

Due to redistricting in 2002 you
may find articles regarding this
legislator in both district file
56B and district file 56A.

(2002 only)

Lipman, Redmond square off in race

'COURIER NEWS

STILLWATER, MN
WEEKLY 3,200

OCT 31 2002

With so many school districts seeing the need for excess levy referenda or making drastic budget cuts, it would appear there's something wrong with our system of funding public education. What needs to be done? Would you support legislation allowing school districts to raise taxes without going through the referenda process? Why or why not?

ERIC LIPMAN •

An important responsibility of state government is to help create strong, well-funded and high-performing schools. During my first term in the House of Representatives, I supported a \$12 billion K-12 education bill that increased the state's commitment to public schools by \$381 million. Likewise, I helped to re-order budget priorities at the State Capitol so as to find the \$16 million that was needed to complete construction of the Crosswinds School.

With that said, I want to make clear that I disagree with the premise of this question -- namely that local referenda signal that "something is wrong with our system of funding public education." Two points are worthy of mention. First, when the last four years of Republican leadership (under Steve Sviggum, who himself is a teacher) are compared with the most recent four years of Democrat leadership, we see that: increases in the per pupil formula are up; total school appropriations are up; school district revenues are up; even teacher contract settlements are larger than before.

Second, while the referenda process is difficult, it yields better results. Involving lots of people in decision-making is cumbersome, to be sure, but democracy produces better defined proposals, a community that is more informed, and voters that are closely involved with important decisions. because of the merits of involving lots of people in decisions on education funding, I would maintain the requirement that school districts involve voters in taxing decisions.

MIKE REDMOND

The state Legislature must live up to its promise to fund K-12 education adequately. If

you study the financial data for School District 834, you will find that the money going into the typical mainstream classroom has not kept pace with inflation over the past 10 years. We can play the blame game, or we can choose to fund education adequately while we work on improving the methods of school funding. I choose to do the latter.

Our children deserve a world class education. In fact, our children need a world class education. The future of our state, and our country, depends on it. We need to end the partisan bickering and get down to the business of making our K-12 system one of the best in the world. It's time to say good-bye to the "great pretenders," those politicians who are only for public education during their campaigns.

I have studied school reform and school finance extensively. And I am proud to be a high school teacher. This gives me unique insight into what really works and what doesn't work in our K-12 system. I will work tirelessly to make sure our system of education runs efficiently, makes the best use of taxpayer dollars possible, and provides the kind of results we can all be proud of attaining.

In the past, school district referenda were considered "excess levies" used to purchase things above and beyond the basics of education. Unfortunately, today's referenda are being used to meet the operating costs for the basics of education. Even so, I still favor the idea of allowing the taxpayers the opportunity to vote on increasing their taxes to fund schools as is the current practice.

Do you support tax increases as a means of balance the state budget for the next biennium? If so, which taxes and why?

ERIC LIPMAN

I am running for reelection because I want to close the current budget gap, and maintain necessary services, without asking local families to pay more in taxes.

While re-shaping government, so as to keep costs low, is hard work, it is work that I already have done as a State

Representative. I was part of a team of legislators that helped to re-tool government programs, and so trim hundreds of millions of dollars from the state budget -- so that we could eliminate this year's budget deficit without raising taxes or reducing aid to local schools.

In many ways, the process used at the State Capitol was like those used by local families when times get tough: Families sit together at the dinner table, review a list of household expenses, and decide together which ones are lesser priorities.

How to close the projected budget deficit is also an important difference between the candidates in District 56A. At a recent forum in Stillwater, Mike Redmond questioned the laws that require our state to have a balanced budget. Presumably, he favors continued government spending -- even if it means running big deficits.

I could not disagree with him more. Government shouldn't spend money it doesn't have, and it shouldn't charge your family more in taxes so that state government can continue business-as-usual. Legislators should close the deficit by reducing the costs of necessary services and ending those programs that we can reasonably do without.

MIKE REDMOND

The fiscal management skills of our current Legislature are deplorable. To go from \$2 billion annual surpluses to \$3.2 billion annual deficits in just two years shows very little foresight and planning. During the past two years, our Legislature didn't improve public education, didn't solve the transportation issues, and didn't make health care and prescription drugs more affordable. But, they did manage to run the state's budget aground.

I have a conservative approach to issues involving money. I am the product of a working class environment and am now raising a family on a modest income. My family and I understand the importance of careful budgeting, getting value for money spent, and the importance of investing for the future. my family

also knows that when times are good, we should be putting money away so that if we run into problems down the line, we can make it through without having to take drastic cost-cutting measures. Unfortunately, our current legislators did not do a very good job of this and our state now faces a \$3.2 billion deficit with little, or no, money left in reserve.

Solving the current budget crisis will not be a simple task. I support giving K-12 education an inflationary increase. Everything else must be on the table. We must go through every spending item in the state's budget to find cost savings.

Summarize your personal background and qualifications.

ERIC LIPMAN

Lipman is a small business attorney with Mohrman & Kaardal, P.A. He served as Deputy Secretary of State of Minnesota from January 1999 to July 2000. As a member of the House of Representatives, he served as chair of the subcommittee on elections and vice chair of the Committee on Judiciary Finance. He was named 2002 Legislator of the Year by the Minnesota Medical Association and 2001 Patient Safety Leader by the Minnesota Hospital and Healthcare Partnership.

A former member of the Lake Elmo Planning Commission, he is married; he and his wife, Kimberly, are the parents of two children, Jenna, 3, and Noah, 2 weeks old.

MIKE REDMOND

Redmond received his bachelor's degree from the University of Minnesota, a master's in education and is nearing completion of a doctorate in educational leadership. He is a teacher at Mahtomedi High School where he also is girls varsity soccer coach and boys varsity basketball coach.

He is a volunteer coach with the Valley Athletic Association and the St. Croix Soccer Club. He is a member of Guardian Angels parish, is a prepare marriage counselor and director of the Minnesota Youth Foundation.

He and his wife, Carol, are the parents of two children, Ryan, 10, and Reed, 7; Carol Redmond is a kindergarten teacher at St. Croix Catholic School.

Abortion bill would restore balance

56B

In "Antichoice plan for 2002 threatens state," the Jan. 22 commentary by Sarah Stoesz and Tim Stanley, they describe a bill I proposed in the most dramatic terms — calling it "startling," "dangerous" and "especially cruel." Their analysis could not be more wrong. Far from being dangerous, my proposed constitutional amendment would restore basic freedoms that were suspended by our state's highest court in 1995.

Explaining what is at stake, and why, requires a short review of recent history:

In spring 1993, a lawsuit challenged the constitutionality of state laws that provided poor women with health care services. At the time, Minnesota paid for services relating to childbirth, but did not pay for abortions. Plaintiffs to this lawsuit claimed that the state's "discrimination" in favor of birth-related services "burdened" a woman's constitutionally protected right to seek an abortion.

The Minnesota Supreme Court agreed. For a majority of the court, our progressive traditions and "this state's own concepts of justice" persuaded them that if childbirth services were offered, taxpayer-funded abortions were also required by the Minnesota Constitution. Minnesota could not provide one without the other.

For me, and many others, the Supreme Court's decision in *Doe vs. Gomez* is silly, maddening and just plain wrong.

First, the word "abortion" does not appear in the Minnesota Constitution — so it is perplexing to read the court's decision declaring that taxpayer-funded abortions are required by this document. One would think that if the people who drafted the state Constitution had intended this result, they'd at least have used the word "abortion" so as to let us know.

Second, the Gomez decision represents a troubling breakdown in the separations among the three branches of government. By reading a requirement to make million-dollar appropriations into the state Constitution, the justices of the Minnesota Supreme Court abandoned their roles as "interpreters" of the law, for new assignments in the legislative branch. Justices now act as super-appropriators on the state welfare budget.

So what can citizen-legislators do when a state court reads words into the Constitution that simply aren't there, and violates the separation-of-powers by assuming roles in the budget process?

We can restore the original balance by proposing an amendment to the state Constitution.

My bill, House File 657, declares two simple truths: (1) Nothing in the Minnesota Constitution requires the use of state funds for abortion services; and (2) No state funds should be used for abortion services unless specifically authorized by an act of the Minnesota Legislature. My bill speaks honestly about the contents of the state Constitution (and what words are not there), and leaves to elected legislators the task of making decisions about abortion funding. We elect legislators, not judges, to make state budget decisions.

As to Stoesz and Stanley's suggestion that only voters who are "tricked" could support such an amendment, I say that both prolife people and prochoice people hope for a court system that acts within constitutional boundaries. My friends who support abortion rights should not rest easy, just because the justices have insisted that we fund abortion. A court that is powerful enough to do that, today, just might put words into the Constitution that you don't like, tomorrow.

The real "danger," therefore, is not that my amendment will be placed on the ballot this November, but rather that Minnesotans will sit idly by as our courts rewrite the state Constitution. The rule of law isn't a political "trick"; it is the best hope of each and every one of us.

— Rep. Eric Lipman, R-Lake Elmo. Vice chairman, Minnesota House Committee on Judiciary Finance.

STILLWATER GAZETTE

STILLWATER, MN
DAILY 4,000

THURSDAY
OCT 31 2002

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**Lipman accepts
apology;
but prefers
tactical change**

FRONT PAGE

Mike Redmond and
•Eric Lipman agree that
a recent DFL
campaign brochure
stating that Lipman
doesn't care about
safe drinking water
was "over the top
and well beyond the
bounds of decency."
Redmond said this
in a Stillwater Gazette
article printed in this
space on Tuesday,
"It is a horrible lie,"
said Lipman from his
home in Lake Elmo.
"Not only have I
been an outspoken
advocate for programs
to improve water
quality, I actually voted
for the legislation that
is cited in the DFL
attack piece. It is
'beyond the bounds
of decency,' as Mike
says, precisely
because the DFL
House Caucus
attempts to convince
voters of something
they themselves know
is not true. It's
dishonest."

As far as
Redmond's efforts
Tuesday to distance
himself from the DFL
brochure, Lipman said
he was grateful for the
apology, but was left
to wonder about the
brochure's origins.

"This sort of thing
has happened before
with him [Redmond],"
Lipman said. "When
Mike and I faced each
other during the 2000
elections, the DFL
House Caucus sent
out attack literature
that he later
disclaimed and asked
the voters not
to attribute to him."

Knowing the track
record of the DFL
House Caucus on
negative campaigning,
Lipman said, he only
wishes that Redmond
would have insisted
on a change in
campaign tactics
this year, instead
of returning to the
same public denials
he made during the
last campaign.

"A change in tactics
would have been bet-
ter than a second
apology," Lipman said.

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STILLWATER GAZETTE

STILLWATER, MN
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TUESDAY
OCT 29 2002

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**Redmond says
opponent was
attacked
unfairly**

FRONT PAGE

Mike Redmond,
District 56A House of
Representatives
candidate, criticized
a recent campaign
brochure mailed to resi-
dents in the District 56A
congressional district titled
"Arsenic and Old Waste,"
which he said "attacked"
his opponent,
Eric Lipman.

Both are candidates
for Minnesota's House
of Representatives.
Redmond is a Democrat;
Lipman is
a Republican.

The brochure,
Redmond said in a letter
to the Gazette, is not
connected with his
campaign. It was an
independent expenditure
piece created without his
knowledge, he said.

"I find this particular
piece and such negative
campaigning disgusting,"
Redmond said. "It is one
thing to criticize my
opponent's voting record
and positions on the
environment, but this
'Arsenic and Old Waste'
mailing piece was over
the top and well beyond
the bounds of decency."

Redmond said the
attack was unfair to
Lipman. Redmond wished
he could have stopped
the brochure from being
mailed, he said, but he
couldn't.

His campaign he said
has no prior knowledge
or control of independent
expenditure mailings,
he said. "It is unfortunate
that outside influences
use independent expendi-
tures," he said, "to spend
far more money on a
campaign than do the
candidates themselves."

"Free speech is one
thing, but this practice
needs reform," Redmond
said.

Redmond advised
voters to read the fine
print on the campaign
material and to treat
independent expenditures
with "a large degree
of cynicism."

Lipman was not imme-
diately available for com-
ment.

FRONT PAGE

Rep. Lipman: City has good case against Met Council

Mayor Hunt willing to fight sovereignty threat all the way to Supreme Court

By GREG C. HUFF
News Editor

56B

LAKE ELMO — Rep. Eric Lipman this morning endorsed Mayor Lee Hunt's intentions to go "all the way" to defend Lake Elmo's sovereignty in an ongoing development dispute with the Metropolitan Council.

"I believe that the (Met) Council is acting beyond the powers granted to it by the Minnesota Legislature," said Lipman, a Republican representative who lives in Lake Elmo.

"There is real doubt" he said, that the Met Council has the legal authority to order city officials to plan to accommodate more residents here by expanding sewers and roads and allowing more homes to be built.

The foremost "fundamental assumption" on which the Met Council based its

decision, Lipman said, is "factually and legally wrong" — namely, that because housing development patterns affect bus, sewer, park and airport use, the Met Council has the authority to regulate metro area housing development.

The Metropolitan Planning Act gives the Met Council regulatory authority over four regional systems — transit, sewers, regional parks and aviation. It does not identify housing as a regional system.

Nonetheless, the Met Council on Wednesday ordered Lake Elmo officials to amend its comprehensive plan to make it "consistent with Metropolitan Council housing policies, and to ensure the plan provides adequate housing opportunities to meet existing and projected local and regional housing needs ..."

Said Lipman: "Despite the lack of regulatory authority, housing is a matter that the Metropolitan Council very much wishes to regulate and seeks to govern through this resolution."

After failing in the last legislative session to push to a House vote a bill that would "strip the power of the Metropolitan Council to insist upon changes to locally-developed comprehensive plans," Lipman said he will renew his effort in the next session, and that he will likely find support.

If a legal battle "breaks out" between the Met Council and Lake Elmo, he said, state legislators will likely be persuaded that a bill such as the one he is proposing is "overdue."

Legal route

To defend Lake Elmo's plan for conservative development that will allow the city to retain its rural character, Hunt said he's prepared to fight all the way to the

See Lake Elmo, page 2

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STILLWATER, MN
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FRIDAY
SEP 13 2002

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Lake Elmo

(Continued from page 1)

Supreme Court the Met Council's directive to modify the plan. He believes the City Council is motivated likewise.

"In my opinion we will go all the way to support our plan," he said.

The City Council will discuss its options on Tuesday. If the council votes to challenge the Met Council, it must within 60 days request a hearing before an administrative law judge. If the council capitulates, it has nine months to amend the city's comprehensive plan to fit the Met Council's directives.

On Thursday, City Planner Chuck Dillerud said he was not yet sure what legal angle the city would pursue to challenge the Met Council.

"I don't know," Dillerud said. "That's another thing I'm asking the council on Tuesday night. I've taken all this and referred it to the city attorney. And they have to decide whether they'll appeal the decision."

Hunt said the city will likely challenge the constitutionality of the law that gives the Met Council the authority to review cities' comprehensive plans.

"There's ... some question whether the Minnesota State Constitution would allow the Legislature to pass the law that would allow the Met Council to sue cities to bring them into compliance," Hunt said.

The Met Council's authority to guide metro area development is outlined in Minnesota Statute 473.175, subdivision 1. Among other things, the statute gives the Met Council the authority to "require a local

governmental unit, to modify any comprehensive plan or part thereof which may have a substantial impact on or contain a substantial departure from metropolitan system plans."

Although the statute does not define the terms "substantial impact" and "substantial departure" Met Council staff in a recent report assured the Met Council Board that it has discretion in determining what constitutes those conditions.

In Lake Elmo's case, Met Council staff said in the report, "the city's plan would have more than a minor or inconsequential impact or effect on the Met Council's regional wastewater treatment system."

Although the Met Council attempts to "accommodate local concerns and interests" when planning and operating its Metropolitan Disposal System

and other regional systems, staff wrote in the report, Lake Elmo's "failure to plan for the Met Council's existing and planned regional system likely will require the Met Council to modify how it provides regional sewer service to the communities east of Saint Paul."

Background

In almost all aspects, Lake Elmo's development plans are much more conservative than the Met Council's expectations for the city.

With its vote on Wednesday, the Met Council Board directed Lake Elmo to, among other things: hook the city further into the metro area's regional sewer system; reserve room for more dense residential development in the future; encourage, not discourage, through traffic on Highway 5; relax development

restrictions along about three miles of Lake Elmo that abuts I-94; and provide sufficient housing to "meet the city's share of the metropolitan area need for low- and moderate-income housing."

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Read the entire Met Council resolution on the Web at http://www.metrocouncil.org/planning/comp_plans/LakeElmo/LakeElmoResolution.pdf.

Read a summary of Rep. Lipman's proposed legislation bill on the Web at: <http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/hrd/bs/82/HF0046.html>

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Greg C. Huff can be reached at (651) 796-1112 or at gchuff@presenter.com.

BAYPORT TOWNSHIP

Car crash prompts safety campaign

A4 M68 Transp.

MnDOT says it will analyze stretch of Minnesota 5

PIONEER PRESS DEC 19 '02

BY TONI COLEMAN
and MARY DIVINE

Pioneer Press

56B

The neighbors call it the "white-knuckle express." The traffic volume is heavy. The speeds are high. Accidents and near misses are plentiful.

Long before a crash claimed the lives of a grandmother and her two grandchildren in Baytown Township, neighbors and local officials say they pleaded with the Minnesota Transportation Department to make the two-lane stretch of Minnesota 5 safer.

And as a letter-writing campaign began, MnDOT said Wednesday it would improve safety at Minnesota 5 and 50th

Safety campaign

(continued)

Street, the scene of the Dec. 12 crash. Will Tenpas, 3, of Lake Elmo and his grandmother, Arleen Gerard, 71, of Mendota Heights died at the scene; 18-month-old Zane Tenpas died Monday from his injuries.

When weather permits, the northbound shoulder lane will become a striped lane for motorists who want to pass vehicles attempting to turn left onto 50th Street. It's illegal to pass on the shoulder unless it is marked as a bypass lane. The southbound shoulder will turn

into a right-turn-only lane.

"We decided we're going to do it since this accident occurred. It's been under consideration for some time," said MnDOT Metro District engineer Bob Winter.

MnDOT also will conduct a safety analysis of the roadway between Minnesota 36 in Stillwater to south of Lake Elmo to see if other changes, such as lowering the speed limit, would help.

The MnDOT announcement was made as letters began piling up in mailboxes of public office holders. Among other things, the letters asked to lower the speed limit to 40 mph and install more "no passing on right" signs.

Linda McDonald, who heads the letter campaign, said MnDOT didn't go far enough. "If they don't diminish the speed, not much is going to be improved," she said. "It's too fast for the population of residential homes. I don't think we would budge on that at all."

She said the "stop-gap" solutions don't alleviate other problems.

"The entire road needs to be looked at and re-engineered. It's just a Band-Aid on a gaping wound."

McDonald prepared packets of nine letters — a cover letter from her neighbors imploring recipients to get involved and standard letters addressed to eight different office holders. McDonald, with the help of two teenagers she hired, distributed the packets to 400 homes in Lake Elmo and Baytown Township.

Rep. Eric Lipman's office, U.S. Sen. ~~Eric~~ Norm Coleman's office and U.S. Sen. Mark Dayton's office reported that more than 100 letters had arrived in two days.

"What happened last Thursday was ghastly, but it was just one of a series of things ...," McDonald said. "We have tried for years to get something done, and everyone is just fed up."

The letters got the attention of Lipman, R-Lake Elmo, who said he will meet with MnDOT officials to discuss options.

"I think we really need do a wide range of surveys," Lipman said. "The volume on this road-

way has increased dramatically."

Council Member Steve DeLapp said if Minnesota 5 were a county road, the traffic volume of 18,000 cars a day would dictate the road be a four-lane divided route similar to Washington County 13 (Radio Drive). Washington County's threshold for four-lane divided roadways is 10,000 vehicles a day.

"Under the state system, this is a very low-priority roadway," said Don Wisniewski, head of the county's transportation department. "Under the county system, it might receive more priority because its traffic volume would be equal to our most heavily traveled county roadways."

A Mass of Christian burial for Will and Zane Tenpas will be celebrated at 11:30 a.m. Friday at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Stillwater. Visitation will be from 2 to 6 p.m. today at Simonet Funeral Home in Stillwater.

SAFETY CAMPAIGN 6B

Area officials, clergy reflect on the significance of September 11

Stillwater Gazette 9.11.02

Oak Park Heights man shares memory too

• Bill Luther

The tragedy of Sept. 11 is a stark reminder of the dangerous world in which we live and the risks faced by people who are firmly committed to democracy, freedom and opportunity for all, as we Americans are.

As we recognize the one-year anniversary of these attacks, it is important to remember and honor the victims and survivors, their families and loved ones. But we should also remember the amazing acts of bravery, kindness and self-sacrifice that took place on Sept. 11: citizens helped each other, firefighters risked their lives to save those of others. Americans participated in food and blood drives and other efforts across the country.

The day was one of unspeakable horror, but also one of triumph. We Americans committed ourselves to gaining from this tragedy. As difficult as the time was, we resolved to work together to become stronger as a nation.

Since the attacks, some events remind us that we can easily lose the spirit of Sept. 11 as we go about our daily business. At times we have forgotten the feelings of national unity and pride that came in the immediate aftermath of Sept. 11. But in order to continue America's mission in the world, we must continue in that spirit and work together as Americans every day.

I along with my family and staff join all Americans in remembering the loss of that day and in thanking Americans for their many contributions in the face of tragedy. To truly honor them and the nation we love, we must continue in the spirit that followed Sept. 11 and work together to ensure peace, justice and prosperity for all.

Bill Luther is a U.S. Congressman representing District 6.

Bob Rupp

My son and I were in a goose hunting camp on the shore of Hudson Bay, ready to begin the first leg of our trip home, when word of the World Trade Center attack started airing on the radio.

Owner and pilot Doug Webber picked us up on schedule and ferried us to Churchill Manitoba, a 15-minute flight, then told us: "This is it. I've been grounded indefinitely."

All that happened within an hour — more like 40 minutes — after the first plane crashed into the first tower. Word flashed all across North America, not just

the United States, grounding all aircraft, even one-engine float planes like Doug's.

My feelings then, and now, are that, while U.S. surveillance lacked adequate intelligence to prevent the attack, national defense mechanisms were quick and effective.

Bob Rupp lives in Oak Park Heights.

E. Craig Morris

Sept. 11, 2001. Usual day for work. Learn that an aircraft just hit World Trade Center. Dial up AOL. Photos show building on fire.

Oh my God. Accounts about World Trade Center South come in. No one doing work now. Must be a fluke in the air traffic system, but it's a clear day — how can you hit the World Trade Center?

Do I know anyone flying today to New York? Air traffic control shutting down the system all aircraft grounded. "Flight stop" ordered. This is bad.

Better tell Rose, my wife, what's going on — disbelief. Don't jump to conclusions. Second plane just hit the other tower, are we under attack? In this country?

What it must have felt like at the beginning of World War II? Why would anyone attack us? Aircraft down in Pennsylvania. Glad I'm not up there today. Wish I could be on alert, I want to strike back, but who is the enemy? What would our target be, are we going nuclear?

This is so sad. The carnage. Call City Hall. Do we need to develop a disaster plan? States' disaster response teams called into action. We must be going to war. President flying to OFFUTT Air Force Base in Omaha, Neb. We were just there a week ago for an air show. Pentagon hit. This is really bad, what's next? What can I do? Are my kids OK?

Continuing television coverage of smoke, looping images of planes striking both building, silence from ground zero but for the emergency responders signaling devices heard in the distance.

In the days and months that have followed, we have been constantly reminded of how special, unique and fragile is our way of life in this country.

We are vulnerable, but undaunted in our resolve to maintain freedom and live according to the principals founded in our constitution, predicated on our commitments to each other.

Let no one trample on this country, its people. Let us never

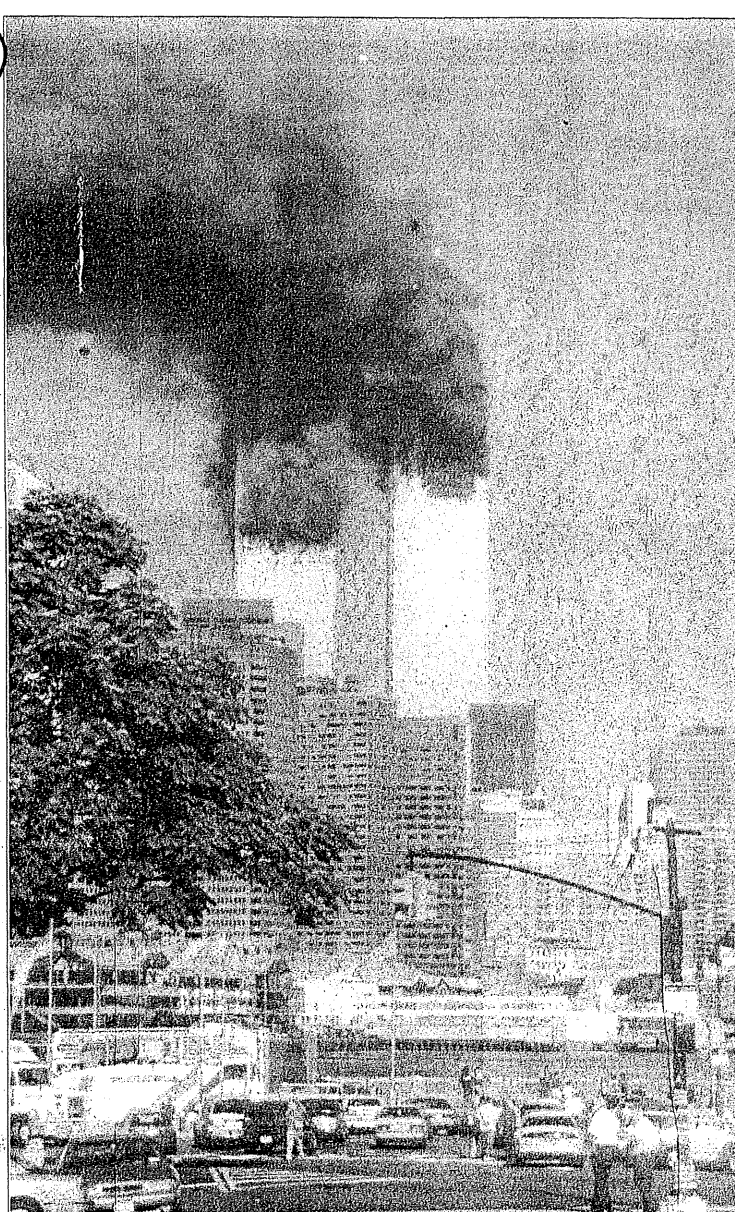


Photo courtesy Dorothy Kinke

Americans watched, stunned, on Sept. 11, 2001 as the World Trade Center burned and then collapsed on itself after terrorists collided into the twin towers in hijacked commercial airplanes.

become so complacent. As tragic as Sept. 11 was, we will and must move forward as we have with other historic tragedies that have made us stronger as a nation.

God bless America!

E. Craig Morris is mayor of Lakeland. He is a pilot who does part time charter work. He also served six years in the Air Force Reserves. This letter is based on notes he took the morning of Sept. 11, 2001.

Dave Beaudet

One year after a crime against humanity, I have yet to make any sense of the Sept. 11 attack on America.

As time passes, our thoughts and our actions will define who we are as a people and as a nation. It is my hope that in 10 or 20 years, people will remember Sept. 11 as the day that changed America; when public trust in government at all levels began to grow; when the people of the United States began to vote at historically high levels; when public participation in our democracy increased, and our

nation did not retreat to actions that we might someday regret.

In my daily routine I will remember the workers at work and the travelers experiencing one more day of life and the citizens that died on Sept. 11, who gave their lives for a country that believes in freedom and democracy.

David Beaudet is mayor of Oak Park Heights.

Doug Johnson

I turned on the television and saw the burning World Trade Center. It was impossible to understand how a pilot could be

so stupid as to fly a plane into that building. But it happened before when a plane hit the Empire State Building in 1945. It seemed to be a tragic accident.

The radio car told me about the second plane, then the plane that hit the Pentagon. We were at war and under attack; this day would be remembered as Nov. 22, 1963, was. We were told then that we would never forget where we were when we heard about the assassination of President Kennedy. They were

right; I never forgot. As I watched the horror unfold on Sept. 11, my thoughts continually returned to the national nightmare of what followed the Kennedy assassination: Vietnam, body bags, riots, more assassinations, Watergate. I prayed that whatever followed Sept. 11, did not bring us similar nightmares. That prayer continues to be said each day, not for myself, but for my children and my grandchildren, and for all children and all grandchildren.

Doug Johnson is Washington County Attorney.

Eric Lipman

There are some images that are so powerful they change the course of nations.

The attack upon the Twin Towers, and the collapse of the buildings into the city streets below, was so horrible that it left an indelible mark. The catastrophe changed us. The America that once was so self-absorbed, self-possessed and selfish is gone. Having watched those great buildings tumble into clouds of fire and dust, we now

look at ourselves, our neighbors and our place in the world very different ways.

Among the most striking changes I have noticed, is God's return to public life. For the 30 years or so that preceded Sept. 11, legions of American lawyers worked to scuttle the creator from the public square; to escort him out of government buildings and even to scrub his name from our national mottoes. Yet, following the 9-11 attacks, God has been invited back. At first, the pleas appeared on the signs of shopkeepers along the roadside. They read: "God Bless America" and "God Bless the F.D.N.Y. and N.Y.P.D." Such signs were everywhere.

A year later, the chorus has grown even wider. In Minnesota and every other state, church bells were expected to ring at the same time on Wednesday morning to commemorate those who died. Quite literally, Americans will transform last year's sounds of sirens into the sound of church bells.

And better still, the God who have invited back, is not one who calls for the type of zealotry and hatred that was aimed at us on Sept. 11. To the contrary, the God that Americans seek is a pluralistic God; a God big enough for the many faiths in our nation. As the Wall Street Journal recounted last week, the commemoration of Sept. 11 in New York is marked by dozens of inter-faith events where Protestants, Catholics, Jews, Muslims and Buddhists (among others) are all reaching out to each other. The renewed faith in America is one that shows itself through open, out-stretched hands and working together to solve common problems.

Perhaps that is so because Sept. 11 provided so many examples of extraordinary courage and compassion. Firemen scrambling upwards into burning skyscrapers, or airline passengers rushing armed hijackers in a cockpit, were so brave and selfless. They urge our more modest efforts: donating blood, sending food and blankets, and caring for the widows and orphans that were left behind by the attacks.

Sept. 11 also saw the end of an America that is insular and remote. The sources of the attacks, and the later "war on terrorism," have expanded our view of the world that, just a year before, seemed to end at the ocean shores. I know that our is not the only family that has recently searched for its atlas and dusted off the book cover. It is because violence in far-off places like Kandahar and Ramallah, is now powerfully linked to our own experience. After Sept. 11, the peace and security of such places is also a real concern for us too.

All of which may, in the final analysis, be the legacy of that awful day. The force of the explosions on Sept. 11 were so great that they knocked down the tallest buildings in New York and changed the "Me Generation" into the "We Generation."

Eric Lipman is a member of the Minnesota House of Representatives representing District 56B. He lives with his wife and daughter in Lake Elmo.

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(Over)

Reflections

(Continued from page 11)

just how private and personal grieving such a loss can be. The word why seemed to begin every statement and there was no suitable answer.

At first it is even difficult to make eye contact with my best friend and business partner who has lost the young lady whose photographs decorate his office. Amazingly, as the hours pass, conversation becomes medicinal. We even laugh about the funny things Fallon has said and done. We reminisce about the good times we had in Bayport on the Fourth of July.

Over the next five days a new normal begins to emerge. Fallon's Uncle John and I field and endless series of phone calls. Every caller asks, "What can I do?" until the question begins to haunt you. This is a hopeless, futile situation and I have no control. There is nothing I can do.

Throughout the week everybody hugs their children more often and harder. Some relatives who have become estranged in recent years over ridiculous feuds come together in forgiveness. We talk, grieve, laugh and vow a new commitment to building or rebuilding personal relationships.

Why did Fallon have to die? Can there truly be a god who would permit such a senseless act? What can I do? Is this the end of hope?

Gradually, I begin to realize that although we are greatly saddened by any death, it is only the unexpected loss of a very special young person, an angel, which has the power to shock us into altering the way we live. Can that possibly be the why? Is that possible this is the message we should get from Sept. 11? The challenge for each of us is "What can I do?"

— Express your love regularly to your family.

— Be kind to others — even when you drive.

— Use great care in how you speak to others:

— Avoid harmful words.

— Eliminate profanity.

— Be a community volunteer.

— Make random acts of kindness a daily habit.

— Avoid entertainment that promotes violence and profanity. These are seemingly simplistic actions but they carry enormous potential. Remember, kindness is contagious, help it spread.

Keep hope alive.

....

Jim Kosmo is mayor of Bayport.

John Gannaway

I was getting ready for work and recall my wife telling me to come and look at the television, as one of the national morning shows was showing the smoke and flames of the first tower. The visual images were tragic, but there was still a possibility that a plane had an in-air malfunction and struck the first tower. We were standing there watching when the second plane struck. I turned to my wife and said, that was intentional, they both are, it's terrorism. As I got to work, the third plane struck the Pentagon, and the nation was

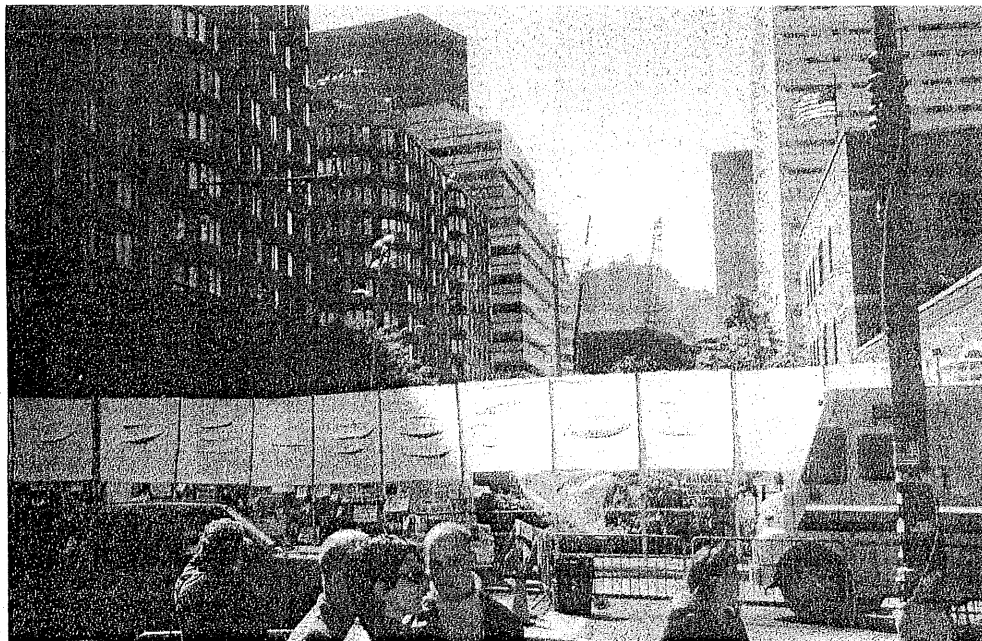


Photo courtesy Dorothy Krinke

An American Red Cross volunteer, Marine on St. Croix resident Dorothy Krinke worked in Manhattan for three weeks on two occasions last fall and winter. When she arrived on Oct. 4, Ground Zero was still smoking. She remembers it in a diary she kept of her experience: "There wasn't a lot of gawkers," she said. "They didn't let a lot of people in there ... They had police cars all over, keeping people out, so the people that were there were pretty quiet. They just kind of watched and they didn't say much. No one was smiling or visiting much. It was pretty somber."

watching, the emotion of fear and the unknown brewing to the tops of our minds. I thought, this is what my parents, grandparents, and the rest of the nation felt during Pearl Harbor in 1941. Outrage, shock, anger, disbelief.

Who can forget those horrific scenes of that day, the helpless people jumping from the upper floors, the towers plummeting to the ground, the waves of smoke, ash, and debris washing over fleeing, panicked, persons on the streets.

It was such a sickening feeling to know that thousands of people were injured or dead. Who could not help but cry when you knew that not only the victims in the towers were dying, but also those incredibly brave firefighters and police officers had selflessly climbed all those floors, only to perish. The heart wrenching and heroic efforts of the passengers of Flight 93, which crashed in Pennsylvania. There were so many heroes that day, and they left families and loved ones behind. I found myself crying a few times on that day.

In watching the events unfold of the day, that heroic actions of others in a time of great tragedy, made what we do here seem really insignificant, small, and little. I was a Marine in Lebanon in the early 1980's. A reporter, who was aware of that information, called me and asked for my opinion, citing that I was the closest thing to an expert that the reporter was aware of. I declined to comment publicly, but I thought afterwards that how could I compare what I went through to what happened on Sept. 11. Lebanon, back then, was like spitballs and firecrackers compared to what had transpired. The only similar comparison is that religious extremists committed terrorist acts.

A few days after Sept. 11, someone commented to me that they felt sorry for those who did not have God to turn to during such a tragic time. I replied that

I did not feel that way at all. The great thing about America, and sometimes to our detriment, is that we can worship whomever and whatever we want. The Constitution allows for this. And make no mistake; it was those very ideals that were attacked on Sept. 11.

After surviving Lebanon, and re-enforced by the events of Sept. 11, I know that some things in life just aren't that important. Pettiness just isn't worth it. I watch, read, and observe every day about "issues" that people are passionate about. Not to denigrate what they feel strongly about, but sit back and think about being trapped on the 90th floor of the Twin Towers, about being a passenger on Flight 93, or being a police officer or firefighter and feeling tons of steel and glass coming down on top of you as you are just trying to help others, knowing that you will never see your children, wife, girlfriend, parents, loved ones, ever again. Keep life in perspective.

I recall that as a Marine in Lebanon we were watching college students burning American flags in protest to our presence there, and remembering how sad that made me feel. How can anyone burn a flag ever again? Not only does it symbolize our great nation, but just think about how much blood has been shed protecting and serving that flag and our nation. Think about the tremendous sacrifices that have been made, and are still being made. Families and generations of Americans affected by those sacrifices, all for the flag and nation. Keep life in perspective.

Keep those currently making those sacrifices in your prayers and blessings.

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John Gannaway is Bayport's chief of police.

Dr. Kathleen Macy

I can almost feel Sept. 11 as if it were yesterday. The emo-

tions created by those events never seem to be far from my mind. It was a beautiful Tuesday. The sky was blue and clear. The traffic moved smoothly into St. Paul, the location of my 8:30 a.m. meeting. The car radio was off, as it made conversation with my two passengers easier.

My cell phone rang. The message, "a plane just crashed into one of the World Trade Center's buildings." I continued toward St. Paul, wondering how a plane could manage to hit one of the towers. Now though we listened to the radio and ceased our unimportant conversation.

Then the second report, "another plane just flew into the other World Trade Tower. All U.S. airline flights across the nation have been grounded." The confusing reality of the day began to unfold. I turned the car around and returned to my office to respond to the calls that were certain to come from anxious parents and staff.

Should we send children home? Short discussions and a review of the traffic around the Metro area where many parents work, and we determined that school was the safest place for our kids.

Through the next few days, our children learned how ordinary people came together regardless of job title, ability, ethnicity, education, race, net worth or religion, to guide our recovery from disbelief. There were many unlikely heroes. The firemen, chaplains, nurses, police officers and ordinary workers faced with extraordinary challenges and horror dignified the American Spirit and values that until that day many of our younger Americans could not understand.

Only our values define the rightness of our path in times of such great uncertainty and stress. For the children, they started that day, as always, with the excitement of coming to school and learning. Good and caring teachers, support staff

and principals put their own fears aside to lead the children through Sept. 11 and the days that followed. It was a day that no one could have imagined. The children ended the day concerned about the day's events but unconcerned about their safety at school. It was only at the end of the day that the staff crumpled, exhausted and acknowledged their disbelief, their horror, and the frustrating inability to change the world back to "the way it was" only hours before.

For our older students, the discussions were rich and wide ranging. What happened? Why? What about our strongly held civil liberties — are those values important enough to be held in this type of situation? What about the economy? Will the country fail? To discuss rightness — wrongness, civil disobedience — terrorism, democracy — autocracy, rights — responsibilities, war — peace, that is the responsibility of educators. The responsibility of the discussion is a mantle that weighed heavily on the staff in our district, and the teaching staff across our country. But, discuss we did.

Along with the responsibility of developing the critical thinking of our students, comes the unspoken assurance that we will protect the children at all costs. Sept. 11 showed us how little control we have of the future our children will inherit. We cannot protect them from everything. This powerlessness is a realization that humbles all of us.

Sept. 11, 2001, was a defining moment in our history. The children in our schools, that live and play and work in our community, will read about that day in the history lessons of the future. Just as Dec. 7 and Pearl Harbor was a turning point in the consciousness of the nation, today's children have lived through a turning point as well.

Are we different because of the events of Sept. 11? All of us are more keenly aware of our

vulnerabilities. All of us value the gifts of others more openly. To say that nothing has changed would be to deny the heroism and the sacrifice and the horror and the senselessness of that day. Yes, we are different. We have changed as a community, a nation and as a people.

The year has allowed all of us to believe again in the capacity of ordinary people to shape the future. The year has allowed all of us to hold our families closer. This year allowed all of us to place a higher value on community. This year tested our democracy. This year made us stronger.

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Kathleen Macy is District 834's superintendent of schools.

Kim Kallestad

May we never forget the tragic events of Sept. 11, 2001, nor the 2,800 people that lost their lives. After the one year anniversary and all the emotional services and events we'll attend, I'd ask everyone to turn some attention to a current tragic event that has occurred every year for more than fifty years. That tragic event is an annual loss of more than 3,000 people per year in residential fires in the United States, mostly children and elderly.

Here are two things you can do to help save lives in the future, possible lives of loved ones or your own life:

Number One: Make certain that you have smoke detectors in every sleeping room, in every hallway outside of a sleeping room, and a minimum of one on every level of your residence. If it's a large residence, or if you would ever forget to replace batteries every six months; have 120-volt detectors with battery backup installed by an electrician. Have all detectors interconnected to sound simultaneously.

Number Two: Install a residential fire sprinkler system during the construction phase of every new home. The system will cost less than the floor coverings, will add value to the home, and can result in savings on insurance premiums.

The peace of mind alone is worth the cost of installation.

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Kim Kallestad is Stillwater's fire chief.

Mark Holsten

We made breakfast, we sent our kids to the bus stop, and we headed off to work. Our minds were on the new school year, high school football, or the need to mow the lawn.

Sept. 11, 2001 started off like so many other days, but at 7:46 a.m. our lives changed forever. It is difficult to find the right words to truly reflect the horrific events of that day. The world was witness to an attack on thousands of innocent civilians right before their eyes. The terrorists' cowardly actions were an attempt to destroy America's commitment to democracy and freedom, but only succeeded in strengthening our resolve. As that day so clearly reminded us, all Americans are at risk. Ensuring freedom, both at home and

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STILLWATER GAZETTE

STILLWATER, MN
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Lipman abandoned veterans twice

Three years ago, the Legislature authorized construction of a memorial to Minnesota's World War II veterans on the grounds of the State Capitol. Since then, many veterans, along with their family and friends and veterans' organizations, have contributed thousands of dollars toward the project. Now it's time for the State of Minnesota to step to the plate and provide construction funding.

Unfortunately, Rep. Eric Lipman isn't willing to support the effort to commemorate the sacrifices of the Minnesotans who fought and won World War II. On Wednesday, March 13, he voted for a state building-project bill that specifically excluded construction funding for the memorial. Five days later, he voted against the bill that would provide con-

struction funding. That's two votes against veterans.

Veterans of all wars, and their friends and families, ought to ask Rep. Lipman why he is unwilling to support this simple effort to create a memorial to all those who sacrificed in World War II. While Rep. Lipman may talk about being a friend of veterans, he abandoned them twice — at critical moments.

I am writing this letter not only as a legislator, but as one of only two veterans of America's greatest war, World War II, serving in the House. I would appreciate your calling Rep. Lipman's attention to the fact that he cast two negative votes against veterans.

— District 3A Rep.
• Irv Anderson,
D-International Falls

Transportation a key issue for this session

By Don Davis

Tribune Capitol Correspondent

ST. PAUL — The talk around the Minnesota Capitol is about a \$2 billion state budget deficit, but much of the talk elsewhere in Minnesota is about transportation.

City, county, township and state roads and bridges are falling apart, even after lawmakers sent more than \$400 million to highway construction two years ago. Millions more are needed, transportation experts say.

"Counties have documented an over \$200 million shortfall needed to preserve the existing highway system," Jim Mulder wrote

to county officials earlier this month. "In addition, counties have identified nearly \$750 million of county projects that are on the drawing board waiting for new funding."

And Mulder, executive director of the Association of Minnesota Counties, was just talking about counties. Transportation officials in cities, townships and even the state tell similar stories of unmet needs.

Gov. Jesse Ventura proposes little new transportation funding, blaming the state's nearly \$2 billion budget deficit. On the other hand, he does not propose cutting transportation projects like he does other programs.

House and Senate leaders want to emphasize transportation despite budget woes. Roger Moe, DFL-Erskine, even thanks Ventura — in a way — for giving lawmakers an opening for increasing transportation funding.

"At least the gas tax now appears to be in play," Moe said. The biggest pre-session transportation debate has been over Ventura's proposal to increase the motor vehicle fuel tax a nickel per gallon.

Raising the gasoline tax would preserve current transportation funding and help balance the budget. There would be no new

highway construction money under Ventura's plan, which legislators almost unanimously criticize.

"If it isn't used for roads and bridges, I would be strongly opposed to that," Sen. Cal Larson, R-Fergus Falls, said of the gas tax increase.

Sen. Charlie Berg, R-Chokio, said he doesn't think Ventura's 5-cent gas tax proposal will pass, but a 3-cent one could if money goes to transportation. Moe, however, said he is optimistic the full 5-cent increase will pass, with all the money headed for transportation.

Transportation/ Page A12

WEST CENTRAL TRIBUNE

WILLMAR, MN
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Transportation: Hot topic for session

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Rural lawmakers say Ventura concentrates too much on the metropolitan area, promoting passenger rail at the expense of roads.

"Everyone is not just driving on the interstate highway," Rep. Bud Nornes, R-Fergus Falls, said, adding that highways in tourist areas such as his district need funding, too.

House Speaker Steve Sviggum, R-Kenyon, said he expects the House to pass a bill funding transportation construction projects, although he said he must meet with fellow Republicans before knowing how much money would be spent. He says a gas tax is the only tax House Republicans would consider raising.

Transportation is far from the only issue to be debated starting Tuesday. Others include:

■ Increasing security was a prime Capitol topic shortly after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, but discussion has waned since the Ventura administration announced a \$2 billion budget deficit.

Still, there will be proposals to improve security. Senate Democrats want to spend \$29 million, funded in part by a cellular telephone use tax increase from 27 cents to 49 cents per line. House Republicans suggest a \$25 million package.

The Ventura administration comes out with its security package in a few days, but commissioners have said better security could cost the state up to \$40 million.

Democrats and Republicans generally agree the state should restore hazardous materials response teams, eliminated a year ago, in Moorhead, Rochester and Duluth, as well as adding a team in St. Cloud. Ventura and Public Safety Commissioner Charlie Weaver say the National Guard and the lone remaining hazardous materials team in St. Paul can handle the load.

■ Ventura wants to legalize fireworks.

Minnesota business is going to neighboring states that allow fireworks sales, the governor said. If they were legal in Minnesota, he

added, "we can collect the tax on it."

The tax would not bring in much, he admitted, but "a lot of small things make big things."

When told that fireworks is one of Ventura's priorities, Moe just leaned backed and rolled his eyes. There is almost no legislative interest in the issue, and even lawmakers in border communities have doubts about the importance of legalizing fireworks.

"No one from Moorhead has come up to me wanting to sell fireworks," Sen. Keith Langseth, DFL-Glyndon, said.

■ Secretary of State Mary Kiffmeyer wants to retain more than \$1 million in grants for new voting machines that Ventura wants axed.

■ Rep. Eric Lipman, R-Lake Elmo, said voting machine money should be restored because elections are a fundamental part of government.

"There are other less important, not constitutional, programs that can be sacrificed," he said.

■ Ventura plans to resurrect his proposal from two years ago to let voters decide whether to turn the Legislature into a one-body assembly.

His unicameral proposal will have more details than last time around, the governor promises. But the basic plan remains the same: 135 members in one body instead of the current 201 in two bodies.

The governor said the state's budget problems may help him get his wish this year. "You can reform a lot more with a deficit."

But even Sviggum, who carried the unicameral bill last time, said it has no business being debated this year.

"I cannot — with the other issues on the agenda — put any of my personal capital on this issue," he said.

Lipman talked to Nebraska senators, who serve in the nation's only unicameral legislature, during the summer and brought back a message: "Don't bring it to Minnesota."

Fargo Forum

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Ventura will seek to legalize fireworks

FRONT PAGE

BY DON DAVIS

R-E Capitol Correspondent

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Ventura

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ISSUES Continued from page 1

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Income

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Current law requires them to disclose outside income sources, but not how much. They also do not have to disclose income gained from contracts.

"What Rep. Entenza is trying to do is to get some accountability for their time," Rep. Mike Osskopp, R-Pine Island, said.

Entenza said the four officials need to reveal their income because of potential conflicts of interests in their role as the Public Investment Board, the group that decides how to invest money for state employees' retirement funds.

The bill presented some legislators a tough decision.

What finally convinced Rep. Roxann Daggett, R-Frazee, to vote for the bill was that Ventura is earning money in his outside ventures only because he is governor, she said.

Many legislators opposed adding lawmakers to the bill because they are supposed to be part-time while the statewide officials are to work for the state full time.

"If he is governor and he is awake, he should be solving problems for the great state of Minnesota," said Rep. Eric

Lipman, R-Lake Elmo.

Few argued against Entenza's bill. One who did is Rep. Dave Bishop, R-Rochester, who said he has heard no evidence of conflicts of interest.

"I just think what you propose does not have sufficient basis in reality," Bishop said.

House votes to require income disclosure

FRONT PAGE

By Don Davis

Capitol Correspondent

ST. PAUL — Minnesota House members, saying Jesse Ventura works part time as Minnesota's governor, voted Wednesday to require him and three other statewide officials to disclose all of their outside income.

"I've seen a lot of legislators go like this," Rep. Tom Rukavina,

said, licking his finger and holding it in the air as if checking the wind direction.

"But until Ventura I have not seen a governor go like this," added the Virginia DFLer, licking his wallet and holding it in the air.

"He hasn't spent a lot of time being our governor," Rukavina said.

Despite supporters' claims that the bill was not just targeting

Ventura, he was the center of attention in a nearly three-hour debate. Ventura has written books and a play, been color commentator of the failed XFL football league, appeared as referee for a professional wrestling match and done other money-making activities since becoming governor nearly 3½ years ago.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Matt Entenza, DFL-St. Paul,

passed the House 94-30 after an amendment to require legislators to disclose their income was ruled out of order.

If the Senate passes the bill, it becomes effective July 1.

The bill requires the governor, state auditor, attorney general and secretary of state to disclose all of their income.

Income/ Page A12

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Tracking Northstar's rail proposal

■ Senate slates \$8 million for plan

by T.W. Budig
ECM capitol reporter

The Minnesota Senate Feb. 18 passed a \$1.2 billion bonding proposal, but slated just \$8 million toward the Northstar Corridor commuter rail line.

The Ventura Administration in its bonding bill proposed \$120 million for Northstar — this amount may be matched by \$139 million in federal funds for the proposed 82-mile commuter line between St. Cloud and Minneapolis through Anoka County.

But Senate Capital Investment Chairman Keith Langseth, DFL-Glyndon, indicated weeks ago that the Senate would propose just a "placer" amount for Northstar in its bonding proposal.

Langseth said he struggled with the House two years just to get Northstar funding and hit a dead end.

It's up to the governor's office and the House to come up with a bonding amount, Langseth said.

"I believe the Senate would agree to it," he said, of a bonding for Northstar that the House and Gov. Jesse Ventura could agree to.

If Northstar supporters take the attitude they have to have the whole \$120 million this session or nothing, they may end up with nothing, said

Langseth.

The House in the past has been reluctant to fund passenger rail transit.

The House Transportation Finance Committee has held hearings on Northstar this session. But the House has not yet presented its bonding bill.

Sherburne County Commissioner Betsy Wergin, chairwoman of the Northstar Corridor Development Authority, said she wasn't surprised by the Senate bill's \$8 million for Northstar, but she was disappointed.

Ultimately, Northstar funding will be hammered out in conference committee, she said.

"We don't have a clue what the final amount will be," said Wergin.

Wergin believes the governor's office will fight for the Northstar funding and the fact the House Capital Investment Committee is considering holding a hearing on Northstar seems a positive development, she said.

Considering the current state budget deficit, Wergin said the skepticism some House members have towards funding Northstar is understandable.

But Wergin believes the Northstar project is sound. And now it's a matter convincing lawmakers, she said.

■ House committee poses tough questions

by T.W. Budig
ECM capitol reporter

The House Capital Investment Committee Feb. 14 had some tough questions for MnDOT officials concerning the Northstar Corridor commuter rail line.

The Ventura Administration is seeking \$120 million in bonding for the proposed 82-mile line, projected to carry some 10,000 commuters a day.

Earlier in the week, the Senate placed a \$8 million "placer" amount in their bonding bill for Northstar.

The House bonding bill will come out the first week of March, according to Capital Investment Committee Chairman Jim Knoblach, R-St. Cloud.

But Knoblach refused to speculate on funding amounts for Northstar.

He'll make up his mind on Northstar within a week, said Knoblach. There'll certainly be negotiations on Northstar, he said.

During the hearing, Knoblach said Burlington-Northern Santa Fe Railroad

officials — owners of the tracks Northstar is envisioned running on — report that some \$57 million in improvements were needed on the line.

"We have come up with a much lower number," said MnDOT Commissioner El Tinklenberg.

The required funding for track improvements was available within the Northstar budget, he said.

Knoblach said the fact the Senate had placed only \$8 million in their bonding bill for Northstar surprised him.

He gently chided MnDOT officials for poor communications in that after being assured that Northstar funding was in President Bush's budget, he had learned there actually was a small placer amount.

Rep. Carol Molnau, R-Chaska, asked MnDOT's Kevin Gray whether MnDOT could guarantee the full Northstar funding would



Tinklenberg

in the president's budget.

Gray said while there was no guarantee a "high potential" for funding existed.

Molnau, a severe light rail critic, said because of the relatively few passengers antici-

ated for the last 40 miles of the commuter line, the selling point of the investment must be economic development.

As such, the House should look into recapturing some of the increase in tax capacity the Northstar line would bring to local communities, she said.

Rep. Eric Lipman, R-Lake Elmo, said he was troubled by the size of the Northstar bonding request — should the state bond for a large amount?

But Knoblach said there was no legal limit restricting the size of the bonding bill.

It's more a matter of current practice, he said.

56B

Most local legislative candidates support school levies

Four Republican candidates take 'neutral' stance on levy questions

By GREG C. HUFF
News Editor

STILLWATER — Although all 14 state legislative candidates at an education forum last Tuesday night stood up to indicate they would fight for increased funding for schools, five did not raise their hands to indicate they supported District's 834's request for two education-funding levies worth a combined \$32 million.

Sen. Michele Bachmann, Rep. Eric Lipman, Brian LeClair and Denny McNamara — all Republicans — raised their hands to indicate a neutral position regarding the requested levies.

Candidates who indicated they supported the levies included: Democrats Sen. Jane Krentz, Sen. Len Price, Rep. Sharon Marko, Rebecca Otto, Mike Redmond and Jeff Sieben; Republican Rep. Mark Holsten; and Green Party candidates Dave Engstrom and George Bateman.

Before forum moderator Lou Harvin offered the candidates an opportunity to take a neutral stance, Republican Kip Knippel raised his hand to indicate he opposed the levies, making as he did so,

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Forum

(Continued from page 1)

however, a "so-so" gesture. He explained later that he did not offer support for the levies because he does not live in District 834 and therefore is not eligible to vote for or against them.

The proposed \$30 million operating levy would generate \$6 million per year for five years. Toward that levy, the owner of a \$100,000 home would pay \$150 each year. The proposed technology levy would generate \$2 million in five years — \$400,000 per year. Toward that levy, the owner of a \$100,000 home would pay \$9 a year.

An operating levy is a voluntary additional property tax that district voters must approve to afford the district with funding beyond what the state Legislature provides.

House District 57 A

A Hastings resident, Knippel is challenging Marko and Engstrom in the newly drawn District 57 A. The new House district includes Afton and St. Mary's Point, which are located in District 834. As an Afton resident, Engstrom can vote for the levies and said he plans to do so. A Cottage Grove resident, Marko cannot vote on the levies, but said she supports them.

House District 58 B

After several people in the audience groaned loudly when Lipman, LeClair, Bachmann and McNamara took neutral stances, Lipman asked Harvin if he could explain. Allowed the opportunity, Lipman spoke directly to a Stillwater Area High School student who had previously asked the panel a question about education levies.

"I voted to give you a chance — to bring you into the process, because you matter," Lipman told the student.

If school officials make a good case for why they requested additional funding, Lipman said "and you have the \$300 bucks, go for it. But it's not about me deciding in St. Paul, it's about each one of you having a role in the process."

After representing District 56 B for two years, Lipman — a Lake Elmo resident — is running in the re-drawn District 56A. Challenging him for that seat is Redmond, a West Lakeland Township teacher and coach at Mahtomedi High

School.

"I'm definitely voting 'yes' (on the levy questions)," Redmond said after Harvin allowed him a chance to respond to Lipman's comments. "I didn't know 'neutral' was a choice in a yes-or-no question."

Redmond added that Lipman voted "against education numerous times," and said he'd let Lipman's record "speak for itself."

Lipman later defended his and his party's support of education legislation, telling Redmond that in the last four years — when Senate Republicans controlled the Legislature — they raised per-pupil funding by \$536. When Democrats controlled the Legislature, Lipman said, they voted for zero-percent increases.

Senate District 52

Although Harvin did not offer all the candidates an opportunity to explain their stances on District 834's levies, an audience member later asked Bachmann to explain hers.

"I'm very supportive of the process of local school boards being able to make the decision to put out a levy referendum before the voters," Bachmann said.

After representing District 56 for two years, Bachmann is running in Krentz's re-drawn District 52. A high school teacher on leave, Krentz — a May Township resident — has represented District 52 since 1992.

Bachmann was reluctant to offer unconditional support for District 834's levies, she explained, because several senior citizens in the district have told her they are "very concerned" how they might affect their fixed-income budgets.

In her two years in the Senate, Bachmann said, she voted for "formula increases for funding at the state level." She voted also for legislation that changed the way the state funds schools. Designed to cut property taxes, that legislation eliminated most existing, local school-funding levies, and made the state responsible for funding what Gov. Ventura called "the basics" of education.

"So I believe it is up to the local families to decide what is right for them on the levy referendum," Bachmann said further.

In response, Krentz questioned Bachmann's earlier statement that a projected "11-percent increase in growth in revenue" for the next two years is

Bachmann's rationale for declining to advocate raising taxes to further fund education.

"If my opponent does not support funding at the state level and also says she won't support the referendum here, how are we supposed to fund our schools then?" Krentz asked.

Although Bachmann attributed the 11-percent revenue increase projection to a forecast released in February by the Minnesota Department of Finance, Krentz said that figure is misleading because it includes education dollars that were rolled out of eliminated local levies and moved into the funding pool from which the state will pay schools directly.

Until 2000, Minnesota funded schools with a combination of state aid and operating and general education levies. Operating levies are the school-funding taxes that communities set for themselves. The Legislature in 2000 abandoned the general education levy — which, using a complicated formula, it determined funding for each district — and replaced it with state-paid general education aid.

Because the state will now pick up the tab for large part of each district's local operating levy — about \$415 per pupil unit, per school — property owners now pay significantly leaner property taxes.

Senate District 58

Not given an opportunity in the forum to explain his stance on District 834's levies, LeClair said yesterday that it was "unfortunate" that Harvin structured his question in such a manner that "it made it seem" he was neutral.

"I'm not neutral in how I'm going to vote, I know how I'm going to vote," LeClair said yesterday. "But I'm not advertising how I'm going to vote." Further, he said, he supports District 834 voters' right to "weigh in on their school district is run ... I don't believe that tax and spending decisions ought to be made only by elected officials."

LeClair is challenging Price in a re-drawn District 56. Both live in Woodbury. Before redistricting, Price represented District 57 since 1990.

Price said last Tuesday that for all the years he has served in the Senate, he has advocated that the state should assume more responsibility for education funding.

"Because property tax is a very onerous tax that people look at and say 'I don't want to

pay," and then it sounds like you don't support education," he said.

He said later that "what we need is good teachers. That's where the action is — in the classrooms. ... The bottom line is that's a good investment. The bottom line is that it costs money to do that."

LeClair's hope, he said, is that "we could send more money to school districts and not force them to come back year after year ... But if the school districts want to go to voters for additional money, it is their right to involve citizens in that process."

House District 52 B

Both candidates running in the re-drawn House District 52 B support District 834's levies.

Holsten, a Stillwater resident, has represented District 52 B since 1992. Although he said understands the "pressure" the levies could put on senior citizens, he plans to vote to pass both levies.

"This is my home," he said. "I want my children to have the same opportunities that I had coming through the system."

A May Township resident, Otto is not eligible to vote for the levies, but offered empathetic support for levy supporters here. Last fall, she chaired a grass-roots campaign credited with helping pass an operating levy in the Forest Lake school district. Otto and her husband own some property in Stillwater, where the quality of the schools help "keep the property values stable."

Educate 834

Education 834, a local education advocacy group, sponsored and organized the forum. An anchor and reporter for the Minnesota News Network, Harvin has hosted many political debates, including a 1998 public forum on light rail. He has been a broadcast journalist for 25 years, working mostly in the Twin Cities. He has been with KSTP, KARE 11, and Channel 2's Newsnight Minnesota. He has been a reporter, producer, editor, investigative producer and anchor.

Greg C. Huff can be reached at (651) 796-1112 or at ghuff@presenter.com.

56B

Most local legislative candidates support school levies

Four Republican candidates take 'neutral' stance on levy questions

By GREG C. HUFF
News Editor

STILLWATER — Although all 14 state legislative candidates at an education forum last Tuesday night stood up to indicate they would fight for increased funding for schools, five did not raise their hands to indicate they supported District's 834's request for two education-funding levies worth a combined \$32 million.

Sen. Michele Bachmann, Rep. Eric Lipman, Brian LeClair and Denny McNamara — all Republicans — raised their hands to indicate a neutral position regarding the requested levies.

Candidates who indicated they supported the levies included: Democrats Sen. Jane Krentz, Sen. Len Price, Rep. Sharon Marko, Rebecca Otto, Mike Redmond and Jeff Sieben; Republican Rep. Mark Holsten; and Green Party candidates Dave Engstrom and George Bateman.

Before forum moderator Lou Harvin offered the candidates an opportunity to take a neutral stance, Republican Kip Knippel raised his hand to indicate he opposed the levies, making as he did so,

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Forum

(Continued from page 1)

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School.

"I'm definitely voting 'yes' (on the levy questions)," Redmond said after Harvin allowed him a chance to respond to Lipman's comments. "I didn't know 'neutral' was a choice in a yes-or-no question."

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56B

EDITORIAL: Minnesota House

PIONEER PRESS OCT 23 '02

X-10

These candidates stand out in key East Metro races

Thanks to legislative retirements and redistricting, voters in a number of Minnesota House districts will choose new representatives in the Nov. 5 election. Voters would be wise to look for candidates who are prepared to make tough fiscal choices to help erase a projected \$3 billion budget shortfall.

Today we offer recommendations in eight key races in the East Metro area. Our selections are based on interviews with the candidates, their responses to a questionnaire and a review of their backgrounds.

District 36B (southern Dakota County)

Steve Strachan, 37, a Republican from Farmington, is one of the more impressive newcomers running in the East Metro area. A police sergeant in Lakeville, Strachan holds a master's degree in public administration and has served on the Farmington City Council for six years. Strachan says he will work for a more equitable funding formula for schools, highway and transit improvements to ease congestion, and a budget balancing solution that minimizes cuts to education and human services. But he says he recognizes the task won't be easy, and doesn't rule out a tax increase as part of the solution.

Christine Murphy, 30, of Farmington, a computer network specialist for the West Group, is the DFL-endorsed candidate. Her major concerns are what she sees as inadequate school funding and the rising cost of health care. Recognizing that the state faces a serious budget shortfall, she would try to shield education and other essential programs from spending cuts. And she would favor major increases in the cigarette and alcohol taxes as part of the budget solution.

Strachan has more experience and a better understanding of the issues. We recommend **Steve Strachan**.

District 37B (Rosemount-western Apple Valley)

Rep. Dennis Ozment, 57, of Rosemount, is one of the most senior Republicans in the House, having served since 1985. A retired Minneapolis fire captain, he is chairman of the House Environmental Policy Committee. He prides himself on being open and accessible, and trying to work toward solutions on a bipartisan basis. Ozment declined to sign the "no new taxes" pledge, but says he would vote to raise taxes only as "a last resort."

His DFL challenger is Rosie Isaacson, 46, of Rosemount, a transplanted Iron Ranger who has lived in the area for 10 years. Her work experience includes serving as a paid campaign staff member for Sen. Paul Wellstone and former Gov. Rudy Perpich. She is open to a tax increase as part of the budget solution. "I'm not afraid to say the 'T' word."

Ozment has represented his district well, and has served as a moderating influence in his caucus. We recommend **Dennis Ozment**.



Steve Strachan



Dennis Ozment



Wayne Gilbert



Doug Meslow



Karen Klinzing



Denny McNamara



Cy Thao



John Lesch

District 38B (Eagan)

Lynn Wardlow, 59, of Eagan, a mathematics teacher and coach at Eagan High School, is the Republican-endorsed candidate for the House seat being vacated by GOP gubernatorial candidate Tim Pawlenty. One of Wardlow's goals would be to improve education by replacing the Profile of Learning with grad standards that are more academically rigorous and less cumbersome. He also would like to make the school aid formula more equitable. But Wardlow is not very articulate or well informed on other issues.

Paul Bakken, 32, a lawyer who has served on the Eagan City Council since 1999, switched to the Independence Party after losing the GOP endorsement to Wardlow. A graduate of St. Olaf, he earned a master's in public affairs and a law degree from the University of Minnesota. Bakken says he's running to try to pull politics back toward the political center.

DFLer Wayne Gilbert, 54, an attorney and real estate broker from Eagan, exhibits a deep understanding of the issues and challenges facing Minnesota. He draws upon more than a decade as a public affairs executive for several large corporations, and eight years as a fiscal policy expert for the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce. Gilbert presents himself as a moderate DFLer who would be sensitive to the needs of business, and committed to providing "bipartisan leadership, cooperation, creativity and fiscal discipline."

Wayne Gilbert is one of the more knowledgeable and thoughtful candidates we've seen. We urge his election.

District 53B (White Bear Lake area)

Doug Meslow and Brett Smith are competing for the House seat being vacated by Republican Harry Mares, who is retiring.

Meslow, 43, of White Bear Lake, the Republican candidate, is an attorney who has worked as the city prosecutor for White Bear Lake and Gem Lake for 11 years, and served on the White Bear school board for the last seven. He seems bright, thoughtful and pragmatic — very much in the mold of Mares. Meslow says he's had to make tough fiscal decisions on the school board and that he would approach the state's budget in the same way, looking for ways to cut expenses before asking the taxpayers for more money.

Smith, 40, of White Bear Lake, is the DFL candidate. An elementary school music teacher, he was the 1999 Minnesota

teacher of the year. Smith is bright and articulate, but seems a little naïve about how much money might be available for increased spending on education and health care — given the state's budget shortfall.

We recommend **Doug Meslow**.

District 56B (Woodbury)

Republican Karen Klinzing, 32, of Woodbury, a social studies teacher in the Bloomington school system, is the GOP-endorsed candidate in this newly created district. Bright and articulate, she offers a unusual perspective as a teacher who shares conservative concerns about the Profile of Learning, wants to increase school choice, supports performance-based pay for teachers and wants to make the school aid formula more equitable for all districts.

She is opposed by Matthew Tourville, 25, of Woodbury, who works in the receiving department at target.direct. Tourville, a 2001 graduate of Northwestern University, has interned at the U.S. Embassy in Nepal and studied in Germany. Last year, he worked as a page for two Minnesota House committees. Tourville is also bright and articulate, but needs to take advantage of his education and get a little real world experience.

We prefer **Karen Klinzing**.

District 57B (Hastings area and southern Washington County)

Three candidates are vying to succeed DFL Rep. Sharon Marko, who is running for the state Senate.

Republican Denny McNamara, 50, of Hastings, who holds a business degree from the University of Minnesota, is the co-owner of a nursery and landscaping business. He's been active in the community, serving as president of the Hastings Chamber of Commerce, as a member of the city Natural Resources and Recreation Commission and as a coach in youth athletics. McNamara says he would use the knowledge he has gained in business to help close the state's budget gap.

DFLer Jeff Sieben, 27, of Hastings, is a 2001 law school graduate who is employed in the law firm headed by his father, former House Speaker Harry Sieben, and seeking to follow in his political footsteps. He says his top priorities would be to provide adequate funding for education, eliminate highway bottlenecks and provide affordable, accessible health care.

Green Party candidate George Bate-

man, 62, is an optician who describes his political philosophy as "very progressive" and would rely primarily on tax increases to close the state's budget gap.

We believe **Denny McNamara** has the strongest background to represent this district.

District 65A (St. Paul's Summit-U and Frogtown neighborhoods)

Cy Thao, 30, an artist and former teacher, is the DFL- and labor-endorsed candidate for the seat being vacated by retiring DFL Rep. Andy Dawkins. A native of Laos, Thao was cofounder of the Center for Hmong Arts and Talent. If elected, he would be the second Hmong-American member of the Legislature. Thao seems bright and articulate, and has the potential to be a strong advocate for his district and the minority community.

He is opposed by Republican Gary DeYoung, 30, of St. Paul, who is unemployed. DeYoung's No. 1 priority is to scale back state government, saying 90 percent of what it does could be performed by the private sector. He also favors cutting taxes and imposing tougher prison sentences.

We recommend **Cy Thao**.

District 66A (St. Paul's North End and part of East Side)

DFLer John Lesch won a spirited primary battle for the House seat being vacated by retiring Rep. Tom Osthoff. Lesch, 29, is an assistant city attorney and former legislative aide to City Council member Chris Coleman. While he drew his support from the liberal wing of the party, Lesch portrays himself as a pragmatist and a "middle-of-the-road Democrat" who would work to streamline programs and promote greater accountability. If taxes had to be raised to balance the budget, he says he'd favor some kind of "blink off" tax.

He's opposed by Republican Greg Copeland, 48, a marketing and public affairs consultant from St. Paul. Copeland held elective office in Florida and likes to get involved in the details of government — he's served on the St. Paul Charter Commission and the St. Paul Capital Improvement Budget Committee. Copeland is knowledgeable on a wide range of issues and stresses the need to make more effective use of existing resources. But he's running in a very tough district for a Republican.

Both candidates have strengths, but **John Lesch** is a better fit for this district.

Here are our choices in key state legislative races

Members of the next Minnesota Legislature will face enormous challenges — including a budget shortfall that could exceed \$2 billion, pressure to boost state funding for education and transportation, the rising cost of health care, the demand for more affordable housing.

In choosing their representatives, voters need to look for candidates with experience, good judgment and a desire to make the most effective use of every tax dollar.

In the Sept. 10 primary, the Pioneer Press editorial board examined the candidates in eight key races in the East Metro area. Our recommendations are based on interviews with the candidates, an examination of their backgrounds and their responses to our questionnaire.

Here are the races:

MINNESOTA SENATE

• District 50 — DFL

Sen. Satveer Chaudhary, 33, a business consultant and attorney from Fridley, is seeking his second term in this northwest suburban district. A former House member, Chaudhary was elected two years ago when then-Sen. Steve Novak made an unsuccessful bid for Congress. Chaudhary is the DFL-endorsed candidate. He says he wants to increase funding for schools, expand prescription drug subsidies for seniors and secure funding for the Northstar corridor commuter rail line.

Novak, 53, an Anoka County administrator who has also lobbied for the Twins, is attempting to reclaim his Senate seat after running unsuccessfully for Congress in 2002. Novak says Chaudhary has been ineffective on education funding, transportation and other issues of concern to their district. He pledges to find solutions to the state's budget deficit, its education and transportation funding needs, and health insurance problems.

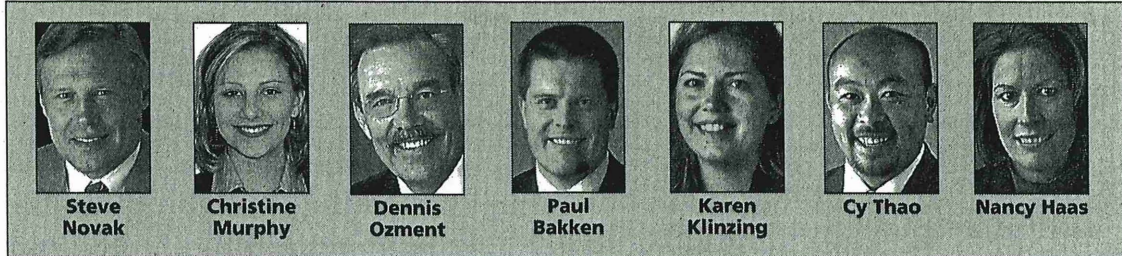
Chaudhary is not regarded as a particularly bold or effective legislator. In contrast, Novak is a 26-year legislative veteran who headed a key committee and had a reputation for getting things done. He was, for example, the architect of the compromise that allowed the Prairie Island nuclear power plant to remain in operation, while requiring Xcel to increase its investment in wind and other renewable energy sources.

If Novak wins, he is likely to win a leadership position and exercise some clout on behalf of his district and the East Metro area. We recommend **Steve Novak**.

MINNESOTA HOUSE

• District 36B — DFL

Christine Murphy, 30, of Farmington, a computer network specialist for the West Group, is the DFL-endorsed candidate for this newly created seat in southern Dakota County. She holds a bachelor's degree in political science and a master's in policy analysis from the University of South Dakota. Her major concerns are what she sees as inadequate school funding and the rising cost of health care. Recognizing that the state faces a serious budget shortfall, she would try to shield education and other essential programs from spending cuts. She favors substantial increases in the cigarette and alcohol taxes as part of the budget solution. Murphy doesn't seem overly knowledgeable about the issues, but appears to have potential to grow in the job.



Lax Sundae, 62, of Farmington, a retired research engineer for the U.S. Bureau of Mines, has run unsuccessfully in the past for mayor of his community and for the Legislature. He seems well intentioned, but doesn't seem well prepared for the job. We recommend **Christine Murphy**.

• District 37B — Republican

Rep. Dennis Ozment, 57, of Rosemount, is one of the most senior Republicans in the House, having served since 1984. He is chairman of the House Environmental Policy Committee and has demonstrated that some Republicans care about the environment. He also has a strong background on education issues. Ozment prides himself on being open and accessible, and trying to work toward solutions on a bipartisan basis. His legislative successes included putting together the citizens coalition that blocked the construction of a new major airport in Dakota County.

Judy Lindsay, 45, a second-term member of the Rosemount-Apple Valley-Eagan School Board, is supported by a group of conservative Republicans who are trying to purge moderates from their party. She is a critic of the state Profile of Learning graduation standards and faults Ozment for being too slow to oppose them. As a school board member, one of her proudest accomplishments was requiring the Pledge of Allegiance in District 196.

Ozment is well regarded in the Legislature, and Lindsay does not make a good case for replacing him. We recommend **Dennis Ozment**.

• District 38B — Republican

Lynn Wardlow, 59, of Eagan, a veteran mathematics teacher and coach at Eagan High School, is the Republican-endorsed candidate for the House seat being vacated by GOP gubernatorial candidate Tim Pawlenty.

Wardlow defeated Eagan City Council member Paul Bakken in a protracted endorsement battle. A former Marine Corps officer, Wardlow says he's running out of a sense of patriotic duty. One of his goals would be to improve education by replacing the Profile of Learning with grad standards that are more academically rigorous and less cumbersome. He also would like to make the school aid formula more equitable, by reducing the disparities in per-pupil aid between the core cities and suburbs such as his. Wardlow is not terribly articulate, and doesn't seem to know much about other issues facing the state.

Alison Bakken, 31, of Eagan, a technology manager for the West Group, filed primarily to provide some competition for Wardlow and prevent Republicans from crossing over in the primary to vote against her husband Paul, who filed as an Independence Party candidate after losing the GOP endorsement.

Wardlow seems inadequately prepared to serve in the House, but Alison Bakken is running for the wrong reason. We make **no endorsement** in this contest.

Independence Party

Paul Bakken, 32, is a lawyer who has served on the Eagan City Council since 1999. He previously served for two years on the city Planning Commission. A graduate of St. Olaf, he earned a master's in public affairs and a law degree from the University of Minnesota. Bakken says he's running to try to pull politics back toward the political center. He's a critic of the Profile of Learning, wants fair funding and increased accountability for schools, and wants to increase funding for road and bridge improvements. To help balance the budget and increase accountability, he would reduce intergovernmental transfers.

Mike Dean, 46, a painting contractor, has served on the Eagan charter commission and appears to be something of a city hall gadfly. A former state bureaucrat, one of his goals is to develop performance measures for government programs and hold agencies accountable.

We are disturbed by the ballot games being played by the Bakkens in this district. But recognizing that the voters have to choose someone, we see **Paul Bakken** as the most able candidate of the bunch.

• District 56B — Republican

Karen Klinzing and Steve Lagoon are both conservative Republicans running in this newly created district in Woodbury.

Klinzing, 31, a social studies teacher in the Bloomington school district and a mother of two, is the party-endorsed candidate. Bright and articulate, she offers a unusual perspective as a teacher who shares conservative concerns about the Profile of Learning, wants to increase school choice, supports performance-based pay for teachers and wants to make the school aid formula more equitable for all districts.

Lagoon, 39, a dry wall contractor, lay preacher and father of four, ran unsuccessfully for the state Senate four years ago. He's hosted a local access cable TV program and written for the local newspaper, and is fairly knowledgeable on a range of issues. He did not seek party endorsement this time.

Klinzing has more potential to grow in the job and to offer an insider's perspective on education issues. We recommend **Karen Klinzing**.

• District 65A — DFL

Cy Thao, 30, an artist and former teacher, is the DFL- and labor-endorsed candidate in this St. Paul district, which includes the Frogtown and Summit-University neighborhoods. The seat is being vacated by DFL Rep. Andy Dawkins, who is retiring.

Two years ago, Thao ran against

Dawkins as the candidate of the Independence Party. A native of Laos, he immigrated to this country in 1980, graduated from the University of St. Thomas and has been active in the community. He is cofounder of the Center for Hmong Arts and Talent. His priorities include increased support for education, housing rehabilitation and economic development. If elected, he would be the second Hmong-American member of the Legislature.

Patty Lammers, 27, grew up in the Frogtown neighborhood, has volunteered in community programs since her teens and works as a housing specialist for the Greater Frogtown Community Development Corp. A graduate of Metro State, she was a fellow at the Humphrey Institute for Public Policy in 2001-02. Her priorities are to reduce crime in the neighborhood, increase the supply of affordable housing, promote economic development and improve education. She's young, but has a lot of potential.

Darryl Spence, 39, is an associate minister at Community Baptist Church in Minneapolis, but says he spends a lot of time working with at-risk youth in St. Paul. He's served on the board of the Summit-University Planning Council and several other community groups. His major concerns include crime and affordable housing.

Thao seems bright and articulate, and has the potential to be a strong advocate for his district and the minority community. We recommend **Cy Thao**.

• District 66A — DFL

Two bright, young DFLers who have experience in government are competing in the DFL primary in this St. Paul district, which includes the north end and part of the East Side. The seat is being vacated by retiring Rep. Tom Osthoff.

John Lesch, 29, an assistant city attorney and former legislative aide to City Council member Chris Coleman, is the DFL-endorsed candidate. Although he calls himself a pragmatist, Lesch is supported by most of the more liberal elements of his party. While he preaches fiscal responsibility, he might have a tough time resisting spending increases supported by traditional DFL constituencies.

Nancy Haas, 30, a lobbyist for Mayor Randy Kelly, has considerable experience at the Capitol, having worked as a legislative aide and a lobbyist for the state Corrections Department. She is backed by more moderate elements of her party. She says she sees the need to exercise "greater fiscal restraint" in tough economic times. While she says investment in schools is critical, Haas says she believes they also must be held accountable for results.

A third candidate, Jeffrey Johnson, did not respond to our request for an interview.

While both Lesch or Haas are well prepared for the job, we lean toward **Nancy Haas**.

Floor votes may not be last word on bonding bill

The \$979.1 million package could become quite a bit smaller if Gov. Ventura takes his veto pen to it.

By Robert Whereatt
Star Tribune Staff Writer

The House and Senate were poised to pass a \$979.1 million capital improvements bill late Saturday and send it to Gov. Jesse Ventura, who has threatened to cut deeply into it with vetoes, perhaps chopping projects worth \$250 million or more.

"This is a big bill, frankly, bigger than I would like," said Rep. Jim Knoblach, R-St. Cloud, chief sponsor of the House bill. "It may get smaller soon," he said, an obvious reference to Ventura's veto threat.

The governor wanted \$50 million for the Northstar commuter rail project that would link downtown Minneapolis and the St. Cloud area. That effort was thwarted by House Republicans, who contended rail service is not cost effective.

In response, the governor created a list of 72 projects now in the bill that his spokesman John Wodele said are candidates for line-item vetoes.

Some legislators suggested that the "hit list" might simply be a ruse by Ventura to pressure legislators to earmark some money for the Northstar project.

But at a news conference early Saturday evening, Ventura said, "Legislators should know after three years I don't bluff."

The bill is the second-most expensive capital improvement measure in state history, behind only the bill passed by the 2000 Legislature that was just shy of \$1 billion.

Rep. Eric Lipman, R-Lake Elmo, said the bill is too pricey when the state is struggling to balance its budget. Paying the interest on the bill puts the state into a deeper hole. "The first thing you do to get out of hole is to stop digging," he said.

But most of the three-hour debate in the House revolved around whether the Northstar project, a plan to run passengers on upgraded freight tracks, should be included.

Northstar supporters tried to send the bill back to a House-Senate conference committee to get funding for Northstar. Others were concerned that without Northstar funding, their local projects might fall to Ventura's veto ax.

"The governor has set up a game of chicken," said Rep. Phyllis Kahn, DFL-Minneapolis. "Sending the bill back [to conference committee] will prevent a head-on crash."

Rep. Mark Olson, R-Big Lake, said the 82-mile Northstar line that would essentially run parallel to Hwy. 10 would cost more than \$300 million but carry 10,000 passengers daily. Olson is about the only legislator in the Northstar corridor who opposes the project.

Rep. Alice Hausman, DFL-St. Paul, said a small group of House Republicans opposes all rail projects, including Northstar.

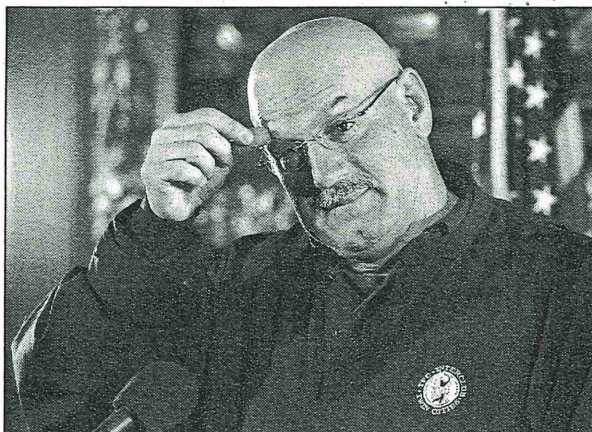
"A small vocal group resists change, and our region will choke on traffic and grind to a slow crawl economically because some resist change," she said.

Rep. Barb Goodwin, DFL-Columbia Heights, suggested that opponents have "siderodromophobia," a fear of trains and railways. "What we have here is an unreasonable fear of rail," she said.

Bricks and mortar

Like most bonding bills, projects are spread across the state, partly because of need and partly to pick up supporters. Most of the bill is targeted for bricks-and-mortar projects.

The University of Minnesota would get \$160 million, of



Janet Hostetter/Associated Press

Gov. Jesse Ventura created a list of 72 projects now in the bill that his spokesman said are candidates for line-item vetoes.

which \$35 million is for repairs and building upgrades. The Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system would get \$209.6 million under the bill.

There is \$91 million for transportation projects, and \$30 million for grants to upgrade wastewater plants.

There also are projects that home-town legislators wouldn't mind claiming in a reelection year. They include:

- \$24 million for the Guthrie Theater in Minneapolis.

- \$5 million for the Children's Theatre Company in Minneapolis.

- \$2.7 million for the Como Park conservatory in St. Paul.

- \$5 million to construct a conference center at the National Sports Center in Blaine.

- \$20 million for a northwest busway from downtown Minneapolis to Rogers.

- \$4 million for the Roy Wilkins Auditorium in St. Paul.

- \$8 million for contamination cleanup on Phalen Boulevard between Interstate Hwy. 35E and Johnson Parkway.

Legislators and local officials were bracing for Ventura's vetoes.

Minneapolis Mayor R.T. Rybak said he was concerned that \$9.5 million for the planetarium in the new Minneapolis Li-

brary would be canceled.

Architect Cesar Pelli and a team of designers are standing ready to incorporate the planetarium into the library design, Rybak said. "If we act now, the planetarium won't have to pay for land or much of its physical plant. Otherwise, it will be separate, and cost tens of millions of dollars more," he said.

"It's in the same category as Northstar, a one-time opportunity that's lost if the Legislature doesn't act this year."

Another Minneapolis target on the governor's hit list is the money for the Guthrie.

"We do believe that the planetarium and the Guthrie and other projects have major statewide significance and deserve support," said Minneapolis City Council President Paul Ostrow.

Rep. Joe Opatz, DFL-St. Cloud, has his fingers crossed that several projects in central Minnesota, including a major expansion of the St. Cloud Civic Center, might be spared.

"It's already not a very good bill without Northstar, but the prospect of vetoes for the rest of those projects would be devastating for central Minnesota," he said.

"I blame it largely on the House [Republican] leadership. It doesn't seem unreason-

AT A GLANCE

The bonding bill

The bill would float \$879 million in state bonds to help pay for \$979.1 million in projects, making it the second most expensive in history. Among the projects in the bill:

➤ Higher education:

\$30 million for a Winona State University science building

\$25.5 million for a University of Minnesota Duluth lab science building

\$25 million for a translational research facility at the University of Minnesota Minneapolis campus

\$24 million for Nicholson Hall renovation, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis

\$19 million for Hagen Hall at Minnesota State University Moorhead

➤ Environment and natural resources:

\$30 million for flood hazard mitigation grants

\$28 million for state parks

\$8.7 million for metro regional parks

\$3.6 for trail development

➤ Transportation:

\$45 million for bridge replacement and rehabilitation

\$20 million for various roads

\$20 million for busway from Minneapolis to northern suburbs

➤ Anti-terrorism:

\$13 million for new emergency radio systems in outstate Minnesota

➤ Trade and economic development:

\$30 million for wastewater infrastructure grants

\$12 million for business development grants

➤ State buildings:

\$60 million for a joint health and agriculture laboratory

\$4.25 million for repairs to governor's residence

➤ Arts:

\$24 million for a new Guthrie Theater in Minneapolis

\$5 million for a new Children's Theatre in Minneapolis

\$5.5 million for the Trollwood Performing Arts School

➤ Miscellaneous:

\$9.5 million for a planetarium in Minneapolis

Source: Associated Press

able that the governor get something in the bonding bill," he said.

Ventura originally sought \$120 million for the commuter rail line, then dropped that figure to \$50 million. Republican leaders, including House Majority Leader Tim Pawlenty, R-Eagan, opposed Northstar.

Ventura recommended \$834.2 million in capital improvements in January.

When a subsequent economic forecast showed state revenues were continuing to lag, he said the bonding bill should be whittled down to

about \$500 million, although he did not provide a list of cuts.

At his Saturday evening news conference, Ventura said he would not single out projects that were in districts of legislators who opposed Northstar funding.

"I'm going to judge each project on its own merits, rather than who initiated the project," he said.

Wodele said lobbyists already were besieging the governor's office, pleading that their projects be spared.

— Robert Whereatt is at rwhereatt@startribune.com.

Projects bill nears passage — and clash

It was minus NorthStar, so
governor ready to veto items

L60.107

BY JIM RAGSDALE
St. Paul Pioneer Press

5-19-02

A \$979.1 million capital projects bill was moving toward final passage and a collision with Gov. Jesse Ventura's porcine veto stamp late Saturday.

The House and Senate debated the bill during a marathon session Saturday evening, but delayed final action while they worked on other issues. Ventura, meanwhile, refused to throw in the towel on his top transit project, the NorthStar commuter rail line from downtown Minneapolis to St. Cloud.

That project, which drew strong support from cities along the route, received no funding in the bonding bill — biennial legislation that funds dozens of construction projects around the state, mostly through borrowing.

In response, Ventura issued a "hit list" of vulnerable items, which he suggested may be candidates for the pig-shape veto stamp he reserves for projects he considers "pork."

Debate on the House and Senate floor focused on two issues: the failure to fund the NorthStar project, and the question of whether the state can afford the amount of borrowing needed to fund all the projects.

The bonding bill includes dozens of projects for the University of Minnesota, the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system and the state park system. It includes money for a new Guthrie Theatre, a new library at Metro State Uni-

versity in St. Paul and a \$60 million laboratory facility in St. Paul for the state agriculture and health departments.

But while both the House and Senate were open to a wide range of projects, fiscal conservatives in the Republican-controlled House would not budge in their opposition to NorthStar.

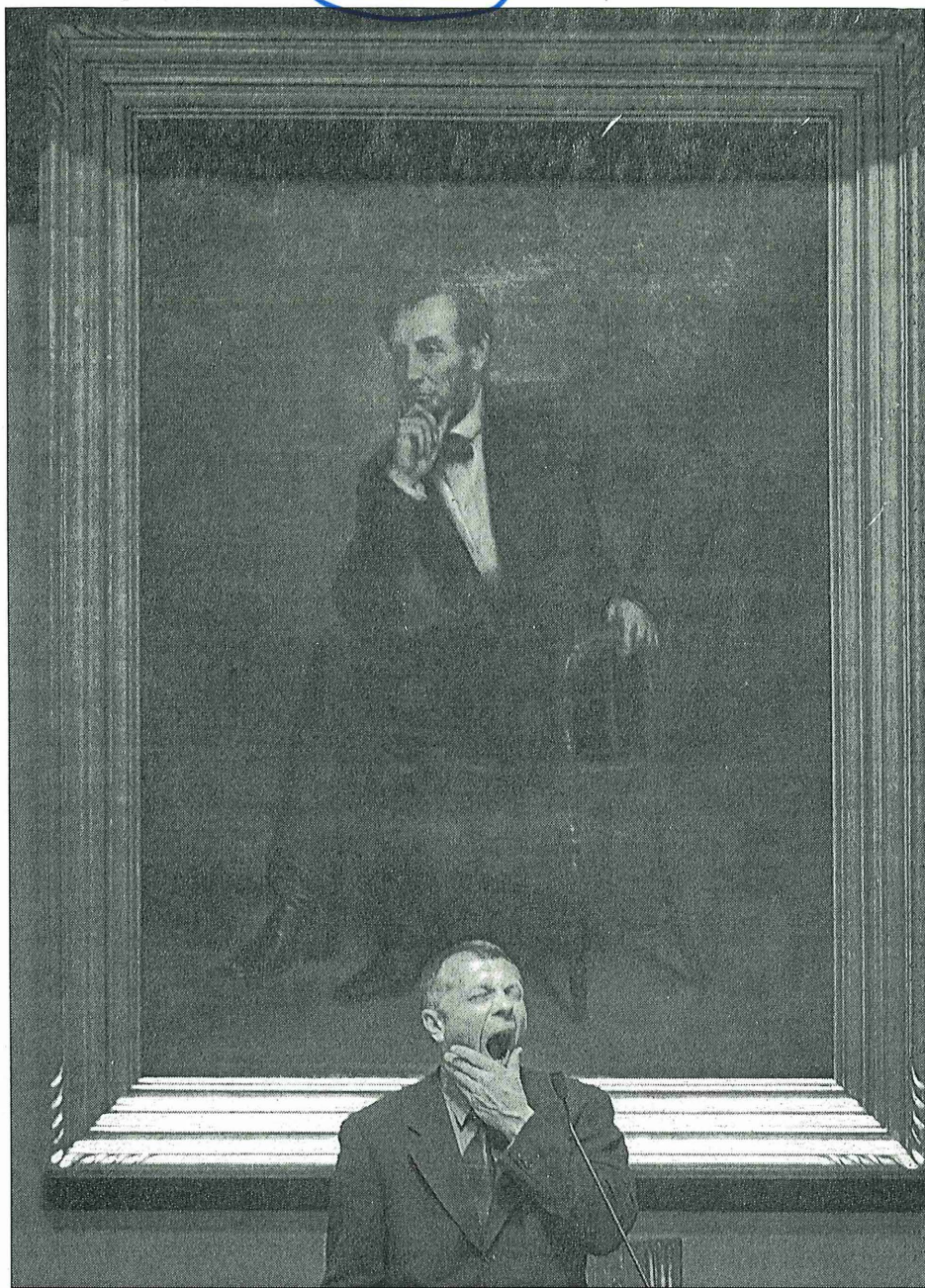
They argued that the project, which is slated to receive \$139 million in federal funds, had too high a price tag for the number of passengers it would carry. "If this amendment goes on, the bonding bill is dead," Rep. Greg Davids, R-Preston, said of an attempt in the House to send the bill back to committee for another try on NorthStar.

"Our region will choke with traffic and grind to a slow crawl economically because some resist change," responded Rep. Alice Hausman, DFL-St. Paul.

Sen. Don Samuelson, DFL-Brainerd, lamented the NorthStar failure in floor debate. "We now will of course lose the federal funds that would be available to us," he said. "It was very short-sighted and narrow-minded."

But others complained the bill was far too large, especially when the state is facing budget deficits. "You don't run up the credit card in tough times," said Rep. Eric Lipman, R-Lake Elmo.

An attempt by House transit advocates to send the bill back to conference committee for more work failed by an 84-48 vote, putting the capital projects bill in position for final action later in the evening. House Majority Leader Tim



SCOTT COHEN, PIONEER PRESS

Speaker of the House/Steve Sviggum lets out a mighty yawn during Saturday's session as lawmakers struggle to finish business.

Pawlenty, R-Eagan, held up final action as a strategic move.

The capital projects bill is traditionally the major work of the even-numbered year of the two-year budget cycle. But unlike the budget bill, which lawmakers passed in time to give them a chance to override any Ventura vetoes, the capital projects bill did not meet that deadline.

So Ventura has a free hand in deciding which projects stay in and which are eliminated, and his office has released a list of roughly \$240 million in projects he has questioned.

At his news conference on Saturday, Ventura said he, like Lipman, is worried about the overall size of the bill. "I'm not going to allow a huge bonding

bill when we don't have the debt service to pay for it," he said.

He said he will judge every project "on its own merit" rather than rewarding legislators who may have supported the NorthStar project.

Jim Ragsdale can be contacted at jragdale@pioneerpress.com or (651) 228-5529.

Republican candidates not 'true protectors' of the environment

Across party lines, the citizens of this country and of Washington County place a high priority on protection of the environment.

In a recent poll of likely Republican primary voters in key states, 93 percent responded that protection of the environment was very important, while only 91 percent indicated lowering taxes was. (Source: Zogby International for National Environmental Trust, "A Poll of Likely Republican Primary or Caucus Voters in California, Iowa, New Hampshire, New York, and South Carolina," August 1999.)

The most recent Washington County Survey of its residents underscored the high quality of life that residents of the county experience and their concern for protection of both open space and water quality as underpinnings for that high quality of life (Source: "2001 Survey of Washington County Residents"; at www.co.washington.mn.us/CitizensSurvey.pdf or (651) 430-6001).

Hence, it is no wonder that in their campaign literature, public forums, and exchanges in the press, and across the political spectrum, the candidates vying for office in legislative districts 52 and 56 have attempted to draw attention to what they claim are their positive records with respect to natural resources and the environment. Many of us are thus left confused and a bit stymied in our efforts to try to differentiate between candidates with regard to this important set of issues.

Below, I offer an approach to thinking about this dilemma that may be of help.

Rather than listening to the incumbents take credit for particular pieces of legislation or initiatives, as voters we need to gain an overall perspective on how candidates have voted with regards to a wide array of natural resources and environmental issues that have come before them while in office.

While citizens could go to the state Legislature's Web site

and shift through legislation, its authorship, and its vote history in order to ascertain this information, it would prove too time consuming for most of us.

We do, however, have easy on-line access to summaries of key environmental and resource issues that have come before the state Senate and House over the last couple of years and to a record of how our legislators have voted on them provided by two non-profit, non-partisan organizations: The League of Conservation Voters (its "2001 Environmental Score Card" is available at www.lcv.org) and the Sierra Club Northstar Chapter of Minnesota (www.northstar.SierraClub.org/GOVTVOTES - [votes - HOME.htm](http://www.northstar.SierraClub.org/GOVTVOTES-HOME.htm)).

These organizations combine the legislative voting record with their governing boards' opinions as to the correct, "pro-environment" or "pro-resources," vote on the issue to come up with an environmental score for each legislator. Citizens suspicious of the political leanings of such groups can, however, easily ignore the scoring and use these web sites to read for themselves what issues were voted on and whether they agree or disagree with the position taken by their incumbent legislators.

While the choice of issues and the scoring should be examined critically, the summary statistics on the scoring do yield some rather striking results. The League of Conservation Voters Environmental Score Card examined six issues/votes in the Senate and 15 in the House, while the Sierra Club scorecard examined 12 votes in the Senate and 23 in the House.

With regard to the Senate votes, out of a total possible score of 100, our incumbent DFL Senators Jane Krentz and Len Price received a 66 and 83 score, respectively (the DFL state average was 77); and from the Sierra Club both received a 100. Sen. Michele Bachmann, on the other hand, has one of

the poorest environmental records in the Senate: from the LCV a 16 —well below the state average of 54; and even below the state Republican average score — and from the Sierra Club a 55, which placed her in the lowest 25 percent among senators.

With respect to the House, the results are equally dramatic: in the LCV scoring both incumbent Republicans, Holsten with 17 and Lipman with 46, scored below the state average for the House. And, while we don't have any DFL incumbents for comparison, the LCV statewide DFL average in the house was 84.



Likewise, the Sierra Club gave Holsten and Lipman scores of 14 and 35, respectively, whereas the overall House average was 50 and that for Democrats 87.

The poor environmental and resource protection results for Rep. Holsten are so striking that his record deserves special attention. As evidence of his environmental credentials, Representative Holsten offers his Chair of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Finance, his co-authorship of a proposal to dedicate 3/16th of one percent of the state sales tax to the state's natural resource and outdoor recreation programs, and his endorsement over the years by several hunting and wildlife organizations.

Yet, according to these scorecards, he has one of the most dismal environmental and resource records in the state legislature; in both scorecards his score falls below that of the state Republican average.

Among other votes, Holsten voted against well test notification, for bailouts for animal feedlots, for timber cutting on shorelands, against ecological management of resources, against child-based water and

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air standards, against funding an air toxics program, against setting goals for achievement of renewable energy base, and against an amendment to require that older coal burning plans come into compliance with current standards.

Moreover, in his role as Chair of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Finance, which is linked to both his co-authorship of the 3/16th funding proposal, and his support from hunting and wildlife organizations, he has utterly failed to deliver adequate funding for resource protection.

Over several years of trying to pass the 3/16th proposal, it was both soundly criticized by outdoor advocates and department heads in the press (Source: Minneapolis Star Tribune, April 1, 2001; columns by Ron Schara and Dennis Anderson), and failed to pass in the Legislature. Over the past ten years, under Holsten's watch, the number of Department of Natural Resources (DNR) conservation officers and biologists has fallen and the condition of State Parks has declined. (Source: Star Tribune, by Ron Schara, April 1, 2001)

While in recent days, the 3/16th proposal, in an expanded form, has been resurrected by a coalition of state agencies themselves, with a deepening budget crisis the chances for passage of such a proposal continue to decline. (Source: St. Paul Pioneer Press, Oct. 23, 2002, page B1, by Dennis Lien, entitled "Outdoors plan dips into sales tax.") For the sake of retaining budgetary flexibility legislators are generally opposed to dedicating funds; in times of budget deficit they are even less likely to want to further tie their hands.

Yet, it is during times of budget deficit that resource and environmental agencies disproportionately feel the pain of poor planning on the part of our state legislators. Because cuts in natural resource and environ-

mental protection are not as noticeable on a short-term basis, these agencies are among those first and most severely cut. The DNR had its general fund budget cut by 11.5 percent this past year and expects an additional 20 percent reduction next year.

Under one scenario, the DNR would have to eliminate camping at 54 of the 66 state parks. (Source: St. Paul Pioneer Press, Oct. 23, 2002, page B1, by Dennis Lien, "Outdoors plan dips into sales tax.") Due to severe funding shortfalls over the last few years, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) has cut or eliminated several programs and is reducing its full-time employees by 70s. The list of eliminated or cut programs includes source water and well-head protection, Clean Water Act Sect. 401 certification, ground water monitoring, emergency response preparedness, and air-quality point source monitoring. (Source: MPCA fact sheet, Jan., 2002)

Hence, all of us concerned with the future of the state's natural resources and protection of our air and water should be concerned that all four Republicans running for legislative office in the Stillwater Gazette readership area - Bachmann and LeClair for the Senate, and Holsten and Lipman for the House - have signed the Minnesota Taxpayer League's "No New Taxes Pledge" which you can view at www.taxpayersleague.org.

All thoughtful citizens desire accountability and wise financial management on the part of government, but if the Republican candidates tell us that they can restore adequate funding for public schools, increase funding for pressing transportation projects, and address an additional \$2-3 billion state biennium budget deficit only through further budget cuts, then they are saying that they are planning to vote for further extreme cuts in the general fund budgets of our

natural resource and environmental protection agencies.

Dedicating a portion of the sales tax is not likely to be a viable solution; it would require legislators to shift the pain to areas with greater and more active political constituencies. In the short run, the solution is a balanced approach to addressing the deficit problem: a mix of further spending cuts and revenue enhancements.

In the long run, the answer is for state legislators to institute controls such that budgetary reserves remain adequate to weather down turns in business cycles and state revenue collection without causing abrupt contraction in levels of support for natural resource and environmental protection agencies and programs.

In the long run, the abruptness of these contractions in funding (or lack of growth consistent with population increases or inflation), whether it be for the environment or education, further exacerbates the damage inflicted by these economic downturns on the productive base of our state economy, not to mention our quality of life.

Republican incumbents Bachmann, Holsten and Lipman have not been, nor will the newcomer Brian LeClair be, true protectors of our resources and the environment.

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Julie A. Bunn, Ph.D. is an economist and writer who lives in Lake Elmo. You may contact her on the Internet at juliebunn_us@yahoo.com

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Editor's note: Although it makes the article more cumbersome to read, the writer's attributions are included for accountability's sake.

Control of the houses

(continued)

of 20 highly competitive districts where the Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party and the Republican Party are fighting for control of the House — and ultimately, for victory on issues concerning guns, abortion, transportation and taxes.

"It's one of the battleground districts," Lipman said.

Factors that make a district competitive mostly stem from this year's court-ordered redistricting, which redrew House and Senate boundaries to ensure equal representation for all voters.

Coupled with retirements, the resulting changes put some Democrats in predominantly Republican districts and vice versa, created 38 open seats in the House and 15 open seats in the Senate and produced five

racings in the House and one in the Senate in which two incumbents face one another.

In District 56A, the competitive nature is heightened by the fact that the Lipman-Redmond contest is a repeat of their 2000 race, which Lipman won by less than 2 percent of the vote. Redistricting took away parts of Woodbury that voted heavily for Lipman.

Because it is so competitive, District 56A is one of the few House districts where the party caucuses will spend a total of more than \$2 million trying to elect their candidates and win — or keep — control of the House.

On the Saturday that Redmond walked house to house in Woodbury, he was accompanied by a campaign worker employed by the DFL House caucus. That afternoon, when Lipman knocked on Lake Elmo doors, he had a paid Republican staffer with him.

HOUSE IN QUESTION

When the 2002 legislative session ended earlier this year, Republicans had a 71-63 majority in the House, and the DFL had a 39-27-1 majority in the Senate, with one Independence Party member.

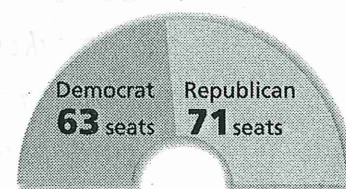
Most of the political experts expect the DFL to keep a majority in the Senate. Sarah Janecek, a Republican lobbyist who is co-editor of the "Politics in Minnesota" newsletter, predicted the DFL will retain 38 seats and Republicans will win 28 or 29. She gives state Sen. Sheila Kiscaden of Rochester, formerly a moderate Republican, a decent chance of winning as an Independence Party candidate.

The balance of power in the House, though, seems less certain. Janecek predicted Republi-

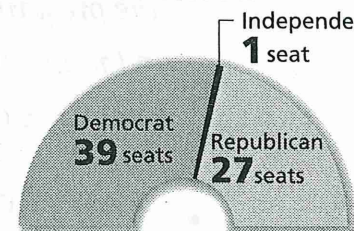
Who rules the Legislature?

Republicans controlled the Minnesota House of Representatives during the 2002 session, but that could change with the Nov. 5 election. One GOP lobbyist predicts Republicans will keep 68 or 69 seats — and therefore the majority — but the House minority leader believes the Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party will win 70 seats and take control of the House. The Senate is expected to stay under DFL control.

HOUSE



SENATE



PIONEER PRESS

cans will keep their majority by winning 68 or 69 seats. House Minority Leader Tom Pugh of South St. Paul, the leader of the House DFL campaign, predicted Democrats will win 70 seats and take control of the House.

The Independence Party is fielding 25 candidates for the House and 17 for the Senate. Party officials have high hopes for Kiscaden in the Senate and two candidates in the House:

KEY RACES, 9A

(over)

VOTE 2002

Control of houses is at stake

20 races are bound to bring pitched battles

PIONEER PRESS OCT 19 02

BY PATRICK SWEENEY

Pioneer Press

For Mike Redmond, a DFLer knocking on doors in a corner of Woodbury on a recent Saturday, Judy Trepka offered a welcome as sunny as the autumn morning.

Trepka, a retired high school chemistry teacher, greeted him at her door, told him she was glad he is running for the Minnesota House again this year and promised to vote for him. "He is a proponent of education, and that's very important to me," Trepka said.

A couple of blocks away, Redmond got a very different response when he asked a man working in a garage for his vote.

"No, I don't think so," said the man, who declined to give his name. "You're one of those liberal Democrats, aren't you?"

This is House District 56A in Washington County. It's not just where Redmond is trying to defeat incumbent Rep. Eric Lipman. It's one

CONTROL OF THE HOUSE, 8A

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Key races

(continued)

Rep. Dale Swapinski of Duluth, a former DFLer, who was placed in District 7B with DFL incumbent Rep. Mike Jaros of Duluth, and Dr. Joe Duffy, a Mayo Clinic physician running in District 30A in Rochester.

The stakes in the battle for control of the House and Senate are huge.

Both operate on a winner-takes-all power structure, in which the party that wins a majority gets to elect the presiding officer and name members to committee chair jobs.

Republican House Speaker Steve Sviggum doubted any Independence Party candidates would win in the House this year, but he said they might influence whether a Republican or a Democrat wins. "Where the Independence Party gets their votes from — where they get their 8, 10, 14 percent of the vote from — will be a determining factor," Sviggum said.

WINNER TAKES ALL

The stakes in the battle for control of the House and Senate are huge.

Both operate on a winner-takes-all power structure, in which the party that wins a majority gets to elect the presiding officer, name its members to committee chair jobs and set the agenda each body will follow.

The election of House Republican majorities in 1998 and 2000 ended a 12-year string of DFL control of both houses of the

KEY MATCHUPS IN THE HOUSE ...

- District 44A in part of St. Louis Park and Hopkins, where two incumbents — Republican Jim Rhodes and Democrat Betty Folliard — are paired.
- District 24B, south of Mankato, where DFLer Sandy Lorenz, a high school guidance counselor, faces Tony Cornish, a Republican who is a Department of Natural Resources conservation officer and president of the conservation officers' union.
- District 44B in Golden Valley and St. Louis Park, where Lisa Lebedoff Peilen of St. Louis Park, a Republican former state tourism director, faces Ron Latz, a Democrat who serves on the St. Louis Park City Council.
- District 12A in Brainerd, where Republican incumbent Dale Walz is being challenged by Lucy Nesheim, a Democrat and a member of the Brainerd City Council.
- District 50B in New Brighton, Shoreview and Arden Hills, where Democratic incumbent Geri Evans has won House races in 1992, 1996 and 2000, and lost them in 1990, 1994 and 1998. She faces Republican Char Samuelson, a New Brighton City Council member who lost to Evans two years ago.

... AND IN THE SENATE

- District 52 in Washington County, where two incumbents — Republican Michele Bachmann and Democrat Jane Krentz — are paired.
- District 20 in southwestern Minnesota, where Rep. Gary Kubly of Granite Falls, a Democrat, faces Republican Erick Harper, a teacher from Tyler.
- District 56 in Washington County, where DFL incumbent Sen. Len Price is being challenged by Republican Brian LeClair, a health insurance executive, in a district with a lot of Republican voters.
- District 38 in Eagan and part of Burnsville, where DFL incumbent Sen. Deanna Wiener of Eagan faces Republican Mike McGinn of Eagan, a retired St. Paul police officer, in a heavily Republican district.

Source: Republican and Democratic-Farmer-Labor campaign leaders

Legislature.

Taking control of the House during a booming economy that produced soaring budget surpluses, Republican House members set a goal of cutting taxes. Working with and sometimes against Gov. Jesse Ventura, they cut income, property and vehicle license taxes by about \$1.8 billion a year.

On two hot-button social issues — guns and abortion — they were less successful. House Republicans passed a bill that would allow Minnesotans to get permits to carry concealed handguns without having to convince a sheriff or police chief that they have a special need. The DFL Senate

majority stymied it.

On abortion, House Republicans led efforts to set a 24-hour waiting period for women seeking abortions.

Both the House and DFL-controlled Senate passed a waiting-period bill in 2000, but Ventura vetoed it.

Now, with Minnesota facing a budget deficit that could top \$3 billion, some DFL campaign leaders are hoping voters will conclude the tax cuts were too deep.

Patrick Sweeney covers state government and politics. He can be contacted at psweeney@pioneerpress.com or (651) 228-5253.

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No change in House

Local incumbents return

Holly Wenzel
news editor

FRONT PAGE

In an election night that seemed to be swinging the entire state toward the conservative end of the spectrum, North St. Paul, Maplewood, Oakdale and Lake Elmo voters played it "conservative" by keeping tried-and-true incumbents.

A known quantity

• In 55A, which in redistricting was realigned to North St. Paul and Maplewood precincts, voters returned Scott Wasiluk, a 44-year-old Democrat from Maplewood, for his second term.

"People know me," Wasiluk says simply. Familiar to the public from his years on the District 622 School Board, which he chaired before being elected to the House, he said he'll stay true to his roots during what promises to be a rocky session. "I'm a proponent of public education, and I want to continue that legacy," he says.

Wasiluk says he was especially glad to be able to claim victory in an election that saw some well-known Democrats lose bids for office after as many as 20 years' service. "I think we really got the message out in an election where a lot of incumbents didn't do too well," he said.

One of the messages from voters that Wasiluk and others are puzzling out is the number of Republicans who ran on a fiscal conservative platform who were elected to office as compared to the number of voters in precincts across the state who went to the polls to vote themselves higher taxes for school levies.

"It seems like a mixed message," he says. "However, I think people recognized there was a need in the schools — especially in this area."

To have a stronger voice in education issues, Wasiluk will

see **House** on Page 8A

House/Opinions differ on 'mixed message,' ways to fix budget deficit

continued from front page

be asking to be named to the House's education committee. In his first term, he served on the Environment and Natural Resources finance and policy committees, and would like to continue his involvement in that area, too. Those committee assignments will be made in the next few weeks, he says.

Like many of his counterparts on either side of the political fence, Wasiluk says he's eager to find a solution to transportation woes, noting the congestion around one well-known Minnesota company. "I think there are some real needs, especially in the 494-694 loop, and the bottlenecks down by 3M on 94. I think we're going to have to do something about roads. I would raise the gas tax a couple of pennies to address that."

Smart cutting to meet high expectations

• In District 56A, Eric Lipman, a 38-year-old Republican also returning for his second term, says he's not sure redistricting made it easier to get elected but it certainly will make it easier to serve.

• "For instance, in District 56B, the one I represent through the end of the year, the lines have been drawn so instead of being 60,000 people, that district is down to the right size, which is 37,000," Lipman says. "Just from a customer-service angle, being able to keep up with people, it makes more sense."

Lipman says that Republican control of the House and a Republican in the governor's office denotes a public trust in — and expectations of — that party. "We feel we've been given the public's trust... and we'll be held to a very high standard of performance."

Asked about what some call "a mixed message" of sending a flood of Republicans into office while approving a river of excess-levy referendums for schools, Lipman says the message to the Legislature is clear. "The public has responded to the message that we can operate without raising taxes. It looks like whatever money was left in families' bank accounts went to the schools, and they really do expect us to live up to our word and not raise taxes at the state level."

Lipman adds that in District 622, Superintendent Dan Kaler was out speaking for the levy and seemed to be offering voters more information about district finances than in past levy votes. "I believe the reason the levies passed this time is in part Superintendent Kaler being out in front speaking about it, but also the district seems to be focusing on having greater transparency."

As well as supporting bonding for transportation and "not investing a lot of money in commuter rail," Lipman advocates streamlining the project deadlines for MN/DOT contracts. "The lead times for these contracts are enormous. I think we need to get pressure on to get people digging," he says.

He adds that funding needs to be dedicated to transit and roads, "even if that means fewer ski slopes and hockey rinks" coming from state grants.

Lipman espouses more cooperation between the House and Senate to help move bills along more quickly and avoid conflict, although "whether having two houses in different parties come together is a question."

Most pressing, though, is the \$3 billion deficit. "I think the way out of this box is the way we did the \$1.2 billion before: in committees on finance. The only other alternative is to tell every department to cut 3 percent across the board, and, frankly, not everything in state government is equal. In the judiciary finance committee (last term) I argued that what we should maintain is what is guaranteed on constitutional fronts — that the right to defense counsel, the right to a speedy trial were more important than prisoner representation. I think it takes the committee folks saying 'What are we really all about?' which I think is much fairer than everybody getting whacked the same."

Passing the buck down to cities?

• In the redrawn District 55B, Nora Slawik, 39, who used to represent 57A, settled in with a sigh of relief to a more Democratic electorate. "Redistricting was a refreshing change — I was used to very close races with very small margins of victory. And so going from 51 to 59 percent was a thrill."

Slawik, embarking on her third term in the House of Representatives, after losing just one election since 1996, says she feels especially grateful, as Democrats fared poorly statewide and three women representatives in the suburbs were ousted. "I can speak from experience on how hard it is to lose... so I'm glad to be back and representing Oakdale and Maplewood."

Slawik says education funding will again be a hot issue for the House, and says changes in demographics make it more important than ever that suburban education funding is comparable to inner-city funding, since both areas are beginning to share the same challenges. "In our inner-ring suburbs like Maplewood, we're having the same kinds of problems as Minneapolis and St. Paul are as far as having children who don't speak English in our schools. We just want to make sure the baseline funding is equitable, so a child in any of our cities receives the same education."

Slawik also plans to advocate in the House to solve local transportation problems, especially congestion along Interstate 94. "We're choking off development in the east metro. The bottleneck at 3M — if we don't take care of that, people can't get from their homes to their jobs, and businesses can't get deliveries from their suppliers — so why would they locate here? It really has the potential to affect the future of this area."

"There's several fronts that are worrisome," Slawik says of the upcoming session. "If the Governor and House Republicans have pledged not to raise taxes, they have to come up with revenue to counteract the deficit. Of course, there may be programs that are outdated or duplicated, so you start there, but we're talking about \$3 billion. You don't get that just by cutting a few 'extra' programs."

Slawik says the boom will likely fall on the local-government aid that passes state money down to cities. "If the legislature does that, the cities will have to come back and raise taxes," she says.

STILLWATER GAZETTE

STILLWATER, MN
DAILY 4,000

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56B 1200 Du My record for helping families is 'solid'

I am running for re-election because my record on helping families is solid and I would like to do more.

Regarding subsidized child care: Justice Wahl claims that because there is a lot of demand for government-subsidized child care, that I must not care about children. It just isn't so. I helped to pass House File 4 during the 2001 special session, a bill that provided a 19.1-percent increase to family support programs. And the state's commitment to subsidized child care is generous; it rises under House File 4 to \$264 million.

When one adds to this amount the federal dollars being spent in Minnesota on family supports, spending approaches one half of a billion dollars — and both the state and federal commitments are on the rise.

This is hardly the work of someone who does not care about children.

Regarding medical insurance for children: Notwithstanding the fact that Minnesota has the lowest number of uninsured children in the country, as a state legislator I was still hard at work on reducing the number of uninsured children. Last year, I helped to pass a law that provided coverage for 18,000 unin-

sured children. A long-term solution to the problem, however, requires more than just spending. We need to increase the numbers of jobs in Minnesota that offer insurance as part of their benefit packages, and increase both the affordabil-

Counter Point

ity and number of insurance plans offered in Minnesota — and I am committed to doing just that.

Regarding tax relief for families: Every homeowner and tenant in Washington County knows that I believe in tax relief for families. I helped to cut the state portion of the property tax on the average house by 23 percent and the property tax on the average apartment by 25 percent. Families around town tell me that this has helped out a lot.

Regarding tabling of amendments: Justice Wahl is right about one thing. If an important decision, such as approving a 70-percent increase in the minimum wage, is brought up as an amendment to a bill, I probably

will vote to table it for another day. A decision like that should only follow lots of input from the public, thoughtful discussion in committee, and a chance for legislators to check in with constituents before they vote. I believe in more public involvement rather than less.

In the final analysis, I was surprised by Justice Wahl's letter; I had always thought that we had much more in common than we differed. Both of us were drawn to the law and to public service because we wanted to make a difference in our community. Both of us chose to live in Lake Elmo because we knew that open spaces and a small town that is filled with good people was the best place to raise a growing family.

And like Justice Wahl, if I am given an opportunity to serve my community, I will continue to work hard for local families.

Eric Lipman,
Lake Elmo

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Lipman represents Lake Elmo in the state Legislature.

STILLWATER GAZETTE

STILLWATER, MN
DAILY 4,000

FRIDAY
NOV 1 2002

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Sierra Club's criticisms are
motivated by politics, not evidence

It is time for a very large "grain of salt."

A key assumption in Dr. Bunn's letter is that the scorecard by the Minnesota Chapter of the Sierra Club provides an objective, non-partisan review of the past legislative session.

Regrettably, for everyone — particularly voters like Dr. Bunn who look to the scorecard for information, as well as the many local residents who generously send money to support the Sierra Club's work — the scorecard is the least objective, most partisan assessment released this year.

I say this despite the fact that I scored fairly well on the club's tally when compared to other House Republicans. According to the Sierra Club chart, I was the fourth-highest scoring Republican.

Notwithstanding my own score, a couple of points deserve special emphasis:

First, the scorecard's bias for Democrats is plain. The scorecard credits Senate Democrats for voting for such items as eliminating phosphorous from fertilizers and supporting the

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program. Yet, when these same measures were voted on in the Republican-controlled House of Representatives, no credit was given. A completely different standard was used.

Counter-point

So, what was good for the goose was not good for the gander.

Second, the Minnesota Chapter of the Sierra Club makes no bones about the political slant and the opportunism of its assessments. Sam Garst, chapter president (and himself a candidate for Congress), explains that the state legislators that the Club has targeted for defeat this election year are not those with the worst environmental records, but rather those legislators whom the club thinks it can defeat.

Indeed, one of those listed on

the Club's list of the "Toxic Twelve," Jim Seifert of Woodbury, didn't cast a single vote this past legislative session — because he wasn't a member of the Legislature.

But the lack of votes didn't matter. Voting or not voting for environmental policy wasn't the issue for the Club; Mr. Garst and others thought that Seifert could be defeated and so he was placed on the list of legislative candidates to be targeted and publicly vilified as a polluter.

We need a better and more thoughtful discussion of environmental issues than is offered this year by the club or its scorecard.

Republicans — and first among them, Mark Holsten — are working every day to improve water quality, preserve our natural resources and eliminate pollution. It is a record of achievement that, regardless of party affiliation, deserves to be recognized.

Eric Lipman
District 56B
state representative,
Lake Elmo

Independent thinking is a Minnesota tradition we must preserve

Even in victory, Greg Wersal looked a bit weary. The Minneapolis attorney, and three-time candidate for the Minnesota Supreme Court, stood at a press conference last week announcing his victory in a landmark free speech case before the United States Supreme Court.

The High Court agreed with Wersal that, under the First Amendment, lawyers who run for judgeships may say anything that they wish on the campaign trail, provided that they do not commit to decide a case in a particular way.

Until last week, lawyers in Minnesota could be punished, including losing their license to practice law, if their campaign speeches strayed from a narrow set of officially approved topics.

As I watched Wersal field questions about the court decision from the Capitol press corps, it occurred to me how much he, and his wife Cheryl, had endured during their 4-year odyssey through the federal court system. And how their willingness to suffer a series of public rebukes, official threats and angry condemnations along the way, really was a generous gift to the rest of us. My political freedoms, and yours, are enhanced today because what Greg and Cheryl Wersal have done.

The scene also reminded me that the story of political freedom in the United States is, in large part, a Minnesota story. Much of what we know about the boundaries of freedom of speech and freedom of the press, for example, we know because of a Minneapolis small-businessman and newspaper publisher, Jay Near.

More than 25 years before

Greg Wersal helped to reaffirm the right of every Minnesotan to speak publicly and freely about the actions of elected officials — and, if necessary, to cry "scandal"



Rep. Eric Lipman

Guest Columnist

Greg Wersal was born, Jay Near stood up to some of the most powerful officials in this state and declared his right to speak openly about public corruption. Among those whom Jay Near's newspaper, The Saturday Press, targeted for criticism was then-Hennepin County Attorney, and future Minnesota Governor, Floyd B. Olson. The Saturday Press charged that Olson was in the "vest pocket of the horse thieves who have been running Minneapolis," and that Olson steered evidence of Gangster-related wrongdoing away from grand juries.

While never disputing the substance of Near's allegations, Olson and other officials convinced a state court to issue an order preventing Near from publishing The Saturday Press. And the our state's highest court agreed: "There is no constitutional right," it said, "to publish a fact merely because it is true."

In the view of Olson and the Minnesota courts, the government had the right and the power to "protect the public" from news of official corruption, because such news stories "would soon deprave the moral taste of society" and "be of no real service."

Thankfully for us, and newspaper readers and voters everywhere, the United States Supreme Court did not agree. The High Court simply refused

to recognize the authority of state officials, to restrain newspapermen from publishing news of official misconduct or limiting their newspapers to government-approved subjects.

And so it is again this week, seventy years after Jay Near's famous free speech victory, that Greg Wersal helped to reaffirm the right of every Minnesotan to speak publicly and freely about the actions of elected officials — and, if necessary, to cry "scandal."

The parallels between this week's Supreme Court case and the earlier Near case are many and plain. Both Near and Wersal wanted other Minnesotans to hear their criticisms of local officialdom — Near took aim at the County Attorney, while Wersal had his sights on the decisions of state court judges.

Both in the case 70 years ago, and the more recent one, the state officials who bore the brunt of the criticism argued that, for the good of the public, those who criticize the govern-

ment may be punished if they stray from topics that have been officially pre-approved.

Justice Scalia, in finding that Greg Wersal did not have to limit his speeches about the judiciary to those topics that had been OK'd by the state courts, wrote: "It is simply not the function of government to select which issues are worth discussing or debating in the course of a political campaign. We have never allowed the government to prohibit candidates from communicating relevant information to voters during an election."

And so the freedom to think for ourselves, and to criticize government if we wish, is alive and well.

The Near and Wersal cases also present two last lessons: The first is that preserving political freedom in this country is a process of renewal — we must return to it at least once every 70 years. And secondly, our rights to think, read, and debate are born of the sacrifice of Minnesotans who have bravely fought for us.

Thank you Jay Near. Thank you Greg Wersal.

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Rep. Eric Lipman, R-Lake Elmo, is the Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Elections. He lives in Lake Elmo.

STILLWATER GAZETTE

STILLWATER, MN
DAILY 4,000

TUESDAY
JUL 23 2002

MINNESOTA CLIPPING SERVICE

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It ain't easy being green ... or different

Should the City of Lake Elmo be sued simply because it does not look like Oakdale? If one has to choose between freedom and efficiency, what is the more important value?

These are some of the important questions being considered by the members of a new oversight committee at the State Capitol, the Legislative Commission on Metropolitan Government. On July 22, the Commission was busy sorting out the latest run-in between the City of Lake Elmo and the regional planners at the Metropolitan Council.

From the view of the regional planners, Lake Elmo has it all wrong — it has shown an insufficient commitment to the expansion of sewer throughout Lake Elmo; it has preserved open, green spaces in ways that make it difficult for a Wal-Mart to be located there; and has avoided ringing Lake Elmo's Park Reserve with new townhomes.

The Metropolitan Council's dissatisfaction, of course, caught folks in Lake Elmo by surprise. They were sure that they had it just about right. The City of Lake Elmo was continuing to approve applications for new development — both for housing and commercial uses — only the development was consistent with Lake Elmo growing as a rural center. Development in the city occurs

**The plans proposed
by the Met Council staff
run headlong into the most
basic of American freedoms
— the ability to think
and choose for oneself**



**Rep. Eric
Lipman
and Brian
LeClair**

Guest
Columnists

on larger parcels, complete with on-site sewer systems and with the preservation of green spaces adjacent to the lots that are developed.

As we told the members of the new Commission during a public hearing on Monday, Lake Elmo is indeed marching into the future, and developing; but it is at a pace that makes sense for local people, local pocketbooks and local water quality. And that is the way it should be.

A key concern for those who live in Lake Elmo, as well as those who believe that not every community in the metropolitan area should look like every other town, is the threat of a lawsuit. Under current law, the Metropolitan Council could take the City of Lake Elmo to court. The aim of such a suit would be two-fold: to force the City to abandon its practice of preserving green spaces as well as requiring them to adopt a development course that — in the Council's words — looks more like Oakdale.

For a number of reasons, we told the commission, actual or threatened litigation is exactly the wrong course of action.

First, it is not clear that the Met Council has the authority to demand a particular number, type or arrangement of houses in a city. Housing is not one of the "four systems" (sewer, transit, parks and airports) that the council regulates.

Second, hiring lawyers to resolve disputes between governmental agencies is both incredibly wasteful of tax dollars and directly counter to the pledges of greater cooperation made by Gov. Ventura and Metropolitan Council Chairman Ted Mondale.

Last, and perhaps most important, the plans proposed by the council staff run headlong into the most basic of American freedoms — the ability to think and choose for oneself. In America, it has never been a sufficient reason to reduce someone else's freedoms because a government planner believes that fewer choices, in the long run, is a good idea.

If you agree with us, and you think that Lake Elmo should be able to chart its own, greener future, we hope that you will let Members of the Commission know.

The Legislative Commission on Metropolitan Government is chaired by Sen. Ann Rest and can be reached at G-4 State Capitol, St. Paul, MN 55155.

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²
Rep. Eric Lipman, R-Dist. 51B, lives in Lake Elmo. Brian LeClair, the Republican candidate for the Senate Dist. 56, was raised in Lake Elmo.

OAKDALE-LAKE ELMO
REVIEW

NORTH ST. PAUL, MN
WEEKLY 740
FEB 13 2002



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**A sign of the
times** (56B)

To the editor:

With the 2002 legislative session underway in just a few days, I would like to take this opportunity to let folks in Washington County know about a new way to keep abreast of issues considered by the Minnesota Legislature.

I have launched a new e-mail update service for local residents. I will send out periodic e-mail updates — about every other week — giving subscribers some additional detail on the discussions and actions of the Legislature.

I am excited about the possibilities of this technology bringing Washington County residents closer to their government in St. Paul — providing information at times and in formats that are convenient for busy families.

To subscribe to this news service, visit the following website: www.house.mn/56B.

And, as always, I look forward to hearing your ideas and suggestions. Feel free to contact my office by telephone at 296-4244 or via the Internet at rep.eric.lipman@house.leg.state.mn.us

Rep. Eric Lipman
District 56B

PIONEER PRESS FEB 24 '82
Fetal rights

In response to Rep. Eric Lipman's viewpoint Feb. 21:

There is one place in the U.S. Constitution where a fetus is implicitly but clearly excluded from a right, and that is this. To be president, a citizen must have been born in the United States — it says born, not conceived.

If a person were conceived in the United States of two non-U.S. citizen parents, but born after the person's parents returned home (to non-U.S. soil), that person would clearly remain a person and would not become a citizen under the U.S. Constitution. This person, even if naturalized as a citizen, could not run for president of the United States because the person was not born on U.S. soil.

Being conceived in the U.S. does not change this. In the U.S. Constitution, there is a clearly defined distinction between the rights of a child (after the event of birth) and the rights of a fetus (before the event of birth) — by clear reference to a right of birth, but referential exclusion of any rights of a fetus or the event of conception.

This distinction is not something that can be overridden by the Minnesota State Constitution.

56B

MIKE ADLER
St. Paul

PIONEER PRESS, MAR. 13 '02
Abortion funding

✓ Rep. Eric Lipman (Viewpoint, Feb. 21) argues: "One would think that if the people who drafted the state Constitution had intended this result (taxpayer-funded abortions), they would at least have used the word 'abortion' so as to let us know."

Along those same lines, you'd think that if the people who drafted the state Constitution had intended for all of us to enjoy religious freedom, they would used the phrase "all people" to let us know. Instead, they wrote in the Bill of Rights (Article I, Section 16): "The right of every man to worship God according to the dictates of his own conscience shall never be infringed." Clearly, they only intended for men to have religious freedom, or they would have used different words so as to let us know. Right?

Our state Constitution was written a long time ago, by a group of people who were not representative of the population at the time of writing, let alone of the current population of our state. Because groups most likely to be discriminated against are least likely to be represented in our Legislature, it only makes sense to me that we rely on the courts — and not our elected officials — to interpret the Constitution and ensure that the rights of all people are protected.

That includes the right of each woman — regardless of her income — to make a choice about an unwanted pregnancy and to have her options equally supported by the state.

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HEATHER LOGELIN
St. Paul

STILLWATER GAZETTE

STILLWATER, MN
DAILY 4,000

TUESDAY
APR 16 2002

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Local GOP delegates choose Lipman to run for newly created District 56A

FRONT PAGE

WOODBURY — Mid-way through the proceedings of last Saturday's convention of local Senate District 56 Republicans, a motion came from a corner of the convention hall to endorse Rep. Eric Lipman, R-Lake Elmo to run for re-election in the newly-established District 56-A.

A motion to suspend convention rules was quickly seconded and Lipman won the endorsement by a unanimous vote.

A first term representative, Lipman has represented House District 56B in the last two years. Federally mandated redistricting drew Lipman out of his old district and into a new one.

The GOP's early and unqualified endorsement of Lipman did not surprise Jeff Feist of Woodbury, who served as Convention Chairman Saturday.

"Washington County has been very

well served by Eric Lipman's leadership at the State Capitol," Feist said. "Local folks know just how Eric has worked hard to lower taxes for working families and to build stronger schools. He has really delivered for us during the past two years."

Thanking convention delegates for their encouragement, help and endorsement, Lipman said that "the election in November will be nothing short of a referendum on the future of our state."

When he pledged to bring the con-



Lipman

vention's platform of "hope and opportunity" to every voter in the district, Lipman elicited cheers and loud applause from the crowd of about 200.

The new District 56A was established four weeks ago by the Minnesota Supreme Court's Special Redistricting Panel and includes some or all of Baytown Township, Bayport, Lake Elmo, Lakeland, Lakeland Shores, Lake Saint Croix Beach, Oak Park Heights, and portions of Stillwater and Woodbury.

Lipman is the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Elections, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee on Judiciary Finance and a member of the Committees on Capital Investment, Civil Law and Government Operations and Veterans Affairs.



After a legal challenge to the election was dropped, Mike McGinn had a victory over DFLer Deanna Wiener.



McGinn emerges as new GOP senator

By Pam Louwagie
Star Tribune Staff Writer

A team of nine elections inspectors on Wednesday began poring over more than 33,000 filled-in black ovals on ballots cast in state Senate District 38, where Republican Mike McGinn defeated DFL Sen. Deanna Wiener by 25 votes.

But after about a day of work, the inspectors' task ended. Lawyers contesting the Dakota County legislative race in behalf of Wiener realized that uncounted absentee ballots would not change the out-

come, and by afternoon withdrew their legal challenge.

McGinn said he was "very much relieved" and eager to get ready for the legislative session.

Those developments came a day after the State Canvassing Board certified a victory for a DFLer in another Senate race. Dan Sparks of Austin won by 11 votes, including eight from the board's decision regarding ballots that had been burned and were unavailable during a recount.

BALLOTS continues in B9:
— Sparks' rival may challenge.

BALLOTS from B1

Vote-counting problems bring vows of action at Legislature

Sparks' GOP opponent, Sen. Grace Schwab of Albert Lea, and her attorney said they were leaning toward a court challenge.

In the McGinn-Wiener race, attorney Alan Weinblatt had argued that officials should have counted absentee ballots that arrived after election day but before election results were certified. Representing a voter who had challenged the election, Weinblatt argued that state law isn't clear about when officials must stop counting ballots they receive.

"We believe that every ballot should be counted," he said.

McGinn's attorney, Eric Lipman, argued that state law is clear: Only absentee ballots arriving at the county auditor's office by 4 p.m. election day should be counted.

Lipman said that allowing officials to keep counting produces a "rolling election date" and that the voters need finality by the state declaring winners sooner

rather than later.

Dakota County District Judge Timothy McManus agreed to a ballot inspection early this week. On Wednesday, inspectors found that out of 33 absentee ballots received in the mail after election day, Nov. 5, but postmarked before then, 17 were marked for Wiener, 15 for McGinn and one for neither, Weinblatt said. If all those ballots were counted, Wiener would have gained two votes.

The method for counting the votes was not without controversy: In opening absentee ballots one at a time, lawyers, and in some cases inspectors, saw who voted for which candidate. Lipman said doing that violates voters' rights to privacy.

A Republican state representative from Lake Elmo, Lipman said he and McGinn plan to introduce legislation about how late ballots should be opened, along with a bill to clarify deadlines for

receiving absentee ballots and language to clarify when elections can be challenged after an initial recount.

Weinblatt said he'll recommend that the Legislature adopt a statute allowing ballots postmarked before election day to be counted if they're received before the county canvassing board certifies election results seven days afterward. He pointed to some ballots that were mailed in the state well in advance of election day but took more than a week to arrive.

Lipman said voters who want to be assured that their absentee ballots arrive on time should have them hand-delivered to the county auditor's office.

Wiener said she was glad the absentee ballots were looked at. "This to me was not about me, this was about the voters, and the assurance that all the votes were opened," she said.

Lipman said the contest should inspire voters. "Every vote counts," he said.

— The Associated Press contributed to this report
— Pam Louwagie is at plouwagie@startribune.com.

Analyst predicts GOP victories

DFL candidates say budget and education shortfalls, transportation issues need help

PIONEER PRESS OCT 26 '02

BY MARY DIVINE

Pioneer Press

Unless a skeleton crawls out of the closet in the next week or so, the Republicans running in House Districts 52A, 52B and 56B shouldn't have any problem defeating their DFL opponents.

So says Sarah Janacek, a political analyst and co-editor of "Politics in Minnesota," about the matchups between Rep. Ray Vandever, R-Forest Lake, and Pat Driscoll, of New Scandia Township; Rep. Mark Holsten, R-Stillwater, and Rebecca Otto, of May Township; and Republican Karen Klinzing and DFLer Matt Tourville in Woodbury.

"Those are solid Republican districts," she says.

Janacek said the "sheer number" of Republicans in District 56B dictate that Klinzing should win the Woodbury seat. Klinzing jumped into politics this summer when Jim Seifert, who had received the GOP endorsement, announced he was dropping out of the race for personal reasons. She said the open seat in the newly created district was a "golden opportunity I couldn't pass up."

Klinzing, a social studies teacher at Kennedy High School in Bloomington, said her top priorities as a legislator would be addressing the budget shortfall and reforming K-12 education "by developing a new funding system that would treat all of our schools equitably and fairly, regardless of where they are located."

She also proposes adding a third lane to interstates 94, 494 and 694 and wants to dedicate all of the state's vehicle sales taxes to road construction. In addition, she would work to make "bus ridership more feasible for Woodbury commuters through express busways, more suburb-to-suburb routes and maybe more park-and-ride lots."

Matt Tourville, the DFL-endorsed candidate, works in the receiving department at target.direct in Woodbury. He worked as a page last year for two

Minnesota House committees.

Tourville said his main issue is addressing the state's projected \$3 billion budget shortfall. "Everything other than public education has to be on the table," he said. "We're going to need to look at specifically local government aid. I think it's going to get hit pretty hard in the upcoming session."

Tourville called Klinzing's support of tax cuts and signing of the no-new-taxes pledge "very unrealistic." He said he would support a gas tax and a tobacco tax "if that was the only way to adequately fund our schools or improve our inadequate transportation system," he said.

HOUSE DISTRICT 52A

Vandever, who is wrapping up his third term in office, is vice chair of the transportation finance committee. He said motor vehicle sales taxes should be dedicated to road construction, and that he would work "to assure that much-needed transportation funding is not re-routed into other government spending projects or transportation services that only serve a few Minnesotans, and that the north metro receives its fair share of road construction funds."

"I believe we need to add more lanes and ramps to free-ways surrounding the Twin Cities," he said. "I will continue to work to make bus ridership more feasible for suburban commuters through the use of express busways, suburb-to-suburb routes and the construction of additional park-and-ride lots."

Driscoll, who is taking a leave of absence from his job as an assistant state attorney general, said he would support a gas tax.

"We need to get road projects that were delayed back on schedule," he said. "A modest increase in this user fee as proposed by business groups would result in substantially greater savings of time and transport costs for individuals and businesses. A

healthy transportation infrastructure, including roads and transit, is essential to this state's economy."

Driscoll also said education funding is a major issue. "The state is not shouldering its full responsibility ... and that puts significant pressure on local property taxes."

HOUSE DISTRICT 52B

Holsten has served in the House since 1992, and serves as the chair of the environment and natural resources finance committee.

He said dealing with the state's budget deficit is an opportunity to "finally" prioritize state spending around core responsibilities. "That's going to be education funding, that's going to be our senior population and the environment. This should be a revolutionary time for us to make true changes within state government and how that government looks, operates and services the citizens of Minnesota."

Otto, a former public school teacher who lives in a solar-heated, wind-generated renewable energy home, says she "puts her money where her mouth is" when it comes to her top two issues — the environment and education.

"I think we need to do a better job at adequately funding public education so we're not dependent on local property taxes," said Otto, who successfully chaired last year's levy for Forest Lake schools. "Our communities are fairly rural residential and we don't have the commercial tax base. It costs our communities more to put the same number of dollars in the classrooms."

"We have not kept up with the pace of inflation for funding," she said. "We don't go out for levies for the fun of it. Having a strong public education system has kept our economy strong and that's an area we can't allow to slip."

Mary Divine covers Washington County. She can be reached at mdivine@pioneerpress.com or (651) 228-5443.

PIONEER PRESS JUN 14 '02
REPUBLICAN PARTY CONVENTION

X-2

CONVENTION NOTEBOOK

56B

What's good for hockey...

Barbs might be tossed at the Republican state convention but bottle caps will not be.

In a policy started at the request of hockey players fearing unruly fans, if you buy a bottled beverage at Xcel Energy Center, the friendly staff will untwist the top and keep it.

"Who are the Republicans going to hurt?" questioned one vendor top-keeper. "I could see if the Democrats were in there with the Republicans — that would be a hazard."

Liberal mood music

Bob Dylan and Woody Guthrie, two old folkies who will never be accused of being good conservatives, helped provide the musical uplift for the Republican convention's opening night.

U.S. Senate Candidate Norm Coleman ridiculed his opponent, U.S. Sen. Paul Wellstone, by singing a verse of "The Times They Are A-Changin'" by Dylan. And the delegates stood and sang "This Land is Your Land," a folk standard written by Guthrie, before Secretary of

State Mary Kiffmeyer's endorsement.

Hy Berman, longtime political observer and history professor at the University of Minnesota, noted that Guthrie was a Communist Party member, and Dylan was "the epitome of the counter-culture radical." He added, "I've lived to see everything — from Battle Hymn of the Republic to Bob Dylan."

South Park accents

As demonstrations go, Norm Coleman's was impressive.

After his endorsement and speech, the Xcel Center hall lit up with fireworks, inflated plastic sticks emblazoned with Coleman's name fell from the ceiling, and four rappellers rode red-white-and-blue streamers from the heights of the building onto the stage.

Coleman, his wife and children and his mother and father enjoyed the view from the stage. As a final touch, a giant television screen showed a South Park-like Wellstone toddling off into the sunset in his green bus.

Stay on the platform

Remember party platforms?

Rep. Eric Lipman does.

The Lake Elmo Republican

stood at the entrance to the Republican state convention handing out fliers and buttons for "Platform Republicans," a group trying to make sure that the party's endorsed candidates pay attention to this central statement of the party's beliefs.

Lipman was advocating for a rule that would bind endorsed candidates more closely to the platform by requiring them to tell convention delegates whether they would work to implement it. Lipman said he believes closer adherence to the platform would give elected officials a better idea "what it means to be a Republican."

Delegates passed the rule Thursday.

Say what?

"Mia for First Lady."

— One campaign button promoting Brian Sullivan's wife, Mia

"Join the Minnesota Young Republicans for a day of food, folks and fierce paintball fighting."

—A promotional flyer

— Jim Ragsdale and Rachel E. Stassen-Berger

Party platform plans reflect Sept. 11 worries

One plank would allow pilots to carry guns, another would restrict driver's licenses.

By Robert Whereatt
Star Tribune Staff Writer

Commercial airline pilots would be allowed to carry firearms, under a proposed addition to the state Republican Party platform.

Arming pilots, currently a controversial issue at the federal level, is among proposed platform planks that convention delegates began voting on Friday and will continue today.

The issue became topical after the Sept. 11 hijackings of commercial jets that ultimately were flown into the Pentagon and the World Trade Center

in New York.

Another proposed plank would deny state driver's licenses, permits and identification cards to illegal aliens, and limit the duration of a driver's license to the period a legal alien is authorized to spend in this country.

Yet another plank would require extensive background checks before visas could be issued.

"I think [the proposed changes] reflect some of the changes in our country since 9-11," said Rep. Mary Liz Holberg, R-Lakeville, chairwoman of the platform committee.

A proposed plank would open to oil drilling the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge on Alaska's north slope. That item, Holberg noted, would go into the platform under the foreign affairs and national defense section, an indirect response to Sept. 11, she said.

Some of the proposed planks simply reflect changes in technology or evolving issues, Holberg said.

One proposed addition says: "Human cloning and the use of human embryos or embryonic stem cells for research should be prohibited." Human cloning was not a topic of public discussion at the last convention.

The 2002 Legislature debated at length whether state employees' contracts should extend insurance benefits to same-sex domestic partners. House Republicans vigorously opposed extending the benefit with tax money.

A proposed platform change reflects that sentiment. "Domestic partner benefits should not be publicly funded," it states.

This year, a change in convention rules required the two gubernatorial candidates to declare whether they

planned to implement the party platform. Businessman Brian Sullivan and House Majority Leader Tim Pawlenty both said they would.

"It's sort of informed consent before endorsement," said Rep. Eric Lipman, R-Lake Elmo, an architect of the rule change.

"The platform represents a clear program of what Republicans, if elected, will try to put into policy."

The Republican Party has a "continuing platform," a document that carries over from state convention to state convention. But every two years, delegates, starting at precinct caucuses, can amend and update it. The state convention has final word on the changes.

— Robert Whereatt is at rwhereatt@startribune.com.

Northstar negotiations with BNSF not expected to wrap up any time soon

Bonding debated for Minneapolis-St. Cloud commuter rail project

BY DAVID KNUTSON
Staff Writer

The Northstar Corridor Project group likely will be in negotiations with Burlington Northern Santa Fe railroad until work on the project is set to begin, according to the project director.

"In all commuter rail negotiations, the negotiations really get finalized right at the end," said Tim Yantos, who is also deputy administrator for Anoka County. "They like to get as much as they can out of it."

The Northstar Rail Corridor project — an 80-mile commuter rail service that



Jim Knoblach



Elwyn Tinklenberg

would run from Rice to Minneapolis — was reviewed by the House Capital Investment Committee last week.

The project's cost is estimated at \$294 million, with \$120 million requested by Gov. Jesse Ventura in his bonding proposal, \$147 million from the federal government and another \$27 million from local governments along the route.

Commuter Rail continued on page 8

Commuter Rail

Continued from page 1

If state and federal funding is approved, the rail line is expected to open in late 2005.

The question of negotiations with BNSF came up when Rep. Jim Knoblach, R-St. Cloud, who is committee chairman, asked Elwyn Tinklenberg, transportation commissioner, about the railroad's estimates that an additional \$57 million may be needed to convert the existing rail to commuter use.

"There's always a period of negotiation and lots of things are said," Tinklenberg said, adding that he didn't want to reveal the state's estimates on overruns while negotiations were ongoing.

Committee members also raised questions about the need for the section of rail service from St. Cloud to Rice, which is expected to serve only about 400 passengers and yet cost \$35 million.

Rep. Eric Lipman, R-Lake Elmo, noted that many other substantial bonding projects could be built for that sum.

"How can we compare shipping 400 folks with those other needs?" Lipman asked.

Mike Shadauer, MnDOT project coordinator for Northstar, said that section of rail will require the least amount of work to make it commuter compatible.

And, Shadauer said, the state will only be paying a portion of the \$35 million.

Knoblach also asked about the cost of the 11 stations to be built along the route. They range from \$3 million to \$6 million each.

Shadauer said some of the stations will need pedestrian walkways over existing roads and the rails. Those needs are primarily responsible for driving up the costs of the stations, he said.

Lawmakers also questioned whether the entire \$120 million in state funding needs to be approved this year.

Shadauer said the project was authorized by Congress, and if it doesn't proceed, federal funds could be jeopardized.

"This is a golden opportunity to get federal funds," he said. "We don't know how long we'd have to wait if we didn't go ahead."

SENATE RACE
PIONEER PRESS APR 14 '02
Republicans endorse
• candidates

Sixth Congressional District
• GOP Chairman Brian LeClair won the Republican endorsement for state Senate during Saturday's Senate District 56 Republi-

can convention in Woodbury.

LeClair was among several candidates Republicans endorsed at conventions Saturday.

Rep. Eric Lipman of Lake Elmo was unopposed and endorsed for re-election in District 56A, as was former state Rep. Jim Seifert of Woodbury for District 56B, who also ran unopposed.

Anoka County Republicans

endorsed Rep. Kathy Tingelstad for House District 49B over Lyall Delaney, a Minneapolis police officer.

Republicans endorsed Dennis M. McNamara, a landscaping business owner from Hastings, for House District 57B.

Kip Knippel, a student at William Mitchell College of Law, won endorsement in Senate District 57.

—Amy Mayron

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ABORTION

STAR TRIBUNE JAN 27 '02

Abortion amendments could have big impact

Two abortion-related constitutional amendments are expected to be considered by the Legislature, and either one could have an impact on elections across the state if placed on the ballot this fall.

One bill (House File 657) would ask voters whether they want to ban the use of state money for abortion services unless authorized by the Legislature. The second (HF 54) would ban the use of public money for abortions and, possibly more consequential, would require that the U.S. Constitution — not the Minnesota Constitution — be applied in state abortion cases.

State Rep. Eric Lipman, R-Lake Elmo, the chief sponsor of HF 657, said his bill would nullify part of a state Supreme Court decision that says public money must be provided for abortions if they also are provided for child-bearing activities. That opened the door for public funding of some abortions, a particular sore point for abortion opponents.

"Appropriations should be made by the Legislature, not by the judiciary," Lipman said. "I'm just trying to put [funding] in the right branch of government."

The other bill (HF 54) could have an even greater impact.

It would tie the state Constitution to the U.S. Constitution for purposes of abortion. If an abortion case were to be decided in a Minnesota court, it would be measured against the U.S. Constitution and federal case law, rather than the Minnesota Constitution and state case law, which is considered more liberal.

If the U.S. Supreme Court took a more restrictive position on abortion, Minnesota courts would have to follow, said Minnesota Planned Parenthood spokeswoman Connie Perpich. If, for example, the existing right to terminate most pregnancies under federal court doctrine were overturned, Minnesota women could not seek a right to an abortion through the state Constitution.

— *Robert Whereatt*



56B

x-2

Ventura undecided on campaign finance bill

STAR TRIBUNE MAY 7 '02

Gov. Jesse Ventura was sent a bill Monday that, if enacted, could swell the campaign coffers of his possible challengers in the November election.

Under a compromise bill approved by the House on a 70-59 vote, legislators could transfer unlimited amounts of money from their House or Senate campaign funds to their efforts to be elected to other state offices.

That provision drew most of the House debate Monday as well as a sharp comment from Ventura spokesman John Wodele. He said the governor has not decided whether he'll veto the bill, but added: "It doesn't sound much like reform to me. It seems like a career politician protection act."

Senate Majority Leader • Roger Moe of Erskine, the DFL-endorsed candidate for governor, reported \$6,835 in his senatorial campaign fund on Jan. 1. House Majority Leader • Tim Pawlenty of Eagan, who is seeking the Republican endorsement for governor, reported \$10,035 in his House campaign fund.

DAILY ROUNDUP

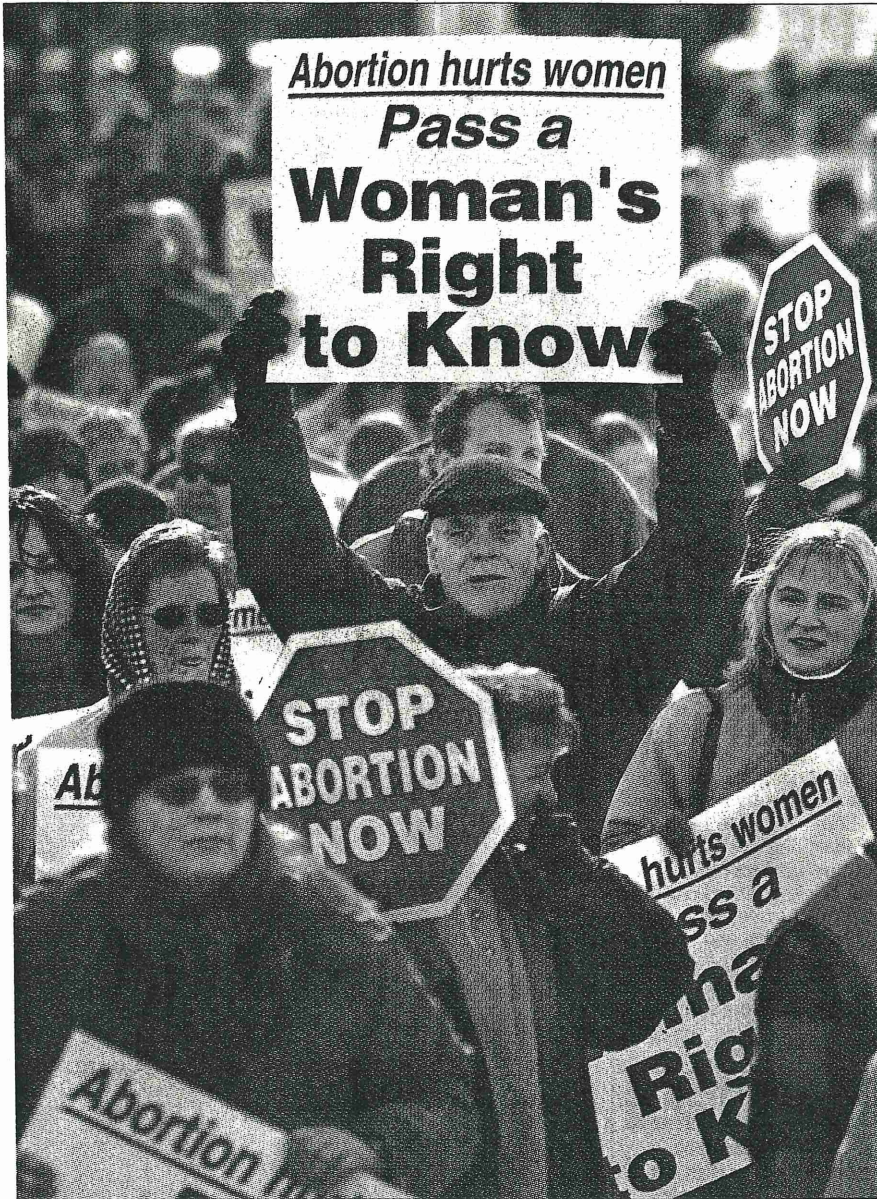
56B
"I don't think that those folks who contributed to their legislative campaigns intended that the money be used in a campaign for an office in the executive branch," said Rep. • Eric Lipman, R-Lake Elmo. "I don't think it's fair."

Other provisions in the bill sponsored by Rep. • Jim Rhodes, R-St. Louis Park, would reduce maximum civil penalties for violating campaign finance law from \$3,000 to \$1,000 and extend a ban on special interest contributions to state officials during a legislative session to contributions to candidates for state office as well.

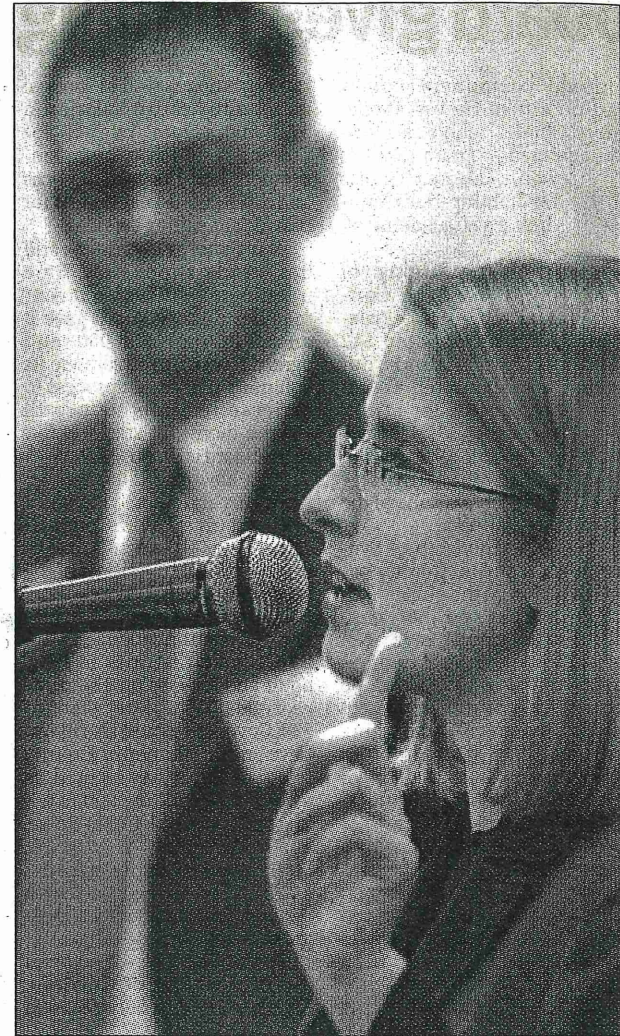
Conrad deFebre

The MCCL announces a change in strategy, while abortion-rights supporters gear up for a legislative battle.

56B x-5



Star Tribune photo by Judy Griesedieck



Star Tribune photo by Bruce Bisping

Dan Betlock of Bloomington held a sign high Tuesday amid nearly 5,000 abortion opponents marching to the State Capitol for a rally sponsored by Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life. Meanwhile, abortion-rights supporter Amy Brugh of Planned Parenthood of Minnesota/South Dakota addressed about 250 people at a prayer breakfast at the Kelly Inn in St. Paul. Standing in the background was Tim Stanley, executive director of Minnesota NARAL.

Prayers and pledges on Roe vs. Wade anniversary

TAR TRIBUNE JAN 23 '02

Conrad deFiebre
Tribune Staff Writer

Amid Minnesota abortion annual show of solidarity Tuesday, a split arose over whether to back two proposed constitutional amendments year.

The 67,000-member Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life

(MCCL) announced to nearly 5,000 abortion opponents on the State Capitol steps Tuesday that it again will seek a 24-hour abortion waiting period and a cutoff of state family planning funding to groups that provide, promote or refer women for abortions.

But MCCL, at least for now, will not push to amend the state

Constitution to ban taxpayer-financed abortions for poor women and to limit abortion rights in Minnesota to those provided by the U.S. Constitution.

That decision surprised abortion-rights advocates who held their own smaller gathering Tuesday and were bracing for a tough fight on the amend-

ments in the Legislature, where majorities in both houses oppose abortion.

Tim Stanley, executive director of the Minnesota affiliate of the National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League, warned that the amendments would be an attempt at an end-run around Gov. Jesse Ventura, because

proposed constitutional amendments are not subject to gubernatorial vetoes.

"Reproductive freedom lasts only as long as you are willing to defend it," he said.

RALLIES continues on B3:

— Two legislators say they hope to proceed with bills despite MCCL decisions.

RALLIES from B1

MCCL's decision disappoints amendments' sponsors

The amendments' legislative sponsors were disappointed.

"It's a difference of opinion within the pro-life community," said Rep. Eric Lipman, R-Lake Elmo, sponsor of the abortion-financing amendment. "It's regrettable. I wish they were stronger behind this effort."

MCCL Vice President Marice Rosenberg said there is too little public understanding of the issues behind the amendments to take them to the voters this fall.

"We need a few more years to get people acquainted with what we're talking about," she said. "So they're not on our agenda for this year."

Rep. Tony Kielucki, R-Lester Prairie, sponsor of the second amendment, also said that MCCL isn't ready to begin an expensive advertising campaign before a November referendum. "I can understand their concern, to a degree," he said. "But I still want to do it."

Lipman said he, too, will proceed with his bill. Although MCCL's backing would have been "very helpful," he said, "we're still optimistic."

Kielucki, however, said this year's short legislative session, which is expected to focus on erasing a state budget deficit and on terrorism readiness, may preclude any abortion bills — even MCCL's.

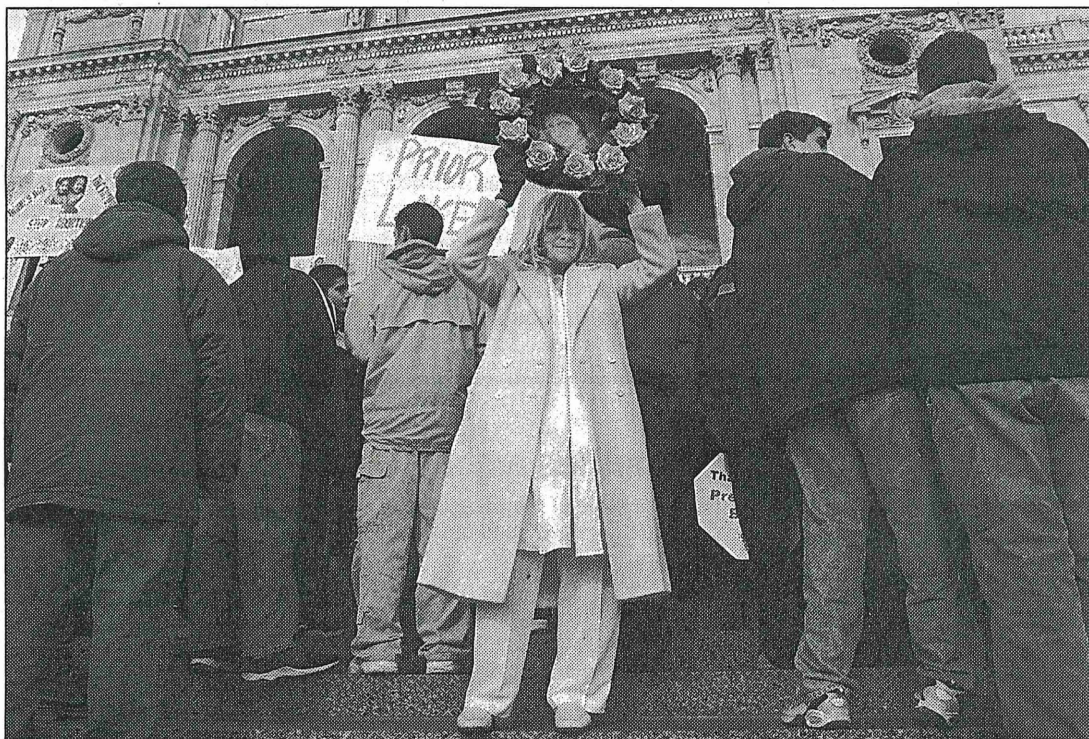
In 2001, MCCL came close to its first legislative victories in years on the waiting-period and family planning measures, but was thwarted by opposition from Ventura.

Ventura's veto

The governor's veto was roundly denounced at the MCCL rally Tuesday, but praised as heroism at an earlier prayer breakfast, at the Kelly Inn near the Capitol, attended by about 250 abortion-rights supporters. Both events, as well as an "Ecumenical Prayer Service for Life" that drew about 2,500 to the St. Paul Cathedral, marked the 29th anniversary of Roe vs. Wade, the U.S. Supreme Court's decision legalizing most abortions.

While the turnout of abortion foes dwarfed that of abortion rights-supporters at the prayer breakfast, Stanley said he considered it "an enormous success."

Besides, he said, if either of the amendments were to come up for a legislative floor vote, "I believe we could have thousands at the State Capitol under any weather conditions."



Star Tribune photo by Judy Griesedieck

Orea Magdalena Assisi of Taylors Falls held a picture of Our Lady of Guadalupe as she faced the crowd behind her during a rally Tuesday at the State Capitol to protest abortion.



Star Tribune photo by Bruce Bisping

About 250 abortion-rights supporters attended a prayer breakfast at the Kelly Inn near the State Capitol to discuss ways to preserve legal rights to abortion. Attendees wore blue "Trust Women" buttons.

On Tuesday, unseasonable temperatures in the 30s greeted abortion opponents who have logged years of rallying in the worst of Minnesota winters. They toed signs of MCCL chapters from Alexandria to Zumbrota decrying "terror in the womb" and "the war against the preborn."

They sang "Amazing Grace" and "God Bless America" and cheered 48 state legislators introduced as supporters. St. Paul Mayor Randy Kelly, his predecessor, Norm Coleman, and U.S. Rep. Mark Kennedy, R-

Minn., addressed them.

Coleman, a regular attendee, told the crowd: "I hope I don't have to come again. I hope we can finally rid this country of the horror of abortion."

The hourlong service at the Cathedral included a flag ceremony by a rifle-bearing color guard from St. Thomas Academy, a chastity pledge by several hundred Catholic school students and the singing of "America the Beautiful."

No one sang at the abortion-rights breakfast, but two Baptist ministers offered a few prayers.

Attendees, including a handful of DFL elected officials, wore blue "Trust Women" buttons and some bought purple T-shirts reading: "I'm pro-choice and I pray."

The shirts, a project of the Minnesota Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice, have sparked a bit of controversy in the movement, said the Rev. Heidi Vandeman, because some Unitarian-Universalist members don't pray.

— Conrad deFiebre is at cdefiebre@startribune.com.

x-1

2 Republicans seek chance at open seat

New position seen as golden opportunity

PIONEER PRESS AUG 26 '02

BY MARY DIVINE
Pioneer Press

When Jim Seifert, former Republican state representative from Woodbury, dropped out of the House District 56B race last month, Karen Klinzing and Steve Lagoon immediately threw their hats in the ring.

Both say the open seat in Republican-leaning Woodbury — created by redistricting — represents a golden opportunity for a Republican candidate. The two will face off in the Sept. 10 primary.

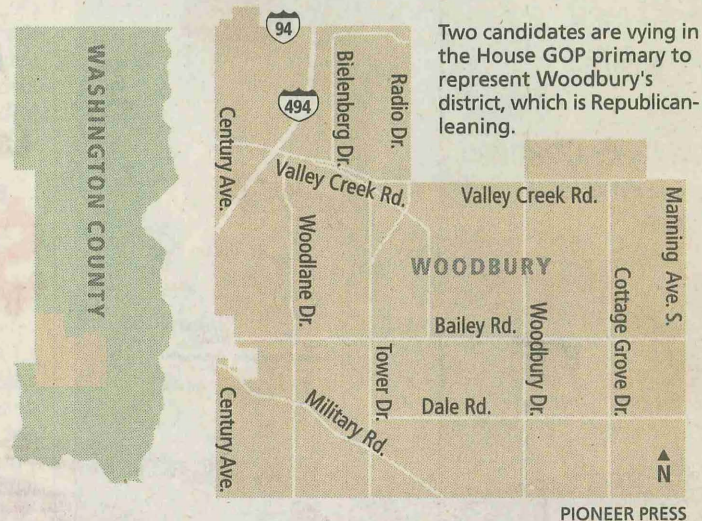
Klinzing is a social studies teacher at Kennedy High School in Bloomington. The mother of two children, Klinzing, 31, had always planned to run for public office one day. That “one day” arrived 10 years earlier than she expected when Seifert, who had already received the Republican endorsement, announced he

was dropping out of the race for personal reasons. The Republicans quickly convened another endorsing convention, and Klinzing received the nod.

“It was an opportunity that I couldn’t pass up,” she said. “It’s an open seat in a good district that fits my political philosophy. I’m a common-sense conservative. I tend to be fiscally conservative, but I try to apply real-world decision-making practices in the political arena.”

Klinzing said her top priority as legislator would be reforming K-12 education “by developing a new funding system that would treat all of our schools equitably and fairly, regardless of where they are located.” In addition, she said she would work to replace the “mediocre and paper-heavy” Profile of Learning graduation standards with new, “world-class standards and coursework that focuses on the basics

House District 56B



Two candidates are vying in the House GOP primary to represent Woodbury's district, which is Republican-leaning.

PIONEER PRESS

like reading, writing, math and science.”

Klinzing spent one year working at a charter school—the Fort Snelling Academy—and supports “more choices for parents.” If elected, she said she would encourage charter school development and the expansion of tax credits and

deductions for education expenses.

Lagoon, an independent dry-wall contractor, is also a pastor at a small, evangelical Christian church in the western suburbs and a student at Northwestern College, a

HOUSE DISTRICT 56B, 4B

House District 56B

(Continued)

nondenominational Christian liberal arts college in Roseville.

He is no stranger to running for political office, with unsuccessful state Senate bids in 1996, 2000 and 2002, but don't call him a "perennial candidate."

"I like persistent candidate," said Lagoon, 39. "I'm running against the endorsed candidate because I believe I am the better candidate. She's the 'CliffsNotes' candidate. Other than education, I don't think she's very well informed on other issues. I think that my experience and knowledge of the issues will serve me well (as representative). I'll be able to hit the ground running."

He said he is the more conservative of the two candidates and has more "broad-based appeal" because of his blue-collar roots. "People want a straight shooter who they can trust —

someone who has convictions," he said. "I want smaller, limited government and lower taxes. I believe my conservative principles will resonate with people — people know what they are."

Lagoon's oldest daughter attends Woodbury High School part-time and is home-schooled the rest of the time. His two middle children attend the Math and Science Academy.

"I'm a big believer in choice in education," he said. "I'm a strong supporter of universal school choice in education. Parents should be able to send their children to the school that is best for them, including private and religious schools."

He is also against the Profile of Learning graduation standards. "What it essentially says to teachers is that what you were doing before ... was worthless," he said. "I'm for local control, rather than state and federal mandated control. I don't like

the emphasis on group learning."

Lagoon, who grew up in Mahanomet, stresses his deep roots in the community. His family has lived in Washington County since the 1870s, and his grandparents owned the farm where the Cub Foods in Woodbury is now located.

Klinzing grew up in Bloomington and has lived in Woodbury for four years.

"I definitely represent Woodbury," she said. "I am what Woodbury is. I'm the wife of a 3M engineer. I'm a mother. I work, so I'm a working mother, but at the same time, I definitely understand what it means to be a stay-at-home mom."

She said she also understands and shares commuting concerns. She proposes adding a third lane to interstates 94, 494 and 694.

"I think we need to dedicate all of our vehicle sales taxes to road construction," she said. "I also think we should make bus ridership more feasible for

Woodbury commuters through express busways, more suburb-to-suburb routes and maybe more park-and-ride lots."

Lagoon, who said he drives about 40,000 miles a year, also considers transportation a top priority. "I want to make sure money is invested in our roads and highways, and not diverted to liberal pipe dreams like light rail," he said.

Whoever wins the Republican primary will face DFL-endorsed candidate Matt Tourville in the general election on Nov. 5.

"Because the district leans so Republican, I would say that if the endorsed Republican candidate wins, it should look good in November," said Jeff Feist, Republican Party chairman in Senate District 56. "If the non-endorsed candidates wins, I'm retiring out of politics."

Mary Divine covers Washington County. She can be reached at mdivine@pioneerpress.com or (651) 228-5443.

Candidate Profiles

Karen Klinzing

Birth date: Sept. 28, 1970

Home: Woodbury

Family: Husband, Bill Klinzing; daughters, Kathleen, 3, and Emma, 1

Occupation: Social studies teacher at Kennedy High School in Bloomington

Political/civic experience:

Delegate to the Republican district and state conventions; served in 1998 on a legislative panel on the Profile of Learning

Education: Bachelor of Science in political science, sociology and secondary education from the University of Wisconsin — Madison; is completing her master's degree in education from Hamline University in St. Paul

Political philosophy: "Common-sense conservative"

Top priority? Education. "Being a teacher, education is a very high priority for me — just as it is for most of Woodbury



Karen Klinzing

because there are so many parents of young children here. I will not support cutting per-pupil spending in the general fund."

What measures will you support to balance the budget next year in light of a projected deficit of more \$1 billion or more: tax increases, spending cuts or both?

Why? Spending cuts. "We need to balance government budgets like Woodbury families balance their own budgets in tough times and that would be in cutting spending in areas that are not priorities. As a family, we've had to cut vacations out sometimes, so at the state level the equivalent might be cutting some of the spending in the Department of Tourism, such as TV ads."

If elected, how would you work to relieve traffic problems in the east metro? "I am one of those frustrated Wakota Bridge commuters on a daily basis. I know, I live it. My husband lives the 3M bottleneck on I-94. Since we are the only major metro area with a two-line beltway, the first thing would be adding a third lane to 94, 494, 694, all the way around. I think we need to dedicate all of our vehicle sales taxes to road construction. I think bus ridership is feasible for Woodbury commuters, so I

express more express busways, suburb to suburb routes, and maybe more park-and-ride lots."

For information: Call (651) 578-2582 or visit www.karen-klinzing.com

Steve Lagoon

Birth date: July 7, 1963

Home: Woodbury

Family: Wife Sherry Lagoon; four children, Briana, 17, Kellen, 15, Hannah, 13, and Corrine, 1 (son Kyle, 17, was killed in a car accident in 2001)



Steve Lagoon

Occupation:

drywall contractor; pastor of Faith Community Church of Independence, Minn.

Political/civic experience:

Republican-endorsed candidate for State Senate in 1996

Education: Pursuing Bachelor of Arts degree from Northwestern College

Political philosophy: Conservative

Top priority? Education. "I am a strong advocate of universal school choice, which puts kids first by expanding educational opportunities for all children. Parents can send their children to the school that is best for them, including private and religious schools." He also wants to "return control of education to parents and teachers at the local level" by eliminating the Profile of Learning.

What measures will you support to balance the budget next year in light of a projected deficit of more \$1 billion or more: tax increases, spending cuts or both?

Why? Spending cuts. "I view myself as the taxpayers' watchdog. If elected, I plan on issuing the 'Pork of the Month' report. I would go through the state budget and find waste and go after it and bring it to the public's attention."

If elected, how would you work to relieve traffic problems in the east metro? "I drive about 40,000 miles a year, so I'm very familiar with congestion. I'm opposed to light rail. I think that's a waste of money, and it won't do anything to relieve congestion. I support increased spending on roads and bridges."

For information: Call (651) 739-1820; sslagoon@juno.com

Legislative incumbents win

St. Paul community activist
Cy Thao said his victory
in House District 65A
wasn't only a win for him
but for the district as a whole.

PIONEER PRESS SEP 11 '02
BY CYNTHIA BOYD

Pioneer Press

Eagan husband and wife Paul and Alison Bakken won't be campaigning against one another in the general election. St. Paul community activist Cy Thao has a place on the ballot, and Satveer Chaudhary took a step toward winning re-election in Senate District 50.

VOTE 2002

Also, in the first primary election since Minnesota's political map was redrawn, DFL-endorsed candidates won two open seats in St. Paul. And one race that was decided by a mere 12 votes will go through an automatic recount.

Voters mostly trickled to the polls Tuesday for primaries in 39 districts across the state, including 11 in the east metro area. Across the state, incumbents won the day; here are the results of some of the closely watched races.



SHERRI LAROSE, PIONEER PRESS

Cy Thao, center, celebrates with state Sen. Mee Moua on Tuesday night in St. Paul after campaign staff announced that he was a "shoo-in" for the Democratic-Farmer-Labor nomination in the District 65A race for state representative. Thao defeated Darryl Spence and Patty Lammers. If elected, Thao would be the second Hmong-American member of the Legislature. The St. Paul district includes the Frogtown and Summit-University neighborhoods.

St. Paul community activist Cy Thao easily defeated community activists Patty Lammers and the Rev. Darryl Spence to win the DFL primary in House District 65A, an open seat. Thao, the party's endorsee, will now square off against Republican Gary DeYoung in the heavily DFL district in a bid to replace retiring state Rep. Andy Dawkins.

Thao, whose campaign was buoyed by U.S. Senators Paul Wellstone and Mark Dayton and state Sen. Mee Moua, was greeted by throngs of supporters at the Louisiana Café on Selby Avenue shortly after 8:30 p.m., when it was clear that he would emerge as the victor.

The activist, artist, and playwright expressed relief that the primary race in Minnesota's most racially and ethnically diverse district was over.

"This is an incredible day," Thao said. "This is not just a win for me, but a win for the district as a whole."

Thao cited the diversity of his supporters — which included Hmong, white, black, and Hispanic residents in the North End, Frogtown,

STATE RACES, 8B

(Over)

MINNESOTA RACES

STATE RACES: Incumbents win the day

Aurora-St. Anthony, and Summit-University neighborhoods — as the key to his victory.

• HOUSE DISTRICT 38B

With all precincts reporting, there was victory and defeat in the Bakken house: Paul Bakken defeated his opponent, but Alison Bakken fell well behind hers.

The race for Tim Pawlenty's House seat in District 38B in Eagan — which experts say is the first time a husband and wife have run in the same race — has been tangled from the start. Paul Bakken won 53 percent of the votes over Mike Dean in the Independence primary. Lynn Wardlow had 78 percent of the votes over Alison Bakken in the Republican primary.

So two candidates with a history — Paul Bakken and Wardlow — prevailed in their primaries and will face off in the general election.

Bakken, a longtime member of the Republican Party, lost the party endorsement to Wardlow in June. Bakken jumped to the Independence Party and entered the race.

• SENATE 50

In Senate District 50, incumbent and DFL-endorsed Satveer Chaudhary was leading Steve Novak. With 17 out of 27 precincts reporting, Chaudhary had 2,322 votes, or 70 percent, while Novak had 980 votes, or 30 percent.

Novak, who originally held the Senate post until he gave it up to run for Congress and lost, said he disapproved of Chaudhary's legislative voting record. Novak had originally endorsed Chaudhary to fill his vacancy.

The district includes Arden Hills, Columbia Heights, Fridley, Hilltop, New Brighton, Shoreview and St. Anthony.

• HOUSE DISTRICT 37B

In House District 37B, Rosemount and eastern Apple Valley voters chose longtime Republican legislator Dennis Ozment over Judy Lindsay, a seven-year school board member known for her conservatism. About 59 percent of voters picked Ozment with all precincts reporting.

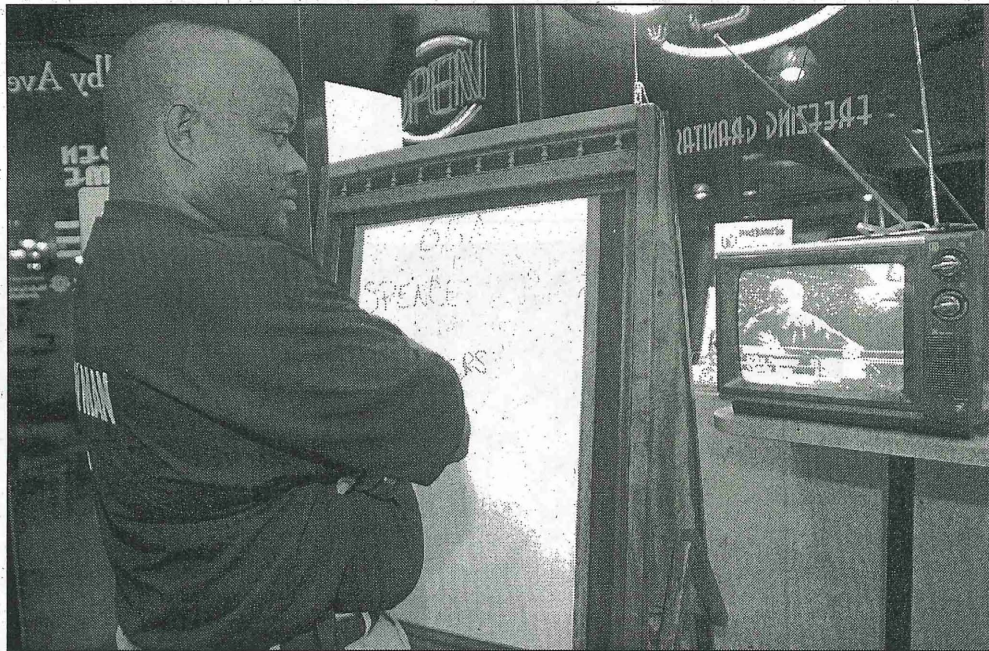
Many DFLers were expected to cross over and vote for the more moderate Ozment in the Republican primary. Unopposed DFLer Rosie Isaacson is a relative political unknown.

The local Republican Party also split over the race, with deadlocked delegates at a spring convention deciding at about 1:30 a.m. to not endorse either candidate.

• HOUSE DISTRICT 66A

In District 66A, which covers St. Paul's North End and part of the East Side, John Lesch comfortably outpaced Nancy Haas in a primary race that could be the deciding vote this year: The district typically votes decidedly for DFLers.

Lesch is an assistant St. Paul



SHERRI LAROSE, PIONEER PRESS

The Rev. Darryl Spence Sr. watches as primary election results are announced on television Tuesday night at Golden Thyme Coffee in St. Paul. Spence and fellow candidate Patty Lammers lost their bids for District 65A's DFL nomination for state representative to Cy Thao.

city attorney, and Haas is the city's lobbyist at the Capitol. Both are rising political stars making their first bids for elective office.

A third candidate, Jeffery Johnson, trailed far behind.

Lesch, the DFL endorsee, was the district party chairman and spent more than a year lining up labor endorsements and political support. He picked up largely where mayoral candidate Jay Benanav left off in November, after the City Council member's defeat by then State Sen. Randy Kelly.

Haas, who has Kelly's endorsement, didn't get into the House race until DFL Rep. Tom Osthoff announced his retirement in April. Osthoff had represented the area since 1975.

Lesch will face Republican Greg Copeland in the general election.

• DISTRICT 67A

Car salesman Mark Jorgensen defeated Joshua Graham by 12 votes in the Republican primary in House District 67A on St. Paul's East Side, prompting an automatic recount under a state law that took effect this year.

Jorgensen, who calls himself a "Norm Coleman Republican," collected 315 votes, compared with 303 for Graham, a technician for Northwestern College's radio network and the GOP endorsee.

Secretary of State Mary Kiffmeyer said that because Jorgensen's margin of victory was so close, a mandatory recount would take place based on unofficial results. She said this would be the first recount based on a law saying that any election under half of 1 percent will automatically be recounted.

• HOUSE DISTRICT 64A

In the House District 64A DFL, State Rep. Matt Entenza handily defeated opponent Jim Berry, a certified public accountant. Entenza, the House

DFL whip and longtime MacGroveland legislator, captured about 90 percent of the vote.

• HOUSE DISTRICT 36B

Christine Murphy, the DFL-endorsed candidate, was trouncing Lax Sundae in the DFL primary for house District 36B in Lakeville-Farmington. With about 83 percent of the precincts reporting, Murphy had about 75 percent of the vote. Murphy will now face off in the general election with Republican Steve Strachan, a Farmington City Council member and Lakeville police sergeant.

• HOUSE DISTRICT 56B

In Woodbury, Republicans voted overwhelmingly to send social studies teacher Karen Klinzing to meet DFL-endorsed candidate Matt Tourville in the general election for the House District 56B race. Klinzing, a teacher at Kennedy High School in Bloomington, received 82 percent of the votes, compared to the 18 percent that Steve Lagoon, an independent drywall contractor and the pastor at a small Christian church in the western suburbs, received.

• SENATE DISTRICT 40

In Senate District 40, Bloom-

ington and Burnsville DFLers chose endorsed candidate Ray Heinonen overwhelmingly over challenger Frank Sanisidro. Heinonen, who garnered 70 percent of the vote with all precincts reporting, will now face Bill Belanger, one of the most senior Republicans in the Minnesota Senate. Redistricting carved up Belanger's old district, leaving him with only a third of his old constituents.

• HOUSE 49B

In House District 49B, DFL-endorsed candidate Bernadette Chlebeck, led Roger Johnson. With nine out of 13 precincts reporting, Chlebeck received 525 votes, or 61 percent, while Johnson received 335 votes, or 39 percent.

• SENATE DISTRICT 23

In an interesting outstate race, DFLer John Hottinger, of St. Peter, who hopes to become Senate majority leader, beat party-switcher Troy Haefner, of Mankato in Senate District 23. Haefner changed parties after losing Republican endorsement.

Reporters Mary Divine, Murali Balaji, Tammy J. Oseid, Nancy Ngo, Tim Nelson, Amy Sherman and Mara Gottfried contributed to this report.

Abortion measure needed to restore the balance

✓
BY ERIC LIPMAN
Guest Columnist

56B

In the spring of 1993, a lawsuit challenged the constitutionality of Minnesota state laws that provided poor women with health care services. At the time, the state paid for services relating to childbirth, but did not pay for abortions. The plaintiffs to this lawsuit claimed that the state's "discrimination" in favor of birth-related services "burdened" a woman's constitutionally protected right to seek an abortion.

VIEWPOINT

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The Minnesota Supreme Court agreed. For a majority of the court, the progressive traditions of Minnesota, and "this state's own concepts of justice," persuaded them that if childbirth services were offered, taxpayer-funded abortions were also required by the Minnesota Constitution. Minnesota simply could not provide one without the other.

For me, and many others, the Supreme Court's decision in *Doe v. Gomez* is silly, maddening and just plain wrong.

First, as a factual matter, the word "abortion" does not appear in the Minnesota Constitution. So, it is perplexing to read the Minnesota Supreme Court's decision that declares that taxpayer-funded abortions are required by this document. One would think that if the people who drafted the state Constitution had intended this result, they would at least have used the word "abortion" so as to let us know.

Second, even if reviewing the state's political history were a way to distill what our Constitution means – as opposed to reading the words – Minnesota's history points to precisely the opposite conclusion to that arrived at by the court. Again, if the court could have asked those folks who drafted our state Constitution whether taxpayer-funded abortions were required by this text, they certainly would have replied: "No." In territorial Minnesota, abortions were not a familiar tradition; they were illegal. The Minnesota Supreme Court does not explain just exactly how something that used to be a crime when the state was founded was re-classified as a welfare benefit guaranteed by the State Constitution.

Third, the Gomez decision represents a troubling breakdown in the separations between the three branches of government. By reading a requirement to make million-dollar appropriations into the state Constitution, the justices of the Minnesota Supreme Court abandoned their roles as "interpreters" of the law, for new assignments in the Legislative Branch. The justices now act as co-appropriators on the state welfare budget.

So, here's the problem: What can citizen-legislators do when a state court reads words into the Constitution that simply aren't there, and violates the separation-of-powers by assuming roles in the budget process?

The answer is simple: we can restore the original balance by proposing an amendment to the state Constitution.

My bill, House File 657 (which awaits action in committee), declares two simple truths: (1) nothing in the Minnesota Constitution requires the use of state funds for abortion services; and (2) no state funds should be used for abortion services unless specifically authorized by an act of the Minnesota Legislature.

My bill speaks honestly about the contents of the state Constitution (and what words are not there), and leaves to our elected legislators the task of making decisions about abortion funding. We elect legislators, not judges, to make state budget decisions.

My bill should receive the support of people who oppose abortion, as well as those who favor abortion rights – on this issue, their interests are the same. Pro-life people and pro-choice people both hope for a court system that acts within constitutional boundaries and obeys the law. As an "interest," that one isn't particularly "special;" it is the hope of each and every one of us.

Lipman, a Republican state representative from Lake Elmo, is vice chairman of the House Committee on Judiciary Finance. E-mail him at rep.eric.lippman@house.leg.state.mn.us.

STILLWATER GAZETTE

STILLWATER, MN
DAILY 4,000

MONDAY
MAR 11 2002

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Shame on you Langseth; we're lucky to have Bachmann

State Sen. Keith Langseth's guest column entitled "Will the real Michele Bachmann please stand up?" read like a bad joke — in fact, it was a wisecrack that I am sure that I have heard before.

Roseanne Barr would tell the same story to her audiences: She would say that she had a diet that worked every time — just eat your meals in front of a full-length mirror and you'll lose weight.

Well, during this Legislative session, if there ever was bill that desperately needed a diet, it is Sen. Langseth's "pork barrel" bonding bill. Bloated, bulging with political fat and crushingly overweight, it seems, just like the old joke, that the Langseth bill ran into the best and brightest mirror the Minnesota Senate ever had — Michele Bachmann.

Sen. Bachmann wasn't willing to swallow the quadruple-

Because Sen. Bachmann knows the difference between safe drinking water and pork for politicians, Sen. Langseth calls her a hypocrite



Rep. Eric Lipman
Guest Columnist

helping of pork that Sen. Langseth is serving. So now, angry and embarrassed, he's shouting at the mirror.

As a member of the bonding committee in the Minnesota House of Representatives, I know that there is a lot that Sen. Langseth didn't tell you in his recent guest column.

The Senate version of the bonding bill is a budget-buster. The interest payments alone on this bill are \$115 million every year, and will plunge the state's projected deficits deeper by at

least \$70 million. That means because of all the spending that Sen. Langseth wants to do today, next year, legislators will either need to cut other programs by \$70 million, or raise your taxes by that same amount.

Michele Bachmann was dead-on right — in this era of deficits, we simply can't afford the Langseth bill.

Second, the Senate proposal is so bloated, that it even busts the previously agreed-upon debt limit by \$65 million dollars. If the senate bill was a

MasterCard, Sen. Langseth would have maxed out the credit limit, and would be riding high at the shopping mall on the "overdraft protection."

By proposing to bust the debt limits, the Senate bonding bill is a historic first and is breathtaking in its arrogance. The debt limits were established many years ago and the House and Senate have kept them in place regardless of whether Republicans or Democrats were in charge, so as to keep the pork-barrel hogs in their pens. Regrettably, however, that system has broken down this year in the Minnesota Senate. The hogs are loose.

Third, it is simply astonishing that Keith Langseth equates the safe drinking water projects urged by Sen. Bachmann and local environmentalists with the long list of local deals that have ballooned the size of his bill.

Sen. Bachmann urged use of our state's credit limit on such things as wastewater treatment systems and preventing floods.

Sen. Langseth, for his part, urges new spending on sports complexes in Blaine and Fairmont, a privately-owned ski center in Duluth, and dozens of multi-million dollar give-aways to politically connected organizations.

Because Sen. Bachmann knows the difference between safe drinking water and pork for politicians, Keith Langseth calls

her a hypocrite. Shame on you, Sen. Langseth. Michele Bachmann is just the kind of thoughtful, principled leader that we need in the Minnesota Senate. And we're lucky to have her.

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District 56B Rep. Eric Lipman, R-Lake Elmo, is a Member of the Capital Investment Committee in the Minnesota House of Representatives.

STILLWATER GAZETTE

STILLWATER, MN
DAILY 4,000

FRIDAY
AUG 2 2002

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DFL's pharmacy plan a bitter pill to swallow

Many folks are talking about the rising prices of prescription drugs. One of the key questions is how much should we be spending on these drugs? Pharmaceutical costs are skyrocketing, and folks that take medicine are rightfully asking "How much is too much?"

In our judgment, pharmaceuticals represent the very best value in health care today — for both patients and taxpayers. Which is why the DFL plan to place the burden of rising drug costs on local pharmacists, is a particularly bad idea.

To explain why the DFL plan is so bad, a review of the facts is helpful. For every dollar that Americans spend on health care, nine cents is spent on medicine. And that nine cents includes everything from the groundbreaking research in development labs, right down to the

The DFL drug pricing plan threatens to dry up local access to these drugs, as well as cut off the development of new and better drugs



Rep. Eric Lipman
and
Tina Scribante
Guest Columnists

service at your local pharmacist. By comparison, Americans spend six times as much — 55 cents of every health care dollar — on doctors and hospitals.

Are we spending more money today than we did a generation ago? You bet. Is it worth it? Absolutely — both in terms of lower costs and, more importantly, increased quality of life.

A simple statistic makes the point plain: When both of us graduated from high school,

twenty years ago, the age of the average American entering a nursing home was 65. Today, that age is 83. A big part of the difference between having our loved ones live in their own homes, independently, for those eighteen years, and having them live in a nursing home, is the result of stunning advances in pharmaceuticals.

Which is why the DFL drug pricing plan is so scary. It threatens to dry up local access to

these drugs, as well as cut off the development of new and better drugs. The DFL drug-pricing plan requires local pharmacists to sell drugs at below-market prices, in the hopes that a big, new state bureaucracy will reimburse them part of their losses — hopefully, before the pharmacy goes bankrupt.

Most pharmacists that we know genuinely want to help people; but who could have imagined that the DFL would require them to make loans that will never be repaid? We've been told that rather than accumulate these unpaid debts, many local pharmacies will simply close their doors.

Worse still, the DFL price-fixing plan has been tried before, and with disastrous results. Not too long ago, the State of New Hampshire capped the amounts they spent on pre-

scription drugs, and saved an average of \$57 per year with schizophrenia patients. But, because these drugs suddenly became harder to come by at the lower, government-determined prices, New Hampshire also paid \$1,500 a year in new costs for each one of these patients, in visits to mental-health clinics and emergency rooms. Paying \$1,500, to save \$57, doesn't make any sense at all.

Which is why we should expand access to medical insurance, rather than rely on government price-controls, in order to make prescription drugs more affordable. House Republicans are committed to doing just that.

Even during a legislative session with multi-billion dollar deficits, keeping prescription drugs affordable for seniors was a priority for Minnesota Republicans. Minnesota's

expanded prescription drug program reaches farther now than it ever did before — and it was House Republicans that saved the program from Gov. Ventura's budget ax.

For those of us who want the longer life, better health, and increased independence that prescription drugs provide, and promise for the future, the last thing we need is a big state bureaucracy setting prices and deciding how much pharmacists get paid. The DFL prescription drug plan is a bitter pill.

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District 56B Rep. Eric Lipman, R-Lake Elmo, was elected to the Minnesota House of Representatives in 2000. Tina Scribante is a pharmacist in Saint Paul.

STILLWATER GAZETTE

STILLWATER, MN
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THURSDAY
FEB 28 2002

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Lipman: Local help for local water needed

I think about it every time I go to the kitchen faucet and draw a cool glass of water from our well: safe, abundant drinking water is the first building block in our quality of life in Washington County. This year, legislation making its way through the Minnesota Legislature will help us to keep our water safe and clean.

I was glad to co-author a piece of innovative legislation designed to give citizens the tools they need to participate in taking care of Minnesota's lakes, streams and drinking water. The legislation allows the Minnesota Pollution Control

If state government provides local residents with the tools and training, I believe citizens will gladly help to make sure that the water we drink, swim, boat, and fish in is safe



Rep. Eric Lipman

Guest
Columnist

Agency (PCA) to train citizens and local governments to collect and test the water quality in their own local communities.

This legislation will improve the collection and distribution of water quality data in Minnesota.

Currently, only 5 percent of Minnesota's 92,000 miles of streams and only 15 percent of its more than 10,000 lakes have been checked against state water quality standards. Working together, we can do even better.

Minnesotans are hard-working people who value the streams, rivers and lakes of this great state. If state government provides local residents with the tools and training, I believe citizens will gladly help to make sure that the water we drink, swim, boat, and fish in is safe.

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency has provided many suggestions on how to improve this legislation and is eager to help. In addition to training citizens to monitor water quality, if necessary, the PCA will make sure that the hard work of concerned Minnesotans matches the scien-

tific requirements needed to obtain environmental clean-up program dollars from the federal government.

This legislation is a primary policy initiative of Protect Our Water, an organization dedicated to conserving Minnesota's water resources for future generations. The Minnesota Environmental Partnership, a coalition of more than 75 non-profit conservation and environmental groups representing more than 500,000 Minnesota households, also supports the legislation.

The legislation was approved by the House Environment

Committee and will be presented to the full House of Representatives in the coming weeks.

By engaging the imagination, talents, and energies of our neighbors, we can be assured that the next glass of water we draw from the kitchen faucet will be as safe, refreshing, and as clean as we've always known.

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²
Rep. Eric Lipman represents Minnesota House District 56B. He lives in Lake Elmo.

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ABORTION POLITICS

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Protests mark 29 years since Roe vs. Wade

BY RACHEL E.
STASSEN-BERGER
Pioneer Press

St. Paul
1-23-02

Supporters and opponents of abortion rights gathered their troops Tuesday morning to mark the 29th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion and to organize for their causes.

A recording of Scottish bagpipes sounding "Amazing Grace" greeted abortion opponents at an orderly rally on the state Capitol steps that drew parochial school children bused in for the event and young mothers with their children in tow.

A few hours earlier, abortion rights activists gathered in a conference room at the Kelly Inn, near the Capitol, to pray for justice as they prepared to defend access to abortion in the 2002 legislative session that begins in a week.

Although the battle lines were drawn in 1973 when the U.S. Supreme Court decided Roe vs. Wade, new people join the ranks of each side every year.

"We've been here a long time and sometimes it seems unending," Norm Coleman, former St. Paul mayor and candidate for U.S. Senate, told abortion rights opponents. "But each day we make progress."

Capitol security would not estimate the size of the anti-abortion crowd on the Capitol steps. Organizers estimate 4,000 to 5,000 people showed up at the anti-abortion rally, slightly fewer than previous years.

A coalition of abortion rights groups that organized the prayer breakfast estimated attendance at about 250 people — which they said was about what was expected.

It is tough to rally abortion rights supporters year after year since some take the right to legal abortion for granted, said Tim Stanley, executive director of Minnesota National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League. Still, said Stanley, abortion rights supporters could gather thousands at the state Capitol if needed.

Abortion rights supporters said they believe the toughest fight they might face at the Legislature this year would be over constitutional amendments to restrict state funding for abortion or make the Minnesota Constitution mirror the more abortion-restrictive U.S. Constitution. Constitutional amendments require the approval of voters but not the governor's signature.

But at the abortion opponents' rally, sponsored by Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life, the only sign of constitutional amendment legislation was in the orange fliers of Rep.



Demonstrators who gathered at the state Capitol in St. Paul listen to an anti-abortion speaker on Tuesday, the 29th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's Roe vs. Wade decision legalizing abortion. Organizers estimated that between 4,000 and 5,000 people attended the event.

Eric Lipman, R-Lake Elmo. Standing alone, he handed out fliers to garner support for an amendment to end state funding for poor women's abortions.

MCCL officials said this year they are backing legislation to require medical professionals to give specific information about abortion to women contemplating the procedure. Gov. Jesse Ventura has vetoed similar legislation in the past. The MCCL is also backing legislation to keep state funding from any organization that promotes, provides or directly refers clients for abortion.

The intent of the bill is to stop state funding for abortion providers but continue funding for family planning, said Sen. Thomas Neuville, R-Northfield, the legislation's Senate sponsor. In previous years similar legislation appeared as amendments to funding bills rather than bills unto themselves, he said.

The House sponsor of the legislation, Rep. Mary Liz Holberg, R-Lakeville, said it is patterned after a Missouri law. That law bars state money from going to organizations that share a name, facility, expenses, employee wages or equipment with an affiliated abortion provider.

Election victories are also key to MCCL's work this year,

organizers said. MCCL Executive Director Scott Fischbach said this year's elections are "very, very important." He said Ventura and U.S. Sen. Paul Wellstone, D-Minn., are key election targets.

56B

The Legislature

Preferences in six House races

STAR TRIBUNE OCT 29

District 47B: Hortman

DFLer Melissa Hortman, 32, a Brooklyn Park attorney, is a strong candidate with deep convictions about public service. She's bright, energetic and knowledgeable. We highly recommend her as a candidate who would be good from the start and appears to possess what it takes to grow into an outstanding legislator. She has a bold vision of turning the painful job of balancing the state budget next year into an opportunity to overhaul outdated funding formulas.

A simpler, more equitable distribution of school funds is Hortman's top priority. She would also increase and index the gas tax to fix traffic bottlenecks, expand bus service between suburbs, add park-and-ride sites and build the Northstar commuter rail.

Republican Stephanie Olsen, 34, Brooklyn Park, a Minnesota House education researcher and teacher, lacks the aggressive, big-picture focus and community involvement that make Hortman exceptional. Adam Roesch, 25, Independence candidate, an actuarial assistant with a reinsurance firm, is bright and thoughtful, and should stay involved in politics.

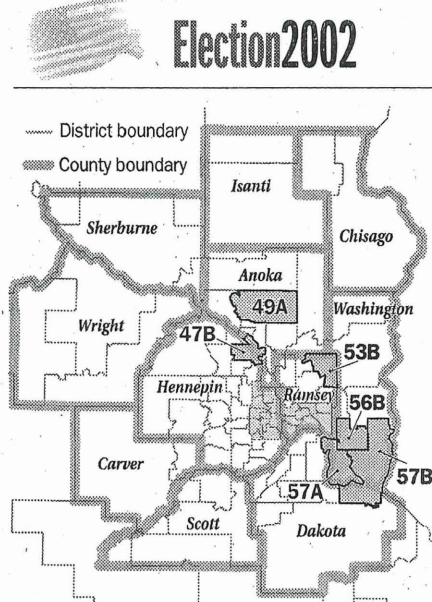
District 49A: Pithan

Two likable novices are contending for this open seat in Anoka County. We prefer Jim Pithan.

Pithan, 37, of Ham Lake, is a budget manager at Hennepin County Juvenile Detention Center and an Army Reserve major. Two years ago he ran for the state Senate as an Independence Party candidate; this year he's a DFLer. His Republican opponent is Chris De La Forest, 33, of Andover, a lawyer who represents cities and counties in employment disputes.

Both candidates are concerned about school-finance inequities that work against the Anoka-Hennepin district, and favor a transportation policy that builds rail as well as roads. Their differences emerge in the details: Pithan, a daily bus commuter, is a strong transit advocate; De La Forest favors the Northstar Corridor project but his campaign literature is all about building roads and bridges. Pithan says he would go first to an expanded sales tax for new revenue and would not undo property-tax reforms enacted in 2001; De La Forest hasn't signed the no-tax-increase pledge, but won't disclose his priorities for revenue changes. He stresses an unrealistic hope that spending cuts can cure largely the looming 2003-2005 deficit.

Pithan's career experience also commends him. As a corrections officer, he says, he has learned that a lot of career criminals are driven by drug problems that aren't addressed by single-focus, lock-'em-up policies, and that the state doesn't need more concealed weapons on its street. The Legislature can use his perspective.



District 53B: Meslow

Two education-minded newcomers are vying for this open seat in northern Ramsey County. Republican Doug Meslow's seven-year service on the White Bear Lake school board makes him the better choice.

Meslow, 43, a lawyer who is also the White Bear city prosecutor, understands school finance inside and out, partly from helping to manage his district through several cycles of deficits, with attendant spending cuts and levy increases. This lends credibility to his critique of inequities in current funding formulas, and confidence that he will contribute sophistication to legislative debate on the subject. So does the mentorship of retired Rep. Harry Mares.

The DFL candidate, Brett Smith, is a 40-year-old Mahtomedi music instructor who was Minnesota Teacher of the Year. His passion for teaching has not led him to clear ideas on how Minnesota's approach to school finance should best evolve — or, for that matter, on how the Profile of Learning could be fixed to meet his objections.

District 56B: Tourville

The surprise decision of former Rep. Jim Seifert, R-Woodbury, to pull out of the race has left two less-qualified candidates in this new district, which includes all but the northeast corner of Woodbury plus tiny Landfall. DFLer Matt Tourville, 25, is the better choice.

Tourville, who grew up in Woodbury and played Big Ten football at Northwestern, is more schooled in public policy. He interned with the State Department and the late Sen. Paul Wellstone, and worked for two Minnesota House education committees during the 2002 session. While he sidesteps some tax questions, Tourville supports a nickel increase in the gas tax and an increase in the cigarette tax.

Republican Karen Klinzing, 32, has spent most of her 10-year teaching career in Bloomington high schools. She possesses skimpy knowledge of the issues that will confront the next Legislature but a strong, ideologically driven certainty in the solutions she proposes. Klinzing has signed the Taxpayers League no-tax-increase pledge.

District 57A: Sieben

Both the Green Party's Teresa Bowe-Cover, 39, St. Paul Park, and DFLer Katie Sieben, 25, Newport, are sincere in their desire for public service. But neither is as informed or prepared for legislative service as District 57A deserves. We regret that Republican Anita Sandborgh declined our invitation for an interview.

Between the two, we find Sieben the more promising. She's bright, and has experience as executive director for Sen. Mark Dayton's Senate office in Washington, D.C., and in working on the 2000 Gore-Lieberman campaign. Now deputy director for Dayton's health-care help line, she is the daughter of former state Rep. Mike Sieben.

Bowe-Cover, who works full time in customer service, also is attending Inver Hills Community College. We hope she stays politically active.

District 57B: Sieben

It's a close call between two good candidates with deep roots in Dakota County District 57B — Republican Denny McNamara, 50, co-owner of Hoffman Nursery and Landscaping, and Jeff Sieben, 27, a lawyer with Sieben, Grose, VonHoltum & Carey, a law firm headed by his father, former House Speaker Harry Sieben Jr. Both live in Hastings, and both are from prominent families that have lived there for generations.

Jeff Sieben worked as a volunteer English teacher in Bucaramanga, Colombia, after college. McNamara has been a leader in civic activities and is past president of the Hastings Chamber of Commerce. Both want to improve education, roads and transit.

We give Sieben the edge. He's more of a student of legislative issues. Further, he favors abortion rights; McNamara does not. McNamara would make it easier to carry concealed handguns; Sieben would not.

Green Party candidate George Bateman, 62, an optician, is earnest and well-meaning but not a match for Sieben.