

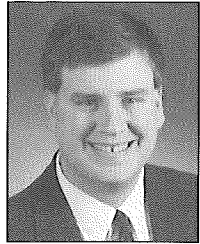
# Working to unite

## Obermueller hopes to represent by connecting

By Mike Cook

All-inclusive could describe the governing philosophy of Rep. Mike Obermueller.

The first-term Eagan DFLer, who ran on the theme of "Working for You," wants ideas from his constituents, and he will do his darndest to make sure they are received.



Rep. Mike Obermueller

Like most members, Obermueller plans to have listening sessions throughout the year, but unlike many, he also plans to door-knock in the interim. "I enjoy talking to people one-on-one about the issues that are important to them. ... I think that's what this job is all about. I think people generally will say, 'If I understand what's going on and why you spent money here and you

didn't spend money here, although it's painful for me and I think it's the wrong choice, at least I know you were thinking about it and not just throwing darts at the wall."

Obermueller, whose hometown includes a number of large employers, including Thomson Reuters, Blue Cross Blue Shield and Delta Dental, puts job creation and maintaining current jobs atop his priority list. Among his assignments, he is vice chairman of the House Bioscience and Workforce Development Policy and Oversight Division.

"It's all about figuring out how we can make both a short-term and long-term recovery. Stimulating job growth in the short term is the big key so that we can put people back to work, but also not short-changing the future with our decisions. Try to fix our immediate problems without throwing it on the backs of our kids." He and his wife, Sara, have two sons.

### DISTRICT 38B

Population: (2007 est.) 38,708

Largest City: Eagan

County: Dakota

Top Concern: 'Job creation is Job 1.'

He said open space and education are also among his priorities.

After losing to Lynn Wardlow by 163 votes in 2006 when 16,401 votes were cast, Obermueller beat the three-term Republican incumbent by 519 votes out of 20,905 cast in 2008.

"He did a lot of good things for vets in this state and his heart was in the right place on education," Obermueller said. "We joked around and actually kind of became good friends, especially the second time around. We used to joke that 'I wouldn't run against you, Lynn, but I want your job and this is the only way to get it.'"