

# 2011 LEGISLATIVE REPORT



**MINNESOTA**  
**afl-cio**  
A STRONG, UNITED VOICE FOR  
MINNESOTA'S WORKING PEOPLE



## Letter from the President...

When the 2011 session of the Minnesota Legislature convened, it was clear the state capitol was a very different place. For the first time in more than a generation, Republicans controlled both the House and Senate. Fortunately, Minnesotans also elected Mark Dayton, the first AFL-CIO endorsed Governor in a generation.

Expecting an onslaught of attacks from a more conservative than ever GOP majority, the Minnesota AFL-CIO developed a rapid response strategy in lobbying, organizing, and communications. We additionally worked to provide similar capacities in supporting Governor Dayton's budget and jobs proposals.

Working with affiliates, we were successful in stopping the worst of the worst anti-labor provisions during the 2011 session. We stopped "Right to Work," attacks on prevailing wage, and attacks on our collective bargaining rights. We gathered in solidarity to protect our rights for the largest Capitol rotunda rally in decades and proved We Are One as we marched together on an April afternoon.

This session saw the longest state government shutdown in history. Thousands of workers found themselves temporarily out of jobs because Republicans were insistent on protecting the richest 2%. While it was a tough time, the labor movement shined. Between the end of the regular session in May and the mid-July special session, everyone turned up the heat. Union members held community meetings with key legislators, knocked on doors, flyer neighborhoods and worksites, and made phone calls. While the final result was not entirely good, we were able to engage, organize, and galvanize Minnesota's union members during a non-election year.

The following report shows key labor-specific votes legislators took in 2011. We hope you will use this as a tool to hold legislators accountable both in the 2012 session and the 2012 general election.

In solidarity,



Shar Knutson, President

**WE  
ARE  
ONE**

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# 2011 Legislative Priorities

## Defensive Battles

- Taxpayers Bill of Rights (TABOR);
- Paycheck Deception;
- Right-to-Work (For Less);
- Initiative and Referendum;
- Curtailing voting rights;
- Attacks on public employees (i.e., wages, benefits, pensions, collective bargaining rights);
- Attempts to cut E-12 or higher education funding;
- Drastic cuts to essential services;
- Attempts to scale back prevailing wage;
- Attempts to outsource public employee work;
- Attempts to reduce or eliminate corporate taxes;
- Elimination or reduction in local government/county aid (resulting in public service cuts and property tax increases);
- Tax cuts for the wealthy (under guise of middle class tax cuts);
- Weakening of licensure standards (teachers and building trades)

## Pro-Active Legislative Agenda Jobs:

- Pass a substantial jobs and infrastructure/bonding bill;
- Continue to fund a comprehensive statewide transportation/transit system;
- Strengthen layoff aversion strategies at least six months to one year prior;
- *Local Works! Initiative* - Minnesota businesses shift 5%-10% of their total spending from chains to locally owned businesses;
- Increase the minimum wage while preserving tipped employees' wages;
- Buy American/Minnesota;
- Require prevailing and living wages for wind/solar projects - whether a manufacturing and/or installation and/or operation - in exchange for project tax relief;
- Promote safe nurse staffing ratios;
- Pass employer disclosure of background checks;
- Pass legislation prohibiting employment discrimination based on credit history.

## Revenue and Budget:

- Make overall state and local taxes more progressive;
- Close corporate tax loopholes;
- Use a balanced solution to budget shortfall with progressively raised revenue;
- Reform Minnesota's tax policy to fund schools by making funding equitable, sustainable, predictable, and sufficient;
- Eliminate JOBZ (tax-free development zones);
- Assure accountability for taxpayer dollars by analyzing tax expenditures and scrutinizing contract expenditures.

**Descriptions of key votes:** Numbered explanations of votes taken in the House and Senate that include the action voted on (amendment, motion, adoption, passage, etc.), together with the Minnesota AFL-CIO's position, the vote outcome and vote totals.

**Tables showing key 2011 votes:** Grids showing whether legislators supported or opposed working families with their votes. The numbered columns in the tables correspond to the numbered votes for the appropriate legislative body. **NEW:** Vote description page reference - to more easily find the corresponding vote description for the votes on the grids.

**Definitions of right and wrong votes:** A legislator's vote is recorded as "Right" (R) - supporting the Minnesota AFL-CIO position or "Wrong" (W) - opposing the Minnesota AFL-CIO position. If the legislator was absent or did not vote, "Not Voting" (NV) is recorded.

**Lifetime Voting Records:** The Minnesota AFL-CIO Lifetime Voting Records of current members of the House and Senate are included on the House and Senate grids in the far right column. Only actual "R" or "W" votes are counted in calculating the percentage.

**Notes on how votes are selected:** Votes have been selected for their accuracy as a gauge of legislators' views. For this reason, unanimous or wide margin votes are avoided, unless there are no other significant votes available on an important issue. The legislature often makes critical decisions about the content of legislation through votes on amendments or procedural motions. These votes frequently reveal a legislator's true position on an issue more clearly than lopsided votes on a bill's passage.

**Sources:** Information sources used to compile this record include the journals of the Minnesota House and Senate, the text of bills, the publications *Session Weekly* and *Session Briefly*, and affiliate websites.

The Minnesota AFL-CIO is solely responsible for compiling and publishing this voting record. Questions or comments may be directed to Minnesota AFL-CIO Legislative Director, Jennifer Schaubach at 651-227-7647 or 1-800-652-9004





# 2011 HOUSE VOTES

HOUSE	DISTRICT	2011 Voting Percentage	KEY TO SYMBOLS: (R) Voted with the MN AFL-CIO position; (W) Voted against the MN AFL-CIO position; (NV) Absent or Not Voting																																		Lifetime Voting Percentage '11
			Vote description page reference:																																		
			Pg. 9			Pg. 11								Pg. 9	Pg. 11			Pg. 10	Pg. 13				Pg. 14			Pg. 15			Pg. 16		Pg. 17		Pg. 18	Pg. 19			
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	SS1	SS2	SS3	SS4	SS5	SS6	SS7					
Lenczewski, Ann (DFL)*	40B	91%	R	R	W	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	W	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	W	90%	
Lesch, John (DFL)*	66A	100%	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	NV	NV	NV	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	NV	NV	NV	NV	NV	NV	NV	NV	NV	98%	
Liebling, Tina (DFL)*	30A	100%	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	NV	NV	NV	NV	NV	NV	NV	NV	NV	95%	
Lillie, Leon (DFL)*	55A	100%	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	99%	
Loeffler, Diane (DFL)*	59A	97%	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	W	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	96%	
Lohmer, Kathy (R)	56A	0%	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	0%		
Loon, Jennifer (R)	42B	3%	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	7%		
Mack, Tara (R)	37A	3%	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	10%		
Mahoney, Tim (DFL)*	67A	100%	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	NV	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	NV	NV	NV	NV	NV	NV	NV	NV	NV	98%	
Mariani, Carlos (DFL)	65B	97%	R	R	W	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	NV	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	95%	
Marquart, Paul (DFL)*	09B	97%	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	91%	
Mazorol, Pat (R)	41B	3%	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	3%		
McDonald, Joe (R)	19B	3%	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	NV	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	3%		
McElfratrick, Carolyn (R)	03B	9%	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	9%		
McFarlane, Carol (R)	53B	6%	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	19%		
McNamara, Denny (R)	57B	3%	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	21%		
Melin, Carly (DFL)*	05B	94%	*	*	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	94%	
Moran, Rena (DFL)*	65A	97%	R	R	W	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	NV	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	97%	
Morrow, Terry (DFL)*	23A	100%	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	99%	
Mullery, Joe (DFL)*	58A	97%	R	R	W	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	95%	
Murdock, Mark (R)	10B	3%	W	W	W	NV	NV	NV	NV	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	12%		
Murphy, Erin (DFL)*	64A	100%	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%
Murphy, Mary (DFL)*	06B	100%	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	96%
Murray, Rich (R)	27A	6%	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	6%		
Myhra, Pam (R)	40A	6%	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	6%		
Nelson, Michael (DFL)*	46A	100%	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%	
Nornes, Bud (R)	10A	3%	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	21%		
Norton, Kim (DFL)	29B	97%	R	R	R	R	NV	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	89%	
O'Driscoll, Tim (R)	14A	3%	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	3%		
Paymar, Mike (DFL)*	64B	100%	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	NV	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	95%	
Pelowski, Gene (DFL)	31A	91%	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	W	W	W	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	81%	
Peppin, Joyce (R)	32A	0%	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	1%		
Persell, John (DFL)*	04A	100%	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	NV	NV	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%	
Petersen, Branden (R)	49B	3%	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	3%		
Peterson, Sandra (DFL)*	45A	100%	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	NV	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	94%	
Poppe, Jeanne (DFL)*	27B	97%	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	W	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	96%	

\* MINNESOTA AFL-CIO ENDORSED







# 2011 SENATE VOTES

SENATE	DISTRICT	2011 Voting Percentage	KEY TO SYMBOLS: (R) Voted with the MN AFL-CIO position (W) Voted against the MN AFL-CIO position (NV) Absent or Not Voting																												Lifetime Voting Percentage '11
			Vote description page reference:																												
			Pg.9				Pg.12						Pg.14			Pg.15	Pg.13		Pg.15	Pg.13		Pg.15	pg.16		pg.17	pg.18		pg.19		pg.17	
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	SS1	SS2	SS3	SS4	SS5	SS6	SS7		
Bakk, Thomas (DFL)*	06	100%	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	97%		
Benson, Michelle (R)	49	0%	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	0%		
Berglin, Linda (DFL)*	61	96%	R	R	R	W	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	NV	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	94%		
Bonoff, Terri (DFL)	43	85%	R	R	R	W	NV	R	R	R	W	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	W	R	R	R	R	W	R	82%		
Brown, Dave (R)	16	4%	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	NV	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	4%		
Carlson, John (R)	04	4%	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	4%		
Chamberlain, Roger (R)	53	0%	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	0%		
Cohan, Richard (DFL)*	64	100%	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	90%		
Dahms, Gary (R)	21	4%	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	4%		
Daley, Ted (R)	38	0%	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	0%		
Dekruif, Al (R)	25	0%	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	0%		
Dibble, D. Scott (DFL)*	60	96%	R	R	R	W	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	NV	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	97%		
Fischbach, Michelle (R)	14	7%	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	R	32%		
Gazelka, Paul (R)	12	0%	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	7%		
Gerlach, Chris (R)	37	4%	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	11%		
Gimse, Joe (R)	13	4%	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	29%		
Goodwin, Barb (DFL)*	50	100%	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	NV	NV	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	94%		
Hall, Dan (R)	40	4%	W	W	W	NV	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	4%		
Hann, David (R)	42	0%	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	10%		
Harrington, John (DFL)*	67	93%	R	R	R	W	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	W	R	93%		
Higgins, Linda (DFL)*	58	96%	R	R	R	W	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	96%		
Hoffman, Gretchen (R)	10	0%	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	0%		
Howe, John (R)	28	4%	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	4%		
Ingebrigtsen, Bill (R)	11	4%	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	17%		
Jungbauer, Mike J. (R)	48	7%	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	21%		
Kelash, Ken (DFL)*	63	100%	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%		
Koch, Amy (R)	19	4%	W	W	W	W	W	NV	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	14%		
Kruse, Benjamin (R)	47	4%	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	4%		
Kubly, Gary (DFL)*	20	100%	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	NV	R	R	NV	NV	NV	NV	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	93%		
Langseth, Keith (DFL)*	09	96%	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	W	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	78%		
Latz, Ron (DFL)*	44	96%	R	R	R	W	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	NV	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	93%		
Lillie, Ted (R)	56	0%	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	0%		
Limmer, Warren (R)	32	4%	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	23%		
Lourey, Tony (DFL)*	08	100%	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	99%		
Magnus, Doug (R)	22	4%	W	W	W	NV	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	12%		
Marty, John (DFL)*	54	100%	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	NV	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	91%		

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	SS1	SS2	SS3	SS4	SS5	SS6	SS7												
McGuire, Mary Jo (DFL)*	66	100%	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	94%	
Metzen, Jim (DFL)*	39	92%	NV	NV	R	W	R	R	R	R	W	R	NV	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	89%	
Michel, Geoff (R)	41	4%	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	17%	
Miller, Jeremy (R)	31	7%	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	7%	
Nelson, Carla (R)	30	11%	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	11%	
Newman, Scott (R)	18	7%	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	7%	
Nienow, Sean (R)	17	0%	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	14%	
Olson, Gen (R)	33	4%	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	33%	
Ortman, Julianne (R)	34	4%	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	11%	
Pappas, Sandra (DFL)*	65	100%	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	NV	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	94%	
Parry, Mike (R)	26	4%	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	5%	
Pederson, John (R)	15	7%	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	7%	
Pogemiller, Larry (DFL)*	59	93%	R	R	R	W	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	93%
Reinert, Roger (DFL)*	07	100%	R	R	R	R	R	R	NV	NV	R	R	NV	NV	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%
Rest, Ann (DFL)*	45	92%	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	W	R	R	R	R	R	NV	NV	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	W	R	R	R	R	91%	
Robling, Claire (R)	35	4%	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	27%	
Rosen, Julie (R)	24	4%	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	28%	
Saxhaug, Tom (DFL)*	03	100%	R	R	NV	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%	
Senjem, David (R)	29	4%	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	23%	
Sheran, Kathy (DFL)*	23	100%	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	94%
Sieben, Katie (DFL)*	57	100%	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	NV	NV	NV	NV	NV	NV	NV	NV	NV	NV	NV	NV	NV	NV	NV	98%	
Skoe, Rod (DFL)*	02	100%	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	93%
Sparks, Daniel (DFL)*	27	96%	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	89%
Stumpf, LeRoy (DFL)*	01	92%	R	R	R	W	R	R	R	R	R	NV	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	NV	R	R	W	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	77%
Thompson, Dave (R)	36	0%	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	0%	
Tomassoni, David (DFL)*	05	100%	NV	NV	R	R	R	R	R	NV	NV	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	96%
Torres Ray, Patricia (DFL)*	62	96%	R	R	R	W	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	96%
Vandever, Ray (R)	52	4%	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	17%	
Wiger, Charles (DFL)*	55	100%	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	92%
Wolf, Pam (R)	51	4%	W	W	NV	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	4%	

\*MINNESOTA AFL-CIO ENDORSED

# 2011 Regular Session Vote Descriptions

## BUDGET

**House vote #1/Senate vote #1:** HF 130 was authored by Rep. Mary Liz Holberg (R-Lakeville) and Sen. Claire Robling (R-Jordan). The Minnesota Department of Revenue estimated this bill would increase property taxes by \$428 million in the next biennium: \$322 million by cutting aid to local governments, and \$106 million by reducing renter refunds for property tax relief. It also makes inaccurate and undocumented assumptions about the amounts not yet encumbered for this fiscal year.

**Minnesota AFL-CIO Position: Oppose**

**Correct Vote:** Nay

**House Vote:** 68 Yea - 61 Nay

**Senate Vote:** 37 Yea - 28 Nay

*(House journal pgs. 287; 2/9/11)*

*(Senate journal pg. 228; 2/10/11)*

**VETOED**

## U OF M BOARD OF REGENTS

**House vote #2/Senate vote #3:**

At-Large Regent Joint Roll Call. Twelve candidates with backgrounds in law, higher education, agriculture and medicine emerged as finalists for four open spots on the University of Minnesota's Board of Regents. Regents serve unpaid, staggered, six-year terms on the board and are responsible for approving budgets, new building plans and policy changes. For 73 of the last 78 years, organized labor has had a representative on the board.

The Legislature elected regents representing Congressional Districts 2, 3 and 8, which include counties south of the metro area, the northern suburbs of Hennepin County and northeastern Minnesota. One at-large spot also needed to be filled. Two regents retired and chose not to seek re-election. Incumbents Steven Hunter and David Larson both reapplied and were forwarded to the Legislature by the advisory council along with two state legislators, the president of the University of Maine and executives of several prominent Minnesota businesses.

**Minnesota AFL-CIO Position:** Support Regent Steve Hunter

**House Vote:** 57 votes for Steve Hunter

68 votes for Laura Brod

**Senate Vote:** 28 votes for Steve Hunter

36 votes for Laura Brod

*(House journal pg. 428; 2/21/11)*

## EDUCATION

**House vote #3/Senate vote #4:** Alternative teacher licensure. SF 40 authored by Sen. Gen Olson (R-Minnetrista)/Rep. Pat Garofalo (R-Farmington), lowers the standard of entry into the teaching profession. An individual with a bachelors degree, a 200 hour (5 week) course, and successful completion of pre-teaching tests will have a teaching license. It's possible that an individual could teach without a single college course in the subject area they are teaching. Lowering licensure standards threatens our record of student achievement and quality education, and adding less qualified candidates to the teaching pool is particularly insulting when many teachers have seen their jobs cut or reduced.

**Minnesota AFL-CIO Position: Oppose**

**Correct Vote:** Nay

**House Vote:** 81 Yea - 50 Nay

*(House journal pgs. 584-85; 3/3/11)*

**Senate Vote:** 46 Yea - 19 Nay

*(Senate journal pg. 339; 3/3/11)*

**SIGNED INTO LAW**

**House vote #12/Senate vote #2:** Authored by Sen. Dave Thompson (R-Lakeville)/Rep. Sondra Erickson (R-Princeton), SF 56 contained several harmful policy items for students, teachers, and schools:

- Imposes a school district and charter school employee salary freeze;
- Repeals the 2% staff development reserved revenue;
- Repeals the January 15 contract settlement deadline and penalty;
- Prohibits the right of school district or charter school employees to strike;
- Strikes the set-aside for the safe schools levy

This bill was included in the Omnibus Education Finance Bill which was ultimately vetoed by the Governor.

*(See: House vote #20, pg. 12)*

**Minnesota AFL-CIO Position: Oppose**

**Correct Vote:** Nay

**House Vote:** 69 Yea - 60 Nay

*(House journal pgs. 2208-09; 4/11/11)*

**Senate Vote:** 36 Yea - 29 Nay

*(Senate journal pg. 233; 2/10/11)*



## **GOVERNOR'S TAX/BUDGET PROPOSAL**

**House vote #16:** A minority report to HF 1261 was offered by Rep. Sarah Anderson (R-Plymouth) and Rep. Mary Liz Holberg (R-Lakeville). This minority report was the Governor's budget proposal. A little more than a decade ago, while our state and nation were enjoying one of the greatest economic booms the world had ever seen, leaders in St. Paul passed a series of sweeping, permanent tax cuts totaling more than \$2 billion a year.

The decade that followed was a fiscal nightmare for our state. Years of cuts to schools, colleges, nursing homes, and aid to cities and counties had an extremely negative impact on Minnesotans and our local communities. The change was dramatic: class sizes grew, tuition doubled, and key services like police and fire protection and road maintenance were cut. We saw our tax burden grow increasingly regressive, with property taxes jumping by \$3 billion a year, and new fees generating an additional \$3 billion.

Governor Dayton's budget would have provided new resources for our schools. It would have begun to re-establish a strong relationship between the state and local governments, which is critical to maintaining safe communities and holding property taxes in check. It recognized that our tax system has become increasingly regressive in the past 10 years, and would have protected the pocket books of middle-class families. In fact, his proposal simply asked the wealthiest 2% of Minnesotans to pay the same tax rate the rest of us already pay. Most importantly, Governor Dayton offered a plan that would bring long-term stability to our budget, after a roller coaster decade that saw the state swing from record surpluses to record deficits.

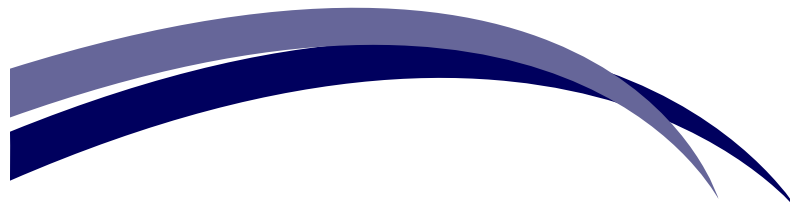
Following a forecast showing a nearly \$1.2 billion improvement in Minnesota's budget deficit, he moved quickly to revise his proposed budget to promote economic growth and maintain his commitment to a fair, responsible and balanced budget.

### **Minnesota AFL-CIO Position: Support**

**Correct vote:** *Yea (not adopted)*

**Vote:** 60 Yea - 73 Nay

*(House journal pgs. 3940-41; 5/17/11)*





## House Amendment Votes

### Omnibus Education Finance bill: H.F. 934 Amendments

**House vote #4:** Rep. Tom Tillberry (D-Fridley), Rep. Denise Dittrich (D-Champlin), and Rep. Sandra Peterson (D-New Hope) offered this amendment to delete school voucher language from HF 934.

**Minnesota AFL-CIO Position: Support**

**Correct Vote:** Yea

**Vote:** 58 Yea - 70 Nay (*not adopted*)  
(*House journal pgs. 1630; 3/29/11*)

**House vote #5:** Rep. Jim Davnie (D-Mpls.) and Rep. Linda Slocum (D-Richfield) offered this amendment to remove the repeal of the contract deadline and penalty, right to strike and integration revenue, and the quality economic offer (QEO) language from HF 934.

**Minnesota AFL-CIO Position: Support**

**Correct Vote:** Yea

**Vote:** 58 Yea - 66 Nay (*not adopted*)  
(*House journal pgs. 1644; 3/29/11*)

**House vote #6:** Rep. Kory Kath (D-Owatonna) offered this amendment to delete school district grading system language from HF 934.

**Minnesota AFL-CIO Position: Support**

**Correct Vote:** Yea

**Vote:** 57 Yea - 67 Nay (*not adopted*)  
(*House journal pgs. 1645; 3/29/11*)

**House vote #7:** Rep. Kim Norton (D-Rochester) and Rep. John Benson (D-Minnetonka) offered this amendment to delete Early Childhood Scholarship language (school vouchers) from HF 934; while increasing school readiness revenue, Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) aid.

**Minnesota AFL-CIO Position: Support**

**Correct Vote:** Yea

**Vote:** 56 Yea - 69 Nay (*not adopted*)  
(*House journal pgs. 1646-47; 3/29/11*)

### Omnibus Health & Human Services: S.F. 70 Amendment

**House vote #11:** Rep. Glenn Gruenhagen (R-Glencoe) offered this amendment to SF 760, the so-called "Freedom in Choice in Health Care". This amendment nullifies the federal Affordable Care Act requirement that all individuals get health care coverage by 2014.

**Minnesota AFL-CIO Position: Oppose**

**Correct Vote:** Nay

**Vote:** 71 Yea - 60 Nay (*adopted*)  
(*House journal pgs. 2105; 4/6/11*)

### Omnibus State Government Finance: S.F. 1047 Amendments

**House vote #8:** Rep. Marion Greene (D-Mpls) offered this amendment to delete outsourcing language, sunset commission, and zero-based budgeting from SF 1047.

**Minnesota AFL-CIO Position: Support**

**Correct Vote:** Yea

**Vote:** 60 Yea - 71 Nay (*not adopted*)  
(*House journal pg. 2086; 4/6/11*)

**House vote #9:** Rep. Phyllis Kahn (D-Mpls.) offered this amendment to limit the spending of federal Help America Vote Act (HAVA) funds only after consultation with the Legislative Advisory Commission from SF 1047.

**Minnesota AFL-CIO Position: Support**

**Correct Vote:** Yea

**Vote:** 60 Yea - 72 Nay (*not adopted*)  
(*House journal pgs.2089-90; 4/6/11*)

**House vote #10:** In SF 1047, Republicans attempted to remove all language and repeal the statutes that require state agencies, *before* contracting with outside sources, to certify that there is no current state employee who is qualified and available to perform the services called for by the contract. They also attempted to add language that would prohibit entering into a collective bargaining agreement that increased salaries or wages for state employees. Rep. Kerry Gauthier (D-Duluth) offered this amendment to restore the requirement that they determine, first, whether or not a current employee is available before hiring outside services. The amendment also attempted to delete the language that restricted state employee collective bargaining agreements.

**Minnesota AFL-CIO Position: Support**

**Correct Vote:** Yea

**Vote:** 64 Yea - 69 Nay (*not adopted*)  
(*House journal pgs.2091; 4/6/11*)

### Photo ID: SF 509 Amendments

**House vote #13:** This amendment offered by Rep. Mary Kiffmeyer (R-Big Lake), would complicate our nationally renowned election system, by establishing a different set of rules for different voters. It would also give county officials and election judges the power to question a voter's eligibility. This type of change is extremely discriminatory.

**Minnesota AFL-CIO Position: Oppose**

**Correct vote:** Nay

**Vote:** 73 Yea - 60 Nay (*adopted*)  
(*House journal pgs. 3293; 5/5/11*)

**House vote #14:** This amendment, offered by Rep. Kory Kath (D-Owatonna), would appropriate money to the Secretary of State for the reimbursement of costs incurred by counties, cities, and townships if this bill were to become law. The estimated costs could well be in excess of \$23.3 million for fiscal year 2013.

**Minnesota AFL-CIO Position: Support**

**Correct vote:** Yea

**Vote:** 58 Yea - 75 Nay (*not adopted*)  
(*House journal pgs. 3294-95; 5/5/11*)

**House vote #15:** In 2008, a survey of county attorneys in Minnesota found only 38 cases of voter fraud - all of which were cases of felons voting. SF 509 does nothing to prevent this, as no form of photo identification in Minnesota lists a person's criminal history. This amendment, offered by Rep. Steve Simon (D-St. Louis Park), would actually address this problem. It requires that any eligible voter applying for a new or renewed Minnesota driver's license, instruction permit or identification card be registered to vote unless the applicant declines. Working with various state agencies the Office of the Secretary of State would receive the information electronically from the Dept. of Public Safety and then verify the age, citizenship and if any prior felonies to assure voter eligibility.

**Minnesota AFL-CIO Position: Support**

**Correct vote:** Yea

**Vote:** 59 Yea - 73 Nay (*not adopted*)  
(*House journal pgs. 3297-98; 5/5/11*)

# Senate Amendment Votes

## HIGHER EDUCATION

**Senate vote #5:** This amendment, offered by Sen. Larry Pogemiller (D-Minneapolis), attempted to increase funding for higher education and paid for it with a 4th tier income tax. Sen. Nienow (R-Cambridge) questioned germaneness, the President ruled it germane.

**Minnesota AFL-CIO Position: Support**

**Correct vote:** Yea

**Vote:** 27 Yea - 37 Nay (*not adopted*)  
(*Senate journal pgs. 1052-53; 3/29/11*)

## STATE GOVERNMENT

**Senate vote #6:** This amendment to SF 1047 was offered by Sen. Tom Bakk (D-Chisholm). It attempted to close corporate tax loopholes and remove the requirement that state employee health insurance (SEGIP) be converted to a HSA high-deductible health care plan. Sen. Julianne Ortman (R-Chanhassen) questioned germaneness.

**Minnesota AFL-CIO Position: Support amendment (Oppose decision of the President)**

**Correct vote:** Nay\*

**Vote:** 36 Yea - 28 Nay (*not adopted*)  
(*Senate journal pg. 1084; 3/30/11*)

## HEALTH CARE/TAXES

**Senate vote #7:** This amendment to SF 760 was offered by Sen. John Marty (D-Roseville). This income tax increase on the very rich would have been used to delete cuts to HHS services like assistance for eyeglasses, physical therapy, dentures, and prosthetic limbs. The new tax would kick in on incomes over \$500,000 of taxable income (*after tax breaks*) for married/joint filers. Sen. Benjamin Kruse (R-Brooklyn Park) questioned germaneness.

**Minnesota AFL-CIO Position: Support amendment (Oppose decision of the President)**

**Correct vote:** Nay\*

**Vote:** 37 Yea - 27 Nay (*not adopted*)  
(*Senate journal pg. 1112; 3/30/11*)

## HEALTH CARE/NURSE LICENSURE

**Senate vote #8:** This amendment to SF760 was offered by Sen. Kathy Sheran (D-Mankato). It would have removed the 'Nurse Licensure Compact' language, which introduces multi-state licensure, ultimately compromising Minnesota's high quality nursing standards by issuing an open invitation to any nurse practicing anywhere in the country, while ignoring our academic and clinical requirements.

**Minnesota AFL-CIO Position: Support**

**Correct vote:** Yea

**Vote:** 26 Yea - 37 Nay (*not adopted*)  
(*Senate journal pg. 1117; 3/30/11*)



## TAXES

**Senate vote #9:** This amendment to HF 42, offered by Sen. John Marty (D-Roseville), attempted to close corporate tax loopholes and Foreign Operating Corporations (FOC) deductions in Minnesota. Corporate tax loopholes, also called 'Tax avoidance schemes' by the IRS, allow multi-national companies, CEOs, and wealthy individuals to benefit from our onshore benefits of tax – like our infrastructure, education, health care, and public safety – while using the offshore world to escape their responsibility to pay for it.

Each year, major corporations and individuals avoid as much as \$100 billion in federal taxes by 'off-shoring' the money they make here in the US or by setting up sham headquarters in tax haven countries. According to the IRS, it has estimated that some \$5 trillion in assets worldwide is held "offshore" in tax havens. This diversion ends up being shouldered by other companies and taxpayers. The \$100 billion annual burden impacts every state. Based on the percentage of total federal tax revenues that Minnesota taxpayers contribute to the national treasury, our tax burden is almost \$3 billion.

Starting in the late 1990s, legislators became concerned that some corporations were abusing the FOC provisions by shifting income from their domestic operations into FOCs. (The structure and literal language of the provisions allowed this.) Corporations typically did this by assigning intangible property to their FOCs. The income (royalties, fees, interest, and so forth) received for use of the intangibles could be from domestic sources and still qualify for the 80 percent discount on taxes, if the FOC met the factor test. To compound this, the charges for use of these intangibles were typically paid by other members of the unitary group. This allowed businesses to use "transfer pricing" practices to shift additional income into their FOCs.

These prices didn't matter to the businesses, since they were doing little more than shifting money from one part of the business to another. However, by maximizing the amount of income in FOCs, overall Minnesota tax was minimized. Ending these abuses would show we are serious about taxation that is transparent, fair, and responsible.

**Minnesota AFL-CIO Position: Support**

**Correct vote:** Yea

**Vote:** 24 Yea - 41 Nay (*not adopted*)  
(*Senate journal pg. 1213; 4/5/11*)

**Senate vote #10:** This amendment to HF 42, offered by Sen. Katie Sieben (D-Newport), attempted to remove 'tax credits' (vouchers) and reallocate the money to increase the education formula allowance.

**Minnesota AFL-CIO Position: Support**

**Correct vote:** Yea

**Vote:** 23 Yea - 41 Nay (*not adopted*)  
(*Senate journal pg. 1217; 4/5/11*)

**\*Procedural Note:** To avoid taking a vote on an issue or amendment, the Republican majority often questioned the germaneness of an amendment offered by the DFL minority. If the President ruled the amendment "Not Germane" (which most of the time was the case), the DFL would then appeal the decision of the President. The question was then, "Shall the decision of the President be the judgment of the Senate?" At that point, technically, a 'Yea' vote would be a vote *against* the amendment, and a 'Nay' vote would be a vote *for* the amendment. Therefore, the 'correct vote' would be 'Nay'.

# VETOED Omnibus Bills

## TAXES

**House vote #17/Senate vote #15:** Repassage of the conference committee report for HF 42 authored by Rep. Greg Davids (R-Preston) and Sen. Julianne Ortman (R-Chanhassen). This GOP tax proposal would have required most Minnesota property owners and renters to pay higher property taxes. Those increases in property taxes would fall disproportionately on low and middle income Minnesotans. Twenty percent of their “budget solution” actually just shifted the state’s budget problem to local units of government and property tax payers. Specifically:

- It reduced local government aid by nearly 30% in FY2012-13 and eliminated aid entirely for selected communities;
- Lowered county program aid by almost 19% in FY2012 and beyond;
- Used \$60 million of local resources, maintained by the state in the Douglas J. Johnson Fund;
- Eliminated the market value homestead credit that targets property tax relief primarily to owners of low-valued homes; and
- Cut property tax refund payments to 308,000 renters statewide by an average of 45%, including 85,000 senior and disabled renters, many of whom are on fixed incomes. Property tax refund payments would be *entirely* eliminated for 72,000 renters.

The GOP proposal then directed more than \$200 million from those cuts to expand tax expenditures for corporations and others. Their budget solution would result in the bottom 90% of households paying substantially more of their income in state and local taxes than the top 10%.

**Minnesota AFL-CIO Position: Oppose**

**Correct vote:** Nay

**House Vote:** 71 Yea - 58 Nay

*(House journal pg. 4053; 5/17/11)*

**Senate Vote:** 37 Yea - 28 Nay

*(Senate journal pg. 2629; 5/18/11)*



## HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCE

**House vote #18/Senate vote #18:** Repassage of the conference committee report for HF 1101 authored by Rep. Bud Nornes (R-Fergus Falls). This proposal contained the deepest cuts to higher education in Minnesota history. It would have meant hundreds of faculty and staff layoffs, tuition increases, and fewer courses available to students at the University of Minnesota and Minnesota’s State Colleges and Universities.

**Minnesota AFL-CIO Position: Oppose**

**Correct vote:** Nay

**House Vote:** 69 Yea - 57 Nay

*(House journal pg. 4069; 5/17/11)*

**Senate Vote:** 35 Yea - 31 Nay

*(Senate journal pg. 2925; 5/19/11)*

## EDUCATION FINANCE

**House vote #19/Senate vote #16:** Repassage of the conference committee report for HF 934 authored by Rep. Pat Garofalo (R-Farmington). This bill would have had very harmful effects on students, teachers, and schools, by cutting funding by nearly \$44 million below the current base-funding level. The bill would have limited union negotiations for teachers to only summer breaks during odd-numbered years, and would have eliminated the deadline for reaching an agreement as well as the penalty for failing to meet the deadline. The bill would have repealed teachers’ right to strike and prohibited salary increases for teachers after contract expiration.

**Minnesota AFL-CIO Position: Oppose**

**Correct vote:** Nay

**House Vote:** 70 Yea - 55 Nay

*(House journal pg. 4163; 5/17/11)*

**Senate Vote:** 37 Yea - 26 Nay

*(Senate journal pg. 2729; 5/18/11)*

## TRANSPORTATION

**House vote #20/Senate vote #19:** Repassage of the conference committee report for HF 1140 authored by Rep. Michael Beard (R-Shakopee) and Sen. Joe Gimse (R-Willmar). This proposal would have cut \$109 million from the state’s general fund commitment to Metro area transit for the biennium - an 85% reduction - resulting in drastic fare increases and cuts to transit routes. At a time when our infrastructure is in dire need of repairs and expansion, it fails to invest in our transportation future, including passenger rail and modernization of Driver and Vehicle Services. This decrease in spending would result in a reduction of about 101,000 hours of service per year, and the direct loss of about 50 jobs.

**Minnesota AFL-CIO Position: Oppose**

**Correct vote:** Nay

**House Vote:** 71 Yea - 61 Nay

*(House journal pgs. 4294-95; 5/18/11)*

**Senate Vote:** 36 Yea - 26 Nay

*(Senate journal pgs. 2904-05; 5/19/11)*



## PUBLIC SAFETY, JUDICIARY, & CRIME PREVENTION

**House vote #21/Senate vote #12:** Repassage of the conference committee report for SF 958 authored by Rep. Tony Cornish (R-Good Thunder) and Sen. Warren Limmer (R-Maple Grove).

- The worst cut to any agency with a 65% cut to the Department of Human Rights, which would eviscerate the ability to investigate human rights violations;
- Prohibited the Department from reaching out to businesses with technical assistance and education to avoid formal investigations;
- Took \$5.2 million from the Department of Public Safety's 911 emergency fund;
- Cuts nearly \$12 million to the Office of Justice Programs, including a 5% cut to battered women shelters;
- 320 potential job cuts from the Department of Public Safety;
- 600 potential job cuts from the Department of Corrections.

If enacted this bill would have cut programs and compromised our ability to protect the rights and freedoms of all Minnesotans.

**Minnesota AFL-CIO Position: Oppose**

**Correct vote:** Nay

**House Vote:** 71 Yea - 61 Nay

*(House journal pg. 4318; 5/18/11)*

**Senate Vote:** 36 Yea - 28 Nay

*(Senate journal pg. 2201; 5/17/11)*

## JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**House vote #22/Senate vote #11:** Repassage of the conference committee report for SF 887 authored by Rep. Bob Gunther (R-Fairmont) and Sen. Geoff Michel (R-Edina). This bill entirely eliminated the Minnesota Trade Office. Exports are responsible for 145,800 jobs in Minnesota, ranking 16th among all states. Another 81,000 export-related jobs are found in marketing and sales, transportation, and logistics. Other harmful cuts included in the bill are:

- Cuts to labor standards (minimum wage and child labor);
- Cuts prevailing wage and apprenticeship enforcement by 22% at the Department of Labor and Industry
- 12% or \$1,090,000 cut to the Jobs Skills Partnership program will limit resources for employers looking to retain employees through training;
- Eliminates all allocated funding for dislocated worker programs and instead turns them into competitive grants.

As with many of the other budget bills, the devastating consequences from the lack of funding in the Economic Development bill are compounded by provisions in the State Government bill. More than 360 jobs would be lost cumulatively within the departments with the cuts from both proposals.

**Minnesota AFL-CIO Position: Oppose**

**Correct vote:** Nay

**House Vote:** 71 Yea - 61 Nay

*(House journal pgs. 4366-67; 5/18/11)*

**Senate Vote:** 37 Yea - 27 Nay

*(Senate journal pg. 2174; 5/17/11)*

## STATE GOVERNMENT FINANCE

**House vote #23/Senate vote #13:** Repassage of the conference committee report for SF 1047 authored by Rep. Morrie Lanning (R-Moorhead) and Sen. Mike Parry (R-Waseca).

- Reduced the state workforce by 15% regardless of the funding source or need, which would result in an arbitrary decrease in employees who provide critical government services;
- Removed outside contracting restrictions;
- Required that labor negotiations mandate a salary freeze for two years;
- Converted the State Employee Group Insurance Plan (SEGIP) to a HSA high-deductible health care plan;
- Eliminated the ability to negotiate changes in health insurance;
- The performance appraisal proposal would have held public workers accountable for an agencies' overall performance even though performance issues could be out of their control;
- Established a Sunset Advisory Commission to provide a schedule for the expiration of all major state agencies;
- Implemented zero-based budgeting principles.

The extreme reductions to agency operations in this bill would have jeopardized core government functions and substantially impaired the state workforce.

**Minnesota AFL-CIO Position: Oppose**

**Correct vote:** Nay

**House Vote:** 70 Yea - 62 Nay

*(House journal pg. 4417; 5/18/11)*

**Senate Vote:** 37 Yea - 29 Nay

*(Senate journal pg. 2267; 5/18/11)*





# VETOED Omnibus Bills *(continued)*

## HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

**House vote #24/Senate vote #14:** Repassage of the conference committee report for SF 760 authored by Rep. Jim Abeler (R-Anoka) and Sen. David Hann (R-Eden Prairie). The \$ 1.8 billion dollar reductions in health and human services in this bill would have caused devastating harm to thousands of Minnesotans:

- Eliminated health care coverage for 140,000 people;
- Repealed the expansion of Medical Assistance to over 100,000 of our poorest and most vulnerable citizens;
- Created a voucher program whereby it claims much of its savings by about one-third of the people not being able to afford it, and would therefore simply go without coverage;
- Restricted implementation of the Federal Affordable Care Act with the so-called "Freedom of Choice in Health Care Act", would put Minnesota at risk of non-compliance with Medicaid law, and unnecessarily risk losing billions of dollars in federal revenue;
- Established a nursing home rate equalization two-tier system which, over time, would increase long-term care costs for thousands of Minnesotans;
- Established a 'Nurse Licensure Compact', which introduces multi-state licensure and compromises Minnesota's high quality nursing standards by issuing an open invitation to any nurse practicing anywhere in the country, while ignoring our academic and clinical requirements.

Over the last three years, the DHS and MDH operational budgets have been reduced over 15%. If this bill were implemented it would reduce another \$ 13.9 million a year, resulting in a loss of 123 full-time positions at DHS. For MDH, it would further reduce its budget by another \$3 million per year, which equates to a reduction of 20 full-time employees.

**Minnesota AFL-CIO Position: Oppose**

**Correct vote:** Nay

**House Vote:** 69 Yea - 63 Nay  
*(House journal pgs. 4640-41; 5/18/11)*

**Senate Vote:** 36 Yea - 28 Nay  
*(Senate journal pg. 2518; 5/18/11)*

## PRE K-12 EDUCATION POLICY

**House vote #26/Senate vote #20:** Repassage of the conference committee report for HF 1381 authored by Rep. Sondra Erickson (R-Princeton), and Sen. Gen Olson (R-Minnetrista). Governor Dayton had requested that all policy language be included in one comprehensive bill, but the Republican majority did not do this. Several provisions included in this bill, under the guise of 'reform', would have had negative affects on our renowned educational system:

- Principals and assistant principals were given only two years of probation, while teachers are assigned three years;
- Required that a teacher, who has successfully completed three years of probation in one school district, must complete three more years of probation at a new school district, rather than the current one year probationary period;
- Makes it more difficult to adopt academic standards with unacceptable limitations on the process;
- Prohibits the Commissioner of Education from adopting Common Core Standards, which 42 other states have adopted;
- Allows school districts to operate as charter schools;
- Eliminated all language and funding for early childhood programs.

**Minnesota AFL-CIO Position: Oppose**

**Correct vote:** Nay

**House Vote:** 73 Yea - 59 Nay  
*(House journal pgs. 5196-97; 5/23/11)*

**Senate Vote:** 38 Yea - 27 Nay  
*(Senate journal pg. 3513; 5/23/11)*

## PHOTO ID REQUIRED TO VOTE

**House vote #25/Senate vote #17:** Repassage of the conference committee report for SF 509 authored by Sen. Warren Limmer (R-Maple Grove) and Rep. Mary Kiffmeyer (R-Big Lake). In addition to creating millions of dollars in new costs for our state, while we face extraordinary budget issues, this policy would create new barriers to voting for thousands of Minnesota citizens who are currently without government-issued photo I.D. The cost for "free" voter IDs would be paid by taxpayers, who also would have to pay for creating a provisional balloting system, educating citizens and elections staff about the photo ID requirement and provisional balloting system, increasing the number of election judges at the polls on Election Day, and possibly paying for documents necessary to obtain a "free" ID (such as a birth certificate, marriage certificate, etc.). Minnesota is facing budget issues - spending millions to implement a photo ID requirement that doesn't address any problem that we have is wasteful. Based on fiscal notes for this bill, costs to state and local governments are estimated to surpass \$30 million. Minnesota has had no cases of voter impersonation, which is the only kind of fraud that a government-issued photo ID would prevent. A 2010 report on voter fraud in Minnesota's 2008 election found that the only convictions for voter fraud were due to felons who voted who had not had their civil rights restored. But a person's criminal status is not on their driver's license. In fact, not one single piece of government-issued identification includes a person's criminal status.

**Minnesota AFL-CIO Position: Oppose**

**Correct vote:** Nay

**House Vote:** 74 Yea - 58 Nay  
*(House journal pgs. 4894-95; 5/21/11)*

**Senate Vote:** 37 Yea - 25 Nay  
*(Senate journal pgs. 2780-81; 5/18/11)*

MINNESOTA  BUDGET

# SHUTDOWN

## 2011 Special Session Budget Bill Vote Descriptions

### **TRANSPORTATION: House vote #SS1/Senate vote #SS1**

**HF2/SF4:** The bill included more than \$54 million in reductions to mass transit in the Twin Cities and Greater Minnesota. While this level of cuts is far below the \$118 million proposed by the Legislature, the Governor's budget had proposed no reductions in funding for transit. The agreement cuts general fund support for transit in the Twin Cities metro area by \$52 million, a 40 percent reduction in FY 2012-13. Suburban transit providers that have "opted-out" of the Metro Transit system will also see a cut of approximately \$7 million for the biennium. It appears to backfill some of these cuts to transit operations by redirecting revenues from a quarter-cent regional sales tax away from the construction and operation of rail and bus rapid transit projects. This overall level of cuts is significantly less than the 84 percent cut approved by the Legislature in May and vetoed by the Governor. It also cuts funding for transit operations in Greater Minnesota by about \$3 million, an eight percent reduction. Once again, the reduction is less than the 23 percent cut approved by the Legislature, but will still have an impact in areas where there are already few transportation alternatives. There were no cuts to funding for commuter and passenger rail through the Department of Transportation. The Legislature had previously eliminated this funding in its budget, which would have represented a loss of \$1 million in FY 2012-13.

**Minnesota AFL-CIO Position: Oppose**

**Correct vote:** Nay

**House vote:** 71 Yea - 56 Nay

*(2011 Special Session-House journal pg. 11; 7/19/11)*

**Senate vote:** 38 Yea - 27 Nay

*(2011 Special Session-Senate journal pg. 15; 7/19/11)*

**SIGNED INTO LAW**

### **HIGHER EDUCATION: House vote #SS2/Senate vote #SS2**

**HF4/SF5:** Higher education is cut by \$351 million in the final agreement, a 12 percent cut in general fund support in FY 2012-13 and slightly less than in the legislative budget. As a result, the state's investment in higher education will fall below FY 2000-01 levels (that's in actual dollars, not inflation-adjusted). These cuts will jeopardize Minnesota's future economic success, creating challenges for students seeking to improve their skills and for employers counting on hiring an educated workforce. The agreement cut funding for the University of Minnesota by \$194 million in FY 2012-13, or 15 percent. The Legislature originally approved a 19 percent reduction and the Governor a six percent cut. The Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU) system is cut by \$170 million in FY 2012-13, a 13 percent reduction, which is close to the 14 percent reduction approved by the Legislature in May. It also caps tuition increases at state colleges at four percent in FY 2012. There are no caps on tuition increases at state universities or on fee increases, as there were in the Legislature's bill. There was some limited good news for students as far as financial aid. The agreement adopts the Legislative proposal to increase funding for the State Grant program by \$21 million in the FY 2012-13, or seven percent. While this was the higher of the two proposals on the table, the amount still falls short of the \$35 million needed to fund financial aid for all qualifying students, so the Office of Higher Education will have to ration the existing funds by issuing smaller and/or fewer grants. The State Grant program provides financial aid for approximately 85,000 low- and moderate-income Minnesota students every year. Other programs that help students afford higher education will see cutbacks:

- The Achieve Scholarship, which helps approximately 30 high achieving, high-need students access higher education, is eliminated;
- General fund support for the Minnesota College Savings Program, which provides approximately 2,500 low-income families with a state match when they save for college, is phased out;
- State funding for work study, which pays 75 percent of wages for qualifying campus and community jobs, will be cut by three percent in FY 2012-13.

**Minnesota AFL-CIO Position: Oppose**

**Correct vote:** Nay

**House vote:** 71 Yea - 56 Nay

*(2011 Special Session-House journal pg. 11; 7/19/11)*

**Senate vote:** 38 Yea - 27 Nay

*(2011 Special Session-Senate journal pg. 15; 7/19/11)*

**SIGNED INTO LAW**

## 2011 Special Session Budget Bill Votes *(continued)*



### **TAXES: House vote #SS3/Senate vote #SS3:**

**HF20/SF10:** The final agreement increases the size of the shift in payments to school districts, borrows \$700 million from the future through tobacco bonds, and reduces funding for vital public services by more than \$2 billion.

Lawmakers agreed to approximately \$2.2 billion in cuts to services that will impact our quality of life and our current and future economy. Cuts of this magnitude will likely mean fewer vulnerable Minnesotans will have access to basic health care insurance, some individuals with disabilities will lose vital community-based services that allow them to avoid institutionalized care, many people will find it harder to get to work as mass transit options decrease, students will find it more challenging to access higher education, fewer individuals will get the training they need to find and keep jobs, and some parents will no longer be able to access affordable child care so they can work.

The Governor and legislative leaders also agreed to \$2.8 billion in one-time solutions, including \$1.4 billion by continuing the current shift in payments to school districts, another \$700 million in a new shift in payments to school districts, and

\$700 million in tobacco bonds. So, instead of paying upfront for an educational system we value, we have said we will pay for it sometime in the future. This heavy reliance on one-time solutions means the state will be facing a deficit again in two years.

**Minnesota AFL-CIO Position: Oppose**

**Correct vote:** Nay

**House vote:** 71 Yea - 57 Nay

*(2011 Special Session-House journal pg. 21; 7/19/11)*

**Senate vote:** 37 Yea - 27 Nay

*(2011 Special Session-Senate journal pgs. 21-22; 7/19/11)*

**SIGNED INTO LAW**

### **BONDING: House vote #SS4/Senate vote #SS7:**

**HF23/SF9:** Early in the session, Governor Dayton proposed \$531 million in investments focusing on immediate job creation – “shovel-ready” (for construction) and “paint and repair” (building rehab) projects in the key areas of essential infrastructure, community assts, and education. In an unusual, if not unprecedented approach, the Governor purposely left the other half (\$470 million), and invited the Legislature to fill that half of the bill with projects it deemed most important. The projects funded were estimated to create up to 28,000 jobs. The Republicans refused to move the bill and despite the Governor’s early push, the regular session ended with no deal. But Governor Dayton made a bonding bill a condition of the budget compromise to end the shutdown. The passage of this almost \$500 million jobs and infrastructure bill is half the size of Governor Dayton’s original proposal, but the projects included are 75 percent shovel-ready and provide a jump-start to our state’s struggling economic recovery. Supporting these projects with bonding dollars now means Minnesota will save millions of dollars by taking advantage of record-low interest rates and construction costs, while adding hundreds of public- and private- sector jobs across the state. Projects included are:

- U of M HEAPR (Maintenance) - \$25 million
- MnSCU – \$131.5 million
- Met Council - \$25 million
- Pollution Control Agency - \$7 million
- Flood hazard mitigation grants - \$50 million
- Transportation - \$55.9 million
  - Local bridge replacement & rehab - \$33 million
  - Local road improvement fund grants - \$10 million
  - Railroad warning devices replacement - \$3 million
  - Greater MN transit - \$2.5 million
  - Port development assistance - \$3 million
  - Airport infrastructure - \$3.7 million
  - Rail service improvement - \$700,000
- Employment & economic dev. - \$25.45 million
  - Greater MN business development public infrastructure grant program - \$4 million
  - Innovative business development public infrastructure grant program - \$5 million
  - Lindau lane corridor - \$15.45 million

**Minnesota AFL-CIO Position: Support**

**Correct vote:** Yea

**House vote:** 112 Yea - 16 Nay

*(2011 Special Session-House journal pgs. 26-27; 7/19/11)*

**Senate vote:** 38 Yea - 27 Nay

*(2011 Special Session-Senate journal pgs. 35-36; 7/19/11)*

**SIGNED INTO LAW**



# 2011 Special Session Budget Bill Votes *(continued)*

## **HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES: House vote #SS5/Senate vote #SS4:**

**HF25/SF10:** This bill makes \$1.2 billion in cuts to Health and Human Services programs; \$400 million less than the bill passed by the legislature in May (vetoed), and \$800 million more than the Governor's budget.

### **Key Elements:**

- **Managed Care** – Managed care is cut by about \$466 million in FY 2012-13, and by about \$718 in FY 2014-15. Savings are derived from the state's accountability standards for state contracts, competitive bidding and direct contracting reforms. A 5% withhold is established, and managed care organizations are authorized to get some of the money returned by reducing admission, re-admission and emergency room use rates. Future managed care rate increases are capped at 2-3%, and payments for managed care incentives are suspended for the biennium (\$1.6 million impact).
- **Nursing homes** – Nursing facilities receive an increase of \$1.2 million in FY 2012-13 to the bottom 18% of low-rate nursing homes (benefits mostly rural facilities), but repeal of nursing home rate re-basing in FY 2014-15 amounts to a cut of \$133 million in the out-years. Re-basing is the process of increasing payment rates to nursing homes and hospitals based on cost data and facility-specific inflation rates.
- **Hospitals** – A 10% fee-for-service reduction to hospitals is imposed, and can be earned back through new hospital readmission prevention requirements (\$43 million impact). Hospital rebasing is repealed, yielding \$106 million in FY 2012-13 and \$321 million in FY 2013-14. (Republican position)
- **Long-Term Care** – Non-nursing home provider rates are cut permanently by 1%, plus a Temporary 0.5% reduction in FY 2012-13 (\$45.7 million). In addition, there is a rate reduction of 1.3% if Minnesota is denied a federal waiver. Customized living services are cut by 10% (\$16 million), and corporate foster care rates are cut for low-needs residents (\$1.3 million). Individuals going into long-term care/assisted living facilities are required to go through counseling with the Department of Human Services.
- **PCA Care Cut** – No cuts are made to personal care attendant (PCA) services for children and people with slightly lower needs disabilities, including special education. Rates for PCA relatives are reduced by 20% when the PCA is a parent, sibling over the age of 16, or adult child or grandchild. (\$24 million impact)

Cuts to Children totaled \$26.3 million:

- 2.5% Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) Rate Cut
- Other CCAP Changes Resulting in Cuts
- 20% Legal Non-Licensed Family Child Care Provider Rate Cut:
- Cuts to Child Care Grants
- Recapture Basic Sliding Fee (BSF) Funds

CCAP provides financial subsidies to help income-eligible families pay for child care while parents are working, searching for employment, or pursuing education leading to employment. Cuts to these rates will limit access to high-quality health care. The cuts also create a disincentive for providers to enroll children on the program.

In addition, the bill cut \$22 million from the Children and Community Services Act (CCSA) grants, which will impact approximately 51,000 children. These grants are the only state dollars that go to counties for child protection.

Cuts to the Elderly and Disabled totaled \$197 million. Some of the cuts were:

- Aging Grant Reduction
- Elderly Waiver (EW) and Alternative Care Programs
- Disability Waiver Enrollment Limits
- Separate Elderly Waiver and Nursing Home Rates
- 1.5% Reduction in Non-Nursing Home Rates and Grants
- Suspend Nursing Home Property Rate Adjustment
- Modify Non-Rate Nursing Home Payments
- Cuts to Personal Care Assistant (PCA) Care by Relatives

**Minnesota AFL-CIO Position: Oppose**

**Correct vote:** Nay

**House vote:** 71 Yea - 57 Nay

*(2011 Special Session-House journal pg. 31; 7/19/11)*

**SIGNED INTO LAW**

**Senate vote:** 37 Yea - 27 Nay

*(2011 Special Session-Senate journal pgs. 27-28; 7/19/11)*



## 2011 Special Session Budget Bill Votes *(continued)*

### **EDUCATION: House vote #SS6/Senate vote #SS6:**

**HF26/SF11:** The E-12 Education Omnibus Funding Bill (compromise) spends \$13.6 billion for the state's schools, which is \$2,018,009 below the February forecast base for FY 2012-13. Major Provisions of the Bill included:

- **"Shift":** The K-12 funding "shift" (delaying payments to schools) is now set at 60/40, the most dramatic in state history. With the additional \$700 million shift, this means \$2.1 billion in school aid will be used to fill the state's budget gap - meaning that schoolchildren are being asked to fill almost half of the revenue shortfall.
- **Repeal of the Contract Deadline and Penalty:** Repeals the Jan. 15 contract deadline penalty and limits contract negotiations to the summer, when school isn't in session. The repeal of this statute is not about improving education, it's about removing the basic right to collectively bargain. It takes the negotiations process out of the hands of educators and school districts and moves it to a third party with no ties to the affected community and no sense of local needs.
- **Basic Formula Increase:** The budget deal included a \$50 per pupil formula increase for the biennium. While schools will be glad to get this additional revenue because of the shift, it will likely only be used to pay interest costs on the money they will need to borrow to cover the delay in payments.
- **Integration Aid:** Cuts to Minneapolis, St. Paul and Duluth districts were eliminated in the negotiated deal. In the special session bill, funding will remain the same for two years (\$105 million), and then the current law provision will be repealed. A pool of money for desegregation aid is reserved and two-year restructuring process and task force to be appointed to work on Integration Policy/Aid reforms.
- **Teacher Evaluation bill:** The new policy is based on the Sieben/Brynaert bill from last session. The GOP strongly supported legislation during the regular session that would have fifty percent of teacher salaries based on student academic growth on statewide tests. This new model would require teacher evaluations but the assessments would be locally generated (not statewide tests).
- **Tiered Licensure Advisory Task Force:** The Board of Teaching and the Education Commissioner will convene a task force to design and make recommendations on a statewide tiered licensure system. The Chamber of Commerce essentially wrote a bill that designed a system (based on a Florida model) that brought serious collective bargaining concerns.

**Minnesota AFL-CIO Position: Oppose**

**Correct vote:** Nay

**House vote:** 71 Yea - 56 Nay

*(2011 Special Session-House journal pg. 34; 7/19/11)*

**SIGNED INTO LAW**

**Senate vote:** 36 Yea - 28 Nay

*(2011 Special Session-Senate journal pg. 34; 7/19/11)*

### **STATE GOVERNMENT: House vote #SS7/Senate vote #SS5:**

**HF27/SF12:** The budget compromise for State Government and Veterans budget bill spends \$819.2 million in 2012-13, which is a \$93.7 million cut from 2012-13 spending, \$218.7 million more than what was passed and vetoed at the end of the regular session, and is \$55.5 million less than what the Governor originally proposed in his first budget. Even though this bill staves off some of the devastating cuts, it does so by borrowing millions of dollars and saddling our schools with billions of dollars of debt. Other provisions included in the bill that we opposed, were:

- Sunset advisory commission
- Minnesota Pay-For-Performance Act
- E-Verify program for vendors and subcontractors
- Strategic sourcing request for proposals
- Implementing state employee efficient use of health care incentive program
- Requiring dependent verification for state employee insurance coverage
- Requiring state job classification and performance appraisal system redesign
- Employee gainsharing program
- Determining funds for Help America Vote Act (HAVA): Essentially, the Secretary of State was appropriated only half of the remaining HAVA funds, which is not enough to sustain current maintenance of the statewide voter registration system and other critical functions. The remaining \$2.5 million remains unappropriated. The remainder of the language concerns if a federal match occurs again, which is unlikely. In the event that more federal HAVA funds became available, their appropriation would require other agency/legislative approval. Half of the HAVA funds are now waiting to be appropriated for the implementation of the GOP's costly, harmful, and unnecessary photo id to vote law they are so determined to get.

**Minnesota AFL-CIO Position: Oppose**

**Correct vote:** Nay

**House vote:** 81 Yea - 47 Nay

*(2011 Special Session-House journal pgs. 38-39; 7/19/11)*

**SIGNED INTO LAW**

**Senate vote:** 40 Yea - 24 Nay

*(2011 Special Session-Senate journal pg. 32; 7/19/11)*





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