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SESSION Weekly

MINNESOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES • PUBLIC INFORMATION

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JANUARY 10, 2003
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BUDGET DEFICIT ANNOUNCED, NEW MEMBER PROFILES



HF1-HF48

WARASHA - GOODHUE

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SUERBURNE - WRIGHT

ANDERSON

SESSION Weekly

Session Weekly is a nonpartisan publication of Minnesota House of Representatives Public Information Services. During the 2003-2004 Legislative Session, each issue reports daily House action between Thursdays of each week, lists bill introductions and upcoming committee meeting schedules, and provides other information. The publication is a service of the Minnesota House. No fee.

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On the cover: Tim Johnson from the Chief Clerk's Office added 43 new names to one of the voting boards in the House Chamber Jan. 3 in preparation of the opening of the 2003 legislative session.

—Photo by: Tom Olmscheid

A warm welcome

Opening session a time for all members to celebrate with family, friends before concentrating on balancing the state budget

BY JEFF JONES

Though a projected budget shortfall loomed large over Minnesota legislators preparing to be sworn in Jan. 7, nevertheless, the opening session of the House of Representatives was filled with excitement and expectation. Spouses, children, and proud parents filled the House chamber to be part of a day of ceremony and celebration for the 133 new and returning House members. The session opened with the Land of Lakes Choirboys singing *America the Beautiful*. Secretary of State Mary Kiffmeyer called the 83rd Legislative Session to order.

The House was one member short when the session began because Rep. Dan McElroy (R-Burnsville) resigned his seat Jan. 6 to become the commissioner of the state Department of Finance.

And the weather couldn't have been more cooperative for members and their families to travel from all corners of the state. Of the seven state legislatures gaveled into session Jan. 7 – from Rhode Island to Mississippi – Minnesota's enjoyed the warmest temperature. The unseasonably warm weather reached 53 degrees in St. Paul by the close of the first day's session. Even Jackson, Miss., saw a high of only 49.

Amidst a flurry of camera flashes from media and family members, Minnesota State Supreme Court Chief Justice Kathleen Blatz

swore in the 43 new and 90 returning members of the House. Before doing so, Blatz recalled her own 15 years in the House and told new members they will be making many lasting memories along the way.

The House then set to work choosing officers for the session.

Rep. Alice Seagren (R-Bloomington) nominated Rep. Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon) to be Speaker of the House – the position he has held since Republicans took control of the cham-

ber in 1999. Touting Sviggum's "patience and persistence" through the last four years of tripartisan government, Seagren said, "I can think of no finer man to be Speaker of the House."

Rep. Dan Dorman (R-Albert Lea), who owns a tire business, seconded the nomination by comparing Sviggum's leadership to a wheel weight. "The wheel weight keeps that tire and wheel assembly going smoothly down the road and that is what the speaker does for us, he keeps us on track and running smoothly because there's a lot of pulls and tugs and vibrations that could be caused."

On the other side of the aisle, Rep. Gene Pelowski, Jr. (DFL-Winona) nominated Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul) for the speaker's chair, a move

seconded by Rep. Alice Hausman (DFL-St. Paul). DFL members elected Entenza House Minority



PHOTO BY ANDREW VON BANK

Rep. Steve Sviggum is sworn-in as Speaker of the House by Minnesota State Supreme Court Chief Justice Kathleen Blatz during opening day ceremonies Jan. 7.

Leader in November, replacing Rep. Tom Pugh (DFL-South St. Paul).

After ascending to the speaker's chair by an 81 to 51 vote, Sviggum spoke about a spirit of bipartisanship. He said differences between the parties "are very tiny matters when compared to the strength that lies within us to be able to solve the problems and address the opportunities that are before us." Referring to the upcoming budget debate, he said, "we know there are going to be some tough choices to make, we have to make the choices to protect

To our readers:

Welcome to the 83rd Legislative Session of the Minnesota House of Representatives. The award-winning *Session Weekly* begins its 20th year of publication with this issue.

You may notice a few changes to the look of *Session Weekly*, but the content will remain the same, and we will continue our dedication to providing nonpartisan information about the House in a timely and accurate manner.

Primarily, we have changed the paper stock in an effort to answer the ongoing budget concerns affecting all areas of state government. While the legislators are working to cut the budget and reduce the projected deficit, House of Representatives staff have been searching for ways to provide the same level of service while trimming costs.

While this issue begins a new year for the Legislature and *Session Weekly*, we are bidding a fond farewell to our permanent writer, David Maeda, who has been with House Public Information Services since October 1999. David has developed an expertise in covering tax policy and finance issues, as well as both state and local government concerns.

David will be moving on to a position with Hennepin County and we wish him well. Not only will we miss his writing and researching abilities, but his wit, perspective, and work ethic were a true asset to the office, and ultimately *Session Weekly* readers.

You may also notice more updates in *Session Weekly* regarding the Senate status of proposals also traveling through the House. While our writers will not be covering Senate hearings, we will provide short status updates as a service to readers. We know that many of you also read *Senate Briefly*, which will not be published in paper form this session.

We hope you continue to enjoy *Session Weekly* and the easy-to-understand writing style we use. Your comments and suggestions are always welcome. Contact House Public Information Services at (651) 296-2146 or 1-800-657-3550.

— MICHELLE KIBIGER

people, families, and taxpayers rather than protecting government.”

The House also unanimously re-elected Edward A. Burdick as its chief clerk, a job he has held for 37 years. Rep. Irv Anderson (DFL-Int'l Falls) said Burdick's 62 years working for the House make him “more than an employee. He is the memory of this House.”

Though the first day's session was largely ceremonial and full of procedural roll-call votes, friends and family in the chamber were impressed. “It went a lot quicker than I thought it would,” said Tina Marie Lesch, wife of freshman Rep. John Lesch (DFL-St. Paul). Lesch was also joined by his parents, grandparents, and 2-year-old daughter, Alice, who, Tina Marie said, “slept through the whole thing.”

Though no bills were considered on day one, interest groups and lobbyists were already visible in the Capitol corridors.

Among them were members of the Million Mom March, a group advocating gun control and opposed to concealed carry legislation that is expected to come before the Legislature this session. Dressed in pink and holding red roses, group members lined a stairway most members use as they ascend to their chambers on the second floor. “We're welcoming them back, thanking them for their support and letting them know we're still watching,” said Mary Heller, president of the group's St. Paul chapter.

Also present in force was Capitol Security. In addition to a full complement of guards and troopers, six Special Response Team members were on hand to provide security for the opening session. While no problems were encountered, Capt. Tom Fraser, director of Capitol Complex Security Executive Protection Unit said, “I wanted to make sure the public in general – and the legislators in particular – knew what we're capable of providing if we need to.”

Of the 43 new House members elected in November, 30 are Republicans and 13 are DFLers, helping to give Republicans a 30-seat majority – a gain of 26 seats from the beginning of last session. That margin dropped by one on Jan. 6 with McElroy's resignation. A special election to fill the District 40A seat is scheduled for Feb. 3.

Both Gov. Tim Pawlenty and McElroy bring legislative experience to the task of working with both the House and Senate to remedy the projected budget shortfalls. The state's general fund has a projected deficit of \$356 million for the current fiscal year, and \$4.2 billion for fiscal years 2004-2005.

House leaders have already begun to foreshadow which proposals may be considered in balancing the budget – including state aid to local governments. 🐼



Deficit woes

1992 task force studied budget process following deficits in the early 1990s

Staggering budget deficits are not new to the State of Minnesota. In fact, five shortfalls occurred during the 11 biennia between 1980 and 2001.

But a decade has passed since the Legislature faced a negative general fund balance anywhere close to the projected \$4.2 billion for fiscal years 2004-05.

Gov. Tim Pawlenty and legislators alike are looking at creative solutions to a serious problem, just as then-Gov. Arne Carlson did when weaker-than-expected economic growth in the late 1980s created a \$2 billion deficit in 1991.

To better anticipate budgetary ups and downs, Carlson selected key private sector business and financial leaders and charged them with reviewing state fiscal information and planning practices. The group was named the Commission on Long-term Financial Management Reform.

The commission's February 1992 report focused on “structural balance,” or preventing ongoing expenditures from surpassing ongoing revenues – and doing so not only in the proposed biennium, but in the following two biennia.

“It is increasingly obvious that fundamental changes in Minnesota's financial management policies and procedures must be adopted to secure the state's fiscal future,” said Duane Kullberg, chair of the commission, in the report's introduction. Kullberg was chairman and retired chief executive officer of Arthur Andersen and Co.

He continued, “Financial crises and short-term shocks to the system must not be allowed to determine the state's program priorities. Financial planning and management reform, that is linked to a long-term strategic framework, is necessary to introduce greater stability.”

The study recommended:

- Developing and enforcing a long-term financial plan that is linked to an overall strategic framework;

- Increasing management flexibility, responsibility and accountability in budgeting, including contingency planning to address economic uncertainties; and

- Examining state and local fiscal responsibilities to ensure proper accountability, responsibility, and fiscal prudence.

As a result, in 1994 a new law required that financial forecasts prepared in the first year of a biennium address that biennium and the next. And those prepared during

the second fiscal year must cover the current two-year budget cycle, as well as the following two biennia.

In addition, the budget reserve target was set at 5 percent of expenditures, according to the Department of Finance.

The state's economic situation improved and budgets commencing in 1994 contained healthy surpluses.



Gov. Arne Carlson

Gov. Carlson was not the first governor to appoint a citizen commission for help during a fiscal crisis.

In 1982 then-Gov. Al Quie formed a blue-ribbon task force to analyze state spending.

At the time the 1982-83 biennium budget shortfall was 16.8 percent of enacted spending. The problem was one of many woes during the 1980s that caused Minnesota to lose its high bonding rate.

Short-term borrowing helped close the gap between 1982 and 1985. Borrowing to meet daily government activities was at its highest of \$850 million in March 1982, according to the Department of Finance.

The task force recommended creating a budget reserve and requiring state budget forecasts to cover two biennia, or four years.

Changes followed the task force's report. The first budget reserve was created in 1983, under the leadership of then-Gov. Rudy Perpich.

Matters have since come full circle with the forecasted deficit for the upcoming biennium.

(M. BRYANT)

★ **RECREATION**

Trail management disparity

Snowmobile trails are being managed well by the state, but trails for dirt bikes, four-wheelers, and other off-road vehicles are not, according to a report released Jan. 8.

Prepared by the Office of the Legislative Auditor, the 118-page report examined how the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) handles trail design, planning and management, and off-highway vehicle enforcement. The report was ordered in April 2002 by the Legislative Audit Commission.

Brad Moore, acting DNR commissioner, said the report will help the DNR manage off-road vehicle use.

It's true that the DNR lacks sufficient information for overall trail planning, said Dennis Asumussen, department director of trails and waterways. He said the last study on recreational trends and habits was done in the late 1970s.

"We need to know better who's in the forest, and what they're doing, and what their needs are," he said.

State money accounts for the four off-highway vehicle groups are adequate, according to the report, and could be tapped for planning and enforcement. The accounts together held \$13.9 million at the end of fiscal year 2002. The money is derived from gas tax allocations and vehicle registration receipts.

The report recommends that the Legislature order new studies to better determine off-highway vehicle gas tax allocations because existing studies do not reflect current gasoline use. For example, snowmobile allocations are based on the 1996-97 winter, which had the most snow in the past decade.

Also, the report found that the state spends more time enforcing snowmobile laws than laws governing other off-highway vehicles. However, the non-snowmobile off-highway vehicles typically have greater potential environmental impact from year-round use, according to the report.

Rep. Mark Holsten (R-Stillwater) said it is difficult for conservation officers to monitor all-terrain vehicle use as thoroughly because there are far fewer designated trails designated for them.

"It's lack of a trail system that has led to enforcement problems," he added.

Minnesota has 19,000 miles of snowmobile trails and 950 miles of off-highway vehicle trails. Many operators use undesignated trails in managed parks.

TWO GENERATIONS



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

Rep. Katie Sieben, right, is joined in opening day ceremonies by her father, Mike Sieben, a member of the House from 1973-1982. Her uncle, Harry Sieben, Jr. was Speaker of the House from 1981-1984.

The report may be discussed further in the various Senate and House committees.

A separate task force report examining non-snowmobile off-highway vehicle use is expected in late January.

Editor's Note: The following stories summarize the action taken by the Legislature during the 2002 Special Session, held Sept. 19. The session, called to address flood relief for counties throughout Greater Minnesota, lasted a few hours and produced three laws: one governing flood relief and two dealing with tax issues. We are providing the summaries as a service to *Session Weekly* readers who may not have received an update regarding the House action.

★ **GREATER MINNESOTA**

Flood relief package approved

After a soaking summer, it was a brighter fall for some Minnesotans as a flood relief package was approved by the Legislature during a Sept. 19 special session.

The nearly \$32 million package will provide relief for 19 counties damaged by severe storms and heavy rains last June. Sixteen of those counties are in the northwest portion of the state, plus McLeod and Wright in central Minnesota and Goodhue in the southeast portion of the state. The new law effective Sept. 21, 2002 is similar to the legislation passed during the 1997 special session that brought aid to communities in the Red River basin.

"This sends a message that the state is committed to providing assistance," said Rep. Maxine Penas (R-Badger), the law's House sponsor. "It gives people hope."

Among the hardest hit areas was Roseau, where Penas said 80 percent of the homes were damaged or destroyed, along with 100 businesses, affecting 1,800 families.

Of the funding, \$29.4 million is in new appropriations and \$2.35 million is from the reallocation of funds. More than \$16 million of new monies are from additional bonding, and \$10.1 million is from the cancellation of general fund money appropriated in 2000 for road construction. The remainder comes from trunk highway funds (\$2 million) and fuel contaminated property assistance (\$1 million).

The largest chunk of state funding is \$8.3 million to match the federal emergency funds. "This includes all of the state and local share," Penas said. Under the program the federal government provides 75 percent aid, and state and local governments provide 25 percent. Usually such aid requires a 10 percent local contribution.

For businesses, \$6 million of relief was authorized, half of which comes from the state's general fund for grants or loans to businesses adversely affected by the flood, and \$1 million was directed for cleanup of buildings where the damage can be related to petroleum contamination. Additionally, businesses in a tax increment financing district may request to have their net tax capacity adjusted for the first taxes payable year.

Of the reallocations, \$350,000 is designated for flood replacement aid and \$2 million in bonding for flood mitigation.

An amendment that would have provided assistance for Jackson, Nobles, and Rock counties in southwest Minnesota, where farmers anticipate losing millions of dollars as a result of drought conditions, was not approved.

Sen. LeRoy Stumpf (DFL-Thief River Falls) was the Senate sponsor.

2002 Special Session: HF1*/SF1/CH1

TAXES

Charitable deduction changes

Legislators approved a measure during a Sept. 19 special session that redefines the threshold of deduction for charitable contributions on income taxes paid after Dec. 31, 2001.

The new law allows affected taxpayers to deduct contributions of more than 1.3 percent of their federal adjusted gross income. The law addressed a concern about a court's ruling on the way taxpayers calculate the state's alternative minimum tax.

The tax was originally created to ensure that individuals who capitalize on certain available tax deductions, which theoretically may erase all income tax burden, still pay some tax.

Charitable contributions qualify as one type of deduction taxpayers may make from their income tax obligations. A Minnesota Supreme Court ruling, which removed the tax deductibility of charitable contributions made by Minnesotans who are required to pay the state's alternative minimum tax, raised concerns that contributions made to nonprofit organizations could be significantly reduced if taxpayers are no longer allowed to deduct them.

Rep. Ron Abrams (R-Minnetonka), the new law's House sponsor, said it is a temporary solution that addresses concerns raised by the court decision, adding that the issue would likely be addressed further in the 2003 session. "This is a one-year solution to a very bad problem," he said.

In Minnesota, taxpayers first calculate their regular tax liability and then determine whether they owe the alternative minimum tax. If the alternative minimum tax is higher

than the regular tax, the taxpayer pays the difference between the two amounts.

Previously the state's alternative minimum taxpayers were allowed to deduct charitable contributions made only to Minnesota-based charities. But a case brought before the state tax court ultimately led to the Supreme Court ruling that no charitable donations, regardless of where the charity is located, could be deducted in calculating the state alternative minimum tax.

The Supreme Court ruled the prior law was unconstitutional under federal commerce laws because it discriminated between charities.

Sen. Don Betzold (DFL-Fridley) was the Senate sponsor.

2002 Special Session: HF2*/SF2/CH2

Gravel tax

A new law passed during a Sept. 19 special session clarifies a sales tax exemption on the delivery of aggregate materials and concrete block.

Rep. Ron Abrams (R-Minnetonka), the House sponsor, said the law clarifies the legislative intent of a provision of the 2002 omnibus tax law. The measure specifies that the delivery of aggregate materials and concrete block by a third party is subject to the sales tax if it would be subject to the tax were delivered by the seller.

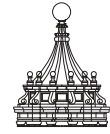
Abrams said the 2002 provision had little or no cost associated with it, but since adjournment of the 2002 regular session, the Department of Revenue had interpreted the definition more broadly than intended.

The new law was effective retroactive to June 30, 2002.

Sen. Ann Rest (DFL-New Hope), the Senate sponsor, said the Revenue Department had

indicated to her that there were no collections related to the provision since June 2002, and therefore no refunds were owed.

2002 Special Session: HF3*/SF3/CH3



NOTES

2 minutes for.....

Gov. Tim Pawlenty's inaugural activities included a Jan. 9 hockey game between a team he led and one led by former Gov. Wendell Anderson.

That game prompted a question within the House DFL caucus on the opening day when Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls) playfully asked Rep. Tom Pugh (DFL-St. Paul) why he was playing on a Republican team against a Democratic team.

"Governor Pawlenty called me with a distinct problem with respect to this hockey game in that he has 20 right wings," Pugh said. After the laughter subsided, Pugh continued, "He needed someone to patrol the left side of the rink so he called some of his friends from South St. Paul to do that."

Pugh also said that the rivalry between South St. Paul and St. Paul Johnson high schools is "deeper than anything Democrats and Republicans could ever hope for."

Pawlenty went to South St. Paul and Anderson is a Johnson graduate.

Pugh took a shot at himself and other participants. "If you see highlights on television and it seems like it is in slow-motion, that'll be the actual speed."



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHEID

Reps. Lyle Koenen, *left*, and Keith Ellison, *right*, are sworn into the House of Representatives by Minnesota State Supreme Court Chief Justice Kathleen Blatz Jan. 7. Koenen is joined by sons Levi, *left*, and Isaac.



PHOTO BY ANDREW VON BANK

Reps., *from left*, Chris DeLaForest, Paul Kohls, Joe Hoppe, and Lynn Wardlow take the oath of office during the first day of the 2003 session on Jan. 7.

Exceeding expectations

Lawmakers face \$4.5 billion projected deficit through fiscal year 2005 as they prepare to set state budget

By MICHELLE KIBIGER

In the midst of preparing for a new legislative session with 43 new House members, lawmakers were greeted with the news they were hoping wasn't true: the projected budget deficit had gotten bigger.

The state Department of Finance released its November budget forecast on Dec. 4 with the grim news that the state faces a projected deficit of \$4.56 billion at the close of the 2005 fiscal year. That figure includes a \$356 million deficit for the fiscal year that closes June 30, 2003 – a problem that lawmakers must address early in the 2003 legislative session.

National Conference of State Legislatures, shows that 31 states reported budget gaps during the early months of fiscal year 2003. In addition, 33 states are forecasting revenues below previous projections. Cumulatively, the 50 states are anticipating a deficit of \$17.5 billion at the close of fiscal year 2003.

During the forecast presentation, Stinson said economists are also concerned that the problems in state economies may ultimately drag on the national economy and slow its turnaround.

The Minnesota Constitution does not allow the state to borrow beyond the end of a biennium (two-year cycle) to accommodate its

- A weak stock market, still reeling from the after affects of the 2001 terrorist attacks;
- Minnesota's economy, which was hit harder by the 2001 recession than the national economy and has been slow to rebound following the Sept. 11 attacks; and
- Higher than projected health and human services spending, exacerbated by the state's economic situation.

Stinson and finance officials noted that while they expect the economic situation to improve, it will not improve fast enough to make a difference in the short term.

"This is not a problem that we will grow out of," Stinson said.

More than 75 percent of the state's general fund revenues comes from two places – income taxes and sales taxes – two areas that took severe hits during the recent economic downturn. Specifically, income taxes relating to capital gains are down \$5 billion since 2001. That represents more than a 50 percent drop in capital gains revenue – blamed on the abrupt decline in the stock market. That market crash caused individuals to claim losses rather than the significant income experienced in the late 1990s and the first two years of this decade.

However, the forecast predicts that revenues will increase in the 2004-05 biennium. The problem is they will not increase enough to cover projected spending, thereby causing a projected deficit.

"This is not a pessimistic economic forecast," Stinson said. There will be growth, he added, but it will occur from a much lower base.

The estimated \$4.2 billion shortfall for fiscal years 2004-05 represents about 14 percent of the general fund budget for the biennium. The February 2002 forecast anticipated a shortfall of \$3.2 billion for the biennium.

How the forecast works

Economic forecasting can be a very complicated and time-consuming exercise. However, when broken down into its pieces, forecasts merely project how the state's budget will balance for a given two-year spending cycle.

First, the Legislature sets the budget for a two-year period or biennium. Then economic forecasters will take the budget and determine generally how much revenue will be raised and how much of that revenue will be spent on



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

Anne Barry, acting finance commissioner, uses a graph to illustrate a \$450 million revenue shortfall during the Dec. 6 release of the November Forecast.

The only consolation: Minnesota is not alone in its budget woes.

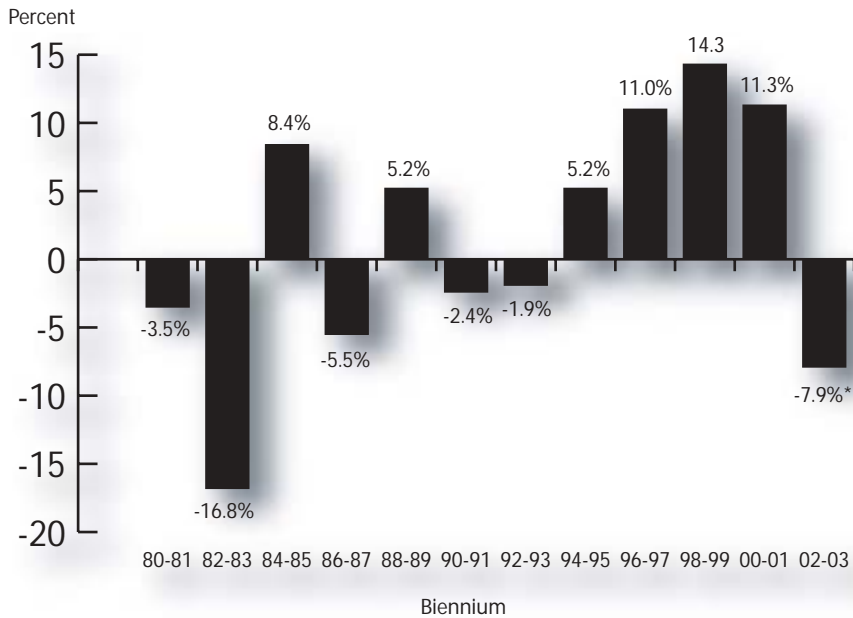
"This is not a problem that's limited to Minnesota," said Tom Stinson, state economist. "Almost every state is having some financial problems."

A report, released in November 2002 by the

operating budget. As a result, the Legislature must act to ensure the budget will balance when the fiscal year closes at midnight June 30.

As for projections in 2004-2005, for which lawmakers will budget this session, finance officials blame the projected deficit on several key factors:

Surplus/Shortfalls as a Percent of Enacted Spending



* Based on the February 2002 forecast.
Source: Minnesota Department of Finance

various programs.

Unlike a household budget, which is typically based on a set salary, the state's budget fluctuates to some degree according to the money people pay in taxes. If people are out of work or otherwise not bringing in as much income, they don't generate as much income tax or contribute as much sales tax to the economy. Other factors, such as corporate taxes and other fees, also contribute to revenue collected by the state.

Simply put, the forecast compares anticipated revenues to anticipated spending and determines the difference. When revenues do not exceed expenditures, finance officials

project a deficit.

Officials must then balance the state budget – either by raising more revenue or by cutting expenditures.

In forecasting, economic officials will take the overall economic situation in the nation and the state into consideration. This is particularly important as it relates to the stock market, business climate, and unemployment. For one, the November forecast did not consider any economic impacts a war with Iraq might have.

The forecast no longer accounts for inflation in budget estimates. A new law in 2002 prohibited finance officials from including

inflation in expenditure estimates for future years.

Balancing the budget

Lawmakers will likely begin work on eliminating the debt for the current fiscal year as soon as they convene the 2003 Legislature. In addition, the primary focus of the 2003 session will be setting the 2004-05 budget.

Minnesota is an executive budget state, which means the Legislature waits for the governor to propose a state budget and builds from that. The Legislature may accept all or part of the governor's budget and augment it with its own priorities.

Although Gov. Tim Pawlenty has not formally offered any specific budget initiatives yet, he has repeatedly reiterated his campaign promise to balance the state's budget without raising taxes. Pawlenty has suggested examining the state's local government aid system, which accounts for about 10 percent of the state budget. He has until mid-February to submit his budget to the Legislature.

Finance officials are also looking at executive branch options for balancing the budget. All reserve accounts are being examined, officials said.

"We're looking under every rock for everything that's out there," said Acting Finance Commissioner Anne Barry at the December press conference.

In addition, Barry said, state law allows the governor to "unallot" or cut spending at any time when there is an estimate that revenues will not exceed expenditures in a given fiscal year. 🐼

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Running the show

Sviggum re-elected House speaker, Olson joins Abrams and Boudreau as speaker pro tempore

For the third straight biennium, Rep. Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon) will preside over the Minnesota House of Representatives.

Sviggum was elected Speaker of the House when members convened for the 83rd session Jan. 7, defeating House Minority Leader Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul) 81 to 51.



Rep. Steve Sviggum

Considered by some to be the second most-powerful position in state government behind the governor, the speaker appoints House committee chairs, vice chairs, and names members of both parties to committees. The speaker also refers proposed legislation to standing committees and appoints conference committee members, and designates a person to fulfill the duties of the legislative office until members elect a successor.

In the chamber, the speaker controls floor debates, preserves order and decorum and can order the House lobby or galleries cleared due to improper conduct or other disturbances.



Rep. Ron Abrams

Sviggum, a farmer, educator, and coach, was first elected to the House in 1978. He is a member of the Ways and Means and Rules and Legislative Administration committees. Prior to being elected speaker, Sviggum was the House Minority Leader for three biennial sessions

Reps. Ron Abrams (R-Minnetonka), Lynda Boudreau (R-Faribault), and Mark Olson (R-Big Lake) have each been appointed speaker pro tempore to preside over the House in the speaker's absence.

Abrams and Boudreau have served as speakers pro tempore since 1999.

Now in his eighth term, Abrams is chair of the House Taxes Committee. The attorney is also a member of the Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs



Rep. Lynda Boudreau

and the Rules and Legislative Administration committees.

Boudreau, a realtor, is serving her fifth term. She chairs the House Health and Human Services Policy Committee and is also a member of the Health and Human Services Finance, Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy, and Rules and Legislative Administration committees.



Rep. Mark Olson

Appointed speaker pro tempore for the first time, Olson, a carpenter and homebuilder, is serving his sixth term. He's vice chair of the House Education Policy Committee and serves on the Capital Investment, Environment and Natural Resources Policy, and Transportation Policy committees. He also co-chaired a task force examining joint procedures governing both the House and Senate with new Senate Majority Leader John Hottinger (DFL-Mankato) during the 2001-2002 session.

(T. LONERGAN)

Editor's Note: Watch for profiles of new House majority and minority leadership in the upcoming issues of Session Weekly.

Ventura's interim Senate appointment not first instance in Minnesota

When a small plane went down near Eveleth on Oct. 25, 2002 killing U.S. Sen. Paul Wellstone and seven others, it set off a chain reaction that did not stop until U.S. Sen. Norm Coleman was sworn into office Jan. 7.

During that time then Gov. Jesse Ventura named Dean Barkley, director of Minnesota Planning, as the interim replacement for the late senator.

Legally, it is up to the governor to determine whether he or she will appoint a replacement when a member of Congress dies while in office or is otherwise unable to complete his or her term. Though it is the governor's responsibility, there is no requirement that the governor make an interim appointment. When the late-Congressman Bruce Vento died a few weeks before the end of his term in 2000, Ventura left the seat unfilled until a new member of Congress was elected that November.

Wellstone's death occurred so closely to a general election which complicated the

situation, but it's not the first time a governor's appointment has stirred a little controversy.

After six years of leading the state, DFL Gov. Wendell Anderson was named to the U.S. Senate in late 1976 to replace Walter Mondale, who was elected vice president under Jimmy Carter. Anderson technically resigned as governor, thereby promoting Lt. Gov. Rudy Perpich to Minnesota's top post.

"Wendell made a gallant display of searching border to border for the most qualified and gifted Democrat to succeed Mondale. He then concluded that it was Wendell Anderson," columnist Jim Klobuchar wrote in the Feb. 1, 1990 *Minneapolis Star Tribune*. "To no one's shock, Rudy's first conscious act as governor was to put Wendell Anderson in the Senate."

Anderson served two years in Washington D.C., losing his 1978 re-election bid to Rudy Boschwitz. Six years later he failed to garner his party's endorsement for the seat.

Ken Rudin, National Public Radio's political editor, wrote in a 1999 *Washington Post* column that Anderson was the ninth governor since 1933 to resign and then be appointed to the U.S. Senate, and that "only one was able to win a subsequent election on his own." He reasoned that in Anderson's case "voters resented his self-appointment to the Senate and dumped him at the first opportunity."

Conversely, Anderson reportedly thought his popularity would be stronger than the antipathy voters had with his appointment.

In their 1999 book, *Minnesota Politics and Government*, authors Daniel Elezar, Virginia Gray, and Wy Spano wrote that "Anderson's self-appointment to the U.S. Senate and his subsequent rejection by Minnesota voters represents one of the tragic miscalculations in Minnesota political history."

(M. Cook)

A big change

New House membership represents a wider gap between parties, largest freshman class in nearly 30 years

By MIKE COOK

The 2003 House of Representatives will have a look that has not been seen in St. Paul for quite some time.

In November voters gave the Republicans a larger majority than the eight-seat advantage they had when the House adjourned last May. The gap is now 81-52 with one open seat, due to the resignation of Rep. Dan McElroy (R-Burnsville) who was appointed as the state's finance commissioner. A special election for his seat is scheduled for Feb. 3.

Only four times since 1950 have the Republicans held a margin larger than the current one: 1951, 1953, 1967, and 1969. Conversely, at its height the DFL had a 74-seat majority to begin the 1975 and 1977 biennia before the House became evenly divided in 1979 — a 37-seat swing. Ten years ago the DFL held a 39-seat advantage.

Rep. Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon) will remain Speaker of the House for the third consecutive biennial session of the Legislature, and Rep. Erik Paulsen (R-Eden Prairie) is the new majority leader, replacing Gov. Tim Pawlenty. Now in his fifth term, Paulsen chaired the House Redistricting Committee during the 2001-2002 session.

Across the aisle, fellow fifth-termer Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul) is the new minority leader. Entenza may be best known as the House sponsor of the 2002 law that created a do-not-call list for telemarketers. He replaces Rep. Tom Pugh (DFL-South St. Paul), who stepped down after four years as minority leader, but remains in the House for his eighth term.

Almost one-third of the House members, 43, are freshmen, more than in both 1999 and 2001 combined. They are the largest freshman class since 52 newcomers were present in January 1975. At that time, 74.6 percent of incumbents who ran were re-elected compared to 90 percent this time around.

Thirty-three incumbents did not seek re-election in 2002. Ten incumbents were defeated in their quest for re-election. However, five of those lost in a head-to-head battle with another

representative when redistricting paired them in the same district. No new members have previously served terms in the House.

A trio of legislators are beginning their 16th term: Rep. Irv Anderson (DFL-Int'l Falls), Rep. Lyndon Carlson (DFL-Robbinsdale) and Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls).

Among the new members is Rep. Cy Thao (DFL-St. Paul), the first Hmong person to serve in the House. Rep. Keith Ellison (DFL-Mpls) brings the number of African-American members in the House to two, along with second-term Rep. Neva Walker (DFL-Mpls). Ellison replaces Rep. Greg Gray (DFL-Mpls), also African American and a former legislator who left the House in 2002 for an unsuccessful campaign for state auditor.

The first-term representatives represent a variety of backgrounds and with interesting life experiences. For example, Rep. Kent Eken (DFL-Twin Valley) lives on a fourth generation family farm, Rep. Frank Hornstein (DFL-Mpls) enjoys doing political impersonations, Rep. Peter Adolphson (R-Minnetonka) was in "Top Gun," and Rep. Stephanie Olsen (R-Brooklyn Park) is a national baton twirling champion.

Other members have family connections to the House. Rep. Aaron Peterson (DFL-Madison) is the son of former Rep. Doug Peterson, who resigned following the 2002 session to serve as the head of a farm organization, and the grandson of Rep. Harry Peterson, who served 30 years ago. Rep. Katie Sieben (DFL-Newport) is the niece of former House Speaker Harry Sieben Jr., and her father,

Mike Sieben, also served in the House. And Eken's father, Rep. Willis Eken, served in the House during the 1970s and 1980s, including four years as majority leader. Of the freshman legislators, 35 are men, bringing the grand total of male House members to 102, an increase of three from two years prior. The 31 women now serving is the lowest since 29 served in 1991.

However, the influx of new legislators has not too significantly lowered the average age of House members. The average age of a House member is 47.4, a one-year drop from two years ago. That is the lowest since 1991 when the average age was 47.

Nine members are age 30 or younger, the highest number in more than a decade. Sieben

is the youngest female representative at age 25 and Rep. Brad Finstad (R-New Ulm) the youngest male at age 26. Conversely, the number of members age 71 or greater remains at three, the same as the previous four biennia.

All but three House mem-

bers have some college in their background. Of those, 47 have a graduate degree, 15 have done some graduate work, 48 have a four-year undergraduate degree, 14 attended some college, and six have attended technical college.

For the third straight biennium, business is the most common occupation with 22 members listing that as their primary occupation, but it shares that distinction with educators — there are 22 of them, as well. Representing the diverse occupations in the House, 21 members are listed as "other," which includes such things as contractors, community organizers, and property managers.

The number of farmers in the House continues to dwindle as five members make their living off the land. Twenty members were farmers in 1991, followed by 16, 14, 11, nine, and eight in subsequent biennia. 🐾



PHOTO BY KRISTINE LARSEN

Rep. Paul Thissen was one of many freshman members who spent part of Jan. 6 unpacking boxes in their new office, one day before being sworn into the House. The House has 43 first-time legislators.

2003 House Profile

Membership					
	2003	2001	1999	1997	1995
DFL	52	65	63	70	71
R	81	69	71	64	63
Men	102	99	99	95	102
Women	31	35	35	39	32

Current Term					
	2003	2001	1999	1997	1995
1	43	18	20	22	26
2	17	20	24	29	29
3	15	22	25	25	16
4	16	22	20	14	11
5	11	17	10	7	20
6	9	8	5	14	7
7	5	4	10	6	4
8	3	7	4	3	2
9	4	3	3	1	3
10	2	2	1	3	5
11	1	1	2	3	3
12	1	1	3	2	6
13	1	3	2	4	1
14	2	2	4	-	-
Other	3(16)	4(15)	1(22)	1(21)	1(20)

Age					
	2003**	2001*	1999	1997	1995
21-30	9	5	6	5	6
31-40	31	27	23	27	24
41-50	35	42	51	45	51
51-60	44	41	38	43	34
61-70	9	12	13	11	16
over 71	3	3	3	3	3
Average age	47.4	48.4	48.7	48.3	47.9

* Ages not available for 4 members
 ** Ages not available for 2 members

Occupation					
	2003	2001	1999	1997	1995
Business	22	23	24	21	20
Educator	22	20	19	22	20
Attorney	16	15	17	17	18
Legislator	10	15	14	18	19
Consultant	7	6	6	6	6
Government	7	2	2	3	3
Real Estate	7	3	3	2	2
Farming	5	8	9	11	14
Retired	5	4	4	3	3
Communications	4	3	4	4	3
Trades	4	3	3	2	4
Homemaker	3	4	5	5	3
Other	21	28	24	20	19

Education					
	2003	2001	1999	1997	1995
High School	3	3	4	5	5
Technical College	6	5	6	10	11
Some College	14	19	23	20	24
4-yr. Undergraduate Degree	47	44	39	40	41
Some Graduate work	15	13	13	16	14
Graduate Degree	48	50	49	43	37
No listing	-	-	-	-	2

Note: numbers have been adjusted to reflect the resignation of Rep. Dan McElroy, effective Jan. 6.

Square one

Freshman legislators learn the ropes, make acquaintances at biennial orientation retreat

By DAVID MAEDA

Starting any new job can be stressful enough but when the job description includes representing the people of the state, the challenge can be all the more daunting.

Fortunately for newly elected House members, there exists an orientation program helping ease the transition and preparing members for what to expect.

Rep. Kathy Tingelstad (R-Andover), who for the second straight time led the program with Rep. Margaret Anderson Kelliher (DFL-Mpls), said the program helps prepare new members for the fast pace of the legislative session from day one.

"The goal of the freshman orientation was to basically introduce them to the people and resources that they need to be effective," Tingelstad said.

The program also offers an opportunity to develop friendships with other freshman representatives from throughout the state.

"I think what having a comprehensive first-term orientation does is it helps bring back the human relationships into this process and that is so important. To get to know each other in a relaxed way helps build relationships," Kelliher said.

As an ice-breaking exercise the program included a "Getting to Know You" game, in which each new member listed a trivia fact about themselves and the other members had to find out which fun fact corresponded with which member.

Thus members learned that Rep. Tony

Cornish (R-Good Thunder) is the uncle of former first lady Terry Ventura, Rep. Paul Thissen (DFL-Mpls) has attended 15 Bruce Springsteen concerts, and the great-great-great-great grandfather of Rep. Karen Klinzing (R-Woodbury) was a delegate to the first Minnesota Territorial Convention.

Kelliher said the variety of backgrounds and life experiences was a good reminder that the state truly does have a citizen Legislature, reflecting the diverse makeup of the state's different regions.

"They were a raucous and rowdy bunch with a wide variety of backgrounds. That made it fun," she said.

In addition to the unusually large size of the group, Tingelstad noticed a difference between this year's freshman compared with the Class of 2000.

"This group has more children that are younger, school-aged kids," she said. "That kind of gives them a different perspective."

Much of the retreat focused on the actual legislative process. Presentations included the bill enactment process, legislative rules and procedures, the role of staff, the committee system and information on the budget process.

As if learning the nuts and bolts of the law-making process wasn't a challenge in itself, the November budget forecast was announced in the middle of the three-day program. It was then the freshman members learned of the larger than expected \$4.56 billion deficit.

Both Tingelstad and Kelliher said the connections would bring support during the more difficult parts of the session.

"I think it's important when we welcome people into the House of Representatives that there's a bipartisan atmosphere," Kelliher said. "Although we are a political institution we also work as colleagues so a really important part of that is to get to know each other."

Rep. Cy Thao (DFL-St. Paul) said one of the most valuable parts of the orientation program

was being able to make friends on both sides of the aisle. Among the friendships he developed in the orientation program was with Rep. Dan Severson (R-Sauk Rapids)

"We got along well. When it comes to political philosophy we're very different ends. We were

able to sit down and listen to each other and debate without yelling at each other, which is a good thing to have," Thao said.

"It was neat to be with both Republicans and Democrats and have the chance of getting to know each other before the partisan battles begin," Severson said. "I think it will pay big dividends when we get on the floor." 🐼



PHOTO BY ANDREW VON BANK

Rep. Frank Hornstein gives newly elected House members a light-hearted impression of former Gov. Jesse Ventura during new member orientation.

Meet the newly elected 2003 House members

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(952) 934-0330
Business: Hopkins
1311 S. Fifth St. 55343
(952) 936-9490
Born: 9/7/57. **Married:** spouse Kristin, 4 children. **Occupation:** Business. **Education:** BA, business, Gustavus Adolphus College; MBA, finance, National University, San Diego, Calif.. **Elected:** 2002. **Term:** 1st.

Anderson, Jeff (R) 27B
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Home: Austin
*710 Eighth Ave. N.W. 55912
(507) 434-3269
Business: Austin
303 Third St. N.W. 55912
(507) 433-0400, ext. 0352
Married: spouse Heidi, 4 children.
Occupation: Teacher. **Education:** BS, education, Minnesota State University, Mankato. **Elected:** 2002. **Term:** 1st.

Atkins, Joe (DFL) 39B
221 State Office Building (651) 296-4192
E-mail: rep.joe.atkins@house.mn



Home: Inver Grove Heights
2463 - 78th St. E. 55076
(651) 451-3837
***Business:** South St. Paul
222 W. Grand Ave., #100 55075
(651) 451-6411
Born: 10/6/65. **Married:** spouse Julia, 3 children. **Occupation:** Attorney. **Education:** BA, political science, University of Minnesota-Twin Cities; JD, William Mitchell College of Law. **Elected:** 2002. **Term:** 1st.



Beard, Michael (R) **35A**
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Home: Shakopee
 *8434 Horizon Drive 55379 (952) 445-9374
Business: Edina
 7317 Cahill Road
 Suite 201 55439 (952) 562-1234
Born: 7/22/53. **Married:** spouse Karen, 4 children. **Occupation:**
 Business. **Education:** Bible missions, Bethany College of
 Missions in Bloomington; entrepreneurial classes, University
 of St. Thomas. **Elected:** 2002. **Term:** 1st.



DeLaForest, Chris (R) **49A**
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Home: Andover
 *14316 Tamarack St. N.W. 55304 (763) 413-0766
Born: 8/28/69. **Married:** spouse Karen, 1 child. **Occupation:**
 Attorney. **Education:** BA, political science, St. John's University,
 Collegeville; JD, law, University of Minnesota. **Elected:** 2002.
Term: 1st.



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 4859 U.S. Highway 12 S.W. 55390 (763) 658-4102
Business: Delano
 700 S. Seventh St.
 P.O. Box 69 55328
Born: 9/24/51. **Single:** 5 children. **Occupation:** Business.
Education: BS, business education, Minnesota State University,
 Mankato; BS, business administration, Minnesota State
 University, Mankato. **Elected:** 2002. **Term:** 1st.



Demmer, Randy (R) **29A**
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 *P.O. Box 47 55940 (507) 477-2314
Business: Hayfield
 Computer Edge, Inc.
 P.O.Box 47, 10 Center Ave. N. 55940 (507) 477-3636
Born: 1/3/57. **Married:** spouse Kathy, 3 children. **Occupation:**
 Consultant. **Education:** BABA, agricultural business
 administration, University of Minnesota. **Elected:** 2002. **Term:** 1st.



Brod, Laura (R) **25A**
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Home: New Prague
 *201 - 11th St. Circle S.E. 56071 (952) 758-5184
Business: New Prague
 111 W. Main St. 56071
Born: 12/11/71. **Married:** husband Wade, 2 children.
Occupation: Small Business Owner. **Education:** BA, geography,
 University of Minnesota-Twin Cities; MA, urban and regional
 studies, Minnesota State University, Mankato. **Elected:** 2002.
Term: 1st.



Dill, David (DFL) **6A**
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 *423 Bear Island 55725 (218) 993-2252
Business: Orr
 P.O. Box 293 55771 (218) 757-3288
Born: 7/7/55. **Married:** spouse Tucky, 1 child. **Occupation:** City
 Administrator/Commercial Pilot. **Elected:** 2002. **Term:** 1st.



Cornish, Tony (R) **24B**
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Business: same
Single: 3 children. **Occupation:** Conservation Officer. **Elected:**
 2002. **Term:** 1st.



Eken, Kent (DFL) **2A**
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 *3463 - 170th Ave. 56584 (218) 584-8109
Business: same
Born: 12/12/63. **Married:** spouse Lori, 3 children. **Occupation:**
 Teacher. **Education:** BA, political science/education, Concordia
 College, Moorhead; MA, history, St. Cloud State University.
Elected: 2002. **Term:** 1st.



Cox, Ray (R) **25B**
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 *218 Manitou St. 55057 (507) 645-5736
Business: Northfield
 1600 Riverview Lane
 P.O. Box 652 55057 (507) 645-8975
Born: 6/26/51. **Married:** spouse Ellen, 3 children. **Occupation:**
 Trades. **Education:** BA, biology, St. Olaf College. **Elected:** 2002.
Term: 1st.



Ellison, Keith (DFL) **58B**
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Home: Minneapolis
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Born: 8/4/63. **Married:** spouse Kim, 4 children. **Occupation:**
 Attorney. **Education:** BA, economics, Wayne State University,
 Detroit, Michigan; JD, law, University of Minnesota Law School.
Elected: 2002. **Term:** 1st.



Finstad, Brad (R) **21B**
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Home: New Ulm
 *614 North Payne 56073 (507) 354-4431
Business: same (507) 381-6575
Born: 5/30/76. **Married:** spouse Jaclyn. **Occupation:** Agriculture Consultant. **Education:** BS, agricultural education, University of Minnesota. **Elected:** 2002. **Term:** 1st.



Koenen, Lyle (DFL) **20B**
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Home: Maynard
 *175 - 30th Ave. S.E. 56260 (320) 367-2556
Born: 6/16/56. **Married:** spouse Sandy, 4 children. **Occupation:** Farmer. **Education:** AA, agriculture, Willmar Technical College. **Elected:** 2002. **Term:** 1st.



Heidgerken, Bud (R) **13A**
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 *316 Second Ave. N.E.
 P.O.Box 116 56331 (320) 836-2823
Business: same (320) 836-2105
Born: 9/27/43. **Married:** spouse Ann Blommel, 4 children. **Occupation:** Business. **Education:** BS, English, BS, history, social studies, and political science, St. Cloud State University. **Elected:** 2002. **Term:** 1st.



Kohls, Paul (R) **34A**
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Business: Minneapolis
 333 S. Seventh St.
 Suite 2000 55402 (612) 340-8966
Born: 4/15/74. **Married:** spouse Kelly, 1 child. **Occupation:** Attorney. **Education:** BA, political science, University of St. Thomas; JD, law, University of Minnesota. **Elected:** 2002. **Term:** 1st.



Hoppe, Joe (R) **34B**
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Business: Edina
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Born: 12/13/64. **Married:** spouse Deanne, 2 children. **Occupation:** Communications. **Education:** BA, history, St. John's University. **Elected:** 2002. **Term:** 1st.



Lanning, Morrie (R) **9A**
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 Concordia College
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Born: 8/27/44. **Married:** spouse Ruthie, 2 children. **Occupation:** Vice President for Student Affairs, Dean of Students. **Education:** BA, psychology and history-political science, Concordia College; MS, guidance and counseling, North Dakota State University. **Elected:** 2002. **Term:** 1st.



Hornstein, Frank (DFL) **60B**
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Home: Minneapolis
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Born: 9/27/59. **Married:** spouse Marcia Zimmerman, 3 children. **Occupation:** Community Organizer. **Education:** BA, environmental studies, Macalester College; MA, urban and environmental policy, Tufts University, Massachusetts. **Elected:** 2002. **Term:** 1st.



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Born: 8/9/63. **Married:** spouse Julia, 2 children. **Occupation:** Attorney. **Education:** BA, political science, University of Wisconsin-Madison; JD, law, Harvard Law School. **Elected:** 2002. **Term:** 1st.



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Business: Bloomington
 Kennedy High School
 9701 Nicollet Ave. S. 55420 (952) 885-7800
Born: 9/28/70. **Married:** spouse William, 2 children. **Occupation:** Teacher. **Education:** BS, sociology, University of Wisconsin-Madison; BS, political science, University of Wisconsin-Madison; BS, secondary education, University of Wisconsin-Madison. **Elected:** 2002. **Term:** 1st.



Lesch, John (DFL) **66A**
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Business: St. Paul
 400 City Hall
 15 W. Kellogg Blvd. 55102 (651) 266-8740
Born: 1/15/73. **Married:** spouse Tina Marie, 1 child. **Occupation:** Prosecutor. **Education:** BA, philosophy and psychology, Saint Louis University; JD, law, Hamline University School of Law. **Elected:** 2002. **Term:** 1st.



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Business: Bagley
 121 Central St. E.,
 P.O. Box V 56621 (218) 694-6250
Born: 6/4/50. **Married:** spouse Colleen, 3 children. **Occupation:**
 Small Business Owner. **Education:** BS, elementary education,
 Bemidji State University. **Elected:** 2002. **Term:** 1st.



Nelson, Michael (DFL) **46A**
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 *7441 Hampshire Ave. N. 55428 (763) 561-2795
Born: 6/2/54. **Married:** spouse Kathleen, 3 children.
Occupation: Trades. **Education:** carpentry, Hennepin
 Technical College. **Elected:** 2002. **Term:** 1st.



Magnus, Doug (R) **22A**
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Home: Slayton
 *865 U.S. Hwy 59 56172 (507) 836-8613
Married: spouse Brenda, 2 children. **Occupation:** Farmer.
Education: BS, animal science, South Dakota State University.
Elected: 2002. **Term:** 1st.



Nelson, Peter (R) **17B**
433 State Office Building (651) 296-5377
E-mail: rep.peter.nelson@house.mn
Home: Lindstrom
 *13426 Third Ave. N., Box 744 55045 (651) 213-6621
Business: same (651) 257-1128
Born: 6/24/48. **Married:** spouse Debra, 2 children. **Occupation:**
 Owner, meat processing and sales business. **Elected:** 2002.
Term: 1st



McNamara, Denny (R) **57B**
577 State Office Building (651) 296-3135
E-mail: rep.denny.mcnamara@house.mn
Home: Hastings
 *700 Sixth St. W. 55033 (651) 437-2597
Business: Hastings
 9045 - 180th St. E. 55033 (651) 437-9463
Born: 9/29/52. **Married:** spouse Lynne, 2 children. **Occupation:**
 Landscape Contractor. **Education:** BS, business administration,
 University of Minnesota. **Elected:** 2002. **Term:** 1st.



Olsen, Stephanie (R) **47B**
***531 State Office Building** (651) 296-4280
E-mail: rep.stephanie.olsen@house.mn
Home: Brooklyn Park
 4632 Marigold Ave. N. 55443 (763) 315-4982
Born: 11/27/67. **Married:** spouse Troy. **Occupation:** Teacher/
 Education Researcher. **Education:** BS, social studies/secondary
 education, St. Cloud State University. **Elected:** 2002. **Term:** 1st.



Meslow, Doug (R) **53B**
377 State Office Building (651) 296-5363
E-mail: rep.doug.meslow@house.mn
Home: White Bear Lake
 *Business: White Bear Lake
 2125 Second St. 55110 (651) 426-1533
Born: 7/25/59. **Married:** spouse Jenny, 2 children. **Occupation:**
 Attorney. **Education:** BA, political science, St. Olaf College; JD,
 University of Minnesota Law School. **Elected:** 2002. **Term:** 1st.



Osterman, Lynne (R) **45A**
***431 State Office Building** (651) 296-4176
E-mail: rep.lynne.osterman@house.mn
Home: New Hope
 8593 48th Ave. N. 55428 (763) 536-0499
Born: 12/12/62. **Married:** spouse Ron, 2 children. **Occupation:**
 Communications/Project Manager. **Education:** BS, speech
 communications/mass communications, St. Cloud State
 University. **Elected:** 2002. **Term:** 1st.



Nelson, Carla (R) **30A**
571 State Office Building (651) 296-0573
E-mail: rep.carla.nelson@house.mn
Home: Rochester
 *931 S.W. 22nd Ave. 55902 (507) 288-2159
Born: 5/22/57. **Married:** spouse Terry, 3 children. **Occupation:**
 Teacher. **Education:** BSE, education, Drake University, Des
 Moines, Iowa; MA, education, University of Minnesota. **Elected:**
 2002. **Term:** 1st.



Peterson, Aaron (DFL) **20A**
***313 State Office Building** (651) 296-4228
E-mail: rep.aaron.peterson@house.mn
Home: Madison
 Route 3, Box 90 56256 (320) 226-1737
Business: same
Born: 9/25/70. Single. **Occupation:** Land-use Consultant.
Education: BS, geology and watershed science, Colorado State
 University; MPA, natural resources policy, Evans School of Public
 Affairs, University of Washington-Seattle. **Elected:** 2002.
Term: 1st.



Samuelson, Char (R) **50B**
423 State Office Building (651) 296-0141
E-mail: rep.char.samuelson@house.mn
Home: New Brighton
 *230 - 23rd Ave. N.W. 55112 (651) 636-5331
Business: St. Paul
 Health Services Innovations
 2489 Rice St.,
 Suite 121 55113 (651) 481-9095
Married: spouse Gerald, 2 children. **Occupation:** Healthcare
 Consultant. **Education:** BA, human services, Metropolitan State
 University; MA, religious leadership, United Theological Seminary,
 New Brighton. **Elected:** 2002. **Term:** 1st.



Strachan, Steve (R) **36B**
345 State Office Building (651) 296-1069
E-mail: rep.steve.strachan@house.mn
Home: Farmington
 *19179 Echo Lane 55024 (651) 463-4523
Business: Lakeville
 20110 Holyoke Ave. W. 55044 (952) 985-4826
Born: 1/26/65. **Married:** spouse Susan. **Occupation:** Police
 Sergeant. **Education:** BS, sociology, University of Minnesota;
 MA, public administration, Minnesota State University,
 Mankato. **Elected:** 2002. **Term:** 1st.



Severson, Dan (R) **14A**
389 State Office Building (651) 296-7808
E-mail: rep.dan.severson@house.mn
Home: Sauk Rapids
 *1025 Water Ave. 56379 (320) 230-2353
Business: same
Married: spouse Cathy Jo, 2 children. **Occupation:** Substitute Teacher/
 Business Owner. **Education:** BA, physics, St. Cloud State University;
 graduate classes in transportation. **Elected:** 2002. **Term:** 1st.



Thao, Cy (DFL) **65A**
215 State Office Building (651) 296-5158
E-mail: rep.cy.thao@house.mn
Home: St. Paul
 *990 Aurora Ave. 55104 (651) 646-0397
Business: St. Paul
 995 University Ave. #12 55104
Born: 3/2/72. **Married:** spouse Lee Vang, 1 child. **Occupation:**
 Artist. **Education:** BA, political science, University of Minnesota-
 Morris; BA, studio art, University of Minnesota-Morris. **Elected:**
 2002. **Term:** 1st.



Sieben, Katie (DFL) **57A**
***211 State Office Building** (651) 296-4342
E-mail: rep.katie.sieben@house.mn
Home: Newport
 1625 Wild Ridge Ct. S. 55055 (651) 458-3194
Born: 3/23/77. **Single.** **Occupation:** Legislator. **Education:** BA,
 history and government, Colorado College. **Elected:** 2002.
Term: 1st.



Thissen, Paul (DFL) **63A**
301 State Office Building (651) 296-5375
E-mail: rep.paul.thissen@house.mn
Home: Minneapolis
 *1219 W. 51st St. 55419 (612) 824-6697
Born: 12/10/66. **Married:** spouse Karen Wilson,
 2 children. **Occupation:** Attorney. **Education:** AB, Harvard
 University; JD, University of Chicago. **Elected:** 2002. **Term:** 1st.



Simpson, Dean (R) **10B**
473 State Office Building (651) 296-4293
E-mail: rep.dean.simpson@house.mn
Home: New York Mills
 *312 Polaris Parkway 56567 (218) 385-3015
Business: New York Mills
 113 Miller St., P.O. Box 10 56567 (218) 346-6750
Born: 9/7/50. **Married:** spouse Kathy, 4 children. **Occupation:**
 Business. **Education:** vocational/technical studies. **Elected:**
 2002. **Term:** 1st.



Urdahl, Dean (R) **18B**
521 State Office Building (651) 296-4344
E-mail: rep.dean.urdahl@house.mn
Home: Grove City
 *54880 - 253rd St. 56243 (320) 857-2600
Business: New London
 101 Fourth Ave. S.W. 56273 (320) 354-2252
Born: 8/18/49. **Married:** spouse Karen, 3 children. **Occupation:**
 Teacher. **Education:** BS, social studies, St. Cloud State University.
Elected: 2002. **Term:** 1st.



Soderstrom, Judy (R) **8B**
439 State Office Building (651) 296-0518
E-mail: rep.judy.soderstrom@house.mn
Home: Mora
 *514 E. Forest Ave., P.O. Box 105 55051.... (320) 679-2187
Business: same (320) 679-2187
Born: 4/9/42. **Married:** spouse Ronald, 3 children. **Occupation:**
 Real Estate. **Elected:** 2002. **Term:** 1st.



Wardlow, Lynn (R) **38B**
491 State Office Building (651) 296-4128
E-mail: rep.lynn.wardlow@house.mn
Home: Eagan
 *4317 Lodgepole Dr. 55122 (651) 454-7825
Born: 11/11/43. **Married:** spouse Sheryl, 2 children. **Occupation:**
 Retired Teacher. **Education:** BS, physical education, Augustana
 College, Sioux Falls, S.D.; MS, mathematics, Minnesota State
 University, Mankato. **Elected:** 2002. **Term:** 1st.

Real-world experience

Hoppe brings telecommunications, commerce, and transportation background to new role as legislator

By MICHELLE KIBIGER

It wasn't just one thing that made Rep. Joe Hoppe (R-Chaska) decide to run for the House of Representatives. But a number of conversations with members of his community and particularly retiring House member Tom Workman (R-Chanhassen) helped encourage him to give it a try.



Rep. Joe Hoppe

Workman's support, Hoppe says, was very important to his candidacy.

And while Hoppe says he will be very interested in transportation issues, like Workman was during his tenure, he also brings a number of other experiences to the job – including employment in commerce and the telecommunications industry, and an interest in the outdoors and preserving natural resources.

Specifically, he most recently worked for a telecommunications company, which handled both transmission of data applications, such as dedicated private lines, and long-distance services. He also spent time working with freight companies where his responsibilities included managing shipping between the Canadian headquarters and the large companies throughout Minnesota.

His philosophy: rein in spending to keep the budget in balance, allow consumers choice in the services they receive, and create an environment that will encourage business development and sustain that commerce throughout the state.

Hoppe says one of his strengths as a legislator will be how he brings real world experience to various facets of policymaking.

"It's important to have normal people from everyday life represent the state and represent the district, and then go back to normal life," Hoppe said.

Like many suburban Twin Cities residents, Hoppe understands what it's like to commute along the I-494 corridor and the congestion many drivers face on the roads each day. He also says he's concerned about the traffic trav-

eling through his district on U.S. Highway 212.

In addition, he says he'll be interested in natural resources issues, such as clean air and water, and preserving the wild spaces in the state.

Hoppe will serve on the House Environment and Natural Resources policy and finance committees, Rules and Legislative Administration, and the Regulated Industries Committee.

A solid educational system and good schools

are among other priorities for Hoppe's district, an area populated in large part by growing families.

Hoppe plans to stay connected with constituents in his district by meeting regularly with groups and helping educate the public about the role state government plays in people's daily lives. He said the budget crisis provides an opportunity to shed light on how things work. Constituents are holding elected officials to a higher standard, as well.

"I think people ... want the state to (pay attention to) things a little bit more during an economic time like this. When times are good and there are rebate checks, people don't look as closely," he said.

The campaign was good preparation for the upcoming session, Hoppe said. Not only did it help him to acquire a good understanding of his constituents' interests, it helped him develop a good rapport with them – regardless of their political affiliation.

"Being a candidate was an enormous amount of work," Hoppe said. "But I got to meet a lot of people I would have never met. It was fun. ... You learn you have to keep in contact with a lot of people."

Tom Furlong, newly elected mayor of Chanhassen, said Hoppe's people skills will be an asset to him as a legislator. So will his broad experiences in issues Furlong said are important to the people in the district, which is less rural since redistricting following the 2000 census.

"He's a man of good character, and I think that's important," Furlong said. "He's looking to do what's right and not necessarily what's politically expedient."

Furlong, also an acquaintance of Workman's, said the two are comparable in their commitment to serve the district and their constituents.

"I think we're going to be very well served by (having) Joe in the Legislature," Furlong said. "And I think we're going to be very proud

"Being a candidate was an enormous amount of work, But I got to meet a lot of people I would have never met. It was fun. ... You learn you have to keep in contact with a lot of people."

— Rep. Joe Hoppe

of him."

Hoppe said that although he knows his role as legislator will take away some of his time with his wife Deanne, 5-year-old daughter Elizabeth, and 3-year-old son Michael, he hopes they'll appreciate his work when they're older.

"Hopefully they'll look back on this in five years or 10 years and say, 'Hey, my dad was a state representative,' and he did the best job he could."

DISTRICT 34B

2002 population: 36,696
Largest city: Chanhassen
Counties: Carver, Hennepin
Location: southwest Twin Cities suburbs
Top concern: "I really want (Highway) 212 to get done. That's really going to help the people in Chaska and points west."

— Rep. Joe Hoppe

Past to present

Lanning brings decades of local government and higher education experience to St. Paul

By MIKE COOK

Being elected to the House is a case of what goes around comes around for Rep. Morrie Lanning (R-Moorhead). He replaces Kevin



Rep. Morrie Lanning

Goodno, a student of Lanning's in college who later won the dean's former seat on the Moorhead City Council.

"It's great to be able to leave the House and know that you have left the district in good hands," Goodno said.

Lanning learned that Goodno might step down, so when it happened last May Lanning quickly entered the race. "I had some time to ponder a run, but if his resignation had come as a complete surprise, I'm not sure I would have been ready to announce the next day."

A trip to St. Paul seemed unlikely less than a year earlier.

In August 2001 Lanning said he would not seek re-election as Moorhead's mayor after serving 22 years, and six years on the city council, but did not rule out a political return at some point. "If anybody had asked me what positions I would run for this would not have been on the list, in part because I thought Kevin would be here indefinitely."

After talking with his wife, Ruthie, and noting that his children are "out of the nest," Lanning made the run. Ruthie, a retired teacher, will stay with her husband in St. Paul. "Not wanting to be separated might have kept me from doing this," he said.

Lanning said his 28 years of city government experience would benefit his constituents.

"I've seen firsthand the effect that good and bad policy at the state and federal level can have on a local level," he said. "We have to balance budgets and we're forced to deal with unfunded mandates."

He tells of a dispute Moorhead had with the state Pollution Control Agency and the Environmental Protection Agency regarding

compliance with water quality standards that the city found to be out-of-date. The city prevailed, saving its residents \$29 million while still improving water quality at less cost.

As a legislator Lanning wants to hear cost-saving ideas. "I'm asking local units of

to take care of those that really can't take care of themselves. I'm talking about seniors who have no assets and who haven't played games in transferring assets to their kids in order to have taxpayers pay their nursing home bills, I'm talking about the disabled who can't work due to no reason of their own ... the folks who really in large part depend on government support."

As an administrator at Concordia College Lanning sees firsthand the effects of reduced financial support for higher education.

He said financial support has barely kept

"I've seen firsthand the effect that good and bad policy at the state and federal level can have on a local level. We have to balance budgets and we're forced to deal with unfunded mandates."

— Rep. Morrie Lanning

government, educational institutions, any entities that depend on state support and are likely going to get cut to tell us what we're doing to drive up their costs. In that way cities can in effect tell the state 'You're cutting our revenue and why don't you help us cut our costs by getting rid of these things that are unfunded and unnecessary.'"

"That experience of dealing with people and dealing with difficult situations will definitely help him as a legislator," Goodno said.

Lanning lists the budget deficit as his top priority, saying, "Nothing is off the table." He did not take a no new taxes pledge, but said raising them would be a last resort after all spending has been reviewed. "I've been telling people there is no way any part of the budget can go unscathed."

In Moorhead, property tax wealth per capita is one-half the state average and local government aid accounts for more than 50 percent of the budget. "As a border community (relying on property taxes) would not only kill any potential for growth it would cause people and jobs to move to the other side of the river."

To save money Lanning said the state must make sure that those with the ability to pay do so instead of relying on government support. "We must do that so we have enough money

pace with inflation in the last four or five years whereas other parts of the state budget have increased as much as 30 percent.

"In higher education you not only need to keep pace with inflation but you have to keep making programmatic improvements. The technology demands of the educated workforce are such that you can't stand still else you're going backwards. That costs more than just inflation. It's not like other parts of the budget where the status quo is not necessarily a problem."

DISTRICT 9A

2002 population: 36,798

Largest city: Moorhead

County: Clay

Location: northwest Minnesota

Top concern: "We need to find ways to cut costs and expenses and reduce spending while still protecting those things that are really critical such as education funding, local government aid, and a safety net for the people that are most vulnerable."

— Rep. Morrie Lanning

Change through participation

Former Senate intern and House candidate, Thao brings a lifetime of experience to his new position

By DAVID MAEDA

While Rep. Cy Thao (DFL-St. Paul) recently gave a tour of an upstairs bedroom turned into a small art studio in his house in the Frogtown neighborhood of St. Paul, his wife Lee Vang quietly got their 1-year-old daughter, Cyanne, ready for the day ahead.



Rep. Cy Thao

Examples of Thao's award winning artwork adorn the walls throughout the century old house-many of the paintings depicting the experiences of Hmong people as well as personal memories of the artist. The oil paintings are rich in color and visuals-using every bit of the canvas to help tell their stories.

And much of the work may never have come to be if Thao had experienced something different while a college intern with the Minnesota Senate 10 years ago.

Thao left his internship feeling disillusioned with the wheeling and dealing lawmaking process. He said that seeing the behind the scenes compromises necessary in building consensus squelched any further interest in a possible political career at the Capitol.

Instead he turned his energy to his art. Two years ago he was awarded a \$40,000 Bush Artist Fellowship, and he has spent much time since working on a 50-piece collection depicting the migration of the Hmong people. The collection was recently displayed at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse.

But the desire to help the community at large never left him. He has remained active as a community organizer and ran for a House seat in 2000 as a member of the Independence Party. The University of Minnesota-Morris graduate said his life experience helped teach him the best way to affect change is to be a participant in the process.

"I'm at an age where I'm comfortable enough to say I'm willing to work within the system to change the system," Thao said. "That wasn't the case 10 years ago. I just wanted to

change the system without knowing what I wanted to change. I just wanted change."

Thus a decade after his first exposure to the lawmaking process Thao finds himself a newly elected member anxious to work with others to improve the state. He said being an immigrant helped him learn firsthand how state government works - and sometimes doesn't for poorer people.

Thao was born in Laos in 1972. His family left the war-torn country for a refugee camp in Thailand when he was 2. They came to the

ways became the head of the household as both of his parents took on multiple jobs. His father now owns a clothing store in St. Paul.

"Another piece of why I'm so interested in being a part of the state Legislature is to be in a position to help decide what direction we want to take those (welfare) programs in," Thao said.

He said one of the priorities for his district is economic development and renovating run-down homes and businesses. He said such a renovation not only helps spur the neighborhood economy but also helps reduce crime.

"For anything to change, you have to be at the forefront and be in a position to be able to make decisions," he said. "So I want to be in a position to maybe help make other peoples' lives better."

Sen. Mee Moua (DFL-St. Paul) said Thao's

"For anything to change, you have to be at the forefront and be in a position to be able to make decisions. So I want to be in a position to maybe help make other peoples' lives better."

— Rep. Cy Thao

United States six years later. Thao said his father was reluctant to come to America at first, preferring instead to see if the situation in Laos would stabilize enough for the family to return home.

Like many newcomers to the Twin Cities, Thao's first impressions included shock at the cold weather. When his family arrived in March fresh from the tropical Thailand climate he was dressed in a T-shirt, shorts and sandals.

Thao said his parents struggled to make it in their new country having to find the time to learn English in addition to working long hours at minimum wage jobs just to make ends meet. He said without the state's welfare programs his family would have had a difficult time surviving.

But he said his father decided after a few years in the new country that the only way his family could succeed was to become self-supporting.

"I remember we had a meeting and my father sat us down and said, 'OK we're going to lose our benefits, our health benefits, everything. We're going to get off welfare.'"

A teenager at the time, Thao said he in many

background as a community activist will serve him well in the Legislature.

"Cy is very outspoken and assertive. He doesn't hesitate to stand up and speak his mind," Moua said. "He has a very likable personality and the ability to defuse animosity, particularly face to face."

DISTRICT 65A

2002 population: 36,610

Largest city: St. Paul

County: Ramsey

Location: Twin Cities

Top concern: "I know a lot of poor people who want to work but are sort of stuck in a trap. If we are going to cut benefits I want to see more programs to help them find jobs — adult education programs — making sure they learn enough English to get jobs. I want to see more of that versus just cutting."

— Rep. Cy Thao

2002 state fair poll results

More than 7,200 fairgoers sound off

The House Public Information Services office again conducted an unofficial poll of state fairgoers at the House of Representatives booth in the Education Building at the Minnesota State Fair. A total of 7,201 fairgoers participated in the poll, which is an informal, unscientific survey on a number of issues that have been discussed in prior legislative sessions and may be topics of discussion again.

Here's a look at the questions and the results.

1. Should the state require public and charter school students to recite the Pledge of Allegiance at least once per week?

Yes	49.3%	(3,554)
No	42.9%	(3,088)
Undecided/No Opinion	7.0%	(505)
Left blank/vote not tallied	—	(54)

2. Should the state invest in commuter rail systems (different from local, light-rail transit) such as the Northstar Corridor line and others?

Yes	64.1%	(4,615)
No	25.2%	(1,814)
Undecided/ No Opinion	9.9%	(713)
Left blank/vote not tallied	—	(59)

3. A proposal during the 2002 session would have proposed an amendment to the state constitution to dedicate three-sixteenths of 1 percent of sales tax receipts to the environment. Do you support a constitutionally dedicated funding source for the environment?

Yes	61.3%	(4,418)
No	29.8%	(2,147)
Undecided/No Opinion	8.1%	(583)
Left blank/vote not tallied	—	(53)

4. Should the state's tobacco endowment funds be used to help balance the state's budget during times when officials are projecting a deficit?

Yes	35.1%	(2,529)
No	55.8%	(4,020)
Undecided/No opinion	8.3%	(597)
Left blank/vote not tallied	—	(55)

5. During the 2002 session, legislators passed a new law allowing the sale and use of novelty fireworks, such as sparklers, snakes, and glowworms. The law specifies that only people older than 18 may purchase fireworks. Do you support making fireworks legal in Minnesota?

Yes	50.1%	(3,610)
No	43.9%	(3,158)
Undecided/No Opinion	5.5%	(398)
Left blank/vote not tallied	—	(35)



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHEID

A group of citizens takes the 2002 state fair poll at the House of Representatives booth.

5a. Would you support legalizing additional kinds of fireworks in the state?

Yes	37.2%	(2,677)
No	55.5%	(3,999)
Undecided/No Opinion	5.7%	(411)
Left blank/vote not tallied	1.6%	(114)

6. Should Minnesota adopt an initiative and referendum process whereby voters adopt laws or amend the constitution directly on the general election ballot, without first getting legislative approval?

Yes	40.0%	(2,880)
No	45.5%	(3,280)
Undecided/No Opinion	13.1%	(943)
Left blank/vote not tallied	1.4%	(98)

7. A bill was heard in 2002 to create a task force to study the form, style, and design of the state flag. Do you think the state flag needs to be changed?

Yes	7.7%	(554)
No	82.8%	(5,966)
Undecided/ No Opinion	8.4%	(611)
Left blank/vote not tallied	1.0%	(70)

8. Legislators proposed an increase in the state's gas tax for transportation and transit during the 2002 session, but they were unable to reach an agreement on transportation funding. Do you support increasing the gas tax to fund road and transit projects?

Yes	54.2%	(3,903)
No	40.0%	(2,880)
Undecided/ No Opinion	4.8%	(348)
Left blank/vote not tallied	1.0%	(70)

9. Do you support tax breaks or other funding assistance for individuals (contractors, property owners, etc.) to encourage the construction of affordable housing?

Yes	57.6%	(4,159)
No	31.6%	(2,273)
Undecided/ No Opinion	9.9%	(710)
Left blank/vote not tallied	—	(59)

10. Should auto glass replacement companies be allowed to offer free gifts and other incentives for using their services?

Yes	42.5%	(3,060)
No	45.5%	(3,278)
Undecided/ No Opinion	11.1%	(796)
Left blank/vote not tallied	—	(67)

11. Should Minnesota's constitutional officers (considered full-time positions) be required to disclose their outside income?

Yes	67.7%	(4,877)
No	23.1%	(1,669)
Undecided/ No Opinion	7.9%	(569)
Left blank/vote not tallied	1.2%	(86)

11a. Should legislators (considered part-time positions) be required to disclose their outside income?

Yes	57.7%	(4,154)
No	33.4%	(2,407)
Undecided/ No Opinion	8.1%	(584)
Left blank/vote not tallied	—	(56)

(All percentages are rounded off to the nearest one-tenth. Percent total votes left blank or not tallied are included for those above 1 percent.)

2003 Minnesota House of Representatives Members

District/Member/Party	Room*	Phone (651) 296-	District/Member/Party	Room*	Phone (651) 296-
48B Abeler, Jim (R)	369	1729	9A Lanning, Morrie (R)	593	5515
43B Abrams, Ron (R)	585	9934	63B Larson, Dan (DFL)	287	7158
42A Adolphson, Peter (R)	597	3964	44B Latz, Ron (DFL)	225	7026
19A Anderson, Bruce (R)	437	5063	40B Lenczewski, Ann (DFL)	237	4218
3A Anderson, Irv (DFL)	321	4936	66A Lesch, John (DFL)	223	4224
27B Anderson, Jeff (R)	583	4193	1B Lieder, Bernie (DFL)	323	5091
39B Atkins, Joe (DFL)	221	4192	2B Lindgren, Doug (R)	523	4265
35A Beard, Michael (R)	451	8872	32A Lindner, Arlon (R)	417	7806
51B Bernardy, Connie (DFL)	337	5510	56A Lipman, Eric (R)	567	4244
59A Biernat, Len (DFL)	303	4219	22A Magnus, Doug (R)	515	5505
12B Blaine, Greg (R)	387	4247	67A Mahoney, Tim (DFL)	289	4277
19B Borrell, Dick (R)	393	4336	65B Mariani, Carlos (DFL)	203	9714
26B Boudreau, Lynda (R)	559	8237	9B Marquart, Paul (DFL)	311	6829
29B Bradley, Fran (R)	563	9249	57B McNamara, Denny (R)	577	3135
25A Brod, Laura (R)	581	4229	53B Meslow, Doug (R)	377	5363
35B Buesgens, Mark (R)	445	5185	58A Mullery, Joe (DFL)	209	4262
45B Carlson, Lyndon (DFL)	283	4255	6B Murphy, Mary (DFL)	343	2676
61A Clark, Karen (DFL)	307	0294	30A Nelson, Carla (R)	571	0573
24B Cornish, Tony (R)	487	4240	46A Nelson, Michael (DFL)	231	3751
25B Cox, Ray (R)	413	7065	17B Nelson, Peter (R)	433	5377
31B Davids, Gregory (R)	379	9278	10A Nornes, Bud (R)	471	4946
62A Davnie, Jim (DFL)	241	0173	47B Olsen, Stephanie (R)	531	4280
49A DeLaForest, Chris (R)	503	4231	16B Olson, Mark (R)	501	4237
29A Demmer, Randy (R)	371	9236	15B Opatz, Joe (DFL)	277	6612
28A Dempsey, Jerry (R)	575	8635	45A Osterman, Lynne (R)	431	4176
6A Dill, David (DFL)	315	2190	11B Otremba, Mary Ellen (DFL)	247	3201
27A Dorman, Dan (R)	579	8216	37B Ozment, Dennis (R)	479	4306
23B Dorn, John (DFL)	201	3248	42B Paulsen, Erik (R)	459	7449
17A Eastlund, Rob (R)	449	5364	64B Paymar, Michael (DFL)	253	4199
2A Eken, Kent (DFL)	329	9918	31A Pelowski, Gene (DFL)	295	8637
58B Ellison, Keith (DFL)	229	8659	1A Penas, Maxine (R)	553	9635
64A Entenza, Matt (DFL)	267	8799	20A Peterson, Aaron (DFL)	313	4228
41A Erhardt, Ron (R)	591	4363	39A Pugh, Thomas (DFL)	273	6828
16A Erickson, Sondra (R)	407	6746	44A Rhodes, Jim (R)	443	9889
21B Finstad, Brad (R)	353	9303	5A Rukavina, Tom (DFL)	279	0170
4A Fuller, Doug (R)	525	5516	26A Ruth, Connie (R)	415	5368
37A Gerlach, Chris (R)	533	5506	50B Samuelson, Char (R)	423	0141
50A Goodwin, Barbara (DFL)	331	4331	41B Seagren, Alice (R)	477	7803
54A Greiling, Mindy (DFL)	259	5387	21A Seifert, Marty (R)	357	5374
24A Gunther, Bob (R)	485	3240	5B Sertich, Anthony (DFL)	233	0172
47A Haas, Bill (R)	569	5513	14A Severson, Dan (R)	389	7808
48A Hackbarth, Tom (R)	409	2439	57A Sieben, Katie (DFL)	211	4342
22B Harder, Elaine (R)	509	5373	10B Simpson, Dean (R)	473	4293
66B Hausman, Alice (DFL)	245	3824	55B Slawik, Nora (DFL)	317	7807
13A Heidgerken, Bud (R)	359	4317	33A Smith, Steve (R)	545	9188
46B Hilstrom, Debra (DFL)	239	3709	8B Soderstrom, Judy (R)	439	0518
8A Hilty, Bill (DFL)	207	4308	3B Solberg, Loren (DFL)	309	2365
36A Holberg, Mary Liz (R)	349	6926	32B Stanek, Rich (R)	543	5502
52B Holsten, Mark (R)	381	3018	14B Stang, Doug (R)	375	4373
34B Hoppe, Joe (R)	537	5066	36B Strachan, Steve (R)	345	1069
60B Hornstein, Frank (DFL)	227	9281	28B Sviggum, Steve (R)	463	2273
4B Howes, Larry (R)	351	2451	23A Swenson, Howard (R)	517	8634
7A Huntley, Thomas (DFL)	335	2228	33B Sykora, Barb (R)	403	4315
54B Jacobson, Carl (R)	429	7153	65A Thao, Cy (DFL)	215	5158
7B Jaros, Mike (DFL)	291	4246	63A Thissen, Paul (DFL)	301	5375
43A Johnson, Jeff (R)	401	5511	49B Tingelstad, Kathy (R)	507	5369
67B Johnson, Sheldon (DFL)	243	4201	18B Urdahl, Dean (R)	521	4344
13B Juhnke, Al (DFL)	281	6206	52A Vandever, Ray (R)	529	4124
59B Kahn, Phyllis (DFL)	255	4257	62B Wagenius, Jean (DFL)	251	4200
60A Kelliher, Margaret Anderson (DFL)	261	0171	61B Walker, Neva (DFL)	213	7152
18A Kielkucki, Tony (R)	367	1534	12A Walz, Dale (R)	527	4333
56B Klinzing, Karen (R)	539	1147	38B Wardlow, Lynn (R)	491	4128
15A Knoblach, Jim (R)	453	6316	55A Wasiluk, Scott (DFL)	217	1188
20B Koenen, Lyle (DFL)	327	4346	51A Westerberg, Andrew (R)	549	4226
34A Kohls, Paul (R)	421	4282	11A Westrom, Torrey (R)	557	4929
53A Krinkie, Philip (R)	365	2907	38A Wilkin, Tim (R)	551	3533
30B Kuisle, William (R)	565	4378	40A vacant**		

Note: Room numbers are subject to change.

*All rooms are in the State Office Building unless otherwise noted, St. Paul, MN 55155
List as of Jan. 9, 2003

**Rep. Dan McElroy resigned Jan. 6. A special election will be held Feb. 3 to fill the seat.

2003 Minnesota Senate Members

District/Member/Party	Room*	Phone (651) 296-	District/Member/Party	Room*	Phone (651) 296-
66 Anderson, Ellen (DFL)	120 Cap.	5537	54 Marty, John (DFL)	323 Cap.	5645
52 Bachmann, Michele (R)	141 SOB	4351	38 McGinn, Mike (R)	G-19 SOB	7-8073
6 Bakk, Thomas (DFL)	301 Cap.	8881	39 Metzzen, James (DFL)	322 Cap.	4370
40 Belanger, William (R)	113 SOB	5975	41 Michel, Geoff (R)	151 SOB	6238
61 Berglin, Linda (DFL)	309 Cap.	4261	67 Moua, Mee (DFL)	235 Cap.	5285
51 Betzold, Don (DFL)	111 Cap.	2556	28 Murphy, Steve (DFL)	306 Cap.	4264
50 Chaudhary, Satveer (DFL)	317 Cap.	4334	25 Neuville, Thomas (R)	123 SOB	1279
64 Cohen, Richard (DFL)	317 Cap.	5931	17 Nienow, Sean (R)	105 SOB	5419
26 Day, Dick (R)	147 SOB	9457	33 Olson, Gen (R)	119 SOB	1282
60 Dibble, D. Scott (DFL)	111 Cap.	4191	34 Ortman, Julianne (R)	G-21 SOB	4837
18 Dille, Steve (R)	103 SOB	4131	19 Ourada, Mark (R)	145 SOB	5981
14 Fischbach, Michelle (R)	129 SOB	2084	65 Pappas, Sandra (DFL)	120 Cap.	1802
47 Foley, Leo (DFL)	G-24 Cap.	4154	36 Pariseau, Pat (R)	117 SOB	5252
21 Frederickson, Dennis (R)	139 SOB	8138	59 Pogemiller, Lawrence (DFL)	235 Cap.	7809
43 Gaither, David (R)	107 SOB	4314	63 Ranum, Jane (DFL)	120 Cap.	7-8061
42 Hann, David (R)	G-27 SOB	1749	53 Reiter, Mady (R)	132D SOB	1253
58 Higgins, Linda (DFL)	328 Cap.	9246	45 Rest, Ann (DFL)	205 Cap.	2889
23 Hottinger, John (DFL)	208 Cap.	6153	35 Robling, Claire (R)	143 SOB	4123
13 Johnson, Dean (DFL)	121 Cap.	3826	24 Rosen, Julie (R)	G-23 SOB	5713
49 Johnson, Debbie (R)	135 SOB	3219	4 Ruud, Carrie (R)	109 SOB	4913
48 Jungbauer, Michael (R)	115 SOB	3733	11 Sams, Dallas (DFL)	328 Cap.	7-8063
44 Kelley, Steve (DFL)	205 Cap.	7-8065	3 Saxhaug, Tom (DFL)	124 Cap.	4136
31 Kierlin, Bob (R)	127 SOB	5649	46 Scheid, Linda (DFL)	303 Cap.	8869
30 Kiscaden, Sheila (IP)	G-15 SOB	4848	29 Senjem, David (R)	G-17 SOB	3903
15 Kleis, Dave (R)	G-25 SOB	6455	2 Skoe, Rod (DFL)	124 Cap.	4196
37 Knutson, David (R)	133 SOB	4120	62 Skoglund, Wesley (DFL)	124 Cap.	4274
12 Koering, Paul (R)	131 SOB	4875	7 Solon, Yvonne Prettner (DFL)	303 Cap.	4188
20 Kubly, Gary (DFL)	306 Cap.	5094	27 Sparks, Dan (DFL)	G-24 Cap.	9248
9 Langseth, Keith (DFL)	122 Cap.	3205	1 Stumpf, LeRoy (DFL)	G-24 Cap.	8660
10 Larson, Cal (R)	153 SOB	5655	5 Tomassoni, David (DFL)	321 Cap.	8017
56 LeClair, Brian (R)	149 SOB	4166	22 Vickerman, Jim (DFL)	226 Cap.	5650
32 Limmer, Warren (R)	121 SOB	2159	16 Wergin, Betsy (R)	125 SOB	8075
8 Lourey, Becky (DFL)	G-24 Cap.	0293	55 Wiger, Charles (DFL)	226 Cap.	6820
57 Marko, Sharon (DFL)	G-24 Cap.	7-8060			

*Capitol or State Office Building, St. Paul, MN 55155
For phone numbers, contact Senate Information at 651-296-0504

Minnesota House and Senate Membership

1 A Rep. Maxine Penas-(R) B Rep. Bernie Lieder-(DFL) Sen. LeRoy A. Stumpf-(DFL)	15 A Rep. Jim Knobloch-(R) B Rep. Joe Opatz-(DFL) Sen. Dave Kleis-(R)	29 A Rep. Randy Demmer-(R) B Rep. Fran Bradley-(R) Sen. David H. Senjem-(R)	43 A Rep. Jeff Johnson-(R) B Rep. Ron Abrams-(R) Sen. David Gaither-(R)	57 A Rep. Katie Sieben-(DFL) B Rep. Denny McNamara-(R) Sen. Sharon Marko-(DFL)
2 A Rep. Kent Eken-(DFL) B Rep. Doug Lindgren-(R) Sen. Rod Skoe-(DFL)	16 A Rep. Sondra Erickson-(R) B Rep. Mark Olson-(R) Sen. Betsy L. Wergin-(R)	30 A Rep. Carla Nelson-(R) B Rep. William Kuisle-(R) Sen. Sheila M. Kiscaden-(IP)	44 A Rep. Jim Rhodes-(R) B Rep. Ron Latz-(DFL) Sen. Steve Kelley-(DFL)	58 A Rep. Joe Mullery-(DFL) B Rep. Keith Ellison-(DFL) Sen. Linda Higgins-(DFL)
3 A Rep. Irv Anderson-(DFL) B Rep. Loren A. Solberg-(DFL) Sen. Tom Saxhaug-(DFL)	17 A Rep. Rob Eastlund-(R) B Rep. Peter (Pete) Nelson-(R) Sen. Sean R. Nienow-(R)	31 A Rep. Gene Pelowski Jr.-(DFL) B Rep. Gregory M. Davids-(R) Sen. Bob Kierlin-(R)	45 A Rep. Lynne Osterman-(R) B Rep. Lyndon R. Carlson-(DFL) Sen. Ann H. Rest-(DFL)	59 A Rep. Len Biernat-(DFL) B Rep. Phyllis Kahn-(DFL) Sen. Lawrence J. Pogemiller-(DFL)
4 A Rep. Doug Fuller-(R) B Rep. Larry Howes-(R) Sen. Carrie L. Ruud-(R)	18 A Rep. Tony Kielkucki-(R) B Rep. Dean Urdahl-(R) Sen. Steve Dille-(R)	32 A Rep. Arlon Lindner-(R) B Rep. Rich Stanek-(R) Sen. Warren Limmer-(R)	46 A Rep. Michael Nelson-(DFL) B Rep. Debra Hilstrom-(DFL) Sen. Linda Scheid-(DFL)	60 A Rep. Margaret Anderson Kelliher-(DFL) B Rep. Frank Hornstein-(DFL) Sen. D. Scott Dibble-(DFL)
5 A Rep. Tom Rukavina-(DFL) B Rep. Anthony (Tony) Sertich-(DFL) Sen. David J. Tomassoni-(DFL)	19 A Rep. Bruce Anderson-(R) B Rep. Dick Borrell-(R) Sen. Mark Ourada-(R)	33 A Rep. Steve Smith-(R) B Rep. Barb Sykora-(R) Sen. Gen Olson-(R)	47 A Rep. Bill Haas-(R) B Rep. Stephanie Olsen-(R) Sen. Leo Foley-(DFL)	61 A Rep. Karen Clark-(DFL) B Rep. Frank Hagenius-(DFL) Sen. Linda Berglin-(DFL)
6 A Rep. David Dill-(DFL) B Rep. Mary Murphy-(DFL) Sen. Thomas M. Bakk-(DFL)	20 A Rep. Aaron Peterson-(DFL) B Rep. Lyle Koenen-(DFL) Sen. Gary Kubly-(DFL)	34 A Rep. Paul Kohls-(R) B Rep. Joe Hoppe-(R) Sen. Julianne E. Ortman-(R)	48 A Rep. Tom Hackbarth-(R) B Rep. Jim Abeler-(R) Sen. Michael J. Jungbauer-(R)	62 A Rep. Jim Davnie-(DFL) B Rep. Jean Wagenius-(DFL) Sen. Wesley J. Skoglund-(DFL)
7 A Rep. Thomas Huntley-(DFL) B Rep. Mike Jares-(R) Sen. Yvonne Prettner Solon-(DFL)	21 A Rep. Marty Seifert-(R) B Rep. Brad Finstad-(R) Sen. Dennis R. Frederickson-(R)	35 A Rep. Michael Beard-(R) B Rep. Mark Buesgens-(R) Sen. Claire A. Robling-(R)	49 A Rep. Chris DeLaForest-(R) B Rep. Kathy Tingelstad-(R) Sen. Debbie J. Johnson-(R)	63 A Rep. Paul Thissen-(DFL) B Rep. Dan Larson-(DFL) Sen. Jane B. Ranum-(DFL)
8 A Rep. Bill Hilty-(DFL) B Rep. Judy Soderstrom-(R) Sen. Becky Lourey-(DFL)	22 A Rep. Doug Magnus-(R) B Rep. Elaine Harder-(R) Sen. Jim Vickerman-(DFL)	36 A Rep. Mary Liz Holberg-(R) B Rep. Steve Strachan-(R) Sen. Pat Pariseau-(R)	50 A Rep. Barbara Goodwin-(DFL) B Rep. Char Samuelson-(R) Sen. Satveer Chaudhary-(DFL)	64 A Rep. Matt Entenza-(DFL) B Rep. Michael Paymar-(DFL) Sen. Richard J. Cohen-(DFL)
9 A Rep. Morrie Lanning-(R) B Rep. Paul Marquart-(DFL) Sen. Keith Langseth-(DFL)	23 A Rep. Howard Swenson-(R) B Rep. John Dorn-(DFL) Sen. John C. Hottinger-(DFL)	37 A Rep. Chris Gerlach-(R) B Rep. Dennis Ozment-(R) Sen. David L. Knutson-(R)	51 A Rep. Andrew Westerberg-(R) B Rep. Connie Bernardy-(DFL) Sen. Don Betzold-(DFL)	65 A Rep. Cy Thao-(DFL) B Rep. Carlos Mariani-(DFL) Sen. Sandra L. Pappas-(DFL)
10 A Rep. Bud Nornes-(R) B Rep. Dean Simpson-(R) Sen. Cal Larson-(R)	24 A Rep. Bob Gunther-(R) B Rep. Tony Cornish-(R) Sen. Julie Rosen-(R)	38 A Rep. Tim Wilkin-(R) B Rep. Lynn Wardlow-(R) Sen. Mike McGinn-(R)	52 A Rep. Ray Vanderveer-(R) B Rep. Mark Holsten-(R) Sen. Michele Bachmann-(R)	66 A Rep. John Lesch-(DFL) B Rep. Alice Hausman-(DFL) Sen. Ellen R. Anderson-(DFL)
11 A Rep. Torrey Westrom-(R) B Rep. Mary Ellen Otremba-(DFL) Sen. Dallas C. Sams-(DFL)	25 A Rep. Laura Brod-(R) B Rep. Raymond Cox-(R) Sen. Thomas M. Neuville-(R)	39 A Rep. Thomas W. Pugh-(DFL) B Rep. Joseph Atkins-(DFL) Sen. James P. Metzzen-(DFL)	53 A Rep. Philip Krinkie-(R) B Rep. Doug Meslow-(R) Sen. Mady Reiter-(R)	67 A Rep. Tim Mahoney-(DFL) B Rep. Sheldon Johnson-(DFL) Sen. Mee Moua-(DFL)
12 A Rep. Dale Walz-(R) B Rep. Greg Blaine-(R) Sen. Paul E. Koering-(R)	26 A Rep. Connie Ruth-(R) B Rep. Lynda Boudreau-(R) Sen. Dick Day-(R)	40 A vacant B Rep. Ann Lenczewski-(DFL) Sen. William V. Belanger Jr.-(R)	54 A Rep. Mindy Greiling-(DFL) B Rep. Carl Jacobson-(R) Sen. John Marty-(DFL)	List as of Jan. 9, 2003 This document can be made available in alternative formats for people with disabilities by calling the House at (651) 296-2146 voice, (651) 296-0504 TTY or the Senate at (651) 296-0250 TTY
13 A Rep. Bud Heidgerken-(R) B Rep. Al Juhnke-(DFL) Sen. Dean E. Johnson-(DFL)	27 A Rep. Dan Dorman-(R) B Rep. Jeff Anderson-(R) Sen. Dan Sparks-(DFL)	41 A Rep. Ron Erhardt-(R) B Rep. Alice Seagren-(R) Sen. Geoff Michel-(R)	55 A Rep. Scott Wasiluk-(DFL) B Rep. Nora Slawik-(DFL) Sen. Charles (Chuck) W. Wiger-(DFL)	
14 A Rep. Daniel Severson-(R) B Rep. Doug Stang-(R) Sen. Michelle L. Fischbach-(R)	28 A Rep. Jerry Dempsey-(R) B Rep. Steve Sviggum-(R) Sen. Steve Murphy-(DFL)	42 A Rep. Peter Adolphson-(R) B Rep. Erik Paulsen-(R) Sen. David Hann-(R)	56 A Rep. Eric Lipman-(R) B Rep. Karen Klinzing-(R) Sen. Brian LeClair-(R)	

Thursday, Jan. 9

HF1—Stanek (R)

Transportation Policy

Anti-terrorism; drivers' license information regulation provided, and federal laws and regulations adopted.

HF2—Kielkucki (R)

Education Policy

Profile of Learning repealed and replaced; and legislative review of proposed academic standards in language arts, mathematics, science, and history required.

HF3—Magnus (R)

Jobs & Economic Development Finance

Tax-free property zones established, exemptions provided for individuals and businesses, state aid and repayment of tax benefits provided, and money appropriated.

HF4—Westerberg (R)

Transportation Finance

Trunk highway improvement bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF5—Bradley (R)

Health & Human Services Policy

Prescription drug program established and money appropriated.

HF6—Anderson, B. (R)

Education Policy

Pledge of Allegiance recitation required in all public schools, and United States flag etiquette instruction provided.

HF7—Stanek (R)

Judiciary Policy & Finance

Public safety officer death benefit paid to officer's estate if there is no eligible spouse or dependent.

HF8—Seifert (R)

Education Policy

Profile of Learning implementation prohibited, and rules repealed.

HF9—Lipman (R)

Health and Human Services Policy

Abortion; state funds use prohibited for abortion services, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF10—Mullery (DFL)

Commerce, Jobs & Economic Policy

Voluntary paid parental leave provided, and money appropriated.

HF11—Mullery (DFL)

Taxes

Limited market value phase-out repealed, and sunset provided.

HF12—Mullery (DFL)

Taxes

Minneapolis library and planetarium construction materials sales tax exemption provided.

HF13—Mullery (DFL)

Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development

Automotive insurance discrimination based on location within the metropolitan area prohibited.

HF14—Mullery (DFL)

Health & Human Services Policy

Health maintenance organization medical directors required, liability for treatment and policies established, and utilization review provisions and requirements modified.

HF15—Mullery (DFL)

Health & Human Services Policy

MinnesotaCare eligibility requirements modified for persons with continuation coverage.

HF16—Mullery (DFL)

Health & Human Services Policy

Medically necessary care definition established for health plans.

HF17—Mullery (DFL)

Health & Human Services Policy

Minnesota Family Investment Program auto lease program established, and money appropriated.

HF18—Kuisle (R)

Transportation Policy

Trunk highway improvement bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF19—Mullery (DFL)

Health & Human Services Finance

Southeast Asian Collaborative in Hennepin County transitional employment project funding provided, and money appropriated.

HF20—Mullery (DFL)

Health & Human Services Finance

Nontraditional career assistance training programs funding provided, and money appropriated.

HF21—Mullery (DFL)

Health & Human Services Finance

Southeast Asian Collaborative transitional employment training project federal TANF funds provided.

HF22—Mullery (DFL)

Judiciary Policy & Finance

Dangerous and repeat felony offender sentencing practices modified.

HF23—Mullery (DFL)

Judiciary Policy & Finance

Judges authorized to set conditions of release that protect public safety.

HF24—Erhardt (R)

Judiciary Policy & Finance

Anti-terrorism; drivers' license expiration provided for persons lawfully in the United States for specified periods.

HF25—Mullery (DFL)

Judiciary Policy & Finance

Criminal penalties enhanced for certain crimes committed on a transit vehicle or at a bus stop.

HF26—Mullery (DFL)

Judiciary Policy & Finance

City attorneys authorized to prosecute contributing to the delinquency of a minor, criminal penalties increased, and aggravating factor directed to the sentencing guidelines commission.

HF27—Anderson, I. (DFL)

Environment & Natural Resources Finance

Forestry division relocation to International Falls funding provided, and money appropriated.

HF28—Mullery (DFL)

Judiciary Policy & Finance

Fighting animal possession prohibited and penalties provided.

HF29—Bradley (R)

Health & Human Services Policy

MinnesotaCare provider taxes repealed, pass-through of savings required, and cigarette and tobacco tax increases provided.

HF30—Lipman (R)

Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Comprehensive planning local control reestablished, metropolitan council review of local plans repealed, and conforming changes provided.

HF31—Anderson, I. (DFL)

Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy

Lawful gambling purpose definition modified to include certain tax expenditures by fraternal organizations.

HF32—Anderson, I. (DFL)

Environment & Natural Resources Policy

Lake of the Woods County land exchange required.

HF33—Mullery (DFL)

Judiciary Policy and Finance

Prostitution; solicitation, inducement, and promotion of prostitution involving minors subject to increased violent crime penalties for repeat offenders.

HF34—Kielkucki (R)

Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Local governments prohibited from requiring those who enter into contracts with the city to provide employee benefits.

HF35—Anderson, I. (DFL)

Regulated Industries

Telephone call toll charges prohibited for calls within a school district.

HF36—Howes (R)
Environment & Natural Resources Policy
Cass county purchase of surplus state land authorized.

HF37—Beard (R)
Education Policy
Profile of learning repealed and replaced; and legislative review of proposed academic standards in language arts, mathematics, science, and history required.

HF38—Mullery (DFL)
Judiciary Policy & Finance
Burglary trials consolidated in certain circumstances.

HF39—Howes (R)
Environment & Natural Resources Policy
Cass county land conveyance authorized.

HF40—Lipman (R)
Governmental Operations &
Veterans Affairs Policy
Judicial appointment by governor provided, and constitutional amendment provided.

HF41—Juhnke (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Kandiyohi County authorized to act as a city to establish an economic development authority, joint exercise of powers with city of Willmar permitted, and special taxing district established as a political subdivision of the state.

HF42—Lipman (R)
Governmental Operations &
Veterans Affairs Policy
Public funds use to promote or defeat a ballot measure prohibited.

HF43—Solberg (DFL)
Governmental Operations &
Veterans Affairs Policy
Strategic and long-range planning office abolished.

HF44—Mullery (DFL)
Judiciary Policy & Finance
Gang loitering criminal penalties provided.

HF45—Haas (R)
Environment & Natural Resources Policy
Mille Lacs Lake fishing management committee established and appointments provided.

HF46—Entenza (DFL)
Judiciary Policy & Finance
Public safety officers' benefit account for death benefits and continued health insurance coverage allocation increased, and money appropriated.

HF47—Mullery (DFL)
Judiciary Policy & Finance
Consecutive sentences authorized for certain repeat offenders.

HF48—Mullery (DFL)
Judiciary Policy & Finance
Probation; standards provided for geographic restrictions on offenders on probation and supervised release.



No sure thing

Vermont Legislature allowed to choose governors when popular vote falls short of majority

James Douglas was set to move from the state treasurer's office to the governor's mansion after garnering the top vote total in the state's Nov. 5 election.

Instead, the Vermont Republican had to wait two months to officially become the head of state.

The Vermont Constitution says that if no candidate in the gubernatorial, lieutenant governor, or state treasurer elections receives at least 50 percent of the popular vote, the state legislature will use a private ballot to choose the governor. It did that Jan. 9, choosing Douglas as governor and Brian Dubie as lieutenant governor.

Douglas received 44.9 percent of the November vote, 2.5 percent more than Doug Racine, who urged the legislature to elect Douglas. Dubie earned 41.2 percent of the vote compared to 32.1 percent and 24.8 percent for his closest challengers. Jeb Spaulding won the state treasurer's race with 57.2 percent of the vote.

The practice of appointment had previously been used 26 times since 1778 in the lieutenant governor's race, 21 in the race for governor, and 18 in the state treasurer contest. In the past 100 years, the Legislature had chosen three governors — the last time in 1986 — five lieutenant governors, and two treasurers.

Former Gov. Howard Dean nearly had his 2000 election go before the Legislature, but he garnered 50.4 percent of the vote, his lowest total since taking office in 1991. He now plans to seek the 2004 Democratic Party nomination for president.

Dean previously urged the Legislature to begin the process of amending the constitution because more third-party candidates are entering the political mix since Vermont offers public funding to candidates for the state's top two positions.

Yet voters are not calling for a change in the process.

A poll conducted for *The Rutland Herald* on Oct. 23-24, 2002 found that 48 percent of the 600 respondents said that whomever receives the most votes should be declared the winner and 38 percent opposed that notion. A majority (59 percent) also think the Legislature should elect the candidate who received the most votes, and 61 percent said the vote should be public, while 27 percent think the vote should remain private.

If the process were in place in Minnesota, both Gov. Tim Pawlenty and former Gov. Jesse Ventura would have had to be selected by the Legislature, since they received 44 percent and 37 percent of the vote respectively.

(M. Cook)

Schedule is subject to change.
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House committee schedules are also available on the Web site at
<http://ww3.house.leg.state.mn.us/comm/scheduleall.asp>

MONDAY, January 13

12:30 PM

Health and Human Services Policy

Room: 10 State Office Building

Chair: Rep. Lynda Boudreau

Agenda: Introduction of members and committee staff.

Consideration of procedures and rules.

Overview of Minnesota Department of Health.
Overview of Minnesota Veterans Homes Board.

Higher Education Finance

Room: 200 State Office Building

Chair: Rep. Doug Stang

Agenda: University of Minnesota overview.

Witness: Christine Maziar, executive vice president and provost, University of Minnesota.

Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU) overview.

Witness: James McCormick, chancellor, Minnesota State Colleges and Universities.

Higher Education Services Office (HESO) Overview.

Witness: Robert Poch, Director, HESO.

3 PM

THE HOUSE MEETS IN SESSION

TUESDAY, January 14

8:15 AM

Jobs and Economic Development Finance

Room: Basement Hearing Room

Chair: Rep. Bob Gunther

Agenda: To be announced.

Transportation Finance

Room: 500S State Office Building

Chair: Rep. William Kuisle

Agenda: Review of metro transportation projects.

Health and Human Services Finance

Room: 10 State Office Building

Chair: Rep. Fran Bradley

Agenda: Introductions of members and staff.

***There may be additions to the agenda.

Environment and Natural Resources Finance

Room: 5 State Office Building

Chair: Rep. Dennis Ozment

Agenda: Budget process overview by Jim Reinholdz, house fiscal analyst.

Education Policy

Room: 200 State Office Building

Chair: Rep. Barb Sykora

Agenda: Committee introductions and committee roles.

Brief overview of federal No Child Left Behind Act.

10:15 AM

Education Finance

Room: 10 State Office Building

Chair: Rep. Alice Seagren

Agenda: Introduction and overview of education finance presented by Tim Strom, house research analyst, and Greg Crowe, house fiscal analyst.

Taxes

Room: 200 State Office Building

Chair: Rep. Ron Abrams

Agenda: Introduction of members and staff.

Presentation by House Research tax staff.

Environment and Natural Resources Policy

Room: 5 State Office Building

Chair: Rep. Tom Hackbarth

Agenda: Introductions and organizational meeting.

12:30 PM

Transportation Policy

Room: 200 State Office Building

Chair: Rep. Ron Erhardt

Agenda: To be announced.

Commerce, Jobs, and Economic Development Policy

Room: 10 State Office Building

Chair: Rep. Greg Davids

Agenda: Introductions and House Research overview.

2:30 PM

Regulated Industries

Room: 5 State Office Building

Chair: Rep. Mark Holsten

Agenda: Introductions and organizational meeting.

State Government Finance

Room: 500S State Office Building

Chair: Rep. Bill Haas

Agenda: Committee introduction and fiscal year 2003 budget discussion.

WEDNESDAY, January 15

8:15 AM

Transportation Finance

Room: 200 State Office Building

Chair: Rep. William Kuisle

Agenda: Review of Greater Minnesota transportation projects.

Jobs and Economic Development Finance

Room: Basement Hearing Room

Chair: Rep. Bob Gunther

Agenda: To be announced.

Environment and Natural Resources Finance

Room: 5 State Office Building

Chair: Rep. Dennis Ozment

Agenda: Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCMR) overview by John Velin, director of LCMR.

10:15 AM

Education Finance

Room: 10 State Office Building

Chair: Rep. Alice Seagren

Agenda: Introduction and overview of education finance.

THURSDAY, January 16

8:15 AM

Jobs and Economic Development Finance

Room: Basement Hearing Room

Chair: Rep. Bob Gunther

Agenda: To be announced.

Environment and Natural Resources Finance

Room: 5 State Office Building

Chair: Rep. Dennis Ozment

Agenda: To be announced.

Education Policy
Room: Basement Hearing Room
Chair: Rep. Barb Sykora
Agenda: To be determined.

Health and Human Services Finance
Room: 10 State Office Building
Chair: Rep. Fran Bradley
Agenda: To be announced.

10:15 AM

Education Finance
Room: 10 State Office Building
Chair: Rep. Alice Seagren
Agenda: Introduction and overview of education finance.

Taxes
Room: 200 State Office Building
Chair: Rep. Ron Abrams
Agenda: Presentation by Department of Revenue.

Environment and Natural Resources Policy
Room: 5 State Office Building
Chair: Rep. Tom Hackbarth
Agenda: Board of Water & Soil Resources (BWSR) agency introduction and program overview: Doug Thomas, assistant director, BWSR; Steve Woods, assistant director, BWSR; Ron Harnack, executive director, BWSR.

12:30 PM

Commerce, Jobs, and Economic Development Policy
Room: 10 State Office Building
Chair: Rep. Greg Davids
Agenda: Department overviews; Department of Labor and Industry; Department of Trade and Economic Development.

Agriculture and Rural Development Finance
Room: 5 State Office Building
Chair: Rep. Howard Swenson
Agenda: Fiscal year 2003 budget shortfall - Minnesota Department of Agriculture to testify.

Higher Education Finance
Room: 300S State Office Building
Chair: Rep. Doug Stang
Agenda: To be announced.

15 minutes after session.

State Government Finance
Room: 500S State Office Building
Chair: Rep. Bill Haas
Agenda: Continuation of budget discussion.

FRIDAY, January 17

No meetings scheduled.

OPENING DAY LESSON



PHOTO BY ANDREW VON BANK

Rep. Joe Hoppe shows his 5-year-old daughter, Elizabeth, how the voting buttons work during the first day of the 2003 session.

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Senator

Norm Coleman (R)

No Washington D.C. room information is available
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Reflections

An important role for any citizen in the United States, age 18 years and older, is to vote for candidates they feel will well represent them in government at the state or national level. Exercising the right to vote is one of the fundamental democratic principles by which the country was founded to ensure that individual freedoms remain intact.

Minnesota has always been in the forefront of establishing rules that protect the rights of individuals — from joining the Union as a free state; legislating the rights for blacks and others to vote in 1868, two years before the U.S. Constitution's 15th Amendment was ratified for all citizens to be able to vote. Minnesota was also the first to allow its citizens to register to vote on Election Day.

Records show that voting is so important because there are times throughout history when every vote could mean a candidate wins or loses. This is true for both state and federal officeholders.

For example, in 1839, Marcus "Landslide" Morton was elected governor of Massachusetts by one vote. He won by the same margin three years later. In 1868, President Andrew Johnson was not removed from office because the U.S. Senate was one vote shy of a two-thirds majority to impeach him. Rutherford B. Hayes was elected president in 1876 by one vote through a congressionally appointed commission. His opponent, Samuel Tilden, won the popular vote, but

was one vote shy in the electoral college.

Thomas Jefferson lost the U.S. presidency to John Adams in 1796 by three electoral votes. Four years later, in 1800, he won the presidency by one vote after a 36-ballot deadlock in the Senate to break a 73-73 electoral vote tie with his opponent, Aaron Burr.

Closer to home, former St. Paul Councilman Bill Wilson won a 1989 recount by one vote over Roy Garza. Wilson later became the head of the city's governing body. Even in the most recent statewide election, recount results were so close in Senate District 27 that a five-vote win was not ruled

valid by a judge until the day before the legislative session began, giving Sen. Dan Sparks (DFL-Austin) the win over incumbent Sen. Grace Schwab (R-Albert Lea).

Minnesota is known for its strong citizen's participation in government. Prior to election day in 2002, nearly 2.9 million Minnesotans were registered to vote. When the polls had closed and the dust settled last November, the state topped the nation in voter turnout when more than 61 percent of eligible voters cast ballots — many doing so shortly after the



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

A voter enters the Franconia Town Hall to cast his ballot on Election Day 2002.

polls opened at 7 a.m.

Polling places in the state reported lines where voters waited from 45 minutes to three hours to get a ballot and cast their votes.

—LECLAIR GRIER LAMBERT

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE: STEVE SVIGGUM
 MAJORITY LEADER: ERIK PAULSEN
 MINORITY LEADER: MATT ENTENZA

MINNESOTA INDEX

Minnesota House 2003

Republican members at start of the 2003-2004 session	81
DFL members	52
Vacant seats (District 40A)	1
Difference between parties at start of 2001 session	4
Prior biennium DFL was in control of the House	1997-98
Number of men in the House, 2003-04	102
DFL men	37
Republican men	65
Number of women in the House	31
DFL women	15
Republican women	16
Number of women at the start of 2001-02 biennium	35
Number at end of 1998 session (record high)	40
Number of freshman House members at start of session	43
Republicans	30
DFLers	13
Men	35
Women	8
Current House members not serving in 2001-02 biennium, as percent	32.1
Number of incumbents that were re-elected in November 2002	91
Number that were not	10
Races that paired two incumbents	5
Open seats	38
Open seats won by a Republican	26
Open seats won by a DFLer	12
Uncontested races	6
Vote difference in closest race (25B)	46
Votes cast	17,684
Votes cast in Minnesota on Election Day 2002	2,282,860
As percent of eligible voters	61.49
National rank	1
Percentage in 2000	69.4
Number of candidates on the ballot for House seats	305
DFL	131
Republican	129
Green	17
Independence	26
Districts (out of 134) with a third party candidate	40

Sources: House Public Information Services Office and Office of the Secretary of State

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