



# 2008 REPORT on the MINNESOTA LEGISLATURE

by the  
LEGISLATIVE EVALUATION ASSEMBLY  
of MINNESOTA, INC

for an  
INFORMED CITIZENRY



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## 2008 HONOREES

### SENATE



Gerlach, Hann, Johnson, Jungbauer,  
Chris David W. Debbie J. Michael J.



Koch, Limmer, Ortman, Vandever,  
Amy T. Warren Julianne E. Ray

### HOUSE



Anderson, Beard, Brod, Buesgens, Dean, DeLaForest, Drazkowski, Eastlund, Emmer, Erickson, Finstad,  
Bruce Michael Laura Mark Matt Chris Steve Rob Tom Sondra Brad



Garofalo, Hackbarth, Holberg, Hoppe, Kohls, Olson, Peppin, Seifert, Shimanski, Zellers,  
Pat Tom Mary Liz Joe Paul Mark Joyce Marty Ron Kurt

*Honorable Mention:* Dettmer, Bob

## 2008 LEGISLATIVE REVIEW

### A "Victory" of Government Over the People

The 2008 legislative session ended with great fanfare and the legislators and the governor declared it a victory. But, from the perspective of LEA, it was a travesty. The legislature made pronouncements on how families should be organized, how their health should be managed, how the state should bail out loan failures, what children should be taught, how babies should be monitored, and why the DNA of everyone should be kept by the State. It was an assault on civil rights and liberties. It was a triumph of the state over its people, not a government of the people.

Legislation was enacted that ignored and circumvented established Constitutional checks and balances. By proposing specific taxes be made part of the Constitution, they evaded a veto by the governor. The new tax would provide a \$200 million per year to newly appointed committees that would spend those funds on the arts and the environment. Legislation is increasingly directed at special interests, at the expense of taxpaying citizens. House File 1812, the Omnibus Budget Bill that got so heated it was dubbed the "war of 1812," made it through the legislature and was signed into law despite a challenge for violating the "single-subject rule." The elites who expect money for their councils, their programs, their departments, and their corporations were the real winners. They got nearly everything they asked for in omnibus bills packed with enough pork to entice a majority vote.

Individually, most of the items would not have passed on merit. The state budget increased 9.8% despite economic turmoil causing citizens to make personal budgetary cutbacks.

The legislators ignored warnings of an expected two billion dollar shortfall in 2009. Rather than developing a strategy of spending cuts they compounded the problem by spending a billion dollar surplus on new programs. Additionally, the state borrowed money to buy more parkland when a surplus of parks exists, and purchased equipment with loans that go beyond its life expectancy. Because bond interest doubles the cost of purchases, bonds should only be used to pay for facilities that will generate enough use to cover the costs. Irresponsible borrowing places burdens on future generations. Another tax burden became entrenched in a bill that requires the state to cover half the of the operating deficits of any light rail lines. This not only bails out a financially unsound transportation system, but taxes people who have no use for light rail. This is a characteristic of a socialist regime, not a republic, and is not in keeping with the credo of LEA.

We thank the governor for vetoing 32 bills and using the line item veto in two others, which is the most vetoes for a single year. Despite the vetoes however, the governor and legislature were complicit in approving special-interest-laden bonding and budget bills, and imposing costly new energy policies, making the 2008 session one of the more wasteful sessions in Minnesota history.

## 1. Constitutionally Dedicated Sales Tax

HF 2285. Rep. Sertich. [SF 6. Sen. Pogemiller.]

This bill proposes a constitutional amendment to dedicate sales tax to natural resources and the arts. The purpose of a Constitution is to create the legal framework for the machinery of government, which sets the limits and functions of power. This amendment is tax legislation and therefore is not appropriate content for an amendment to a Constitution. Legislation is to occur within the framework of the Constitution not as part of it. Further, this amendment would bypass the executive branch and the checks and balances designed into the separation of powers. It is an attempt by the legislature to expand its power beyond its constitutional boundaries. Bills should be introduced in accordance with the rules of the Constitution. Constitutional amendments that violate this are not in compliance with the original intent and precedent of Constitutional law. This legislation reveals ignorance or willful disregard of the system of government designed by our forefathers. LEA favored a NO vote. It passed the Senate: 46-17 and the House: 85-46.

## 2. Omnibus Budget Bill

HF 1812. Rep. Carlson. [SF 3813. Sen. Cohen.]

This bill cut the budgets of some departments, and allowed for more efficient reallocation of funds in others. However, it got huge in its scope and was packed with so many special-interest provisions that some legislators objected to it for violating the “single subject” rule.

Though some obfuscation of purpose is inherent in an omnibus bill, what made this bill particularly objectionable were its policy changes in so many different departments. In higher education, it established a pilot program of financial aid for those from “diverse backgrounds” in teacher-preparation programs, and made spouses and dependents of resident veterans eligible for state aid. In environment and natural resources, it modified groundwater reporting requirements, required public water suppliers to implement a “conservation rate structure,” and created a “Star Lakes” board and program. It also established dedicated parks and trails funds, outdoor heritage funds, clean water funds, and cultural heritage funds to be used if a dedicated-funds sales tax increase amendment passes. In energy and commerce, it created a “Green Jobs Task Force” and required it to present a state-wide plan. In health care, it capped co-payments for those on medical assistance with incomes at or below federal poverty guidelines. In transportation, it created a vehicle and driver services technology account, and authorized increases to vehicle registration fees. And under the rubric of economic development, it increased subsidies for movie production, and even directed the state to assume responsibility for debt payments on the already-built River Centre arena.

LEA salutes those who voted NO on this multiple-subject monstrosity, which passed the Senate 56-11 and the House 115-19.

## 3. Omnibus Capital Investment/Bonding Bill

HF 380. Rep. Hausman. [SF 3295. Sen. Langseth.]

A slowing economy and a billion-dollar state budget deficit should have led the legislature to rein in its capital-investment requests this year. Furthermore, the state has traditionally strived to keep debt-service bonding costs to 3% or less of the total budget, which would have allowed for a bonding limit of \$825 million at the time this bill was being decided. However, a \$1.09 billion capital investment bill passed both branches after emerging from conference committee. Amazingly, little to nothing went to roads and bridges. Instead, over \$150 million was to go to transit projects, \$24 million for a new Bell Museum of Natural History, \$11 million to renovate gorilla and polar-bear exhibits at the Como Zoo, \$100 million to DNR projects, and over \$80 million to regional sports arenas and event centers.

The bill passed in the Senate 57-10 and in the House 90-42. LEA favored a NO vote, because the legislators that passed this bloated bill

did not exercise their fiduciary duties, instead shifting all responsibility to the Governor. Fortunately, the Governor did trim the bill by vetoing the Bell Museum, the gorilla exhibit, some local pork projects, and much of the transit funding. However, the biggest transit expenditure vetoed—Central Corridor light rail—was signed into law when it came back later as part of the supplemental bonding bill.

## 4. Supplemental Bonding Bill

HF 4072. Rep. Hausman. [SF 3815. Sen. Langseth.]

Of the \$105.5 million of bonding authorized in this bill passed at the end of session, \$72 million was originally line-item vetoed out of the omnibus bonding bill that passed earlier. \$70 million was a state contribution for the Central Corridor light-rail project. Supposedly, that project was line-item vetoed from the first bonding bill because the Transportation bill authorized new sources of funds dedicated for metro transit, including sales tax increases if approved by county boards. Yet ultimately, that veto proved to be a bargaining chip to gain legislative acceptance for funding a pair of the governor’s pet projects: a new nursing facility at the Minneapolis Veterans Home Campus, and \$20 million for a new state park on the shore of Lake Vermillion.

LEA does not believe that more park land was worth the costs of expanding commitments to light-rail projects (a provision was added to this bill that commits the state to paying 50 percent of any operating costs needed for light-rail lines after operating revenues and federal funds have been used). Nor does LEA believe, when budget shortfalls for the coming biennium are projected to be \$2 billion, that the state should borrow money for more park land, particularly in northeast Minnesota, a region already dominated by government-owned and government-managed land and water. LEA sides with those who voted NO on this horse-trading bill, which passed in the Senate 50-17 and in the House 107-26.

## 5. Government Ownership of Newborn DNA

SF 3138. Sen. Lynch. [HF 3438. Rep. Thissen.]

The Minnesota House and Senate voted to strip citizens of genetic privacy and DNA ownership rights. State genetic privacy law requires informed parental consent for government testing, ownership and research on the DNA of the newest Minnesota residents, but it has been collected without consent. An administrative law judge, ruling in favor of the people of Minnesota, required written parental consent. An appeal also ruled in favor of the people. This bill, which was supported by the Minnesota Department of Health, would have eliminated the parental consent requirements.

Thus far, the state of Minnesota has illegally collected and retains the DNA of 780,000 children, compromising their genetic privacy and DNA ownership rights. The DNA of 42,210 children has been given to genetic researchers without parental consent. This legislation was needed to continue this practice. LEA favored a NO vote. The Senate vote was 51-12 and the House vote was 103-29. Fortunately, the governor vetoed the bill.

## 6. Government-Rationed Health Care Mandated

HF 3391. Rep. Huntley. [SF 3099. Sen. Berglin.]

This intrusive and expensive health care reform would not have reduced the high cost of health care or improved health care. It would have forced people to sign up for government rationed health care under the guise of good health care for all. The authors admitted the plan is controversial and it made providers nervous because it could not be funded after 2013.

This bill originated with the Governor’s Health Care Transformation task force and would lead down the path to socialized medicine and allow government access to all personal and private health information without written consent. LEA favored a NO vote. The bill passed in the Senate 53-13 and in the House 83-50. The governor vetoed the bill.

## 7. Cap and Trade Legislation (LGGAG)

HF 3195. Rep. Knuth. [SF 2818. Sen. Anderson.]

Cap and Trade legislation will increase the price of energy for all. The legislature created a new government bureaucracy, the Legislative Greenhouse Gas Advisory Group (LGGAG), to study greenhouse gases and ration energy. The cost of every business operating in Minnesota will increase and be passed on to the consumer. The regulations, based on the California model, are another hidden tax driving up the cost for all consumers. The irony that these schemes do nothing to improve the environment or reduce CO2 is missed by most. LEA supports legislation that would eliminate energy monopoly, reduce unnecessary regulations that increase energy costs, and allow the market to produce abundant clean energy. LEA favored a NO vote. The bill passed in the Senate 41-22 and in the House 96-36.

## 8. Peak Oil

HF 995. Rep. Hilty. [SF 1948. Sen. Carlson.]

The resolution instructs the Governor to direct state agencies to examine the potential impacts on peak oil on the state and to prepare for the consequences of oil scarcity and high prices. The resolution expresses support for a global agreement that would “provide transparency in oil markets, control price swings, address issue equity in access to remaining oil resources and provide a framework of predictability.”

The House approved a resolution to recognize the dubious theory of peak oil. The term refers to unknowable point in time at which global oil production reaches its maximum capacity and begins to decline. The resolution would have no impact on the oil market, prices or availability of oil. This feel good legislation was a waste of time, money and effort on a problem legislators compounded with the 2007 renewable energy standards bill.

LEA supported a NO vote. It passed in the Senate 44-13 and in the House 89-5 with numerous members abstaining from the vote. The Governor vetoed the bill.

## 9. Transportation Finance Bill

H.F. 2800. Rep. Lieder. [SF 2521. Sen. Murphy]

Few incidents spur politicians to action quicker than a tragedy on a government structure; when witnessed by millions it, becomes a cause célèbre. It was extremely convenient for the advocates of more government to fix blame for the tragedy on the Transportation Commissioner and insist on higher taxes when a paucity of funds was neither the problem nor more funding a solution. While the Federal Department of Transportation committed to replacing the bridge, advocates for the expansion of State government found the tragedy too lucrative to pass up. The net result was an unprecedented increase of \$6.6 billion in permanent taxes for gasoline, licenses, motor vehicles and a plethora of other taxes. The most stunning new tax, designed to court local favor, was to give some counties the unconstitutional authority to impose sales taxes as a source of revenue for a boondoggle known as light rail. All of this followed last year’s Constitutional Amendment that provided a permanent tax, the MVET, now wasted on more light rail.

The LEA favored a NO vote, as this bill ignores the due diligence requirements for transportation funding and violates State laws which prohibits new local taxes without a voter referendum. It throws money at non-existent problems, and funds traffic impediments (Light Rail). The vote, which overrode the Governor’s veto, was 47-20 in the Senate and 91-41 in the House.

## 10. Removal of Transportation Commissioner

Confirmation Motion. Sen. Murphy. [SJ page 6772.]

The removal of the DOT Commissioner proved to be a quintessential exercise in raw-power, arrogance, and partisanship. The

Commissioner, who had been the chair of the Transportation Finance Committee, and eliminated much fraud, waste, and abuse within the Department, cut out unproductive overtime and useless commissions did not endear the commissioner to civil service employees and their apologists within the Senate.

On the day that the Senate removed the Commissioner there was testimony by the Senate majority leader and others that the Commissioner lacked leadership, and other nebulous accusations, and that mistakes had been made. No examples were given. The Commissioner was cited for failing to raise taxes sufficiently to repair roads and bridges. Yet, the evidence shows record amounts of money were raised and spent, not for roads, as her adversaries claimed was needed, but for wasteful light rail.

The LEA favored a YES vote to confirm someone who could provide essential services efficiently, not their removal because of political convenience. The vote in the Senate was 22 to appoint, 44 against.

## 11. Surrogate Parenting (Gestational Carrier)

SF 2965 Sen. Higgins. [HF 3448. Rep. Tinglestad.]

Devoid of any moral underpinning or understanding of the values required for self-governance, the 2008 Legislature passed a bill that meddled with the institution of marriage by authorizing surrogate parenting. This bill turned upside down the Constitutional dictates to protect life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Notwithstanding the overwhelming data that shows the deleterious effects that raising families with single parents has, this Legislature boldly went against the rule of natural law. The Legislature authored a bill that will destroy nuclear families that have been the basis for liberty, restricted government, and stable democratic institutions and governments. This Legislature has willingly forsaken its responsibility to the citizens, and led them down the path of perdition. The LEA favored a NO vote. The vote passed in the Senate 41-22 and in the House 86-46. The Governor vetoed the bill.

## 12. Embryonic Stem Cell Research Funding

SF 100. Sen. Cohen. [HF 34. Rep. Kahn.]

Despite significant moral concerns, as well as the emerging scientific consensus that there is no need to destroy human embryos in order to advance the significant field of stem cell research, this bill authorizes the University of Minnesota to do just that—with taxpayer dollars. While the bill also prohibits the practice of human cloning, the taking of innocent lives to further research is an abomination associated with totalitarian regimes and is unacceptable to men and women of good conscience. LEA favored a NO vote. The bill passed 40-27 in the Senate and 71-62 in the House. The Governor vetoed the bill.

## 13. Subprime Borrower Relief Act

SF 3396. Sen. Anderson [HF 3612. Rep. Davnie.]

This bill ignores contract law that puts responsibility on borrowers and lenders who contract loans. By delaying the inevitable, the state prevents lenders from recouping their losses sooner. It also prevents those facing it from moving on into a more favorable financial position. These legislative actions, in the name of sympathy for those suffering a loss in foreclosure, either due to irresponsible buying or fraudulent lending, shift blame to the innocent and wreak further long-term havoc on the housing market. It is not the proper role of government to bail out individuals who acted recklessly in taking on mortgages they could not afford. Personal responsibility is a founding principle and the basis of sound government. LEA favored a NO vote. The bill passed in the Senate 34-33 and in the House 81-53. The Governor vetoed the bill.

## 14. Radiation Facility Construction Moratorium

SF 2667. Sen. Berglin. [HF 3265. Rep. Thissen.]

This bill expands the existing moratorium on the construction of

# SENATE

Pty	Dist	Name	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	08%	C%
D	66	Anderson, Ellen R.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-					0	8
D	6	Bakk, Thomas M.	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-					7	18
D	61	Berglin, Linda	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	A	-	-	-	-	-	-					-2	12
D	51	Betzold, Don	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	N		N	N	7	8
D	43	Bonoff, Terri E.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	O		O	O	0	4
D	38	Carlson, Jim	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-					0	4
D	50	Chaudhary, Satveer S.	-	-	-	-	A	-	A	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	S	S	S	S	-4	13
D	15	Clark, Tarryl L.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	E	E	E	E	0	5
D	64	Cohen, Richard J.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	N	N	N	N	0	7
D	25	Dahle, Kevin L.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	A	A	A	A	0	0
R	26	Day, Dick	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	A	+	+	+	+	+	-	T	T	T	T	52	62
D	60	Dibble, D. Scott	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	E	E	E	E	0	5
R	18	Dille, Steve	A	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	-					36	55
D	40	Doll, John P.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	V	V	V	V	0	4
D	31	Erickson Ropes, Sharon L.	A	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	O	O	O	O	6	7
R	14	Fischbach, Michelle L.	-	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	E	E	E	E	57	65
D	47	Foley, Leo T.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-					0	16
R	21	Frederickson, Dennis R.	-	-	-	-	A	-	A	A	-	+	+	+	+	-					30	54
R	37	Gerlach, Chris	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-		S			93	83
R	13	Gimse, Joe	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	-		C			50	42
R	42	Hann, David W.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+		O			100	72
D	58	Higgins, Linda	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	N				0	8
R	11	Ingebrigtsen, Bill G.	-	-	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	O				64	62
R	49	Johnson, Debbie J.	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-		D			86	64
R	48	Jungbauer, Michael J.	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	S		S	S	86	65
R	19	Koch, Amy T.	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	E	2	E	E	86	67
R	12	Koering, Paul E.	-	+	-	+	A	-	+	-	+	+	A	+	+	-	N	0	N	N	54	51
D	20	Kubly, Gary W.	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	A	0	A	A	21	16
D	9	Langseth, Keith	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	T	7	T	T	7	30
D	63	Larson, Dan	-	-	-	-	A	-	-	A	-	-	-	-	-	-	E		E	E	-4	25
D	44	Latz, Ron	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	A	-	A	A	-	-	-					-6	8
R	32	Limmer, Warren	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	V		V	V	100	83
D	8	Lourey, Tony	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	O				0	4
D	30	Lynch, Ann	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	T		T	T	0	7
D	54	Marty, John	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	A	-	-	-	-	-	-	E		E	E	13	11
D	39	Metzen, James P.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-					7	22
R	41	Michel, Geoff	-	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-					71	56
D	67	Moua, Mee	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-					7	10
D	28	Murphy, Steve	+	-	-	-	-	-	A	-	-	-	A	-	+	-					13	15

## KEY

**R** – Republican  
**D** - Democratic-Farmer-Labor  
**IP** – Independence

+ Vote *favored* by LEA  
 -- Vote *not favored* by LEA  
 A indicates legislator excused, absent, or not voting

**30%** = % of legislator's votes favored by LEA in 2008 session  
**C%** = legislator's career average LEA score

LEA calculates the voting percentages using votes actually cast by each legislator and then deducting two percentage points for each time that legislator did not cast a vote.

**Honorees** for 2008 scored **85% or higher**, those receiving honorable mentions scored at least **80%**.

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E&O excluded

## SENATE

Pty	Dist	Name	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	08%	C%					
D	17	Olseen, Rick E.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	S E N A T E	S E N A T E	N O T E	N O T E	0	7					
R	33	Olson, Gen	-	-	-	+	+	A	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	67					73						
D	4	Olson, Mary A.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	7					10						
R	34	Ortman, Julianne E.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	A	+	+	A	+	+	A					94	66					
D	65	Pappas, Sandra L.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-					0	6					
R	36	Pariseau, Pat	+	-	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-					71	67					
D	59	Pogemiller, Lawrence J.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-					N	O	N	O	0	6	
D	7	Prettner Solon, Yvonne	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	A	-	-	-	-	+	-					O	T	E	N	O	6	6
D	45	Rest, Ann H.	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-					14	18					
R	35	Robling, Claire A.	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	-					S	E	N	A	50	61	
R	24	Rosen, Julie A.	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-					S	E	N	A	50	51	
D	53	Rummel, Sandy	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-					0	7					
D	56	Saltzman, Kathy L.	A	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-					-2	3					
D	3	Saxhaug, Tom	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-					0	15					
D	46	Scheid, Linda	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	7					13						
R	29	Senjem, David H.	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	A	+	+	+	+	+	-					75	58					
D	23	Sheran, Kathy	A	-	-	-	-	-	-	A	-	-	-	-	-	-					-4	4					
D	57	Sieben, Katie	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-					0	13					
D	2	Skoe, Rod	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	-					21	20					
D	10	Skogen, Dan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	-					14	21					
D	27	Sparks, Dan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	-					14	20					
D	1	Stumpf, LeRoy A.	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	-					36	27					
D	5	Tomassoni, David J.	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-					2	0	0	7	16		
D	62	Torres Ray, Patricia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-					7	7					
R	52	Vandever, Ray	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	A	90	80									
D	22	Vickerman, Jim	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	-	14	37									
R	16	Wergin, Betsy L.	-	-	+	+	-	+	A	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	67	63									
D	55	Wiger, Charles W.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	18									

## HOUSE

Pty	Dist	Name	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	08%	C%
R	48B	Abeler, Jim	+	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	N O T E	-	+	+	-	+	-	+	-	41	49
R	19A	Anderson, Bruce	+	+	+	+	A	+	+	A	+		+	+	+	+	+	+	+	A	94	92
R	43A	Anderson, Sarah	+	-	+	-	-	+	-	A	+		+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	73	68
D	03A	Anzelc, Tom	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	7
D	39B	Atkins, Joe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		N	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	12
R	35A	Beard, Michael	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	A	+		O	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	92	66
D	43B	Benson, John	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0
R	33B	Berns, John	+	+	+	-	-	+	-	A	+		H	-	-	+	-	+	+	+	61	62
D	57A	Bigham, Karla	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		O	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0
D	25B	Bly, David	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-		U	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	3
R	25A	Brod, Laura	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	A	A		S	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	96	63
D	27A	Brown, Robin	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	A	-		E	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	4	2
D	23B	Brynaert, Kathy	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0
R	35B	Buesgens, Mark	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+		V	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100	92
D	56A	Bunn, Julie	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		O	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	12	10
D	45B	Carlson, Lyndon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		T	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	18
D	61A	Clark, Karen	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		E	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	13
R	24B	Cornish, Tony	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	+		-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	71	62
D	62A	Davnie, Jim	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	12
R	52B	Dean, Matt	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	A	+		+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	98	83
R	49A	DeLaForest, Chris	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+		-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	88	84
R	29A	Demmer, Randy	+	-	+	-	-	+	+	A	+		+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	73	62





new radiation therapy facilities through 2011 based upon studies that claim there is no need for additional centers. Health care costs are so high due to such micromanagement by the government. More radiation facilities would bring more competition to the market and lower the cost of health care. This bill puts caps on supply, protects existing radiation facilities, and allows them larger profits at the expense of the consumers and insurance companies already strapped by high health care costs. LEA supports free market competition that lowers health-care costs, not legislative intervention on behalf of a health-provider lobby. LEA favored a NO vote. The bill passed in the Senate 61-4 and in the House 103-26.

### **15. Sanctuary Cities Exempt from the Law**

Seifert Amendment to HF 3201. Rep. Lenczewski. [HJ page 8095.]

There are few things that a government could consciously and willingly do that invite chaos and cultural breakdown more readily than the creation of sanctuaries for those who break its laws. This is precisely what the defeat of the bill regarding the reduction of aid to sanctuary cities accomplishes. When a nation's freedoms, laws, and social order are persistently attacked, causing erosion of constitutional principles, it is traitorous to open up its borders and political entities to those whose ideology and allegiances are not to the United States. And when a nation's executive and enforcement branch are so emasculated that it cannot secure its borders, it becomes problematic as to how long the nation will endure.

By creating or allowing sanctuary cities to exist, politicians have abdicated their most solemn duty to uphold and defend the Constitution and protect its citizens from foreign and domestic threats. The LEA favored a YES vote, which would have prohibited or restricted state aid to Sanctuary Cities. The amendment was defeated in the House 65-67.

### **16. Minimum Wage Increase**

SF 875. Sen. Anderson. [HF 456. Rep. Rukavina.]

Government mandated wage levels stifle the free market. Minimum wage increases place an excessive burden on many small businesses and, in some cases, put them out of business. Rather than increasing jobs, it eliminates lower paying jobs, prevents young workers from entering the work force, and attracts other unskilled workers to our state. The wages forced on the private market will soon be reflected in higher wages in all sectors, without increased productivity, and that increase gets passed onto citizens. LEA favored a NO vote. It passed in the Senate in 2007 40-23 and in the House in 2008 89-45. The governor vetoed the bill.

### **17. English as the Official State Language**

HF 2652. Rep. Draskowski.

This bill would have designated English as the official language of Minnesota, making communication simpler and less costly. The bill was referred to a committee, and when the author asked to remove the bill from the Committee a vote was taken on whether to "lay it on the table," effectively killing it. LEA would have supported the measure and therefore favored a NO on this vote. The vote in the House was 74-58 in favor of killing the bill. There was no vote in the Senate.

### **18. No photo I.D. Required to Vote**

Emmer Amendment to HF 1546 Rep. Simon. [HJ page 8534.]

This amendment would have required voters to show a picture ID as a requirement to vote. Requiring a picture ID is not an unreasonable burden for citizens who cherish the ideal and right of self-governance. It is apparent that those who voted to kill this amendment were opposed to being on record as voting against it. LEA favored a NO vote against killing the amendment. The vote upholding the speaker's decision to rule the amendment out of order passed in the House 83-49.

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