

'Make a difference'

Greene considers herself a person who can unite others

By PATTY OSTBERG

"Where are you from?" seems like a simple question to answer for most people. But, for Rep. Marion Greene (DFL-Mpls) it is an explanation, not just the naming of a city.



Rep. Marion Greene

She grew up outside the United States with parents who served in the U.S. Foreign Service. The upbringing helped formulate her ideas on the "desire to make a difference" and how to participate in government and civic life.

Since moving to her current residence a decade ago, Greene has been involved in various political issues and the DFL Party. She's been particularly interested in neighborhood issues and the development of the Uptown area in Minneapolis.

Before transplanting to the state, Greene worked in Washington, D.C. for the Clinton-Gore campaign and various nonprofits, such as the Center for Science in the Public Interest.

Through these experiences, Greene discovered she wanted to be in service-oriented work.

A good friend urged a legislative run. "I like problem solving, I like bringing people together from different points of view and finding the best way forward that serves as many people as possible."

She said a balanced approach to the state's budget problems is important to the people of her district. "We can balance the state budget, but we can also protect investment in education, health care — things that my district views as long-term investments." She said this approach would ultimately grow the tax base and economy.

DISTRICT 60A

Population (2009 est.): 37,055
Largest City: Minneapolis
County: Hennepin
Top Concern: The budget

Greene believes the state will need to trim in certain areas, but it will also need new sources of revenue to solve the budget deficit. "We can call them fees or taxes; it's still going to be coming out of the pockets of Minnesotans."

Other issues important to her constituents include marriage equality and bullying in schools, she said.

Because she serves in the minority, Greene realizes that any bills she sponsors won't likely be heard. "... I'm going to continue to push on issues." She said she'll try to find subjects that are important to her district and more conservative districts to find common solutions.