE

“These are the times that  
try men’s souls”





by Mayor Mark Korin

# When People Really Listen



Well, I did it! The citizens of Oak Grove, MN have elected me as their Mayor for a second four year term by a margin of 97 percent of the votes cast. Now, I have to be honest and tell you that no one ran against me, but that didn't matter. I never took it for granted. I put up over one hundred signs, large and small, door knocked, wrote political articles, campaigned for other candidates, updated my website, participated in candidate forums, and simply put, continued to let people know that I truly care about this city, state, and this great country. **I never stopped sending a message of what it means to me to be a leader rather than a politician.** Something happened during this election cycle that truly opened my eyes. I have spent many years in a leadership role in city government. Because of this, when I walked up to a citizen's door I was often recognized. People often expressed their appreciation for what has been accomplished by bringing private sector business values, and most importantly, accountability to the operations. But on the flip side, I came to homes where I was intensely interrogated and questioned about my abilities. I realized that these people had no clue who their Mayor or City Council members were or what they stood for. I always try to get people involved by asking them to come to a meeting, get active on a committee, or at a minimum, watch the meetings on the internet or cable TV. Most said **"I don't have**

**time for that" or "I'm too busy for political nonsense" or "It would just make me mad."**

We in this country elect a representative from the majority vote that will be responsible for all decisions of spending, policies, regulations and laws for our government. The faith people put into their Mayor or City Council member is no different than a Senator, Governor, Congressman or

a State Legislative campaign by running for the Republican endorsement of my Senate district. There were a lot of good people that believed I could bring conservative leadership to the Capitol, and together take this state to a conservative and accountable direction. The first step in the process was to convince each Republican caucus that I was the real deal and would bring to the state what we've accomplished in our city. So in one night, I gave a brief overview of my qualifications and accomplishments to as many of the fifteen groups as possible that were spread out across both Anoka and Isanti County. Towards the end of the whirlwind evening, I was to give a final presentation to three separate groups in one building. I tried to limit the speeches and questions to half an hour, which in itself was an extremely difficult

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the President. We are **supposed** to elect **"the most qualified candidate"** and expect they will work selflessly at running and shaping the direction of this country following the guiding constitutional documents and laws. A meaningful quote that best sums up how I live my life: **"If you don't fight for what you want, don't cry for what you've lost."** When both sides start to blend together we get exactly that, an electorate that becomes complacent and dissatisfied with the whole process.

Last winter I got involved in

task to accomplish because there was so much I wanted to share. I started by explaining who I was personally, my core values, and giving an overview of the many public sector experiences and positions I have held. After finishing two presentations, I walked into the next room to another caucus meeting. The convener spotted me and asked if I was a candidate and ushered me in. In one fell swoop, he introduced me to about thirty people and said "tell us about yourself!"

Needless to say, I gave a passionate, conservative speech and laid out my history as a business owner, design engineer, and a real problem solver. I also talked about my twenty-plus years of public service leadership and outlined the struggles and accomplishments as the current Mayor of a city that cut taxes to residents by 34 percent. This got a rousing round of applause and numerous head nods! I looked around but there were NO brochures. The convener said no one dropped them off. So I got enough from my car to hand one out to each person and thanked them for allowing me this opportunity, which received another round of applause! I still had three more caucuses to attend and time was running out, so I ran out to my car and raced towards the next meeting site. About fifteen minutes into my drive, my campaign manager called and frantically asked where I was, concerned about meeting my schedule. I told her I



one of the three and only did two... "That's not true" I told her, I did all three, but the third room had none of my brochures so I had to run out

to my car and hand deliver them. She exclaimed, "Oh my Gosh! You did a Democrat caucus!" and laughed hysterically... I told her they were very nice people and liked what I stood for... Come to think of it, I never told them I was asking for

endorsed candidate.

I've thought about that night many times since, speculating why they liked what I had to say. I wondered, that if they knew I was a "Republican" would they have asked me to leave? Although I did not achieve the endorsement, what I experienced that night was that many people are not necessarily looking for a candidate representing a particular party, but rather for leaders who have core foundational values and strong skillsets so they will stand firm and energize the electorate base. It's important to elect people that have the wisdom to use their knowledge wisely and earn the trust of the people by doing what they say when they're in office... Selflessly... My name is Mark Korin and I approve this message, will you?

a Republican endorsement, I just wanted them to support me as their

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had just finished the three caucuses and was on the road to the next. She then informed me that I missed