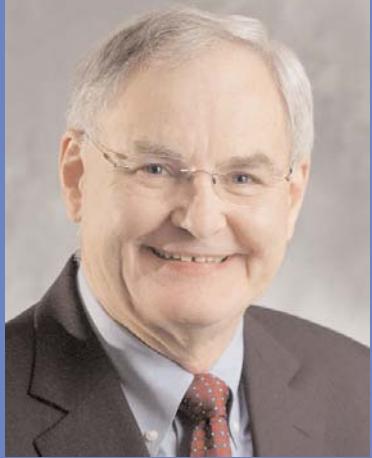


lyndon carlson

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

WEEKLY SESSION UPDATE



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Check out these weekly publications to keep track of what's going on at the State Capitol:

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/

MN Dept of Finance Releases the February Forecast

The February Forecast is a snapshot of the fiscal health of the state. It takes a look at the state's revenues and spending from the general fund and other factors, including job growth, to work as a predictor of the financial future of the state. The Governor and the Legislature use the biannual budget forecasts as guidelines for creating the state budget.

As a member of the Ways and Means Committee, Rep. Lyndon Carlson received an in-depth overview of the February Forecast by Department of Finance Commissioner Peggy Ingison.

Rep. Carlson reports the forecast released Monday showed that revenues have increased and spending has decreased from previous November Forecast estimates, shrinking Minnesota's current budget deficit from \$1.4 billion to \$1.16 billion when adjusted for inflation—still a formidable deficit.

Certainly the improvement in the forecast is a positive step in the right direction. However, concerns remain for the state's future financial stability. If revenues and spending remain at their current levels, the state is projected to face yet another \$1.3 billion budget deficit for the fiscal years 2008-09. Even more concerning for the long-term future of the state, job growth continues to lag behind the national average.

Rep. Carlson is concerned about the continuing cycle of budget deficits and resulting cuts to our schools, nursing homes and healthcare services for working Minnesotans. He is committed to working with his colleagues to stop the use of shifts and one-time revenues to balance the budget that do nothing to address the structural imbalances and instead balance the deficit in a way that ends the devastating cycle of budget deficits and cuts.

Rep. Carlson and Rep. Peterson hold Series of Community Meetings

Reps. Lyndon Carlson and Sandra Peterson held a series of community meetings last Monday, February 28th. First, they hosted a morning coffee meeting for Senate District 45 residents at Dunn Bros. Coffee in New Hope, where they were joined by House DFL Leader Matt Entenza. Residents expressed concern regard-

ing the future of public education, the impacts of the loss of state aid to local governments and the resulting property tax increases. They also asked questions about future implications should the Pawlenty budget plan pass. We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all residents who took time out of their busy schedules to attend.

Following the meeting with constituents Rep. Carlson, Rep. Peterson and Minority Leader Entenza met at New Hope City Hall with representatives of area long-term care facilities to discuss health care issues.

Immediately following, they met with local elected officials and representatives of the business community. The discussion largely centered around the need to address our current transportation challenges and plan for the future transportation and transit needs of the region.

Thousands of Minnesotans Rally in Support of Our Students and Schools

Last Monday, February 28th, marked Education Day on the Hill. In an unprecedented show of support for our public school students and classrooms, over 6,000 parents, students, educators and school board members gathered on the mall in front of the Capitol to let state leaders know that the state's number one priority should be investments in the future of this state—our children. Rep. Lyndon Carlson is a strong advocate for public education. He has been the chief author of many education initiatives, such as this year's bill for voluntary all-day kindergarten (HF16).

Twin West Chamber of Commerce Visits Capitol

Rep. Lyndon Carlson met with Crystal, Robbinsdale and Golden Valley members of the Twin West Chamber of Commerce as part of their Day on the Hill last Wednesday, March 2nd.

The Chamber represents the interests of over 1,000 member businesses and industries in our area.

The chamber members brought with them the perspective of local businesses for the need to invest in our transportation systems and to find ways the state can help businesses deal with the skyrocketing cost of health insurance premiums for their employees.