

# Worke hopes to offer stability to Waseca area

Voters in the Waseca area have faced a unique and unwelcome brand of term limits, having elected four representatives in the past six years.



Rep. Gary Worke

Rep. Gary Worke (IR-Waseca), newly elected from the extensively redrawn district, says restoring a sense of stability to the seat is one of his main objectives.

Having already won the only political race he's ever entered, Worke said he hopes to be around for more than a single term. It seems to be a message voters welcome.

DFLer Jerry Schoenfeld was the last to represent the area for more than two years. He resigned in 1987 after serving seven years in the House.

Dale DeRaad, an Independent-Republican, won a subsequent special election, but lost the following year to DFLer Jeff Conway. Conway resigned after being charged with misusing the funds of his investment firm's clients. Dick Anderson, an Independent-Republican who won the seat in 1990, decided not to run again last fall.

Worke is ready for a fresh start.

"The main motivations I had [for running] were focused around business issues," he said. "I

feel that business issues are in everyone's best interests.

"I wanted to see if I could affect the business climate in Minnesota so my family — I have four children — would have an opportunity to stay and live and work in Minnesota."

Worke, who built and operates a residential care facility for the elderly with his wife, said his constituents feel the same way.

"People are sick and tired of hearing about another business going to South Dakota or going to Wisconsin or Iowa," he said. "We need to keep those businesses and provide a good home for them in Minnesota."

Term limits are also an important issue to voters in his district. Several IRs have authored bills limiting legislative service to 10 years, along with other restrictions.

Education funding, including higher education, are also critical issues uppermost in the minds of his constituents.

Waseca is still adjusting to the closing of the University of Minnesota's two-year campus in that community. Efforts in the past two sessions to reverse that decision by the university's Board of Regents were unsuccessful.

The 22-year-old facility may be converted into a federal prison, one of the few options available

and one Worke supports.

"It's a tough issue," he said. "It's a tough thing even today... It is devastating, and really difficult for the community."

Worke said he's been impressed with the caliber of his fellow freshman on both sides of the political aisle.

"Many of them came in with the same ideas [as myself] — that there are some things in government that aren't working and need to be changed," he said. "We need to make government more responsible to the people."

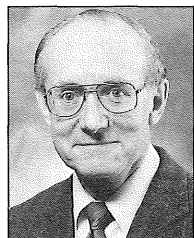
—Jim Anderson

## District 28A

Population: 33,307  
Distribution: 83.4 percent of residents live in urban areas, 16.6 percent rural.  
Counties: Steele, Waseca  
Largest city: Owatonna  
Location: southern Minnesota  
1992 presidential election results:  
Bush/Quayle: 39 percent  
Clinton/Gore: 33.2 percent  
Perot/Stockdale: 27 percent  
Other: 0.8 percent

# Family ties lead second Dempsey to House

It's a bit unusual, but perhaps not too surprising, that Rep. Jerry Dempsey (IR-Hastings) is following his older brother, Terry, into the Legislature.



Rep. Jerry Dempsey

"When I was growing up, my family always talked about the responsibilities of citizenship and how important it was to be involved," Dempsey said. "That just kind of carried through in all the people in our family."

His brother, who left his post as minority leader last session after being appointed a district judge, served 14 years in the House. Dempsey finds that inspiring, not daunting. The insightful brotherly advice hasn't hurt, either.

"He didn't overtly push it or anything," he said of his fraternal chats. "He did say you should consider it, that it's a very noble kind of thing."

Prior to redistricting, Dempsey said he had never considered running, since his area was well served by Reps. Dennis Ozment and Steve Svigum, fellow IRs who have been re-elected. But the new District 29A between Hastings and Red Wing was carved out of those old districts, creating an open seat — and an opportunity for Dempsey.

"I think people can make a difference. I think people can make changes," said Dempsey, a former school administrator and bank director.

Voters in his district are concerned about the state budget and education funding, but Dempsey also will be involved with some local issues that have taken on statewide significance.

He supports the temporary storage of spent nuclear fuel rods at Northern States Power Co.'s Prairie Island power plant near Red Wing until a nationwide, permanent repository for them can be found, he said.

Since power generated at the plant is used in other states, he added, those states also should be involved with resolving the issue. Environmental groups and residents of the Prairie Island Mdwakanton Reservation near the plant are fighting the storage plans.

Dempsey opposes a plan to build a new airport in Dakota County, estimated to cost between \$5 billion and \$15 billion. The price is too steep, and there are more viable alternatives, Dempsey said. The current airport could be expanded, or smaller satellite facilities could be built.

He also hopes funding will be provided this session to construct a secure cottage for juveniles housed at the Minnesota Correctional Facility-Red Wing, a proposal that was discussed last session. The program in Red Wing emphasizes

rehabilitation for juveniles, and is not designed as a prison, he added. But the need is apparent.

Dempsey is impressed with his fellow first-term members.

"I can see why they got elected. They're intelligent people," Dempsey said. They have a good grasp of the issues, and are anxious to tackle problems facing the state.

"I think they're people that are going to engage in productive and sound deliberation of the issues," he said. "And I like that approach."

—Jim Anderson

## District 29A

Population: 33,172  
Distribution: 90.8 percent of residents live in urban areas, 9.2 percent rural.  
Counties: Dakota, Goodhue  
Largest city: Hastings  
Location: southeastern Minnesota  
1992 presidential election results:  
Bush/Quayle: 32.2 percent  
Clinton/Gore: 41.5 percent  
Perot/Stockdale: 25.5 percent  
Other: 0.8 percent