

SESSION WEEKLY



**SESSION CHANGES, CHALLENGES
UNFINISHED BUSINESS
OUTSIDE THE CHAMBER DOORS
MEET THE NEW MEMBERS**

A NONPARTISAN PUBLICATION
MINNESOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES • PUBLIC INFORMATION SERVICES
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Flashback to 2001 and 1991



File photo 2001 by Andrew VonBank

2001 - The first black woman to serve in the Minnesota Legislature, DFLer Neva Walker made history when she was sworn in to office in January 2001 to represent District 61B in Minneapolis. After serving four terms, she chose not to run in the 2008 election.

— Session Weekly Jan. 5, 2001

1991 - State lawmakers made the honeymoon official, granting Gov. Arne Carlson an extra three weeks to prepare a state budget package designed to balance an expected \$1.2 billion revenue shortfall. He was given 23 days beyond the constitutional deadline for submitting his budget recommendation to the Legislature. Majority Leader Dee Long (DFL-Mpls) said this shows that the House and Senate DFLers are willing to work with the new Independent-Republican governor and the minority leadership.

— Session Weekly Jan. 11, 1991

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SESSION WEEKLY

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FIRST READING



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

Carolyn Brown, desk secretary supervisor in the House Chief Clerk's Office, inserts the nameplate of Rep. Sondra Erickson into one of the two voting boards in the House Chamber on Dec. 29. The House has 36 new members this session: 33 Republicans and three DFLers.

Ready for the challenge

2011 session underway with changes aplenty

By MIKE COOK

To call the 2011 session challenging could be an understatement.

Legislators will have their plates full resolving the state budget deficit without hurting things like K-12 school funding, people with disabilities and the elderly, while at the same time creating jobs in hopes of rebounding the state's economy. Helping a professional football team fund a home may also be discussed.

Many of the decisions will be gut-wrenching and painful. Most of the easier changes have taken place in the last few years, and both Republicans and DFLers say that

more one-time shifts are not the answer. Will revenues need to be raised? What state services must be cut or eliminated? Can people learn to live with less?

Legislative leaders are optimistic.

"We've got folks ready to jump in and ready to go," said House Majority Leader Matt Dean (R-Dellwood).

"We will get it resolved one way or the other," said House Minority Leader Paul Thissen (DFL-Mpls).

Lots of new faces

A promise of change at the federal level helped give the state DFL a boost in the 2008 election, resulting in a veto-proof majority in the Senate and a 40-seat advantage in the House, three seats shy of the veto-proof majority. But Republican Gov. Tim Pawlenty still resided in the governor's office.

Two years later, voters again sought change.

DFLer Mark Dayton won the governor's race, but Republicans picked up 25 House seats for a 72-62 advantage. Republicans gained 16 Senate seats, and now hold a

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First Reading continued from page 3

37-30 majority, the first time since 1972 that Republicans control that body.

Of the three-dozen new House members, 34 are first-timers, including 31 Republicans. Rep. Sondra Erickson (R-Princeton) and Rep. Linda Runbeck (R-Circle Pines) return after some time away.

"They will make their voices heard early and often," Dean said. "These are CEOs, they're economists, they're small-business owners, they're teachers. It's just the greatest freshmen group that's ever come into the Capitol, I'm sure."

Some freshmen beat long-time and powerful incumbents. Rep. Carolyn McElpatrick (R-Deer River) beat Loren Solberg, who had been in St. Paul for 28 years and recently chaired the powerful House Ways and Means Committee; Rep. Debra Kiel (R-Crookston) beat 26-year veteran Bernie Lieder, who chaired the transportation committee; and Rep. Bruce Vogel (R-Willmar) beat Al Juhnke, a leading voice for agriculture during his 14 year-career.

"That says something about the quality of our candidates," said House Speaker Kurt Zellers (R-Maple Grove).

Rep. Kerry Gauthier (DFL-Duluth), Rep. Marion Greene (DFL-Mpls) and Rep. Rena Moran (DFL-St. Paul) kept their district's seat on the DFL side.

Committee structure changes

In changing the committee structure, House and Senate leaders say they want to make the legislative process more user-friendly, while remaining fair and transparent.

House leaders have reduced the number of committees, divisions and subdivisions from last year's 36 to 24, a change they claim will save about \$500,000. Senate committees have decreased from 25 to 16.

"We have reformed government starting with ourselves," Zellers said.

"We think we can be a little more efficient and effective in the way we run government."

No regular meetings are scheduled beyond

4:15 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday; and House floor sessions are scheduled for 3 p.m. Monday and Thursday with no committee work after. Nothing is planned on Fridays. Last year, meetings were scheduled until 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday and five meetings were scheduled for Friday morning.

"Just the pure paper shuffle, moving bills between committees, everything is going to be a lot more efficient," said Rep. Mary Liz Holberg (R-Lakeville), chairwoman of the House Ways and Means Committee. Plus the House and Senate have lined up committee scopes so that conference committees will compare bills that address the same issues.

Among the changes are the combination of some policy and finance committees, including judiciary, public safety and transportation; the combining of early childhood with K-12 education; and incorporating energy issues into the environment and natural resources committee.

Thissen expressed concern that some issues will become less important.

"The Republican leadership's committee structure, which cut critical committees, illustrates their party's priorities. Their new structure says that issues related to housing, early childhood and energy are somehow less important now than they have been in the past."

Issues to be addressed

Throughout the campaign, Republicans stressed their vision of job creation to help get the economy turned around and have government live within its means.

That still holds true today.

"Tackle spending first, tackle jobs second," Dean said. "That's No.1 and No.2."

But how can that get done with a projected \$6.2 billion budget shortfall for the next biennium?

Holberg is "completely convinced" the deficit can be resolved without raising taxes.

"No stone should go unturned," Holberg said. "I was here during the

Ventura administration, and one of the terms he would use is 'necessary vs. nice.' I think we have to go back to that model of what's a necessary role of state government and maybe some of the niceties don't survive."



"We have reformed government starting with ourselves. We think we can be a little more efficient and effective in the way we run government."

— Rep. Kurt Zellers
Speaker of the House

2011-2012 Member Profile

Membership

	2011	2009	2007	2005	2003
DFL	62	87	85	66	53
R	72	47	49	68	81
Men	91	91	91	97	102
Women	43	43	43	37	32

Age

Age range	2011	2009	2007*	2005**	2003**
21-30	7	6	6	6	8
31-40	17	22	25	27	27
41-50	34	35	33	40	35
51-60	46	42	38	38	43
61-70	25	25	29	18	12
71 or over	5	4	2	3	3
Average age	51.9	50.9	50.2	48.6	47.4

* Age not available for 1 member

**Ages not available for 2 members

Education

Education level	2011	2009	2007	2005	2003
High School	3	3	3	3	3
Technical College	8	6	7	7	6
Some College	13	8	9	13	14
4-yr. Undergraduate Degree	44	40	34	40	47
Some Graduate Work	12	18	21	20	15
Graduate Degree	52	58	60	51	48
Other	2	1	—	—	—

Occupation

Occupation	2011	2009	2007	2005	2003
Educator	20	27	28	21	22
Attorney	13	17	16	19	16
Business	28	14	13	18	22
Legislator	9	10	12	10	10
Retired	8	7	10	8	5
Consultant	3	5	6	7	7
Government	6	6	4	5	7
Real Estate	—	1	2	5	7
Communications	3	3	3	4	4
Trades	3	3	4	4	4
Farming	6	5	3	3	5
Homemaker	3	2	3	3	3
Health Care	3	3	2	—	—
Social Services	1	1	1	—	—
Law Enforcement	1	1	1	—	—
Other	24	29	26	26	21

Three members in 2011 did not list an occupation.



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

Jim Johnson puts the finishing touches on the members' desks and chairs in the House Chamber Dec. 9. Johnson, who did the touch up for 31 years as a painter for the Department of Administration's Plant Management Division before he retired, received a two-week contract to again do the work. Johnson said he "considers it an honor" to do the finishing work.

So, how will the DFL work with a new Republican majority?

"We're going to have to point out factually the consequences of some of the decisions that the Republicans are making. They ran on a platform of raising no taxes," Thissen said. "There's going to be real pain in Minnesota if that's the final result of this budget. ... I hope we can engage in a productive discussion about what kind of cuts should we make, but also how can we fill in on the revenue side in a fair and balanced way."



"I hope we can engage in a productive discussion about what kind of cuts should we make, but also how can we fill in on the revenue side in a fair and balanced way."

— Rep. Paul Thissen
House Minority Leader

Dayton echoed those comments at his inauguration.

"To those who sincerely believe the state budget can be balanced with no tax increase — including no forced property tax increase — I say, if you can do so without destroying our schools, hospitals and public safety, please

send me your bill, so I can sign it immediately. Otherwise, let's begin tomorrow, and in May conclude this challenging, complicated and essential process by working together. And let's always remember that working together requires responsible cooperation and reasonable compromise, as well as sharing the best ideas we all have."

With Republicans in charge of both chambers, there has been buzz that divisive social issues, such as same-sex marriage and requiring a photo identification to vote, could be put to a vote of the state's residents. By law, only House and Senate approval is needed to put a proposed constitutional amendment on the ballot, like the DFL did in 2008 with a tax increase to support the arts and environment. No governor action is required.


Republican leaders say not so fast.

Jobs are first and foremost our focus, Zellers said. "I think that's what the voters responded to."

And, the Minnesota Vikings want state dollars to help build a new stadium.

With the team's lease at the Metrodome expiring after the 2011 season, supporters say something has to happen this legislative session or the team may no longer call the Land of 10,000 Lakes home. Dayton said he would like a stadium vote this session.

Zellers said it's tough to discuss the issue until a proposal is known, including local partners, but he won't rule out a bill. "At the end of session, if there is a proposal that comes forward, and if there is something that's worked on a bipartisan basis. We've never said no to it, but right now we've got a budget to balance, and we've got an economy to turn around."

Legislators must constitutionally adjourn by May 23 — 139 days from when the first gavel was pounded. 

Two views to 'unfinished business'

New leaders confront an old foe: the deficit

By NICK BUSSE

The seemingly perpetual budget crisis that dogged the last crop of state leaders is back to test the new crowd.

The state faces a projected \$6.2 billion deficit in the upcoming two-year budget cycle that begins July 1, 2011. Making matters worse, any easy options for bridging the budget gap have already been exhausted, leaving lawmakers with some potentially stark choices this year.

Gov. Mark Dayton and legislative leaders have pledged bipartisan cooperation to address what will undoubtedly be the top issue of the 2011 session. But even with a new group of captains at the helm, some well known partisan differences plot an uncertain course for the ship of state.

"The shoe is going to be on the other foot, from the legislative standpoint, with a Republican Legislature and a Democrat governor," House Majority Leader Matt Dean (R-Dellwood) said at a press conference Dec. 29.

Last November, voters turned the balance of power at the Capitol on its head, sweeping Republicans into the majority in the House and Senate while electing the state's first DFL governor in 20 years. The changeover offers a clean start for budget negotiations, but doesn't change the basic differences between how the two parties approach taxation and spending.

At a press conference following the release of the state's November Economic Forecast Dec. 2, Republican leaders repeated what has become a familiar mantra: that Minnesota has a spending problem, not a revenue problem.

"We're going to do as Minnesota families, as Minnesota businesses are: we're going to live within our means. We're not going to

go back to the taxpayers and ask for more money," said House Speaker Kurt Zellers (R-Maple Grove).

In the Republican view, the very notion that Minnesota has a deficit is misleading. The forecast predicted a 5 percent increase (\$1.5 billion) in tax revenues in the next

fiscal biennium. The deficit is caused by a projected 27.5 percent (\$8.3 billion) increase in spending. Republicans say that represents out-of-control government growth.

"There's no way we can do that. There's no money to do that. We can't take that money from other people to grow government, even if we wanted to," Dean said.

DFLers see it differently. They say the budget deficit is very real, and the kind of cuts that would be needed to fix it without adding new revenues could be devastating.

"If you take education, health and human services and higher education, that's over 80 percent of the budget," said House Minority Leader Paul Thissen (DFL-Mpls). "If we're going to close a 16 or 17 percent hole in our budget with an all-cuts approach, you're going to hit all those things."

Dayton and DFL lawmakers have called for increased taxes on the state's wealthiest residents, arguing it would help bridge

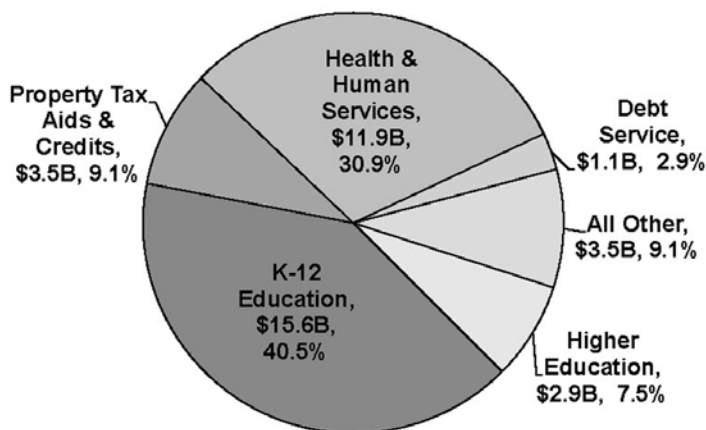


PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

Minnesota Management and Budget Commissioner Jim Schowalter, left, answers a question from the press Dec. 2 during the release of the state's latest budget forecast. Assistant Commissioner Kristin Dybdal, center, and State Economist Tom Stinson also presented news about the projected \$6.2 billion budget deficit.

\$6.2 Billion Shortfall is 16% of FY 2012-13 Projected General Fund Spending

Total Spending \$38.6 Billion



Source: Minnesota Management and Budget

future budget gaps as well as the current one. Moreover, they argue that without new tax revenues, Minnesotans will only end up paying for the state's budget crunch in other ways.

"We know that an all-cuts budget like the one the Republicans are going to propose is going to squeeze middle-class Minnesotans with higher property taxes, with higher tuition, with more expensive fees," Thissen said.

'Unfinished business'

At the Dec. 2 press conference, Minnesota Management and Budget officials pinned much of the blame for the deficit on previous budget fixes.

In the last biennium, lawmakers and former Gov. Tim Pawlenty sidestepped much of the budget crisis by using temporary, one-time solutions. These included delaying payments to schools, making one-time cuts and borrowing from special dedicated funds to help shore up the state's bottom line.

Voices on both sides of the aisle warned that these short-term actions would only delay the problem and make it worse in the next budget cycle. But with Pawlenty, a Republican, and the DFL-controlled Legislature at loggerheads over a permanent budget fix, they chose the only compromise they could find.

As it turns out, the warnings proved to be correct.

"I think it's very fair to say that there's a significant amount of unfinished business in Minnesota," said Steve Sviggum, interim commissioner of MMB at the release of the forecast.

The problem now for lawmakers and Dayton is that there are no more one-time solutions left. Another federal stimulus bill is unlikely. The state is slated to start paying back the K-12 school payment shifts over the next two years, and few dedicated funds have any spare cash to spread around.

There will be no easy way out this time, according to new MMB Commissioner James Schowalter.

"The bottom line is that the structural problem that we're looking at for this upcoming budget is not one that we're going to grow out of. It is one that is going to remain and will have to be dealt with," Schowalter said.

In addition to the deficit projected in Fiscal Years 2012-2013, additional shortfalls are predicted into the foreseeable future. If lawmakers take a more long-term approach to fixing the budget this year, it could help resolve the state's structural budget imbalance.

"The bottom line is that the structural problem that we're looking at for this upcoming budget is not one that we're going to grow out of."

— James Schowalter
Minnesota Management and Budget
Commissioner

Breaking down the deficit

Buried in the state's November Economic Forecast was a perplexing set of numbers. The report stated that even though state revenue is projected to increase by 5 percent, the state would still face a \$6.2 billion deficit because its spending is expected to grow by 27.5 percent. How can state spending grow by more than one-quarter from one two-year budget cycle to the next?

Actually, the figures are a little misleading. The 27.5 percent increase represents a dollar amount of a little more than \$8.3 billion. Of that, only about \$2 billion represents actual forecasted growth in government spending. The rest, \$6.3 billion, results from one-time budget fixes that were used in the last two-year budget cycle.

For example, in 2009, the federal government enacted a stimulus package that included "fiscal stabilization funds" to help states balance their budgets. The money helped state leaders avoid potentially painful budget cuts; however, the funds will dry up beginning in July 2011. As a result, the state will have to make up the \$2.3 billion difference on its own.

The remaining \$4 billion gap comes from the one-time budget solutions used by legislative leaders and former Gov. Tim Pawlenty during the last budget cycle. These included shifting \$1.9 billion in school payments into the next fiscal biennium. Part of the agreement called for \$1.4 billion of that money to be paid back over the next two years, adding that much more to the deficit. Another \$660 million in one-time reductions were made in the last budget cycle that fall back in the state's lap in the next one.

— N. BUSSE

"There's a significant amount of money — permanently, structurally — that this Legislature and this governor are going to have to address," Sviggum said.

Whether that involves cutting spending, raising taxes or some combination of the two remains to be seen, but Republicans have

already made clear they have no interest in tax increases of any kind.

Zellers said the spending plan Republicans eventually propose will strive to protect funding for programs that protect vulnerable Minnesotans — children, the elderly

and the disabled. But Thissen is skeptical. "Our job as the DFL minority is going to be to hold them accountable for the way that they're going to govern," he said. 🐼

HIGHLIGHTS

JANUARY 4 - 6, 2011

Editor's note: The following Highlights are coverage of select House committees and other House activities held Jan. 4-6. Designations used in Highlight summaries: HF-House File; SF-Senate File; Ch-Chapter; and *- the bill version considered by the House or the bill language signed by the governor.

Education

'Kids first. No excuses. No exceptions.'

A light-hearted tone prevailed Jan. 5 at the first meeting of the House Education Finance Committee. But Chairman Rep. Pat Garofalo (R-Farmington) took time to lay out serious goals for its work this year. The committee's motto is all business: "Kids first. No excuses. No exceptions," he said.

Members introduced themselves and stated their priorities. School funding inequities, mandate relief and greater local control are common themes.

Rep. Kurt Bills (R-Rosemount), a high school economics teacher, said "teacher pay and portability" are priorities, as is "giving individual districts and principals more sovereignty."

Rep. Denise Dittrich (DFL-Champlin) hopes to address "issues of equity and fairness" in funding that "property poor" districts like hers face, bound by caps on property tax levies and ineligibility for "compensatory" funding intended to provide additional services where needed.

"Our school districts are really in a state of crisis, I would say, and they are really looking for some state leadership," she said.

"I am amazed at the complexity of education funding and financing," said Rep. Paul Anderson (R-Starbuck), adding that most schools in his district face declining enrollment — which means declining funding. The message he's heard from school districts he represents is that if cuts to education must be made, they would like them to occur "sooner rather than later" for planning purposes.

Rep. Dan Fabian (R-Roseau), a high school physical education and health teacher and coach for 34 years, also singled out funding

inequities across his nearly 4,000-square mile district in northwest Minnesota.

Garofalo vowed to prioritize correcting the achievement gap, calling that goal "crucial for the future of job creation." He said there is no reason students in poverty cannot achieve academic success, adding that he hopes the committee will visit some schools in the Twin Cities metropolitan area where students in poverty and those of color are defying the likelihood they will fail to thrive academically.

Rep. Linda Slocum (DFL-Richfield), an eighth-grade history teacher, said "equity as it relates to poor kids" is her priority. "I believe in compensating for concentrations of poverty. It makes a difference if the services are there. It makes a difference for poor kids."

— K. BERGGREN

Spotlight on teachers

Teacher training, licensure and evaluation are among the priorities House Education Reform Committee members, who include seven former or retired teachers, enumerated Jan. 6.

This should come as no surprise to those who followed last session's contentious

debate about alternative teacher licensure.

Members' priorities also include strengthening early childhood education, helping school boards function and providing equal educational opportunities for children throughout the state.

"It's not only a moral imperative, but if we want a strong business climate, we need all our children to succeed," said Rep. Jim Davnie (DFL-Mpls).

"I do believe that education is the key to future financial independence," said Rep. Andrea Kieffer (R-Woodbury).

Chairwoman Rep. Sondra Erickson (R-Princeton) offered the model of a three-legged stool to describe her approach to the committee's work. "Absolutely, students are first," she said. Supporting teachers and empowering parents are the other two legs.

Some of the questions members should put to themselves when offering ideas, suggested Erickson, include: "Will it improve teaching? Will it raise the standard or the caliber of teacher in our classroom? When it comes to our children, will it increase learning? Will it prepare them to be responsible citizens? Will it empower parents? Does it promote local control?"

NEWSMAKER



PHOTO BY ANDREW VONBANK

House Majority Leader Matt Dean takes questions from the media after the first day of the 2011 legislative session.

OATH OF OFFICE



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

Rep. Jim Davnie, Rep. Marion Greene and Rep. Steve Simon, from left, take the oath of office Jan. 4 during the opening day of the 87th session in the House Chamber.

Lawmakers also seek to draw the best and brightest prospective teachers into the profession.

“My focus is how to make the job of teaching more attractive,” said Rep. John Benson (DFL-Minnetonka).

— K. BERGGREN

Env. & Natural Resources

Clean water study presented

How does the “Land of Sky Blue Waters,” which, by federal standards, has 40 percent of its ground and surface waters polluted, evolve into the “land of no impaired waters?”

Just ask Deborah Swackhamer, co-director of the University of Minnesota Water Resource Center, who presented the Minnesota Water Sustainability Framework to the House Environment, Energy and Natural Resources Policy and Finance Committee Jan. 5. The study is a 25-year strategy to bring Minnesota’s ground and surface water into compliance with the state’s Clean Water Act.

The 200-page document spells out a comprehensive plan for mapping, monitoring and cleaning polluted waters and ensuring that there is enough clean drinking water for future residents.

More than 200 stakeholders and technical experts created the \$750,000 study that was authorized by the Legislature last year and

funded through the Clean Water Legacy Fund.

Acknowledging that achieving clean water won’t be cheap, Swackhamer said steps can be taken now that are not costly but are critical to the long-term goal.

For example, one recommendation is that legislators revise the water permit process. Rather than issuing permits and suspending them if problems occur, permit applications could be screened prior to being granted.

Another key recommendation is to produce models of where the balance of water is, where it comes from and how much is available today and into the future. Mapping and hydrologic monitoring would reveal how much water is in the state’s “account” but could take up to 10 years to complete. Although monitoring is underway, the researchers recommend accelerating the work two-fold.

Rep. Rick Hansen (DFL-South St. Paul) pointed out that such planning could reduce the frequently flooded areas and avoid the high cost of replacing damaged property and infrastructure. Cross contamination of waters is also a negative result of flooding, he added.

Rep. Paul Torkelson (R-Nelson Township) said the study’s findings show that Twin Cities area residents use more groundwater than the area produces and pay less per gallon than it costs to provide to each household.

In addition, the study recommends planning for future water contaminants through water treatment design standards and

proper disposal of unwanted pharmaceuticals. Swackhamer also emphasized the need to integrate water policies with energy, land and transportation policies.

The full report is available at <http://wrc.umn.edu/watersustainabilityframework/index.htm>.

— S. HEGARTY

Health & Human Services

Medicaid enrollment concerns

The House Health and Human Services Finance and Reform committees met jointly Jan. 5 for a general overview of state health care programs, such as MinnesotaCare and Medical Assistance.

Rep. Jim Abeler (R-Anoka), chairman of the finance committee, said legislators have a “tremendous task” this session of reforming costly state programs. With potentially large budget cuts looming, Abeler asked people managing nonprofits and others to come forward with ideas.

A considerable point of discussion was Gov. Mark Dayton’s signing of an executive order earlier in the day that enrolls the state in an expanded Medicaid program to help certain adults without children. The program is currently funded with state and federal money.

Supporters claim it will provide more care to low-income Minnesotans, but opponents are concerned about future costs to the state.

“What if the federal dollars do not come to cover the cost of this program, and then who’s on the hook for those expenditures?” asked Rep. Mary Kiffmeyer (R-Big Lake).

Department of Human Services Chief Financial Officer Charles Johnson said, “We as a state would have to reassess in what form we could provide coverage to this population.” He added that he’s never experienced a situation where “the federal government pulled out on a dime,” and it has always given warning.

Rep. Erin Murphy (DFL-St. Paul) said Medicaid is a 45-year partnership that has been paying the states for years. “I don’t think we’re taking a big gamble.”

— P. OSTBERG

To find out who represents you at the Capitol ...
Call House Public Information Services
at 651-296-2146 or 800-657-3550

New members



Anderson, Diane (R) **38A**
 525 State Office Building 651-296-3533
E-mail: rep.diane.anderson@house.mn
Home: Eagan
 *4295 Eagle Crest Drive 55122 651-688-9461
Born: 7/28/60. **Family:** Married, spouse Gale, 2 children.
Occupation: Small-business owner. **Education:** B.S.,
 housing, University of Minnesota. **Elected:** 2010. **Term:** 1st.
Committees: Commerce and Regulatory Reform; Health
 and Human Services Finance; Judiciary Policy and Finance.



Bills, Kurt (R) **37B**
 533 State Office Building 651-296-4306
E-mail: rep.kurt.bills@house.mn
Home: Rosemount
 *15365 Danville Ave. W. 55068 651-208-9542
Born: 1/8/70. **Family:** Married, spouse Cindy, 4 children.
Occupation: High school teacher/small-business owner.
Education: B.S., B.A., secondary social studies education/U.S.
 history, Winona State University; M.A. education, Winona State
 University. **Elected:** 2010. **Term:** 1st. **Committees:** Capital
 Investment; Education Finance; Taxes.



Banaian, King (R) **15B**
 *411 State Office Building 651-296-6612
E-mail: rep.king.banaian@house.mn
Home: St. Cloud
Business: St. Cloud
 St. Cloud State University, Stewart Hall 329 56301
 320-308-4797
Occupation: Economist. **Education:** M.A., economics,
 Claremont Graduate School; Ph. D, economics, Claremont
 Graduate School. **Elected:** 2010. **Term:** 1st. **Committees:** Capital
 Investment; Higher Education Policy and Finance; Rules and
 Legislative Administration; State Government Finance.



Crawford, Roger (R) **8B**
 421 State Office Building 651-296-0518
E-mail: rep.roger.crawford@house.mn
Home: Mora
 *436 Union St. S. 55051 320-679-3953
Family: Married, spouse Barbara, 4 children. **Occupation:**
 Small-business owner. **Education:** B.A., mass communications,
 B.S., elementary education, St. Cloud State University. **Elected:**
 2010. **Term:** 1st. **Committees:** Property and Local Tax Division,
 vice chair; Commerce and Regulatory Reform; Education
 Reform; Taxes.



Barrett, Bob (R) **17B**
 413 State Office Building 651-296-5377
E-mail: rep.bob.barrett@house.mn
Home: Shafer
 *27535 Redwing Ave. 55074 651-213-1090
Business: Center City
 P.O. Box 176 55012 651-213-4058
Family: Married, spouse Judi, 2 children. **Occupation:**
 Business. **Education:** B.S., accounting, Minnesota State
 University, Mankato. **Elected:** 2010. **Term:** 1st. **Committees:**
 Education Reform; Health and Human Services Reform;
 Property and Local Tax Division.



Daudt, Kurt (R) **17A**
 Assistant Majority Leader
 *487 State Office Building 651-296-5364
E-mail: rep.kurt.daudt@house.mn
Home: Crown 763-634-2616
Family: Single. **Occupation:** Business manager. **Elected:** 2010.
Term: 1st. **Committees:** Rules and Legislative Administration,
 vice chair; Commerce and Regulatory Reform; Higher
 Education Policy and Finance; Property and Local Tax
 Division; Redistricting.



Benson, Mike (R) **30B**
 515 State Office Building 651-296-4378
E-mail: rep.mike.benson@house.mn
Home: Rochester
 *3635 Ironwood Court S.W. 55902 507-993-1250
Business: Rochester
 920 Mayowood Road S.W. 55902 507-535-3338
Born: 11/9/55. **Family:** Married, spouse Susan, 4 children.
Occupation: Assistant college professor and director of human
 resources. **Education:** B.A., organizational management,
 Eastern University; M.B.A., business, Eastern University.
Elected: 2010. **Term:** 1st. **Committees:** State Government
 Finance, vice chair; Health and Human Services Reform;
 Higher Education Policy and Finance; Transportation Policy
 and Finance.



Erickson, Sondra (R) **16A**
 *509 State Office Building 651-296-6746
E-mail: rep.sondra.erickson@house.mn
Home: Princeton
 1947 Ridge Road 55371 763-389-4498
Born: 3/3/42. **Family:** Widowed, 1 child. **Occupation:** Retired
 English teacher. **Education:** B.A., English, Concordia College.
Elected: 1998. **Term:** 7th (non-consecutive). **Committees:**
 Education Reform, chair; Education Finance; Ethics; Taxes.



Fabian, Dan (R) **1A**
 431 State Office Building 651-296-9635
E-mail: rep.dan.fabian@house.mn
Home: Roseau
 *705 Main Ave. S. 56751 218-463-1208
Born: 6/28/54. **Family:** Married, spouse Roxanne, 3 children.
Occupation: Teacher, self-employed crop hail insurance
 adjuster. **Education:** B.A., biology, health and physical
 education, Concordia College; M.A., education/physical
 education, North Dakota State University. **Elected:** 2010.
Term: 1st. **Committees:** Redistricting, vice chair; Capital
 Investment; Education Finance; Environment, Energy and
 Natural Resources Policy and Finance.



Hancock, David (R) **2B**
 529 State Office Building 651-296-4265
E-mail: rep.david.hancock@house.mn
Home: Bemidji
 *P.O. Box 1003 56619
Occupation: Former small-business owner. **Education:**
 B.A., history, Anderson University. **Elected:** 2010. **Term:** 1st.
Committees: Environment, Energy and Natural Resources
 Policy and Finance; Government Operations and Elections;
 Higher Education Policy and Finance.



Franson, Mary (R) **11B**
 *429 State Office Building 651-296-3201
E-mail: rep.mary.franson@house.mn
Home: Alexandria
 2740 Le Homme Dieu Hts. N.E. 56308 320-762-8572
Born: 3/1/77. **Family:** 3 children. **Occupation:** Licensed
 childcare provider. **Education:** B.A., psychology, University
 of Minnesota Duluth. **Elected:** 2010. **Term:** 1st. **Committees:**
 Agriculture and Rural Development Policy and Finance;
 Health and Human Services Finance; Health and Human
 Services Reform.



Kieffer, Andrea (R) **56B**
 531 State Office Building 651-296-1147
E-mail: rep.andrea.kieffer@house.mn
Home: Woodbury
 *3793 Village Court 55125 651-208-8312
Family: Married, spouse John, 2 children. **Occupation:** Non-
 profit volunteer. **Education:** B.S.B., management, University of
 Minnesota. **Elected:** 2010. **Term:** 1st. **Committees:** Commerce
 and Regulatory Reform; Education Reform; Jobs and Economic
 Development Finance; Public Safety and Crime Prevention
 Policy and Finance.



Gauthier, Kerry (DFL) **7B**
 225 State Office Building 651-296-4246
E-mail: rep.kerry.gauthier@house.mn
Home: Duluth
 *2127 W. Second St. 55806 218-393-4037
Born: 11/6/55. **Occupation:** Social services. **Education:** B.A.,
 College of St. Scholastica; M.S., counseling, University of
 Wisconsin- Superior. **Elected:** 2010. **Term:** 1st. **Committees:**
 Public Safety and Crime Prevention Policy and Finance; State
 Government Finance; Transportation Policy and Finance.



Kiel, Debra (R) **1B**
 423 State Office Building 651-296-5091
E-mail: rep.deb.kiel@house.mn
Home: Crookston
 *36044 - 275th Ave. S.W. 56716
Family: Married, spouse Lonnn, 4 children. **Occupation:**
 Farmer/homemaker. **Elected:** 2010. **Term:** 1st. **Committees:**
 Legacy Funding Division, vice chair; Agriculture and Rural
 Development Policy and Finance; Education Reform;
 Transportation Policy and Finance.



Greene, Marion (DFL) **60A**
 *331 State Office Building 651-296-0171
E-mail: rep.marion.greene@house.mn
Home: Minneapolis
 2407 Girard Ave. S., Apt. 5 55405 612-374-8728
Born: 7/16/70. **Family:** Married, spouse Bart Cannon, 2
 stepdaughters. **Occupation:** Business. **Education:** B.A.,
 Swarthmore College; M.B.A., University of Texas at Austin.
Elected: 2010. **Term:** 1st. **Committees:** Government
 Operations and Elections; Legacy Funding Division; State
 Government Finance.



Kriesel, John (R) **57A**
 451 State Office Building 651-296-4342
E-mail: rep.john.kriesel@house.mn
Home: Cottage Grove
 *6928 Homeward Court S. 55016
Born: 10/7/81. **Family:** Married, spouse Katie, 2 children.
Occupation: Marketing and advertising. **Elected:** 2010. **Term:**
 1st. **Committees:** Veterans Services Division, vice chair; Capital
 Investment; Judiciary Policy and Finance; Public Safety and
 Crime Prevention Policy and Finance.



Gruenhagen, Glenn (R) **25A**
 575 State Office Building 651-296-4229
E-mail: rep.glenn.gruenhagen@house.mn
Home: Glencoe
 *16367 - 441st Ave. 55336 320-864-3911
Business: Glencoe
 624 E. 13th St. 55336 320-864-5903
Born: 2/1/52. **Family:** Married, spouse Emily, 3 children.
Occupation: Small-business owner. **Education:** ChFC, finance,
 American College; CLU, insurance, American College. **Elected:**
 2010. **Term:** 1st. **Committees:** Civil Law; Health and Human
 Services Reform; Judiciary Policy and Finance; Public Safety
 and Crime Prevention Policy and Finance.



Leidiger, Ernie (R) **34A**
 415 State Office Building 651-296-4282
E-mail: rep.ernie.leidiger@house.mn
Home: Mayer
 *7775 Tacoma Ave. 55360 612-963-1710
Born: 8/7/53. **Family:** Married, spouse Jan, 3 children.
Occupation: Business general manager. **Education:** B.S.,
 general engineering, U.S. Naval Academy; M.S., management,
 Salve Regina College; M.A. national security and strategic
 planning, U.S. Naval War College. **Elected:** 2010. **Term:** 1st.
Committees: Jobs and Economic Development Finance;
 Public Safety and Crime Prevention Policy and Finance; State
 Government Finance; Transportation Policy and Finance.



LeMieur, Mike (R) **12B**
 *567 State Office Building 651-296-4247
E-mail: rep.mike.lemieur@house.mn
Home: Little Falls
 14384 Oak Lane 56345..... 320-632-3922
Business: Little Falls
 1801 Haven Road 56345..... 320-632-9692
Born: 8/6/68. **Family:** Married, spouse Julie, 3 children.
Occupation: Small-business owner. **Elected:** 2010. **Term:** 1st.
Committees: Agriculture and Rural Development Policy and Finance; Jobs and Economic Development Finance; Property and Local Tax Division; Veterans Services Division.



Moran, Rena (DFL) **65A**
 *227 State Office Building 651-296-5158
E-mail: rep.rena.moran@house.mn
Home: St. Paul
 671 Aurora Ave. W. 55104..... 651-757-0087
Business: St. Paul
 1821 University Ave. W. 55104
Born: 4/13/60. **Family:** Married, spouse John Stewart, 7 children. **Occupation:** Parent leader coordinator. **Education:** B.A., early childhood education, Southern Illinois University.
Elected: 2010. **Term:** 1st. **Committees:** Education Reform; Health and Human Services Reform; Public Safety and Crime Prevention Policy and Finance.



Lohmer, Kathy (R) **56A**
 521 State Office Building 651-296-4244
E-mail: rep.kathy.lohmer@house.mn
Home: Lake Elmo
 *8199 Hill Trail N. 55042..... 651-777-7565
Born: 1/15/54. **Family:** Married, spouse Greg, 4 children.
Occupation: Homemaker. **Elected:** 2010. **Term:** 1st.
Committees: Health and Human Services Finance; Health and Human Services Reform; State Government Finance; Veterans Services Division.



Murray, Rich (R) **27A**
 439 State Office Building 651-296-8216
E-mail: rep.rich.murray@house.mn
Home: Albert Lea
 *124 Ridge Road 56007..... 507-373-1740
Business: Albert Lea
 143 East Main 56007 507-373-8216
Born: 7/21/57. **Family:** Married, spouse Sandy, 4 children.
Occupation: Small-business owner, investment advisor.
Education: B.S., business, Mankato State University; M.B.A., business, University of St. Thomas. **Elected:** 2010. **Term:** 1st. **Committees:** Government Operations and Elections, vice chair; Jobs and Economic Development Finance; State Government Finance; Transportation Policy and Finance.



Mazorol, Pat (R) **41B**
 581 State Office Building 651-296-7803
E-mail: rep.pat.mazorol@house.mn
Home: Bloomington
 *9501 Virginia Ave. S. 55438..... 952-941-4917
Born: 3/20/49. **Family:** Married, spouse Barbara, 2 children.
Occupation: Business. **Education:** B.A., physics, University of Minnesota; J.D., William Mitchell College of Law. **Elected:** 2010. **Term:** 1st. **Committees:** Civil Law; Commerce and Regulatory Reform; Higher Education Policy and Finance; Judiciary Policy and Finance.



Myhra, Pam (R) **40A**
 517 State Office Building 651-296-4212
E-mail: rep.pam.myhra@house.mn
Home: Burnsville
 *13220 Elm Lane 55337 952-894-0544
Family: Married, spouse Chuck, 3 children. **Occupation:** CPA, inactive; educator, retired. **Education:** B.A., business administration, University of St. Thomas. **Elected:** 2010. **Term:** 1st. **Committees:** Capital Investment; Education Finance; Education Reform; Taxes.



McDonald, Joe (R) **19B**
 523 State Office Building 651-296-4336
E-mail: rep.joe.mcdonald@house.mn
Home: Delano
 653 Meadow Rose Court 55328..... 612-910-0310
Business: Delano
 141 Bridge Ave. 55328
Family: Married, spouse Rachel, 3 children. **Occupation:** Master photographer/owner. **Education:** A.A. Hennepin Technical College. **Elected:** 2010. **Term:** 1st. **Committees:** Health and Human Services Finance; Health and Human Services Reform; Property and Local Tax Division; Public Safety and Crime Prevention Policy and Finance.



O'Driscoll, Tim (R) **14A**
 369 State Office Building 651-296-7808
E-mail: rep.tim.odriscoll@house.mn
Home: Sartell
 *P.O. Box 225 56377 320-251-4306
Born: 4/22/64. **Family:** Single. **Occupation:** Corporate trainer.
Education: B.S., real estate and business education, St. Cloud State University. **Elected:** 2010. **Term:** 1st. **Committees:** Commerce and Regulatory Reform; Education Reform; Government Operations and Elections; Veterans Services Division.



McElfatrick, Carolyn (R) **3B**
 545 State Office Building 651-296-2365
E-mail: rep.carolyn.mcelfatrick@house.mn
Home: Deer River
 *35162 Red Pine Road 56636
Family: Married, spouse Robert, 2 children. **Occupation:** Retired. **Education:** registered nurse, Methodist-Kahler School of Nursing. **Elected:** 2010. **Term:** 1st. **Committees:** Agriculture and Rural Development Policy and Finance; Health and Human Services Finance; Health and Human Services Reform; State Government Finance.



Petersen, Branden (R) **49B**
 *577 State Office Building 651-296-5369
E-mail: rep.branden.petersen@house.mn
Home: Andover
 13440 Uplander St. 55304
Born: 2/4/86. **Family:** Married, spouse Jessica. **Occupation:** Sales manager. **Elected:** 2010. **Term:** 1st. **Committees:** Education Finance; Education Reform; Property and Local Tax Division.



Quam, Duane (R) **29A**
 569 State Office Building 651-296-9236
E-mail: rep.duane.quam@house.mn
Home: Byron
 *415 Fourth Ave N.E. 55920 507-775-6043
Family: Married, spouse Pat, 2 children. **Occupation:** Engineer.
Education: B.S., physics. University of Texas at Dallas; M.S., physics, University of Texas at Dallas. **Elected:** 2010. **Term:** 1st. **Committees:** Education Finance; Environment, Energy and Natural Resources Policy and Finance; Government Operations and Elections; Health and Human Services Reform.



Swedzinski, Chris (R) **21A**
 527 State Office Building 651-296-5374
E-mail: rep.chris.swedzinski@house.mn
Home: Ghent
 *1673 County Road 8 56239 507-829-7754
Business: Marshall
 P.O. Box 826 56258 612-803-9090
Born: 5/10/78. **Family:** Married, spouse Jessica, 2 children. **Occupation:** Farmer. **Education:** B.S., history, Minnesota State University, Mankato; B.S., political science, Minnesota State University, Mankato. **Elected:** 2010. **Term:** 1st. **Committees:** Agriculture and Rural Development Policy and Finance; Capital Investment; Jobs and Economic Development Finance.



Runbeck, Linda (R) **53A**
 583 State Office Building 651-296-2907
E-mail: rep.linda.runbeck@house.mn
Home: Circle Pines
 *48 E. Golden Lake Road 55014 763-784-8822
Family: Married, spouse Richard, 1 child. **Occupation:** Small-business owner. **Education:** B.A., sociology/social work, Bethel University. **Elected:** 1989. **Term:** 3rd (non-consecutive). **Committees:** Property and Local Tax Division, chair; Civil Law; Taxes.



Vogel, Bruce (R) **13B**
 507 State Office Building 651-296-6206
E-mail: rep.bruce.vogel@house.mn
Home: Willmar
 *430 - 45th St. S.W. 56201 320-212-2851
Born: 12/24/58. **Family:** Married, spouse Jeanne, 4 children. **Occupation:** Business. **Elected:** 2010. **Term:** 1st. **Committees:** Agriculture and Rural Development Policy and Finance; Higher Education Policy and Finance; Judiciary Policy and Finance; Transportation Policy and Finance.



Schomacker, Joe (R) **22A**
 433 State Office Building 651-296-5505
E-mail: rep.joe.schomacker@house.mn
Home: Luverne
 *602 N.E. Park 56156 507-935-0308
Family: Single. **Occupation:** Independent public relations consultant. **Education:** B.A., public administration, speech communication and political science, Southwest Minnesota State University, M.P.S., professional studies, George Washington University. **Elected:** 2010. **Term:** 1st. **Committees:** Agriculture and Rural Development Policy and Finance; Health and Human Services Finance; Judiciary Policy and Finance.



Wardlow, Doug (R) **38B**
 *551 State Office Building 651-296-4128
E-mail: rep.doug.wardlow@house.mn
Home: Eagan 612-840-8073
Family: Married, spouse Jenny, 1 child. **Occupation:** Attorney. **Education:** B.A., political theory and Mandarin Chinese, Georgetown University; J.D., Georgetown University Law Center. **Elected:** 2010. **Term:** 1st. **Committees:** Civil Law; Judiciary Policy and Finance; Property and Local Tax Division; Taxes.



Stensrud, Kirk (R) **42A**
 553 State Office Building 651-296-3964
E-mail: rep.kirk.stensrud@house.mn
Home: Eden Prairie
 *6791 Tartan Curve 55346 952-934-8972
Business: Same
Family: Married, spouse Wendy, 3 children. **Occupation:** Small-business owner. **Education:** B.A., business, Bethel University. **Elected:** 2010. **Term:** 1st. **Committees:** Commerce and Regulatory Reform; Jobs and Economic Development Finance; State Government Finance.



Woodard, Kelby (R) **25B**
 539 State Office Building 651-296-7065
E-mail: rep.kelby.woodard@house.mn
Home: Belle Plaine
 *147 S. Chestnut St. 56011 952-873-2560
Family: Married, spouse Donna, 4 children. **Occupation:** Small-business owner. **Education:** B.S., criminal justice, University of North Texas; M.B.A., international business, University of Dallas. **Elected:** 2010. **Term:** 1st. **Committees:** Public Safety and Crime Prevention Policy and Finance, vice chair; Education Finance; Education Reform.

Governor's Office

Governor

Mark Dayton (DFL)

Room 130 State Capitol
 75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
 St. Paul, MN 55155
 651-201-3400
 800-657-3598
 Fax: 651-797-1850
 Website: www.governor.state.mn.us
 E-mail: mark.dayton@state.mn.us

Lieutenant Governor

Yvonne Prettner Solon (DFL)

Room 130 State Capitol
 75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
 St. Paul, MN 55115
 651-201-3400
 Fax: 651-797-1850
 E-mail: ltgovprettnersolon@state.mn.us

Let the people's work begin

Activists, lobbyists, members' families mark day one of 2011 session

BY KRIS BERGGREN AND SUE HEGARTY

The first day of the session is a rite of passage. Hundreds of newcomers braved frigid temperatures to witness a family member or favorite lawmaker sworn into office while lobbyists and activists showed up at the people's house Jan. 4 to stand up for their priorities. As the 2011 session begins, here are some concerns heard in the hallways of the State Capitol and a sprinkling of advice for members.

Advice to the body: balance the budget

Christine Flug of Eagan watched from the House Gallery as her sister, Rep. Diane Anderson (R-Eagan), took the oath of office. Flug considers herself a nonpartisan voter, even with a sister in office. "Oh yes, she and

I have prolonged discussions."

Flug advises legislators to first figure out how to balance the budget.

"I cannot not balance my budget. I truly would appreciate if they would balance theirs," she said. "Just because it's a good

thing doesn't mean you can afford it."

The projected \$6.2 billion state budget deficit was also on Chuck Carlson's mind. He drove from St. Peter with his daughters, Alyce, 15, and Cori, 11, whose letter to the editor decrying negative campaign tactics was published by the St. Peter Herald.

"Learn how to compromise and start thinking about how to get some revenue," advised Carlson, a security counselor at the Minnesota Security Hospital. The long-time state employee admits there is room for greater government efficiency, but said that's not enough to fix the budget crisis. He supports higher tax rates for upper bracket incomes.

Growing jobs in the nearby Frogtown neighborhood was on the agenda of activist Johnny Howard. His advice to legislators on how to achieve that goal?

"I'm as clueless as they are," Howard said. "We will probably have to raise some taxes to help pay for some of this."

No matter how the deficit is rectified, Flug and others want finality. "No more excuses," she said. "Honestly, fix it or get out."

Republican leaders are riding a wave of hope that they'll be able to fix the budget deficit, trim government costs and make government more efficient, while promoting job growth in the private sector. While those themes resonate with many, Chuck Carlson, for one, issues a caveat:

"People that don't like government don't understand government," he said. "What they look at, walk on, drive on is funded by government. Government equates to quality of life. What a citizenry is willing to pay for dictates what their quality of life is."

Predictions and priorities

Few onlookers would predict the session's outcome, and those who did were realistic about the slim prospect of new funding for their priorities.

Fifteen members from The League of



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

The family of Rep. David Hancock, from left, wife Pat; grandson Jackson; granddaughter Ella, daughter-in-law Cassandra; and granddaughter Alex, prepare to enter the House Chamber Jan. 4 for the swearing-in of members.



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

The hallways outside the House and Senate chambers were filled with lobbyists and well-wishers when the 87th legislative session began Jan. 4.

Women Voters Minnesota were present to connect with their district lawmakers.

Sherri Knuth, the group's public policy coordinator, said voters' rights are forefront in their minds. "We don't want to separate citizens from the ballot box."

Like many, she hopes this session will begin a new era of bipartisanship. "That is not a prediction, though," she added.

"I don't think we can predict anything," echoed Patty Lammers of St. Paul, a lending programs manager with the Greater Frogtown Community Development Corporation.

"We recognize we aren't going to get additional funding for most of our priorities," such as affordable housing, said Lammers, who had campaigned for newly elected Rep. Rena Moran (DFL-St. Paul).

Virginia Weldon, an unemployed St. Paul resident, demonstrated on the Capitol steps urging lawmakers to end the 60-month lifetime limit on Minnesota Family Investment Program eligibility, "cause there's no jobs out there." She also hopes last year's changes to General Assistance Medical Care that eliminated dental and eye care coverage will be reversed.

Weldon and about 20 other people organized by the Welfare Rights Committee and the Minnesota Coalition for a People's

Bailout stood on the Capitol steps on the first day of session for the 18th consecutive year, many carrying placards bearing statements such as "Tax the Rich."

"We don't care if it's a blizzard; we will be out here," she said.

From a bench outside the House Chamber, Kirk Schneidawind, associate governmental relations director for the Minnesota School Boards Association, expressed hope for school district mandate relief, such as lifting the Jan. 15 deadline for resolving teacher union contracts and ending maintenance of effort requirements for school staffing levels.

"I'm hopeful they will allow us greater flexibility at the local level to do more things," Schneidawind said. "Let the marketplace work."

Because K-12 education comprises about 38 percent of the state budget, it might seem a prime target for spending cuts Republican lawmakers are likely to propose as a way to balance the state budget.

Districts have already cut costs and are preparing to slice more and do more borrowing, Schneidawind said. He hopes that budget-cutting measures will not include making last year's nearly \$1.9 billion aid payment and property tax recognition shifts permanent. "It's important (legislators)

understand their duty to provide a thorough and efficient public school system. All they need to do is talk to their local school boards to understand the impact that would have."

Or go home in the case of House Speaker Kurt Zellers (R-Maple Grove).

His wife, Kim, is an elementary school teacher. "I want what's good for kids in education and hopefully we can get a balanced budget," she said, tending to the couple's young children in the Retiring Room.

The Minnesota Chamber of Commerce hopes to build upon last year's advances toward a more business-friendly regulatory environment, according to Tony Kwilas, the chamber's environmental policy director. Shorter timelines for approving or denying agricultural permits were passed in 2010, and Kwilas is optimistic that similar legislation will occur for environmental permitting.

Robert Halfhill found a prominent position in front of the House Chamber, where he held a sign advocating gay marriage legislation, but he's realistic that it won't happen this session.

"The DFL wouldn't give us a real hearing. ... Republicans may introduce a bill declaring that marriage is between a man and a woman. So we need a third party," Halfhill said. 🗽

Outside the Chamber doors

Community activists, professional lobbyists and lawmakers' proud family members and supporters assembled near the House Chamber as the 2011-2012 Legislature convened. Some found solitary benches; others clustered around televisions or herded small children; some chanted slogans and carried signs on the Capitol steps. Of various political stripes, they share at least one thing: they came because they care about Minnesota.

**PHOTOS BY
TOM OLMSCHIED**



James Nord, an intern for MinnPost, sits on a bench in the Rotunda Jan. 4 while working on a story about people who accompany their newly elected members to the Capitol for the convening of the Legislature.

Charles Anderson, a frequent viewer of House floor sessions, peers into the House Chamber Jan. 4 as the chief clerk's staff prepares for the session's opening day.





Madeline Swedzinski holds her 7-month-old granddaughter, Hildy, as Rep. Chris Swedzinski is sworn in for his first term in the House of Representatives Jan. 4.



Sitting on a bench in the Capitol Rotunda, Teresa Lynch, legislative affairs director at Dorsey & Whitney, catches up on the news while lobbyists, staff and newly elected legislators begin to arrive for the first day of the 87th Legislative Session.

Gambling, cuts and taxes

Poll takers seek combination of solutions to solve budget woes

Of the 9,926 people participating in the 2010 House of Representatives' State Fair Poll, 50.1 percent believe some combination of spending reductions and revenue increases is the best way to resolve the projected \$6.2 billion budget shortfall; 32.2 percent prefer only spending reductions and 14.4 percent believe increased revenue alone is the answer.

If expanded gambling opportunities become part of the solution, it would have a slim margin of public support.

During the 12-day run of the Minnesota State Fair, those who stopped by the House booth had the chance to weigh in on 13 issues. This annual poll, developed by the nonpartisan House Public Information Services office, provides the public a chance to consider issues raised in prior legislative sessions and those that may come up during this year's session.

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. When someone wants to purchase a firearm at a gun show, should a background check on the buyer be required prior to the sale?

Yes85.2%..... (8,421)
No 11.1%..... (1,101)
Undecided/No Opinion..... 3.7%..... (362)

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

Yes 69.1%..... (6,831)
No 24.7%..... (2,440)
Undecided/No Opinion..... 6.2%..... (614)

3. Should the state's 16-year-old moratorium on nuclear power plant construction be lifted?

Yes 60.5%..... (5,769)
No 39.5%..... (3,759)

4. If a juvenile commits a low-level nonviolent crime, such as drug possession, should they be able to get their record cleared if they complete a diversion program and remain law-abiding for a year?

Yes 71.1%..... (7,002)
No 18.5%..... (1,825)
Undecided/No Opinion..... 10.4%..... (1,028)



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

Nearly 10,000 people participated in the 2010 House of Representatives' State Fair Poll.

5. The Minnesota Vikings' lease at the Metrodome expires after the 2011 season. Should public dollars be used to help pay for a new facility?

Yes24.5%..... (2,418)
No 66.4%..... (6,561)
Undecided/No Opinion..... 9.1%..... (900)

6. Should school boards be given the authority to extend operating levies without voter approval?

Yes18.7%..... (1,838)
No 72.4%..... (7,126)
Undecided/No Opinion..... 8.9%..... (880)

7. Should smoking be prohibited in a motor vehicle when a minor is present?

Yes51.2%..... (5,047)
No 37.8%..... (3,733)
Undecided/No Opinion..... 11.0%..... (1,087)

8. The state is expected to face a multi-billion dollar deficit in the upcoming biennium. In general, what is your preferred way to balance the budget?

Increase revenue.....14.4%..... (1,425)
Decrease spending 32.2%..... (3,177)
A combination of the two..... 50.1%..... (4,949)
Undecided/No Opinion..... 3.2%..... (319)

9. Should the state allow for an expansion of gambling to provide additional revenue for the state?

Yes 52.2%..... (5,155)
No 38.7%..... (3,821)
Undecided/No Opinion..... 9.0%..... (890)

10. Do you believe liquor stores and automobile dealers should be permitted to open on Sundays?

Yes 68.2%..... (6,742)
No 25.1%..... (2,480)
Undecided/No Opinion..... 6.8%..... (668)

11. Should an alternative teacher licensure pathway be created so that candidates could receive a limited teaching license if they have at least a bachelor's degree, pass basic skills tests and complete at least 200 hours of instruction, including student teaching?

Yes 62.2%..... (6,131)
No 26.5%..... (2,606)
Undecided/No Opinion..... 11.3%..... (1,115)

12. Do you support tax breaks or other funding assistance to encourage small-business growth?

Yes 80.3%..... (7,921)
No 10.7%..... (1,052)
Undecided/No Opinion..... 9.1%..... (893)

13. Should the Legislature take steps to limit tuition and fee increases at public colleges and universities?

Yes73.4%..... (7,239)
No 17.8%..... (1,758)
Undecided/No Opinion..... 8.8%..... (870)

2011-2012 Minnesota House of Representatives Members

District	Member/Party	Room*	Phone 651-296-	District	Member/Party	Room*	Phone 651-296-
48B	Abeler, Jim (R)	479	1729	57A	Kriesel, John (R)	451	4342
19A	Anderson, Bruce (R)	365	5063	50A	Laine, Carolyn (DFL)	287	4331
38A	Anderson, Diane (R)	525	3533	9A	Lanning, Morrie (R)	379	5515
13A	Anderson, Paul (R)	445	4317	34A	Leidiger, Ernie (R)	415	4282
43A	Anderson, Sarah (R)	549	5511	12B	LeMieur, Mike (R)	567	4247
3A	Anzelc, Tom (DFL)	307	4936	40B	Lenczewski, Ann (DFL)	317	4218
39B	Atkins, Joe (DFL)	209	4192	66A	Lesch, John (DFL)	315	4224
15B	Banaian, King (R)	411	6612	30A	Liebling, Tina (DFL)	357	0573
17B	Barrett, Bob (R)	413	5377	55A	Lillie, Leon (DFL)	281	1188
35A	Beard, Michael (R)	417	8872	59A	Loeffler, Diane (DFL)	335	4219
43B	Benson, John (DFL)	289	9934	56A	Lohmer, Kathy (R)	521	4244
30B	Benson, Mike (R)	515	4378	42B	Loon, Jenifer (R)	403	7449
37B	Bills, Kurt (R)	533	4306	37A	Mack, Tara (R)	557	5506
23B	Brynaert, Kathy (DFL)	327	3248	67A	Mahoney, Tim (DFL)	237	4277
35B	Buesgens, Mark (R)	381	5185	65B	Mariani, Carlos (DFL)	203	9714
45B	Carlson Sr., Lyndon (DFL)	283	4255	9B	Marquart, Paul (DFL)	313	6829
58B	Champion, Bobby Joe (DFL)	329	8659	41B	Mazorol, Pat (R)	581	7803
61A	Clark, Karen (DFL)	277	0294	19B	McDonald, Joe (R)	523	4336
24B	Cornish, Tony (R)	437	4240	3B	McElfrick, Carolyn (R)	545	2365
8B	Crawford, Roger (R)	421	0518	53B	McFarlane, Carol (R)	597	5363
17A	Daudt, Kurt (R)	487	5364	57B	McNamara, Denny (R)	375	3135
31B	Davids, Greg (R)	585	9278	65A	Moran, Rena (DFL)	227	5158
62A	Davnie, Jim (DFL)	215	0173	23A	Morrow, Terry (DFL)	211	8634
52B	Dean, Matt (R)	459	3018	58A	Mullery, Joe (DFL)	387	4262
52A	Dettmer, Bob (R)	473	4124	10B	Murdock, Mark (R)	593	4293
6A	Dill, David (DFL)	273	2190	64A	Murphy, Erin (DFL)	345	8799
47A	Dittrich, Denise (DFL)	311	5513	6B	Murphy, Mary (DFL)	343	2676
33B	Doepke, Connie (R)	579	4315	27A	Murray, Rich (R)	439	8216
41A	Downey, Keith (R)	407	4363	40A	Myhra, Pam (R)	517	4212
28B	Drazkowski, Steve (R)	401	2273	46A	Nelson, Michael V. (DFL)	229	3751
2A	Eken, Kent (DFL)	243	9918	10A	Nornes, Bud (R)	471	4946
16A	Erickson, Sondra (R)	509	6746	29B	Norton, Kim (DFL)	233	9249
1A	Fabian, Dan (R)	431	9635	14A	O'Driscoll, Tim (R)	369	7808
20A	Falk, Andrew (DFL)	239	4228	64B	Paymar, Michael (DFL)	301	4199
11B	Franson, Mary (R)	429	3201	31A	Pelowski Jr., Gene (DFL)	295	8637
26B	Fritz, Patti (DFL)	253	8237	32A	Peppin, Joyce (R)	503	7806
36B	Garofalo, Pat (R)	537	1069	4A	Persell, John (DFL)	223	5516
7B	Gauthier, Kerry (DFL)	225	4246	49B	Petersen, Branden (R)	577	5369
15A	Gottwalt, Steve (R)	485	6316	45A	Peterson, Sandra (DFL)	337	4176
60A	Greene, Marion (DFL)	331	0171	27B	Poppe, Jeanne (DFL)	291	4193
54A	Greiling, Mindy (DFL)	393	5387	29A	Quam, Duane (R)	569	9236
25A	Gruenhagen, Glenn (R)	575	4229	5A	Rukavina, Tom (DFL)	303	0170
24A	Gunther, Bob (R)	591	3240	53A	Runbeck, Linda (R)	583	2907
48A	Hackbarth, Tom (R)	409	2439	51A	Sanders, Tim (R)	449	4226
22B	Hamilton, Rod (R)	559	5373	54B	Scalze, Bev (DFL)	259	7153
2B	Hancock, David (R)	529	4265	22A	Schomacker, Joe (R)	433	5505
39A	Hansen, Rick (DFL)	247	6828	49A	Scott, Peggy (R)	477	4231
66B	Hausman, Alice (DFL)	255	3824	5B	Sertich, Anthony "Tony" (DFL)	309	0172
61B	Hayden, Jeff (DFL)	389	7152	18A	Shimanski, Ron (R)	367	1534
46B	Hilstrom, Debra (DFL)	261	3709	44A	Simon, Steve (DFL)	279	9889
8A	Hilty, Bill (DFL)	207	4308	55B	Slawik, Nora (DFL)	245	7807
36A	Holberg, Mary Liz (R)	453	6926	63B	Slocum, Linda (DFL)	359	7158
34B	Hoppe, Joe (R)	563	5066	33A	Smith, Steve (R)	543	9188
60B	Hornstein, Frank (DFL)	213	9281	42A	Stensrud, Kirk (R)	553	3964
47B	Hortman, Melissa (DFL)	377	4280	21A	Swedzinski, Chris (R)	527	5374
14B	Hosch, Larry (DFL)	349	4373	63A	Thissen, Paul (DFL)	267	5375
4B	Howes, Larry (R)	491	2451	51B	Tillberry, Tom (DFL)	231	5510
7A	Huntley, Thomas (DFL)	351	2228	21B	Torkelson, Paul (R)	371	9303
67B	Johnson, Sheldon (DFL)	217	4201	18B	Urdahl, Dean (R)	571	4344
59B	Kahn, Phyllis (DFL)	353	4257	13B	Vogel, Bruce (R)	507	6206
26A	Kath, Kory (DFL)	201	5368	62B	Wagenius, Jean (DFL)	251	4200
28A	Kelly, Tim (R)	565	8635	12A	Ward, John (DFL)	221	4333
56B	Kieffer, Andrea (R)	531	1147	38B	Wardlow, Doug (R)	551	4128
1B	Kiel, Debra (R)	423	5091	11A	Westrom, Torrey (R)	443	4929
16B	Kiffmeyer, Mary (R)	501	4237	44B	Winkler, Ryan (DFL)	321	7026
50B	Knuth, Kate (DFL)	323	0141	25B	Woodard, Kelby (R)	539	7065
20B	Koenen, Lyle (DFL)	241	4346	32B	Zellers, Kurt (R)	463	5502

2011-2012 Minnesota Senate Members

District/Member/Party			Phone	District/Member/Party			Phone
			651-29-				651-29-
District/Member/Party	Room*			District/Member/Party	Room*		
66 Anderson, Ellen R. (DFL).....	141 SOB.....	6-5537		8 Lourey, Tony (DFL).....	125 SOB.....	6-0293	
6 Bakk, Thomas M. (DFL).....	147 SOB.....	6-8881		22 Magnus, Doug (R).....	205 Cap.....	6-5650	
49 Benson, Michelle R. (R).....	G-24 Cap.....	6-3219		54 Marty, John (DFL).....	119 SOB.....	6-5645	
61 Berglin, Linda (DFL).....	113 SOB.....	6-4261		39 Metzen, James P. (DFL).....	25 SOB.....	6-4370	
43 Bonoff, Terri E. (DFL).....	133 SOB.....	6-4314		41 Michel, Geoff (R).....	208 Cap.....	6-6238	
16 Brown, David M. (R).....	205 Cap.....	6-8075		31 Miller, Jeremy R. (R).....	320 Cap.....	6-5649	
4 Carlson, John J. (R).....	320 Cap.....	6-4913		30 Nelson, Carla J. (R).....	111 Cap.....	6-4848	
53 Chamberlain, Roger C. (R).....	306 Cap.....	6-1253		18 Newman, Scott J. (R).....	301 Cap.....	6-4131	
64 Cohen, Richard J. (DFL).....	109 SOB.....	6-5931		17 Nienow, Sean R. (R).....	120 Cap.....	6-5419	
21 Dahms, Gary H. (R).....	111 Cap.....	6-8138		33 Olson, Gen (R).....	235 Cap.....	6-1282	
38 Daley, Theodore J. "Ted" (R).....	G-24 Cap.....	7-8073		34 Ortman, Julianne E. (R).....	120 Cap.....	6-4837	
25 DeKruif, Al (R).....	G-24 Cap.....	6-1279		65 Pappas, Sandra L. (DFL).....	143 SOB.....	6-1802	
60 Dibble, D. Scott (DFL).....	115 SOB.....	6-4191		26 Parry, Mike (R).....	309 Cap.....	6-9457	
14 Fischbach, Michelle L. (R).....	226 Cap.....	6-2084		15 Pederson, John C. (R).....	G-24 Cap.....	6-6455	
12 Gazelka, Paul E. (R).....	325 Cap.....	6-4875		59 Pogemiller, Lawrence J. (DFL).....	15 SOB.....	6-7809	
37 Gerlach, Chris (R).....	120 Cap.....	6-4120		7 Reinert, Roger J. (DFL).....	149 SOB.....	6-4188	
13 Gimse, Joe (R).....	303 Cap.....	6-3826		45 Rest, Ann H. (DFL).....	105 SOB.....	6-2889	
50 Goodwin, Barb J. (DFL).....	123 SOB.....	6-4334		35 Robling, Claire A. (R).....	226 Cap.....	6-4123	
40 Hall, Dan D. (R).....	325 Cap.....	6-5975		24 Rosen, Julie A. (R).....	322 Cap.....	6-5713	
42 Hann, David W. (R).....	328 Cap.....	6-1749		3 Saxhaug, Tom (DFL).....	135 SOB.....	6-4136	
67 Harrington, John M. (DFL).....	17 SOB.....	6-5285		46 Scheid, Linda (DFL).....	23 SOB.....	6-8869	
58 Higgins, Linda (DFL).....	27 SOB.....	6-9246		29 Senjem, David H. (R).....	121 Cap.....	6-3903	
10 Hoffman, Gretchen M. (R).....	124 Cap.....	6-5655		23 Sheran, Kathy (DFL).....	127 SOB.....	6-6153	
28 Howe, John Sterling (R).....	323 Cap.....	6-4264		57 Sieben, Katie (DFL).....	151 SOB.....	7-8060	
11 Ingebrigtsen, Bill G. (R).....	303 Cap.....	7-8063		2 Skoe, Rod (DFL).....	107 SOB.....	6-4196	
48 Jungbauer, Michael J. (R).....	235 Cap.....	6-3733		27 Sparks, Dan (DFL).....	19 SOB.....	6-9248	
63 Kelash, Kenneth S. (DFL).....	129 SOB.....	7-8061		1 Stumpf, LeRoy A. (DFL).....	145 SOB.....	6-8660	
19 Koch, Amy T. (R).....	208 Cap.....	6-5981		36 Thompson, Dave A. (R).....	323 Cap.....	6-5252	
47 Kruse, Benjamin A. (R).....	124 Cap.....	6-4154		5 Tomassoni, David J. (DFL).....	21 SOB.....	6-8017	
20 Kubly, Gary W. (DFL).....	103 SOB.....	6-5094		62 Torres Ray, Patricia (DFL).....	131 SOB.....	6-4274	
9 Langseth, Keith (DFL).....	139 SOB.....	6-3205		52 Vandever, Ray (R).....	328 Cap.....	6-4351	
44 Latz, Ron (DFL).....	121 SOB.....	7-8065		55 Wiger, Charles W. (DFL).....	117 SOB.....	6-6820	
56 Lillie, Ted H. (R).....	124 Cap.....	6-4166		51 Wolf, Pam (R).....	306 Cap.....	6-2556	
32 Limmer, Warren (R).....	122 Cap.....	6-2159					

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

Minnesota House and Senate Members

1 A Rep. Dan Fabian-(R) B Rep. Deb Kiel-(R) Sen. LeRoy A. Stumpf-(DFL)	15 A Rep. Steve Gottwalt-(R) B Rep. King Banaian-(R) Sen. John Pederson-(R)	29 A Rep. Duane Quam-(R) B Rep. Kim Norton-(DFL) Sen. David Senjem-(R)	43 A Rep. Sarah Anderson-(R) B Rep. John Benson-(DFL) Sen. Terri Bonoff-(DFL)	57 A Rep. John Kriesel-(R) B Rep. Denny McNamara-(R) Sen. Katie Sieben-(DFL)
2 A Rep. Kent Eken-(DFL) B Rep. David Hancock-(R) Sen. Rod Skoe-(DFL)	16 A Rep. Sondra Erickson-(R) B Rep. Mary Kiffmeyer-(R) Sen. David Brown-(R)	30 A Rep. Tina Liebling-(DFL) B Rep. Mike Benson-(R) Sen. Carla Nelson-(R)	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. Carolyn McElfratrick-(R) Sen. Tom Saxhaug-(DFL)	17 A Rep. Kurt Daudt-(R) B Rep. Bob Barrett-(R) Sen. Sean Nienow-(R)	31 A Rep. Gene Pelowski Jr.-(DFL) B Rep. Greg Davids-(R) Sen. Jeremy Miller-(R)	45 A Rep. Sandra Peterson-(DFL) B Rep. Lyndon Carlson-(DFL) Sen. Ann Rest-(DFL)	59 A Rep. Diane Loeffler-(DFL) B Rep. Phyllis Kahn-(DFL) Sen. Lawrence Pogemiller-(DFL)
4 A Rep. John Persell-(DFL) B Rep. Larry Howes-(R) Sen. John Carlson-(R)	18 A Rep. Ron Shimanski-(R) B Rep. Dean Urdahl-(R) Sen. Scott Newman-(R)	32 A Rep. Joyce Peppin-(R) B Rep. Kurt Zellers-(R) Sen. Warren Limmer-(R)	46 A Rep. Michael V. Nelson-(DFL) B Rep. Debra Hilstrom-(DFL) Sen. Linda Scheid-(DFL)	60 A Rep. Marion Greene-(DFL) B Rep. Frank Hornstein-(DFL) Sen. D. Scott Dibble-(DFL)
5 A Rep. Tom Rukavina-(DFL) B Rep. Anthony "Tony" Sertich-(DFL) Sen. David Tomassoni-(DFL)	19 A Rep. Bruce Anderson-(R) B Rep. Joe McDonald-(R) Sen. Amy Koch-(R)	33 A Rep. Steve Smith-(R) B Rep. Connie Doepeke-(R) Sen. Gen Olson-(R)	47 A Rep. Denise Dittrich-(DFL) B Rep. Melissa Hortman-(DFL) Sen. Benjamin Kruse-(R)	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 Bakk-(DFL)	20 A Rep. Andrew Falk-(DFL) B Rep. Lyle Koenen-(DFL) Sen. Gary Kubly-(DFL)	34 A Rep. Ernie Leidiger-(R) B Rep. Joe Hoppe-(R) Sen. Julianne 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. Kerry Gauthier-(DFL) Sen. Roger Reinert-(DFL)	21 A Rep. Chris Swedzinski-(R) B Rep. Paul Torkelson-(R) Sen. Gary Dahms-(R)	35 A Rep. Michael Beard-(R) B Rep. Mark Buesgens-(R) Sen. Claire Robling-(R)	49 A Rep. Peggy Scott-(R) B Rep. Branden Petersen-(R) Sen. Michelle Benson-(R)	63 A Rep. Paul Thissen-(DFL) B Rep. Linda Slocum-(DFL) Sen. Ken Kelash-(DFL)
8 A Rep. Bill Hilty-(DFL) B Rep. Roger Crawford-(R) Sen. Tony Lourey-(DFL)	22 A Rep. Joe Schomaker-(R) B Rep. Rod Hamilton-(R) Sen. Doug Magnus-(R)	36 A Rep. Mary Liz Holberg-(R) B Rep. Pat Garofalo-(R) Sen. Dave Thompson-(R)	50 A Rep. Carolyn Laine-(DFL) B Rep. Kate Knuth-(DFL) Sen. Barbara Goodwin-(DFL)	64 A Rep. Erin Murphy-(DFL) B Rep. Michael Paymar-(DFL) Sen. Richard 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. Kurt Bills-(R) Sen. Chris Gerlach-(R)	51 A Rep. Tim Sanders-(R) B Rep. Tom Tillberry-(DFL) Sen. Pam Wolf-(R)	65 A Rep. Rena Moran-(DFL) B Rep. Carlos Mariani-(DFL) Sen. Sandra Pappas-(DFL)
10 A Rep. Bud Nornes-(R) B Rep. Mark Murdoch-(R) Sen. Gretchen Hoffman-(R)	24 A Rep. Bob Gunther-(R) B Rep. Tony Cornish-(R) Sen. Julie Rosen-(R)	38 A Rep. Diane Anderson-(R) B Rep. Doug Wardlow-(R) Sen. Ted Daley-(R)	52 A Rep. Bob Dettmer-(R) B Rep. Matt Dean-(R) Sen. Ray Vandever-(R)	66 A Rep. John Lesch-(DFL) B Rep. Alice Hausman-(DFL) Sen. Ellen Anderson-(DFL)
11 A Rep. Torrey Westrom-(R) B Rep. Mary Franson-(R) Sen. Bill Ingebrigtsen-(R)	25 A Rep. Glenn Gruenhagen-(R) B Rep. Kelby Woodard-(R) Sen. Al DeKruif-(R)	39 A Rep. Rick Hansen-(DFL) B Rep. Joe Atkins-(DFL) Sen. James Metzen-(DFL)	53 A Rep. Linda Runbeck-(R) B Rep. Carol McFarlane-(R) Sen. Roger Chamberlain-(R)	67 A Rep. Tim Mahoney-(DFL) B Rep. Sheldon Johnson-(DFL) Sen. John Harrington-(DFL)
12 A Rep. John Ward-(DFL) B Rep. Mike LeMieur-(R) Sen. Paul Gazelka-(R)	26 A Rep. Kory Kath-(DFL) B Rep. Patti Fritz-(DFL) Sen. Mike Parry-(R)	40 A Rep. Pam Myhra-(R) B Rep. Ann Lenczewski-(DFL) Sen. Dan Hall-(R)	54 A Rep. Mindy Greiling-(DFL) B Rep. Bev Scalze-(DFL) Sen. John Marty-(DFL)	
13 A Rep. Paul Anderson-(R) B Rep. Bruce Vogel-(R) Sen. Joe Gimse-(R)	27 A Rep. Rich Murray-(R) B Rep. Jeanne Poppe-(DFL) Sen. Dan Sparks-(DFL)	41 A Rep. Keith Downey-(R) B Rep. Pat Mazorlo-(DFL) Sen. Geoff Michel-(R)	55 A Rep. Leon Lillie-(DFL) B Rep. Nora Slawik-(DFL) Sen. Charles Wiger-(DFL)	
14 A Rep. Tim O'Driscoll-(R) B Rep. Larry Hosch-(DFL) Sen. Michelle Fischbach-(R)	28 A Rep. Tim Kelly-(R) B Rep. Steve Drazkowski-(R) Sen. John Howe-(R)	42 A Rep. Kirk Stensrud-(R) B Rep. Jenifer Loon-(R) Sen. David Hann-(R)	56 A Rep. Kathy Lohmer-(R) B Rep. Andrea Kieffer-(R) Sen. Ted Lillie-(R)	

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List as of Dec. 28, 2010

Come to the Capitol

Directions, Parking, Visiting the Legislature, Tours, Dining

Directions

The State 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 behind 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. Boulevard. During the interim 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 651-201-2300.

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 3 p.m. Monday and 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 can access committee information through the Legislature's website at www.leg.mn. House meeting schedules are available by calling 651-296-9283.

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.

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 10 a.m. and 2 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.

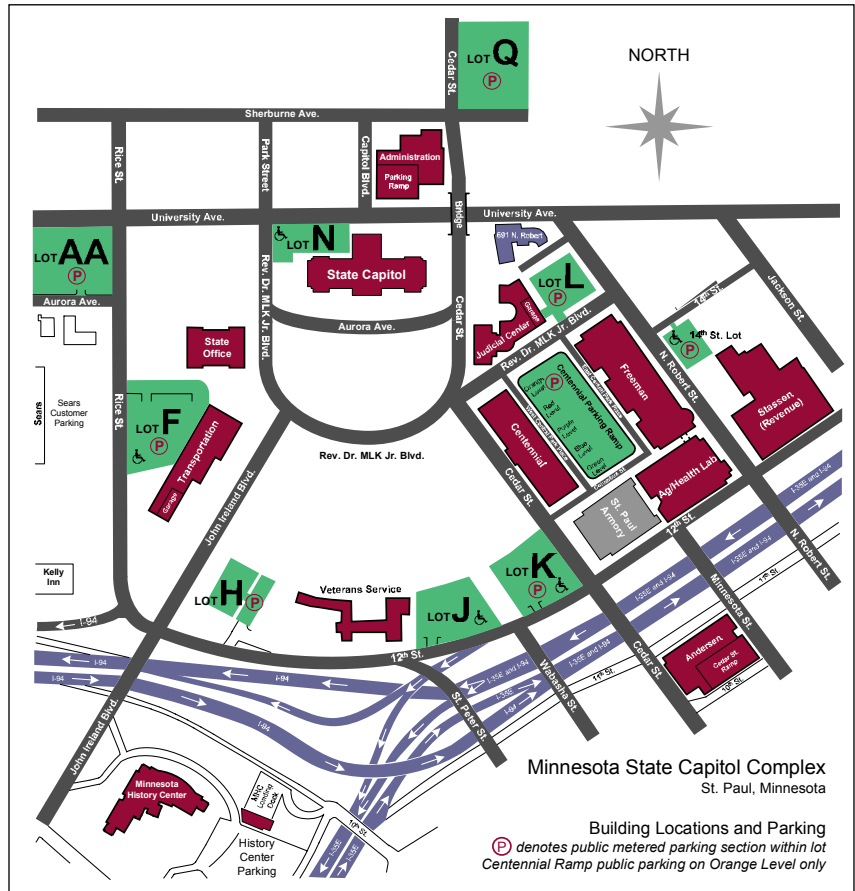
The society offers a number of specialized tours for educational groups ranging from pre-school students to high school seniors. Also, special tour events are scheduled throughout the year. A special events guide is available upon request.

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, as well as the Judicial Center.

The Rathskeller in the State Capitol is open only when the Legislature is in session.



Edited map courtesy Minnesota Department of Administration, Plant Management Division

Welcome to the 2011 session

Dear Reader,

Each week, Session Weekly staff will bring you a nonpartisan look at the issues before the House, and the people who shape the legislation.

Now in its 28th year, the newsmagazine remains our cornerstone publication. It is available online or by mail.

We are also providing more online opportunities to access nonpartisan news from the House.

Session Daily provides stories about action taken during committee meetings and floor sessions. The stories include links to bill and

member information, pertinent reports and video coverage, when available. This year we plan to add video clips to many of our Session Daily stories to enhance content. These clips, along with other nonpartisan House information, can be found on our new YouTube channel. This information can be gotten to by subscribing to our Facebook account or our Twitter feed.

We also provide unedited gavel-to-gavel television coverage and web streaming of House floor and select committee hearings. Although we are working with new technology to bring you nonpartisan House

news in new ways, our goal remains constant — getting it right and being thorough in our coverage. There's never been a place for hype in Session Weekly — just a clear, nonpartisan look at what's happening at the House.

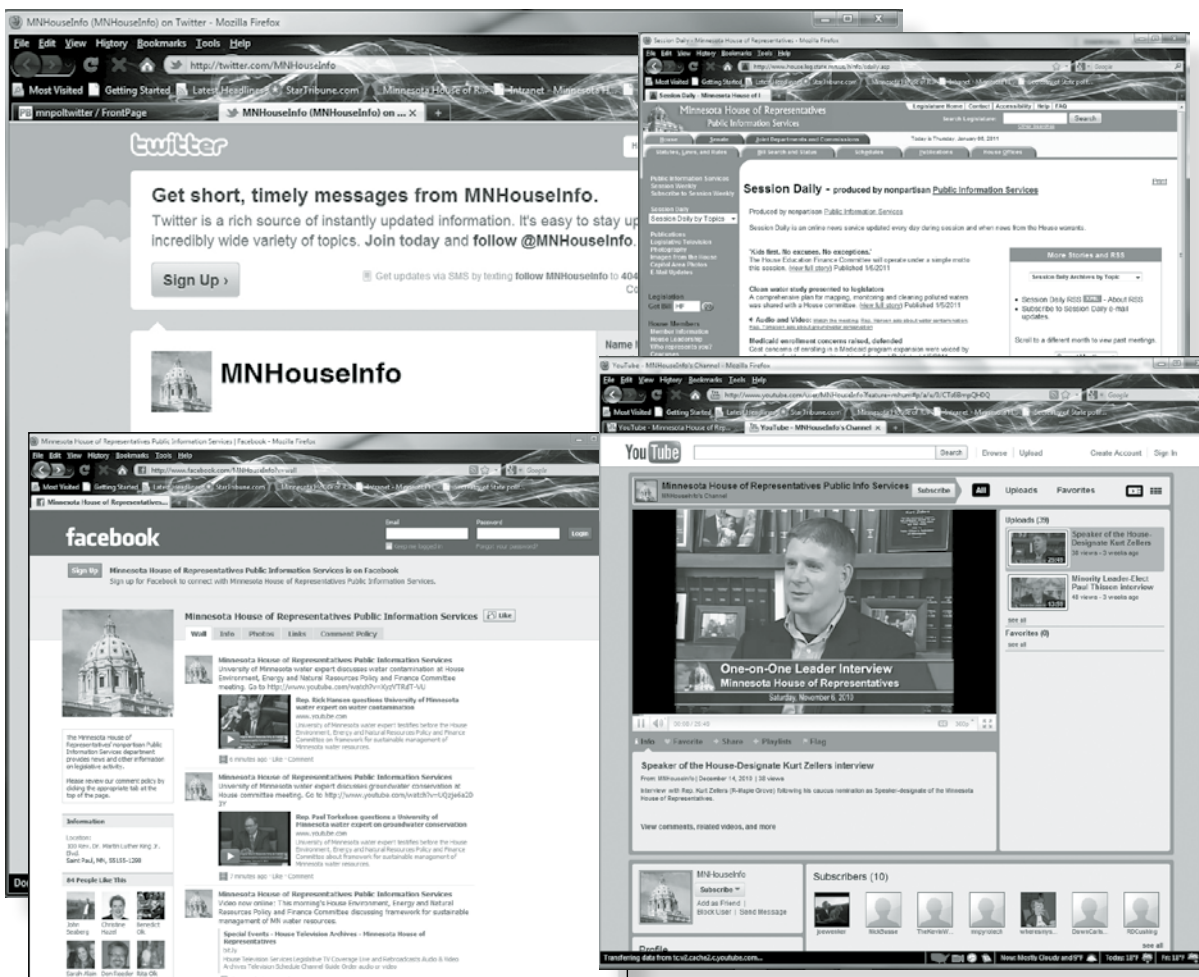
All of us at House Public Information Services are proud to continue the 28-year tradition of providing nonpartisan news from the House.

If you have comments or story ideas please call House Public Information Services at 651-296-2146, 800-657-3550 or Minnesota Relay Service at 711 or 800-627-3529 (TTY).

— SESSION WEEKLY STAFF

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— M. Cook

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