



## HOW TO USE THE TAXPAYERS LEAGUE SCORECARD

This scorecard reports key votes lawmakers cast on taxes and spending. A "+" vote denotes a pro-taxpayer position. The rating reflects the percentage of pro-taxpayer votes cast. Also reported is the cumulative score for each state legislator for years 1997-2001.

The Taxpayers League of Minnesota is a nonpartisan nonprofit grassroots taxpayer advocacy organization of over 10,000 Minnesotans. It fights for lower taxes, limited government and the full empowerment of taxpaying citizens in accordance with Constitutional principles. Nothing in this scorecard implies endorsement of any candidate for public office.

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- Toll Free: ..... (800) 657-3550
- MN Senate Switchboard: ..... (651) 296-0504
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- Governor's Office ..... (651) 296-3391
- U.S. House of Reps Switchboard ..... (202) 225-3121
- U.S. Senate Switchboard ..... (202) 224-3121

## PLEASE JOIN US IN FIGHTING FOR LOWER TAXES

If you're tired of Minnesota's high taxes and big government – and you want to join the fight to change it – the Taxpayers League would like your help. To support our cause, we suggest a gift of \$25 or more be sent to:

TAXPAYERS LEAGUE OF MINNESOTA  
One Carlson Parkway, Ste. 120  
Plymouth, MN 55447  
(763) 249-5950

Visit our website at:  
[www.taxpayersleague.org](http://www.taxpayersleague.org)



## OUR MISSION

**Michael Wigley**  
Chairman, Taxpayers League

"The Taxpayers League's mission is to represent Minnesotans who believe in limited government, low taxation, local control, free enterprise and the Constitutional principles set forth by our nation's founders.

The Taxpayers League is fighting to reduce and reform taxation, eliminate government waste, and improve efficiency. It serves as a strong voice for all taxpaying citizens in Minnesota."



## THE 2001 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

**Linda Runbeck**  
President, Taxpayers League

"The 2001 legislative session saw the passage of landmark property tax reform and reductions. Property of every class was supposed to get double-digit tax reductions, while the state took over the burden for funding basic education.

Unfortunately, 2001 also became the year of the great local government tax grab. In many places, local units of government saw the property tax reductions passed by the state as an opportunity to increase local spending by raising property taxes above the levels anticipated by the legislature.

Since 1998, state government spending has grown by almost 25%. Now is the time to reform government spending practices and reduce the burden that government places on taxpaying families. If lawmakers and the governor can't reduce government spending now, after such huge increases, when can they?"

Prepared and paid for by  
The Taxpayers League of Minnesota  
One Carlson Parkway, Ste. 120 Plymouth MN 55447



# TAXPAYERS LEAGUE of MINNESOTA

## 2001 LEGISLATIVE SCORECARD

*A Guide to Minnesota Lawmakers' Votes on Taxes and Spending*

# United States Congress Scorecard - 106th Congress 1999-2000



U.S. Senator	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Score
Mark Dayton (D)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
Paul Wellstone (D)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	10%



## U.S. Senate Votes

- 1) President Bush's Tax Cut (Roll Call 170)** The taxpayer friendly vote was to reduce income taxes for all working Americans by reducing tax rates, reducing the marriage penalty, and repealing the death tax.
- 2) Don't Reduce Tax Cuts (Roll Call 144)** The taxpayer friendly vote was to reject this proposal to shrink the President's tax cut proposal by preserving the death tax and keeping income taxes for most taxpayers higher.
- 3) Don't Keep Death Taxes High (Roll Call Vote 114)** The taxpayer friendly vote was to reject this amendment which would increase the death tax rate by 8%.
- 4) \$1.18 Trillion Tax Cut (Roll Call 086)** The taxpayer friendly vote was to approve the budget resolution which would cut taxes by \$1.18 trillion and eliminate the marriage penalty.
- 5) Reject Pork Barrel Spending (Roll Call 338)** The taxpayer friendly vote was to reject the pork laden "economic stimulus" bill.
- 6) Prescription Drug Benefit (Roll Call 065)** The taxpayer friendly vote was to approve the President's plan for a fiscally responsible prescription drug benefit.
- 7) Reduce Costly and Unnecessary Regulation (Roll Call 015)** The taxpayer friendly vote was to eliminate this costly and unnecessary regulatory regime instituted under the Clinton Administration Labor Department.
- 8) Protect Workers and Shareholders (Roll Call 043)** The taxpayer friendly vote was to require unions and corporations to ask permission from members and shareholders before using their money on political expenses.
- 9) Preserve Freedom of Speech (Roll Call 048)** The taxpayer friendly vote was to reject this proposal which would have restricted nonprofit organizations from distributing information before an election.
- 10) Reject Congressional Pay Raise (Roll Call 076)** The taxpayer friendly vote was to allow a vote to reject automatic congressional pay raises.

U.S. Representative	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	Score
Gil Gutknecht (R-1st)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	91%
Mark Kennedy (R-2nd)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	91%
Jim Ramstad (R-3rd)	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	82%
Betty McCollum (D-4th)	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	18%
Martin Sabo (D-5th)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
Bill Luther (D-6th)	+	-	-	-	-	+	*	-	+	-	-	30%
Collin Peterson (D-7th)	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	-	+	+	+	55%
James Oberstar (D-8th)	-	-	-	*	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	10%

## U.S. House of Representatives Votes

- 1) Eliminate the Marriage Penalty (Roll Call 075)** The taxpayer friendly vote was to eliminate the marriage penalty tax, which can cost a married couple an average of \$1400 a year in extra taxes.
- 2) Don't Expand CAFE Mandate (Roll Call 311)** The taxpayer friendly vote was to reject this attempt to make light trucks, including SUVs and minivans, follow the same fuel standards as cars, requiring them to be smaller and less safe.
- 3) Repeal the Death Tax (Roll Call 082)** The taxpayer friendly vote was to reject this amendment to cut the death tax rather than eliminate it.
- 4) \$1.35 Trillion Tax Cut (Roll Call 149)** The taxpayer friendly vote was to reduce income taxes for all working Americans by reducing and simplifying tax rates, reducing the marriage penalty, and repealing the death tax.
- 5) Trade Promotion Authority for President (Roll Call 481)** The taxpayer friendly vote was to allow President Bush to negotiate trade agreements between the United States and other countries.
- 6) Increase Government Spending (Roll Call 402)** The taxpayer friendly vote was to vote against this amendment which would increase government spending while raising taxes for some working families.
- 7) Stimulate Lagging Economy (Roll Call 509)** The taxpayer friendly vote was to pass this package of tax reductions, refunds, and credits intended to stimulate economic activity during the economic slowdown. The bill also extended unemployment benefits for 13 weeks and provided a refundable tax credit to help buy health insurance.
- 8) Reduce Costly and Unnecessary Regulation (Roll Call 033)** The taxpayer friendly vote was to eliminate this costly and unnecessary regulatory regime instituted under the Clinton Administration Labor Department.
- 9) Increase Retirement Savings (Roll Call 096)** The taxpayer friendly vote was to increase the amount of retirement savings an individual can contribute to IRAs and 401k plans.
- 10) Promote Energy Independence (Roll Call 317)** The taxpayer friendly vote was to help America become less dependent upon foreign oil imports by expanding oil exploration and drilling in Alaska.
- 11) Health Care Lawsuit Reform (Roll Call 329)** The taxpayer friendly vote was to reform the laws governing lawsuits against health care providers.

+ = Taxpayer Friendly Vote

- = Taxpayer Unfriendly Vote

\* = Not Voting

# VOTE DESCRIPTIONS

## MINNESOTA STATE SENATE

- REDUCE AND REFORM PROPERTY TAXES.** The taxpayer friendly vote was to reduce and reform the property tax, cutting homeowners' property taxes by about 20% (passed 52-11)
- DON'T SPEND THE SURPLUS.** The taxpayer friendly vote was to reject the Senate Tax Bill, which increased government spending and spent much of the surplus. (passed 37-25)
- ALWAYS RETURN SURPLUSES.** The taxpayer friendly vote was to require that any future surplus be returned to taxpayers. (failed 28-34)
- REDUCE THE PRICE OF GOVERNMENT.** The taxpayer friendly vote was to impose a smaller limit on government spending. (failed 27-39)
- DON'T OUTLAW GAS PRICE COMPETITION.** The taxpayer friendly vote was to reject this attempt to outlaw competitive pricing on gasoline. (passed 48-11)
- DON'T UNDO WELFARE REFORM.** The taxpayer friendly vote was to retain the essential components of welfare reform, including the 5-year limit on benefits. (failed 26-38)
- DON'T INCREASE FUEL PRICES.** The taxpayer friendly vote was to reject this amendment requiring that vegetable oil be added to diesel fuel in Minnesota, increasing costs and reducing fuel efficiency for vehicles with diesel engines. (passed 48-15)
- KEEP SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGETS BALANCED.** The taxpayer friendly vote was to prohibit school districts from knowingly signing contracts that will cause budget deficits. (failed 27-35)
- DON'T USE CHILDREN FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES.** The taxpayer friendly vote was to prohibit school employees from using children to distribute materials advocating the passage or rejection of a ballot question, legislation, or the election of any candidate for political office. (failed 21-42)
- REJECT DISCRIMINATORY STATE POLICY.** The taxpayer friendly vote was to reject this attempt to allow the Governor to negotiate discriminatory benefits packages which will extend marriage benefits to some unmarried state employees in same-sex relationships, while excluding state employees in opposite sex relationships. (passed 36-31)
- PREVENT MISUSE OF TAXPAYER DOLLARS.** The taxpayer friendly vote was to prevent state officials from distributing proceeds from a state lawsuit to private individuals or entities, while requiring that the proceeds of a lawsuit go to the general fund. (failed 30-36)
- DON'T INCREASE PAY LIMITS FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT WORKERS.** The taxpayer friendly vote was to reject this law to allow local governments to increase bureaucrats' salaries to 125% of the Governor's salary. (passed 59-6)

## MINNESOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

- REDUCE AND REFORM PROPERTY TAXES.** The taxpayer friendly vote was to reduce and reform the property tax, cutting homeowners' property taxes by about 20% (passed 117-16)
- RETURN THE SURPLUS TO TAXPAYERS.** The taxpayer friendly vote was to return the entire budget surplus to taxpayers in an immediate rebate, before it could be spent by the legislature. (passed 82-42)
- DON'T INCREASE LAWMAKERS PAY.** The taxpayer friendly vote was to reject a proposal to increase the "per diem" payments for lawmakers by almost 20%. (failed 44-88)
- REJECT TAXPAYER FUNDED BASEBALL STADIUM.** The taxpayer friendly vote was to kill this proposal to use taxpayer dollars to finance a new baseball stadium for the Minnesota Twins. (failed 52-76)
- REDUCE FRIVOLOUS LITIGATION.** The taxpayer friendly vote was to reform the "joint and several" liability rules by making it more difficult to pursue defendants with little responsibility for the wrongs inflicted. (passed 68-62)
- REDUCE STATE HEALTH INSURANCE COSTS.** The taxpayer friendly vote was to require that state employees be subject to the same rules as employees in the private sector, by requiring health insurance benefits that include co-payments for doctor visits. (failed 62-69)
- REJECT DISCRIMINATORY STATE POLICY.** The taxpayer friendly vote was to prohibit the Governor from negotiating discriminatory benefits packages which would extend marriage benefits to some unmarried state employees in same-sex relationships, while excluding state employees in opposite sex relationships. (passed 78-54)
- PREVENT VOTER FRAUD.** The taxpayer friendly vote was to require that individuals present a photo identification card at the polling place, in order to cut down on voter fraud. (passed 70-63)
- DON'T INCREASE FUEL PRICES.** The taxpayer friendly vote was to reject this amendment requiring that vegetable oil be added to diesel fuel in Minnesota, increasing costs and reducing fuel efficiency for vehicles with diesel engines. (failed 59-72)
- DON'T OUTLAW GAS PRICE COMPETITION.** The taxpayer friendly vote was to reject this attempt to outlaw competitive pricing on gasoline. (passed 85-46)
- REJECT BOONDOGGLE GOVERNMENT.** The taxpayer friendly vote was to reject this bill to create a Propane Education and Research Council that would be funded by a new tax on propane. (passed 103-28)
- DON'T INCREASE PAY LIMITS FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT WORKERS.** The taxpayer friendly vote was to reject this law to allow local governments to increase bureaucrats salaries to 125% of the Governor's salary. (failed 37-93)

Legend: "+"= pro-taxpayer vote    "-"= anti-taxpayer vote    "\*"= not voting

# STATE SENATE

Name	Party/ District													RATING	
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	2001	07-09
Ellen Anderson	D66	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	7
Michele Bachmann	R56	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	92	92
William Belanger Jr.	R41	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	83	69
Charles Berg	R13	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	75	46
Linda Berglin	D61	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	3
Don Betzold	D48	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	9
Satveer Chaudhary	D52	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	25
Richard Cohen	D64	+	-	-	-	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	11
Dick Day	R28	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	83	82
Steve Dille	R20	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	*	+	+	-	73	42
Michelle Fischbach	R14	+	*	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	82	83
Leo Foley	D49	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	17	7
Chuck Fowler	D26	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	17	3
Dennis Frederickson	R23	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	+	-	67	65
Linda Higgins	D58	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	3
John Hottinger	D24	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	3
Dean Johnson	D15	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	9	34
Douglas Johnson	D 6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	*	-	-	-	0	5
Debbie Johnson	R50	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	92	92
Dave Johnson	D40	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	17	20
Steve Kelley	D44	+	*	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	12
Randy Kelly	D67	+	-	*	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	+	-	36	14
Bob Kierlin	R32	+	+	+	+	*	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	82	74
Tony Kinkel	D4	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	7
Sheila Kiscaden	R30	+	-	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	-	+	-	58	60
Dave Kleis	R16	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	83	82
David Knutson	R36	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	92	79
Jane Krentz	D51	+	-	-	-	+	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	18	23
Keith Langseth	D9	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	9
Cal Larson	R10	*	+	+	+	+	+	-	*	+	+	+	-	80	76
Arlene Lesewski	R21	+	-	+	+	-	*	-	+	+	+	+	+	73	76
Bob Lessard	I3	+	-	+	+	-	*	+	+	-	+	+	-	64	26
Warren Limmer	R33	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	92	91
Becky Lourey	D8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	3
John Marty	D54	*	+	-	-	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	20	20
James Metzen	D39	+	*	*	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	20	17
Roger Moe	D2	-	-	-	-	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	4
Steve Murphy	D29	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	*	-	-	-	-	9	2
Thomas Neville	R25	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	75	82
Edward Oliver	R43	+	+	+	+	*	+	+	+	-	+	*	-	80	83
Gen Olson	R34	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	*	82	83
Myron Orfield	D60	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	12
Mark Ourada	R19	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	*	*	+	+	-	80	76
Sandra Pappas	D65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	2
Pat Pariseau	R37	+	+	+	+	+	+	*	+	+	+	+	+	100	87
Lawrence Pogemiller	D59	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	4
Leonard Price	D57	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	7
Jane Ranum	D63	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	7
Mady Reiter	R53	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	92	92
Ann Rest	D46	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	17	25
Twyla Ring	D18	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	10
Martha Robertson	R45	+	+	+	*	-	+	+	+	-	-	+	-	64	72
Claire Robling	R35	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	83	81
Julie Sabo	D62	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0
Dallas Sams	D11	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	17	20
Don Samuelson	D12	+	-	-	-	-	-	*	*	-	+	-	-	20	25
Kenric Scheevel	R31	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	75	79
Linda Scheid	D47	+	-	-	-	*	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	18	7
Grace Schwab	R27	+	+	+	+	-	+	*	+	+	+	+	-	82	82
Sam Solon	D7	*	*	*	-	*	-	*	*	*	-	-	-	*	*
Dan Stevens	R17	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	75	83
LeRoy Stumpf	D1	+	*	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	20	9
Roy Terwilliger	R42	+	+	+	+	*	+	-	+	-	-	+	-	64	70
David Tomassoni	D5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	17
Jim Vickerman	D22	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	17	15
Deanna Wiener	D38	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	*	18	16
Charles Wiger	D55	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	17	36

