

SESSION WEEKLY



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DEEP IN THE RED
WELCOME NEW MEMBERS
BUDGET BUILDING FROM 0
BEYOND THE BUDGET

SESSION WEEKLY

Session Weekly is a nonpartisan publication of Minnesota House of Representatives Public Information Services. During the 2009-2010 Legislative Session, each issue reports House action between Thursdays of each week, lists bill introductions and provides other information. No fee.

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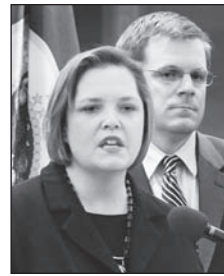
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Welcome to the 86th legislative session

Solving the state's massive budget problem will be uppermost on lawmakers' agenda this year. But other issues will be considered as well.

As these discussions unfold in committees and on the floor and decisions are made, Session Weekly writers will be there gathering information to bring you nonpartisan coverage of legislative activities.

Now in its 26th year, Session Weekly, the free newsmagazine of the Minnesota House of Representatives, remains true to its founding mission of providing nonpartisan information about the legislative process. But with greater use of technology, the House provides more opportunities to reach new audiences with nonpartisan legislative news.

For instance:

- Session Daily – e-mail updates when news from the House warrants;

- unedited, gavel-to-gavel television coverage of House floor sessions and select committee hearings;
- downloadable podcasts of committee meetings and communications from House members;
- updated meeting schedules and information;
- policy and fiscal analysis of many bills; and
- photo images of House members and activities.

For more information about these services, please visit the House Web site at www.house.mn.

All of us associated with Session Weekly are proud to continue the tradition of providing nonpartisan news from the House.

We welcome your comments and suggestions.

Session Weekly staff

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On the cover: Associate Minnesota Supreme Court Justice Paul H. Anderson swears in Rep. Margaret Anderson Kelliher for her second term as Speaker of the House on Jan. 6, the first day of the 86th legislative session.

— Photo by: Andrew VonBank

Deep in the red

Members begin session with multi-billion dollar deficit to overcome

By Mike Cook

Optimism that traditionally comes with the start of a new legislative biennium is overshadowed this year by a large red cloud.

Hanging over the collective legislative heads is a projected \$4.85 billion deficit for the 2010-2011 biennium, which begins July 1, 2009.

Members may also yet have to resolve another short-term fiscal crisis if the February Forecast provides more negative numbers, as many people anticipate.

It will not be an easy session for members who campaigned on things like increased education funding, better health care access or keeping taxes and levels of program support at current levels.

Answers must be finalized by May 18, the constitutional deadline for adjournment.

Why so far in the hole?

Minnesota is not alone in its monetary woes as policymakers across the country face some historical challenges. According to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, "Budget deficits are already projected in 38 states for the upcoming fiscal year. Initial estimates of these shortfalls total almost \$80 billion. As the full extent of 2010 deficits becomes known, shortfalls are likely to equal \$145 billion."

The problem in Minnesota is \$31.87 billion in anticipated biennial revenues in fiscal years 2010-2011, but \$36.7 billion in expenses.

Unlike the ever-growing federal deficit, the state cannot carry a budget deficit into a future biennium.

"We cannot print Monopoly money in the basement," Gov. Tim Pawlenty said. "The books have to balance."

The shortage comes from a number of factors, State Economist Tom Stinson said Dec. 4. In addition to the national recession, he cited the dismal housing sector, the "massive loss of wealth" from the declining stock market,

consumer lack of confidence, decreased tax revenue collections and greater unemployment numbers. At the time, he said Minnesota had lost about 20,000 jobs and could lose about 58,000 more by the end of 2009.

Current biennium problems

The \$271.6 million unallotment, announced Dec. 19 by Pawlenty, is the final step in resolving the state's anticipated \$426 million shortfall for the current fiscal year, which ends June 30,

2009. The remaining \$154.9 million comes from draining the state's budget reserve.

Included in the unallotment is \$110 million in aid and credit reductions to cities and counties; \$73 million cut in human services spending; \$40 million from higher education, evenly split between the University of Minnesota and the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system; and \$40 million from state agency unexpended operating budgets. Military and veterans programs, K-12 education and public safety programs were protected.

Senate Majority Leader Larry Pogemiller (DFL-Mpls) unsuccessfully suggested an across-the-board 1.6 percent reduction in state program funding.

More than a dozen local government leaders came to the Capitol in early December, claiming their jurisdictions couldn't cope with any state funding cuts.

"These are modest reductions that local

First Reading continued on page 4



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

Flanked by Senate Majority Leader Larry Pogemiller, left, and House Majority Leader Tony Sertich, right, House Speaker Margaret Anderson Kelliher responds to the release of the state's November Forecast on Dec. 4

First Reading continued from page 3

government should be able to handle without impacting key services like public safety,” Pawlenty said, noting that 60 percent of cities did not experience a reduction. “Any city councilmember, any mayor, any city administrator that says their first course of action is going to be to affect public safety, I would politely suggest to them that they have misplaced priorities.”

House Speaker Margaret Anderson Kelliher (DFL-Mpls) said, “The reality is many cities and towns are in tough financial shape. ... Trying to nuance around the small cities and towns is good.”

But the bleeding may not yet be over for the current biennium.

Stinson told the Senate Taxes Committee Dec. 10 that the state could be \$30 million to \$70 million further in debt because of higher-than-anticipated national unemployment numbers released five days earlier. Updated figures are expected with the release of the February Forecast, which traditionally happens the final week of that month.

“The question then will be if Democrats are capable of cutting or if the governor will again have to unallot for a second time,” House Minority Leader Marty Seifert (R-Marshall) said in a statement.

More difficult than before

This is not the first time the Pawlenty administration has had to deal with a massive projected shortfall. The 2003 Legislature — the first with Pawlenty as governor — faced a projected \$4.56 billion shortage for the ensuing biennium. That problem was resolved using spending cuts; fee increases; using state reserves, including \$1 million from a tobacco

endowment fund; and some accounting shifts, such as delaying payments to schools.

“We’ll be looking at the budget to find things that work and eliminate things that don’t,” said House Majority Leader Tony Sertich (DFL-Chisholm). “Government needs to be accountable and responsible. We have a vision for a better Minnesota and we are determined to work cooperatively with the governor to set the right priorities to achieve that goal.”

Three Republicans have already put forth a couple of proposals.

Rep. Paul Kohls (R-Victoria) suggested state spending be frozen at the lesser of current levels or predicted revenues. Rep. Laura Brod (R-New Prague) and Sen. Geoff Michel (R-Edina) said the state should lease the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport and state lottery to private investors with transaction proceeds dedicated to scholarships and other education initiatives. They noted Midway Airport in Chicago was privatized last year for \$2.5 billion, and a dozen other states are looking to privatize lottery operations.

Pawlenty, who hopes to again keep military and veterans programs, K-12 education and public safety programs safe, is to announce his 2010-2011 biennial budget by Jan. 27. He said it would not contain tax increases.

“This is not a time to be adding burdens on the people of Minnesota with tax burdens,” he said at a Dec. 9 Associated Press forum. “Unfortunately, the Legislature didn’t follow that the last two years. They added \$8 billion of tax increases on the people of Minnesota over the next four years. ... I would say that’s enough, more than enough.”

Kelliher said the DFL plans to take the governor’s budget proposal around the state

Your opinions wanted

Legislators, government officials and other politically connected folks do not have all the answers on solving the state’s projected budget deficit. That’s why a Web page has been established for everyone to submit his or her potential solutions.

Approximately 450 comments were received between Dec. 13, when the Web site debuted, and Jan. 5.

The plan is to forward to all comments to the appropriate committees or divisions for consideration.

To access the comment form, go to the main House page at www.house.mn, click on the link and offer your suggestions.

for “full and fair hearings” before offering its budget proposal.

“This is a crisis Minnesotans will need to be involved with as well. We will come out on the other side of it in a much stronger position if the public of Minnesota is involved with us,” she said at the forum. “Where we agree with the governor, we will immediately work to try to pass and enact changes. Where the public disagrees, we will listen to some of their ideas and solutions for how to solve the budget problem.”

At the forum, Seifert said Republicans prefer earlier budget targets to a “misery tour” followed by a final-week rush to past spending bills.

“I think we need to be thoughtful and we need to be proactive. We should try to get our cards on the table very early so we can have that discussion in the Legislature front-loaded and then move forward.”

Effect on planned programs

A few House committees took to the road during the interim to share ideas and receive feedback on potential changes.

For example, the House K-12 Education Finance Division held a series of public hearings across the state about possible education funding reform. Rep. Mindy Greiling (DFL-Roseville), the division chairwoman, said a bill dubbed the “New Minnesota Miracle” is to be introduced Jan. 12.

“The plan can be phased in over three bienniums, so I’ll be happy to just get started in some significant way,” she said. “I’m not expecting a third of it. ... We don’t need \$500 million to start.”

Greiling believes that you should make strategic investments while cutting and doing things differently; therefore, the plan is scaled in such a way that it can be implemented based on the funding received. “If we get a tenth of what we need, then a tenth is the new formula and 90 percent is the old formula.”



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

At a Dec. 4 press conference, Tom Hanson, commissioner of Minnesota Management and Budget, reports that the state faces a \$4.8 billion deficit for the 2010-2011 biennium. State Economist Tom Stinson, left, provided background on the bad news.

EDUCATION

Back to school on finance formulas

An informal Jan. 7 gathering of the House K-12 Education Finance Division was turned into an ad hoc classroom where new members, committee veterans and observers crammed for the new legislative session.

The topic was the complexities of education finance in Minnesota. Topics covered by House Fiscal Analyst Greg Crowe and Tim Strom from House Research included mandates, enrollment projections and funding formulas, which are a difficult and complex equations involving local property tax, general state aid and a variety of variable funding categories addressing particular needs.

Of particular importance to the committee, said Strom, is to unravel the difficult relationship between property tax revenue and education funding. "Changes to how property tax is assessed has a big impact on funding for K-12 education," he said.

The division will also have to wrestle with the ongoing impact of changes made in the 2001 session when the state took on \$1 billion in state aid funding in order to relieve property taxpayers, but didn't pass sales tax increases that might have provided a revenue source to accommodate that change.

Rep. Mindy Greiling (DFL-Roseville), the division chairwoman, also promised at future hearings to address members' concerns about ensuring equity in the state aid formula

and educational resources, the fast-growing special education budget and assessing Minnesota's ranking in per pupil funding, which has declined in recent years.

There are 340 school districts and 155 charter schools funded by the general education budget, which totals nearly \$7 billion. K-12 education spending comprises 39 percent of the state's budget. Together with health and human services spending, the categories total more than two-thirds of the budget.

K. BERGGREN

ENERGY

Energy division takes 'Crash Course'

Members of the House Energy Finance and Policy Division convened Jan. 7 and were promptly treated to dinner and a movie, minus the dinner. Division Chairman Rep. Bill Hilty (DFL-Finlayson) distributed DVDs, which he personally bought for each committee member, hoping it will help members develop a broad vision concerning the state's energy policy.

The three-hour movie, "The Crash Course: Information you can't afford to live without," is a seminar developed by Chris Martenson, a Duke University-educated scientist who specializes in neurotoxicology. The first dozen chapters of the video seminar were shown in committee and tackled such questions as, "How much is a trillion dollars?" (Answer: If you stacked \$1,000 bills on top of each other, they'd pile 67.9 miles high, according to

Martenson.)

Hilty stopped the video midway so members could adjourn, but not before urging them to take the video home to watch chapters 13-15 on their own. When the division members reconvene Jan. 12, they will finish viewing chapters 16 through the conclusion together. When asked how he learned of the video, Hilty said a friend e-mailed the Web site link to him.

Anyone can follow along with the division's homework by logging onto www.chrismartenson.com. There is no fee to view the video.

S. HEGARTY

GOVERNMENT

State of the State

Gov. Tim Pawlenty is scheduled to present his State of the State address to a joint meeting of the House of Representatives and the Senate in the House Chambers at noon, Jan. 15.

House members appointed to escort the governor to the Chamber are Rep. Karla Bigham (DFL-Cottage Grove), Rep. Kory Kath (DFL-Owatonna), Rep. Phil Sterner (DFL-Rosemount), Rep. Paul Anderson (R-Starbuck) and Rep. Jenifer Loon (R-Eden Prairie). Also acting as escorts for the governor will be five members of the Senate.

The governor's address is scheduled to be available live over the Internet at www.house.mn.

L. SCHUTZ

NOTIFYING THE GOVERNOR



PHOTO BY TOM OLSCHIED

Gov. Tim Pawlenty speaks with Rep. Jeff Hayden in the Governor's Reception Room Jan. 6. Hayden was a member of the committee notifying the governor that the House and Senate are organized and ready to receive any messages he may desire to give them. Other committee members include Rep. Paul Marquart, Rep. Gail Kulick Jackson, Rep. Peggy Scott, Rep. Paul Torkelson, Sen. Lisa Fobbe, Sen. Joe Gimse, Sen. Linda Higgins, Sen. Ken Kelash, Sen. Julie Rosen, Sen. Katie Sieben and Sen. Dan Skogen.

Starting from zero

Lawmakers consider a new approach to building the state budget

By Nick Busse

Barring a miraculous economic turnaround or a sudden windfall of new revenue, legislative leaders and Gov. Tim Pawlenty face the likelihood of having to squeeze, trim and slash the state's \$37 billion biennial budget down to \$32 billion by the end of May.

It's an unappealing task — so much so that they're considering an altogether different approach to budgeting: starting from scratch.

The idea is called zero-based budgeting, and it works like this: instead of constructing a budget based on what was spent the last time around and then adjusting the numbers up or down as needed, you start with zero and build your way up to whatever amount is available.

Pawlenty, in responding to the release of the state's dismal November budget forecast — which predicts a whopping \$4.85 billion shortfall — made a succinct case for this kind of budgeting.

"The projection now is that there will be \$32 billion coming into the state of Minnesota in the next two-year budget cycle," the governor said. "We have \$32 billion to spend; there is no deficit if we live within that amount of money."

DFL and Republican House leaders have also come out in support of some kind of zero-based budgeting process to fix the deficit.

House Speaker Margaret Anderson Kelliher (DFL-Mpls) said she would welcome zero-based budgeting as a "refreshing change," and during a recent appearance on Twin Cities Public Television's "Almanac," both she and House Minority Leader Marty Seifert (R-Marshall) stressed the benefit such a process would have in forcing lawmakers to take a critical, top-to-bottom look at the state's budget.

"We think we have to start at the basics, really, because members need to have a really good grounding in what is in these budgets to begin with," Kelliher said. "And so I think the first few weeks will be taken up with a lot of committees going back to the basics of

budgeting here — in some cases, zero-based budgeting."

How it works (when it does)

Most zero-based budgeting involves two basic steps. First, state agencies are asked to submit "decision packages" — budget requests that take into account alternative (usually reduced) levels of funding. In essence, they are forced to ask the question, "What would be our priorities if we had our funding cut by 10 percent? What about 5 percent? Or 20 percent?"

Next, lawmakers examine these decision packages and start figuring out how they fit with the state's overall priorities. From there, they can begin to decide which agencies and programs should receive funding based on current budget projections.

This process has several advantages over traditional budgeting methods. For one, it allows agency managers facing imminent budget cuts to have some input into how



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

Gov. Tim Pawlenty says zero-based budgeting is something the state should look at to resolve its fiscal crisis.

money should be spent within their agencies. For another, it gives them an opportunity to evaluate their agencies' effectiveness and look for ways to improve programs and make them more cost-efficient. Above all, zero-based budgeting forces government to evaluate the merits of its activities, rather than just assuming an ongoing level of funding into the future.

If zero-based budgeting sounds simple in theory, in practice it can be a complicated, lengthy and frustrating process.

"It's easy to talk about; actually implementing it takes a lot of time, and takes some willingness to spend time examining that budget," said Bill Marx, chief fiscal analyst for the House.

According to Marx, the size and complexity of state government makes zero-based budgeting a logistical challenge.

"If we try to do it on the whole budget, it's going to be a dismal failure, because there is absolutely no way that there is time or staff to make it work."

— Bill Marx
House chief fiscal analyst

"If you take a small agency — a veterinary medicine licensing council, for example, which is maybe a two-person operation or something — on a small scale like that, (zero-based budgeting) is a relatively easy thing to do," Marx said. "When you get a Department of Human Services or a Department of Revenue ... or, even more complicated, money to school districts or local government aid or something, this is quite a task."

In fact, the inherent complexity of zero-based budgeting is widely considered to be its main drawback. Many states that in the past have attempted zero-based budgeting have reportedly abandoned the process because of its time-consuming nature and the sheer amount of paperwork it generates.

A "Questions and Answers on Zero-Based Budgeting" document compiled by the National Conference of State Legislatures concludes that "Literal across-the-board zero-base budget review of all state programs at the level of the political decision-making process is probably not possible on an annual or biennial basis."

Marx agrees.

"If we try to do it on the whole budget, it's going to be a dismal failure, because there is absolutely no way that there is time or staff to make it work," he said.



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

House Speaker Margaret Anderson Kelliher said zero-based budgeting could be "a refreshing change."

Marx said the key to successful zero-based budgeting would be to break the budget down into "manageable components" that would allow lawmakers to finish combing through the budget in time for the May 18 constitutional adjournment deadline. The main thing, he said, is to figure out what the state's priorities are.

"We think we have to start at the basics, really, because members need to have a really good grounding in what is in these budgets to begin with,"

— Margaret Anderson Kelliher
Speaker of the House

"If committees that look at this are really being careful about it, they won't simply ask, 'What are you doing and how much could you cut back?' It'd be, 'How does this fit into bigger priorities?'"

Mixed results

Marx said that, to his knowledge, Minnesota has never attempted zero-based budgeting. Several other states have, and the results have

been largely mixed, according to an NCSL survey.

In Idaho, an attempt to use zero-based budgeting on approximately 75 percent of state agencies' budgets failed, for the most part, due to a lack of sufficient time and training for agency staff. Some results of the process turned out to be useful, however, to the extent that certain agencies were able to clarify their budget priorities.


In Montana, zero-based budgeting was attempted twice in the late 1970s, but was abandoned after officials found it to be too complicated and time-consuming. The state, however, still uses zero-based budgeting in certain areas, such as capital expenses.

Officials in Rhode Island, meanwhile, reported some success with zero-based budgeting, which allowed the state to shift priorities within its existing resources and eliminate some 1,300 state jobs.

Some states opt to use zero-based budgeting only on certain agencies or programs. Nevada, for example, has used the process in selected areas like equipment purchases and capital improvement projects. Ohio occasionally asks individual agencies to perform zero-based budgeting for specific budget cycles, on a kind of rotating basis.

For the most part, the experience of most states that have attempted zero-based budgeting has been that the process is problematic. According to the NCSL, the Northern Marianas Islands, a small U.S. territory located in the northern Pacific Ocean, is the only part of the country that regularly uses true zero-based budgeting on its entire budget.

How a zero-based budgeting process would play out in Minnesota remains to be seen, but Marx warns that whatever solutions are ultimately found, the resulting budget cuts are still likely to be painful.

"Is it going to find magic solutions? No. When you make cuts, you're eliminating some things, or scaling them back, and that has consequences. ... Unless we think agency managers are doing a lousy job now, it's not going to help us find these magic pots of money." 

If you will be visiting the Capitol in the near future, call the Capitol Historic Site Program at 651-296-2881 to schedule a tour.

Opening day

Occasion gives legislators reason to pause, appreciate democracy at work

By SUSAN HEGARTY

If State Capitol architect Cass Gilbert had attended opening day of the 86th biennial session, he may have wished he'd designed a cry room in the back of the House Chamber.

With very little wiggle room, returning members and 23 newly elected members assembled Jan. 6 to take their oath of office. Legislators' family and friends, including Brennan Kath, the 6-week-old son of freshman Rep. Kory Kath (DFL-Owatonna), sat on members' laps, squeezed in behind and beside their loved ones, or proudly observed from the rear alcoves and balconies. More than a few attendees gingerly negotiated the terraced floor as they excused themselves from the two-hour session to go to the bathroom or to get a drink of water.

Secretary of State Mark Ritchie set the tone for the afternoon, saying, "These past few months have given me even more appreciation of the wisdom of the founders of this state, of this nation, who gave us these gifts of institutions of self-governance."

Referring to a large portrait of a contemplative Abraham Lincoln behind the Speaker's Rostrum, Ritchie added, "I imagine that Lincoln's presence each day for all of you is a reminder that future generations will also be looking back, and they will be asking how did we do on taking care of these gifts of democracy, these gifts, of this beautiful State Capitol. Today is a chance to pause, to appreciate those gifts to ask how we're doing in taking care of those gifts, and to think about how will future generations imagine and remember us."

Rep. Margaret Anderson Kelliher (DFL-Mpls) continued the bipartisan message after she was re-elected as House speaker. "A special thank you to Minority Leader (Marty) Seifert, who has been an honorable opponent and a leader of his caucus, and from here forward I know an ally as we face these great

challenges together. Thank you Marty." She too was warmly received, especially from the front row where several family members were seated, including a sister who traveled from Cheyenne, Wyo.

In her nomination of Kelliher, Rep. Mary Murphy (DFL-Hermantown) praised her

positive attributes, while Rep. Ryan Winkler (DFL-Golden Valley) got a laugh from the crowd when he seconded the motion and listed what Kelliher "lacks," such as a "propensity for hysteria."

Though most opening day rhetoric was cordial and hummed of working across party lines, there was some debate when it came time to adopt temporary rules that govern the House.

Rep. Tom Emmer (R-Delano) unsuccessfully introduced an amendment to reduce member per diems to 2005-06 levels, as a show of compassion and understanding for constituents. "We're going to be making some



Rep. Terry Morrow seconds the nomination of Rep. Margaret Anderson Kelliher for House speaker on the open

very difficult decisions for everybody in the state of Minnesota. I think if we are going to be the leaders that we've been elected to be, then we should start today by showing those people who put us here that we are ready to lead by showing the way immediately with our own reimbursement."

House Majority Leader Tony Sertich (DFL-Chisholm) assured members that the issue would be given its due consideration in committee and told onlookers that they just had the privilege of seeing democracy in action.

In a highly ceremonial role, several members, including first-term Rep. Jeff Hayden (DFL-Mpls), were instructed by formal resolution to notify the governor that the House was duly organized. Commenting on the day's significance Hayden said, "I'm a little overwhelmed."

Ten-term Rep. Carlos Mariani (DFL-St. Paul), felt right at home in his seat. Mariani, whose district includes the Capitol, took some time in the morning to meditate on the challenges ahead. "It reminds me that this is ongoing work and takes constant vigilance," he said. His advice to freshmen legislators: "Seek to build positive relationships."

When the House adjourned, Democrats,



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

Al Mathiowetz watches from the side of the Speaker's Rostrum in the House Chamber Jan. 6 while members re-elected him Chief Clerk of the House during opening ceremonies of the 2009 legislative session.

Republicans and their guests celebrated in the Retiring Room, to the delight of the patient children, who were rewarded for good floor behavior with finger cakes and cookies.

Only time will tell if the crying room will be needed again during the next five months as legislators tackle the issue of how to solve the projected \$4.85 billion shortfall. 🍪



STITCHED PANORAMA BY ANDREW VONBANK

Opening day of the 86th legislative session. Kelliher defeated House Minority Leader Marty Seifert 86-42 for the House's top position.

Opening Day - For Families



PHOTO BY ANDREW VONBANK
Traci Seifert takes a photo of her husband, House Minority Leader Marty Seifert, and their children, Braxton, left, and Brittany, during opening ceremonies of the 2009 legislative session in the House Chamber.



PHOTO BY ANDREW VONBANK

Myles Champion, son of Rep. Bobby Joe Champion, peeks up from working at his father's House Chamber desk during ceremonies to open the 2009 legislative session. Champion's other son, Jaylen, right, was also with his father.



Two-year-old twin sisters, Madelyne and Whitney Westrom, enjoy the opening ceremonies with their father, Rep. Torrey Westrom, on the first day of the legislative session.



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED
the 2009 legislative



PHOTO BY NICKI GORDON
time with their dad,



PHOTO BY ANDREW VONBANK

Isabelle Otremba, the 19-month-old granddaughter of Rep. Mary Ellen Otremba, takes the microphone in the House Chamber on the first day of the 86th legislative session Jan. 6.



PHOTO BY ANDREW VONBANK

Rep. Lyndon Carlson views some of the day's digital images with his grandson, Lyndon Carlson II, on the House floor during the first day of the 86th legislative session Jan. 6.

Photo at right
Rep. Cy Thao, *front*, and his grandfather, Cher Yee Yang, listen as House Speaker Margaret Anderson Kelliher address the chamber during opening ceremonies of the 2009 legislative session.



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

Challenges ahead for taxpayers

Division seeks public's input into property tax issues

By SONJA HEGMAN

Fairness. Transparency. Brutal. Challenging. These are words members of the House Property and Local Sales Tax Division used numerous times in their first meeting Jan. 7 to describe the task of helping property taxpayers while solving the state's projected \$4.85 billion deficit.

The division's members would like to provide tax relief this year, but right now, they don't know how. Members discussed areas of concern including local government aid (LGA), building secure relationships with local governments and consolidating certain government services. But it always circled back to the budget crisis.

"We not only have the duty, but the obligation to resolve this budget deficit," said Rep. Paul Marquart (DFL-Dilworth), the division chairman. "The challenge is going to be to think differently."

Marquart emphasized that anything done in the property tax division has to be approved by the entire tax committee. "What's going to be important to realize is that it's the state of Minnesota's budget deficit. We need to forge ideas and solutions to make a better government. This impacts every corner of the state."

"This is going to be a very brutal year," said Rep. Ann Lenczewski (DFL-Bloomington), House Taxes Committee chairwoman. She believes the majority of the state's financial problem will be solved with cuts.

"We have a huge task. We need to be as fair as we can, which is all in the eye of the beholder. When people don't receive things equally it's so hard to take things away." The public is going to have trouble understanding why things are playing out the way they are, she said. If LGA is cut, then questions come as to why someone else didn't get a cut. "We need to decide how we define 'need.' Who needs it the most is going to be an incredible task. It's going to be rough. It's going to be very painful."



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHEID

House Property and Local Sales Tax Division members receive an overview of the tax aids and credits to cities during a Jan. 7 meeting.

Rep. Denise Dittrich (DFL-Champlin) said she doesn't think the current task at hand is insurmountable, but some credits might have to be eliminated. "We worked really hard at property tax relief last year. It's unfortunate that probably won't be the direction we're going this year. We need to have a public conversation with homeowners."

Dittrich, along with several division

members, brought up concerns about Green Acres, a program that equalizes taxes for many agricultural landowners. Changes to the program were implemented in a harried fashion last session and members said they would like to address those changes because of some confusion.

"I'm not going to vote on any legislation that is hot," said Rep. Pat Garofalo (R-Farmington). "Hot" meaning still hot from coming off the copy machine and then members are given only a half an hour briefing on an amendment, etc., which he said is what happened with the change in the Green Acres Program. "We need to at least understand everything in a bill before we vote on it."

Rep. Bob Dettmer (R-Forest Lake), a second-term legislator, agreed.

He said he learned his lesson after telling his constituents that he didn't read through the whole tax bill last session. "You need to read through an entire bill even if it's 296 pages. The more we can do to help people understand what we're doing will make a big difference."

Rep. Morrie Lanning (R-Moorhead), the division's Republican lead, said they need to look at how resources are being used now. "We need to establish priorities in the areas we're spending. We need to be sensitive to the needs of the people. It's not going to be easy. This whole budget is about equalization. Some communities have a very modest property tax base. That makes a huge difference."

Rep. Joe Mullery (DFL-Mpls) said a lot of people are leaving his district because of property tax issues. "Something has to be shifted. The state keeps shifting more and more of the burden to local property taxpayers. Education is also thrown onto property tax system. I think we can take part in helping that."

In the end, all seemed to agree that input from taxpayers was going to be an essential part of the process this year.

"We're all in this together," Marquart said.



Beyond the budget

Assistant leaders optimistic about accomplishing more than solving the money woes

By SONJA HEGMAN AND KRIS BERGGREN

It's hard to imagine House members looking beyond the budget crisis when asked to name their goals for the 2009 session, but they say certain priorities remain high on their agendas including education, health care and job creation.

As the 86th legislative session opened Jan. 6, House Speaker Margaret Anderson Kelliher (DFL-Mpls) said the \$4.85 billion budget deficit looms over all other priorities, but she has faith in the ability of the people to resolve differences in times of great difficulty.

Leaders from both parties agree they hope to engage citizens and local governments in problem solving.

"We're visiting all corners of the state to talk to and get input from people to get solutions," said Assistant Majority Leader Andy Welti (DFL-Plainview).

"I know this is going to be a horrendous year and I'm not trying to be idealistic about it, but we can't be paralyzed by this," said Assistant Minority Leader Carol McFarlane (R-White Bear Lake). "I hope we use this time efficiently and that all voices are heard and respected. We have to look long term, not biennium to biennium."

Perennial concerns top personal lists

Perennial concerns about health care and education remain on the top of some agendas.

Assistant Majority Leader Diane Loeffler (DFL-Mpls) would stabilize cost increases by promoting preventive health care, such

as early cancer screening and stemming childhood obesity. Preserving "affordability and access" to health care is a top concern of Rep. Steve Simon (DFL-St. Louis Park), another assistant majority leader. But he knows "the name of the game is reform" rather than "reaching for the stars."

McFarlane intends to work toward providing the best education to the people of the state. She said now is the time that different avenues should be explored, noting there's been discussion on having shared services between districts. "We need to have a vision of what a 21st century school looks like. How should we be delivering the services in an efficient way for today's learners? We need to keep the children engaged and wanting to learn."

Steadying the impact of budget cuts

Leaders want to steady the impact of budget cuts with new revenue sources and by finding cost efficiencies in current programs.

New revenue sources could include such diverse ideas as Simon's suggestion to establish a false claims act that would provide incentives to whistleblowers who expose fraud in companies contracted by the state. Simon said that a single settlement netted \$40 million for Illinois, one of 21 states with such a law.

Meanwhile, Loeffler wants to make sure the state is prepared for a full and accurate population count in the 2010 census with the hope of preserving a U.S. congressional seat and to ensure maximum eligibility for federal funding linked to census numbers. Reports have suggested that Minnesota could lose one of its eight seats in the U.S. House of Representatives because its population is increasing slower than other states.

Rep. Steve Smith (R-Mound), deputy minority leader, suggested new programs that began two years ago should be unallotted. "We need to first look at those programs across the board to start the process." A major decision will also be if "we're going to raise taxes or cut back," he said. "I told the speaker that short of a tax increase, I will do whatever I can to find fiscally responsible solutions."

Assistant Minority Leader Bob Gunther (R-Fairmont) said that when he was first elected in 1995, the state had surpluses. "Jobs are the things that create the surpluses. I don't ever think it's going to be in the mindset of this Legislature to save money for a rainy day, so to speak. I think jobs are going to be the thing we're looking at."

Welti also said job creation and funding is one of his priorities. He hopes to comb the Department of Employment and Economic Development to see if current projects could operate more efficiently.

He acknowledges the House will need to do more than examine certain mandates, such as annual travel policy reviews, publication update practices and proposed school food concession upgrades that cost local government units staff time and money.



Assistant
Minority Leader
Bob Gunther (R)



Assistant
Majority Leader
Diane Loeffler (DFL)



Assistant
Minority Leader
Carol McFarlane (R)



Assistant
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Steve Simon (DFL)



Deputy
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Steve Smith (R)



Assistant
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New members



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 1999-2006: Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon)
 1997-1998: Phil Carruthers
 (DFL-Brooklyn Center)
 1993-1996: Irv Anderson (DFL-Int'l. Falls)
 1992-1993: Dee Long (DFL-Mpls)
 1987-1991: Robert E. Vanasek
 (DFL-New Prague)
 1987: Fred C. Norton (DFL-St. Paul)
 1985-1986: David M. Jennings (IR-Truman)
 1981-1984: Harry A. Sieben (DFL-Hastings)
 1980: Fred C. Norton (DFL-St. Paul)
 1979: Rodney N. Searle (IR-Waseca)
 Elected as a compromise since the
 House was evenly divided.
 1973-1978: Martin O. Sabo (DFL-Mpls)
 1971-1972: Aubrey W. Dirlam
 (C/R-Redwood Falls)
 1963-1970: Lloyd L. Duxbury (C/R-Caledonia)
 1959-1962: Edward J. Chilgren (L/D-Littlefork)
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 1939-1948: Lawrence M. Hall (C/R-St. Cloud)
 1937-1938: Harold H. Baker (L/FL-Elbow Lake)
 1935-1936: George W. Johnson (C/R-Duluth)
 1933-1934: Charles Munn (L/FL-Osseo)
 1931-1932: Oscar A. Swenson (C/R-Nicollet)
 1925-1930: John A. Johnson (C/R-Preston)

1919-1924: William I. Nolan (C/R-Mpls)
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 1905-1906: Frank Clague (R-Lamberton)
 1903-1904: Leverett W. Babcock (R-Wadena)
 1901-1902: Michael J. Dowling (R-Renville)
 1899-1900: Arthur N. Dare (R-Elk River)
 1897-1898: John D. Jones (R-Long Prairie)
 1895-1896: Samuel R. Van Sant
 (R-Winona County)
 1893-1894: William E. Lee (R-Long Prairie)
 1891: Ezra T. Champlin (A-Garden City)
 1889-1890: Charles H. Graves (R-Duluth)
 1887-1888: William R. Merriam (R-St. Paul)
 1885-1886: John L. Gibbs (R-Geneva)
 1881-1884: Loren Fletcher (R-Mpls)
 1878-1880: Charles A. Gilman (R-St. Cloud)
 1877: John L. Gibbs (R-Geneva)
 1875-1876: William R. Kinyon (R-Owatonna)
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 1867-1868: John Q. Farmer
 (W/R-Spring Valley)

1866: James B. Wakefield (R-Blue Earth City)
 1865: Thomas H. Armstrong (R-High Forest)
 1864: Jared Benson (R-Anoka)
 1863: Charles D. Sherwood (R-Elkhorn)
 1861-1862: Jared Benson (R-Anoka)
 1859-1860: Amos Cogswell (R/D-Aurora)
 1858: George Bradley (R-Belle Plaine)
 1857-1858: John S. Watrous (R)

TERRITORY

1857: Joseph W. Furber (W-Cottage Grove)
 1856: Charles Gardner (Westervelt)
 1855: James S. Norris (D-Cottage Grove)
 1854: Nathan C.D. Taylor (Taylors Falls)
 1853: David Day (Long Prairie)
 1852: John D. Ludden (Marine)
 1851: Michael E. Ames (Stillwater)
 1849: Joseph W. Furber (W-Cottage Grove)

Legend:

DFL=Democratic-Farmer-Labor; R=Republican;
IR=Independent-Republican; A=Alliance;
D=Democrat; C=Conservative; FL=Farmer-
Labor; L=Liberal; P=Populist; W=Whig

Source: Legislative Reference Library

2009-2010 Minnesota House of Representatives

District	Member/Party	Room*	Phone 651-296-	District	Member/Party	Room*	Phone 651-296-
48B	Abeler, Jim (R)	203	1729	34A	Kohls, Paul (R)	313	4282
19A	Anderson, Bruce (R)	295	5063	50A	Laine, Carolyn (DFL)	407	4331
13A	Anderson, Paul (R)	239	4317	9A	Lanning, Morrie (R)	259	5515
43A	Anderson, Sarah (R)	217	5511	40B	Lenczewski, Ann (DFL)	509	4218
3A	Anzelc, Tom (DFL)	417	4936	66A	Lesch, John (DFL)	537	4224
39B	Atkins, Joe (DFL)	503	4192	30A	Liebling, Tina (DFL)	553	0573
35A	Beard, Michael (R)	207	8872	1B	Lieder, Bernard (DFL)	423	5091
43B	Benson, John (DFL)	517	9934	55A	Lillie, Leon (DFL)	369	1188
57A	Bigham, Karla (DFL)	353	4342	59A	Loeffler, Diane (DFL)	349	4219
25B	Bly, David (DFL)	557	7065	42B	Loon, Jenifer (R)	311	7449
25A	Brod, Laura (R)	291	4229	37A	Mack, Tara (R)	321	5506
27A	Brown, Robin (DFL)	337	8216	22A	Magnus, Doug (R)	253	5505
23B	Brynaert, Kathy (DFL)	421	3248	67A	Mahoney, Tim (DFL)	591	4277
35B	Buesgens, Mark (R)	307	5185	65B	Mariani, Carlos (DFL)	563	9714
56A	Bunn, Julie (DFL)	521	4244	9B	Marquart, Paul (DFL)	597	6829
45B	Carlson, Lyndon (DFL)	479	4255	38A	Masin, Sandra (DFL)	527	3533
58B	Champion, Bobby Joe (DFL)	329	8659	53B	McFarlane, Carol (R)	223	5363
61A	Clark, Karen (DFL)	471	0294	57B	McNamara, Denny (R)	255	3135
24B	Cornish, Tony (R)	281	4240	40A	Morgan, Will (DFL)	411	4212
31B	Davids, Greg (R)	283	9278	23A	Morrow, Terry (DFL)	415	8634
62A	Davnie, Jim (DFL)	545	0173	58A	Mullery, Joe (DFL)	367	4262
52B	Dean, Matt (R)	287	3018	10B	Murdock, Mark (R)	213	4293
29A	Demmer, Randy (R)	245	9236	64A	Murphy, Erin (DFL)	413	8799
52A	Dettmer, Bob (R)	251	4124	6B	Murphy, Mary (DFL)	343	2676
6A	Dill, David (DFL)	571	2190	46A	Nelson, Michael V. (DFL)	569	3751
47A	Dittrich, Denise (DFL)	371	5513	49B	Newton, Jerry (DFL)	331	5369
33B	Doepke, Connie (R)	215	4315	10A	Nornes, Bud (R)	277	4946
12B	Doty, Al (DFL)	433	4247	29B	Norton, Kim (DFL)	387	9249
41A	Downey, Keith (R)	323	4363	38B	Obermueller, Mike (DFL)	335	4128
28B	Drazkowski, Steve (R)	247	2273	1A	Olin, Dave (DFL)	593	9635
17A	Eastlund, Rob (R)	243	5364	11B	Otremba, Mary Ellen (DFL)	445	3201
2A	Eken, Kent (DFL)	575	9918	64B	Paymar, Michael (DFL)	543	4199
19B	Emmer, Tom (R)	301	4336	31A	Pelowski Jr., Gene (DFL)	491	8637
20A	Falk, Andrew (DFL)	431	4228	32A	Peppin, Joyce (R)	279	7806
8B	Faust, Tim (DFL)	567	0518	4A	Persell, John (DFL)	529	5516
26B	Fritz, Patti (DFL)	551	8237	45A	Peterson, Sandra (DFL)	345	4176
53A	Gardner, Paul (DFL)	581	2907	27B	Poppe, Jeanne (DFL)	487	4193
36B	Garofalo, Pat (R)	221	1069	07B	Reinert, Roger (DFL)	429	4246
15A	Gottwalt, Steve (R)	231	6316	41B	Rosenthal, Paul (DFL)	393	7803
54A	Greiling, Mindy (DFL)	381	5387	5A	Rukavina, Tom (DFL)	477	0170
24A	Gunther, Bob (R)	289	3240	42A	Ruud, Maria (DFL)	515	3964
48A	Hackbarth, Tom (R)	309	2439	2B	Sailer, Brita (DFL)	577	4265
22B	Hamilton, Rod (R)	209	5373	51A	Sanders, Tim (R)	233	4226
39A	Hansen, Rick (DFL)	401	6828	54B	Scalze, Bev (DFL)	451	7153
66B	Hausman, Alice (DFL)	453	3824	49A	Scott, Peggy (R)	225	4231
15B	Haws, Larry (DFL)	473	6612	21A	Seifert, Marty (R)	267	5374
61B	Hayden, Jeff (DFL)	539	7152	5B	Sertich, Anthony "Tony" (DFL)	459	0172
46B	Hilstrom, Debra (DFL)	379	3709	14A	Severson, Dan (R)	261	7808
8A	Hilty, Bill (DFL)	559	4308	18A	Shimanski, Ron (R)	227	1534
36A	Holberg, Mary Liz (R)	303	6926	44A	Simon, Steve (DFL)	375	9889
34B	Hoppe, Joe (R)	317	5066	55B	Slawik, Nora (DFL)	403	7807
60B	Hornstein, Frank (DFL)	437	9281	63B	Slocum, Linda (DFL)	501	7158
47B	Hortman, Melissa (DFL)	377	4280	33A	Smith, Steve (R)	271	9188
14B	Hosch, Larry (DFL)	565	4373	3B	Solberg, Loren (DFL)	443	2365
4B	Howes, Larry (R)	201	2451	37B	Sterner, Phil (DFL)	523	4306
7A	Huntley, Thomas (DFL)	585	2228	56B	Swails, Marsha (DFL)	409	1147
16A	Jackson, Gail Kulick (DFL)	531	6746	65A	Thao, Cy (DFL)	359	5158
67B	Johnson, Sheldon (DFL)	549	4201	63A	Thissen, Paul (DFL)	351	5375
13B	Juhnke, Al (DFL)	485	6206	51B	Tillberry, Tom (DFL)	583	5510
59B	Kahn, Phyllis (DFL)	365	4257	21B	Torkelson, Paul (R)	211	9303
17B	Kalin, Jeremy (DFL)	579	5377	18B	Urdahl, Dean (R)	237	4344
26A	Kath, Kory (DFL)	357	5368	62B	Wagenius, Jean (DFL)	449	4200
60A	Kelliher, Margaret Anderson (DFL)	463	0171	12A	Ward, John (DFL)	533	4333
28A	Kelly, Tim (R)	241	8635	30B	Welti, Andy (DFL)	389	4378
16B	Kiffmeyer, Mary (R)	229	4237	11A	Westrom, Torrey (R)	273	4929
50B	Knuth, Kate (DFL)	507	0141	44B	Winkler, Ryan (DFL)	525	7026
20B	Koenen, Lyle (DFL)	439	4346	32B	Zellers, Kurt (R)	315	5502

*All rooms are in the State Office Building unless otherwise noted, St. Paul, MN 55155-1298

2009-2010 Minnesota Senate

District/Member/Party			Phone 651-296-	District/Member/Party			Phone 651-296-
66	Anderson, Ellen R. (DFL)	120 Cap.	5537	30	Lynch, Ann (DFL)	G-24 Cap.	4848
6	Bakk, Thomas M. (DFL)	226 Cap.	8881	54	Marty, John (DFL)	328 Cap.	5645
61	Berglin, Linda (DFL)	309 Cap.	4261	39	Metzen, James P. (DFL)	322 Cap.	4370
51	Betzold, Don (DFL)	111 Cap.	2556	41	Michel, Geoff (R)	133 SOB	6238
43	Bonoff, Terri E. (DFL)	325 Cap.	4314	67	Moua, Mee (DFL)	120 Cap.	5285
38	Carlson, Jim (DFL)	G-9 Cap.	7-8073	28	Murphy, Steve (DFL)	325 Cap.	4264
50	Chaudhary, Satveer S. (DFL)	205 Cap.	4334	17	Olseen, Rick E. (DFL)	G-24 Cap.	5419
15	Clark, Tarryl (DFL)	208 Cap.	6455	33	Olson, Gen (R)	119 SOB	1282
64	Cohen, Richard J. (DFL)	121 Cap.	5931	4	Olson, Mary A. (DFL)	124 Cap.	4913
25	Dahle, Kevin (DFL)	320 Cap.	1279	34	Ortman, Julianne E. (R)	125 SOB	4837
26	Day, Dick (R)	113 SOB	9457	65	Pappas, Sandra L. (DFL)	120 Cap.	1802
60	Dibble, D. Scott (DFL)	111 Cap.	4191	36	Pariseau, Pat (R)	117 SOB	5252
18	Dille, Steve (R)	103 SOB	4131	59	Pogemiller, Lawrence J. (DFL)	235 Cap.	7809
40	Doll, John (DFL)	G-9 Cap.	5975	7	Prettner Solon, Yvonne (DFL)	G-9 Cap.	4188
31	Erickson Ropes, Sharon L. (DFL)	G-24 Cap.	5649	45	Rest, Ann H. (DFL)	205 Cap.	2889
14	Fischbach, Michelle L. (R)	145 SOB	2084	35	Robling, Claire A. (R)	143 SOB	4123
16	Fobbe, Lisa (DFL)	306 Cap.	8075	24	Rosen, Julie A. (R)	109 SOB	5713
47	Foley, Leo T. (DFL)	G-24 Cap.	4154	53	Rummel, Sandy (DFL)	323 Cap.	1253
21	Frederickson, Dennis R. (R)	139 SOB	8138	56	Saltzman, Kathy L. (DFL)	306 Cap.	4166
37	Gerlach, Chris (R)	129 SOB	4120	3	Saxhaug, Tom (DFL)	124 Cap.	4136
13	Gimse, Joe (R)	105 SOB	3826	46	Scheid, Linda (DFL)	G-9 Cap.	8869
42	Hann, David W. (R)	127 SOB	1749	29	Senjem, David H. (R)	147 SOB	3903
58	Higgins, Linda (DFL)	328 Cap.	9246	23	Sheran, Kathy (DFL)	G-24 Cap.	6153
11	Ingebrigtsen, Bill G. (R)	123 SOB	7-8063	57	Sieben, Katie (DFL)	321 Cap.	7-8060
49	Johnson, Debbie J. (R)	135 SOB	3219	2	Skoe, Rod (DFL)	303 Cap.	4196
48	Jungbauer, Michael J. (R)	121 SOB	3733	10	Skogen, Dan (DFL)	303 Cap.	5655
63	Kelash, Ken (DFL)	320 Cap.	7-8061	27	Sparks, Dan (DFL)	317 Cap.	9248
19	Koch, Amy T. (R)	115 SOB	5981	1	Stumpf, LeRoy A. (DFL)	208 Cap.	8660
12	Koering, Paul E. (R)	131 SOB	4875	5	Tomassoni, David J. (DFL)	317 Cap.	8017
20	Kubly, Gary W. (DFL)	301 Cap.	5094	62	Torres Ray, Patricia (DFL)	124 Cap.	4274
9	Langseth, Keith (DFL)	122 Cap.	3205	52	Vandever, Ray (R)	107 SOB	4351
44	Latz, Ron (DFL)	306 Cap.	7-8065	22	Vickerman, Jim (DFL)	226 Cap.	5650
32	Limmer, Warren (R)	141 SOB	2159	55	Wiger, Charles W. (DFL)	323 Cap.	6820
8	Lourey, Tony (DFL)	303 Cap.	0293				

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

Minnesota House and Senate Membership

1 A Rep. Dave Olin-(DFL) B Rep. Bernie Lieder-(DFL) Sen. LeRoy A. Stumpf-(DFL)	15 A Rep. Steve Gottwalt-(R) B Rep. Larry Hawes-(DFL) Sen. Tarryl Clark-(DFL)	29 A Rep. Randy Demmer-(R) B Rep. Kim Norton-(DFL) Sen. David H. Senjem-(R)	43 A Rep. Sarah Anderson-(R) B Rep. John Benson-(DFL) Sen. Terri E. Bonoff-(DFL)	57 A Rep. Karla Bigham-(DFL) B Rep. Denny McNamara-(R) Sen. Katie Sieben-(DFL)
2 A Rep. Kent Eken-(DFL) B Rep. Brita Sailer-(DFL) Sen. Rod Skoe-(DFL)	16 A Rep. Gail Kulick Jackson-(DFL) B Rep. Mary Kiffmeyer-(R) Sen. Lisa Fobbe-(DFL)	30 A Rep. Tina Liebling-(DFL) B Rep. Andy Welti-(DFL) Sen. Ann Lynch-(DFL)	44 A Rep. Steve Simon-(DFL) B Rep. Ryan Winkler-(DFL) Sen. Ron Latz-(DFL)	58 A Rep. Joe Mullery-(DFL) B Rep. Bobby Joe Champion-(DFL) Sen. Linda Higgins-(DFL)
3 A Rep. Tom Anzelc-(DFL) B Rep. Loren A. Solberg-(DFL) Sen. Tom Saxhaug-(DFL)	17 A Rep. Rob Eastlund-(R) B Rep. Jeremy Kalin-(DFL) Sen. Rick E. Olseen-(DFL)	31 A Rep. Gene Pelowski Jr.-(DFL) B Rep. Greg Davids-(R) Sen. Sharon L. Erickson Ropes-(DFL)	45 A Rep. Sandra Peterson-(DFL) B Rep. Lyndon Carlson-(DFL) Sen. Ann H. Rest-(DFL)	59 A Rep. Diane Loeffler-(DFL) B Rep. Phyllis Kahn-(DFL) Sen. Lawrence J. Pogemiller-(DFL)
4 A Rep. John Persell-(DFL) B Rep. Larry Howes-(R) Sen. Mary A. Olson-(DFL)	18 A Rep. Ron Shimanski-(R) B Rep. Dean Urdahl-(R) Sen. Steve Dille-(R)	32 A Rep. Joyce Peppin-(R) B Rep. Kurt Zellars-(R) Sen. Warren Limmer-(R)	46 A Rep. Michael V. Nelson-(DFL) B Rep. Debra Hilstrom-(DFL) Sen. Linda Scheid-(DFL)	60 A Rep. Margaret Anderson Keliher-(DFL) B Rep. Frank Homstein-(DFL) Sen. D. Scott Dibble-(DFL)
5 A Rep. Tom Rukavina-(DFL) B Rep. Anthony "Tony" Sertich-(DFL) Sen. David J. Tomassoni-(DFL)	19 A Rep. Bruce Anderson-(R) B Rep. Tom Emmer-(R) Sen. Amy T. Koch-(R)	33 A Rep. Steve Smith-(R) B Rep. Kurt Zellers-(R) Sen. Gen Olson-(R)	47 A Rep. Denise Dittrich-(DFL) B Rep. Melissa Hortman-(DFL) Sen. Leo T. Foley-(DFL)	61 A Rep. Karen Clark-(DFL) B Rep. Jeff Hayden-(DFL) Sen. Linda Berglin-(DFL)
6 A Rep. David Dill-(DFL) B Rep. Mary Murphy-(DFL) Sen. Thomas M. Bakk-(DFL)	20 A Rep. Andrew Falk-(DFL) B Rep. Lyle Koenen-(DFL) Sen. Gary W. Kubly-(DFL)	34 A Rep. Paul Kohls-(R) B Rep. Joe Hoppe-(R) Sen. Julianne E. Ortman-(R)	48 A Rep. Tom Hackbarth-(R) B Rep. Jim Abeler-(R) Sen. Michael J. Jungbauer-(R)	62 A Rep. Jim Davnie-(DFL) B Rep. Jean Wagenius-(DFL) Sen. Patricia Torres Ray-(DFL)
7 A Rep. Thomas Huntley-(DFL) B Rep. Roger Reinert-(DFL) Sen. Yvonne Prettner Solon-(DFL)	21 A Rep. Marty Seifert-(R) B Rep. Paul Torkelson-(R) Sen. Dennis R. Frederickson-(R)	35 A Rep. Michael Beard-(R) B Rep. Mark Buegens-(R) Sen. Claire A. Robling-(R)	49 A Rep. Peggy Scott-(R) B Rep. Jerry Newton-(DFL) Sen. Debbie J. Johnson-(R)	63 A Rep. Paul Thissen-(DFL) B Rep. Ken Kelash-(DFL)
8 A Rep. Bill Hilty-(DFL) B Rep. Tim Faust-(DFL) Sen. Tony Lourey-(DFL)	22 A Rep. Doug Magnus-(R) B Rep. Rod Hamilton-(R) Sen. Jim Vickerman-(DFL)	36 A Rep. Mary Liz Holberg-(R) B Rep. Pat Garofalo-(R) Sen. Pat Pariseau-(R)	50 A Rep. Carolyn Laine-(DFL) B Rep. Kate Knuth-(DFL) Sen. Satveer S. Chaudhary-(DFL)	64 A Rep. Erin Murphy-(DFL) B Rep. Michael Paymar-(DFL) Sen. Richard J. Cohen-(DFL)
9 A Rep. Morrie Lanning-(R) B Rep. Paul Marquart-(DFL) Sen. Keith Langseth-(DFL)	23 A Rep. Terry Morrow-(DFL) B Rep. Kathy Brynaert-(DFL) Sen. Kathy Sheran-(DFL)	37 A Rep. Tara Mack-(R) B Rep. Phil Sterner-(DFL) Sen. Chris Gerlach-(R)	51 A Rep. Tim Sanders-(R) B Rep. Tom Tillberry-(DFL) Sen. Don Betzold-(DFL)	65 A Rep. Cy Thao-(DFL) B Rep. Carlos Mariani-(DFL) Sen. Sandra L. Pappas-(DFL)
10 A Rep. Bud Nornes-(R) B Rep. Mark Murdock-(R) Sen. Dan Skogen-(DFL)	24 A Rep. Bob Gunther-(R) B Rep. Tony Cornish-(R) Sen. Julie A. Rosen-(R)	38 A Rep. Sandra Masin-(DFL) B Rep. Mike Obermueller-(DFL) Sen. Jim Carlson-(DFL)	52 A Rep. Bob Dettmer-(R) B Rep. Matt Dean-(R) Sen. Ray Vandever-(R)	66 A Rep. John Lesch-(DFL) B Rep. Linda Slocum-(DFL) Sen. Ellen R. Anderson-(DFL)
11 A Rep. Torrey Westrom-(R) B Rep. Mary Ellen Otremba-(DFL) Sen. Bill G. Ingebrigtsen-(R)	25 A Rep. Laura Brod-(R) B Rep. David Bly-(DFL) Sen. Kevin Dahle-(DFL)	39 A Rep. Rick Hansen-(DFL) B Rep. Joe Atkins-(DFL) Sen. James P. Metzen-(DFL)	53 A Rep. Paul Gardner-(DFL) B Rep. Carol McFarlane-(R) Sen. Sandy Rummel-(DFL)	67 A Rep. Tim Mahoney-(DFL) B Rep. Sheldon Johnson-(DFL) Sen. Mee Moua-(DFL)
12 A Rep. John Ward-(DFL) B Rep. Al Doty-(DFL) Sen. Paul E. Koering-(R)	26 A Rep. Kory Kath-(DFL) B Rep. Patti Fritz-(DFL) Sen. Dick Day-(R)	40 A Rep. Will Morgan-(DFL) B Rep. Ann Lenczewski-(DFL) Sen. John Doll-(DFL)	54 A Rep. Mindy Greiling-(DFL) B Rep. Bev Scalze-(DFL) Sen. John Marty-(DFL)	
13 A Rep. Paul Anderson-(R) B Rep. Al Juhnke-(DFL) Sen. Joe Gimse-(R)	27 A Rep. Robin Brown-(DFL) B Rep. Jeanne Poppe-(DFL) Sen. Dan Sparks-(DFL)	41 A Rep. Keith Downey-(R) B Rep. Paul Rosenthal-(DFL) Sen. Geoff Michel-(R)	55 A Rep. Leon Lillie-(DFL) B Rep. Nora Slawik-(DFL) Sen. Charles W. Wiger-(DFL)	
14 A Rep. Dan Severson-(R) B Rep. Larry Hosch-(DFL) Sen. Michelle L. Fischbach-(R)	28 A Rep. Tim Kelly-(R) B Rep. Steve Drazkowski-(R) Sen. Steve Murphy-(DFL)	42 A Rep. Maria Ruud-(DFL) B Rep. Jenifer Loon-(R) Sen. David W. Hann-(R)	56 A Rep. Julie Bunn-(DFL) B Rep. Marsha Swails-(DFL) Sen. Kathy L. Saltzman-(DFL)	

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2009 House Profile

As of Jan. 9, 2009

Membership

	2009	2007	2005	2003	2001
DFL	87	85	66	53	65
R	47	49	68	81	69
IR	—	—	—	—	—
Men	91	91	97	102	99
Women	43	43	37	32	35

Age

Age range	2009	2007*	2005**	2003**	2001***
21-30	6	6	6	8	5
31-40	22	25	27	27	27
41-50	35	33	40	35	42
51-60	42	38	38	43	41
61-70	25	29	18	12	12
71 or over	4	2	3	3	3
Average age	50.9	50.2	48.6	47.4	48.4

* Age not available for 1 member
 **Ages not available for 2 members
 *** Ages not available for 4 members

Education

Education level	2009	2007	2005	2003	2001
High School	3	3	3	3	3
Technical College	6	7	7	6	5
Some College	8	9	13	14	13
4-yr. Undergraduate Degree	40	34	40	47	44
Some Graduate Work	18	21	20	15	13
Graduate Degree	58	60	51	48	50
Other	1	—	—	—	6

Current Term

Term	2009	2007	2005	2003	2001
1	22	35	25	46	18
2	30	23	38	17	20
3	21	27	14	15	22
4	21	8	12	14	22
5	6	8	12	11	17
6	8	11	7	8	8
7	9	3	5	5	4
8	2	3	5	3	7
9	3	3	2	4	3
10	2	1	4	2	2
11	1	3	2	1	1
12	3	2	1	1	1
13	1	1	1	1	3
14	1	1	1	2	2
15 or more	4	5	5	3	4

Occupation

Occupation	2009	2007	2005	2003	2001
Educator	27	28	21	22	20
Attorney	17	16	19	16	15
Business	14	13	18	22	23
Legislator	10	12	10	10	15
Retired	7	10	8	5	4
Consultant	5	6	7	7	6
Government	6	4	5	7	2
Real Estate	1	2	5	7	3
Communications	3	3	4	4	3
Trades	3	4	4	4	3
Farming	5	3	3	5	8
Homemaker	2	3	3	3	4
Health Care	3	2	—	—	—
Social Services	1	1	—	—	—
Law Enforcement	1	1	—	—	—
Other	29	26	26	21	28

State Fair poll was early indicator of environment and arts support



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

A visitor to the House booth at the state fair closely examines the poll questions.

A question on the 2008 House of Representatives' State Fair Poll became an early indicator of voter support for a constitutional amendment increasing the state's sales tax by three-eighths of 1 percent and dedicating the funds to the environment and the arts.

Nearly 56 percent of voters in the Nov. 4 General Election approved the measure, but two months earlier nearly 50 percent of those participating in the state fair poll said they'd favor the tax increase.

During the 12-day run of the Minnesota State Fair, 7,465 fairgoers took the poll conducted by nonpartisan House Public Information Services. It is an informal, unscientific survey on issues discussed in prior legislative sessions and that may again be topics of discussion.

Here's a look at the questions and results. All percentages are rounded to the nearest one-tenth. Totals are for those who actually voted on the question.

1. This November, voters will be asked to vote for a three-eighths of 1 percent sales tax increase with the money dedicated for the environment and the arts. Do you support this?

Yes	49.0%	(3,640)
No	42.9%	(3,188)
Undecided/No Opinion	8.0%	(595)

2. Should voters be required to show a picture ID before casting their ballot?

Yes	67.0%	(4,986)
No	27.1%	(2,017)
Undecided/No Opinion	5.8%	(432)

3. A motorist can now only be cited for failure to wear a seat belt if they are stopped for another infraction. Should law enforcement be permitted to stop someone solely for not wearing a seat belt?

Yes	47.1%	(3,504)
No	47.0%	(3,499)
Undecided/No Opinion	5.8%	(431)

4. Should the state's 14-year moratorium on nuclear power plant construction be lifted so new facilities can be considered to help meet the state's electricity needs?

Yes	61.0%	(4,511)
No	26.4%	(1,952)
Undecided/No Opinion	12.6%	(935)

5. Clothing sold in the state is not subject to sales tax. Should it be?

Yes	11.6%	(864)
No	84.6%	(6,285)
Undecided/No Opinion	3.7%	(276)

6. Should public school students be required to say the Pledge of Allegiance each day?

Yes	46.3%	(3,436)
No	45.9%	(3,406)
Undecided/No Opinion	7.8%	(578)

7. The state is expected to face a deficit in excess of \$1 billion next fiscal year. Do you generally support budget cuts as opposed to increasing certain taxes in times of economic distress?

Yes	46.5%	(3,444)
No	43.0%	(3,188)
Undecided/No Opinion	10.4%	(773)

8. Should undergraduate students at a state college or university have their tuition locked in so that any semester during a four-year period it could not exceed the price the student was charged during their first semester?

Yes	62.1%	(4,604)
No	26.7%	(1,981)
Undecided/No Opinion	11.1%	(826)

9. Should grocers and large retailers who use plastic carryout bags be required to make in-store bag recycling available?

Yes	76.0%	(5,635)
No	19.7%	(1,462)
Undecided/No Opinion	4.3%	(323)

10. Hospitals are permitted to set staffing levels for registered nurses. Should the Legislature set a maximum number of patients a nurse can care for during a shift?

Yes	50.8%	(3,770)
No	36.8%	(2,725)
Undecided/No Opinion	12.4%	(918)

11. Should a 25-percent investment tax credit be made available for investments in qualifying new bioscience business ventures?

Yes	40.6%	(2,999)
No	29.0%	(2,145)
Undecided/No Opinion	30.3%	(2,243)

12. Should lawn care companies and other commercial applicators be required to post 48-hour advance warnings before spraying city yards or farm fields with weed killers or other pesticides?

Yes	60.0%	(4,445)
No	29.3%	(2,177)
Undecided/No Opinion	10.7%	(797)

13. What should be the state sport?

Fishing	28.3%	(1,931)
Football	4.6%	(316)
Golf	2.2%	(150)
Hunting	3.6%	(245)
Ice hockey	35.2%	(2,403)
Water skiing	3.2%	(218)
Other	22.9%	(1,564)



Look for the House of Representatives booth in the Education Building at the 2009 Minnesota State Fair Aug. 27 - Sept. 7

Directions, Parking, Tours, Visiting the Legislature, Dining

Directions

The Capitol complex is north of Interstate 94, just minutes from downtown St. Paul. It is accessible from the east and west on I-94, and from the north and south on Interstate 35E.

- I-94 eastbound: Exit at Marion Street. Turn left. Go to Aurora Avenue and turn right.
- I-94 westbound: Exit at Marion Street. Turn right. Go to Aurora Avenue and turn right.
- I-35E northbound: Exit at Kellogg Boulevard. Turn left. Go to John Ireland Boulevard and turn right.
- I-35E southbound: Exit at University Avenue. Turn right. Go to Rice Street and turn left.

Parking

Public metered parking is available in Lot Q, north of the Capitol at Cedar Street and Sherburne Avenue; Lot AA, across Rice Street from the State Office Building on Aurora Avenue; Lot F, directly west of the Transportation Building; Lot H, west of the Veterans Service Building; Lot K, across from the Armory on Cedar Street (enter from 12th Street); Lot L, east of the Judicial Center; in the 14th Street Lot at the corner of North Robert Street and 14th Street; and on the orange level of the Centennial Office Building Ramp at Cedar Street and Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. There are a few metered parking spots in front of the Capitol along Aurora Avenue.

Capitol Security personnel will issue tickets for expired meters.

All-day parking permits are available from Plant Management on the ground floor of the Administration Building at 50 Sherburne Ave., north of the Capitol, across University Avenue. Cash or checks are accepted. For more information, call 651-201-2307.

Outdoor disability parking is available in most public lots within the State Capitol Complex. However, most spots can be found in Lot N and Lot F. Disability parking is also available on the orange level of the Centennial Office Parking Ramp and in the 14th Street Lot.

The main disability entrance to the Capitol is on the northwest side of the building just off Lot N. There also are drop-off entrances on the south side under the front steps on the south side and on the northeast side of the building.

Visiting the Legislature

During session, all House and Senate floor sessions are open to the public. No pass is required for spectators to sit in the galleries of either chamber. The House usually meets at 1 p.m. Monday and 10:30 a.m. Thursday, and the Senate generally meets at 11 a.m. Monday and Thursday during the first few weeks of session. As the session nears the

end, however, both bodies may meet several times a week, often into the night.

Visitors interested in observing these sessions may call House Public Information Services at 651-296-2146 or Senate Information at 651-296-0504, with questions.

Committee meetings are open to the public, as well. Visitors wanting to attend a committee meeting may call the meeting hotlines for prerecorded messages with the meeting times and agendas for each day: House 651-296-9283 or Senate 651-296-8088.

If group members want to meet with their individual legislators or testify before a committee, arrangements should be made at least a week in advance.

Sometimes groups plan a "legislative day" at the Capitol. For information on reserving a room for group conferences, call the State Office Building room scheduler at 651-296-0306 or the Capitol room scheduler at 651-296-0866.

Tours

Tours of the Capitol are offered through the Capitol Historic Site Program of the Minnesota Historical Society.

Tour guides lead the 45-minute tours on the hour Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. (last tour leaves at 3 p.m.); Saturday between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. (last tour leaves at 2 p.m.); and Sunday between 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. (last tour leaves at 3 p.m.). The tours begin at the Capitol information desk. Brochures in about 20 foreign languages also are available there.

Tour rates vary. Generally, 45-minute tours for drop-in visitors to the Capitol are free of charge.

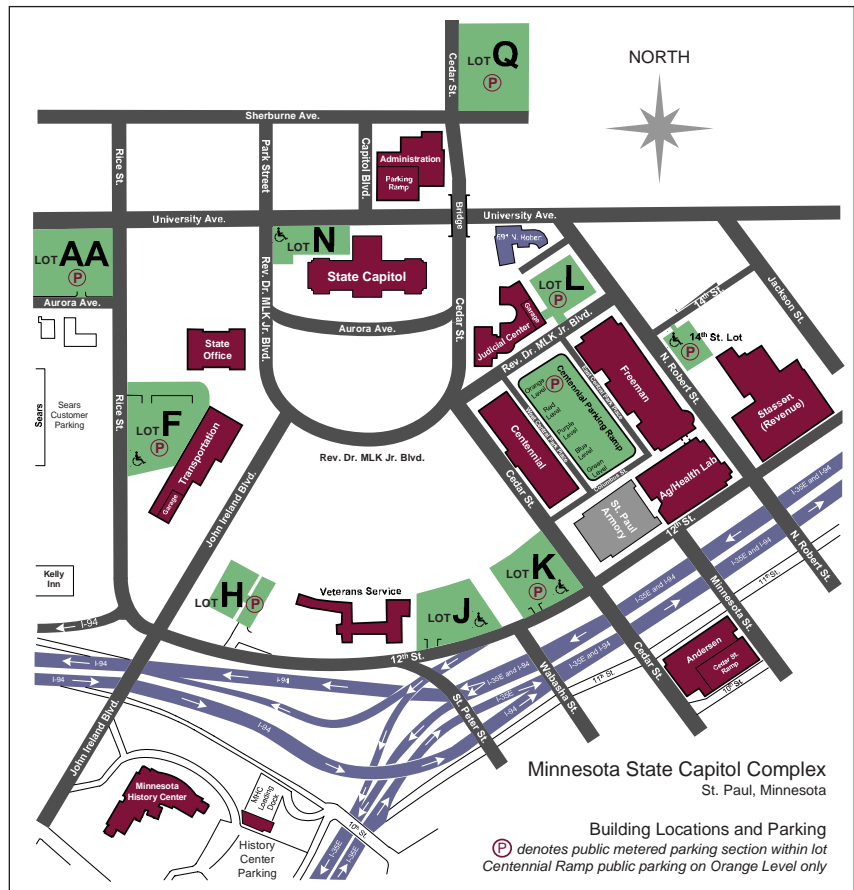
The society offers a number of specialized tours for educational groups ranging from pre-school students to high school seniors. Also, special tour events are scheduled throughout the year. A special events guide is available upon request.

For more information about the tours and fees or to make a reservation, call the Capitol Historic Site Program at 651-296-2881.

Dining

Year-round cafeterias can be found on the ground floor of the Transportation, Centennial and Stassen buildings.

The small State Office Building cafeteria and the Rathskeller in the State Capitol are open only when the Legislature is in session.



Edited map courtesy Minnesota Department of Administration, Plant Management Division

Glossary of Legislative Terms

Below is a listing of definitions to terms frequently used as part of the legislative process

act

A bill that has passed both houses of the Legislature and has been enrolled, certified, assigned a chapter number, and either has become law without the governor's signature, signed into law by the governor, or vetoed by the governor and the veto has been overridden by the Legislature.

adjournment

Closing of a committee hearing or daily legislative session for the day.

adjournment "sine die"

Or "without a day" — final adjournment of either the House or the Senate at the end of a two-year biennium.

biennium

Two-year period. The legislative session is biennial; the state budget is biennial (money for a two-year budget cycle). Minnesota's biennium begins July 1 and ends June 30, two years later.

bill

Proposal for a new law, change in current law, repeal of a current law or a constitutional amendment. It consists of a title, enacting clause and body (text), which is examined and approved in its form by the Office of the Revisor of Statutes.

bill status

1. Current standing or location of a bill within the legislative process. 2. The informal name for the index systems prepared by the House and Senate index departments.

call of the house

A condition placed upon the House at the request of 10 members, or upon the Senate by any member, compelling absent and unexcused members to come to the chamber and to cast their vote. No member may leave without permission of the presiding officer.

caucus

1. A group of representatives or senators who affiliate with the same political party or faction, such as the "DFL Caucus," the "Republican Caucus," the "Majority" or the "Minority" caucus. 2. Meeting of such a group.

chamber

The official meeting place for the House or Senate in the State Capitol.

chapter

1. In Minnesota Statutes, a division of major subject areas of the law. 2. In Session Laws, each chapter is a bill that has been enacted (become law). Chapter numbers of laws are assigned by the revisor of statutes and then presented to the governor for approval.

chief author (sponsor)

The main author or sponsor of a bill.

co-author, co-sponsor

1. One of the joint sponsors of a bill. 2. To sponsor a bill in conjunction with other legislators.

committee

1. A group of members appointed from a legislative body to study, consider and make recommendations on bills, resolutions and other related matters that affect an aspect or aspects of the state. 2. An executive or judicial branch agency called to advise another body. It is limited in its authority.

companion bills

Identical bills introduced both in the House and the Senate.

final passage

A vote taken on a bill after its third reading, requiring a majority of all elected members of a legislative body for approval. Each member's vote is recorded in the journal, as required by the state constitution.

first reading

Reporting of a bill to the body, as required by the state constitution and the rules of the body, at the time of its introduction and referral to committee.

fiscal note

A list of the costs, or financial implications of a bill, prepared by the executive branch of government; may be attached with the committee report.

General Register

A list of bills that have had their second readings and await action by the full House.

General Orders

A list of bills that have had second reading and may be debated and/or amended by the body acting as the Committee of the Whole.

hearing

A formal meeting of a committee, division or subcommittee where evidence may be presented or testimony heard. Usually used interchangeably with "committee hearing."

House File or HF

Designation appearing before the number of a bill, which indicates that the measure originated in the House of Representatives.

interim

The interval between adjournment sine die and the convening of a new Legislature.

legislative day

A day when either house of the Legislature is in session; a 24-hour period commencing at 7 a.m.

main author, sponsor

Same as "chief author" or "chief sponsor."

majority

1. Final Passage - 50 percent plus one of all members elected to a legislative body: 68 votes in the House; 34 votes in the Senate. 2. Simple - in committee, subcommittee and division, 50 percent plus one of those members present while voting.

motions and resolutions

That part of the order of business when members may make motions on legislative matters that do not come before the body under the other items of the order of business.

omnibus

A term used to describe tax, education, appropriations and other bills that contain many different proposals.

quorum

The number of members in attendance required to conduct business (50 percent plus one).

reading

A formal procedure required by the state constitution and rules. These readings indicate to legislators and the public that an action or series of actions have been taken on a bill or resolution, and the matter has reached the next stage in the legislative process. Bills receive their first reading at the time of introduction, their second reading after adoption of committee reports, and their third reading before placed upon final passage. Bills can receive more than first, second or third readings. Before a bill can be repassed as amended by the other body, or repassed as amended by conference, the bill must receive another third reading.

roll call

Recorded vote taken by either body by means of the electrical voting system or by calling by voice for the votes of individual members.

rules

1. Regulating principles, methods of procedure. These include the Minnesota Constitution, Minnesota Statutes, Permanent Rules of the House, Joint Rules of the House and Senate, Mason's Manual of Legislative Procedure, and custom and usage. 2. An operating principle or order promulgated by a branch or unit of state government under authority granted by the Legislature. These administrative rules have the force and effect of law.

veto

The power or action of the governor to reject a bill. Except of a pocket veto, the bill is returned to the house of origin with a veto message.

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MAJORITY LEADER: ANTHONY "TONY" SERTICH

MINORITY LEADER: MARTY SEIFERT

MINNESOTA INDEX

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With 201 legislators, state rank among largest legislatures	5
Legislators in New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, Georgia and New York, respectively	424, 253, 236, 211
State rank in terms of largest House	12
State rank in terms of largest Senate	1
Base annual compensation for legislators (not including per diem)	\$31,140
Daily House, Senate member per diem	\$77, \$96

— M. Cook

Sources: House Public Information Services; House Chief Clerk's Office; and Office of the Secretary of State.

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