

# Lyndon Carlson

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

## CAPITOL UPDATE



### HOW TO REACH

State  
Representative

**Lyndon  
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Dear Neighbors,

The 2006 Legislative Session is now upon us. While it is expected to be a short session, there are critical things to be done. Along with important policy changes, we will likely pass a job-creating bonding bill that will be good for the state and our area. Please feel free to contact me if you have questions about any legislative issue.

Sincerely,

Rep. Lyndon Carlson

### STATEWIDE BONDING

Passing a bonding bill should be the top priority during the session. The goal of the bonding bill is to borrow money to invest in projects that have both a regional and statewide benefit. The bill will invest in infrastructure and could create as many as 10,000 jobs statewide. Locally, the legislature is likely to approve the final bonding request to complete construction on the Northstar Commuter Rail Line. North Hennepin Community College is also requesting \$700,000 to begin designing a new Business and Technology Center.

### EDUCATION

Education is one of the most important investments our state makes. It is the single greatest tool for advancement and it is Minnesota's economic engine. We must make sure the path to education starts younger with increased opportunities for early childhood education. I am also sponsoring legislation to expand the number of voluntary all-day kindergarten sites. Children do better academically with more attention; legislation will be introduced to reduce class sizes.

### TRANSPORTATION

Last year, both the House and Senate passed a bipartisan and comprehensive transportation package that included significant investments and secure funding for both transit and roads. The bill was unfortunately vetoed, but we still must pass a comprehensive transportation investment for Minnesota. This year's bonding bill also presents new opportunities for transportation in our state.

## **HEALTH CARE**

Excessive costs and lack of insurance coverage continues to be a problem for Minnesotans and all Americans. In 2005, we successfully preserved MinnesotaCare insurance coverage for 27,000 working Minnesotans. We must now work to expand coverage. Minnesotans shouldn't have to pay excessive costs for necessary prescription drugs. The state should negotiate prescription drug discounts with manufacturers for uninsured Minnesotans.

## **MAPLE GROVE HOSPITAL**

With North Memorial and Fairview announcing a partnership to run a new hospital in Maple Grove, I am confident the legislature will act on this issue. Last session, I co-authored the bill we passed authorizing North Memorial to run the hospital. While the Senate had a different opinion last year, the new alliance is the natural choice.

## **EMINENT DOMAIN**

The U.S. Supreme Court has affirmed local governments' use of eminent domain power to obtain private property for economic development. Local governments in Minnesota also use eminent domain to build roads, public buildings, remove severely neglected properties, and protect public health and safety. There will be changes to eminent domain laws this year. The real question is what those changes are. A key change should be making the process more streamlined. Property owners shouldn't have to wait a prolonged time to find out whether or not eminent domain will be used. Any changes should strike a balance between property owners' interests and economic development.

