



State Representative **ANDY WELTI**

2005 E-NEWSLETTER

END OF SESSION UPDATE

Dear Friends,

This has been a good legislative session for our district and for our state. I am proud of the work that we have accomplished, passing bills that will adequately fund our schools and prevent almost 30,000 Minnesotans from losing their health care coverage.

Our state bonding bill will bring close to \$35 million worth of projects into our district, providing jobs and economic growth.

As a first-term member of the House of Representatives, I took a responsible, moderate and balanced approach - working for the best interest of all Minnesotans. I was able to work with fellow legislators from both parties and showed leadership by voting to move Minnesota forward with common sense legislation.

Throughout this legislative session, I worked hard to stay in touch with local residents, asking for your input through a survey and door knocking. I am proud to represent you, and want to thank all of you for your support and feedback throughout this session.



HOW TO REACH State Representative ANDY WELTI

387 State Office Bldg.
St. Paul, MN 55155
(651) 296-4378

Toll-Free:
1-888-858-4753

E-Mail:
rep.andy.welti@
house.mn

Webpage:
www.house.mn/30B

LEGISLATION INTRODUCED BY REP. WELTI

- **Funding for Eyota Chesterwoods Trail**
- **Funding for Great River Ridge Trail**
- **Research grants for ethanol fuel compatibility studies**
- **Feedlot environmental compliance individual income and corporate franchise tax credit provided**
- **Employee energy savings suggestions incentives provided for state agencies and higher education institutions**
- **Authorization for emergency state government meetings to be facilitated by telephone or other electronic means**

2005 Legislative Accomplishments

- \$35 million worth of work projects for our district from the bonding bill, creating new jobs and economic growth
 - \$21.7 for U of M and Mayo Genomics Center
 - \$12.7 for RCTC Health Sciences Building
 - Share in the \$23 million CREP funds
 - \$200,000 for Chester Woods Bluffands
 - \$4 million for CAP grant/Olmsted County
 - Adequate K-12 funding, gifted and talented, ECFE and Head Start funding increases
- No changes to MinnesotaCare eligibility, preventing 30,000 working Minnesotans from losing their health-care coverage
- First raise (COLA) for nursing home workers in three years
- \$48 million designated for property tax relief (LGA)
- First increase in the minimum wage in over 8 years
- Ethanol level in gasoline will be doubled by 2012
- Tougher penalties for the worst sex offenders
- Restricted sale of over-the-counter medicines that are used to make methamphetamines
- Trimmed government spending on agency operations



• We fought hard to restore at least a portion of the cuts to local government aid (LGA) made during the last budget. Because of our insistence, towns and cities will be receiving additional funds that can be used to pay for police and fire protection, road maintenance and parks.

• The Governor had proposed a 2% increase in the per pupil funding for schools. We successfully increased it to 4%, as well as secured other funding options that will do a lot to end the downward spiral of cuts and layoffs in our schools.

Final Budget Highlights

ADDITIONAL SCHOOL FUNDING OVER BASE

Chatfield-\$708,125
 Dover-Eyota-\$952,360
 Stewartville-\$1,315,325
 Rochester-\$12,814,274
 Elgin-Millville-\$420,415
 Plainview-\$828,299

ADDITIONAL LGA FUNDING

Chatfield-\$14,772
 Dover-\$3,672
 Elgin-\$5460
 Eyota-\$11,040
 Plainview-\$89,771
 Stewartville-\$61,769
 Rochester-\$587,703

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rep.andy.welti@house.mn