

St. Louis County Board Report Card¹

We Are Watching Campaign

August, 2007 – October, 2008

	Points	Fink	Forsman	Kron	Nelson	O'Neil	Rauker	Sweeney
ACCOUNTABILITY Max Score:	5=A	0/F	1/F	4/B	1/F	5/A	1/F	4/B
1. Voted to hold commissioners accountable for inappropriate sexual conduct	2			2		2		2
2. Opposed raising mileage reimbursement	1			1		1		
3. Opposed hiring interim administrator at higher cost	1					1		1
4. Supported lower cost/higher quality pharmacy service for CJ	1		1	1	1	1	1	1
TRANSPARENCY Max Score:	5=A	3.5 C+	.5 F	4.5 B+	1.5 D+	4.5 B+	4.5 B+	4.5 B+
Open meetings								
1. Difficult for public to find info about monthly Bd workshop	-5	-5	-5	-5	-5	-5	-5	-5
1. Convened ethics committee w/o letting others know and keeping no minutes	-1		-1					
Advocated using workshop discussion as substitute for decisions which should go to Board meeting	-1				-1 ²			
Favoring special interests in conflict with interests of SLC								
1. Renaming Big Island as a favor to a State Representative, asking for and ignoring tribal input	-1		-1		-1			
2. Promoting special zoning for US Steel, Lake Vermilion	-1	-1						
Individual Acts								
1. Not allowing county attorney on Bd agenda when requested	-1		-1					
2. Citing "expert opinions" w/o identifying experts	-1				-1			
3. Misrepresenting Positions of SLCB at other meetings	-1		-1 ³					
ETHICAL STANDARDS Max Score:	5=A	0/F	2/D	5/A	2/D	5/A	3/C	5/A
1. Voted against code of conduct ⁴	-1							
2. Opposed stronger and enforceable code of conduct	-1	-1	-1		-1 ⁵		-1	
3. Did not attend ethics related training ⁶	-1	-1?						
4. Statements and actions that contributed to hostile work environment								
< Discounted sexual harassment (despite warnings from county attorney)	-1	-1	-1		-1		-1	
< Individual act, book throwing incident at workshop	-1	-1						
< Shows disrespect towards colleagues, county officials, employees, or citizens	-1	-1	-1		-1			

Areas for Improvement

- Work to restore community trust - Be respectful towards colleagues, county officials, employees, and citizens
- Do justice to women who suffered sexual harassment
- Videotape all meetings and workshops and archive them online
- Stay focused on content relative to issues on the table, eliminate long storytelling and speeches
- Align mileage reimbursement for all commissioners with federal rate, consistent with county employees
- Enhance transparency by including workshop agendas on county website.
- Commissioners must state potential conflicts of interest so board can assess relevance
- Ensure "whistle blowing" protection - Act promptly to hire County Administrator

¹ This report focuses only on the issues of accountability, transparency, and ethical standards that citizen watchers have observed and does not rate commissioners on overall performance.

² Commissioner Nelson advocated for this and continues to resist taking a public stand on a relevant issue

³ Commissioner Forsman announced to an outside group "St. Louis County does not support cap and trade."

⁴ The code of conduct adopted sets standards for behavior yet lacks transparency and enforceability.

⁵ At the 11th hour Commissioner Nelson introduced a code of conduct (developed with unnamed attorney) that lacks enforceability

⁶ Unable to calculate item 3 for Commissioner Fink as county is unable to verify his participation at training