A readers’ guide

An inside look at our work and how you can contribute.

The editorial page

The Editorial Board is committed to hosting a civil and informed debate on the issues that matter most to the Star Tribune’s readers.

One or two ways we get the conversation started is to provide our own views in the form of editorials, which represent the institutional voice of the Star Tribune.

Editorial Board members offer their ideas at regular staff meetings. Some of those ideas come in response to news coverage, while others may come from sources they’ve developed in their areas of expertise or from one of the many meetings the board holds with community leaders, politicians, government officials and civic groups.

Board members discuss whether topics are worth writing about; the editorial might be argued, and what reporting will be needed to develop an informed opinion.

There’s sometimes a disagreement about the direction an editorial should take, and in those cases, the editorial page editor makes the call. The board reaches a consensus on the skeleton outline, and a board member writes the actual reporting and writing.

Editors in draft have a byline or credit line because they should write on behalf of the board. An editorial may not be in full going with the opinion approved.

The Editorial Board operates independently from the newsroom, meaning that news reporters and editors are not involved in its decision-making about the board’s positions.

At a recent time, for example, newsroom staff members learned about the board’s endorsement of a new candidate at the same time readers did — when they’re published.

The best editors make a difference in a community by provoking healthy debate and by influencing public affairs in ways that the Editorial Board believes will benefit Minnesotans today and in the future.

It’s not that we’re trying to say seriously knowing that ultimately our readers will determine if our opinions are valid.

Editorials

EpiPen price gouging shouldn’t surprise

U.S. companies have been raising the prices of a few drugs, not all of them as breathtakingly high as the recent 400% price hike for Mylan’s EpiPen. But consider what happened last month when the company’s CEO admitted to increasing the price of EpiPen, which treats severe allergic reactions, by 20% every year since 2007 — a near doubling of the price over a decade. The company recently revised the price to reflect the new “value based pricing” strategy.

Mylan CEO Heather Bresch has been facing increasing criticism for the drug price increases. In April, the company increased the price of EpiPen by 15%.

The increase in drug prices is not surprising, given what we know about the pharmaceutical industry — it can be highly protected and insulated. Global marketers — “brand name” or “name brand” — are protected from competition in ways that allow them to raise prices without fear of losing market share.

It’s understandable to look back and shake our heads in revulsion. The pharmacology of drug prices means that some companies can raise prices on existing products without worrying about the competition that might be developing.

The price increases make sense for Wall Street. It’s the reality of a global business. But consider what it means for consumers. The EpiPen price hike increased the cost of treating severe allergic reactions for millions of people.

Giuliani’s sick at tack

Giuliani is just 72, but he seemed frail as he walked to the podium and slightly stooped as he walked to the end of his address, beads of sweat forming on his forehead. His words were slurred, his articulation of vowels varying from clear to barely audible.

That hasn’t stopped him from being a force in the Republican Party as he sought to win back the GOP nomination for the White House.

When he’s not speaking, Clinton is just as much in the news as Giuliani. Her health is the subject of constant speculation and misinformation.

Yes, all of the above is ludicrous — as Giuliani’s own loathsome smears and innuendo about Hillary Clinton’s health, which follow Trump’s. Then there was his slurred diction, as if he was trying to hide everything. Clinton, by contrast, has released some test results, which, while not necessarily proving that she’s not ill, suggest heart disease?

Giuliani’s Honor — OK?

Giuliani’s Honor — OK?

The GOP convention last month in Cleveland provided another slurred performance from the former mayor. The party crowd gasped as he coughed and slurred during his 15-minute speech at the Republican National Convention. He even licked his lips, indicating dry mouth.

During his speech, Giuliani referred to the end of his address, beads of sweat forming on his forehead. His words were slurred, his articulation of vowels varying from clear to barely audible.

Yes, all of the above is ludicrous — as Giuliani’s own loathsome smears and innuendo about Hillary Clinton’s health, which follow Trump’s. Then there was his slurred diction, as if he was trying to hide everything. Clinton, by contrast, has released some test results, which, while not necessarily proving that she’s not ill, suggest heart disease?

Giuliani’s Honor — OK?

Giuliani’s Honor — OK?

The GOP convention last month in Cleveland provided another slurred performance from the former mayor. The party crowd gasped as he coughed and slurred during his 15-minute speech at the Republican National Convention. He even licked his lips, indicating dry mouth.

During his speech, Giuliani referred to the end of his address, beads of sweat forming on his forehead. His words were slurred, his articulation of vowels varying from clear to barely audible.

Yes, all of the above is ludicrous — as Giuliani’s own loathsome smears and innuendo about Hillary Clinton’s health, which follow Trump’s. Then there was his slurred diction, as if he was trying to hide everything. Clinton, by contrast, has released some test results, which, while not necessarily proving that she’s not ill, suggest heart disease?

Giuliani’s Honor — OK?

Giuliani’s Honor — OK?

The GOP convention last month in Cleveland provided another slurred performance from the former mayor. The party crowd gasped as he coughed and slurred during his 15-minute speech at the Republican National Convention. He even licked his lips, indicating dry mouth.

During his speech, Giuliani referred to the end of his address, beads of sweat forming on his forehead. His words were slurred, his articulation of vowels varying from clear to barely audible.

Yes, all of the above is ludicrous — as Giuliani’s own loathsome smears and innuendo about Hillary Clinton’s health, which follow Trump’s. Then there was his slurred diction, as if he was trying to hide everything. Clinton, by contrast, has released some test results, which, while not necessarily proving that she’s not ill, suggest heart disease?

Giuliani’s Honor — OK?

Giuliani’s Honor — OK?

The GOP convention last month in Cleveland provided another slurred performance from the former mayor. The party crowd gasped as he coughed and slurred during his 15-minute speech at the Republican National Convention. He even licked his lips, indicating dry mouth.

During his speech, Giuliani referred to the end of his address, beads of sweat forming on his forehead. His words were slurred, his articulation of vowels varying from clear to barely audible.

Yes, all of the above is ludicrous — as Giuliani’s own loathsome smears and innuendo about Hillary Clinton’s health, which follow Trump’s. Then there was his slurred diction, as if he was trying to hide everything. Clinton, by contrast, has released some test results, which, while not necessarily proving that she’s not ill, suggest heart disease?