

Karen Clark

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State Representative, District 61A

Representative Karen Clark has provided strong, effective leadership for our South Minneapolis neighborhoods in the Minnesota House of Representatives. Economic and social justice issues like affordable housing, living wage jobs, crime prevention and human rights protection have been her priorities. Working with and empowering our neighborhoods has been her consistent style and agenda.

Friends and neighbors, I want to update you on my work to represent you at the State Capitol. I would also like to thank all those who have called or visited to voice the needs and aspirations of our inner city neighborhoods. These are very challenging times and we need grass roots pressure to change laws and government at all levels. **Please see the reverse for initiatives I have been working on in the 2006 legislative session.**

It's been my honor to represent these south Minneapolis neighborhood and help lead the fight for economic and social justice at the State Capitol. It's been harder winning victories in the eight years since the DFL has been in the minority party in the Minnesota House of Representatives, but I hope we can change that in the Fall 2006 election.

Some of the major initiatives Rep. Clark has chief authored and passed:

- Worker and community **right-to-know toxic exposure**
- **Living wages** requirements for publicly subsidized jobs
- **Dislocated worker training** fund created and sustained
- **Restorative Justice** funding for neighborhood-based programs
- **Affordable housing** funding for homeowners and renters
- **Tenants training** and "second chance" bonding programs
- Culturally specific **shelters for battered women**
- Shelters and programs for **prostituted youth** and adults
- **Tougher penalties for pimps** who exploit youth
- Sliding fee **child care** funding
- Child care **apprenticeship and career ladders**
- Public health approach to **crack-cocaine addiction**
- Tougher **neighborhood nuisance laws** for crack houses
- Culturally specific **chemical dependency treatment** funding
- **YouthBuild** pre-apprenticeship program created and sustained
- **HeadStart, Crisis Nurseries, Child-care** facilities construction
- **Youth recreation and after-school** program funding
- **Interpreter/translator** education study
- **Indian burial grounds** protections
- **Cancer and birth defects** registry
- Stronger **Patients' Bill of Rights**
- **AIDS** funding and workplace training
- "**Sexual orientation**" added to MN Human Rights Act
- **Environmental Justice** study
- **Home ownership for Section 8** participants
- **ClearCorp** funding for childhood lead-poisoning cleanup
- **Homelessness Prevention** programs created and sustained
- **Foreclosure Prevention**
- **Reverse mortgage** counseling for seniors
- **Assisted living** for Korean high-rise residents
- **High-rise crime-prevention** funding
- **Inhalant abuse** prevention and **alcohol detoxification** reform
- **Economic Conversion** planning to reduce military dependency
- **American Indian Family Preservation Act**
- **AIDS** funding for **Communities of Color**
- **Hate crimes** enforcement
- Tougher **anti-discrimination law** enforcement
- **Minority Scholarship** nurse program
- **Migrant Worker Rights** strengthened
- Expanded **housing for the mentally ill**
- Helped protect **reproductive rights**

State Rep. Karen Clark



Rep. Karen Clark met with District 61 AFSCME union members at the Capitol along with Rep. Neva Walker and Sen. Linda Berglin

Rep. Karen Clark has been working hard for District 61A in the Legislature!

Representative Karen Clark

2006 Legislative Priorities



Rep. Clark at the press conference to protest Governor Pawlenty's veto of funding for after-school youth programs in 2005. She is working to restore funding in 2006.

- Environmental Justice: Map links between toxic sites and health disparities
- Homeless Youth Shelters: Restore funding
- Dislocated Worker and Unemployment: Expand benefits to include "locked out" employees
- American Indian Education: Mandate Am. Indian culture and history curriculum
- Phillips Neighborhood Safe Zone: Strengthen crime prevention strategies
- Health Impact Fee for Alcohol: Target funds to chemical dependency treatment, law enforcement, youth programs
- Sexual Predators: Deconcentrate housing
- Tribal I.D: Mandate acceptance by state agencies
- Aids Prevention: Fund outreach to African-born immigrants
- Tax Reform: Close corporate loopholes and use funds to restore affordable housing, MFIP education options, Medical assistance, childcare
- GLBT families: Stop anti-marriage constitutional amendment, support basic human rights
- Immigrant Rights: Stop pre-emption of Mpls city ordinances and support Dream Act for college tuition
- Wild Rice: Ban GMO contamination
- Toxic Chemicals: Phase out flame retardants, strengthen worker and community right-to-know laws
- Reproductive Rights: Stop erosion of basic rights



Rep. Clark presented the bonding bill for East Phillips Park with neighbors and officials: Sen. Berglin, Park Board Cmsr. Mary Merrill-Anderson, Dr. Lee Antell of AIOIC, American Indian City Liason Bill Carter, Sherzad Kordian, Council Member Gary Schiff, Carl and Brad Pass and Karri Plowman of the American Indian Chamber of Commerce.

Rep. Clark received the 2005 Legislative Children's Champion Award from the Children's Defense Fund of MN from Director Jim Koppel. Karen is working to restore child care funding cuts to working families.



Rep. Clark toured the Global Market at the former Sears site and is proposing state funding that would reduce costs to small business owners.

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Wearing an armband in protest, Rep. Clark spoke out against the denial of domestic partners' health care and bereavement leave benefits already negotiated in state employee's labor contracts.



Rep. Clark and Sen Becky Lourey with Winona LaDuke at a public meeting on their bill to ban GMO contamination of wild rice in Minnesota.



Rep. Clark is working with Elizabeth Namarra of Sub-Saharan African AIDS Family Services on her bill to fund AIDS prevention for African-born Minnesotans.