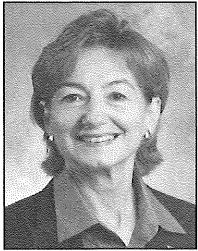


# Framing the issues

## Scalze brings years of art and government experience to House

By **BRETT MARTIN**

The framed wildlife pictures in the office of Rep. Bev Scalze (DFL-Little Canada) brilliantly capture the Minnesota outdoors, but what's really impressive is that Scalze painted them herself. One is of a brook trout that she created for the Department of Natural Resources' 1991 trout and salmon habitat stamp.



**Rep. Bev Scalze**

"The brook trout is indicative of Minnesota," Scalze said. "They only live in very cold, clean water."

In addition to 25 years as a wildlife artist, Scalze brings to the House six terms on the Little Canada City Council, and experience as a small business owner — she and her

husband, Bob, own and operate a heating and air conditioning company. Her background is well-suited for the Environment and Natural Resources and Local Government committees on which she sits.

"I have firsthand knowledge of how state decisions impact local governments," she said, noting that because of budget problems, the state often withheld local monies, forcing the city to build reserves by raising taxes. Her frustration with state government led her to seek a House seat.

"We need more local representatives in the House," she said.

An advocate for public education, Scalze also wants to ensure that schools are adequately funded.

"My district has very good school systems, yet they're struggling due to a lack of funds," she said.

## DISTRICT 54B

2002 Population: 36,759

Largest city: Roseville

County: Ramsey

Top concern: Education funding

***"You do a lot of things for your kids, but you'd go to the wall for your grandkids. I want to leave them with something they can be proud of."***

— Rep. Bev Scalze

Health care is another issue she'd like to see addressed.

"The cost of health care impacts everything else," she said. "We're going to have to, at one point, negotiate these drug prices."

Scalze said her legislative decisions are guided by how laws will impact her four granddaughters.

"You do a lot of things for your kids, but you'd go to the wall for your grandkids," she said. "I want to leave them with something they can be proud of."