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Inside: THE 2005 LEGISLATURE CONVENES, CAPITOL CENTENNIAL, AND MORE

This Week's Bill Introductions HF1-HF56

STEVE SVIG  
SPEAKER

# SESSION Weekly

**Session Weekly** is a nonpartisan publication of the Minnesota House of Representatives Public Information Services office. During the 2005-2006 Legislative Session, each issue reports daily House action between Thursdays of each week, lists bill introductions, and provides other information. No fee.

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## Welcome to the 84th session

The 84th Legislature has convened during the 100th year that public servants have been called to serve in the magnificent building that we call our State Capitol.

The writers and editors of the award-winning Session Weekly, now in its 22nd year, will continue the tradition of bringing our readers nonpartisan coverage of committee and floor action in the Minnesota House of Representatives. We hope you find this newsmagazine a useful resource and we welcome your comments and suggestions.

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**On the cover:** House Speaker Steve Sviggum gives the thumbs-up after being elected speaker during opening day ceremonies of the 2005 session, Jan. 4. This will be the fourth biennium that Sviggum has presided.

—Photo by: Tom Olmscheid

# All eyes are on us

Teamwork between speaker and chief clerk is key when overseeing the House

By Mike Cook

**"P**oint of order, Mr. Speaker," says one of the 133 voices in front of, or to the left or right of the speaker's chair. When asked why, the member cites one of a variety of reasons.

Thus begins a process seen hundreds of times during a legislative session where the speaker huddles with the chief clerk to decide on a ruling.

In addition to being the reading clerk and controlling the flow of paper through the chamber, the chief clerk is an unofficial last parliamentarian.

"I usually gave the speaker two or three choices," said Ed Burdick who last fall announced his retirement as chief clerk after serving in that position from 1967 through 2004. "I said 'You can rule this way and if you do, these are the consequences' ... But I always told them that they wanted to be aware of the consequences and if they ruled that way today you better rule that way the rest of the session."

Yet that all can change depending upon who is in the chair.

"We used to compare it to an umpire in a baseball game. They all have the same rules, but the strike zones aren't always the same. Speaker's rule different ways," said Chief Clerk Al Mathiowetz, who was elected to the position on this session's opening day.

When a ruling is sought, there is a hierarchy the speaker follows: the state constitution, House rules, joint rules, custom and usage, and Mason's Manual. Robert's Rules of Order is not used in the House.

"Quite often when there is a point of order raised, the speaker will visit with me and they ask for my opinion—I don't give it to them unless they ask—and I share it with them," said Burdick.

"As speaker, you have to have a great deal of trust with the chief clerk in his or her decision-making ability," said House Speaker Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon), who has held the leadership position since 1999. "That was certainly true with Ed. He was the institution. When he'd look at you and say 'Steve, here are

your choices,' he had a lot of credibility. You knew if you followed his advice it was probably the right advice."

Part of that trust, said former House Speaker Bob Vanasek (DFL-New Prague), came from training that Burdick gave beforehand.

"You had a better understanding of the relationship between the rules, statute, and custom and usage and Mason's and how they would interact with each other and how they would sometimes contradict each other, and what you do in those types of situations," said Vanasek, who was speaker from 1987-91.

Still, a decision in the chamber can play a vital role in the shaping of potential legislation, even if then is not the speaker's greatest time to do so.

The best times, Sviggum said, occur before

**First Reading continued on page 4**



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

**Ed Burdick has retired after 38 years as chief clerk of the Minnesota House.**

## First Reading continued from page 4

or after the floor debate, in setting the agenda, deciding which bills will come to the floor and in making committee assignments. "You can influence the legislation a lot ahead of time by sending it to one committee or another or by whom you appoint to the committee."

Sviggum said his influence can be felt afterward by whom he appoints to a conference committee, if one is needed to reach an agreement with the Senate.

Despite that power, Burdick says people often forget that the speaker does not always have the final say on an issue.

"If members don't like the speaker's ruling, they can appeal the decision and vote on it," he said. "The procedure allows for the body to make the final decision."

However, that may not come until a debate concludes, sometimes many hours later. Vanasek said that Burdick used to tell him: "The majority gets its way after the minority has its say."

But, how does a speaker know when to cut off debate?

Both Vanasek and Sviggum believe in ensuring that all sides are heard; however, they have both used nonverbal tactics to indicate it is time to vote a bill up or down, or to prevent a member from raising an issue that will result in two or three more members speaking.

"Sometimes it's just standing there and looking at the person who wants to talk in a way sort of like 'Is it really that important?' I did that and oftentimes a person would decide maybe it wasn't so important," said Vanasek, who also twirled the gavel to indicate he was ready to take a vote.

Sviggum said he has been known to stand at the podium and take a few extra seconds before recognizing someone as a way to say it's time to move on.

Yet, despite all the potential stress and headaches associated with being speaker, Sviggum and Vanasek, more often than not, have found delight.

"I enjoyed having a great appreciation for how the process works," Vanasek said. "I enjoyed seeing the diversity of opinions expressed and the diversity of those people making the decisions."

**A celebration of retiring Chief Clerk Ed Burdick's career is scheduled as part of a special House floor session at 2 p.m., Jan. 10.**



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHEID

**Al Mathiowetz, left, and Ed Burdick confer during a 2004 floor session. Mathiowetz is replacing Burdick as chief clerk for the 2005 session.**

## Taking over

Al Mathiowetz was promoted to first assistant chief clerk in 1985. Twenty years later he finally received another advancement.

One of the few unanimous votes on the first day of session, Mathiowetz was named chief clerk to replace Ed Burdick, who retired after 38 years in the position.

"Al learned from the best," said Rep. Dennis Ozment (R-Rosemount), who nominated Mathiowetz. "If you listen you'll even think his voice sounds like Ed Burdick. I know of no finer person to serve in the Minnesota House of Representatives as our chief clerk."

A 33-year House employee, Mathiowetz was hired as an administrative assistant in the chief clerk's office in 1971. He has also served as journal clerk and second assistant chief clerk. He jokingly said that he doesn't plan to be chief clerk as long as Burdick. "I promised I wouldn't work that long."

Seriously, Mathiowetz said it was a good feeling to have his confirmation vote be 134-0.

"It's truly an honor to have that kind of support. I guess you could say that hard work and dedication prevailed," he said while noting the joy of being involved in the legislative process. "There is never a dull moment because no two sessions or

two days are ever alike. It's exciting."

Mathiowetz admits he is fortunate to have worked with Burdick and has the opportunity to follow in the footsteps of someone of legendary status.

"He obviously had a lot of patience with me and a lot of encouragement over the years. There isn't a better teacher around. I can say that I probably had 33 years of the Ed Burdick University of Parliamentary Procedure."

The unofficial professor has no doubt that Mathiowetz will do an admirable job as his successor.

"I'm very happy for him," Burdick said. "I've watched him develop. He's very knowledgeable in the rules and procedure and he's like me in that he loves his work."

Even if that means sometimes being at the front desk around the clock.

"We all know him as being a person who sticks it out with us on the nights we're here late and he's always a friendly guy to have around," said Rep. Connie Bernardy (DFL-Fridley), who seconded the Mathiowetz nomination. "He's very competent and he perseveres with us and helps us make the right decisions on the floor."

**(M. Cook)**

## Saying goodbye to the people and the process

A man who has been a part of the House of Representatives longer than most members have been alive is no longer in a familiar place.

After 63 years of service, the last 38 as chief clerk, Edward A. Burdick, the man with the familiar deep and distinctive voice, has retired. "I've paid my dues and I'm going to move on. I'm comfortable with my decision," he said.

Burdick, 83, began his House career in 1941 as a page. He was named chief page two years later, became an assistant at the front desk in 1947 and was elected chief clerk in 1967. He missed just one session (1951), for active military duty.

"It's been an exciting experience. I wouldn't trade it for anything. I'm glad I had the opportunity," he said in mid-December while taking a break from cleaning his Capitol office that

was filled with pictures and other mementos, including a couple of homer hankies. Burdick is the lone living Minnesotan whose bust stands in the Capitol, just outside the House chamber.

A nationally recognized expert on parliamentary procedure, Burdick and Patrick Flahaven, the secretary of the Senate, were part of a national legislative commission that helped revise Mason's Manual, one of the guidelines used in determining a legislative course of action.

While often receiving credit for making the legislative process run smoothly within the chamber, Burdick quickly deflects the praise to others in his office.

"I would not trade our front desk staff for any other in the nation," he said. "We get a question and they are all involved. We're a good team out

there. It just looks like I know a lot."

Without question, it is the people that Burdick will miss the most.

"The part about this job I like the best is the people I've met from both caucuses and staff. There are some real good people associated with this business. Having been here so long, I've made friends all over the state and if I'm driving through a small town I can say 'I know somebody here.' I still hear from quite a few old-time members."

Burdick, who hopes to travel to the United Kingdom to see Parliament in action, admits that he may occasionally return to the House Chamber, but hopes he'll be able to sit unnoticed in the gallery.

After all the friends he has made during his career that may be impossible.

(M. Cook)



Former Chief Clerk Ed Burdick listens as House members debate during the 2004 session.

PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

# Playing party politics

A contentious day one marks start of legislative year

By BRETT MARTIN

**B**efore entering the House Chamber Jan. 4 for the traditionally ceremonial opening day of session, a common theme among members was one of compromise. That wish for goodwill lasted for little more than an hour, when party-line votes returned as members passed temporary rules.

House Speaker Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon) said he was disappointed in the partisan bickering, but promised cooperation.

"We will overcome the rancor of the first day," Sviggum said. "We will continue to outreach."

Although there were first day differences, House Minority Leader Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul) is also hopeful for cooperation in 2005.

"We thought that the Republicans would heed the public's message to play fairly, and they got busy by creating majorities on committees and taking a disproportionate share of the staff," Entenza said. "That had to be dealt with."

To do that, Entenza unsuccessfully offered two amendments to the resolution for

adoption of temporary rules. The rules were ultimately adopted 68-65.

One of Entenza's amendments called for more balance in committee structures by allowing the majority caucus to have only one more member on each committee than the minority caucus. When Republicans opposed, it was not adopted in a 67-67 vote, with Rep. Mark Olson (R-Big Lake) crossing party lines. Olson also successfully offered an amendment that permanent rules be adopted by Feb. 15.

The current committee structure has a one- or two-seat difference on most committees, although the House Ways and Means Committee has a seven-seat difference.

Entenza's second amendment, which failed on a party-line vote, would have given each party a number of staff proportionate to the number of members. "We all deserve equal treatment," he said, claiming there is a difference of about 20 employees between parties, not counting leadership staff and committee administrators.

House Majority Leader Erik Paulsen

## Other opening day activities

- The Land of Lakes Choirboys sang "The Star Spangled Banner" and "God Bless America."
- Secretary of State Mary Kiffmeyer called the House to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance. All members were present.
- Chief Justice Kathleen A. Blatz administered the oath of office to the 134 House members, sparking handshakes and enthusiasm among members.

(R-Eden Prairie) countered that the Republicans have held more positions open in recent years, and current numbers indicate one more party researcher in his caucus, but an equal number of constituent services personnel.

Rep. Tom Rukavina (DFL-Virginia) also tried to amend the temporary rules by permitting members to take money from one spending bill and moving it to another.

"What this would do would be to basically allow all of us to have a voice in the budget of the state," he said. Under current rules the House Ways and Means Committee sets budget targets for individual finance committees.

The amendment failed 68-66.

The votes on the temporary rules came after members elected Sviggum speaker for the fourth consecutive biennium, on a 67-64 vote over Entenza.

Five members initially withheld their votes, but two voted on their party candidate when given a second chance.

Reps. Bruce Anderson (R-Buffalo Township), Al Juhnke (DFL-Willmar) and Mary Ellen Otremba (DFL-Long Prairie) passed on their final vote.

Juhnke said party leaders overlook the western and southern areas of Minnesota, which is why he abstained. Otremba cited her views on abortion for not endorsing Entenza.

Anderson reportedly refused to support Sviggum following a disagreement on supporting a Republican candidate last spring. He said Sviggum didn't do enough to support former Rep. Arlon Lindner, who lost a Republican endorsing contest to Rep. Joyce Peppin (R-Rogers). Sviggum previously supported Lindner, but gave his backing to Peppin when she received the endorsement.

Acknowledging that the House has a lot to accomplish, Sviggum vowed in his acceptance speech to include Democrats in decisions.



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

Kimberly Scalze, right, granddaughter of Rep. Bev Scalze, peers over the back of her grandmother's chair as members debate an amendment to the temporary rules Jan. 4 in the House Chamber.

## More or less

### Republicans, DFL take different paths when establishing leadership structure

By **MATT WETZEL**

**T**he DFL Caucus has slimmed down its leadership ranks for the 2005 session, and House Minority Leader Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul) believes it will allow for greater accountability.

The caucus met in a one-day retreat in December to organize and plan strategy. Entenza was elected minority leader; and Margaret Anderson Kelliher (DFL-Mpls) and Rep. Anthony Sertich (DFL-Chisholm) were elected minority whips.



**Speaker of the House  
Steve Sviggum**

For the past two bienniums, when the party had fewer members than today, it had one whip who doubled as one of eight assistant minority leaders.

“We’ve gone up and down,” Entenza said. Caucus members agreed that three members on the leadership team seemed right for this session.

“Fewer people will mean a greater accountability and more responsibility,” Entenza said. “We know that we can rely on our lead Democrats to carry the ball in a lot of policy areas. They all have good backgrounds. Rep. Kelliher was our whip last year, and Rep. Sertich was a leader before.”

The term whip comes from Britain’s Parliament, where the job of the whip is to keep members of his or her party informed and counts the votes. It’s similar to an assistant minority leader here.

Entenza sees the role of the leadership as getting positive legislation passed. In the DFL’s case, that means creating better prospects for Minnesotans to succeed. “They need good opportunities in education, health care and transportation, so the people can have the

possibility of a great job and good health and a way to get to work,” he said.

“We think that work and health care are crucial because that’s one of the ongoing problems that business has right now, keeping good employees and keeping costs under control,” he said.

Across the aisle, the Republicans have nine members on the “executive board,” as House Majority Leader Erik Paulsen, (R-Eden Prairie), calls it. Each was appointed by House Speaker Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon) or elected by the caucus in a meeting after the election. Other members include Majority Whip Marty Seifert (R-Marshall) and six assistant majority leaders: Rep. Laura Brod (R-New Prague), Rep. Bob Gunther (R-Fairmont), Rep. Jeff Johnson (R-Plymouth), Rep. Maxine Penas (R-Badger), Rep. Tim Wilkin (R-Eagan) and Rep. Kurt Zellers (R-Maple Grove). The party has had a whip each of the last two sessions, with seven and six assistant majority leaders, respectively.

“I think it’s good to bring ownership to more people,” said Sviggum.

“Obviously it’s tough to reach a decision with 50, 60, 70, 80 people. You have to have a small executive board. We think having a board of directors that is representative of the caucus is good and brings ownership back to the members of the caucus.”

Paulsen agreed, saying that the greater the caucus leadership, the more varied the opinions. “We have a wide spectrum of rural and metro. It employs the breadth of the caucus. It leads to more effective decision-making,” he said.



**Majority Leader  
Erik Paulsen**

The leadership meets weekly to talk about legislation and discuss strategy. Paulsen said that too often legislators get an idea and introduce a bill before they’ve thought it out. With a large caucus, the legislator can bring it to the caucus meeting and bounce the idea around among his colleagues.



**Minority Leader  
Matt Entenza**

Paulsen believes the main role of the leadership is communication with the caucus and the public on the caucus priorities, which this year includes funding for education, health care

and transportation.

Internally, he said members can get a heads-up on what’s going to happen on the floor and what the agenda should be. “They learn what’s important to members and what’s important to the district, and being attentive to individual members’ needs.”

#### State of the State update

Gov. Tim Pawlenty will go on the road this year to deliver his annual State of the State address.

Traditionally delivered at the State Capitol, plans call for the speech highlighting the governor’s legislative vision to be given at 11 a.m. Jan. 18 at the Mayo Clinic Superior Drive Support Center in Rochester.

Medical tests and blood and tissue testing are performed at the center, which is set to expand this year with the help of tax breaks under the state’s Job Opportunity Building Zones program.

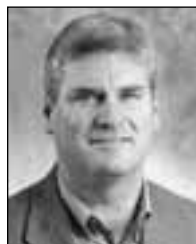
“By taking the State of the State out of the Capitol, I hope to encourage all Minnesotans to take a greater interest in the work that will be done in St. Paul over the coming months,” Pawlenty said.



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**Johnson, Ruth (DFL)** **23A**  
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 1-800-793-5149  
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 \*417 N. Seventh St. 56082..... (507) 934-2075  
**Occupation:** Retired. **Education:** B.A., religion, Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter, Minn.; M.S., education, Indiana University, Bloomington, Ind. **Elected:** 1996. **Term:** 3rd (non-consecutive). **Committees:** Agriculture and Rural Development, lead DFL; Education Finance; Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs.



**Peppin, Joyce (R)** **32A**  
 411 State Office Building ..... (651) 296-7806  
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**Home:** Rogers  
**Occupation:** Communications/public relations. **Education:** B.A., political science, B.A., speech communications, University of Minnesota-Duluth. **Elected:** 2004. **Term:** 1st. **Committees:** Commerce and Financial Institutions; Health Care Cost Containment Division; Health Policy and Finance; State Government Finance, vice chair; Technology, Bioscience and Medical Products Division.

\* Prefers interim mail at this address. Committee assignments as of Jan. 4, 2005.



**Peterson, Neil W. (R)** **41B**  
 \*527 State Office Building .....(651) 296-7803  
**E-mail:** rep.neil.peterson@house.mn  
**Home:** Bloomington  
 9640 Xylon Ave. S. 55438 .....(952) 941-1822  
**Business:** same .....(952) 941-5630  
**Occupation:** Broker and property management. **Educa-**  
**tion:** B.A., economics, Hastings College, Hastings, Neb..  
**Elected:** 2004. **Term:** 1st. **Committees:** Capital Investment;  
 Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs; Local  
 Government.



**Sailer, Brita (DFL)** **02B**  
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 \*13578 - 146th St. 56470 .....(218) 732-4562  
**Occupation:** Consultant. **Education:** B.A., art, Minnesota  
 State University Moorhead. **Elected:** 2004. **Term:** 1st. **Com-**  
**mittees:** Commerce and Financial Institutions; Education  
 Policy and Reform; Rules and Legislative Administration;  
 Tourism Division.



**Peterson, Sandra (DFL)** **45A**  
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**Home:** New Hope  
 \*2733 Yukon Ave. N. 55427 .....(763) 545-4898  
**Occupation:** Teacher. **Education:** B.S., education,  
 Macalester College; Graduate License (LD), Graduate  
 License (EBD), University of Minnesota. **Elected:** 2004.  
**Term:** 1st. **Committees:** Education Policy and Reform;  
 Transportation.



**Scalze, Bev (DFL)** **54B**  
 241 State Office Building .....(651) 296-7153  
**E-mail:** rep.bev.scalze@house.mn  
**Home:** Little Canada  
**Occupation:** Business. **Education:** A.D., art, Century  
 College and College of Visual Arts. **Elected:** 2004. **Term:**  
 1st. **Committees:** Environment and Natural Resources;  
 Local Government.



**Poppe, Jeanne (DFL)** **27B**  
 231 State Office Building .....(651) 296-4193  
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**Business:** Albert Lea  
 Riverland Community College,  
 2200 Riverland Dr. 56007 .....(507) 379-3322  
**Occupation:** Educator/counselor. **Education:** B.A., sociol-  
 ogy, University of Wisconsin-River Falls; M.S., counsel-  
 ing, Winona State University. **Elected:** 2004. **Term:** 1st.  
**Committees:** Environment and Natural Resources; Local  
 Government; Rules and Legislative Administration.



**Simon, Steve (DFL)** **44A**  
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 \*3000 Raleigh Ave. S. #407 55416 .....(952) 920-1611  
**Business:** Minneapolis  
 800 LaSalle Ave., #2800 55402 .....(612) 349-8205  
**Occupation:** Attorney. **Education:** B.A., political science,  
 Tufts University, Medford, Mass.; J.D., University of Min-  
 nesota. **Elected:** 2004. **Term:** 1st. **Committees:** Civil Law  
 and Elections; Transportation.



**Ruud, Maria (DFL)** **42A**  
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 \*4719 Diane Drive 55343 .....(952) 935-3397  
**Business:** Brooklyn Center  
 6000 Earle Brown Drive 55430 .....(952) 993-4837  
**Occupation:** Nurse practitioner. **Education:** B.S.N., nurs-  
 ing, University of Minnesota; M.S.N., nursing, University  
 of California, San Francisco. **Elected:** 2004. **Term:** 1st.  
**Committees:** Education Policy and Reform; Regulated  
 Industries.



**Welti, Andy (DFL)** **30B**  
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 \*R.R. 2 Box 17 55964 .....(507) 951-8857  
**Occupation:** Educator/teacher. **Education:** B.S., second-  
 ary social studies education, Minnesota State Univer-  
 sity, Mankato. **Elected:** 2004. **Term:** 1st. **Committees:**  
 Agriculture and Rural Development; Environment and  
 Natural Resources; Governmental Operations and Vet-  
 erans Affairs.

\* Prefers interim mail at this address. Committee assignments as of Jan. 4, 2005.

## Where to find information

### House Public Information Services

175 State Office Building  
 (651) 296-2146 or 1-800-657-3550

House Public Information Services is a nonpartisan office that provides committee meeting schedules; legislator information; and publications, including the *Session Weekly* newsmagazine, educational brochures, and member directories. All information is available at no charge.

Most of what this office publishes can be viewed on the Legislature's World Wide Web page. To connect, point your web browser at: <http://www.leg.mn>

### Senate Information Office

231 State Capitol (651) 296-0504

The Senate Information Office is responsible for all information about the Senate, including the committee schedule, bill status, legislator

information, and the distribution of bill copies.

### Senate Media Services

B-44 State Capitol (651) 296-0264

Senate Media Services, a bipartisan office, produces television programs, multi-media productions, scriptwriting, photography and graphics. It offers live coverage of the Senate floor sessions and some committee hearings.

**Editor's note: Committee coverage is expected to begin with the Jan. 14 issue of *Session Weekly*. For committee schedules and agendas, go to [www.house.mn/hinfo/hinfosched.asp](http://www.house.mn/hinfo/hinfosched.asp).**

## BONDING

### Pawlenty plan offered

Gov. Tim Pawlenty is calling on lawmakers to pass an \$816 million bonding bill early in the 2005 session.

"In order to build a stronger, more productive Minnesota we must prepare for the future now," Pawlenty said while unveiling the plan Jan. 3.

Of the total, \$744 million would come from general obligation bonds and \$72 million from trunk highway bonds, user financing and other sources. The total is \$62 million higher than Pawlenty's plan last year — \$34 million in new projects and \$28 million for higher construction costs.

"This is a good place to start," said Rep. Dan Dorman (R-Albert Lea), chair of the House Capital Investment Committee. "I don't see a lot of things I take issue with. Hopefully we'll get this passed earlier than later in session."

Pawlenty encouraged quick passage "to take advantage of the 2005 summer construction season." House Minority Leader Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul) called for the bill's passage by the end of February.

The proposal focuses on five key areas: education investment (\$233 million); jobs, housing and transportation (\$203.8 million); water, environment and natural resources (\$176.3 million); safer communities (\$132.9 million) and effective government and public service (\$69.8 million).

Among the projects are approximately \$100.3 million for both the University of Minnesota and Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system, \$84.8 million for a corrections facility expansion in Faribault, \$37.5 million for the Northstar commuter line from Minneapolis to Big Lake, \$28 million for local bridge replacement, \$15.8 million to construct a secure nursing facility for sex offenders and upgrading a current facility, \$10.6 million for Roseau to help with 2002 flood damage and \$690,000 to help Buffalo Lake after a 2003 tornado. A complete listing of projects in the governor's proposal can be found at [www.finance.state.mn.us](http://www.finance.state.mn.us).

Entenza called the plan a recycling of last year's effort, saying it is short in meeting higher education needs, and includes zero

dollars for flood relief in Austin and for a rail line between Minneapolis and St. Paul.

"Where the governor left projects off we'll be working hard on a proposal for all Minnesotans," added Rep. Margaret Anderson Kelliher (DFL-Mpls).

Pawlenty noted that about 60 percent of the proposal is directed to projects in Greater Minnesota and 40 percent in the Twin Cities metropolitan area.

The House passed a \$677.6 million bill last year, but it did not pass in the Senate. A \$948.7 million Senate plan failed to receive the necessary votes in that body. Pawlenty said he is not against a larger bonding bill in 2005, provided proponents show how to pay for it.

## BUDGET

### State faces another shortfall

Revenue forecasts show that the state should be able to meet its financial obligations for the rest of the fiscal year, which ends June 30, 2005.

Yet it appears the state is facing a \$700 million shortfall for the 2006-07 biennium. Factoring in inflation, that figure rises to \$1.4 billion.

State Finance Commissioner Peggy Ingison presented the news to the House Ways and Means Committee Dec. 3. "The general fund revenue forecast is up \$254 million from end of (2004) session estimates, but projected state expenditures are up by \$556 million from earlier projections," Ingison noted that

increases in human services are largely driving the increase.

The ledger for the rest of this fiscal year, however, is not quite so grim. According to a state Department of Finance report, the current biennium is expected to conclude with a \$495 million surplus. Under state law, those dollars cannot be put into the general fund, but must first be used to restore the state's reserve funds to 2001 levels. Remaining funds then go toward reversing school payment shifts, which were used to address the 2002-03 state budget shortfall. Translating that to dollars means \$350 million must be used to restore the state's cash flow account; \$27 million could bring the state's budget reserve to \$653 million, and \$118 million could be used to buy back a portion of the school aid shifts used to balance recent budgets.

The report indicates that revenues for 2006-07 are expected to increase 2.8 percent from the current biennium, but current law spending will increase by 7.6 percent.

If left unchecked, the greatest increase in spending the next biennium is expected to come in health and human services at 19.9 percent, according to the report. Criminal justice spending could increase by 9 percent and higher education 8 percent. Declining enrollment in early childhood and K-12 programs translates to a state spending growth of less than 1 percent in that category.

The report is a guideline for lawmakers to begin making their spending decisions. Ingison said these estimates do not include any tax or spending decisions beyond those in current law.



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHEID

**Finance Commissioner Peggy Ingison explains a portion of the November Forecast during a Dec. 1 news conference.**



**Legislators use kazoos to hum "Happy Birthday."**



**Gov. Tim Pawlenty shares his thoughts on the centennial.**

### **You should know**

The Capitol Centennial Commission and the Minnesota Historical Society have planned parties, parades, exhibits and seminars in St. Paul and across the state in honor of the Capitol Centennial. For more information: Minnesota Historical Society State Capitol Site, (651) 296-2881 or [www.mnhs.org/places/sites/msc](http://www.mnhs.org/places/sites/msc) or the Minnesota State Capitol Centennial Celebration, (651) 203-7246 or [www.ourhouse100.com](http://www.ourhouse100.com).

**Right: Legislators and special guests fill the Rotunda Jan. 4 for the Capitol Centennial Birthday Celebration.**



**Left: The First Minnesota Volunteer Infantry present the colors during the "Star Spangled Banner."**





Cass Gilbert, aka Alan Johnson, makes an appearance at the Capitol Centennial Birthday Celebration. Gilbert designed the building.

## A 'Fun and Grand Affair'

Lawmakers and honored guests celebrate Capitol Centennial

House Speaker Steve Sviggum, Majority Leader Erik Paulsen, Minority Leader Matt Entenza, and Senate leaders participated Jan. 4 in a delightful lark cooked up by the Capitol Centennial Commission and the Minnesota Historical Society to celebrate the State Capitol's 100th birthday.

The premise: a letter addressed to future residents of Minnesota allegedly written by Capitol architect Cass Gilbert on the opening day of the Legislature in 1905. In it, Gilbert revealed his hopes for a centennial celebration bigger than the Capitol grand opening and the existence of a chest hidden in the Capitol basement for the legislative leaders of 2005 to open.

Lawmakers and honored guests gathered in the Rotunda looked on as the House and Senate leaders opened the chest to reveal...kazoos!

These magical kazoos, Gilbert supposedly wrote, would help make the Capitol Centennial "a fun and grand affair" and "ignite the spirits of the past to celebrate with you."

The speaker and company must hum a mean magic kazoo because the spirits were ignited and Cass Gilbert himself, or

perhaps it was a historical society actor, made an appearance upon hearing strains of "Happy Birthday."

The birthday bash also featured the world premiere of the State Capitol Centennial Overture composed by Minnesotan Carol Barnett and performed by the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra and Kantorei choral ensemble.

"What words, what text would best express what the building means to Minnesota?" Barnett said she asked herself in preparation for the composition. The answer, she said, was found in one of the German mottoes in the Capitol Rathskeller: Herzlich willkommen im gastlichen haus, "A hearty welcome to this hospitable house," and Meegwetch, a response in the Ojibwe language translated as "thank you for coming — let us work together."

"Meegwetch, thank you for coming, let's work together," Gov. Tim Pawlenty said in remarks reflecting on the centennial and the start of the legislative session, "...a great starting point for those of us in the building today."

(N. Wood)



Left: Members of the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, conducted by Nicholas McGegan, and the Kantorei choir perform "The People's Room," a specially commissioned work composed by Carol Barnett.

Photos by  
Andrew VonBank  
and Sarah Stacke

# Looking back to 1905

Farming was the dominant profession then, education now

By RUTH DUNN

**W**hen the gavel pounded on Jan. 3, 1905 to begin the 34<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session, House Speaker Frank Clague of Lamberton looked out at a very different group of people than House Speaker Steve Sviggum saw on Jan. 4, 2005, for the 84<sup>th</sup> session.

The most striking visual difference was that the 119 members of the House were all men in 1905. They wore dark suits and ties and many had elaborate mustaches. The first female legislator was not elected until 1922. Of the 134 current members, 97 are men and 37 are women.

Of course, back in 1905 there were no laptop computers or cell phones on members' desks. But there were often tall stacks of information since a member's only workspace was the desk he had in the chamber. Today, they all have an office.

Unlike this year's nearly even split between political parties, the House was lopsided 100 years ago with 108 Republicans and 11 Democrats. The Democratic-Farmer-Labor party did not exist then.

Most House members had been re-elected in November 1904 on the coattails of popular presidential candidate Theodore Roosevelt. This was the first House session to convene in the new State Capitol. There was a lot of public interest and excitement in the start of the session.

Thirty House members in 1905 were farmers followed by 25 businessmen and 23 attorneys. Eight legislators were involved with newspaper publishing, five were bankers, five were in real estate and four were physicians. Other occupations included livestock dealer, harness maker, county sheriffs, surveyors, and a humorous lecturer. At least four were veterans of the Civil War. Only one member was an educator.

In contrast, education is the dominant occupation in 2005 with 21 members in the

profession. Attorneys, business people, and full-time legislators are the next most common professions. There are just three members whose occupation is farming.

House File 1 of the 1905 session concerned taxation. Rail transportation was also controversial in 1905 – that's heavy rail, not light rail, which is likely to be discussed in 2005. A great portion of bills introduced in 1905 related to the regulation of railroads. Before adjournment on April 18, 1905, a total of 887 bills had been introduced in the House. About 200 reached the governor for his signature, including one forbidding corporations from contributing to candidates or committees for political purposes. The punishment was a fine and/or imprisonment. Another law stated only dentists and doctors were permitted to write prescriptions for cocaine.

By comparison, 1,554 bills were introduced last year, and 163 ended up on the governor's desk.

In his inaugural address, newly-elected Gov. John Johnson congratulated the Legislature that Minnesota's public school system easily ranked "with progressive states of the Union such as New York, Massachusetts and others." Johnson urged legislators to act on

## Family ties to 1905

Former Rep. Ole Opdahl traveled by horse and buggy to St. Paul to serve in the 1905 Legislature. One hundred years later, his great-grandson, Rep. Bud Nornes (R-Fergus Falls), had a much easier trip by car.

"Things have changed tremendously since then," said Nornes, who is probably the only current legislator descended from a member of the 1905 House of Representatives, the first to convene in the new Capitol building.

Nornes discovered that his relative had been a legislator during his 1996 campaign. After arriving in St. Paul, he researched his great-grandfather in the Legislative Reference Library. It was the first time he'd seen a photo of Opdahl, his mother's grandfather.

Opdahl emigrated from Norway in 1845 and settled in Freeborn County. He was a farmer who served on the town council, school board and county board before being elected to the House. In 1905, he was a 53-year-old widower. Opdahl died long before he could meet the great-grandson who would follow in his footsteps to St. Paul.

the taxation of inheritances, although previous efforts in that area had been declared unconstitutional.

## A Century of Change

	1905 House	2005 House
Total members	119	134
Republicans	108	68
Democrats or DFL	11	66
Men	119	97
Women	0	37
Attorneys	23	19
Business people	25	18
Farmers	30	3
Educators	1	21
Civil War veterans	4	0

# 2005 House Profile

## Membership

	2005	2003	2001	1999	1997
DFL	66	53	65	63	70
R	68	81	69	71	64
Men	97	102	99	99	95
Women	37	32	35	35	39

## Current Term

	2005	2003	2001	1999	1997
1	25	46	18	20	22
2	38	17	20	24	29
3	14	15	22	25	25
4	12	14	22	20	14
5	12	11	17	10	7
6	7	8	8	5	14
7	5	5	4	10	6
8	5	3	7	4	3
9	2	4	3	3	1
10	4	2	2	1	3
11	2	1	1	2	3
12	1	1	1	3	2
13	1	1	3	2	4
14	1	2	2	4	-
15 or more	5	3	4	1	1

## Age

	2005**	2003**	2001*	1999	1997
21-30	6	8	5	6	5
31-40	27	27	27	23	27
41-50	40	35	42	51	45
51-60	38	43	41	38	43
61-70	18	12	12	13	11
over 71	3	3	3	3	3
Average age	48.6	47.4	48.4	48.7	48.3

\* Ages not available for 4 members

\*\*Ages not available for 2 members

## Occupation

	2005	2003	2001	1999	1997
Educator	21	22	20	19	22
Attorney	19	16	15	17	17
Business	18	22	23	24	21
Legislator	10	10	15	14	18
Retired	8	5	4	4	3
Consultant	7	7	6	6	6
Government	5	7	2	2	3
Real Estate	5	7	3	3	2
Communications	4	4	3	4	4
Trades	4	4	3	3	2
Farming	3	5	8	9	11
Homemaker	3	3	4	5	5
Other	26	21	28	24	20

## Education

	2005	2003	2001	1999	1997
High School	3	3	3	4	5
Technical College	7	6	5	6	10
Some College	13	14	19	23	20
4-yr. Undergraduate Degree	40	47	44	39	40
Some Graduate work	20	15	13	13	16
Graduate Degree	51	48	50	49	43



"Speaking of the House" is a new column filled with information about House members. It will occasionally appear in Session Weekly.

Here's some of the news since May 16, 2004 when the House of Representatives adjourned, sine die:

## JUNE

**Rep. Tim Wilkin (R-Eagan)** called for the staggering terms of state senators. Under his plan, House member terms would remain unchanged at two years. But the four-year terms of even and odd numbered Senate districts would be staggered so that every two years, about half of the Senate would be up for re-election.

## JULY

**Rep. Alice Seagren (R-Bloomington)**, first elected to the House in 1992, resigned when Gov. Tim Pawlenty named her commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Education. She assumed her duties on Sept. 1.

**Rep. Chris Gerlach (R-Apple Valley)** became Sen. Gerlach after winning a special election to fill the seat vacated by Sen. David

Knutson who was appointed a district court judge. Gerlach was first elected to the House in 1998.

**Rep. Eric Lipman (R-Lake Elmo)** resigned after being named the state's Sex Offender Policy Coordinator by Pawlenty. Lipman was first elected to the House in 2000.

**Rep. Thomas Pugh (DFL-South St. Paul)**, who served eight terms in the House, and was minority leader from 1999-2002, resigned when he was named by Pawlenty to the Public Utilities Commission.

## NOVEMBER

**Election Day** saw 26 new members chosen to serve in the House of Representatives. The end result had the DFL gaining 13 seats to reduce the Republican seat advantage to two at 68-66.

The closest race occurred in **District 8B** where Rep. Judy Soderstrom (R-Mora) held a 94-vote lead over DFL challenger Tom Faust. A recount later closed the difference to 76 votes.

**Ed Burdick**, who has served as House chief clerk since 1967 announced his retirement. The 83-year-old started in the House as a page in 1941 and is the only living Minnesotan whose bust stands in the Capitol, outside the House chambers.

## DECEMBER

**Two Republican state representatives** who lost their seats in the November election were named to positions in the Pawlenty administration. Lynda Boudreau, a five-term legislator from Faribault, has become deputy commissioner in the Department of Human Services. Jim Rhodes of St. Louis Park, who served six terms, was named legislative director with the Department of Administration.

Former **Rep. John Weaver**, who served in the House of Representatives from 1978-1982, died on Dec. 17. Weaver, 76, of Anoka, had a long history of public service that included serving on the Metropolitan Transportation Advisory Board and on the Boy Scout Viking Council Board of Directors.

## JANUARY

**Rep. Maria Ruud (DFL-Minnetonka)** was one of many members accompanied to the House chamber by their family Jan. 4.

While Maria's husband Mark took pictures from the back of the chamber, Eric, 14, and Christian, 11, stayed at their mom's desk to soak up the excitement that comes at the conclusion of a job well done.

"After a long time it's finally happened," Eric said. "We were campaigning and campaigning and finally we're here."



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHEID

**Former Gov. Elmer L. Andersen** lay in state in the Capitol Rotunda Nov. 18 while his wife, Eleanor, right, and daughter, Emily, pause to pay their respects prior to the public visitation. Other former governors who have laid in state include Orville Freeman in 2003 and Harold Stassen in 2001.

# 2005-06 Minnesota House of Representatives Members

District/Member/Party	Room*	Phone (651) 296-	District/Member/Party	Room*	Phone (651) 296-
48B Abeler, Jim (R) .....	509	1729	9A Lanning, Morrie (R) .....	593	5515
43B Abrams, Ron (R) .....	585	9934	63B Larson, Dan (DFL) .....	287	7158
19A Anderson, Bruce (R) .....	437	5063	44B Latz, Ron (DFL) .....	225	7026
3A Anderson, Irv (DFL) .....	321	4936	40B Lenczewski, Ann (DFL) .....	237	4218
39B Atkins, Joe (DFL) .....	217	4192	66A Lesch, John (DFL) .....	223	4224
35A Beard, Michael (R) .....	577	8872	30A Liebling, Tina (DFL) .....	393	0573
51B Bernardy, Connie (DFL) .....	233	5510	1B Lieder, Bernie (DFL) .....	323	5091
12B Blaine, Greg (R) .....	545	4247	55A Lillie, Leon (DFL) .....	353	1188
29B Bradley, Fran (R) .....	563	9249	59A Loeffler, Diane (DFL) .....	307	4219
25A Brod, Laura (R) .....	581	4229	22A Magnus, Doug (R) .....	515	5505
35B Buesgens, Mark (R) .....	445	5185	67A Mahoney, Tim (DFL) .....	289	4277
45B Carlson, Lyndon (DFL) .....	283	4255	65B Mariani, Carlos (DFL) .....	203	9714
56A Charron, Mike (R) .....	571	4244	9B Marquart, Paul (DFL) .....	345	6829
61A Clark, Karen (DFL) .....	303	0294	57B McNamara, Denny (R) .....	431	3135
24B Cornish, Tony (R) .....	487	4240	53B Meslow, Doug (R) .....	531	5363
25B Cox, Ray (R) .....	413	7065	4A Moe, Frank (DFL) .....	369	5516
37A Cybart, Lloyd (R) .....	539	5506	58A Mullery, Joe (DFL) .....	367	4262
31B Davids, Gregory (R) .....	477	9278	6B Murphy, Mary (DFL) .....	343	2676
62A Davnie, Jim (DFL) .....	309	0173	46A Nelson, Michael (DFL) .....	317	3751
52B Dean, Matt (R) .....	417	3018	17B Nelson, Peter (R) .....	433	5377
49A DeLaForest, Chris (R) .....	503	4231	18A Newman, Scott (R) .....	569	1534
29A Demmer, Randy (R) .....	597	9236	10A Nornes, Bud (R) .....	471	4946
28A Dempsey, Jerry (R) .....	575	8635	16B Olson, Mark (R) .....	501	4237
6A Dill, David (DFL) .....	315	2190	15B Opatz, Joe (DFL) .....	277	6612
47A Dittrich, Denise (DFL) .....	371	5513	11B Otremba, Mary Ellen (DFL) .....	247	3201
27A Dorman, Dan (R) .....	517	8216	37B Ozment, Dennis (R) .....	479	4306
23B Dorn, John (DFL) .....	201	3248	42B Paulsen, Erik (R) .....	459	7449
17A Eastlund, Rob (R) .....	449	5364	64B Paymar, Michael (DFL) .....	253	4199
2A Eken, Kent (DFL) .....	329	9918	31A Pelowski, Jr., Gene (DFL) .....	295	8637
58B Ellison, Keith (DFL) .....	229	8659	1A Penas, Maxine (R) .....	579	9635
19B Emmer, Tom (R) .....	523	4336	32A Peppin, Joyce (R) .....	411	7806
64A Entenza, Matt (DFL) .....	267	8799	20A Peterson, Aaron (DFL) .....	351	4228
41A Erhardt, Ron (R) .....	591	4363	41B Peterson, Neil (R) .....	527	7803
16A Erickson, Sondra (R) .....	473	6746	45A Peterson, Sandra (DFL) .....	213	4176
21B Finstad, Brad (R) .....	379	9303	27B Poppe, Jeanne (DFL) .....	231	4193
26B Fritz, Patti (DFL) .....	239	8237	40A Powell, Duke (R) .....	407	4212
36B Garofalo, Pat (R) .....	429	1069	5A Rukavina, Tom (DFL) .....	279	0170
12A Gazelka, Paul (R) .....	529	4333	26A Ruth, Connie (R) .....	565	5368
50A Goodwin, Barbara (DFL) .....	331	4331	42A Ruud, Maria (DFL) .....	311	3964
54A Greiling, Mindy (DFL) .....	259	5387	2B Sailer, Brita (DFL) .....	327	4265
24A Gunther, Bob (R) .....	559	3240	50B Samuelson, Char (R) .....	415	0141
48A Hackbarth, Tom (R) .....	409	2439	54B Scalze, Bev (DFL) .....	241	7153
22B Hamilton, Rod (R) .....	423	5373	21A Seifert, Marty (R) .....	381	5374
39A Hansen, Rick (DFL) .....	221	6828	5B Sertich, Anthony (DFL) .....	273	0172
66B Hausman, Alice (DFL) .....	245	3824	14A Severson, Dan (R) .....	553	7808
13A Heidgerken, Bud (R) .....	507	4317	57A Sieben, Katie (DFL) .....	215	4342
46B Hilstrom, Debra (DFL) .....	375	3709	44A Simon, Steve (DFL) .....	313	9889
8A Hilty, Bill (DFL) .....	207	4308	10B Simpson, Dean (R) .....	525	4293
36A Holberg, Mary Liz (R) .....	443	6926	55B Slawik, Nora (DFL) .....	357	7807
34B Hoppe, Joe (R) .....	537	5066	33A Smith, Steve (R) .....	543	9188
60B Hornstein, Frank (DFL) .....	227	9281	8B Soderstrom, Judy (R) .....	439	0518
47B Hortman, Melissa (DFL) .....	377	4280	3B Solberg, Loren (DFL) .....	349	2365
14B Hosch, Larry (DFL) .....	211	4373	28B Sviggum, Steve (R) .....	463	2273
4B Howes, Larry (R) .....	451	2451	33B Sykora, Barb (R) .....	485	4315
7A Huntley, Thomas (DFL) .....	335	2228	65A Thao, Cy (DFL) .....	359	5158
7B Jaros, Mike (DFL) .....	291	4246	63A Thissen, Paul (DFL) .....	301	5375
43A Johnson, Jeff (R) .....	401	5511	49B Tingelstad, Kathy (R) .....	403	5369
23A Johnson, Ruth (DFL) .....	389	8634	18B Urdahl, Dean (R) .....	521	4344
67B Johnson, Sheldon (DFL) .....	243	4201	52A Vandever, Ray (R) .....	583	4124
13B Juhnke, Al (DFL) .....	281	6206	62B Wagenius, Jean (DFL) .....	251	4200
59B Kahn, Phyllis (DFL) .....	255	4257	61B Walker, Neva (DFL) .....	209	7152
60A Kelliher, Margaret Anderson (DFL) .....	261	0171	38B Wardlow, Lynn (R) .....	491	4128
56B Klinzing, Karen (R) .....	567	1147	30B Welti, Andy (DFL) .....	387	4378
15A Knoblach, Jim (R) .....	453	6316	51A Westerberg, Andrew (R) .....	549	4226
20B Koenen, Lyle (DFL) .....	337	4346	11A Westrom, Torrey (R) .....	533	4929
34A Kohls, Paul (R) .....	421	4282	38A Wilkin, Tim (R) .....	551	3533
53A Krinkie, Philip (R) .....	365	2907	32B Zellers, Kurt (R) .....	557	5502

\*All rooms are in the State Office Building unless otherwise noted, St. Paul, MN 55155  
mem as of Jan. 3, 2005

# 2005-06 Minnesota Senate Members

District/Member/Party	Room*	Phone (651) 296-	District/Member/Party	Room*	Phone (651) 296-
66 Anderson, Ellen (DFL) .....	120 Cap. ....	5537	54 Marty, John (DFL) .....	323 Cap. ....	5645
52 Bachmann, Michele (R) .....	141 SOB .....	4351	38 McGinn, Mike (R) .....	G-19 SOB .....	7-8073
6 Bakk, Thomas (DFL) .....	226 Cap. ....	8881	39 Metzen, James (DFL) .....	322 Cap. ....	4370
40 Belanger, Jr. William (R) .....	113 SOB .....	5975	41 Michel, Geoff (R) .....	133 SOB .....	6238
61 Berglin, Linda (DFL) .....	309 Cap. ....	4261	67 Moua, Mee (DFL) .....	235 Cap. ....	5285
51 Betzold, Don (DFL) .....	111 Cap. ....	2556	28 Murphy, Steve (DFL) .....	306 Cap. ....	4264
50 Chaudhary, Satveer (DFL) .....	317 Cap. ....	4334	25 Neuville, Thomas (R) .....	123 SOB .....	1279
64 Cohen, Richard (DFL) .....	121 Cap. ....	5931	17 Nienow, Sean (R) .....	105 SOB .....	5419
26 Day, Dick (R) .....	147 SOB .....	9457	33 Olson, Gen (R) .....	119 SOB .....	1282
60 Dibble, D. Scott (DFL) .....	111 Cap. ....	4191	34 Ortman, Julianne (R) .....	G-21 SOB .....	4837
18 Dille, Steve (R) .....	103 SOB .....	4131	19 Ourada, Mark (R) .....	145 SOB .....	5981
14 Fischbach, Michelle (R) .....	G-15 SOB .....	2084	65 Pappas, Sandra (DFL) .....	120 Cap. ....	1802
47 Foley, Leo (DFL) .....	G-24 Cap. ....	4154	36 Pariseau, Pat (R) .....	117 SOB .....	5252
21 Frederickson, Dennis (R) .....	139 SOB .....	8138	59 Pogemiller, Lawrence (DFL) .....	235 Cap. ....	7809
43 Gaither, David (R) .....	107 SOB .....	4314	63 Ranum, Jane (DFL) .....	120 Cap. ....	7-8061
37 Gerlach, Chris (R) .....	149 SOB .....	4120	53 Reiter, Mady (R) .....	132D SOB .....	1253
42 Hann, David (R) .....	G-27 SOB .....	1749	45 Rest, Ann (DFL) .....	205 Cap. ....	2889
58 Higgins, Linda (DFL) .....	328 Cap. ....	9246	35 Robling, Claire (R) .....	143 SOB .....	4123
23 Hottinger, John (DFL) .....	317 Cap. ....	6153	24 Rosen, Julie (R) .....	G-23 SOB .....	5713
13 Johnson, Dean (DFL) .....	208 Cap. ....	3826	4 Ruud, Carrie (R) .....	109 SOB .....	4913
49 Johnson, Debbie (R) .....	135 SOB .....	3219	11 Sams, Dallas (DFL) .....	328 Cap. ....	7-8063
48 Jungbauer, Michael (R) .....	115 SOB .....	3733	3 Saxhaug, Tom (DFL) .....	124 Cap. ....	4136
44 Kelley, Steve (DFL) .....	205 Cap. ....	7-8065	46 Scheid, Linda (DFL) .....	303 Cap. ....	8869
31 Kierlin, Bob (R) .....	127 SOB .....	5649	29 Senjem, David (R) .....	G-17 SOB .....	3903
30 Kiscaden, Sheila (IP) .....	325 Cap. ....	4848	2 Skoe, Rod (DFL) .....	124 Cap. ....	4196
15 Kleis, Dave (R) .....	G-25 SOB .....	6455	62 Skoglund, Wesley (DFL) .....	124 Cap. ....	4274
12 Koering, Paul (R) .....	131 SOB .....	4875	7 Solon, Yvonne Prettnier (DFL) .....	303 Cap. ....	4188
20 Kubly, Gary (DFL) .....	306 Cap. ....	5094	27 Sparks, Dan (DFL) .....	G-24 Cap. ....	9248
9 Langseth, Keith (DFL) .....	122 Cap. ....	3205	1 Stumpf, LeRoy (DFL) .....	G-24 Cap. ....	8660
10 Larson, Cal (R) .....	153 SOB .....	5655	5 Tomassoni, David (DFL) .....	321 Cap. ....	8017
56 LeClair, Brian (R) .....	129 SOB .....	4166	22 Vickerman, Jim (DFL) .....	226 Cap. ....	5650
32 Limmer, Warren (R) .....	121 SOB .....	2159	16 Wergin, Betsy (R) .....	125 SOB .....	8075
8 Lourey, Becky (DFL) .....	G-24 Cap. ....	0293	55 Wiger, Charles (DFL) .....	301 Cap. ....	6820
57 Marko, Sharon (DFL) .....	G-24 Cap. ....	7-8060			

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

## Minnesota House and Senate Membership

<b>1</b> A Rep. Maxine Penas-(R) B Rep. Bernie Lieder-(DFL) Sen. LeRoy A. Stumpf-(DFL)	<b>15</b> A Rep. Jim Knobloch-(R) B Rep. Joe Opatz-(DFL) Sen. Dave Kleis-(R)	<b>29</b> A Rep. Randy Demmer-(R) B Rep. Fran Bradley-(R) Sen. David H. Senjem-(R)	<b>43</b> A Rep. Jeff Johnson-(R) B Rep. Ron Abrams-(R) Sen. David Gaither-(R)	<b>57</b> A Rep. Katie Sieben-(DFL) B Rep. Denny McNamara-(R) Sen. Sharon Marko-(DFL)
<b>2</b> A Rep. Kent Eken-(DFL) B Rep. Brita Sailer-(DFL) Sen. Rod Skoe-(DFL)	<b>16</b> A Rep. Sondra Erickson-(R) B Rep. Mark Olson-(R) Sen. Betsy L. Wergin-(R)	<b>30</b> A Rep. Tina Liebling-(DFL) B Rep. Andy Welti-(DFL) Sen. Sheila M. Kiscaden-(IP)	<b>44</b> A Rep. Steve Simon-(DFL) B Rep. Ron Latz-(DFL) Sen. Steve Kelley-(DFL)	<b>58</b> A Rep. Joe Mullery-(DFL) B Rep. Keith Ellison-(DFL) Sen. Lawrence J. Pogemiller-(DFL)
<b>3</b> A Rep. Irv Anderson-(DFL) B Rep. Loren A. Solberg-(DFL) Sen. Tom Saxhaug-(DFL)	<b>17</b> A Rep. Rob Eastlund-(R) B Rep. Peter Nelson-(R) Sen. Sean R. Nienow-(R)	<b>31</b> A Rep. Gene Pelowski Jr.-(DFL) B Rep. Gregory M. Davids-(R) Sen. Bob Kierlin-(R)	<b>45</b> A Rep. Sandra Peterson-(DFL) B Rep. Lyndon R. Carlson-(DFL) Sen. Ann H. Rest-(DFL)	<b>59</b> A Rep. Diane Loeffler-(DFL) B Rep. Phyllis Kahn-(DFL) Sen. Lawrence J. Pogemiller-(DFL)
<b>4</b> A Rep. Frank Moe-(DFL) B Rep. Larry Howes-(R) Sen. Carrie L. Ruud-(R)	<b>18</b> A Rep. Scott Newman-(R) B Rep. Dean Urdahl-(R) Sen. Steve Dille-(R)	<b>32</b> A Rep. Joyce Peppin-(R) B Rep. Kurt Zellers-(R) Sen. Warren Limmer-(R)	<b>46</b> A Rep. Michael Nelson-(DFL) B Rep. Debra Hilstrom-(DFL) Sen. Linda Scheid-(DFL)	<b>60</b> A Rep. Margaret Anderson Kelliher-(DFL) B Rep. Frank Hornstein-(DFL) Sen. D. Scott Dibble-(DFL)
<b>5</b> A Rep. Tom Rukavina-(DFL) B Rep. Anthony Serich-(DFL) Sen. David J. Tomassoni-(DFL)	<b>19</b> A Rep. Bruce Anderson-(R) B Rep. Tom Emmer-(R) Sen. Mark Ourada-(R)	<b>33</b> A Rep. Steve Smith-(R) B Rep. Barb Sykora-(R) Sen. Gen Olson-(R)	<b>47</b> A Rep. Denise Dittrich-(DFL) B Rep. Melissa Hortman-(DFL) Sen. Leo Foley-(DFL)	<b>61</b> A Rep. Karen Clark-(DFL) B Rep. Neva Walker-(DFL) Sen. Linda Berglin-(DFL)
<b>6</b> A Rep. David Dill-(DFL) B Rep. Mary Murphy-(DFL) Sen. Thomas M. Bakk-(DFL)	<b>20</b> A Rep. Aaron Peterson-(DFL) B Rep. Lyle Koenen-(DFL) Sen. Gary Kubly-(DFL)	<b>34</b> A Rep. Paul Kohls-(R) B Rep. Joe Hoppe-(R) Sen. Julianne E. Ortman-(R)	<b>48</b> A Rep. Tom Hackbarth-(R) B Rep. Jim Abeler-(R) Sen. Michael J. Jungbauer-(R)	<b>62</b> A Rep. Jim Davnie-(DFL) B Rep. Jean Wagenius-(DFL) Sen. Wesley J. Skoglund-(DFL)
<b>7</b> A Rep. Thomas Huntley-(DFL) B Rep. Mike Jaros-(DFL) Sen. Yvonne Prettnier Solon-(DFL)	<b>21</b> A Rep. Marty Seifert-(R) B Rep. Brad Finstad-(R) Sen. Dennis R. Frederickson-(R)	<b>35</b> A Rep. Michael Beard-(R) B Rep. Mark Buesgens-(R) Sen. Claire A. Robling-(R)	<b>49</b> A Rep. Chris DeLaForest-(R) B Rep. Kathy Tingelstad-(R) Sen. Debbie J. Johnson-(R)	<b>63</b> A Rep. Paul Thissen-(DFL) B Rep. Kathy Tingelstad-(R) Sen. Jane B. Ranum-(DFL)
<b>8</b> A Rep. Bill Hilty-(DFL) B Rep. Judy Soderstrom-(R) Sen. Becky Lourey-(DFL)	<b>22</b> A Rep. Doug Magnus-(R) B Rep. Rod Hamilton-(R) Sen. Jim Vickerman-(DFL)	<b>36</b> A Rep. Mary Liz Holberg-(R) B Rep. Pat Garofalo-(R) Sen. Pat Pariseau-(R)	<b>50</b> A Rep. Barbara Goodwin-(DFL) B Rep. Char Samuelson-(R) Sen. Satveer Chaudhary-(DFL)	<b>64</b> A Rep. Matt Entenza-(DFL) B Rep. Michael Paymar-(DFL) Sen. Richard J. Cohen-(DFL)
<b>9</b> A Rep. Morrie Lanning-(R) B Rep. Paul Marquart-(DFL) Sen. Keith Langseth-(DFL)	<b>23</b> A Rep. Ruth Johnson-(DFL) B Rep. John Dorn-(DFL) Sen. John C. Hottinger-(DFL)	<b>37</b> A Rep. Lloyd Cybart-(R) B Rep. Dennis Ozment-(R) Sen. Chris Gerlach-(R)	<b>51</b> A Rep. Andrew Westerberg-(R) B Rep. Connie Bernady-(DFL) Sen. Don Betzold-(DFL)	<b>65</b> A Rep. Cy Thao-(DFL) B Rep. Carlos Mariani-(DFL) Sen. Sandra L. Pappas-(DFL)
<b>10</b> A Rep. Bud Nornes-(R) B Rep. Dean Simpson-(R) Sen. Cal Larson-(R)	<b>24</b> A Rep. Bob Gunther-(R) B Rep. Tony Cornish-(R) Sen. Julie Rosen-(R)	<b>38</b> A Rep. Tim Wilkin-(R) B Rep. Lynn Wardlow-(R) Sen. Mike McGinn-(R)	<b>52</b> A Rep. Ray Vandever-(R) B Rep. Matt Dean-(R) Sen. Michele Bachmann-(R)	<b>66</b> A Rep. John Lesch-(DFL) B Rep. Alice Hausman-(DFL) Sen. Ellen R. Anderson-(DFL)
<b>11</b> A Rep. Torrey Westrom-(R) B Rep. Mary Ellen Otremba-(DFL) Sen. Dallas C. Sams-(DFL)	<b>25</b> A Rep. Laura Brod-(R) B Rep. Raymond Cox-(R) Sen. Thomas M. Neuville-(R)	<b>39</b> A Rep. Rick Hansen-(DFL) B Rep. John Atkins-(DFL) Sen. James P. Metzen-(DFL)	<b>53</b> A Rep. Philip Krinkie-(R) B Rep. Doug Meslow-(R) Sen. Mady Reiter-(R)	<b>67</b> A Rep. Tim Mahoney-(DFL) B Rep. Sheldon Johnson-(DFL) Sen. Mee Moua-(DFL)
<b>12</b> A Rep. Paul Gazelka-(R) B Rep. Greg Blaine-(R) Sen. Paul E. Koering-(R)	<b>26</b> A Rep. Connie Ruth-(R) B Rep. Patti Fritz-(DFL) Sen. Dick Day-(R)	<b>40</b> A Rep. Duke Powell-(R) B Rep. Ann Lenczewski-(DFL) Sen. William V. Belanger Jr.-(R)	<b>54</b> A Rep. Mindy Greiling-(DFL) B Rep. Bev Scalze-(DFL) Sen. John Marty-(DFL)	
<b>13</b> A Rep. Bud Heidgerken-(R) B Rep. Al Juhnke-(DFL) Sen. Dean E. Johnson-(DFL)	<b>27</b> A Rep. Dan Dorman-(R) B Rep. Jeanne Poppe-(DFL) Sen. Dan Sparks-(DFL)	<b>41</b> A Rep. Ron Erhardt-(R) B Rep. Neil W. Peterson-(R) Sen. Geoff Michel-(R)	<b>55</b> A Rep. Leon Lillie-(DFL) B Rep. Nora Slawik-(DFL) Sen. Charles (Chuck) W. Wiger-(DFL)	
<b>14</b> A Rep. Daniel Severson-(R) B Rep. Larry Hosch-(DFL) Sen. Michelle L. Fischbach-(R)	<b>28</b> A Rep. Jerry Dempsey-(R) B Rep. Steve Sviggum-(R) Sen. Steve Murphy-(DFL)	<b>42</b> A Rep. Maria Ruud-(DFL) B Rep. Erik Paulsen-(R) Sen. David Hann-(R)	<b>56</b> A Rep. Mike Charron-(R) B Rep. Karen Klinzing-(R) Sen. Brian LeClair-(R)	

## Thursday, January 6

### HF1—Zellers (R)

#### Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs

Sexual predator crime penalties imposed, indeterminate and mandatory life sentences provided, Sex Offender Review Board established, data access provided, and Open Meeting Law exemption specified.

### HF2—Bradley (R)

#### Health Policy & Finance

Consumer-driven health plans and health plan efficiency encouraged, health care cost containment implemented, government mandates reduced, health maintenance organization regulatory authority changed, and malpractice liability reformed.

### HF3—Dorman (R)

#### Capital Investment

Capital improvements funding provided for various state departments and higher education institutions including the University of Minnesota, previous bond authorizations modified, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

### HF4—Johnson, J. (R)

#### Public Safety Policy & Finance

Methamphetamine precursor drug sales regulated, reporting of suspicious activity authorized, education program for retailers required, criminal penalties increased, violent crime definition expanded, and money appropriated.

### HF5—Hamilton (R)

#### Education Finance

Basic education formula allowance increased.

### HF6—Holberg (R)

#### Civil Law & Elections

Marriage defined as the union of one man and one woman, and constitutional amendment proposed.

### HF7—Holberg (R)

#### Transportation Finance

Motor vehicle sales tax proceeds dedicated to transportation, dedication phased in over a five-year period, and constitutional amendment proposed.

### HF8—Rukavina (DFL)

#### Jobs & Economic

#### Opportunity Policy & Finance

Laurentian Energy Authority wood yard construction funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

### HF9—Wilkin (R)

#### Health Policy & Finance

Consumer-driven health plan federal tax conformity provided.

### HF10—Lenczewski (DFL)

#### Ways & Means

Revenue forecast required to include inflation as a forecast variable.

### HF11—Severson (R)

#### Transportation

Motor vehicle insurance coverage verification mailings required to be delivered by certified mail, and driver's license suspension prohibited on grounds of failure to respond to request without evidence of delivery.

### HF12—Rukavina (DFL)

#### Commerce & Financial Institutions

Minors prohibited from employment where liquor is served or consumed.

### HF13—Kahn (DFL)

#### Health Policy & Finance

Stem cell research state policy established, criminal penalties imposed, and money appropriated.

### HF14—Tingelstad (R)

#### Education Policy & Reform

Intimidation and bullying model policy provided.

### HF15—Rukavina (DFL)

#### Agriculture, Environment &

#### Natural Resources Finance

Mesabi Station on the Mesabi Trail construction funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

### HF16—Carlson (DFL)

#### Education Finance

Voluntary full-day kindergarten funding established.

### HF17—Greiling (DFL)

#### Public Safety Policy & Finance

Criminal responsibility of mentally ill or deficient provided, and insanity defense clarified.

### HF18—Jaros (DFL)

#### Transportation

Cell phone use in motor vehicles required to be hands-free except in case of emergency.

### HF19—Pelowski (DFL)

#### Higher Education Finance

Minnesota State College - Southeast Technical renovation funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

### HF20—Paulsen (R)

#### Taxes

Organ donation income tax deduction provided.

### HF21—Koenen (DFL)

#### Health Policy & Finance

Hospitals required to offer parents of newborns a video presentation on the dangers associated with shaking infants and young children.

### HF22—Koenen (DFL)

#### Agriculture, Environment &

#### Natural Resources Finance

Minnesota River Trail from Wegdahl to Granite Falls acquisition and development funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

### HF23—Mariani (DFL)

#### Education Policy & Reform

Education commissioner directed to seek a waiver from ineffective provisions of the federal No Child Left Behind Act, reports required, supplemental educational services funding provided, and money appropriated.

### HF24—Heidgerken (R)

#### Commerce & Financial Institutions

Insurance Guaranty Association coverage for political subdivisions improved when their insurance company becomes insolvent.

### HF25—Heidgerken (R)

#### Civil Law & Elections

Ski area operator and skier responsibilities, rights, and liabilities defined, and actions for injuries resulting from inherent risks prohibited.

### HF26—Wilkin (R)

#### Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs

State Office Building renamed as the Ronald Reagan State Office Building.

### HF27—Erickson (R)

#### Education Finance

Education finance; maximum effort capital loan tax rate reduced.

### HF28—Slawik (DFL)

#### Commerce & Financial Institutions

Gift certificates and gift cards regulated.

### HF29—Erhardt (R)

#### Local Government

Local government employee compensation limit repealed.

### HF30—Marquart (DFL)

#### Jobs & Economic

#### Opportunity Policy & Finance

Detroit Lakes Regional Pavilion renovation funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

### HF31—Koenen (DFL)

#### Jobs & Economic

#### Opportunity Policy & Finance

Olivia; center for agricultural innovation funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

### HF32—Howes (R)

#### Transportation Finance

Trunk highway 64 bridge construction required near Akeley.

### HF33—Abrams (R)

#### Taxes

University of Minnesota football stadium funding provided, and money appropriated.

### HF34—Vandever (R)

#### Local Government

Washington County; Disabled Veterans Rest Camp on Big Marine Lake excluded from the Big Marine Park Reserve, and zoning districts provided.

**HF35—Juhnke (DFL)****Environment & Natural Resources**

Kandiyohi County; Green Lake fishery management plan required.

**HF36—Juhnke (DFL)****Taxes**

Willmar sales and use tax authorized, and fund uses specified.

**HF37—Juhnke (DFL)****Agriculture, Environment & Natural Resources Finance**

Glacial Lakes Trail and Lake Koronis Trail funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF38—Anderson, I. (DFL)****Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs**

Veto override legislative sessions provided, and constitutional amendment proposed.

**HF39—Anderson, I. (DFL)****State Government Finance**

World War II Veterans Memorial construction funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF40—Smith (R)****Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs**

Minnesota postretirement investment fund post-retirement adjustments limited.

**HF41—Pelowski (DFL)****Higher Education Finance**

Winona State University renovation funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF42—Howes (R)****Public Safety Policy & Finance**

Silencers authorized to muffle discharges of firearms for natural resource wildlife control.

**HF43—Dempsey (R)****Education Finance**

Independent School District No. 256, Red Wing, community ice arena construction levy authorized.

**HF44—Abrams (R)****Commerce & Financial Institutions**

Life insurance premium tax rates reduced.

**HF45—Abrams (R)****Transportation Finance**

International economic development zone designation and tax incentives provided, report required, and money appropriated.

**HF46—Wilkin (R)****Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs**

State litigation and settlement general fund deposit requirement sunset repealed.

**HF47—Abrams (R)****Taxes**

City aid base calculation corrected relating to state aids.

**HF48—Rukavina (DFL)****Commerce & Financial Institutions**

Minimum wage increased.

**HF49—Scalze (DFL)****Civil Law & Elections**

Voluntary clean campaign council, pledge, and advertising code established; campaign and independent expenditures definitions clarified; and disclaimer requirements provided for campaign material.

**HF50—Penas (R)****Jobs & Economic****Opportunity Policy and Finance**

Roseau municipal facilities flood damage renovation funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF51—Howes (R)****Public Safety Policy & Finance**

Driver's licenses of certain sex offenders permanently revoked.

**HF52—Howes (R)****Agriculture, Environment & Natural Resources Finance**

Insurers prohibited from charging membership fees or dues.

**HF53—Erhardt (R)****Higher Education Finance**

University of Minnesota football stadium state support process and conditions provided.

**HF54—Peterson, A. (DFL)****Agriculture, Environment & Natural Resources Finance**

State trails funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF55—Rukavina (DFL)****Transportation**

Motor vehicle insurance samplings required to be sent by certified mail.

**HF56—Rukavina (DFL)****Commerce & Financial Institutions**

No-fault auto insurance benefit terminations and denials regulation provided.

## What's on the Web

### Web puts member info at your fingertips

With 26 new members and the reorganization that comes with the start of the biennium, turn to the House Web site for more information on the individuals who make up the Minnesota House of Representatives.

From the main House page ([www.house.mn](http://www.house.mn)), follow the "House Members" link under the Members & Staff heading. Individual information for all 134 members is presented in alphabetical order on the House Membership Information page at [www.house.mn/members/hmem.asp](http://www.house.mn/members/hmem.asp), as well as in drop down boxes by last name or district. For number crunchers, a statistical breakdown is available

detailing members by party, gender, occupation, age and seniority by term. Though the 2005 roster contains three Johnsons, two Nelsons, and an Olson, House Public Information Services has prepared a phonetic pronunciation guide to assist constituents with the more challenging last names.

Each member has an individual page with the basics, such as an official photograph (available to download as a high resolution image), party, district, year elected, term, occupation, educational background, committee assignments and House or caucus leadership positions, as well as convenient links to bills authored,

a district map, district demographics, press releases, a schedule of town hall meetings, and a video interview with House Public Information Services.

Contact information is readily accessible on the individual pages in the form of mailing addresses, including the preferred address to reach lawmakers when the House is not in session; phone numbers, including a toll-free option if applicable; an e-mail address; and the name and phone number of the representative's legislative assistant.



# Minnesota's representation in Washington, D.C.

## U.S. Representatives

### First District

#### Gil Gutknecht (R)

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Web site: [www.house.gov/ramstad](http://www.house.gov/ramstad)

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Fax: (651) 224-3056

Web site: [www.mccollum.house.gov](http://www.mccollum.house.gov)  
Access to e-mail through Web site:  
[www.house.gov/writerep/](http://www.house.gov/writerep/)

### Fifth District

#### Martin Olav Sabo (DFL)

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286 Commerce at the Crossings  
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Brainerd City Hall  
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Toll free ..... 1-800-657-3550

**TTY, House** ..... 296-9896  
Toll free ..... 1-800-657-3550

**Chief Clerk of the House**  
211 Capitol ..... 296-2314

**Index, House**  
211 Capitol ..... 296-6646

**Sergeant-at-Arms, House**  
45 State Office Building ..... 296-4860

**Committee Hotline, House** ..... 296-9283

**Information, Senate**  
231 Capitol ..... 296-0504  
Toll free ..... 1-888-234-1112

**TTY, Senate** ..... 296-0250  
Toll free ..... 1-888-234-1112

**Secretary of the Senate**  
231 Capitol ..... 296-2344  
Voice mail/order bills ..... 296-2343

**Index, Senate**  
110 Capitol ..... 296-5560

**Sergeant-at-Arms, Senate**  
Senate Chamber ..... 296-7514/296-1119

**Committee Hotline, Senate** ..... 296-8088

**Legislative Reference Library**  
645 State Office Building ..... 296-3398

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130 Capitol ..... 296-3391  
Toll free ..... 1-800-657-3717

**Attorney General's Office**  
102 Capitol ..... 296-6196  
Toll free ..... 1-800-657-3787

**Secretary of State's Office**  
180 State Office Building ..... 296-2803  
Public Information ..... 1-877-551-6767

**Capitol Security**  
B-5 Capitol ..... 296-6741  
**Emergency** ..... 296-2100

# What's your opinion?

State fair offers citizens opportunity to put in their two cents

By LEE ANN SCHUTZ

**W**hat's your favorite fair food? If your answer is cheese curds then you're in good company — at least according to the Minnesota House of Representatives State Fair poll. Results show nothing beats a cheese curd, but Pronto Pups and mini-donuts aren't too bad either.

A record 8,818 fairgoers cast their ballots on the poll that has become an annual tradition at the House booth. While the state fair food question may have garnered the most chuckles from polltakers, issues such as same-day voter registration, a statewide smoking ban, toll roads and gambling were heavy on their minds.

The poll is unofficial and did not in any way reflect an "agenda," but it appears that at least some of the questions could be a premonition of what lawmakers will consider during the current legislative session. For instance, the idea of instituting a statewide smoking ban in

bars and eateries seems to be a popular idea with almost 60 percent of voters indicating they'd favor such a ban.

During the fair's 12-day run, 34 House members greeted constituents, including Reps. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls) and Dennis Ozment (R-Rosemount).

Both Kahn, who is serving her 17th term, and Ozment, now in his 11th term, put attendance at the fair as an annual priority.

"I feel it is highly positive experience," Kahn said. "Government works best when people believe in it, and this is a chance to put a personal face on the Legislature."

Ozment couldn't agree more.

"It is a tremendous opportunity to listen to opinions from people across the state. Very often they have concerns and frustrations. I find it a great communication opportunity."

Even though 2004 was an election year for House members, and at times the booth was staffed with members of both caucuses,

no campaigning was allowed. Since the first House exhibit in the early 1970s, the aim has been to help fairgoers discover sources of non-partisan information that can help connect them to state government. This year, visitors were able to pick up educational materials, sign up for *Session Weekly* and tour the House Web site.

## Members at the fair

Peter Adolphson (R-Minnetonka)  
Joe Atkins (DFL-Inver Grove Heights)  
Michael Beard (R-Shakopee)  
Lynda Boudreau (R-Faribault)  
Laura Brod (R-New Prague)  
Lyndon Carlson (DFL-Crystal)  
Ray Cox (R-Northfield)  
Chris DeLaForest (R-Andover)  
Keith Ellison (DFL-Mpls)  
Sondra Erickson (R-Princeton)  
Mindy Greiling (DFL-Roseville)  
Bob Gunther (R-Fairmont)  
Bill Haas (R-Champlin)  
Elaine Harder (R-Jackson)  
Joe Hoppe (R-Chaska)  
Al Juhnke (DFL-Willmar)  
Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls)  
Karen Klinzing (R-Woodbury)  
Paul Kohls (R-Victoria)  
John Lesch (DFL-St Paul)  
Denny McNamara (R-Hastings)  
Joe Mullery (DFL-Mpls)  
Scott Newman (R-Hutchinson)  
Mark Olson (R-Big Lake)  
Lynne Osterman (R-New Hope)  
Mary Ellen Otremba (DFL-Long Prairie)  
Rebecca Otto (DFL-Marine on St. Croix)  
Dennis Ozment (R-Rosemount)  
Jim Rhodes (R-St. Louis Park)  
Connie Ruth (R-Owatonna)  
Char Samuelson (R-New Brighton)  
Dan Severson (R-Sauk Rapids)  
Katie Sieben (DFL-Newport)  
Dean Simpson (R-New York Mills)  
Nora Slawik (DFL-Maplewood)  
Loren Solberg (DFL-Grand Rapids)  
Steve Strachan (R-Farmington)  
Howard Swenson (R-Nicollet)  
Neva Walker (DFL-Mpls)  
Lynn Wardlow (R-Eagan)  
Scott Wasiluk (DFL-Maplewood)



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

A record number of 2004 state fair attendees took an opinion poll during their visit to the House of Representatives booth in the Education Building.



# Record numbers sound off

Over 8,800 fair-goers turned out to take the unofficial House of Representatives poll

**1. A number of Minnesota cities have approved bans on smoking in bars and eateries. Should such a ban be implemented statewide?**

Yes .....59.4% ..... (5,240)  
No .....33.8% ..... (2,982)  
Undecided/No Opinion .....6.2% ..... (548)  
Left blank/vote not tallied.....0.5% ..... (48)

**2. In general, do you support or oppose the expansion of legalized gambling in Minnesota?**

Support .....32.2% ..... (2,840)  
Oppose.....53.1% ..... (4,685)  
Undecided/No Opinion .....13.9% ..... (1,222)  
Left blank/vote not tallied.....0.8% ..... (71)

**3. Do you support or oppose laws that limit the use of off-highway vehicles (i.e. all-terrain vehicles, off-road trucks and motorcycles) on publicly owned lands?**

Support .....65.0% ..... (5,734)  
Oppose.....23.9% ..... (2,110)  
Undecided/No Opinion .....10.3% ..... (906)  
Left blank/vote not tallied.....0.8% ..... (68)

**4. Under current law, a driver must be stopped or detained for a moving violation before a citation can be issued for failure to wear a seat belt. Should the law be changed to make not wearing a seat belt a primary offense?**

Yes .....42.1% ..... (3,716)  
No .....50.6% ..... (4,462)  
Undecided/No Opinion .....6.6% ..... (579)  
Left blank/vote not tallied.....0.7% ..... (61)

**5. As part of a long-term plan to improve traffic flow on Interstate 394 west of Minneapolis, the high-occupancy vehicle lanes, now reserved for car pools and mass transit, are being converted to express lanes that permit single occupant drivers to pay a fee to use the lanes. Funds collected will be used to cover implementation costs and transportation and transit improvements in the corridor. In general, do you support toll lanes as a way to improve efficiency in high traffic areas?**

Yes .....48.1% ..... (4,238)  
No .....42.1% ..... (3,712)  
Undecided/No Opinion .....9.0% ..... (795)  
Left blank/vote not tallied.....0.8% ..... (73)

**6. Should satisfactory school attendance be required for a teenager to receive a driver's license?**

Yes .....77.0% ..... (6,788)  
No .....17.7% ..... (1,559)  
Undecided/No Opinion .....4.6% ..... (409)  
Left blank/vote not tallied.....0.7% ..... (62)

**7. State law requires school districts to provide free transportation to any pupil who lives more than two miles from school, provided the bus ride is to a school in the student's attendance area. A school district may charge fees for other types of bus service, including if a student lives closer than two miles to school. Should school districts be allowed to charge all students for bus service?**

Yes .....21.7% ..... (1,914)  
No .....70.0% ..... (6,166)  
Undecided/No Opinion .....7.5% ..... (665)  
Left blank/vote not tallied.....0.8% ..... (73)

**8. Should a college student convicted of a crime in connection with a riot lose eligibility for state financial aid?**

Yes .....57.6% ..... (5,077)  
No .....32.5% ..... (2,868)  
Undecided/No Opinion .....9.1% ..... (801)  
Left blank/vote not tallied.....0.8% ..... (72)

**9. Do you support or oppose the creation of dedicated funds so that a set percentage of tax dollars would go toward certain areas of the budget, such as education or the environment?**

Support .....60.1% ..... (5,300)  
Oppose.....24.5% ..... (2,163)  
Undecided/No Opinion .....14.5% ..... (1,279)  
Left blank/vote not tallied.....0.9% ..... (76)

**10. The Legislature now meets every year. Should the state constitution be changed so that it meets every other year, as was the case between 1879 and 1973?**

Yes .....27.6% ..... (2,437)  
No .....60.1% ..... (5,298)  
Undecided/No Opinion .....9.9% ..... (869)  
Left blank/vote not tallied.....2.4% ..... (214)

**11. Minnesota is one of six states to allow same-day voter registration. Do you support or oppose this practice?**

Support .....73.0% ..... (6,434)  
Oppose.....20.4% ..... (1,797)  
Undecided/No Opinion .....4.2% ..... (368)  
Left blank/vote not tallied.....2.5% ..... (219)

**12. A 2003 law allows for up to 10 job opportunity building zones in economically distressed rural areas of the state. Businesses in the zones are permitted to forgo sales, income and property taxes for up to 12 years and persons investing in the zone business are exempt from applicable income and capital gains taxes. Should this program be expanded?**

Yes .....34.7% ..... (3,056)  
No .....39.3% ..... (3,463)  
Undecided/No Opinion .....23.2% ..... (2,042)  
Left blank/vote not tallied.....2.9% ..... (257)

**13. Should the state make talking on a cellular phone while driving illegal?**

Yes .....53.7% ..... (4,736)  
No .....36.9% ..... (3,252)  
Undecided/No Opinion .....6.6% ..... (585)  
Left blank/vote not tallied.....2.8% ..... (245)

**14. Should the state provide a motor vehicle sales tax exemption for persons who purchase alternative-fuel vehicles? Examples of alternative fuels include: alcohol fuels that are at least 70 percent alcohol by volume, natural gas, hydrogen, fuels derived from biological products, and electricity, including solar power.**

Yes .....63.2% ..... (5,574)  
No .....26.2% ..... (2,308)  
Undecided/No Opinion .....8.0% ..... (709)  
Left blank/vote not tallied.....2.6% ..... (227)

**15. Of the following, which is your favorite state fair food?**

Cheese Curds .....21.8% ..... (1,918)  
Chocolate Chip Cookies .....16.7% ..... (1,473)  
Corn on the Cob .....15.5% ..... (1,367)  
Mini-Donuts .....16.9% ..... (1,493)  
Pronto Pup .....19.3% ..... (1,705)  
Left blank/vote not tallied.....9.8% ..... (862)

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

# MINNESOTA INDEX

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

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

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