



Common Sense for Minnesota

Before our Revolution against Great Britain, Thomas Paine wrote "Common Sense". It was based on revealed truth, which is the foundation of common sense. Next to the Bible, it became the most-read piece of literature in the 13 colonies. Many of the same decisions now face the citizens of Minnesota that the colonists then faced. Ultimately, Paine inspired the formation of the Declaration of Independence. But more importantly, his pamphlet motivated the colonists to participate in the Revolution that separated us from Great Britain and birthed our United States Constitution. Paine stated, "A long habit of not thinking a thing wrong gives it a superficial appearance of being right." The remainder of this writing has a two-fold purpose: first, to summarize the thoughts expressed in Common Sense and the formation of our Republic, and second, to apply those thoughts to the present political situation in Minnesota.

Summarizing Paine's logic, he argued that society is produced by our wants, and government by our wickedness. Society is a blessing, but government is a necessary evil to protect us from our own evil tendencies. Government is best when it provides security at the least expense and with the greatest benefit. Society requires the cooperation of its subjects to achieve success. Government provides restraints to perpetuate society. As society grows, government grows from individual participation to representative participation (republicanism), best served by term limits and frequent elections. Simple government is best. The efficiency of government deteriorates as it becomes more complicated. Hence, monarchies and aristocracies dominated world history because of their simplicity, but tyranny is the ultimate result. Representative government tends toward exceeding complexity. And the notion that it is more stable is absurd, because the common populace is subject to evil as well, resulting in democratic tyranny. Thus, a new form of government was proposed and created, a unique experiment that we call a constitutional republic, the foundation of these United States of

America. To this, after the Constitutional Convention of 1787, Benjamin Franklin stated that our government is a republic if you can keep it.

Paine argued further that while monarchy is the most prosperous invention of the Devil (displacing God as the only sole authority), and aristocracy follows suit, republicanism falls prey to the same disease...replacing God's rule with the preponderance of common whims. Hence, Common Sense demands a new form of government that recognizes God alone as king, with a charter (our United States Constitution) based on divine law, the word of God, and hence recognizing the law as king. Paine's logic (already held commonly among our Founders) led to the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of the United States, the creation of a national navy, combining the interests of the colonies (the States), and recognizing a diversity of Christian religions (denominations) as opposed to a state religion. With this argument and understanding, Paine summarized that independence from Great Britain and her tyranny was the only bond that could tie and keep us together as the free and independent states of America. Though this discussion is not advocating literal independence from the government of Minnesota, it is arguing for a departure from government over-reach and tyranny in the State.

The thoughts of Thomas Paine and our Founders are intrinsically tied to another phenomenon: spiritual awakenings among Christians have been timely in US history as part of our cultural and spiritual development. Consider the dates of these awakenings in relation to societal formation/reformation: The first Great Awakening 1730's (George Whitefield and Jonathan Edwards) setting the stage for our revolution, The second Great Awakening 1790's – 1830's (the Methodists and free black churches) leading to temperance, abolition and women's rights before our Civil War, the third Great Awakening 1850's - 1900 (Dwight Moody, new denominations) spawning world-wide Christian missions ahead of both World Wars, a fourth awakening 1960's – 1970's (the Jesus Movement and the charismatic renewal) bringing upheaval, modernization, and cross mingling of Protestant and Catholic thought and practice. Today, another Christian Awakening is occurring, perhaps peaking and coming into national view with the assassination of Charlie Kirk and the memorial held in his honor.

For too long, Minnesota has swerved politically from its constitutional underpinnings and, in that detour, has missed what the rest of our Country is rediscovering, the cultural and spiritual values upon which these United States were founded. Minnesota has been divided since its inception. Because the division was so sharp between the Republican and Democratic caucuses, two constitutions were submitted to the United States Congress, each refusing to sign the other's version, though substantially the same (the Republican version printed on white paper and the Democratic version printed on blue-tinged paper). The Republican version, drafted by abolitionist William Winthrop, was sent with the bill returned to Minnesota. In 1974 an amended constitution, rewritten in modern language, was approved by the voters of Minnesota (understanding that the original document remains the final authority). Regardless, the Preamble of the published Minnesota Constitution states, "We the people of the State of Minnesota, grateful to God for civil and religious liberty, and desiring to perpetuate

its blessings and secure the same to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution". The purpose of this declaration is the key. Is Minnesota still grateful to God for civil and religious liberty? Does Minnesota still desire to perpetuate these blessings and secure them now and for future generations? The governmental branches of Minnesota are therefore to be guided by this purpose. Section 1 of the Bill of Rights then states, "Government is instituted for the security, benefit and protection of the people, in whom all political power is inherent, together with the right to alter, modify or reform government whenever required by the public good". Common Sense recognizes that all laws created and executed by the government must fall within these parameters. But what has really happened? The government has become bloated. The government has repeatedly overreached. The government in Minnesota has become tyrannical.

Again, Minnesota and the United States of America have long since been on this constitutional detour. However, in recent history, with the election of Ronald Reagan, the country began a return to the road of Common Sense. Most of the country has intermittently continued this march back to what was intended by our Founders...limited government. Sadly, Minnesota is behind the curve. Minnesota and only a handful of States wouldn't answer Reagan's call to limited government, leading up to his first term. Then, upon his re-election, only Minnesota and the District of Columbia remained intent on the detour. Since then, the political climate has become increasingly divided. A geographic depiction of recent elections proves that the country is increasingly red (Republican). Democrats continue to color population centers blue, mostly because of redistricting and increasingly soft immigration policies, to which Americans in general have become wise. The Tea Party, MAGA, the Convention of States Initiative, and now President Trump's second administration have continued efforts to reduce the over-reach of government. Ironically, while some on the Left are parading under a "No Kings" banner, Democrats and RINO Republicans, both influenced and supported by the aristocracy of big pharma, big tech, lawfare, rigged elections, and fake news, continue to promote bigger and more intrusive government. But the backbone of America...the working, tax-paying, common-sense population continues to trend toward a view of limited government and spiritual enlightenment.

Common Sense is calling the people of Minnesota to elect a governor who understands the principles of God-ordained rights and limited government, and who is faithful to their application. He is required to take an oath or affirmation to support the Constitution of the United States and of this state and to discharge the duties of his office faithfully to the best of his judgment and ability. Though vital to the process, his powers and duties are relatively narrow in scope. He shall communicate, by message, to each session of the legislature information touching the state and the country. He shall take care that the laws be faithfully executed. And he shall fill any vacancy that may occur in the offices of secretary of state, auditor, attorney general and the other state and district offices hereafter created by law until the end of the term for which the person who had vacated the office was elected or the first Monday in January following the next general election, whichever is sooner, and until a

successor is chosen and qualified. He shall sign or veto bills passed by the Legislature as delineated in Article IV Section 23 of the State Constitution. Other powers and duties are subject to his prerogatives, including that he, as commander-in-chief of the military and naval forces, may call them out to execute the laws, suppress insurrection, and repel invasion. And he may require the written opinion of the principal officer in each executive department upon any subject relating to his duties. With the advice and consent of the senate he may appoint notaries public and other officers provided by law. He may appoint commissioners to take the acknowledgment of deeds or other instruments in writing to be used in the state. These executive powers and duties are limited, as are those of the legislative and judicial branches. Article I, Section 1 of the Minnesota Constitution Bill of Rights is here reiterated for emphasis, "Government is instituted for the security, benefit, and protection of the people, in whom all political power is inherent, together with the right to alter, modify or reform government whenever required by the public good (Excerpts from MN Constitution).

Common Sense will awaken that slumbering giant inherent in Minnesota's non-voting population and among those deceived by cultural collapse and the recidivism of U.S. history. Will you hear the sounding alarm? Will you exercise that legal vote as a citizen of Minnesota and these United States of America? Will you vote for Common Sense? Will you elect a governor in whom Common Sense resides?