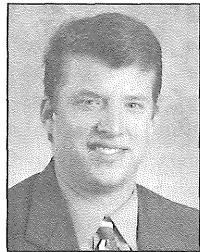


# A solid foundation

## Hosch uses business, local government background

By **MATT WETZEL**

Rep. Larry Hosch (DFL-St. Joseph) ran for the House because he believes some members of the Legislature had grown shortsighted.



**Rep. Larry Hosch**

and remodeling business, is one of the youngest House members at age 27, but is not short on experience, having served as mayor of St. Joseph for four years. Despite working hard at his business and being involved in the community, some residents didn't take him seriously because of his youth.

"I was frustrated with some of the things that were happening," he said. "There were many cuts that saved money in the short-term but didn't look to the long-term implications."

Hosch, who co-owns a home construction

"I wanted to make St. Joseph my home," he said. "I was tired of complaining."

He sees education funding, paying for health care and jobs as the key issues facing his district.

"We have schools in the state that have declining enrollment. Operating referendums just aren't working. We need the state to step in," he said. Voters in the Rocori School District rejected three different levies, and now a fourth-grade class there has 33 children. He believes schools should be better supported by the state so students have equal access and equal opportunity.

Like children learning to play together, Hosch said legislators must do the same. If he could have offered the first bill of the session, it would reflect that value. "A mandate that we all have to work together," he said. "There's so many things that I want to do."

Hosch has to balance two messages in his

## DISTRICT 14B

2002 Population: 36,834

Largest city: St. Joseph

County: Stearns

Top concerns: School funding and health care

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— Rep. Larry Hosch

district, with the St. Cloud area "exploding," but the western half being predominantly rural.

Rural Minnesota and its needs are crucial, but sometimes rural folks have a hard time getting together and presenting a united front, he said. "I think really the most important area we have to deal with is jobs."

Hosch serves on the House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs, Local Government, and Rules and Legislative Administration committees.