

SESSION WEEKLY



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**NEW LEADER, NEW MAJORITY
MEET THE NEW HOUSE MEMBERS
BALLOTS CAST FOR SMOKING BAN**

SESSION WEEKLY

Session Weekly is a nonpartisan publication of Minnesota House of Representatives Public Information Services. During the 2007-2008 Legislative Session, each issue reports House action between Thursdays of each week, lists bill introductions and provides other information. No fee.

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Minnesota House of Representatives
Public Information Services
175 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155-1298
(651) 296-2146 or (800) 657-3550 or the
Minnesota Relay service at 711 or
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Director

Barry LaGrave

Editor/Assistant Director

Lee Ann Schutz

Assistant Editor

Mike Cook

Art & Production Coordinator

Paul Battaglia

Writers

Nick Busse, Craig Green,
Stephen Harding, Sonja Hegman,
Patty Ostberg, Mia Simpson

Chief Photographer

Tom Olmscheid

Photographers

Andrew VonBank, Sarah Stacke

Staff Assistants

Christy Novak, Joan Bosard

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WELCOME TO THE 85TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION.

There is change in the House of Representatives.

Democrats control the House for the first time in eight years, and for only the second time in the House's history, a woman has been elected speaker.

Now, as the first year of the biennium unfolds, it will be interesting to watch how not only the party shift but also the change in member demographics affect policies, negotiations and demeanor in the House.

Women will play a greater role this session. They now hold 43 seats in the House, the most ever. But also of interest, the average age in the House of Representatives is now 50.2, up from 48.6 in 2005, with 29 members between the ages of 61 and 70. Age ranges haven't been tracked all that long at the House, but this is the greatest number of members in that age group since at least 1991.

The first year of the biennium is traditionally reserved for consideration of the state budget, and the Legislature comes into session looking at a projected \$2 billion surplus. Will that mean new programs, tax cuts, or reinstatement of programs that were cut to balance the budget during last biennium's deficit?

Stay tuned.

The writers, editors and photographers of the award-winning Session Weekly, now in its 24th year, will continue the tradition of bringing to readers nonpartisan coverage of committee and floor action of the Minnesota House of Representatives. We hope you find Session Weekly to be a useful resource, and we welcome your comments and suggestions.

— Session Weekly staff

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On the cover: Margaret Anderson Kelliher is sworn in Jan. 3 as House speaker by Supreme Court Justice Alan Page during the Opening Day of the 85th legislative session.

—Photo by: Tom Olmscheid

Turnover

A new biennium, a new party in power and a new agenda

By **LEE ANN SCHUTZ**

It seems that since 1955, party control switches in the House of Representatives about every eight years, on average.

And when the voters speak, a chain reaction of change plays out during the next two years.

It begins with members' offices: the party gaining control moves up a couple of floors in the State Office Building and the other moves down; some staff connected with the losing party is let go and the winning side gets more hires.

And the political process?

Leadership changes, the number of committees and their names change, and a flood gate opens for pent-up bills from the party that had been in the minority.

The 2006 election brought just such a change to the House, where the DFL now holds an 85-49 advantage, after gaining 19 seats.

History shows that when turnover happens, it is not uncommon for people new to the political process to be swept into office. This

election brings 35 new faces to the House: 29 Democrats and six Republicans.

Change happens

Arguably the most significant turnover election in the House history — the 1978 election known as the “Minnesota Massacre” — brought two new members to the House, Rep. Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon) and Rep. Dean Johnson (R-Willmar). Both would eventually play key roles in the Legislature.

In the 2006 turnover year, each saw their political futures altered. Sviggum is now in the minority party, and Johnson, who later switched parties and legislative bodies, was not re-elected to the Senate.

Change happens for a variety of reasons.

In 1978, it was the result of voters' displeasure with the DFL's “failure to control rising taxes and to limit state spending,” and a set of political maneuvers used to fill vacancies to make three of Minnesota's top elected officials appointed rather than elected, writes

former Rep. Rod Searle (R-Waseca) in his book “Minnesota Standoff — the Politics of Deadlock.” Searle served the House 1959–80, and was speaker in 1979.

When the dust settled from that election, the DFL had lost the governor and state auditor offices and two U.S. Senate seats. While the Senate did not stand for election in 1978, the House DFL saw its 20-seat majority erased to create a party tie for the first, and only time, in its history.

In 2006, according to Sviggum, national issues hurt his party and played a considerable role in the DFL gaining the House, the secretary of state and state auditor offices. On a federal level, Amy Klobuchar defeated Mark Kennedy to keep the Senate seat that was up for grabs in DFL hands, and Tim Walz beat six-term Republican congressman Gil Gutknecht.

“It was about the war, the Washington scandals and the ethics issues that were raised. People were going to send George W. Bush a message about the war. ... It made it very difficult for anyone with an ‘R’ behind their name,” Sviggum said.

Swept in, swept out

With his party now in the minority, Sviggum, who served as speaker for the past eight years, now finds himself seated on the House floor.

“I guess you could say I am the last one standing from the election of 1978,” Sviggum said.

He sees little to compare that turnover year with this past election other than maybe the surprise of it all. Back then, because Sviggum was a newcomer to politics and running against an incumbent, he was surprised to be elected. This time he was surprised, given the health of the state's economy, the deficit-to-surplus turnaround and the state's low unemployment rate, that the Republicans received such a thumping.

“I knew we were running into a headwind ... I knew it would be difficult,” he said reflecting on the turn of events, but the “tsunami,” as he called it, was a surprise.

Modeling former speakers

Shepherding the House in a turnover year can be a challenge for a speaker.

First Reading continued on page 4



PHOTO BY ANDREW VONBANK

Under the supervision of his daughter, Rep. Jim Davnie unloads boxes Jan. 2 after a move to another office. With the change in party control, most DFL members now reside on the fourth and fifth floors of the State Office Building. House Republicans are now on the second and third floors. A list of representatives and their offices is available at www.house.mn/hinfo/leginfo/memroster.pdf.

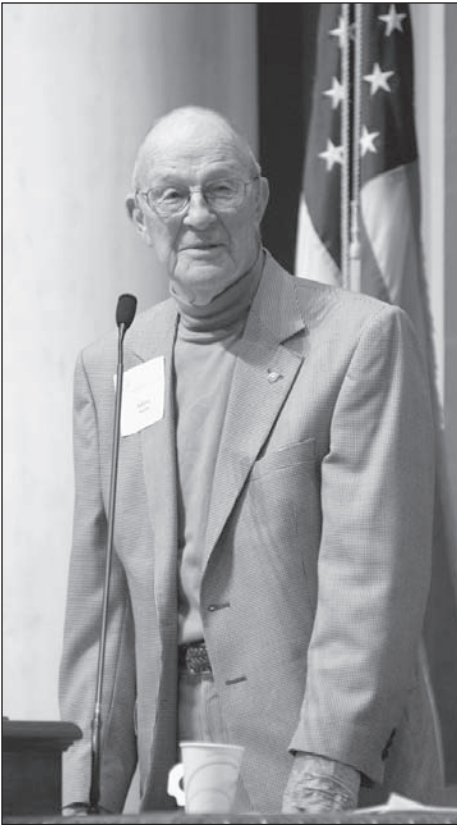


PHOTO BY ANDREW VONBANK

Rod Searle served as House speaker after arguably the most significant turnover election in the House history — the 1978 election known as the “Minnesota Massacre” — when the House was tied for the first and only time in its history. Searle sat in the speaker’s chair during a mock session with ex-legislators Dec. 15.

As speaker, Searle knew that if anything was to get done in 1979, it would take a tremendous amount of finesse on his part, he said in a recent interview. He took his cue from his predecessor Martin Sabo (DFL-Mpls) who held the speaker’s gavel from 1973–78. “Martin was always respectful of the minority, and when I needed something accomplished, he saw to it that it was,” said Searle, who served as assistant minority leader in 1977–78.

Searle said that when he met with Speaker Margaret Anderson Kelliher (DFL-Mpls) he told her, “If you can be as fair as Sabo, you won’t have any problems.”

Pent up ideas

Now that a new party is in control of the House, will much really change?

Bill Salisbury has been covering the Capitol for the St. Paul Pioneer Press since 1975, and

has seen party control in the House shift five times. He said last session’s 68-66 party split in the House led to gridlock, and it would be advantageous for the DFL to show that they can get things done. He expects the most noticeable change will be the substance of the bills that will be introduced and heard in committee.

“There is a lot of pent-up demand to address DFL issues, and there is a sign of relief from some groups like the pro-choice and gay and lesbians who felt threatened by the Republicans,” he said.

New House Majority Leader Tony Sertich (DFL-Chisholm) agrees there are a lot of DFL ideas just waiting to be heard, and he is excited about the possibility of a new agenda.

First elected in 2000, Sertich has only known what it is like to be in the minority. “It was frustrating. You don’t have the same voice as when you are in the majority.” But he said the DFL will not be playing “payback.”

“Republicans will have a voice. I trust the public when they sent a DFL-controlled Senate and House and a Republican governor to the Capitol. They expect results. They didn’t elect us to fight with each other.”

New role for the GOP

Salisbury said House Minority Leader Marty Seifert (R-Marshall) will play “a watchdog role, to scrutinize the DFL,” he said. “A good minority leader can actually enhance legislation.”

Searle cautions Seifert to be flexible. “I know how tough it is to keep a caucus together, especially after your party’s been defeated. There are so many egos.”

Seifert’s name was placed into nomination for speaker on the first day of session. It was no surprise that with new DFL majority, he was soundly defeated by Kelliher. While he would much rather be sitting in the speaker’s

chair, Seifert is looking forward to his new role in the House. He said that having a Republican governor puts the minority party in a pretty good negotiating position.

“We also understand

that those in the majority campaigned on getting along. Let’s see if they actually can live up to that promise,” he said.

Seifert said he and Kelliher work well together and expects there may be some opportunities for real legislative reform that several members of the House have been bipartisanly working on over the past few years.

Time will tell. 🐶

Turning over control

Looking back to 1955, it appears that a political party loses control of the Minnesota House of Representatives about every eight years. It should be noted that in 1913, Minnesota legislators began to be elected on nonpartisan ballots, but ran and caucused as Liberals or Conservatives. Since 1974, House members have been running with party designation.

Turnover election year*	Liberals	Conservatives
1954		
Conservatives lost 20 seats.	66	65
The House held 131 members.		
1962		
Liberals lost 19 seats.	54	80
The House added three seats bringing its membership to 135. One new House member did not claim to be part of either caucus.		
1972		
Conservatives lost 13 seats.	77	57
The House dropped its membership to the current 134.		
	Democrats	Republicans
1978		
Democrats lost 32 seats.	67	67
This is the only time in Minnesota history when the House was evenly divided by party. Democrats eventually gained control when a Republican member was unseated by a vote of the House on charges of unfair campaign practices and a Democrat won the special election.		
1984		
The Democrats lost 11 seats.	65	69
1986		
The Republicans lost 17 seats	83	51
1998		
The Democrats lost 7 seats	63	71
2006		
Republicans lost 19 seats.	85	49

* **Membership numbers are from the first day of the legislative session.**

Statistics from the Minnesota Legislative Reference Library Web site.

Editor's Note: Committee coverage is expected to begin with the Jan. 12 issue of Session Weekly. For updated committee schedules and agendas, go to www.house.leg.state.mn.us/hinfo/hinfosched.asp. To receive electronic updates of House schedules and committee information, go to www.house.leg.state.mn.us/maillist/maillinglist.asp.

BUDGET

Surplus to start session

Although the budget forecast released Nov. 29 by the Department of Finance shows a projected \$2.17 billion surplus for the 2008-09 biennium, it's the February forecast that will be used by legislators to craft final budgets for those years.

The November forecast includes a nearly \$1.04 billion balance projected at the end of the current biennium on June 30, 2007. A surplus of \$1.13 billion is projected for the 2008-09 biennium.

By law, the money available at the end of the current biennium is to be designated as available for a rebate. While not automatic, a proposal for rebating the money must be considered by the 2007 Legislature.

Gov. Tim Pawlenty said he'll offer some kind of plan, and would rather see something more permanent for spending the surplus.

Former Finance Commissioner Peggy

Ingison cautiously added, at the release, that lawmakers must be aware that much of the surplus is one-time money, and that however it is spent should be sustainable into the future.

The forecast does not allow for inflationary increases on spending, which Ingison and State Economist Tom Stinson warned could cost about \$1 billion in 2008-09.

Still, legislative leaders mostly smiled at press conferences later that day.

"For Minnesotans who have had sticker shock when they've seen their property tax statements, help is on the way," said House Speaker Margaret Anderson Kelliher (DFL-Mpls).

Added House Majority Leader Tony Bertich (DFL-Chisholm): "Our top target for tax relief is permanent property tax relief." He said that could be accomplished in a variety of ways, including increased education funding or more in local government aid to eligible cities. Kelliher said tax rebates are unlikely.

House Minority Leader Marty Seifert (R-Marshall) said his caucus, too, wants to focus on tax relief, but the question is how to do it. "We will be looking at taxpayers first and special interests second."

Seifert also said the surplus should mean no new tax increases of any kind for Minnesotans. "The average person out there, unless they are off the deep end of liberalism, understands when you have that type of a surplus you should be able to live within your means."



PHOTO BY TOM OLSCHKEID

Former Finance Commissioner Peggy Ingison answers questions during a Nov. 29 news conference at the release of the November forecast, which shows a projected \$2.17 billion surplus for the 2008-09 biennium.

GOVERNMENT

No committees, floor sessions Jan. 9

No business will be conducted Tuesday, Jan. 9 by the House or Senate because legislators are scheduled to attend an all-day, educational conference — "One Minnesota. Our State. Our Future."

According to conference coordinators, the event is a shared effort between the Legislative Coordinating Commission, House, Senate and the University of Minnesota Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs.

Topics to be covered include: Minnesota's place in the global economy; the impact of the state's changing demographics, technology's role in government services; and the changing role of state legislatures.

Legislators will also have an opportunity to visit several technology exhibits and hear presentations from various legislative sub-caucus groups such as Early Childhood and the Minnesota Outdoor Heritage Alliance.

For more information, contact coordinators Rep. Kathy Tingelstad (R-Andover) at (651) 296-5369 or former state senator Sheila Kiscaden at (507) 288-5980.

A sharing of legislative priorities

Legislative leaders have some similar priorities for the 2007 session — but they have different views in how to accomplish them.

Along with Gov. Tim Pawlenty, House Speaker Margaret Anderson Kelliher (DFL-Mpls), Senate Majority Leader Larry Pogemiller (DFL-Mpls), House Minority Leader Marty Seifert (R-Marshall) and Senate Minority Leader David Senjem (R-Rochester) shared their views at a Dec. 12 Associated Press forum about the 85th session.

(Watch the forum at http://www.senate.mn/media/archive/2006/updatespress/pc_apforum_121206.htm.)

Kelliher said the new House DFL majority has a "Stick to the Basics" agenda that includes education system investments, property tax relief and doing better in health care. "People feel they are one health care crisis away from financial instability," she said.

Balanced permanent property tax relief across the state is a priority for House Democrats, and this could take a number of forms, Kelliher said. "For some, local government aid is an important tool in that; for others, being able to put money into the

Continued on page 18

A new leader for a new majority

Kelliher pledges bipartisanship as she takes over as House speaker

By PATTY OSTBERG

In 1998 when House Speaker Margaret Anderson Kelliher (DFL-Mpls) began campaigning for her district seat, she was frequently greeted by her constituents with, “You’re going to have some big shoes to fill.” They were referring to former House Speaker Dee Long (DFL-Mpls), who previously held the spot and was the first female House speaker in state history.

“I’m going to bring my own pair of shoes,” became Kelliher’s response.

From working for former House Speaker Bob Vanasek (DFL-New Prague) to helping override Gov. Jesse Ventura’s veto of a \$3 million allocation for the Guthrie Theater in 2000, Kelliher has walked miles in those shoes.

She began her political marathon in the 1980’s during Minnesota’s farm crisis.

As neighbors were forced off their lands due to falling land prices and rising farm debt, Kelliher remembers sitting across the dinner table looking in shock at her father. “I remember my dad crying,” because of the stress and the threat of losing their 70-head dairy farm, she said.

In response, she and her mother rode a school bus to the State Capitol for a farm rally. Sixteen at the time, she recalled a very cold day with people with their tractors and farm equipment lining the Capitol Mall and steps. The gathering fostered in her a sense of wanting to know who makes the types of decisions that affect people’s livelihoods.

Learning by listening

Eventually, the experience of working on a campaign during college led her to a job opportunity at the House with Vanasek. “There’s nothing like learning by doing,” she said, before adding, with a laugh, “(There are) things I wish I’d paid even more attention to.”

Vanasek felt like he made good hires, and trusted those he did, she said. Before he would ever tell an employee what he thought, he

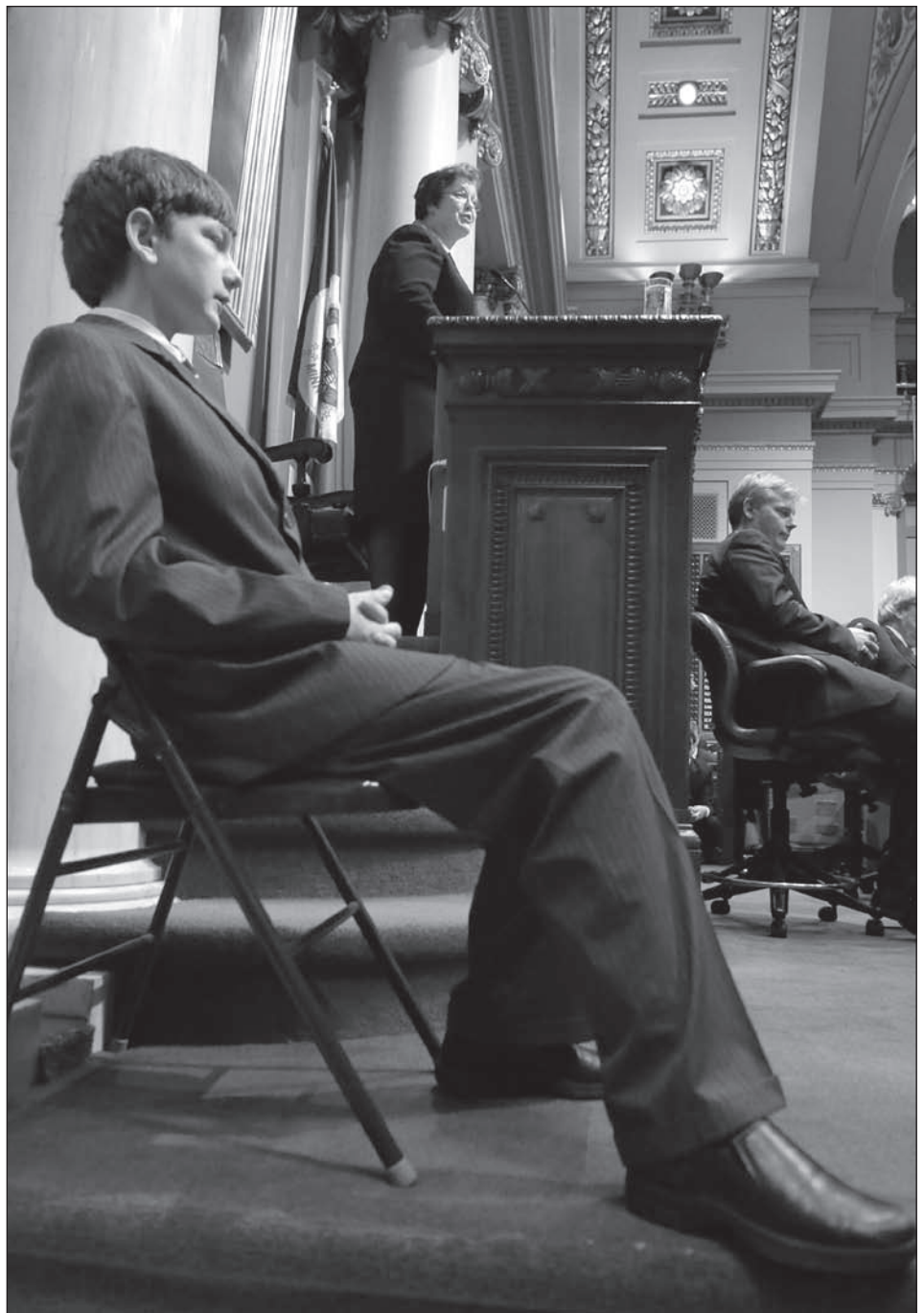


PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

Seated at the front desk of the House Chamber, Patrick Kelliher listens as his mother, House Speaker Margaret Anderson Kelliher, addresses the other 133 House members Jan. 3.

Continued on page 7

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would ask what they thought about an issue. “Sometimes you didn’t really know what to think,” she explained, but he would listen.

Being a good listener is one skill she believes helped in her nomination as speaker. “I may not always agree completely, but I am willing to give people a fair hearing on their point of view or idea,” she said.

Rep. Steve Simon (DFL-St. Louis Park) echoed that during her nomination.

“She leads by listening,” and is not threatened by people who disagree with her. ... “The ability to listen is the mark of a true leader,” he said.

She left the Legislature for neighborhood organizing, but not for long.

As the workload began to wind down, she received a phone call from then-Senate President Allan Spear (DFL-Mpls). An assistant to the president position opened, but she was reluctant to accept the offer with her 8-month-old daughter and 4-year-old son at home. Plus, she was contemplating her own

run for the House. Eventually she gave in and became responsible for bill referrals coming to the president’s office.

In that role, she researched the history of bills, the jurisdictional home they were previously sent to and would assign bills to committees.

Applying her principles

These skills afforded her some know-how in creating the new, larger House committee structure for this session. Bill referral is unique to every leader in terms of where the leader wants things to go, Kelliher said.

The formulation of more committees brings together legislators from areas like education and health and human services to create quality discussion on how to better fund coexisting issues, she said. A thorough discussion engages new legislation to move forward, and “the body can respect the work of the committee a little more,” Kelliher added.

As speaker, Kelliher is determined to work in a bipartisan way, while also addressing the so-called “bread and butter” issues. She said health care access and affordability, property tax relief, and a recommitment to investing in education are highest in priority.

She also intends to meet often with the House Minority Leader Marty Seifert (R-Marshall).

“I think what she is doing is really terrific,” Seifert said. “It’s hard to throw bombs at people when you’re talking to them on a regular basis.”

Constituents will see legislation passed early in the session, and not waiting until March as in previous years. Also gone will be the “cold and rigid partisanship of the past,” she said during opening ceremonies.

Everyone is elected by their constituency around here, sometimes the Democrats come out on top, sometimes the Republicans, Kelliher said. We serve our constituents better when we do the legislating in a way that brings us together, working on their behalf. 

New leadership for the House



Speaker of the House
Margaret Anderson Kelliher
(DFL-Mpls)



Majority Leader
Tony Sertich
(DFL-Chisholm)



Minority Leader
Marty Seifert
(R-Marshall)

Assistant Majority Leader
Melissa Hortman (DFL-Brooklyn Park)

Assistant Majority Leader
Tina Liebling (DFL-Rochester)

Assistant Majority Leader
Frank Moe (DFL-Bemidji)

Assistant Majority Leader
Mike Nelson (DFL-Brooklyn Park)

Assistant Majority Leader
Aaron Peterson (DFL-Appleton)

Assistant Majority Leader
Steve Simon (DFL-St. Louis Park)

Deputy Minority Leader
Tom Emmer (R-Delano)

Minority Whip
Denny McNamara (R-Hastings)

Assistant Minority Leader
Laura Brod (R-New Prague)

Assistant Minority Leader
Brad Finstad (R-Comfrey)

Assistant Minority Leader
Dean Simpson (R-Perham)

Assistant Minority Leader
Kurt Zellers (R-Maple Grove)

Assistant Minority Whip
Mike Beard (R-Shakopee)

Assistant Minority Whip
Joyce Peppin (R-Rogers)

Assistant Minority Whip
Matt Dean (R-Dellwood)

Assistant Minority Whip
Neil W. Peterson (R-Bloomington)

Assistant Minority Whip
Tony Cornish (R-Good Thunder)

Speakers of the Minnesota House of Representatives

2007: Margaret Anderson Kelliher (DFL-Mpls)
 1999-2006: Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon)
 1997-1998: Phil Carruthers
 (DFL-Brooklyn Center)
 1993-1996: Irv Anderson (DFL-Int'l. Falls)
 1992-1993: Dee Long (DFL-Mpls)
 1987-1991: Robert E. Vanasek
 (DFL-New Prague)
 1987: Fred C. Norton (DFL-St. Paul)
 1985-1986: David M. Jennings (IR-Truman)
 1981-1984: Harry A. Sieben (DFL-Hastings)
 1980: Fred C. Norton (DFL-St. Paul)
 1979: Rodney N. Searle (IR-Waseca)
 Elected as a compromise since the
 House was evenly divided.
 1973-1978: Martin O. Sabo (DFL-Mpls)
 1971-1972: Aubrey W. Dirlam
 (C/R-Redwood Falls)
 1963-1970: Lloyd L. Duxbury (C/R-Caledonia)
 1959-1962: Edward J. Chilgren (L/D-Littlefork)
 1955-1958: Alfred I. Johnson (L/D-Benson)
 1949-1954: John A. Hartle (C/R-Owatonna)
 1939-1948: Lawrence M. Hall (C/R-St. Cloud)
 1937-1938: Harold H. Baker (L/FL-Elbow Lake)
 1935-1936: George W. Johnson (C/R-Duluth)
 1933-1934: Charles Munn (L/FL-Osseo)
 1931-1932: Oscar A. Swenson (C/R-Nicollet)
 1925-1930: John A. Johnson (C/R-Preston)

1919-1924: William I. Nolan (C/R-Mpls)
 1917-1918: Ralph J. Parker (C-Spring Valley)
 1915-1916: H. H. Flowers (C/R-Cleveland)
 1913-1914: Henry Rines (Mora)
 1911-1912: Howard H. Dunn (F-Fairmont)
 1909-1910: Anton J. Rockne (R-Zumbrota)
 1907-1908: Lawrence H. Johnson (R-Mpls)
 1905-1906: Frank Clague (R-Lamberton)
 1903-1904: Leverett W. Babcock (R-Wadena)
 1901-1902: Michael J. Dowling (R-Renville)
 1899-1900: Arthur N. Dare (R-Elk River)
 1897-1898: John D. Jones (R-Long Prairie)
 1895-1896: Samuel R. Van Sant
 (R-Winona County)
 1893-1894: William E. Lee (R-Long Prairie)
 1891: Ezra T. Champlin (A-Garden City)
 1889-1890: Charles H. Graves (R-Duluth)
 1887-1888: William R. Merriam (R-St. Paul)
 1885-1886: John L. Gibbs (R-Geneva)
 1881-1884: Loren Fletcher (R-Mpls)
 1878-1880: Charles A. Gilman (R-St. Cloud)
 1877: John L. Gibbs (R-Geneva)
 1875-1876: William R. Kinyon (R-Owatonna)
 1872-1874: Albert R. Hall (R-Dayton)
 1870-1871: John L. Merriam (R-St. Paul)
 1869: Chester D. Davidson (R-Mpls)
 1867-1868: John Q. Farmer
 (W/R-Spring Valley)

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

TERRITORY

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

Legend:

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

Source: Legislative Reference Library

Minnesota's Constitutional Officers

Governor

TIM PAWLENTY (R)

Room 130 State Capitol
 75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
 St. Paul, MN 55155
 (651) 296-3391
 (800) 657-3717
 Fax: (651) 296-2089
 Web site: www.governor.state.mn.us
 E-mail: tim.pawlenty@state.mn.us

Lieutenant Governor

CAROL MOLNAU (R)

Room 130 State Capitol
 75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
 St. Paul, MN 55155
 (651) 296-3391
 Fax: (651) 296-3587
 E-mail: carol.molnau@dot.state.mn.us

State Auditor

REBECCA OTTO (DFL)

525 Park St.
 Suite 400
 St. Paul, MN 55103
 (651) 296-4755
 TTY (800) 627-3529
 E-mail: state.auditor@state.mn.us
 Web site: www.osa.state.mn.us

Secretary of State

MARK RITCHIE (DFL)

Election Center
 Room 180 State Office Building
 100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
 (651) 215-1440
 (877) 600-8683
 Business Services
 Suite 100
 60 Empire Drive
 St. Paul, MN 55103
 (651) 296-2803
 (877) 551-6767
 E-mail: secretary.state@state.mn.us
 Web site: www.sos.state.mn.us

Attorney General

LORI SWANSON (DFL)

Executive Offices
 Room 102 State Capitol
 75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
 St. Paul, MN 55155
 (651) 296-6196
 (800) 657-3787
 Web site: www.ag.state.mn.us
 E-mail: attorney.general@state.mn.us
 Consumer Division
 1400 Bremer Tower
 445 Minnesota St.
 St. Paul, MN 55101
 (651) 296-3353
 (800) 657-3787
 TTY (651) 297-7206
 TTY (800) 366-4812

A mostly ceremonial start

Legislative session begins for 134 House members

By SONJA HEGMAN

Opening day of the House session Jan. 3 was a blurred mixture of excitement, thumbs-up signals, waves, and members and children dressed in their Sunday best. Cameras big and small appeared, capturing representatives with their families and each other.

Shouts from the galleries were heard — and at one point, the ringing of a cow bell followed by cheering. The galleries were overflowing with friends and family along with television cameras.

Many representatives greeted each other with smiles and handshakes, some jokingly saying they were surprised the other was back for another term. Rep. Bev Scalze (DFL-Little Canada) commented on her new seating arrangement.

“Looks like I’m going to be in a Larry sandwich this year,” she said, jokingly of her desk placement between Reps. Larry Hosch (DFL-St. Joseph) and Larry Haws (DFL-St. Cloud).

As noon approached, it became more and

more difficult to maneuver though the House Chamber.

And then the bell sounded, alerting members that session was about to kick off.

Newly elected Secretary of State Mark Ritchie was introduced and greeted with a standing ovation as he walked to the front of the House Chamber to call the session to order.

After roll call was taken, District Court Judge Ron Abrams, who served in the House from 1989-2006, gave the Oath of Office to the 134 House members.

“Opening Day is the most important day of the year, because family is here,” he said.

With her family and many relatives present, Rep. Margaret Anderson Kelliher (DFL-Mpls) was voted speaker of the house on a party line 84-49 vote. Rep. Mary Ellen Otremba (DFL-Long Prairie) abstained.

“She leads by listening, even when what’s said is not necessarily what she wants to hear,” said Rep. Steve Simon (DFL-St. Louis Park) during his nomination of Kelliher. “She knows that government is not a game. It’s about doing

the business of the state.”

On the Republican side, Rep. Sondra Erickson (R-Princeton) nominated House Minority Leader Marty Seifert (R-Marshall) for the top post, saying he is “a scholar of rules and understands due process.”

Shouts resounded as Ritchie hugged Kelliher before she took her place atop the rostrum below a portrait of Abraham Lincoln, one of her heroes. Minnesota Supreme Court Justice Alan Page gave Kelliher the Oath of Office.

“It’s with a great deal of humility that I accept this gavel,” Kelliher said. “On a dairy farm growing up, I never would have dreamed of this day.”

In addition to thanking Seifert for being a nominee, Kelliher recognized her predecessor, Rep. Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon) for his years as speaker.

The day was not tension-free, however. Some contention arose when House Majority Leader Tony Sertich (DFL-Chisholm) introduced the temporary House rules for approval.

Adopted 86-49 with Rep. Jim Abeler (R-Anoka) joining DFLers in support.

The rules were almost identical to the last year’s, Sertich said, but more committees were added for this session.

Seifert called the increase in the number of committees by 33 percent “explosive.” Because of this, bills would be “shoveled back and forth” through different committees, making it difficult for residents who want to testify on an issue, he said.

“I don’t see this as exploding,” Sertich said. “I see this as broadening.”

Another concern was term limits in a committee. The language was changed to read, “A member must not serve as the chair of the same standing committee, or a standing committee with substantially the same jurisdiction, during more than the three immediately prior consecutive regular biennial sessions.” In previous years, it read that “during more than three consecutive regular biennial sessions that the member’s caucus is in the majority, even if the sessions are not otherwise consecutive.”

Sertich indicated that, this way, DFL members who chaired a committee when their party last had House control in 1998 could now chair a similar committee. 🏛️



PHOTO BY SARAH STACKE

Rep. Steve Sviggum acknowledges those in the House Chamber after being recognized for his service as House speaker. Sviggum, led the body from 1999-2006.

PHOTO BY SARAH STACKE

Rep. Rod Hamilton and his son observe the activity on the House floor during the first day of the 2007 session.



PHOTO BY ANDREW VONBANK

Legislators and their guests take pictures and visit in the House Chamber Jan. 3 before the start of the 2007 session.



PHOTO BY ANDREW VONBANK

Ryan Hansen, son of Rep. Rick Hansen, watches friends and family members fill the House Chamber Jan. 3 before the opening of the 85th legislative session.





Welcome to the House

The first day — all about friends, family and goodwill



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

Hennepin County District Court Judge Ron Abrams, a former nine-term House member, swears in House members during the first day of the 2007 session.



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

Holding his 2-year-old son, Braxton, House Minority Leader Marty Seifert congratulates House Speaker Margaret Anderson Kelliher, as she is escorted to the rostrum to be sworn in by Supreme Court Justice Alan Page.

PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

A plant management employee raises the MIA/POW flag over the House Chamber in the north wing of the Capitol early on the opening day of the 2007 session. Capitol flags were flown at half staff to honor former President Ford, who died Dec. 26.

Meet the new class

New House members focus on bipartisanship, moderation

By Nick Busse

When the 35 newly elected House members gathered to learn the nuts and bolts of legislating at a three-day retreat in Chaska in late-November, [Rep. Kathy Tingelstad](#) (R-Andover) had much reason to feel out of place.

Tingelstad, who co-coordinated the event, was about to help train a group of legislators who had just wrested control of the House away from her party in a midterm election landslide.

In fact, Republicans had taken such a “thumping” (a term used by President Bush) on Election Day that the Republican

Republicans: moderate politics and devout bipartisanship.

In fact, in terms of politics, she said sometimes she couldn’t tell Democrat from Republican.

“I recall a couple of times during the three-day retreat where I’d be talking to a Democrat member and they’d say something where I’d have to look at their nametag again and say, ‘Now, are you a Democrat? That sounded like something a Republican would say,’” Tingelstad said.

All things considered, a number of different factors make the new freshman class of House members unique — its unusual size, its

Everything in moderation

According to [Rep. Steve Simon](#) (DFL-St. Louis Park), who worked with Tingelstad on freshman orientation, the freshman class of 2007 has a “get things done” attitude that he thinks grew, at least in part, out of disgust over the 2005 budget impasse that ended with a partial state government shutdown.

“These are people, remember, who were looking in from the outside at the state government shutdown a few years ago — and regardless of party, seem to have resolved not to repeat that mistake ever again,” Simon said.

Of course, with an 85-49 DFL majority, one might argue that bipartisanship is irrelevant; Democrats can just do what they want anyway.

Two factors mitigate that notion: the first is Minnesota’s Republican governor, Tim Pawlenty; the second is the overall moderate political bent of the new House members, many of whom won their elections by narrow margins and/or in suburban districts that traditionally vote Republican.

[Rep. Kate Knuth](#) (DFL-New Brighton), whose district was represented by a Republican last year, acknowledged that the new DFL members aren’t likely to interpret the election results as a license to pursue a liberal agenda.

“I think you’ve got Democrats elected in traditionally more conservative places. It’s going to diversify the [House DFL] caucus, I’m sure,” Knuth said, adding, “I think the caucus leadership is speaking fairly moderately in general, and I think the voters expect that of us.”

That’s good news for [Rep. John Berns](#) (R-Wayzata), one of just a handful of new Republicans.

“You look for a silver lining,” Berns said of the election results. “As a Republican, I would like my party to be in the majority at the House. We’re not. But I have more opportunity, then, to connect to people across the aisle. We have so much in common, both as people and as public servants wanting to get things done. And that makes me really feel good about the upcoming session.”

Last fall, Berns was more than a little surprised to learn that he was campaigning on the same issues as many Democrats



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

Freshman and veteran members are sworn in by District Court Judge Ron Abrams during Opening Day ceremonies of the 85th Legislature, Jan. 3. Among the 134 members taking the oath are, first row, Rep. David Bly and Rep. Rick Hansen; second row, Rep. Lyle Koenen and Rep. Sandra Masin; third row, Rep. Shelley Madore and Rep. Maria Ruud; fourth row, Rep. Thomas Huntley and Rep. Tim Mahoney.

representative who was supposed to be doing Tingelstad’s job couldn’t because he lost his re-election in what was once considered a safe Republican district.

Tingelstad, however, found reason to take heart. She discovered two common themes among the 29 new Democrats and six new

overwhelming DFL majority, its large number of women, its preponderance of educators and people with experience in local government.

The uniqueness of its politics, however, might be the greatest factor in how the new legislative session plays out.

Continued on page 18

2007 House Profile

Membership

	2007	2005	2003	2001	1999
DFL	85	66	53	65	63
R	49	68	81	69	71
Men	91	97	102	99	99
Women	43	37	32	35	35

Age

Age range	2007*	2005**	2003**	2001***	1999
21-30	6	6	8	5	6
31-40	25	27	27	27	23
41-50	33	40	35	42	51
51-60	38	38	43	41	38
61-70	29	18	12	12	13
over 71	2	3	3	3	3
Average age	50.2	48.6	47.4	48.4	48.7

* Age not available for 1 member

**Ages not available for 2 members

*** Ages not available for 4 members

Education

Education level	2007	2005	2003	2001	1999
High School	3	3	3	3	4
Technical College	7	7	6	5	6
Some College	9	13	14	19	23
4-yr. Undergraduate Degree	34	40	47	44	39
Some Graduate Work	21	20	15	13	13
Graduate Degree	60	51	48	50	49

Current Term

Term	2007	2005	2003	2001	1999
1	35	25	46	18	20
2	23	38	17	20	24
3	27	14	15	22	25
4	8	12	14	22	20
5	8	12	11	17	10
6	11	7	8	8	5
7	3	5	5	4	10
8	3	5	3	7	4
9	3	2	4	3	3
10	1	4	2	2	1
11	3	2	1	1	2
12	2	1	1	1	3
13	1	1	1	3	2
14	1	1	2	2	4
15 or more	5	5	3	4	1

Occupation

Occupation	2007	2005	2003	2001	1999
Educator	28	21	22	20	19
Attorney	16	19	16	15	17
Business	13	18	22	23	24
Legislator	12	10	10	15	14
Retired	10	8	5	4	4
Consultant	6	7	7	6	6
Government	4	5	7	2	2
Real Estate	2	5	7	3	3
Communications	3	4	4	3	4
Trades	4	4	4	3	3
Farming	3	3	5	8	9
Homemaker	3	3	3	4	5
Health Care	2	—	—	—	—
Social Services	1	—	—	—	—
Law Enforcement	1	—	—	—	—
Other	26	26	21	28	24

New members



Anderson, Sarah (R) **43A**
229 State Office Building..... (651) 296-5511
E-mail: rep.sarah.anderson@house.mn
Home: Plymouth
 *5050 Holly Lane N. #5 55446..... (763) 383-9504
Occupation: Manager. **Education:** B.A., political science/sociology, University of Minnesota-Duluth. **Elected:** 2006. **Term:** 1st. **Committees:** Commerce and Labor; Government Operations Reform, Technology and Elections; Labor and Consumer Protection Division; Property Tax Relief and Local Sales Tax Division; State Government Finance Division.



Bigham, Karla (DFL) **57A**
***529 State Office Building**..... (651) 296-4342
E-mail: rep.karla.bigham@house.mn
Home: Cottage Grove
 P.O. Box 223 55016..... (651) 493-3121
Occupation: Paralegal. **Education:** B.S., paralegal, Winona State University. **Elected:** 2006. **Term:** 1st. **Committees:** Game, Fish and Forestry Division; Public Safety and Civil Justice; Public Safety Finance Division; State Government Finance Division; Veterans Affairs Division.



Anzelc, Tom (DFL) **3A**
417 State Office Building..... (651) 296-4936
E-mail: rep.tom.anzelc@house.mn
Home: Balsam Township
 *44205 Burrows Lake Lane 55709..... (218) 327-7924
Education: B.S., political science, St. Cloud State University. **Elected:** 2006. **Term:** 1st. **Committees:** Commerce and Labor; Environment and Natural Resources Finance Division; K-12 Education Finance Division.



Bly, David (DFL) **25B**
557 State Office Building..... (651) 296-7065
E-mail: rep.david.bly@house.mn
Home: Northfield
 *211 N. Lincoln St. 55057..... (507) 645-8328
Occupation: Educator. **Education:** B.A., English, St. Olaf College; M.A. education, St. Mary's University. **Elected:** 2006. **Term:** 1st. **Committees:** Early Childhood Learning Finance Division, vice chair; Energy Finance and Policy Division; Higher Education and Workforce Development Policy and Finance Division; Minnesota Heritage Finance Division.



Benson, John (DFL) **43B**
517 State Office Building..... (651) 296-9934
E-mail: rep.john.benson@house.mn
Home: Minnetonka
 *3828 Huntingdon Drive 55305..... (952) 933-2396
Business: Minnetonka
 P.O. Box 5508 55343..... (952) 913-6055
Occupation: Retired teacher. **Education:** B.S., language arts and social science, Minnesota State University, Mankato; M.A., political science, University of Minnesota. **Elected:** 2006. **Term:** 1st. **Committees:** E-12 Education; Housing Policy and Finance and Public Health Finance Division; K-12 Education Finance Division; Labor and Consumer Protection Division, vice chair.



Brown, Robin (DFL) **27A**
337 State Office Building..... (651) 296-8216
E-mail: rep.robin.brown@house.mn
Home: Austin
 *27667 Mower-Freeborn Road 55912..... (507) 437-1403
Business: Albert Lea
 Albert Lea High School 2000 Tiger Lane 56007
 (507) 389-5482
Occupation: Art and photography teacher. **Education:** B.S., art education, Minnesota State University, Mankato; M.A., education, St. Mary's University. **Elected:** 2006. **Term:** 1st. **Committees:** Agriculture, Rural Economies and Veterans Affairs; E-12 Education; Education Finance and Economic Competitiveness Finance Division; K-12 Education Finance Division; Property Tax Relief and Local Sales Tax Division, vice chair.



Berns, John (R) **33B**
311 State Office Building..... (651) 296-4315
E-mail: rep.john.berns@house.mn
Home: Wayzata
 *P.O. Box 927 55391..... (952) 476-1006
Business: St. Paul
 130 State Capitol 55155..... (651) 296-3391
Occupation: Attorney. **Education:** B.A., history, Loras College; J.D., Drake University. **Elected:** 2006. **Term:** 1st. **Committees:** Biosciences and Emerging Technologies; Capital Investment Finance Division; Commerce and Labor.



Brynaert, Kathy (DFL) **23B**
421 State Office Building..... (651) 296-3248
E-mail: rep.kathy.brynaert@house.mn
Home: Mankato
 *1416 Carney Ave. 56001..... (507) 388-2264
Occupation: Educator/teacher. **Education:** B.A., philosophy, College of St. Teresa; M.A., philosophy, Duquesne University. **Elected:** 2006. **Term:** 1st. **Committees:** Energy Finance and Policy Division; Environment; Higher Education and Workforce Development Policy and Finance Division; Mental Health Division, vice chair; Ways and Means.



Bunn, Julie (DFL) 56A
 521 State Office Building.....(651) 296-4244
E-mail: rep.julie.bunn@house.mn
Home: Lake Elmo
 *2986 Lake Elmo Ave. N. 55042..... (651) 748-1448
Occupation: Economist. **Education:** A.B., economics, Occidental College; M.A., economics, Stanford University; Ph. D., economics, Stanford University. **Elected:** 2006.
Term: 1st. **Committees:** Biosciences and Emerging Technologies; Education Finance and Economic Competitiveness Finance Division; Health and Human Services; Health Care and Human Services Finance Division.



Gardner, Paul (DFL) 53A
 *581 State Office Building.....(651) 296-2907
E-mail: rep.paul.gardner@house.mn
Home: Shoreview
 890 Dawn Ave. 55126..... (651) 797-4317
Occupation: Nonprofit executive. **Education:** B.A., history, Grinnell College; M.P.A., public and nonprofit management, University of Minnesota. **Elected:** 2006.
Term: 1st. **Committees:** Energy Finance and Policy Division; Environment; Environment and Natural Resources Finance Division; Minnesota Heritage Finance Division, vice chair.



Dettmer, Bob (R) 52A
 329 State Office Building.....(651) 296-4124
E-mail: rep.bob.dettmer@house.mn
Home: Forest Lake
 *20617 Everton Court N. 55025 (651) 464-4475
Occupation: Educator. **Education:** B.S., health/physical education, Bemidji State University; M.A., education curriculum and instruction, University of St. Thomas. **Elected:** 2006. **Term:** 1st. **Committees:** E-12 Education; Higher Education and Workforce Development Policy and Finance Division; K-12 Education Finance Division; Veterans Affairs Division.



Gottwalt, Steve (R) 15A
 231 State Office Building.....(651) 296-6316
E-mail: rep.steve.gottwalt@house.mn
Home: St. Cloud
 *1753 Cottonwood Circle 56303 (320) 259-6098
Business: Business phone (320) 252-4222
Occupation: Business. **Education:** B.A., journalism and English, University of St. Thomas. **Elected:** 2006.
Term: 1st. **Committees:** E-12 Education; Early Childhood Learning Finance Division; Health and Human Services; Health Care and Human Services Finance Division.



Dominguez, Augustine "Willie" (DFL) 58B
 *539 State Office Building.....(651) 296-8659
E-mail: rep.augustine.dominguez@house.mn
Home: Minneapolis
 707 Upton Ave. N. 55411 (612) 521-2278
Occupation: Consultant - non profit management
Elected: 2006. **Term:** 1st. **Committees:** Commerce and Labor; K-12 Education Finance Division; Local Government and Metro Affairs; Public Safety Finance Division; Veterans Affairs Division.



Kalin, Jeremy (DFL) 17B
 579 State Office Building.....(651) 296-5377
E-mail: rep.jeremy.kalin@house.mn
Home: Lindstrom
 *13078 - 347th St. 55045..... (651) 257-9861
Occupation: Designer. **Education:** B.F.A., ceramics, University of Minnesota. **Elected:** 2006. **Term:** 1st.
Committees: Energy Finance and Policy Division; Government Operations Reform, Technology and Elections; Public Safety and Civil Justice, vice chair; Transportation Finance Division.



Doty, Al (DFL) 12B
 433 State Office Building.....(651) 296-4247
E-mail: rep.al.doty@house.mn
Home: Royalton
 *302 N. Hickory St. 56373 (320) 584-8057
Occupation: Senior advocate. **Education:** B.A., political science, history and social studies, University of Minnesota-Morris. **Elected:** 2006. **Term:** 1st. **Committees:** Agriculture, Rural Economies and Veterans Affairs; Agriculture, Rural Economies and Veterans Affairs Finance Division; Environment and Natural Resources Finance Division, vice chair; Transportation Finance Division; Veterans Affairs Division.



Knuth, Kate (DFL) 50B
 *429 State Office Building.....(651) 296-0141
E-mail: rep.kate.knuth@house.mn
Home: New Brighton
 2189 Mississippi Circle 55112 (651) 308-9921
Business: St. Paul
 1536 Hewitt Ave., MSA 1760 55104
Occupation: Environmental education specialist. **Education:** B.A., biology/philosophy, University of Chicago; M.Sc., biodiversity conservation and management, Oxford University. **Elected:** 2006. **Term:** 1st. **Committees:** Commerce and Labor; Energy Finance and Policy Division; Environment and Natural Resources Finance Division; Game, Fish and Forestry Division, vice chair.



Faust, Tim (DFL) 8B
 567 State Office Building.....(651) 296-0518
E-mail: rep.tim.faust@house.mn
Home: Mora
 *512 S. Union St. 55051 (320) 679-1870
Occupation: Financial services. **Education:** B.S., agriculture economics, North Dakota State University. **Elected:** 2006. **Term:** 1st. **Committees:** Agriculture, Rural Economies and Veterans Affairs, vice chair; Agriculture, Rural Economies and Veterans Affairs Finance Division; K-12 Education Finance Division.



Kranz, Scott (DFL) 51A
 411 State Office Building.....(651) 296-4226
E-mail: rep.scott.kranz@house.mn
Home: Blaine
 *9219 Harpers Court N.E. 55449 (763) 780-5774
Occupation: Social studies teacher. **Education:** B.A., social studies education, University of St. Thomas; M.A., education, St. Mary's University. **Elected:** 2006. **Term:** 1st. **Committees:** Early Childhood Learning Finance Division; Education Finance and Economic Competitiveness Finance Division; Housing Policy and Finance and Public Health Finance Division, vice chair; Public Safety and Civil Justice.



Laine, Carolyn (DFL) **50A**
407 State Office Building.....(651) 296-4331
E-mail: rep.carolyn.laine@house.mn
Home: Columbia Heights
 *1908 - 41st Ave. N.E. 55421..... (763) 788-1864
Occupation: Educator. **Education:** B.S., education, University of Minnesota-Duluth; M.A., psychology, St. Mary's University. **Elected:** 2006. **Term:** 1st. **Committees:** E-12 Education; Early Childhood Learning Finance Division; Housing Policy and Finance and Public Health Finance Division; Labor and Consumer Protection Division; Minnesota Heritage Finance Division.



Morrow, Terry (DFL) **23A**
415 State Office Building.....(651) 296-8634
E-mail: rep.terry.morrow@house.mn
Home: St. Peter
 *614 S. Washington Ave. 56082 (507) 327-8226
Business: St. Peter
 800 W. College Ave. 56082 (507) 933-7366
Occupation: Educator/teacher. **Education:** B.A., rhetoric, University of California-Berkeley; J.D., law, University of California-Davis; Ph. D., communication studies, Northwestern University. **Elected:** 2006. **Term:** 1st. **Committees:** Agriculture, Rural Economies and Veterans Affairs; Game, Fish and Forestry Division; K-12 Education Finance Division, vice chair; Telecom Regulation/Infrastructure Division; Transportation Finance Division.



Madore, Shelley (DFL) **37A**
507 State Office Building.....(651) 296-5506
E-mail: rep.shelley.madore@house.mn
Home: Apple Valley
 *180 Strese Circle 55124 (952) 432-0225
Occupation: Community activist. **Education:** A.A., business administration, Middlesex Community College. **Elected:** 2006. **Term:** 1st. **Committees:** Housing Policy and Finance and Public Health Finance Division; Mental Health Division; Minnesota Heritage Finance Division; Transportation and Transit Policy Subcommittee, vice chair; Transportation Finance Division.



Murphy, Erin (DFL) **64A**
***413 State Office Building.....**(651) 296-8799
E-mail: rep.erin.murphy@house.mn
Home: St. Paul
 898 Osceola Ave. 55105 (651) 298-1916
Occupation: Executive director. **Education:** B.S., nursing, University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh; M.A., organizational leadership, College of St. Catherine. **Elected:** 2006. **Term:** 1st. **Committees:** Early Childhood Learning Finance Division; Health and Human Services; Health Care and Human Services Finance Division; Rules and Legislative Administration; Ways and Means.



Masin, Sandra (DFL) **38A**
527 State Office Building.....(651) 296-3533
E-mail: rep.sandra.masin@house.mn
Home: Eagan
 *1795 Carnelian Lane 55122 (651) 452-3411
Business: Eagan
 P.O. Box 21621 55121 (651) 405-1857
Occupation: Business. **Education:** B.A., government, Valparaiso University. **Elected:** 2006. **Term:** 1st. **Committees:** Biosciences and Emerging Technologies; Education Finance and Economic Competitiveness Finance Division; Telecom Regulation/Infrastructure Division, vice chair; Transportation Finance Division.



Norton, Kim (DFL) **29B**
387 State Office Building.....(651) 296-9249
E-mail: rep.kim.norton@house.mn
Home: Rochester
 *539 Lowry Court N.W. 55901 (507) 280-7683
Business: Rochester
 334 16th St. SE, Suite 133 55904..... (507) 281-6156
Occupation: Non-profit district manager. **Education:** B.S., human development and special education, University of Nebraska. **Elected:** 2006. **Term:** 1st. **Committees:** Biosciences and Emerging Technologies, vice chair; Health and Human Services; Higher Education and Workforce Development Policy and Finance Division.



McFarlane, Carol (R) **53B**
223 State Office Building.....(651) 296-5363
E-mail: rep.carol.mcfarlane@house.mn
Home: White Bear Lake
 *2237 Southwood Drive 55110..... (651) 429-6511
Occupation: Volunteer. **Education:** A.A., general studies, Lakewood State Junior College. **Elected:** 2006. **Term:** 1st. **Committees:** Higher Education and Workforce Development Policy and Finance Division; Housing Policy and Finance and Public Health Finance Division; K-12 Education Finance Division; Mental Health Division.



Olin, Dave (DFL) **1A**
593 State Office Building.....(651) 296-9635
E-mail: rep.dave.olin@house.mn
Home: Thief River Falls
 901 Spruce Ave. S. 56701..... (218) 681-7216
Occupation: Attorney/Lawyer. **Education:** B.A., political science/history, Concordia College; J.D., law, University of Minnesota. **Elected:** 2006. **Term:** 1st. **Committees:** Agriculture, Rural Economies and Veterans Affairs Finance Division; Environment; Public Safety and Civil Justice; Public Safety Finance Division, vice chair.



Morgan, Will (DFL) **40A**
531 State Office Building.....(651) 296-4212
E-mail: rep.will.morgan@house.mn
Home: Burnsville
 *409 Oakland Lane 55337..... (952) 892-5788
Business: Burnsville
 600 E. Hwy. 13 55337
Occupation: Physics and chemistry teacher. **Education:** B.A., physics, Carleton College; M.A., education, St. Mary's University. **Elected:** 2006. **Term:** 1st. **Committees:** Government Operations Reform, Technology and Elections, vice chair; Housing Policy and Finance and Public Health Finance Division; K-12 Education Finance Division; Transportation Finance Division.



Shimanski, Ron (R) **18A**
227 State Office Building.....(651) 296-1534
E-mail: rep.ron.shimanski@house.mn
Home: Silver Lake
 *23808 Jet Ave. 55381..... (320) 327-0112
Occupation: Farmer, layout and design technician. **Education:** A.S., agricultural business, Willmar Community College. **Elected:** 2006. **Term:** 1st. **Committees:** Agriculture, Rural Economies and Veterans Affairs; Agriculture, Rural Economies and Veterans Affairs Finance Division; Labor and Consumer Protection Division; Telecom Regulation/Infrastructure Division.



Slocum, Linda (DFL) **63B**
523 State Office Building..... (651) 296-7158
E-mail: rep.linda.slocum@house.mn
Home: Richfield
 *6421 - 12th Ave. S. 55423 (612) 866-3962
Occupation: Teacher. **Education:** B.A., psychology, Simpson College. **Elected:** 2006. **Term:** 1st. **Committees:** E-12 Education; Energy Finance and Policy Division; Higher Education and Workforce Development Policy and Finance Division; Transportation Finance Division.



Ward, John (DFL) **12A**
533 State Office Building..... (651) 296-4333
E-mail: rep.john.ward@house.mn
Home: Brainerd
 *1602 - 13th St. S.E. 56401 (218) 828-3626
Business: same (218) 838-7335
Occupation: Educator/teacher. **Education:** B.S., physical education and health, University of Minnesota-Duluth; M.A., learning disabilities, University of Minnesota-Duluth. **Elected:** 2006. **Term:** 1st. **Committees:** E-12 Education; Early Childhood Learning Finance Division; Education Finance and Economic Competitiveness Finance Division; State Government Finance Division, vice chair.



Swails, Marsha (DFL) **56B**
409 State Office Building..... (651) 296-1147
E-mail: rep.marsha.swails@house.mn
Home: Woodbury
 *3501 Rae Court 55125..... (651) 730-1010
Occupation: Advanced placement English teacher. **Education:** B.A., English, Graceland University; M.F.A., writing, Hamline University. **Elected:** 2006. **Term:** 1st. **Committees:** E-12 Education; Housing Policy and Finance and Public Health Finance Division; K-12 Education Finance Division; Labor and Consumer Protection Division; Ways and Means, vice chair.



Winkler, Ryan (DFL) **44B**
525 State Office Building..... (651) 296-7026
E-mail: rep.ryan.winkler@house.mn
Home: Golden Valley
 *505 Ardmore Drive 55422..... (763) 377-9354
Occupation: Attorney/Lawyer. **Education:** B.A., history, Harvard College; J.D., law, University of Minnesota. **Elected:** 2006. **Term:** 1st. **Committees:** Biosciences and Emerging Technologies; Early Childhood Learning Finance Division; Government Operations Reform, Technology and Elections; Rules and Legislative Administration; State Government Finance Division.



Tillberry, Tom (DFL) **51B**
501 State Office Building..... (651) 296-5510
E-mail: rep.tom.tillberry@house.mn
Home: Fridley
 *700 Mississippi St. N.E. 55432 (763) 571-7969
Occupation: Educator/Teacher. **Education:** B.A., political science, Winona State University; M.A., counseling, Winona State University. **Elected:** 2006. **Term:** 1st. **Committees:** Commerce and Labor; E-12 Education; Education Finance and Economic Competitiveness Finance Division; Taxes.



Wollschlager, Sandy (DFL) **28A**
335 State Office Building..... (651) 296-8635
E-mail: rep.sandy.wollschlager@house.mn
Home: Cannon Falls
 *30065 - 82 Ave. Way 55009..... (507) 263-0786
Business: St. Paul
 3M Center 55144..... (651) 575-1671
Occupation: Chemist. **Education:** B.S., chemistry, Augsburg College; M.P.A., public administration, Harvard University. **Elected:** 2006. **Term:** 1st. **Committees:** Government Operations Reform, Technology and Elections; Taxes, vice chair; Veterans Affairs Division.



Tschumper, Ken (DFL) **31B**
431 State Office Building..... (651) 296-9278
E-mail: rep.ken.tschumper@house.mn
Home: La Crescent
 *1640 Tschumper Road 55947 (507) 894-4248
Occupation: Dairy farmer. **Education:** B.A., biology, Winona State University. **Elected:** 2006. **Term:** 1st. **Committees:** Health and Human Services; Housing Policy and Finance and Public Health Finance Division; Local Government and Metro Affairs, vice chair; Ways and Means.

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 Services at (651) 296-2146
 or (800) 657-3550**

Sign of the 'Times'

Calling the state's new DFL majority a "case study for political shake-up," the New York Times has turned its eye on Minnesota in what will become a series of articles examining the state's government in the wake of the midterm elections.

"Minnesota's capital is in many ways the perfect petri dish for testing what the nation's new political landscape may produce," writes Times correspondent Kirk Johnson in a Dec. 29, 2006, article (the series' first).

The article, which includes quotes from [House Speaker Margaret Anderson Kelliher](#) (DFL-Mpls), [Rep. Steve Sviggum](#) (R-Kenyon) and Gov. Tim Pawlenty, among others, argues that the DFL's victory in November owes much to "newly elected moderates from the suburbs who are unlikely to embrace a pure liberal agenda."

Calling the series "occasional," the Times did not state when the next article would be published.

Continued from page 5

circuit breaker that gives some permanent property tax relief will be important.”

Pogemiller said the Senate DFL agrees with the House DFL’s top three priorities, but would also like to look at energy independence, including renewables; a transportation package; and a legacy proposal for things like the arts, clean water, and hunting and fishing.

Seifert said House Republicans agree with the top three priorities, but differ on the aspects of each. For example, Republicans

would like to see a focus on health care reform, and investments in education should come with accountability measures, instead of just a cash infusion. “We want to fund schools, but we want to get our money’s worth,” he said.

Pawlenty is focused on five issues: maintaining fiscal discipline, energy, transportation, and funding and reform for education and health care. “We’re in the process of putting together our budget proposal,” he said, adding that his administration wants to put money in areas where the outcome means better results.

Because this year’s legislative focus is on

setting a budget for the 2008-09 biennium, Pogemiller said the Senate will push for an earlier budget bill deadline, and that policy issues can wait. “Citizens want action on meat and potatoes, bread and butter issues,” he said.

Seifert said tax increases are off the table to pay for any proposals. Kelliher said her caucus would not look to tax increases first, but may look at tax compliance issues and foreign operating corporation tax loopholes.

Continued from page 12

— education, health care, property tax reform and transportation.

“I was joking around — I forget who I told this to, but I said, ‘You know, I’m running on [House Speaker] Margaret Anderson Kelliher’s same platform,’” Berns said.

The devil’s in the details

Unfortunately, a consensus on issues does not guarantee a consensus on legislation. With both parties pledging to cooperate with each other and focus on the same key issues, the big question appears to be whether they can agree on how to achieve their stated goals.

For his part, Berns acknowledges that difficulties are still likely to arise.

“The fact that I have the same issues as folks on the other side of the aisle, of course, doesn’t mean we always agree on how to go about accomplishing those,” he said.

Knuth agrees, but said she remains optimistic about the level of consensus among new members on what issues need to be addressed.

“There’s definitely going to be dialogue and butting of heads about a lot of the details, but I think there’s a significant consensus on what we’re trying to do,” she said.

The freshman class, at a glance

Total new members: 35
Percent of total House: 26.1 percent
DFL: 29
Republican: 6
Male: 20
Female: 15
Advanced degrees: 19
Educators: 12
Farmers: 1
Attorneys: 3
12 Republican incumbents lost
No DFL incumbents lost
Seats open at time of election: 23
Uncontested races: 4
Number of recounts: 3

Welcome to the Minnesota House of Representatives

If you need general information about the House, educational publications about the legislative process or member contact information, stop by House Public Information Services in 175 State Office Building, or call (651) 296-2146 or (800) 657-3550 toll free (voice); or the Minnesota Relay service at 711 or (800) 627-3529 (TTY)

If you want to visit your representative, just stop by his or her office. The offices of all House members are located in the State Office Building. To find the location of your representative’s office, visit House Public Information Services in 175 State Office Building.

If you want to attend a committee hearing in the State Office Building or a floor session in the House chamber in the State Capitol, they are open to the public. Everyone is welcome.

If you want to testify at a committee hearing, contact the committee’s administrator or legislative assistant a day or two before the hearing. It is usually permitted, however, to sign up to testify on the day of the hearing.

If you want a schedule of upcoming meetings, stop by House Public Information Services in 175 State Office Building. Committee and floor session schedules are published daily throughout session. Electronically updated, the schedule can be viewed on a video screen on the first floor of the State Office Building near the elevator. You can call (651) 296-9283 to hear a recorded message of meeting times and agendas.

If you want a copy of a bill, stop by the Chief Clerk’s Office in 211 State Capitol, or call (651) 296-2314.

If you want to determine the status of a particular bill, stop by House Index in 211 State Capitol, or call (651) 296-6646.

If you are deaf or hard of hearing, assistive listening devices are available. For House floor sessions, visit the Chief Clerk’s Office in 211 State Capitol. For House committee hearings, the devices are available through the House Sergeant-at-Arms office in 190 State Office Building, or call (651) 296-4860.

If you want to do research on a legislative topic or need wireless Internet access, visit the Legislative Reference Library in 645 State Office Building.

2007-08 Minnesota House of Representatives

District	Member/Party	Room*	Phone (651) 296-	District	Member/Party	Room*	Phone (651) 296-
48B	Abeler, Jim (R)	203	1729	40B	Lenczewski, Ann (DFL)	509	4218
19A	Anderson, Bruce (R)	201	5063	66A	Lesch, John (DFL)	537	4224
43A	Anderson, Sarah (R)	229	5511	30A	Liebling, Tina (DFL)	393	0573
3A	Anzelc, Tom (DFL)	417	4936	1B	Lieder, Bernard (DFL)	423	5091
39B	Atkins, Joe (DFL)	503	4192	55A	Lillie, Leon (DFL)	353	1188
35A	Beard, Michael (R)	207	8872	59A	Loeffler, Diane (DFL)	349	4219
43B	Benson, John (DFL)	517	9934	37A	Madore, Shelley (DFL)	507	5506
33B	Berns, John (R)	311	4315	22A	Magnus, Doug (R)	217	5505
57A	Bigham, Karla (DFL)	529	4342	67A	Mahoney, Tim (DFL)	591	4277
25B	Bly, David (DFL)	557	7065	65B	Mariani, Carlos (DFL)	563	9714
25A	Brod, Laura (R)	321	4229	9B	Marquart, Paul (DFL)	597	6829
27A	Brown, Robin (DFL)	337	8216	38A	Masin, Sandra (DFL)	527	3533
23B	Brynaert, Kathy (DFL)	421	3248	53B	McFarlane, Carol (R)	223	5363
35B	Buesgens, Mark (R)	307	5185	57B	McNamara, Denny (R)	271	3135
56A	Bunn, Julie (DFL)	521	4244	4A	Moe, Frank (DFL)	369	5516
45B	Carlson, Lyndon (DFL)	479	4255	40A	Morgan, Will (DFL)	531	4212
61A	Clark, Karen (DFL)	471	0294	23A	Morrow, Terry (DFL)	415	8634
24B	Cornish, Tony (R)	281	4240	58A	Mullery, Joe (DFL)	367	4262
62A	Davnie, Jim (DFL)	545	0173	64A	Murphy, Erin (DFL)	413	8799
52B	Dean, Matt (R)	327	3018	6B	Murphy, Mary (DFL)	343	2676
49A	DeLaForest, Chris (R)	323	4231	46A	Nelson, Michael (DFL)	569	3751
29A	Demmer, Randy (R)	225	9236	10A	Nornes, Bud (R)	277	4946
52A	Dettmer, Bob (R)	329	4124	29B	Norton, Kim (DFL)	387	9249
6A	Dill, David (DFL)	571	2190	1A	Olin, Dave (DFL)	593	9635
47A	Dittrich, Denise (DFL)	371	5513	16B	Olson, Mark (R)	301	4237
58B	Dominguez, Augustine "Willie" (DFL)	539	8659	11B	Otremba, Mary Ellen (DFL)	445	3201
12B	Doty, Al (DFL)	433	4247	37B	Ozment, Dennis (R)	283	4306
17A	Eastlund, Rob (R)	243	5364	42B	Paulsen, Erik (R)	309	7449
2A	Eken, Kent (DFL)	575	9918	64B	Paymar, Michael (DFL)	543	4199
19B	Emmer, Tom (R)	261	4336	31A	Pelowski Jr., Gene (DFL)	491	8637
41A	Erhardt, Ron (R)	245	4363	32A	Peppin, Joyce (R)	331	7806
16A	Erickson, Sondra (R)	279	6746	20A	Peterson, Aaron (DFL)	451	4228
8B	Faust, Tim (DFL)	567	0518	41B	Peterson, Neil W. (R)	213	7803
21B	Finstad, Brad (R)	251	9303	45A	Peterson, Sandra (DFL)	345	4176
26B	Fritz, Patti (DFL)	551	8237	27B	Poppe, Jeanne (DFL)	487	4193
53A	Gardner, Paul (DFL)	581	2907	5A	Rukavina, Tom (DFL)	477	0170
36B	Garofalo, Pat (R)	221	1069	26A	Ruth, Connie (R)	291	5368
15A	Gottwalt, Steve (R)	231	6316	42A	Ruud, Maria (DFL)	515	3964
54A	Greiling, Mindy (DFL)	381	5387	2B	Sailer, Brita (DFL)	577	4265
24A	Gunther, Bob (R)	289	3240	54B	Scalze, Bev (DFL)	357	7153
48A	Hackbarth, Tom (R)	209	2439	21A	Seifert, Marty (R)	267	5374
22B	Hamilton, Rod (R)	215	5373	5B	Sertich, Anthony "Tony" (DFL)	459	0172
39A	Hansen, Rick (DFL)	401	6828	14A	Severson, Dan (R)	233	7808
66B	Hausman, Alice (DFL)	453	3824	18A	Shimanski, Ron (R)	227	1534
15B	Haws, Larry (DFL)	473	6612	44A	Simon, Steve (DFL)	375	9889
13A	Heidgerken, Bud (R)	237	4317	10B	Simpson, Dean (R)	295	4293
46B	Hilstrom, Debra (DFL)	379	3709	55B	Slawik, Nora (DFL)	403	7807
8A	Hilty, Bill (DFL)	559	4308	63B	Slocum, Linda (DFL)	523	7158
36A	Holberg, Mary Liz (R)	303	6926	33A	Smith, Steve (R)	253	9188
34B	Hoppe, Joe (R)	317	5066	3B	Solberg, Loren (DFL)	443	2365
60B	Hornstein, Frank (DFL)	437	9281	28B	Sviggum, Steve (R)	247	2273
47B	Hortman, Melissa (DFL)	377	4280	56B	Swails, Marsha (DFL)	409	1147
14B	Hosch, Larry (DFL)	565	4373	65A	Thao, Cy (DFL)	359	5158
4B	Howes, Larry (R)	287	2451	63A	Thissen, Paul (DFL)	351	5375
7A	Huntley, Thomas (DFL)	585	2228	51B	Tillberry, Tom (DFL)	501	5510
7B	Jaros, Mike (DFL)	583	4246	49B	Tingelstad, Kathy (R)	255	5369
67B	Johnson, Sheldon (DFL)	549	4201	31B	Tschumper, Ken (DFL)	431	9278
13B	Juhnke, Al (DFL)	485	6206	18B	Urdahl, Dean (R)	239	4344
59B	Kahn, Phyllis (DFL)	365	4257	62B	Wagenius, Jean (DFL)	449	4200
17B	Kalin, Jeremy (DFL)	579	5377	61B	Walker, Neva (DFL)	553	7152
60A	Kelliher, Margaret Anderson (DFL)	463	0171	12A	Ward, John (DFL)	533	4333
50B	Knuth, Kate (DFL)	429	0141	38B	Wardlow, Lynn (R)	241	4128
20B	Koenen, Lyle (DFL)	439	4346	30B	Walti, Andy (DFL)	389	4378
34A	Kohls, Paul (R)	313	4282	11A	Westrom, Torrey (R)	273	4929
51A	Kranz, Scott (DFL)	411	4226	44B	Winkler, Ryan (DFL)	525	7026
50A	Laine, Carolyn (DFL)	407	4331	28A	Wollschlager, Sandy (DFL)	335	8635
9A	Lanning, Morrie (R)	259	5515	32B	Zellers, Kurt (R)	315	5502

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

2007-08 Minnesota Senate

District	Member/Party	Room*	Phone (651) 296-	District	Member/Party	Room*	Phone (651) 296-
66	Anderson, Ellen (DFL)	120 Cap.	5537	39	Metzen, James (DFL)	322 Cap.	4370
6	Bakk, Thomas (DFL)	226 Cap.	8881	41	Michel, Geoff (R)	133 SOB	6238
61	Berglin, Linda (DFL)	309 Cap.	4261	67	Moua, Mee (DFL)	120 Cap.	5285
51	Betzold, Don (DFL)	111 Cap.	2556	28	Murphy, Steve (DFL)	325 Cap.	4264
43	Bonoff, Terri (DFL)	325 Cap.	4314	25	Neuville, Thomas (R)	123 SOB	1279
38	Carlson, Jim (DFL)	G-9 Cap.	7-8073	17	Olseen, Rick (DFL)	G-24 Cap.	5419
50	Chaudhary, Satveer (DFL)	205 Cap.	4334	33	Olson, Gen (R)	119 SOB	1282
15	Clark, Tarryl (DFL)	208 Cap.	6455	4	Olson, Mary (DFL)	124 Cap.	4913
64	Cohen, Richard (DFL)	121 Cap.	5931	34	Ortman, Julianne (R)	125 SOB	4837
26	Day, Dick (R)	113 SOB	9457	65	Pappas, Sandra (DFL)	120 Cap.	1802
60	Dibble, D. Scott (DFL)	111 Cap.	4191	36	Pariseau, Pat (R)	117 SOB	5252
18	Dille, Steve (R)	103 SOB	4131	59	Pogemiller, Lawrence (DFL)	235 Cap.	7809
40	Doll, John (DFL)	G-9 Cap.	5975	45	Rest, Ann (DFL)	205 Cap.	2889
31	Erickson Ropes, Sharon (DFL)	G-24 Cap.	5649	35	Robling, Claire (R)	143 SOB	4123
14	Fischbach, Michelle (R)	153 SOB	2084	24	Rosen, Julie (R)	109 SOB	5713
47	Foley, Leo (DFL)	G-24 Cap.	4154	53	Rummel, Sandy (DFL)	323 Cap.	1253
21	Frederickson, Dennis (R)	139 SOB	8138	56	Saltzman, Kathy (DFL)	306 Cap.	4166
37	Gerlach, Chris (R)	129 SOB	4120	3	Saxhaug, Tom (DFL)	124 Cap.	4136
13	Gimse, Joe (R)	105 SOB	3826	46	Scheid, Linda (DFL)	G-9 Cap.	8869
42	Hann, David (R)	127 SOB	1749	29	Senjem, David (R)	147 SOB	3903
58	Higgins, Linda (DFL)	328 Cap.	9246	23	Sheran, Kathy (DFL)	G-24 Cap.	6153
11	Ingebrigtsen, Bill (R)	132D SOB	8063	57	Sieben, Katie (DFL)	321 Cap.	8060
49	Johnson, Debbie (R)	135 SOB	3219	2	Skoe, Rod (DFL)	303 Cap.	4196
48	Jungbauer, Michael (R)	121 SOB	3733	10	Skogen, Dan (DFL)	303 Cap.	5655
19	Koch, Amy (R)	115 SOB	5981	7	Solon, Yvonne Prettner (DFL)	303 Cap.	4188
12	Koering, Paul (R)	131 SOB	4875	27	Sparks, Dan (DFL)	317 Cap.	9248
20	Kubly, Gary (DFL)	301 Cap.	5094	1	Stumpf, LeRoy (DFL)	208 Cap.	8660
9	Langseth, Keith (DFL)	122 Cap.	3205	5	Tomassoni, David (DFL)	317 Cap.	8017
63	Larson, Dan (DFL)	303 Cap.	8061	62	Torres Ray, Patricia (DFL)	124 Cap.	4274
44	Latz, Ron (DFL)	306 Cap.	8065	52	Vandeveer, Ray (R)	107 SOB	4351
32	Limmer, Warren (R)	141 SOB	2159	22	Vickerman, Jim (DFL)	226 Cap.	5650
8	Lourey, Tony (DFL)	205 Cap.	0293	16	Wergin, Betsy (R)	145 SOB	8075
30	Lynch, Ann (DFL)	G-24 Cap.	4848	55	Wiger, Charles (DFL)	323 Cap.	6820
54	Marty, John (DFL)	328 Cap.	5645				

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

Minnesota House and Senate

1	A Rep. Dave Olin-(DFL) B Rep. Bernie Lieder-(DFL) Sen. LeRoy Stumpf-(DFL)	15	A Rep. Steve Gottwalt-(R) B Rep. Larry Haws-(DFL) Sen. Tarryl Clark-(DFL)	29	A Rep. Randy Demmer-(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. Karla Bigham -(DFL) B Rep. Denny McNamara-(R) Sen. Katie Sieben-(DFL)
2	A Rep. Kent Eken-(DFL) B Rep. Brita Sailer-(DFL) Sen. Rod Skoe-(DFL)	16	A Rep. Sondra Erickson-(R) B Rep. Mark Olson-(R) Sen. Betsy Wergin-(R)	30	A Rep. Tina Lieblich-(DFL) B Rep. Andy Welti-(DFL) Sen. Ann Lynch-(DFL)	44	A Rep. Steve Simon-(DFL) B Rep. Ryan Winkler-(DFL) Sen. Ron Latz-(DFL)	58	A Rep. Joe Mullery-(DFL) B Rep. Augustine Willie Dominguez-(DFL) Sen. Linda Higgins-(DFL)
3	A Rep. Tom Anzelc-(DFL) B Rep. Loren A. Solberg-(DFL) Sen. Tom Saxhaug-(DFL)	17	A Rep. Rob Eastlund-(R) B Rep. Jeremy Kalin-(DFL) Sen. Rick Olseen-(DFL)	31	A Rep. Gene Pelowski Jr.-(DFL) B Rep. Ken Tschumper-(DFL) Sen. Sharon Erickson Ropes-(DFL)	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. Frank Moe-(DFL) B Rep. Larry Howes-(R) Sen. Mary Olson-(DFL)	18	A Rep. Ron Shimanski-(R) B Rep. Dean Urdahl-(R) Sen. Steve Dille-(R)	32	A Rep. Joyce Peppin-(R) B Rep. Kurt Zellers-(R) Sen. Warren Limmer-(R)	46	A Rep. Michael Nelson-(DFL) B Rep. Debra Hilstrom-(DFL) Sen. Linda Scheid-(DFL)	60	A Rep. Margaret Anderson Kelliher-(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. Tom Emmer-(R) Sen. Amy Koch-(R)	33	A Rep. Steve Smith-(R) B Rep. John Berns-(R) Sen. Gen Olson-(R)	47	A Rep. Denise Dittrich-(DFL) B Rep. Melissa Hortman-(DFL) Sen. Leo Foley-(DFL)	61	A Rep. Karen Clark-(DFL) B Rep. Neva Walker-(DFL) Sen. Linda Berglin-(DFL)
6	A Rep. David Dill-(DFL) B Rep. Mary Murphy-(DFL) Sen. Thomas Bakk-(DFL)	20	A Rep. Aaron Peterson-(DFL) B Rep. Lyle Koenen-(DFL) Sen. Gary Kubly-(DFL)	34	A Rep. Paul Kohls-(R) B Rep. Joe Hoppe-(R) Sen. Julianne Ortman-(R)	48	A Rep. Tom Hackbarth-(R) B Rep. Jim Abeler-(R) Sen. Michael 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. Mike Jaros-(DFL) Sen. Yvonne Prettner Solon-(DFL)	21	A Rep. Marty Seifert-(R) B Rep. Brad Finstad-(R) Sen. Dennis Frederickson-(R)	35	A Rep. Michael Beard-(R) B Rep. Mark Buessgens-(R) Sen. Claire Robling-(R)	49	A Rep. Chris DeLaForest-(R) B Rep. Kathy Tingelstad-(R) Sen. Debbie Johnson-(R)	63	A Rep. Paul Thissen-(DFL) B Rep. Linda Sloucum-(DFL) Sen. Dan Larson-(DFL)
8	A Rep. Bill Hilty-(DFL) B Rep. Tim Faust-(DFL) Sen. Tony Lourey-(DFL)	22	A Rep. Doug Magnus-(R) B Rep. Rod Hamilton-(R) Sen. Jim Vickerman-(DFL)	36	A Rep. Mary Liz Holberg-(R) B Rep. Pat Garofalo-(R) Sen. Pat Pariseau-(R)	50	A Rep. Carolyn Laine-(DFL) B Rep. Kate Knuth-(DFL) Sen. Satveer Chaudhary-(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. Shelley Madore-(DFL) B Rep. Dennis Ozmert-(R) Sen. Chris Gerlach-(R)	51	A Rep. Scott Kranz-(DFL) B Rep. Tom Tillberry-(DFL) Sen. Don Betzold-(DFL)	65	A Rep. Cy Thao-(DFL) B Rep. Carlos Mariani-(DFL) Sen. Sandra Pappas-(DFL)
10	A Rep. Bud Nornes-(R) B Rep. Dean Simpson-(R) Sen. Dan Skogen-(DFL)	24	A Rep. Bob Gunther-(R) B Rep. Tony Cornish-(R) Sen. Julie Rosen-(R)	38	A Rep. Sandra Masin-(DFL) B Rep. Lynn Wardlow-(R) Sen. Jim Carlson-(DFL)	52	A Rep. Bob Dettmer-(R) B Rep. Matt Dean-(R) Sen. Ray Vandeveer-(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 Ellen Otremba-(DFL) Sen. Bill Ingebrigtsen-(R)	25	A Rep. Laura Brod-(R) B Rep. David Bly-(DFL) Sen. Thomas Neuville-(R)	39	A Rep. Rick Hansen-(DFL) B Rep. Joseph Atkins-(DFL) Sen. James Metzen-(DFL)	53	A Rep. Paul Gardner-(DFL) B Rep. Carol McFarlane-(R) Sen. Sandy Rummel-(DFL)	67	A Rep. Tim Mahoney-(DFL) B Rep. Sheldon Johnson-(DFL) Sen. Mee Moua-(DFL)
12	A Rep. John Ward-(DFL) B Rep. Al Doty-(DFL) Sen. Paul Koering-(R)	26	A Rep. Connie Ruth-(R) B Rep. Patti Fritz-(DFL) Sen. Dick Day-(R)	40	A Rep. Will Morgan-(DFL) B Rep. Ann Lenczewski-(DFL) Sen. John Doll-(DFL)	54	A Rep. Mindy Greiling-(DFL) B Rep. Bev Scalze-(DFL) Sen. John Marty-(DFL)		
13	A Rep. Bud Heidgerken-(R) B Rep. Al Juhnke-(DFL) Sen. Joe Gimse-(R)	27	A Rep. Robin Brown-(DFL) B Rep. Jeanne Poppe-(DFL) Sen. Dan Sparks-(DFL)	41	A Rep. Ron Erhardt-(R) B Rep. Neil W. Peterson-(R) Sen. Geoff Michel-(R)	55	A Rep. Leon Lillie-(DFL) B Rep. Nora Slawik-(DFL) Sen. Charles (Chuck) Wiger-(DFL)		
14	A Rep. Daniel Severson-(R) B Rep. Larry Hosch-(DFL) Sen. Michelle Fischbach-(R)	28	A Rep. Sandy Wollschlager-(DFL) B Rep. Steve Sviggum-(R) Sen. Steve Murphy-(DFL)	42	A Rep. Maria Ruud-(DFL) B Rep. Erik Paulsen-(R) Sen. David Hann-(R)	56	A Rep. Julie Bunn-(DFL) B Rep. Marsha Swails-(DFL) Sen. Kathy Saltzman-(DFL)		

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From Web to weekly newsmagazine, information abounds

By CRAIG GREEN

So you might have heard on the radio or read in the paper that the Legislature may consider a ban on smoking in public places.

The stories give some background and a couple of interviews from people for and against it, but all of the stories leave you with questions: How close is this to becoming law? What has my representative said or done about this? How can I get my opinion heard? Whose idea was this?

To find answers to these questions, there are many different resources and services that are closer than you might think.

To get answers to general questions regarding the legislative process, including who represents you, call the nonpartisan House Public Information Services at (651) 296-2146 or (800) 657-3550.

For those with access to the Internet, there are even more options.

Launched in 1994, the legislative Web site, www.leg.mn, provides a wide range of information, from legislative history to House and Senate schedules to the phone number and e-mail address of your local representative.

Much of this information is also available at www.house.mn or www.senate.mn.

Each member of the House has their own official Web page with contact and biographical information, schedules of town hall meetings, district information and a list of bills he or she has sponsored or co-sponsored.

House publications

House Public Information Services provides a number of publications to make the legislative process easier to understand for ages seven to 70.

In addition to member contact and committee information, the office produces the award-winning Session Weekly that contains

easy-to-understand in-depth coverage of House committees and floor action. Produced by House Public Information Services and mailed out every Friday, the free newsmagazine makes the complicated legislative process clear and concise. To subscribe, go to www.house.mn/hinfo/subscribe.sw.asp, or to view the online version of the latest issue at www.house.mn/hinfo/swmain.asp.

E-mail alerts

The online Session Daily is updated almost everyday during the legislative session, and when information warrants throughout the rest of the year. When something critical happens at the House, subscribers receive an e-mail alert. It's one of the best ways to get the latest information quickly. To subscribe to Session Daily, go to www.house.mn/list/join.asp?listname=sessiondaily.

To track a specific bill through the entire legislative process, one can use MyBills. A free personalized subscription-based service, it provides daily e-mails and RSS notifications on the status of requested House and Senate bills. For information, go to www.house.mn/leg/billslogin.asp.

Streaming audio/video and Podcasts

In addition, the House provides streaming audio and video of committee meetings and floor sessions, as well as Podcasts of select House committee meetings.

For people who are a little less technically inclined, unedited television coverage of all House floor sessions, select committee meetings and press conferences is available from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on *tpt17* in the Twin Cities metropolitan area, and on many cable television channels throughout Minnesota. Television coverage can also be seen via webcast at www.house.mn/htv/schedule.asp.

Frequently used Web sites and phone numbers

Legislature

Main legislative page: www.leg.mn
Find out who represents you: www.leg.mn/leg/districtfinder.asp
Legislative meeting schedule: www.leg.mn/leg/sched.asp
Check bill status: www.leg.mn/leg/legis.htm
Personalized bill tracking: www.house.mn/leg/billslogin.asp
Frequently called numbers: www.house.mn/hinfo/leginfo/freqnum.pdf
Frequently asked questions about the Minnesota Legislature: www.house.mn/leg/faqtoc.asp
House & Senate TV schedule page: www.house.mn/htv/htv.asp

Minnesota House of Representatives

Minnesota House of Representatives home page: www.house.mn
Contact a representative: www.house.mn/members/housemembers.asp
To receive e-mail updates about upcoming meetings or news from the House: www.house.mn/maillist/maillinglist.asp
House bill summaries: www.house.mn/hrd/billsum.asp
Capitol area photographs available in a high-resolution format, suitable for downloading: www.house.mn/hinfo/hsepix.htm

House Public Information Services related pages

House Public Information Services: www.house.mn/hinfo/hinfo.htm
Daily schedule and links to the House's live Internet video streaming: www.house.mn/htv/schedule.asp
Internet video archives of House television programming: www.house.mn/htv/archivesHTV
Internet audio archives of House floor sessions and committee meetings: www.house.mn/audio/default.asp
Session Weekly: www.house.mn/hinfo/swmain.asp
Session Daily: www.house.mn/hinfo/sdaily.asp

Minnesota Senate

Minnesota Senate home page: www.senate.mn
Contact a senator: www.senate.mn/members/member_list.php?sort=a#header
Senate Web casts, live video and archives of past floor sessions or meetings: www.senate.mn/media/index.php#header

Telephone

House information: (800) 657-3550 or (651) 296-2146
Minnesota Relay service: 711 or (800) 627-3529 (TTY)
Senate information: (888) 234-1112 or (651) 296-0504;
(651) 296-0250 Metropolitan Area (TTY)
(888) 234-1216 Greater Minnesota (TTY)

Directions, Parking, Tours, Visiting the Legislature, Dining

Directions

The Capitol complex is north of I-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 I-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. Blvd. There are a few metered parking spots in front of the Capitol along Aurora Avenue.

Capitol Security personnel will issue tickets for expired meters.

All-day parking permits may be purchased for \$4 from Plant Management on the ground floor of the Administration Building at 50 Sherburne Ave., north of the Capitol, across University Avenue. Cash or checks are accepted. For more information, call (651) 201-2307.

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

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

Since parking is limited during legislative sessions, taking the public bus could be an option. Call the Transit Information Center at (612) 373-3333 for schedule and route information.

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 is scheduled to meet at 12:30

p.m. on Mondays and 10 a.m. Thursdays. The Senate generally meets at 11 a.m. Mondays and Thursdays. 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 (651) 296-2146 or Senate Information (651) 296-0504, with questions.

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

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

Sometimes groups plan a "legislative day" at the Capitol. For information on reserving a room for group conferences, call the State Office Building room scheduler at (651) 296-4279 or the Capitol room scheduler at (651) 296-0866.

Tours

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

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

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

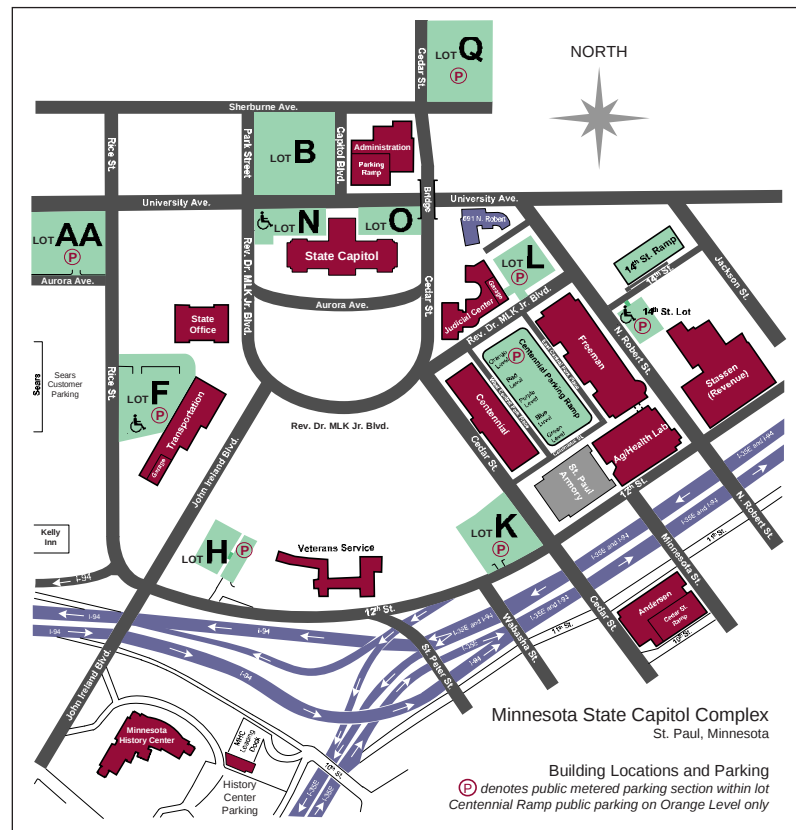
The society offers a number of specialized tours for educational groups ranging from pre-school students to high school seniors. Also, special tour events are scheduled throughout the year. Themes include "Art and Artists of the State Capitol" and "Shadows and Spirits of the State Capitol." Some of these events require admission fees. A special events guide is available upon request.

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

Dining

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

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



Edited map courtesy Minnesota Department of Administration, Plant Management Division

Strong support for smoking ban

Citizens also show support for constitutional amendment

If legislators are thinking of instituting a statewide smoking ban, it appears they have the support of Minnesotans.

More than 71 percent of the nearly 6,600 fairgoers participating in the 2006 House of Representatives State Fair poll said they support a statewide smoking ban in bars and restaurants.

Many of the questions raised in the poll reflected issues discussed in the prior legislative sessions and may be discussed again.

The informal and unscientific poll did prove to be an accurate barometer of support for the state constitutional amendment that was approved by 57 percent of voters in November. Approximately two-thirds of those participating in the poll said they would support the amendment to dedicate all funds from the state motor vehicle sales tax to transportation purposes.

Here's a look at the questions and the results.

Note: All percentages are rounded to the nearest one-tenth. Totals are for those that actually voted on the question.

1. Do you support the proposed state constitutional amendment, to be voted on this November, to dedicate all funds from the state Motor Vehicle Sales Tax to transportation purposes?

Yes	66.2%	(4,320)
No	18.2%	(1,188)
Undecided/No Opinion	15.5%	(1,014)

2. Should Minnesota's school year be expanded, with students given a shorter summer vacation and longer breaks during the school year?

Yes	41.3%	(2,699)
No	46.7%	(3,055)
Undecided/No Opinion	12%	(782)

3. Should legislators vote in 2007 on an Anoka County stadium to house the Minnesota Vikings?

Yes	37.4%	(2,434)
No	51.6%	(3,361)
Undecided/No Opinion	11%	(717)

4. Should pharmacists have the option to refuse filling a prescription if they have an ethical, moral or religious objection to a prescribed drug or device?

Yes	21.5%	(1,407)
No	75.2%	(4,917)
Undecided/No Opinion	3.3%	(217)

5. A number of Minnesota cities have banned smoking in bars and restaurants. Do you support a statewide ban?

Yes	71.7%	(4,692)
No	25.9%	(1,697)
Undecided/No Opinion	2.4%	(158)

6. In general, do you support a health impact fee on alcoholic drinks to help offset alcohol-related costs to the state, such as health and safety?

Yes	55.8%	(3,639)
No	36.8%	(2,401)
Undecided/No Opinion	7.4%	(481)

7. Should drivers under the age of 18 be restricted from having more than one passenger under the age of 21, except for immediate family members, in the vehicle?

Yes	52.4%	(3,416)
No	38.6%	(2,519)
Undecided/No Opinion	9%	(585)

8. Would you support a 10-cent per gallon increase in the state gasoline tax to fund transportation improvements?

Yes	41.1%	(2,682)
No	52.4%	(3,419)
Undecided/No Opinion	6.5%	(423)

9. When farmers intend to use pesticides and fertilizers on their fields, should they be required to notify adjacent landowners of the chemicals they plan to use and when they plan to do the application?

Yes	67.8%	(4,419)
No	22.2%	(1,443)
Undecided/No Opinion	10%	(652)

10. Immigrant students who are not legalized citizens and graduate from a Minnesota high school must pay non-resident tuition at most Minnesota public colleges and universities. Should they be permitted to pay the less expensive resident tuition?

Yes	35.7%	(2,331)
No	57%	(3,721)
Undecided/No Opinion	7.2%	(469)

11. Should new graduates in dentistry, family practice medicine or pharmacy receive some kind of incentive, such as housing assistance or lower student loan repayment rates, to practice in Greater Minnesota for at least three years?

Yes	67%	(4,369)
No	22.6%	(1,477)
Undecided/No Opinion	10.4%	(676)

12. Should veterans' military pensions be exempt from state income taxes?

Yes	57.8%	(3,774)
No	30.6%	(2,000)
Undecided/No Opinion	11.6%	(755)

13. What is your favorite food on a stick at the state fair?

Deep-fried candy bar	4.7%	(287)
Pickle	5.3%	(326)
Pronto Pup	36.2%	(2,226)
Pork chop	16.3%	(1,001)
Sausage	2.8%	(171)
Other	34.7%	(2,135)

MINNESOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
PUBLIC INFORMATION SERVICES
175 STATE OFFICE BUILDING
100 REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. BLVD.
ST. PAUL, MN 55155-1298

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE: MARGARET ANDERSON KELLIHER
MAJORITY LEADER: ANTHONY "TONY" SERTICH
MINORITY LEADER: MARTY SEIFERT

MINNESOTA INDEX

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Sources: House Public Information Services and Office of the Secretary of State

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For general information, call House Public Information Services at (651) 296-2146 or (800) 657-3550.

To have a copy of Session Weekly mailed to you, subscribe online at: www.house.mn/hinfo/subscribe.asp or call: (651) 296-2146 or (800) 657-3550

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Subscribe to Session Daily e-mail alerts at: www.house.mn/list/join.asp?listname=sess iondaily.

To obtain a copy of a bill, call the Chief Clerk's Office at (651) 296-2314.

To find out about bill introductions or the status of a specific bill, call the House Index Office at (651) 296-6646.

The House of Representatives can be found on the Web at: www.house.mn.

People who are deaf and hard of hearing may ask questions or leave messages by calling the Minnesota Relay service at 711 or (800) 627-3529 (TTY).

Check your local listings to watch television coverage of House committees, floor sessions and select press conferences.