

From volunteer advocate to member

Anderson now has an office in building she used to roam as activist

By MIKE COOK

As a family law volunteer advocate, Rep. Diane Anderson (R-Eagan) spent more than two decades in the hallways of the State Capitol and offices of elected officials.



Rep. Diane Anderson

Now, paid and unpaid lobbyists come to see Anderson.

"This is like a dream job," she said. "It's like I can't believe I'm really here. When you're trying to get legislation

through, and now you can actually help. You get to have more contacts, more influence as a legislator. I can meet with judges more. I can meet with people more."

Anderson, who served two years on a Supreme Court child support and visitation task force, also served on a Department of Human Services' child support guidelines

task force. "I know what it's like to testify and line up testimony and try to work with the House and Senate to get a bill passed.

"Those experiences were really good for me because I'm not just a freshman. I know how the process works down here and it's really important to have those relationships with both sides. I feel I'll be a really good asset to my citizens because they want people who can work with the other side so we're not fighting down here."

Anderson beat former Rep. Sandra Masin by 5.4 percent to take over the seat that represents about one-third of Eagan and about one-fifth of Burnsville. Masin beat Anderson by 5.1 percent in 2008.

A mediator by trade, Anderson ran on the platform of "Common Sense Leadership for Common Sense Reform!"

"We want to reform the way government is providing services as much as we can. I

DISTRICT 38A

Population (2009 est.): 37,688

Largest City: Eagan

County: Dakota

Top Concern: Helping businesses thrive in Minnesota

think we need to look more at the outcomes of programs. Are they working?" Anderson said. "We need to try and get government out of things and move things more to the private sector."

She serves on the House Commerce and Regulatory Reform, House Health and Human Services Finance and House Judiciary Policy and Finance committees.

"Our goal is to provide great, quality service but at a lower price," she said.