



# Mini-Session Report

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## Legislative attention focuses on suburbs



Minnesota House of Representatives

### Suburban Mini-Session

October 28-30, '91

The Twin Cities suburbs often claim they are overlooked by the Minnesota Legislature. But all the Legislature's attention will soon be focused on the suburbs.

The House of Representatives will hold 43 events in 34 suburban cities during the upcoming Suburban Mini-Session Oct. 28-30.

The Suburban Mini-Session marks the ninth region of the state to hold the periodic gatherings of the House since it began holding mini-sessions outside St. Paul in 1987.

The suburbs are rapidly becoming one of the dominant areas of the state. Thirteen of the state's 20 largest cities are suburbs, and 19 of the state's 25 fastest-growing cities in the 1980s are in the seven-county metropolitan area.

Because the meetings are scattered across such a wide area, there will be three community forums, one of which will be held each evening in Hopkins, Richfield, and Woodbury. Traditionally, there has been just one "town meeting" per session.

In addition, a total of seven "school assemblies" and "college forums" will be held over the three-day mini-session at suburban high schools and community colleges to hear specific student concerns and to get students more involved in government.

Another slight difference in this mini-session is that several committee hearings will be held in the evening to make it easier for more people to attend.

The Judiciary Committee, for example, is holding meetings at 7:30 p.m. each night to take testimony on a variety of subjects, ranging from the state's sentencing guidelines to juvenile justice issues.

Although various committees will meet, no formal action can be taken on any proposals. That's because the Legislature is technically in recess between the first and second years of its annual sessions.

But that doesn't mean the meetings are less substantive than the ones held at the

Capitol in St. Paul. Legislative committees typically spend a lot of time early in a legislative session analyzing issues without ever taking a vote.

The mini-sessions are designed to gather the perspectives of those who can't make it to St. Paul to testify.

## 'School assemblies' A forum for students

Information for students about the legislative process is available, but not all students and teachers are aware of it. The Suburban Mini-Session hopes to shed some more light on the process.

The mornings of each day of the Suburban Mini-Session will be devoted to assemblies and forums at both suburban high schools and community colleges.

Not only will the students be afforded a first-hand glance at the process, but they will also have access to a variety of information and programs offered by the House of Representatives.

The House Public Information and the Educational Programs offices will be at each of the seven assemblies/forums to distribute information and to answer questions.

Of particular interest to students and teachers will be the recently published *People and the Process: A Legislative Study Guide*, and information about the high school page and college intern programs.

And to prepare students for the assemblies, a seven-page "student primer" was prepared by the House Public Information Office. The primer lists laws approved by the 1991 Legislature that are of particular interest to students, as well as student-related issues that are expected to come up in the 1992 legislative session.

The primer is to be used by teachers to give students some background so they can prepare questions for legislators.

All of the assemblies, except for the one at North Hennepin Community College, will be limited to students to give them sole access to the legislative panels.

Others will have a chance to question legislators at three "community forums," one of which will be held each evening of the three-day mini-session.

Among laws passed by the 1991 Legislature of interest to students is one that will extend the length of the school year by two days beginning in school year 1985-86. Two more days will be added each succeeding year for the next nine years until the school year is 190 days long.

Another law requires that students be allowed to sit on school district boards, or that a youth advisory council be appointed to make recommendations to the board.

**INSIDE**  
Suburban  
Mini-Session  
Schedule

# Mini-Session Schedule

Suburban Mini-Session . . . October 28-30, 1991

**NOTE:** All meetings are open to the public. However, due to space limitations, the tours and student assemblies/forums are open only to House members, unless otherwise indicated. The schedule is subject to change. For information updates, call House Calls at (612) 296-9283.

## MONDAY, Oct. 28

9:45 a.m.

### Student Assembly

Blaine High School, 12555 University Ave. N.E., Blaine.

10 a.m.

### Senior Issues Forum

Chandler Place, 3701 Chandler Dr. St. Anthony

### Community College Forums

North Hennepin Community College, 7411 85th Ave. N., Brooklyn Park (public invited); and Lakewood Community College, 3401 Century Ave. N., White Bear Lake.

1:45 p.m.

### ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

Tours

Chr. Rep. Willard Munger

**Agenda:** Tour of Maple Grove Composting Facility, Brooklyn Park Transfer Station, and the Ramsey County Household Hazardous Waste Center, Mounds View.

2 p.m.

### Economic Development, Infrastructure, & Regulation Division/ APPROPRIATIONS

Brookdale-Hennepin Library, 6125 Shingle Creek Pkwy., Brooklyn Center

Chr. Rep. Jim Rice

**Agenda:** Historical grants.

### Education Division/ APPROPRIATIONS

Anoka Technical College, 1355 W. Main St., Anoka

Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson

**Agenda:** Science and technology in higher education.

### FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS & INSURANCE

Tour

Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund

**Agenda:** Tour of Deluxe Corporation

### Fiscal Disparities Task Force

Anoka Ramsey Community College, Room 102, 11200 Mississippi Blvd. N.W., Coon Rapids

Chr. Rep. Bill Schreiber

**Agenda:** Testimony from those who would like to speak on the fiscal disparities program.

### GENERAL LEGISLATION, VETERANS AFFAIRS & GAMING

Tour

Minnesota State Lottery Office, 2645 Long Lake Rd., Roseville

Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff

**Agenda:** Demonstration and discussion of home lottery network project (Nintendo). Tour lottery office.

### \*\*\*JOINT MEETING\*\*\*

### HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES and International Trade & Technology Division/ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Tours

Chrs. Reps. Alan Welle and Rick Krueger

**Agenda:** Tour of Pharmacia Deltec Inc., Arden Hills. Depart for Medtronics at 2:45 p.m. Presentation and discussion with members of Medical Alley.

### HOUSING

City Hall, 5200 85th Ave. N., Brooklyn Park

Chr. Rep. Karen Clark

**Agenda:** Slide tour of multi-family housing units. Public testimony.

7:30 p.m.

### Community Forum

Roseville Area Middle School, 15 E. County Rd. B2, Little Canada

### Subcommittee on Curriculum/ EDUCATION

Anoka School Staff Development Center, 2727 Ferry St., Anoka

Chr. Rep. Alice Johnson

**Agenda:** HF1629 (Lynch) Providing for the Parent Empowerment and Academic Excellence Act.

### Government Structures Division/ GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

Senior Center Room, Gladstone Community Education Center, 1945 Manton St., Maplewood

Chr. Rep. Rich O'Connor

**Agenda:** Public testimony: How to improve delivery of services to consumers while eliminating waste and lowering taxpayer costs.

### JUDICIARY

Brooklyn Center Community Center, 6301 Shingle Creek Pkwy. (I-694 and Shingle Creek Pkwy.), Brooklyn Center

Chr. Rep. Kathleen Vellenga

**Agenda:** Presentation from Sentencing Guidelines Commission. Local drug task force presentations.

## TUESDAY, Oct. 29

9 a.m.

**Student Assemblies:** Chaska High School, 1700 Chestnut St. N., Chaska; and Armstrong High School, 10635 36th Ave. N., Plymouth

9:30 a.m.

**Subcommittee on Rural Development,  
Marketing & International Trade/  
AGRICULTURE**

Tour

Chr. Rep. Ted Winter

**Agenda:** Tour of Bongard's Creamery

1:30 p.m.

**JUDICIARY**

Tour

Chr. Rep. Kathleen Vellenga

**Agenda:** Tour of Women's Correctional Facility, Shakopee

2 p.m.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

ADC Corp., 12501 Whitewater Dr., Minnetonka

Chr. Rep. Gloria Segal

**Agenda:** High technology hearing.

**EDUCATION**

Robbinsdale (site not yet determined)

Chr. Rep. Bob McEachern

**Agenda:** Teachers' meeting and school tour.

**ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL  
RESOURCES**

U of M Arboretum, 3675 Arboretum Dr., Chanhassen

Chr. Rep. Willard Munger

**Agenda:** What the metro area is doing about wetland protection and milfoil control.

**TRANSPORTATION**

City Hall, 100 Civic Center Pkwy., Burnsville

Chr. Rep. Harold Lasley

**Agenda:** Payment structure for collector streets. (Half of the committee will meet here.)

**TRANSPORTATION**

K.C. Hall, 1760 E. 4th Ave., Shakopee

Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis

**Agenda:** Collector streets and southwest suburban Hwy. needs. (The other half of the Transportation Committee will meet here.)

7:30 p.m.

**Community Forum**

Eisenhower Community Center, 1001 W. Hwy. 7, Hopkins

**JUDICIARY**

Richfield City Council Chambers, 6700 Portland Ave. S., Richfield

Chr. Rep. Kathleen Vellenga

**Agenda:** Legislative auditor's report on sentencing and corrections policies.

**WEDNESDAY, Oct. 30**

8:45 a.m.

**Student Assembly:** Simley High School, 2920 E. 80th St., Inver Grove Heights;

9 a.m.

**Student Assembly:** Eagan High School, 4185 Braddock Trail, Eagan

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT &  
METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS**

City Hall, 6700 Portland Ave. S., Richfield

Chr. Rep. Irv Anderson

**Agenda:** Airport issues.

1:30 p.m.

**ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL  
RESOURCES**

Metro Wastewater Treatment Facility, 2400 Chiles Rd., Room 103, St. Paul

Chr. Rep. Willard Munger

**Agenda:** Briefing on Phase 1 Phosphorous Study Report (Metropolitan Waste Control Commission). Tour of plant. "Revival Field" sculpture by Mel Chin. Public interested in going on the tour should contact the facility.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT &  
METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS**

Vermilion

Chr. Rep. Irv Anderson

**Agenda:** Tour of proposed airport site.

2 p.m.

**Education Finance Division/  
EDUCATION**

Park Senior High School, 8040 80th St. S., Cottage Grove

Chr. Rep. Ken Nelson

**Agenda:** Issues facing rapidly growing school districts.

**LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS**

Eagan Municipal Center Council Chambers, 3830 Pilot Knob Rd., Eagan

Chr. Rep. Joe Begich

**Agenda:** Testimony regarding job losses due to the federal reductions in defense spending.

**TRANSPORTATION**

Woodbury City Hall, 8301 Valley Creek Rd., Woodbury

Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis

**Agenda:** Payment structure for collector streets.

5 p.m.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT &  
METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS**

Senior High, Hastings

Chr. Rep. Irv Anderson

**Agenda:** Hearing on proposed airport.

7:30 p.m.

**Community Forum**

Woodbury High School, 2665 Woodlane Dr., Woodbury

**JUDICIARY**

Sibley High School, Delaware Ave. at Hwy. 110, W. St. Paul

Chr. Rep. Kathleen Vellenga

**Agenda:** Juvenile justice issues.

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# MINNESOTA I N D E X

## The Suburbs

Percent of Minnesota residents now living within 10-county metro area .....	55
Number of Minnesota counties losing population in the 1980s .....	49
Number of Minnesota counties with fewer people now than in 1940 .....	39
1990 Hennepin County population, largest in the state .....	1,032,431
1990 Cook County population, lowest in the state .....	3,868
1990 population of Dakota County, fastest growing county in the 1980s, .....	275,227
Dakota County population, 1980 .....	139,808
1990 population of Savage, the fastest growing city in the 1980s .....	9,906
Population of Savage, 1980 .....	3,954
Number of top 25 fastest growing cities not within 10-county metro area .....	1
Minorities as a percent of 7-county metro area suburbs, 1980 .....	2.7
Minorities as a percent of 7-county metro area suburbs, 1990 .....	4.6
Percent increase in Minnesota minority population during 1980s .....	71.7
National rank .....	4
Population of Duluth, third largest Minnesota city in 1980 .....	92,811
Population of Duluth, 1990 .....	85,493
Population of Bloomington, third largest Minnesota city in 1990 .....	86,335

Sources: Minnesota State Planning Agency, Population Notes, 1991; U.S. Census, 1990

For general information, call:  
**House Public Information Office**  
**(612) 296-2146 or**  
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