

Going the distance

Peppin hopes to be the 'new messenger' of change

By PATTY JANOVEC

Rep. Joyce Peppin (R-Rogers) has run four Twin Cities marathons and used the same determination skills to win her legislative seat.



Rep. Joyce Peppin

Gaining the Republican endorsement over former Rep. Arlon Lindner, Peppin said competition “keeps legislators fresh. ... I, and many other people, felt like we needed a new Republican messenger ... to change hearts and minds.” Lindner was caught up in controversy over statements made on the House floor last legislative session.

“The voters spoke and were ready for change,” she added.

Peppin’s background includes degrees in political science and speech communications from

the University of Minnesota-Duluth. “I was very interested in politics and worked for five different campaigns, and then I worked at the House in the Republican media department,” she said. Following the political work, she became vice president of public relations for US Bank.

From her political experience, she became cognizant of the incredible amount of work that legislative staff does. “They make the legislator,” Peppin said.

Her district remains very conservative, a characteristic she learned on the campaign trail.

The same things that were hard were also easy, including the amount of time it took to door knock. “Most days it was physically challenging, but it was also invigorating meeting people and learning about the district,” she said.

Her key issues include: completing and expanding transportation in the district, fair funding for schools, and lifting the moratorium on new hospital construction to enable a

DISTRICT 32A

2002 Population: 36,561

Largest city: Maple Grove

Counties: Hennepin, Wright

Top concern: Hospital shortage in district

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facility to be built in Maple Grove. “The northwest suburbs are among the fastest growing in the metro area, and the need for a new hospital is a key quality of life issue,” she said.

“People are trusting me to do this job, I have a lot of work to do,” Peppin said. “Making sure, overall, that I’m reviewing budgets and making sure that taxpayers are getting the best return for their dollar.”

She added, “When I was a child I learned how to ride the unicycle and juggle because I wanted to run away and join the circus, so I’ve changed my career goals considerably.”