



# Rep. Tom Emmer on TWIN CITIES NEWS TALK – JANUARY 9, 2026

**Twin Cities News Talk Radio**

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**JON JUSTICE:**

Good morning.

**REP. TOM EMMER:**

Good morning to you. Happy to answer whatever questions you got. [laughter]

**JON JUSTICE:**

Let's start off here. I want to get to some of the questions that the listeners have had on a number of different issues, but let's start with the House voting first, Tom, to extend the Obamacare subsidies for another 3 years. I reminded the audience at the start of the show and you can certainly catch the podcast if you missed the first hour of the show on the iHeart Radio app. But you know this is a rather unceremonious end to what was the biggest story for a while last year with the government shutdown, but the Obamacare subsidies have been extended. It will now go over to the Senate. Your thoughts on this, Representative Tom Emmer?

**REP. TOM EMMER:**

Total clown show on that side. First off, those subsidies are outrageous. People who are listening need to be reminded that 15 years ago, Democrats and Republicans alone conspired with the health insurance industry to write a bill called the Affordable Care Act, which has turned out to be the unaffordable care act. The only people who have benefited in the last 15 years are the health insurers in this country. They have made billions of dollars. Their stock prices - one of our guys was telling me they've had in some cases a 1700% increase in value over the last 15 years while they've been making billions of dollars and gorging themselves on the US taxpayer. Guess what? Americans have found it harder and harder to pay for the health insurance that they used to get access to the greatest health care in the world. That's the crime, John. This vote yesterday - and yes, they'll say, "Oh, well, you had some Republicans cross over." You know why? Because they know it's a dead thing and they know they're going to get criticized at home. They were trying to work on a solution. It didn't come together, and I'm not going to point fingers at anybody. They ultimately figured the only way they were going to be able to say, "See, I voted for that, but it didn't pass" was by doing what they did yesterday. And I just - it was pathetic to watch these Democrats, including some from our home state sit over there like school children cheering. Oh, we passed something that's on its way to the Senate to die. It's not going anywhere.

**JON JUSTICE:**

Talking with Representative Tom Emmer. Let's get into the congressional hearing on fraud that took place on Wednesday. You know, Tom, and I'll be upfront, these types of hearings, they drive me nuts because typically, you know, they're designed and the comments and the questions are designed just to get a sound bite for whoever is in Congress and then to go and put online. It's always good to get the relevant information out there



to get people on record. I understand the importance of it. I'm curious from your perspective, and we played quite a few of your comments during the hearing on Wednesday, but were you pleased with the way the hearing turned out? Did it do what it was intended to do? What are your thoughts on that hearing?

**\*\*REP. TOM EMMER:**

\*\* Well, I have two, but I have a comment first, which is actually two. One is hearings like this, one of the problems you have is you have members of Congress who are running for other offices that like to use these to showcase themselves as opposed to the issue. And that could be a Republican or a Democrat. That's just a human thing.

**\*\*REP. TOM EMMER:**

\*\* And it's kind of a pain in the rear end that takes away from the activity, the purpose of the hearing. That part aside, the other comment is I thought the legislators from Minnesota - Kristen Robbins, Marian Raric, Walter Hudson in particular - they were phenomenal and the two takeaways from that hearing that I got John one is you realize that no Democrat from Minnesota came in to ask any questions. No Democrat waved on to the committee from Minnesota. Kelly Morrison wasn't there. Representative from the second district wasn't there. Nobody. Ilhan Omar didn't show up. Nobody showed up to ask questions about fraud. Nobody. On our side, my takeaway is this: it was very clear from all three of the legislators who have been deeply involved in this that the whistleblowers are real, that they say they told Tim Walz and Keith Ellison about the fraud when it was happening, that they were not only ignored but they were retaliated against and threatened. That to me is pretty damning. And once those whistleblowers are documented under oath and this is confirmed, I think Tim Walz, if that's true, should be prosecuted. And so I thought from that standpoint and having all three of them say there is no doubt in their mind that Tim Walz knew it was going on and that he refused - he actively refused to do anything about it. I think that and you saw the reaction before the tragedy in Minnesota day before yesterday. You saw Tim Walz spinning out of control, John. I mean, he calls a press conference to announce, "I'm dropping my run for a historic third term because I'm going to fight the fraud that I haven't fought for seven years." And then 24 hours later, as he's spitting even more out of control, he's on there saying, "I'm not going to resign." John, I think it's much worse than even you and I would guess.

**\*\*JON JUSTICE:**

\*\* Yeah. No, I would agree talking with Representative Tom Emmer. All right, let's get to a couple of things. C-SPAN ended up catching what they say is a heated exchange between you and Angie Craig on the House of Representatives floor. In an interview, Craig said that she directly confronted you and she said, "I candidly told him that I do not know who you are. You are not the man that I knew eight years ago." I had a lot of listeners that were reaching out asking, can you ask Tom about this heated exchange that she had with Angie Craig and that was about - So what happened there, Tom?

**\*\*REP. TOM EMMER:**

\*\* Well, it was a total setup with Angie in the Star Tribune. John, my understanding is what she said about it is that she was triggered by the fact that I had done an interview saying people need to be calm, people need to withhold their judgment, let the process work. That apparently triggered her and she came over and started yelling at me and waving her finger at me. Again, coordinated with the Star Tribune, that worthless sack of well, manure. Those guys were calling my office within minutes of Angie's little escapade. And it really comes down to a US Senate race that someone is trying to show that she can appeal to the crazy left better than Peggy Flanagan, which she can't. And here's what I would say to everyone that's listening. This is a Minnesotan saying, you know what, Angie has been a friend and a colleague for several years. We've worked on a lot of



different things together and she will continue to remain a friend and we will work on many things going forward. And let's see how your Minneapolis crazies like that.

**\*\*JON JUSTICE:**

\*\* If I had a nickel for every talkback and email that I received wanting me to ask you about from a decade ago, you're teaming up with Keith Ellison to form the House Somali Caucus. I could probably afford to take the entire group that I have in studio to a really nice dinner. So, can you please talk a bit about in light of the fraud, the majority of which has been perpetuated by the Somali community here in Minnesota, you're teaming up with Ellison going back to 2015 informing this House Somali caucus because a lot of listeners believe that this was potentially in their minds sort of the start of the problem that we are now facing here in Minnesota. Tom Emmer.

**\*\*REP. TOM EMMER:**

\*\* Yeah. Well, then they're having their own what they're rewriting history the way they want to see it because literally John, first off, it was the Somalia caucus. It wasn't the Somali caucus, it was the Somalia caucus. And if people will remember,

**\*\*REP. TOM EMMER:**

\*\* that was when I first got to Congress and we had a whole bunch of ISIS related terror attacks in Western Europe. We had a threat from al-Shabaab on the Mall of America. We were very concerned about radicalization of in particular young Somali men. I had a colleague at the time who expressed an interest that he thought we could address the problem by drawing these people in. That's what the genesis of the Somalia caucus was. That colleague, by the way, was Keith Ellison, our current attorney general. And if people go back and look at the history, you will see that the Somalia caucus ended almost as soon as it was announced. And why? Because one, I recognized immediately that Keith Ellison is not a sincere and honest human being. And two, the people that he was bringing to this thing had no interest in assimilating. So, if people want to study the history of what I've done on this, I'm the only Minnesota legislature, a legislature ever to have made a motion on the House floor to outlaw Sharia law and it was defeated by Republicans. I think it was 2007, if people want it, we'll get it to them. I immediately after ending the Somalia caucus, John, I had a bill in Congress to put the refugee resettlement program under the authority of members of Congress instead of the executive because Obama was going and bringing in all these Somalians who by the way are coming from a country where they had to lie, cheat, and steal to survive.

**\*\*REP. TOM EMMER:**

\*\* And they're bringing them to Minnesota. Why? because we are so damn generous. Apparently Tim Walz and Keith Ellison are very generous. And anyway, a year later, I was leading the charge to defund any money that would bring Somali immigrants to Minnesota or elsewhere absent a full vetting by the FBI and the director of national intelligence and the list goes on and on. So, if you don't like me, great. Write your own history about that caucus. But if you truly want to understand it, I just look at the history and you'll see there is no one who has been fighting this issue more than I have in my tenure here in Congress.

**\*\*JON JUSTICE:**

\*\* Representative Tom Emmer.

**\*\*REP. TOM EMMER:**



\*\* By the way, John, by the way, I know you got to go, but look for a bill that I'm going to be dropping. I'm going to be dropping a bill that says if you come to this country and you whip off motans, you commit fraud and you do not assimilate, guess what? You can be denaturalized and you can be returned to your country of origin. In this case, Somalia. And that goes for marriage fraud too, by the way, John. Somebody who commits marriage fraud to get into this country or to help somebody else get into this country, they should be denaturalized and returned to their country of origin as well. And you can connect those dots.

**\*\*JON JUSTICE:**

\*\* Representative Tom Emmer, as always, thank you for the time this morning. I hope you enjoy your weekend and I look forward to talking with you hopefully again next week.

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