

Your Legislators
2011 Minnesota Legislative Session

Note: All programs are 60 minutes in length. Discussion topics are determined by questions and comments called or emailed in by viewers.

January 6, 2011

Senator John Marty, Representative Andrew Falk, Representative Mark Buesgens
Topics discussed included: budget shortfall, budget priorities, video lottery, public school payment shifts, taxes, sales tax expansion, tax reform, health insurance/health care, K-12 education delivery and SF#1657.

January 13, 2011

Senator Scott Dibble, Senator Gen Olson, Rep. Lyndon Carlson, Rep. Tom Hackbarth
Topics discussed included: RIM program, gambling expansion, education funding, education policy, K-12 4 day week, Vikings stadium, higher education, bonding bill/debt service and nuclear energy/moratorium repeal.

January 20, 2011

Representative Rick Hansen, Representative Ron Shimanski
Topics discussed included: state owned land, Vikings Stadium, health insurance, LGA, K-12 education, job creation, corporate taxes, small business assistance, teacher salaries, gambling expansion and medical marijuana.

January 27, 2011

Senator Tom Bakk, Senator Dave Thompson, Rep. Paul Thissen, Rep. Matt Dean
Topics discussed included: voter ID, two-year freeze bill, teacher wages, state mandates, internet sales tax, budget, property taxes, LGA cuts, Vikings stadium, smoking ban and education (K-12 & higher ed).

February 3, 2011

Senator Gary Kubly, Senator Mike Parry, Rep. Mindy Greiling, Rep. Morrie Lanning
Topics discussed included: education/teacher pay freeze, state employee wages, photo ID, budget deficit, government reform/technology/outcome based funding, balanced approach to budget deficit reduction, legislator compensation/legislative body cuts, prevailing wage law, job creation, biodiesel mandate and LGA.

February 10, 2011

Senator Tom Saxhaug, Senator Bill Ingebrigtsen, Representative Dean Urdahl
Topics discussed included: law enforcement canines, photo ID, teacher tenure, salary freeze, teacher licensure, ethanol, gambling expansion, Vikings stadium, state land ownership, Governor veto of Phase I budget bill, tax exemption for military retirees, higher ed, budget and healthcare.

February 17, 2011

Senator Kathy Sheran, Senator Paul Gazelka, Rep. Lyle Koenen, Rep. Mary Liz Holberg
Topics discussed included: Sunday liquor sales, taxes, government services, agency combination, veteran tax exemption, paramedics, collective bargaining, teacher salaries, SF 243, gambling expansion, gray wolf, police dog harm and legislature deadlines.

April 21, 2011

Tom Gillaspy – State Demographer, Tom Stinson – State Economist

Topics discussed included: “new normal”, increased number of retirees, job opportunities, productivity, metro vs. rural demography, technology/rural economic growth, snapshot of Minnesota economy, world economic trends, population, educational attainment, policy and retention of Minnesota’s educated.

April 28, 2011

Senator Keith Langseth, Senator John Howe, Rep. Paul Marquart, Rep. Torrey Westrom

Topics discussed included: HMOs, budget, property taxes, income taxes, border disparity, renters credit, LGA, unicameral legislature, Vikings stadium, gambling expansion and SF 1190.

May 5, 2011

Senator Benjamin Kruse

Topics discussed included: voter ID, target budget numbers, gambling, Block E proposal, medical marijuana, taxes, job creation, mandates, constitutional amendments, bonding, K-12 funding, higher ed cuts, voter recount percentage threshold, budget, alternative teacher licensure, transportation, Vikings stadium and Mississippi River.

May 12, 2011

Representative Andrew Falk, Representative Ron Shimanski

Topics discussed included: gambling, size of legislature, highway improvement, identity theft, Vikings Stadium, term limits, state employee retirement, redistricting, budget bill, LGA, Legacy funds, TEA program, state-owned tree nurseries, Rule of 90 and conference committee process.

May 19, 2011

Senator Mary Jo McGuire, Senator Doug Magnus

Topics discussed included: budget balancing, LGA, township control, gay marriage ban, Vikings Stadium, job creation, leadership gridlock, property taxes/education funding, legislative compromise, benefits of lobbyists, lottery allocation modifications, self-defense/property protection and effects of cuts long term.

May 26, 2011

Senator David Thompson, Representative Debra Hilstrom

Topics discussed included: taxes, gambling, K-12 funding formula, LGA, mandates, higher education, early childhood education, bonding bill, jobs, nursing homes, Vikings stadium, transportation, public employee pensions, mandatory school start date, conference committee process, health and human services, Legacy funds appropriation, party differences and DNR issues.