



**TAXPAYERS
LEAGUE**

of Minnesota

2008

**LEGISLATIVE
SCORECARD**

**A GUIDE TO
MINNESOTA
LAWMAKERS'
VOTES ON TAXES
AND SPENDING**

THE 2008 LEGISLATIVE SESSION



**Phil Krinkie
President**

All is not well that ends well.

As Thomas Jefferson so eloquently stated over 200 years ago, "The price of liberty is eternal vigilance." These words are just as true today as they were when he first spoke them. The 2008 legislative session proves once again that our economic freedom as well as our individual liberty is at risk every time lawmakers meet.

While we can take some solace in the fact that Governor Pawlenty and conservative lawmakers barred the liberals from passing even greater tax increases and even more restrictions on our individual freedom, this in reality is little consolation.

Conservatives in Minnesota should no longer be content with simply blocking the liberals' tax-and-spend agenda and calling that "good enough." We must work to regain the majority because working to control the agenda in the majority is far superior to tilting at windmills in the minority. Trying to stop the stampeding liberals from a minority position is akin to believing you can stop a stampede of buffalo with a bow and arrow.

As such, we all need to redouble our efforts in promoting our conservative principles in an effort to elect individuals who will vote on the basis of ideology. This is the only way we will be able to restrain the growth of government.

We can't change the legislation that comes out of St. Paul until we change the legislators that we send to St. Paul.

Join the Taxpayers League of Minnesota today and help keep government out of your wallet.

TO CONTACT YOUR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES:

- MN House Switchboard (651).296-2146
 - Toll Free (800) 657-3550 . . .
 - MN Senate Switchboard . . . (651) 296-0504
 - Governor's Office (651).296-3391
 - U.S. House of Reps Switchboard (202) 225-3121
 - U.S. Senate Switchboard . . (202) 224-3121
- Or by email at sen.firstname.lastname@senate.mn
or rep.firstname.lastname@house.mn

OUR MISSION



**Michael Wigley
Chairman**

For more than a decade the mission of the Taxpayers League has been to reduce the tax burden on working Minnesotans. With the help and support of many dedicated people we have succeeded in our goal. Yet with the liberals in control of both the State Legislature and the U.S. Congress we can't rest on past accomplishments. Thank you for your past support and hopefully you will continue to be engaged in the cause by joining the Taxpayers League today.



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 1997-2008.

The Taxpayers League of Minnesota is a nonpartisan, nonprofit grassroots taxpayer advocacy organization representing thousands of 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.

**PLEASE JOIN US
IN FIGHTING TO
HOLD THE LINE ON 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, \$50 or more be sent to:

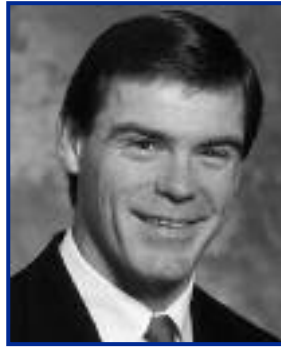
**TAXPAYERS LEAGUE
OF MINNESOTA**

PO Box 120444 • St Paul, MN 55112
Phone: (651) 294-3590
Fax: (651) 294-3596
www.taxpayersleague.org

– 2008 Best Friends of the Taxpayer –



Rep. Bruce Anderson
R-Buffalo Township (19A)
8th award



Rep. Mark Buesgens
R-Jordan (35B)
6th award



Rep. Tom Emmer
R-Delano (19B)
2nd award



Rep. Tom Hackbarth
R-Cedar (48A)
1st award



Rep. Mark Olson
R-Big Lake (16B)
5th award



Sen. David Hann
R-Eden Prairie (42)
4th award



Sen. Warren Limmer
R-Maple Grove (32)
5th award



Sen. Julianne Ortman
R-Chanhassen (34)
1st award

All of the above legislators received a score of 100% on our 2008 Taxpayers League Scorecard. They deserve special recognition for their hard work and willingness to stand strong for individual economic freedom.

WARNING: TAX INCREASE AHEAD

Did you know there is a **TAX INCREASE** on the ballot on November 4th ?

You will have the opportunity to vote on a 3/8 of a cent sales tax increase that will constitutionally dedicate money to the arts and the natural environment. This tax increase is just a way for lawmakers to side-step the real question of how they spend the \$27 billion a year taxpayers give them now.

The tax increase you will vote on in November didn't start out as a tax increase at all. Initially the idea was to dedicate a portion of the existing sales tax to environmental conservation programs only. But that plan proved unpopular with liberal legislators who didn't want to divert current sales tax revenue to rural environmental programs. So instead they are asking voters to increase the state's sales tax by an additional 3/8 of a percent and direct a portion of the dollars to arts and cultural heritage.

As projected by the Minnesota Revenue Department, by 2011 this tax increase will siphon \$276 million out of taxpayers'

pockets to be divided up among four new pots of money: 33% to the Outdoor Heritage Fund, 33% to the Clean Water Fund, 14% to the Parks and Trails Fund, and 20% to the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund. Certainly, this is a tax increase that leaves no special interest group behind!

Aside from the regressivity of a sales tax increase itself, dedicating taxpayer dollars is bad public policy. Dedicating dollars to these programs will lead to a lack of transparency and likely become bureaucratic slush-funds. If arts and outdoors advocates want funding for their pet projects, their programs should have to compete with other functions of state government like road construction, public safety and education.

It's not often that Minnesotans get a clear choice between raising taxes and fiscal responsibility.

**Remember: Vote "NO"
Tuesday, November 4th!**

2008 VOTE DESCRIPTIONS

MINNESOTA STATE SENATE

(SJ = Senate Journal Page Number)

- 1. A CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT TO FISCAL IRRESPONSIBILITY? (SJ 6500)** The taxpayer-friendly vote was to oppose placing this Constitutional amendment on the November ballot. This bill, which would increase the state sales tax and dedicate the revenue to outdoor and "cultural heritage" programs is not only universally regarded as bad fiscal policy, but the hundreds of millions raised through the tax increase will no doubt be used for any number of pet-projects and wasteful spending initiatives. (Conference Committee report passed 46-17, no Gubernatorial action required)
- 2. THE \$6.6 BILLION DOLLAR TRANSPORTATION TAX INCREASE (SJ 6648)** The taxpayer-friendly vote was to oppose one of the largest tax increases in Minnesota history and send this tax-laden Transportation bill back to the drawing board. In addition to raising the gas tax, sales tax and vehicle registration tax, this bill also created a whole new level of government in the Metro area to spend millions on unnecessary transit boondoggles. (Bill passed 47-20, vetoed by the Governor)
- 3. THE TRANSPORTATION BILL OVERRIDE VOTE (SJ 6707)** The taxpayer-friendly vote was to sustain the Governor's veto of the \$6.6 billion Transportation tax bill and save Minnesotans from one of the largest tax increases in state history. Two Republican Senators joined 45 DFL Senators to override the Governor's veto. (Override successful 47-20)
- 4. ANOTHER BILLION DOLLAR BONDING BILL (SJ 7046)** The taxpayer-friendly vote was to reject the Senate's initial version of the bonding bill. The bill, which blew past the historically accepted budget target established by the Department of Finance, included all manner of wasteful pork projects. Among the lowlights: hundreds of millions for local arenas, hockey rinks, parks and trails and the Central Corridor light rail boondoggle... with no money for state priorities like road and bridge construction. (Bill passed 57-9)
- 5. THE ECONOMIC WAR OF HOUSE FILE 1812 (SJ 10888)** The taxpayer-friendly vote was to oppose this end-of-session budget balancing bill that drained \$500 million from the state's budget reserve while reducing spending by only \$268 million. (Bill passed 56-11)
- 6. TAX, TAX, TAX, SPEND, SPEND, SPEND. (SJ 8458)** The taxpayer-friendly vote was to reject the Senate's Tax bill that contained hundreds of millions in Local Government Aid giveaways to cities and counties and increased taxes on Minnesota companies that do business overseas. Yet another example of tax-and-spenders in St. Paul having no idea who creates the jobs and what it really takes to make Minnesota's economy work. (Bill passed 39-28)
- 7. A MINIMUM WAGE THAT WOULD LEAD TO MAXIMUM UNEMPLOYMENT (SJ 10030)** The taxpayer-friendly vote was to scrap the second attempt in three years to increase the state's minimum wage. Even though the minimum wage was already raised in 2005, this year liberal lawmakers sought to raise it again – and to index it to inflation! As the nation moves through a period of economic uncertainty, the last thing legislators should be doing is increasing the cost of doing business for Minnesota companies. Thankfully, the Governor had his veto pen ready. (Bill passed 40-18, vetoed by the Governor)
- 8. CAP AND TRADE WHILE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FADES (SJ 10261)** The taxpayer-friendly vote was to oppose this attempt by environmental activists to further regulate Minnesota's economy. This cap on greenhouse gas emissions would not only hurt some of Minnesota's largest employers but lead to fewer jobs and fewer workers to carry the tax burden. (Bill passed 41-22)
- 9. A HEALTH CARE BILL IN NEED OF EMERGENCY TREATMENT (SJ 10548)** The taxpayer-friendly vote was to reject the end of session health care "reform" bill that will add more people to the state's health insurance plan, pay individuals and groups to sign-up new medical welfare recipients and does little to address the factors that cause health care services spending to eat up more and more of the State's budget. (Bill passed 62-5)
- 10. A SECOND BONDING BILL, TWICE AS BAD (SJ 10663)** As part of the end of session negotiations, Legislative leaders and the Governor agreed to another bonding bill containing funding for the Central Corridor light rail line: a billion dollar trolley that will only increase congestion. Of course, the taxpayer-friendly vote was "no." (Bill passed 50-17)
- 11. FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY 7, MINNESOTA VIKINGS 0 (SJ 8273)** The taxpayer-friendly vote was to support this amendment to the Senate Omnibus Tax bill that would strip funding for a Viking's stadium study. Apparently, twenty-two members of the State Senate think taxpayers should pay for yet another "stadium study." (Amendment passed 41-22)

MINNESOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

(HJ = House Journal Page number)

- 1. A CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT TO FISCAL IRRESPONSIBILITY? (HJ 7684)** The taxpayer-friendly vote was to oppose placing this Constitutional amendment on the November ballot. This bill, which would increase the state sales tax and dedicate the revenue to outdoor and "cultural heritage" programs is not only universally regarded as bad fiscal policy, but the hundreds of millions raised through the tax increase will no doubt be used for any number of pet-projects and wasteful spending initiatives. (Conference Committee report passed 85-46, no Gubernatorial action required)
- 2. THE \$6.6 BILLION DOLLAR TRANSPORTATION TAX INCREASE (HJ 7883)** The taxpayer-friendly vote was to oppose one of the largest tax increases in Minnesota history and send this tax-laden Transportation bill back to the drawing board. In addition to raising the gas tax, sales tax and vehicle registration tax, this bill also created a whole new level of government in the Metro area to spend millions on unnecessary transit boondoggles. (Bill passed 89-44, vetoed by the Governor)
- 3. THE TRANSPORTATION BILL OVERRIDE VOTE (HJ 7889)** The taxpayer-friendly vote was to sustain the Governor's veto of the \$6.6 billion Transportation tax bill and save Minnesotans from one of the largest tax increases in state history. There should have been enough votes to sustain the veto, but six Republican House members voted against the Governor, their caucus and the majority of Minnesotans to help this bill become law. (Override successful 91-41)
- 4. ANOTHER BILLION DOLLAR BONDING BILL (HJ 8348)** The taxpayer-friendly vote was to reject the House's initial version of the Capital Investment Committee's bonding bill. The bill, which blew past the historically accepted budget target established by the Department of Finance, included all manner of wasteful pork projects. Among the lowlights: hundreds of millions for local arenas, hockey rinks, parks and trails and the Central Corridor light rail boondoggle... with no money for state priorities like road and bridge construction. (Bill passed 99-34)
- 5. THE ECONOMIC WAR OF HOUSE FILE 1812 (HJ 12723)** The taxpayer-friendly vote was to oppose this end-of-session budget balancing bill that drained \$500 million from the state's budget reserve while reducing spending by only \$268 million. (Bill passed 115-19)
- 6. SOCIALISM DISGUISED AS PROPERTY TAX REFORM (HJ 11356)** Though it took nearly the entire Legislative session to put together, when it was finally finished the House's Omnibus Tax bill was a horrendous amalgamation of tax increases, political pandering and destructive economic policies. The taxpayer-friendly vote was to oppose this bill whose property tax "reform" provision would have – according to the Minnesota Revenue Department – amounted to a tax increase for 69% of Minnesotans. (Bill passed 80-52)
- 7. A MINIMUM WAGE THAT WOULD LEAD TO MAXIMUM UNEMPLOYMENT (HJ 11863)** The taxpayer-friendly vote was to scrap the second attempt in three years to increase the state's minimum wage. Even though the minimum wage was already raised in 2005, this year liberal lawmakers sought to raise it again – and to index it to inflation! As the nation moves through a period of economic uncertainty, the last thing legislators should be doing is increasing the cost of doing business for Minnesota companies. Thankfully, the Governor had his veto pen ready. (Bill passed 89-45, vetoed by the Governor)
- 8. CAP AND TRADE WHILE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FADES (HJ 12151)** The taxpayer-friendly vote was to oppose this attempt by environmental activists to further regulate Minnesota's economy. This cap on greenhouse gas emissions would not only hurt some of Minnesota's largest employers but lead to fewer jobs and fewer workers to carry the tax burden. (Bill passed 96-36)
- 9. A HEALTH CARE BILL IN NEED OF EMERGENCY TREATMENT (HJ 12431)** The taxpayer-friendly vote was to reject the end of session health care "reform" bill that will add more people to the state's health insurance plan, pay individuals and groups to sign-up new medical welfare recipients and does little to address the factors that cause health care services spending to eat up more and more of the State's budget. (Bill passed 127-7)
- 10. A SECOND BONDING BILL, TWICE AS BAD (HJ 12914)** As part of the end of session negotiations, Legislative leaders and the Governor agreed to another bonding bill containing funding for the Central Corridor light rail line: a billion dollar trolley that will only increase congestion. Of course, the taxpayer-friendly vote was "no." (Bill passed 107-26)
- 11. NOT PROPERTY TAX "REFORM," PROPERTY TAX RELIEF (HJ 11303)** The taxpayer-friendly vote was to support this amendment to the Omnibus Tax bill that would force total state property taxes to be less than 30% of total state revenue. (Amendment failed 19-112)

LEGEND: "+" = pro-taxpayer vote "-" = anti-taxpayer vote "*" = did not vote

STATE SENATE

Party/ District	Name	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2008 RATING	LIFE
D66	Ellen Anderson	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	9	9
D6	Tom Bakk	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	21
D61	Linda Berglin	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	9	9
D51	Don Betzold	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	9	11
D43	Terri Bonhoff	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	18	26
D38	Jim Carlson	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	4
D50	Satveer Chaudhary	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	*	-	-	+	10	19
D15	Tarryl Clark	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	9
D64	Richard Cohen	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	10
D25	Kevin Dahle	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0
R26	Dick Day	-	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	-	+	+	64	78
D60	Scott Dibble	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	9	12
R18	Steve Dille	*	-	-	-	-	+	*	+	-	-	+	33	57
D40	John Doll	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	9	13
D31	Sharon Erickson Ropes	*	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	20	9
R14	Michelle Fischbach	-	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	-	*	60	75
D47	Leo Foley	-	-	-	-	-	-	*	-	-	-	+	10	11
R21	Dennis Fredericksen	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	*	-	-	+	30	60
R37	Chris Gerlach	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	82	91
R13	Joe Gimse	-	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	-	-	+	55	57
R42	David Hann	+	+	+	+	+	+	*	+	+	+	+	100	97
D58	Linda Higgins	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	8
R11	Bill Ingebrigtsen	-	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	-	+	+	64	70
R49	Debbie Johnson	+	+	+	*	+	+	*	+	-	+	-	78	85
R48	Mike Jungbauer	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	73	81
R19	Amy Koch	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	91	94
R12	Gary Koering	-	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	73	64
D20	Gary Kubly	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	9	25
D9	Keith Langseth	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	15
D63	Dan Larson	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	36
D44	Ron Latz	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	9	20
R32	Warren Limmer	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100	94
D8	Tony Lourey	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	9	4
D30	Ann Lynch	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	*	0	9
D54	John Marty	+	-	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	36	19
D39	James Metzen	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	15
R41	Geoff Michel	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	64	80
D67	Mee Moua	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	8
D28	Steve Murphy	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	*	-	-	*	11	11
D17	Rick Olseen	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	9	4
R33	Gen Olson	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	73	81
D4	Mary Olson	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	9	9
R34	Julianne Ortman	+	+	+	+	+	+	*	+	+	+	+	100	90
D65	Sandra Pappas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	9	6
R36	Pat Parseau	-	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	+	82	86
D59	Larry Pogemiller	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	7
D7	Yvonne Prettnr Solon	-	-	-	-	-	-	*	-	-	-	*	0	15
D45	Ann Rest	+	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	27	27
R35	Claire Robling	-	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	-	+	+	64	77
R24	Julie Rosen	-	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	-	-	-	45	64
D53	Sandy Rummel	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	18	17
D56	Kathy Saltzman	*	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	20	23
D3	Tom Saxhaug	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	13
D46	Linda Scheid	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	18	14
R29	David Senjem	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	73	74
D23	Kathy Sheran	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	10	9
D57	Katie Sieben	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	18
D2	Rod Skoe	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	18	25
D10	Dan Skogen	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	13
D27	Dan Sparks	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	9	20
D1	LeRoy Stumpf	+	-	-	-	-	-	*	-	-	-	+	30	16
D5	David Tomassoni	-	-	-	-	-	-	*	+	-	-	-	10	16
D62	Patricia Torres Ray	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	9	4
R52	Ray Vandever	+	+	+	+	+	+	*	+	+	+	+	90	87
D22	Jim Vickerman	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	9	17
R16	Betsy Wergin	-	+	+	-	-	+	+	*	-	-	+	60	71
D55	Charles Wiger	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	9	25

