

Natural progression

A culmination of experience led Loeffler to the House

BY BRETT MARTIN

Rep. Diane Loeffler (DFL-Mpls) has spent a good part of her career working with budgets, and in one instance, it had a very interesting outcome.



Rep. Diane Loeffler

Several years ago, when the Minnesota Board of Environmental Education was facing budget woes, it held an auction to raise money. Loeffler bid, sight unseen, on help to perform some home improve-

ments. The board member who offered the service is now her husband.

“Demanding times can sometimes result in creative solutions,” she said of the auction.

Loeffler has an eclectic background. She interned at the Department of Administration, which used to handle state budgeting. She has worked in education policy research, local government, employment, human ser-

vices and health care, focusing primarily on budgets and analyzing policy. This all served as a catalyst to run for the House seat.

“One of the things I bring to the job is experience on a wide range of issues,” she said, adding that her background will be invaluable on her committees: Commerce and Financial Institutions and its Technology, Bioscience and Medical Products Division; Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs; and Rules and Legislative Administration.

Loeffler would like to see more funding in education.

“We need to increase the state investment in education — in pre-k through university education,” she said. “The state has to assure that every child, no matter where he or she is born, receives a quality, publicly paid education.”

If she could have introduced the first bill of the session, it would have been equal quality education for all children in the state.

“If you look at what the state is responsible for providing, education is a key responsibil-

DISTRICT 59A

2002 Population: 36,715

Largest city: Minneapolis

County: Hennepin

Top concerns: Adequately funded education, health care needs

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ity,” Loeffler said. “Education is a core Minnesota value. If you have a good education, it opens up so many doors later in life.”

She is also concerned with keeping a lid on property tax increases.

“There are a lot of young homeowners and elderly people on fixed incomes who are being strangled by property tax increases,” she said.

Having spent part of her career in the health care field, she realizes the importance of affordable health care.

“I want to ensure quality health care is available for everyone,” she said.