



Brian U. Stratton
Mayor

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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STRATTON CONGRATULATES SENATOR-ELECT AL FRANKEN ON WIN IN MINNESOTA

Schenectady Mayor, Franken Share 312-Vote Margin of Victory in their Races

SCHENECTADY -- Mayor Brian U. Stratton today sent an official letter of congratulations to the newly elected United States Senator from the State of Minnesota, Al Franken.

While the "North Star State" and the City of Schenectady may be separated by more than 1,300 miles, Mayor Stratton and Senator-elect Franken do have something unique in common politically; they shared an identical margin of victory in their initial races for their respective offices – 312 votes.

On Monday, the Minnesota Supreme Court confirmed Franken the winner of the race against incumbent Senator Norm Coleman by 312 votes. In 2003, after a recanvassing of machines and the counting of absentee ballots, Stratton became Schenectady's 74th mayor, also winning election by a margin of 312 votes.

"I wrote Senator Franken to congratulate him, and to wish him the very best in serving our nation and the people of Minnesota," Mayor Stratton said. "I also offered him a bit of qualified encouragement for the future --- that, should he choose to seek reelection in 2013, and if our electoral paths continue to parallel by the numbers, he would win in a landslide," Stratton said.

In 2007, Stratton was reelected to a second term as mayor with a record 71 percent of the vote, the highest margin of any Schenectady mayor since the city changed to a strong mayor form of government in the 1970s.

"It is always good to have friends in the United States Senate, and I hope to introduce myself personally to Senator Franken on my next trip to Washington," Mayor Stratton added.

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A copy of Mayor Stratton's letter to Senator-elect Franken is attached.



BRIAN U. STRATTON
Mayor



Office of the Mayor
SCHENECTADY, N.Y.

July 1, 2009

Senator Al Franken
Al Franken for Senate
P.O. Box 583144
St. Paul, Minnesota 55458-3144

Dear Senator Franken:

I write to convey my personal and heartfelt congratulations to you on your election to the United States Senate.

Although any apparent connection between the City of Schenectady and the State of Minnesota may be difficult to ascertain, your margin of victory as confirmed by the Minnesota Supreme Court gives you and me something very special in common.

You see, when I was first elected Mayor of Schenectady in 2003 in a very tight race, my final margin of victory after the recount was also 312 votes. Let me also offer you a bit of encouragement for the future. Should you decide to run for re-election in 2013, and should our electoral paths continue to parallel by the numbers, you will win in a landslide!

I wish you the very best in serving the people of Minnesota and our nation in the Senate. If I or the City of Schenectady can be of any service to you during that time, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

