



# PRE-SESSION Newsletter



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The 2016 legislative session is scheduled to be shorter than normal, but there's much to accomplish. Tax relief, transportation funding, and a bonding bill will be at the forefront of discussion in the next couple months. We've already accomplished much last year, but we need to finish what we set out to achieve for all Minnesotans.

## Tax Relief

Last year, the House passed a tax relief bill to put more money back in the pockets of Minnesota families. Recent college graduates, senior citizens, veterans, and small-business owners would see a benefit from our tax plan. We need to improve our tax climate to keep and attract more families and jobs to our state. We have a \$900 million surplus which shows we've been overtaxing, and must do our part to let you keep more of your hard-earned paycheck.

## Property Tax Relief

Our tax bill also includes relief by easing the property tax burden. By repealing the statewide general property tax, our main-street businesses could grow and thrive by paying less toward the state coffers.

As you can see in the graph, this tax accounts for a major portion of tax dollars from small businesses

## Transportation Funding

Along with tax relief, transportation funding is a main component of the 2016 agenda. The 2015 transportation bill that currently sits in conference committee spent \$7 billion over the next 10 years on roads and bridges WITHOUT raising taxes. By using dedicated, reliable funding, we can repair our infrastructure without putting more stress on family budgets.

## Bonding Bill

During the second year of each biennium, the Legislature usually passes some sort of bonding package to fund regional projects that have a large impact on our state. The governor proposed a \$1.4 billion bonding bill and only included road and bridge funding for Minneapolis and St. Paul. Bonding is one way to fix our suburban and Greater Minnesota roads and bridges. Infrastructure support throughout the state – not just in two cities – should be a component of any bonding bill this session.

