

# From staffer to representative

Melin wins special election to become newest Iron Range member

By **SUE HEGARTY**

Rep. Carly Melin (DFL-Hibbing) may be a new face on the House floor, but she's no stranger to Democrats at the Capitol —



Rep. Carly Melin

she interned for former Rep. Tony Sertich last year when he was House majority leader.

Sertich resigned in January after he was appointed to lead the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board. "Things were a little different around here then," she said. Melin is a proud "Iron Ranger" from Hibbing who planned on returning home after earning political science and social work degrees from Bemidji State University, where she was president of the College Democrats. However, a summer internship at the Public Interest Research Group in Washington,

D.C. presented itself, so off she went. That fall, she was accepted to Hamline University Law School, where she became chair of the Hamline Law Democrats.

She graduated from law school in 2010, passed the bar exam in July, and began working as a judicial law clerk, until she was tapped by the party to replace Sertich in District 5B.

So at the age of 25 years, 6 months and 9 days, Melin became the third youngest woman elected to the Minnesota House of Representatives. Former Chief Justice Kathleen Blatz, who also earned law and social work degrees, was about four months younger than Melin when she was first elected to the House.

Getting Iron Rangers back to work is Melin's primary focus.

"I campaigned a lot on the bonding bill. We have over 50 percent unemployment in the construction trades," she said.

She wants to put these people to work

DISTRICT 5B
Population (2009 est.): 34,718 Largest city: Hibbing County: St. Louis Top Concerns: Job creation and economic growth

improving the infrastructure along the Highway 169 beltway in her district. "The sewer system can't support development now," she said. Gov. Mark Dayton left a hole in the bonding bill for legislators to come up with their own projects and she recommends the central Iron Range sewer system as a top priority.

Once she settles into her new role as a legislator, she hopes she'll be able to enjoy her hobby of downhill skiing and take her golden retriever, Jane, for walks around the lakes.

## Constitutional Officers

**Governor**

**Mark Dayton (DFL)**  
 Room 130 State Capitol  
 75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
 St. Paul, MN 55155  
 651-201-3400  
 800-657-3717  
 Fax: 651-797-1850  
 Website: [www.governor.state.mn.us](http://www.governor.state.mn.us)  
 E-mail: [mark.dayton@state.mn.us](mailto:mark.dayton@state.mn.us)

**Lieutenant Governor**

**Yvonne Prettner Solon (DFL)**  
 Room 130 State Capitol  
 75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
 St. Paul, MN 55115  
 651-201-3400  
 Fax: 651-797-1850  
 E-mail: [ltgovprettnersolon@state.mn.us](mailto:ltgovprettnersolon@state.mn.us)

**Secretary of State**

**Mark Ritchie (DFL)**  
 Election Center  
 Room 180 State Office Building  
 100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
 651-215-1440  
 877-600-8683 (VOTE)  
 Business Services  
 60 Empire Drive, Suite 100  
 St. Paul, MN 55103  
 651-296-2803  
 877-551-6767  
 Website: [www.sos.state.mn.us](http://www.sos.state.mn.us)  
 E-mail: [secretary.state@state.mn.us](mailto:secretary.state@state.mn.us)

**Attorney General**

**Lori Swanson (DFL)**  
 Executive Offices  
 Room 102  
 State Capitol  
 75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
 St. Paul, MN 55155

651-296-6196  
 800-657-3787  
 Website: [www.ag.state.mn.us](http://www.ag.state.mn.us)  
 E-mail: [attorney.general@state.mn.us](mailto:attorney.general@state.mn.us)  
 Consumer Division  
 1400 Bremer Tower  
 445 Minnesota St.  
 St. Paul, MN 55101  
 651-296-3353  
 800-657-3787  
 (TTY) 651-297-7206  
 (TTY) 800-366-4812

**State Auditor**

**Rebecca Otto (DFL)**  
 525 Park St.  
 Suite 500  
 St. Paul, MN 55103  
 651-296-2551  
 (TTY) 800-627-3529  
 Website: [www.osa.state.mn.us](http://www.osa.state.mn.us)  
 E-mail: [state.auditor@state.mn.us](mailto:state.auditor@state.mn.us)