

State Representative Mike Nelson

SESSION UPDATE



HOW TO REACH State Representative Mike Nelson

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House of Representatives
Session Weekly

www.house.leg.state.mn.us/hinfo/swmain.asp

State Senate
Senate Briefly

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

Dear Friends,

I am optimistic that the 2006 legislative session will be short and focused. Minnesotans are tired of excessive partisanship. They want their leaders to focus on finding common ground – to get in, do the people's business and go home. Topping the list of the people's business this year will be a bonding bill that reflects the things that are important to us all – good jobs for more Minnesotans, property tax relief and investments in our schools, healthcare and transportation.

I'll be sending periodic Capitol Updates to let you know what issues I'm working on and to inform you about bills making progress as we move through the session. As always, feel free to contact my office with thoughts, concerns and suggestions. And if you find yourself at the Capitol, please stop in for a visit. I look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you for the honor of representing you at the Capitol!

Sincerely, 

ISSUES TO WATCH IN 2006

Bonding Bill

Our top priority in the 2006 Legislative session will be the Capital Investment bill, also known as the bonding bill. This bill provides funding for public infrastructure projects across Minnesota. I'll be working to include two local projects in the bill that didn't make it into the Governor's first proposal - funding for North Hennepin Community College and Hennepin Technical College. Both of these community colleges serve hundreds of local residents, some who are the first in their families to attend college.

Eminent Domain

In response to the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision allowing local governments to take private property and hand it over to another private party unless prohibited by state law, we're likely to see changes in our states eminent domain

laws. As legislators, we should always be cautious about imposing additional restrictions on local governments. I support a balanced approach, which allows protections for individual homeowners without eroding the ability of cities and towns to make development decisions beneficial to the entire community.

Property Tax Relief

Last weeks news that the state will have a small surplus in revenues was a welcome change from the last three years of budget deficits. However, the turnaround in state finances has come at the expense of homeowners across the state in the form of higher property taxes and new fees, as schools, cities and counties struggle to provide quality services in the face of statewide budget cuts. I think it is only right that property owners get some relief from their escalating property taxes. I'm also glad that the legislature has lived up to it's promise to use the surplus money to pay back schools for the money the state borrowed to balance the budget three years ago.



I'd like to thank all of the residents of Brooklyn Park and Brooklyn Center who took time out of their busy schedules to attend recent Town Meetings February 11th at the Brooklyn Center Civic Center, and February 15th at the Brooklyn Park Library. Town meetings exemplify grassroots democracy at its finest. Your willingness to come and participate in these meetings shows just how much you care about our community. The concerns we heard about a wide variety of issues will play a large part in the work of during the 2006 Legislative session. You can be assured we will take all of your input into account as we work to represent Brooklyn Park and Brooklyn Center at the State Legislature.