

New members . . .

Anderson wants to shrink government, help business

"People Running Government — Not Government Running People" reads an eye-popping orange campaign business card in Rep.



Rep. Bruce Anderson

Bruce Anderson's wallet.

"That what I wanted to express to people," Anderson said, adding that more people need to get involved in running their government, which has become too big and expensive.

The Independent-Republican from Buffalo Township lost his first bid to represent the people of District 19B in 1992. But he said he was encouraged to try again. So, with the help of his wife, Dottie, and some loyal campaign workers, he managed to "keep the campaign alive."

When the votes were tallied last November, Anderson had unseated his predecessor, Stephanie Klinzing, and won his first elective office.

"It's an awesome place to be at and it's a humbling experience," says Anderson about his new job at the Capitol.

From his seat on the House Governmental Operations Committee and its State Government Finance Division, Anderson hopes to do what he can to pare down the size of Minnesota government.

Thirty years ago, "the 3Ms, the Control Datas" and other large companies were the major Minnesota employers, Anderson points out. "Now it's government that's number one. So, we've lost our perspective, and we need to get business back into the running of the state, rather than government running the state."

One step to a leaner and more efficient government might be found in Nebraska's unicameral system, said Anderson. Having only one house could reduce the "time wasted in trying to get things done and the games people play." He said that a unicameral Legislature would eliminate the need for the conference committee process where House and Senate members meet — often into the wee hours of the morning — to iron out the their differing versions of bills.

Anderson mentioned that Gov. Arne Carlson, in his State of the State Address, proposed letting Minnesotans vote on changing to a unicameral Legislature.

To get Minnesota back on track also involves reforming the state's welfare system, Anderson said. Voters want "less of their hard-earned money being spent unwisely on people who can get out there and work."

There are plenty of jobs for those who really want to work, said Anderson. He thinks some people aren't sincerely motivated and cites the story of an Elk River woman. The business owner had a newly hired employee who worked for one day and then called to say she couldn't return to work because she had to watch a certain soap opera on TV.

"People are hearing that [kind of excuse] time and time again and they're fed up with it," Anderson said. "And they're saying the government's just giving our money away to every Tom, Dick, and Harry that comes in from Chicago, from Texas, from Mexico, from New York — you name it. They're coming in, and they can pick up a [welfare] check right now."

Anderson said his constituents are tired of what they perceive as abuse of the welfare

system and want government to enact "some meaningful reform."

"We can't continue to run on the same spend, spend, spend philosophy," Anderson said. "We need to realize that folks out here are living on less and less with all the taxes that are coming down on them, and we can't continue to spend the money foolishly."

"The burden rests on our shoulders to make decisions that affect not only the 4.5 million people here in Minnesota, but the future generations," he said.

When the hectic pace of politics and government allows, Anderson enjoys going to a health club with his wife, four teenaged daughters, and one son. He swims, plays a little golf, and is planning a deer hunting trip to Wyoming.

Serving in the Legislature promises to be a "big job but I love the challenge," Anderson said.

"My intent is to serve my constituents well and be available to them."

— Mordecai Specktor

District 19B

Population: 32,913
Distribution: 59.2 urban; 40.8 percent rural.
Counties: Sherburne, Wright
Largest city: Elk River
Location: east central Minnesota
Unemployment rate: 5.17
Residents living below poverty level: 5.48
1992 presidential election results:
Bush/Quayle 35.06 percent
Clinton/Gore 34.85 percent
Perot/Stockdale 29.21 percent
Other: 0.88 percent

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