



# Capitol Contact

## by State Representative Steve Simon

2006, Volume V

### THE 2006 SESSION IN REVIEW

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#### Successes

With so much action in so many areas, here's my best attempt at a short list.

- **BIPARTISAN BONDING BILL**  
*(for construction of one-time building projects; a huge job-creator)*
- **MORE HELP FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION**  
*(although not back to the level before the cuts of 2003)*
- **A LANDMARK MERCURY REDUCTION LAW**  
*(90% reduction in emissions by 2015; toughest law in the nation)*
- **MIDDLE CLASS INCOME TAX RELIEF**  
*(elimination of the "marriage penalty" and re-calculation of the "Alternative Minimum Tax")*
- **NEW PROTECTIONS AGAINST IDENTITY THEFT**  
*(the ability to place a "freeze" on our own credit reports)*
- **AUTHORIZATION OF LOW-SPEED ELECTRIC CARS**  
*(for use on streets with speed limits below 35 m.p.h.)*
- **EXPANDED PRISON SPACE FOR SEX OFFENDERS**  
*(unfortunately necessary)*
- **PUBLIC PENSION REFORM**  
*(a merger of two large teacher pension funds, resulting in huge savings)*

Dear Friends,  
 After a couple of "all-nighters," the 2006 legislative session is over. Remarkably (considering the 2005 stalemate), the 2006 session was productive. There were some notable successes, but also some missed opportunities. I'm most encouraged by the overall level of cooperation between Democrats and Republicans on key issues. I'm most disappointed by the continuing use of accounting shifts and gimmicks as a substitute for lasting investments in things like education, transportation, and property tax relief. There's still more work to do.

*Steve*

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Steve  
 SIMON

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

#### Missed Opportunities

Here's a quick list of some disappointments.

- **NO PERMANENT PROPERTY TAX RELIEF**  
*(the plan that I supported failed in the House; it's long overdue)*
- **NO LONG-RANGE SOLUTION FOR EASING TRAFFIC CONGESTION**  
*(the further reliance on excessive borrowing is unwise)*
- **NO CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM**  
*(there's a special need in judicial elections)*
- **NO DEDICATED FUNDING FOR THE ENVIRONMENT**  
*(the plan that I supported failed in the House)*

*As always, please feel free to contact me about any issue, idea, or concern.*