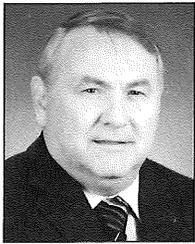


Putting his theories to the test

Crawford brings big ideas, practical experience to St. Paul

By Nick Busse

For Rep. Roger Crawford (R-Mora), making Minnesota a more business-friendly state is a very personal matter. His district



Rep. Roger Crawford

has an unemployment rate that is among the highest in the state, and he hopes a better business climate will lead to more jobs for his constituents.

“For our area, it’s going to be important that the state and the Legislature do what they can do to make the state as attractive as possible to businesses,” he said.

Crawford ran for state representative, in large part, to help make that goal a reality. It’s a tall order, but he said his philosophy has always been that an individual can make

a difference in the world. He cites a former president as an example.

“I’m not saying everyone needs to be Ronald Reagan or anything like that, but each individual can make a difference. And that’s kind of my philosophy,” he said.

Crawford showed an interest in politics from a young age. Though he said his first vote was for George McGovern in his 1972 presidential bid, Crawford’s political leanings changed following a stint in the U.S. Navy. He started reading conservative authors like William F. Buckley, Jr., and became fascinated by economics, particularly the theories of Milton Friedman and Austrian-school economists.

He built a career for himself as a real estate appraiser, but his passion has been public service. He spent five years as a city councilman in Mora, four years as the mayor, and two years on the Kanabec County Board

DISTRICT 8B

Population (2009 est.): 40,262

Largest City: Mora

Counties: Pine, Isanti, Kanabec

Top Concerns: Fixing the deficit, easing tax burdens on businesses

before coming to the Legislature.

Years of legislative inaction where changes needed to be made — changes like balancing the budget, lowering taxes, helping businesses succeed — also played a large part in his decision to run, he said.

“I watched the Legislature for many years and I thought they were not addressing some of the fundamental problems that the state has,” he said. “I think it’s imperative that we change that.”