

First and last term

After two years in St. Paul, Mazorol plans to rejoin the private sector

By ERIN SCHMIDTKE

Rep. Pat Mazorol (R-Bloomington) is seeing his responsibilities pile up, and not just in the House. That's why he's stepping down after one term as a state representative.

After spending his working years in the private sector, Mazorol will be returning to business as senior vice president of university relations at Bethel University. Following a six-year stint as a trustee for the school, he started the job at the same time he began his first year as a legislator. Mazorol has juggled the duties of both ever since.

"Over the last couple of years since I've come here, those responsibilities have increased significantly and I just feel I need to give more attention to those," Mazorol said.

As a member of Wooddale Church in Eden Prairie for over 25 years, Mazorol is seeing yet another of his roles continue to grow. The senior pastor of the church recently retired, and as chairman of the board,

Mazorol must ensure that a replacement smoothly transitions into the job at the 11,000-member church.

"If I were to stay in the Legislature, I would want to make sure I was giving my full service here. I just don't feel that I can do all three," he said.

During his time in the House, Mazorol has kept busy with the subjects he knows best: business and law. As a financial executive for over 20 years and an attorney for 12, Mazorol sits as vice chairman for the House Judiciary Policy and Finance Committee, alongside the committee's chairman, Rep. Ron Shimanski (R-Silver Lake).

"I do appreciate the knowledge and maturity he has brought to the Legislature, being willing to participate and share his concerns with us in the House of Representatives. We will miss Pat," said Shimanski.

Mazorol has sponsored several bills

he hopes will bring economic growth to Minnesota. A bill he brought forth last session creates tax exemptions for data centers, which typically process information for larger companies. Mazorol says the bill becoming law earlier this session was one of his greatest accomplishments.

"That, I think, particularly made Minnesota far more attractive in terms of job growth. And there were some businesses that were waiting to come to Minnesota," Mazorol said.


Though Mazorol experienced success with that bill, he has also experienced disappointment as a lawmaker. He sponsored two bills this session that would have reformed interest payments and attorneys' fees in lawsuits. Both were vetoed by the governor.

Before he completes his term, Mazorol wants to see success of the omnibus tax bill, which the House passed earlier in March. He contributed a piece to that bill, which would allow growing biotechnology companies to sell net operating loss credits. Mazorol says that by selling those credits, those companies can continue to expand and create jobs in Minnesota. The companion bill awaits action by the Senate.

This biennium is Mazorol's first and last in the Legislature, but he is not new to the difficulties of politics. He ran in his first election in 1982, opposing Mike Freeman, who is now the Hennepin County attorney. The two differed on viewpoints but became friends during the election.

"It might be a little unusual, but I think it was a matter of mutual respect," Mazorol said.

Forming relationships with other lawmakers is the most important lesson Mazorol has learned as a representative. That's a piece of advice he wants to pass along to his successor.

"This isn't done lightly by anyone here. I have great respect for anyone who has gone through the process and spent some time here," he said. 

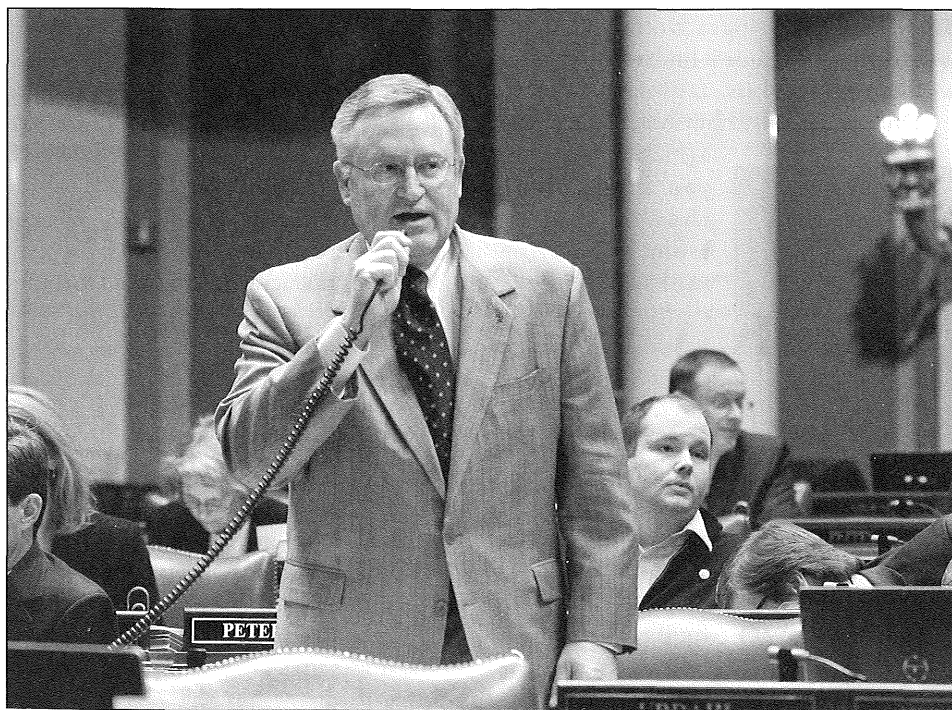


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During his term in the House, Rep. Pat Mazorol sponsored several bills targeted toward economic growth.