

General question

1. In what way might this story be similar to what is happening in your community?
2. Is the shift in party affiliation in this region reflective of a shift in people's politics or values?

Further exploration

1. The Iron Range economy was built on mining, but now the largest employer is the health care industry. Why do you think the mining legacy still carries so much weight in the region?
2. Minnesota's Iron Range vote isn't likely to decide the outcome of the state's vote in the presidential election. Do you think it is important for national political candidates to pay attention to regions like this one that carry less weight? Why or why not?
3. Mayor Vlasisavljevich says that economic confidence and growth has returned to the region under the Trump administration, but political columnist Aaron Brown says little has changed in the region. What could account for the difference in perspective?