

State Representative Rob Eastlund

243 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
651-296-5364

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NEWS COLUMN

Rep. Rob Eastlund to Retire After 10 Years in the Legislature

This letter is my official announcement that I will not be seeking reelection this November. When my term ends this year I will have enjoyed the unparalleled privilege of serving the residents of District 17A in the Minnesota House of Representatives for a decade.

Ten years ago when running for election to this office, my wife and I had one son still in high school and two daughters in college. Today all three of our children have graduated from college, are happily married and to date we have been blessed with six grandchildren.

I was first elected as a conservative and a Republican and still hold fast to those values. I continue to support individual liberty and freedom, limited government, free markets, a fair tax system, private property rights, the second amendment, eliminating wasteful spending and excessive government regulation, family values and life - from conception to the grave. These values, coupled with what is in the best interest of my constituents, have always been my guide for the bills I have authored and the thousands of votes I have cast.

Many conversations with constituents over the years have resulted in some very interesting spirited discussions in person or through email exchanges - sometimes changing my mind, sometimes changing theirs and sometimes just agreeing to disagree. You have always, however, treated me fairly with dignity and respect and for that I am very grateful.

Making this decision has not been easy but it was never my intention to become a career politician. My passion for political activism has not changed but my life priorities have. I thank my wife and family for the support they have given me during these ten years. The relentless schedule of the legislative session, special sessions, phone calls and family interruptions and the never-ending campaigning has left little time for my family or anything else.

Serving as a State Representative in the Minnesota House has been the most challenging, the most difficult and demanding and at the same time one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. I have gained the utmost respect for the institution and all the wonderful people who serve there. Even though it is difficult to leave, looking back, there is really nothing I would change, but I am looking forward to returning to a more normal life outside of politics.

Our state, our country and our world are facing unprecedented challenges but it is important to remember that behind every challenge is new opportunity. Every problem is begging for a solution. When facing difficulties in life there is great wisdom to be found in the book of Proverbs

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;
In all your ways acknowledge him and he will make your paths straight.”

Acting on this truth in Proverbs by looking to God for wisdom and understanding, as an individual or as a government, gives us another great promise to claim in Jeremiah 29:11

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

Minnesota is facing some very difficult times. God is not a Republican nor is He a Democrat. More than ever before, we need principled leaders that look to God for the wisdom to work past partisan differences to make the right decisions for our state and our nation so we can have the prosperous bright future filled with hope that we are promised. I look forward to working with my successor and doing whatever I can to assist in the transition.

Thanks again for placing your confidence in me by allowing me to serve as your State Representative. You have given me ten of the best years of my life. Thanks for your continued prayers and support!

God Bless You,

Rep Rob Eastlund

<http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/members/pressrelease.asp?pressid=3837&party=2&memid=10156>