



The Unanimous Declaration of the Thirteen United States of America

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the complete text of the Declaration of Independence as adopted by Congress on July 4, 1776. The original spelling and capitalization have been retained.

When, in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bonds which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the laws of nature and of nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. That whenever any form of government becomes destructive to these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shown that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such government, and to provide new guards for their future security. --Such has been the patient sufferance of these colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former systems of government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute tyranny over these states. To prove this, let facts be submitted to a candid world.

He has refused his assent to laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.

He has forbidden his governors to pass laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

He has refused to pass other laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of representation in the legislature, a right inestimable to them and formidable to tyrants only.

He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their public records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures.

He has dissolved representative houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people.

He has refused for a long time, after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the legislative powers, incapable of annihilation, have returned to the people at large for their exercise; the state remaining in the meantime exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without, and convulsions within.

He has endeavored to prevent the population of these states; for that purpose obstructing the laws for naturalization of foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migration hither, and raising the conditions of new appropriations of lands.

He has obstructed the administration of justice, by refusing his assent to laws for establishing judiciary

powers.

He has made judges dependent on his will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries.

He has erected a multitude of new offices, and sent hither swarms of officers to harass our people, and eat out their substance.

He has kept among us, in times of peace, standing armies without the consent of our legislature.



John Trumbull's famous painting shows the presentation of the Declaration of Independence in what is now called Independence Hall, Philadelphia. The painting features the committee that drafted the Declaration of Independence - John Adams, Roger Sherman, Thomas Jefferson (presenting the document), and Benjamin Franklin - standing before John Hancock, the President of the Continental Congress. The painting includes portraits of 44 of the 56 signers and four other patriots.

He has affected to render the military independent of and superior to civil power.

He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his assent to their acts of pretended legislation:

For quartering large bodies of armed troops among us:

For protecting them, by mock trial, from punishment for any murders which they should commit on the inhabitants of these states:

For cutting off our trade with all parts of the world:

For imposing taxes on us without our consent:

For depriving us in many cases, of the benefits of trial by jury:

For transporting us beyond seas to be tried for pretended offenses:

For abolishing the free system of English laws in a neighboring province, establishing therein an arbitrary government, and enlarging its boundaries so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule in these colonies:

For taking away our charters, abolishing our most valuable laws, and altering fundamentally the forms of our governments:

For suspending our own legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever.

He has abdicated government here, by declaring us out of his protection and waging war against us.

He has plundered our seas, ravaged our coasts, burned our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.

He is at this time transporting large armies of foreign mercenaries to complete the works of death, desolation and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of cruelty and perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the head of a civilized nation.

He has constrained our fellow citizens taken captive

on the high seas to bear arms against their country, to become the executioners of their friends and brethren, or to fall themselves by their hands.

He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavored to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian savages, whose known rule of warfare, is undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions.

In every stage of these oppressions we have petitioned for redress in the most humble terms: our repeated petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A prince, whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people.

Nor have we been wanting in attention to our British brethren. We have warned them from time to time of attempts by their legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the ties of our common kindred to disavow these usurpations, which, would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence. They too have been deaf to the voice of justice and of consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity, which denounces our separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, enemies in war, in peace friends.

We, therefore, the representatives of the United States of America, in General Congress, assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the name, and by the authority of the good people of these colonies, solemnly publish and declare, that these united colonies are, and of right ought to be free and independent states; that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them

and the state of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as free and independent states, they have full power to levy war, conclude peace, contract alliances, establish commerce, and to do all other acts and things which independent states may of right do. And for the support of this declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor.

- New Hampshire: *Josiah Bartlett, William Whipple, Matthew Thornton*
- Massachusetts: *John Hancock, Samuel Adams, John Adams, Robert Treat Paine, Elbridge Gerry*
- Rhode Island: *Stephen Hopkins, William Ellery*
- Connecticut: *Roger Sherman, Samuel Huntington, William Williams, Oliver Wolcott*
- New York: *William Floyd, Philip Livingston, Francis Lewis, Lewis Morris*
- New Jersey: *Richard Stockton, John Witherspoon, Francis Hopkinson, John Hart, Abraham Clark*
- Pennsylvania: *Robert Morris, Benjamin Rush, Benjamin Franklin, John Morton, George Clymer, James Smith, George Taylor, James Wilson, George Ross*
- Delaware: *Caesar Rodney, George Read, Thomas McKean*
- Maryland: *Samuel Chase, William Paca, Thomas Stone, Charles Carroll of Carrollton*
- Virginia: *George Wythe, Richard Henry Lee, Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Harrison, Thomas Nelson, Jr., Francis Lightfoot Lee, Carter Braxton*
- North Carolina: *William Hooper, Joseph Hewes, John Penn*
- South Carolina: *Edward Rutledge, Thomas Heyward, Jr., Thomas Lynch, Jr., Arthur Middleton*
- Georgia: *Button Guinnett, Lyman Hall, George Walton*

Source: *The Pennsylvania Packet*, July 8, 1776

City faces Local Government Aid reductions

It is well reported in the news that the State of Minnesota's \$4 billion budget deficit and Governor Pawlenty's desire to personally balance the budget, is resulting in significant reductions in health care assistance, higher education and Local Government Aid (LGA) programs. Cuts to LGA ultimately result in higher property tax rates in cities, as cities begin to fund their budgets more from local property taxes than from the state sales and income taxes.

LGA was designed in 1967 as a state payment to

cities to keep property taxes lower. LGA is important for smaller outstate communities because typically we have smaller populations, lower property values (tax bases) and lower average median income levels than larger cities in the metro, yet the costs of purchasing goods and services like snow plows, police cars, fire trucks, gasoline, salt/sand, tar and personnel are similar, if not the same. The State of Minnesota has changed LGA distribution in many ways over the past 42 years by modifying how the state's revenue is

derived and how it is distributed through various need-based formulas. However, during this time cities have largely enjoyed a stable fiscal relationship and could successfully plan operating levies and budgets around the knowledge that the state would provide LGA.

Recently, state LGA amounts have been significantly reduced and cities have adjusted their budgets, levies and services around the loss of LGA. Over the past six years, Minnesota cities have lost \$750 million in state aid and as a

result, property taxes have increased over 65 percent statewide. Cities have been more fiscally conservative than the state over the past six years; while funding for state programs has increased three point two percent since 2002, revenues available for local spending have decreased 13.7 percent; cities have shrunk their workforce by six percent between 2003 and 2008, while the state's workforce has grown by 10 percent during the same period.

To put these numbers into perspective, 2009 Sta-

ples LGA provides over 36 percent of revenue (\$1,056,223) to the General and Special Fund budgets (\$2,905,042) while the local property tax levy provides only 13 percent (\$389,199). In December of 2008 the Governor announced that the City of Staples would receive \$67,000 less than promised. In June 2009, the Governor again announced that the City of Staples would receive a further reduction of \$58,216 in 2009 and \$134,326 in 2010. These cuts are significant to the operating budgets of the City of Staples.

As always, the City of Staples will do everything possible to protect residents from steep property tax increases and painful cuts to services. Staples is in a fair position to react to additional LGA cuts, as the finances of the city are sound; in May the city received a positive bond rating of 'A/stable' and is seeing upward movement in its property tax base. Additionally, department heads have already been evaluat-

ing ways to react to the latest round of cuts without dramatically cutting city service delivery. However, a continued, long-term underfunding of LGA should be a major concern to all property taxpayers in Minnesota, as the "Minnesota Miracle" of 1967 is fast becoming a distant memory. The city council will be meeting July 21 to discuss the loss of 2009 and 2010 LGA and how this will impact our operating budgets.

Please feel free to contact me or the council with specific concerns you have regarding city services and specific questions on LGA's role in the City of Staples.

City Corner



By Nathan Mathews
City Administrator

Staples World

Established in 1890. USPS 518-760
©2009 Devlin Newspapers, Inc.
Published Thursdays by Devlin Newspapers, Inc.
Office located at 224 4th Street NE
Periodicals postage paid at Staples, Minnesota 56479.

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 100
Telephone: (218) 894-1112 - Fax: (218) 894-3570
Toll Free: 1-888-894-1112
www.staplesworld.com - E Mail: info@staplesworld.com

Official Newspaper for:
City of Staples, City of Aldrich,
Staples Motley School District,
Freshwater Education District and Todd County.

Letters: Readers are encouraged to express their views by writing letters to the editor. Letters are verified for authenticity, so please include a name, address and phone number. Only the author's name and city will be published. Letters may be edited for spelling and grammar errors, libel, length and other factors. Private thanks, solicitations and libelous letters will not be published. Letters are printed on a space available basis. The editor reserves the right to reject letters.

The deadline is 5 p.m. Monday. Opinions expressed on this page do not necessarily represent the views of this newspaper.

Fairness: The Staples World tries conscientiously to report fairly and accurately. If you feel we fall short of this objective at any time, please direct your complaint

PublisherDevlin Newspapers, Inc.
General Manager.....Brenda Halvorson info@staplesworld.com
News Editor.....Tom Crawford tcrawford@staplesworld.com
Advertising Representative... Gary Mueller gmueller@cot.com
Graphics/Photo Tech.....Janice Mueller jwinter@staplesworld.com
Bookkeeping/Circulation
Front Office/Proofreader.....Kathy Odden kodden@staplesworld.com
CWR Reporter.....Dawn Schimpp Timbs dtimbs@staplesworld.com
Receptionist/Typesetting.....Linda LeMans llm@staplesworld.com
Courier.....Robert McKimmy

Subscription Rates:
Local: (Todd, Wadena, Morrison, Cass Counties) \$33 per year
Minnesota: \$37 per year - Out of State: \$41 per year
Foreign: \$47 per year Student Rate: (Sept. through Apr./in state) \$24
There is a \$5 charge for address change from local to out of state.

to the manager whose name appears on this page. If we cannot resolve our differences, we would welcome you to register your complaint with the Minnesota News Council, an organization which has our complete support. Call 612-341-9357.
Note to Advertisers: Advertisers should check their ad following first publication. This newspaper shall not be liable for failure to publish an ad or for the typographic error or errors in publication except to the extent of the cost of the ad for the first day's insertion. Adjustment for errors is limited to the cost of that portion of the ad wherein the error occurred. The publisher reserves the right to cancel any advertisement at any time.

LET FREEDOM RING

