

Elected officials needed

REGIONAL GOVERNMENT ISN'T WORKING WELL in the state of Minnesota.

In fact, as Staff Writer Todd Sloane points out in his story on Page 4, Gov. Arne Carlson has appointed new members and read them the riot act: Make it work this time or the Metropolitan Council of the Twin Cities will become history.

Perhaps they will succeed, but the evidence is not strong.

The problem is that this regional government council is not elected by any group of voters; it is appointed by the governor.

On the other side of the country, in Portland, Ore., another model of regional government does seem to be working. That regional council has made progress in a number of areas, and its success rate has been attributed to democratically elected representatives running the council.

Interesting idea, that, elected officials having more power than appointed ones. Interesting, too, that other elected officials listen and cooperate with their fellow elected officials.

Frankly, we think it's a good idea.

Democracy is what government ought to be about.

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