

SESSION WEEKLY

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Minnesota House of Representatives • January 10, 1997 • Volume 14, Number 1

Welcome ...

Welcome to the 80th Session of the Minnesota Legislature.

For the 14th consecutive year, the *Session Weekly* will bring you highlights of committee and floor action from the Minnesota House of Representatives. Each week of coverage begins and ends on Thursday afternoons.

In each issue you also will find the committee schedule for the coming week. It contains all the information you will need to attend committee hearings, all of which are open to the public.

The section entitled "Bill Introductions" provides you with a continuing list of all the bills that are introduced in the House. Each entry includes the House File number, chief author's name, the name of the committee to which it was first referred, and a brief description of the content of the bill.

Early issues will carry a variety of informational articles about the Legislature and state government that will help you follow the legislative process. Other features will bring you insights into the history and "color" of the Legislature. We'll introduce you to the newest members of the House, beginning this week with Reps. Torrey Westrom (R-Elbow Lake) and Marty Seifert (R-Marshall). We'll also profile the House leadership team. This week's issue features House Speaker Phil Carruthers (DFL-Brooklyn Center).

Past subscribers may notice that the *Session Weekly* looks a little different this year. We've dropped the three-hole punch and made the cover more closely resemble a magazine, at no additional cost to state taxpayers. We continue to use soy ink and 100 percent recycled paper with 20 percent post-consumer content. Those with Internet connections will soon be able to view the *Session Weekly* on the Legislature's World Wide Web site (at URL: <http://www.leg.state.mn.us>), where a wealth of government information can now be found.

We hope you like our legislative newsmagazine. Please contact us if you have any suggestions for improving the *Session Weekly*, want answers to general questions, or need further help in following the Legislature. The House Public Information Office is in Room 175 of the State Office Building and the phone numbers are (612) 296-2146 or 1-800-657-3550. You can reach us by e-mail at session@house.leg.state.mn.us.

— The staff

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On the cover: Newly elected House Speaker Phil Carruthers showed off his big desk on the House floor to his sons, Rory, *left*, and Alex, *right*. Carruthers was elected speaker Jan. 7, the first day of the 1997 Legislative Session, by a vote of 70-64.

—Photo by Andrew Von Bank

Highlights

1997-98 Legislature . . .

Gavel sounds on opening of 80th Legislative Session

Even if there were no surprises at the opening of the 80th Legislative Session of the Minnesota House of Representatives, the visuals were top-notch. It's only natural to juxtapose the scene with the way it looked a hundred years ago, which allows the observer to come face-to-face with tradition. All legislators promised to uphold the United States and Minnesota constitutions and to faithfully discharge the duties of their offices. Their families and friends looked on proudly — for the most part. Various toddlers who refused to acknowledge the solemnity of the occasion had to be escorted off the floor.

As expected, Rep. Phil Carruthers, (DFL-Brooklyn Center) was elected Speaker of the House by a 70-64 party-line vote. Minority Leader Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon) collected all 64 Republican votes.

In nominating speeches, supporters praised Carruthers' desire to put the interests of the people of Minnesota above partisan politics; his willingness to learn about districts outside his own; the energy he brings to the office; his history as a friend to education and to rural Minnesota; his desire to reach out to diverse groups; and his abilities to compro-

mise and to listen. Rep. Willard Munger (DFL-Duluth) lauded the new speaker's record as majority leader, a position Carruthers held for the past three sessions, and for understanding the "importance of uniting forces, forgetting differences, and working for the benefit of all people of Minnesota."

During his acceptance speech, Carruthers acknowledged the new and returning members of the House, his family, and the "outstanding service" to the people of Minnesota by his predecessor, Rep. Irv Anderson (DFL-Int'l Falls). He said he hoped to continue the excellent relationship he shares with Minority Leader Sviggum. Carruthers noted that both political parties are strongly represented in Minnesota government, which indicates they "both deserve to serve the state of Minnesota."

While Minnesota can feel proud of its record as a national leader in terms of its economy, standard of living, and educational system, the Legislature has to change its recent course in order to continue that tradition, Carruthers said. "During the last session, we got so wrapped up in partisan fighting, we forgot why the citizens sent us here,"



Rep. Tim Pawlenty holds his 6-month-old daughter, Mara, as he scans some paperwork prior to the sounding of the gavel on the first day of the 1997 Legislative Session.

he said. "The people of Minnesota expect us to use good judgment. We must remember the voters' message regarding divided government. They want us to work together, Democrats and Republicans."

While the opening ceremony may have seemed standard to some participants, it seemed very new to Marjoleim DeConinck, an 18-year-old exchange student from Belgium who came as a guest of Rep. Ann Rest (DFL-New Hope). "It's so interesting to see how it all works. It's very different from my expectations. I've never been so involved with politics in my life," she said, adding that she suspects the process she witnessed in the Minnesota House of Representatives is very different from that in Belgium, with its parliament and monarchy.

Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls), now entering her 13th term, also noted something new. "When I started in 1972, there were six women — total — in both Houses. Today women make up about a third of the House



Rep. Rob Leighton takes the oath of office as his wife, Shawn, and sister, Kristin, hold his twin sons Taylor, left, and Tanner, right, during opening day ceremonies of the 1997 Legislative Session. First-term Rep. Joe Mullery, right, is Leighton's seatmate.



Steven Entenza, the 5-year-old son of Rep. Matt Entenza, uses a pair of binoculars from the House floor to get a closer look at the opening ceremonies of the 1997 Legislative Session.

members. You can clearly see the tenor has changed. That's a big difference."

One floor below, in the Capitol Rotunda, about 100 people protested against anticipated cuts in welfare benefits, given the recent passage of federal legislation. Members of the Minnesota Welfare Rights Coalition held signs that read: "Workfare isn't fair" and "No welfare cuts." Just outside the House chamber door, Jeff Hilgert held a sign that read: "Cut welfare for the rich, not the poor." "Do I really have to tell you all the ways the government subsidizes rich people?" he asked, naming tax breaks to corporations and wealthy individuals as examples. He added that several legislators shook his hand, but "they're all pretty busy today."

Before the gavel sounded and the newly elected Minnesota House of Representatives began the day's business, a moment of silence was observed for former Rep. Jim Rice (DFL-Mpls), a tireless proponent of labor and the arts who served 13 terms in the House. Rice died of natural causes on his 71st birthday last October following a party held in his honor at the Capitol.

— Celeste Riley



Elizabeth and Adam Giorgi, the niece and nephew of Rep. Tom Bakk, worked at his desk in the House chamber during opening ceremonies of the 1997 Legislative Session.



Kristin Workman studied some of the paperwork on her father's House chamber desk as her sister, Meredith, listened to speeches during the opening day of the 1997 Legislative Session. The girls are the daughters of Rep. Tom Workman.



Rep. Ann Rest carried her restless grandson, Jakob Asplund, from the House chamber after being sworn into office.

'Mild-mannered' Carruthers strives for consensus

Colleagues and Capitol reporters rarely describe new House Speaker Phil Carruthers in flashy terms. The 43-year-old representative from Brooklyn Center has been called mild-mannered, deliberate, a policy wonk, and a detail man. So what explains his steady rise into the leadership of the Minnesota House of Representatives?

"I like to try to build a consensus," Carruthers said.

Consensus-building may not be flashy, but it has made the new speaker a lot of friends on both sides of the aisle.

"I have the highest respect for Phil both as a legislator and as a person," said Rep. Charlie Weaver (R-Anoka). "He is a worthy ally and opponent. The best part about him is that you can engage him in battle and still go out . . . afterward."

Carruthers has promised to bring a new openness and spirit of cooperation to the speaker's post. "I want to increase participa-

committees to recommend assignments. This made the selection process more open and less personal than before. And in an unusual show of bipartisanship, the new speaker honored all of the Republican minority's committee requests. Official publications now even list a "lead Republican" for each committee.

"The overall level of cooperation is the best since I've been here," said Weaver. But that doesn't mean that Republicans regard Carruthers as a pushover, Weaver said. "We, as a caucus, do not take him lightly. He is even-tempered but not a wimp. He will be every bit as tough as [former Speaker] Irv Anderson, but with a different style."

Carruthers said he also wants to improve the Legislature's communication and outreach to the general public. "That means a lot of press contact and being open and accessible," he said. "It also means appearing on various public affairs broadcasts — cable

Anthony Village. Alex Carruthers first worked for Minneapolis-based Honeywell and later joined the University of Minnesota faculty. Marie Carruthers, Phil's mother, worked at a public library. The couple is now retired and lives in the Highland Park area of St. Paul.

Since receiving his law degree from the University of Minnesota, Carruthers enjoyed a successful career as an attorney, serving as a prosecutor for several western metro suburbs. He is divorced and has two children, Rory, 5 and Alex, 7.

To escape the rigors of Minnesota politics Carruthers turns to nature. "I enjoy all sorts of outdoor activities," he said. "Fishing, bird watching, camping, and playing sports with my sons."

Carruthers was first elected to the Legislature in 1986, participating in that year's DFL takeover of the House. In 1993, he became DFL majority leader.

In his 10 years in the Legislature, Carruthers has championed good-government reforms and people-protecting new laws. He said roughly 70 of his bills and amendments have become law. Measures he has pushed for include: Tougher sanctions against drunken driving, improvements to Minnesota's open meeting law, better protection for foster children, and consumer protection from fly-by-night roofing contractors.

The speaker plans to push for reform on a number of other issues this session including:

- Property Taxes: "We have an opportunity, given the budget surplus, to use transition dollars to phase in some changes to make property taxes more equitable."
- Welfare: Carruthers supports Governor Arne Carlson's proposal for a bipartisan task force to respond to the challenges posed by recent federal welfare reform legislation.
- Education: "We need to provide more accountability in public education and restore the funding that has been cut."
- Higher Education: "... An area that has been slighted in the budget process and that is vital to the strength of our state."

Another issue Carruthers anticipates coming forward, but clearly doesn't relish, is a proposed new stadium for the Minnesota Twins. "I'm sure that the stadium will come up, but I think it is important that it not dominate the session," he said.

— Steve Compton



Minnesota Supreme Court Associate Justice Sandra Gardebring administered the oath of office to new House Speaker Phil Carruthers Jan. 7.

tion by House members and get more members involved in decisions," he said.

The speaker offered a preview of this new style of leadership in the way he made committee appointments for the session. Past speakers often doled out committee assignments behind closed doors as political favors or punishments. In contrast, Carruthers appointed a 12-member DFL committee on

television, radio, and Almanac (a weekly public television news magazine program)."

The new speaker remembers listening to President John F. Kennedy's inaugural address when he was 7 years old and living with his parents in Canada. "Kennedy's call to public service inspired me," he said.

The following year his physicist father moved the family to Minnesota, settling in St.

Latest election brings greater diversity to the House

The Minnesota House of Representatives convened Jan. 7 with the balance of power virtually unchanged by the 1996 general election. The Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party (DFL) retained its majority and gained a single seat, leaving Republicans on the short end of a 70-64 partisan split. Nearly 95 percent of incumbents were re-elected.

Republicans usurped four vacant seats in far western Minnesota previously held by DFLers, but lost four incumbents in suburban districts north of the Twin Cities. A fifth incumbent Republican was ousted in District 15A, adding one to the DFL caucus strength.

But the overall numbers don't reflect the increased diversity of the House. A record number of women (39) took the oath of office. Torrey Westrom (R-Elbow Lake) is the first blind person to serve as a Minnesota state legislator. (*see related story, page 12*) Satveer Chaudhary (DFL-Fridley) is the first Asian Indian ever elected to office in Minnesota (and just the fourth person of Indian ethnicity elected to state or federal office

occupation among lawmakers. Business ranked second, with 21 lawmakers. In 1995, both occupations tied for first with 20 members each. Of the 22 members who listed educator as their primary occupation, 15 are DFLers and seven are Republicans. Of the 21 members who listed business as their primary occupation, 16 are Republicans and five are DFLers.

The number of farmers in the House continues to decline. For the third straight biennium, the House will convene with a new low for the number of farmers.

Members listing farming as their primary occupation slipped to 11 — down from 14 in 1995. That makes farming the fifth most common occupation in the House, where it also ranked two years ago. A decade ago the House convened with 27 farmers.

This downward trend seems to mirror agricultural statistics compiled by the U.S. Census Bureau which show that the number of farms nationwide are at its lowest point since before the Civil War and still declining.

As in previous years, the top five — educator, business, legislator, attorney, and farmer — remain quite a distance from sixth place, now held by consultants (6).

Lawmakers truly do come from all walks of life. Free-lance artist, accountant, physician, motivational speaker, and custom picture framer are among other diverse occupations listed.

The educational level of members continues its upward trend, with 74 percent of all House members holding at least a four-year college degree. That's up from 67 percent in 1995.

A total of 43 members hold a graduate degree, up from 37 in 1995, and 32 in 1993. Those with some graduate work rose to 16, up from 14 in 1995.

Currently, the largest class of lawmakers is composed of the 29 beginning their second term; 21 of the second-termers are Republicans and eight are DFLers. The next largest class is composed of the 25 members in their third term; 17 are Republicans and eight are DFLers.

Ranking third in size are those members entering their first term with 22 members. Twelve of the 22 are DFLers and 10 are Republicans.

Over 70 percent of House members (72.3) have served less than 10 years in the House. Of those, Republicans outnumber DFLers by a 3-2 margin.

Of the 37 members who have served more than 10 years, 32 of them are DFLers; five are Republicans. To date, no current Republican member has served more than 18 years in the House. Ten DFLers have served at least 20 years.

At 48.3, the average age of House members continues to rise. Since 1975, when the average stood at 40.8 years, the age has steadily increased to its present level. In 1995, the average age was 47.9 years; in 1991, 47.1.

In 1975, half the House members were no older than 38. Today, 102 members are over 40. Currently, the youngest House member is 22, and the oldest is 85.

— John Tschida



First-term Rep. Torrey Westrom, *second from left*, became the first blind person to be sworn into the Minnesota Legislature Jan. 7.

nationwide).

Twenty-two House lawmakers are newcomers to the Capitol, while another two — Reps. Geri Evans (DFL-New Brighton) and Kathleen Sekhon (DFL-Anoka) — reclaimed seats they lost in the 1994 election.

Also unchanged are the most common occupations listed by state lawmakers.

A total of 22 members listed educator as their primary job, making it the top-ranked

In third place this year are full-time legislators with 18 members, down from 19 in 1995. Of those, 15 are DFLers and three are Republicans.

Next, come attorneys with 17 members — down from 18 in 1995 — when the occupation also ranked fourth. There are actually 21 House members who have graduated from law school, but four lawmakers list other jobs as their primary occupation.

1997 House Profile

Membership				
	1997	1995	1993*	1991**
DFL	70	71	86	79
R	64	63	47	53
Men	95	102	101	103
Women	39	32	32	29

Age				
	1997	1995	1993*	1991**
21-30	5	6	5	6
31-40	27	24	28	23
41-50	45	51	50	44
51-60	43	34	34	26
61-70	11	16	15	12
over 71	3	3	1	1†
Average age	48.3	47.9	47.7	47†
†-Ages not available for 20 members				

Education				
	1997	1995	1993*	1991**
High School	5	5	6	7
Some College	19	24	20	18
4-yr. Undergraduate Degree	40	41	47	45
Some Graduate Work	16	14	16	17
Graduate Degree	43	37	32	29
Technical College	10	11	6	6
2-yr. Undergraduate Degree	1	—	—	3
No listing	—	2	6	7

* The 1993 session began with 133 members due to one resignation.

** The 1991 session began with 132 members due to two resignations.

Note: Statistics are effective as of Jan. 1 of each year.

Current Term				
	1997	1995	1993*	1991**
1	22	26	33	21
2	29	29	16	15
3	25	16	11	27
4	14	11	25	12
5	7	20	8	16
6	14	7	13	9
7	6	4	3	9
8	3	2	6	6
9	1	3	6	5
10	3	5	3	10
11	3	3	7	1
12	2	6	1	—
13	4	1	—	—
Other	(21) 1	(20) 1	(19) 1	(18) 1

Occupation				
	1997	1995	1993*	1991**
Educator	22	20	20	19
Business	21	20	14	20
Legislator	18	19	17	19
Attorney	17	18	16	18
Farming	11	14	16	20
Consultant	6	6	8	7
Homemaker	5	3	3	7
Communications	4	3	—	—
Government	3	3	—	4
Insurance	3	3	3	—
Retail	3	3	2	—
Retired	3	3	3	—
Real Estate	2	2	2	3
Trades	2	4	3	4
Other	14	13	27	11

Orientation retreat . . .

New legislators meet on ethics, lawmaking process

Minnesota's newest lawmakers were back in the classroom last month for a two-day introduction to life at the Legislature. The orientation retreat was held Dec. 11-13, 1996, at Riverwood Conference Center near Monticello, Minn.

The purpose of the conference was to help 22 newly elected lawmakers (and two returning members) make a smooth transition to the role of being a state legislator. The program included guest speakers, panel discussions, legislative workshops, and staff presentations.

Guest speakers included Dr. Robert Terry, head of the Terry Group and former professor of ethics and public policy at the University of Minnesota's Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs.

While not directly quoting Sophocles, who said "Nobody has a more sacred obligation to obey the law than those who make the law," Terry's message was clear: "The integrity of the office is so strong that if you mess up, everybody loses," he said. Public leaders,

he added, should be honest, forward-looking, and inspiring. Such characteristics, or lack thereof, affect the ever-changing barometer of the public's trust in government. Citizens, Terry said, also demand respect. They want to be heard and taken seriously. Other leadership traits of top concern, revealed by a survey of 17,000 people, included optimism and trust. Wrap all those ethical standards into one package, and you have the basis for sound public policy.

"These are values that need to be in place for making and keeping decisions over time," Terry said.

Other speakers included John Brandl, pro-

all of Minnesota, and not just the parochial interests of an individual legislative district.

Several legislative departments explained their role in the process for new members, and Chief Clerk of the House Ed Burdick led a nuts and bolts seminar on how a bill becomes a law.

Legislators also had a chance to "Meet the Press," with a panel discussion featuring Bill Werner, *left, in the above photo*, of radio's Minnesota News Network, Gene Lahammer, *right*, former political writer for the Associated Press, and Dennis Stauffer, *center*, former political reporter for KARE-11 News.



fessor at the University of Minnesota's Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, whose message was based on 12 years of legislative experience — eight as a Minnesota House member and four as a state senator. He encouraged lawmakers to remember they represent

Meet the newly elected 1997 House members



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Business: St. Paul
1536 Hewitt Ave. 55104 (612) 641-2444
Born: 11/24/46. **Married:** spouse Christine Jax, 1 child, 3 stepchildren. **Occupation:** Professor of Law. **Education:** BS, English, Mankato State University; MA, education, St. Thomas University; JD, Hamline University; LLM, New York University. **Elected:** 1996. **Term:** 1st.



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Born: 6/12/69. **Single.** **Occupation:** Business. **Education:** BA, political science, St. Olaf College; JD, University of Minnesota Law School. **Elected:** 1996. **Term:** 1st.



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7901 Computer Ave. 55435 (612) 832-3154
Family: 3 children. **Occupation:** Legislator/Homemaker/Market Research. **Education:** BA, drama, Stanford University; MFA, theatre, Wayne State University. **Elected:** 1996. **Term:** 1st.



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Born: 11/2/38. **Married:** spouse Laurie, 5 children.
Occupation: Business. **Education:** BS, psychology,
 Purdue University; MA, English, Purdue University.
Elected: 1996. **Term:** 1st.



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Born: 11/12/43. **Married:** spouse Patricia, 3 children.
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 BA, Mankato State University; MDiv, Luther Seminary.
Elected: 1996. **Term:** 1st.



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Education: BA, religion, Gustavus Adolphus College; MS,
 education (college student personnel administration),
 Indiana University-Bloomington. **Elected:** 1996.
Term: 1st.



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Born: 1/11/58. **Single. Occupation:** Farmer. **Education:**
 AA, Rochester Community College/University Wisconsin-
 River Falls. **Elected:** 1996. **Term:** 1st.



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 science, University of Minnesota-St. Paul. **Elected:** 1996.
Term: 1st.



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 Communications. **Education:** broadcasting, Brown Insti-
 tute. **Elected:** 1996. **Term:** 1st.



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Married: spouse Susan Askelin, 2 children. **Occupation:**
 Program Coordinator. **Education:** BA, education, College
 of St. Scholastica; graduate work, public administration,
 Hamline University. **Elected:** 1996. **Term:** 1st.



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Born: 3/17/49. **Married:** spouse Nancy, 3 children. **Occupation:** Business. **Education:** BA, business management, graduate work, Metropolitan State University. **Elected:** 1996.
Term: 1st.



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 *1142 Marnie Court 55119 (612) 738-7099
Business: same.
Born: 11/23/62. **Married:** Brien, 1 child. **Occupation:** Consultant. **Education:** BS, recreational administration, Arizona State University. **Elected:** 1996. **Term:** 1st.



Rifenberg, Michelle (R) 32B
 215 State Office Building 296-1069
E-mail: rep.michelle.rifenberg@house.leg.state.mn.us
Home: La Crescent
 *407 N. Fourth St. 55947 (507) 895-6390
Born: 1/30/57. **Married:** spouse Robert, 1 child. **Occupation:** Homemaker. **Education:** BS, biology, Viterbo College. **Elected:** 1996. **Term:** 1st.



Stang, Doug (R) 14B
 223 State Office Building 296-4373
E-mail: rep.doug.stang@house.leg.state.mn.us
Home: Cold Spring
 *Box 435 56320 (320) 243-7033
Born: 5/4/74. **Single.** **Occupation:** Legislator. **Education:** BA, government, St. John's University. **Elected:** 1996.
Term: 1st.



Seifert, Marty (R) 21A
 213 State Office Building 296-5374
E-mail: rep.marty.seifert@house.leg.state.mn.us
Home: Marshall
 *401 Mason St. 56258 (507) 537-9794
Business: Marshall
 401 S. Saratoga St. 56258 (507) 537-6920
Single. **Occupation:** Teacher. **Education:** BA, political science, Southwest State University-Marshall. **Elected:** 1996.
Term: 1st.



Tingelstad, Kathy (R) 50B
 295 State Office Building 296-5369
E-mail: rep.kathy.tingelstad@house.leg.state.mn.us
Home: Andover
 *13636 Marigold St. N.W. 55304 (612) 421-2000
Business: same.
Born: 3/21/58. **Married:** spouse Merle, 2 children. **Occupation:** Business. **Education:** BA, communications, University of Minnesota; MBA Certificate, organization management, University of St. Thomas. **Elected:** 1996. **Term:** 1st.



Sekhon, Kathleen (DFL) 50A
 *451 State Office Building 296-2439
E-mail: rep.kathleen.sekhon@house.leg.state.mn.us
Home: Anoka
 6619 189th Lane N.W. 55303 (612) 753-2796
Born: 5/19/48. **Married:** spouse David, 3 children. **Occupation:** Educator. **Education:** BS, elementary education, University of Minnesota-Duluth. **Elected:** 1992. **Term:** 2nd (non-consecutive).



Westfall, Robert L. "Bob" (R) 9B
 225 State Office Building 296-6829
E-mail: rep.bob.westfall@house.leg.state.mn.us
Home: Rothsay
 *Route 2, Box 42 56579 (218) 867-2621
Business: same.
Born: 3/6/35. **Married:** spouse Darlene, 4 children. **Occupation:** Farmer. **Education:** High School. **Elected:** 1996.
Term: 1st.



Skare, Gail (DFL) 4A
 431 State Office Building 296-5516
E-mail: rep.gail.skare@house.leg.state.mn.us
Home: Bemidji
 *3003 Cedar Lane N.W. 56601 (218) 751-2092
Born: 4/29/39. **Married:** spouse Elmo, 5 children. **Occupation:** Homemaker. **Education:** Bemidji State University. **Elected:** 1996. **Term:** 1st.



Westrom, Torrey (R) 13A
 273 State Office Building 296-4929
E-mail: rep.torrey.westrom@house.leg.state.mn.us
Home: Elbow Lake
 *118 First Ave. 56531 (218) 685-6266
Business: same.
Single. **Occupation:** Business. **Education:** BA, political science, Bemidji State University. **Elected:** 1996. **Term:** 1st.

New members . . .

Seifert brings humility, common sense to Capitol

After waving in 16 parades in four months and hand-shaking at a pork feed, chicken feed, beef feed, and even a smelt feed, Marty



Rep. Marty Seifert

Seifert of Marshall, Minn., can call himself a newly elected member of the Minnesota House of Representatives.

The freshman who represents District 21A isn't complaining — those venues are among the best ways to meet voters in southwestern Minnesota.

Seifert, a 24-year-old high school social studies teacher, said he'll reserve complaints for the Legislature — particularly on issues such as the state's handling of schools.

Unlike a majority of House lawmakers who are educators (15 of 22 are DFLers), Seifert ran as a Republican and considers himself the voice of many rank-and-file teachers who choose not to get involved in the legislative process or a teachers' union. They spend their time working hard to reach their students and want St. Paul to relinquish some control over their classrooms, he said.

"Bureaucratic and messy," are the words he chooses to describe the state's new graduation standards for high school students. The standards call for passing basic skills tests in math, reading, and writing before a diploma is issued. They also call for success in what is called the "Profile of Learning," a broad analysis of each student's overall performance in a variety of other subjects such as geography and science.

The standards only serve to give state officials a "reason to run around the state and say they're doing good," Seifert said, adding that decision makers in St. Paul need to stop shoving mandates at local schools.

Although not the youngest member of the Minnesota Legislature, Seifert did hear comments about his age on the campaign trail. Some asked how a 24-year-old who hasn't had time to learn about life could be entrusted to know anything about running the state.

But Seifert, who replaces retiring eight-year veteran Jim Girard, had a ready response. Sure, other people may have "lots of big degrees, lots of important jobs, but that doesn't stand up to an ounce of common sense."

He said he plans to remain teaching at Marshall Senior High School when he is not in session at the Legislature. Although he refused to discuss his candidacy with his students during the campaign (to avoid any appearance of impropriety) and even imposed a "gag rule" in his classroom, he knows he had an impact. "Some kids who had never even picked up a newspaper were reading and paying more attention to news and current events," he said.

Seifert's students are still a little amazed that one of their teachers is a lawmaker. He said his successful campaign taught students a valuable lesson: "Hard work and integrity matter."

He learned that lesson from his parents, Norbert and Rita. "If everyone lived their

lives the way my parents do, we wouldn't have the problems we do."

His parents, he said, don't believe in tooting their own horn but in getting involved in the community, whether that means mowing the church lawn or sewing clothes for the needy. Seifert himself grew up on a farm.

"I was born into a family that . . . would [make people] think I should be a hillbilly," he said. One of six boys, his mother is a former school teacher; his father, a hog and grain farmer.

Seifert grew up reading discarded encyclopedias and almanacs from garage sales and later collected antique farm machinery and seed corn bags.

When his time in the Legislature is said and done, Seifert said he wants to be remembered as a promoter of southwestern Minnesota who stood up for the district rather than "feathering his own nest."

"I have to practice what I preach to my kids," he said.

— K. Darcy Hanzlik

District 21A

1996 population: 33,377

Largest city: Marshall

Counties: Lyon, Redwood, Yellow Medicine

Location: southwestern Minnesota

Top concern: "Getting our money's worth out of state government. We see a lot of money going to St. Paul but don't see much in return. People feel like the Twin Cities don't even know we exist out here."

— Rep. Marty Seifert



Opening day at the Legislature is reserved for pomp and ceremony, but good humor is often in large supply as well. In seconding the nomination of Edward Burdick for Chief Clerk of the House on Jan. 7, House Minority Leader Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon) said he didn't want to draw undue attention to Burdick's age as he enters his 55th year in service to the Minnesota Legislature. Still,

Sviggum drew chuckles by pointing out that in 1941 Joe DiMaggio had not completed his record hitting streak, and Rep. Willard Munger (DFL-Duluth), the House's elder statesman, hadn't begun the first of his 21 non-consecutive terms in the House.

If legislators succeed in reforming Minnesota's complex property tax code, Rep. Andy Dawkins (DFL-St. Paul) could well be sporting a new look by the end of the session. At the Taxes Committee's initial meeting Jan. 9, representatives got a crash course on

Minnesota's taxation system and heard Dawkins, with his flowing locks tied back into a neat ponytail, reiterate his pledge to let his hair grow until the property tax is no longer the state's number one source of revenue.

"I think we can accomplish that this session," Dawkins said, grinning.

"But will you lose your strength if we do?" Rep. Dee Long (DFL-Mpls), who chairs the committee, asked.

"I hope not," Dawkins answered.

New members . . .

Westrom wants more jobs, better use of dollars

The Capitol building isn't as big as it once was, at least in the eyes of one lawmaker. And legislators don't seem so "super human" anymore.



Rep. Torrey Westrom

It's not that newly elected Rep. Torrey Westrom has grown cynical. He's grown up.

When he first visited the State Capitol as a young teen, Westrom sat in the gallery high above the House floor and watched the players below.

"I thought maybe I could be one of those pages on the floor but never a lawmaker," he said. "They seemed intangible."

The 23-year-old Republican from Elbow Lake, Minn., was mistaken. Today he represents District 13A in west central Minnesota, a seat formerly held for 12 years by DFL Rep. Chuck Brown of Appleton, Minn.

Much has been said and written about Westrom because he is believed to be the first blind House member in state history.

"I am a representative. Blindness is an incidental," he said.

Westrom, blinded at 14 by a car accident on his parents' dairy farm, understands that he is expected to be a role model for people with blindness. But he hopes people see him as a lawmaker first. "Everybody is a role

model . . . It goes with all legislators."

Unknown to Westrom until recently, a role model helped pave the newcomer's way into politics. Minnesota was home to Thomas Schall, a blind U.S. House and Senate member from 1915 to 1935.

Schall, a lawyer, came from western Minnesota. With the help of his wife, who read to him regularly, and with the use of a guide dog, Schall was able to keep up his law practice, which eventually led to a lengthy political life. He helped pass legislation allowing guide dogs on public transportation and in public places.

Westrom, a graduate in political science from Bemidji State University, won't be using a dog during the legislative session. Already, he has been studying the hallways, stairwells, and nooks and crannies of the State Office Building and the Capitol. During session, he will have his own legislative assistant to help read written materials to him.

But the issues on Westrom's mind don't necessarily focus on blindness. Instead, he wants to save taxpayer dollars and create jobs in rural Minnesota.

He is concerned about cuts to the base funding of local schools and wants to attract jobs to rural Minnesota that involve the private sector — not a state jobs program.

Westrom also is concerned about prison reform. In his district sits Appleton, home to

the state's only privately run prison. It costs that prison about half of what it costs the state to incarcerate an inmate.

Unlike some lawmakers, no particular issue drew Westrom into the race for a House seat. "So many areas seemed ridiculous," he said, such as "Why is the government even talking about building a stadium . . . and Why require truckers to keep log books when no one can verify them anyway?"

Westrom's love for political debate and dialogue prompted him to run. The trick to good lawmaking, he said, is "to put people at ease . . . [about whether] you know what you're talking about."

— K. Darcy Hanzlik

District 13A

1996 Population: 32,755

Largest city: Morris

Counties: Big Stone, Douglas, Grant, Pope, Stevens, Swift, Traverse

Location: west central Minnesota

Top concern: "Declining population. It spills over to fewer kids in the schools, fewer families spending money in main street businesses. It's a spiraling downturn effect and calls for the need for economic development in the area and good paying jobs."

— Rep. Torrey Westrom

Congress has granted President Clinton a new power, but it's one Minnesota governors have enjoyed for more than a century.

Republicans in the 104th Congress kept a 1994 campaign promise to pass the line-item veto, and the president signed the measure into law last year.

Minnesota is one of 43 states where governors have line-item veto authority. In most states, including this one, that authority is limited to spending bills.

An amendment to the state constitution granted Minnesota governors line-item veto authority in 1876. Voters at the polls for a presidential election that year

Do you know?

ratified the amendment by a margin of roughly 10-to-1. John S. Pillsbury, Minnesota's eighth governor, was the first to have use of the line-item veto.

At the same time Minnesotans were embracing the line-item veto, a proposal to give the president similar authority was sputtering.

President Ulysses S. Grant in 1876 offered the first proposal to give the president line-item veto power. Grant's proposal failed, and, since then, more than 200 bills and proposed constitu-

tional amendments with similar goals met with defeat in Congress.

But a new federal law effective Jan. 1, 1997, provides the president line-item veto authority with respect to appropriations and limited tax benefits.

Proponents of the line-item veto long have argued that it reduces wasteful spending, mainly the so-called "pork barrel" projects considered to be devices for lawmakers to bolster support in their home districts.

Opponents claim the line-item veto threatens the balance of power by shifting authority away from the legislative branch to the executive branch.

Minnesota House of Representatives 1997 Members

Unofficial list as of January 7, 1997

District/Member/Party	Room*	Phone (612) 296-	District/Member/Party	Room*	Phone (612) 296-
45A Abrams, Ron (R)	209	9934	40A Mahon, Mark P. (DFL)	401	7158
19B Anderson, Bruce (R)	281	5063	55A Mares, Harry (R)	239	5363
3A Anderson, Irv (DFL)	563	4936	65B Mariani, Carlos (DFL)	403	9714
6A Bakke, Thomas (DFL)	575	2190	57B Marko, Sharon (DFL)	439	3135
10B Bettermann, Hilda (R)	243	4317	55B McCollum, Betty (DFL)	501	1188
59A Biernat, Len (DFL)	429	4219	36B McElroy, Dan (R)	259	4212
30B Bishop, Dave (R)	343	0573	54A McGuire, Mary Jo (DFL)	379	4342
25B Boudreau, Lynda (R)	327	8237	39B Milbert, Bob (DFL)	579	4192
30A Bradley, Fran (R)	233	9249	35A Molnau, Carol (R)	287	8872
53B Broecker, Sherry (R)	321	7153	21B Mulder, Richard (R)	283	4336
46B Carlson, Lyndon R. (DFL)	365	4255	58A Mullery, Joe (DFL)	359	4262
47B Carruthers, Phil (DFL)	463	3709	7A Munger, Willard (DFL)	479	4282
52A Chaudhary, Satveer (DFL)	507	4331	8A Murphy, Mary (DFL)	557	2676
61A Clark, Karen (DFL)	503	0294	20A Ness, Robert "Bob" (R)	289	4344
38A Commers, Tim (R)	217	3533	10A Nornes, Bud (R)	357	4946
11A Daggett, Roxann (R)	253	4293	2B Olson, Edgar (DFL)	565	4265
31B Davids, Gregory M. (R)	371	9278	19A Olson, Mark (R)	323	4237
65A Dawkins, Andy (DFL)	409	5158	16A Opatz, Joe (DFL)	473	6612
14A Dehler, Steve (R)	203	7808	60B Orfield, Myron (DFL)	521	9281
51A Delmont, Mike (DFL)	433	4226	29B Osskopp, Mike (R)	329	9236
29A Dempsey, Jerry (R)	251	8635	66A Osthoff, Tom (DFL)	585	4224
24A Dorn, John (DFL)	571	3248	11B Otremba, Ken (DFL)	545	3201
64A Entenza, Matt (DFL)	421	8799	37A Ozment, Dennis (R)	317	4306
42A Erhardt, Ron (R)	237	4363	42B Paulsen, Erik (R)	221	7449
52B Evans, Geri (DFL)	413	0141	38B Pawlenty, Tim (R)	231	4128
67A Farrell, Jim (DFL)	491	4277	64B Paymar, Michael (DFL)	529	4199
1B Finseth, Tim (R)	377	9918	32A Pelowski Jr., Gene (DFL)	549	8637
44A Folliard, Betty (DFL)	523	3964	13B Peterson, Doug (DFL)	569	4228
63B Garcia, Edwina (DFL)	417	5375	39A Pugh, Thomas (DFL)	583	6828
9A Goodno, Kevin (R)	369	5515	46A Rest, Ann H. (DFL)	485	4176
62A Greenfield, Lee (DFL)	381	0173	28A Reuter, Doug (R)	241	5368
54B Greiling, Mindy (DFL)	553	5387	44B Rhodes, Jim (R)	309	9889
26A Gunther, Bob (R)	337	3240	32B Rifenberg, Michelle (R)	215	1069
48A Haas, Bill (R)	201	5513	18A Rostberg, Jim (R)	311	5364
22B Harder, Elaine (R)	277	5373	5A Rukavina, Tom (DFL)	471	0170
12A Hasskamp, Kris (DFL)	453	4333	17B Schumacher, Leslie (DFL)	517	5377
66B Hausman, Alice (DFL)	449	3824	41A Seagren, Alice (R)	315	7803
8B Hilty, Bill (DFL)	525	4308	21A Seifert, Marty (R)	213	5374
56A Holsten, Mark (R)	345	3018	50A Sekhon, Kathleen (DFL)	451	2439
6B Huntley, Thomas (DFL)	533	2228	4A Skare, Gail (DFL)	431	5516
7B Jaros, Mike (DFL)	559	4246	62B Skoglund, Wes (DFL)	477	4330
58B Jefferson, Richard H. (DFL)	577	8659	57A Slawik, Nora (DFL)	551	7807
18B Jennings, Loren (DFL)	591	0518	34A Smith, Steve (R)	353	9188
48B Johnson, Alice M. (DFL)	539	5510	3B Solberg, Loren (DFL)	445	2365
24B Johnson, Ruth (DFL)	567	7065	33B Stanek, Rich (R)	351	5502
15A Juhnke, Al (DFL)	531	6206	14B Stang, Doug (R)	223	4373
59B Kahn, Phyllis (DFL)	367	4257	28B Sviggum, Steven A. (R)	267	2273
26B Kalis, Henry J. (DFL)	543	4240	51B Swenson, Doug (R)	255	4124
35B Kelso, Becky (DFL)	415	1072	23B Swenson, Howard (R)	331	8634
20B Kielkucki, Tony (R)	313	1534	43B Sykora, Barbara (R)	389	4315
4B Kinkel, Anthony G. "Tony" (DFL)	537	2451	50B Tingelstad, Kathy (R)	295	5369
40B Knight, Kevin (R)	229	4218	5B Tomassoni, David (DFL)	593	0172
16B Knobloch, Jim (R)	207	6316	36A Tompkins, Eileen (R)	245	5506
17A Koppendrayner, LeRoy (R)	247	6746	67B Trimble, Steve (DFL)	597	4201
49B Koskinen, Luanne (DFL)	411	4231	25A Tuma, John (R)	301	4229
27A Kraus, Ron (R)	279	8216	1A Tunheim, Jim (DFL)	509	9635
53A Krinkie, Phil (R)	303	2907	34B Van Dellen, H. Todd (R)	291	5511
15B Kubly, Gary W. (DFL)	423	4346	23A Vickerman, Barb (R)	211	9303
31A Kuisle, William (R)	375	4378	63A Wagenius, Jean (DFL)	437	4200
56B Larsen, Peg (R)	307	4244	49A Weaver, Charlie (R)	261	1729
27B Leighton, Rob (DFL)	527	4193	61B Wejcman, Linda (DFL)	407	7152
45B Leppik, Peggy (R)	393	7026	12B Wenzel, Stephen G. (DFL)	487	4247
2A Lieder, Bernie (DFL)	515	5091	9B Westfall, Robert L. "Bob" (R)	225	6829
33A Lindner, Arlon (R)	227	7806	13A Westrom, Torrey (R)	273	4929
60A Long, Dee (DFL)	443	0171	22A Winter, Ted (DFL)	459	5505
47A Luther, Darlene (DFL)	581	3751	41B Wolf, Ken (R)	387	5185
37B Macklin, Bill (R)	349	6926	43A Workman, Tom (R)	335	5066

Note: Room numbers are subject to change.

*All rooms are in the State Office Building, St. Paul, MN 55155

Minnesota Senate 1997 Members

District/Member/Party	Room*	Phone (612) 296-	District/Member/Party	Room*	Phone (612) 296-
66 Anderson, Ellen R. (DFL)	G-24 Cap.	5537	8 Lourey, Becky (DFL)	G-9 Cap.	0293
26 Beckman, Tracy L. (DFL)	124G Cap.	5713	54 Marty, John (DFL)	326 Cap.	5645
41 Belanger Jr., William V. (R)	113 SOB	5975	39 Metzen, James P. (DFL)	303 Cap.	4370
13 Berg, Charles A. (Ind.)	G-95 SOB	5094	2 Moe, Roger D. (DFL)	208 Cap.	2577
61 Berglin, Linda (DFL)	309 Cap.	4261	32 Morse, Steven (DFL)	G-24 Cap.	5649
48 Betzold, Don (DFL)	306 Cap.	2556	29 Murphy, Steve (DFL)	301 Cap.	4264
64 Cohen, Richard J. (DFL)	317 Cap.	5931	25 Neuville, Thomas M. (R)	123 SOB	1279
28 Day, Dick (R)	117 SOB	9457	52 Novak, Steven G. (DFL)	322 Cap.	4334
20 Dille, Steve (R)	103 SOB	4131	43 Oliver, Edward C. (R)	121 SOB	4837
14 Fischbach, Michelle L. (R)	151 SOB	2084	34 Olson, Gen (R)	119 SOB	1282
62 Flynn, Carol (DFL)	120 Cap.	4274	19 Ourada, Mark (R)	145 SOB	5981
49 Foley, Leo T. (DFL)	G-9 Cap.	4154	65 Pappas, Sandra L. (DFL)	120 Cap.	1802
23 Frederickson, Dennis R. (R)	139 SOB	8138	37 Pariseau, Pat (R)	109 SOB	5252
50 Hanson, Paula E. (DFL)	328 Cap.	3219	27 Piper, Pat (DFL)	G-9 Cap.	9248
58 Higgins, Linda I. (DFL)	227 Cap.	9246	59 Pogemiller, Lawrence J. (DFL)	235 Cap.	7809
24 Hottinger, John C. (DFL)	120 Cap.	6153	57 Price, Leonard R. (DFL)	235 Cap.	7-8060
5 Janezich, Jerry R. (DFL)	328 Cap.	8017	63 Ranum, Jane B. (DFL)	306 Cap.	7-8061
40 Johnson, Dave (DFL)	111 Cap.	9261	45 Robertson, Martha R. (R)	125 SOB	4314
15 Johnson, Dean E. (R)	147 SOB	3826	35 Robling, Claire A. (R)	132D SOB	4123
6 Johnson, Douglas J. (DFL)	205 Cap.	8881	53 Runbeck, Linda (R)	107 SOB	1253
18 Johnson, Janet B. (DFL)	G-9 Cap.	5419	11 Sams, Dallas C. (DFL)	328 Cap.	7-8063
46 Junge, Ember Reichgott (DFL)	205 Cap.	2889	12 Samuelson, Don (DFL)	124 Cap.	4875
44 Kelley, Steve (DFL)	321 Cap.	7-8065	31 Scheevel, Kenric J. (R)	129 SOB	3903
67 Kelly, Randy C. (DFL)	323 Cap.	5285	47 Scheid, Linda (DFL)	317 Cap.	8869
30 Kiscaden, Sheila M. (R)	135 SOB	4848	7 Solon, Sam G. (DFL)	303 Cap.	4188
16 Kleis, Dave (R)	143 SOB	6455	60 Spear, Allan H. (DFL)	120 Cap.	4191
36 Knutson, David L. (R)	133 SOB	4120	17 Stevens, Dan (R)	105 SOB	8075
51 Krentz, Jane (DFL)	235 Cap.	7061	1 Stumpf, LeRoy A. (DFL)	G-24 Cap.	8660
56 Laidig, Gary W. (R)	141 SOB	4351	4 Ten Eyck, David J. (DFL)	G-24F Cap.	4913
9 Langseth, Keith (DFL)	122 Cap.	3205	42 Terwilliger, Roy (R)	115 SOB	6238
10 Larson, Cal (R)	153 SOB	5655	22 Vickerman, Jim (DFL)	226 Cap.	5650
21 Lesewski, Arlene J. (R)	131 SOB	4125	38 Wiener, Deanna L. (DFL)	303 Cap.	7-8073
3 Lessard, Bob (DFL)	111 Cap.	4136	55 Wiger, Charles W. (DFL)	325 Cap.	6820
33 Limmer, Warren (R)	127 SOB	2159			

*Capitol or State Office Building, St. Paul, MN 55155

Minnesota House and Senate Membership

1 A • Rep. Jim Tunheim-DFL B • Rep. Tim Finseth-R Sen. LeRoy A. Stumpf-DFL	15 A • Rep. Al Juhnke-DFL B • Rep. Gary W. Kubly-DFL Sen. Dean E. Johnson-R	29 A • Rep. Jerry Dempsey-R B • Rep. Mike Osskopp-R Sen. Steve Murphy-DFL	43 A • Rep. Tom Workman-R B • Rep. Barbara Sykora-R Sen. Edward C. Oliver-R	57 A • Rep. Nora Slawik-DFL B • Rep. Sharon Marko-DFL Sen. Leonard R. Price-DFL	
2 A • Rep. Bernie Lieder-DFL B • Rep. Edgar Olson-DFL Sen. Roger D. Moe-DFL	16 A • Rep. Joe Opatz-DFL B • Rep. Jim Knoblach-R Sen. Dave Kleis-R	30 A • Rep. Fran Bradley-R B • Rep. Dave Bishop-R Sen. Sheila M. Kiscaden-R	44 A • Rep. Betty Follard-DFL B • Rep. Jim Rhodes-R Sen. Steve Kelley-DFL	58 A • Rep. Joe Mullery-DFL B • Rep. Richard H. Jefferson-DFL Sen. Linda I. Higgins-DFL	
3 A • Rep. Irv Anderson-DFL B • Rep. Loren Solberg-DFL Sen. Bob Lessard-DFL	17 A • Rep. LeRoy Koppendrayer-R B • Rep. Leslie Schumacher-DFL Sen. Dan Stevens-R	31 A • Rep. William Kuisle-R B • Rep. Gregory M. Davids-R Sen. Kenric J. Scheevel-R	45 A • Rep. Ron Abrams-R B • Rep. Peggy Leppik-R Sen. Martha R. Robertson-R	59 A • Rep. Len Biernat-DFL B • Rep. Phyllis Kahn-DFL Sen. Lawrence J. Pogemiller-DFL	
4 A • Rep. Gail Skare-DFL B • Rep. Anthony G. "Tony" Kinkel-DFL Sen. David J. Ten Eyck-DFL	18 A • Rep. Jim Rostberg-R B • Rep. Loren Jennings-DFL Sen. Janet B. Johnson-DFL	32 A • Rep. Gene Pelowski Jr.-DFL B • Rep. Michelle Rifenberg-R Sen. Steven Morse-DFL	46 A • Rep. Ann H. Rest-DFL B • Rep. Lyndon R. Carlson-DFL Sen. Ember Reichgott Junge-DFL	60 A • Rep. Dee Long-DFL B • Rep. Myron Orfield-DFL Sen. Allan H. Spear-DFL	
5 A • Rep. Tom Rukavina-DFL B • Rep. David Tomassoni-DFL Sen. Jerry R. Janezich-DFL	19 A • Rep. Mark Olson-R B • Rep. Bruce Anderson-R Sen. Mark Ourada-R	33 A • Rep. Arlon Lindner-R B • Rep. Rich Stanek-R Sen. Warren Limmer-R	47 A • Rep. Darlene Luther-DFL B • Rep. Phil Carruthers-DFL Sen. Linda Scheid-DFL	61 A • Rep. Karen Clark-DFL B • Rep. Linda Wejzman-DFL Sen. Linda Berglin-DFL	
6 A • Rep. Thomas Bakke-DFL B • Rep. Thomas Huntley-DFL Sen. Douglas J. Johnson-DFL	20 A • Rep. Robert "Bob" Ness-R B • Rep. Tony Kielkucki-R Sen. Steve Dille-R	34 A • Rep. Steve Smith-R B • Rep. H. Todd Van Dellen-R Sen. Gen Olson-R	48 A • Rep. Bill Haas-R B • Rep. Alice M. Johnson-DFL Sen. Don Betzold-DFL	62 A • Rep. Lee Greenfield-DFL B • Rep. Wesley J. "Wes" Skoglund-DFL Sen. Carol Flynn-DFL	
7 A • Rep. Willard Munger-DFL B • Rep. Mike Jaros-DFL Sen. Sam G. Solon-DFL	21 A • Rep. Marty Seifert-R B • Rep. Richard Mulder-R Sen. Arlene J. Lesewski-R	35 A • Rep. Carol Molnar-R B • Rep. Becky Kelso-DFL Sen. Claire A. Robling-R	49 A • Rep. Charlie Weaver-R B • Rep. Luanne Koskinen-DFL Sen. Leo T. Foley-DFL	63 A • Rep. Jean Wagenius-DFL B • Rep. Edwina Garcia-DFL Sen. Jane B. Ranum-DFL	
8 A • Rep. Mary Murphy-DFL B • Rep. Bill Hilty-DFL Sen. Becky Lourey-DFL	22 A • Rep. Ted Winter-DFL B • Rep. Elaine Harder-R Sen. Jim Vickerman-DFL	36 A • Rep. Eileen Tompkins-R B • Rep. Dan McElroy-R Sen. David L. Knutson-R	50 A • Rep. Kathleen Sekhon-DFL B • Rep. Kathy Tingelstad-R Sen. Paula E. Hanson-DFL	64 A • Rep. Matt Entenza-DFL B • Rep. Michael Paymar-DFL Sen. Richard J. Cohen-DFL	
9 A • Rep. Kevin Goodno-R B • Rep. Robert L. "Bob" Westfall-R Sen. Keith Langseth-DFL	23 A • Rep. Barb Vickerman-R B • Rep. Howard Swenson-R Sen. Dennis R. Frederickson-R	37 A • Rep. Dennis Ozment-R B • Rep. Bill Macklin-R Sen. Pat Pariseau-R	51 A • Rep. Mike Delmont-DFL B • Rep. Doug Swenson-R Sen. Jane Krentz-DFL	65 A • Rep. Andy Dawkins-DFL B • Rep. Carlos Mariani-DFL Sen. Sandra L. Pappas-DFL	
10 A • Rep. Bud Nornes-R B • Rep. Hilda Beltermann-R Sen. Cal Larson-R	24 A • Rep. John Dorn-DFL B • Rep. Ruth Johnson-DFL Sen. John C. Hottinger-DFL	38 A • Rep. Tim Commers-R B • Rep. Tim Pawlenty-R Sen. Deanna L. Wiener-DFL	52 A • Rep. Satveer Chaudhary-DFL B • Rep. Geri Evans-DFL Sen. Steven G. Novak-DFL	66 A • Rep. Tom Osthoff-DFL B • Rep. Alice Hausman-DFL Sen. Ellen R. Anderson-DFL	
11 A • Rep. Roxann Daggett-R B • Rep. Ken Otremba-DFL Sen. Dallas C. Sams-DFL	25 A • Rep. John Tuma-R B • Rep. Lynda Boudreau-R Sen. Thomas M. Neuville-R	39 A • Rep. Thomas Pugh-DFL B • Rep. Bob Milbert-DFL Sen. James P. Metzen-DFL	53 A • Rep. Phil Krinkle-R B • Rep. Sherry Broecker-R Sen. Linda Runbeck-R	67 A • Rep. Jim Farrell-DFL B • Rep. Steve Trimble-DFL Sen. Randy C. Kelly-DFL	
12 A • Rep. Kris Hasskamp-DFL B • Rep. Stephen G. Wenzel-DFL Sen. Don Samuelson-DFL	26 A • Rep. Bob Gunther-R B • Rep. Henry J. Kalis-DFL Sen. Tracy L. Beckman-DFL	40 A • Rep. Mark P. Mahon-DFL B • Rep. Kevin Knight-R Sen. Dave Johnson-DFL	54 A • Rep. Mary Jo McGuire-DFL B • Rep. Mindy Greiling-DFL Sen. John Marty-DFL	Unofficial list as of January 7, 1997	
13 A • Rep. Torrey Westrom-R B • Rep. Doug Peterson-DFL Sen. Charles A. Berg-Ind.	27 A • Rep. Ron Kraus-R B • Rep. Robert Leighton-DFL Sen. Pat Piper-DFL	41 A • Rep. Alice Seagren-R B • Rep. Ken Wolf-R Sen. William V. Belanger Jr.-R	55 A • Rep. Harry Mares-R B • Rep. Betty McCollum-DFL Sen. Charles W. Wiger-DFL	This document can be made available in alternative formats by calling the House at 612-296-2146 voice, 612-296-9896 TTY or the Senate at 612-296-0504 voice or 612-296-0250 TTY	
14 A • Rep. Steve Dehler-R B • Rep. Doug Stang-R Sen. Michelle Fischbach L.-R	28 A • Rep. Doug Reuter-R B • Rep. Steven A. Sviggum-R Sen. Dick Day-R	42 A • Rep. Ron Erhardt-R B • Rep. Erik Paulsen-R Sen. Roy Terwilliger-R	56 A • Rep. Mark Holsten-R B • Rep. Peg Larsen-R Sen. Gary W. Laidig-R		

Name Pronunciation Guide

1997 Minnesota House of Representatives

Abrams, Ron		Johnson, Ruth		Ozment, Dennis	AHZ-ment
Anderson, Bruce		Juhnke, Al	JUNK-ee	Paulsen, Erik	
Anderson, Irv		Kahn, Phyllis		Pawlenty, Tim	paw-LENTY
Bakk, Thomas	BOCK	Kalis, Henry J.	KAH-liss	Paymar, Michael	
Bettermann, Hilda		Kelso, Becky		Pelowski Jr., Gene	
Biernat, Len	BEER-nat	Kielkucki, Tony	keel-COO-ski	Peterson, Doug	
Bishop, Dave		Kinkel, Anthony G. "Tony"		Pugh, Thomas	PEW
Boudreau, Lynda	Boo-DROH	Knight, Kevin		Rest, Ann H.	
Bradley, Fran		Knoblach, Jim	NOB-lock	Reuter, Doug	ROOT-er
Broecker, Sherry	BROKE-er	Koppendrayner, LeRoy	COPE-en-dryer	Rhodes, Jim	
Carlson, Lyndon R.		Koskinen, Luanne		Rifenberg, Michelle	RIFF-en-berg
Carruthers, Phil	ka-RUH-thers	Kraus, Ron	CROUSE	Rostberg, Jim	
Chaudhary, Satveer		Krinkie, Phil		Rukavina, Tom	roo-ka-VEEN-a
	SUT-veer CHAW-dree	Kubly, Gary W.	KOO-blee	Schumacher, Leslie	SHOE-mocker
Clark, Karen		Kuisle, William	KWEEZ-lee	Seagren, Alice	
Commers, Tim	COMM-erz	Larsen, Peg		Seifert, Marty	SY-fert
Daggett, Roxann		Leighton, Rob	LAY-ton	Sekhon, Kathleen	SEEK-on
Davids, Gregory M.		Leppik, Peggy		Skare, Gail	SCAR-ee
Dawkins, Andy		Lieder, Bernie	LEED-er	Skoglund, Wes	SKOHG-lund
Dehler, Steve	DAY-ler	Lindner, Arlon		Slawik, Nora	SLAH-wick
Delmont, Mike		Long, Dee		Smith, Steve	
Dempsey, Jerry		Luther, Darlene		Solberg, Loren	
Dorn, John		Macklin, Bill		Stanek, Rich	
Entenza, Matt		Mahon, Mark P.	MAY-on	Stang, Doug	
Erhardt, Ron	AIR-hart	Mares, Harry	MAIRS	Sviggum, Steven A.	SWIG-um
Evans, Geri		Mariani, Carlos	mar-ee-AHN-ee	Swenson, Doug	
Farrell, Jim		Marko, Sharon		Swenson, Howard	
Finseth, Tim		McCollum, Betty	mah-CALL-um	Sykora, Barbara	sick-OR-ah
Folliard, Betty	FOLLY-ard	McElroy, Dan	MACK-el-roy	Tingelstad, Kathy	
Garcia, Edwina	gar-SEE-ah	McGuire, Mary Jo		Tomassoni, David	tom-a-SONY
Goodno, Kevin		Milbert, Bob		Tompkins, Eileen	
Greenfield, Lee		Molnau, Carol	MOLE-now	Trimble, Steve	
Greiling, Mindy	GRY-ling	Mulder, Richard		Tuma, John	TOO-ma
Gunther, Bob		Mullery, Joe		Tunheim, Jim	TON-hyme
Haas, Bill	HAHZ	Munger, Willard		Van Dellen, H. Todd	
Harder, Elaine		Murphy, Mary		Vickerman, Barb	
Hasskamp, Kris		Ness, Robert "Bob"		Wagenius, Jean	wa-GHEEN-yus
Hausman, Alice		Nornes, Bud	NOR-ness	Weaver, Charlie	
Hilty, Bill		Olson, Edgar		Wejcman, Linda	WAITS-man
Holsten, Mark		Olson, Mark		Wenzel, Stephen G.	WEN-zel
Huntley, Thomas		Opatz, Joe	OH-patz	Westfall, Robert L. (Bob)	
Jaros, Mike	YAHZ-ohs	Orfield, Myron		Westrom, Torrey	
Jefferson, Richard H.		Osskopp, Mike	AHZ-cop	Winter, Ted	
Jennings, Loren		Osthoff, Tom	AHST-hoff	Wolf, Ken	
Johnson, Alice M.		Otremba, Ken	oh-TREM-ba	Workman, Tom	

Politics ever present at the Minnesota State Fair



Some 40 House members volunteered to greet the public and answer questions in the House of Representatives exhibit at the 1996 Minnesota State Fair.

While none rose to stir the crowds with a bit of fiery partisan oratory, the fair is a traditional hotbed of political activity. Politicians, in fact, were instrumental in founding the Great Minnesota Get Together.

Today's state fair stresses food, farms, and family entertainment, but in the territorial days the fair existed for a higher purpose: to attract more immigrants to the Minnesota area.

Territorial Governor Willis Gorman, in an 1855 message to the Legislature, noted that he had "received almost innumerable letters . . . desiring to know if our winters were not very long, and so exceedingly cold that stock freezes to death, and man hardly dare venture out of his domicile." The region's reputation for hostile temperatures had spread far and wide and it was scaring away the settlers.

At the time, the territory's population was thin, with many residents feeling the pull of the warm California coast. In such an environment, financiers and politicians were looking to boost the number of Minnesotans. They sought to do so by shattering the stereotype of the "frozen tundra" and promoting the area's fertile soil for prospective farmers.

Aiding in this marketing venture were budding agricultural societies, many of which were formed at the county level. Gorman himself served as president of the Minnesota Territorial Agricultural Society, founded in 1854. Its goal?

"Agriculture societies, along with agricultural fairs displaying grain and produce raised on native soil, were blatant advertisements for the natural resources of the Northwest," wrote Karal Ann Marling in *Blue Ribbon, A Social and Pictorial History of the Minnesota State Fair*.

And so the fair was born, small at first, and not on its current site in Falcon Heights, but the beginning of a healthy Minnesota tradition nonetheless.

The first fair

The Minnesota State Agricultural Society says the first territorial fair was held in Minneapolis in October 1855, and with it came a

fascination with mutant fruits and vegetables that still endures. On display for wide-eyed fairgoers were a 17-foot-high cornstalk, a 28-pound cabbage, and an 18-pound radish. Each such monstrosity seemed to prove that quality cultivation was possible west of the Great Lakes, despite the challenging winters.

Also on hand were hogs, bulls, sheep, horses, and poultry competing for top honors in their respective categories. A crowd of 2,500 watched a female equestrian contest, in which riders were judged not only on skill, but on poise and dress as well. There were needlework competitions, homemade carpets, and even a display of cheese. The ancestors of today's blue ribbon competitions were well under way.

Early fairs were held in subsequent years in St. Paul, Minneapolis, and even at Fort Snelling. The fair then traveled to Red Wing, Winona, Rochester, and even Owatonna over the next few decades while a behind-the-scenes war raged between Minneapolis and St. Paul. Each of the Twin Cities wanted to stand as the home of the state fair. St. Paul interests wanted it somewhere in the Midway area. Minneapolis wanted it stationed in what is now Minnehaha Park. Leading the charge for the Minneapolitans was William S. King,

\$100,000 for new buildings and cemented the site that the State Fair still calls home today.

Political roots

From the beginning, politicians and their oratory played a key role at the fair. Prominent figures such as Henry Sibley and Alexander Ramsey, the state's first two governors, respectively, were instrumental in making the fair a reality, and found themselves addressing large crowds at the fledgling annual events.

Other state and local officeholders delivered speeches in the fair's first years, but it wasn't long before those of national prominence were imported. Once statehood was achieved in 1858, Minnesota's role in national politics increased. In 1860, the year Abraham Lincoln carried the vote in Minnesota by a 2-to-1 margin, the Republicans tapped Congressman Cassius Clay from Kentucky. He rambled for two hours in a speech criticized for being "highfalutin . . . and inaudible," according to Marling.

Horace Greeley, the acid-tongued publisher of the *New York Tribune* (and later Democratic presidential candidate), came west in 1865 to address the fair crowd. His



As part of the House's 23rd year at the Minnesota State Fair, computer, publications, and a video helped educate the public about the House of Representatives.

a cattleman and one-time Congressman, who established his own local version of the fair during many of the years it was held away from his hometown.

Ultimately, the site of the Ramsey County Poor Farm was offered as a gift to the state Agriculture Society and a deal was struck. The Legislature was happy to see the geographic feud end, and in 1885 marked

two major speeches were well-attended and warmly received, and focused on farming and agriculture.

But it was in 1878 that the Minnesota State Fair landed a top political prize: the first visit by the President of the United States, Rutherford B. Hayes.

1926 photograph by Paul Hamilton
Courtesy Minnesota Historical Society

And so began a series of presidents that would grace the state fair, continuing with Grover Cleveland, Benjamin Harrison, and Teddy Roosevelt. Not only sitting presidents but presidential hopefuls visited as well, including three-time loser William Jennings Bryan, who made the same number of visits to the fair around the turn of the century.

“No other fair has been as popular as the Minnesota Fair as a stopping place in presidential campaigns,” wrote Ray Spear and Harry Frost in *Minnesota State Fair: The History and Heritage of 100 Years*.

Roosevelt was actually the vice-president (with presidential aspirations) when he made the first of several visits to the fair in 1901. Here, on opening day, he delivered his famous line, “Speak softly, and carry a big stick” as part of a rousing lecture that came to be known as the Minnesota Speech. Four days later, President William McKinley was shot in Buffalo, N.Y., and Roosevelt became president. He would return in 1908, 1910, and 1912 to the fairgrounds.

In modern times, more than 50,000 fairgoers heard Dwight Eisenhower call Minnesota’s fair “the greatest” in 1947. “The General was smart,” the *Minneapolis Star* reported, “he talked just ten minutes by the clock.”

Bill Clinton was nowhere to be found, but Vice-President Al Gore rallied the Democratic faithful on Machinery Hill in 1996. Bob Dole skipped the fair, but was caught on film on Commonwealth Avenue in 1987, enjoying a cheese curd while visiting then-Sen. Rudy Boschwitz and his flavored milk stand.

Party presence

Aside from the big names at the top of the ballot, Minnesota’s two major political parties have also enjoyed a lengthy history on the fairgrounds. The Democratic-Farmer-Labor party originally set up shop across from the Administration Building in 1953, the same year that buses replaced streetcars in St. Paul. The GOP opened their headquarters near the St. Olaf Dining Hall six years later.

While their more famous national counterparts stood above large grandstand crowds, state politicians operated at street level, mingling one-on-one with fair patrons.

And since 1973, state House members have mixed with the public at an information booth in the Education Building. (The state Senate opened a similar booth in 1976.) Here, lawmakers have served as sounding boards and educators, listening to the questions and con-



1996 fairgoers had the opportunity to look up their legislative district as part of the House Fair exhibit.

cerns of the people. More recently, fairgoers have collectively registered their opinions for the benefit of lawmakers.

The House now administers an unofficial opinion poll at its booth, addressing issues that have been or may be discussed by the Legislature. During the 1996 fair, 6,540 fairgoers registered an opinion on tax, education, transportation and other policy areas. (See complete results on page 18.)

And so politics continues to be an integral part of the state fair, its presence as predictable as mini-donuts and the Midway. The fair itself, begun as a marketing tool to retain fleeing pioneers, stands today as one of the most successful in the nation, and hasn’t cost state taxpayers a dime since 1949. It is a public institution, one that local hero F. Scott Fitzgerald has called “the most magnificent in America.”

— John Tschida

The law and the Minnesota State Fair

- In 1885, the Legislature authorized the sale of the Ramsey County Poor Farm to the State Agricultural Society (for no fee) and marked \$100,000 for new buildings to be erected on the site. The land, in what is now Falcon Heights, became the permanent site of the state fair.
- In 1895, concerned that its image of families and fun was being tarnished, the Legislature outlawed gambling at the state fair.
- In 1909, a special House committee investigated the agricultural society in the wake of allegations made against the fair’s managers. Accounting practices were found to be irregular, but Gov. John Johnson cleared the board of any wrongdoing.
- In 1933, it became illegal to conduct any circus in any city or within a radius of six miles of any city 18 days prior to the opening of the Minnesota State Fair (or during the fair). The penalty for violation remains up to a year in jail and a \$3,000 fine.
- A 1945 law outlawing bingo led to the cancellation of all such games on the fairgrounds, beginning in 1947. (The 1945 state fair was canceled due to World War II. The 1946 fair was not held due to the polio epidemic.)
- In 1949, the fair received its last direct appropriation from the Legislature, a one-time payment of \$400,000 to replace the damaged Hippodrome. Total appropriations from the state, throughout fair history, reach \$3.5 million.
- In 1980, tattoo artist David Yerkew sued the fair under the First and Fourteenth Amendments, for denying his concession application for the third time. The fair said it was a health hazard, and was supported by U.S. District Court Judge Harry MacLaughlin, who ruled tattooing was not “sufficiently communicative” enough to deserve constitutional protection.

Minnesota House of Representatives

1996 Unofficial State Fair Poll Results

1. Should the state help finance the construction of a new outdoor baseball stadium to be built in the Twin Cities?

Yes 13.5% 885
No 81% 5,295
Other 5.5% 360

2. Should state education dollars, in the form of vouchers, be given directly to parents so they can choose which school — either public or private — their child attends?

Yes 38% 2,483
No 54.9% 3,589
Other 7.1% 468

3. Should the state constitution be amended to allow for a citizen-initiated recall of certain elected public officials?

Yes 64% 4,187
No 20.8% 1,363
Other 15.2% 990

4. In the past, Minnesota has provided its war veterans with special bonuses. Should the state constitution be amended to provide monetary bonuses for those who served in the Persian Gulf War?

Yes 51.3% 3,352
No 32.7% 2,137
Other 16% 1,051

5. Current law limits the amount of money an individual may contribute to a political candidate but not how much one may donate to a political party or caucus. Should there be limits placed on how much an individual can contribute to a political party?

Yes 65.5% 4,283
No 27.3% 1,786
Other 7.2% 471

6. Minnesota's state gas tax — now at 20 cents per gallon — has remained unchanged since 1988. Under the state's constitution, all such revenue goes to pay for road and bridge construction and repair. Would you support an increase in the gas tax?

Yes 38.1% 2,494
No 55.2% 3,608
Other 6.7% 438



More than 6,500 Minnesotans visited the 1996 House State Fair exhibit Aug. 22 through Sept. 2, taking part in an unofficial state fair opinion poll. The results were distributed to the media and all lawmakers.

7. Should there be tax incentives (such as tax-exempt bonds or IRA-type savings accounts) for parents to save money for their children's higher education needs?

Yes 85.8% 5,610
No 9.4% 612
Other 4.8% 318

8. Under current law, police officers cannot stop and ticket a motorist for failure to wear a seat belt. (There must be another moving violation before issuing such a citation.) Should police officers be allowed to stop a car to issue a ticket for failure to buckle up?

Yes 47% 3,072
No 47.6% 3,114
Other 5.4% 354

9. Should the state allow advertising on or inside school buses to help defray the school district's transportation costs?

Yes 32.1% 2,098
No 60.4% 3,947
Other 7.5% 495

10. In the past, lawmakers have debated whether the state should produce a non-partisan guide for voters containing short candidate biographies and other voter information. Would you support the use of state dollars for such a purpose?

Yes 45.2% 2,958
No 45% 2,942
Other 9.8% 640

1996 House members who volunteered at the House exhibit

Rep. Fran Bradley (R-Rochester)
Rep. Phil Carruthers (DFL-Brooklyn Center)
Rep. Andy Dawkins (DFL-St. Paul)
Rep. Steve Dehler (R-St. Joseph)
Rep. Jerry Dempsey (R-Hastings)
Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul)
Rep. Lee Greenfield (DFL-Mpls)
Rep. Mindy Greiling (DFL-Roseville)
Rep. Bob Gunther (R-Fairmount)
Rep. Bill Haas (R-Champlin)
Rep. Kris Hasskamp (DFL-Crosby-Ironton)
Rep. Alice Hausman (DFL-St. Paul)
Rep. Alice Johnson (DFL-Spring Lake Park)
Rep. Virgil Johnson (R-Caledonia)
Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls)
Rep. Henry Kalis (DFL-Walters)
Rep. Steve Kelley (DFL-Hopkins)
Rep. Peg Larsen (R-Lakeland)
Rep. Arlon Lindner (R-Corcoran)
Rep. Mark Mahon (DFL-Bloomington)

Rep. Betty McCollum (DFL-N. St. Paul)
Rep. Mary Jo McGuire (DFL-Roseville)
Rep. Bob Ness (R-Dassel)
Rep. Mark Olson (R-Big Lake)
Rep. Mike Osskopp (R-Lake City)
Rep. Ken Otremba (DFL-Long Prairie)
Rep. Dennis Ozment (R-Rosemount)
Rep. Erik Paulsen (R-Eden Prairie)
Rep. Walter Perlts (DFL-Woodbury)
Rep. Tom Pugh (South St. Paul)
Rep. Ann Rest (DFL-New Hope)
Rep. Jim Rhodes (R-St. Louis Park)
Rep. Jim Rostberg (R-Isanti)
Rep. Leslie Schumacher (DFL-Princeton)
Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls)
Rep. Doug Swenson (R-Forest Lake)
Rep. Barbara Sykora (R-Excelsior)
Rep. Tom Van Engen (R-Spicer)
Rep. Eldon Warkentin (R-Coon Rapids)
Rep. Linda Wejcman (DFL-Mpls)

1997 House Standing Committee Schedule

Committee

Chair Phone
Meeting Day Room Time
(All rooms are in the State Office Building)

Agriculture

Wenzel 296-4247
Mon. 200 10 a.m.

Capital Investment

Kalis 296-4240
Tues., Thurs. 500S 12:30 p.m.

Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs

Tunheim 296-9635
Tues., Thurs. 200 12:30 p.m.

Economic Development & International Trade

Jaros 296-4246
Wed., 200 12:30 p.m.

Economic Development Finance Division

Trimble 296-4201
Mon., Wed., Thurs. 200 8 a.m.

Housing and Housing Finance Division

Clark 296-0294
Tues., Thurs. 500S 10 a.m.

Education

Carlson 296-4255
Tues., Thurs. 200 8 a.m.

Family and Early Childhood Education Finance Division

Kinkel 296-2451
Mon., Wed. 5 12:30 p.m.

Higher Education Finance Division

Pelowski 296-8637
Mon., Wed., Fri. 500N 8 a.m.

K-12 Education Finance Division

Kelso 296-1072
Mon., Wed., Fri. 5 8 a.m.

Environment & Natural Resources

Munger 296-4282
Mon., Wed. 5 10 a.m.

Environment & Natural Resources Finance

Osthoff 296-4224
Mon.-Thurs. B 8 a.m.

Financial Institutions & Insurance

Anderson, I. 296-4936
Wed. 200 10 a.m.

General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections

Milbert 296-4192
Mon. 300N 12:30 p.m.

Governmental Operations

Kahn 296-4257
Tues., Thurs. B 10 a.m.

State Government Finance Division

Rukavina 296-0170
Mon., Wed. 400S 10 a.m.

Health & Human Services

Dorn 296-3248
Tues., Thurs. 10 10 a.m.

Health & Human Services Finance Division

Greenfield 296-0173
Mon., Wed., Fri. 10 10 a.m.

Judiciary

Skoglund 296-4330
Mon., Wed., Fri. B 10 a.m.

Civil & Family Law Division

Dawkins 296-5158
Wed. 400S 12:30 p.m.

Judiciary Finance Division

Murphy 296-2676
Tues., Thurs. 500N 8 a.m.

Labor-Management Relations

Jefferson 296-8659
Mon. 200 12:30 p.m.

Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Rest 296-4176
Tues., Thurs. 10 12:30 p.m.

Regulated Industries & Energy

Jennings 296-0518
Tues. 5 12:30 p.m.

Rules & Legislative Administration

Winter 296-5505
Call of the chair

Taxes

Long 296-0171
Tues., Thurs., Fri. 200 10 a.m.

Property Tax & Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Division

Olson, E. 296-4265
Mon., Wed. 200 8 a.m.

Sales & Income Tax Division

Johnson, A. 296-5510
Tues., Thurs. 300S 8 a.m.

Transportation & Transit

Wagenius 296-4200
Mon., Wed. 10 12:30 p.m.

Transportation & Transit Finance Division

Lieder 296-5091
Tues., Fri. 500S 8 a.m.

Ways & Means

Solberg 296-2365
Call of the chair

Minnesota House of Representatives

1997 Standing Committee Schedule

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8-9:45 a.m.	Economic Dev Fin Div Environment & Nat Res Fin Higher Education Fin Div K-12 Education Fin Div Property Tax & TIF Div	Trans & Transit Fin Div Environment & Nat Res Fin Sales & Income Tax Div Education Judiciary Fin Div	Economic Dev Fin Div Environment & Nat Res Fin Higher Education Fin Div K-12 Education Fin Div Property Tax & TIF Div	Economic Dev Fin Div Environment & Nat Res Fin Sales & Income Tax Div Education Judiciary Fin Div	Trans & Transit Fin Div Higher Education Fin Div K-12 Education Fin Div
10-11:45 a.m.	Health & Human Services Fin Div Judiciary Agriculture State Government Fin Div Environment & Natural Resources	Health & Human Services Governmental Operations Taxes Housing & Housing Fin Div	Health & Human Services Fin Div Judiciary Financial Institutions & Insurance State Government Fin Div Environment & Natural Resources	Health & Human Services Governmental Operations Taxes Housing & Housing Fin Div	Health & Human Services Fin Div Judiciary Taxes
12:30-2:15 p.m.	Fam & Early Childhood Ed Fin Div Gen Leg, Vets Affairs & Elections Transportation & Transit Labor-Management Relations	Cmrc, Trsm & Cnsmr Affrs Local Gov & Metro Affairs Capital Investment Regulated Industries & Energy	Fam & Early Childhood Ed Fin Economic Dev & Intl Trade Transportation & Transit Civil & Family Law Div	Comrc, Trsm & Cnsmr Affrs Local Gov & Metro Affairs Capital Investment	
2:30-4:15 p.m.	HOUSE IN SESSION			HOUSE IN SESSION	

Jan. 9, 1997

Ways & Means and Rules & Legislative Administration meet at the call of the Chair.

B-Basement Hearing Room

Full committees appear in bold type.

Bill Introductions

HF1-HF35

Thursday, Jan. 9

HF1—Johnson, A (DFL)

Education

K-12 education appropriation caps repealed, school district revenue formula modified, and money appropriated.

HF2—Folliard (DFL)

Education

K-12 education appropriation caps repealed, school district revenue formula modified, and money appropriated.

HF3—Kubly (DFL)

Education

K-12 education appropriation caps repealed, school district revenue formula modified, and money appropriated.

HF4—Chaudhary (DFL)

Education

K-12 education appropriation caps repealed, school district revenue formula modified, and money appropriated.

HF5—McGuire (DFL)

Judiciary

Stalking and harassment crime statutory elements clarified.

HF6—Wenzel (DFL)

Taxes

Commercial industrial first-tier property tax class rate reduced, and additional state aid provided.

HF7—Jefferson (DFL)

Health & Human Services

Hennepin County cash assistance vendor payments allowed when assistance recipients are charged with drug related offenses.

HF8—Dawkins (DFL)

Judiciary

District court referees authorized to solemnize marriages.

H. F. 9—Van Dellen (R)

Taxes

Charitable contribution income tax credit allowed.

HF10—Jaros (DFL)

Commerce, Tourism, & Consumer Affairs

Shopping cart child protective device requirement established.

HF11—Jaros (DFL)

Taxes

Vitamin and mineral supplement sales tax exemption provided.

HF12—Carlson (DFL)

Education

School district levy recognition eliminated, and money appropriated.

HF13—Skoglund (DFL)

Judiciary

Revisor's bill correcting miscellaneous oversights, inconsistencies, ambiguities, unintended results, and technical errors.

HF14—Jennings (DFL)

Education

Independent School District No. 2144, Chisago Lakes Area, debt service levy allocation provided.

HF15—Lieder (DFL)

Transportation & Transit

Gasoline and special fuel tax rate increased, revenue dedicated to major projects account, and bond issuance authorized.

HF16—Sviggum (R)

Judiciary

Same-sex marriages recognized in other states deemed invalid in Minnesota.

HF17—Lieder (DFL)

Transportation & Transit

Gasoline and special fuel tax rate increased, county state-aid screening board composition modified, motor vehicle sales tax receipt percentage allocated to transit assistance fund, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF18—Juhnke (DFL)

Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Willmar sales and excise tax increase authorized.

HF19—Lieder (DFL)

Transportation & Transit

Trunk highway fund reimbursement provided for expenditures incurred by state patrol for provision of patrolling services in Minneapolis.

HF20—Lieder (DFL)

Transportation & Transit

State patrol operating appropriations to originate from state general fund, traffic and overweight vehicle fine deposit in general fund provided, and gasoline tax revenue nonhighway use study required.

HF21—Jefferson (DFL)

Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Minneapolis authorized to regulate possession and carrying of pistols within city limits.

H.F.22—Rukavina (DFL)

Governmental Operations

Police state aid allocation method modified, and money appropriated.

HF23—Smith (R)

Health & Human Services

Abortion; constitutional standard established relating to abortion, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF24—Weaver (R)

Judiciary

Life sentence provided for persons convicted of a third violent felony offense.

HF25—Stanek (R)

Judiciary

Omnibus crime prevention and judiciary finance appropriations bill.

HF26—Skoglund (DFL)

Judiciary

School bus and public transit vehicle driver assault crime penalties increased.

HF27—Otremba (DFL)

Health & Human Services

Abortion informed consent required and civil cause of action provided.

HF28—Skoglund (DFL)

Judiciary

Interference with privacy in the presence of a minor under age 16 crime penalties increased.

HF29—Skoglund (DFL)

Judiciary

Probationers and parolees from other states residing in Minnesota without permission under the interstate compact provided criminal penalties.

HF30—Pawlenty (R)

General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections

Term limits imposed on legislative and executive offices and constitutional amendment proposed.

H.F.31—Skoglund (DFL)

Judiciary

Chronic misdemeanor offender arrest and detention allowed in lieu of citation and release.

HF32—Pawlenty (R)

General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections

Legislature to meet only in odd-numbered years, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF33—Koppendrayner (R)

Education

Omnibus K-12 policy and appropriations bill.

H.F.34—Haas (R)

Health & Human Services

Integrated Service Network Act modified, and health care services spending rate monitored.

HF35—Chaudhary (DFL)

Judiciary

Revisor's bill correcting erroneous, ambiguous, and omitted text and obsolete references, and making miscellaneous technical corrections.

Coming Up Next Week . . . Jan. 13 - 17, 1997

Committee Schedule

Schedule is subject to change.

For information updates, call

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10 a.m.

AGRICULTURE

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Stephen Wenzel

Agenda: Presentation on current issues
regarding University of Minnesota policies
impacting agriculture and the rural economy.

Health & Human Services Finance Division/ HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Basement Hearing Room,

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield

Agenda: Introduction of members and staff.
Division organization and rules. Budget process
overview for the Department of Human Services.

JUDICIARY

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund

Agenda: HF5 (McGuire) Anti-stalking.
HF35 (Chaudhary) Revisor's bill.
HF13 (Skoglund) Corrections bill.

State Government Finance Division/ GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

400S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Rukavina

Agenda: Division overview. Presentation on
performance budgeting. Performance report
review: Department of Military Affairs.

12:30 pm

Family & Early Childhood Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tony Kinkel

Agenda: Overview of Department of
Children, Families, and Learning by the
Office of Community Services commissioner
and assistant commissioner.

LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Richard Jefferson

Agenda: Overview of state labor and
employment laws.

TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jean Wagenius

Agenda: Minnesota in the Future presentation.

2:30 p.m.

The House meets in session.

3:30 p.m.

K-12 Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

Room to be announced.

Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso

Agenda: HF1 (Johnson, A.) Repeal of 1995
funding caps.

TUESDAY, Jan. 14

8 a.m.

EDUCATION

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson

Agenda: HF1 (Johnson, A.) Repeal of 1995
funding caps.

Judiciary Finance Division/JUDICIARY

500N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Mary Murphy

Agenda: Introduction of members, staff, agency
and account representatives, and others who
plan to initiate proposals for committee
consideration. (All members, staff, and attendees
should come prepared with family and hobby
pictures as well as a statement of session
committee goals.) Issues of concern for 1997.
Reports due.

Transportation & Transit Finance Division/ TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Bernie Lieder

Agenda: Informational and organizational
meeting. Transportation implications of the
growth option plan presentation by the
Metropolitan Council.

8:30 a.m.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room,

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff

Agenda: Organizational and committee
operation. Public testimony from
environmental groups on environment finance
issues.

10 a.m.

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

Basement Hearing Room,

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn

Agenda: Introductions and orientation.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. John Dorn

Agenda: To be announced.

MONDAY, Jan. 13

8 a.m.

Economic Development Finance Division/ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Steve Trimble

Agenda: Organizational.

Higher Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

500N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Gene Pelowski

Agenda: Organizational meeting: Introductions
of members and staff. Review of committee
procedures. Brief overviews: University of
Minnesota, MnSCU, Minnesota Private College
Council, and Minnesota Association of Private
Postsecondary Schools (MAPPS).

K-12 Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso

Agenda: Continuation of overview of state and
local education finance.

8:45 a.m.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

Tour

Chr. Rep. Willard Munger

Agenda: Department of Natural Resources
overview and tour. (Vans leaving in front of
State Office Building steps at 8:45 a.m. Members
with committee schedule conflicts can join tour
with van leaving at 9:45 in front of State Office
Building.)

TAXES

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Dee Long

Agenda: Discussion of "Price of Government" law with presentation by the Department of Finance and the Department of Revenue and other groups.

12:30 pm

CAPITAL INVESTMENT

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Henry J. Kalis

Agenda: Overview of bonding and debt.

COMMERCE, TOURISM & CONSUMER AFFAIRS

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jim Tunheim

Agenda: Organizational meeting.

REGULATED INDUSTRIES & ENERGY

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Loren Jennings

Agenda: Overview and introductions. Presentations by House Research, the Commissioner of Public Service, Executive Secretary of Public Utilities Commission, Attorney General's Office, and the Office of Technology.

WEDNESDAY, Jan. 15

8 a.m.

**Economic Development Finance Division/
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT &
INTERNATIONAL TRADE**
500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Steve Trimble
Agenda: To be announced.

**Health & Human Services Finance Division/
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**
Basement Hearing Room,
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield
Agenda: "Options for a Prescription Drug Program for Seniors" presentation. Budget process overview.

**Higher Education Finance Division/
EDUCATION**
500N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Gene Pelowski
Agenda: Presentation by the University of Minnesota.

**K-12 Education Finance Division/
EDUCATION**
5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso
Agenda: Presentation on state revenue forecast methodology by the Department of Finance. Youth Works four-year evaluation report, Rep. Andy Dawkins.

8:30 a.m.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

Tour
Chr. Rep. Willard Munger
Agenda: Overview and tour of the Pollution Control Agency. (Vans leaving in front of State

Office Building steps at 8:30 a.m. Members with committee schedule conflicts can join tour with van leaving at 9:45 in front of State Office Building.)

10 a.m.

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS & INSURANCE

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Irv Anderson

Agenda: Overview by the Department of Commerce.

JUDICIARY

Basement Hearing Room,
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund

Agenda: "Recidivism of Adult Felons" presentation by the Office of the Legislative Auditor.

State Government Finance Division/ GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

400S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Rukavina

Agenda: Performance report reviews: Department of Veterans Affairs. Department of Revenue.

12:30 p.m.

Civil and Family Law Division/JUDICIARY

400S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Andy Dawkins

Agenda: Organizational meeting. Presentation on the potential recodification of the landlord-tenant law by the Revisor's Office.

Family & Early Childhood Education Finance Division/EDUCATION

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tony Kinkel

Agenda: To be announced.

TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jean Wagenius

Agenda: Presentation on strategic plans for Minnesota: economic development and transportation.

1 p.m.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mike Jaros

Agenda: Overview and legislative goals presented by Department of Trade and Economic Development; Minnesota Technologies Incorporated, Association of Community Development Corporations; the Natural Resource Research Institute; and the Agricultural Utilization Research Institute.

THURSDAY, Jan. 16

8 a.m.

EDUCATION

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson

Agenda: Technology and use in student assessment and performance. Discussion of potential use of technology in measuring and documenting K-12 and college achievement. Presentation by Winona State University on

electronic portfolios.

Economic Development Finance Division/ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Steve Trimble

Agenda: To be announced.

Judiciary Finance Division/JUDICIARY

500N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mary Murphy

Agenda: Continuation of Jan. 14 agenda.

Sales & Income Tax Division/TAXES

300S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Alice Johnson

Agenda: To be announced.

8:30 a.m.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room,
State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff

Agenda: Public testimony from recreation, sports fishing and hunting groups on environment finance issues.

10 a.m.

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

Basement Hearing Room,
State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn

Agenda: Presentation by the Office of the Legislative Auditor.

TAXES

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Dee Long

Agenda: Presentation by the Department of Revenue.

11:30 a.m.

The House meets in session.

FRIDAY, Jan. 17

8 a.m.

Higher Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

500N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Gene Pelowski

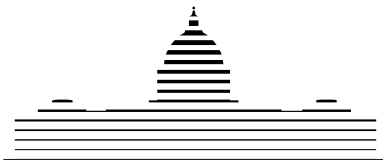
Agenda: Presentations by Minnesota Private College Council, Minnesota Association of Private and Postsecondary Schools (MAPPS), and Mayo Medical School.

10:30 a.m.

JUDICIARY

Tour
Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund

Agenda: Tour of the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension. Hearing on rule making exemption for uniform evidence collection and DNA analysis procedures and protocols.



MINNESOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE
175 STATE OFFICE BUILDING
ST. PAUL, MN 55155-1298

Speaker of the House: Phil Carruthers
Majority Leader: Ted Winter
Minority Leader: Steven A. Sviggum

MINNESOTA INDEX

Minnesota: Election 1996

DFL members	70
Republican members	64
Number of men	95
Number of women (record high)	39
DFL women	25
Republican women	14
Percent of first-term members who are women	37.5
Percent of all members who are women	29
Percent of House members who did not serve last session	18
Number of newly elected members	24
Newly elected Republican members	10
Newly elected DFL members	14
Percent of incumbents re-elected	94.8
Incumbents who lost, general election	5
Number of those who were Republicans	5
Open seats	18
Number of open seats previously held by a DFLer, now held by a Republican	4
Number of open seats previously held by a Republican, now held by a DFLer	0
Uncontested House races, 1996	8
Number of those in Republican districts	6
Percent of House members who have served less than 10 years	72
DFLers who have served at least 20 years	10
Republicans who have served at least 20 years	0
Change in House DFL Caucus membership from April 1996 level	+1
Change in Republican Caucus	-1
House Republican Caucus' cumulative loss of legislative experience	
since the end of the 1996 session, in years of service	75
DFL caucus loss, since end of 1994 session	80
Average age of a House member, in years, 1996	48.3
Most write-ins, District 31A	3,128
Members who have attended the University of Minnesota	50
Votes cast in Minnesota for the 1996 general election	2,211,161
As a percent of all eligible voters	64.81
Districts with a Reform Party candidate	14
Greatest percentage of votes garnered for Reform Party candidate, District 30B	22.4
Percentage of vote garnered by Green Party candidate in District 62A	24.6
Current House members who were alive during Woodrow Wilson's	
first term as President of the United States	1
Current House members born during the Nixon administration	4

Sources: Minnesota House of Representatives Public Information Office; Office of the Secretary of State.

For more information



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