



EDITORIAL

# What happens if Phil Gausman is elected?

Voters in Stevens County District 5 have two candidates from which to choose in the Nov. 6 election. Neil Wiese, who won the primary will be on the ballot. James Solvie, who did not advance from the primary but registered as write-in candidate is also a declared candidate.

Deceased county commissioner Phil Gausman will be on the ballot. And there appears to be a campaign to have Gausman elected, based in part, on signs that have appeared on lawns in the district.

Here's what happens if voters elected a deceased commissioner. The county board must appoint a person to fill the vacancy to fill the remainder of the current term within 30 days of the election. So the board appoints a person to complete Gausman's term through 2018. Then, the board can appoint that person or another person to begin the next term until a special election is held.

If Gausman wins the election, a special election will still be needed which will cost money and time. Why would voters want another election?

Since two candidates have declared themselves for the race, the board should consider them as possible appointees if Gausman wins the election?

Unless Gausman wins overwhelmingly, such as two to one over the next top vote-getter, the board does not have a clear mandate that voters rejected either of the other two candidates. If Gausman receives 350 votes and Wiese or Solvie receive 330, how does the county board justify appointing a third person, who did not run in the primary or general election, to the county board?

And there is this question: Why would voters in District 5 go to the trouble of voting if only to give the decision back to the county commissioners?

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

**Tips in the Jar (Part Two)**  
**To the editor:**  
The transition of the Democratic Party to a socialist party continues at a slow but steady pace. Imagine a Democrat today sincerely telling their constituents ask not what your country can do for you – ask what you can do for your country(JFK-1961). At best they'd lose in the Primary, at worst they and their family would be chased out of a restaurant by a mob. I've voted for Collin Peterson several times in the past and I still receive his email updates on Fridays. Recently for the first time, I sent him a response back when I read about

his opposition to the Farm Bill due to “unreasonable work requirements for food stamp recipients imposed by the Republicans“. I researched it a bit and it appears the so-called unreasonable work requirements are for able-bodied adults without young children in the home. Then I asked myself, how could anyone oppose those requirements in this economy like ours where we have more job openings then workers to fill them? Maybe I'm missing something? Or maybe this is the subtle beginning of a socialist mindset reaching us in western Minnesota? Is it possible that our Blue Dog has gotten lost? I suspect the east coast would be a good place to look for him.

Jason Kirwin  
Donnelly

**MEETINGS**

**Hancock City Council**  
Hancock City Council will meet at 7 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 13 in City Hall.

**Stevens County Board of Commissioners**  
The Stevens County Commissioners will meet at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 6 in the commissioners boardroom in the Stevens County Courthouse.

**Morris City Council**  
The Morris City Council will meet at 5:15 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 6 in the council chambers in the Morris Area Senior Center.

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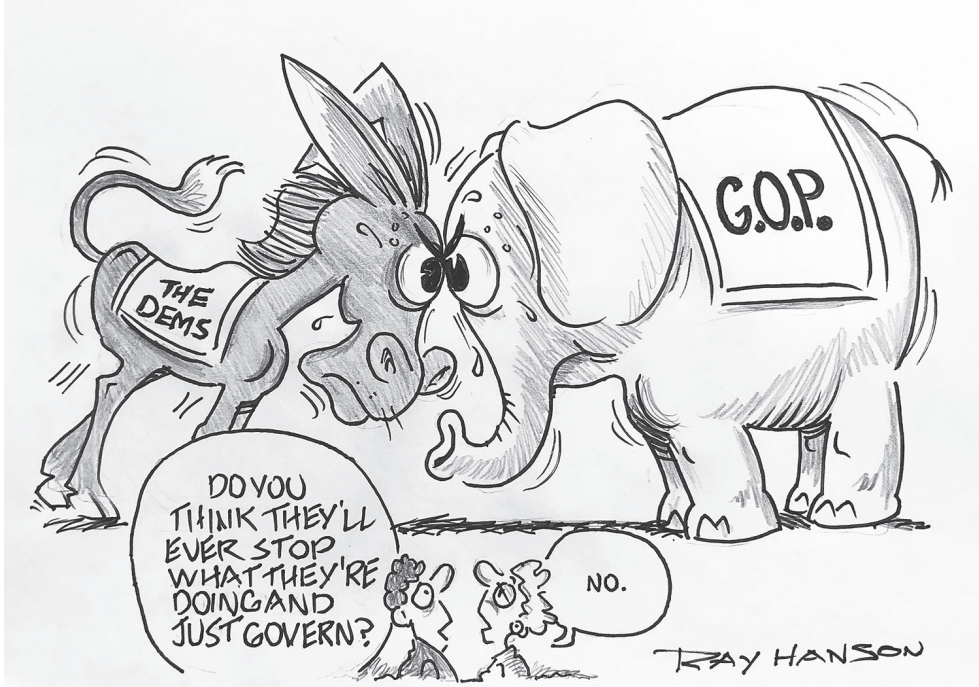
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COMMENTARY

# Senior care proposal in Maine could be answer for all of US

**Sarah Anderson**  
Columnist with Otherwords

Not too many romantic comedies have a major character who goes bankrupt paying the health care costs of a loved one with dementia. Although millions of American families can relate to this financial strain, it's not typical rom-com material.

But that's what happens to Kelsey Grammer's character in Like Father on Netflix. The film's writer and director, Lauren Miller Rogen, has worked to boost Alzheimer's education and research since her mother was diagnosed with the disease more than a decade ago.

Now Miller Rogen has teamed up with her husband, comedian Seth Rogen, to support a ballot initiative that would help less well-off families cope with the steep costs of caring for older family members with dementia and other disabilities.

The initiative, which will come before voters in Maine in November, could be a national model at a time when the costs of caring for our aging population are soaring.

The cruel disease of dementia is also our country's most costly. And it will almost certainly get much worse. The number of Americans with Alzheimer's is on track to jump from 5.7 million today to 14 million by 2050.

Like many of the more than 16 million Americans who take care of friends and family members suffering from this disease, Kelsey Grammer's Netflix character takes a heavy financial hit.

First he quits his job as an advertising executive to take care of his friend with dementia. Then, when the friend's needs became too much to handle, he starts paying out of pocket for home care. Eventually he has to declare

bankruptcy and loses his home after the friend dies.

In Maine, the median annual cost for full-time home care is more than \$50,000 — more than the state's annual median household income. Dementia care can run much higher because the clients need so much help. Medicare doesn't cover the costs of home care, and Medicaid reimbursement rates are so low that employers have difficulty finding workers willing to do this tough work for the meager wages they offer.

If voters approve the Maine plan, any senior who needs subsidized home care (not just dementia patients) will get it. The program will also raise wages for workers by requiring that at least 77 percent of the public funds going to home care agencies are used for employee compensation. Family caregivers can apply for stipends, too.

To pay for this benefit, the coalition Mainers for Home Care is calling for a payroll tax increase that would affect the top 3 percent of earners in the state.

This would help make up for the fact that our country's highest earners contribute just a tiny share of their income to Social Security compared to the middle class. Countries like Sweden, by contrast, have no cap on contributions to their national pension fund.

In a short video with her husband to support the Maine campaign, Lauren Miller Rogen explained that her family is lucky enough to be able to afford home care for her mother.

Living with dignity shouldn't depend on luck. All families who want to keep their older loved ones at home should be able to do so without emptying their bank accounts. The emotional toll is hard enough to bear.

COMMENTARY

# Beating back bigotry, one Sears catalog at a time

**Mitch Pearlstein**  
Of the Center for the American Experiment

Our friends at Intellectual Takeout, on Monday, Oct. 22, republished an excellent recent article by Brittany Hunter of the Foundation for Economic Education: “When Sears Used the Market to Combat Jim Crow.” How exactly did Sears do that starting in the 1880s?

“In those days,” Hunter wrote, “mail order catalogs were as revolutionary as Amazon Prime's two-day shipping is today. And not only did Sears provide all the basic household necessities, but it also provided an alternative for black consumers who feared being mistreated in public—a rather radical notion in the era of Jim Crow.”

With more consumers of all kinds buying all kinds of things from the Sears catalog, brick-and-mortar store owners became “livid.” But rather than competing with Sears fair and square like good capitalists, shopkeepers and others started rumors that “both Sears and its new competitor, Montgomery Ward, were owned by black men.” Eventually, “the outrage got so out of hand that business owners began hosting ‘book burnings’ of the catalogs each weekend.”

I assume most bonfire leaders knew that Sears wasn't really owned by black men. But I also assume they didn't know that a Jewish businessman by the name of Julius Rosenwald had bought a one-fourth interest of Sears, Roebuck and Co. in 1906. And that he became chairman of the board in 1925. And that in 1908, another Jewish guy, Albert

Henry Loeb, became vice president and treasurer of the company. Of a benignly different order, I assume few Minnesotans know that Richard W. Sears was born in Stewartville in 1863, and that as a very young man worked as a railroad station agent in Minneapolis and Redwood Falls.

By not making a Jews principal scapegoats, it would appear the fiery rabble were either (1) enthusiastic about making Jews absurdly wealthy and their company iconic, or (2) they were too stupid to know what was going on. I trust the answer is much more the latter.

In fact, during the lengthy eras of Jim Crow, Southerners routinely gave Jews their business, as the first half of the 20th century also was the periods of what were affectionately or nastily known as “Jew stores”: small general stores in rural communities that sometimes grew much larger.

One of the most satisfying books I've read was called simply The Jew Store, by an older Jewish woman named Stella Suberman, whose father, in 1920, moved his family to a small town in Tennessee to start and run such an establishment. As a reviewer wrote: “Suberman evokes early-20th-century life in the rural south and depicts her family's struggles to find a place in a town where African Americans suffered discrimination and poverty, the Ku Klux Klan was on the march and townspeople viewed Jews with suspicion.” Commercial risks and worries nowadays generally don't match those of yesteryear in some parts of our country.