

Lyndon Carlson

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

WEEKLY SESSION UPDATE



HOW TO REACH State Representative Lyndon Carlson

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House of Representatives:

Session Weekly:

[www.house.leg.state.mn.us/
hinfo/swmain.asp](http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/hinfo/swmain.asp)

State Senate:

Senate Briefly:

www.senate.leg.state.mn.us/briefly/

REPUBLICANS REFUSE TO DEBATE MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE ON THE HOUSE FLOOR

This week, Republicans in the House voted against bringing the Minimum Wage bill to the floor for a debate. Rep. Tom Rukavina (DFL-Virginia), the bill's House author, attempted to make a motion to pull the bill from committee and have the body vote. The Senate passed the bill on February 3rd.

Rep. Lyndon Carlson voted to bring the bill from committee for debate by the entire House. He is disappointed that 66 Republicans voted against even discussing this very important issue on the House floor.

Rep. Carlson said that discussion is needed regarding an increase the minimum wage, which has not been increased since 1997. In that time, the buying power of that wage has decreased by 20 percent. In Minnesota, one out of every four workers currently makes less than \$10 an hour.

Fourteen of the country's states have recently increased their minimum wage, and over fifty percent of those states have had stronger job creation numbers than the national average.

All Minnesota families are impacted by the increase in essentials such as housing, gasoline for transportation, heating gas and the skyrocketing cost of health insurance. These

stresses on the family budget are of particular hardship to the families of low-wage workers.

THE BONDING BILL PASSES FINAL HURDLE IN THE HOUSE

The final bonding bill was passed this Wednesday by both the House and the Senate and now awaits the Governor's signature. Rep. Lyndon Carlson called it the first and best example in recent years of a truly bipartisan effort to get the job done for the state of Minnesota.

The bill will fund \$945 million of construction and capital improvement projects statewide. Some of the key investments include \$37.5 million for the Northstar Commuter Rail Line, \$12 million in permanent supportive housing loans and \$22 million for the new Minnesota Planetarium and Space Discovery Center.

Usually, odd-numbered legislative years within the biennium are reserved for the budget debate, and even-numbered legislative years are largely focused on the bonding debate. This year was an exceptional case in which both the budget and the bonding bill need to be addressed.

Rep. Carlson said that the passage of the bonding bill could create as many as 12,000 jobs in the state of Minnesota. In the short-term, this means good-paying construction jobs on key projects. There are also long-term benefits. Investments in higher education will allow us to educate the

next generation of clinical researchers, technicians and nurses to answer the demands for these highly skilled employees for the medical and technology fields.

Rep. Carlson said that it is a rare, proud opportunity to take a vote in which he is certain that doing that creates so many jobs for Minnesota's workers and to jump start the state's economy.

A FEE IS A TAX IS A TAX

Rep. Lyndon Carlson remains concerned with continuing dependence on one-time money, accounting shifts and increased fees within the Governor's current budget proposal.

Rep. Carlson has been participating in a growing discussion within his caucus about the impact increasing fees has on families. He said that while taxes may have an

impact on the family budget, hidden fees may often pose even more of a hardship.

During the last budget fix, the Governor and House Republicans supported the increase of almost half a billion dollars in fees on everything from fishing licenses to our seniors in nursing homes.

At the same time, the Governor proposes increasing property taxes by \$441 million in his budget plan.

As a member of the key Ways & Means Committee, Rep. Lyndon Carlson is committed to increasing transparency and honesty in the budget process. He wants to raise awareness about the increasing fees and property taxes that are proposed in the Governor's budget.



Representatives (from left) Sandra Peterson (DFL-New Hope), Michael Nelson (DFL-Brooklyn Park), Lyndon Carlson (DFL-Crystal) and Debra Hilstrom (DFL-Brooklyn Center) take a minute to confer during a recess in the action on the floor of the House of Representatives during debate on the Bonding Bill. The House passed the final conference committee report on the bill April 6th with overwhelming bipartisan support. The bill could create as many as 12,000 new jobs beginning in this summer construction session.

SPEEDY WAY TO RENEW YOUR LICENSE TABS, OTHER VEHICLE SERVICES AVAILABLE ONLINE

The Minnesota Department of Public Safety's Drivers and Vehicle Services Division has a number of services available online, including vehicle registration renewals, drivers' license status checks, reporting of the sale of a motor vehicle, and change of address forms. This is a great way to avoid long lines at motor vehicle services offices.

Check out these and other
services available at

www.mndriveinfo.org

**Representative Carlson would
love to hear from you!**

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