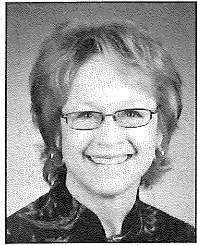


# Runbeck the reformer

## New members' senior has her eye on property tax reform

By **LEE ANN SCHUTZ**

You really can't consider Rep. Linda Runbeck (R-Circle Pines) a new member. She's got a long history in the Legislature —



**Rep. Linda Runbeck**

serving in the House from 1989-1992 and in the Senate from 1993-2000. Because she's been away from the statehouse in recent years, doesn't mean she's been away from the issues, however.

Runbeck, whose mindset of self determination is molded from a family history of small business, served as president of the Taxpayers League of Minnesota and also development director at the Minnesota Free Market Institute in the past decade. Additionally, she was active in forming a property rights group. "I

have a passion and a real point of view that government is here to serve us, not the other way around," she said.

A no-nonsense person, Runbeck wants to get to the facts and move to quickly get the job done. Intuitively she's a reformer, she said, and she's all about protecting the taxpayers' interests. Because of her experience, she was named chairwoman of the House Property and Local Tax Division.

She and her husband own a small business, and running for office again wasn't foremost on her mind. But people in the district encouraged her to run, and she had reached a point where she "couldn't bear all the ways that government has morphed and expanded its burden on the taxpayer."

As a stalwart protector of taxpayer's interests, she felt the time was right for reform, and she could no longer sit on the sidelines.

### DISTRICT 53A

Population (2009 est.): 40,642

Largest City: Shoreview

Counties: Anoka, Ramsey

Top Concerns: Property taxes, government reform

"When I was here in the 90s, I focused on reform, but there was no appetite at that time." She sensed that now, however, times had changed. Now, she's got an eye on property tax reform.

"Minnesota has the most incomprehensible, ridiculous property tax system in the country," she said.

Runbeck also serves on the House Taxes and House Civil Law committees.