



STATE SENATOR DAVID SENJEM

ASSISTANT MAJORITY LEADER

PROUDLY SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF:

Dodge County - Olmsted County

E-NEWSLETTER

January, 2013

Dear Friends,

The 88th Legislature is now under way. With my wife Marlys at my side, I had the honor of former Minnesota Supreme Court Justice Sandy Keith presiding over my ceremonial swearing in. I am humbled by the confidence you have placed in me to represent you in St. Paul. It is a true an honor to serve for a fourth term in the Minnesota Senate. I am most grateful for this opportunity.



COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS



I am tremendously honored to have been selected to serve on the Senate Tax, Transportation and to serve as the Ranking Minority Member on the Senate Capitol Investment Committee.

We are at a decisive time in our state's history. Many decisions are ahead regarding tax reform, our transportation infrastructure, and investments in job creation and economic growth. I look forward to serving on these committees, and I plan to bring my experience, expertise and energy to these committees. With this in mind, I welcome your ideas on these and other areas at anytime.

UPDATE ON SCHOOL AID PAYBACK

Through good fiscal management of the state's finances over the past two years we now have an additional \$1.3 billion that is going to be directed back to the schools over fiscal year 2013. Districts across the state will receive greater than anticipated dollar amounts in school aid paybacks beginning this month. This will help school districts across the state by speeding up payments which they were anticipating receiving over a longer time horizon.

This will result in the following net increases in payments for 2013:

SCHOOL DISTRICT	INCREASED PAYMENT
Byron	\$2,438,734
Hayfield	\$1,094,044
Kasson-Mantorville	\$2,913,177
Pine Island	\$1,574,885
Rochester	\$23,277,159
Triton	\$1,701,878
Zumbrota-Mazeppa	\$1,421,471

LOOKING AHEAD THIS SESSION

MN Budget:

The 2013 legislative session will have many focuses but our state's budget will dominate much of the conversation. Governor Dayton is required to give his budget proposal by January 22. After the Governor releases his plan the Legislature will spend the next several months debating it and adding proposals of their own. It will be imperative for the legislature and the governor to work together to support Minnesota's economic future with a responsible budget that puts our state on the path to long-term fiscal health. The House, the Senate and the Governor will have to agree on a plan and pass it by late May. I look forward to the many discussions ahead.

Taxes:

Besides the state's budget, most certainly there will be discussions regarding taxes. The Governor is expected to unveil his tax plan latter this month. Included in his plan, most likely will be an income tax increase on the wealthiest 2 percent of Minnesotans. The Governor did campaign on this issue, so it is expected we see proposals for additional income tax increases. In addition, we expect to see proposals for new taxes on some businesses and business services and other services.

Health Care Exchange:

Also this session we expect further discussions on new health insurance exchange required by President Obama's health care law. Federal officials have alerted the state we are approved to operate our exchange in 2014. It is still unclear where the Governor will find revenue to fund the exchange. Many questions regarding the exchange will need to be addressed this session.

KEEP IN TOUCH



I will work to keep you informed, and please feel free to pass this newsletter on to your friends and neighbors, encouraging them subscribe at: sen.david.senjem@senate.mn You can also get legislative information at the Senate website at www.senate.mn. As always, I encourage you to contact me with your questions and comments. You can reach me at:

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