

Legislative Evaluation Assembly



Holding legislators accountable

Thank You -
*Southwest Conservative
Republican Women*

What about me?

- Husband, father, 3 kids, Minnesotan - old guy
- Techno-geek by trade - BS computer science, 28 years in high technology, consulting. Still run ISP - iCompute.com
- activist - local GOP official 2008-2016
- Candidate for state rep 2010 and 2014
- Currently President of LEA

LEA vs. Me

I want to warn you that what I am going to present today is sometimes LEA positions, and sometimes my personal positions. You can tease these apart during question time. I will try to be clear about which is which.

Open with a story

- Principle vs Tribe
- Role of constitutions and law
- Vital role of faith
- Fundamental document - bible

Principle vs. Tribalism

- Nazi march in Skokie - 1977
- ACLU defended Nazis
- Alan Dershowitz - jewish lefty, on ACLU board
- His mother's take



Tribes and Politics

- Important to admit - we have tribes
- Constitution is procedure - how the tribes resolve differences
- Required:
 - Foundation of honor, high ideals
 - Faith that other “tribes” will honor agreement

Politics is Hard

- Government is the ONLY institution that can use force to get things done.
- Our founders gave us self-government, based on God-given rights, and individual liberty – not “services”, not “rights” in any material sense.
- ... but “Services”, “protections” are attractive.
- Temptation to rule others, not self. Make others pay
- As government grows, liberty yields. Every government decision is a liberty lost.
- Core fight – how much liberty do we retain?

LEA

- Educate the voters on the performance of legislators
- Support constitutional principle
- Hold legislators accountable
- Legislators should honor their oaths

What is LEA?

- Private organization
- Non partisan
- Not 501 (c) (3)
- (almost) no lobbying
- We don't make the news. We only report it.
- Since 1972 - <http://lea-mn.org>

What does LEA do?

- Tracks the actions of the legislature
- Writes and distributes a report on each session
- Maintains web site
- Holds yearly banquet
- Works with other organizations

The 2017 report

- MSB fever - Omnibus bills
- Fixes for past mistakes - Reinsurance (#4)
- RealID compliance - (#16)

Past issues

- 2010 - Voter ID - no
- 2015 - banning chemicals - (#14)
- 2016 - Body Cams - (#9)
- 2016 - Iron Mine Unemployment (#12)

Scoring Legislators

- Percent of correct votes
- Subtract 1/2 vote for absence



Our 2018 Banquet



Erick Kaardal

Tracking Legislation

- Minnesota has great website
- <https://www.leg.state.mn.us>