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Budget deficit announced, new member profiles
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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

T
ough 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 convened into session Jan. 7 — from Rhode Island to Mississippi — Minnesota’s enjoyed the warmest temperature. The unseasonably warm weather reached 83 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 chamber in 1999. Touting Sviggum’s “patience and persistence” throughout 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 becaused.”


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 Briefs, 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 “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 for women in pink and hard hats in blue to ascend to their chambers. “We’re welcoming them back,” thanked 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, including state aid to local governments. 7.

IT’S A FACT

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’s 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 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. 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 set 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.

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.

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. M. Axine 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 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.

“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.”
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.

The 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

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

PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHEID
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.
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.

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.

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.

Rep. Ron Abrams

Rep. Steve Sviggum

Rep. Lynda Boudreau

Rep. Mark Olson

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.”
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.


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.


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 members 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.
### 2003 House Profile

#### Membership

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#### Current Term

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* Ages not available for 4 members
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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 them understand 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 is 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-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 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.”

Meet the newly elected 2003 House members

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(952) 936-9400

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(651) 451-3837
Business: South St. Paul
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(651) 451-6411
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7317 Cahill Road
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*14316 Tamarack St. N.W. 55304 ............................. (763) 413-0766

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Home: Hayfield
*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

Brod, Laura (R) ............................................ 25A
581 State Office Building ............................... (651) 296-4229
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*201 - 11th St. Circle S.E. 56071 ............................. (952) 758-5184
Business: New Prague
111 W. Main St. 56071

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*423 Bear Island 55725 ............................... (218) 993-2252
Business: Orr
*P.O. Box 293 55771 ............................... (218) 757-3288

Cornish, Tony (R) ......................................... 24B
487 State Office Building ............................... (651) 296-4240
E-mail: rep.tony.cornish@house.mn
Home: Good Thunder
*54373 Goose Road, Box 128 56037 ............................. (507) 278-4109
Business: same

Eken, Kent (DFL) ......................................... 2A
329 State Office Building ............................... (651) 296-9918
E-mail: rep.kent.eken@house.mn
Home: Good Thunder
*3463 - 170th Ave. 56584 ............................. (218) 584-8109
Business: same

Cox, Ray (R) ............................................. 25B
413 State Office Building ............................... (651) 296-7065
E-mail: rep.ray.cox@house.mn
Home: Northfield
*218 Manitou St. 55057 ............................. (507) 645-5736
Business: Northfield
1600 Riverview Lane
P.O. Box 652 55057

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*229 State Office Building ............................... (651) 296-8659
E-mail: rep.keith.ellison@house.mn
Home: Minneapolis
1629 Bryant Ave. N. 55411 ............................. (612) 529-1412
Business: Minneapolis
2000 Plymouth Ave. N. 55411 ............................. (612) 529-3322
Finstad, Brad (R) ............................ 21B
353 State Office Building .................... (651) 296-9303
E-mail: rep.brad.finstad@house.mn
Home: New Ulm
*614 North Payne 56073 ...................... (507) 354-4431
Business: same .............................. (507) 381-6575

Koenen, Lyle (DFL) ......................... 20B
327 State Office Building .................... (651) 296-4346
E-mail: rep.lyle.koenen@house.mn
Home: Mankato
*350 W 30th Ave. S.E. 56001 .......... (320) 367-2556

Heidgerken, Bud (R) ....................... 13A
395 State Office Building .................... (651) 296-4317
E-mail: rep.bud.heidgerken@house.mn
Home: Freeport
*316 Second Ave. N.E.
P.O. Box 116 56331 ......................... (320) 836-2823
Business: same .............................. (320) 836-2105

Kohls, Paul (R) .............................. 34A
421 State Office Building .................... (651) 296-4282
E-mail: rep.paul.kohls@house.mn
Home: Victoria
*8335 Grace Court 55386 ................. (952) 443-0048
Business: Minneapolis
333 S. Seventh St.
Suite 2000 55402 ......................... (612) 340-8966

Hoppe, Joe (R) ............................. 34B
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Home: Chaska
*505 Weston Ridge Parkway 55318 ..... (952) 368-9617
Business: Edina
3600 Minnesota Drive
Suite 200 55345 ......................... (952) 484-3689

Lanning, Morrie (R) ....................... 9A
593 State Office Building .................... (651) 296-5515
E-mail: rep.morrie.lanning@house.mn
Home: Moorhead
*P.O. Box 813 56561-0813 .......... (218) 236-5566
Business: Moorhead
Concordia College
901 S. Eighth St. 56562 ............... (218) 299-3455

Hornstein, Frank (DFL) ................. 60B
227 State Office Building .................... (651) 296-9281
E-mail: rep.frank.hornstein@house.mn
Home: St. Paul
*4344 Drew Ave. S. 55117 ............... (612) 926-3406

Latz, Ron (DFL) ........................... 44B
225 State Office Building .................... (651) 296-7026
E-mail: rep.ron.latz@house.mn
Home: St. Louis Park
*1641 Utah Ave. S. 55426 ............ (952) 545-9065
Business: Minneapolis
520 Marquette Ave.
Suite 900 55402 ....................... (612) 349-5207

Klinzing, Karen (R) ...................... 56B
Assistant Majority Leader
539 State Office Building .................... (651) 296-1147
E-mail: rep.karen.klinzing@house.mn
Home: Woodbury
*3683 William B Tunnel Pkwy 55129 ................. (651) 578-2582
Business: Bloomington
Kennedy High School
9701 Nicollet Ave. S. 55420 ........... (952) 885-7800

Lesch, John (DFL) ...................... 66A
*223 State Office Building .................... (651) 296-4224
E-mail: rep.john.lesch@house.mn
Home: St Paul
1254 Dale St. N. 55117 ............... (651) 489-7238
Business: St Paul
400 City Hall
15 W. Kellogg Blvd. 55102 .......... (612) 266-8740
Lindgren, Doug (R) 2B
523 State Office Building .................................. (651) 296-4265
E-mail: rep.doug.lindgren@house.mn
Home: Bagley
*Fourth St. S.E., P.O. Box 393 56621 ...................... (218) 694-2844
Business: Bagley
121 Central St. E., P.O. Box V 56621 ...................... (218) 694-6250

Nelson, Michael (DFL) 46A
231 State Office Building .................................. (651) 296-3751
E-mail: rep.michael.nelson@house.mn
Home: Minneapolis
*7441 Hampshire Ave N. 55428 ......................... (763) 561-2795

Magnus, Doug (R) 22A
515 State Office Building .................................. (651) 296-5505
E-mail: rep.doug.magnus@house.mn
Home: Slayton
*865 U.S. Hwy 59 56172 ................................. (507) 836-8613

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 55049 ..................... (612) 213-6621
Business: same ............................................. (651) 257-1128

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

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

Meslow, Doug (R) 53B
377 State Office Building .................................. (651) 296-5363
E-mail: rep.doug.meslow@house.mn
Home: White Bear Lake
*2125 Second St 55110 ................................. (651) 426-1533
Business: White Bear Lake
2125 Second St. 55110 ................................. (651) 426-1533

Osterman, Lynne (R) 45A
*431 State Office Building ................................. (651) 296-4176
E-mail: rep.lynn.osterman@house.mn
Home: New Hope
8593 48th Ave N. 55428 ............................... (763) 536-0499

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

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
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| Severson, Dan (R)     | 14A      | 389 State Office Building              | (651) 296-7080 | rep.dan.severson@house.mn |
|                       |          | Home: Sauk Rapids                      | (320) 230-2353 |                           |
|                       |          | 1025 Water Ave.                        |         |                           |
|                       |          | Business: same                        |         |                           |
|                       |          | Married: spouse Cathy Jo, 2 children   |         |                           |
|                       |          | Occupation: Substitute Teacher          |         |                           |
|                       |          | Business Owner,                        |         |                           |
|                       |          | Education: BA, physics, St. Cloud State |         |                           |
|                       |          | University; graduate classes in         |         |                           |
|                       |          | transportation.                        |         |                           |

| Sieben, Katie (DFL)   | 57A      | 211 State Office Building              | (651) 296-4342 | rep.katie.sieben@house.mn |
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|                       |          | 1625 Wild Ridge Ct. S. 55055           |         |                           |
|                       |          | Married: spouse Kathy, 4 children       |         |                           |
|                       |          | Occupation: History and government,    |         |                           |
|                       |          | Colorado College.                      |         |                           |

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|                       |          | Business: Lakeville                    |         |                           |
|                       |          | 20110 Holyoke Ave. W. 55044            | (952) 985-4826 |                           |
|                       |          | Occupation: Police Sergeant             |         |                           |
|                       |          | Education: BA, Sociology                |         |                           |
|                       |          | University of Minnesota-Morris         |         |                           |

| Thao, Cy (DFL)        | 65A      | 315 State Office Building              | (651) 296-5158 | rep.cy.thao@house.mn |
|                       |          | Home: St. Paul                         | (651) 646-0397 |                           |
|                       |          | *990 Aurora Ave.                       |         |                           |
|                       |          | Business: St. Paul                     |         |                           |
|                       |          | 995 University Ave.                    | # 12 55104 |                           |
|                       |          | 1 child.                              |         |                           |
|                       |          | Occupation: Artist                     |         |                           |
|                       |          | Education: BA, political science,      |         |                           |
|                       |          | University of Minnesota-Morris         |         |                           |

| Simpson, Dean (R)    | 10B      | 473 State Office Building              | (651) 296-4293 | rep.dean.simpson@house.mn |
|                       |          | Home: New York Mills                   | (218) 385-3015 |                           |
|                       |          | 312 Polaris Parkway 56567              |         |                           |
|                       |          | Business: New York Mills               |         |                           |
|                       |          | Educator:                            |         |                           |
|                       |          | Education: BS, Social studies, St.     |         |                           |
|                       |          | Cloud State University.                |         |                           |

| Thissen, Paul (DFL)   | 63A      | 301 State Office Building              | (651) 296-5375 | rep.paul.thissen@house.mn |
|                       |          | Home: Minneapolis                      | (612) 824-6697 |                           |
|                       |          | *1129 W. 51st St.                      |         |                           |
|                       |          | Married: spouse Karen Wilson, 2 children|         |                           |
|                       |          | Occupation: Attorney                    |         |                           |
|                       |          | Education: AB, Harvard University, J.D. |         |                           |
|                       |          | University of Chicago.                 |         |                           |

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

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

| Wardlow, Lynn (R)     | 38B      | 491 State Office Building              | (651) 296-4128 | rep.lynn.wardlow@house.mn |
|                       |          | Home: Eagan                            | (651) 454-7825 |                           |
|                       |          | *4317 Lodgedge Dr. 55122               |         |                           |
|                       |          | Born: 12/10/66. Married: spouse Sheryl |         |                           |
|                       |          | 2 children.                           |         |                           |
|                       |          | Occupation: retired teacher.            |         |                           |
|                       |          | Education: BS, Mathematics              |         |                           |
|                       |          | University of Minnesota-St. Paul       |         |                           |
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.

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 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 traveling 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, 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

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 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."
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 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.”

As a legislator Lanning wants to hear cost-saving ideas. “I’m asking local units of 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 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 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.”

“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

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.

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 United States six years later. Thao said his father was reluctant to come to America at first, preferring instead to see the situation in Laos 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 teenage at the time, Thao said hein many 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 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.”

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DISTRICT 65A</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2002 population: 36,610</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Largest city: St. Paul</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County: Ramsey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location: Twin Cities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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.”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

— 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?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>Yes (%)</th>
<th>(Votes)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>49.3%</td>
<td>(3,554)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>42.9%</td>
<td>(3,088)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undecided/No Opinion</td>
<td>7.0%</td>
<td>(505)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Left blank/vote not tallied</td>
<td>——</td>
<td>(54)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>Yes (%)</th>
<th>(Votes)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>64.1%</td>
<td>(4,615)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>25.2%</td>
<td>(1,814)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undecided/No Opinion</td>
<td>9.9%</td>
<td>(713)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Left blank/vote not tallied</td>
<td>——</td>
<td>(59)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>Yes (%)</th>
<th>(Votes)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>61.3%</td>
<td>(4,418)</td>
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<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>29.8%</td>
<td>(2,147)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>8.1%</td>
<td>(583)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Left blank/vote not tallied</td>
<td>——</td>
<td>(53)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>Yes (%)</th>
<th>(Votes)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>35.1%</td>
<td>(2,529)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>55.8%</td>
<td>(4,020)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undecided/No opinion</td>
<td>8.3%</td>
<td>(597)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Left blank/vote not tallied</td>
<td>——</td>
<td>(55)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>Yes (%)</th>
<th>(Votes)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>50.1%</td>
<td>(3,610)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>43.9%</td>
<td>(3,158)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Undecided/No opinion</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
<td>(398)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Left blank/vote not tallied</td>
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<td>(35)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>Yes (%)</th>
<th>(Votes)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>55.5%</td>
<td>(3,999)</td>
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<td>5.7%</td>
<td>(411)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Left blank/vote not tallied</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
<td>(114)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>Yes (%)</th>
<th>(Votes)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>40.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>45.5%</td>
<td>(3,280)</td>
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<td>13.1%</td>
<td>(943)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Left blank/vote not tallied</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
<td>(98)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>Yes (%)</th>
<th>(Votes)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>7.7%</td>
<td>(554)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>82.8%</td>
<td>(5,966)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undecided/No opinion</td>
<td>8.4%</td>
<td>(611)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Left blank/vote not tallied</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
<td>(70)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>Yes (%)</th>
<th>(Votes)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>54.2%</td>
<td>(3,903)</td>
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<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>40.0%</td>
<td>(2,880)</td>
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<td>(348)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Left blank/vote not tallied</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
<td>(70)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>Yes (%)</th>
<th>(Votes)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>57.6%</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>31.6%</td>
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<td>Undecided/No Opinion</td>
<td>9.9%</td>
<td>(710)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Left blank/vote not tallied</td>
<td>——</td>
<td>(59)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>Yes (%)</th>
<th>(Votes)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
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<td>No</td>
<td>45.5%</td>
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<td>(796)</td>
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<td>(67)</td>
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</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>Yes (%)</th>
<th>(Votes)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>67.7%</td>
<td>(4,877)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>23.1%</td>
<td>(1,669)</td>
</tr>
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<td>9.1%</td>
<td>(659)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Left blank/vote not tallied</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
<td>(66)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>Yes (%)</th>
<th>(Votes)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>57.7%</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>33.4%</td>
<td>(2,407)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Undecided/No Opinion</td>
<td>8.1%</td>
<td>(584)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Left blank/vote not tallied</td>
<td>——</td>
<td>(56)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

30B Kuisle, William (R) ....................................... 565 ...................................... 4378
15A Knoblach, Jim (R) ....................................... 453 ...................................... 6316
7B Jaros, Mike (DFL) ........................................ 291 ...................................... 4246
7A Huntley, Thomas (DFL) ............................ 335 ...................................... 2228
4B Howes, Larry (R) ......................................... 351 ...................................... 2451
34B Hoppe, Joe (R) ............................................. 537 ...................................... 5066
52B Holsten, Mark (R) ........................................ 381 ...................................... 3018
8A Hilty, Bill (DFL) ........................................... 207 ...................................... 4308
16A Erickson, Sondra (R) .................................. 407 ...................................... 6746
41A Erhardt, Ron (R) ........................................... 591 ...................................... 4363
62A Davnie, Jim (DFL) ....................................... 241 ...................................... 0173
49A DelaForest, Chris (R) ................................... 503 ...................................... 4231
29A Demmer, Randy (R) .................................... 371 ...................................... 9236
28A Dempsey, Jerry (R) ................................... 575 ...................................... 8635
6A Dill, David (DFL) ......................................... 315 ...................................... 2190
27A Dorman, Dan (R) ....................................... 579 ...................................... 8216
23B Dom, John (DFL) ....................................... 201 ...................................... 3248
17A Eastlund, Rob (R) .................................... 449 ...................................... 5364
2A Eken, Kent (DFL) ....................................... 329 ...................................... 9918
58B Ellison, Matt (DFL) ................................... 229 ...................................... 8659
64A Entenza, Matt (DFL) ................................... 267 ...................................... 8799
41A Erhardt, Ron (R) ........................................... 591 ...................................... 4363
16A Erickson, Sondra (R) .................................. 407 ...................................... 6746
21B Finkst, Brad (R) ......................................... 353 ...................................... 9303
4A Fuller, Doug (R) ......................................... 525 ...................................... 5516
37A Gerlach, Chris (R) ..................................... 533 ...................................... 5506
50A Goodwin, Barbara (DFL) .............................. 331 ...................................... 4331
54A Greiling, Mindy (DFL) ................................. 259 ...................................... 5387
24A Gunther, Bob (R) ....................................... 485 ...................................... 3240
47A Haas, Bill (R) ............................................. 569 ...................................... 5513
48A Hackbart, Tom (R) .................................... 409 ...................................... 4349
22B Harder, Elaine (DFL) ................................... 509 ...................................... 5373
66B Hausman, Alice (DFL) ................................ 245 ...................................... 3824
13A Heidgerken, Bud (R) ................................... 359 ...................................... 4317
46B Hillstrom, Debra (DFL) ............................... 239 ...................................... 3709
8A Hilty, Bill (DFL) ........................................... 207 ...................................... 4308
36A Holberg, Mary Liz (R) ................................ 349 ...................................... 6926
52B Holsten, Mark (R) .................................... 381 ...................................... 3018
34B Hoppe, Joe (R) ........................................... 537 ...................................... 5066
60B Hornstein, Frank (DFL) .............................. 227 ...................................... 9281
4B Howes, Larry (R) ....................................... 351 ...................................... 2451
7A Huntley, Thomas (DFL) .............................. 335 ...................................... 2228
54B Jacobson, Carl (R) .................................... 429 ...................................... 7153
7B Jaros, Mike (DFL) ....................................... 291 ...................................... 4246
43A Johnson, Jeff (R) ....................................... 401 ...................................... 5511
67B Johnson, Sheldon (DFL) ............................. 243 ...................................... 4201
13B Junke, Al (DFL) .......................................... 281 ...................................... 6206
59B Kain, Phyllis (DFL) ....................................... 255 ...................................... 4257
60A Kelliher, Margaret Anderson (DFL) ............. 261 ...................................... 0171
18A Kielke, Tony (R) ......................................... 367 ...................................... 1534
56B Knuzing, Karen (R) .................................... 539 ...................................... 1147
15A Knoblach, Jim (R) .................................... 453 ...................................... 6316
20B Koenen, Lyle (DFL) ................................... 327 ...................................... 4346
34A Kohn, Paul (R) .......................................... 421 ...................................... 4282
53A Kriknip, Philip (R) ...................................... 365 ...................................... 2907
30B Kuske, William (R) .................................... 565 ...................................... 4378

Note: Room numbers are subject to change.

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

All rooms are in the State Office Building unless otherwise noted. St. Paul, MN 55155

List as of Jan. 9, 2003
### 2003 Minnesota Senate Members

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District/Member/Party</th>
<th>Room*</th>
<th>Phone (651) 296-</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 A Rep. Maxine Perez</td>
<td>120 Cap.</td>
<td>5537</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>5645</td>
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<td>141 SOB</td>
<td>4351</td>
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### Minnesota House and Senate Membership

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

List as of Jan. 10, 2003
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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— Kuisele (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 provided 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.

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)
Committee Schedule

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.

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 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 staff.

ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES POLICY
Room: 5 State Office Building
Chair: Rep. Tom Hackbarth
Agenda: Introductions and organizational meeting.

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.

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

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.

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.

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.

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.
**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.

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**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.

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**FRIDAY, January 17**

No meetings scheduled.

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- **GOP Media** — Updates from the House GOP Communications Department.
- **Order of Business** — Receive notification when the daily Order of Business is updated. This list includes bill introductions.
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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 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 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
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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