

FRANKEN CAMPAIGN STATEMENT ON SECRETARY OF STATE'S ANNOUNCEMENT

SAINT PAUL [11/12/08] -- Andy Barr, Communications Director for the Al Franken for Senate campaign, released the following statement today:

"The Coleman campaign and its political allies have been trying to claim that Minnesota's Secretary of State is just a left-wing partisan. I think we can all now see that their claims were just political posturing. Today, Mark Ritchie has named two partisan Republican Supreme Court justices to the state canvassing board. Chief Justice Magnuson was Governor Pawlenty's law partner. Justice Anderson spent a decade representing the Minnesota GOP. And both were named to the Supreme Court by Governor Pawlenty, who has been an active surrogate for the Coleman campaign, going on television to spread false claims of foul play in an effort to besmirch our state's good reputation and cast doubt on our electoral process.

"Nevertheless, there are clear laws laying out how this recount should proceed. And we will continue to hope that, despite the partisan affiliations of these two justices, they are capable of interpreting those laws correctly and ruling fairly on matters related to this recount.

"The real question is: Will the Coleman campaign continue its shameful effort to prevent every vote from being counted fairly, or will they stop spreading baseless claims?"