

## CONVENTION ENERGIZES 6TH CONGRESSIONAL GOP

by ACR staff

On Saturday, April 14, energetic GOP'ers filled the Mounds View Community Event Center to endorse candidates, hear from guest speakers, and discuss issues.

After local Scouts presented the colors, a total of, 219 delegates and 118 alternates elected from local district conventions took their seats. In Anoka County, Senate District 31 was allocated 41 seats and had 35 delegates and 15 alternates in attendance. Senate District 35 was allocated 36 seats and had 27 delegates and 13 alternates in attendance. Senate District 37 was allocated 23 seats and had 13 delegates and 12 alternates in attendance. House District 38a was allocated 21 seats and had 13 delegates in attendance and 13 alternates in attendance.

A presentation on the voting dynamics of the state constitutional Voter ID amendment emphasized the point that failing to vote on the question essentially is a no vote. Joey Gerdin of the group Voter ID for MN informed the convention of their website and the group's efforts to raise funds for the placement of billboards across the state. Their website is [www.VoterIDforMN.com](http://www.VoterIDforMN.com).

Ryan Lick of the College Republicans spoke on the need to organize on college campuses, places often ignored in traditional campaigning activities.

The highlight of the day was the unanimous endorsement of Congresswoman Michele Bachmann. In thanking the delegates for their support, Bachmann spoke about her concerns about the future of this country. She said that in 2020, the US will spend more on servicing the national debt than we will spend on national defense. She noted that a recent naval ship that was launched by China was essentially paid for by United States taxpayers due to this.

Bachmann also spoke about the deficit, informing the delegates that President Obama is wrong on the Buffet Rule, which advocates for an increase in the tax rates on capital gains. She stated that this income has already been taxed at a 35% rate through corporate taxes. She stated that while Obama's proposal would bring in \$3 billion a year in additional tax revenue, it would devastate the economy and provide little return. It would move investment income out of the US, and would only provide enough new income to cover the amount the US borrows every 17 hours to run the government.

Bachmann concluded by stating, "There is no finer group of people than the people that live in this 6th district. God bless you all." After a standing applause, she then walked down every row throughout the convention hall personally speaking to every delegate and posing for photographs with many while the convention continued.

The convention also included the election of new congressional district officers. Jennifer Niska was elected chair, David FitzSimmons was elected State Executive Committee member, Frank Long was elected Deputy Chair, Eric Siljander was elected Secretary, and Darlin Kister was elected Treasurer.

Judd Mowry was nominated and elected to be the Presidential Elector. Mowry would cast one of 10 electoral votes Minnesota has, provided that the GOP endorsed candidate for President wins the November election.

The convention also broke down into sub-caucuses by county with Joe Field being elected as the Anoka County Vice-Chair and Andy Aplikowski as the alternate.

National Delegates and Alternates were also elected for the national GOP convention to be held in Tampa, FL. Christi Scherber, Stacy Morse, and Ben Barringer were elected Delegate and Jim Bendtsen, Adam Motzko, and Steve King were elected as Alternates.

Bachmann's challenger was referenced once, not by name, but by hotel ownership. Delegate Tom Ellenbecker reminding delegates that Bachmann's opponent owns the Le St-Germain Suite Hotel next door to the St. Cloud Convention Center, site of the state party convention next month. He stated that delegates may wish to stay at any of the other fine hotel establishments in his city.

State Party Chairman Pat Shortridge of Lino Lakes gave a progress report for the party. He acknowledged that party finances have been in the newspaper as of late but that the stories were based on information the media obtained that was several months old. He stated that the party is in better financial shape as compared to three months ago, and will be in even better shape three months from now. — *Editor's note: A draft copy of the meeting minutes was used as a source for names and offices elected.*



6th District Congresswoman Michele Bachmann addressing the 6th District GOP convention

## MN REPUBLICAN PARTY CHAIR MAKES STATEMENT ON PARTY FINANCES



by Pat Shortridge,  
Chairman  
Republican Party of  
Minnesota

Apr. 23. In light of an exaggerated press story in a publication this morning, the MNGOP is not being

'kicked out' of its offices. While we have successfully negotiated with our creditors in most cases, our landlord took the unfortunate step, which they are certainly within their rights to do, of bringing the matter to court. We believe we're on track to settle this matter without further legal action, and we'll know for sure in the coming days.

In the process of straightening out the Party's finances, here's what we've done:

- First and foremost, we've amended our Federal Election Commission (2011) and Minnesota Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board reports for 2011 and 2010.
- The Financial Control and Oversight Committee, chaired very, very ably by Jeff Johnson, has looked into many of the questionable transactions from the past and will present a series of recommendations to significantly improve our processes, internal financial controls and oversight.
- We've continued to cut expenses, while continuing the process of restoring trust with our major donors and rebuilding our small dollar donor programs. Fundraising is improving and we're getting things done on a shoestring. You should be VERY proud of the party staff and our many key volunteers for going above and beyond the call to get things done.
- We have negotiated with our creditors so we engage in an orderly process for paying down our debt. In 95% of the cases, that process has gone smoothly. In a couple of cases, it has not gone as well as we'd hoped despite the best efforts of Mike Vekich, Bron Scherer, and me. One in particular that I wanted to tell you about is our negotiation with our landlord.

We have a long and very expensive lease which still has twenty-one (21) months to run. As you know, we have more space than we need and our monthly lease cost is in excess of current, comparable market lease rates. When I was elected on December 31, 2011, the rent had not been paid since August 2011 and as part of our continuing financial issues and our effort to re-negotiate the lease, no lease payments have been made in 2012 to date.

Rather than continue discussions with us, the landlord chose to exercise its rights and filed a notice of eviction in Ramsey County court. We're not going to be evicted, and at the same time, are continuing to negotiate on the back payments as well as on a lease that better fits both our space needs and our budget.

While this is a situation none of us wants, it's part of the rebuilding process. No one ever said it would be simple or easy or without bumps along the way. But I wanted you to hear about it from me rather than from any other source.

• The bottom line: We're in better shape than we were three months ago, but not as good as we'll be three months from now. It's a daily process that requires hard work and common purpose.

### RESOLUTIONS PASSED AT THE 6th DISTRICT GOP CONVENTION

The following is an abridged listing of resolutions that were passed:

• Be it resolved that any Republican candidate for the presidency be allowed to speak freely at any Republican state convention.

#### Promote Economic Prosperity

• It is not the role of government to create jobs in the private sector.

• The Republican Party of Minnesota supports an

amendment to the state constitution requiring zero based budgeting.

- Abolish refundable tax credits; no refunds to persons who do not pay income tax.
- Abolish the Federal Reserve system

#### Preserve Civil Rights

• No U.S. citizen should be detained for any reason without due process of law as provided by the U. S. Constitution.

**RESOLUTIONS PASSED** cont. on next page A-2

**RESOLUTIONS PASSED**

*continued from previous page, A-1*

- We oppose mandatory tracking devices on automobiles by the government for the purposes of mileage taxation, law enforcement, or other uses.

**Educate Our Children**

- Eliminate teacher tenure law for elementary and secondary public school teachers and return to performance as the prerequisite for continued employment.
- We oppose the adoption of the Common Core national standards and the national tests that accompany them.

**Abortion**

- Procedures such as webcam abortions in which the RU-486 abortion drug is remotely administered via a closed-circuit connection, should be banned.
- We urge the Minnesota Legislature pass a ban on abortion after the point in pregnancy at which an unborn child can feel pain (20) weeks except when the mother's life is at risk.
- We protect women by instituting basic regulations and inspections of abortion facilities which remain unregulated and undisputed.
- Elected officials should actively seek ways to reverse Roe v. Wade and bring the decision back to the state where it would be voted on.

**Health Care / Insurance**

- We specifically oppose the federal health care law generally known as "Obamacare" and will work to repeal all portions of this law.
- We urge the Minnesota Legislature to work to pass a competitive, private, market-driven health insurance law.

**Judges and Judicial elections**

- We reject judicial retention elections, judicial appointments, judicial "merit selection", the "Missouri Plan" or similar plans to change how judges are selected to office.
- To provide adequate checks and balances on the judicial branch of government, the Board on Judicial Standards should be placed under the direct control of the Minnesota Legislature.
- The judiciary must have all administrative documents available to the citizens upon request.
- The process of review by a district court judge needs to be removed from the screening of cases before the Grand Jury process. The people should have the right to approach a Grand Jury directly to present evidence of government corruption.
- Party affiliation should be indicated on ballots for judges.

**Voting**

- Congress shall pass no law that does not apply equally to elected officials as it does to every other citizen.
- Limit early voting to 7 calendar days prior to the official election date.

**Make Government Smaller and Better**

- The Smart Grid should be eliminated.
- The National Animal Identification System should be eliminated.
- Election funds should come from individuals and not from labor unions.

- Stop state and federal government from deducting union dues from government employees' paychecks. Let the government union members mail in their dues.
- We believe that all federal subsidies should be disclosed with every proposal of a state bill.
- We oppose public pensions for elected public officials.
- *Change the last line of paragraph 2 under subsection "Elect Honest and Responsible Legislative Bodies" to "All elected officials' compensation should be limited to salary during service, with no retirement benefit beyond Social Security."*
- On all constitutional amendment proposals, all "yes" votes be counted as "yes", all "no" votes be counted as "no", and all blank, unchecked votes are uncounted and do not default to "no".
- The Republican Party will work to convert state employee retirement compensation from a defined benefit to a defined contribution structure.
- Abolish the Federal Department of Energy and the Environmental Protection Agency.
- The Minnesota Legislature meet only every other year, and for no more than two months.

**Defend America at home and abroad**

- We reject any foreign law such as Sharia law that has no basis in state or federal constitutional law.
- The State of Minnesota should provide more support for U. S. troop wives and widows in the form of direct subsidy, tax relief and other support models.

**RESOLUTIONS DEFEATED**

Among the resolutions that were defeated:

- **Strengthen our Families and Communities (Sec. 4) — Gambling (sub. 4.3)**
  - *Change to an existing platform plank: Remove the following language from Sec. 4 of the platform: "Limit the influence of gambling in our state. We seek to eliminate all state-sponsored gambling and oppose any expansion of gambling in Minnesota. In regards to casinos already in place, current gambling laws should be changed so that Minnesota is allowed to tax profits and revenue of tribal casino gambling in the state."*
  - *Change to existing platform plank: "We seek to eliminate all state-sponsored gambling and oppose any expansion of gambling in Minnesota. In regards to casinos already in place, current gambling laws should be changed so that Minnesota is allowed to tax profits and revenue of tribal casino gambling in the state."*
  - Resolution to allow electronic gambling devices, i.e. slot machines, at the Running Acres harness track located in Columbus, Minnesota.
- **Strengthen the Rule of Law (Sec. 6)**
  - *Change:* Institute term limits of 18 years maximum lifetime term for any member of the U. S. Senate or U. S. House of Representatives.
  - *Resolve to remove:*
    - judicial vacancies should be appointed only until the next general election;
    - we continue to support the election of judges as written in the Minnesota Constitution and oppose

any proposals to eliminate or limit these elections;  
 — Also, those voting in judicial elections must be required to be residents in the county in which the judge will preside.

**Resolve to add:**

— We believe that voters should have the ability to remove any judge from office, regardless of whether someone chooses to run against them. Voters should have access to information about the judges on the ballot, provided by a transparent, public evaluation process. Judges should be chosen on the merit of their legal qualifications and dedication to the rule of law, and not on the nature of their political qualifications.

**ANOKA COUNTY ELECTION CALENDAR**

Candidates for state, county and city offices (cities that have primary elections) file between May 22-June 5  
 Candidates for cities and school districts that have no primary, file between July 31-August 14

**June 29:** begin in-person and mail absentee voting for state primary

**July 24, 5 pm:** end of pre-registration of voters for state primary

**Aug. 11:** Absentee voting 10am-3pm at all "in-person voting" locations with primary races

**Aug. 14:**  
**STATE PRIMARY ELECTION**  
 Polls open 7 am-8 pm

**Sept. 21:** begin in-person and mail absentee voting for general election

**Oct. 16:** end of pre-registration of voters for general election

**Nov. 3:** Absentee voting 10am-3pm at all "in-person voting" locations

**Nov. 6:**  
**STATE GENERAL ELECTION**  
 Polls open 7 am-8 pm

**CANDIDATES FOR PUBLIC OFFICE**

We will publish your candidacy statements and editorials  
 Please e-mail them to us: editor@anokacountyrecord.com

**THIS SATURDAY!**  
**APRIL 28**  
**10 AM- 2 PM**  
**STATE CAPITOL**  
  
[www.TaxCutRally.com](http://www.TaxCutRally.com)

**Anoka County RECORD PUBLICATION SCHEDULE**

<b>MAY 2012</b>					1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31				

<b>JUNE 2012</b>								1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	

 Thursday Publication  Deadline for next issue

**Election 2012: Siblings seeking seats in the Legislature**

by Evan Paskach — *Minnesota State News*

For some, politics is more than just a passing interest—it's a family affair. This is especially true this year when it comes to running for office in for the Minnesota Senate and House of Representatives.

So far in 2012, three sets of brothers have already filed for office, seeking a seat in the Minnesota legislature.

Currently representing District 55A, Rep. Leon Lillie (DFL-North St. Paul) is in his fourth term in the House. In 2010, Rep. Lillie's brother, Ted, successfully ran for the Senate in District 56 as the GOP endorsed candidate, unseating longtime DFL Senator Kathy Saltzman. The Lillies' time together in St. Paul was nearly cut short after redistricting paired Sen. Ted Lillie (R-Lake Elmo) with his colleague and current Sen. Ray Vandever (R-Forest Lake) in the new District 39. In March, Sen. Lillie announced he would seek reelection in the newly drawn District 53, which encompasses most of his current Washington County district.

His brother, Rep. Leon Lillie, is currently planning on seeking reelection in the new District 43B.

While the Lillie brothers are the only pair of brothers to currently serve in the legislature, they could soon be joined by at least one other duo.

St. Cloud area Republican Jeffrey Howe won the endorsement for the new House District 13A, which includes the areas of St. Joseph and Rockville. His brother, Sen. John Howe (R-Red Wing), is a first-term Senator representing District 28 in southeastern Minnesota.

After redistricting, both districts are now considered Republican-leaning, leading many capitol insiders to presume the Howe brothers could be representing their respective districts in 2013. Sen. John Howe won his election in 2010 by a 10-point margin. His brother Jeff's new district is currently represented by longtime DFL Rep. Larry Hosch of St. Joseph, who announced his retirement earlier this year.

In Senate District 57, GOPer Pat Hall is running for the endorsement in the Apple Valley/Lakeville district vacated by longtime GOP Senator Chris Gerlach, who announced his retirement in March. Hall is the brother of freshman Senator Dan Hall (R-Burnsville).

Pat Hall faces a three-way battle for Republican endorsement which is scheduled to occur later this month. However, if he were to emerge as the endorsed GOP candidate for District 57 and was successful in November at the ballot box, the Hall brothers could be the only pair to serve in the same caucus and chamber.

Brothers running for the legislature in the same year is not an entirely new development. Last year, identical twins Jay and Jeff Backer both ran as the endorsed Republicans for the Minnesota Legislature in districts 20A and 9, respectively.

Though both were ultimately defeated, the two seemingly helped inspire a movement for siblings seeking office.

## A LESSON IN TRANSPARENCY

Government spends a lot of time trying to convince us it operates in the open, with great transparency, but . . . there are two kinds of transparency. The first is what is required by law. The second is what we describe as "doing the right thing" — going beyond those paltry required minimums.

Anoka County's web site even has a page about transparency ([http://ww2.anokacounty.us/v4\\_transparency/default.aspx](http://ww2.anokacounty.us/v4_transparency/default.aspx)) but there are so many things not on the county website that one has to question how serious staff, appointed and elected officials really are about the transparency they like to take credit for.

We just discovered that the Future Services Committee of the Anoka County Libraries is having a meeting April 27. It isn't listed on the county web site's monthly meeting calendar, however you can find the agenda on the ACL web page:

ANOKA COUNTY LIBRARY  
FUTURE SERVICES COMMITTEE  
AGENDA  
April 27, 2012, 10:30 am  
Library Support Services  
707 County Road 10 NE, Blaine, MN

- A. CALL TO ORDER / ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA
- B. REVIEW/ACCEPT MEETING MINUTES
- C. CURRENT BUSINESS
  - 1. Literature Search Summary
  - 2. Report on Current Library Costs
  - 3. Service Options
  - 4. Tours
  - 5. Other
- D. INFORMATION Action not required.
  - 1. Other
- E. ADJOURNMENT

A packet for the meeting is not posted on the web, nor are the Anoka County Library Board meeting packets ever posted. I attended the last Library Board meeting and noticed that sometime during the meeting, the doors of the library system's offices where the meetings are held, became locked. This is a violation of the state's Open Meeting laws; the public must have access to a public meeting.

In Columbia Heights, a task force of ten people were hand picked last winter by the director of the city-run library. Their objective is to formulate a plan to construct a new library. City councilor Bruce Nawrocki was the only one of five on the council to express any dissent. The Library Task Force had been put together outside of the city council's oversight — which, for any other city commission would include an application process (eligibility restricted to city residents) and interviews.

Nawrocki had a laundry list of concerns: 1) the library director hand-picked the task force members with only a modicum of public notice; 2) Nawrocki said the committee of ten "was a little light" and would have preferred seeing a larger contingent; 3) the committee includes members not residents of Columbia Heights; 4) the council did not interview the applicants and were expected to simply ratify the rubber-stamped list of members given to the mayor by the library director; 5) Nawrocki complained during the March 12 city council meeting that he hadn't seen the applications of persons who were not appointed; 6) the city council should have oversight of a committee that will most likely be recommending the expenditure of taxpayer funds; and 7) using the services of a consultant may result in a push to use the same consultant for the construction project to the exclusion of all others.

The third and latest meeting of the Library Task Force centered around possible locations for a new library, with the city Community Development Director Scott Clark offering his opinions. The locations that were most often brought up were the 47th and Central empty parcel and the area behind the Public Safety Building.

Near the end of the meeting there was a discussion of the open meeting laws and transparency of the task force's activity. The director mentioned the various means that had been used to inform the public of the meeting: meeting notice posted (where? I didn't see it, it is required by law), the library's cable television channel (no, it wasn't there); agenda on the city web site (buried) — you get the picture.

The members of the committee seemed interested in these issues and I offered some of my knowledge of same. Since this last meeting, this newspaper has found the agendas now posted in a more appropriate place on the city web site, but the meeting packets are still not online. Task Force members were given 3-ring binders to keep a running collection of packet material but this has not been made available on the web.

The Task Force's next meeting will be May 14 at a new undetermined location, moving from the cramped meeting room of the library.

The public is interested in their libraries; usage statistics bear this out. So why not let them know what's going on, rather than a containment policy that benefits only a handful of select insiders? It's perplexing. Why? Because librarians have always been crusaders against censorship and promoters of access to information. Apparently they do share the mindset of those they often criticize when it suits their own agendas.

I am reminded of a movie made during the height of the McCarthy era called "Storm Center". Bette Davis played a small-town librarian who comes under fire when Brian Keith, a city councilor, finds something to campaign against — a book in the city's library that studies Communist Russia. Although the city council has some locked-door meetings to deliberate the removal of the book from the shelves, Bette Davis doesn't hide any meeting packets.

## Opinion



by  
Bryan  
Olson

## An Alternate Plan — SF 2127

Most of the discussion regarding the funding of a new Vikings football stadium has focused on what is becoming known as the Dayton Wilf plan. As a reminder, that plan proposes to build a \$1.2 billion dollar domed stadium, primarily with public money.

There is another way to solve this problem, there is another plan, Senate file 2127. Unlike the Dayton-Wilf proposal, it has passed through a senate committee. It has not received much attention because it doesn't rely on taxpayer money to pay for the stadium project. It places the burden of payment on those who will use and benefit the most from a new stadium.

Senate file 2127 fundamentally changes the conversation and business model regarding building professional sports stadiums. More importantly, it accounts for the 68% of Minnesotans who believe that any new Vikings stadium should be entirely paid for with private money. Change isn't easy. But just because we have been doing something for a period of time, doesn't mean it is right.

The idea is simple and it is fair to all parties and taxpayers across the state. Our goal is to treat the Vikings the same as we would treat any other business. It provides a framework for real negotiations to begin.

The plan is site neutral, requires no gaming money, no general fund money, no new taxes and no local contributions. The state would facilitate a low interest loan to the Vikings for construction of the stadium. Debt service on the loan would be paid for primarily with user fees on transactions within the stadium including parking. The Vikings would be allowed and encouraged to partner with other Minnesota businesses to create a reserve fund to subsidize any shortfall in debt service payments.

In addition to providing a low interest loan, the state would also provide needed infrastructure and offer a sales tax exemption for construction materials.

Minnesota Management and Budget estimated if we were to loan \$300 million for 30 years at the reduced rate, the debt service would be about \$23 million a year. The estimates from user fees range from \$15 million to \$20 million a year. The Vikings could choose to make up any difference, enter into agreements with other business partners or reduce the cost of the stadium.

There are plenty of financial resources available to the Vikings. Unlike the state, the NFL is flush with cash. At a recent senate hearing, Ted Mondale testified that the NFL is one of the most successful organizations in the country. Indeed, the NFL commissioner, Roger Caddell recently boasted on a 60 Minutes interview that in 2011 the NFL generated \$6 billion in TV revenue alone. That revenue is evenly distributed among all the NFL teams.

Minnesota is blessed with many successful businesses. The top 20 Fortune 500 companies in Minnesota generated about \$425 billion in gross revenue in 2011. I am not suggesting these businesses pay for all of our desires, but they have claimed business will benefit from a new stadium and have been advocating for a solution. Between the Vikings and our business community I'm certain they could find a way to partially fund a new stadium home for the Vikings.

We have been told the Vikings need \$1.2 billion for a new stadium. But no one has asked why? The answer is that is what Mr. Wilf requested. And why not, if someone else will pay for it, he should get as much as he can. Mr. Wilf approached the governor and other legislators advised them he wanted a \$1.2 billion stadium, they agreed and began writing legislation to accommodate Mr. Wilf's request.

However, the Vikings could do with less. Mr. Wilf has estimated the team could build an open air stadium for around \$600 million. Robert Kraft, owner of the New England Patriots spent \$350 million of his own money to build a new stadium which opened in 2002. Heinz Field in Pittsburgh opened in 2001 with a cost of \$281 million.

The point is there are many other ways to solve the stadium problem. Senate File 2127 is a place to start. It fair and it is doable. We do not, and should not accept the premise that Minnesota taxpayers should directly or indirectly pay for a football stadium for the Vikings. It is bad policy and neither Minneapolis nor the state can afford to build, own and operate another professional sports stadium.

## Opinion



by  
Senator  
Roger  
Chamberlain  
(Dist. 53)



The city-operated library in Columbia Heights. An appointed task force is studying the feasibility of building a new library.

**SEND US YOUR LETTERS AND OPINION COLUMNS!**

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## Reports from Your Legislators



### REP. PEGGY SCOTT (Dist. 49A) 651-296-4231



Apr. 12. Hello Neighbors,

While the Legislature is in recess this week, I would like to take this time to look back on the accomplishments from the 2012 Legislative session. As you know, our legislative agenda for this session has been on reform efforts focused on promoting fiscal responsibility, job growth, quality education and a smarter, quicker and more transparent government. Below is a list detailing the top 10 measures that were passed in the House over the last 12 weeks.

#### Top 10 Highlights from the 2012 Legislative Session

1. *Tax Relief.* Voted to end the statewide tax on business property, improving our state's tax climate in an area where Minnesota is especially uncompetitive
2. *Cut the Red Tape.* Voted to reduce duplicative government bureaucracy and provide more certainty in the permit process for job creators.
3. *K-12 Shift.* Voted to repay back the additional 10% shift to balance the budget in 2011 and make the first down payment on the \$2 billion debt left behind by the DFL.
4. *LIFO.* Voted to end illogical and outdated Last In, First Out law that puts a poor teacher's right to a job ahead of a child's right to a good teacher.
5. *Spending Transparency.* Voted to require easy-to-understand budget transparency by cities in order to educate and engage taxpayers in local government spending decisions.
6. *Voter ID.* Voted to support the Voter ID constitutional amendment, which will require voters to show a Photo ID when they vote, preserving and enhancing election integrity.
7. *Veterans.* Voted to support a permanent tax credit for employers who hire veterans who are disabled, unemployed or receive food stamps; and an expansion of the GI bill.
8. *Welfare Reform.* Voted to eliminate welfare fraud and ensure the people who need assistance are receiving it and taxpayer dollars for public assistance are being used as intended – for the needy, not the greedy. We also voted to reform the Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) program by restricting purchasing to Minnesota and its surrounding states, instituting a three strike system for prohibited item purchases and restricting benefits for those convicted of a felony level drug offense within the past ten years
9. *Permanent Schools Trust Fund.* Reforms how the state will manage permanent school trust lands to maximize economic returns for our schools.
10. *Defeated Job Killing Tax Increases...Again.* Defeated every attempt to raise job-killing tax increases. News of positive economic forecasts resulting in a \$1.2 billion surplus didn't stop Governor Dayton and the DFL from pushing job-killing tax increases to pay for more government spending.

#### **April 20th Update:**

**For our Families.** My child custody bill which would view parents as equal in child custody battles passed the House on Wednesday on a bipartisan vote of 80 to 53. This bill goes a long way toward giving parents equal access to their children in custody settlements.

This bill creates a legal and physical presumption of joint shared parenting unless the court has reason to decide otherwise. Courts currently often assign the minimum custodial percentage of time (25%, which equals every other weekend and one night a week) to one parent, while this bill would designate equal sharing at 45.1 percent custody. In this bill we

recognize the benefits of both parents' equal presence and involvement in the lives of their children and want to set this as the benchmark for how children of broken homes are raised.

This bill takes precautions to protect the safety of these children by requiring that when clear and convincing evidence of the other parent's actions rises to a level of child endangerment, abandonment, and physical and/or sexual abuse, child custody may still be revoked by the presiding judge. For a parent who makes a false allegation of child abuse, the bill would provide sufficient grounds for challenging the parenting time of the accuser.

Custody issues are almost always emotionally difficult and can be very harmful to children. Separating a child from one of their parents can be an emotionally scarring experience, as one of our own House members testified about a childhood where he longed for more time with his own father. The issue here is instituting a justice system that will create the best possible environment for the children of these families. This bill goes a long way toward achieving that.

#### **Where are all the DFL Votes?**

In February, Governor Dayton listed his number one and two priorities for this session in his State of the State Address. His top priority for this session was to pass a Vikings stadium bill. His secondary priority for this session was to pass a bonding project to help restore and repair the state capitol.

On Monday the House Government Operations and Elections Committee heard a bill that would provide state funds to build a Vikings stadium. While this in no way is a strictly partisan issue, it would generally be safe to assume that the Governor could secure votes from members of his own party to move the bill. Five out of the nine GOP members of the committee voted yes on a motion to move the bill onto the next committee without recommendation. Unfortunately for the Governor, only one out of the six members of his own party voted yes and the bill was not able to move on.

Yesterday DFL members of the House voted down yet another of the Governor's priorities, the capitol restoration bonding bill. This bill would have not only fixed a publicly owned state treasure in dire need of repair, it also would have put a lot of people to work. The vote needed 81 votes (by rule, bonding projects need a 2/3 majority to pass), GOP members put up 69, the DFL only put up 11.

The fact that Governor Dayton is not able to secure votes from his own party speaks not only to his lack of leadership, but also speaks to the unwillingness of the DFL members of the House to work on a bipartisan level. Both of these bills were touted by the Governor for the thousands of jobs these projects would create. It is unfortunate that the DFL members of the House are not all that serious about getting people back to work.

As always, please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or want to share your thoughts on the legislative session.



### SEN. BENJAMIN KRUSE (Dist. 47) 651-296-4154

Apr. 20. *Protecting Small Businesses.* The Minnesota Senate passed House File 1766 (SF 1630) Monday ensuring child care assistance dollars are not diverted to unions. In existing state law, there is nothing to prevent unions from capturing tax payer dollars intended for the care of our children.

The bill's passage comes on the heels of Ramsey County court ruling that Governor Mark Dayton exceed his authority in ordering a union election for certain in-home child care providers. Ramsey County Judge Dale Lindman's April 6th decision not only halted the union election from proceeding but attorneys fees and reasonable costs were awarded to the plaintiffs.

House File 1766's passage is another step in protecting our child care providers from government overreach in their businesses. Republicans remain committed to standing up for Minnesota small businesses, the economic engines of communities across the state.

*Veterans Jobs Bill Signed Into Law.* A bill allowing Minnesota companies the option to put in place their own veterans hiring programs where previously the

federal government had prohibited hiring preferences was signed into law Wednesday. It received unanimous approval in both houses.

SF 1599 gives protections and allows, but does not mandate that private companies have the option to take steps to help solve our state's veteran employment crisis. U.S. veterans are experiencing unemployment at rates more the twice the general population, and this rate is even higher in Minnesota where our Reserve Forces have a very high rates of volunteerism and deployment.

This bill will simplify the hiring process for veterans so that Minnesota can capitalize upon the range of talents and professional values that service members bring to our businesses and communities.

Another bill that has been signed encourages the state to make a greater effort to hire veterans by adding them to the list of protected groups for jobs in state civil service, and make them more sought out for recruitment by the state. The change puts the state on par with the private sector in veterans' re-employment contests and removes the state immunity from liability in adherence to federal age discrimination, fair labor standards, family and medical leave, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) laws.

### SEN. JUNGBAUER SHEPHERDS FIREWORKS BILL THROUGH SENATE

State Senator Mike Jungbauer (R-East Bethel) won a long-fought victory in the Minnesota Legislature with the passage of SF 1694, which would open up a broader array of fireworks available to Minnesotans.

"What we've done here is make Minnesota competitive with our surrounding neighbor states which sell a larger selection of fireworks to the public. This is really about freedom and entrusting Minnesotans with, in this case, the freedom to responsibly enjoy fireworks. Thousands upon thousands of dollars stream across our borders every year and Minnesota has, up until now, been at a competitive disadvantage," said Senator Jungbauer.

The bill would allow for a broader array of fireworks, including aerial fireworks most commonly sought at fireworks stands across Minnesota's borders. The legal age is still restricted to 18 and over to purchase and use fireworks.

Said Senator Jungbauer, "It is a fact that bicycles cause more than ten times the injuries than fireworks. Will there be some injuries from fireworks? I'm sure there will, just as people will be injured on trampolines, bicycles, skateboards, rollerblades, and other forms of recreation which we trust Minnesotans with."

For many years there has been strong opposition from some legislators and special interest groups who believed that the public was not responsible enough to be trusted with the retail aerial fireworks that are readily available across Minnesota's borders. Lobbyists' from the surrounding states that were collecting Minnesota money also were working against the measure.

In the bill local units of government may still exercise their authority to regulate the use of all fireworks through general welfare powers in accordance with state law. Both cities and counties may exercise their authority to regulate fire prevention, nuisances, and noise through local ordinance.

Nothing in the bill authorizes the possession or use of any fireworks on public property, and careless or negligent use of fireworks or burning or smoldering substances that starts a fire and endangers or damages property is a misdemeanor and will continue to be illegal under this bill.

The bill passed 41-22 in the Senate with wide bipartisan support.

Currently the bill is working its way through the Minnesota House of Representatives, authored by Representative John Kriesel. It is expected to have broad support when it comes to a vote on the floor of the House.

#### **CANDIDATES FOR PUBLIC OFFICE**

**We will publish your  
candidacy statements**

Send them to

[editor@anokacountyrecord.com](mailto:editor@anokacountyrecord.com)

# Anoka County GOVERNMENT MEETINGS

## Anoka County Board

Anoka County Government Center  
2100 3rd Ave  
Anoka, MN 55303-5024  
Ph.: 763-323-5700  
www.co.anoka.mn.us

**Thurs. Apr. 26**  
I-35W North Managed Lanes Corridor  
Study Meeting of Elected Officials —  
3:30 pm, Blaine City Hall

**Mon. Apr. 30**  
Public Works Cmte — 9 am,  
Rm 772, ACGC

**Tues. May 1**  
County Board — Redistricting, 9:30  
am, Rm 705, ACGC

**Wed. May 2**  
I-35W North Managed Lanes Corridor  
Study Open House for Public —  
5 pm, Blaine City Hall

**Thurs. May 3**  
Parks & Rec Cmte — 9 am,  
Clubhouse, Chomonix Golf Course

**Tues. May 8**  
Management Cmte — 8:30 am, Spring  
Lake Park City Hall  
County Board — 9:30 am, Spring  
Lake Park City Hall

**Wed. May 9**  
Waste Mgmt & Energy Cmte — 8:15 am,  
Rm 772, ACGC

## Andover

Andover City Hall  
1685 Crosstown Blvd NW  
Andover, MN 55304  
Ph: 763-755-5100  
www.ci.andover.mn.us

**Tues. May 1**  
City Council — 7 pm

**Thurs. May 3**  
Parks Comm. — 7 pm

**Tues. May 8**  
Planning Comm. — 7 pm

**Wed. May 9**  
Open Space Advisory Comm. — 7 pm

## Anoka

Anoka City Hall  
2015 1st Ave. N.  
Anoka, MN 55303-2270  
Ph: 763-576-2700  
www.ci.anoka.mn.us

**Tues. May 1**  
Planning Comm. — 7 pm

**Mon. May 7 & 21**

City Council — 7 pm

**Thurs. May 8**  
Economic Devp. Comm. — 7:30 am

**Wed. May 9**  
Waste Reduction & Recycling Bd — 5 pm

**Tues. May 29**  
City Council “work session” — 5:30 pm

## Bethel

Bethel City Hall  
23820 Dewey St. / PO Box 64  
Bethel, MN 55005  
Ph: 763-434-4366  
www.bethelmn.govoffice2.com

Call City Hall for information

## Blaine

Blaine City Hall  
10801 Town Square Dr NE  
Blaine, MN 55449  
Ph: 763-784-6700  
www.ci.blaine.mn.us

**Thurs. May 3**  
City Council “workshop” — 6:30 pm;  
reg. meeting 7:30 pm

**Tues. May 8**  
Blaine Arts Council — 6:30 pm  
Blaine Historical Society — 6:30 pm  
Planning Comm. — 7 pm

**Thurs. May 10**  
City Council “workshop” — 6:30 pm

## Centerville

Centerville City Hall  
1880 Main St  
Centerville, MN 55038  
Ph: 651-429-3232  
centervillemn.com

**Tues. May 1**  
Planning Comm. — 6:30 pm

**Wed. May 2**  
Parks & Rec Cmte — 6:30 pm  
**Wed. May 9**  
City Council — 6:30 pm

## Circle Pines

Circle Pines City Hall  
200 Civic Heights Circle  
Circle Pines, MN 55014  
Ph: 763-784-5898  
www.ci.circle-pines.mn.us

**Tues. May 1**  
Park Board — 6:30 pm

**Tues. May 8**  
City Council — 7 pm

**Mon. May 14**  
Planning Comm. — 7 pm

## Columbia Heights

Columbia Heights City Hall  
590 40th Ave NE  
Columbia Heights, MN 55421  
Ph: 763-706-3600  
www.ci.columbia-heights.mn.us

**Tues. May 1**  
Planning Comm. — 7 pm

**Wed. May 2**  
Library Board — 6:30 pm, Library

**Mon. May 7**  
Traffic Comm. — 5:30 pm  
EDA — 6:30 pm; City Council “work  
session” 7 pm

**Mon. May 14**  
City Council — 7 pm

## Columbus

Columbus City Hall  
16319 Kettle River Blvd.  
Columbus, MN 55025  
Ph: 651-464-3120  
www.ci.columbus.mn.us

**Wed. May 2 & May 16**  
Planning Comm. — 7 pm

**Wed. May 9**  
EDA/EDAB — 6 pm

City Council — 7 pm

## Coon Rapids

Coon Rapids City Hall  
11155 Robinson Dr.  
Coon Rapids, MN 55433  
Ph: 763-755-2880  
www.coonrapidsmn.gov

**Tues. May 1 & May 15**  
City Council — 7 pm

**Thurs. May 3**  
Bd of Adjustment & Appeals — 6:30 pm

**Thurs. May 17**  
Planning Comm. — 6:30 pm

## East Bethel

East Bethel City Hall  
2241 - 221st Avenue NE  
East Bethel, MN 55011  
Ph: 763-367-7840  
eastbethel.govoffice.com

**Wed. May 2 & 16**  
City Council — 7:30 pm

**Tues. May 8**  
Road Comm. — 6:30 pm

**Wed. May 9**  
Parks Comm. — 7 pm

## Fridley

6431 University Ave NE  
Fridley, MN 55432  
Ph: 763-571-3450  
www.ci.fridley.mn.us

**Wed. May 2**  
Appeals Comm. — 7 pm

**Thurs. May 3**  
HRA — 7 pm

**Mon. May 7**  
Charter Comm. — 7 pm  
Parks & Rec. Comm. — 7 pm  
City Council — 7 pm “pre-agenda”;  
7:30 pm meeting

**Mon. May 14**  
City Council Conference Mtg — 6 pm

**NOTE: All meetings listed on  
this page are subject to change  
of time or date —  
call ahead to verify**

## Ham Lake

Ham Lake City Hall  
15544 Central Ave NE  
Ham Lake, MN 55304  
Ph: 763-434-9555  
www.ci.ham-lake.mn.us  
Hours: M-Th 7 AM - 4:30 PM  
Fri: 7 AM-12 NOON

**Mon. May 7 & May 21**  
City Council — 6 pm

**Mon. May 14**  
Planning Comm. — 6 pm

**Wed. May 16**  
Park & Tree Comm. — 6 pm

## Hilltop

Hilltop City Hall  
4555 Jackson St. NE  
Hilltop, MN 55421  
Ph: 763-571-2023

City Council — 1st & 3rd Mon., 7 pm

## Lexington

Lexington City Hall  
9180 Lexington Av  
Lexington, MN 55014  
Ph: 763-784-2792  
www.ci.lexington.mn.us

**Thurs. May 3**  
City Council — 7 pm

**Mon. May 7**  
Park Board — 6:30 pm

**Wed. May 9**  
Planning Comm. — 7 pm

**Thurs. May 17** — 7 pm; (“workshop”  
after the 4/19 meeting)

## Lino Lakes

Lino Lakes City Hall  
600 Town Center Pkwy  
Lino Lakes, MN 55014  
Ph: 651-982-2400  
www.ci.lino-lakes.mn.us

**Thurs. May 3**  
EDAC — 8 am

**Mon. May 7**  
City Council “work session” — 5:30 pm  
Park Board — 6:30 pm

**Wed. May 9**  
Planning & Zoning Comm. — 6:30 pm

**Mon. May 14**  
City Council — 6:30 pm

## Linwood Township

Linwood Town Hall  
22817 Typo Creek Dr. NE  
Linwood, MN 55079  
Ph: 651-462-2812  
linwoodtownship.org

**Tues. May 1**  
Road & Bridge Cmte. — 7 pm

**Mon. May 7**  
School Forest Cmte. — 5 pm

**Tues. May 8 & 22**  
Town Board — 6 pm

**Mon. May 14**  
Senior Advisory Bd — 9 am

**Tues. May 15**  
Planning & Zoning Comm. — 7 pm

## Nowthen

Nowthen City Hall  
19800 Nowthen Blvd.  
Elk River, MN 55330  
Ph: 763-441-1347  
www.nowthenmn.govoffice2.com

Call City Hall for information

## Oak Grove

Oak Grove City Hall  
19900 Nightingale St. NW  
Oak Grove, MN 55011  
Ph: 763-404-7000  
oakgrove.govoffice.com

**2nd and last Monday of month**  
City Council — 7 pm (EDA 8 pm on  
last Mon)

**3rd Wednesday**  
Parks Comm. — 7 pm

**3rd Thursday**  
Planning Comm. — 7 pm

**MINNESOTA ZOOMOBILE  
at the Northtown Library  
Sat. May 5th 10:30 am**  
Zoomobile naturalists use live  
animals as well as biological artifacts  
to create a fun and memorable  
program for all ages.

## Ramsey

Ramsey Municipal Center  
7550 Sunwood Dr. NW  
Ramsey, MN 55303  
Ph: 763-427-1410  
www.ci.ramsey.mn.us

**Tues. May 1**  
City Council “work session” — 6 pm;  
followed by HRA “work session”

**Thurs. May 3**  
Planning Comm. — 7 pm

**Mon. May 7**  
Mayor’s Town Hall Mtg. — 7 pm

**Tues. May 8**  
City Council “work session” — 5:30 pm  
City Council — 7 pm

HRA — follows city council meeting

**Thurs. May 10**  
EDA — 7:30 am

**Tues. May 15**  
Public Works Cmte. — 6 pm

**Thurs. May 17**  
Mayor’s Town Hall Mtg — 7 pm

*From the city web site:* “Please note the  
Mayor’s monthly Town Hall meetings  
have been rescheduled. The meeting  
night will be the third Thursday of the  
month, beginning with the meeting on  
May 17. The meetings are held in the  
Lake Itasca Room and coffee and a  
cookie are provided. It’s a great oppor-  
tunity to visit with the Mayor in an  
informal setting – with no television  
cameras.”

## St. Francis

St. Francis City Hall  
23340 Cree St. NW  
St. Francis, MN 55070  
Ph: 763-753-2630  
stfrancismn.org

M-Th 7AM-5:30 PM (Closed Fri)  
**Meetings held at ISD #15 offices**  
4115 Ambassador Blvd NW

**City Council**  
1st & 3rd Mondays — 6 pm

**Planning Comm.**  
3rd Wednesday — 7 pm

## Spring Lake Park

Spring Lake Park City Hall  
1301 81st Ave NE  
Spring Lake Park, MN 55432  
Ph: 763-784-6491  
slpnmn.org

**Mon. May 7 & 21**  
City Council — 7 pm

**Mon. May 28**  
Planning Comm. — 7 pm

## ANOKA CONSERVATION DISTRICT

1318 McKay Dr NE #300  
Ham Lake, MN 55304  
Ph.: (763) 434-2030  
anokaswcd.org

**Mon. May 21** — 5 pm

## FAMILY LAW SEMINAR at NORTHTOWN LIBRARY MONDAY MAY 14 5:45 PM

Information about family law issues  
such as divorce, child support,  
paternity, and custody will be  
discussed at a free informational  
program about family law at the  
Northtown Library, 711 County Road  
10 NE in Blaine, May 14 from 5:45 to  
7:45 pm. Topics to be covered include  
court process, financial and property  
considerations in divorce, paternity,  
custody/parenting time, and child  
support. Learn the basics of these  
legal issues and where to find free  
legal forms and online legal  
resources as well as the resources  
available at the Anoka County Law  
Library and Anoka County Library.

## Anoka County RECORD

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www.anokacountyrecord.com  
(763) 220-0411

**SCHOOL DISTRICTS**

**Anoka-Hennepin ISD #11**

11299 Hanson Blvd NW  
Coon Rapids MN 55433  
Ph.: (763) 506-1000  
anoka.k12.mn.us

**Mon. Apr. 30 & May 21**  
School Board — 6:30 pm  
**Mon. May 7**  
School Board “work session” — 6 pm

**Centennial ISD #12**

4707 North Rd  
Circle Pines, MN 55014  
Ph.: (763) 792-6000  
isd12.org

**Mon. May 7 & June 4**  
School Board “work session” — 5:30 pm  
**Mon. May 14**  
School Board — 6:30 pm

**Columbia Heights ISD #13**

1440 49th Ave NE  
Columbia Heights, MN 55421  
Ph.: (763) 528-4436  
columbia.mn.schoolwebpages.com

**Tues. May 8** School Bd — 7 pm  
**Tues. May 15** School Bd “work session” — 5:30 pm

**Elk River Area ISD #728**

815 Hwy 10  
Elk River, MN 55330  
Ph.: (763) 241-3400  
elkriver.k12.mn.us

School Board meetings  
**Mon. Apr. 30** — 6 pm; public hearing — redistricting and “work session”  
**Mon. May 7** — “work session” — 6 pm

**Forest Lake ISD #831**

6100 N 210th St  
Forest Lake, MN 55025  
Ph.: (651) 982-8100  
forestlake.k12.mn.us

School Board meetings: held, with a few exceptions, at 7 p.m. on the first Thurs. of each month in the District Office Boardroom, 6100 N. 210th St., Forest Lake. *Listening Sessions:* Residents are invited to speak informally with representatives of the board, prior to regular meetings, at 6 p.m.  
*\*Editor's note:* There are often work session meetings on the 3rd Thurs.; check website or call to verify

**Fridley ISD #14**

6000 W Moore Lake Dr  
Fridley, MN 55432  
Ph.: (763) 502-5000  
fridley.k12.mn.us

School Board mtgs held at Fridley City Hall, 6431 University Ave NE; Work Session — 5:30 pm, Public Comment — 7 pm; Meeting — 7:30 pm  
**Next meeting: Tues. May 15**

**St. Francis ISD #15**

4115 Ambassador Blvd  
St. Francis, MN 55070  
Ph.: (763) 753-7040  
stfrancis.k12.mn.us

**2nd & 4th Mondays** 6:30 pm Public comment; School Bd Meeting 7 pm

**Spring Lake Park ISD #16**

1415 81st Ave NE  
Spring Lake Park, MN 55432  
Ph.: (763) 786-5570  
splkpark.k12.mn.us/

**Tues. May 8** — 7 pm

**White Bear Lake ISD #624**

4855 Bloom Ave  
White Bear Lake, MN 55110-5418  
Ph.: (651) 407-7501  
whitebear.k12.mn.us

School Board mtgs:  
**Mon. May 14** — 7 pm  
**Mon. May 21** — 5:30 pm “work session”

**916 Intermediate School District**

2540 Cty Rd F, White Bear Lake  
Board meetings at Bellaire School, District Office Board Room  
Ph.: (651) 415-5562  
nemetrol.k12.mn.us

**Tues. May 1** — 6 pm  
**Tues. May 29** — 6 pm “work session”

**ANOKA CONSERVATION DISTRICT CANDIDATE FILING BEGINS MAY 22**

Minnesota's natural resources play an important role in the state's economy and its citizen's quality of life; managing those natural resources is an important responsibility. Three of Anoka Conservation District (ACD) Supervisor positions will be on the November 2012 ballot. This position is a four-year term and usually requires one to three meetings monthly for which a stipend is provided.

Being a supervisor is an opportunity for people concerned with resource management in Anoka County to become involved in policy making at the local, regional and state levels.

Although the supervisors are elected at-large-meaning that every eligible voter in the county may vote for all open supervisor positions — they are nominated from one of five districts within the County. An individual must live in a nominating district with an open supervisor position in order to run. Supervisors do not participate in primary elections. For the 2012 election, the following districts will be on the ballot:

- District 1** – Bethel, Nowthen, Oak Grove, St. Francis
- District 2** – Anoka, Andover and Ramsey
- District 5** - East Bethel, Linwood and Columbus

The filing period is open from **May 22nd through June 5**. Interested parties can call Anoka Co. Elections office at 763-323-5275 for filing information. There is a \$20.00 filing fee and each applicant will receive a filing packet with election regulations. Additional information about the Supervisors role can be obtained by visiting the ACD website at [www.anokanaturalresources.com/acd/board/sup\\_role.htm](http://www.anokanaturalresources.com/acd/board/sup_role.htm) or calling the office at 763-434-2030.

**REP. JIM ABELER (Dist. 48B) LEGISLATOR RELEASES RESULTS OF CONSTITUENT SURVEY**

Rep. Jim Abeler (R-Anoka) released his 2012 constituent survey April 20. Rep. Abeler reported there were 354 respondents to this unscientific poll.

86% of respondents said state spending should be limited to the amount of revenues taken in; 58% did not believe taxes should be raised at all.

55% said that jobs could be created by giving tax relief to businesses; nearly two-thirds of those taking the poll felt that Local Government Aid funding to cities needs reform.

On the Vikings stadium issue, 55% said the stadium was not an important need. 50% were against public funding of any kind. 30% felt the state government should not be involved in the project at all; nearly half said the Vikings team should foot the bills on its own.

The Photo ID requirement for voting had 76% support.

Two-thirds of the respondents had the opinion that the legislature needs to be reduced in size. A dozen years ago, an effort to change to a unicameral legislature was defeated at the capitol. Such a change would have reduced the number of seats and

Meetings listed on this page are subject to change — call ahead to verify

combined the Senate and House of Representatives into a single house.

Only one-quarter of the poll respondents said they attended their precinct caucuses last February.

An abbreviated compilation of Rep. Abeler's survey is below:

**The Budget**

Would you support limiting state spending to the amount of revenues taken in?

- a. Yes (86.16%)
- b. No (10.73%)

Do you support priority-based budgeting that requires justification for continued spending programs rather than allowing the spending to automatically continue?

- a. Yes (90.4%)
- b. No (5.65%)

Would you support raising taxes? (Select all that apply.)

- a. Yes – income tax (16.95%)
- b. Yes – sales tax (21.75%)
- c. Yes – corporate tax (24.01%)
- d. Yes – general tax increases (13.56%)
- e. No (57.91%)

The latest state budget forecast calls for a state surplus of \$876 million for the 2012-2013 biennium, which is obligated to replenish our budget reserve. If further surpluses ensue, how should the money be used?

- a. Put the money in the budget reserve to help insulate our state against future downturns and unstable global economies (49.15%)
- b. Reduce taxes (34.18%)
- c. Increase education spending (19.49%)
- d. Increase human services spending (9.32%)
- e. Other

Where is the greatest need for tax reform?

- a. Income taxes (48.02%)
- b. Property taxes (50.28%)
- c. Sales tax (10.3%)

**Jobs**

What should state government do to improve the economy? (Select up to 2.)

- a. Borrow money to fund construction projects (14.69%)
- b. Pass tax relief and incentives to encourage business growth and job creation (55.08%)
- c. Increase spending for K-12 and higher education (16.10%)
- d. Income tax relief to allow individuals and families keep more of their money (51.13%)
- e. Raise taxes in order to better fund and/or expand state government programs (5.65%)

**Vikings Stadium**

How important is building a new Vikings stadium?

- a. Very important (16.38%)
- b. Important (28.25%)
- c. Not important (54.8%)

Do you support public funding to build a new Vikings stadium?

- a. Yes, all it takes (5.08%)
- b. Yes, if the Vikings pay the same amount (25.14%)
- c. Yes, but only for infrastructure (20.90%)
- d. No (49.72%)

What do you think would be the best way to fund a new stadium for the Vikings? (Select as many as you like.)

- a. Statewide sales tax (8.19%)
- b. Expand racino gambling (41.24%)
- c. Make Vikings ownership pay the costs (46.89%)
- d. Local sales tax (6.78%)
- e. “Fan” tax applied specifically to goods and services purchased by football fans (44.35%)
- f. Don't think the state should be involved at all (30.51%)

Where should the new stadium be placed?

- a. Arden Hills (44.92%)
- b. Minneapolis (25.14%)
- c. Other MN site (6.21%)
- d. Anywhere out of state they want to take it (19.21%)

**Energy**

Do you support repealing the ban on nuclear power plant construction?

- a. Yes (64.41%)
- b. No (28.53%)

Do you support keeping the renewable energy mandate (25% renewable by 2025) passed in 2007?

- a. Yes (46.89%)
- b. No (43.79%)

Should the state prohibit electric companies from raising rates to pay for the cost of meeting renewable energy mandates?

- a. Yes (52.26%)
- b. No (41.24%)

**Education**

Would you support tying education funding and pay to student improvement?

- a. Yes (54.80%)
- b. No (37.57%)

Do you support a requirement that students be able to read at grade level before moving beyond 3rd grade?

- a. Yes (77.97%)
- b. No (17.80%)

**Health Care**

Should the Legislature allow consumers to purchase approved health care insurance across state lines?

- a. Yes (88.70%)
- b. No (8.47%)

Do you think government would do a better job of lowering health care costs than the private sector?

- a. Yes (26.55%)
- b. No (69.21%)

Did you support the federal health reform called the Affordable Care Act (also known as “Obamacare”)?

- a. Yes (19.77%)
- b. No (57.91%)
- c. Some good points, some bad points (24.29%)

**Taxes**

Should the state's tax rate on businesses be reduced?

- a. Yes (59.89%)
- b. No (33.62%)

Do you support tax credits that encourage research and development?

- a. Yes (74.01%)
- b. No (20.34%)

Would you support reforms to Local Government Aid (LGA) to require it be more closely tied to central local services like police and fire?

- a. Yes (64.69%)
- b. No (16.67%)

**State Government**

Do you support the initiatives to reduce the size and cost of state government by 15 percent by the year 2015?

- a. Yes (79.38%)
- b. No (16.10%)

Do you support a public employee salary freeze?

- a. Yes (54.52%)
- b. No (37.85%)

Do you support any changes to state employee collective bargaining?

- a. No (30.51%)
- b. Yes, modest changes to pensions, etc. (26.55%)
- c. Yes, major changes like removing the right to strike (37.57%)

On fiscal matters, do you consider yourself to be...

- a. Conservative (58.76%)
- b. Moderate (33.05%)
- c. Liberal (4.24%)