

Lyndon Carlson

STATE REPRESENTATIVE



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WEEKLY SESSION UPDATE

State Budget Deficit

As the 84th Legislative Session gets on its way, one of our first tasks will be to address the looming budget deficit. This shortfall in state funds has been reported as \$700 million, but reaches \$1.4 billion when inflationary figures are included. While this budget challenge is not as large as \$4.2 billion fix in 2003, the state no longer has access to the one-time dollars such as the tobacco endowment to fill the gap. My colleagues and I will be working to address this budget shortfall in a way that is fiscally responsible and creating solutions to the structural deficiencies that continue to lead to deficits in the first place. I will fight against the use of the state's emergency reserve funds or any use other use one-times monies that does nothing to address the structural problems and puts our state bond rating at risk.

Additionally, we need to find some balance in any budget fix and not place the budget burden on the backs of our students, our seniors and the most vulnerable segments of our society. We are currently waiting to see what will be included in the Governor's budget proposal, which will be released sometime after the February budget forecast. Look for updates on the budget deficit and proposals to address the issue in upcoming e-newsletters.

K-12 Education

As a member of the House Education Policy and Reform Committee and the Ways and Means Committee, Rep. Carlson will continue to work to find innovative ways to see that we truly leave no child behind. He is committed to working with his colleagues on both sides of the aisle to ensure success for all students. Rep. Carlson has introduced legislation to provide for all-day kindergarten (HF16) and supports early childhood education programs including Headstart. Last biennium, Rep. Carlson stood up against the unprecedented \$185 million direct cut to our students and our classrooms. During times of budget challenges, how we spend our state funds sends a loud and clear message about our priorities as a state. Rep. Carlson will continue to make our students our state's first priority.

Legislation by Carlson

- HF13- Stem cell research state policy established
- HF16- Funding established for voluntary full-day kindergarten
- HF62- Providing for Capitol Improvements at the University of Minnesota
- HF63- Providing for Capital Improvements at Minnesota state colleges and universities

Representative Carlson's Committee Assignments:

- Education Policy and Reform;
- Ethics (Vice Chair);
- Higher Education Finance;
- Rules and Legislative Administration;
- Ways and Means.

Our State Capitol Building Celebrates 100 Years

January marks 100 years since the opening of the Minnesota State Capitol. The Capitol, designed by Cass Gilbert, is one of the most celebrated of state capitol buildings in the nation and was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1972. Centennial celebrations took place earlier this month; however, events are ongoing. To learn more about the history of the State Capitol, special events or how you might enjoy a tour of our beautiful home to State Government, visit www.ourhouse100.com.